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## **Admiralty Audubon Pipings**

### **AAS Birding for May & June 2023**

#### ***A Hidden Gem of Bird Richness***

*Saturday May 6, 2023*

*8:30 AM - 11 or 11:30 AM*

Meet on Schwarz Road on Marrowstone Island, or carpool. 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. We can, by arrangement, 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 14 people. *Contact Monica Fletcher: [monicaflet@gmail.com](mailto:monicaflet@gmail.com) or by phone 360-379-3136.*

#### ***Birding Walk on Larry Scott Trail***

*Saturday, May 13, 2023*

*9 AM - 11:30 AM*

Meet at 9 AM at the Larry Scott Milo Curry trailhead parking lot. We will be looking for Spring migrants. The trail is mostly flat, easy walking with mixed forest trees attracting warblers, passerines, woodpeckers, and hawks. *Please contact Paula Vanderheul at 360-774-2479 or [pvanderheul@gmail.com](mailto:pvanderheul@gmail.com) to sign up.* Limited to 10 participants.

#### ***Blue Heron Thickets***

*Sunday, May 14, 2023*

*8 AM - 10 AM*

Meet at Blue Heron Middle School parking lot. We'll walk thru the thicket paths to Lynnesfield Pond, behind the school, south to Eco-Village and loop back to the school. Expect to see grosbeaks on territory and hopefully some warblers, flycatchers, vireos, etc. This is about a 1.0 to 1.5 mile loop. *Sign up with leader Steve Hampton at [stevehampton@gmail.com](mailto:stevehampton@gmail.com).*

#### ***Third Saturday Bird Walk at Anderson Lake State Park***

*Saturday, May 20, 2023*

*8:30 AM - 11:30 AM or 12:30 PM*

Meet at 8:30 AM at the parking area straight down the dirt road just beyond the meadows. Discover Pass required to park. *To register, you must contact leader Beverly McNeil: [bevybirds53@gmail.com](mailto: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.

#### ***Dosewallips Road Walk***

*Wednesday May 24, 2023*

*7:30 AM-10:30 AM*

Leave the Port Townsend Area at least one hour ahead. Meet where pavement ends and gravel begins on Dosewallips Road. Stroll, with a few rocky crossings of tributaries, this lush corridor of migrant and resident bird habitat. This is a beautiful area and very bird rich. Most of North America's western flycatchers, vireos, and warblers should be present and in full song. Hopefully we will see our river swimming specialist, the American Dipper. Bring excellent shoes, binoculars, food if that is something you may need. After the walk it is highly recommended that you visit Rocky Brook Falls back toward Highway 101. Carpooling can be arranged by phone. Maximum number of participants is 14, not counting your walk leaders. *Trip Leaders: Monica Fletcher and Steve Hampton. Email Monica at [monicaflet@gmail.com](mailto:monicaflet@gmail.com) or call 360-379-3136 to reserve a spot.* Note this is a midweek walk.

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## AAS Birding for May & June 2023 *continued from page 1*

### **Birding Rush Hour at Fort Worden State Park**

*Saturday May 27, 2023  
8:30 AM - 11 or 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 and by this time our migrants will have really settled in. *Sign up with Trip Leader Monica Fletcher: [monicaflfet@gmail.com](mailto:monicaflfet@gmail.com) or 360-379-3136.*

### **Morning at Morningtide**

*Saturday June 3, 2023  
8:30 AM - 11 or 11:30 AM*

Meet on Schwarz Road on Marrowstone Island, or carpool by arrangement. 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. We can, by arrangement, 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 14 people. *Contact Monica Fletcher: [monicaflfet@gmail.com](mailto:monicaflfet@gmail.com) or by phone 360-379-3136.*

### **Birding at Anderson Lake State Park**

*Saturday, June 10, 2023  
9 AM - 11:30 AM*

We will meet at the parking lot near the comfort station at the park. The habitat is mixed forests, lake viewing, meadow area, and some special trail finds. It's the season for nesting swallows, Savannah Sparrows, Willow Flycatchers, Osprey, Common Yellowthroats and many other species. A Discover Pass is required for parking. *Please contact Paula Vanderheul at 360-774-2479 or [pvanderheul@gmail.com](mailto:pvanderheul@gmail.com) to sign up. Limited to 10 participants.*

### **Third Saturday Bird Walk at Anderson Lake State Park**

*Saturday, June 17, 2023  
8:30 AM - 11:30 AM or 12:30 PM*

Meet at 8:30 AM at the parking area straight down the dirt road just beyond the meadows. Discover Pass required for parking. *You must contact leader Beverly McNeil to register: [bevybirds53@gmail.com](mailto: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.

