

Admiralty Audubon Pipings

I-732: For the birds. And everybody else.

Audubon Washington supports I-732 - the Washington Carbon Tax Initiative. Recognizing that climate change is the largest threat to birds, our state Audubon headquarters has endorsed Initiative 732. As President of Admiralty Audubon, I hope you will help pass this important initiative on our November ballot. It is our moral responsibility to begin the fight against climate change now. We cannot wait.

I-732 would establish a system similar to that implemented in British Columbia in 2008 and proven to work. Specifically, I-732 would:

1. *Cut the state sales tax by 1%* - providing an annual sales tax savings of \$100-\$200 for an average household.

2. *Fund the Working Families Tax Rebate* which would provide up to \$1500/year for 400,000 low-income households. This would be a major progressive change to WA taxes.

3. *Effectively eliminate the Business and Occupation tax on manufacturing.* This will offset the increased energy costs our manufacturing businesses will face and ensure that good jobs do not leave the state.

4. *Add a \$25/ton tax on fossil fuels, which will rise by 3.5% each subsequent year to a maximum of \$100/ton.* By taxing carbon-containing fuels, their use and hence emissions are reduced. Economic modeling suggests that by 2050, a \$100/ton additional cost on fuel would reduce emissions by approximately 50%. The reduction in sales tax, B&O tax and the funding of the Working Families Tax Credit provide the added revenue for individuals and businesses to cover the added energy cost. This tax balances the tax reductions identified above, making this initiative revenue neutral for state coffers (see: <http://www.sightline.org/2016/08/02/does-initiative-732-carbon-tax-have-a-budget-hole/>).

As demonstrated in British Columbia, the strategy of taxing what we don't want - carbon pollution - while lowering other taxes will significantly reduce emissions in Washington State while not imposing significant costs on residents or businesses.

I-732 is not the end but the beginning of efforts to reduce climate change and minimize impacts. As future generations' needs grow, additional legislation will be necessary. But we can be a model for other states to reduce the impacts and costs to future generations by acting now. Please vote Yes on I-732. For more information contact rjahnke@att.net or go to: <http://yeson732.org/>



Rick Jahnke

President, Admiralty Audubon
Member, Audubon Washington
Board of Directors

WDFW and Marbled Murrelet status

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has recommended uplisting the Marbled Murrelet's status from threatened to endangered. The population of the murrelet has declined 44% between 2001 and 2015 in Washington - a dire situation for this seabird that depends on our coastal forests for nesting.

The WDFW uplisting recommendations and draft status review are available online at http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/endangered/status_review/ as well as Washington Environmental Council's site <http://wagreen.p2a.co/aJg8B64>. **Comments on the reviews and recommendations can be submitted by October 10**, via email to TandEpubliccom@dfw.wa.gov or by mail to Hannah Anderson, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, 600 Capitol Way N., Olympia, WA 98501-1091. (Thanks to Maria Ruth of Black Hills Audubon for this information.)

AAS Community Program 20 October 2016, 7:00 pm

the public is invited
PT Community Center, Lawrence & Tyler

The Big Red Island

Betsy Carlson is dusting off her anecdotes, artifacts and some dated images to share tales from the 6 years she lived on the big red island of Madagascar 1990/91, and again from 1996 - 2001. In 1990/91, Betsy assisted Dr. Eleanor Sterling who at the time was a PhD candidate researching the Aye-aye, a nocturnal primate found only in Madagascar. Sponsored in part by Yale University and Kew Botanical Gardens, Betsy collected plants and forest habitat data from Nosy Mangabe, a small protected island off of the eastern coast, and many other parts of the island.

In 1996, Betsy returned to Madagascar as the US Peace Corps' Associate Peace Corps Director (APCD) for their Environmental Program. In the following five years she traveled to some of the most extraordinary places setting up new sites and visiting established Peace Corps Volunteers in and around the nascent national parks.

Madagascar's flora and fauna are fascinating as the island has been isolated for so long. The large egged elephant bird, *Aepyornis*, became extinct 1500 years ago after the arrival of today's Malagasy people. Pieces of its shell can still be found today in the dry southern part of the island (photo, right, shows an *Aepyornis* egg next to a chicken egg). There are seven species of baobab in Madagascar; Africa has two (Betsy and her son among baobabs, p. 3, upper left photo).

"From the limestone Tsingy to historic pirate islands to lush rainforests and dry canyons, Madagascar's biodiversity is stunning. I was fortunate to be able to explore so many parts of this magical island!"

Betsy is the Citizen Science Coordinator for the Port Townsend Marine Science Center.

Rosemary Sikes
AAS Programs Chair

AAS Field Trips for September & October 2016

Thursday, 15 September 2016, 5 pm
Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park

We will meet near the utility room/sanican across 12th Street from Henery's Hardware. We hope to see what migrants have popped in to the park. For more information, contact Trip Leader Dan Waggoner at 360-301-1788 or danwags57@gmail.com.

