

Admiralty Audubon Pippings

AAS Birding November - December 2023 (& New Year's Day!)

Third Saturday at Anderson Lake State Park Saturday, November 18, 2023, 9 AM - 12 PM

Meet at 9 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.* 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.

Birding in the Forest at Fort Flagler State Park Saturday, December 9, 2023, 9 AM - 11 AM

Meet at the Fort Flagler Interpretive Trail at 9 AM. Follow the main road into the park. At the stop sign, turn left. Parking is on the right and next to G1 – Wagon Wheel camp. You will need a Discover Pass to park at Fort Flagler State Park, which is surrounded on three sides by water and has forests representative of the PNW. We will walk the Interpretive Trail and the Calwell Trail. Expect to walk about 2 miles and 2 hours total. The Interpretive Trail passes through forest where we will listen for our local birds, which is Jackie's specialty, and discuss the importance of these remaining forests to so many species. Our morning will end on the Calwell Trail, which intersects the Bluff Trail where we will search for wintering seabirds. Bring binoculars, water, warm clothing, and be prepared for rain, though the rainforest provides shelter. *Trip Leader Jackie Canterbury: RSVP via text at 307-763-1953.*



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photos above: 27 Oystercatchers, Oak Bay County Park, October 2023; right: American Pipit, Fort Flagler, September 2023.

North Beach and Chinese Gardens Wednesday, December 13, 2023, 9 AM - 12 PM

Meet at the North Beach parking lot. We will start our wintry day scanning the sea waters for seabirds, gulls and Harlequin, then approach the lagoon on foot. We will check out the winter residents (ducks, seabirds and wintering warblers), especially those that love the area near the warm and misty sewage treatment plant. Then we will explore this remarkably birdy neighborhood until we return to the cars. Limit of twelve people. *Contact Monica Fletcher: monicaflet@gmail.com or by phone 360-379-3136.* Real rain cancels.

Kah Tai Lagoon Winter Birding Wednesday December 27, 2023, 9 AM - 12 PM

Meet at the Park and Ride Lot near Safeway. We will spend a leisurely amount of time scoping out our winter ducks and seeing what else might be foraging in this diverse habitat. If there is time we will stroll over to the Boat Haven and walk along the very rich shrubbery of the Larry Scott Trail. Limit of twelve people. *Contact Monica Fletcher: monicaflet@gmail.com or by phone 360-379-3136.* Real rain cancels.

New Year's Bird Walk at Irondale Beach Monday, January 1, 2024, 10 AM - 12 PM

Join us for our Eighth New Year's Day's bird walk at Irondale Beach-Chimacum Creek Park. Meet at 10 AM at 562 Moore Road parking lot. Enjoy a couple of hours scoping the bay for seabirds, 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 to sign up. Betty Renkor*

Admiralty Audubon Field Trips Chair



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AAS Workparties

November & December 2023

Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park

Sunday, November 5, 2023, 9AM - noon - set your clocks for standard time!

Look for the white pickup truck near the Chase Bank bench. Park at the Chase Bank parking lot on the corner of Kearney and HWY 20. We hope to plant around 30 native plants or pull invasives (i.e., Scot's broom, spurge laurel, holly, ivy), or pick up garbage if you prefer. Bring a shovel, work gloves and a bucket for dirt if you have them. We will provide extra shovels, buckets, Scot's broom pullers, garbage grabbers and garbage sacks. If we are lucky Ron will make some homemade cookies. I will bring hot tea and Laura Bars.

Salish Coast Elementary School

Sunday, November 26, 2023, 10AM - noon

Park along Discovery Rd or Grant St where parking is allowed. We will be pulling weeds in the native plant garden on the Discovery Rd entrance to the school. Bring your favorite weeding tool, work gloves and a bucket for the weeds if you have one. We will bring extra buckets and shovels for those that need them.

Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park

Sunday, December 3, 2023, 9AM - noon

Look for the white pickup truck on the Benedict Street trail across Hwy 20 from Port Townsend Garden Center. Park either at the Chase Bank parking lot on the corner of Kearney St and Hwy 20 or the Kah Tai parking lot across 12th St from Henery Hardware. We hope to pull invasives (i.e., Scot's broom, Spurge Laurel, holly, ivy), or pick up garbage if you prefer. Bring work gloves and a bucket for garbage if you have them. We will provide extra buckets, Scot's broom pullers, garbage grabbers and garbage sacks. Ron might make some cookies. I'll bring hot tea and Laura Bars.

