

Admiralty Audubon Pippings **AAS Birding for March & April 2023**

March 2023

Ducks on Ponds
Friday, 3 March 2023
9:30 - 11:30 AM

Meet at Jefferson County Fairgrounds parking just off 49th St. On this 1.9-mile loop route, we'll check out the ducks at two spots on Chinese Gardens pond and the Lynnesfield pond. We'll walk through a neighborhood and the east side of the Fairgrounds. We should also see non-duck birds along the route. Route includes some uneven ground and probably some mud. Limit 6. Sign up with leader Betty Renkor at betty.renkor@gmail.com. Rain and/or high wind cancels.

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

Meet at 9 AM at the first parking area as soon as you leave the pavement off Lake Anderson Road before the white gate. Discover Pass required for parking. You must contact leader Beverly McNeil to register: bevybirds53@gmail.com. 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; time of outing is usually 3 to 4 hours. We normally go around the whole lake on Trail B, Anderson Lake State Park. Wear sturdy shoes and layered clothing for changeable weather. Avoid wearing bright clothing.

Low tide at Point Hudson
Wednesday, 22 March 2023
10 AM - 11 or Noon

We'll check out the birds hanging out during low tide. We may take a short walk to look for songbirds. Bring a spotting scope if you have one. Strong wind or rain cancels. Sign up with leader Steve Hampton at stevehampton@gmail.com.



April 2023

Third Saturday at Anderson Lake State Park
Saturday, 15 April 2023
8:30 AM - 11:30 AM or 12:30 PM

Meet at 8:30 AM at the first parking area as soon as you leave the pavement off Lake Anderson Road before the white gate. Discover Pass is required for parking. 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. Wear sturdy shoes and layered clothing for changeable weather. Please avoid wearing bright clothing.

Earth Day Birding
Saturday, April 22, 2023
8:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Meet at the Reveille restaurant in Fort Worden at 8:30 AM (grab a cup of coffee early if you like). We will walk from Fort Worden Commons to Battery Hill and back, listening for bird song and checking the doings of some of the migrant birds that call our area their summer home. It should be a rich moment of song and activity. Trip Leader: Monica Fletcher, monicaflet@gmail.com or 360-379-3136.

Betty Renkor
Admiralty Audubon Field Trips Chair



photo left: Red-breasted Merganser male, Neah Bay, 16 February 2023; right: Pigeon Guillemots, 17 June 2022, Cape George

© Andrew Palmer



Endangered Species

Last month there was a news story about some animals at the Dallas Zoo being let out by someone (who was later apprehended). Tragically one of the animals, a rare African Lappet-Faced Vulture was killed. These vultures are the largest vultures in their range with a wing span of up to 9.5 feet. For comparison, our native vultures have a 5-6 foot wing span. IUCN estimates only 6500 of these birds survive in the wild.

The Dallas Zoo story jogged my memory of an incident when I was in Tanzania six years ago. The guide in my vehicle became very excited, pointing at this vulture in the top of a nearby tree and urging me to take a photo, which I did. I recently did a search of my photos and sure enough, this turned out to be a Lappet-Faced Vulture on a nest atop an acacia tree. I now feel extremely fortunate to have seen and photographed this bird in its wild habitat and thankful to the sharp-eyed guide for spotting it.

Andrew Palmer

Admiralty Audubon member

© James Holb



Community Program for May

Our next community program will be on 18 May 2023 at 7:30 pm at the Community Center in uptown PT. The program topic and speaker are still being decided. Since our last program had to change on short notice, we will wait to announce until the May newsletter for this one. But mark your calendar for the date!



© Beverly McNeil

© Beverly McNeil



photo left, top down: Lappet-faced Vulture, Tanzania, 2017; Stellar Jay, home landscape, December 2022; Horned Grebe (bottom left) and Eared Grebe (right) in winter plumage, Neah Bay, 16 February 2022 (can you tell the grebes apart?)

