

Admiralty Audubon Pippings

AAS Birdwalks May & June 2021

Don't forget your mask; remember to social distance and don't plan on sharing equipment.

First Saturday Nature Walk, Fort Flagler **1 May 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.*

First Tuesday at Point Hudson **4 May 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.*

Anderson Lake State Park **Saturday, 8 May 2021, 9:00am (plan for 2-3 hours)**

Meet at the first parking area (Discover Pass needed. Dress for changeable weather and sturdy shoes/boots, binoculars, water, optional snack. There should be some Western Tanagers by then, and the common Yellowthroat and Wood Ducks are at Anderson Lake now. *Trip Leader Beverly McNeil will take a maximum of four vaccinated persons. Check with her by calling 360-301-4745 or blmcneil59@gmail.com.*

First Tuesday at Point Hudson 1 June 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.*

First 'Saturday' Nature Walk at Fort Flagler is **SUNDAY in June! (there's a teen daughter's** **birthday on Saturday that takes precedence)** **6 June 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.*

The Bird-Muda Triangle at Fort Worden **Saturday, 12 June 2021, 8:30 - 11:30am**

Meet at Fort Worden's Canteen parking lot, near the Marine Science Center at 8:30am. We will walk out the pier then walk to Point Wilson lighthouse and then walk past the Battery's tangle of shrubbery to the trail that heads uphill at the back of the campground, to the top. We will return by the JFK building and back to cars. This will really give us a good overview of sea and shore, familiars and migrants, hill and dune, low and high. People who are mobility challenged can meet at Canteen, lighthouse, and day use parking near the campground as we proceed and join us for those short forays, until we head for the hills. Limited to twelve people. *Trip Leader: Monica Fletcher, monicaflet@gmail.com or 360-379-3136.*

Fort Worden State Park **Friday, 18 June 2021, 9:00am (plan for 2-3 hours)**

Meet next to the Marine Science Center Pier with a Discovery Pass at 9:00am. Dress for changeable weather and sturdy footwear, binoculars, water, optional snack. There should be some Western Tanagers here in June. *Trip Leader Beverly McNeil will take a maximum of four vaccinated persons. Check with her by calling 360-301-4745 or blmcneil59@gmail.com.*

Kah Tai Lagoon - Swallows, swifts & whatnot **Saturday, 26 June 2021, 8:30 - 11:30am**

Meet at the Port Townsend Park and Ride. We will spend a leisurely amount of time scoping out what is on the water and sorting out the dizzying array of swallows. I cannot promise a swift or two but 'tis the season. If we are very lucky we might detect our local new species of Scrub-jay; a range expansion appears to be in the works. If there is time we will stroll over to the Boat Haven and walk along the very rich shrubbery of the Larry Scott Trail. *Trip Leader: Monica Fletcher, monicaflet@gmail.com or 360-379-3136.*

Check out another opportunity for birding -
kayak birding - see page 3 for more information.

AAS Kah Tai Workparties May & June 2021

Sunday, 2 May 2021, 9:00am - noon

Weeding at Duck Heaven. Workparty will be at Duck Heaven on the northeast 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.*

Sunday, 6 June 2021, 9:00am - noon

Admiralty Audubon will be sponsoring a work party 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 in the parking lot off 12th Street next to the utility building. Look for the white pickup truck parked east of the little lagoon next to the loop trail. *For more information, contact Rosemary Sikes at ptrose53@gmail.com or 360-385-0307.*



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Just because we're 'common' doesn't mean we aren't beautiful! Clockwise from upper left: Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park, April 2021; Red-breasted Nuthatch digging a nesting cavity, Winona Wetlands, April 2021; Dark-eyed Junco, Fort Townsend State Park, March 2021; Bald Eagles, uptown Port Townsend, March 2021.

Another way to see the birds

As Covid continues to prevent our public meetings and limit attendance on our bird walks, we continue to seek out ways for members to safely view birds and wildlife. Olympic Kayak Tours has just stepped forward to provide another way to observe waterfowl and shore birds - kayak tours. Tours are operated out of Fort Flager. And the best part for us, 40% of the cost will be donated to Admiralty Audubon for the first 5 members who sign up. See their web site for more information and to sign up for a tour (<https://www.olympickayaktours.com>). Also, once signed up, please email them at olympickayaktours@gmail.com to identify yourself as an Audubon member to confirm the chapter donation.



