

## Admiralty Audubon Pipings

### AAS Program

**18 October 2012, 7 pm**

*The public is invited:*

**Port Townsend Community Center  
Lawrence and Tyler**

### Images Of Malheur NWR

Professional photographers David and Casey Gluckman will present “*Images of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge*” at the first fall meeting of AAS, on October 18 at 7 pm at the Port Townsend Community Center.

Their presentation will describe the many faces of this refuge located above 4,000 feet in east-central Oregon. It will include images of the Greater Sage Grouse Lek as well as a wide variety of migratory and resident bird activity from flying Black Terns and nesting Golden Eagles to Clark’s Grebes feeding chicks. The discussion will also include where to find different birds on the refuge in the spring. The program is free and open to the public.

*Rosemary Sikes*

*Programs, Admiralty Audubon*

*Image below: Male Greater Sage Grouse dancing on the Malheur Lek. A lek is ‘a patch of ground used for communal display in the breeding season by the males of certain species’. Image right: Western Grebe with chicks and a small fish aboard in Malheur NWR.*



### AAS Field Trip

**13 October 2012, 8 - 11 am**

### Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park

Meet at the parking lot/restrooms of the park for a slow walk around looking for late migrants and recent arrivals. The first trip of the new season always seems to produce some surprises so show up and enjoy the birds. Be prepared to move around town a bit if things are slow in the park. Dress for the weather and invite your friends.

*Please note that the participants in all field trips accept all risks and Admiralty Audubon accepts none. Wear appropriate footwear and clothing for the weather, don’t bring pets, and contact the trip leader to guarantee that room is available. Contact David Gluckman at 360-379-0360 and [cgluckman@aol.com](mailto:cgluckman@aol.com).*

*David Gluckman*

*Field Trips, Admiralty Audubon*



### **For paper newsletter recipients:**

**Please look at your address label!** The date (month-yr) your membership expires will be on the label. If you are over six months late, this will be your final newsletter. Prompt renewal is always appreciated. If the date disagrees with your records, let us know so we can correct our records.

## Plastic Bag Ban

In January 2012, Port Townsend citizens asked City Council's Special Projects Committee to consider a city ban on single use carry-out plastic bags. Admiralty Audubon assisted in the drive that collected more than 1000 signatures on a petition supporting the ban. In March, Special Projects weighed the environmental importance of an ordinance against the implications of negative consequences for City businesses and for citizens. They recommended language for an ordinance which was passed unanimously by Council in July, to take effect 1 November 2012.

The Port Townsend Marine Science Center has had two research efforts underway to evaluate the effect of plastics in the marine environment. Their analyses of plastic content in Glaucous-winged Gull boluses from Protection Island present clear evidence for the impact of plastics, particularly plastic film, on marine wildlife. Their resulting research paper is now in press in the refereed journal *Marine Pollution Bulletin*.

Minimizing single-use plastics conserves the petroleum resource from which plastic is derived; it conserves manufacturing and disposal costs, and it protects our environment and wildlife from an unnecessary, unsightly, and near-immortal waste product. Admiralty Audubon members can be pleased with the outcome of this important local legislation.

## Kah Tai Bird Report - Complete!

The photo at right does not do justice to David Gluckman's wonderful color image on the front cover of the Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park Bird Survey, completed in July 2012. Imagine a bright blue bill and cinnamon body with those white cheeks and amazing black eyebrows. Better yet, visit <http://admiraltyaudubon.org> and download a pdf (2.7 MB). Or pick up a (limited supply) printed copy at one of our public programs this fall.

AAS birders conducted 52 surveys over a two-year study to determine bird numbers, species and distributions at the Park. Ninety-eight species were documented during the survey, and the historic record at the Park is now 150 species (thanks to David Beatty's observation of a Western Kingbird just before we went to press).

## Fundraising for Sculpture in Honor of Eleanor Stopps

The fundraising effort for a sculpture to recognize the contributions of Eleanor Stopps is well underway. Before her death in April 2012, Eleanor agreed to the sculpture idea as long as it was a tribute to Protection Island and included some of her favorite species. The sculpture will also serve as testimony that one determined person can make a difference.

