Admiralty Audubon Pipings

AAS Program
15 November 2012, 7 pm
The public is invited:
Port Townsend Community Center
Lawrence and Tyler

Midway Atoll

Johanna King was one of the lucky few to make it to Midway last March, and she is delighted to have the opportunity to share her experience at the November meeting of Admiralty Audubon Society. Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge is located in the Papahanaumokuakea Marine National Monument, and lies approximately midway between North America and Asia.

Once the site of a critical WWII sea battle, it is now under the purview of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and is home to millions of seabirds during the nesting season. The star attractions are the Laysan and Black-footed Albatross chicks and their parents, and the sub-adults ‘practicing’ the mating ritual. Many other species, including endangered Laysan Ducks and Hawaiian Monk Seals, are also present.

The program is free and open to the public.

Rosemary Sikes
Programs, Admiralty Audubon

Laysan Albatross checks out a human. USFW photo.

Paper newsletter recipients: Your address label shows the date (month-yr) your membership expires. If you are over six months late, this will be your final newsletter. If the date disagrees with your records, let us know. Electronic newsletter recipients will receive an email reminder.

AAS Field Trips
November & December 2012

Saturday, 10 November 2012 - Fort Flagler
Kilisut Harbor marine spit is the destination. Meet at 9:30 am at the end of lower Campground Road parking in front of the playground equipment. We’ll walk along the spit looking for migrant shorebirds and bay wintering species. Bring binoculars, spotting scopes, and cameras to view some spectacular birds. Be sure to layer up in warm clothing, raingear, boots, gloves and hats as it might be breezy, cool and wet.

Carpooling is possible for those willing to share a ride coming from Port Townsend or Port Hadlock. Meet at the Park & Ride lot across from Safeway at 8:30 am to carpool from Port Townsend or meet Paula in the Port Hadlock area at the Kively Center on Oak Bay Road just east of 4-way stop signs at Ness Corners Road at 9 am. A Discovery Pass is required for Fort Flagler. Paula Vanderheul, Trip Leader: 360-379-8564 or pvanderheul@gmail.com

Sunday, 16 December 2012 - Crockett Lake-Whidbey Island and vicinity
- Walk on 9:30 am Port Townsend Ferry to Coupeville. Meet on main deck forward the ship. We’ll view birds during ferry crossings. On Whidbey Island, we’ll look for birds on Crockett Lake and the Admiralty Bay shoreline. Time permitting, we’ll loop up to the bunker area of Fort Casey St. Park, into the forest and back down to the ferry landing to return to Port Townsend on the 1:15 PM ferry. Wear appropriate clothing to keep warm and dry. Bring lunch, binoculars, and suitable walking shoes. Please RSVP as weather can change our plans to Alternative B or C. Ron Sikes, Trip Leader: 360-385-0307 or sikes@olympus.net

Please note that the participants in all field trips accept all risks and Admiralty Audubon accepts none.

David Gluckman
Field Trips, Admiralty Audubon

December AAS Program
We will have a potluck following the Christmas Bird Count on 15 December 2012 (see p.2).
113th Christmas Bird Count: Free and Invaluable

Put East Jefferson County birds on the map!

For the first time, there will be no charge to participate in the Christmas Bird Count. National Audubon Society (NAS) has decided to publish the count results online exclusively and that eliminates the cost of the printed reports. Although NAS will still be more than happy to take donations, participation will be free.

Our effort for the 113th Christmas Bird Count will take place on 15 December 2012. Join a designated count circle with other birders or count in your home landscape if you live within a designated circle. Contact Dan Waggoner at danwags57@gmail.com, Dick Johnson at 385-5418 or check http://admiraltyaudubon.org for more information.

A post-count potluck dinner will gather participants to share their observations at Rosewind Commons at 6 pm on 15 December.

Last year, Admiralty Audubon’s contribution was one of 40 Christmas Bird Count circles in Washington State for the 112th count.

A total of 2248 circles were submitted for the 112th Count with 63,223 volunteer counters participating throughout the Western Hemisphere and counting 2298 species. This is quite a change from the 25 circles, 27 participants and 90 species at the first count in 1900. Since the Christmas Bird Count is a valid census where each count circle covers a 15-mile diameter radius, single-observer counts are not allowed except in unusual circumstances.

You can join a count circle or count in your home landscape if you live within a designated circle, but you will need to contact our chapter count leaders prior to the count so they can include your counts in our area’s census.

Update on Plans for Sculpture in Honor of Eleanor Stopps

Admiralty Audubon member Robin Ornelas has been leading the effort to make a lasting tribute to Eleanor Stopps in the form of a sculpture. In addition to being a one-woman fundraising phenomenon, Robin recently provided the following information from conversations with sculptor Tony Angell.

