

Admiralty Audubon Pipings

AAS Programs March & April 2014

The public is invited:

Port Townsend Community Center
Lawrence and Tyler

Thursday, 20 March 2014, 7 pm

Citizen Science & Habitat Change

Ed Swan will be presenting his latest book *"The Birds of Vashon Island, a Natural History of Habitat & Population Transformation"*. The discussion will cover habitat change on Vashon Island since settlement in the late 1800's and the resulting alterations in bird populations. Citizen science and action then preserved the most important and critical habitat left on Vashon from the 1990's to present.

Ed Swan is a nature writer and avid birder living in the heart of Puget Sound on Vashon Island.

As a child, he learned to enjoy birds from his grandmother and continued growing his passion as an adult. Swan has authored more than 100 articles and two books about the natural history of birds in Puget Sound.

Thursday, 17 April 2014, 7 pm

Native Plants and the Birds They Attract

Admiralty Audubon's April program will illustrate the relationships between native plants, songbirds, hummingbirds and insects, including some of your favorite butterflies. Ron Sikes, now retired, worked as a gardener/landscaper in the Port Townsend area for over 35 years. He will show slides and talk about what he found after researching and observing what birds eat. Ron has been an avid bird watcher for over 40 years and will give suggestions on what you can do to attract birds to your yard.

Rosemary Sikes
AAS Programs Chair

AAS Field Trips March & April 2014

Saturday, 22 March 2014 - Little Oak Bay
Park & Fort Flagler

We'll start the field trip at Little Oak Bay Park, and then travel to Indian Island and Marrowstone Island, stopping at the mudflats connecting the islands before going on to Fort

Flagler campground road to the end for a walk along the marine spit at about 9:15 am. All should meet at 8:30 am at Little Oak Bay Park off Oak Bay Road, about two miles east from Port Hadlock's four-way stop signs. Anyone wanting to carpool from Port Townsend should meet at the Park & Ride near Safeway by 8:00 am. We'll look for winter migrants. I'll meet everyone at Oak Bay Park. Paula Vanderheul, Trip Leader: 360-379-8564 or pvanderheul@gmail.com.

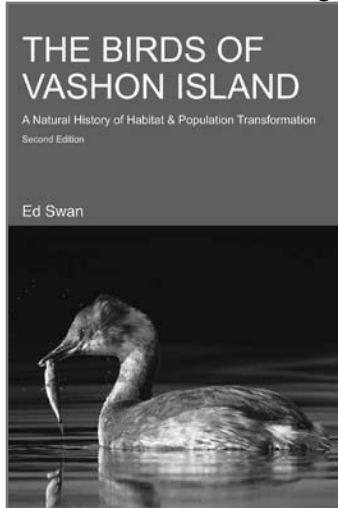
Saturday, 19 April 2014 - Fort Worden

We will meet everyone at 7:30 am at the Commons parking lot. We will be doing a lot of walking, but at a slow and comfortable pace. This is a great time of year for migratory populations, both those moving through and others just arriving. Dan Waggoner, Trip Leader: 360-301-1788 or danwags57@gmail.com.

David Gluckman

AAS Field Trips Chair

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



Chipping Sparrow (imagine a rufous crown) with a beak full of edible garden fauna. © David Gluckman

AAS Field Trip Reports January & February 2013

Saturday, 18 January 2014 - Beach walk, including Point Hudson to the Marine Science Center pier at Fort Worden

During this field trip our group of 15 saw a small flock of Brant, a Harlequin pair, small flocks of Surf Scoter, Long-tailed Ducks (far from shore), scattered Buffleheads, Common Golden-eye, Red-breasted Merganser, Pacific Loon (far from shore), Common Loon and small groups of Horned Grebe. Several Pelagic Cormorants were on the buoy and a Cooper's Hawk perched in a dead tree on the steep bank above the MSC pier. We saw Sanderling at Point Hudson, as well as Mew and Glaucous-winged Gulls, Common Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, American Robin, and Dark-eyed Junco. *Ron Sikes, Trip Leader.*

Saturday, 22 February 2014

The trip to Skagit County was postponed by inclement weather. A few of the intended participants decided to bird locally instead, and visited the pond near Discovery Bay Golf Course. Paula Vanderheul, Clara Mason and Lynn Dunham reported on our Sightings page that they'd seen Ruddy Ducks, Ring-necked Ducks, American Wigeons, Buffleheads, Greater Scaup, American Coots and Great Blue Herons. But their rarity was an Emperor Goose tagging along with Canada Geese landing on the pond. On 27 February, Diana and Gary Cummins reported an Emperor Goose among 20 Canada Geese across from the Discovery Bay Golf Course on the Larry Scott Trail. We wait to hear via Sightings if the four additional, similarly colored birds observed were also Emperors.