AAS Workparties for March & April 2023 Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park

Sunday, 19 March 2023 from 9 AM - 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 trash. 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. Tea, cookies, garbage bags, grippers and pullers will be provided.

Sunday, 16 April 2023 from 9 AM - 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 the Port Townsend Garden Center (formerly Henery's 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 about workparties.*

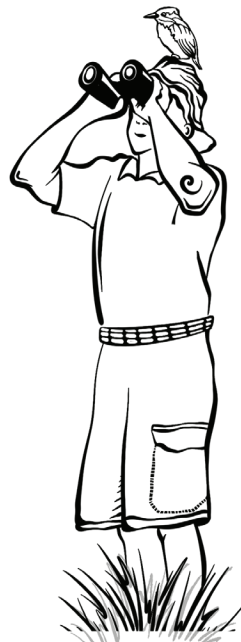
BIRDING 101

Rosemary Sikes

Admiralty Audubon Programs Chair

Learn the basics to get started in birding!

- binoculars
- field guides
- on-line resources
- how to identify birds
- where to go see birds



© Varn Brooks



Townsend's Solitaire feeding on juniper berries at Cape George, 3 February 2023.

Presented by Admiralty Audubon

No Charge! No Fee!

Contact: barrymckenzie52@icloud.com

Birding 101 Class - free of charge

Class is designed for beginners. Classes are at the Port Townsend Community Center, uptown at Tyler and Lawrence Streets. Two classroom sessions cover 1) tools and gear (binoculars, field guides, online resources) and 2) how to think about and approach bird identification. Then, we try out our skills on a 3-hour field trip (easy walking) somewhere around Port Townsend.

Class: April 19 and 20 (Wed and Thur), 2023. 7-9pm. Field Trip: Saturday, April 22 8-11am.

Contact Barry McKenzie for sign up and get details: barrymckenzie52@icloud.com

Elevated Art Update for 2023

Remember to sign up for the 2nd Annual Photography Show at Elevated Ice Cream held this year in June and July. This year's theme is NATURE. That could be waterfalls, mountains, cougars, fawns, anything in nature. The deadline to get into the show is April 30, 2023 and all work must be for sale. Please contact the curator, Tracy, at tracylemoine@msn.com or 206.226.3681 to participate and get more information.



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© Varn Brooks



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photos left: Spring arrival of the Rufous Hummingbird is tied to bloom time of the red-flowered currant, 17 June 2022, home garden at Cape George; top right: Mallard (male) flapping wings in the small pond in Ft. Worden, January 2023; bottom right: A Downy Woodpecker (male) drilling on a pine tree on the beach at Ft. Flagler, January 2023.

AAS Membership Form 2023
<https://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 - March & April 2023

Last spring, on the morning of May 17, I headed to Kah Tai Lagoon full of hope for a lot of spring migrants. The reality exceeded all expectations. I quickly tallied two flycatchers (Western Wood-Pewee and Pacific-slope Flycatcher), two vireos (Cassin's and Warbling), six warblers (Orange-crowned, MacGillivray's, Yellow (at least 10), Yellow-rumped (more than 20), Wilson's (25 of them), and Common Yellowthroat), plus 25 Western Tanagers, two Black-headed Grosbeaks, and a singing Bullock's Oriole. This was mostly in a short fifty-yard stretch. The tanagers, mostly adult males with red heads, were flitting back and forth across the path between the willows and the taller trees. The warblers were singing. To top it off, there was a pair of Blue-winged Teal on the water and a flyover Evening Grosbeak. I ended up with 60 species in two hours. The full list, with some pics, is here: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S110486843>

This was the morning that made me a believer in BirdCast, an effort by the Cornell Lab to estimate the number of migrating birds passing through each county each night. They use radar to estimate this. Each morning, I would go to <https://birdcast.info/>, enter Jefferson County, Washington in the migration dashboard, and update the date to the most recent. That morning they had to adjust the scale of their graph, for they showed 1,826,500 birds crossed our county the previous night. Here is the report from that morning: <https://dashboard.birdcast.info/region/US-WA-031?night=2022-05-16>

This was several orders of magnitude higher than on most nights. The average during peak migration is less than 200,000 birds. And many nights are less than 30,000 birds. In fact, the very next night



© Wendy Feltham

they estimated only 22,000 birds crossed the county, only 1.2% of the previous night. So migration is an episodic event, varying greatly from one day to the next depending on seasonality and weather. That same morning, a birder at Point Defiance in Tacoma counted over 4,000 Western Tanagers flying over his head across the water to Vashon Island.

