

Admiralty Audubon Pipings

AAS Programs

The public is invited:

Port Townsend Community Center
Lawrence and Tyler

Thursday, 16 January 2014, 7 pm

Hummingbirds and History in Ecuador's Highlands

Wendy Feltham will show photos and describe her travels in the Ecuadorian Andes, where she saw 31 species of hummingbirds. Also included are tanagers, ibises, orchids, Inca ruins, carnival celebrations and presidential elections.

Ecuador has the highest diversity per square mile of any country on earth, with almost 1700 bird species.



Booted Raquettail Hummingbird ©
Wendy Feltham

Thursday, 20 February 2014, 7 pm

Place-based Education & Maritime Discovery Schools

Port Townsend School Superintendent David Engle believes learning is more effective when the abstract concepts of academia are tied to the experiences of the student's community. This is place-based education, where the unique resources of our community are used systematically throughout a student's academic career. Dr. Engle's presentation will describe the effort to transform public education in Port Townsend. Place-based education is in line with our chapter mission. (Due to the holidays, we have not been able to get a 'blurb' from him for this presentation, so check the website for updates as the date approaches.)

Rosemary Sikes
AAS Programs Chair



AAS Field Trips

January & February 2014

Saturday, 18 January 2014 - Point Hudson to Fort Worden

Meet at 10:00 am at the Point Hudson public parking area. We will walk the beach to the PT Marine Science Pier at Fort Worden and either return on foot or shuttle cars. Call ahead if you want to shuttle your car before the 10:00 am departure. Remember that a Discover Pass is required to park at the Fort Worden beaches. Wear appropriate walking shoes and clothing for the weather. Contact Trip Leader Ron Sikes at 360-385-0307 or sikes@olympus.net for more information.

Saturday, 22 February 2014 - Skagit County

We will catch the 8:00 am ferry out of Port Townsend. The trip will be limited to 12 people and 4 cars. Prepare for the weather: boots, coats, etc. Also bring a lunch as our stop in Edison will be brief for coffee and pastries. Contact Trip Leader Dan Waggoner at 360-301-1788 or danwags57@gmail.com for arrangements.

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

David Gluckman
AAS Field Trips Chair

Our Mission Statement

The mission of Admiralty Audubon is to initiate, promote, assist, and encourage the understanding and appreciation of nature and the conservation of wildlife and wilderness, natural resources, and natural beauty.

AAS Field Trip Reports November 2013

Saturday, 16 November 2013 - Fort Flager and Marrowstone

Ten birders joined the AAS field trip. Our best bird of the year was a SNOW BUNTING foraging along the north side of the sandy spit allowing us close-up viewing. The next good bird was a Marbled Godwit scoped across the inlet of the inner bay at the tip of Red Island. We scoped the Port Townsend Bay finding Long-tailed Duck, Common Loon, Western Grebe, Horned Grebe, Red-necked Grebe, Common Goldeneye, Red-breasted Merganser, Harlequin Duck, Pelagic and Double-crested Cormorant, Surf and White-winged Scoter, and other usual waterfowl. The shorebirds at the end of the spit were Black-bellied Plover, Sanderling, and Dunlin. We also saw a mature and an immature Bald Eagle, Mew Gull, and Glaucous-winged Gull. A fun field trip!
Paula Vanderheul, Trip Leader.



Saturday, 30 November 2013 - Port Townsend to Whidbey

Ten people rode the ferry over and back. We saw Glaucous-winged Gull, Mew Gull, Great Blue Heron, American Crow, Bald Eagle, Rock Dove, Pelagic and Double-crested Cormorant, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Red-breasted Merganser, Surf and White-winged Scoter, Harlequin Duck, Horned Grebe, Brant, Red-necked Grebe, Pigeon Guillemot, Common Murre, Common Loon, Marsh Wren, American Wigeon, Pintail, Lesser Scaup, Mallard, Green-winged Teal, (3-4,000 ducks on Crockett Lake!), Dunlin, Sanderling, Black-bellied Plover, Northern Harrier, Golden-crowned, White-crowned, Song and House Sparrows, and House Finches. *David Gluckman, Trip Leader.*

114th Christmas Bird Count

We had a total of 37 participants (30 out in the field with 8 at feeders, one doing double duty) reporting 113 species on count day plus 6 more for count week, an above average species count. Our count total is slightly less than 15,000 birds, which is about average.