Saturday, 29 October 2016
South County

We will meet at the park & ride at Highway 104 and Center Road at 8:30 am. The trip will include stops at Quilcene Bay, The Big Quilcene River (maybe there'll be Dippers!), Mount Walker (if open) and Dosewallips State Park. Dress warmly and prepare for a little rain. Heavy rains will cancel. Bring food as we will go until mid-afternoon. For more information, contact Trip Leader Dan Waggoner at 360-301-1788 or danwags57@gmail.com.

We may also have one or more field trips that are not currently confirmed. For example, if things work out as they should and our fearless Trips Chair is able to, he will lead a 'surprise' trip in mid October to view the various migratories at Point Wilson Lighthouse.

Participants would meet at the lighthouse parking lot at 9 am on a Saturday. Bring a spotting scope if you have one. Heavy rain cancels. Check the web site for final plans since we don't know if this one will happen; we will also send out an email reminder, so if you're interested, make sure your email address is on our list. *David Gluckman, Trip Leader.*



© Betsy Carlson

Photos, p.3 clockwise from upper left: Betsy Carlson and son among baobab trees in Madagascar; fledgling Hermit Thrush, Obstruction Point Trail, 7 July 2016; Madrone, Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park, August 2016; Sooty Grouse male displaying at 6000+ feet elevation, Obstruction Point Trail, 6 August 2016; Fort Flagler field trip participants, July 2016; Vine maple samsaras, Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park, August 2016; pair of Red-breasted Nuthatches in home landscape fountain, July 2016.

© Betsy Carlson



© Bev McNeil



© David Gluckman



© Artemis Celt



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© Bert Emswiler

Field Trip Reports

Anderson Lake, July 8: It was a very nice group of six and very good birding at Lake Anderson. Three highlights were 1) Just as we were leaving the parking area someone spotted a male Western Tanager and we all got to view it and heard them calling throughout the walk. 2) We spotted a female American Goldfinch in the middle of a tree not far from a grassy trail as she was flying back and forth to her nest. 3) Nearby was a Willow Flycatcher that one of the group identified and we learned the typical call. (That was a new one for me.) Birds spotted - Cedar Waxwings, Pacific Wrens, Wilson's Warblers, Swainson's Thrush, Western Tanager, Song Sparrow, Common Yellow-throat, Willow Flycatcher, Turkey Vulture, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Black-capped Chickadee, Goldfinches, Purple Finch. Birds heard but not seen - Steller's Jay, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Black-headed Grosbeak, Brown Creeper, Pacific Slope Flycatcher. It was a very nice group and one member was a fairly new birder which made it even more fun to share in the fun. *Trip Leader Bev McNeil.*

Fort Flagler, July 30: A beautiful morning walk with 15 birders including one young teenager from Virginia with a passion for birds. 16 species: Harlequin Duck, Double-crested and Pelagic Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Bald Eagle, Killdeer, Pigeon Guillemot, Rhinoceros Auklet, Heermann's Gull, California Gull, Glaucous-winged Gull, Western x Glaucous-winged Gull (hybrid), Caspian Tern, American Crow, Barn

Swallow, American Robin, Savannah Sparrow. *Trip Leader Paula Vanderheul.*

Kah Tai Lagoon, August 12: A formal report has not been received for this bat walk but participants say approx. 45(!) folks showed up and that it was a wonderful and informative event. *Trip Leader Tom Butts.*

Kah Tai Lagoon, August 20: It was lovely sunny calm morning for we eleven birders. We noted some upland birds in the sky and in the woodland but spent most of our time viewing birds around and on the lagoon. Some new arrivals and migrants were American Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Killdeer, Lesser and Greater Yellow-legs. The Purple Martins were flying over head and Cedar Waxwings were fly catching around the tops of the shore side Lombardy Poplars. Twenty-nine species were heard or observed. *Trip Leader Ron Sikes.*



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From a distance on a gray day, could you tell if this is an Eared or Horned Grebe? PSSS would like to invite you to count seabirds - see article p. 4.

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| 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? <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> | |

Experienced birders needed for PSSS

Be part of a team of three from Admiralty Audubon that identifies marine birds on the water at a fixed point at Point Wilson. The Port Townsend Marine Science Center provides a data recorder and AAS provides the bird identifiers who use a scope and binoculars to count, identify, and estimate the distance of birds in a 300 meter semi-circle. The survey lasts 30 minutes and occurs on the first Saturday of the month from October through April. By having a team of three identifiers we have been able to cover all the survey dates. The 30 minute survey period is set within two hours of high tide. If you are interested please contact Ron Sikes at b1rdbrush@gmail.com.

