

## **Admiralty Audubon Pipings**

### **AAS Field Trips November & December 2018 & New Year's Day 2019**

**Saturday, 3 November 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](mailto:jhn.comstock@gmail.com).

**Saturday, 1 December 2018: First Saturday bird/nature walk at Fort Flagler State Park, 9:00am to 11:30am**

See information above for First Saturdays at Flagler.

**Saturday, 15 December 2018: Christmas Bird Count!**

See column at right. It's not too late to sign up and participate in this important survey.

**Tuesday, 1 January 2019 - New Year's Birdwalk**

Join us for our fifth 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](mailto:pvanderheul@gmail.com).

### **AAS Kah Tai Workparties November & December 2018**

**Sunday, 18 November 2018, 9:00am - noon**

We will plant Evergreen Huckleberries and Fringe Cup in the woodland, pull Scot's Broom and pick up trash. Look for the white pickup near the bench closest to Chase Bank. Park at the bank's parking lot on the corner of HWY 20 and Kearney. Tools and refreshments provided. Please bring work gloves. For information call 360-385-0307 or email [ptrose53@gmail.com](mailto:ptrose53@gmail.com).

### **Christmas Bird Count - December 15**

For this year's Christmas Bird Count on Saturday, December 15, we will have a new route within our Christmas Bird Count circle to add to the 13 routes from prior years. 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. Our new route will cover Cape George.

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 all of our routes now, but we could use a few more participants of all skill levels. Leader of the water route birding crew is Bob Boekelheide of our neighbor chapter Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society and the Dungeness River Center. Bob 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](mailto:bboek@olympus.net) to volunteer.

Email [admiraudub@gmail.com](mailto:admiraudub@gmail.com) for questions or to sign up to participate in Admiralty Audubon's CBC. Our Countdown potluck after the field effort to compile our results and celebrate will again be at Rosewind Commons at 5pm. 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, 9 December 2018, 9:00am - noon**

We will pull Scot's broom, and other invasives as time and volunteer numbers allow, or pick up trash, your choice. Look for the white pickup near the bench closest to Chase Bank. Park at the bank's parking lot on the corner of HWY 20 and Kearney. Tools and refreshments provided. Please bring work gloves. For information email [ptrose53@gmail.com](mailto:ptrose53@gmail.com) or call 360-385-0307.



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Clockwise from top left: Western Meadowlark heard calling to an unseen second Meadowlark, Point Wilson, October 2018; Grizzly bear and wolves dispute ownership of an elk carcass amidst wind-throw from the fires of 1988 in Yellowstone National Park (November community program, see left column page 3); Spotted Towhee, Point Wilson, October 2018; Marsh Wren, Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park, 2017; Crimson Rosella on a Birds of Australia field guide, Australia, 2018.

## **AAS Community Program 15 November 2018**

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

### **Bears, Fires, and Wolves A Personal Perspective of a Lifetime of Change In Yellowstone National Park**

*Thursday, 15 November 2018, 7 pm*

From its inception in 1872 until the 1960's, Yellowstone National Park was managed primarily as a recreational asset. During the 60's, emphasis began to swing toward resource considerations. In the 50 years since, significant gains have been made in how the park is managed (photo on page 2 upper right). Varn Brooks provides a personal tour as he describes how those changes have put the shine back on the crown jewel of our National Park system.

*Rosemary Sikes*

Admiralty Audubon Programs Chair

## **ACOW 2018 - Audubon Council of Washington**

At the annual ACOW meeting on 13 October, our fellow peninsula chapter Kitsap Audubon was honored when longtime chapter leaders and exceptional volunteers Sandy and Gene Bullock received the Helen Engle Volunteer of the Year Award (<https://www.kitsapdailynews.com/news/bullocks-recognized-for-audubon-volunteer-work/>). Congratulations to a very deserving couple of folks and their home chapter!

Among the highlights was a fascinating and data-rich presentation from National Audubon's Chad Wilsey on 'The Future of Birds in National Parks', a look at the science behind the latest birds and climate report, with a special focus on our region's national parks.

ACOW also included a feature called '5 Minute Success Stories' and our chapter President, Rick Jahnke, presented information about our Plants for Birds grant, the native plants we are growing up for Salish Coast, and some of the plans the school has to utilize native plants for teaching about the importance of native plants for pollinators to thrive so that food gardens may also succeed.

## **AAS Education Corner: A Spare Pair of Binoculars or a Scope?**

On October 23, I took a group of ten kids ages 5-12 on a bird walk down at Chinese Gardens. Most of them had never looked through binoculars or spotting scope!

As a part of our chapter's educational effort, I am seeking donations of old but usable binoculars for birdwatching trips with kids. Also needed are old field guides, even if falling apart, for making laminated picture cards.