High numbers were for Canada Goose (311), Common Merganser (152), Yellow-billed Loon (2), Pigeon Guillemot (577), Merlin (4) and Mourning Dove (43). Low numbers were for Surf Scoter (124), Western Grebe (203 - low considering in the 80's & 90's we were averaging 1000 with 3178 in 1987), Rock Pigeon (104), Pine Siskin (5) and Red Crossbill (1) - not an irruptive year for finches. We missed out this year on Sharp-shinned Hawk, Bonaparte's Gull and Brewer's Blackbird.

Dan Waggoner

Christmas Bird Count
Admiralty Audubon

Thanks to our Rosewind hosts, Sandra and MJ, for our after-count gathering at the Commons.

Peregrine Falcon & handler © David Gluckman



November Program Breaks Record...

We quit counting at 120 people. The attendance at the November 2013 presentation by two of our stellar Peninsula wildlife rescue organizations on raptors and owls educated and entertained a fine crowd at the Community Center. It was wonderful to see so many children and young parents in the audience. Whatever we did to make that happen, let's do it again!

Remembering Eleanor Stopps

Eleanor Stopps founded our Audubon chapter. Eleanor's daughter, Carole Wigren, has generously shared a few stories with us. In Carole's words:

A funny thing happened on the way - - to the border

During Eleanor's years of operating the Seattle Wild Bird Clinic, there was a time she and Dad needed to go to Canada. She was able to find someone to take care of the sick birds at her home, but no one wanted to feed a sick hummingbird every 2 hours. Taking the bird and all her government documents allowing her possession of sick, injured and endangered birds, she arrived at the Canadian border where the customs official scratched his head and finally filled out the declaration form that the hummingbird was "touring" and sent them on their way.

Upon arriving back at the US border, the US agent was not so accommodating when he asked if they had anything to declare. Mom and Dad and the bird cage had to get out of the car. Dad asked if Mother could walk the few steps across the border by herself, which she did, and then raised the red eye dropper filled with food the hummingbird was used to eating from. Dad opened the cage, the bird flew across the border to Mom, and Dad said to the customs official, "Well, I guess I now have nothing to declare!!" They proceeded on home.

- to Washington, DC

Mom was being given an environmental award at a banquet in Washington DC and Laura and I attended. I arrived at the swanky DC hotel in west coast casual travel attire and Laura came in wearing a Pennsylvania farm hat and calico blouse. The hotel manager sent us up with a bell boy and shortly came in also, smugly looking down his nose at us country bumpkins and stating that this uniformed man was looking for us and would he be staying with us?

Wick looked aloofly at the hotel manager and said, "No sir. I am Colonel Walker and will be returning to base. I am simply escorting my wife



Canada Geese at Ridgefield Refuge © Julie Jaman

and sister-in-law to dinner at ..." and then he mentioned one of Georgetown's most exclusive members only clubs. I have never seen someone's expression change so fast as the hotel manager and bell boy took their tips and left.

The next day at the banquet we were sitting with US Representatives Don Bonker and Mike Lowry from the Washington delegation who got a big chuckle from our story.

- to Port Ludlow

Mom was driving her car well into her 80's and prided herself on never having had a ticket in her life. She was horrified when a police officer pulled her over. He wanted to know if she knew one of her taillights was out. She said 'no, and did he know that one of his headlights was out?' They agreed that if Mom would stop at the mechanic in town, he would go back to the police shop and they would both take care of things!

Update on Sculpture

The sculpture in recognition of the story of the Protection Island National Wildlife Refuge and Eleanor's pivotal role in that story will be installed at the Northwest Maritime Center, likely sometime this spring or early summer.

Donations to the Memorial Fund are still needed and would be welcome to complete the fundraising effort for the sculpture. PayPal at <http://eleanorstopps.blogspot.com> accepts credit cards 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; donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by the IRS code.

Admiralty Audubon Society Joins 21st Century

Renew Membership Electronically!

If you visit our chapter website (<http://admiraltyaudubon.org>) and pick the 'Membership' tab, you will discover that our members can now renew memberships and make donations via PayPal! This service takes a small cut from each payment but we hope the added convenience for members will make it worthwhile. You will receive an electronic receipt from PayPal and we will have an electronic record that will simplify bookkeeping.

Note that our annual membership cost is \$20 per household, but you can put in a different amount if you would like to donate to your chapter's habitat protection fund. Of course, we also welcome dues by mail.

Washington Audubon Chapter Newsletter Links - All in One Place

Several of our other Washington Audubon chapters send printed copies of their newsletters out to all Washington chapters. Since those chapters are large enough to qualify for bulk mail, it doesn't cost them much to do so. We are a small chapter so all our mailings are first class. Consequently, the Board decided with good reason in the past that it was too costly to send courtesy newsletters out to other chapters.