The sculpture is anticipated to be located at the Port Townsend Marine Science Center. PTMSC awards the annual Eleanor Stopps Environmental Leadership Award and sponsors the boat tours guided by naturalists that introduce visitors to the waters and wildlife around Protection Island. Tony Angell, wildlife sculptor and a friend of Eleanor, has agreed to produce the sculpture.

Since Eleanor was our Admiralty Audubon chapter founder, AAS is facilitating the collection of tax-deductible donations via an account established at First Federal Bank in Port Townsend. Contributions can be made by check for 'AAS Memorial Fund' directly to First Federal Bank (PO Box 1510, Port Townsend WA 98368) or via a PayPal link on a website for Eleanor [<http://eleanorstopps.blogspot.com>]. Contributions toward this lasting tribute to a great lady and her lifetime of accomplishments would be most welcome.

*Admiralty Audubon is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and your donation is tax deductible to the extent allowed by the IRS code.*



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## AAS Field Trip Report Summer 2012

### **Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park, 19 May 2012**

*Trip Leader, Paula Vanderheul.* Eight birders joined the evening field trip walk along the lagoon and shrub-grassland areas. Violet-green and Barn Swallows greeted us as we walked towards the lagoon. On the lagoon were Mallard, Gadwall, Pied-bill Grebe, Ruddy Duck, Bufflehead, Greater Scaup, and Marsh Wren. In shrubs and trees we saw Spotted Towhee, Song Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Red-winged Blackbird, House Finch, American Goldfinch, Wilson's Warbler, Black-capped Chickadee, Bushtit, Anna's Hummingbird, Cedar Waxwing, Orange-crowned Warbler and others; 30 species of birds in a 1.5 hour walk.

### **Lower end of Discovery Bay, 12 June 2012**

*Trip Leader David Beatty.* Five local birders comprised a spontaneous pick-up team who spent 90 minutes along the two refuge trails that border a portion of lower Discovery Bay. The visit yielded 25 bird species including a late-lingering Whimbrel, many Caspian Terns, 4 Gull species, a Red-breasted Sapsucker and several calling Willow Flycatchers.

### **Anderson Lake, Chimacum, 15 June 12**

*Trip Leader, Paula Vanderheul.* Five participants enjoyed a beautiful day for birding along the "C" trail. Many Willow Flycatchers, Pacific-slope Flycatchers and Hammond's Flycatchers were seen and/or heard. It was great to have the 'Ibird Pro' app to verify bird calls. We heard a Pileated Woodpecker calling as well as

singing Swainson's Thrush, Warbling Vireo, Purple Finch and Wilson's Warbler. The sun and habitat provided good views of Orange-crowned Warbler, Western Tanager, Brown-headed Cowbird, Song Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Black-headed Grosbeak, American Goldfinch, Spotted Towhee, and a hummingbird species. We watched Brown Creepers, Pacific Wrens Chestnut-backed Chickadees and a Black-throated Gray Warbler. Near the lake were Tree Swallows, Red-winged Blackbirds, Cedar Waxwings, a Common Raven, and a Steller's Jay. Our final surprise were 3 Common Nighthawks flying high in the sky over us calling their buzsear note! We thought we heard an owl call a slow single note deeper in the forest. We spent 3 hours on this wonderful nature walk.

### **Chinese Gardens, Fort Worden, 26 June 2012**

*Trip Leaders Ken Wilson and Ron Sikes* and a group of five spotted a breeding-plumaged Horned Grebe and a likely out-of-season Cackling Goose among the many Canada Geese at the pond. A bonus for us were killer views of a Long-tailed Weasel bringing several young black rats to its nest nearby.

*(for complete descriptions of these and other fieldtrips and sightings, visit our Sightings link at <http://admiraltyaudubon.org>)*

## Purple Martins!

AAS has been actively engaged in improving Purple Martin nesting success in Port Townsend since 2005. We have installed nesting boxes at Fort Worden pier, Kah Tai Lagoon and at the Boat Haven, with mixed success. The five Boat Haven boxes attracted two adult pair in 2011, with two fledglings observed in one box. Martins are often observed feeding over Kah Tai Lagoon, but we have not observed nesting in the boxes there.

