

## Admiralty Audubon Pipings

### AAS Program

Thursday, 17 October 2013, 7 pm

*The public is invited:  
Port Townsend Community Center  
Lawrence and Tyler*

### Glacier & Waterton Lakes National Parks in Summer: Landscape & Wildlife Photography

Glacier and Waterton Lakes National Parks are the contiguous US and Canadian National Parks which comprise the International Peace Park formed in 1932 (thanks to the Rotary Club). They are also designated as Biosphere Reserves (1979) and World Heritage sites (1995).

The October 17th monthly meeting of Admiralty Audubon Society will be presented by professional photographers David and Casey Gluckman, who will share images of their recent trip to Glacier and Waterton Lakes National Parks in Montana and Alberta, Canada. The Gluckmans report that the parks were windy and hot and the birds and other wildlife present weren't all that enthusiastic about being photographed. However, the presentation will include both wildlife and spectacular landscapes with



*Many Glaciers Falls ©  
David Gluckman*

discussion of photo techniques and tips for all levels of photographers.

*Rosemary Sikes*

Program's Chair,  
Admiralty Audubon



*Columbia Ground Squirrel  
© David Gluckman*

### AAS Field Trips

September & October 2013

**Saturday, 21 September 2013 - Tarboo Creek**

Meet at the Park & Ride across from Safeway at 8:30 am, or at the Tarboo Creek Preserve at 9:00 am (limited parking here). We'll have a morning walk along the wetlands scoping out the latest migratories and summer leftovers. Be prepared to walk in the water for short distances. If we're lucky, the Barn Owls will fly by. At the same time, Peter Bahls, Executive Director of the NW Watershed Institute that runs Tarboo Creek Preserve, will be leading a walk through the uplands to show folks land needed for the preserve but is under option that will soon expire if not purchased. Feel free to choose between the two walks. *David Gluckman, Trip Leader: 360-531-3325 or [cgluckman@aol.com](mailto:cgluckman@aol.com).*

**Friday, 18 October 2013 - Chinese Gardens and North Beach**

We will meet at the parking lot at the Public Works wastewater office on Kuhn Street just north of 49th Street at 9:00 am, then drive north on Kuhn to North Beach parking lot to start walking the beach area. Dress for cold wet conditions. We'll look for Gadwall, Northern Shoveler and Pintail, Green-winged Teal and Hooded Mergansers at Chinese Gardens; Harlequin Ducks, scoters, loons and others at North Beach. *Paula Vanderheul, Trip Leader: 360-379-8564 or [pvanderheul@gmail.com](mailto:pvanderheul@gmail.com).*

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

*David Gluckman*

*Field Trips Chair,  
Admiralty Audubon*

### Thank you, David Beatty

David Beatty has served admirably as our chapter Vice President for three years, and as Education Chair prior to that. David has decided to step down as Vice President but will continue to lead occasional field trips. Thank you, David!

## AAS Field Trip Reports July & August 2013

### **Saturday, 20 July 2013 - Larry Scott Trail**

Nine members of AAS walked the Larry Scott Trail at the south end's new extension. It was a bit foggy and misty at first but made for an interesting walk as we listened for bird songs and calls. Lots of cherry trees were of interest to Robins and Starlings. Pacific-slope Flycatchers and Swainson's Thrush were singing and calling throughout the walk. Wilson's Warbler, Brown Creeper, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, American Goldfinch, Spotted Towhee, Dark-eyed Junco, and Bewick's Wren were singing. Violet-green Swallows flew overhead, with good views of some Purple Finches perched on top of a conifer. An American Belted Kingfisher called as it flew over us. As we returned to the parking area two Pileated Woodpeckers were seen and watched. One unidentified hawk was observed flying low through the woods and a few unidentified ducks were on the large pond off Cape George Road. A nice friendly walk with fellow naturalists. *Paula Vanderhuel, Trip Leader.*

### **Saturday, 24 August 2013 - Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park**

This Admiralty Audubon Field Trip looked at birds around the lagoon. We saw 24 species and heard three more. There were 7 species of waterfowl including Pintail, Lesser Scaup, Hooded Mergansers, Ruddy Ducks, and not least, Canada Geese. We saw a juvenile Lesser Scaup still with some down and it may have been hatched at the lagoon; if so, this would be another first for our list of species with pre-flight young observed in the park. A juvenile gull was determined to be a first season Ring-billed or California Gull. A fall-plumaged juvenile Yellow Warbler was seen in a willow at the southwest end. We watched both a Glaucous-winged Gull and a Great Blue Heron swallowing sculpin. The Greater Yellowlegs were eating some unseen invertebrates just beneath the water surface. Purple Martins flew overhead as we looked at water birds along the south shore. There was a good bunch of birders for the field trip (twelve of us). *Ron Sikes, Trip Leader.*

