

Admiralty Audubon Pipings

A Covid-Crimped Christmas Bird Count Will Happen (Probably)

This year's Christmas Bird Count provides for challenges unlike any others before with the Covid-19 situation. National Audubon has recommended that all CBC circles hold off on committing to their Counts until November 15th. While it is true that a dire resurgence of Covid cases may lead the county to lockdown again, we hope that this is not the case and that we will be able to have the CBC go forward on Saturday December 19, 2020.

If you would like to participate this year please contact me at monicaflet@gmail.com by email or call 360-379-3136. We are especially encouraging Feeder Watchers this year. According to Dan Waggoner, the compiler of the last 15 years or so, almost every year a feeder watcher checks off a bird that all the other cold and exhausted searchers 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>

If we do go ahead with the Count there are further restrictions on our activity. Each route group's numbers of volunteers must remain at five or fewer households. Carpooling can only be done with members of one's own household. There should be social distancing and/or mask adherence—even outside. No one should share optical equipment or pass around phones. We will sadly not be having our very lively after-event potluck and roll call of species.

As things shape up, I will be emailing out data forms and feeder watch forms and try to match up Route Leaders with volunteers. We hope to have lots of eyes on the skies, trees and water looking for each individual feathered neighbor of our Port Townsend/East Jefferson County CBC circle.

Monica Fletcher

Admiralty Audubon Conservation & CBC Chair

Field Trips for November & December 2020

We continue with some socially distanced birding opportunities. Each birdwalk will include no more than four people plus the trip leader. To participate, contact the Trip Leader to reserve your spot. Don't plan to share equipment, and carpooling outside of households is not advised. Don't forget to wear your mask!

Fort Worden State Park

Saturday, 21 November 2020, 9:00am - noon

Please meet at the Port Townsend Marine Science Center parking area next to the pier in Fort Worden. Wear clothing appropriate for the season and sturdy footwear. Bring your binoculars, snack and water. *Trip Leader Beverly McNeil: Call 360-301-4745 or email blmcneil59@gmail.com for details.*

1st Tuesday Birding at Point Hudson

1 December 2020, 8:30 - 9:30am

Meet at the raingarden by the beach at the very end of Jefferson Street (where there is parking). This will be a short walk to note what species are in our area. *Trip Leader Gary Eduardo Perless: 360-643-3529 or gperless@gmail.com.*

1st Saturday Nature Walk at Fort Flagler

5 December 2020, 9:00 - 11:30am

Meet at the boat ramp on the south side of the Beachcomber Cafe. We first walk to the end of the spit toward Rat Island. This takes about an hour. We then drive to Marrowstone Point near the USGS Fisheries lab. We walk to the point to scope birds. Optionally, we will visit the sewage ponds and finish up by noon. Wear layers depending on the weather. *Trip Leader Gary Eduardo Perless: 360-643-3529 or gperless@gmail.com.*

New Year's Day - not our traditional gathering in 2021

This New Year's Day, our traditional New Year's Trip Leader Paula Vanderheul advises that we each follow all Covid guidelines and visit our own favorite birding spots with a very few friends, practicing social distancing, to celebrate 2021.

See page 2 for information about Gary's 3 December 2020 presentation on the history of the Christmas Bird Count.

Kah Tai Workparties December 2020 & January 2021

Sunday, 6 December 2020, 9:00am - noon

Workparty will be at the Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park, weather permitting. We hope to plant more native plants and pull invasives, i.e., Scot's broom, spurge laurel, holly, ivy. No garbage pickup because of COVID-19. Please bring your own shovel, wear a mask and stay at least six feet apart. No refreshments will be provided because of COVID-19. Park at the Chase Bank parking lot. Look for the white pickup truck near the bench closest to Chase Bank.

Sunday, 3 January 2021, 9:00am - noon

Workparty will be at Duck Heaven on the north-east corner of Kah Tai (near the Decatur right of way close to the corner of Kearney and Blaine Streets). Weather permitting, we will pull Scot's broom and cut blackberry from around the natives we planted a couple of years ago. Bring gloves, pruners and stay at least six feet from other volunteers. Scot's broom pullers will be provided but no refreshments because of COVID-19.

For more information, contact Rosemary Sikes at ptrose53@gmail.com or 360-385-0307.

From Christmas Hunt to Christmas Bird Count 3 December 2020, 6:00pm

Join the Friends of Fort Flagler to learn how a holiday tradition changed from killing to counting our feathered friends. Our chapter Education Chair, Gary Eduardo Perless, will be sharing his experiences about the Christmas Bird Count, now in its 121st year.

He will also talk about his experiences leading bird walks on Marrowstone Island and offer tips for identifying the types of birds that call Fort Flagler home, in addition to recognizing the contributions of the late John Comstock, who led CBC and other birding efforts on Marrowstone for years.

For anyone who'd like to attend Gary's talk about the Christmas Bird Count (via ZOOM), send an email to get a link from fortflaglerfriends@gmail.com. If you are interested in participating in the Christmas Bird Count on Marrowstone Island on Dec. 19th, email Gary at gperless@gmail.com.

In Memoriam Pat Reeve

We recently learned of the May 2020 death of longtime chapter member and supporter Pat Reeve. Her official obituary in the Everett newspaper didn't mention her connection to Port Townsend, so chapter Secretary Ron Sikes offered some remembrances to provide the following information.

