

Admiralty Audubon Pipings

AAS Field Trips for November, December and New Year's Day

Friday, 18 November 2016 - Fort Flagler birding

Meet at 9 am at the RV Campground parking lot to walk the spit between Port Townsend Bay and Kilisut Harbor. Drive to the fourway stop signs and turn left onto Campground Road, following it all the way to the RV campgrounds.

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. Paula Vanderheul, Trip Leader: 360-379-8564 or pvanderheul@gmail.com. A Discover Pass is required.

Sunday, 1 January 2017 - Third Annual New Year's Day birding at Irondale Beach County Park, Port Hadlock WA.

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 seabirds, 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. Contact Trip Leader Paula Vanderheul with questions 360-379-8564 or pvanderheul@gmail.com.

Donations

At our October community meeting, 13-year old Aloura Remy brought her wildlife art as a fundraiser and generously donated half the proceeds to our chapter. Thank you, Aloura!

At the same meeting, we shared a letter from a 9 year-old Port Orchard bird enthusiast named William, who asked for supplies and tools to help his siblings and cousins learn to identify birds. How nice that at the same meeting, chapter member Virginia Jennings donated eight bird identification field guides from Audubon, Peterson and other sources! We are sending these field guides to William and his siblings and cousins to help them identify birds. Now, if anyone would like to donate a pair of binoculars they aren't using, it would really help this group of budding birders. Let us know if you'd like to help.

Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, 17 December 2016

Everybody is invited to join Admiralty Audubon's Christmas Bird Count Saturday 17 December. The CBC is an organized continent-wide survey which documents every bird seen on a given day from sunrise to sunset. Since the turn of the 20th century, the CBC has contributed to the knowledge base of wintering birds in North America.

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. For more information contact Dan Waggoner: 360-301-1788 or danwags57@gmail.com.

Dues are due 1 January 2017

Admiralty Audubon dues run 1 January - 31 December annually. If you are a new member who joined midyear in 2016, you are welcome to prorate 2017 if you so choose. Dues are \$20 per household. Dues form on p.4 or on our website.



AAS Community Program 17 November 2016, 7:00 pm

the public is invited
PT Community Center, Lawrence & Tyler
Live Raptors and Owls

Cindy Daily of Discovery Bay Wild Bird Rescue in Port Townsend and Jaye Moore of Northwest Raptor and Wildlife Center, Sequim, will bring live raptors and owls to the Community Center to educate us about the birds' natural history, and also about the role of wildlife rehabilitators.

We don't know yet which of the birds will be visiting our chapter, so come for the surprise. This is always a great program for families.

All Admiralty Audubon programs are free and open to the public. Both wildlife rehabilitation centers are dependent on donations for their operations, so contributions to support their efforts are most welcome. You can visit the centers online at <http://discoverybaywildbirdrescue.com> and <http://nwraaptorcenter.com>.

Rosemary Sikes
AAS Programs Chair

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This Peregrine Falcon was one of the amazing raptor ambassadors that visited for a previous AAS program. Note the notched beak which allows the falcon to kill prey by severing the spine. Peregrine Falcons stoop at more than 200 mph, making them the fastest animals on earth.

Photos, p.2 clockwise from upper left: Autumn Lombardy poplars and the Courthouse clocktower above the bridge at Kah Tai, September 2016; Scrub Jay, Silverton OR, 2016; European Robin, Corsica, France, September 2016; Wood Duck drake at Ridgefield Wildlife Refuge April 2016; our FIRST reported Marbled Godwit at Kah Tai, September 2016; Virginia Rail at Kah Tai, approx. 2014.

AAS Kah Tai Workparties November & December 2016

Sunday, 13 November 9am to noon: We will continue efforts 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. We will also pull some Scot's Broom below the "Habitat Restoration Area Do Not Enter" signs. Bring work gloves and shovels. Refreshments provided. Information - call 360-385-0307. Park on 19th/Blaine Street west of the intersection with Kearney Street. Look for the white pickup.

Sunday, 4 December 9am to noon: Trash pick up, Scots Broom pull and some planting on the south side of the Kah Tai Lagoon. Parking is next to the utility room and sanican across from Henery Hardware. Look for the white pickup near the bench closest to Chase Bank. Bring work gloves and trash grabbers or shovels if you have them. Scot's Broom pullers, garbage bags and refreshments provided. Information - call 360-385-0307.

