



May-June Admiralty Programs

from Clara Mason, Program Chr cmason@olympen.com

Gardening for Birds *May 21 @ 7pm: Port Townsend Community Center: 620 Tyler Street*
Ron Sikes has been a gardener and landscaper in Port Townsend for 30 years. As his interest in native plants and the connection they have to birds in our area grew, Ron began to change the emphasis of his home landscape from ornamental to wild bird habitat. Since then, he has pursued the art and science of making the Northwest landscape a place birds can live with. Born and raised in the Missouri Ozarks, Ron learned that wildlife have a critical necessity of adequate habitat. After earning an art degree from Lincoln University in Missouri, Ron served for Uncle Sam as a G.I. Then his fascination for biology led him west to WA State University where he earned a degree in Wildlife Biology. One of Ron's earliest childhood desires was to get his hand on one of those House Sparrows. But his first Christmas Bird Count with Dick Johnson introduced him to the great diversity of birds in this area. Ron will share with us how we can welcome birds to our yards with plants and landscaping.

Annual Admiralty Audubon Potluck Picnic

June 18 @ 6pm: Chetzemoka Park: Enter at Blaine and Jackson Streets

Note the earlier starting time. Bring a dish to share, your drink of choice, and your table setting (dishes, silverware). This will be our last gathering of the season before resuming our meetings in September. Visit and share dinner with your Admiralty Audubon Board and other members, share your bird stories, and just hang out. Come about 5:30pm or earlier for a bird walk prior to eating.

May-June Admiralty Field Trips

David Gluckman, 360-379-0360; cgluckman@aol.com

Important: Please pre-register by contacting field trip leader before trip so we can contact you about changes
Everyone welcome non-members & beginners too.

For field trip questions, contact Ken Wilson 821-1101 kenw@cablespeed.com

Tuesday May 19 8 AM to 12 Noon: Looking for warblers around Gibbs and maybe Anderson Lakes. Meet at Pt Ludlow Restaurant parking lot. Contact leader Stephen Cunniff at sjaycee@gmail.com (437-0292)

Saturday May 30 8 to 10 AM Kah Tai Lagoon. Spend a few hours looking for migrants and summer visitors around Kai Tai. Meet at the small pond. Leader: Ken Wilson (821-1101) kenw@cablespeed.com

Saturday June 13 8-11:30 AM Point Wilson. Spend a morning around Point Wilson, checking on the summer visitors on the water in the grasses. Meet at the lighthouse parking lot. Trip leader is Bob Whitney, who has spent more time observing birds at this location than any human in history.

Sunday June 28 8 AM to 11:30 AM Port Townsend. A trip around the birding hot spots of Port Townsend. We may do this by bicycle for those who want to. The rest will car pool from the meeting spot at the Larry Scott Trail bathroom area of Port Haven Marina. Trip leader David Gluckman, (379-0360) cgluckman@aol.com

Note: A short description of birds seen should be posted on the AAS website the following day: www.admiraltyaudubon.org



photo of Mt Bluebird: David Gluckman

President's Corner: Purple Martins

Rosemary Sikes, President Rosemarysikes@olympus.net

Ah May! Along with the warmer weather comes the return of the Purple Martins, our largest swallow. Last year with the help of volunteers from the NW Trails Coalition we constructed 5 Purple Martin nest boxes and installed them on the north shore of Kah Tai Lagoon. We also still have 10 nest boxes at the Boat Haven. Ron and I could really use some help monitoring the nest boxes from May to September. All you would have to do is observe the nest boxes at one of the sites, count the total number of Purple Martins seen, the number of pairs (if you can tell), if you see House Sparrows or Starlings entering the nest boxes, and note the day and time of the observation. Email the information to me at rosemarysikes@olympus.net. For more information or to lend a helping hand, contact me at 385-0307 or the above email.



Photo: Rosemary Sikes

AAS Certified Bird Field Trip Leader Program

David Gluckman, 360-379-0360; cgluckman@aol.com

On April 14th the AAS Board approved the new Bird Field Trip Leader Certification program within the club's present Field Trip Committee. The program formalizes a continuing list of experienced bird field trip leaders who have agreed to lead AAS birding

field trips for the following years. In addition to leading field trips, members will accept some new responsibilities that include:

Bird Alerts – establish a rare bird alert email system for the area that can actively notify members who sign up where the birds are being seen on a timely basis as well as continuously updating the new web site with general bird sightings for places near and far.