Please contact Gary Perless, Audubon Education Chair, at [gperless@gmail.com](mailto:gperless@gmail.com) or 360 643-3529

*Gary Eduardo Perless*  
Admiralty Audubon Education Chair

## **Native Plants for Salish Coast - Update**

In our September newsletter, we mentioned that 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 with our grant funds, potted them up and watered them over the summer.

It's November. Minor complications and unanticipated delays have slowed down the landscaping at the new school. We still don't know exactly when we will be planting about 350 sword fern, salal, red-flowering currant, snowberry and mock orange at Salish Coast.

Planting these natives at the new school will be an official Admiralty Audubon activity and we would welcome the participation of any chapter members or others who would like to help. 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. If you are a reader of this newsletter who is not on our email list, please send an email or call me (see page 6) with contact information so we can let you know when our planting date is determined. We'd love to see you there!

*Rick Jahnke*  
Admiralty Audubon President

### Birding with Sister State Visitors

Our chapter was asked by City staff if we could provide a birding experience on 21 September for a group from the Japan-America Society 2018 Summit. Washington is the Sister State with Hyogo Prefecture in Japan and Port Townsend's Sister City, Ichikawa, is in Hyogo Prefecture.

Trip Leaders Beverly McNeil, Ron Sikes and Bruce Marston stepped up with a plan and led the group, their hosts and a local translator (thank you, Juri Jennings!) on a Fort Worden walk along the beach shoreline and then they were transported over to the small pond off of the Peace Mile Trail and around that area.

According to the Trip Leaders, the real highlight was up close viewing of two very accomodating Brown Pelicans which appeared to be juveniles. First they were spotted near the upper parking lot near the Point Wilson Lighthouse and then a jogger scared them off, only to have them reappear a short distance away next to the Marine Science center pier. The visitors also enjoyed seeing a Kingfisher at the pier.

Ron noted that the Pelicans and Anna's Hummingbirds were both of great interest to our visitors because neither species is in Japan. Our visitors also enjoyed seeing bird species that were familiar to them in Japan.

At the end of the walk Beverly brought out about a dozen of her bird photo greeting cards that had photos of the birds that were seen or heard that day, and everyone got to choose the one that they wanted and were really delighted to have these as a gift at the end of this walk.

### Audubon Photography Award?

In a weekly Chapter Leader Update email from National Audubon, received 19 October 2018, part way down the page appeared a familiar photograph - familiar to those of us who occasionally shop for cards at one of our downtown art galleries. The beautiful photograph captures a female Common Merganser with a majority of her youngsters aboard. In the Chapter Leader Update photo, it is labeled with the photographer's name and 'Audubon Photography Awards'. The photo appears here on page 5 in the lower right.

When asked, Photographer Beverly McNeil responded, "I did submit the photo to the Audubon photo contest about 7 or 8 years ago but did not receive any notice of any award.

*The photo was taken at about 2007 on my way up to Alaska through the Inside Passage as second mate on a 30 foot Sundowner diesel tug boat. At the northern tip of Vancouver Island at Port Hardy, we stopped for provisions and as we walked down the dock I spotted this Common Merganser with these eleven 1 to 2 day old ducklings on her back with a few trailing behind. Only 8 show in the photo. I was lucky enough to capture a good reflection as a bonus."*

We have a query in to Audubon to see if we can find out what it was 'awarded' and why the photographer might not have heard.

*Photos on page 5, clockwise from top: Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park from a different perspective, 2018; Yellowlegs in silhouette, Kah Tai, August 2014; a First Saturday at Fort Flagler view; Common Merganser and most of her young (see note above); juvenile Swainson's Hawk, Malheur NWR, 2018; American Dipper, Hoh Rainforest, October 2018.*

#### AAS Membership Form 2019 <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 'Join' 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! Dues and donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Admiralty Audubon is a 501c3 nonprofit organization.*



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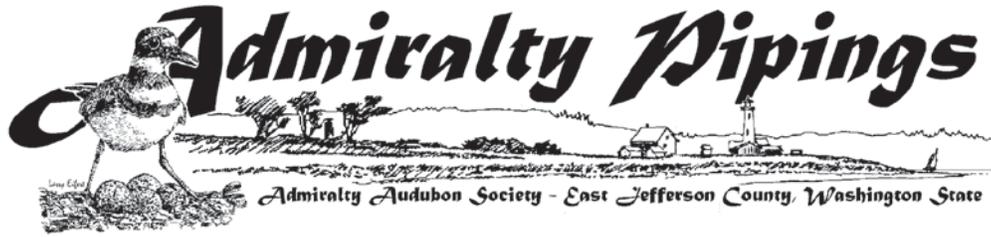


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Red-tailed Hawk, La Conner, 2018 © Artemis Celt

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left to right: Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Australian Magpie and kangaroos! Let's hope for a community program next year.