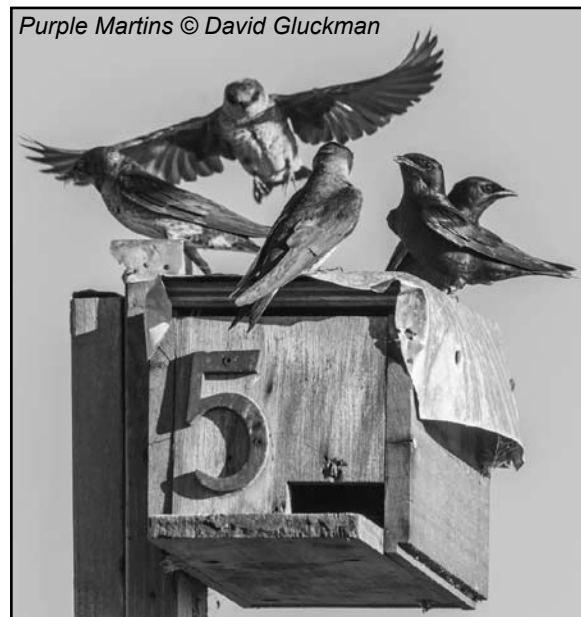
## Purple Martin Success

This has been the best year yet for AAS Purple Martin colonies at both the Boat Haven and Fort Worden. All five boxes were occupied with Purple Martin pairs at the Boat Haven colony with four mature males and one immature male. Young were observed poking their heads out the doors of four of the boxes and adult Purple Martins were observed bringing food to all five of the boxes.

For the first time Purple Martins were observed nesting at the boxes on the Marine Science Pier at Fort Worden. We have had four nest boxes there for three seasons. Volunteers from the Marine Science Center observed three Purple Martin pairs at the colony. The males are immature but all have raised young. On August 28 young were observed in two of the Fort Worden nest boxes with adults attending the boxes. Nine Purple Martins were observed soaring above the Fort Worden colony - probably flight lessons for the newly fledged Martins.

On the same date, at the Boat Haven colony adults and young appear to have started their fall migration south. No adults or young were observed.

*Rosemary Sikes*  
Programs Chair  
Admiralty Audubon



*Five on Five at the Boat Haven in summer 2012.*

## Congratulations, Helen Engle

The National Audubon Society awarded its 2013 Lifetime Achievement Award to Helen Engle at the National Convention held at Skamania Lodge in July (<http://wa.audubon.org/congratulations-helen-engle>). In addition to co-founding Tahoma Audubon, Helen Engle was a founding member of several leading Washington organizations including the Washington Environmental Council, Washington Wilderness Coalition, Washington Environmental Political Action Committee, Mount Rainier National Park Associates, The Arboretum Foundation of Pierce-Kitsap Counties, Nisqually Basin Land Trust, Citizens for a Healthy Bay in Tacoma, People for Puget Sound and National Parks Fund. She was elected to the National Audubon Society Board in 1980 and served there for 20 years.

Helen Engle's signature as NAS Board Director can be found on copies of a letter in both Port Townsend citizen archives and National Park Service archives. It is dated 19 November 1980 and is written to the Interagency Commission for Outdoor Recreation. It supports the Department of Interior's funding of the Kah Tai Lagoon Park grant application from the Secretary of the Interior's contingency funds. We got the grant and, as they say, the rest is history.

The 1978-79 Kah Tai bird survey completed by Eleanor Stopps and our first chapter president Bernard Beck for that 1980 grant application is tabulated on a Tahoma Audubon bird checklist. 'Tahoma' is crossed out, and 'Admiralty' is hand-written below it - just another treasure from citizen archives. Our chapter was a year old and we didn't have our own Admiralty Audubon bird checklists yet.



