

Admiralty Audubon Pipings

AAS Field Trips November & December 2017 & New Year's Day 2018

Saturday, 18 November 2017 - Fort Flagler

Meet at 9 am at the RV Camp Ground parking lot to walk the spit between PT Bay and the Kilisut Harbor. Drive to the four way stop signs and turn left onto Camp Ground Road following it all the way to the RV camp grounds. Those interested in carpooling from Port Townsend should meet at the Park and Ride near Safeway by 8:30 am.

Bring your binoculars, spotting scope, field guides and dress in warm layers, hats, gloves, and hiking boots for comfort. A Discover Pass is required.

Trip Leader Paula Vanderheul; 360-379-8564 or pvanderheul@gmail.com.

Saturday, 9 December 2017 - Larry Scott Trail Milo Curry Trailhead

Milo Curry trailhead is at the south end of the 7.5 mile trail to Port Townsend. This will be a 3 mile bird walk starting at 9:00 am. Meet at the Larry Scott Milo Curry trailhead parking lot. The trailhead is about 0.2 miles west on Discovery Bay Road from the Four Corners intersection with Highway 20. We will be checking out the wintering migrants.

Trip Leader Paula Vanderheul; 360-379-8564 or pvanderheul@gmail.com.

Monday, 1 January 2018 - New Year's Birdwalk

Join us for our fourth New Years Day's birdwalk at Irondale Bay Chimacum Creek Park.

Meet at 9:30 am at the end of Moore Road parking lot for a couple of hours scoping the bay for first of year sea birds, shorebirds, and forest birds.

Dress in warm layers with hats and gloves for comfort and bring binoculars and spotting scope to help identify the waterfowl.

Trip Leader Paula Vanderheul; 360-379-8564 or pvanderheul@gmail.com.



AAS Kah Tai Workparties November & December 2017

Sunday, 12 November, 9 am to noon: We will be planting ferns, Salal and Sitka Spruce in the woodland and picking up trash. Bring a shovel, work gloves and a bucket for the dirt if you have one. We have 5 trash grabbers and lots of garbage bags. Refreshments will be provided. The nearest parking is at Chase Bank parking lot. Look for the white pickup between the bridge and Kearney Street. Questions? Call 360-385-0307.

Sunday, 10 December, 9 am to noon: We will be planting Shore Pine near Highway 20, pulling Scot's Broom and picking up trash. Bring a shovel, work gloves and a bucket for the dirt if you have one. Scots Broom pullers, 5 trash grabbers, trash bags and refreshments provided. The nearest parking is at Chase Bank parking lot. Look for the white pickup on the Benedict Street trail. Questions? Call 360-385-0307.

ACOW Meeting Summary

This year's Audubon Council of Washington (ACOW) Meeting at the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal Center brought dynamic presentations by Commissioner Hilary Franz, National Audubon Society's Matt Anderson, Director of Audubon's Climate Initiative; John Rowden, Director of Community Conservation; and Brooke Bateman, Director of the Climate Watch Program.

The WSACC conservation chairs voted unanimously to endorse a resolution to cease net pen permitting in Washington's marine waters. Audubon Washington is also examining a number of legislative and initiative options with a variety of partners to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Climate Watch is an exciting new program looking for participants to report key indicator species in a defined grid area and time sequence to look for climate-induced changes in distributions (www.audubon.org/climatewatch).

We are in the process of adding our own local information to Audubon's Plants for Birds website. Seeing as our chapter is honored with the presence of Washington Native Plant Society royalty, we should be sharing our wealth of information with others!



© Artemis Celt

© Beverly McNeil



© Milton Lum



© Artemis Celt

© Milton Lum



clockwise from top: Pond along the Larry Scott Trail, October 2017; 'Iwi, the Hawaiian honeycreeper; Pue'ō, the Hawaiian short-eared owl; Northern Shovelers in flight at Kah Tai; Northern Shoveler males in non-breeding plumage at Kah Tai.

AAS Community Program
Thursday, 16 November 2017
7:00 pm
Port Townsend Community Center
Lawrence & Tyler
the public is invited
Birds of Hawaii

Though Milton Lum left the islands forty-nine years ago to attend school on the mainland and is currently a resident of Port Ludlow, the islands remain an integral part of him. He is an amateur bird photographer and an ardent conservationist

'I 'iwi, 'apapane, and io are a few of the birds In Milt Lum's presentation of birds of Hawaii. Born in the territory of Hawaii, Milt frequents his birthplace, practicing his retirement avocation of bird photography. In addition to showing his photos, Milt will discuss efforts by conservancy groups to preserve and restore critical endangered species habitats.

Rosemary Sikes
 AAS Programs Chair



Zebra Finch © Milton Lum

News about Dick Johnson

Dick Johnson, an Admiralty Audubon chapter member since forever, the person who started our Christmas Bird Count and so much more, has had a difficult turn in his health that required a move to be closer to family. Dick would love to hear from his chapter friends and fellow birders. Please drop him a note and let him know what birds you're seeing these days. We will all miss his presence on our birdwalks and his knowledge and wisdom at our community events. The photo at right is the position in which most of us would best recall Dick's presence at our chapter events.

Dick Johnson
 13902 Fountain View Drive
 Montgomery, Texas 77356

Christmas Bird Count - Join Us!

This December marks Audubon's 118th Christmas Bird Count. Our Admiralty Audubon chapter will participate on **16 December 2017**. You can see all of the locations for counting on the National Audubon website, although at press time the maps were not yet updated from 2016 (<http://www.audubon.org/join-christmas-bird-count>).

