

AAS Fall Meeting Programs

Clara Mason, Program Chair, cmason@olympen.com

Admiralty Audubon Program: Nov. 19
7pm Port Townsend Community Center
620 Tyler

Scott Pearson and Peter Hodum will present preliminary findings from an ongoing collaborative research project with the University of Washington, University of Puget Sound, NOAA Fisheries, and US Fish and Wildlife Service on diet, reproductive success, population status and site occupancy of Tufted Puffins and Rhinoceros Auklets. They will compare and contrast Rhinoceros Auklet diet and reproductive success on Protection, Ta-toosh, and Destruction Islands. Contemporary results will be put in context with similar studies from the 1970s. They will also provide updates on the status and distribution of the Tufted Puffin in Washington and results from recent Rhinoceros Auklet nesting population estimates for Protection and Destruction Islands. Finally, they will discuss future research and management issues and present some of Peter's bird and habitat photographs taken while conducting their field research. Scott is Senior Research Scientist in the Wildlife Research Division of the Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife.



Christmas Bird
Count Saturday
December 19,
2009

The Bird Count during the day will be followed by a 6pm potluck dinner at the Rosewind Commons. There is a \$5.00 per person participation fee that goes to Audubon to help tally the results. Sign up at the November meeting or call Dick John-

son 385-5418. *photo Ruddy Turnstone by David Gluckman*

AAS Field Trips

November-December Field Trips – David Gluckman/Ken Wilson – Field Trip Committee Co-Chairs

Saturday, November 14th - Point No Point and Foulweather Bluff at the north end of the Kitsap Peninsula. Leader is Dan Waggoner. Meet at 8 am at the Park and Ride on Beaver Valley Road (Highway 19) and Highway 104. Return by noon.

Saturday, November 28th – Pt. Wilson with Bob Whitney. This is a repeat of the one that was cancelled in October. Meet in the parking lot next to the Lighthouse in Fort Worden at 9 am. Be prepared for cold and wind.

Saturday, December 5th – David Beatty will lead a trip to Oak Bay County Park, Indian Island, Mystery Bay and Ft. Flagler. Meet at Oak Bay park at 9 am. Return by noon.

December 19th – Christmas Bird Count with Dick Johnson. Check the web site for more details or call Dick.

President's Corner

President Rosemary Sikes, rosemarysikes@olympus.net

New Faces on Admiralty Audubon Board

Sally Robins, our new vice president, is helping us connect with the library so hopefully we will not have programs on the same nights in the future. Bob Tyer, our new Treasurer, is investigating better interest options for Admiralty Audubon's savings. Monica Fletcher, our new hospitality chair, makes delicious apple walnut bars and has a very cheery disposition to greet members as they come to the

monthly meetings. David Beatty, our new Education chair, is looking into possibilities and is particularly interested in working with fourth graders. I feel blessed we have such qualified and enthusiastic board members. George Yount, our dedicated conservation chair, is looking for a replacement. If you would like to sit in on a board meeting we meet the third Tuesday of the month 7pm at the Sikes' home. No commitment necessary. Come see what we are about. Call 385-0307 for directions.

Memories of Jay Brevik I would like to honor Jay Brevik, one of our members who died Sep 18, 2009. I first met Jay when Ron Sikes, my husband, sent out an inquiry in our newsletter asking for volunteers to build purple martin houses to begin a nesting site at the Boat Haven Marina. Jay built 4 purple martin houses and installed them on the jetty near the entrance to the Port Townsend Boat Haven. We had one pair of purple martins nest that year in 2005 and that was the beginning of our purple martin project. At the time Jay was a commercial fisherman and was away from Port Townsend in the summer. He later purchased the custom boatbuilding business Lee Shore Boats in Port Townsend. In his obituary in the Sep 30, 2009 *Leader* his connection to birds is briefly visited. "When not fishing commercially, Jay was sport fishing on the rivers of the North Olympic Peninsula. His fishing expeditions also afforded him the opportunity to add to his LifeList of bird sightings. Due to this lifelong interest, he was given the nickname JayBird by his fellow fishermen." Jay was 54 when he died in Port Townsend. He was born in Tacoma, WA, grew up on Day Island in South Puget Sound and took to boating at a young age. Thanks to Jay we now have a breeding population of purple

martins in Port Townsend.
Rosemary Sikes, President.

Admiralty Fall Field Trip Report

David Gluckman, cgluckman@aol.com

Saturday 8am, September 26 – The fast trip around PT got off to a slow start when the times for starting got messed up but the 12 hardy participants braved the wonderful weather and found some interesting birds. Dan Waggoner has the full list but here's what I remember. Dan – add what I forgot. Thanks.