Contact ptrose53@gmail.com or 360-385-0307 for more information about any of the workparties.

Rosemary Sikes

Admiralty Audubon Programs Chair

Photos: top - Pygmy Nuthatch at North Beach, October 2023; bottom - October workparty planting native species at Kah Tai - left to right: JoeBob Moore, Stephen Yanoff, Ron Sikes, Michael Todd.

Feather Forecast

November/December 2023

Fall is here and the winter birds have arrived – at least most of them. My junco army is building around the feeder, along with the usual entourage of Song, Fox, Golden-crowned, and White-crowned Sparrows. I am still waiting for my first White-throated Sparrow this winter. I usually see one pop in, though usually for just a day or so. The chickadees – both Black-capped and Chestnut-backed – are pillaging the sunflowers, caching the seeds far more often than eating them. Apparently they can remember over 500 places where they've cached seeds. And I'm still looking where I put my gloves. I will not fear for the chickadees' well-being when I'm out of town.

The big excitement this winter is that it appears to be an irruption year for conifer cone-dependent species from the east side and Great Basin. There has already been a White-breasted Nuthatch in Sequim, a Pygmy Nuthatch in Seattle (and now here! see photo below!), and a Pinyon Jay in Olympia. Around Port Townsend, I've noticed a few more Red-breasted Nuthatches than normal, as well as roving bands of up to 25 Steller's Jays. So watch your feeders, get your cameras ready, and be prepared for a surprise.

Steve Hampton

Admiralty Audubon Conservation Chair



Port Townsend Christmas Bird Count 2023

Please join us for the Port Townsend Christmas Bird Count (CBC) on Saturday, December 16.

The Port Townsend CBC, managed by Admiralty Audubon Society, began in 1977. One of thousands of count circles nationwide, it is part of one of the largest field data collection efforts by volunteers. The first counts began in 1900. The data are used to track increasing and decreasing populations, to list and de-list species as threatened or endangered, and to track recent changes due to climate change. (Did you know that, in 2004, there were no hummingbirds on our count? Last year, we counted 130.)

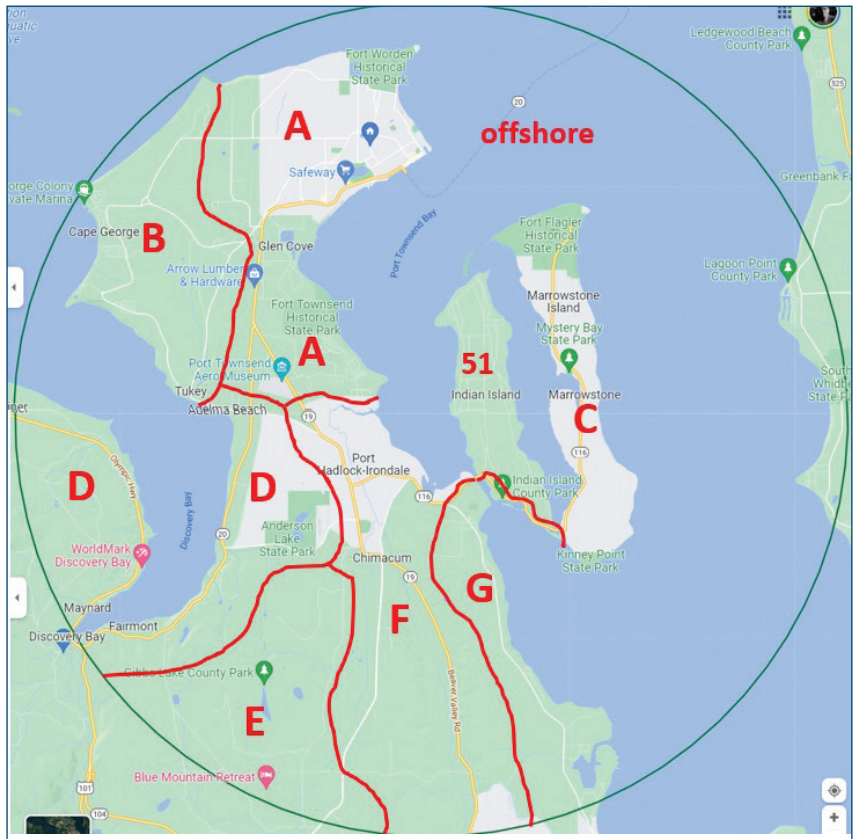
Here's how it works. Each count is a circle, 15 miles in diameter, which means 177 square miles. Our goal is to count every bird! In reality, we divide the circle into areas – each with an Area Leader and one or more teams – and walk, drive, bike, or boat certain routes to cover as much ground or water as we can on the designated day – no matter what the weather. Some teams are out all day, some less so. There are also some at-home feeder-watchers who simply report on the birds in their yard.

