

Admiralty Audubon Pipings

AAS Field Trips

January & February 2012

Saturday, 21 January 2012, 9 am. - Chimacum Creek Park and Estuary - Meet at Chimacum Creek in Irondale. Directions: from SR 19, turn east on Irondale Road; travel about 2 miles, turn left onto 4th Street, turn right at 3 way stop sign, drive to the end of street to the parking lot. Paula Vanderhuel, Leader. pvanderhuel@gmail.com

Wednesday, 15 February 2012 Wednesday, 2 pm. - Point Hudson to PT Marine Science Center - Low Tide Walk. Meet at Point Hudson public parking on the north side of the buildings. We will walk the beach toward MSC Pier and back to see Point Hudson birds and beach critters near low tide. Ron Sikes, Leader. sikes@olympus.net

Saturday, 25 February 2012 – AAS Annual Skagit County Field Trip – Meet at the ferry terminal for the 8am ferry (make reservations and get there ½ hour early) and return on the 6pm ferry. This trip will be limited to 4 cars and 12 people for the birding portion and a similar amount for the photographic group. Please contact Dan Waggoner for the birding portion (360 301-1788 - danwags57@gmail.com) or David Gluckman for the photo group (360 379-0360 – cgluckman@aol.com). Please bring binoculars and scopes (if you have one) and wear appropriate footwear and warm clothes. Hard rain will cancel most trips but check with the leader before you assume so.

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AAS Programs

January & February 2012

The public is invited
Port Townsend Community Center
Lawrence and Tyler

Thursday, 19 January 2012, 7 pm. - Seattle author Connie Sidles writes about birds and nature. She loves the birds of the Montlake Fill, a natural area of 75 acres on the UW campus in Seattle. The Fill is a study site for restoration ecology and is also a microcosm of interactions between wild nature and humans, where many of the issues facing all of us on the planet can be seen close up. Birding records of the Fill go back to 1895 and document 245 different species of birds. Join us as Connie reads from her essays about the birds that she loves and the natural world that she treasures in the Montlake Fill.

Thursday, 16 February 16 2012, 7pm. - David Beatty is well known to local birders as an expert field trip leader. He has returned to the Northwest where he spent many years identifying and photographing our birds. He also lived in the Southwest desert for many years and will share with us his stories and photos of "Birds of the Southwest." This is sure to be an enjoyable evening of great pictures and stories of birds rarely, or never seen in our area.

Clara Mason

Programs, Admiralty Audubon

Owl Irruptions!

This year appears to be a "irruption" year for Snowy Owls. When too many owls have too little food in the winter, the young and adventure-some are often chased or leave for the south. This seems to happen about every 4 years in a minor way and every 12 years with a great number more. The two images (left and p.4) were shot on Damon Point at Ocean Shores, WA in late November of 2011. Snowy's are showing up from Dungeness Spit to many areas along Puget Sound. They're also showing up along the northern tier of midwestern states. One was even found in Hawaii this year, though sadly, it was shot by airport authorities because it was endangering airplanes. They should stay around through February before starting the long trek back to Northern Alaska above the Arctic Circle.

The Birding President, Theodore Roosevelt

Theodore Roosevelt (TR; 27 Oct 1858 - 6 Jan 1919) graduated from Harvard where he studied to be a naturalist. Noted naturalist C. Hart Merriam favorably acknowledged his detailed field studies of birds in the Adirondacks. TR's bird watching continued during his presidency and beyond. He even kept a list of birds seen on the White House grounds.

If you wondered where and when the national wildlife refuge system started, think of Florida and TR. In 1903, William Ducher, first President of the new National Association of Audubon Societies (now the National Audubon Society), and Frank M. Chapman (started the Christmas Bird Count in 1900), lobbied TR to protect Brown Pelicans nesting on Florida's Pelican Island. The American Ornithological Union wanted to purchase the island but the Homestead Act gave homesteaders priority over nesting birds.

William A. Richardson, Commissioner of Government Lands, Department of Interior followed the advice of Charles Du Bois, Government Land Surveyor, and suggested that TR issue an Executive Order through the US Department of Agriculture before the island was opened to homesteading. Purportedly Roosevelt had asked if any law prevented such an executive order. "No," replied Mr. Richardson. The Presidential Executive Order read: *"It is ordered that Pelican Island in Indian River in Section 9, Township 31 South, Range 39 East, State of Florida, be, and it is hereby, reserved and set apart for the use of the Department of Agriculture as a preserve and breeding ground for native birds."*

TR's signature is on 51 Federal Bird Reservations, now known as National Wildlife Refuges. As of 2003 (centennial of Pelican Island) there were 540 refuges on 95 million acres containing bird rocks, tundra, prairie, forest, desert, mangroves, bayous, swamps, and marshland. And oh WATER! Millions of western hemisphere birds' existence depends on these refuges and other national lands including tens of millions of acres of National Forests (NF), National Parks, and National Monuments. Visit a NF in the west and most likely TR signed it into existence under the Antiquities Act. This Act, shepherded through Congress by Senator Lacy of Iowa, gave the President the authority

(without Congress' consent) to set aside federal land for historic and scientific purposes. His total was 150, eight in Washington State.

