

## **Admiralty Audubon Pippings**

### **AAS Field Trips**

#### **November & December 2019 & New Year's Day 2020**

##### **1st Saturday Nature Walk at Fort Flagler 2 November 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.*

##### **1st Wednesday Birding at Point Hudson 6 November 2019, 9am**

Meet at the raingarden by the beach at the very end of Jefferson Street (where there is parking). This will be a 'Brant check' to note their annual return to our area. *Trip Leader Gary Eduardo Perless: 360-643-3529 or gperless@gmail.com.*

##### **Kah Tai Lagoon and beyond**

##### **Saturday 16 November 2019, 8:30 - 11:30am**

Meet at the Port Townsend Park and Ride. We will spend a leisurely amount of time scoping out our winter ducks and seeing what else might be foraging in this diverse habitat. If there is time we will stroll over to the Boat Haven and walk along the very rich shrubbery of the Larry Scott Trail. *Trip Leader Monica Fletcher, monicaflet@gmail.com or 360-379-3136.*

##### **Larry Scott Trail at Milo Curry**

##### **Saturday, 23 November 2019, 9:30am**

Meet at the Milo Curry southern trail head of the Larry Scott Trail for a 3 mile walk looking for winter native and migrant forest birds. Bring your binoculars, spotting scope, cameras on this pleasurable walk. Please dress warmly with gloves, hats, water proof foot wear to explore off trail specialties. From Four Corners Road intersection with Discovery Bay Road and Hwy. 20, turn onto Discovery Bay road go about 0.10 mile; on your right will be a sign for the Milo Curry trail into the parking area. *Trip Leader Paula Vanderheul 360-379-8564 or pvanderheul@gmail.com.*

##### **1st Wednesday Birding at Point Hudson 4 December 2019, 9am**

See information for 6 November. *Trip Leader Gary Eduardo Perless: gperless@gmail.com or 360-643-3529.*

##### **1st Saturday Nature Walk at Fort Flagler 7 December 2019, 9am**

See information for 2 November. *Trip Leader Gary Eduardo Perless: gperless@gmail.com or 360-643-3529.*

##### **North Beach and Chinese Gardens**

##### **Saturday, 28 December 2019, 8:30 - 11:30am**

Meet at the North Beach parking lot. We will walk around the Chinese Gardens lagoon, and end with a sea-watch at North Beach. We should see quite a few seabirds, passerines in mixed flocks and wintering waterfowl. *Trip Leader: Monica Fletcher, monicaflet@gmail.com or 360-379-3136.*

##### **Irondale Beach Park New Year's Day Wednesday, 1 January 2020, 9:30am**

Join us for our sixth annual New Year's Day walk! Bring your binoculars, spotting scopes and cameras to view winter migrant sea birds, shorebirds, and local birding habitat species. Dress warmly with gloves, hat, and hiking shoes. From Irondale road and 4th Avenue turn onto 4th Ave. At the 3-way stop sign, turn right onto Moore Street, following it down to the parking lot. *Trip Leader Paula Vanderheul pvanderheul@gmail.com or 360-379-8564.*

### **Want to do more than 'belong'?**

In addition to our eight birding/nature walks in this issue, we have our Christmas Bird Count coming up (see page 3) and would welcome your help. We would also welcome folks who want to step up for any number of tasks, including helping with education, assisting at our community programs, leading birdwalks, joining our workparties at Kah Tai, or weeding our Plants for Birds area at Salish Coast Elementary. Would you like to handle publicity? Do you want to be a board member? How about handling memberships? We haven't had a hospitality chair in YEARS. Wouldn't it be nice to have tea or coffee and cookies at our programs? If you'd like to help, speak up!



## AAS Community Program

Thursday, 21 November 2019, 7:00 pm

Port Townsend Community Center

Lawrence & Tyler

*the public is invited*

### Ecology of the Sagebrush Steppe

Varn Brooks introduces his presentation in the following way: *"In his book 'Sagebrush Country' Ronald J. Taylor opens his prologue 'Sagebrush country is a land of contrasts ... a lifeless lonely wilderness, or an ecosystem teeming with insects, vertebrates, and plant life.'*

*Never having found the lifeless lonely areas, we'll concentrate on the teeming part that seems to predominate."*

Varn's photos on page 2 have quite a pedigree. Both were taken in sagebrush steppe in the Crazy Woman Creek drainage north of Kaycee WY in June of 1979 on Kodachrome 64. Expect some fascinating tales of the sagebrush steppe!