Our circle encompasses the Quimper Peninsula all the way down south of Egg and I Road, Marrowstone Island, parts of Discovery Bay, all of Port Townsend Bay, and portions of Admiralty Inlet and the Strait of Juan de Fuca. The habitats range from residential areas to forest, grasslands, lakes, coastlines, and open water. We average about 115 species.

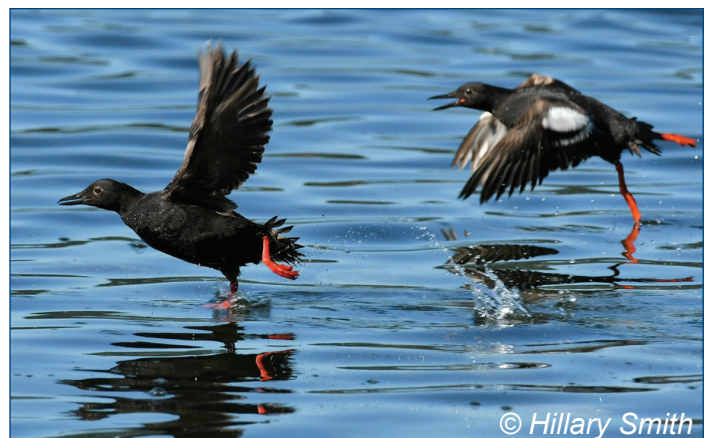
We are looking for experienced birders and beginners. If interested, please contact the count compiler at stevechampton@gmail.com (after November 12).

Steve Hampton

Admiralty Audubon Conservation Chair



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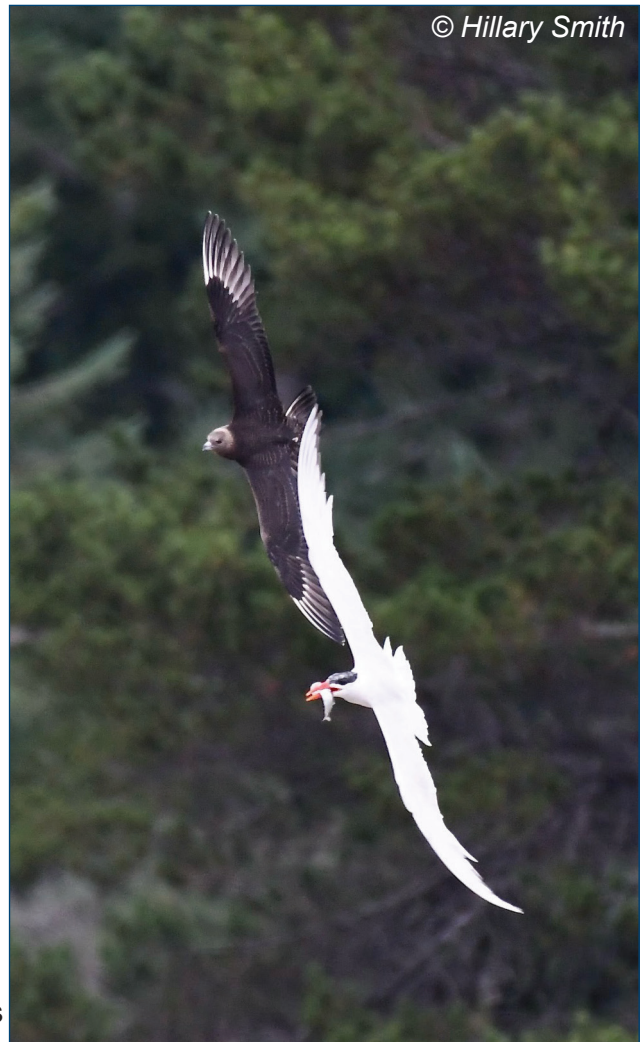
Photo left: Elder American Crow with blackberry at Point Hudson, September 2023; right: Pigeon Guillemots, Indian Island, summer 2023.

