

Admiralty Audubon Pippings

AAS Birding May & June 2022

Please note that Trip Leaders set their own requirements with regard to reservations, number of attendees, masking, or vaccination status for participation. Contact the Trip Leader of each walk for more information.

First Friday at Fort Townsend State Park May 6, 2022, 8:30 AM -11:00 AM

Beverly McNeil is offering bird walks at Fort Townsend State Park. These walks will take 2 to 3 hours and include walking approximately 1.5 miles to look for shorebirds and birds in the woods along the bluffs. Please wear sturdy shoes/boots and extra jacket in case of weather changes. Bring binoculars and your own water. Group size is limited to five, and you need to email Beverly to register. We meet at the parking area just down to the left of where you register to camp. Meeting time is 8:30AM. You will need your Discover Pass. Please also notify Beverly if you cannot make it to the outing so that someone else can take your place. Social distancing and full vaccinations are required. Contact Beverly at Bevybirds53@gmail.com.

Bird walk at Cape George road trailhead parking - Larry Scott trail

Saturday, May 14, 2022, 9:30 AM -11:30 AM

The Spring migrants will be singing. Bring your binoculars and dress for the weather. Limit of 10; you must be vaccinated. Reserve your space with Paula Vanderheul at 360-774-2479 or pvanderheul@gmail.com.

Third Friday at Anderson Lake State Park Friday, May 20, 2022 8:30 AM -11:00 AM

Limit of 5 for each outing and you must be vaccinated. Meet at the very first parking area as soon as you leave the pavement off of Lake Anderson Road before the white gate. Meeting time 8:30 AM. Wear clothing for changeable weather, sturdy shoes/boots, binoculars, water, snack optional. Expect to walk about 1.5 miles, including a little uphill, for 2 to 3 hours depending on sightings. We normally go around the whole lake on Trail B. Anderson Lake State Park (map). You will need a Discover Pass. Reserve your space at Bevybirds53@gmail.com. Beverly McNeil, Audubon Trip Leader, Nature Photographer.

Birding by Ear Along the Larry Scott Trail Saturday, May 21st, 2022, 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Meet at the Milo Curry Parking Lot near Four Corner - off of Discovery. This will be a stumble-free slow walk along the paved Larry Scott Trail deciphering all the myriad bird songs. We should get good views as well. This is such a rich time to bird as the full contingent of resident and migratory birds are busy with their lives and oblivious to birders and their peering binoculars. Limit of 12 people; vaccinations required. Contact Monica Fletcher: monicaflet@gmail.com or by phone 360-379-3136.

First Friday at Fort Townsend State Park Friday, June 3, 2022, 8:30 AM -11:00 AM

Beverly McNeil is offering bird walks at Fort Townsend State Park. These walks will take 2 to 3 hours and include walking approximately 1.5 miles to look for shorebirds and birds in the woods along the bluffs. Please wear sturdy shoes/boots and extra jacket in case of weather changes. Bring binoculars and your own water. Group size is limited to five, and you need to email Beverly to register. We meet at the parking area just down to the left of where you register to camp. Meeting time is 8:30AM. You will need your Discover Pass. Please also notify Beverly if you cannot make it to the outing so that someone else can take your place. Social distancing and full vaccinations are required. Contact Beverly at Bevybirds53@gmail.com.

A Hidden Gem of Bird Richness Saturday June 4, 2022, 8:30 AM - 12 PM

Meet at the Port Townsend Park and Ride on Sims Way to carpool if willing. We will go birding in the varied landscape of the Morningtide Open Space on Marrowstone Island. This little gem of wetland, grassland, and forest has produced many a happy bird sighting in the few years it has been open to the public. There is rough terrain on narrow trails. We will meet at the Park and Ride and carpool over together if folks are willing to do that. I will provide directions if not. Limit of 12 people; vaccinations required. Contact Monica Fletcher: monicaflet@gmail.com or by phone 360-379-3136.

(continued on page 2)

AAS Birding May & June 2022

(continued from page 1)

Bird walk at Anderson Lake State Park Saturday, June 11, 2022, 9:30 AM -12:00 PM

Meet at the parking area near the restrooms. Bring your binoculars as we'll be looking for spring migrants such as warblers, flycatchers, swallows, Osprey and more. Discover Pass required. Limit of 10; you must be vaccinated. Reserve your space with Paula Vanderheul at 360-774-2479 or pvanderheul@gmail.com.

Third Friday Bird Walk at Anderson Lake State Park June 17, 2022, 8:30 AM -11:00 AM

Limit of 5 for each outing and you must be vaccinated. Meet at the very first parking area as soon as you leave the pavement off of Lake Anderson Road before the white gate. Meeting time 8:30 AM. Wear clothing for changeable weather, sturdy shoes/boots, binoculars, water, snack optional. Expect to walk about 1.5 miles, including a little uphill, for 2 to 3 hours depending on sightings. We normally go around the whole lake on Trail B. Anderson Lake State Park. You will need a Discover Pass. Reserve your space at Bevybirds53@gmail.com. Beverly McNeil, Audubon Trip Leader, Nature Photographer.

