

Admiralty Audubon Pipings
AAS Workparties for January & February 2023
Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park & Salish Coast Elementary School
Sunday, 15 January 2023 from 9am-noon

Admiralty Audubon will be sponsoring a workparty at the Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park. We will be planting natives, pulling invasives (i.e., Scots broom, spurge laurel, holly and ivy) and picking up garbage. Look for the white pickup truck near the park bench closest to Chase Bank. Park at Chase Bank on the corner of Hwy 20 and Kearney. Bring a shovel if you have one. Tea, cookies, garbage bags, grippers and pullers will be provided.

Sunday, 29 January 2023 from 10am-noon

Admiralty Audubon will be sponsoring a workparty at the Salish Coast Elementary School at Grant and Discovery Road. We will be planting natives and weeding in the native garden on the north entrance off of Discovery Road. Park on Discovery Road. Bring a shovel if you have one.

Sunday, 19 February 2023 from 9am-noon

Admiralty Audubon will be sponsoring a workparty at the Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park. We will be pulling invasives (i.e., Scots broom, spurge laurel, holly and ivy) and picking up garbage. Look for the white pickup truck near the Benedict Street trail across Hwy 20 from Henery Garden Center. Park at Chase Bank on the corner of Hwy 20 and Kearney. Tea, cookies, garbage bags, grippers and pullers will be provided.

Contact ptrose53@gmail.com or 360-385-0307 for more information.

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AAS Community Program
Seabirds!

Thursday, 16 February 2023, 7:30pm
Port Townsend Community Center
Tyler & Jefferson Streets
the public is invited

Bee Redfield, Executive Director of the Port Townsend Marine Science Center, will present a program on our local seabirds and Salish Sea ecology and conservation. Bee's background is in quantitative ecology, conservation biology and human resources management.

Rosemary Sikes

Admiralty Audubon Programs Chair

© Dan Waggoner



photos: top - Varied Thrush male, home landscape, Port Townsend, December 2022; botton - American Dipper in the Jefferson Land Trust area of the Duckabush Oxbow, November 2022

Beginning Birding Class Is Full

Barry McKenzie's Birding 101 class is full to the brim for January 2023! He has 15 students signed up for two evening classes in January, followed by a birding field trip to exercise those new birding skills.

It would be helpful if any members might be willing to loan a pair of binoculars for a student in the class. The chapter has a few pairs that have been donated by members as well. If you would like to loan binoculars to students, please contact barrymckenzie@comcast.net.

Port Townsend Christmas Bird Count 2022 Record-Breaking Summary!

The 45th Port Townsend Christmas Bird Count was held on December 17, 2022. A cold calm overcast morning, 38°F, gave way to an increasing south breeze mid-morning followed by a wind-driven light rain after noon. The undaunted birders persevered, ultimately tallying 122 species, beating the old record, set last year, by one.

While some effort data is still coming in, we had at least 63 participants, including nine feeder watchers. This is the second highest ever. The count has only topped 60 participants four times, all within the past five years. Together, we put in approximately 125 party hours, smashing the old record of 103 (in 2001).

We traveled at least 52 miles on foot and 61 miles by car. The early hours were marked by almost 8 hours of owling.

All bird numbers are in. Noteworthy sightings included two Tundra Swans among the Trumpeters, a Yellow-billed Loon seen from the boat south of Marrowstone, the count's 3rd ever Rock Sandpiper at the tip of Flagler spit, continuing Canada Jays at Gibbs Lake, and a remarkable 60 Mourning Doves in Port Townsend at Collinswood Farm fields.

Record high counts were set for eight species. These were: Trumpeter Swan (196 > 109), Red-breasted Merganser (909 > 709), Brandt's Cormorant (343 > 301), Black Oystercatcher (37 > 34), California Scrub-Jay (9 > 2), Black-capped Chickadee (254 > 183), Yellow-rumped Warbler (89 > 16), Dark-eyed Junco (1342 > 1012). Two species tied previous high records: Northern Saw-whet Owl (3) and Northern Pygmy-Owl (2). There were no record low counts.

Some of the record high counts continue increasing trends of species advancing north with a warming climate, most notably California Scrub-Jay (now resident in Port Townsend in increasing numbers) and over-wintering Yellow-rumped Warblers.

Notable misses on the count include Greater Scaup, Eared Grebe, and Hutton's Vireo.

In addition to the 122 bird species, we just missed four more. These go down as "count week" birds, as they were seen within three days of the count in either direction.

