

Admiralty Audubon Pippings

**State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Recommends
Entire 78.5-Acre 6(f)(3) Boundary For Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park** (see p.3)

October Field Trip

**Saturday October 8th, 8am-11am
Kah Tai Lagoon and Chinese Gardens**

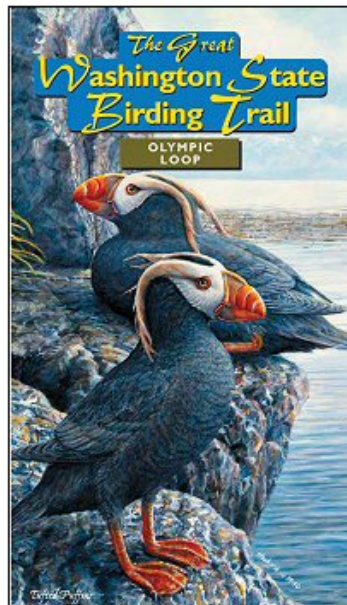
Meet at the restroom parking lot in Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park across from Henery's Hardware Store (12th Street).

There should be lots of ducks, some interesting shorebirds and probably a Virginia Rail or two.

Wear weather-appropriate clothing. Leader: David Gluckman (cgluckman@aol.com); info at <http://admiralty.audubon.org>.

Olympic Loop Birding Map

Mari Friend, owner of Sport Townsend, has graciously offered to carry the Olympic Loop Birding Map for us. It is one of 7 maps of the Great Washington State Birding Trail, published by Audubon Washington. Our local chapter was very involved with Christi Norman of Audubon Washington in creating the Olympic Loop Birding Map a few years ago.



Now the map is available at Sport Townsend, located at 1044 Water Street, Port Townsend. The map sells for \$4.95 plus tax. \$4 from each map sold goes to support Admiralty Audubon. Tell your friends.

Rosemary Sikes
President, Admiralty Audubon

Audubon Program for October: Auk Ecology

**The public is invited
Thursday October 20th at 7pm
Port Townsend Community Center
Lawrence and Tyler**

John Piatt is a research scientist with the USGS Alaska Science Center in Anchorage, AK, and he lives in Port Townsend. He has been conducting research on marine ecosystems in Alaska for the past 25 years, and specializes in the ecology of the Auk family of seabirds.

He will share his findings as Principal Investigator for Endangered Species Studies done on rare and threatened seabirds in Alaska, including Kittlitz's Murrelet, Marbled Murrelet, and Short-tailed Albatross.

These studies have included surveys for marine predators and forage fish from southeast Alaska to the western Aleutians and from Hawaii north to the Chukchi Sea, as well as detailed investigations of seabird foraging ecology and population biology.

Clara Mason
Program Chair, Admiralty Audubon



Drawing by N. John Schmitt. Mating behavior of Marbled Murrelet. (from <http://bna.birds.cornell.edu>).

Christmas Bird Count December 17th, 2011

Please join Admiralty Audubon for the 111th edition of the Christmas Bird Count. Our local edition of the 2011 Christmas Bird Count will occur on December 17th, 2011.

For information about the Christmas Bird Count and to sign up to participate, contact Dan Waggoner at danwags57@gmail.com or Dick Johnson at 385-5418.

History of the Christmas Bird Count

(from <http://birds.audubon.org/history-christmas-bird-count>)

In the late 19th century, a typical holiday tradition was known as the Christmas 'Side Hunt'. Participants chose sides and 'counted' with their guns; whoever brought in the biggest pile of dead feathered bodies won.

Conservation was in its beginning stages around the turn of the 20th century, with increasing concern about declining bird populations. On Christmas Day 1900, ornithologist Frank Chapman, an early officer in the Audubon Society, proposed a new holiday tradition, a Christmas bird census to count birds rather than hunt them.

Due to the enthusiasm of Mr. Chapman and 27 birders, 25 Christmas Bird Counts were held in the first event. Most counts took place in or near the population centers of northeastern North America. Those original 27 Christmas Bird Counters tallied around 90 species combined.

Participation has increased substantially since 1900 (figure at right). Modern efforts include Canada, the Caribbean and Latin America, with a total of 2319 species counted in the 110th Christmas Bird Count; 645 species were reported in the US. A total of 2124 counting circles reported results, with 1671 circles from the US. A total of 60,753 observers participated in 2010.