Arbor Day Celebration

Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park's northeast perimeter was the site of Port Townsend's official Arbor Day celebration on October 16, 2016. Eleven Admiralty Audubon members and friends planted Douglas Spirea, Douglas Hawthorn and Oregon Ash and pulled Scot's Broom.



Arbor Day at Kah Tai. Clockwise from lower left: Ed Robeau, Chair of PT Park, Recreation and Tree Advisory Board; Rosemary Sikes, AAS Programs Chair; Rick Jahnke, AAS President; and Ron Sikes, AAS Secretary display Admiralty Audubon and Tree City banners against a stiff breeze.

Field Trip Reports

15 September 2016 - Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park

I led a short field trip with approximately 20 people around Kah Tai. We had 6 species of waterfowl that were on the lagoon including Mallards, Northern Pintails, Gadwalls, Northern Shovelers, American Wigeons and Ruddy Ducks. Also had side by side comparisons of Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs. There were about a dozen Yellow-rumped Warblers that were flitting about the poplars. They are probably just arrived in the last day or two. The species count for our walk was 25. *Trip Leader Dan Waggoner.*

29 October 29, 2016 - South County

About a dozen damp birders braved a blustery day to visit several hot spots in South Jefferson County including Quilcene Bay, Dosewallips State Park, Big Quilcene River, Mount Walker and Discovery Bay. We observed a total of 38 species and one hybrid, including loons, grebes, mergansers, scoters, scaups, cormorants, a variety of other waterfowl species, kingfishers, gulls, crows, jays, kinglets, a Peregrine Falcon and Bald Eagles. *Trip Leader Dan Waggoner.*

Note that we are just starting to work on a South County 'Where to Find Birds' brochure like the one our chapter has for East Jefferson County - on the website under the 'BIRDING' link. South County offers some amazing birding habitats that are not replicated in our more northerly locations.



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November 3, 2016: Today while eating my lunch at the dining room table I saw something out the window I have never seen before. We have five small bird baths in the garden easily observable from the dining room table. All five of them had a bird bathing simultaneously and they were all a different species: Hermit Thrush, Dark-eyed Junco, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Song Sparrow and Spotted Towhee. What a gorgeous morning/afternoon!

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Rosemary Sikes

photo left: Red-breasted Nuthatches bathing, 2016; photo above: Common Loon, Port Angeles, September 2016.

Photos, p.5 clockwise from top left: Mount Rainier from Mount Walker, September 2016; European Damselfly/Beautiful Demoiselle early September 2016 in the Loire Valley, France; Towhee bathing, PT home landscape fountain; Discovery Bay - Bald Eagle and gulls find seal with salmon and eagle makes successful swoop for half a salmon, September 2016; bathing Red-breasted Nuthatch scolds House Sparrow, PT home landscape fountain.

