

Admiralty Audubon Pipings

Our Christmas Bird Count Needs You!

We have somehow managed the two previous Christmas Bird Counts despite the real concerns of a global pandemic and so it seems very likely that this year's CBC will be a go with a capital G. With many of us vaccinated, fewer hospitalizations, and outdoor transmission to have been determined to be of less significant concern, Admiralty Audubon is putting out the call for volunteers once again.

If you would like to participate on Saturday, December 17 this year please contact Monica Fletcher, by email: monicaflet@gmail.com or call 360-379-3136. We are again encouraging Feeder Watchers this year. Almost every year a feeder watcher checks-off a bird that all the others miss.

If you are curious about the Christmas Bird Count and what it is all about you can go to Audubon's website. <https://www.audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count>. Our local Circle includes the Quimper Peninsula, Marrowstone Island and areas around Beaver and Center valleys, and Discovery Bay. Monica will be emailing out data forms and feeder watch forms to route leaders soon, and assist with placing any new volunteers on one of our approximately 18 routes. Hope to hear from some new folks and we all treasure the usual participants.

Monica Fletcher
AAS Conservation & CBC Chair

Beginning Birding Class

Barry McKenzie has offered to teach a beginning birding class to interested people. We are aiming for a two-day class for about two hours in the evening each day, sometime in January 2023. We are working out the details for a room reservation at the PT Community Center. Barry would like to limit the class to people over 12 years of age. The class would be followed by a field trip to exercise those new birding skills. Participants would need access to a pair of binoculars; the chapter hopes to provide some for class use. We'll send out an email to all as soon as dates are confirmed. For more information, contact barrymckenzie@comcast.net.

AAS Kah Tai Workparties November & December 2022

It rained! We can plant!

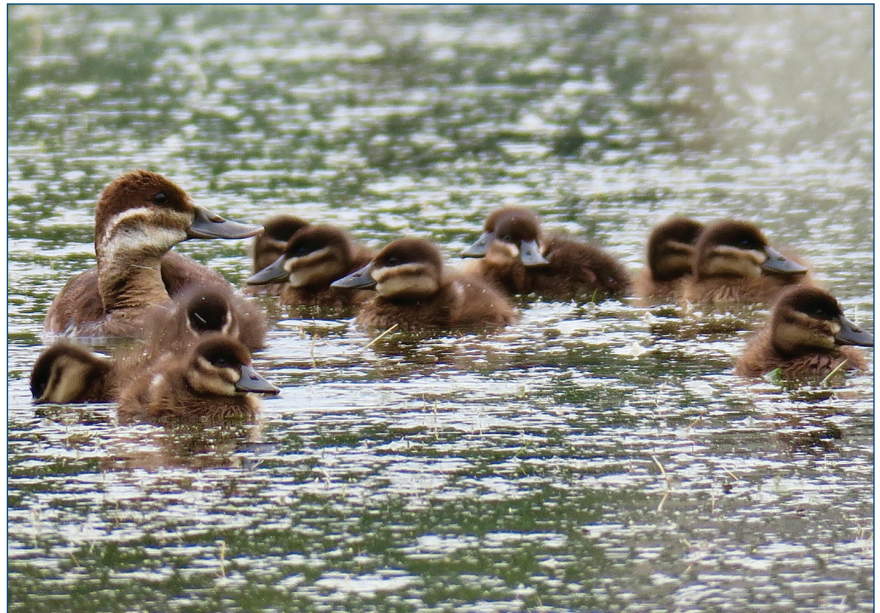
Sunday, 13 November 2022, 9AM - finished

November's Kah Tai work party is Sunday, 13 November from 9am until as many as 100 native plants are planted and those that need it are protected from the deer with wire fencing. Bring work gloves, shovels and buckets for dirt if you have them; we will also have some available. Cookies and hot tea will be provided for volunteers. We will meet at the bench closest to Chase Bank and park in the Chase Bank parking lot on the corner of Hwy 20 and Kearney Street. Contact ptrose53@gmail.com or 360-385-0307.

Sunday, 11 December 2022, 9AM - finished

We will meet and park at the parking lot off of 12th Street, across 12th Street from Henery Hardware. The priority will be planting native plants and protecting them from the deer with wire fencing. Bring work gloves, shovels and buckets for dirt if you have them; we will also have some available. Cookies and hot tea will be provided for volunteers. Contact ptrose53@gmail.com or 360-385-0307.

Rosemary Sikes
Admiralty Audubon Programs Chair



Yet another clutch of little Ruddy Ducks at Kah Tai in August 2022, a hen with ELEVEN youngsters! Our first photographic confirmation of Ruddies reproducing at Kah Tai was less than a decade ago.



