

Admiralty Audubon Pippings

AAS Field Trips September & October 2019

1st Saturday Nature Walk at Fort Flagler 7 September 2019, 9am

Meet at the usual boat ramp just north of the Beachcomber Cafe in the lower campground. We first walk to the end of the spit toward Rat Island. This takes about an hour. We then drive to Marrowstone Point near the USGS Fisheries lab. We walk to the point to scope birds. Optionally, we will visit the sewage ponds and finish up by noon. Wear layers depending on the weather. To carpool from PT, please meet at Park and Ride near Safeway at 8:30am. *Trip Leader Gary Eduardo Perless: 360-643-3529 or gperless@gmail.com.*

Field Trip to Fort Casey and Crockett Lagoon Saturday, 21 September 2019, 8am

Meet on the Port Townsend - Coupeville ferry for the 8am sailing. We will be walk on passengers. The walk will be about 2 miles. We will look for birds from the ferry, on Crockett Lagoon, and the forest of Fort Casey State Park. We will plan to return to Port Townsend on the 1:15pm sailing. Bring lunch and wear appropriate outdoor clothing. Rain and or strong wind will cancel this field trip. Limit is 10 persons including the leader. *RSVP to b1rdbrush@gmail.com.* Remember there is some risk of being stranded on the Coupeville landing on Whidbey Island should the return ferry not be able to sail. *Ron Sikes, Trip Leader.*

1st Saturday Nature Walk at Fort Flagler 5 October 2019, 9am

See information above for 7 September. *Trip Leader Gary Eduardo Perless: 360-643-3529 or gperless@gmail.com.*



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AAS Kah Tai Workparties September & October 2019

Sunday, 29 September 2019, 9am to noon

Look for the white pickup and green 'Volunteer' banner at the Benedict Street entrance to Kah Tai. We will be pulling invasives and picking up trash in our first workparty of the season. Tools and refreshments provided. Please bring work gloves. For information email *ptrose53@gmail.com* or call 360-385-0307.

Sunday, 20 October 2019, 9am to noon

October is Urban and Community Forestry month in Washington State, so let's celebrate by removing invasives and trash from our own urban forest at Kah Tai. Park at the Chase Bank parking lot at the corner of Hwy 20 and Kearney street. Look for the white pickup near the bench closest to Chase Bank. Tools and refreshments provided. Please bring work gloves. For information email *ptrose53@gmail.com* or call 360-385-0307.

Rosemary Sikes
AAS Programs Chair

A note from Milwaukee

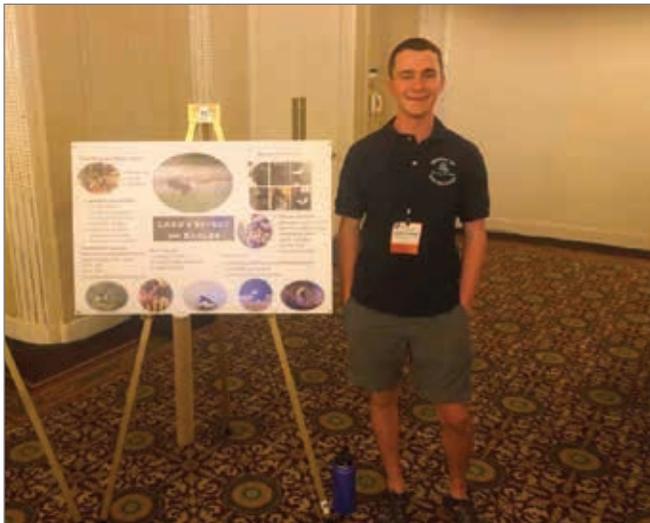
Thank you Admiralty Audubon for sponsoring me to go to the National Audubon convention in Milwaukee WI. It's been an amazing experience. President and CEO David Yarnold's keynote address was especially powerful. I am particularly inspired by Audubon's initiatives on climate and equity, diversity and inclusion.

A real highlight for me was attending the breakaway session for the Northern Pacific Flyway, where I was able to voice my desires for Audubon in the future. It was an honor to represent Discovery Bay Wild Bird Rescue and present about lead's effects on eagles during the poster session. I got to meet many passionate conservationists. I hope to learn a lot more during the last day at the conference tomorrow.

Joseph Molotsky
27 July 2019

(see meeting photos on page 2 and Joseph's submission to National Audubon's photography competition on p.5)

Photo left: Gray Jay, Hurricane Ridge, July 2019.



AAS Community Program
Thursday, 17 October 2019, 7:00 pm
Port Townsend Community Center
Lawrence & Tyler
the public is invited

Adventures in Costa Rica

Welcome all nature lovers! Mark your calendars for Thursday, 17 October 2019 at 7:00pm. Beverly McNeil will feature her February 2019 solo nature adventure in Costa Rica (although she confesses that she did have a special friend join her for the first week and they had an awesome time). She will have stories and images of all new and exciting close encounters with some beautiful birds, reptiles and amphibians, and even tarantulas, while exploring six different areas in Costa Rica.