*Betty Renkor*

Admiralty Audubon Field Trips Chair



*Mountain Bluebirds at Point Wilson, April 2023.*





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photos left: top down - leucistic Bald Eagle, Marrowstone Island, April 2023; Bald Eagle making a point, Fort Flagler, March 2023; Pied-billed Grebe, Kah Tai, April 2023.  
photo right: a distant but definite Black Phoebe, Chinese Gardens, April 2023.

**AAS Community Program**  
**Northwest Ecuador: Hummingbirds!**  
**Thursday, 18 May 2023, 7:30 PM**

**Port Townsend Community Center**  
**Lawrence & Tyler**  
*the public is invited*

Just before the Pandemic hit in January 2020, Beverly made a birding trip to Northwest Ecuador where she met up with a small group led by a friend she knew in Costa Rica.

The main draw for Beverly was the fact that Ecuador boasts 126 hummingbird species.

Beverly has around 200 photos to share that are close up and personal, with many fun stories!

**AAS Workparties**  
**May & June 2023**  
**Salish Coast Elementary &**  
**Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park**

**Sunday, 21 May 2023 from 10 AM - Noon**

Admiralty Audubon will be sponsoring a weeding workparty (and hopefully a little mulch-spreading) at Salish Coast Elementary's entrance on Discovery Road. Please bring your preferred weeding tools.

**Sunday, 18 June 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 bench on the loop trail. 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](mailto:ptrose53@gmail.com) or 360-385-0307 for more information about workparties or programs.

*Rosemary Sikes*

Admiralty Audubon Programs Chair



© Steve Hampton

### Envision the Future

Port Townsend is currently engaged in an intensive process to consider the future of the Port Townsend Golf Course. The current lease expires at the end of 2023. A stakeholder group of residents has been evaluating possible options for the future of this 57+ acres of open space in the heart of our community, and several possible options are being considered. Any design must include protections for the Kah Tai Prairie and Hastings Pond. The latter is a Critical Area in the City Municipal Code, a Category II wetland and 'waterfowl wintering area' that requires approval by both our Public Works department and the Department of Fish and Wildlife for alterations.

You can read all the documents and discussions that have occurred in this process at <https://cityofpt.us/engagept/page/envision-port-townsend-golf-course-and-mountain-view-commons>. As the City evaluates densification city-wide to accomodate more affordable and workforce housing, the value of protected open space finds greater support and importance, for humans and for wildlife.

Our chapter Conservation Chair, Steve Hampton, has written a comment on behalf of the Admiralty Audubon Board, noting that options 2a and 3 would provide the greatest benefit to birds and habitat, with the following conclusion:



Two of the more than 130 species reported at Hastings Pond. Top: one of only a handful of reports in our region for Redhead Duck, Hastings Pond, March 2023; bottom: Virginia Rail and youngster, Hastings Pond, June 2021.

*"We acknowledge that any option will include some human recreation footprint that is not natural habitat, such as sports and recreation facilities. Because wildlife benefits especially from contiguous parcels, it would be best if the natural areas and recreational facilities were clumped and not intermixed. Ten contiguous acres in a clump provides more habitat value than ten scattered or strung-out acres."*

The AAS Board encourages our members and friends to submit their own evaluations and opinions about the four options being considered. The survey is on the City website at <https://forms.office.com/r/VeeS2z1KV8> and is open for your submissions until 12 May

2023. Please study the four options that are provided in the survey and let the City know your preferences, including what changes you would recommend.