Nature Now Podcasts - Caspian Terns

In the last newsletter, Steve Hampton discussed the Caspian Tern die off due to avian flu on Rat Island. KPTZ's "Nature Now" has two shows featuring the plight of the Caspian Terns. In the first show, Admiralty Audubon's birding trip leader and Nature Now host Jackie Canterbury interviews a wildlife veterinarian and a senior research scientist. See #636, "Avian Flu on Rat Island." In the second show, Jackie interviews Admiralty Audubon's Conservation Chair Steve Hampton, who provides a historical perspective. See #642. Visit <https://kptz.org/kptz-podcasts/> and select Nature Now - now also on Apple podcasts.

Introducing Our New Vice President!

Lisa Saban recently retired after 30 years of environmental consulting, the last 20 owning and managing a company and large projects with her business partners. A lifelong advocate of creating more habitat for wildlife, Lisa is a lifetime member of Kitsap Audubon, and has contributed to numerous nonprofits. Her professional background has taken her to Togiak National Wildlife Refuge and Tern Island (seabird censuses and seabird exposure to contaminated sediment) as well as numerous projects throughout the US. Her masters is in sediment toxicology and ecology and her undergrad in biology with emphasis in wildlife management. As a consultant she also received her wetland sciences certificate from UW and led numerous natural resource assessments and restoration planning projects. She looks forward to assisting our chapter in any way she can. She lives in Brinnon, where she has some acreage for her animals (another passion; animal rescue). She currently is planting numerous Garry Oaks and other natives in the existing pasture. Welcome, Lisa!



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Parasitic Jaeger trying to steal dinner from a Caspian Tern at Fort Flagler, September 2023. Parasitic Jaegers, also known as Arctic Skuas, have a so-called 'piratical' lifestyle, harrying other seabirds until they give up their catch (allaboutbirds.org). They have several color morphs. In this instance, the Caspian Tern kept the fish and the Jaeger had to look elsewhere for a meal.

AAS Membership Form 2024
<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.

We Have A Winner!

Admiralty Audubon sponsors a nature photography prize at the Jefferson County Fair's Art Show each year. The prize is a modest check and a year's membership in Admiralty Audubon. This year, the fair judges selected this photo by Roy Breslawski, which he entitled 'Checking Out The Catch', featuring an immature Bald Eagle admiring his or her success. Welcome to Admiralty Audubon, Roy!



© Roy Breslawski



© Varn Brooks

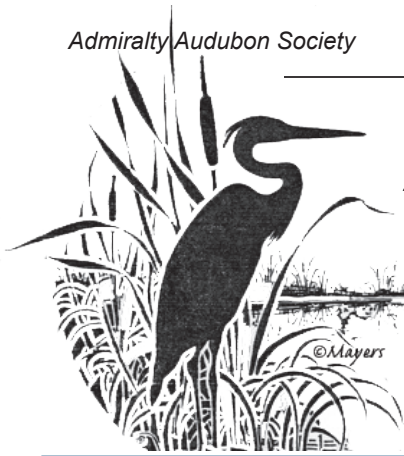


© Beverly McNeil



© Travis LeMoine

The many stages of Cedar Waxwings. Photo above: Cedar Waxwing adult with a face full of pollen from the redhot poker, Cape George, June 2023; above right: juvenile Cedar Waxwing eating blue elderberries, North Beach, October 2023; below right: molting Cedar Waxwing, Portage Beach, Indian Island, September 2023.



Admiralty Pippings

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



© James Holb
Bald Eagle shadowed by Crow; fledged in nest, North Beach, August 2023

Admiralty Audubon Officers and Board

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

Dues, Donations, & Taxes

Your annual dues are a donation according to the IRS. 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.

Bill Vogt Is Emeritus Vice President

Thank you, Bill Vogt, for all your years of service to the chapter as our Vice President! Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Note that we have new chairs for Education and a new Trip Leader as well. We will welcome them in our next newsletter.