

Admiralty Audubon Pipings

AAS Field Trips for May & June 2015

***Birding By Ear - The Basics* Saturday, 16 May 2015**

AAS member and wildlife biologist Tom Butts will lead a bird walk (listen) on Saturday May 16, 2015, at Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park in Port Townsend. Meet at the parking area by the restrooms at 8 a.m. The emphasis of the walk will be on learning the basics of, and the enjoyment of, learning to bird 'by ear'. Bring appropriate clothing for the weather, binoculars and a bird book if you have them (not required), a small notebook and pen or pencil, and your ears. We'll be done well before noon. For more information contact Trip Leader Tom Butts at 406-431-7482 or tombutts10@hotmail.com.

***Anderson Lake Bird Walk:* Saturday, 13 June 2015**

We will be walking a trail looking and listening for warblers, flycatchers, woodpeckers and passerines. We will meet at the parking lot near the restrooms at 1061 Anderson Lake Road Chimacum WA, at 9:15 a.m. Folks wanting to carpool from Port Townsend should meet at the Park & Ride near Safeway by 9:00 a.m. I'll meet everyone at the Anderson Lake parking lot. Paula Vanderheul, Trip Leader: 360-379-8564 or pvanderheul@gmail.com.

Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park Workparties May & June 2015

Please join us to remove invasives and pick up trash. Weed wrenches and trash bags will be provided. Dress for the weather.

***Sunday, 24 May 2015:* 9 am - noon**

The white Chevy pickup with tools, sign in sheets, water, tea, treats, etc. will be parked at the new park bench near Chase Bank in the southeastern corner of the park.

***Sunday, 21 June 2015:* 9 am - (almost) noon**

Meet at the white Chevy pickup parked near the Benedict Street entrance.

Note that our final community program of the season is a potluck meal which will occur immediately following the June workparty, and will take place at the Pope Marine Building across from City Hall in downtown Port Townsend. See page 3 for additional details. For more information, phone 385-0307 or email b1rdbrush@gmail.com or ptrose53@gmail.com.

Ron Sikes
Admiralty Audubon Treasurer

Hello Audubon in Washington,

What a whirlwind this last week has been! I hope you'll join us in celebrating the news that the permit to spray imidacloprid [a neurotoxic pesticide implicated in colony collapse disorder] in Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor is being withdrawn. This is a huge victory for birds and other wildlife in our coastal estuaries and I couldn't be more pleased with the outcome. I can't tell you how heartening it was to see the response from across our network and the public at large as we strategized about how to appeal the permit. Thank you so much for your passion and dedication.

As the dust settles I'll know more about if and what the next steps are that we might take towards protecting birds and their habitat in these estuaries. In the meantime, if you're still eager to take action I'd encourage you to submit letters to the editor or op-eds to your local papers with your thoughts on shellfish farming practices, what the abundance and diversity of shorebirds and waterfowl in Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor means to you, or take whatever grassroots action makes the most sense for you.

Trina Bayard
Director, Bird Conservation, Audubon Washington



© David Gluckman



© David Gluckman



© Andrew A Reding



© Andrew A Reding



© Korinda Ohana Kay

Clockwise from upper left:

Jaye Moore with Swainson's Hawk from Northwest Raptor & Wildlife Center © David Gluckman;

Western Screech Owl © David Gluckman;

Rhinoceros Auklet with beakful of sand lances © Andrew Reding;

Snow Geese over a field of tulips in Skagit Valley © Korinda Ohana Kay;

Tufted Puffin, beneficiary of Endangered Species listing in Washington © Andrew Reding

AAS Programs May & June 2015

**The public is invited:
Thursday, 21 May 2015, 7 pm
PT Community Center**

Live Raptors and Owls with Wildlife Rehabilitators Cindy Daily and Jaye Moore

Cindy Daily of Discovery Bay Wild Bird Rescue (Port Townsend) and Jaye Moore of Northwest Raptor and Wildlife Center (Sequim; see photo at upper left of page 2) will bring live raptors and owls to the Community Center to educate us about the birds' natural history, and also about the role of wildlife rehabilitators.

We don't know yet which of the birds will be visiting our chapter, so come for the surprise. This is always a great program for families.

All Admiralty Audubon programs are free and open to the public. Both wildlife rehabilitation centers are dependent on donations for their operations, so contributions to support their efforts are most welcome. You can visit the centers online at <http://discoverybaywildbirdrescue.com> and <http://nwraptorcenter.com>.

**Sunday, 21 June 2015, noon
Pope Marine Building**

Join us June 21 from noon - 2pm at the Pope Marine building for Admiralty Audubon's annual summer potluck. Bring your favorite dish and all your best bird stories to share.

Note that this event will take place following our June workparty at Kah Tai so you don't have to miss the workparty to attend our end-of-season potluck. For more information contact ptrose53@gmail.com or call 360-385-0307.

Rosemary Sikes

Admiralty Audubon Programs Chair

Audubon Advocacy Successes: Forage Fish Protection

During this last state legislative session, Audubon Washington, with support from local chapters including Admiralty Audubon, advocated for better management of forage fish in Puget Sound and the Straits of Juan de Fuca. Healthy forage fish populations are, of course, critical to the success of many marine birds and other marine organisms. Specifically, this legislation will support smelt and sand lance spawning surveys and trawl studies of populations of these fish in our region and require integration of the results into management and conservation efforts. I am happy to report that this legislation (SB 5166) was passed by both the House and Senate and has been delivered to the Governor for his signature. An example of the species benefiting from this effort is shown on page 2 - a Rhinoceros Auklet with a beakful of sand lances. Audubon rocks!