If you'd like to participate in other areas of Puget Sound, Seattle Audubon's landmark Puget Sound Seabird Survey (PSSS) kicks off again on October 1, 2016, and they are currently recruiting enthusiastic, skilled, and dedicated volunteers to help them monitor the status of local wintering seabirds. This regional effort provides a significant data set on marine bird populations from the south end of Puget Sound all the way across the Strait of Juan de Fuca. This will strengthen our bird census database and serve to support the implementation of a new strategic plan for Seattle Audubon's 100th anniversary year.

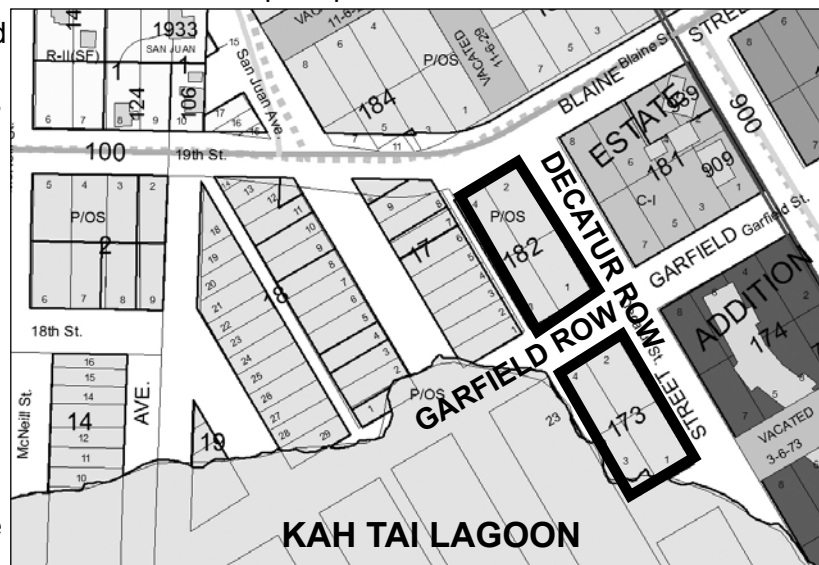
Volunteers should be able to identify Puget Sound's seabird species and be available on the first Saturday of each month, October - April, for 30-minute seabird surveys. Training on methodology will be offered at numerous locations in September. If determining between Eared and Horned Grebe is a challenge (see photo on p. 4), they'll team you up with more knowledgeable surveyors. Help ensure we're doing all that we can to support Puget Sound's seabird populations. Learn more, including training dates, at <http://www.seabirdsurvey.org> and email Toby Ross, Science Manager (toby@seattleaudubon.org) if you would like more information or to take part.

AAS Kah Tai Workparties September & October 2016

Kah Tai workparties begin again this month. First is trash detail, then in October, we will begin the effort to plant native species on the northeast side of the park in the section of Garfield ROW between the lagoon edge and the Decatur ROW. The Garfield ROW is already within the LWCF boundary and part of the park. It is intended to include the private parcels north and south of this ROW in the park (Blocks #173 and 182, bold outlines in map below), but until those parcels are donated to the City, we will work in the ROW. We refer to the entire area, both private parcels and the Garfield ROW, as Duck Heaven. It is expected to be the site of the City's autumnal Arbor Day celebration in October.

Sunday, 25 September 9 to noon: Clean up trash work party in the southern woodland and along Highway 20. Bring work gloves and trash grabbers if you have them. Refreshments provided. Information - call 360 385 0307. Parking is next to the utility room and sanican across from Henery Hardware. Look for the white pickup between the little pond and the Benedict Street entrance opposite Henery Garden Center.

Sunday, 16 October 9 to noon: Prepare planting site in the Garfield ROW on the northeast side of the lagoon. Bring work gloves and shovels. Refreshments provided. Information - call 360 385 0307. Park on 19th Street west of the intersection of Kearney Street. Look for the white pickup.



Banner
Design and Art by
Larry Eifert©



Admiralty Audubon Society PO Box 666 Port Townsend WA 98368



Caspian Tern attacking Bald Eagle © David Gluckman

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Don't be shy!

New members, and 'older' members, for that matter: don't be shy. Your Audubon chapter needs you. If you have a particular skill, step up and suggest a way to help with it. Our chapter is still without a Conservation Chair and an Education Chair, even though we have a match-perfect Maritime Discovery curriculum in our schools. We are a local chapter of National Audubon, and if you belong to National Audubon, you can belong to Admiralty Audubon at no extra cost as long as you request the electronic newsletter and not a paper version. You just need to let us know. Of course, we would appreciate you joining our local chapter as well. National Audubon (<http://www.audubon.org/>) would also love to hear from you and welcome you to the ranks!