### ...and an added attraction

Varn has graciously allowed us to offer, prior to his program, a short presentation by Joseph and Daniel Molotsky, who were sponsored by our chapter to attend the June 2019 National Audubon meeting in Milwaukee WI. They also went canoeing and birding in northern Wisconsin. We hear there were loons! And Wisconsin's state bird, the mosquito...

*Rosemary Sikes*  
AAS Programs Chair

## AAS Kah Tai Workparties November & December 2019

### Sunday November 10 from 9am to noon

There will be a work party sponsored by AAS at the Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park in Port Townsend. We will be planting native trees and shrubs. Please bring a shovel and work gloves. If you prefer we will provide Scot's Broom pullers, garbage bags and grabbers. Park at the Chase Bank parking lot at the corner of Hwy 20 and Kearney Street. Look for the white pickup truck near the bench closest to Chase Bank. Refreshments provided. *For information email [ptrose53@gmail.com](mailto:ptrose53@gmail.com) or call 360-385-0307.*

### Sunday December 8 from 9am to noon

There will be a work party sponsored by AAS at the Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park in Port Townsend. We will be planting native trees and shrubs unless temperatures are below freezing. Please bring a shovel and work gloves. If you prefer we will provide Scot's Broom pullers, garbage bags and grabbers. Park at the parking lot off of 12th Street across the street from Henery Hardware. Look for the white pickup truck east of the little pond. Refreshments provided. *For information email [ptrose53@gmail.com](mailto:ptrose53@gmail.com) or call 360-385-0307.*

*Rosemary Sikes*  
AAS Programs Chair

*page 2 clockwise from upper left: Killdeer at Fort Flagler, May 2019; Wilson's Snipe, Kah Tai, 16 September 2019; Osprey, Fort Flagler, 25 September 2019; Pronghorn antelope fawn and Western Meadowlark chick, sagebrush steppe, Crazy Woman Creek WY, June 1979; Kingfisher, Kah Tai, 6 October 2019; Atlantic Puffin, Svalbard, 2019.*

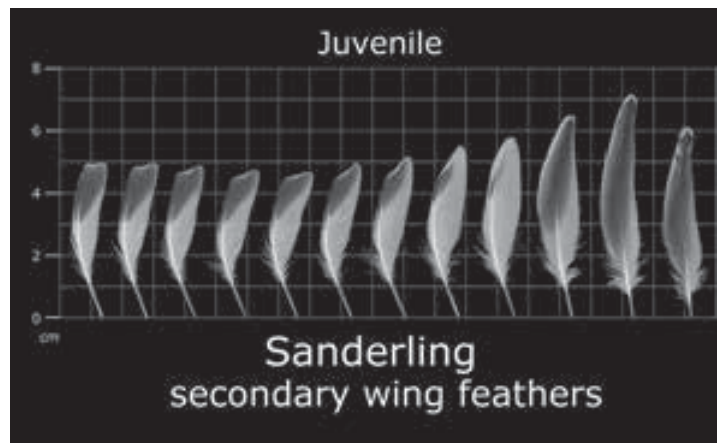
### Audubon Education: Guess the mystery feather

“Birds of a feather flock together,” or so says the often-quoted proverb. It’s so obvious that even bird lovers can take for granted that feathers are what makes birds who they are. All birds have ‘em, from ostrich to hummingbird to peacock, and feathers are what make up their stylish, often colorful crests, ‘ears’, wings, and tails--keys to knowing which bird we are seeing. For birds, feathers also offer sex appeal, camouflage, and that unparalleled mobility of flight. Even flightless birds (60+ species) have feathers, and I would argue that the penguin’s feathered wings allow it fly, underwater! This feather (right) was found on the beach at Fort Flagler in August, on our first Saturday of the month walk.



Feathers have long been a part of human culture, appreciated as gifts of beauty from nature, valued in ceremony. Demand for its feathers to adorn ladies’ hats nearly wiped out the Snowy Egret. Feathers have inspired scientific discoveries and useful inventions, from the down comforter to the feather duster to the zipper. And let us not forget that the Declaration of Independence was signed with inked quill!

