



# *PARTNERS IN FLIGHT*

## OREGON-WASHINGTON CHAPTER

<http://www.orwapif.org> Winter 2007

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Submissions welcome at: [wilesmichaud@mns.com](mailto:wilesmichaud@mns.com)

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### FEATURE ARTICLES:

#### **Avian Knowledge Alliance: Working together to promote conservation**

**Jaime Stephens**

Countless organizations are currently working to promote bird conservation through a diversity of avenues. The Avian Knowledge Alliance (AKA) has been formed by a group of non-profit organizations in order to take advantage of our unique capacities and roles within the bird conservation arena. The AKA is dedicated to collecting, caretaking, and communicating knowledge gained from the study of birds. While international in scope, currently this new alliance is being spearheaded by a handful of organizations involved in the Western Working Group of Partners in Flight, along with several organizations from the eastern states. At the core of the AKA is the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN, Cornell Lab of Ornithology), a sophisticated data management and sharing system designed so that “no data are left behind.” We are currently seeking funding for coordinated efforts to assist with getting data into the AKN, as well as for west-wide coordinated projects that build on existing data covering various conservation issues. We intend to work with managers and other stakeholders to identify what information and data visualization tools are most urgently needed, and help ensure that important conservation information reaches its intended audiences. Please take a look at the bulletin board (<http://digir.prbo.org/aka/>) to learn more and to consider becoming a member.

#### **Update of Oregon-Washington Partners in Flight Bird Conservation Plans**

**Bob Altman**

Thanks to funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation we will be updating two of the five ecoregional Oregon-Washington Partners in Flight Bird Conservation Plans: Westside Coniferous Forests and Westside Lowlands and Valleys. The two principal authors in the updates will be Bob Altman, American Bird Conservancy and John Alexander, Klamath Bird Observatory. However, as in Version 1.0, we will be seeking assistance in the updates from all the PIF partners in a couple of different ways described below.

We are seeking your participation in two ways! 1) Please respond to the four questions below; 2) Please join a regional committee to provide input and oversight to the process and products.

Although the dates on the plans are 1999 or 2000, the content is really based on data and thinking from a

couple years prior to that, so in reality the plans are close to 10 years old. As many of you are aware, there have been significant changes in the world of bird conservation in the last 10 years. At the time our OR-WA PIF plans were written, we pioneered the emphasis on quantitative habitat objectives (and some population objectives), something that is now being promoted throughout bird conservation and is highly desirable among land managers and others. We now have the opportunity to continue a leadership role in PIF planning by incorporating the “latest and greatest” in bird conservation in the new updates.

Just like we did in the development of Version 1.0, we will be putting together regional committees to provide input and oversight to the process and products. Most of this can be done electronically, but we are planning one meeting in each regional area to provide opportunities for discussion that are not practical electronically. These meetings will occur during winter/spring 2007 in Seattle/Olympia, Portland, Eugene, and Medford. Please let us know if you want to be involved in the process by sending an email to Bob and John [baltman@abcbirds.org](mailto:baltman@abcbirds.org) and [jda@Klamathbird.org](mailto:jda@Klamathbird.org). We also will be “hounding” some of you that we know we would like participate, so please consider volunteering now. This will not take much of your time, but the broader participation we have the better the products.

Before we embark on this effort, we need all of you to take a little time now and provide us some feedback on Version 1.0 of the plans. In order to make this relatively painless, we have provided a few very general questions we would like you to respond to. We will carefully assess all your comments within the practical realities of the time and the funding that we have to do the work. Again please respond to both Bob and John (emails above).

- **What did you like in Version 1.0 and would like to see continued?**
- **What did you think was unnecessary and of little value?**
- **What was not in the plans that you would like to see in the next version?**
- **Any comments on style of presentation?**

We want to thank everyone who helped make the original plans such important documents, and look forward to working with all of you in the plan updates.