Red-breasted Nuthatch © David Gluckman

## Eleanor Stopps Award & Sculpture

Eleanor Stopps founded our local Audubon chapter in the late 1970s as a part of her effort to save Protection Island from development. The 9th annual Eleanor Stopps Environmental Leadership Award will be presented on 3 October at the Marine Science Center Breakfast in Fort Worden Commons, beginning at 8:00 am.

In addition to this annual tribute named in Eleanor's honor, work is nearing completion for a sculpture in 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.

Donations to the Memorial Fund would be welcome to complete the fundraising effort for the sculpture. 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.*

## Never Saw That Before

While I was eating lunch in early August, I saw a small, dark bird in my backyard move from the shadow of the rose bush across the gravel path to the birdbath. There the bird sat on the edge of the flower pot dish and drank.

"Who's that?" I said, and reached for my binoculars. "Oh my! It's a Red-breasted Nuthatch!" In 30 years of bird watching I'd never before seen one on the ground. The bird flew back to a stem of the rose bush low over the gravel path, sat a moment, went back to edge of the dish. He stepped into the water and took a bath, dipping his head under, lifting his head for water to run over his back, opening his wings and fluttering, dipping then fluttering. He flew to a stem on the rose bush, shook, and flew away. "Never saw one take a bath, either!" What a thrill!

In my yard on August 11, there were two Ring-necked Doves which I've never seen here before, and on August 13, a female Evening Grosbeak.

*Sue Hoover*

Member, Admiralty Audubon

## Kah Tai Title Transfer

On Wednesday morning, 24 July, the City Attorney and the Port Planning Analyst met with a First American Title Company employee at the County Courthouse. As a sheaf of documents made its way across three consecutive desks at the Auditor's Office, checks for title recording fees were filled out and signed, and it was done.

The 6f boundary around Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park is intact. It took more than 30 years to get from inception to reality. The thread was dropped countless times but somehow, someone always came along and picked it up again. The most recent gathering of loose threads pulled all interested parties through the State Recreation and Conservation Office records and into National Park Service archives.

There are more small steps ahead for Kah Tai to get all the wording right in other important places - notably the City parks functional plan and the comprehensive plan. But that will come. The wording is right in the most important place of all - now attached to those titles will be Land and Water Conservation Fund protections in perpetuity that should have been in place when the federal grant that created the park was closed in 1985.

Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park is now owned by one entity, the City of Port Townsend. More work will be required to solve some minor remaining issues. But those who value Kah Tai have only one government entity to work with now, one owner to keep track of, one responsible party's feet to hold to the fire of any problems that may arise in the future.

Sometimes governments work together. Sometimes it takes a lawsuit for recalcitrant parties to recognize that untenable postures cannot be maintained. The lawsuit filed by the port against the city, state and federal governments may have already been dismissed at this writing if all went according to the most recent plans. It just might finally be time to have a party.



## First Workparty of the Season: Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park

**6 October 2013, 9 am - noon**

Join us Sunday, 6 October anytime between 9:00 am and noon for the first workparty of the season at Kah Tai Park. We will be focusing on pulling Scot's Broom and picking up garbage. Park at the parking lot near the bathrooms and walk east toward the Benedict Street entrance southeast of the small pond.

Look for Ron's white Chevy pick-up with the bright green 'volunteer' sign. Wear work clothes and bring work gloves. Bring pruners if you have them. Water, tea, cookies, fruit, garbage bags and Scot's Broom pullers will be provided. Hope to see you there. For more information contact 385-0307 or [rosemarysikes@olympus.net](mailto:rosemarysikes@olympus.net).

*Rosemary Sikes*

Programs, Admiralty Audubon

## It Doesn't Come Naturally

The sound of wild geese honking their way across the sky can conjure - if not exactly melancholy, then poignant appreciation for that perfect V overhead, ancient nature in motion. An upward glance to the sound of geese one day in August revealed that illusions of perfection require practice in more than our own species.

The Canada Geese clutched and fledged at Kah Tai this year were out on an apparent training run. An overenthusiastic juvenile flapped into the lead goose who in turn bumped another goose and the rhythmic honking and flapping V turned briefly to feathered chaos overhead.

Several more training V exercises circled the lagoon and the skein has started to look and sound much more professional as we head into September.

*City and Port representatives examine transfer documents with title company staff while AAS members observe (above). City Attorney John Watts smiles at the end of the process while Port representative Eric Toews checks data (below).*

## Thanks For Supporting Indian Island County Park

Dear Indian Island Park Supporters & Volunteers;

I am very happy to announce that State Commissioner Goldmark signed a 30 year lease of Indian Island Park to Jefferson County Parks and Recreation recently.

