Admiralty Audubon Pipings

AAS Field Trips for March & April 2016

Saturday, 19 March 2016 - Cape George section of Larry Scott Trail

Everyone is to meet at the Larry Scott Trail Cape George Road parking lot at 9:30 am for a 2.5 to 3 mile round trip walk along a moderately easy trail through Douglas Fir, some open horse pastures, across some private access roads and over a small hill looking for forest birds.

Wear warm layers of clothing, gloves, hats and weather proof shoes or boots. Bring your binoculars, bird books and cameras. For carpooling, meet at the PT Park and Ride across the street from Safeway by 9:15 am.

Directions from Hwy 20 intersection with Mill Road: turn west onto Discovery Road and left again for 0.6 mile to Cape George Road; turn right, drive past Nelson Landing Road on the left, stay on Cape George Road for another 0.6 mile to entrance of Larry Scott Trail parking lot on the left. Trail maps are provided courtesy of the Jefferson Trails Coalition at www.olympicdiscoverytrail.com. Trip Leader Paula Vanderheul for any questions 360-379-8564 pvanderheul@gmail.com.

Saturday, 9 April 2016 - South County Field Trip

Meet at the Park and Ride at the intersection of Highway 104 and Center Rd at 7:30am. We will go the East Quilcene Bay, The Big Quilcene River Fish Hatchery, Mount Walker (if the gate is open) and Dosewallips State Park. Bring clothing for cold and wet. Also bring lunch or snacks as we will probably go till mid-afternoon. Trip Leader Dan Waggoner: danwags57@gmail.com or 360-301-1788.

Saturday, 16 April 2016 - Fort Flagler

Join our Admiralty Audubon Society field trip April 16 for Spring Migration at Fort Flagler. We will meet at the sewage pond parking lot at 9 am to walk around the pond and down to the beach looking for shorebirds and waterfowl. Then we’ll go to the camp ground road out to the RV camping area to walk the Spit between Kilisut Harbor and Port Townsend Bay.

Those interested in carpooling from Port Townsend should meet at the Park and Ride near Safeway by 8:30 am. I’ll meet everyone at the sewage pond parking lot. Upon entering Fort Flagler, drive to the four way stop signs. Turn right following the short road to the parking lot.

Bring your binoculars, spotting scope, field guides and dress in warm layers, hats, gloves, and hiking boots for comfort. A Discover Pass is required. Trip Leader Paula Vanderheul: 360-379-8564 or pvanderheul@gmail.com.

AAS Kah Tai Workparties for March & April 2016

Sundays, 13 March and 17 April 2016

9 am to noon

Kah Tai Workparty Sunday, 13 March from 9 am to noon: Park in the parking lot near the Kah Tai bathrooms and walk to the Benedict Street trail on the SE side of the small pond. Look for the white pickup and the green volunteer sign. We will be pulling Scot’s Broom and picking up garbage. Tools and garbage bags will be provided as well as drinks and snacks.

Kah Tai Workparty Sunday, 17 April from 9 am to noon: Park in the parking lot near the Kah Tai bathrooms and walk to the SE side of the small pond. Look for the white pickup and the green volunteer sign. We will be pulling Scot’s Broom and picking up garbage. Tools and garbage bags will be provided as well as drinks and snacks.

Please join us! For more information on either of these events, contact Rosemary Sikes at 360-385-0307 or ptrose53@gmail.com.

Dippers! South County has American Dippers!. This Dipper is from Ford’s Lake.

© David Gluckman

March 2016
March 2016

Left: Brown Creeper nest from Western Redcedar in Sue Hoover’s garden, February 2016. Egg is size of pencil eraser.

Above: Trumpeter Swans in Skagit County, 30 January 2016.

Right: Wood Ducks, Johnson Creek, Portland OR.

Chimacum Creek landscape, 6 February 2016.

Common Redpoll, home garden, December 2015.
Christmas Bird Count 2015
Admiralty Audubon held its 38th annual Christmas Bird Count on Saturday, December 19th. Though it was breezy, the rain held off until we had finished and were enjoying a potluck dinner at the Rosewind Commons (special thanks to hosts Sandra Stowell and MJ Pruitt). This year’s Christmas Bird Count had 57 participants, including 11 feeder watchers.

Christmas Bird Count by the numbers:
Species seen on count day: 117 (new high count)
Total birds seen: 19,298
Killdeer seen: 0 - biggest miss of the day
New high counts (or matched former high counts):
Cackling Goose 28
Green-winged Teal 742
Northern Shoveler 259
Northern Harrier 7
Cooper’s Hawk 7
Bald Eagle 69
Common Murre 1518
Eurasian Collared-Dove 8
Anna’s Hummingbird 42
Downy Woodpecker 15 (most were seen by feeder watchers)
American Kestrel 4

Rare birds seen:
Rock Sandpiper 1
Red Phalarope 1
Yellow-billed Loon 1
Canvasback 6

Warblers seen:
Yellow-rumped Warblers 4 (seen by Ken Wilson - our Warbler Whisperer)

Count week birds:
Great Horned Owl
White-throated Sparrow

Highest count of individual species:
American Wigeon 1931

Admiralty Audubon and myself would like to thank all the participants for the success of the count. The area leaders deserve extra thanks for organizing their teams and compiling the numbers.