We’ve all found a feather on the ground, and then wondered to whom it once belonged. Sometimes it’s obvious, like the plume of a red-shafted flicker. But feathers come in diverse sizes, shapes, and colors, even on one single bird. Now there is a great online resource, called The Feather Atlas <https://www.fws.gov/lab/featheratlas/> intended to “...promote feather identification, research, and appreciation by providing high-resolution scans of the flight feathers of North American birds...” (over 400 species and counting). This learning tool helps pin down (pun intended) not only the species of bird that lost the feather, but also the location from which it was shed--you’ll learn how to tell. The Feather Atlas is free to use, and is guaranteed to pull you into the amazing world of feathers.



Mystery feather ID: I have narrowed it down to a shorebird (seen at same location). Entering a few search terms for pattern and color, the Feather Atlas led me to the secondary wing feathers of the Sanderling (lower right). Happy birdwatching!

*Gary Eduardo Perless*  
Admiralty Audubon Education Chair

AAS Membership Form 2020  
<http://admiraltyaudubon.org>

name \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

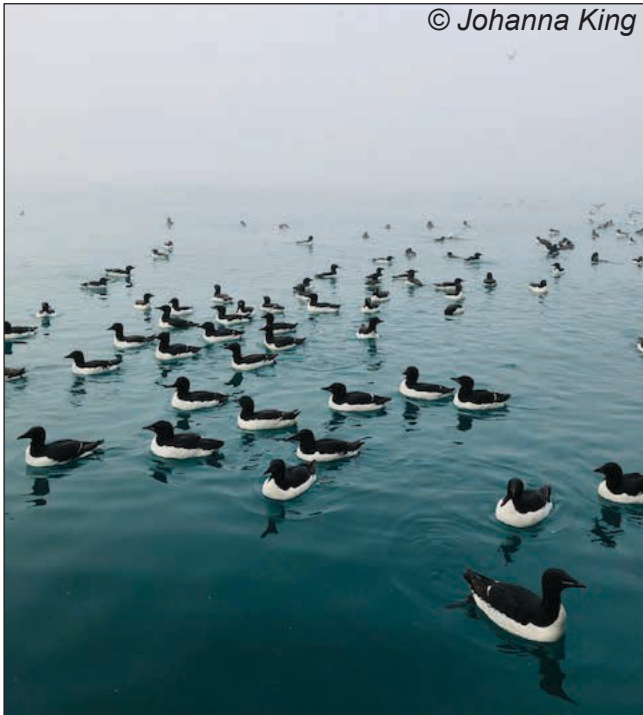
city, state, zipcode \_\_\_\_\_

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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clockwise from upper left: Brunnich's Guillemots, Svalbard, 2019; Great Blue Heron and Great Egret sharing limited nesting area, Klamath Basin near Tule Lake CA, May 2018; Cooper's Hawk, Kala Point, 20 September 2019; American Dipper, Hoh River, 9 October 2019; Kah Tai Lagoon with Great Blue Heron and Wigeons, October 2019; Goldfinch, freshly bathed in non-breeding plumage, home landscape, 2 October 2019.

Banner  
Design and Art by  
Larry Eifert©



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Bushtit, Point Wilson, April 2019

## Admiralty Audubon Officers and Board

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Webmaster: Andrew Reding	--	<a href="mailto:admiraltyaudubon@gmail.com">admiraltyaudubon@gmail.com</a>
Website: <a href="http://admiraltyaudubon.org">http://admiraltyaudubon.org</a>		Facebook: <a href="https://facebook.com/admiraltyaudubon">https://facebook.com/admiraltyaudubon</a>

## A note about memberships and dues

A few years ago we switched our dues cycle from the model used by National Audubon (your dues renew annually on the date you first paid dues) to having everyone due on 1 January. It makes bookkeeping much simpler. If you joined midyear this year, you are welcome to prorate for 2020 if you so choose. If you haven't paid your dues but still get an electronic newsletter, well, we

love our birding community and electrons don't cost much. But if you request a printed newsletter and don't pay dues annually, you will eventually disappear off our list. Paper copies do cost, in time and money for printing, postage, mailing. Our dues are local only. We encourage you to join National Audubon and support Audubon's good works at <https://www.audubon.org/>. Thank you!