

Island Wings

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

Birds in Migration with Dr. Dennis Paulson

Submitted by Laura Bienen

Vashon Audubon is very happy to welcome Dr. Dennis Paulson once again to our program series. Dr. Dennis Paulson is one of the foremost authorities on ornithological matters and we are lucky to have him close by. He was the Director of University of Puget Sound's Slater Museum from 1990 to 2005 and is also a prolific writer and author of several notable books including "Shorebirds of North America". Those of us who were fortunate enough to attend Dr. Paulson's talk on the topic of Northwest Shorebirds two years ago, will remember the breadth and depth of knowledge that he brings to his presentations.



Bonaparte's Gulls (Larus philadelphia)

Dr. Paulson will present an evening lecture about our migratory birds. He writes that "The migration of birds is one of the most noticeable and best loved of the natural phenomena that we encounter over the course of a year." He will answer, among others, these questions: Where do the birds go and why do they go there? How does their life change when they are on their travels? He advises that each bird species has its own story. Illustrated with his own photos, his lecture will take us to the farthest outposts of migration and show us what "our" local birds encounter when they are away from the Pacific Northwest for half the year or more.

Dr. Paulson has lived in Seattle for four decades and has observed nature and pondered its secrets for most of his life. Although dragonflies are his primary focus these days, he never passes up a chance to look at a bird.

The Birds in Migration program will be held at 7:00 pm on Thursday, May 20, 2010 at the Vashon Maury Island Land Trust Building, 10014 SW Bank Rd. The evening is free and all are welcome to attend.

Fourth Grade Bird Art

Chautauqua 4th grade teacher Jan Smith's students worked with artist Rose Belknap to bring Island birds to life on paper. Honing realistic drawing, watercolor and layout skills, the students created these striking posters, which are also available as greeting cards through Vashon Bookshop. The class celebrated their accomplishments at an art show during the April 1st Friday Art Walk. Rose is pictured here with young artists (left to right) Adriana Yarkin, Liesl Bogaard, Presley Roggenbuck, Clare Lawrence and Taylor Brooks. These students participated in Audubon's 4th grade birding program held in February and March this year, where they learned to identify local birds. Card sales support this birding program.



Low Tide Celebration

May 15, 2010, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at Point Robinson Saltwater Park. Activities at this year's Low Tide Celebration will include walks with beach naturalists who will explain beach ecology as well as specific characteristics of the many interesting creatures who live there. Children will enjoy looking for critters in a beach treasure hunt and picking up pointers about Best Beach Behavior. Many more educational and fun activities for all ages so don't miss this great event.

There will be a shuttle bus to transport families who park along the roads some distance from the beach. Sponsors include Vashon Audubon, People for Puget Sound, Keepers of Pt. Robinson, Vashon Park District, Washington Dept. of Natural Resources, and Vashon-Maury Island Land Trust. For more info., contact Rayna Holtz, 206-463-3153 or Erin Durrett, 206-463-4357.

Calendar of Events

May/June 2010

See www.vashonaudubon.org for details on events listed below

Island Audubon Field Trips

Sat., May 8, 8:00 -10:00 a.m.

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.

Evening with Cheetahs in Namibia

(free program; donations encouraged)

Thurs., May 13, 7:00 p.m. at Land Trust Bldg., 10014 SW Bank Rd. Take a photographic safari, and hear about the Cheetah Conservation Fund from Director Laurie Marker. For more

information contact Ellen Kritzman, 567-4837, ekritzman@centurytel.net.



Low Tide Celebration

Sat., May 15, 2010, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at Point Robinson Saltwater Park. Beach walks with Vashon Beach Naturalists, Light house Tours. For more information contact Rayna Holtz,

206-463-3153 or Erin Durrett, 206-463 4357.

Vashon Audubon Program

Thurs., May 20, 7:00-9:00 p.m., Birds in Migration with Dr. Dennis Paulson, Free, at Land Trust Bldg., 10014 SW Bank Rd.

Island Audubon Field Trips

Sat., June 12, 8:00 -10:00 a.m.

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.

VOLUNTEER TODAY!

HELP at the Low Tide Festival - Saturday, May 15

- Staff Audubon Booth (2 hr. shift between 10 am to 3 pm)
- Lead Bird Walks
- Oversee beach activities
- Clean up beach and park after event

Contact Randy Smith at: cousythecat@centurytel.net

Strawberry Festival Audubon Booth Volunteers Needed

Saturday & Sunday, July 17-18.

Contact Laura Bienen at: tbiengers@earthlink.net
(the sooner, the better!)

Please visit the Vashon-Maury Island Audubon Society (VMIAS) website at 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. Support Vashon's Audubon Society by renewing your membership at http://www.vashonaudubon.org/media/VMIAS_membership.pdf.

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