The other side of this issue is that our chapter mailbox fills up with newsletters from other chapters that we have no way to share with all our members. Our Chapter Associate Jen Syrowitz listened to this concern, and has set up a page on the Audubon Washington website that has links to all the state chapters' newsletter pages.

Now we can all very conveniently find any of our state chapters and see what they are up to at <http://wa.audubon.org/chapter-newsletters> or you can always get to it from our website - go to the Newsletters tab and the link is at the top of the page.

Mallards on ice, Kah Tai © David Gluckman



FaceBook, Twitter Considerations

At the recent ACOW meeting, attendees received a tutorial about the importance of social media and the do's and don't's of such rapid-response communications. If we are going to engage a younger generation, it is definitely useful to have more of an electronic presence than we now have, but we are a small chapter and don't have many folks stepping up with social media skills - until now. We are hopeful that we will soon have a chapter FaceBook and Twitter presence, so stay tuned.

Annual Membership Cycle January - December

One of the more tedious jobs for a volunteer is keeping up with membership renewals. Who is due when? What is the best and most economical way to remind members? What to do when our records say June expiration and a member insists September? Some of our other state chapters have gone to a January-December cycle, so everyone renews at the same time.

The Board decided to try moving memberships to an annual January-December cycle to minimize the record keeping and tracking required to keep up with notifications. For those who get paper newsletters, on your label is a date that shows when your dues will (or did) expire. Electronic members get an email reminder.

This year, we ask that you consider paying in January or whenever you are due, and if you so choose, prorate the amount so that you are paid up to the end of 2014. Quarterly might be simplest to prorate. For example, if you are due April-June, pay \$15.00; July-September, pay \$10.00 and so on. If you paid October-December in 2013, we have started your membership cycle at January 1, 2014. You may want to engage in higher math and figure it out to the day rather than quarterly. Of course, we would also welcome it if you considered the prorated amount a donation and paid \$20.00 to start your 2014 dues in January. And then, next January, we will all be on the same cycle and all memberships will be renewed in January.

Workparties at Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park

26 January & 23 February 2014, 9 am - noon

Join us Sunday, 26 January and/or 23 February anytime between 9:00 am and noon for workparties at Kah Tai Lagoon Nature 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 a white Chevy pick-up with the bright green 'volunteer' sign. Wear warm work clothes and bring work gloves and 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.

Rosemary Sikes

Programs, Admiralty Audubon

Collaborative Grant Received

In December 2013, our chapter received a modest and welcome Collaborative Grant from National Audubon in response to our proposal to improve the diversity of native plant species in the Kah Tai uplands. Now that the park is owned in its entirety by the city and the planting moratorium on the uplands has been lifted, our chapter's habitat conservation efforts have included the planting of Cascara, Douglas Hawthorn, Mock Orange, Hairy Manzanita, Garry Oak, Shore Pine and Rocky Mountain Juniper.

Be Prepared: Training for Capture & Cleaning of Oiled Birds & Other Wildlife

A recent Peninsula Daily News article provided a potent reminder: **Seven times the oil tanker traffic in the Strait? Canada weighs pipeline terminal in Vancouver, B.C., area** (<http://www.peninsuladailynews.com/article/20131229/NEWS/312299998/>). Considering the very real potential for increased transport of crude oil in our waters, we can learn how to handle the consequences of a worst case scenario. Oiled birds and other wildlife need trained volunteers to help them and if you aren't trained, you won't be able to assist.

Upcoming training will be held in Coupeville (March 22 & April 5) and Port Angeles (April 26 & May 3) and will be limited to about 20 people each, so early registration is encouraged. Trainings are conducted by the Island Oil Spill Association and they have long experience conducting these workshops. The series is funded through a grant from the EPA, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Department of Natural Resources. Register by contacting Michelle Lim: lim@nwstraits.org, 360-733-1725.



Virginia Rail, Kah Tai © David Gluckman

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

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**
or pay online at the Membership link via PayPal or credit card

*Membership includes 6 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!*

Banner
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Larry Eifert©



Admiralty Audubon Society PO Box 666 Port Townsend WA 98368

Pelagic Cormorants © David Gluckman



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Website:	http://admiraltyaudubon.org	

Take A Chair?

Our Vice President Bill Vogt has now stepped up to wear two hats and fill the Publicity Chair (thank you, Bill). We also have one Member At Large on our Board (welcome, Craig Wester!). We still need Education and Conservation Chairs. These positions represent two of our most critical roles in our community and are integral to our mission. Please consider applying for one of these important volunteer positions. And in a perfect world, we would have a Hospitality Chair as well. Contact the Chapter President for more information.