Good Birding,
Dan Waggoner

AAS March & April 2016 Community Programs
The public is invited
PT Community Center, Lawrence & Tyler
Thursday, 17 March 2016, 7 pm
The Pantanal - In Color!
In November 2014, Johanna King presented photographs of her September 2013 visit to Fazenda Barranco Alto, in Brazil’s Pantanal. An unfortunate human-electronic conflict at that showing resulted in Johanna having to describe the colors in her beautiful photos because they were washed out in the projection. She has graciously agreed to give us another presentation with a more trustworthy projector.

Though difficult to reach, the Pantanal offers an exciting and stimulating adventure for anyone who is willing to fly an hour west of Campo Grande, which is itself a two hour flight west of Sao Paulo. The weather was dry and hot, and Johanna traveled around the huge cattle ranch by jeep and boat. In this unique area of the world, people have found a way to combine ranching with wildlife preservation and a deep commitment to the environment.

Thursday, 21 April 2016, 7 pm
The Messenger
The Messenger is a beautiful and visually compelling new documentary that explores songbird decline. A helpful online review is provided by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the film’s US outreach partner, where you can also view a movie trailer (https://www.allaboutbirds.org/the-messenger-our-movie-review/).

The film addresses many of the challenges to songbirds including window collisions, domestic cats, songbird poaching, habitat fragmentation, and a fascinating look at the emerging problem of neonicotinoid pesticides.

Thanks to the generosity of chapter member David Chuljian, we all have the opportunity to view and appreciate this beautiful film for free as our April community program. Please join us!
Field Trip Reports

**Skagit County**


**Chinese Gardens Trail**

14 February 2016: The field trip with 20 birders observed 31 species: 20 Canada Goose, 1 Gadwall, 20 American Wigeon, 20 Mallard, 4 Harlequin Duck, 15 Surf Scoter, 4 White-winged Scoter, 8 Bufflehead, 2 Common Goldeneye, 4 Red-breasted Merganser, 50 Ruddy Duck, 1 Common Loon, 10 Horned Grebe, 2 Double-crested Cormorant, 8 Pelagic Cormorant, 1 Great Blue Heron, 4 Bald Eagles, 2 Black Oystercatcher, 30 Western x Glaucous-winged Gull (hybrid), 1 Anna's Hummingbird, 2 Hairy Woodpecker, 1 Peregrine Falcon, 1 Hutton's Vireo, 5 American Crow, 1 Common Raven, 2 Black-capped Chickadee, 2 Brown Creeper, 2 Pacific Wren, 2 Marsh Wren, 2 American Robin, 2 Red-winged Blackbird, 5 Red Crossbill. It was a pleasant morning walk meeting new birding folks. *Trip leader Paula Vanderheul.*

**Photography at Kah Tai**

A well attended 2 hour Photo Field Trip on 19 February at Kah Tai with 10 people attending in a light rain. Close opportunities with images I certainly didn’t expect. *Trip leader David Gluckman.*

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### A Brown Creeper Story

Two years ago, chapter member Sue Hoover noticed a Brown Creeper with grass or twigs in his/her beak, repeatedly landing on the big cedar in her garden, almost every day for 10 days. She realized they were building a nest there behind the flashing wrapped on the tree to prevent raccoons from climbing it. Unfortunately, scheduled yard work caused them to abandon their nest.

A few weeks ago, Sue moved the flashing, and there was the nest tight against the trunk. There was one miniature egg nestled in a cup made of many very small bits of feathers, cedar bark, twigs, and grasses. Sue placed it upright between two chunks of wood and took a photo (see page 2). She called Ron Sikes who called David Gluckman, who also arrived to take photos of the nest.

Sue happily reports that Tom Butler, a volunteer with the Dungeness River Audubon Center at Railroad Bridge Park, Sequim, WA, has taken the nest for the educational display there. He will display the nest so visitors can see the narrowness of the nest, the nest materials and the very little egg.

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Send $20 annual membership to: **Admiralty Audubon, PO Box 666, Port Townsend WA 98368**

or pay online at the Membership 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!*
Clockwise from top left: Chinese Gardens field trip, 14 February 2016; Moonrise over PT Boat Haven, 22 January 2016; Black Brant, Hudson Point, 28 January 2016; young marmots greeting each other near Obstruction Pass trail, spring 2015; rainbow from Chimacum Creek Park, 17 February 2016.
A sky full of swans, Skagit field trip, 30 January 2016.

**Admiralty Audubon Officers and Board**

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Camp Beausite Requests Birder Help

Camp Beausite NW, on Beausite Lake in Chimacum, is a non-profit that for 25 years has provided week-long residential summer camps for youth and adults with disabilities. Campers enjoy seeing all kinds of songbirds, ducks, swans, and raptors at the lake.

This year’s camp will take place every Monday–Friday throughout the month of July. We’ve been asked whether birding volunteers could come on a certain day/time each week, to help campers observe and identify birds. You don’t have to be an expert; you just need to recognize our region’s common species and have a desire to teach others about birds. We could have a different birder each week for a few hours commitment. Email admiraudub@gmail.com to help.