TR is also credited with four National Game Ranges: Wichita Forest, OK, with our largest 'free' roaming bison herd (1905); Grand Canyon, AZ (1908); Fir Island Moose Reserve, AK and the National Bison Range, MT (both in 1909). He executive-ordered 18 national monuments including Grand Canyon, AZ and Mount Olympus, WA (both in 1908) and six National Parks approved by Congress. It is a grand legacy of land set-asides for wildlife and recreation enjoyed by the broad public.

While TR pushed for set-asides, he also promoted water development. Diverting and damming of western rivers led to tremendous loss of wildlife habitat and destruction of the ecological integrity of western riparian systems. These water developments fostered population growth, but from that population arose strong advocates for wildlife and remaining western wilderness. That conflict to develop and to protect continues today. In the Columbia River watersheds, proposals are being considered to dam tributaries for irrigation. The move to add Wilderness, National Preserve, and Wild and Scenic River designations to the Olympic National Forest and Park is perhaps the completion of TR's efforts to save the forest and rivers of the Olympic Peninsula.

[Source: Brinkley, D. (2009) *THE WILDERNESS WARRIOR* (Harper Collins); www.theodore.rooseveltcenter.org]

Ron Sikes
Secretary, Admiralty Audubon

'Encouragement' Match

In December, AAS received \$1500 in donations as challenge matches to encourage others to donate to our habitat protection fund. We are happy to report that those donations were matched by generous members. Our habitat protection efforts currently underway could use your support. If you are considering charitable donations, please let these donations 'encourage' you to help support this important effort. AAS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and your donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by the IRS code.

Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park Workparties January & February 2012

Admiralty Audubon will start the new year with monthly workparties at the Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park.

Saturday, January 14 from 1-4pm we'll pull Scot's Broom and pick up garbage. Wear layered work clothes and bring work gloves. Weed wrenches, garbage bags, cookies and water will be provided. Look for Ron's white chevy pickup southeast of the pond.

Saturday February 25 from 9:30am-noon we'll plant 10 Western Hemlock and 10 Sitka Spruce in the grove of trees near Kearney St. This will be a "Tree City USA" project that will provide competition for holly and ivy in the grove of trees near Kearney Street. The native trees will be purchased from the Jefferson County Conservation District's plant sale. The staging area will be near the bridge on the trail next to the lagoon, with volunteer parking near the Park bathrooms.

The Western Hemlock and Sitka Spruce to be planted in the woodland along the south side of the lagoon will be able to compete with the invasive holly and ivy and tolerate the high water table in winter and spring seasons.

rosemarysikes@olympus.net or 385-0307.

Rosemary Sikes
President, Admiralty Audubon

Comprehensive Plan Amendment

Our Chapter efforts to protect Kah Tai habitat have had recent successes. The City Council voted unanimously on 5 December 2011 to fight the Port's lawsuit. Resolution No.11-039 [<https://weblink.cityofpt.us/WebLink8/0/doc/60803/Page1.aspx>] is well worth reading for a clear recitation of the history of park acquisition and development as well as the City's intention to respect the federal protections.

Part of our success has come from the eloquent and knowledgeable advocacy of an attorney recommended to the Board by Seattle Audubon. That advocacy has followed several avenues, most recently including a thorough development of the argument that the most defensible protective wording for the pending citizen's Comprehensive Plan Amendment should explicitly include language from the grant documents that created the Park.

Comprehensive Plan Policy 4.5.1: Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park shall be designed and maintained so as to allow only passive outdoor recreation uses that preserve and enhance the natural habitat of the lagoon, wetlands, and uplands.

Public comment is encouraged at the Planning Commission hearing that will consider the amendment language as well as the draft Functional Parks Plan (12 January 2012, 6:30-8:30 pm). Your presence would be welcome, whether or not you plan to speak.

AAS Membership Form [\[http://admiraltyaudubon.org\]](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**
Membership includes 5 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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Admiralty Audubon Society PO Box 666 Port Townsend WA 98368



Admiralty Audubon Officers and Board

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Education: Position Open		

Thanks, George; Welcome, Rick!

George Yount has stepped down as Conservation Chair, although he will remain a force in Chapter conservation efforts. Rick Jahnke has agreed to serve as Conservation Chair. We thank George for his continuing advocacy.

Next Board Meeting

The next Admiralty Audubon Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 17 January at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Rosemary Sikes at 385-0307 or rosemarysikes@olympus.net. [<http://admiraltyaudubon.org>]