This was a big group effort, I consider myself lucky to get to work with all of you. There are too many people to recognize. Our BoCC and their staff were major supporters, and they are the ones that actually 'closed the deal'.

The park is in pristine condition with wonderful access and amenities appropriate to the site, due in part to all of our amazing volunteers and our staff who support them. This plus the excellent signage and improvement that Dennis donated, and the outreach and phone calls made the difference. Brett has kept the areas mowed and the garbage picked up every week for three years now, creating a very high level of service and a clean environment. Paul mows the Portage Beach area which is beautiful.

Our past leases have been 7 years or 12 years, so 30 years is a huge improvement and a vote of confidence. Park rules and goals will stay the same as they are now. Let's enjoy this park today and for the next 30 years!

Thank you,  
*Matt Tyler*  
County Parks Manager

## Chelan Ridge Hawk Migration Festival

**Saturday, 14 September 2013, 8 am to 3 pm**  
**Memorial Park, Pateros**

### **An invitation from the North Central Washington Chapter:**

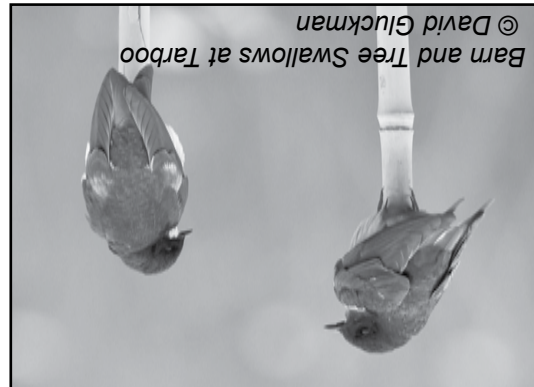
North Central Washington is home to some of the most amazing species in the northwest, but many people don't know it is also a major pit stop for hawks flying from Alaska to the southwest and Mexico. This September is a great opportunity to learn about this amazing migration, and get face-to-face with raptors of all shapes and sizes. Join the Methow Valley Ranger District, North Central Washington Audubon Society, and HawkWatch International for the third annual Chelan Ridge Hawk Migration Festival!

This festival coincides with the peak of south-bound raptor migration at Chelan Ridge - the best place in Washington to view this journey. This family event combines free activities in Pateros with trips to the Chelan Ridge site to learn about and celebrate raptors as they journey to winter territories. To register/RSVP for these events, call the Basecamp at 509-996-2334, email [info@northcascadesbasecamp.com](mailto:info@northcascadesbasecamp.com) or visit <http://www.northcascadesbasecamp.com>.

Festival information will also be updated on the NCWAS Facebook page. Still have questions? Please email: [rscran@aol.com](mailto:rscran@aol.com) or call Richard Scranton: 509-421-3166.

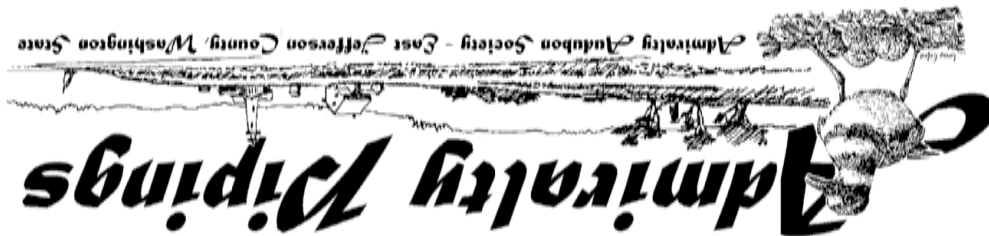
**HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE FESTIVAL!**

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!	



Barn and Tree Swallows at Tarboo  
© David Gluckman

Admiralty Audubon Society PO Box 666 Port Townsend WA 98368



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Larry Effen©

## Admiralty Audubon Officers and Board

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Webmaster: Andrew Reding	--	aareding@gmail.com
Website:	<a href="http://admiraltyaudubon.org">http://admiraltyaudubon.org</a>	

### AAS Meetings in the fall

Our first fall AAS Board meeting and first Community Program will be in October, when birders are a little more likely to come indoors and scale back their own migrations. We need Vice President, 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/day/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.