"Pat lived for years in Port Townsend next to Froggy Bottoms. She hired me to plant some trees at Froggy Bottoms, but they were unfortunately girdled by City staff using weed eaters. She liked the press that Admiralty Audubon Society received about protecting nature at Kah Tai Lagoon, so she made a donation for plants and said to let her know if we wanted more money to purchase tools, plants, et cetera.

Pat moved to Snohomish County and tried to get our chapter to be in the Bird Festival there. We declined as it sounded like too much trouble for our small chapter. Later she contacted us and wanted to know what were some ideas for our chapter to use a donation from her estate. She liked the idea of young people such as the scouts building a bird observatory. I tried to interest her in helping purchase land for the park. She liked Admiralty Audubon and said so."

And the chapter certainly liked her in return! She remained a regular member of the chapter until her death. Before we were notified by her executor, we had no knowledge of her passing this year. She was a friend to nature, and nature needs more friends like her.

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Great Egret, near North Beach.

Ducks and Other Aquatic Birds

© Johanna King



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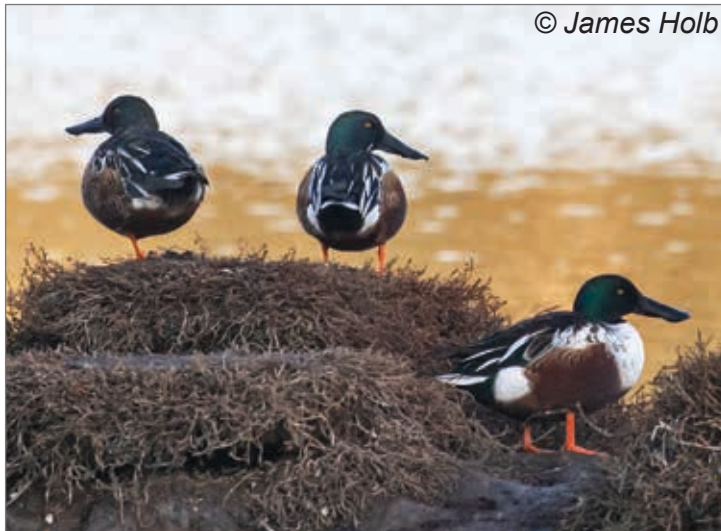


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Photos clockwise from upper left: Horned Grebe, Point Hudson, October 2020; Gadwall, Kah Tai, 27 October 2020; the mythical American Dipper, standing on one leg AND singing, Hoh Rain Forest, 22 September 2020; Marbled Godwits taking flight, Larry Scott Trail near the Boat Haven, 22 September 2020; Northern Shovelers, Chinese Gardens, 4 November 2020; Pigeon Guillemots studying the photographer, North Beach, July 2020.

Autumnal Arbor Day - Adopt A Tree!



The City of Port Townsend has been a Tree City for 20 years, a designation conferred by the Arbor Day Foundation. We celebrate Arbor Day in the autumn, when it is best to plant trees here, given our mild winters and dry summers. This year, approximately 80 young native trees were donated anonymously by AAS members to the City to be handed out, one per person, to anyone who showed up and promised to take proper care of them. Young Ponderosa pines were also donated to be planted sometime soon at Sather Park. Sather's Douglas firs experienced a dramatic loss a couple of years ago from laminated root rot. Ponderosa pines are very resistant to the fungus, so they'll fill the empty spaces.



On 19 October, a table was set up at Mountain View Commons (top left), with three City Park Board members, one Planning Commissioner and one City Councillor volunteering to hand out Western white pine, Ponderosa pine, Western hemlock, Douglas hawthorn, Oregon ash, Western larch, cascara and mock orange (middle left).



Our chapter has started socially distanced work parties again, so October and November efforts included planting natives and invasives removal (bottom left). We've planted more than 100 trees and understory shrubs thus far at our Adopt A Park this autumn, with a few more to come (see page 2). We want to especially thank Joyce James for growing and donating tall mahonia, snowberry and osoberry plants for the Kah Tai understory.

p.5 photos clockwise from upper left: juvenile Bald Eagle, Duckabush, 3 October 2020; Savannah Sparrow being followed by a ladybug (ladybugs don't taste good to sparrows), Fort Flagler, 14 July 2020; Song Sparrow, Kala Point, 14 September 2020; Lincoln's Sparrow fresh from a bath, home landscape, 6 October 2019; Wilson's Warbler with an insect meal for the youngsters, Fort Townsend, 26 June 2020; Black-throated Gray Warbler, Kala Point, 14 September 2020.

AAS Membership Form 2021
<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.

Sparrows, warblers, and an adolescent eagle

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Black Turnstones in flight, February 2019

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Phishers are after your funds

No, chapter members, the AAS Board does not want you to send Amazon or Apple gift cards, or send checks to unknown persons, or otherwise support the modern equivalent of the oldest trick in the book.

Some of us have received emails that pretend to be from AAS Board members, asking for funds for a shortfall or emergency. No one on the Board is doing this. It may claim to be from the chapter 'president' or 'treasurer', but it is not from anyone associated with our chapter. If our chapter is fundraising for a project (which we rarely do), you will see it on our official website and in an official newsletter. Anything else isn't real.