## **Influences of Post-Fire Salvage Logging on Bird Populations**

### **Rebecca Cahall**

In the spring of 2005, I initiated a study of the influence of post-fire salvage logging on bird communities at the Davis Lake Fire. Under the supervision of Oregon State University researcher John P. Hayes and in cooperation with the Deschutes National Forest and the Joint Fire Science Program 2 field seasons were completed successfully. The Davis Fire burned approximately 8200 ha in late June and early July 2003. We are comparing two different salvage intensities and non-salvaged patches in four blocks of replicated treatments for breeding bird densities and diversity. Salvage harvest began in the fall of 2004 and was completed by early July 2005. The salvage prescriptions stipulated all snags greater than 91 cm had to be left, and established a minimum diameter of 35 cm for all other leave trees. The moderate prescription retained 30 snags per hectare and the heavy prescription retained 6 snags per hectare.

We established point transects in the 12 treatment units and surveyed them between May 21 and July 4, with each point surveyed five times each year. We estimated distance to each bird detected and will be able to estimate densities. In addition, we observed the foraging behavior of black-backed (*Picoides*

*articus*) and hairy woodpeckers (*P. villosus*) to determine differences in foraging habitat selection and use.

We will test four *a priori* hypotheses of treatment response: 1) population parameters among treatments are the same (the null model); 2) population parameters in moderate and heavy salvage are the same, but differ from uncut (the salvage hypothesis); 3) population parameters in uncut and moderate salvage are the same, but differ from heavy salvage (the salvaged threshold hypothesis); or 4) population parameters are different among treatments (the salvage intensity hypothesis). Stay tuned for a future update on this exciting project and its findings! For more information please contact [rebecca.cahall@oregonstate.edu](mailto:rebecca.cahall@oregonstate.edu).

## **What do we know about fire and birds in Oregon and Washington?**

**Nathaniel E. Seavy**

Increasingly, the role of fire and fire management are recognized to have important implications for the conservation of many bird species and their habitats. Many of the Oregon/Washington Partners in Flight habitat conservation plans list fire-related processes as an important component of bird and habitat conservation in our region. Recently, *Studies in Avian Biology*, a periodical publication by the Cooper Ornithological Society published their 30th volume titled "Fire and Avian Ecology in North America". Edited by Victoria Saab and Hugh Powell, this volume is a collection of review papers that describe our current state of knowledge about how fire and fire management influence bird communities.

Three papers in this volume are directly applicable to habitats in the Oregon and Washington region. In "The Role of Fire in Structuring Sagebrush Habitats and Bird Communities", Steve Knick, Aaron Holmes, and Rick Miller describe the effects of fire on shrub steppe vegetation types and their associated bird communities. In "Birds and Fire in the Maritime Pacific Northwest" Mark Huff, Nat Seavy, John Alexander, and C.J. Ralph describe fire effects in the forests and woodlands that are west of the Cascade Mountains in Washington, Oregon, and California. Finally, in "Variation in fire regimes of the Rocky Mountains: Implications for avian communities and fire management" Victoria Saab, Hugh Powell, Natasha Kotliar, and Karen Newlon discuss fire regimes and avian communities from ponderosa pine forests in the Rocky Mountains. These papers include detailed descriptions of different habitat types, their fire regimes, and how fire disturbance may change bird communities.

This volume provides useful information for biologists and managers who are interested in fire, fire management, and bird conservation. The abstracts for this volume can be viewed on line at: [http://www.rmrs.nau.edu/lab/4251/birdsnburns/fire\\_avian\\_ecol.shtml](http://www.rmrs.nau.edu/lab/4251/birdsnburns/fire_avian_ecol.shtml). To order a copy of the volume, visit the *Studies in Avian Biology* web page at: <http://www.cooper.org/SAB/sab30.html>.

