AAS Field Trips for January & February 2016

Saturday, 30 January 2016 - Skagit County

The annual birding trip to Skagit County will be limited to 12 people and 4 cars. We will catch the 8am ferry, but meet at 7:15am at the Port Townsend Park & Ride. Bring your lunch, warm clothes, boots, binoculars etc. Please provide cell phone # and email address in case we need to cancel due to weather. Contact Trip Leader Dan Waggoner at 360-301-1788 or danwags57@gmail.com to reserve your spot.

Saturday, 13 February 2016 - North Beach and Chinese Gardens

Meet at 10am at North Beach County Park at end of Kuhn Street. Trip will last approx. 2 hours. We will walk the Chinese Gardens Lagoon area and part of the forest edge circling back to North Beach to look for sea birds. The lagoon should have a variety of ducks, possibly some shorebirds, and raptors flying over the meadow.

Dress for a cold, wet and windy day with hats, gloves and layers of clothing. If possible, bring binoculars, cameras and spotting scopes. For questions, contact Trip Leader Paula Vanderheul: 360-379-8564 or pvanderheul@gmail.com.

Friday, 19 February 2016 - Bird Photography at Kah Tai

Bird Photography for all interested folks 9am February 19th, led by Nikon Professional David Gluckman. We will meet at the parking lot at Kah Tai and practice on whatever appears before us until around 11am. Anyone with a camera (or who is thinking of buying a camera), regardless of how big the lens or how skilled you are, is invited.

We will discuss and try to practice all aspects of bird photography with special emphasis on camera settings, light, behavior observations and much more. Bring waterproof boots or shoes if you have any. Trip Leader David Gluckman: 360-531-3325 or cgluckman@aol.com.

David Gluckman
Admiralty Audubon Field Trips Chair

AAS Kah Tai Workparties for January & February 2016

Sundays, 17 January, 7 February and 28 February 2016, 9 am to noon

Kah Tai Workparty Sunday January 17 from 9am 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 February 7 from 9am to noon: Park in the parking lot near the Kah Tai bathrooms and walk the Loop trail to the new bench near Chase Bank. 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.

Conservation District Potting Party Sunday February 28 from 9am to noon: Park at 716 14th Street, Port Townsend. We will be potting 65+ plants from the February 27 Conservation District plant sale. Bring a trowel if you have one. Pots, dirt and plants will be provided as well as drinks and snacks.

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

DUES ARE DUE in January - $20 per household

It’s dues time again. Except for those who paid for more than one year and/or already paid for 2016, everyone’s memberships are in need of renewal. If you are a new member as of mid or later 2015 and paid for a full year, you are welcome to prorate your dues for 2016 if you so choose. Membership form is on page 4 of this newsletter, or on our website (www.admiraltyaudubon.org). A PayPal button is also available on the Membership page on the website. Paper newsletter recipients will have a due date on their mailing labels. An email reminder will be sent to electronic members. Thanks!
AAS January & February 2016

Community Programs

The public is invited

Port Townsend Community Center, Lawrence & Tyler Streets

Thursday, 18 February 2016, 7 pm

Hawaii - The Big Island

Professional Photographers David and Casey Gluckman will present a slide show/multi-media presentation of their trip to the Big Island of Hawaii showing some of the animals and scenery of the Big Island of our 50th state. Images will include many acclimated and a few native birds as well as views of the many historic parks and beaches and some of the ongoing volcanic activity. For those of you who have visited the island, it will be a time to reminisce and for those who’ve never been there, it might just be enough to encourage a visit.

Notable Sightings (see p. 4)

12 December 2015: Diane Mulholland reports from Lower Oak Bay County Park: Over a period of an hour, I watched at least 60 Ancient Murrelets fly in and out of Oak Bay diving and feeding. They flew in and out in small groups of three and larger groups of 20. Good lighting and no wind allowed for great views and identification at medium scope range. These were the first Ancient Murrelets I have seen in Oak Bay in 14 years.

20 November 2015: Bruce Marston reports Brant mid-Sound between Kingston and Edmonds on three different days, around 36 per sighting.

Photos on page 2

Clockwise from upper left:

Wood Duck drake; Ridgefield NWR, April 2015 © Bev McNeil;
Japanese White-eye on hibiscus, Big Island of Hawaii, February 2015 © David Gluckman
Larry Scott Trail near mile post 6.5, November 2015 © Artemis Celt
Golden-crowned Kinglet in frosted grass at Fort Worden, 31 December 2015 © Artemis Celt
Green Heron, Merritt Island NWR, November 2015 © David Gluckman
Great Horned Owl taking off near Tucson AZ, November 2015 © David Gluckman

Thursday, 21 January 2016, 7 pm

Birds of Southern Africa

Port Townsend writer Cheryl Merrill will present a program on African birds at the Port Townsend Community Center on January 21st at 7pm. From ostriches to fish eagles to “go-away” birds, the presentation will emphasize photographs and short natural histories of the amazingly varied birdlife in southern Africa.