Kai Tai – Mute Swans, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Black-capped Chickadees, House Finches, Ruddy Ducks, Mallards, Killdeer, Lesser Scaup

Larry Scott Trail – Black-bellied Plovers, Killdeer, Glaucus-winged, Western and California Gulls, Heerman's Gulls

PT-Whidbey Ferry Landing – Black Turnstones, Surfbirds (50-70), Black-bellied Plovers, Sanderling

Point Hudson - Glaucus-winged, Western and California Gulls, Heerman's Gulls, Black Turnstones, Surfbirds, Harlequin Ducks, Common Loon, Common Murre

Chinese Gardens – Mallards, Killdeer, American Widgeon, Song Sparrow, Virginia Rail (in the small overflow pond)

North Beach – Harlequin Ducks, Tufted Puffins (3), the usual gulls.

October 16 trip was cancelled because of heavy rain. & October 31st trip was too late to include.

Admiralty Conservation Report

George Yount, Chairman

gyount@olypen.com

On the first of October, , the Board of County Commissioners wrapped up their review of the Planning Commission Final Draft Shore-

line Management Plan and directed staff to prepare a revised SMP document for local approval and submittal to WA Dept. of Ecology. Be assured the Board was very well prepared and thoughtful in their deliberations -they really did their homework!

News Coverage

Thanks to the *Peninsula Daily News* for continued coverage of the SMP project – the most recent article is online at <http://www.peninsuladailynews.com/article/20091002/news/310029988>. The article touches on some key issues discussed by the Board but contains some misstatements that require clarification:

- **Comments:** Over 1,000 public comments are on file for the project, including both formal and informal public comments. During the most recent formal public comment period (Aug. 19 to Sept. 8, 2009), approximately 290 written comments were submitted to the Board.
- **Deliberations:** The Board did spend approximately 27 hours in deliberation between September 14th and October 1st, including about 10.5 hours last week. Bill Miller and I sat through these deliberations. We were the only citizens present. It was remarkable. The Board of County Commissioners gets it.
- **Buffers:** The Board has indicated they will change the Planning Commission (PC) proposal for 50' standard buffer along Shoreline Residential and High Intensity designated marine shores, instead directing staff to include 150' standard buffer for all marine shores. The PC proposed 150' standard buffer for streams/rivers and 100' standard buffer on lakes was accepted by the Board. The Board also accepted the PC proposed buffer adjustment options including 1) buffer reduction; 2) buffer averaging; 3) Critical Area Stewardship Plan (CASP); 4) Non-conforming Lots Standards; 5) Common Line Buffer; and 6) Shoreline Variance.

- **Vacant Lots:** An estimated 70% of shoreline parcels have some form of development, leaving about 30% currently vacant. New development is not limited only to vacant lots – rather, re-development is a common occurrence, especially given today's economy. New activities in already-developed areas will be subject to the new SMP once in effect. In fact, all activities in shoreline jurisdiction must comply with the Program, whether a permit is required or not. Both 'new builds' and remodels trigger review requirements – often a streamlined process for single family homes that are exempt from the standard Shoreline Substantial Development Permit. Existing structures may be 'grandfathered' as non-conforming if they were legally developed but no longer meet new requirements. Changes (such as expansion/enlargement) to a non-conforming development trigger permit review.

- **Aquaculture:** Commissioner Johnson did not propose, nor did the Board discuss, a ban or prohibition on all marine aquaculture. Instead, such discussions were narrowly focused on net pens and finfish aquaculture that releases harmful materials into surrounding waters. Throughout deliberations the Board indicated support for the aquaculture industry as an important part of our local economy.

· Next Steps

Staff continues to be dedicated to supporting the Board for the SMP update. We will be working to incorporate some 300 revisions to the PC Final Draft SMP to prepare the document the Board has indicated they will locally approve for submittal to Ecology. Many changes are minor – typos, formatting, wording changes for consistency/readability/accuracy – while others are substantive changes to the policy and regulatory provisions requested by the Board. Because the Board spent additional time reviewing the SMP proposal, the project is now slightly off schedule. Board action for local approval is anticipated for later this month

(not October 12 as previously estimated), with submittal to Ecology likely in early-November (not by October 30 as estimated).

