

Admiralty Audubon Pippings

AAS Kah Tai Workparties March & April 2021

All our workparties are socially distanced. Please wear a mask and stay at least six feet from other volunteers. Refreshments will not be provided and we will not be picking up trash because of COVID.

Sunday, 7 March 2021, 9:00am - noon

Admiralty Audubon will be sponsoring work parties at Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park, weather and Covid permitting. We hope to pull invasives, i.e., Scot's Broom, spurge laurel, holly and ivy. No garbage pickup or refreshments because of COVID-19. Please bring your own pruners. (helpful hint: if you want to pull little hollies in the woodland, a pair of pliers or needlenose make it easier.) Park at the Chase Bank parking lot. Look for the white pickup truck parked on the Benedict Street trail across Hwy 20 from Safeway gas station. For more information, contact Rosemary Sikes at ptrose53@gmail.com or 360-385-0307.

Sunday, 11 April 2021, 9:00am - noon

In recognition of Native Plant Appreciation Month (see article on p.3), Admiralty Audubon will sponsor a workparty at Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park Sunday April 11. We have limited pullers so please bring pliers or a shovel. There are lots of small invasives in the woodland that can be pulled with pliers if all pullers are being used when you arrive. Look for the white pickup on the Benedict street trail, across Hwy 20 from the Safeway gas station. The closest parking is at Chase Bank, on the corner of Hwy 20 and Kearney Street. For more information email ptrose53@gmail.com or call 360-385-0307.

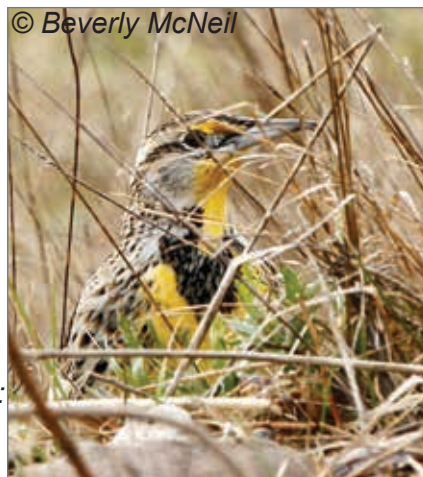
AAS Birdwalks March & April 2021

All our birdwalks are socially distanced. Please wear a mask and do not plan to share equipment.

Fort Worden Birding

1 March 2021, 9:00 - 11:00am+

A maximum of 3 persons are welcome to join me for birding at Fort Worden on Monday, March 1st, 9:00 AM, meeting at the Marine Science Center pier. Dress for weather and wear sturdy shoes, bring binoculars and water if needed. Expect a 2 to 3 hour walking and viewing of birds and nature. Trip Leader Beverly McNeil: blmcneil59@gmail.com or 360-301-4745 or to reserve your space.



© Beverly McNeil
Western Meadowlark, Point Wilson, February 2021.

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.

1st Saturday Nature Walk at Fort Flagler

3 April 2021, 9:00 - 11:00am

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.

1st Tuesday Birding at Point Hudson

2 March 2021, 8:30 - 9:00am

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

6 March 2021, 9:00 - 11:00am

Meet at the boat ramp on the south side of the Beachcomber Cafe. We'll 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'll walk to the point

1st Tuesday Birding at Point Hudson

6 April 2021, 8:30 - 9:00am

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.

A most beautiful gift to our chapter

Kerry Tremain, author/editor/photographer (and chapter member!) has extended a generous offer to our chapter. He is holding an exhibition of his photographs at an Uptown private location through 7 April, and half of all sales proceeds will be donated to our chapter!

Subjects include species in our region as well as Hawaiian birds from a visit to Kauai.

For more information on how to view the exhibition and consider supporting the chapter while adding beautiful art to your home, visit his website at <http://www.kerrytremain.net/uptown-exhibit>

© Kerry Tremain



© Kerry Tremain



Above left: 'I'iwi or Scarlet Honeycreeper, Alakai Reserve, Kauai, 2019; right: Mountain Bluebird, Admiralty Inlet, 2019.

Johanna King's southern migration

Johanna King is leaving us! She has decided to move to Portland OR, where she has offspring and grand-offspring. It is a valid reason, of course, but we sure will miss her. She has taken us all vicariously to Australia, the Pantanal, Svalbard and beyond with her presentations.

When we asked if we could share the news with the membership, she said sure, but when we asked for some details, we got, in typical succinct fashion, "She got old, didn't want to take care of a big house alone, went to live nearer kids. Same story for so many of us! Maybe we could juice it up a bit." Instead of trying to find more words, we asked Johanna to point out a couple of her favorite photos. So here's a little 'juice' from Johanna, the photos that she enjoyed the most. They might not be what we were expecting as her most beautiful shots, but they are certainly the most interesting!