Merrill’s essays and poems have appeared in Fourth Genre, Pilgrimage, Seems, Paintbrush, Willow Springs, Northwest Review, Alaska Quarterly Review, Adventum, Isotope, Pilgrimage and others. Several of her poems were anthologized in A Gift of Tongues: 25 Years of Poetry from Copper Canyon Press. Her essay, “Singing Like Yma Sumac,” was selected for Best of Brevity, Creative Nonfiction #27, and Short Takes: Model Essays for Composition. “Trunk,” was chosen for Special Mention in Pushcart 2008. She also contributed to Creative Writing DeMystified, Hard Stuff Made Easy, edited by Sheila Bender. Sections from a new work, Wild Life, were just published in a new anthology from Norton, Short Takes: A Collection of Contemporary Nonfiction, edited by Dinah Lenney and Judith Kitchen. She’s just finished a book, Larger than Life, Living in the Shadows of Elephants. Daily blog posts can be found at www.cherylmerrill.com and @cmerrillellies

Cheryl Merrill at Victoria Falls

Rosemary Sikes
Admiralty Audubon Programs Chair
Field Trip Reports

**Irondale/Port Hadlock/Chimacum Creek Park**
1 January 2016: Fifteen birders enjoyed a cool calm 30° with receding tide at 8 ft. About 40 American Wigeon, 1 Eurasian Wigeon, 2 Long-tailed Duck, 15 Horned Grebe, 1 Red-necked Grebe, 1 Pied-bill Grebe, 6 Hooded, 6 Red-breasted & 1 Common Merganser, 2 Belted Kingfisher, 1 Bald Eagle, 20 Surf Scoter, 20 Common Goldeneye, 3 Double-crested Cormorant & 2 Pelagic Cormorant, 1 White-winged Scoter, 1 Common Murre, 2 Marbled Murrelet, 1 Common Loon, 5 Northern Pintail, 8 Gadwall, 50 Mallards, 6 Killdeer, 2 Dunlin, 1 Black-bellied Plover, 2 Bonaparte’s Gull, 25 Mew Gull, 20 Western/Glaucous-winged Gull, 1 Song Sparrow, and 20 Crow. A great morning walk with many new faces joining many regular birders to start the 2016 New Year. It was a great day to see 30 bird species, 2 Harbor Porpoise, and 2 River Otters. *Trip leader Paula Vanderheul.*

**Milo Curry Trailhead/Larry Scott Trail**
12 December 2015: AAS field trip of 5 birders walked along the trail listening to the Golden-crowned Sparrow sing, Pacific Wren calling, and Song Sparrows ticking calls enjoying a view of each. At the farmland pond we scoped 2 Canvasbacks, Cackling and Canada Geese, Ring-necked Duck, Ruddy Duck, American Wigeon, Mallards, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Gadwall, Green-winged Teal, Bufflehead, American Coot, Great Blue Heron, Red-winged Blackbird, Marsh Wren and heard one Barred Owl. *Trip leader Paula Vanderheul.*

**Fort Flagler Spit**
14 November 2015: This field trip had a few surprises with a SHORT-EARED OWL flying along the beach spit near our group of 15 birthday party attendees. Kay Goodhue was honored by this special rare bird. A Northern Harrier, Common Golden-eye, Harlequin Duck, Bald Eagles, Black-bellied Plover, Dunlin, Sanderling, and Black Turnstones were some other good birds of the morning. The rain shower stopped about the time we reached the spit. *Trip Leader Ron Sikes; report provided by Paula Vanderheul.*

Other Reports & Sightings
The Christmas Bird Count report for 2015 will be in our next newsletter.

As space allows, we’re including a few notable sightings reported on our chapter website’s Sightings page. You’ll find them on page 3.

Photos on page 5
Clockwise from top left:
- New Year’s Day 2016, Fifteen humans, 30 species of birds, Chimacum Creek/Irondale Bay © Artemis Celt;
- New Year’s Day 2016, Otter with fish, Chimacum Creek/Irondale © Artemis Celt;
- Eared Grebe, Tule Lake CA, May 2014 © Bev McNeil;
- Black Oystercatchers, North Beach, 3 January 2016 © Artemis Celt;
- Trumpeter Swans and a Mallard, Ridgefield NWR, December 2013 © Julie Jaman
- Killdeer in flight, Chimacum Creek, New Year’s Day 2016 © Artemis Celt
- Point Wilson, 3 January 2016 © Artemis Celt

AAS Membership Form 2016
http://admiraltyaudubon.org

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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 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!
Admiralty Audubon Officers and Board

President: Rick Jahnke  360-531-3417  rjahnke@att.net
Vice President & Publicity: Bill Vogt  360-531-2821  geeezoman@bhvdesignlab.com
Secretary: Ron Sikes  360-385-0307  b1rdbrush@gmail.com
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Christmas Bird Count: Dan Waggoner  360-301-1788  danwags57@gmail.com
Webmaster: Andrew Reding  --  aareding@gmail.com
Website: http://admiraltyaudubon.org  Facebook: https://facebook.com/admiraltyaudubon

LWCF Revived!

The US Congress managed to pass a budget that revives the Land & Water Conservation Fund. Since LWCF started with our own Senator Scoop Jackson in 1964, we have a point of pride in the survival of this critically important fund. LWCF needs permanent authorization, but at least it is safe for now while Congressional advocates work on perpetuity for the fund.

Great Backyard Bird Count

The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is worldwide, was started in 1998 and will occur this year on February 12-15. Anyone can participate and you'll just need to sign up for eBird to enter data. Check out the process on the website at http://gbbc.birdcount.org/. GBBC is a joint effort by National Audubon, Cornell Lab, Bird Studies Canada and eBird.