

Admiralty Audubon Pipings

AAS Birding July & August 2022

Trip Leaders set their own requirements with regard to reservations, attendee numbers, masking, and vaccination status. Contact the Trip Leader of each walk for more information.

First Friday Birdwalk at Fort Townsend State Park

July 1, 2022, 8:30 -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. Meet at 8:30 AM. Bring 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 Bevybirds53@gmail.com.

Third Friday Birdwalk at Anderson Lake State Park

July 15, 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.

First Friday Birdwalk at Fort Townsend State Park

August 5, 2022, 8:30 AM -11:00 AM

Fort Townsend State Park birdwalks 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 8:30 AM. 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 at Bevybirds53@gmail.com.

Birdwalk at Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park

Saturday, August 6, 2022, 9:00 AM - noon

Meet at the bridge. From the parking lot, walk toward the lagoon. The wooden bridge is between the little pond and the lagoon. There should be some migrating shorebirds and the young of the year songbirds and herons. Also, we should see some lonesome male Mallards in eclipse plumage. Limit 8 persons; Covid vaccinations recommended for participants. RSVP to Leader Ron Sikes, Covid vaccinated to the max. Phone 360 385-0307, email b1rdbrush@gmail.com.

Third Friday Bird Walk at Anderson Lake State Park

August 19, 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, Nature Photographer.

Betty Renkor

Admiralty Audubon Trips Chair

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 your own landscape, 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>.

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.*

photo: Bushtit male in nest constructed in a red-flowering currant at Kah Tai, May 2022. Cornell's All About Birds says that all family members sleep in the nest until fledging. A breeding pair often has adult male Bushtit helpers for raising their young, a very unusual bird behavior.



AAS Workparty - Salish Coast

Sunday, July 3, 2022, 9:00 AM - noon

Admiralty Audubon's Plants for Birds native plant garden at the entrance to Salish Coast Elementary has some new natives planted last winter, and this spring we gave the beds a robust layer of mulch provided by the school district. The beds now need a good weeding for summer.

Bring hand weeding tools - no excavators or back hoes will be needed. Five gallon buckets will be provided to collect your weeds, or bring your pet container. You can dump weeds into an orange wheel barrow (provided). Contact Ron Sikes at 360 385-0307 or b1rdbrush@gmail.com for information.

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 - July & August 2022

These two months are challenging for any birder. As a result of birds having fledged their young and the need for secretiveness near those young, the spring chorus and the oblivious-to-human-proximity territorial displays of spring are waning and then disappearing altogether. In the three bird seasons that include fall/winter Flocking, spring/early summer Breeding, we are entering what might be called the Secret season. No need to despair; the birds aren't gone, they're just quiet and cautious.

This is also the time of "unrecognizable" birds. Male and female ducks of a species tend to all look alike as males adopt their eclipse plumage, which can be described as dull, female-like plumage worn by the male for a month or more in summer after breeding. The beautiful drake Mallard loses his brilliant green plumage, and if it weren't for a persistent yellow bill, one might think all the ducks at Kah Tai were female. Many birds lose high contrast as their feathers wear down or fall out in post-breeding molts; many could be described as tattered. Immature birds are not yet exhibiting adult plumage, are very low contrast, and their first attempts at song are inadequate compared to the classical repertoire of their species.

For the ambitious birder, some of the more challenging identification happens beginning in August as many of our shorebirds, in non-breeding plumage already, show up for their southern migration. Semi-palmated Plover, Semi-palmated Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper and loads of Dunlin, Black-bellied

Plover, Western Sandpiper and Least Sandpiper begin strolling our mudflats and rocky beaches. Their dull plumages, nearly identical in silhouette, and different sizes create optical illusions and high hopes of a rarity (e.g. Red Knot) in even the most discerning birder.

A spectacle of these summer months are the vacationing gulls who visit our shores, our rooftops, our trash, and our breakwaters in July and August, having finished their breeding duties both south and inland of our area. The California Gulls join our resident, and more numerous, Glaucous-winged Gulls, painting the town white with guano and stealing fries and burger buns off the deck of Siren's seaside balcony. They breed on inland lakes far to the east of our area, but "winter" with us starting in great numbers in mid-July. The beautiful and striking Heermann's Gull also visits us at this same time and stays through October after leaving the breeding grounds of Mexico's Gulf of California. They often roost on the Boat Haven jetty, mostly on the open water side, in the thousands at peak times. Look for their return in the evening.

This is a quiet time of food bounty, rest, feather repair, the notion to migrate once again and the fueling it requires. These summer birds, like our local reliable migratory invasion of humans, have landed in our area for a little relaxation before the business of fall begins.

Monica Fletcher

Admiralty Audubon Conservation & CBC Chair

© Beverly McNeil



left: White-crowned Sparrow nesting pair, Kala Point, June 2022; right: fledgling Raven, one of five observed at Anderson Lake State Park, June 2022.

'Big Day' Birding by Bike

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology has declared one Saturday in May as Global Big Day. Birders are encouraged to bird at any time in a 24-hour day and amass as impressive a list as possible. Here are highlights of my Big Day by bicycle on May 14, 2022.

