

Admiralty Audubon Pipings

Kah Tai update: Transferred!

Some of us have heard the news from three different sources - city, county and port, but nothing official has been posted yet that we can find. However, the news sources agree: all the bits and pieces of Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park are now surrounded by an intact boundary recognized by the National Park Service, the State Recreation and Conservation Office, the city, county and port. The park in its entirety is in the hands of the City of Port Townsend, we're told.

Now we have a single government entity to work with toward completion of all the final paperwork to make certain that in every place where Kah Tai is described in official local government documents, it is described as a Land and Water Conservation Fund park with protections in perpetuity. Yes, a conversion could alter those protections, but conversions aren't quick, easy, or free, require compelling reasons, take years of effort and considerable funds.

Thank you, Admiralty Audubon members past, present and future, and all Friends of Kah Tai. It wouldn't have gotten finished without all of you. But we can now say, with some confidence:

THIS PARK IS FOR THE BIRDS.

Red Crossbill © David Gluckman



AAS Field Trips July & August 2013 Saturday, 20 July at 8:00 a.m. - South end of Larry Scott Trail - new extension.

Meet at the Milo Curry Road trail parking area with comfort station. It's a wooded forest with meadows, streams and ponds; an easy trail for our four-mile walk. We will walk to Cape George Road near the Chevy Chase Golf Course and return on the same trail. There are benches near Cape George Road.

Drive from Port Townsend on Discovery Road/ Hwy 20 south to the gas station intersection of Hwy 20-Four Corners Road and Cape George Road. Turn right on Cape George Road and watch for the Milo Curry Road trail parking sign on the right. At Cape George Road the trail crosses the road and extends beyond Douglas Way where carpooling could work for those wanting to walk only one direction. *Paula Vanderhuel, Trip Leader, 360-379-8564 or pvanderhuel@gmail.com.*

Saturday, 24 August at 8:00 a.m. - Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park.

Meet at the picnic shelter on the west side of the pond that is joined to the lagoon. We will look for shorebirds along the south side of the lagoon and then will walk along Kearney Street, cross the lawn of the KT Care Center, and to 19th Street and on around the north side of the park and into the Haines Street access on the northwest side of the lagoon. Then we will continue along the west side on Landes Street to the entrance to the south trail and to the starting point. *Ron Sikes, Trip Leader, 360-385-0307 or sikes@olympus.net.*

Please note: Participants in all field trips accept all risks and Admiralty Audubon accepts none.

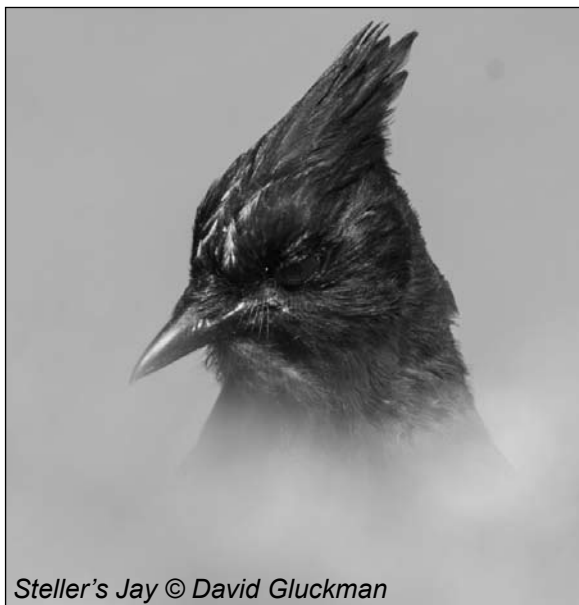
David Gluckman
Field Trips Chair,
Admiralty Audubon

Yes, this is a summer newsletter. No, we haven't done one in recent years. It's a shorter version than the regular issues, but we decided to try to keep members updated over the summer months. Let us know what you think.

AAS Field Trip Reports, May and June 2013

Saturday, 11 May - Spring Migration at Fort Flagler. Eight AAS members met at the sewage pond area starting our birding with Violet-green, Barn and Cliff Swallows. On the ponds we watched Killdeer, Mallard, Gadwall, Canada Goose and a Bald Eagle flying over us. We walked down to the beach area to scope waterfowl on the calm bay. On the bay we located Common Loon, Surf Scoter, Olympic Gull, Pigeon Guillemot and Rhinoceros Auklet. Along the cliff trees were Warbling Vireo singing and visible, Wilson's Warbler, Spotted Towhee, Song Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Rufous Hummingbird, American Goldfinch, House Finch, American Robin and Eurasian Collared Dove.

