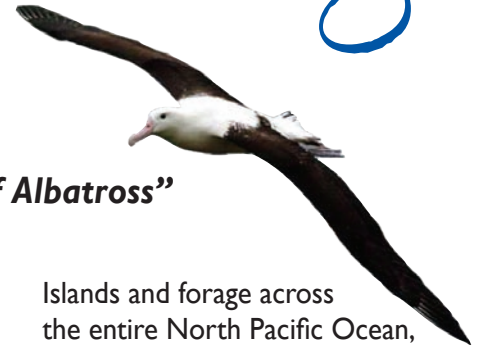


# Island Wings

— to enjoy, learn about & preserve the diverse natural habitat of these islands & beyond



## Dr. Ann Edwards, “Going to Extremes: Life and Death Stories of Albatross”

Submitted by Laura Bienen

It is with great anticipation that we welcome Vashon Islander, Dr. Ann Edwards to discuss her own work, the life and times of several species of albatross on Wednesday, March 17, 2010, at the Land Trust building at 7:00 pm.

The albatross remains somewhat of a mystery bird to many of us, with their huge wingspans, their enormous single chicks, and their incredibly lengthy pelagic voyages. Dr. Edwards introduces her presentation as follows:

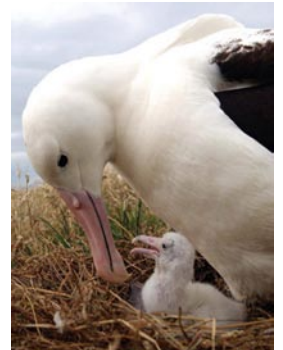
“Why do albatross have the longest and thinnest wings of any bird? Why do they mate for life, yet cannot recognize their chicks from a few yards away? Why are 19 out of the world’s 21 species threatened with extinction, placing them among the most endangered bird families in the world? The answers to these questions are linked, driven by the extreme foraging strategy albatross have adopted for finding morsels of floating food spread across entire ocean basins. Combining hard science with interesting anecdotes, Dr. Ann Edwards will weave together the multiple evolutionary forces that have shaped the life stories of these rarely observed, high seas mariners. Ann, a resident of Vashon, has studied North Pacific albatrosses for the last 15 years during doctoral and post-doctoral



Laysan Albatross (*Phoebastria immutabilis*)

research programs with the University of Washington, and the Alaska Fisheries Science Center (NOAA). She has studied the diet, foraging patterns, life-history trade-offs, and molt patterns, of Laysan and Black-footed Albatrosses, which breed primarily in the Hawaiian

Islands and forage across the entire North Pacific Ocean, ranging from Asia to Alaska to Mexico. Albatross are highly vulnerable to fatal entanglements in fishing gear. Currently Ann is consulting with NOAA to assess the causes and consequences of association by North Pacific albatross with offshore fishing operations in Alaskan waters. The presentation will include a discussion of programs that current work with fishing crews around the world to implement simple but effective measures to mitigate seabird by catch.”



Be green on St Patrick’s Day! Come enjoy Dr. Edward’s presentation on Wednesday, March 17 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the Land Trust building 10014 SW Bank Road., for this free program.



Dr Ann Edwards

### **VOLUNTEER TODAY!**

#### **4th Grade Birding Program at Chautauqua Elementary**

Come help local fourth-graders get excited about birding. Fun way to learn more about local birds and support the school! There will be 5 one-half hour sessions on selected dates (TBD), February through March, at Chautauqua Elementary and KVI Beach. Volunteer for two or more hours. No need to commit to whole program. **Contact Kathryn True 567-5389.**

# Calendar of Events

## March/April 2010

See [www.vashonaudubon.org](http://www.vashonaudubon.org) for details on events listed below

### Enjoyment of Birds Classes

Wed., March 10, 7:00 – 9:00 pm  
at Land Trust Bldg., 10014 SW Bank Rd.  
Corresponding field trip will be held  
on Sat., March 13 from 9-11 am. Drop-  
ins are welcome at \$10 per class. For  
more information contact Alan Huggins:  
[alanhugs@comcast.net](mailto:alanhugs@comcast.net).



### Island Audubon Field Trips

Sat., March 13, 9:00 -11:00 am  
(Winter hours).  
Drop in, no charge and no experience  
necessary. Meet at Ober Park &  
Ride. Bring binoculars or scope if you  
have them. Contact Alan Huggins at  
[alanhugs@comcast.net](mailto:alanhugs@comcast.net).

### Vashon Audubon Program

Wed., March 17, 7:00-9:00 pm.  
Dr. Ann Edwards, “Going to Extremes: Life  
and Death Stories of Albatross”, Free, at  
Land Trust Bldg., 10014 SW Bank Rd.

### Island Audubon Field Trips

Sat., April 10, 8:00 -10:00 am  
(Note 8:00 am start time).  
Drop in, no charge and no experience  
necessary. Meet at Ober Park &  
Ride. Bring binoculars or scope if you  
have them. Contact Alan Huggins at  
[alanhugs@comcast.net](mailto:alanhugs@comcast.net).

Please visit the Vashon-Maury Island Audubon Society (VMIA) website at [www.vashonaudubon.org](http://www.vashonaudubon.org) to learn more about programs, field trips and volunteer opportunities or submit your own birding stories, tips and photos. Contact Mary Ann McCarty at [mannmcc@hotmail.com](mailto:mannmcc@hotmail.com).  
“Ed Swan’s Notable Sightings” can now be found on the VMIA site.

### Support Vashon’s Audubon Society

by renewing your membership at  
[http://www.vashonaudubon.org/  
media/VMIA\\_membership.pdf](http://www.vashonaudubon.org/media/VMIA_membership.pdf).

*Newsletter design and graphics by Judith Wood Pearce*

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