- 1. Barn Owl
- 2. Red-breasted Sapsucker
- 3. White-throated Sparrow
- 4. Red-shouldered Hawk

This fourth one is one of very few county records, seen by a birder returning from the Sequim CBC along 101 near Discovery Bay. An adult, it is likely still around and should be looked for along Snow Creek, Uncas Wildlife Area, and Discovery Bay.

Steve Hampton

Admiralty Audubon CBC Co-Compiler



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photo left: Yellow-rumped Warbler photographed during Christmas Bird Count, Port Townsend, 17 December 2022; right: Yellow-billed Loon photographed during Christmas Bird Count, Port Townsend, 17 December 2022.

AAS Birding January & February 2023

New Year's Bird Walk at Irondale Beach Sunday, January 1, 2023, 10AM to Noon

Join us for our Seventh New Year's Day's bird walk at Irondale Beach-Chimacum Creek Park. Meet at 10AM at 562 Moore Road parking lot. Enjoy a couple of hours scoping the bay for first of year sea birds, shorebirds, and forest birds. Dress in warm layers with hats and gloves for comfort. Bring binoculars and spotting scope to help identify the waterfowl. Limited to 10 birders. *Please contact Paula Vanderheul at 360-774-2479 cell/text or pvanderheul@gmail.com to sign up.*

North Beach and Chinese Gardens Saturday, January 21, 2023, 9 AM to Noon

Meet at the North Beach Parking Lot. We will nearly circle the lagoon, and check out the winter residents (ducks, seabirds and wintering warblers), especially those that love the area near the warm and misty sewage treatment plant. Limit of 12 people. *Contact Monica Fletcher at monicaflet@gmail.com or by phone 360-379-3136.*

Third Saturday at Anderson Lake State Park Saturday, 21 January 2023 9AM to Noon or 1PM

Meet at 9 AM at the first parking area as soon as you leave the pavement off Anderson Lake Road before the white gate. Discover Pass for parking and full vaccination are required. *You must contact leader Beverly McNeil to register: bevybirds53@gmail.com.* The group size is limited to 5. If the weather is bad we may cancel. Bring binoculars and water, if desired. Distance is 1.5 miles and time of outing is usually 3 to 4 hours. We normally go around the whole lake on Trail B, Anderson Lake State Park (map). Wear sturdy shoes and layered clothing for changeable weather. Avoid wearing bright clothing.

© James Holb



Fort Flagler Campground And Spit Saturday, 4 February 2023 9 AM to Noon (if survivable)

Come freeze your nose and feet in the open area of beach near the Fort Flagler Campground. This is the birding equivalent of a polar plunge. Bring a scope if you have one, and binoculars and lots of warm clothing. Real rain cancels, not mizzle (mist or drizzle). Please meet at 9 AM near the concessions building. Hopefully, we will see sandpipers, plover, turnstone, Long-tailed Duck, grebe, crows and a Snow Bunting (highly unlikely, kind of kidding). Limit of 12 people. *Please contact Monica Fletcher at monicaflet@gmail.com or by phone 360-379-3136.*

Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park Saturday, 11 February 2023 8 AM to 10 - 11 AM

Meet at Kah Tai Lagoon parking lot off 12th Street (near restroom) at 8 AM. Flat, slow walking at Kah Tai. Possible excursion to Boat Haven shoreline. Limit 6. *Contact Barry McKenzie at barrymckenzie@comcast.net to sign up.*

Third Saturday at Anderson Lake State Park Saturday, 18 February 2023 9AM to Noon or 1PM

Meet at 9 AM at the first parking area as soon as you leave the pavement off Anderson Lake Road before the white gate. Discover Pass for parking and full vaccination are required. *You must contact leader Beverly McNeil to register at bevybirds53@gmail.com.* The group size is limited to 5. If the weather is bad, we may cancel. Bring binoculars and water, if desired. Distance is 1.5 miles and time of outing is usually 3 to 4 hours. We normally go around the whole lake on Trail B, Anderson Lake State Park (map). Wear sturdy shoes and layered clothing for changeable weather. Please avoid wearing bright clothing.

Betty Renkor

Admiralty Audubon Field Trips Chair

Beverly notes that If her outings are full, you can contact her at *bevybirds53@gmail.com* for special, personalized bird walks at a choice of 4 different locations in our State Parks on a different date.

photo left: Anna's Hummingbird male, coping with snow on feeder, December 2022, home landscape in Port Townsend.