We took a walk around a mixed forest near the parking lot finding singing Pacific Wren, Red-breasted Nuthatch and heard a Black-headed Grosbeak singing. We walked along the back side of the sewage pond on the search light trail to a viewing point of the bay. We heard another singing Wilson's Warbler and some of us heard and saw a Pacific-slope Flycatcher and a Red Admiral butterfly on the return walk down the trail. We noticed lots of tent caterpillars at the tops of trees and mosquitoes on the search light trail. As we were driving out of the area Orange-crowned Warblers were singing to us. *Paula Vanderhuel, Trip Leader.*



Steller's Jay © David Gluckman

Friday, 24 May - Indian Island County Park - The most impressive sighting at Indian Island County Park was the flock of at least 42 humans who turned out for a birding and nature walk to support the county's lease renewal application to DNR. Although there were too many humans to facilitate effective bird watching, native plant species were identified and discussed. We also received a very informative lecture on the history of the area and an engineer's appreciation of the box-beam bridge to Indian Island. We did see and hear some notable bird species, including Wilson's Warbler, Pacific Slope Flycatcher, Bald Eagle, and an Osprey winging home with a nice catch. The trip was organized by Matt Tyler, Jefferson County Parks and Recreation Manager. *Paula Vanderheul and Ron Sikes, Trip Leaders.*

Saturday, 15 June: Anderson Lake State Park - Seven bird watchers attended including a birder visiting from Portland (welcome, Barbara!). On the lake was a Pied-billed Grebe and a Mallard with ducklings trailing. Along the shore we saw Western Tanager, Cedar Waxwing, Swainson's Thrush, Robin, Song Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Starling, Brown-headed Cowbird, and Rufous Hummingbird. At the nest box area were Tree and Violet-green Swallows with Barn Swallows flying nearby, and American Goldfinch at the feeder station. Many Willow Flycatchers called 'Fits-view' while perching on top of trees around the parking area; nearby were White-crowned Sparrow, Pine Siskin and Purple Finch. Flying over the lake and meadow were Northern Harrier, Turkey Vulture, and Bald Eagle. A common Yellow-throat was calling in the meadow. We walked the "C" Trail from the south end to the north coming out to the parking area. Along the trail, Northern Flicker, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Warbling Vireo, Orange-crowned Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, and Black-throated Gray and Yellow-rumped Warbler - heard, Brown Creeper, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Pacific Wren, Steller's Jay and Band-tailed Pigeon - heard. It was a sunny morning perfect for birding with 35 species counted. *Paula Vanderheul, Trip Leader.*

David Gluckman

Field Trips Chair, Admiralty Audubon

Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park

We had a very successful final workparty of the season at Kah Tai on 22 June, in large part because we were joined by an enthusiastic group of folks from the local nonprofit Labor Leaders, thanks to Director Jacob Talamante. The mission of the Labor Leaders organization is to *“provide educational material, training and support to the youth community and general public relating to landscaping, maintenance, and other general labor disciplines. Labor Leaders fosters learning and work excellence by working with local business leaders, educators and parents to create a safe, fulfilling, and academically enriching environment for youth.”* Kah Tai benefited from the volunteer efforts of a great group of young people who are learning general landscaping and other general labor skills (<http://www.laborleadersnw.org>).



Labor Leaders join the usual crowd of volunteers at Kah Tai.

Sculpture For Eleanor Stopps

Admiralty Audubon member and one-woman fundraising phenomenon Robin Ornelas sent a report on progress with the sculpture underway for a tribute to Eleanor Stopps. Robin and Jan Halliday (another AAS member) have worked with wildlife sculptor Tony Angell to develop a design appropriate for recognition of the story of the Protection Island National Wildlife Refuge and Eleanor’s pivotal role in that story. The sculpture will be installed at the Northwest Maritime Center.

Tony said, *“Eleanor’s sculpture is at the foundry and as we speak is going through the process of being cast. I’m keeping close contact with the piece and have given all the instructions to the foundry as to the fine tuning of attitude and patina. I’ll let you know when it is in hand.*

I really am pleased with the design. It represents both the strength of the seabirds I have depicted and the sense of sustainability that Eleanor believed in as she gave so much of her energetic life on their behalf.”

Donations to the Memorial Fund would be welcome to complete the fundraising effort for this tribute to our chapter founder. Credit cards can be used via PayPal at <http://eleanorstopps.blogspot.com> and checks (made out to AAS Memorial Fund) can be sent directly to First Federal Bank, PO Box 1510, Port Townsend WA 98368.

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

AAS Membership Form [<http://admiraltyaudubon.org>]

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mailing address _____

city, state, zipcode _____

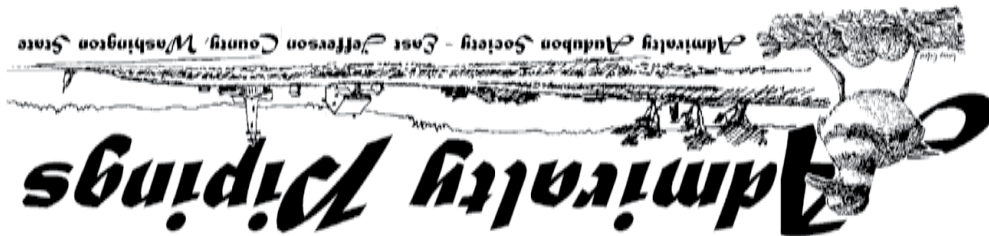
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Would you prefer your newsletter by email? paper copy? amount enclosed \$ _____

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 Society PO Box 666 Port Townsend WA 98368



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AAS Meetings in the fall

We have no Board meetings or public meetings during the summer months, when birders are resistant to indoor events. We will start up again in the fall; check the website for news. We need Education, Conservation and Publicity Chairs. Please consider applying for one of these important volunteer positions.

Dues News

Paper newsletter recipients: Your address label shows the date (month-year) your membership expires. If you are over six months late, this will be your final newsletter. If the date disagrees with your records, let us know. **Electronic newsletter recipients** will receive an email reminder. Dues are our chapter's source of operating funds.