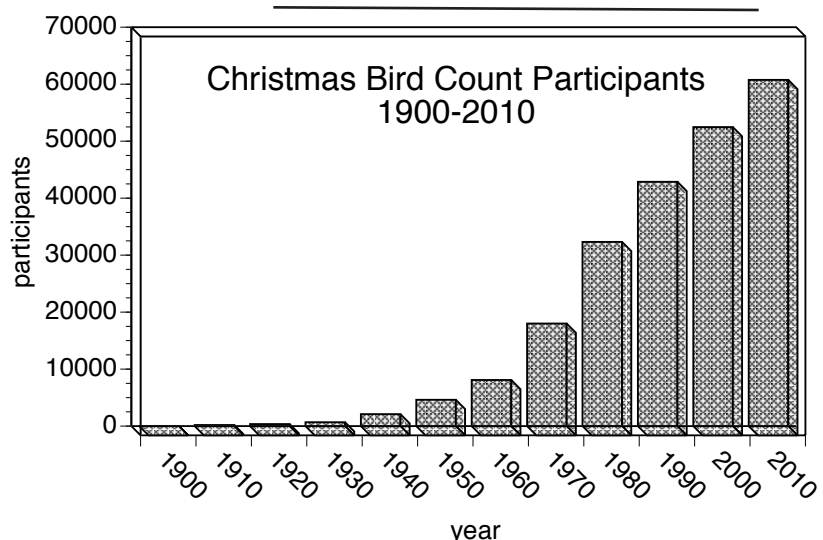
Garry Oaks Planted At Kah Tai Park

On July 28th, Admiralty Audubon partnered with Northwest Trails Association to plant 21 Garry Oaks at Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park. Daniel Collins, Olympic region coordinator for Pacific Northwest Trails Association organized the event. The City of Port Townsend donated the trees and 100 ft of fence wire to decrease deer predation. Northwest Trails Association provided labor with 3 adults and 4 high school students. Two Admiralty Audubon members joined the crew providing irrigation supplies and know-how as well as Himalyan Blackberry removal in the area. The trees are planted along the berm next to the mowed play field for all to enjoy. If you have not noticed the new trees take a walk in the park and have a look. The Garry Oak seedlings seem happy in their new home.

Summer Time Is Purple Martin Time

Two adult pair of Purple Martins set up house keeping at Admiralty Audubon's Boat Haven nest boxes this June. They occupied boxes 6 and 9. Monday, August 29th, Ron and I as well as AAS members Alea Waters and Lang Russel walked to the site and witnessed two young Purple Martins poking their heads out of nest box 6. Often this summer we saw the Purple Martins hunting insects over Kah Tai Lagoon. The young will be fledging soon and heading south with their parents.

Rosemary Sikes, AAS President



Kah Tai Park Protections Update

On September 7th, the State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) recommended that all 78.5 acres of Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park should be included in 6(f)(3) perpetuity protections by the National Park Service (NPS), in continuity with the intent of the 1981 Land and Water Conservation Fund grant that created the Park.

Port Townsend Parks, Recreation and Tree Board has prepared a draft parks functional plan update so that the City will qualify for future RCO funding. The Port Townsend City Council voted on September 6th to re-open the Comprehensive Plan amendment docket in order to add the draft parks functional plan so that Kah Tai amendments already on the docket can be considered in concert for consistency. Now that the City has heard from RCO and will get a ruling from NPS in the near future, it is especially important that language protective of Kah Tai is consistent in the updated parks functional plan and the Comprehensive Plan.

There will be numerous opportunities for citizen participation in the next few months with hearings and workshops at both the Planning Commission and City Council level. Check for updates at <http://kahtai.blogspot.com>.

Rick Jahnke,
AAS member

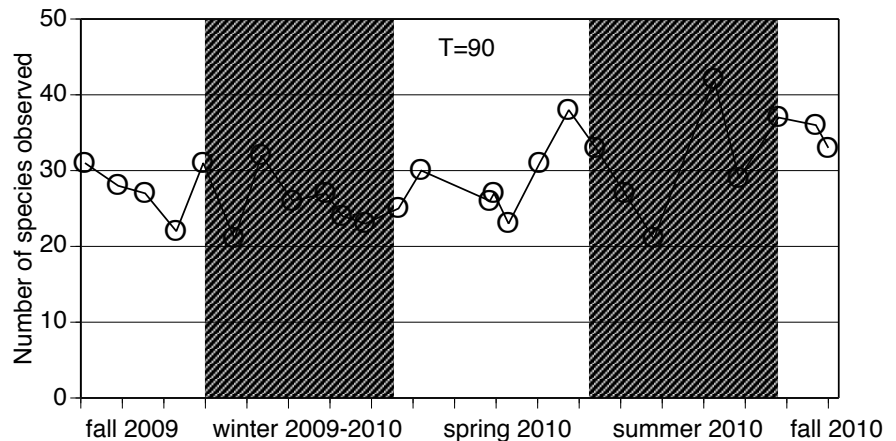
Kah Tai Bird Survey Update

Twice a month for the last two years, stalwart AAS members counted birds on Kah Tai Lagoon and at six point stations around the lagoon.

The first year's interim report is posted on the AAS website (<http://admiraltyaudubon.org/Conservation/2010AASbirdsurvey.pdf>). Although water birds are the most obvious to casual visitors, the data indicate that 2/3 of the bird species at Kah Tai are land-based. At any given time, 30 species on average (figure below) were observed, but over an annual cycle, 90 species were documented in the Park as migrant populations moved with the seasons. All are daylight observations; no night counts were done.

US Fish and Wildlife reported occurrence of 51 species in 1978. The increasing species numbers reflect in part on the maturing of upland habitat in the 30+years of Park existence.

Species Observed, Lagoon and Point Counts



AAS Membership Form

name _____ date _____

mailing address _____

city, state, zipcode _____

email address _____ phone number _____

Would you prefer your newsletter by email? paper copy? amount enclosed \$ _____

Send \$20 annual membership to: **Admiralty Audubon, PO Box 666, Port Townsend WA 98368**
 Membership includes 5 issues of our newsletter per year and the right to vote in chapter elections.
 Chapter programs and field trips are free to the public. We always welcome donations!



Admiralty Audubon Officers and Board

President: Rosemary Sikes	360-385-0307	rosemarysikes@olympus.net
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Treasurer: Bob Tyer	360-379-1610	bwtyer@gmail.com
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Conservation: George Yount	360-385-0456	gyount@olypen.com
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Science Advisor: Ken Wilson	360-821-1101	ken@kenwilson.info
Christmas Bird Count: Dick Johnson	360-385-5418	--
Webmaster: Andrew Reding	--	aareding@gmail.com
Education: Position Open		

Membership in AAS

Membership in Admiralty Audubon is approaching 150. Member support for all AAS programs is appreciated. Please encourage interested friends to check us out at <http://admiralty.audubon.org>.

Next Board Meeting

The next Admiralty Audubon Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 18th at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Rosemary Sikes (see contact list).