



Twin Harbors Newsletter

Call of the Wild

Call of the Wild

Published and distributed by the Twin Harbors Wildlife Center (THWC). We rehabilitate injured, orphaned, sick, and displaced wildlife to give them a second chance at life by returning them "Back to the wild".

Each issue details up-coming events, wildlife/habitat information, as well as ways to help us meet our mission.

Editor: Cristine Gilliland
Email: 52feather0915@gmail.com

Volunteer Orientation & Training Dates

All orientations and trainings will start back up in the Spring of 2024 just in time for baby season. Keep your calendars open.



<https://www.etsy.com/listing/1406917386/hissing-booth-sticker-funny-possum>

<https://twinharborswildlife.org/>

Thank you all so much!

By Dr. Corrie Hines

On behalf of Dr. Sonnya and myself, I just want to thank each and every one of you who have given time and passion in the care of our wild patients this year. I know we say it all the time, but it's true: we absolutely could not do this without all of you. You are not only our eyes and ears for our patients, you are also our hands and hearts while caring for them. Thank you so very much for all that you do for us, from work parties and cleaning and organizing, to being on the board or on a committee, for writing and publishing the newsletter, and for the physical care of our patients. WE LOVE YOU ALL!!!!!!!



<https://everythinganimals.quora.com/Squirrels-leave-thank-you-gift-for-human>



Festival of Lights Parade!!!

By Dr. Corrie Hines

You may not realize it, but the wildlife center participates in the Montesano "Festival of Lights" parade with a float every year. It is so much fun to walk the parade and hand out candy to the kids! This year, the Festival of Lights parade will occur on Saturday, December 9. Each year there is a theme, and the theme for 2023 is "Snow Globe Christmas."

If you would like to help design and create the float this year, or walk with it, or both, please contact Amy Bledsoe! She and her team would LOVE to have your help!!!!

Which Way Do We Go?

By Cristine Gilliland

Up in the sky! Is it a bird? Is it a plane? It's a bird! Here, in Grays Harbor County, we are very fortunate to live along the Pacific Flyway for bird migration (see map). However, how much do we, the general public, or we, the scientists, know about bird migration? In the short space provided in this newsletter, I'll take you through some of the basics and questions scientists are asking. For a deeper dive, look at some of the accompanying links.

Question 1: Why do they go? This is generally an easy question to answer. A migratory animal is basically moving from an area of limited resources and environmental conditions to an area of more resources and better environmental conditions. Many of the birds that travel through our area are moving from their northern "breeding" areas to southern "feeding" areas. (See Deb Campbell's article, "Grays Harbor, A Pit-Stop on the Pacific Flyway, in this newsletter.)

Question 2: How do they know when to go? All organisms have a biological clock that tunes them into the environmental cues of their habitat. These biological clocks help living organisms stay in step with rhythmic cycles of change in their environment. In general, biological clocks enable organisms to **anticipate** environmental changes and **prepare** for them in advance. Having a biological clock, therefore, is better for organisms than simply responding to changes in the environment.

One of the environmental/external cues that help organisms anticipate changes is the photoperiod, brought about by the amount of light available. Here in the Pacific Northwest, there are more hours of light in the summer and less in the winter. Other external cues,

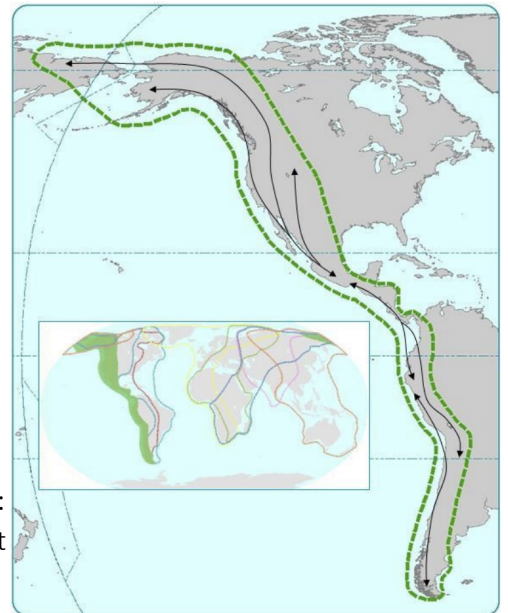
associated with the seasons of the year, include shifting temperature and precipitation, as well as the availability of food and water.

In addition to external cues, there may also be some internal cues. One internal cue is the organism's fat reserves. When the reserves are too low, animals move in search of new food. However, some animals only move after reserves have been built up, it takes energy to move. Another internal cue may be the animal's **circadian rhythm**. This rhythm could be affected by the daily (24-hour) calendar, Earth's daily rotation, or yearly revolution.

Some cycles are in harmony and set/reset by environmental cues. Scientists have found, however, that some organisms may continue their cycle even if the organism is removed from its natural environment. So, it's not easy to tell which changes are caused by a biological clock and which are caused by environmental clues.