This year has seen a bountiful generation of Purple Martins in the Boat Haven boxes. Thus far observers have documented at least 12 fledglings in the five boxes (see two fledglings in image at left). You can learn more about our Purple Martin project at the Conservation link on our website [<http://admiraltyaudubon.org>].

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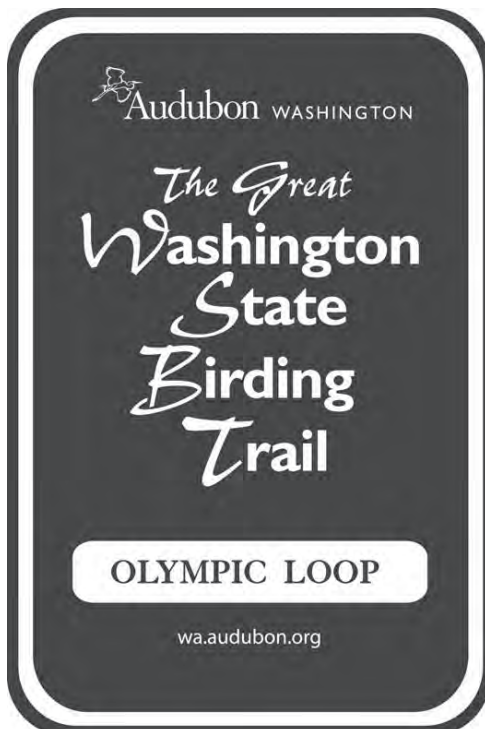


## Olympic Loop Birding Trail

Washington Audubon has produced informative, full-color maps for seven birding trails in Washington State. Our local chapter was very involved with Christi Norman of Audubon Washington in creating the Olympic Loop Birding Map a few years ago [<http://wa.audubon.org/great-washington-state-birding-trail/>].

Sometime between now and December, the signs for our trails will be ready and AAS members will assist landowners in our East Jefferson region to mount official 'Olympic Loop' signs on our area trails. Those trails in our chapter region are Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park, Fort Worden/North Beach, Chimacum Creek Estuary, Fort Flagler/Oak Bay, Big Quilence Estuary, Dosewallips and Mount Walker. Although Protection Island is a very important part of Olympic bird habitat and is on the Loop map, we won't be putting a sign there as no one would see it, since humans are not permitted on the island except for very rare exceptions.

Sport Townsend in downtown Port Townsend carries the Olympic Loop Birding Map for us. The map sells for \$4.95 plus tax. \$4 from each map sold goes to support Admiralty Audubon. Tell your friends.



## Glaring Gaps In GAP Analysis

Wandering around the web one evening brought up an interesting page [<http://gapanalysis.usgs.gov/>]. The GAP Analysis Program (GAP) is currently administered by the Biological Resources Division of the US Geological Survey (BRD-USGS). The overall goal of GAP Analysis is *'to identify elements of biodiversity that lack adequate representation in the nation's network of reserves (i.e., areas managed primarily for the protection of biodiversity)'*. GAP Analysis is *'a coarse-filter approach to biodiversity protection.'* USGS GAP led to the Washington State data page [<http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/gap/>, WAGAP], which declared that it intended to:

1. Map the LAND COVER of the dominant ecological systems
2. Map and model SPECIES ranges and distributions
3. Map land STEWARDSHIP by mapping both location and conservation status of protected areas.

But WAGAP relied on volunteer sources for species distribution that apparently didn't include anyone who had ever been to the Quimper Peninsula. According to WAGAP, our area has almost no water birds and only sparse land species. Of the species tabulated, Quimper doesn't have cormorants or herons of any species. Or Common Loons or Eared or Western Grebes. Or pintails, wigeons, shovelers or teals or canvasbacks or scaups or harlequins or Ruddy Ducks. No Ruddy Ducks! Or Redtail Hawks or Merlins or rails or snipes or Common Murres or Marbled Murrelets or any auklets. We don't have Anna's Hummingbirds or Belted Kingfishers or Marsh Wrens or Ruby-crowned Kinglets. Or bluebirds. Or Fox or Lincoln Sparrows. These are just a few examples of glaring absences in their data analysis.