AAS Membership Form 2023 <a href="https://admiraltyaudubon.org">https://admiraltyaudubon.org</a>	
name _____	date _____
mailing address _____	
city, state, zipcode _____	
email address _____	phone number _____
Would you prefer your newsletter by email? <input type="checkbox"/> paper copy? <input type="checkbox"/> amount enclosed \$ _____	
<p>Send \$20 annual membership to: <b>Admiralty Audubon, PO Box 666, Port Townsend WA 98368</b>  <b>or pay online at the 'Join' link via PayPal or credit card</b></p> <p><i>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.</i></p>	

## The Feather Forecast - May & June 2023

This song rattles around in my brain at this time of the year: *“The Birds are Back in Town, the birds are back in town.”* May and June bring neotropical birds that migrate from Central America and Mexico. These numerous fair-weather species enjoy our extensive woods and wetlands, the grassland of farms, our garden feeders, robust mosquitoes and nectar-rich gardens. The welcome mat is extensive.

We’ve already seen the return in April of five of our six swallow species, Rufous Hummingbird, and migrating Mountain Bluebird and shorebirds like the large whimsical Whimbrels. May and June conditions will coax Purple Martin, Vaux’s Swift, Semi-palmated Plover, and the secretive Sora back to our skies and wetlands and beaches. Gardens, especially those with woods nearby, will resound with new songs that are so very distinct from our residents’ well-known songs. The dawn chorus becomes enormous. If your garden is worthy, you will attract the best singer of all —the tiny House Wren.

A really excellent place to walk that hosts just about all of the breeding migrants is the Larry Scott Trail from the Milo Curry parking lot off of Discovery Road. Walk here, and especially with your song identifying Merlin app on your phone, you will very likely hear and see Black-headed Grosbeak, Warbling Vireos, Townsend’s Solitaires, Swainson’s Thrush, MacGillivray’s Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Wilson’s Warbler, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Western Wood-pewee and Pacific-slope 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. Every place is a good place if you are patient.

*Monica Fletcher*

Admiralty Audubon Education Chair



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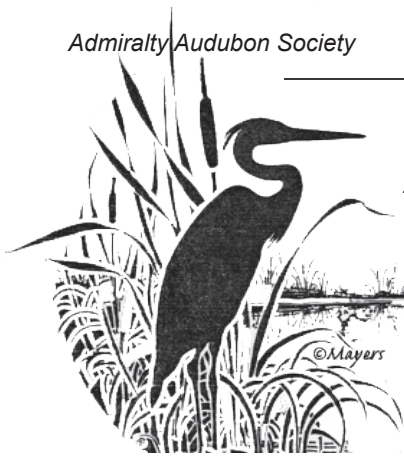


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photos clockwise from top left: Yellow-rumped Warbler, Ridgefield NWR, April 2023; Townsend’s Solitaire, Fort Worden, April 2023; Killdeer, Hudson Point, April 2023; American Pipit, North Beach, April 2023.



# Admiralty Pippings

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

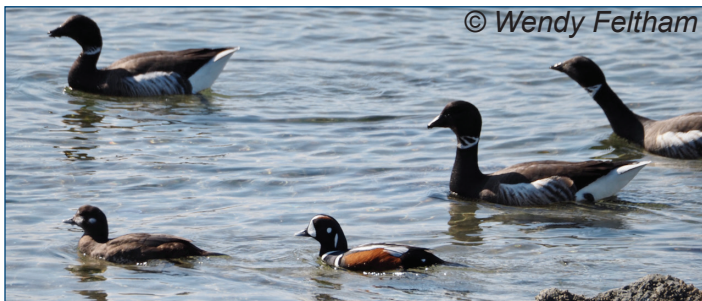


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Whimbrels, North Beach, April 2023.

## Admiralty Audubon Officers and Board

- |  |              |   |
|--|--------------|---|
| President: Rick Jahnke   | 360-531-3417 | <a href="mailto:rjahnke@att.net">rjahnke@att.net</a>  |
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photos left: passing on the left - Harlequin pair swim past Black Brant, Fort Flagler, March 2023; right: Black-bellied Plover, Larry Scott Trail near the Boat Haven, April 2023.



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