© Wendy Feltham



© Wendy Feltham



© Steve Hampton



© Dave Grainger



© James Holb

photos clockwise from top left: one of seven Long-billed Dowitchers at Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park, 14 October 2022;

Photographer Wendy Feltham describes her photo on top right as "Lobefin Snailfish being swallowed whole by a Great Blue Heron at Point Hudson. After consuming this enormous fish, the heron went right back to hunting for more!", September 2022;

Red-breasted Nuthatch in home landscape, September 2022. Photographer Dave Grainger says, "This handsome male has lots of scratches on his legs, probably from power-diving into shrubbery";

Juvenile Steller's Jay gets a peanut in James Holb's home landscape, 13 September 2022;

photographer Steve Hampton says about his Scrub-jay photo, "Jefferson County is experiencing quite the incursion of California Scrub-jays in the last few weeks (photo from 6 October 2022). They've been reported widely from PT to Marrowstone to Quilcene." We posted this on facebook and folks shared their reports from Chimacum, Paradise Bay, Hood Canal Bridge, uptown PT, and Kah Tai Lagoon.

AAS Birding November & December 2022

Birdwalks at Fort Townsend State Park

Friday, November 4, 2022, 9:00 AM -11:00 AM
Saturday, December 3, 2022, 9:00 AM -11:00 AM

Beverly McNeil is offering bird walks at Fort Townsend State Park. Walks of approximately 1.5 miles take 2 to 3 hours 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. We meet at the parking area just down to the left of where you register to camp at 9:00 AM. Bring your Discover Pass. Please 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. Email Beverly at Bevybirds53@gmail.com to register.

Birdwalks at Fort Worden State Park

Friday, November 11, 2022, 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM
Saturday, December 10, 2022, 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Meet at the parking area next to the Marine Science Center pier at 9:00 AM. Expect to walk about 1 to 1.5 miles in different areas of the park during a roughly 3-hour time period. Bring binoculars, water, sturdy footwear, appropriate clothing for changeable weather and your Discover Pass for parking. Limit of 5 people. Social distancing and full vaccinations are required. Contact leader Beverly McNeil at Bevybirds53@gmail.com to sign up.

Birdwalk at Anderson Lake State Park

Friday, November 18, 2022 9:00 AM -11:00 AM

Limit of 5 for each outing and you must be vaccinated. Meet at 9:00 AM at the first parking area as soon as you leave the pavement off Anderson Lake Road before the white gate. Wear clothing for changeable weather, sturdy shoes/boots, bring binoculars and 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. You will need a Discover Pass. Reserve your space at Bevybirds53@gmail.com. Beverly McNeil, Audubon Trip Leader, Nature Photographer.



photos above: White-throated Sparrow, Port Townsend, September 2022. left: Cooper's Hawk at Point Wilson, August 2022.



Elevated Bird Show

Above we have some of the photographers who brought us the wonderful bird photography show at Elevated. Back row left to right: Kerry Tremain, Wendy Feltham (slightly obscured). Front row left to right: Hillary Smith, David Grainger, Mara Christensen and Beverly McNeil, with show curator Tracy LeMoine in the right foreground. Photographers not pictured are Andrea Guarino-Slemmons, James Holb and Steve Hampton.



photos right: Three of the Discovery Bay Wildlife ambassadors we met at our first Community Program in more than two years! Top is an American Kestrel named Merlot; lower left is a Saw-whet Owl named EJay and lower right is a Harris's Hawk named Jet. All are rescues that were unable to be released, either due to physical limitations from injuries or because they had imprinted on humans in their early lives and didn't learn how to be birds. Some serve as surrogate parents for orphaned birds.

AAS Membership Form 2023
<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 - November & December 2022

We started the Feather Forecast last November and most of the statements in that first article still hold (https://www.admiraltyaudubon.org/s/newsletter_2021_11.pdf). This is actually a very rich time to bird. In these months we see a major shift to our winter cast of birds - a significant consolation for the absence of our migratory breeding birds. You may have noticed that favorite spots for birding at Kah Tai lagoon, Chinese Gardens, Oak Bay Campground and Mystery Bay, seemed to be solely the realm of Mallards (with also wonderful Hooded Merganser and a few Gadwall) in the summer and early fall. Now we say "Move over mallards" because we need to give room for our wintering ducks.

Kah Tai and Chinese Gardens have Lesser Scaup, Northern Shovelers, Ring-necked Duck, American and Eurasian Wigeon, Northern Pintail, Ruddy Duck, Green-winged Teal, Bufflehead and Common Goldeneye reliably. Mystery Bay and Oak Bay can add Barrow's Goldeneye, and Common Merganser to your list. Off of the campground spit area at Fort Flagler, and at North Beach, all of the scoters, the Surf, White-winged and Black, are more numerous. Seaward sightings of Long-tailed Duck and three (rarely four) different loons are possible. Our early winter is certainly something to crow about. If we get some real rain Center Valley and Beaver Valley become duck havens too, and the Discovery Pond near the Chevy Chase mansion/Cabins is also a wonderland of waterfowl.