The sculpture is anticipated to be mounted on a stone pedestal with a bronze plaque. Several appropriate species were suggested for the sculpture: Guillemots in flight, Rhinoceros Auklets, Black Oystercatchers, or Glaucous-winged Gulls. Although some might find the choice unusual, Glaucous-winged Gulls were Eleanor’s favorite bird, in part due to the work of her friend, naturalist Zella Schultz. Zella’s extensive work on Protection Island brought Eleanor to the location in the first place. Tony Angell suggests a pair of Glaucous-winged Gulls with a youngster, and says, “This concept seems to combine not only the appropriate species, but also the sense of renewal and sustaining of a species that Protection Island provides.”

Discussions are still in progress about the location for the sculpture. The Port Townsend Marine Science Center is one logical location, but other locations are also being evaluated. One of our monthly AAS public meetings will be dedicated to Eleanor Stopps and her remarkable life. It will likely be in spring of 2013.

Contributions for the sculpture can be made by check for ‘AAS Memorial Fund’ directly to First Federal Bank (PO Box 1510, Port Townsend WA 98368) or via a PayPal link on a website for Eleanor [http://eleanorstopps.blogspot.com].

Admiralty Audubon is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and your donation is tax deductible to the extent allowed by the IRS code.
The American Eagle Compact: Because Conservation Doesn’t Have a Party

Conservation isn’t left, right or center. It is common sense. The National Audubon Society and Republican group ConservAmerica have launched a groundbreaking campaign to bridge the partisan divides over energy and the environment.

The American Eagle Compact targets common-sense approaches to conservation and energy development to counter the partisanship that has confused and polarized voters and jeopardized America’s commitment to conserving natural resources for the health of people and wildlife.

“Extremists on both sides of the political divide have hijacked America’s conservation movement,” said David Yarnold, president and CEO of the National Audubon Society. “We believe Americans want to break the gridlock. Conservation doesn’t have a party.”

“We call on the next administration and the next Congress to detoxify the conversation over energy and conservation issues,” said Rob Sisson, president of ConservAmerica. “The rancor of recent years represents a cynical, short-sighted attitude that betrays the important shared values that have always united us.”

Supporters can sign the compact at http://www.EagleCompactUSA.org and can join the conversation at the Eagle’s Nest Blog (http://EagleCompactUSA.wordpress.com/)

An Urban Refuge for Birds

Our Kah Tai Bird Survey got some great press on the front page of the 10 October 2012 Peninsula Daily News after a chance encounter with a reporter at the Board of County Commissioners. The title of the lengthy article: “An urban refuge for birds: Audubon lauds lagoon.” Yes, we do, as a matter of fact.
Audubon Flyways

National Audubon’s strategic focus will align our efforts along our continental extensions of the four flyways of the Western Hemisphere. The planning team followed the Atlantic, Mississippi, Central and Pacific Flyways to identify bird species with the greatest conservation need, then defined the most pervasive and shared threats to these birds and their habitats.

National focus is on five conservation strategies:

- **Putting working lands to work for birds and people:** more than 150 species of grassland and forest birds are threatened
- **Sharing our seas and shores:** half the species on Audubon’s watch list are seabirds
- **Saving important bird areas (IBAs):** knowing which areas are most important is the first step to protection
- **Shaping a healthy climate and clean energy future:** improve energy planning/siting to minimize impacts on priority species
- **Creating bird-friendly communities:** Citizen science roles (like CBC, GBBC), restore habitat

Chapters are organized by flyway, a logical grouping for the birds at the heart of chapter efforts. Our Pacific Flyway (Alaska, Washington, Oregon and California) has 115 chapters and 161 Global IBAs. Find out more at [http://conservation.audubon.org/](http://conservation.audubon.org/)

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Flyways of the Western Hemisphere. Image from National Audubon website (except theirs is in color).

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Audubon Council of Washington

AAS President Rick Jahnke, Programs Chair (and Past President) Rosemary Sikes, and Membership Chair Debbie Jahnke attended the Audubon Council of Washington (ACOW) meeting in Poulsbo WA on 6 October 2012.

The Washington State Audubon Conservation Committee (WSACC), consisting of the Conservation Chairs of all 26 state chapters, met the evening prior to the ACOW session to discuss policy positions. WSACC voted by consensus on an amended charter, and recommended chapters follow the Washington Working Group (WAWG) proposal that we move forward to fund a part-time position for a Chapter Associate to serve as a liaison during the legislative session in Olympia to keep chapters informed about legislation of interest to facilitate citizen contact with legislators.

National Audubon President and CEO David Yarnold gave the keynote address after he cut the ribbon to officially open the Puget Loop of the now-completed Washington Birding Trail (while our own David and Casey Gluckman took official group photos). Mr. Yarnold spoke about the Flyways strategy for National Audubon (article at left) and highlighted three recent Audubon successes:

- New wind energy siting guidelines adopted by the Department of the Interior; adoption of 96% of Audubon guidelines for protecting breeding grounds in the National Petroleum Preserve - Alaska; and ensuring that 80% of BP fines from the Deepwater Horizon spill are used to fund habitat restoration.