Question 3:

How do animals know where to go? This is probably one of the most challenging questions for scientists to answer, and there are many theories. (Note: Remember that theories are statements made by



http://datazone.birdlife.org/userfiles/file/sowb/flyways/1_Pacific_Americas_Factsheet.pdf

(Continued on Page 3)

investigators based on previous research.) Many of what scientists understand about this is based on homing pigeon studies. From these studies, the scientists came up with several theories. One theory has to do with the bird having an internal map based on environmental smells and/or the earth's magnetic field, which is stronger the closer to the earth's poles. "At this time there is no clear evidence that either of these theories is the complete story and the mapping skills of birds remains largely unexplained."¹

Another part of this amazing navigation may have to do with an internal compass. This compass may be oriented by the position of the sun for birds that migrate during the day. For those birds that migrate at night, their internal compass may be oriented by the stars. Another type of compass which some birds may possess is magnetic which orients them to the magnetic field of earth. There are also some ideas that the initial direction for nocturnal migrants may be tied to the sunset. When the sun begins to set, the bird will get their compass set. Landmarks may also play a part in daytime migrants.

Question 4: What are some of the hazards to migration, particularly bird migration? The birds that migrate are traveling thousands of miles, which is very physically and mentally taxing on them. The birds also need to find safe places to rest, which provide, not just protection from predators and weather, but food and water. In addition to the challenge of the loss of habitat, more hazards are tall buildings and lights from cities. When a migratory pattern takes birds near cities, the lights may throw their light sensors off track. Many birds are attracted to the lights from tall buildings killing them when they fly into the side of the building or the windows. As more wind farms are being erected and proposed, scientists will need to continue studying the effects of these structures on migratory animals.

On-going investigations, with so many questions, makes the study of bird migrations so fascinating.

To follow migrating birds, check out Bird Cast². This site was developed and is maintained through grant awards by the National Science Foundation to Colorado State University and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

1. The Basics of Bird Migration

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/the-basics-how-why-and-where-of-bird-migration/?gclid=Cj0KQCQjw4vKpBhCZARIsAOKHoWQp2ZiVXPvjMVB_Xp5GgP3j-hAeCLoi3idG6jVlFv0bcVxmcwuCD7UaAv1MEALw_wcB#

2. Bird Cast

Van Doren, B. M and Horton, K. G. Year/s of forecast migration map image. BirdCast, migration forecast map; generation date and time (most easily accessible from data on the image). Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Colorado State University. birdcast.info. Date/s of access or download"

https://birdcast.info/migration-tools/migration-forecast-maps/?_gl=1*1p054dn*_ga*MTIzNTA5MzQxMi4xNjk4NTM3OTM1*_ga_QR4NVXZ8BM*MTY5ODUzNzkzNS4xLjEuMTY5ODUzNzk5NC4xLjAuMA..

Grays Harbor, A Pit-stop on Pacific Flyway

By Deb Campbell

What is this you ask?

A highway in the sky filled with hundreds of thousands of migrating birds.

The flyway routes, some as distant as Patagonia of South America to far North America. A potential 10,000-mile trip, that is accomplished twice a year.

This "highway" must include rest stops along its way for rest, refueling and shelter. Grays Harbor National Wildlife Refuge offers all these needs for those making this journey. The biodiversity of this area includes open salt water, an estuary (place where salt and freshwater mix), saltmarsh, mudflats, and woodland areas. All rich in a variety of the food for all the different species of birds.

Flying to their breeding grounds or flying back to their wintering grounds, we are fortunate to witness it right here in our hometown.

Birds likely seen, large numbers of Dunlin, Western Sandpiper, Short and Long billed Dowitchers, Semipalmated Plover, Black-bellied Plover, Least Sandpiper, and the threatened Red Knot.



The Red Knot, a Robin sized shorebird, flying more the 9000 miles twice a year in the spring and returning to the south in the Fall. The final breeding destination in the Spring/Summer is the sparse vegetation of the upland tundra.

Red Knots forage like sandpipers, pick or probe into the sand and mud for small crustations. They roost in tight flocks on the mud flats, flat beaches, and estuary edges. Breeding adults present a colorful array of plumage in orange, gold and black, a dark bill and greenish dark legs.

Both male and female weigh in at 4 to 7oz, 9-10 inches in length and have a wingspan of 22-23 inches.

To witness this event is a memorable experience. Take a stroll anytime through Grays Harbor National Wildlife Refuge, anytime of year you will be witness to a variety of life.

Grays Harbor Shorebird and Nature Festival is held in May. The next festival is May 3rd 2024 through May 5th 2024.

Check it out!!



<https://www.earthrangers.com/EN/CA/eco-activities/eco-activity-45-red-knot-flight-plan/>

We have a new intake building!

