

Admiralty Audubon Pippings

Forage Fish Regulation: Efforts Continue

As many of us are aware, abundance of forage fish in Salish Sea waters is vital to supporting a healthy coastal ecosystem. Herring, surf smelt and sand lance are a critical prey for salmon. But as David Gluckman's spectacular picture of the Rhinoceros Auklet on page 2 demonstrates, forage fish are also important to the success of many species of marine birds that winter in our waters or pass through on the Pacific Flyway.

Despite widespread acknowledgement of forage fish importance, legislation that would provide protections and regulations remains a work in progress. In addition, Sound Action's independent audit of projects requiring Hydraulic Project Approval permitting by the Department of Fish and Wildlife to modify coastal habitats indicates that many permits are approved without instituting timing restrictions. Migratory processes and spawning activities are often focused in a narrow window of time. Thus, without appropriate timing restrictions, species success may be impacted.

As one more step in the goals of establishing regulations that preserve adequate forage fish in our region, the Department of Fish and Wildlife is currently requesting public comments on potential changes to commercial and recreational surf smelt fishery regulations in Puget Sound. Contact information for making comments and background information can be found at: <http://wa.audubon.org/coastal-stewardship-marine-birds-and-forage-fish>. The comment period is open until 30 May 2014.

Rick Jahnke
AAS President

AAS 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.

Color in Newsletters

The most economical approach to color in our printed newsletters is to keep it to one side of the 11x17 sheet that makes up pages 1+6 and 2+5 of our current format. That necessitates a relocation of many of the regular features so that those referring to images are located near the color pages. Let us know what you think.

The major consequence of adding color is that the newsletter costs more to print. For those members who want printed newsletters, we will have to be a bit more stringent about dues. If you are more than six months late, this will be your last printed newsletter. Please check your mailing label for your dues expiration and if we have it wrong, let us know so that it can be corrected. This is an all-volunteer organization, so mistakes do happen.

Beginning in 2015, our membership cycle will be the same for everyone - due in January. New members who join mid-year are welcome to prorate if they choose to do so.

Facebook

Our chapter's Facebook page is <https://facebook.com/admiraltyaudubon>. As a public page, anyone can see the headlines and photos that we post. We are trying to post notices for all our meetings, birdwalks and workparties, as well as other links of interest to birders. If you are a Facebook member and 'like' our page, notifications will come to you automatically.

Contact Info for Members

If you provide an email address, whether you are an electronic or printed newsletter recipient, please let us know if you don't want to receive occasional notifications from your Chapter about meetings, workparties, and other topics that might be of interest or concern to members. Our member contact list is not shared outside our membership and newsletter uses. If you are a printed newsletter recipient and want email notices, please make sure we have a current email address for you. Send an email to admiraudub@gmail.com.



© D. Gluckman

One of the species we can expect to see now is the Western Tanager, captured here having a spring scratch.

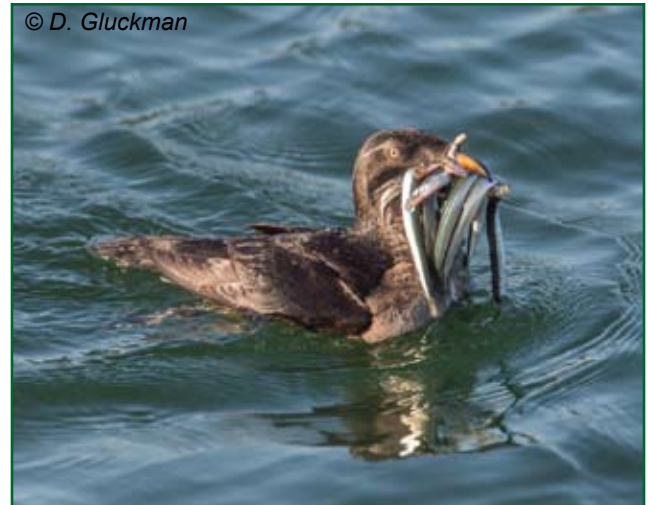


Ken Wiersema (above, with sunrise) has been an Audubon Member since 1968, past president Olympic Peninsula Audubon [OPAS], and past regional Chapter representative to the Audubon WA state Board. Currently he is VP of OPAS and member of Dungeness River Audubon Center Board. He also volunteers as an instructor on basics of birding, nest box construction, and is part of OPAS Purple Martin landlord team. He's a retired civil engineer with over 30 years in US Army Corps of Engineers and a graduate of UC Berkeley in Civil Engineering '56. He'll present our May program. See page 3.



