

Admiralty Audubon Pipings

AAS Field Trips July & August 2016

**Friday, 8 July 2016, 9:00 am:
Anderson Lake State Park**

1061 Anderson Lake Road, Chimacum WA. We'll have a birding trip to Anderson Lake, which is quite active right now. A quiet walk around the lake will take 1 to 2 hours depending on how much we stop to observe. It is an easy trail for all ages and abilities. I will take a small group of up to 6 persons. Bring binoculars and water and light jacket. Avoid bright clothing. Call for directions to 1265 Eddy Street and we can carpool with one or two cars; it is only a 15 minute drive. Let's meet at my house at 9:00 am. Or, if you wish, we can just meet at Lake Anderson at the very first entrance just off the road at 9:15. Please reserve your spot since group size is limited. You will need a Discover Pass. *Beverly McNeil, Trip Leader: 360-385-9730 or blmcneil59@gmail.com.*

Saturday, 30 July 2016, 9:00 am: Fort Flagler

Join our AAS field trip bird walk along the Spit between Kilisut Harbor and Port Townsend Bay looking for shore and sea birds. Once entering Fort Flagler drive to the four-way stop signs and turn left onto Campground Road following it out to the end to the parking lot across from the RV Campground. Those interested in carpooling from Port Townsend should meet at the Park and Ride near Safeway by 8:15 a.m. I'll meet everyone at the Spit area at 9 am. Bring binoculars, spotting scope, field guides and dress comfortably with hat and hiking shoes. A Discover Pass is required. *Paula Vanderheul, Trip Leader: 360-379-8564 or pvanderheul@gmail.com.*



Virginia Rail, Kah Tai © Bev McNeil

**Friday, 12 August 2016, 8:00 pm:
Batwalk at Kah Tai**

Tom Butts, Port Townsend wildlife biologist specializing in bat ecology, will lead a 'bat walk' on Friday evening, August 12, beginning at 8:00 p.m. at Kah Tai Lagoon near the parking lot. He will focus on interesting facts about the bats in our area, then at dusk he'll use bat detectors that can pick up high frequency bat calls to identify bats on the wing near the lagoon. Children are welcome. *Contact Tom Butts at 360-302-0740 or tombutts10@hotmail.com.*

**Saturday, 20 August 2016, 8:00 am:
Fall Migrants at the Kah Tai Lagoon**

Meet by the picnic shelter by the little pond. We will search for returning shorebirds and waterfowl around and on the lagoon. Also we look for summer songbirds in the woodland. *Ron Sikes, Trip Leader: 360-385-0307 or b1rdbrush@gmail.com.*

Lummi Nation Treaty Respected

Dear Audubon in Washington,

Thanks to the leadership of the Lummi Nation, the Army Corps of Engineers announced that they are denying the permits for the Gateway Pacific Terminal coal export proposal at Cherry Point based on violations to Lummi treaty rights!

This has been a hard won victory over the coal companies after several years for the Lummi Nation and their Northwest community allies fighting what would have been the largest coal export terminal in North America. In Washington, Audubon advocates submitted 1,560 comments last winter – thank you! Thanks to the Lummi Nation, to leaders like you, and to the thousands of people in the Northwest who have stood by the Lummi Nation in their request. This is an historic, precedent-setting win.

The birds thank you, the local communities thank you, Washingtonians thank you!

Jennifer Syrowitz
Chapter Conservation Manager
Audubon Washington



© Artemis Celt



© David Gluckman



© Julie Jaman



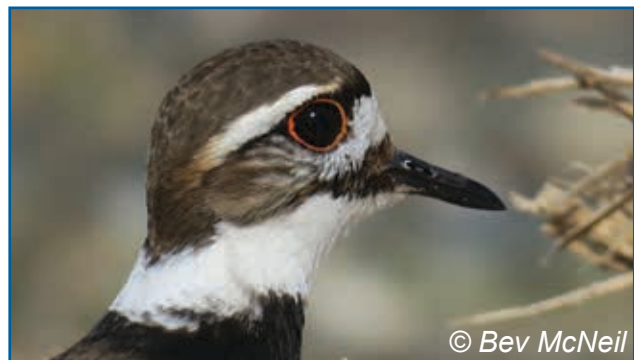
© Artemis Celt



© David Gluckman



© Bev McNeil



© Bev McNeil

Photos clockwise from upper left: Bushtit, Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park, 22 May 2016; wheatfields of the Palouse, eastern Washington, May 2016 (no, not photoshopped!); Savannah Sparrow, Fort Flagler, 20 June 2016; male Black-headed Grosbeak on nest, Anderson Lake, June 2016; Killdeer near Boat Haven, 17 April 2016; Calliope Hummingbird male and female; Mountain Bluebird, Whitney OR, 2016.

Concern about Canada Goose Populations

Some AAS Chapter members have recently expressed concern about the relatively large numbers of Canada Geese that currently utilize the cleared shoreline, groomed lawn and shrubbery areas on the eastern shore of the lagoon near the Lawrence Street right of way for raising goslings, for grazing, snoozing, and yes of course, defecating. A mature Canada Goose defecates 1-3 pounds of goose poop daily. Multiply that by a large flock and that's a lot of poop. That's a lot of nitrogen and phosphorus for a relatively small, enclosed basin to accept over an annual cycle, given that the lagoon also hosts large migratory flocks of many waterfowl species. Goslings raised by non-migratory Canadas will also be non-migratory, so the resident population could become larger than the carrying capacity of the lagoon.