Betty Renkor

Admiralty Audubon Trips Chair



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AAS Workparties May & June 2022

Kah Tai Lagoon - Duck Heaven Sunday, 8 May 2022, 9:00AM - noon

Workparty will be at Duck Heaven on the northeast corner of Kah Tai (near the Decatur right of way close to the corner of Kearney and Blaine Streets). Weather permitting, we will weed, pull Scot's broom and cut blackberry from around the natives we planted a couple of years ago. Bring gloves and pruners; Scot's broom pullers will be provided. For more information, contact Rosemary Sikes at ptrose53@gmail.com or 360-385-0307.

Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park Sunday, 5 June 2022, 9:00AM - noon

Admiralty Audubon will have a work party at Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park, weather permitting. We hope to pull invasives, i.e., Scot's Broom, spurge laurel, holly and ivy, and pick up trash. Please bring your own pruners. (helpful hint: if you want to pull little hollies in the woodland, a pair of pliers or needlenose make it easier.) Park in the Chase Bank parking lot and look for the white pickup truck parked near the bench closest to the bank. For more information, contact Rosemary Sikes at ptrose53@gmail.com or 360-385-0307.

Rosemary Sikes

Admiralty Audubon Programs Chair



© Andrea Guarino-Slemmons



© Andrea Guarino-Slemmons

p.2 above: Great Blue Herons courting and nest-building, March 2022, Everett WA. left: Golden-crowned Sparrow, this one with leg band, one of a pair spotted in Towne Point, April 2022.

p3. top: Varied Thrush and daffodil 'phone', taken through a glass window, with fence grid and foliage interfering, April 2022. middle: Coyote, brave Mallards and a hen Gadwall, Kah Tai Lagoon, April 2022; bottom left: moonrise over PT Boat Haven, with shorebirds in flight, January 2016; bottom right: Artemis Celt and her beloved dog Ruby with a full moon; photo was included with her obituary with no attribution, so thanks to the unnamed photographer.

In Memoriam, Artemis Celt

Artemis Celt died on Easter weekend, 2022. That statement still seems impossible. The photo files for our chapter have hundreds of photos by Artemis from her very first ones in 2014 to January 2022. Birds, yes, but also landscapes, flowering plants and trees and mushrooms and butterflies and more. She photographed the first confirmed sighting of an American Pipit at Kah Tai.

Her obituary in the Leader said nothing and everything about her. We received no mundane life details (born, raised, educated) but much about who she was and how she interacted with the world. To quote its final paragraphs:

Artemis was great fun with a great laugh. She was a loyal sister, cousin, and friend, speaking her truth and wanting to know yours. She was a gift-giver par excellence. She had dreams of peace and harmony on earth, tried hard not to be shattered when they seemed so far away.

Lots of us have recently had exquisite experiences with birds and other animals which we can't help but think were Artemis's way of saying goodbye (and hello!) and that she is free and capable of great magic. We are grateful for that, but boy do we miss her!



Plants for Birds

Our chapter participation in National Audubon's Plants for Birds effort led to a modest grant to develop the native gardens along the front walk at Salish Coast Elementary. If you would like free advice about native plants for our area, please contact Ron Sikes, b1rdbrush@gmail.com. Ron is our chapter representative for the program. You can learn more at <https://www.audubon.org/PLANTSFORBIRDS>.



© Artemis Celt

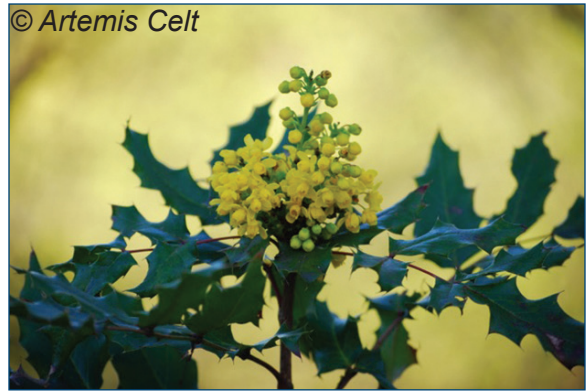
Volunteers Needed for Pigeon Guillemot Surveys in East Jefferson County June-August 2022

Become a guillemot guardian! We are looking for bird- and beach-loving volunteers to help monitor breeding colony status in a region-wide survey of Pigeon Guillemots sponsored by the Salish Sea Guillemot Network (<http://www.pigeonguillemot.org/>).