Color Photos in Newsletters - Maybe

As more chapter members are signing up for electronic newsletters than printed copies, we would like to start providing color photography. However, the cost for printing color for the members who ask for printed copies might be prohibitive. If it is possible to stay within budget, look for color photos in the next issue.

Workparties at Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park

16 March & 27 April 2014, 9 am - noon

Join us Sunday, 16 March and/or 27 April 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, snacks, 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

Leavenworth Spring Bird Fest

North Central Washington Audubon Society and the Leavenworth Spring Bird Fest would like to invite you to participate in this year's events 15-18 May 2014. In addition to birding across a range of habitats from ponderosa pine forests to shrub-steppe, wildflower walks, art and music events will be available at this family event. For more information, check out:

<http://www.LeavenworthSpringBirdFest.com>,
or contact Julia Leach, Bird Fest Director,
Wenatchee River Institute:
jleach@wenatcheeriverinstitute.org.

Wenas Audubon Campout

On Memorial Day weekend (23-26 May 2014), Wenas Audubon would like to invite you to attend a celebration of birds, botany and the beauty of an eastern Washinton spring. An outline of field trips and programming for the campout at Wenas Creek campground can be found at <http://www.wenasaudubon.org>. Your vehicle will need a Discover Pass. For more information, contact Doris Johnson at: dellenj@comcast.net.

Kah Tai Workparties

We had a very successful workparty for Kah Tai in February. Eleven volunteers showed up to help pull Scot's broom and pick up garbage at the park. Another six volunteers joined the potting party just up 14th Street from Kah Tai. With the grant recently received from National Audubon's Collaborative Funding, our chapter bought bare-root plants from the Jefferson Conservation District sale and members contributed some additional plants. We used two- and three-gallon pots for most of the plants, and now we have more than 100 plants ready to over-summer in a fenced, sunny enclosure while they receive irrigation and develop sturdy root systems so we can plant them in the late fall.

Species include Cascara, Pacific Ninebark, Mock Orange, Saskatoon Serviceberry, Red-stem Ceanothus, Silk Tassel, Silver Buffaloberry, Paper Birch, Rocky Mountain Maple, Western White Pine, Western Rhododendron as well as Sword Fern and Low Oregon Grape. Several of these species are on the 12-zone planting plan established in the 1985 master plan for Kah Tai, but they haven't been available in the Conservation District sales. All species are regional natives.



Park volunteers (l-r) Bjorn Danaandevus and his father Dan Greenman, Ron Sikes, Jerry Gilbert, Rosemary Sikes and Tom "Barn" Barnhart. Not shown: Katie Habegger, Larry Heater, Laurette Gilbert and Rick Jahnke (who split his time between the two efforts).



Potting volunteers (l-r) Rick Jahnke, Debbie Jahnke, Bob Gray, Bill Vogt and Jim Todd, along with some of the 100+ freshly-potted shrubs and trees for Kah Tai planting in the fall. Not shown: Margaret Lee. Craig Wester provided the photographic evidence.

Facebook!

Our chapter now has a Facebook presence at <https://facebook.com/admiraltyaudubon>. As a public page, anyone can see the headlines and photos that we post, although a Facebook account is required to respond, to read longer posts, or to 'like' (whatever that actually means).

We're still sorting out the details of Facebook buttons on our official website, but that should be done shortly.

If you are a Facebook user, our page could use a visit from you, and a 'like' if you find it interesting.

Brave new world. Now, on to Twitter.

Annual Membership Cycle January - December

This year we are moving to a January - December dues cycle so that everyone will be due in January 2015. Members have thus far been very understanding about the process (thank you!). If you have not already paid your dues this year, we ask that you consider paying now or whenever you are due, and if you so choose, prorate the amount so that you are paid up to the end of 2014. Next January, we will all be on the same cycle and all memberships will be renewed in January. We have added a paypal button under 'Membership' on our chapter website for those who want an electronic option for paying their dues.

Life-long Learning

Want to expand your knowledge, observation skills or just appreciation for the beauty of our natural world? Want to know what those shorebirds are fishing for when they dive? Or which songbirds prefer forest habitats and why? Expand your horizons and consider taking a class or two from one of the following organizations this year. All offer a combination of field and classroom learning with experts. If you are learning about habitat, you are learning about birds!

WSU Beach Watchers: The 11-week training course (Tuesdays) starts in late March and includes a fall session. Application deadline is March 14th. Emphasis is on coastal processes, marine and stream habitats and water quality. Volunteer community hours required:
<http://jefferson.wsu.edu/nrs/beachwatchers/> Cost: \$140.