Although the lagoon is brackish, many species of freshwater, toxin-producing cyanobacteria (such as those that are impacting Anderson Lake and other local water bodies) are salt-tolerant, and once excess phosphorus is in a closed basin, it can be problematic to remove it, as it becomes a part of an annual cycle of algal/cyanobacterial bloom, settling to the sediment surface, regeneration into the dissolved form and return to the surface for another bloom. Since the lagoon also serves as the receiving basin for stormwater management of approximately 712 urban acres of Port Townsend, it already bears a significant anthropogenic nutrient burden.

The lagoon has maintained a modest resident population of Canada Geese, but the photos at right, taken the last week of June 2016, show part of a flock of at least 50 Canadas (top right) as well as a similar number of Mallards (bottom right) onshore and away from the lagoon edge. The Mallards are heading toward the human photographer, as Mallards do along the south shore of the lagoon, being habituated to seek food from humans. Expecting handouts is not a behavior that humans are advised to cultivate in birds as large and assertive as Canada Geese.

These concerns may be unwarranted, but consideration of the possible complications and consequences are well worth the effort. A

very helpful primer called 'Living with Wildlife - Canada Geese' is available to download from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife at http://wdfw.wa.gov/living/canada_geese.html.



Audubon Strategic Plan 2016-2020

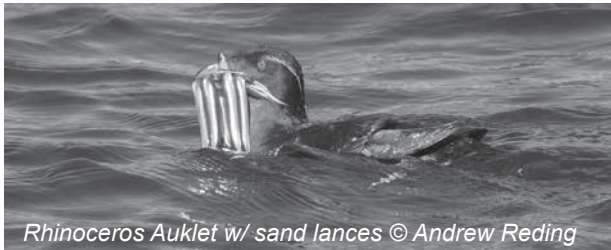
"If Audubon truly lived up to its potential, how much good could we do?" That's the question that our national leadership asks, given the very effective local leadership of 23 state Audubon offices and hundreds of local chapters.

If you would like to download a copy of National Audubon's newest strategic plan, you can do so at https://www.audubon.org/sites/default/files/strategic_plan_2016-2020_final.pdf

Field Trip Reports

Anderson Lake State Park 21 May 2016

Admiralty Audubon Society field trip attended by 12 bird watchers who enjoyed the natural habitat providing quality nesting and foraging for many species of birds and other animals: 34 bird species plus a river otter and pacific tree frogs. Species and numbers observed include Canada Goose 2; Double-crested Cormorant 3; Osprey 2; Western x Glaucous-winged Gull (hybrid) 1; Mourning Dove 1; Rufous Hummingbird 3; Red-breasted Sapsucker 1; Olive-sided Flycatcher 2; Willow Flycatcher 1; Pacific-slope Flycatcher 3; Stellers Jay 1; American Crow 1; Northern Rough-winged Swallow 2; Tree Swallow 8; Violet-green Swallow 6; Barn Swallow 2; Cliff Swallow 6; Red-breasted Nuthatch 2; Pacific Wren 2; Swainson's Thrush 3; American Robin 5; Cedar Waxwing 4; Common Yellowthroat 3; Yellow-rumped Warbler 2; Black-throated Gray Warbler 1; Dark-eyed Junco 2; Savannah Sparrow 3; Song Sparrow 2; Spotted Towhee 2; Western Tanager 2; Black-headed Grosbeak 4; Red-winged Blackbird 2; House Finch 3; Purple Finch 6; American Goldfinch 2. *Trip Leader: Paula Vanderheul.*



Rhinoceros Auklet w/ sand lances © Andrew Reding

Fort Worden State Park 11 June 2016

Admiralty Audubon Society field trip of 12 people had a great time. They saw 33 species and spent a good deal of time identifying birds by their call or song. Trip Leader Dan Waggoner tried to post the full list on Sightings but was foiled by the Sightings software. No semicolons or apostrophes can be used in Sightings because the SQL language used incorporates semicolons and apostrophes in the code. Give up your urge for proper punctuation and just post your observations!

New Protections for Forage Fish

Dear Audubon Advocates,

You may have seen and heard the news that NOAA fisheries has finalized a ban on west coast (unmanaged) forage fisheries. This is the management action we've been advocating for over the past two years through our letters to the Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC), which many of you were signatories on. NOAA's ruling is the final step in the process.

This was our first coordinated Pacific flyway campaign and we had great participation by Washington chapters. We can be proud that the PFMC is a leader in the ecosystem-based management of forage fish. Way to go everyone!

Trina Bayard

Director, Bird Conservation
Audubon Washington

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!*



Clockwise from top left: Fledgling Junco, Sequim; Bald Eagle adult and two youngsters, Fort Worden, mid-June 2016; Caspian Tern attacking Bald Eagle; Western Grebe (l) and Clark's Grebe (r), Tule Lake CA, May 2015; Scrub Jay across Kearney Street from Kah Tai entrance, 25 May 2016; Trumpeter Swan, Center Valley, March 2016.

Banner
Design and Art by
Larry Eifert©



Admiralty Audubon Society PO Box 666 Port Townsend WA 98368

© David Gluckman



Caspian Tern, Chimacum Creek

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	b1rdbrush@gmail.com
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	ptrose53@gmail.com
Conservation, Education	OPEN	
Membership & Newsletter: Debbie Jahnke	360-531-3415	admiraudub@gmail.com
Member At Large - PI Rep: Craig Wester	360-385-5390	craigwester@olympus.net
Christmas Bird Count: Dan Waggoner	360-301-1788	danwags57@gmail.com
Webmaster: Andrew Reding	--	aareding@gmail.com
Website: http://admiraltyaudubon.org		Facebook: https://facebook.com/admiraltyaudubon



© Julie Jaman

Errata and Desire

The Horned Lark at left was misidentified in the May newsletter as a Meadowlark by the novice birder/newsletter editor. The American Dipper at right is an unfulfilled sighting desire of the same novice birder. Someday...



© Andrew Reding