May-June Admiralty Programs
from Clara Mason, Program Chair cmason@olypen.com

Gardening for Birds  May 21 @ 7pm: Port Townsend Community Center: 620 Tyler Street
Ron Sikes has been a gardener and landscaper in Port Townsend for 30 years. As his interest in native plants and the connection they have to birds in our area grew, Ron began to change the emphasis of his home landscape from ornamental to wild bird habitat. Since then, he has pursued the art and science of making the Northwest landscape a place birds can live with. Born and raised in the Missouri Ozarks, Ron learned that wildlife have a critical necessity of adequate habitat. After earning an art degree from Lincoln University in Missouri, Ron served for Uncle Sam as a G.I. Then his fascination for biology led him west to WA State University where he earned a degree in Wildlife Biology. One of Ron’s earliest childhood desires was to get his hand on one of those House Sparrows. But his first Christmas Bird Count with Dick Johnson introduced him to the great diversity of birds in this area. Ron will share with us how we can welcome birds to our yards with plants and landscaping.

Annual Admiralty Audubon Potluck Picnic
June 18 @ 6pm: Chetzemoka Park: Enter at Blaine and Jackson Streets
Note the earlier starting time. Bring a dish to share, your drink of choice, and your table setting (dishes, silverware). This will be our last gathering of the season before resuming our meetings in September. Visit and share dinner with your Admiralty Audubon Board and other members, share your bird stories, and just hang out. Come about 5:30pm or earlier for a bird walk prior to eating.

May-June Admiralty Field Trips
David Gluckman, 360-379-0360; cgluckman@aol.com
Important: Please pre-register by contacting field trip leader before trip so we can contact you about changes
Everyone welcome non-members & beginners too.

For field trip questions, contact Ken Wilson 821-1101 kenw@cablespeed.com
Tuesday May 19 8 AM to 12 Noon: Looking for warblers around Gibbs and maybe Anderson Lakes. Meet at Pt Ludlow Restaurant parking lot. Contact leader Stephen Cunliffe at sjaycee@gmail.com (437-0292)
Saturday May 30, 8 to 10 AM Kah Tai Lagoon. Spend a few hours looking for migrants and summer visitors around Kai Tai. Meet at the small pond. Leader: Ken Wilson (821-1101) kenw@cablespeed.com
Saturday June 13, 8-11:30 AM Point Wilson. Spend a morning around Point Wilson, checking on the summer visitors on the water in the grasses. Meet at the lighthouse parking lot. Trip leader is Bob Whitney, who has spent more time observing birds at this location than any human in history.
Sunday June 28, 8 AM to 11:30 AM Port Townsend. A trip around the birding hot spots of Port Townsend. We may do this by bicycle for those who want to. The rest will car pool from the meeting spot at the Larry Scott Trail bathroom area of Port Haven Marina. Trip leader David Gluckman, (379-0360) cgluckman@aol.com
Note: A short description of birds seen should be posted on the AAS website the following day: www.admiraltyaudubon.org

photo of Mt Bluebird: David Gluckman

May 2009
President’s Corner: Purple Martins
Rosemary Sikes, President Rosemarysikes@olympus.net
Ah May! Along with the warmer weather comes the return of the Purple Martins, our largest swallow. Last year with the help of volunteers from the NW Trails Coalition we constructed 5 Purple Martin nest boxes and installed them on the north shore of Kah Tai Lagoon. We also still have 10 nest boxes at the Boat Haven. Ron and I could really use some help monitoring the nest boxes from May to September. All you would have to do is observe the nest boxes at one of the sites, count the total number of Purple Martins seen, the number of pairs (if you can tell), if you see House Sparrows or Starlings entering the nest boxes, and note the day and time of the observation. Email the information to me at rosemarysikes@olympus.net. For more information or to lend a helping hand, contact me at 385-0307 or the above email.

Photo: Rosemary Sikes

AAS Certified Bird Field Trip Leader Program
David Gluckman, 360-379-0360; cgluckman@aol.com
On April 14th the AAS Board approved the new Bird Field Trip Leader Certification program within the club’s present Field Trip Committee. The program formalizes a continuing list of experienced bird field trip leaders who have agreed to lead AAS birding field trips for the following years. In addition to leading field trips, members will accept some new responsibilities that include:

Bird Alerts – establish a rare bird alert email system for the area that can actively notify members who sign up where the birds are being seen on a timely basis as well as continuously updating the new web site with general bird sightings for places near and far.

Bird Questions – become a readily available source to call or email for information about bird identifications, habitats, behaviors.

Leader Referrals – create a list of individuals who will be available to lead birding field trips or make presentations on birds requested by other organizations (parks, other visiting Audubon groups, local events, etc.).

President Rosemary Sikes designated the following club members as the first Certified Field Trip Leaders under the program who will make up the initial field trip Committee.

Ken Wilson – Co-chair – kenw@cablespeed.com - Pt. Townsend
David Gluckman – Co-Chair – cgluckman@aol.com - Pt. Townsend
Ron Sikes – sikes@olympus.net - Pt. Townsend
Dick Johnson – 385-5418, Pt. Hadlock area
Stephen Cunliffe - sjaycee@mac.com - Pt. Ludlow area
Dan Waggoner - danwaggs@earthlink.net - Quilcene area

The Field Trip Committee will also establish a process and criteria for certifying any members who want to become Certified Field Trip Leaders within the program guidelines established by the Board. Direct any questions to David Gluckman at 379-0360 or his email address above.

(Note: There is no requirement that individuals who wish to lead AAS birding or other types of field trips be certified – the Birding Field Trip Certification Program is purely a voluntary program to help identify individuals...
who have demonstrated expertise in this area and a willingness to help AAS and the birding community. The Field Trip Committee encourages all individuals who want to lead field trips to do so. However, please check in with one of the Co-Chairs before using the AAS name because of potential liability and insurance issues).

