

Admiralty Audubon Pippings

AAS Field Trips

September & October 2018

Saturday, 15 September 2018: Birding

Discovery Road Pond, 8:00am to 11:30am

Meet at the Port Townsend Park and Ride (south lot) to carpool at 8:00am or at the Milo Curry entrance to the Larry Scott Trail at 8:30. We will walk along the Larry Scott trail noting the birds that are beginning to flock and the insect swarms that attract them. We will dip off of the Larry Scott trail to bird from the side of the pond. There is some rougher terrain so wear good shoes, and rain pants if drizzly. Trip Leader: Monica Fletcher, monicailet@gmail.com or 360-379-3136.

Saturday, 6 October 2018: First Saturday bird/nature walk at Fort Flagler State Park, 9:00am to 11:30am

Meet at 9:00am at the boat ramp leading to the NW spit. Boat ramp has a log across it and is just beyond the Beach Comber Cafe. A blue Ford F150 will be there. We will walk the spit, then drive to the USGS fisheries lab to check the NE corner of the park. Expect to complete the walk by 11:30am. For more information, contact Trip Leader John Comstock at jhn.comstock@gmail.com.

Saturday, 20 October 2018: Irondale Beach and Chimacum Creek Mouth, 8:00am to 11:30am

Meet at the Port Townsend Park and Ride (south lot) to carpool at 8:00am or at the parking lot at Irondale Beach County Park at 8:30. We will simply see what is going on. Not many bird reports are produced in this area for E-bird (the Cornell University database) in October so we will be discovering for ourselves which migrants, shorebirds, and raptors can be seen in the vicinity. Trip Leader: Monica Fletcher, monicailet@gmail.com or 360-379-3136.

AAS Kah Tai Workparties September & October 2018

Sunday, 16 September 2018, 9:00am - noon

Park at the KTLNP parking lot off 12th Street. Look for the white pickup next to the Benedict Street trail across Highway 20 from the Safeway gas station. We will concentrate on removing trash although Scot's broom removal is also an option. Tools and refreshments provided. Please bring work gloves. For information email ptrose53@gmail.com or call 360-385-0307.

Christmas Bird Count - Update

This year our Christmas Bird Count will occur on Saturday, December 15. Our chapter currently has 13 routes, including a water route, within our Christmas Bird Count circle, and people who participate are assigned to routes based on their location, preferences, interests and skill level. Each route needs an expert birder or two or three, a scribe to accurately accumulate the data, and a few pairs of eyes to observe the field. Some of these routes are quite extensive, so we are working with our leaders to subdivide some of them into more manageable segments.

We also need feeder watcher/counters. If you have a feeder at your home and are willing to count for some time interval on December 15, please sign up so we can get good regional coverage.

We have dedicated and expert leaders for most of our routes now, but we could use a few more expert birders and more participants of all skill levels. Leader of the water route birding crew is Bob Boekelheide. Although Bob is indelibly associated with our neighbor chapter Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society and the Dungeness River Center, he graciously contributes his skill to our count each year and this year he is hopeful that some of us can return the favor for the Dungeness/OPAS CBC. You can contact Bob directly at bboek@olympus.net to volunteer.

Email admiraudub@gmail.com for questions or to sign up to participate in Admiralty Audubon's CBC. We have a Countdown potluck after the field effort to compile our results and celebrate. We hope you will join us for the Countdown even if you don't have a chance to count in the field. Thank you!

Sunday, 21 October 2018, 9:00am - noon

Join us to celebrate Autumnal Arbor Day and plant shore pine and Douglas fir saplings at Kah Tai. Look for the white pickup at the Benedict Street trail. Bring a shovel and a bucket to hold the soil while planting. Scot's broom pulling and trash pickup are also options. Tools and refreshments provided. Bring work gloves. For information email ptrose53@gmail.com or call 360-385-0307.



© Darrock Family



© Auden Darrock



© Beverly McNeil



© Beverly McNeil



© Artemis Celt



© Artemis Celt

clockwise from upper left: Auden Darrock and her prize-winning photo of a male Anna's Hummingbird; Masked Lapwings, North Island New Zealand, January 2018; Big-leaf Maple in flower, Cappy's Trails; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cappy's Trails; Pukeko and reflection, North Island, New Zealand, January 2018.