By Dr. Corrie Hines

At long last, thanks to Dr. Sonnya Wilkins and Lauri Leirdahl who did the demolition and renovation, the wildlife center has a building dedicated to receiving and doing initial exams for wildlife! No longer will the public be directed to the clinic; they will go to the intake building. Our assistant rehabilitators and intern LOVE having this private space for the animals to calm down prior to exam. We've included some photos of the new space, including the informational posters that the public can read while they are dropping off an animal.



Avoiding Unwanted Visitors in Your Backyard Habitat

By Raeann Edwards

Fall is upon us and it is again time to help support our wild friends over trimming and removing garden ensure that seeds, berries, and winter. We will leave yard clippings, layers and piles to give birds and spaces and foraging areas. We will sure that the birdhouses are in backyards to be a source of food critters that we enjoy sharing our



prepare our backyard habitats to the winter. We will leave waste until the spring in order to insects are available through the leaves, and woody debris in small mammals protective stock up the feeders and make good shape. We want our and shelter for birds and other space with.

Sometimes however, we have guests that we would prefer not to share our space with. Critters such as mice, rats and raccoons can often become a nuisance. Eliminating them entirely from our backyards may not be possible, but there are things that we can do to help keep them from being a problem.

To start with, keep them out of the areas you really don't want them in, such as homes, vehicles, porches, and pet areas. Eliminate entry areas by sealing up cracks and small openings to your home, buildings and foundations. Use screens and other barriers for areas that can't be completely sealed. Keep brush, branches, and other vegetation away from roofs and foundations. This will help keep them from hiding in these areas and prevent access to eaves, attics, and crawl spaces.

Eliminate access to food items that may attract nuisance visitors. Make sure to seal garbage cans tightly. Don't leave pet food on your porch or in areas that you want to keep critters out of. Any food items will attract small mammals and should not be stored outside. This includes food for chickens and livestock as well. Any food item that is outside or in a barn should be tightly sealed to avoid attracting the unwanted visitors.

Keeping unwanted visitors at bay may also include the use of repellents. Both homemade and commercial sprays exist that may help. Be sure to use substances that are not toxic as you run the risk of harming pets and the wild friends that you do want around. The following websites have some great recipes and suggestions for repellents: <https://www.countryliving.com/gardening/garden-ideas/g4144/protect-your-garden-from-critters/>; <https://chemistrycachet.com/how-to-deter-animals-from-flower-beds/>; <https://www.familyhandyman.com/list/how-to-safely-deter-animals-that-steal-from-your-garden/>.

As a last resort, traps and baits can be used. Only quick kill traps for rodent control should be used. However, these do run the risk of catching animals that you are not targeting, such as birds and bats. Non-toxic

(Continued on Page 7)

rodenticides may be a better option. Be sure to only use a bait that is eco-friendly, such as a sodium bicarbonate or corn gluten based product, and not a poison. Poisons are harmful to pets and other wildlife that may come in contact with either the bait or the rodents that have consumed them.

Following these guidelines may help to reduce issues caused by unwanted wildlife. It may also help protect the species that we are hoping to encourage into our backyard habitats.

Volunteer of the Quarter, Fall 2023

By Dr. Corrie Hines

Our volunteer of the quarter for Fall 2023 is Mylee Mezzell. Mylee spent many extra shifts in the wildlife center, often picking up shifts with her father when no one else could.



Mylee has been volunteering with us for two years, and loves being able to work with all the different types of wildlife. Her favorite animal is the opossum, as it is the most unique animal she's seen.

Mylee has always worked with animals; she lives on a farm, so has always been able to interact with a variety of domestic animals. Her love of them naturally led her to the wildlife center. She is obtaining as much experience as possible with many different types of animals, as she wants to become a veterinarian!

Her advice to people that are starting to volunteer or who might want to volunteer with us? "Remember that wild animals are not pets."

Thank you, Mylee, for your dedication to our patients!

<https://twinharborswildlife.org/>

Here's how you can help with supplies needed for the center ...

We are always gathering the supplies that we will need to help the wildlife. If you have been looking for a way to help the wildlife and weren't sure how to help, we have updated our Amazon wish list to reflect what we are looking for. Use this QR code or click on this link to take you directly to our Amazon site.



https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3VIPMHCSFBWSW?ref_=wl_share&fbclid=IwAR0buJERaONKsRISApMYI3hwdJtKGrM2EOwr_gCU6IJwR0JDkHpVs goDqUM

Board Members:

Dr. Sonnya Wilkins, President
 Dr. Corrie Hines, Vice President
 Lauri Leirdahl, Secretary
 Jeff Lewis, Treasurer
 Talia Bailey

Assistant Wildlife Rehabilitators:

Amy Bledsoe and Karla Kershaw

Intern: Brandon Mezzell

Contact Information

Twin Harbors Wildlife Center
 16 Old Beacon Road
 Montesano, WA 98563
 (360) 861-4556

<https://twinharborswildlife.org/>