We hope to see you there!

Rosemary Sikes
 AAS Programs Chair

Congratulations to Auden Darrock,
Recipient of Nature Photography
Award at the Jefferson County Fair

Our chapter again sponsored an award for the best nature photography submitted to the Jefferson County Fair's art exhibit. Our award (\$50 and a year's membership in our chapter) goes to Auden Darrock, for the second year in a row! Her winning photo is shown on page 2. Here is a statement from her proud father, Keith:

"Thank you so much, to all at the Admiralty Audubon Society. This is an incredible letter for Auden's scrapbook. She is delighted to have received this award and has enjoyed your newsletter over this last year. She knows there are a lot of great photos to consider. She spends careful time taking photographs and selecting which she thinks are her best of the year to submit to the fair. It is the highlight of her year opposite Christmas. Her exact words about this photo were: "I thought it was really cool to get to see the hawk up close because, typically, when I see those kinds of birds they're too far away to get a good photo." She's twelve now and this was her first up close hawk. It was sitting on our fence here at home stalking the birds who were avoiding our feeders at the time."

page 2 clockwise from upper left: Fiery-billed Aracari, Costa Rica; hummingbird sp., Costa Rica; Auden Darrock's prize-winning photograph entitled 'Raptor'; members of the Northern Pacific Flyway attending National Audubon (Joseph Molotsky is second from right, front row); Joseph with his poster presentation. See his letter of thanks on page 1.

National Audubon's Statement
on Weakening
the Endangered Species Act

The final Endangered Species Act (ESA) regulatory reform package, released on 12 August 2019 by the Departments of the Interior and Commerce, fails the most important measure of any changes to a bedrock environmental law by marginalizing science-based protections for wildlife.

"As a whole, the rule changes are political, unwise, and will only increase litigation. They tip the balance in decision-making against vulnerable wildlife and undermine incentives for effective conservation," said Sarah Greenberger, senior vice president for conservation policy at National Audubon.

While some of the new rules are reasonable – including making it easier to direct resources to conservation projects by speeding up consultation requirements for federal projects that are beneficial to species – other changes would severely weaken protections for imperiled species.

The most egregious of the changes would allow the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to consider the economic costs of listing a species - something expressly prohibited under existing law. Other changes will make it much more difficult to provide any protections to newly listed "threatened species" or to designate the "critical habitat" species need to recover. The rules also allow the FWS to ignore the dire effects of climate change on imperiled species – effects we are seeing with greater regularity, such as hurricanes that jeopardize the Piping Plover.

"While Audubon could have supported some changes that may improve implementation while speeding up support for at-risk wildlife, these damaging new rules will weaken protections for imperiled species and include language that is wholly contrary to the law," said Greenberger.

The ESA is our nation's most powerful tool for protecting wildlife. Protections provided by the Act have succeeded in preventing the extinction of 99 percent of the species listed and benefitted many others that depend on the landscapes it's helped to protect. The ESA has helped numerous species recover, including the Peregrine Falcon, Bald Eagle, and Brown Pelican, and set many other species on the path to recovery.

In Memoriam: Dick Johnson

Dick Johnson died on 5 May 2019 in Conroe TX, after 16 years of Parkinson’s and more recent heart problems. He was instrumental in our chapter from its founding, and was a major force in our Christmas Bird Count. When Dick died, we received his notebook of all CBC counts from 1978 through 2012, meticulously handwritten counts on onionskin paper, with only a little White-Out involved. It had been entrusted to our current CBC leader, Dan Waggoner, when Dick handed over the mantle of CBC leader. Dick successfully avoided computers and the internet, even for CBC. We asked a few of Dick’s many friends to share some memories.

Jerry Gilbert: Dick and I once had our xmas bird count lunch break at Eleanor Stopps’ house, where we usually sat outdoors, weather permitting, and that particular day we found four different species of woodpeckers in her yard! Another lunch break we were just going into the Lopeman’s house when we had a Merlin land on a telephone pole in their front yard with its kill! They also used to have California Quail in their front yard when we stopped for lunch, back in the 1990s. One other memorable Christmas count we lucked out and were joined by Fred Sharpe, who greatly increased our count that day with his sharp ears! Fred later wrote a book on Birding the San Juan Islands. As I recall we saw around 69 species that day. This was before Dick split our old route into two parts!

Over the years, Dick and I did 25 or more Christmas counts together, and we spent many many hours together on those trips. Dick always wanted

to begin our counts at 8 am sharp, and we never finished until 4:30 pm. He was an extremely dedicated birder and always followed all the rules of the count. Dick was also one of the real keen folk dancers that we used to have in Port Townsend and he was famous for his Scandinavian dance background.