AAS Community Program October 2018

*Port Townsend Community Center
Lawrence & Tyler; the public is invited*

Island Wildlife: North Island, New Zealand and Big Island, Hawaii

18 October 2018, 7 pm

Please join us for our October Admiralty Audubon meeting when Bev McNeil, nature photographer, will be presenting her 2018 show of birds and a few other critters of North Island, NZ and the Big Island of Hawaii where she and husband Ed went to both islands to visit his daughters.

In between family activities, Bev was able to venture off and get some of the feathered and scaled locals to pose for her.

Rosemary Sikes
AAS Programs Chair

Go birding and make a difference!

Are seabird numbers in the southern Salish Sea increasing or decreasing? Which species are changing their range? Help us find out. The Puget Sound Seabird Survey (PSSS) is a community and citizen science project managed by Seattle Audubon that empowers volunteer birdwatchers to gather valuable data on wintering seabird populations across the southern Salish Sea.

The project is expanding north to the Canadian border and the San Juan Islands with funding from EPA's National Estuary Program through WDFW to add 15-30 new survey sites, develop an oil spill plan and train volunteers on how to react to a spill.

Contribute to this vital seabird science by joining the twelfth project season. We're now recruiting volunteers to help monitor the status of our local wintering seabirds. Training on survey methodology will be provided at a location near you in September and early October. Volunteers should ideally be able to identify Puget Sound's seabird species and be available on the first Saturday of each month, October through April, to conduct a 30-minute survey. If determining between Lesser and Greater Scaup is a challenge, we'll team you up with more knowledgeable surveyors. Visit <http://www.seabirdsurvey.org> to take the Seabird ID quiz and to learn more, including training dates. Email Toby Ross, Senior Science Manager tobyross@seattleaudubon.org if you would like more information or to take part.

2018 Winner - Admiralty Audubon Nature Prize

Congratulations to Auden Darrock, the winner of Admiralty Audubon's Nature Photo Prize at this year's Jefferson County Fair. Auden's proud parents say she is thrilled that folks like her photo. She spends hours in the garden photographing birds in all weather. Her own raised garden bed is dedicated to pollinators. As she's eleven now, her parents are hoping this is the beginning of a life-time of loving to watch birds and relax in gardens.

Auden's photo is of a male Anna's Hummingbird pictured upper right on page 2 and our prize photographer's photo is next to it.

Her parents say she was already so excited by the beautiful ribbon she received and now she will enjoy curling up with a paper copy of our newsletter, since the prize includes a one-year family membership in our chapter. Auden needs a rain guard for her camera. Her folks got her a good coat for sitting outdoors but not one for the camera! Her prize money will help her with that.

Native Plants for Salish Coast

Our chapter received a grant from the Coleman and Susan Burke Center via National Audubon to provide native plants for an area on the grounds of the Salish Coast Elementary School. We purchased bare root plants from the Jefferson County Conservation District, potted them up and watered them over the summer. We will be planting about 350 sword fern, salal, red-flowering currant, snowberry and mock orange at Salish Coast, but we just don't know when as yet. At press time, the crane operator strike in Western Washington is delaying the start of school at the brand new facility by one week, and delaying the final work on the grounds even further. When we have a planting date, we will let everyone know via email, facebook and our website in case you would like to help plant natives at our new school.



White-winged Scoter © Doug Schurman

Regional Meetings & Birding Festivals

There are many birding festivals in our state and region during fall migration season. A few are listed below with links for more information.