So this spring, keep an eye on BirdCast. Estimates on BirdCast start on March 1. For information about what birds are expected to be on the move in March and April, check out Monica Fletcher's Feather Forecast in last year's March newsletter at https://www.admiraltyaudubon.org/s/newsletter_2022_03.pdf



© Steve Hampton

photos top left: female Common Merganser, Point Hudson, November 2022; right: male Belted Kingfisher, Kah Tai, 18 February 2023; bottom left: Perhaps more common than we realize, an apparently female Mallard transforming into a male, Lynnsfield Pond, Port Townsend, 15 January 2023. The process is described here: <https://www.birdsoutsidemywindow.org/2022/03/22/female-mallard-becoming-male/>

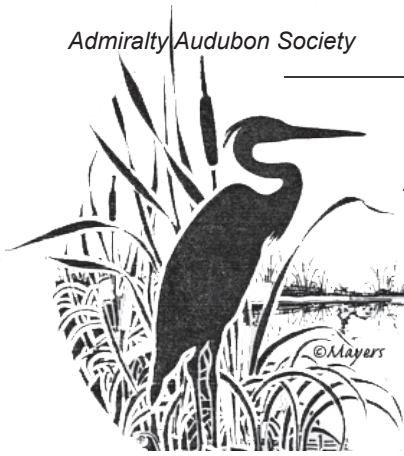
Kah Tai is nice, but any good neighborhood would do, as well as the south facing hill at Fort Worden. Good birding!

Steve Hampton

Admiralty Audubon Conservation & CBC Chair



© Don Willott



Admiralty Pippings

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



Dozens to hundreds of Ancient Murrelets crossed Point Wilson most mornings in January (photo is from 26 January 2023). On this calm day, they came in bundles of 5 to 27 birds, sparkling as they flew.

Admiralty Audubon Officers and Board

President: Rick Jahnke	360-531-3417	rjahnke@att.net
Vice President: Bill Vogt	360-531-2821	billvogt46@gmail.com
Secretary: Ron Sikes	360-385-0307	b1rdbrush@gmail.com
Treasurer: Rick Jahnke (interim)	360-531-3417	rjahnke@att.net
Field Trips: Betty Renkor	--	betty.renkor@gmail.com
Programs: Rosemary Sikes	360-385-0307	ptrose53@gmail.com
Education: open		
Conservation & CBC: Steve Hampton	530-400-8417	stevehampton@gmail.com
Membership: Clara Mason	360-385-3594	aacmason@olympen.com
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Member At Large - PI Rep: Craig Wester	360-385-5390	craigwester@olympus.net
Member At Large - Monica Fletcher	360-379-3136	monicaflet@gmail.com
Webmaster: Andrew Reding	--	admiraltyaudubon@gmail.com
Website: https://admiraltyaudubon.org		Facebook: https://facebook.com/admiraltyaudubon

Membership Dues and Donation Acknowledgements

A few years ago, Admiralty Audubon moved the annual dues renewal to January. The newsletter is the only item you receive as a member, and the electronic version is freely available. The IRS does not consider a newsletter to have any value, so your dues are a donation along with any additional donation you may offer.

If you want a donation receipt for tax purposes, please contact our chapter Secretary Ron Sikes at b1rdbrush@gmail.com and he will provide you with a donation acknowledgement. The IRS does not require an acknowledgement for amounts less than \$250. Thank you for your support!