



ADMIRALTY AUDUBON PROGRAMS

Birding to Florida and More — David Gluckman

Thursday, May 19 at 7 p.m.

Port Townsend Community Center, 620 Tyler Street

Admiralty Audubon's David Gluckman will show pictures of his trip to Florida and back. He will share the incredible birdlife and scenery that he and Casey encountered on their road trip.

Admiralty Audubon Annual Potluck Picnic

Sunday, June 19 at 1 p.m.

Location to be determined—check website www.admiraltyaudubon.org for update

Bring a dish to share, beverage of your choice and **your table setting (plate and utensils)**. This will be our last gathering of the season before resuming our meetings in September. Visit and share dinner with your Admiralty Audubon Board and other members.

- Clara Mason, Program Chair

CITIZEN POWER

Recreation and Conservation

Ten citizens headed to Olympia on March 31 to witness the State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Board decide what the next steps should be to resolve the Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park boundary conflict. The City of Port Townsend, the National Park Service (NPS), and all the documents we've been able to excavate are in agreement. The Port of Port Townsend disagrees. RCO must ascertain a boundary 'in continuity with the original grant documents' and recommend that permanent boundary to NPS for a final decision. Citizen testimony in person and from 38 letters submitted to the Board convinced them to correct some serious errors in their briefing memo. Now we wait.

Comprehensive Plan Amendment - Protections for Kah Tai

On April 14, a dozen citizens attended the Port Townsend Planning Commission meeting to support the progress of a citizen-proposed amendment to the Comprehensive Plan. Citizen presence and testimony were important in the Commission's decision. Because the park boundary is still in dispute, the Commission accepted the amendment to forward to Council for docketing and the City Council will consider it on May 2. Support from the community would be helpful at this Council meeting. If the amendment is docketed, it will be put on hold until the 6(f)(3) boundary of the park is determined by NPS. The amendment, if accepted by City Council, will add a few very important words to the Comprehensive Plan about permanent protections for Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park.

Debbie Jahnke, Membership Chair



ADMIRALTY AUDUBON FIELD TRIPS

Wednesdays in May — 6:30 p.m., Mini Field Trips

Certified Field Trip Leader and Birder Extraordinaire, Dan Waggoner, has agreed to lead a new type of field trip for May to take advantage of the changes taking place in bird populations that month. These will be mini-trips to look for migrants at different locations around Jefferson County. They will meet each Wednesday evening of May at 6:30 p.m. and will last about 1-1/2 hours. This is an exciting opportunity to see the changes happen, even if you can only make one or two. ***It is very important to RSVP*** to Dan Waggoner at 360-301-1788 or email Dan at danwags57@gmail.com. If there are no RSVPs, there is a chance the trip will not occur!

May 4 - Oak Bay, Marrowstone Island. This field trip will concentrate on migrating shorebirds. Meet at the waterfront area of Oak Bay County Park.

May 11 - Kah Tai Nature Park. Meet at the parking lot near the restrooms.

May 18 - Anderson Lake State Park. Meet at the parking area near the boat launch.

May 25 - Artillery Hill of Fort Worden State Park. Meet at the Commons parking lot.

Friday, May 27 — 9 a.m., Chimacum Beach Park

Ron Sikes, Leader. Meet at Port Townsend Park & Ride, south east corner. We will look for heron nesting activity on property near the park before reaching our destination at the mouth of Chimacum Creek. Bring binoculars and clothing appropriate for the weather. This outing is expected to take 3 to 4 hours. Please call or email if you plan to join us. Email sikes@olympus.net, phone 385-0307.

Wear clothing appropriate for the weather — rainwear, warm jackets and waterproof footwear appropriate for the terrain. Bring binoculars, spotting scopes (if available) and bird books. Take water and a snack. Heavy rain may cancel some trips, so check if in doubt.

All persons participating in field trips assume all risk of any kind. Neither AAS nor trip leaders accept responsibility for the actions of participants.

- David Gluckman, Field Trip Chair

AAS and EARTH DAY

Work Parties and Education about Habitat Preservation

On April 16, Admiralty Audubon celebrated a chilly, windy Earth Day with two efforts: the usual stalwarts plus a few welcome new faces pulled Scot's broom sprouts and picked up trash at Kah Tai, while others talked birding and habitat preservation at our booth at the Fort Worden Earth Day event. A few Friends of Kah Tai joined in to educate visitors about the specific issues facing Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park. Collection of signatures from Jefferson County residents who support full protection of the park is moving apace. The petition is now above 1460 signatures. If you would like to sign, go to <http://kahtai.blogspot.com>.