Jefferson Land Trust Northwest Naturalist Course: This 7 week course (Saturdays) starting in late April is led by different naturalists, covering natural history of habitats from tidelines to timberline. Application deadline is March 31:
http://www.saveland.org/News/News_Detail.aspx?processID=166 Cost: \$190 - \$290.

JLT Natural History Society: Monthly programs and outings. <http://jltnatural.org>

NOSC Citizen Action Training School: This 50-hour, 12-week course co-sponsored by North Olympic Salmon Coalition will start in Sept. 2014 (evenings and weekends) and focuses on issues about Puget Sound recovery and advocacy. Volunteer project hours required.
<http://pugetsoundcats.org> Cost: free.

PT Marine Science Center: One-time programs and outings on marine conservation, current research and exploring local habitats. <http://www.ptmsc.org>

Jefferson Conservation District: One-time programs and workshops on water and soil conservation, habitat enhancement and protection. <http://www.jeffersoncd.org>

Cheryl Lowe

Jefferson County Marine Resources Committee and Beach Watchers Coordinator
cheryl.lowe@wsu.edu

City Parks Plan Updated

It is good news for birders that on 3 March 2014, City Council passed on second reading Port Townsend's first Parks, Recreation and Open Space Functional Plan in 15 years.

Although nobody got everything they wanted in it, compromises succeeded in pulling together a useful plan. Since parks functional plans are supposed to be updated at least every six years, we would all do well to work on developing our ideas so that the next time the opportunity comes around, we are ready with accurate information to be included.

Kah Tai's status as a 6(f)(3) protected nature park is included in the plan. Presence on the Great Washington State Birding Trail is also mentioned for several of our local birding hot-spots.



Eleanor’s Guillemots secure prime habitat!

Jan Halliday and Robin Ornelas have brought the effort for a sculpture honoring the work of our chapter founder to a wonderful conclusion. Below are comments from our AAS Board to City Council on 3 March 2014, when Council accepted the sculpture donation.



Port Townsend City Council,

Eleanor Stopps founded our Admiralty Audubon Society Chapter in 1977. In a 1979 report, she summarized our young chapter’s efforts to include: nature study field trips, education outreach, collection of data useful to city and county planning, and protection of Olympic Peninsula habitat. She described the fight to save all of Protection Island, well underway at that point. She also described a ‘year-long study of the natural resources of the Kah Tai Lagoon, a scenic area filled with bird life that is threatened with commercial development’.

The first recorded bird survey we found for Kah Tai is from June 1978 to June 1979, written in Eleanor’s hand. The results appeared in the LWCF grant proposal submitted in 1980 for the creation of the park at Kah Tai. The results were also used more than three decades later in the Admiralty Audubon bird survey at Kah Tai, which was dedicated to Eleanor Stopps.

When Eleanor died in April 2012, her friends approached the chapter to ask about fundraising for a bronze sculpture in honor of her efforts for Protection Island. While Eleanor had agreed to the idea of a sculpture, she founded our chapter to protect habitat and advocate for wildlife. Our chapter mission statement is silent on the issue of fundraising for bronze birds.

The chapter provided a dedicated bank account, a website and a paypal account and Eleanor’s friends and family did the fundraising. They have negotiated to provide those bronze Pigeon Guillemots with some prime habitat at the Northwest Maritime Center. After almost two years, we are here before you as you consider accepting from Eleanor’s friends a sculpture by Tony Angell in honor of Eleanor and the Protection Island story.

Just remember, the story of habitat protection, advocacy and education is larger than one island and one person. One of the themes used for the Protection Island effort was: THIS ISLAND IS FOR THE BIRDS. You’ve probably seen a bright blue bumper sticker around town that says KAH TAI PARK IS FOR THE BIRDS. So, from all of us, thank you.

<p>AAS Membership Form http://admiraltyaudubon.org</p>	
name _____	date _____
mailing address _____	
city, state, zipcode _____	
email address _____	phone number _____
<p>Would you prefer your newsletter by email? <input type="checkbox"/> paper copy? <input type="checkbox"/> amount enclosed \$ _____</p>	
<p>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</p>	
<p><i>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!</i></p>	

Banner
Design and Art by
Larry Eifert©



Admiralty Audubon Society PO Box 666 Port Townsend WA 98368

Barn Owl at Tarboo © David Gluckman



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Take A Chair?

Our chapter needs members to step up for the Education and Conservation chairs. Port Townsend Schools are heading into exciting times to integrate place-based education into a Maritime Discovery curriculum and there is an obvious place for input there. But our County has four school districts, and all could benefit from an Audubon perspective in their educational programming. East Jefferson County has many conservation concerns and an Audubon presence is needed to express our perspective and priorities as well. Do you have some time and talent to offer?