I estimate I rode 26-27 miles of total biking, including two miles of beach riding (that was 100% unproductive). When I arrived at my start point (Point Hudson) a few minutes before 5, with my planned start at 6 PM, there was a Brown Pelican resting at the end of the gravel spit that appears during low tide, a very uncommon bird to see here. So, since it is my own Birdathon, I adjusted my start to 5. After a crazy hour at Kah Tai Lagoon, with loads of various ducks and warblers, I birded a few spots on the way home. Just as I reached the top of a big hill close to home, I heard a juvenile Barred Owl screeching. After a few minutes an adult mimicked the young one, but in a clear tone, as if trying to teach the fledgling to do better. A pelican to start, singing owls to end: sweet bookends to my Part One. I had 49 species in four hours.

The following full day began early at home, a birdy place, with the absence of the House Wren that had arrived a couple of days earlier and had been singing non-stop since then. Typical! I didn't find another anywhere in my 24 hours. As I reached town alongside the bay, I had the shocking sight of a whole flock of pure white (domestic) doves that circled and circled the low tide line for minutes, before setting down on the mud flats. Entering the mid-afternoon passerine doldrums my time was best spent at the water, for it's unlikely to find ones you haven't seen already. As hours go by, there are fewer birds to find that are not on your list, and you know you will miss some easy ones because that is just how it goes.

I had 79 species, three less than last year (when I did the full day with a friend). I think I'll continue to do it the second weekend in May, which is International Big Day via eBird. I like the idea of aggregating citizen data. Big Days are tiring. But already I've been wondering about doing one every month, both because they are fun and self-indulgent, but also there is no better way to get a handle on bird distribution throughout the year.

Robert Ambrose

Bird & Bicycle Enthusiast



© Steve Hampton



© Beverly McNeil



© Steve Hampton

from top: Western Kingbird, near Quimper Village, May 2022; Common Yellowthroat, Anderson Lake, June 2022; Nashville Warbler in willows, one member of the impressive warbler migration in Kah Tai, May 2022.

Kah Tai Grant Proposal Submitted

The City of Port Townsend has submitted a grant proposal to the State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) to renovate and re-open the restrooms at Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park. In addition, the picnic shelter will be restored, the trails and parking areas improved and the addition of an on-site park host will provide eyes on the park for better security. Our chapter submitted a letter of support, of course, but the outpouring of support letters from our community was heartening.

Thanks to the Port of Port Townsend, Jefferson County Parks and Recreation, Salish Coast Elementary School, Jefferson Transit, Dove House/Recovery Cafe, Chetzemoka Trail Project leaders, the Jamestown S'klallam Chairman, the Port Townsend Public Library (which provides the StoryWalk at Kah Tai), Disability Awareness Starts Here (DASH), Public Hygiene Lets Us Stay Human (PHLUSH), the Trash Task Force and many others who provided letters - along with a certain former mayor (thank you, Barney!) whose term in office led to the creation of the park and a certain former resident whose heart and soul went into the four lawsuits that protected the area from development in the 1970s while the park idea was formalized (thank you, Steve!).

Local Birds & Ice Cream!

An Admiralty Audubon Photography Show is scheduled for September 2022 at Elevated Ice Cream, organized by AAS member Tracy Higgins LeMoine. There will be room for 20-30 photographs on the wall. The photographs need to be ready to hang (i.e., framed, wired, or put on canvas, metal, acrylic, etc.). They could be different sizes and could be for sale or for display only. Tracy is asking AAS chapter photographers to contact her at tracylemoine@msn.com for more information. **Deadline to confirm participation with Tracy is July 15, 2022.**



© Tracy Higgins LeMoine

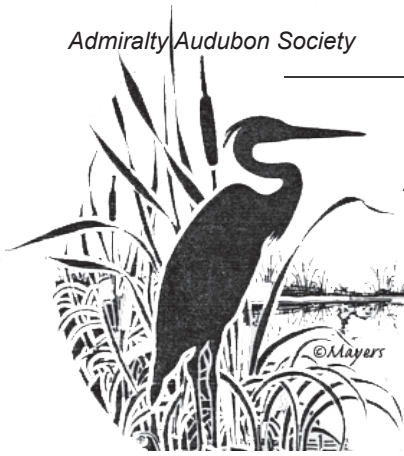


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clockwise from top: Black Oystercatcher, Hudson Point, January 2022; Western Tanager female, Kah Tai, May 2022, Western Tanager male in Washington hawthorn, Kah Tai, May 2022.



Admiralty Pippings

Admiralty Audubon Society of East Jefferson County
PO Box 666 Port Townsend WA 98368



© Dave Grainger
Brant at Point Hudson fly escort mission for Nimitz. A large flock of Brant on the spit across from RV spaces on 7 May 2022 were startled by the horn of CVN 68, the Nimitz.

Admiralty Audubon Officers and Board

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Website: https://admiraltyaudubon.org		Facebook: https://facebook.com/admiraltyaudubon



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Two of the many species observed during warbler (and Western Tanager, shown right) migration at Kah Tai in May 2022. Warblers documented included Yellow, Orange-crowned, Nashville, Wilson's, McGillivray, and Yellow-rumped, both Audubon (shown left) and Myrtle races.



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