© D. Gluckman

Violet-green Swallows (upper photo, female) and Purple Martins (lower photo, male) are two swallow species we can look forward to as the weather warms up. We've fostered successful Martin nests at Boat Haven and the Marine Science Center. All three photos courtesy David Gluckman.



© D. Gluckman

'Here, piggy, piggy...' is the title of this photo, taken by David Gluckman last year. If you'd like the opportunity to photograph Rhinoceros Auklets feeding on forage fish, a photography field trip is planned for sometime in June. See page 3. Add your voice to forage fish protection efforts - see page 1.



© D. Gluckman

AAS Programs - May & June 2014

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED:

**Port Townsend Community Center
Lawrence and Tyler**

Thursday, 15 May 2014, 7 pm

Corvids in Spring

Ken Wiersema will discuss the Corvid family, their characteristics, lifestyle, strength, intelligence, and vulnerabilities and delve into connections with humans in lore, artwork, history, and shared living space. His presentation will focus on the birds that we regularly see in this Pacific Northwest corner of Puget Sound and encourage folks to watch and enjoy these special birds that share our habitat.

.....

Pope Marine Park Building

Sunday, 22 June 2014, 1-3 pm

Dessert Potluck

As our final public program of the season, Admiralty Audubon is presenting a dessert potluck. It will be accompanied by David Gluckman's spectacular bird photography. The event is free and open to the public; please bring a dessert to share. For more information contact 385-0307 or rosemarysikes@olympus.net.

Rosemary Sikes
AAS Programs Chair

Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park Workparties May & June 2014

Sundays, 25 May & 29 June 2014, 9 am - noon

Join us either or both days, anytime between 9:00 am and noon. We'll focus on Scot's Broom, Spurge Laurel, Holly 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, treats and 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.

AAS Field Trips - May & June 2014

Saturday, 17 May 2014 - Spring Migration at

Little Oak Bay Park & Fort Flagler: We will meet at the sewage pond parking lot at 8:15 a.m. to walk around the forest trails listening and looking for spring warblers, and other passerines. Those interested in carpooling from Port Townsend should meet at the Park and Ride near Safeway by 7:45 a.m. I'll meet everyone at the sewage pond parking lot. Once entering Fort Flagler drive to the four way stop signs. Turn right following the short road to the parking lot. Paula Vanderheul, Trip Leader: 360-379-8564 or pvanderheul@gmail.com.

Saturday, 14 June 2014 - Anderson Lake

(1061 Anderson Lake Road Chimacum WA). We will be walking a trail enjoying warblers and passerines. We will meet at the parking near the restrooms at 8:15 a.m. Anyone wanting to carpool from Port Townsend should meet at the Park and Ride near Safeway by 8:00 a.m. I'll meet everyone at I'll meet everyone at the Anderson Lake parking lot. Paula Vanderheul, Trip Leader: 360-379-8564 or pvanderheul@gmail.com.

Sometime in June: David Gluckman will try something new in mid to late June; he'll lead a trip to the fishing pier at Point Hudson to view and photograph Rhinoceros Auklets feeding on forage fish (see example on page 2). It usually happens the last few weeks in June so he won't be able to set a date yet until he sees how nesting is going. It will be sometime during the last two weeks of June. This one may have to be done by Facebook and email notice so if you are interested, send an email contact to cgluckman@aol.com or watch our public Facebook page at <https://facebook.com/admiraltyaudubon>. Remember, you don't have to be a Facebook user to view our public page to get schedules and updates.

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

David Gluckman
AAS Field Trips Chair



AAS Field Trip Reports: March & April 2014

Skagit and Samish Flats: 1 March 2014

A small group of birders made the trek up to the Skagit and Samish Flats. Our first attempt the week before was snowed out. This trip is always about Snow Geese, swans and raptors and we were not disappointed. At Samish Flats we were treated to lots of Red-tailed and Rough-legged Hawks and Bald Eagles. We ran into David Gluckman, who saw a farmer that feeds large numbers of Bald Eagles. In the Skagit Flats area we got good comparisons of Tundra and Trumpeter Swans. A few early Violet-green Swallows were seen at the Skagit Game Range. We had a three-falcon day, with American Kestrel, Merlin and even a pair of Peregrine Falcons on the drive home on Whidbey Island. By the end of the trip we had a tally of 71 species. *Dan Waggoner, Trip Leader.*