Elevated Art Update for 2023

Tracy LeMoine, our chapter member who initiated the idea and did the 'heavy lifting' curating the AAS photography show at Elevated in 2022, has confirmation from Shirlena at Elevated Ice Cream that we will have June and July 2023 for our next group show. Submissions are open to all Admiralty Audubon Society members and the theme for 2023 will be 'NATURE'.

There will be a few changes for 2023. As Curator, Tracy asks that all entries be available for sale, as Elevated takes 10% of sales for providing the venue, and this time Tracy will take 10% of all sales for her time and efforts as Curator.

Entries can be a framed print, or on canvas, acrylic or metal and please no larger than 16x20 (including frame). Each participant will be allowed 2-4 entries, depending on how many sign up. The deadline for participating will be April 30, 2023. You have four months to photograph and select your entries and an extra month for printing and framing.

More information will follow. You can contact Tracy at tracylemoine@msn.com if you have any questions and she says, "Remember to renew your membership with Admiralty Audubon Society".

photos top: Northern Flicker, home landscape, Port Townsend, October 2022; bottom: Wilson's Snipe, Quinalt Rainforest, 1 December 2022.



© Tracy LeMoine



© Beverly McNeil

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 - January & February 2023

In January and February we see the largest numbers of our winter birds. Kah Tai Lagoon and Chinese Gardens have scaup, shovelers, Ring-necked Duck, wigeons, pintails, 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 at this time of year. Seaward sightings of Long-tailed Duck and three of four loons are possible from these spots, too. If you park near Chevy Chase Cabins on Discovery Road (near intersection with Cape George Road) you can walk back (carefully) until you get a view of the amazing array of ducks on Discovery Pond (aka Tukey Pond); for the last few years, elusive Canvasback Ducks have visited only for the winter.

It is still the time for flocks of passerine birds such as chickadees, kinglets, and nuthatches in the woods of Cappy's Trails, Fort Worden and Fort Flagler. Large flocks of American Robins and Pine Siskin are common now. Try your hand at counting them; it is a good skill to practice. Keep a record for largest number you see to compare to next year. There may be irruptions (uncommon huge numbers in pursuit of food sources) of finches, siskins, and Red Crossbill - only time will tell, and interested observers. Of course, your feeders will see all of the above and attract jays and woodpeckers too.

Watch for courtship behaviors amongst raptors now. They nest earlier than our songbirds to get a head start on their hunting of other birds and their chicks. Look for a Peregrine Falcon pair way out at cliffs by Middlepoint on North Beach. Bald Eagles have spectacular courtship displays that are a life highlight to witness. Bonded pairs have been seen to grip talons in flight and plummet together - a good excuse to always go outdoors and look up in January and February.



© Beverly McNeil



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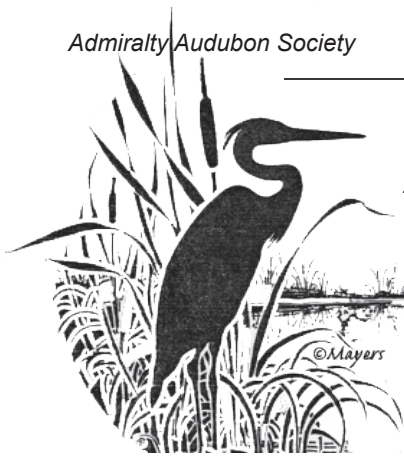


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photos top down: Pacific Wren, Kala Point, 22 November 2022; third-winter (l) and first-winter (r) juvenile Heerman's Gulls at Point Hudson, November 2022 (ignore the larger and more familiar gull in back; a Rock Sandpiper among Black Turnstones, Dunlin and Surfbirds at Point Hudson, November 2022.

Monica Fletcher

Admiralty Audubon Conservation & CBC Chair



Admiralty Pippings

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

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Mixed shorebird flock at Point Hudson, November 2022.

Admiralty Audubon Officers and Board

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Vice President: Bill Vogt	360-531-2821	billvogt46@gmail.com
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Website: https://admiraltyaudubon.org		Facebook: https://facebook.com/admiraltyaudubon

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Photo left: Varied Thrush female, somewhere in PT post-CBC; photographer notes that it seemed to be 'snowing' Varied Thrushes as dozens were reported during our snow event.

Right: Rock Sandpiper at Point Hudson on 8 November 2022.



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