...Admiralty Audubon's Role:

The next barricade will be the public hearing hosted by the Department of Ecology some time in January or early February. We will need to gear up and testify or submit written testimony. The property rights folks are trying to organize now. I attended the Republican Party's planning session about three weeks ago and they spelled out their tactics. They plan to be critical of DOE as an agency; go after the Board of County Commissioners for making so many revisions and caving into the "environmentalists", and announce they will be taking legal steps to block it. Our task is to equal or better their presence at the hearing and equal or better with supporting testimony. To do this requires not just Audubon, but all the environmental community to rise up and be heard. Of all the hearings to date, this will be the most important one. It is Jefferson County speaking to the state. Audubon will need to get at least a dozen folks writing letters, attending the hearing and giving oral testimony. We need to put a plan in-

to action that gets us maximum Audubon participation.

Watersheds: WRIA 17:

. In my view, watershed management (WRIA-17) is the most important environmental issue and forum in Jefferson County. We are dealing with total watershed management for the whole county. Water allocation is the fault line for believer's of no holds barred economic development and those who believe economic development requires environmental sustainability. This forum represents the county's diverse "vested interests" and is the only place where we at least listen to each other and grope for some kind of consensus as to where in where we are going. So far, thanks to a few of us, we are able to move watershed management in the direction of appropriate allocation while protecting habitat.

Don't Forget: Citizen Science Inventory of Species at Kah Tai--Contact Ken Wilson. Christmas Bird Count Dec . 19th-- Contact Dick Johnson 385-5418

JOIN US or RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP in YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Can we send you the newsletter via email as a pdf file? ____ Or do you prefer a paper copy? __

Send \$20 annual membership to: Admiralty Audubon, P.O.Box 666, Pt. Townsend, WA 98368
 Membership includes the 6 issues of our newsletter, *Pipings*, and the right to vote.



Marbled Godwit photo Oct '09 by David Gluckman at Tokeland Marina 15 miles S of Westport

Nov-Dec 2009 Cut-Out Calendar of Birding Events
 AAS= Admiralty Audubon Event OPAS= Olympic Peninsula Audubon event RC= Dungeness RiverCenter
 Contact RC & OPAS at 360-681-4076 dungenessrivercenter.org

November		
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Nov-Dec 2009 Cut-Out Calendar of Birding Events						
AAS= Admiralty Audubon Event OPAS= Olympic Peninsula Audubon event RC= Dungeness RiverCenter Contact RC & OPAS at 360-681-4076 dungenessrivercenter.org						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 AAS field trip, Pt No Point & Foulweather Bl. 8 AM Dan Wag- goner
15	16	17	18	19 AAS mtg 7 PM UW research on local auklets & puffins	20	21 Holiday Na- ture Mart Dungeness Cen- ter 10-4
22	23	24	25	26	27	28AAS field trip: Pt Wilson. Bob Whitney 9 AM
29	30	December First	2	3	4	5 AAS field trip Oak Bay Park David Beatty 9 AM
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 Christmas Bird Count; potluck at 6PM Rose- wind Com- mons, Dick Johnson 385- 5418
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Other Birding Events

Holiday Nature Mart: Saturday November 21, 10:00-4:00. Gifts for birders, children, and nature lovers. Crafts, activities. At the Audubon River Center, end of Hendrickson Road, Sequim. To contact the Dungeness River Center or OPAS, call 360-681-4076 or rivercenter@olympus.net

Chapter co-bird



Post Office Box 666
Port Townsend, WA 98368



Visit our website: www.admiraltyaudubon.org

Read or post bird sightings

Download a checklist of birds

Talk to Us.....

President: Rosemary Sikes 385-0307
rosemarysikes@olympus.net

Secretary: Ron Sikes 385-0307
sikes@olympus.net

Program Chair: Clara Mason 385-3594
cmason@olypen.com

Conservation: George Yount 385-0456
gyount@olypen.com

Christmas Bird Cnt: Dick Johnson 385-5418

Webmaster: Andrew Reding 385-0504
aareding@gmail.com

Publicity: Lynne Dunham 385-3031

koala@olypen.com
Hospitality: Monica Fletcher 379-3136
mjflfet@earthlink.net

Vice-President: Sally Robins 385-4207
sally@waypoint.com

Treasurer: Bob Tyer 379-1610
bwtyer@aol.com

Field Trips: Ken Wilson 379-6539
ken@kenwilson.info &
David Gluckman 379-0360
cgluckman@aol.com

Education: David Beatty 575-534-1450
djb38@olypen.com

Membership: Brenda McMillian 385-5436
river_yare@yahoo.com

Editor: Sandra Smith sandrums@olypen.com