National Audubon Vice President for the Pacific Flyway Mike Sutton spoke about opportunities for the 115 local chapters like ours on the Pacific Flyway. Audubon Washington board members reported on the strategic focus for our state, including conserving shrub steppe habitat and protecting and restoring coastal areas in the Puget Trough.

WAWG finished the meeting with recommendations to develop sustainable options for a cohesive and collaborative state chapter network. Audubon Washington is now finding its feet again after critical funding cuts from National Audubon required reorganization and reconsideration of priorities.
Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park Workparties Continue Monthly

11 November and 9 December 2012

Join us Sunday 11 November and 9 December anytime between 9am and noon for workparties at Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park. We will be focusing on pulling Scot's Broom and picking up garbage. Park at the parking lot near the bathrooms and walk east toward the Benedict Street entrance southeast of the small pond. Look for Ron's white Chevy pick-up with the bright green ‘volunteer’ sign. Wear work clothes and bring work gloves. Bring pruners if you have them. Water, cookies, garbage bags and Scot's Broom pullers will be provided. Hope to see you there. (rosemarysikes@olympus.net or 385-0307).

Rosemary Sikes
Programs, Admiralty Audubon

Plastics, Chapter 2

Port Townsend’s plastic bag ban begins 1 November. Given the evidence in the scientific literature, we should be grateful to our City Council for foresight. But HDPE single-use bags aren’t the whole problem by any means. Type 5 plastic, polypropylene, is ubiquitous as lids on bottles, deodorant tubes, toothbrushes, carry-out food containers. If you want to see where it can end up, Google ‘Laysan Albatross’ images and look at all those bellies full of bottle caps. There’s a new program afoot called ‘Gimme 5’ from http://www.preserveproducts.com, starting to recycle type 5. It might be worth pursuing.

AAS Field Trip Reports

13 October 2012 - Kah Tai to Point Hudson:
Eight intrepid birders braved the rain for a relatively productive outing considering the weather. The following were seen at Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park: American Crows, Ravens, European Starlings, American Robins, Virginia Rail, Song Sparrow, Ducks (Mallards, Northern Shovelers, Ruddies, American Wigeon, Gadwalls), Canada Geese, Pied-billed Grebes, American Coot, Stellar’s Jay and Killdeer.

At Point Hudson we saw Harlequin Ducks, Glaucous-winged, Heerman’s and Ring-billed Gulls, Double-crested, Brant’s and Pelagic Cormorants, Rhinoceros Auklets, Pigeon Guillemots, Horned, Red-necked and Western Grebes, Black Oystercatchers and a Common Loon.

27 October 2012 - Lynnsfield Ponds:
A group of five rain-damp birders walked the trails in dense shrub around the perimeters of Lynnsfield Ponds behind Blue Heron School. One pond is still seasonally dry and the other is low. Several tall snags encourage raptors and corvids. We heard and/or saw White-crowned, Golden-crowned, Song and Fox Sparrows, Bewick’s Wren, Spotted Towhee, Varied Thrush, American Robin, Dark-eyed Junco, House Finches, Red-winged Blackbirds, Bushtits, Black-capped and Chestnut-backed Chickadees, Virginia Rail, Mallards, Accipter sp., American Crows, Ravens, European Starlings, Rock Pigeons and Glaucous-winged Gulls.

AAS Membership Form
[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
Membership includes 5 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: David Beatty 360-774-1847 db38@olympen.com
Secretary: Ron Sikes 360-385-0307 sikes@olympus.net
Treasurer: Bob Tyer 360-379-1610 bwtyer@gmail.com
Field Trips: David Gluckman 360-379-0360 cgluckman@aol.com
Programs: Rosemary Sikes 360-385-0307 rosemarysikes@olympus.net
Conservation, Education, Publicity open
Membership, newsletter: Debbie Jahnke 360-531-3415 admiraudub@gmail.com
Science Advisor: Ken Wilson 360-821-1101 tadpoderanch@gmail.com
Christmas Bird Count: Dick Johnson 360-385-5418 -- danwags57@gmail.com
Dan Waggoner -- aareding@gmail.com
Webmaster: Andrew Reding --
Website: http://admiraltyaudubon.org

Take a Chair?

We STILL need members to step up for Conservation, Education and Publicity Chairs. The Publicity Chair works with the Programs Chair to advertise our monthly programs and other activities. Conservation and Education Chair duties speak for themselves, don’t they? Contact the chapter President for more information.

Next AAS Board Meeting

The next Admiralty Audubon Board meeting will be held on 13 November at 7 pm. For more information about the meeting and location, please contact the chapter President (rjahnke@att.net).