Puget Sound Bird Fest

Edmonds WA
14-16 September 2018
Presented by the City of Edmonds
Parks & Recreation and
Economic Development Departments
<http://www.pugetsoundbirdfest.com/>

Hawkfest

Pateros WA
15 September 2018
Presented by Chelan and Entiat Ranger Districts,
North Central Washington Audubon Society, and
Hawkwatch International
<http://www.ncwaudubon.org>

Wings Over Willapa

Willapa National Wildlife Refuge area
28-30 September 2018
Friends of the Willapa National Wildlife Refuge
present this inaugural event
<https://friendsofwillaparefuge.org/wings-over-willapa/>

Audubon Council of Washington (ACOW)

Woodinville, Washington
13 October 2018
Washington State Audubon Chapters meeting
<http://wa.audubon.org/events/audubon-council-washington-1>

Lincoln's Sparrow

Along the trail by Lower Tiffany Lake, tall living lodgepole pines and Engelmann spruce dot the shoreline while straight skeletons of burnt trees rise above sapling pines and spruce on the slope above the trail. Tiffany Lake is more than an hour's drive from any human habitation and quite a ways back from the nearest dirt road.

The song I heard was musical, bubbly, a jumble of trills, often husky, arising from a small plump sparrow with crisp streaks, a gray face and buff wash across the breast with an unmarked white belly (photo on p. 5). A Lincoln's Sparrow was sitting in plain sight, defending its territory with a beautiful song. Outside of breeding season they tend to be secretive, skulking through thick brush by themselves or with just a few other sparrows.

I found a half dozen more in a narrow boggy strip along the eastern shore of Tiffany Lake. They like wet areas with a thick cover. In 1833, John James Audubon discovered this species in Labrador and named it after his traveling buddy, Thomas Lincoln. This bird nests in montane forests of the Cascades and the Rocky Mountains and boreal forests of Canada and Alaska. Their song repertoire varies little across their range. Humans in the US seem to have a more diverse dialect than these guys. Lincoln's Sparrows are one of the more elusive of North American birds. Audubon had commented, "*We found more wildness in this species than in any other inhabiting the same country.*"

Thomas Bancroft
Washington Ornithological Society Board

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? <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 'Join' 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! Dues and donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Admiralty Audubon is a 501c3 nonprofit organization.</i>	



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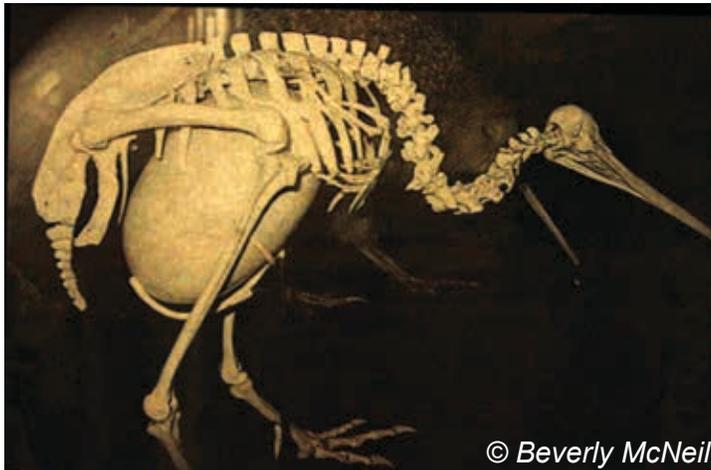
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clockwise from top left: Merganser mom trying to keep her little ducks in a row, Clearwater River, July 2018; it's why they call them PURPLE Martins, PT Marine Science Center, April 2018; Great Blue Heron and Midshipman fish, Hood Canal, June 2018; Lincoln Sparrow, Okanogan County; Fantail, North Island NZ, January 2018; Anna's and Rufous hummingbirds, PT home landscape, August 2018.

Banner
Design and Art by
Larry Eifert©



Admiralty Audubon Society PO Box 666 Port Townsend WA 98368



Museum display of a Kiwi skeleton and egg,
which can weigh up to 25% of bird's body mass

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Our beautiful new website!

Our chapter is now hosted at SquareSpace and we have a new website format. The web host was recommended by National Audubon and provides for some consistency and flexibility for chapters, and is very user-friendly. We hope you take a little time to explore it. It is completely accessible by mobile devices and also conforms itself to your computer screen size. If you are on a larger laptop or desktop, you'll find a regular toolbar across the top. If you're on a smaller screen, you'll see that menu button in the upper right, the common tool for accessing many websites. Click on it and you'll get a drop-down menu toolbar. We are also in the process of moving our chapter email address to admiraltyaudubon@gmail.com from the abbreviated version we use now. You can use either version to contact the chapter.