

## **Admiralty Audubon Pipings**

### **AAS Field Trips for November & December 2015 & New Year's Day 2016**

#### ***A Birding Birthday Celebration***

Saturday, 14 November, carpool from Port Townsend departing from the PT Park & Ride at 9 am to Fort Flagler on Marrowstone Island. We will meet county members at the waste water treatment plant at Fort Flagler. Here we will observe the birds on the pond. Then we will drive down to Fort Flagler Spit to join a former Admiralty Audubon President who with friends will be celebrating her 90th birthday. We will bird the spit and vicinity until 11 am then move to the Camp Richmond Building where we will be offered hot drinks and goodies before we return home. *Trip leader Ron Sikes at 360-385-0307 or b1rdbrush@gmail.com.*

#### ***Saturday, 12 December 2015 - Larry Scott Trail***

Meet at the Larry Scott Trail Milo-Curry Trailhead on Cape George Road at 10 am. We'll be looking for winter migrants along the forested trail and wintering waterfowl on some ponds. This will be a 2.5 mile pre-Christmas Bird Count field trip to practice our skills for the Admiralty Audubon Society CBC event (see right column). Dress warmly with gloves, hat, boots, binoculars, cameras, note pad to tally a count of your birds, and spotting scope if you have one. Newcomers welcome. *Contact Trip Leader Paula Vanderheul for questions at 360-379-8564 or pvanderheul@gmail.com.*

#### ***Friday, 1 January 2016 - Irondale Bay Chimacum Creek Park***

Field Trip will meet at the Irondale Bay Chimacum Creek Park at the east end of Moore Street Port Hadlock at 10 am. Last year on New Year's Day 13 birders joined the walk along this bay. We enjoyed viewing 31 species of waterfowl and other birds along with harbor seals and harbor porpoise. Come along and start your 2016 bird list and share the morning with other birders. Dress warmly with gloves, hats, water proof shoes, and binoculars, cameras and spotting scope if you have them. *Contact Trip Leader Paula Vanderheul: 360-379-8564 or pvanderheul@gmail.com.*

### **Christmas Bird Count 19 December 2015**

Everybody is invited to join Admiralty Audubon's Christmas Bird Count Saturday 19 December. The CBC is an organized continent-wide survey which documents every bird seen on a given day from sunrise to sunset. Since the turn of the 20th century, the CBC has contributed to the knowledge base of wintering birds in North America.

The count is an all-day event open to anyone wishing to participate. This is an excellent opportunity for novice bird watchers to join with seasoned veterans and learn more about identifying and finding the local birds. Half-day participants and home feeder-watchers are also welcome. We would like to particularly encourage anyone with feeders in the count circle who can spare at least one hour to watch their yard to participate; we also need a few more 'expert' field birders as possible team leaders. Winter feeder watching can be quite rewarding as birds try to expend the least amount of energy to get the greatest amount of food.

The Admiralty Audubon count circle is a 7.5-mile radius centered near Indian Island ship dock and is divided into 13 sections, with a team of 3 or more individuals assigned to each section. Team leaders for each section will make arrangements with the rest of their group for a meeting place and time (usually between 7:30 and 8 am) the morning of the count. Participants should bring cold and wet-weather gear, binoculars, a scope if you have one, lunch and snacks for the day. A notepad and pencil or electronic recording devices, field guides, camera and a thermos with something hot are always good ideas as well.

There will be a countdown potluck after the count at Rosewind Commons at 5 pm. For more information contact *Dan Waggoner: 360-301-1788 or danwags57@gmail.com*

### **LWCF Expired!**

Our fractious Congress allowed the Land & Water Conservation fund to expire in September after 50 very productive years. Many of our most valued spaces are protected by LWCF. Please go to <https://www.audubon.org/takeaction> and select 'Protect America's Open Spaces' to submit a letter of support for this invaluable fund.

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## AAS November Community Program

*The public is invited*

**Thursday, 19 November 2015, 7 pm  
Port Townsend Community Center  
Lawrence & Tyler**

### Costa Rica, Pura Vida Part 2

In April 2015, photographer Bev McNeil presented Part 1 of her Costa Rica adventures, a show of the birds and other fauna and flora of Costa Rica. Costa Rica's country motto is 'Pura Vida', translated 'Pure Life', and the Costa Rican interpretation of 'pura vida' includes use as a greeting, a farewell, or just to say life is good.

In November Bev will bring us Part 2, a presentation of more up-close and personal images of beautiful birds, lizards, butterflies, bats and other mammals. She is excited to share the visual experiences of her "*January 2015 three-week solo nature photography works in Costa Rica*"...did she say "*works*"? Well, someone has to do it! The biodiversity in this country is considered by National Geographic to be the most intense on the planet, more specifically, Corcovado National Park on the Osa Peninsula. We hope that is enough reason to get you to join us and enjoy this beautiful program.