It's too late to fix the flaws in the completed GAP Analysis. But we have ongoing opportunities to record our resident, migratory and breeding species in many databases. You can help by entering your observations of notable occurrences on our website under the 'Sightings' link, by participating in the Christmas Bird Count and the Great Backyard Bird Count. Stay tuned for other opportunities as well.

### First Workparty of the Season Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park 21 October 2012, 9 am - noon

Join us Sunday October 21 anytime between 9am and noon for the first workparty of the season at Kah Tai Park. We will be focusing on the ivy in the woodland between the Kearney Street entrance and the bridge but will have Scot's broom pullers and garbage bags for those that prefer to pull Scot's broom or pick up garbage. Park at the parking lot near the bathrooms and walk the main trail along the lagoon to the woodland. Look for Ron's white Chevy pick-up with the bright green 'volunteer' sign. Wear work-clothes and bring work gloves. Bring mattocks (for digging out the roots of the ivy) and/or pruners if you have them. Water and cookies will be provided. Hope to see you there ([rosemarysikes@olympus.net](mailto:rosemarysikes@olympus.net) or 385-0307).

*Rosemary Sikes*  
Programs, Admiralty Audubon

### New Chapter President

Rosemary Sikes decided after a six-year chapter presidency that she wanted to be Programs Chair. Chapter members at the May public meeting elected Rick Jahnke as the new AAS President. Rick is a marine chemist who graduated from UW, spent his career at 32°N latitude, then migrated back to the right temperature zone for retirement. He is both red-green color-blind and a novice birder, so when he talks about 'all those little brown birds', he means it.

### Update on Kah Tai Transfer

Since none of us is superstitious (right?), we won't think we are jinxing anything by saying that the final pieces of legislation have been put in place for the transfer of the Port's Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park property to the City, and for the City to transfer City and Union Docks to the Port. In addition, the City has vacated rights-of-way in the Boat Haven and amended some nonconforming use rules in the Municipal Code. For the City, that required five ordinances (No. 3078-3082) and one resolution (No. 12-030).

The Port Commission, for its part, unanimously passed the necessary single resolution that will allow surplus of the Kah Tai land to be able to transfer title to the City. Of course both the City and the Port signed a very important joint resolution back on May 21 as well, to formally initiate the process.

These actions took numerous meetings of the negotiating committee, which consisted of Mayor King, Commission President Erickson and respective City and Port managers, planners and attorneys. More importantly, they required an act of will and good faith by both sides to end this 30-year old, contentious debate.

When all is complete (October, perhaps?), the Park will be intact, the Boat Haven will be more functional, and City and Union Docks will be in the hands of the public entity mandated to handle marine-related issues. When you see a Council member or a Port Commissioner, remember to say 'thank you'.

AAS Membership Form <a href="http://admiraltyaudubon.org">[http://admiraltyaudubon.org]</a>	
name _____	date _____
mailing address _____	
city, state, zipcode _____	
email address _____	phone number _____
Would you prefer your newsletter by email? <input type="checkbox"/> paper copy? <input type="checkbox"/> amount enclosed \$ _____	
Send \$20 annual membership to: <b>Admiralty Audubon, PO Box 666, Port Townsend WA 98368</b> 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!	

Purple Martin © David Gluckman



Admiralty Audubon Society PO Box 666 Port Townsend WA 98368



Banner  
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## Admiralty Audubon Officers and Board

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Website:	<a href="http://admiraltyaudubon.org">http://admiraltyaudubon.org</a>	

### Take a Chair?

We need members to step up for Conservation, Education and Publicity Chairs. The Publicity Chair works with the Programs Chair to advertise our monthly programs and other activities. Conservation and Education Chair duties speak for themselves, don't they? Contact the chapter President for more information.

### Next AAS Board Meeting

The next Admiralty Audubon Board meeting will be held on 16 October at 7 pm. For more information about the meeting and location, please contact the chapter President ([rjahnke@att.net](mailto:rjahnke@att.net)).