**Notice of Election of Officers**

Election of officers for Admiralty Audubon Society will be held at the May 21 membership meeting. Since there are only single nominations for each office, we will be asking for a motion for members present to vote yes or no on the slate of candidates. Candidates are Rosemary Sikes for President, Sally Robins for Vice President, Bob Tyer for Treasurer, and Ron Sikes as Secretary.

**Birdhouse Sales & Location**

Ron Sikes at 385-0307 or sikes@olympus.net

Thank you to those who purchased the Chickadee/Wren bird houses from our chapter. The total sold was 22. The project started when member Sue Hoover offered the cedar boards left from a fence project. Jim Mason did the sawing and assembly in his workshop. Hopefully the purchased boxes are up and being used by a pair of chickadees or wrens. A good location is where you can easily observe it from your kitchen or dining room window. For chickadees the WA Dept. Fish and Wildlife recommends attaching a box to a tree in home orchard. Also chickadees will accept a box elevated above a fence or on a pole that sticks above shrubs. Providing a constant supply of water and some free food is likely to promote nesting. Wrens will nest within a few feet of the ground so you could attach the box directly to a five foot fence. Having nearby shrubs will offer more seclusion when the wrens are coming and going to the box. There are still some boxes available. The price is $10.00. You can arrange to pick up a box by calling Ron at 385 0307. They will also be on sale at the May meeting.

**Field Trip Report from N. Beach**

from Ken Wilson about trip on 19 April 2009

Spring was in the air and the water with mild temperatures and only soft breezes at North Beach. Dan spotted a pair of young otters mating on a flat rock. Being suburban otters the lack of privacy is a fact of life. The search for Whimbrels was unsuccessful and we agreed they had not yet reached our area. The Horned and Red Necked grebes have molted into their breeding plumage. Pairs of Harlequin Ducks lounged on the rocks near shore, not having left for their fast-water breeding habitats on West Coast rivers. One Oyster catcher flew by. Also in distant view were Common Loon, a raft of Surf Scoters, a male Golden Eye Duck, Bufflehead Ducks, and a pair of Rhinoceros Auklets. The waterfowl are nearing the end of their winter stay and will soon disappear to the north. Looking east toward Fort Worden we could see an adult bald eagle perched in a snag standing above the bluff. We nine decided to go see the 8 white fronted geese and a Eurasian widgeon feeding near the Chinese Pond. On the way we saw a male Rufous Hummingbird. A pair of Canada Geese brought out their six goslings to graze giving us a good look. While enjoying the waterfowl a male Anna’s hummingbird watched us from its perch in a feral plum tree. Orange crowned warblers were drinking nectar and plucking caterpillars from the plum flowers. Other waterfowl on the pond were Hooded Merganser and Lesser Scaup. Some songbirds heard singing were Song Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, White Crowned Sparrow, House Finch, and Purple Finch. The only woodpecker seen was a Red Breasted Sapsucker laying flattened on the side of the street.
Audubon Mag Photo Contest

Audubon magazine is launching the 2009 Audubon Magazine Photography Awards: Birds in Focus, created to celebrate the beauty and diversity of birdlife through the art of photography, and to honor the exceptional work of talented professional, amateur and youth photographers from all over the U.S. Audubon will be accept submissions in three categories: Professional, Amateur, and Youth. Photographers are encouraged to reveal a new angle or perspective in their work. "Think creatively," advises Audubon's design director Kevin Fisher, one of the judges. The Award winners will be announced in December and will see their work showcased within the pages of both Audubon and Nature's Best Photography magazines, as well as on their respective websites. An impressive array of prizes will be awarded, including top-of-the-line photo and optic equipment from award sponsor, Nikon. Submissions: Accepted May 15 - July 15, 2009. Up to 10 images per entrant. See: www.AudubonMagazinePhotoAwards.com

Newest State Birding Trail

A few weeks ago, the newest route of the Great Washington State Birding Trail, the Sun and Sage Loop was unveiled to the public. In the first month bird watchers purchased more than 500 maps! Birding trail fans love the art work, the abundance of local knowledge – and the fact that Audubon Washington is working for the long-term protection of birds and their habitat. What does all this mean to you? By 2010 you’ll be able to travel the seven-loop, 3,000-mile Great Washington State Birding Trail from the Pacific Ocean to Idaho, from Oregon to Canada. Along the way, you’ll find all of Washington’s 346 common bird species! The birding trail also provides financial incentives for local people to value and safeguard their lands and waters that birds need to survive. And finally, the birding trail offers a sustainable economic activity, nature tourism, for the benefit of rural communities.

Sun & Sage Birding Event
Walla Walla, May 15-17

Bird the newest sites on the state birding trail with master birders; savor pleasures of the vine with local growers and winemakers, relish fresh, local, organic cuisine, and learn about sustainable farming and viticulture. Historically the best week of the year for hummingbirds, the spring bird migration is fully underway. Four guided birdwatching tours, five meals, other tours and talks for $400, of which $150 is a contribution to Audubon Washington. Transportation from Seattle area for $45 RT. For more information Barbara Sacerdote, (206-999-9730) bsacerdote@audubon.org

Ron Sikes Promotes Backyard Native Plants for Birds May 9 at Chimacum Park

Ron Sikes will present the relationship between native plants and songbirds and hummingbirds at Kul Kah Han gardens (H J Carroll Park) at 10 AM Saturday May 9. A native plant sale will follow the talk. Ron is a backyard wildlife habitat expert. Visitors may also tour the gardens.
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Visit our website: www.admiraltyaudubon.org
Read or post bird sightings Download a checklist of birds

Talk to Us..........................

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May 2009