AAS Membership Form 2017 <http://admiraltyaudubon.org>

name _____

date _____

mailing address _____

city, state, zipcode _____

email address _____

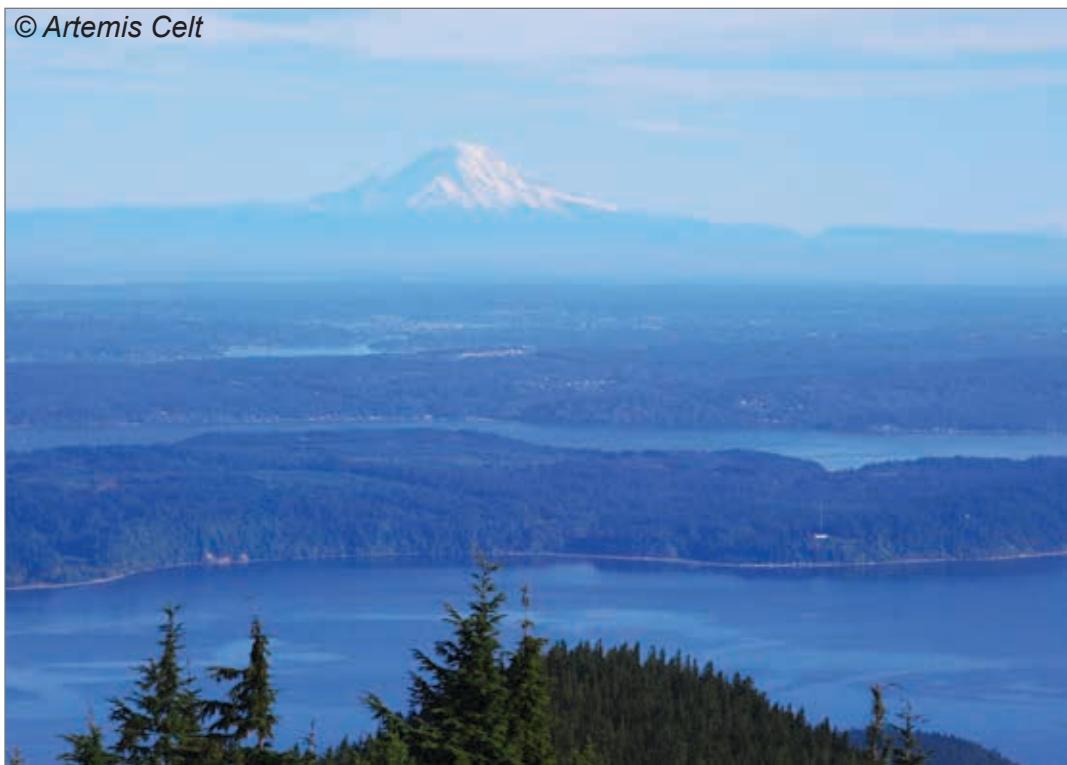
phone number _____

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!*

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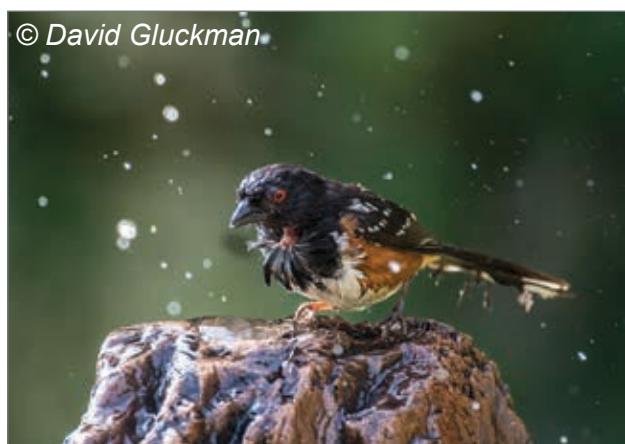


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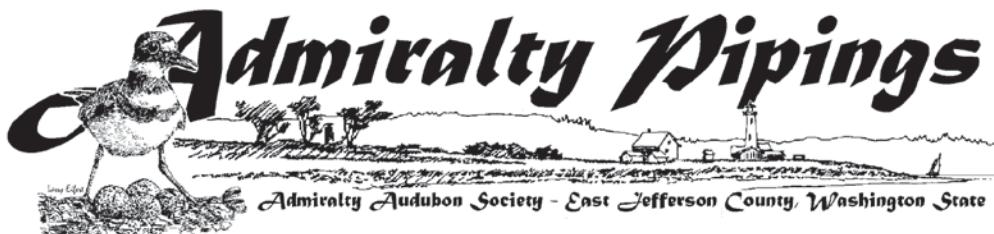
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Admiralty Audubon Society PO Box 666 Port Townsend WA 98368



Sandhill Cranes at Ridgefield NWR, 2016 © Julie Jaman

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

Sightings expands our view west

Thanks to the skill and generosity of member Sandra Stowell, our chapter is very fortunate to have our Sightings link available so we can all quickly and easily (as long as we avoid semicolons and apostrophes) post interesting birding observations on our chapter website.

At a recent state Audubon meeting, Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society members inquired

about Sightings, and Sandra has now set OPAS up with access to Sightings. Now, on both AAS and OPAS websites, we can report our sightings, and we can see and share what our neighboring chapter members are observing.

About those semicolons, apostrophes and 'fatal errors': Sightings runs in the language SQL, and SQL uses those characters for coding.