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. 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 (thanks, Sandra and MJ!). Contact *Dan Waggoner*: 360-301-1788 or danwags57@gmail.com for more information.



© Artemis Celt

Field Trip Reports

Larry Scott Trail & Kah Tai, 9 September 2017:

Near the Larry Scott Trail, we saw a fishing Osprey, Black-bellied Plovers, a lone Sanderling, Mew, California, and Glaucous-winged Gulls, and two Great Blue Herons. These were on the beach below the Larry Scott Trail. On the west rock breakwater were about 200 Heermann's Gulls, some Black Turnstones and one Surfbird. Moving over to Kah Tai Lagoon there were a variety of waterfowl and shorebirds. Standing near the bridge we were totally surprised when we turned from the lagoon to the little pond to see why a Great Blue Heron was loudly complaining. Then we saw floundering in the pond an Osprey and when it came out it was (hard to believe) carrying a flounder. It headed over the wooden bridge but could not clear the fish which smacked into the railing. The Osprey stalled, released the flounder and headed over the lagoon putting all the waterfowl and shorebirds into the air. We proceeded to the southeast corner of the lagoon allowing the birds to settle down after the Osprey left the area. Here we had a good look through the scope at Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Western Sandpiper, Killdeer, Virginia Rail (sneaking through the bullrushes), Pied-billed Grebe, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Mallard, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Hooded Merganser, and Ruddy Duck. We also saw, Rock Pigeon, Glaucous-winged Gull, and a Chestnut-backed Chickadee. *Ron Sikes, Trip Leader*

Fort Flagler State Park, 17 September 2017:

We observed 29 species (+1 other taxa): Harlequin Duck 6, Surf Scoter 4, Common Loon 4, Horned Grebe 2, Red-necked Grebe 1, Cormorants: Brandt's 4, Pelagic 12, Double-crested

15, Great Blue Heron 4, Bald Eagle 1, Red-tailed Hawk 1, Killdeer 4, Pigeon Guillemot 2, Gulls: Heermann's 5, Mew 2, Glaucous-winged 1, Western x Glaucous-winged (hybrid) 8, Belted Kingfisher 1, Violet-green Swallow 10, Barn Swallow 15, Black-capped Chickadee 2, Chestnut-backed Chickadee 1, American Robin 12, Black-throated Gray Warbler 1, Sparrows: White-crowned 1, Golden-crowned 2, Savannah 8, Song 3, Spotted Towhee 1, Pine Siskin 15. *Paula Vanderheul, Trip Leader.*

Fort Worden, 6 October 2017:

Seven were scheduled to go on this bird walk, but that same morning 3 people had to cancel and so we had a small group of 4. We did a short stroll on North Beach and then headed up towards Chinese Gardens and the small pond near Admiralty Street. Two more birders had to depart after an hour which whittled us down to 2. We spent 3 hours total and it was on the lower section of the Peace Mile Trail that we saw the best of the walk. While standing in one spot there, we saw Brown Creepers, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Ruby- and Golden-crowned Kinglets, Bushtits, Bewick's Wren, Black-capped Chickadees. Spotted Towhees, Pacific Wrens; and two Red-shafted Northern Flickers which were closely interacting with each other all along, and up and down a tree, for at least 5 minutes. Very interesting to watch!

Other birds identified were: Dark-eyed Juncos, Mallards, American Wigeons, Northern Shovelers, Hooded Mergansers, Crows, Heermanns Gulls, Double-crested Cormorants, Stellar's Jays, Song Sparrows, Fox Sparrows, Downy Woodpecker (?) for 19 species. *Beverly McNeil, Trip Leader.*

AAS Membership Form 2018
<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!*



© Craig Wester



© Beverly McNeil



© 2017 Varn Brooks all rights reserved



© David Gluckman



© Beverly McNeil

Clockwise from top: Arbor Day/UGN Month of Caring planting of Garry oaks and Shore pines in Duck Heaven on the northeast perimeter of Kah Tai, October 2017 (l-r): Rosemary Sikes, Brian Vervynck, Doug Van Allen, Rick Jahnke, Paul Schutt, Brenda McMillan, Debbie Jahnke, Barb Stone, Bob Tyer, Bob Gray, Ron Sikes. Not shown: Craig Wester, Margaret Lee; Burrowing Owl, Othello WA; Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel, Mount Rainier; comparison of male Red-shafted and Yellow-shafted Northern Flickers, home landscape, October 2017; middle: Pygmy Owl, Brown's Lake off Center Valley Road, October 2017.



© David Gluckman

Banner
Design and Art by
Larry Eifert©



Admiralty Audubon Society PO Box 666 Port Townsend WA 98368



© Beverly McNeil

Kingfisher at Kah Tai

Admiralty Audubon Officers and Board

President: Rick Jahnke	360-531-3417	rjahnke@att.net
Vice President & Publicity: Bill Vogt	360-531-2821	bill@archivalry.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

Need New Blood, or Even Willing Old Blood

Our small chapter has some folks wearing multiple hats and we sure could use a few more willing members to step up and take a hat or two. We do not have a Conservation Chair or an Education Chair. We are not engaging in the four school districts in our community to the extent that we could if we had someone willing to lead that effort. Various board members step up as needed for these

two positions but it would be wonderful to have a couple of folks who would take on these roles as a primary responsibility and not as an afterthought because no one else is doing it.

We also need more Trip Leaders. If you're a very good to excellent birder and would like to lead occasional trips, speak up! And of course, we have Board elections every May. Think about it.