Admiralty Audubon Pipings

Get ready for I-1631

While most of us acknowledge the dangers that windows, cats, power lines, cars and trucks present to birds, the greatest threat is climate change. National Audubon scientists have demonstrated that alteration of habitat driven by changes in climate will challenge or threaten the majority of North American bird species in the next 50 years. The signature gathering phase for Ballot Initiative I-1631 to place a fee on carbon pollution in our state is underway. This initiative would reduce emissions by encouraging reduced consumption of fossil fuels while increasing investment in our communities and mitigation technologies. The AAS Board agreed to support this initiative and the Audubon Washington Board will likely endorse this effort at their next meeting in mid-May. We encourage all to sign these petitions to place this initiative on the November ballot.

‘Nativars’ and Backyard Habitat

A collaboration between Cornell Lab for Ornithology and the Nature Conservancy highlights issues with ‘nativars’. ‘Native cultivars can be hybrids, products of two or more plants intentionally selected by breeders and crossed to create desirable traits, or they may be clonally-produced copies of one particularly desirable wild-type plant. While these are technically the same species as wild types they may represent only a fraction of the natural diversity of the species.’ (http://content.yardmap.org/learn/nativars-native-cultivars/). Nativars may not offer the same habitat and food benefits to birds and other species as do natives, so when you are working to provide backyard habitat, be aware of this concern.

In Memoriam

Katie Fleming

When we sent out the January 2018 newsletter, we received the response below from member Katie Fleming’s husband Keith and we intended to include it in the March newsletter. Good intentions failed us. Here we include Keith’s gracious notification of the loss of a member of our chapter. We offer our apologies for the delay and our condolences on Katie’s death.

Dear Admiralty Audubon,

Sadly, your Audubon member, Katie Fleming, died from cancer on November 21, 2017. Your January newsletter arrived in her mailbox today, and I realized it was time to notify your organization.

Katie loved being a member of Audubon as intently as she loved birds. She was unable to participate in chapter activities after the cancer diagnosis last April. However, until her very last days, she enjoyed sitting at her dining table where she could watch the birds at the feeders on her back deck. Bird watching was one of the great pleasures of her life.

She even named her in-home wi-fi network ‘Birdhaven.’

I and all of Katie’s family wish Admiralty Audubon continued success in all your endeavors benefitting birds.

Sincerely,
Keith Fleming

AAS Kah Tai Workparties for May & June 2018

Sunday, 13 May, 9 am to noon: We will be weeding around the oaks and pines planted at Duck Heaven in the Decatur Street ROW at the NE corner of the lagoon. Park along 19th Street. Bring pruners for the blackberries.

Sunday, 3 June, 9 am - 11:30 am: Park at the KTLNP parking lot off 12th Street. We will be weeding and picking up garbage on the west end of Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park. Spreading gravel on the trails is also an option. A potluck will follow from noon-2pm at the Pope Marine building in downtown PT. If you volunteer at the workparty you do not have to bring something to the potluck.

Snacks, tea, weed wrenches, garbage extractors and bags will be provided for both workparties.

For information: email ptrose53@gmail.com or call 360-385-0307.

Rosemary Sikes, AAS Programs Chair

May 2018
AAS Community Program, 17 May 2018
Port Townsend Community Center, Lawrence & Tyler
the public is invited

Antarctica and Environs

On Thursday, May 17th at 7:00 p.m. in the Port Townsend Community Center, Alan Johanson will show a tiny fraction of 10,000 wildlife photos/videos of penguins, sea birds, whales and seals taken during a furious, action-packed, 3 week boots-on-the-ground trip to the Falklands, South Georgia, the remote South Sandwich islands, the Shetlands, the Orkneys and the Antarctic Peninsula, under the guidance of a botanist, an ornithologist, a biologist, a naturalist, a paleontologist, two geologists, two historians, and a professional photographer (photos on p.2).

Rosemary Sikes, AAS Programs Chair

AAS Field Trips, May & June 2018

First Saturday at Fort Flagler: 5 May, 9 am: Meet at the Northwest Spit of Fort Flagler State Park to visit the spit, sewage pond and Marrowstone Point, all good birding hotspots. Trip Leader John Comstock: jhn.comstock@gmail.com. Discover Pass required for parking.

Sunday, 13 May, 8:30 am, Fort Worden: Meet at Fort Worden Commons. We’ll walk the woods, looking and listening for songbirds, and also check out Point Wilson for seabirds. Possibility of heading over to the Chinese Gardens or North Beach if they seem promising. The walk could be up to 2-3 miles. Maximum 8 people. We’ll finish by noon. You’ll need a discover pass. Scopes are useful for the seabird part of the day. Trip Leader Sue Thompson: singharmonynow@gmail.com.