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©Craig Wester



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top: kayak-birding; middle left: Golden Eagle, Mount Walker, April 2021; right: Bushtit, Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park, April 2021; bottom left: Cormorants social-distancing at Lake Leland, March 2021; right: Pacific Wren at Point Wilson, February 2021

Salish Coast Plants for Birds

You may recall that our chapter received a Plants for Birds grant from National Audubon back in 2018, and with the proceeds we grew up and planted a few hundred native plants along the entrance sidewalk at Salish Coast Elementary School in December 2018. Chapter members have continued to water the plants and weed as time allows, but during last year's Covid lockdown we had no workparties. The good news is - workparties in 2021! We had eight folks show up to weed in March and followed that with spreading several yards of mulch provided by the school. We also had to install some protective fencing around the young mock orange trees as they are apparently quite tasty to deer. If you are interested in helping with this project in the future, please let us know by emailing admiraudub@gmail.com.



Admiralty Audubon members spread mulch at Salish Coast, April 2021.

Storywalk at Kah Tai

You may have noticed some storyboards on occasion along the lagoon trail at Kah Tai. And you may also have noticed families with little kids busy reading them. The Storywalk concept has been growing rapidly across the country during the pandemic, as it provides a way to get kids engaged with nature and outdoors.

The Port Townsend Public Library is working with our City Parks and Public Works staff to install a permanent Storywalk along the south lagoon trail. The library's Foundation has generously provided the funding for the construction and installation. The Storywalk concept fits into the library's strategic plan, the parks plan, and the overall goals of the city.

While some park supporters have hesitation about whether this is an appropriate use for a park dedicated to 'wildlife habitat with compatible passive recreation', the opportunity to introduce our next generation to the beauty and sanctuary of our nature park is undeniable. Those of us who join park workparties are, by and large, OLD. If we don't encourage our young people to love the park, there will be no one who cares for it when we are gone.

There will always be user conflicts in any public space. The best way to keep the park safe for all of us is to bring our neighbors and friends into the park to teach others to appreciate and protect this unique and beautiful place.

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.

Chapter Education Efforts

Sometimes we wonder if our efforts to protect birds are effective. Late last year I had one of those moments in which I felt I “did my job” as Education chair. Allow me to share the story:

As the sun set and the moon tried to shine through broken clouds, I rode my bike down to Point Hudson, as I do several times each week, to see birds. The RV campground seemed full, and people walked the beach in the lovely evening.

Still no Brant had arrived yet...but as I scanned the spit with my binocs in the fading light, the rocky ground appeared to be packed with (best guess) several hundred shorebirds, of various species (turnstones, plovers, dunlin, sanderlings, and oystercatchers). Every minute or two, another small group of 8-12 birds would fly in, somehow finding a place to roost, blending into the rocky ground--so important is this little spit is for so many birds to find a safe place to bed down! On the sand around me, dozens of sanderlings ran to and fro. With the sounds of shorebird chatter, and the moonlight glistening on the water, I forgot about all the world’s problems, free to simply revel in the barely visible gathering happening right before my eyes, essentially a massive slumber party. I was feeling fortunate to be here right now, when suddenly, I noticed a couple of young humans walking their dog right out onto the spit! Quickly, I gave a loud, friendly “who-hoo!” to get their attention while wondering what to say...”Excuse me, it’s a wildlife area.” They thanked me and turned around, and we were able to share a brief conversation about birds. I felt very satisfied, and they went on their way, better educated for the future.

A few minutes later, another human couple strolled up the beach. I decided to be proactive, and as we approached one another, the dozens of sanderlings scattered on the sands around us. Again, they were grateful for the information. My outreach helped protect the birds’ slumber party on the spit. In that moment, I felt I’d actually done something very tangible to protect the birds.

Gary Eduardo Perless
Admiralty Audubon Society

Education Chair



© James Holb



© Abby Haight



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From the top: Black-legged Kittiwake at the Port Townsend Marine Science Center, March 2021; Whimbrels strolling at Point Wilson, April 2021; a murmuration of Dunlin, Edison WA, January 2021.

Banner
Design and Art by
Larry Eifert©



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Peregrin Falcon and prey, Chimacum Valley, April 2021

Admiralty Audubon Officers and Board

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Yes, AAS is a 501c(3) organization

Your dues to our chapter are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Thank you for being members, and thanks to all who add some additional financial support to the chapter!

photo right: Bird's nest fungus, each 'nest' smaller than a pea, with spores inside! Kala Point Lagoon, March 2021.