Bird Questions – become a readily available source to call or email for information about bird identifications, habitats, behaviors.

Leader Referrals – create a list of individuals who will be available to lead birding field trips or make presentations on birds requested by other organizations (parks, other visiting Audubon groups, local events, etc.).

President Rosemary Sikes designated the following club members as the first Certified Field Trip Leaders under the program who will make up the initial field trip Committee.

Ken Wilson – Co-chair –

kenw@cablespeed.com - Pt. Townsend

David Gluckman – Co-Chair –

cgluckman@aol.com - Pt. Townsend

Ron Sikes sikes@olympus.net Pt. Townsend

Dick Johnson -- 385-5418, Pt. Hadlock area

Stephen Cunliffe - sjaycee@mac.com - Pt. Ludlow area

Dan Waggoner danwaggs@earthlink.net - Quilcene area

The Field Trip Committee will also establish a process and criteria for certifying any members who want to become Certified Field Trip Leaders within the program guidelines established by the Board. Direct any questions to David Gluckman at 379-0360 or his email address above.

(Note: There is no requirement that individuals who wish to lead AAS birding or other types of field trips be certified – the Birding Field Trip Certification Program is purely a voluntary program to help identify individuals

who have demonstrated expertise in this area and a willingness to help AAS and the birding community. The Field Trip Committee encourages all individuals who want to lead field trips to do so. However, please check in with one of the Co-Chairs before using the AAS name because of potential liability and insurance issues).

Notice of Election of Officers

Election of officers for Admiralty Audubon Society will be held at the May 21 membership meeting. Since there are only single nominations for each office, we will be asking for a motion for members present to vote yes or no on the slate of candidates. Candidates are Rosemary Sikes for President, Sally Robins for Vice President, Bob Tyer for Treasurer, and Ron Sikes as Secretary.

Birdhouse Sales & Location

Ron Sikes at 385-0307 or sikes@olympus.net

Thank you to those who purchased the Chickadee/Wren bird houses from our chapter. The total sold was 22. The project started when member Sue Hoover offered the cedar boards left from a fence project. Jim Mason did the sawing and assembly in his workshop. Hopefully the purchased boxes are up and being used by a pair of chickadees or wrens. A good location is where you can easily observe it from your kitchen or dining room window. For chickadees the WA Dept. Fish and Wildlife recommends attaching a box to a tree in home orchard. Also chickadees will accept a box elevated above a fence or on a pole that sticks above shrubs. Providing a constant supply of water and some free food is likely to promote nesting. Wrens will nest within a few feet of the ground so you could attach the box directly to a five foot fence. Having nearby shrubs will offer more seclusion when the wrens are coming and going to the box. There are still some boxes available. The price is \$10.00. You can arrange to pick

up a box by calling Ron at 385 0307. They will also be on sale at the May meeting.

Field Trip Report from N. Beach

from Ken Wilson about trip on 19 April 2009

Spring was in the air and the water with mild temperatures and only soft breezes at North Beach. Dan spotted a pair of young otters mating on a flat rock. Being suburban otters the lack of privacy is a fact of life. The search for Whimbrels was unsuccessful and we agreed they had not yet reached our area. The Horned and Red Necked grebes have molted into their breeding plumage. Pairs of Harlequin Ducks lounged on the rocks near shore, not having left for their fast-water breeding habitats on West Coast rivers. One Oyster catcher flew by. Also in distant view were Common Loon, a raft of Surf Scoters, a male Golden Eye Duck, Bufflehead Ducks, and a pair of Rhinoceros Auklets. The waterfowl are nearing the end of their winter stay and will soon disappear to the north. Looking east toward Fort Worden we could see an adult bald eagle perched in a snag standing above the bluff. We nine decided to go see the 8 white fronted geese and a Eurasian widgeon feeding near the Chinese Pond. On the way we saw a male Rufous Hummingbird. A pair of Canada Geese brought out their six goslings to graze giving us a good look. While enjoying the waterfowl a male Anna's hummingbird watched us from its perch in a feral plum tree. Orange crowned warblers were drinking nectar and plucking caterpillars from the plum flowers. Other waterfowl on the pond were Hooded Merganser and Lesser Scaup. Some songbirds heard singing were Song Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, White Crowned Sparrow, House Finch, and Purple Finch. The only woodpecker seen was a Red Breasted Sapsucker laying flattened on the side of the street.