AAS FIELD TRIP REPORT

Skagit County – March 5 – Leaders Ken Wilson and Dan Waggoner

It was a very (if not overly) successful field trip for 30+ participants to the Skagit and Samish Flats. The day started with hundreds of Rhinoceros Auklets and Common Murres out in Mid-channel Bank off the ferry. At the West 90 in the Samish Flats, we had great views of raptors – Bald Eagles, Red-tailed Hawks, Rough-legged Hawks, lots of Northern Harriers and two Short-eared Owls. During lunch at Edison, a Merlin posed nicely at the top of a nearby tree. After lunch we got time to study the difference between Tundra and Trumpeter Swans. In a flock of 4000+ Snow Geese there was one rare blue phase goose. The day ended with a total species count of more than 60. A small group of bird photographers went over with the main group but moved out on their own. They stayed in touch by cell phone to relay sighting information, adding a new dimension to AAS field trips.

Cappy's Trails – March 12 – Leader Ron Sikes

Strong gusty winds led to the cancellation of the field trip to Travis Spit on Sequim Bay. However three of us decided to go for hike in Port Townsend. We set out to Cappy Trails and specifically to see if there was any water standing in the long dry Winona Wetlands. There was, and Mallards were heard quacking and bathing out of sight. There were Pine Siskins, Varied Thrushes, Robins, and Steller's Jays along the way. A Pileated Woodpecker was also sounding in the tall trees. As we went along the west side of Cappy Woods, two Barred Owls started calling to each other. One was close to our trail, the other was about a quarter mile away. It was a pleasant walk out of the wind, and we were glad we made the effort.

Oak Bay to Fort Flagler State Park – April 9 – Leader Dan Waggoner

This Audubon Spring field trip felt more like a winter trip. Although it seemed like some winter birds were gone and spring was not here yet, we had some great birds. Black Oystercatchers and Bald Eagles (with nesting materials) were seen at Oak Bay. At Isthmus Beach, in addition to "American" Green-winged Teals, we had a Common Teal (the Eurasian subspecies of the Green-winged Teal) and also an intergrade form. Behind the Nordland Store we found the Northern Mockingbird that has been present since late last year. At Fort Flagler we searched through the shorebirds looking for the Red Knot. No luck, but we did get rewarded seeing Black-bellied Plover in plumages from winter to almost complete breeding plumage. After seeing a flying flock of Brant we headed home to recover from hypothermia.



- David Gluckman, Field Trip Chair

NOTICE OF ELECTIONS

Election of officers for Admiralty Audubon will be at the May 19 membership meeting at 7 p.m., Port Townsend Community Center.

The slate of candidates are as follows: Rosemary Sikes, President; David Beatty, Vice President; Ron Sikes, Secretary; and Bob Tyer, Treasurer.



Regional Results for the Great Backyard Bird Count

Port Townsend birders were active participants in February's Great Backyard Bird Count, ranking 4th in the state in numbers of checklists submitted (90) and 5th in the state in numbers of species counted (95) when final checklists were tabulated. But Admiralty Audubon is much more than just Port Townsend. Our chapter's regional area includes Brinnon, Chimacum, Gardiner, Nordland, Port Hadlock, Port Ludlow and Quilcene. Our membership list reflects that regional span.

Is the land (and water) area covered by all of Admiralty Audubon's communities greater than that covered by all those folks who reported 'Seattle' as their counting area? Or 'Tacoma'? That's an exercise for another day. But in terms of numbers of people per square meter, there's no contest. We are happily rural, by and large.

Instead of reporting 'Port Townsend' results, let's give credit where due and count all the participation in our AAS region. Eighteen species of birds not counted in Port Townsend were reported in Nordland, Port Hadlock, Port Ludlow and/or Quilcene. An additional 35 checklists were submitted from these communities plus Chimacum and Brinnon. Perhaps Gardiner birders reported into one of the other community lists, as they do not show up individually on the state list. Total species counted were: Port Ludlow - 55; Nordland - 49; Port Hadlock - 31; Quilcene - 25; Chimacum - 19; Brinnon - 2. Species added by the AAS regional checklists include Greater White-fronted Goose, Gadwall, Northern Pintail, Greenwinged Teal, Greater Scaup, Black Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, Barrow's Goldeneye, California Quail, Pied-billed Grebe, Horned Grebe, Western Grebe, Greater Yellowlegs, Surfbird, Barred Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Red-breasted Sapsucker and American Dipper.