Tufted Puffins Listed as Endangered Species in Washington

At their April meeting, the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission agreed to place Tufted Puffins (photo on page 2) on the State's endangered species list. While once fairly commonly observed in inland waters and on the coast, Tufted Puffin populations have precipitously declined since the late 2000s. Populations currently continue to decline at a rate of 9% per year. Being listed as endangered is a big step and will bring attention to this species, but it is only the start. We now must work to make sure management and recovery plans are developed and enacted.

Rick Jahnke

President, Admiralty Audubon

Your Audubon Chapter needs you! We are a small chapter and many of us wear multiple hats to try and fulfill our chapter mission. An education chair and a conservation chair would be very welcome. Please consider volunteering for these or other positions.

AAS Field Trip Reports

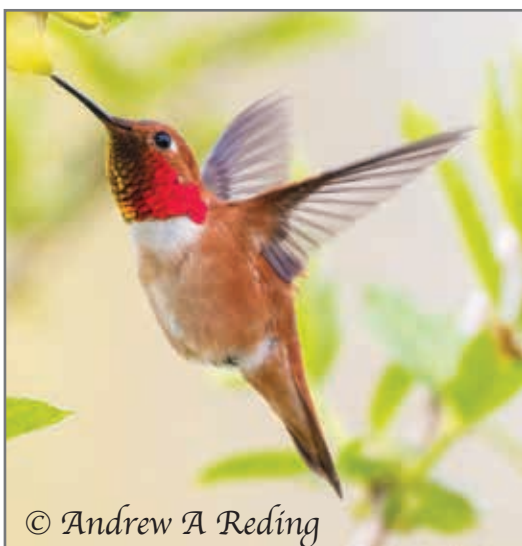
14 March 2015: Dungeness Spit National Wildlife Refuge - This AAS field trip had two brave birders! No winds, very little rain and a great morning walking along the spit beach. Up close views of Common and Pacific Loons, Red-necked Grebe, Horned Grebe, Western Grebe, Double-crested and Pelagic Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Brant, American Wigeon, Mallard, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Greater Scaup, Surf Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, 8 Bald Eagles, Killdeer, Glaucous-winged/Western Gull hybrid, Rock Dove, Crow, Raven, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Pacific Wren, American Robin, Dark-eyed Junco, Belted Kingfisher, and Song Sparrow. Along the way to the spit and return we viewed Red-tailed Hawk and Eurasian Collared Dove. We stopped at John Wayne Marina for lunch watching a Barrow's Goldeneye, a Eurasian Wigeon and many of the birds mentioned above. A great birding experience! *Trip Leader Paula Vanderheul.*

11 April 2015: Larry Scott Trail, Milo Curry Trail Head - AAS field trip walked the trail and visited Discovery Bay pond. Fourteen birders attended this walk! 38 species (+1 other taxa) Greater White-fronted Goose 5; Canada Goose 12; Gadwall 2; Mallard 3; Northern Shoveler 8; Ring-necked Duck 5; Bufflehead 6; Pied-billed Grebe 2; Great Blue Heron 1; Turkey Vulture

1; Cooper's Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 1; American Coot 6; Western x Glaucous-winged Gull (hybrid) 2; Rufous Hummingbird 3; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Hutton's Vireo 2; American Crow 4; Common Raven 1; Tree Swallow 6; Violet-green Swallow 6; Black-capped Chickadee 1; Chestnut-backed Chickadee 3; Red-breasted Nuthatch 2; Brown Creeper 1; Pacific Wren 6; Bewick's Wren 1; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 2; American Robin 4; Orange-crowned Warbler 6; Common Yellowthroat 1; Spotted Towhee 2; Song Sparrow 8; White-crowned Sparrow 2; Golden-crowned Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 4; Red-winged Blackbird 6; Purple Finch 2; Pine Siskin 20. *Trip Leader Paula VanderHeul.*

17 April 2015: Elwa River Mouth, west access - Two birders observed 28 species (+2 other taxa) Mallard 4; Ring-necked Duck 2; Bufflehead 2; Red-breasted Merganser 1; Common Loon 1; Horned Grebe 6; Red-necked Grebe 4; Double-crested Cormorant 1; Bald Eagle 2; Greater Yellowlegs 1; Mew Gull 15; Western x Glaucous-winged Gull (hybrid) 40; Caspian Tern 2; Rufous Hummingbird 2; Belted Kingfisher 1; American Crow 5; Common Raven 3; swallow sp. 1; Black-capped Chickadee 1; Chestnut-backed Chickadee 2; American Robin 3; American Pipit 5; Orange-crowned Warbler 4; Yellow-rumped Warbler 12; Spotted Towhee 1; Song Sparrow 2; Dark-eyed Junco 3; Red-winged Blackbird 4; Purple Finch 4; Pine Siskin 10. *Paula Vanderheul, Trip Leader.*

AAS Membership Form 2015 http://admiraltyaudubon.org	
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: Admiralty Audubon, PO Box 666, Port Townsend WA 98368 or pay online at the Membership link via PayPal or credit card	
<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>	



Signs of the season

Clockwise from top left:

Anna's Hummingbird female at Red Hot Poker in home garden © David Gluckman;

Orange-crowned Warbler on Red-flowering Currant in home garden © Beverly McNeil;

Yellow-rumped Warbler at Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge © Beverly McNeil;

Common Yellowthroat on cattail in the pond near Chevy Chase Golf Course, from the Larry Scott Trail © Artemis Celt;

Rufous Hummingbird male at Black Twinberry blossoms © Andrew Reding

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Larry Eifert©



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© Andrew A Reding
Osprey with striped mullet © Andrew A Reding

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© David Gluckman
Ruddy Duck female with youngsters at Kah Tai © David Gluckman