Sandra Smith April 28, 2009
7:26 PM

Admiralty Audubon Society *Pipings*

East Jefferson County WA

Audubon Mag Photo Contest

Audubon magazine is launching the 2009 Audubon Magazine Photography Awards: *Birds in Focus*, created to celebrate the beauty and diversity of birdlife through the art of photography, and to honor the exceptional work of talented professional, amateur and youth photographers from all over the U.S. Audubon will accept submissions in three categories: Professional, Amateur, and Youth. Photographers are encouraged to reveal a new angle or perspective in their work. "Think creatively," advises Audubon's design director Kevin Fisher, one of the judges.

The Award winners will be announced in December and will see their work showcased within the pages of both Audubon and Nature's Best Photography magazines, as well as on their respective websites. An impressive array of prizes will be awarded, including top-of-the-line photo and optic equipment from award sponsor, Nikon.

Submissions: Accepted May 15 - July 15, 2009. Up to 10 images per entrant. See: www.AudubonMagazinePhotoAwards.com

Newest State Birding Trail

A few weeks ago, the newest route of the Great Washington State Birding Trail, the Sun and Sage Loop was unveiled to the public. In the first month bird watchers purchased more than 500 maps!

Birding trail fans love the art work, the abundance of local knowledge – and the fact that Audubon Washington is working for the long-term protection of birds and their habitat.

What does all this mean to you?

By 2010 you'll be able to travel the [seven-loop, 3,000-mile Great Washington State Birding Trail](#) from the Pacific Ocean to Idaho, from Oregon to Canada. Along the way, you'll find all of Washington's 346 common

bird species!

The birding trail also provides financial incentives for local people to value and safeguard their lands and waters that birds need to survive. And finally, the birding trail offers a sustainable economic activity, [nature tourism](#), for the benefit of rural communities.

Sun & Sage Birding Event Walla Walla, May 15-17

Bird the newest sites on the state birding trail with master birders; savor pleasures of the vine with local growers and winemakers, relish fresh, local, organic cuisine, and learn about sustainable farming and viticulture. Historically the best week of the year for hummingbirds, the spring bird migration is fully underway. Four guided birdwatching tours, five meals, other tours and talks for \$400, of which \$150 is a contribution to Audubon Washington. Transportation from Seattle area for \$45 RT. For more information Barbara Sacerdote, (206-999-9730)

bsacerdote@audubon.org

Ron Sikes Promotes Backyard Native Plants for Birds May 9 at Chimacum Park

Ron Sikes will present the relationship between native plants and songbirds and hummingbirds at Kul Kah Han gardens (H J Car-



roll Park) at 10 AM Saturday May 9. A native plant sale will follow the talk. Ron is a backyard

wildlife habitat expert. Visitors may also tour the gardens.

May- June 2009 Cut-Out Calendar of Birding Events						
AAS= Admiralty Audubon Event OPAS= Olympic Peninsula Audubon event RC= Dungeness RiverCenter						
MAY						
Lincoln City Wings & Waves festival May 1-3			1 Wilderness Plants on the Quimper Peninsula: 6:30 PM Quimper Unitarian. Potluck desserts			2 ACOW
3 ACOW; Botany hike Anderson Lk 1 PM Native PI Society	4	5 Intro to Birds & Birding 7-9 PM RC for 6 Tuesdays	6	7	8	9 OPAS Cla. CtyBirdathon Ron Sikes on plants: 10 am
10	11	12	13	14	15 Sun & Sage Walla Walla	16 Sun & Sage
17 Sun & Sage	18	19 AAS Field Trip: Gibbs Lk 8 AM	20	21 AAS mtg 7 PM PT Comm Cntr elections	22	23 OPAS field trip, Neah Bay
24	25	26	27	28	29	30 AAS Field Trip: Kah Tai 8 AM
31	Jun 1, 2009	2	3	4 Late Spr Migrnt Bird 9-11 AM 4 Thurs RC	5	6 OPAS field trip, Lost Mt
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 AAS Field Trip Pt Wilson 8 AM
14	15	16	17	18 AAS Potluck 6pm Chet-zemoka Pk	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 AAS Field Trip Pt Townsend 8 AM	29	30				

Chapter co-bird



Post Office Box 666
Port Townsend, WA 98368

**Banner &
Bird Art:
Larry Eifert**



Visit our website: www.admiraltyaudubon.org

Read or post bird sightings

Download a checklist of birds

Talk to Us.....

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Masthead design and bird drawings donated by Larry Eifert