*Rosemary Sikes*

Admiralty Audubon Programs Chair

### Photos on page 2

*Clockwise from upper left:*

*Fledged Bald Eagle, trying out that new pair of wings, Sequim Bay, 2014 © Julie Jaman;*

*Bay-headed Tanager, Costa Rica, 2015 © Bev McNeil;*

*Postman Butterfly, Costa Rica, 2015 © Bev McNeil;*

*Nootka rosehips ripening at Kah Tai, 26 October 2015 © Artemis Celt;*

*A flash of Northern Flicker at Kah Tai, 9 October 2015 © Artemis Celt;*

*Northern Shoveler, American Wigeon and American Coot sharing the pipe at Kah Tai, 26 October 2015 © Artemis Celt.*

*Stalking the Brown Booby: A group of intrepid birders (including Paula Vanderheul, Bill Vogt and John Gatchet) try to find the Brown Booby reported at Three Crabs; 29 October 2015 © Artemis Celt;*

## AAS Kah Tai Work Parties

**Sundays, 15 November & 13 December  
9 am to noon**

On 15 November, park near the bathrooms, then walk the trail toward the lagoon. The white pickup will be parked at the junction with the south lagoon trail. We will plant 50 of the native plants that we potted in February. We will also pull Scots Broom and pick up garbage.

On 13 December, park near the bathrooms where the white pickup will be parked. We will plant 40 of the native plants that we potted in February along the west end of the South trail. We will also pull Scot's Broom and pick up garbage.

Please join us! For more information on either of these events, contact Rosemary Sikes: 360-385-0307 or [ptrose53@gmail.com](mailto:ptrose53@gmail.com).

*Rosemary Sikes*

Admiralty Audubon Programs Chair

### Duck Heaven Joins the Park!

In 1979-80, when the boundaries of Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park were being proposed, the deciding factor was willing private sellers. Below is a map from June 1980 with a dashed acquisition project boundary area which included all private parcels. Many of the 26 private parcels lettered A-Z ended up in the park. Parcel Z did not, as owners did not want to sell in 1980. But recently, Parcel Z was put up for sale, and a couple of park supporters bought it. The intent is to donate it via Admiralty Audubon to the City for inclusion in the park. The best nesting habitat in the park is safe!



## Field Trip Reports

### **Fort Flagler**

The Fort Flagler field trip on 19 September was attended by 22 birders who observed 33 species + one other taxa.

Fort Flagler campground road spit: Harlequin Duck 8, Red-breasted Merganser 1, Common Loon 8, Horned Grebe 2, Red-necked Grebe 1, Double-crested Cormorant 2, Pelagic Cormorant 30, Black-bellied Plover 75, Whimbrel 2, Marbled Godwit 2, Sanderling 15, Pigeon Guillemot 4, Rhinoceros Auklet 1, Heermanns Gull 7, Mew Gull 2, Ring-billed Gull 2, California Gull 2, Western x Glaucous-winged Gull (hybrid) 30, Caspian Tern 15, White-crowned Sparrow 4, Golden-crowned Sparrow 1, Savannah Sparrow 3, Song Sparrow 2.

On the drive along Indian Island road and Flagler road thru Nordland the following bird species were seen: Great Blue Heron 1, Northern Pintail 3, American Crow 30, Common Raven 2, Eurasian Collared Dove 3, Starling 30, Greater Yellowlegs 3, Green-winged Teal 2, Bufflehead female 1, Belted Kingfisher 1, Mallard 30. *Trip Leader Paula Vanderheul.*

### **Discovery and Dungeness Bays**

The scheduled 3 October birding field trip was canceled due to concerns of inclement weather. *Trip Leader David Gluckman.*

### **Sightings doesn't like all punctuation**

When you report your birding on our AAS Sightings page, please don't use apostrophes or semi-colons. Sightings uses SQL language which does not allow those characters as text.

### **Birding the Bluffs**

Since this was my first trip leader experience besides the 2014 CBC outing, I was not totally prepared and did not think to have a pen and paper to write down what we sighted. Well, this is the best I can recall and will do better next time:

On July 16th a (deliberately) small group of four of us met in the morning at Fort Worden, North Beach. The birding was not really active but we did enjoy seeing Barn Swallows and Cliff Swallows on the bluffs and later spotted one or two Pacific Wrens and Spotted Towhees and a few Chickadees. That is all that I recall and promise to bring a paper and pen to record sightings. *Beginner Trip Leader, Beverly McNeil*

### **Photos on page 5**

*Clockwise from top left:*

*Long-billed Dowitchers, Grays Harbor, 26 August 2015 © Bev McNeil;*

*Scoters...surfing! - part of a group of 3000-4000 just north of Kalaloch, 5 October 2015 © Bev McNeil;*

*Marbled Godwit, Fort Flagler, 19 September 2015 © Artemis Celt;*

*Black Turnstones, PT Boat Haven, November 2014 © Julie Jaman;*

*Red-throated Loons, Ocean Shores, 26 August 2015 © Bev McNeil;*

*Red-throated Loons, Ocean Shores, 26 August 2015 © Bev McNeil;*

*Marbled Godwits and a Whimbrel, Fort Flagler, 19 September 2015 © Artemis Celt;*

AAS Membership Form 2016

<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!*



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Larry Eifert©



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Common Loon in fog, Fort Flagler, 9 October 2015 © Artemis Celt

## Admiralty Audubon Officers and Board

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### Dues are Due 1 January 2016

Now that we are in an annual dues cycle of January 1 - December 31, annual memberships are due at the first of 2016. If you're new and joined late in 2015 but paid for a full year, feel free to prorate your 2016 dues accordingly. There's a form on page 4, a downloadable form and a PayPal link on our website. Please renew (\$20/household) - your chapter needs you!

### Protection Island Aquatic Reserve

Many thanks to Admiralty Audubon Board member Craig Wester for stepping up to take a seat on the Protection Island Aquatic Reserve Implementation Committee. The Committee addresses issues in the designated water areas included around Protection Island as a part of the Protection Island National Wildlife Refuge.