Little Oak Bay & Fort Flagler spits: 22 March 2014

Six of us joined the AAS field trip. At Oak Bay spit were Northern Pintail, American Wigeon, Mew Gull, Bufflehead, Common Loon, Green-winged Teal, Mallards, Red-winged Blackbird, and House Finches singing. On the way through Nordland were two Greater Yellowlegs, Belted Kingfisher, Killdeer, Great Blue Heron, Spotted Towhee, and Dark-eyed Junco. A Red-tailed Hawk was perched on a dead snag as we arrived to Fort Flagler entrance. Along Fort Flagler campground road out to the spit were Robins,

Northern Flicker, and Junco. At the spit along the north side viewing Port Townsend Bay were Surf Scoter, Common Loon, Horned Grebe, Red-necked Grebe, Eared Grebe, Double-crested and Pelagic Cormorant, Brant, Harlequin Duck, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Red-breasted Merganser, Bald Eagles, Pigeon Guillemot, and Glaucous-winged Gull. A good size flock of shorebirds included Black-bellied Plover, Black Turnstone, Sanderling and Dunlin. A Black Oystercatcher flew in heading for the boat ramp area. It was a cool, dry, cloudy, windless morning walk with interesting folks. *Paula Vanderheul, Trip Leader.*

Fort Worden: 19 April 2014

Approximately 15 people joined me for the Admiralty Audubon field trip. The weather held off for us. Right near the Copper Canyon Press building at the start of our walk we came across three Townsend's Solitaires and a Hermit Thrush. The Solitaires gave us very good looks. At the top of Battery Hill we ran into a large flock of warblers. We had nearly a hundred Yellow-rumped Warblers during our walk, the majority being the Audubon's type, but there were a few Myrtle's type thrown in too. Townsend's and Orange-crowned Warblers were also sighted. The strangest bird of the day was a Bewick's Wren that had a black belly. Not sure what the story is. *Dan Waggoner, Trip Leader.*

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!*



© D. Gluckman

Although the Rufous Hummingbirds have returned to enjoy the Red-flowering Currant and other nectar species, many Anna's Hummingbirds winter over in our area. The year-round presence of Anna's is apparently a fairly new phenomenon.

Left is a male Rufous with characteristic gorget color; below are a Rufous female and an Anna's female at the bottom for comparison. All photos courtesy David Gluckman.



© D. Gluckman

Yellow-rumped Warblers are back in large numbers, both Audubon's and Myrtle's races. See Fort Worden bird walk report on page 4.



© D. Gluckman



© D. Gluckman

Bald Eagle at Cape George. Although Bald Eagles are no longer listed as Endangered or Threatened Species here, they are still listed as Sensitive Species and relevant local and federal guidelines should still be followed.



© D. Gluckman

Banner
Design and Art by
Larry Eifert©



Admiralty Audubon Society PO Box 666 Port Townsend WA 98368



American Golden Plover © Daniel S. Kilby

Admiralty Audubon Officers and Board

President: Rick Jahnke	360-531-3417	rjahnke@att.net
Vice President & Publicity: Bill Vogt	360-531-2821	geezoman@bhvdesignlab.com
Secretary: Ron Sikes	360-385-0307	sikes@olympus.net
Treasurer: Bob Tyer	360-379-1610	bwtyer@gmail.com
Field Trips: David Gluckman	360-379-0360	cgluckman@aol.com
Programs: Rosemary Sikes	360-385-0307	rosemarysikes@olympus.net
Conservation, Education	open	
Membership & Newsletter: Debbie Jahnke	360-531-3415	admiraudub@gmail.com
Member At Large: Craig Wester	360-385-5390	craigwester@olympus.net
Science Advisor: Ken Wilson	360-821-1101	tadpoleranch@gmail.com
Christmas Bird Count: Dan Waggoner	--	danwags57@gmail.com
Webmaster: Andrew Reding	--	aareding@gmail.com
Website: http://admiraltyaudubon.org		Facebook: https://facebook.com/admiraltyaudubon

What's Inside and Where

In our new, color-accomodating format, you'll find upcoming community programs, bird walks and work parties are all on page 3. Reports from recent birdwalks are on page 4. Color photos are on pages 2 and 5. News and member info are on page 1.

About that Artwork

Most of the photography in our newsletters comes from our generous Field Trip Leader, David Gluckman. We also welcome bird photos from other members; all we can give you is credit! The b/w artwork comes gratis via National Audubon's Chapter Services.