Prior bird-watching experience preferred; you must be willing to follow established survey protocols using your own binoculars. A minimum commitment of 1 hour per week for 10-12 weeks is required. Training will be provided virtually and in the field where appropriate. Please email Dr. Brenda Johnson at bsjohnson1@icloud.com if interested, using "Pigeon Guillemot Surveys" in subject line.

photos p.4 from top: Native honeysuckle, tall mahonia and serviceberry, all welcome plants for birds.

p.5: Two of five Purple Martins at the Point Hudson nest boxes on April 28, 2022. Earlier in the day, only a starling had been there.



© Artemis Celt



© Artemis Celt

AAS Membership Form 2022
<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.

The Feather Forecast

May and June herald the arrival of spring migrants who set up territories and nest, and also the departure of many seabirds and ducks that breed much farther north. Some birds are merely passing through on their way north —turkey vultures have been a common sight last month and will continue to be seen. Our winter companion seabirds such as Ancient Murrelet, Common Murre, and Pigeon Guillemot become much less numerous as most head north to breeding grounds. Our huge winter diversity of ducks - wigeon, bufflehead, etc. head north to Canada's welcoming wetlands. We still retain breeding Mallard and Ruddy Duck and we welcome back Wood Ducks from further south. We also have Pied-billed Grebe nesters at Kah Tai Lagoon. The month of May still has some late fly-overs of Cackling, Canada Geese and Greater White-fronted Geese so keep listening for them and looking skywards. If you want Brant Geese in your life, Point Hudson may still have a few stragglers in May.

The real news of course in these months is the arrival of migrant smaller birds, some from tropical climes, some from just south of us. We've already seen the return of most species of our summer swallows and the Rufous Hummingbird. We will be getting Purple Martin in noticeable loud return and the similar looking Vaux's Swift that will be flying very high in small numbers across the county.

The noticeable noise of territorial bird song comes to our woods as these winter-quiet places host nesting neo-tropical migrants that have arrived from their Central American wintering grounds. New songs abound from the Warbling Vireos, House Wrens, Townsend's Solitaires, Swainson's Thrush, MacGillivray's Warbler (Larry Scott Trail near Four Corners is a good locale) Black-throated Gray Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Western Wood-pewee and Pacific and Hammond's Flycatchers. In the grasslands at Point Wilson, or the farm country west of Port Townsend along Hastings Avenue, are Savannah Sparrows nesting and buzzing their calls. Wetland area birds, in addition to five species of swallow and Wood Ducks, include the Willow Flycatcher and Yellow Warbler at places like Anderson Lake.

There may be a few more sightings of shorebirds as they continue to pass through. North Beach and East Beach on Marrowstone Island host Whimbrel

and Dunlin; Oak Bay and Point Hudson can serve good numbers of Black Turnstone, Western Sandpiper, and Sanderling. Semi-palmated Plover hangs at the beach wrack south of the Boat Haven. Rarer visitors in May can be Pectoral Sandpiper at Marrowstone Point wetlands, and even a rare bird alert for Solitary Sandpiper can be expected. These shorebirds will clear out by June.

A secretive, rare bird is the Sora - a rail of wetland lakes in the area. Listen for their extraordinary cascading call. The Sora breeds in our area, so will be around in spring and summer.

A really interesting armchair activity right now is to consult the Ebird website out of Cornell University. Here is a sequence of to-be-clicked headings at that site that will take you to wonderful, colorful, date-tied maps of where birds are, and in what abundance, on their migrational routes: On the homesite of Ebird (ebird.org) click "Science," choose "Ebird Status and Trends," click the link in the "Bird Abundance-mapped" paragraph "Learn more about abundance maps," scroll all the way down to the link "Explore abundance maps" and click that. The page shows a chart of all the birds, and in the top right is a search symbol that allows you to choose the migratory bird of interest, e.g black-headed grosbeak. Arrayed there are wonderful visuals that let you predict when you will be seeing our regular avian tourists. And these visitors do not take up any parking spaces downtown.

Monica Fletcher

Admiralty Audubon Conservation & CBC Chair



© Hillary Smith



Admiralty Audubon Society PO Box 666 Port Townsend WA 98368



© Steve Hampton

top are photos by Artemis Celt: l-r Great Blue Heron silhouette; Harlan's race of Red-tailed Hawk; Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Above is a Wood Duck at Kah Tai, April 2022.

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Donation Receipts for Tax Purposes

Just a reminder to our very generous members: who include additional donations with their dues. Remember that your dues also count as a donation. The IRS does not require taxpayers to submit a receipt with their taxes for individual donations under \$250.

If you are one of our members and you want a

receipt for your donation of any amount, please email or call Ron Sikes, our chapter secretary, and he will send one by email or postal mail. Ron will automatically send a tax receipt for donations of \$250 or more as required by the IRS. *Please contact Ron at b1rdbrush@gmail.com or 360-385-0307.*