Right, top: A young (California?) gull with golf ball at Point Hudson, September 2020; bottom: Crow providing important ecosystem services at Point Hudson, July 2020.



© Johanna King



© Johanna King

Native Plant Appreciation Month

For the 2nd year in a row, Governor Inslee has signed and sealed an official proclamation to designate April as Native Plant Appreciation Month (NPAM). “Appreciating, enjoying and celebrating our floral diversity” is encouraged by the proclamation, which includes seven “Whereas” statements summarizing the importance of native plants to our economic and ecological well being.

Birds, of course, are some of the most appreciative of native plants, since they are often dependent on plants for food, shelter, and nesting materials. The Olympic Peninsula Chapter of Washington Native Plant Society is partnering with Admiralty Audubon to support the monthly Kah Tai lagoon restoration project on April 11th. Many other events and workshops will be offered by Chapters around the state. Find out more about NPAM on the Washington Native Plant Society Website: <https://www.wnps.org/wnps-annual-events/npam>

Kathy Darrow

Vice Chair, Olympic Peninsula Chapter
Washington Native Plant Society

Trips Chair seeks retirement, again

Our chapter’s revered Trips Chair, David Gluckman, has decided that it’s time to give someone else a chance at the position. His wife Casey tells us that he is not very successful at retiring, so we will see how long this particular retirement lasts. However, we will take him seriously and begin the search for a new Trips Chair among our membership.

Qualifications are a little hard to define, since David is the only Trips Chair we’ve had since your newsletter editor joined the chapter a decade ago. Perhaps minimum qualifications would include excellent birding skills and knowledge of our region’s best birding areas. David is also an outstanding photographer, but we won’t hold that as a requirement.

At a minimum, every other month the Trips Chair asks our Trip Leaders if they would like to offer a birding event so the information can be distributed in the newsletter and on social media. Other ideas and opportunities to expand birding are also welcome. Email admiraltyaudubon.org if you are interested.



© Varn Brooks



© Johanna King



© David Gluckman

Clockwise from top left: Spotted Towhee in Pacific crabapple, Cape George, November 2020; a rain-dampened Anna’s Hummingbird in alder at Kah Tai, March 2016; Cedar Waxwings feasting on mahonia (tall oregon grape) berries, Fort Worden cemetery, August 2020.

Chapter Education Efforts

Chapter educational activities have continued apace during the pandemic. Admiralty Audubon is one of two Washington chapters that received Audubon grants for projects that focused on education during COVID lockdowns. Chapter members will be conducting a wetland restoration project and environmental education curriculum at Blue Heron Middle School. This project, just in the planning phase now, will involve creating an outdoor classroom with educational trail through the adjacent natural area (which is listed as one of our recommended local birding areas in our Where to Find Birds brochure on our website).

Educational projects also include a nest box installation project started in February in the Quimper Wildlife corridor (aka Cappy's Trails). This is a collaboration with Jefferson Land Trust. Woodworkers with an interest in building more nest boxes, please contact me at (*gperless@gmail.com*). Two styles of nestbox were installed: a songbird nest box, and a flying squirrel nestbox. We will check these regularly and report on any in-movers.

I've also been invited to join the Strait Ecosystem Recovery Network, a regional group of scientists and government officials that advises state officials and keeps its members informed on legal matters, funding, etc. related to conservation and restoration in the Strait of Juan de Fuca ecosystem (which extends eastward to Point Wilson).

Gary Eduardo Perless
Admiralty Audubon Society
Education Chair



© Gary Perless



Top: Gary Perless with a nesting box installed in Cappy's Trails, February 2021. Bottom: A single Greater White-fronted Goose among Canada Geese, Fort Flagler, January 2021.

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.



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Clockwise from top left: Snow Bunting, Bellingham, January 2021; Northern Shoveler in snow, Chinese Gardens, February 2021; Gadwall pair, Chinese Gardens, December 2020; Northern Pintail pair, Chinese Gardens, January 2021; Chestnut-backed Chickadee on Douglas fir, Anderson Lake, November 2020; Pileated Woodpecker on the Larry Scott Trail, November 2020;

Banner
Design and Art by
Larry Eifert©



Admiralty Audubon Society PO Box 666 Port Townsend WA 98368

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Leucistic Bald Eagle, Edison WA, January 2021

Admiralty Audubon Officers and Board

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Thank you, donors!

Many members add a donation with their dues (dues are also a donation, since this newsletter is all you get). Others donate their valuable time and energy to our chapter efforts. Thanks to all who contribute to the life of our chapter.

Photo, right: Eagles and a Raven, chasing each other and a dropped snack, seen here as a small white object, Edison WA, January 2021



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