Saturday, 19 May, 9:00-11:00 am. Irondale Beach/Chimacum Creek Estuary, Irondale Beach County Park: 562 Moore Street, Port Hadlock, WA 98339. Meet in the parking lot, bring binocs, warm clothes, walking shoes, scope if you have one. To carpool from PT, meet at 8:40am at the Park & Ride (by Safeway). Trip Leader Gary Perless : 360 643-3529, gperless@gmail.com

Saturday, 26 May, 8:30 - 11:30 am, Fort Worden: First Things First Walk - meet at the Reveille Restaurant for coffee and then go birding. We will walk from Fort Worden Commons to Battery Hill and back, listening for bird song and checking the doings of some of the migrant birds that call our area their summer home. This is the second in a series of three field trips highlighting the good birding spots of Fort Worden (June’s walk will be at Pt. Wilson focusing on seabirds, gulls, and sparrows). Trip Leader: Monica Fletcher, monicaflet@gmail.com or 360-379-3136.

First Saturday at Fort Flagler: 2 June, 9:00 am: Meet at the Northwest Spit of Fort Flagler State Park to visit the spit, sewage pond and Marrowstone Point, all good birding hotspots. Trip Leader John Comstock: jhn.comstock@gmail.com. Discover Pass required for parking.

Saturday, 23 June, 8:30 - 11:30 am, Fort Worden: First Things First Walk - meet at the Reveille Restaurant for coffee at 8:30 am and then go birding. We will carpool to Point Wilson lighthouse area where we set up scopes and “sea-watch” looking for murres, guillemots, grebes, mergansers and murrelets. Gulls will be discussed if there is interest. Then we will look at a particularly rich rose and shrub area for sparrows and songbirds. This is the final in a series of three field trips highlighting the good birding spots of Fort Worden (May’s walk will be for migratory birds). Trip Leader: Monica Fletcher, monicaflet@gmail.com or 360-379-3136.

photos on page 2: clockwise from top left: Red-winged Blackbird, Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park; Yellow-rumped (Audubon) Warbler, home landscape, Port Townsend; Imperial Shags (comorant), Antarctic region; King Penguins, Antarctic region; Savannah Sparrow, home landscape, Port Townsend; Chipping Sparrow, home landscape, Port Townsend.
Native Plants for Our New School

Earlier this year the AAS Board decided to contribute to the Salish Coast Elementary School landscaping effort by contributing native plants. Serendipitously, National Audubon offered a grant opportunity that the chapter successfully competed for to purchase the plants. On March 2, volunteers potted over 300 native plants that will be watered and tended over the summer and be ready for planting at the new school. There will be an email solicitation for volunteers to plant them at the new school this fall. This has been a great project, permitting us to contribute to this important community project. Thank you to all who’ve helped so far.

Educating the public on the important role native plants play in providing a healthy environment of birds and wildlife is an Audubon priority. As explained by Dr. John Rowden, Director of Community Conservation at National Audubon, native trees and shrubs provide better habitat. “A single nest of chickadee babies may scarf down as many as 9,000 caterpillars before they fledge. Native oaks support more than 550 kinds of butterflies and moths. Non-native Ginkgo trees? Only five.”

Imidacloprid Pesticide Decision

In early April, the WA Department of Ecology issued a determination to deny the permit for imidacloprid use in Willapa Bay and Gray’s Harbor. Oyster growers have been using pesticides to control burrowing shrimp since the 1960’s. This pesticide is not permitted for use in aquatic systems anywhere else and its application on land has been implicated in the decline of bees worldwide. Audubon Washington worked very hard for several years to raise a variety of concerns about the use of this pesticide and to emphasize the scientific basis for any decision. Admiralty Audubon contributed to this effort by providing comments on the environmental impact statement. The hard work has paid off with this recent decision to protect our coastal estuaries and the birds and other wildlife that depend on them.

BirdCast for Migration News!

Trip Chair David Gluckman points out the new Cornell Lab of Ornithology app called BirdCast. Check out http://birdcast.info/ to follow US migrations in real time!
Admiralty Audubon Officers and Board

President: Rick Jahnke 360-531-3417 rjahnke@att.net
Vice President & Publicity: Bill Vogt 360-531-2821 bill@archivalry.com
Secretary: Ron Sikes 360-385-0307 b1rdbrush@gmail.com
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 ptrese53@gmail.com
Education: Gary Eduardo Perless -- gperless@gmail.com
Membership & Newsletter: Debbie Jahnke 360-531-3415 admiraudub@gmail.com
Member At Large - PI Rep: Craig Wester 360-385-5390 craigwester@olympus.net
Christmas Bird Count: Dan Waggoner 360-301-1788 danwags57@gmail.com
Webmaster: Andrew Reding -- aarending@gmail.com
Website: http://admiraltyaudubon.org Facebook: https://facebook.com/admiraltyaudubon

Membership Dues are Tax Deductible

The discovery that other chapters regard their membership dues as ‘tax-deductible to the extent of the law’ was a surprise because that means nothing of value is received in exchange for dues. We thought our newsletters were worth something! But Bill Heck responded to our question posed at Audubon Works: “Most organizations do not consider or claim that their newsletters have material value (the organization does not charge for a newsletter; the information contained in the newsletter is, for the most part, readily available to the public; the organization will provide a newsletter for free to anyone who asks; and there is no market for such newsletters). IRS publications on this issue refer to "fair market value", and the fair market value of a bi-monthly newsletter typically is assumed to be zero.” Now we know! Deduct your dues to the extent of the law. Thank you for supporting Admiralty Audubon!

© David Gluckman

Crested Caracara, Arizona, 2018.