When we combine all the counts in the AAS region, we are a very close second to Sequim for total species counted (113 for us, 117 for Sequim) and move up to a very solid third place in the state for numbers of checklists submitted (125). Seattle and Olympia beat us in the checklists (258 and 181, respectively), but if you estimate checklists per capita, Admiralty Audubon made a great showing. Now, we just have to figure out how to catch up to our neighbor, Sequim, in species counted. Perhaps a little friendly regional competition next year?

- Debbie Jahnke, Membership Chair

JOIN US or RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Can we send you the newsletter via e-mail? _____

Or would you prefer to receive a paper copy? _____

Send \$20 annual membership to: Admiralty Audubon, PO Box 666, Port Townsend WA 98368



Invitation to the WENAS Campout

For over four decades Audubon families have been camping over Memorial Day weekend, May 27-30, at the Wenas Creek Campground.

Officially named the Hazel Wolf Wenas Creek Bird Sanctuary, it's located SW of Ellensburg, in an "Important Bird Area" and has been assured of protective status by WA Dept. of Natural Resources. The "primitive" campground along the north fork of Wenas Creek has exceptional opportunities for birding, botanizing and enjoying spring in the eastern Cascade foothills.

There are wonderful field trips scheduled, and there will be an old-fashioned campfire in our "approved" fire pit device each evening. We do singing, story telling and recapping the sightings of the day.

Please visit Webmaster Michael Hobbs' beautiful Wenas website to see Hazel Wolf's familiar smiling face and get lots of downloadable information about our campout at **www.wenasaudubon.org**. There's a bird checklist, wildflower checklist, outline of field trips and program, directions to the campground, and lots of photos. For people who don't "do websites," contact me and I'll send you printed information. There will be updated, detailed information posted soon – keep an eye on our website.

Bring friends, family, and join us at Wenas Memorial Day Weekend for as many days as you want to stay! See you there!

- Helen Engle, hengle@iinet.com, 253-564-3112

Kah Tai Spring Clean Up Work Parties

We have two more work parties to finish up before we quit for summer. Please consider joining us in this important effort.

Saturday, May 7, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

We will pull Scot's broom sprouts, invasive holly and ivy and picking up trash from the Kearney Street entrance of the park toward Chase Bank and along the path next to Sims Way.

Saturday, May 28, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Our work area will border the Transit Park and Ride, both on the east and north sides, then along Landes Street between 14th and 16th Streets. Park at the Kah Tai parking lot off 12th Street and walk to the work site. Look for the bright green 'volunteers at work' sign and the orange weed wrenches. Wear layered work clothes and bring work gloves. Weed wrenches, garbage bags, water and home-made cookies will be provided. For more information contact:

- Rosemary Sikes, 385-0307
rosemarysikes@olympus.net

UPCOMING BOARD MEETING: Tuesday, May 17



Post Office Box 666
Port Townsend WA, 98368



Banner
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Lamy Eflert ©

Admiralty Audubon Society - East Jefferson County, Washington State

TALK TO US.....

<i>President:</i> Rosemary Sikes rosemarysikes@olympus.net	385-0307	<i>Vice President:</i> David Beatty djb38@olypen.com	575-534-1450
<i>Secretary:</i> Ron Sikes sikes@olympus.net	385-0307	<i>Treasurer:</i> Bob Tyer bwtyer@gmail.com	379-1610
<i>Program Chair:</i> Clara Mason cmason@olypen.com	385-3594	<i>Field Trips:</i> David Gluckman cgluckman@aol.com	379-0360
<i>Conservation:</i> George Yount gyount@olypen.com	385-0456	<i>Science Advisor:</i> Ken Wilson ken@kenwilson.info	821-1101
<i>Publicity:</i> Lynne Dunham koala@olypen.com	385-3031	<i>Christmas Bird Count:</i> Dick Johnson	385-5418
<i>Membership:</i> Debbie Jahnke dbjahnke@att.net	531-3415	<i>Webmaster:</i> Andrew Reding aareding@gmail.com	
<i>Education: Position Open</i>		<i>Newsletter:</i> Sarah Young smy_home@msn.com	379-1771

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.admiraltyaudubon.org

Read or post bird sightings *Download a checklist of birds*