We often had our Christmas count lunch breaks out at Eleanor Stopps’ house on Mats Mats Bay and in later years we timed our lunch breaks to be at the Lopemans’ farm in Hadlock, where we always enjoyed Mrs. Lopeman’s Christmas cookies! Dick was always a great friend and excellent bird counter, we will miss him for sure.

Laurette Gilbert: Anyone who knew Dick will remember how as a true bachelor he always came to potlucks with his divided dinner plate like the TV dinners come on. The first Christmas dinner he joined us on, he came once again prepared with the divided dish. Of course I had put out all my special dishes, so he didn’t use it. He looked quite crestfallen when we served dinner, but cheered up immensely when I handed the plate full of Christmas dinner and wrapped in foil as he headed home. *“Two dinners for one!”* was his comment. We were really sorry to hear about his death. We last saw him the day his brother was arriving to help him move. I am glad he was with family in the end.

George Yount: Dick was quite a guy, a birder, dancer, hiker, skier, biker, and all around good friend, and we miss him. (George shared the photos of Dick in Ecuador on p. 5).

AAS Membership Form 2019 http://admiraltyaudubon.org	
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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 \$ _____	
<p>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</p> <p><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></p>	



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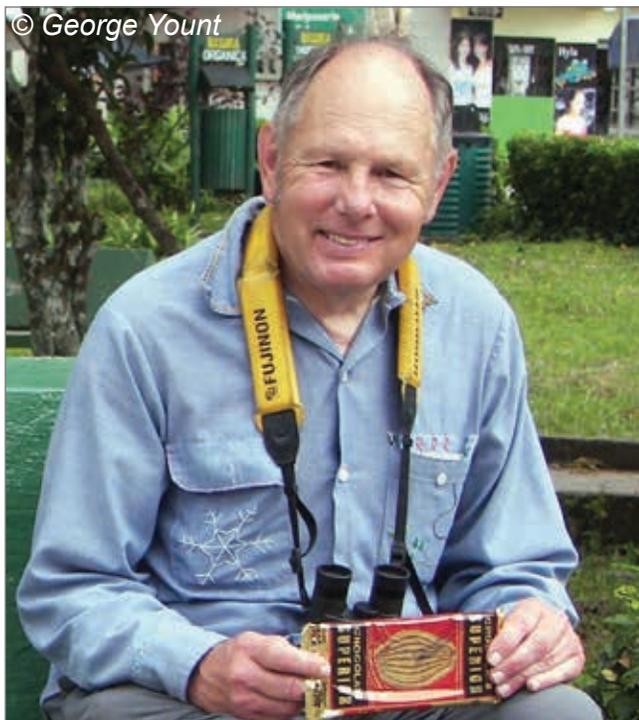
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© George Yount



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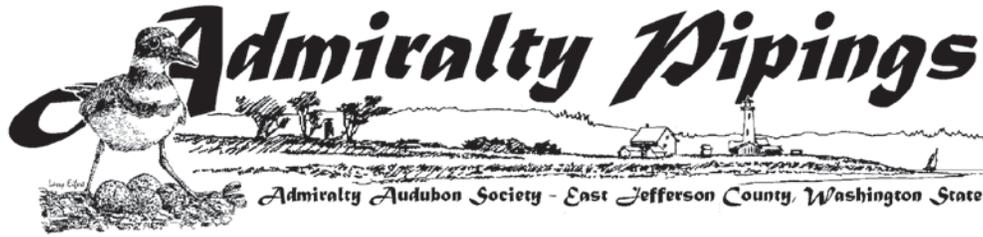
clockwise from upper left:
 Ruddy Turnstone observed among Black Turnstones on the beach east of Cape George, 22 August 2019;
 Downy Woodpecker eating mullein seeds, home landscape, 5 August 2019;
 Dick Johnson in a familiar pose at Anderson Lake, September 2014;

Dick Johnson in Ecuador, identifying the photographer, January 2008;

Dick Johnson in Ecuador, displaying a 'Superior Chocolate' specimen, January 2008;

Nictating membrane on the eye of an eagle at Discovery Bary Wild Bird Rescue, printed in the Atlantic Magazine's Audubon Photography Awards, July 2019.

Banner
Design and Art by
Larry Eifert©



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Cedar Waxwing, Kah Tai

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© Cheryl Stamp

When the fledglings are more ornate than the adults...

We received photos from Cheryl Stamp: "Very friendly bird followed me on Glass Beach for 1/2 hr, eating bugs. He actually walked right between my feet. I could reach down within an inch of him, but he wouldn't let me touch. When I walked fast in front of him & turned around, he would fly directly up to me and land at my feet. I have had no luck identifying him, closest is juvenile chipping sparrow, but not exactly? I don't know much about birds, but this was a very unusual experience for me. Would love to know!" We asked a few of our expert birders. Dan Waggoner, Ron Sikes, and Sandra Stowell concur: "fledgling Brown-headed Cowbird." Such a lovely fledgling - thanks, Cheryl!