Don't forget to listen for flocks of passerine birds such as chickadees, kinglets, vireos and nuthatches, in the woods of Cappy's Trails, Fort Worden and Fort Flagler. Flocks of robins, Pine Siskin and Cedar Waxwing are quite large now. There may be irruptions of finches, siskins, and Red Crossbill - only time will tell, and interested observers.

Our region is incredibly rich in the winter compared to many parts of the country that have harsh winter weather. Our light rain - in the rainshadow of the Olympics - shelters birds and birders. There is no excuse but your own for adhering to the winter rituals that keep you indoors. Don't forget to sign-up for the Christmas Bird Count!

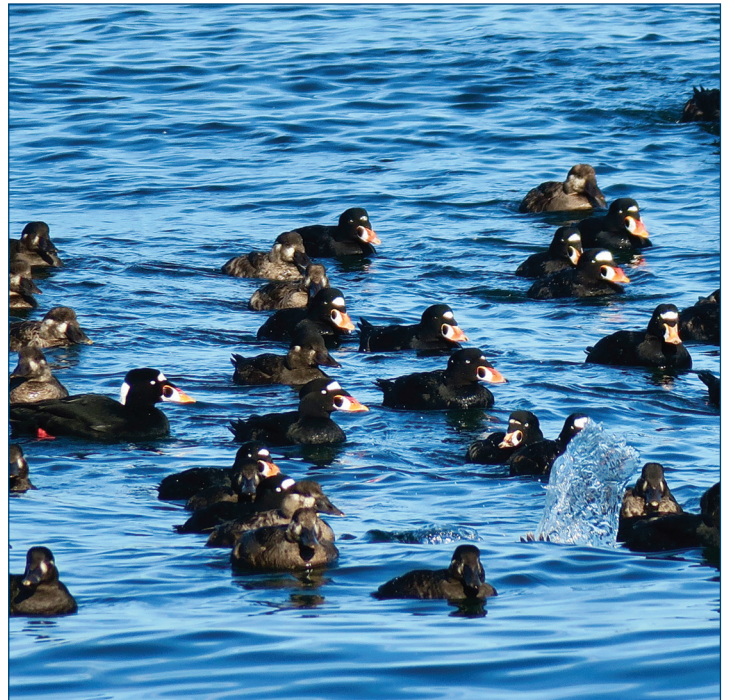
Puget Sound Bird Observatory Seeking Volunteer to Record Data

Needed: Someone to record data during the marine bird survey at Point Wilson and to submit electronically to the Puget Sound Bird Observatory. The survey happens the first Saturday of each month from October through April. It last for 30 minutes. There are two people who will identify the birds on the water at Point Wilson, take a distance measurement and observe the direction of the bird from the observer. The recorder will write down the data. No identification skills necessary and on site explanation of the data form. If interested contact Ron Sikes at b1rdbrush@gmail.com.

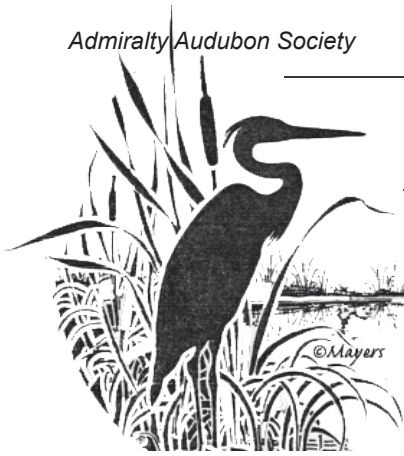
Update on Gary Perless

Our last newsletter noted that our Education Chair position was open but we had no space left to add a note about a last minute resignation that opened the chair. Gary Perless, our Education Chair and stalwart trip leader of monthly Fort Flagler and Hudson Point birdwalks, accepted a teaching position in Sand Point, Idaho, and we wish him the best in his new endeavors.

Monica Fletcher
Admiralty Audubon Conservation & CBC Chair



Surf Scoters at Neah Bay, September 2022.



Admiralty Pippings

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



© Beverly McNeil

American Dipper, Quinalt Rainforest, 20 September 2022.

Admiralty Audubon Officers and Board

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Field Trips: Betty Renkor	--	betty.renkor@gmail.com
Programs: Rosemary Sikes	360-385-0307	ptrose53@gmail.com
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Website: https://admiraltyaudubon.org		Facebook: https://facebook.com/admiraltyaudubon



© Steve Hampton

Photo left: Three Snow Geese (two adults, one juvenile) were photographed at Point Hudson by Steve Hampton on 7 October 2022. Snow Geese are very rare visitors to our area.