## **Young Forest Bird Habitat Guide Available**

The U.S. Geological Survey Forest and Rangeland Ecosystem Science Center in cooperation with the American Bird Conservancy announces the March 15, 2007 availability of *Rainforest Birds: A Land Manager's Guide to Breeding Bird Habitat in Young Conifer Forests in the Pacific Northwest* (USGS Scientific Investigations Report 2006-5304). The Guide has been prepared to assist land managers interested in conducting conservation and management activities to benefit breeding birds in young conifer forests. Audiences targeted for use of the Guide include land trusts, watershed councils, non-commercial private land owners, forest products companies, land-managing conservation organizations, government agencies, tribes, and First Nations. The geographic scope of the guide is the Northern Pacific Rainforest Bird Conservation Region, which extends from northwestern California through western Oregon,

Washington, and British Columbia and southeast Alaska.

Information provided in the Guide is intended to support both the development of conservation or management plans and the implementation of on-the-ground management activities that have the potential to benefit breeding bird populations. The Guide will be a useful and valuable tool to support any of the variety of reasons to manage for bird habitat in young conifer forests (e.g., regulatory, biodiversity, bird conservation, forest certification standards). However, the Guide is not a resource for decision-making on why to manage for bird conservation or how to integrate bird habitat management with other management objectives. The objective of this approximately 70-page document was to provide a resource for those who already are interested in managing habitat for birds with information and recommendations on which species to prioritize for management and conservation, the habitat conditions and features needed by the approximately 90 breeding bird species associated with young conifer forests, and how these species respond to particular management activities. Other noteworthy features of the document include tables on the relationship of each species to successional stages, vegetation types, and ecoregions; over 20 sidebars on various aspects of breeding bird ecology, and a synthesis of nine studies on breeding bird response to forest thinning activities.

For a copy of the Guide contact:

Information and Outreach

U.S. Geological Survey Forest and Rangeland Ecosystem Science Center

777 NW 9<sup>th</sup> Street

Corvallis, OR 97330

541-750-1030

fresc\_outreach@usgs.gov

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## UPCOMING MEETINGS:

### February 2007

**Society for Northwestern Vertebrate Biology/ Northwest Scientific Association Annual Meeting in Victoria, BC February 21-24, 2007**

Session topics include:

- Marine Species at Risk
- Planning for Climate Change
- Invasive Species Management and Mitigation
- Transportation and Wildlife Linkages
- Monitoring and Sampling Cryptic or Elusive Species: Novel Approaches and New Data
- Conservation of Wide-ranging and Poorly Known Carnivores
- Wetland Compensation and Mitigation
- Species Status and Listings Issues
- Conservation Education and Communication

Contributed sessions may include Anthropology, Aquatic Biology, Botany, Fisheries, Forest Management, Geology, Geography, Hydrology/Geomorphology, Landscape Ecology, Lichenology,

Mathematical Modeling, Plant Ecology, Soils, Wildlife Biology/ Zoology.

The most up to date Call for Papers containing meeting, registration, and abstract information can be found at <http://www.snwvb.org/victoria-meeting2.html>. And the deadline for special rooms rates offered to attendees by the Harbour Towers Hotel and Suites is **January 20, 2007**.

### **Regular Meeting February 22-23, 2007 (Thursday/Friday)**

#### **Symposium and Workshop – February 21, 2007 (Wednesday)**

**Symposium - Panic, Pandemics, and Poisons:** Emerging infectious diseases and toxics are pressing issues for wildlife professionals. This one-day symposium will provide current information regarding the implications of emerging infectious diseases and toxics for wildlife and ecosystem management, wildlife and human health perspectives, media representation of the issues, and recommended safe practices to avoid exposure and/or spread. Experts in emerging infectious diseases and toxics will present their research on the following topics: Avian Influenza, West Nile Virus, Hantavirus, Chytridiomycosis, Amphibian Limb Deformities (Trematodes), Pesticides (Glyphosate and Atrazine), Petrochemicals (Oil Spills), and Lead Shot. We will also discuss the accuracy of media presentations, public perception and effectiveness of government policies.

#### **Workshop - Graphic Design and Communication Skills for Science Publishing and Presentations:**

Effective communication is essential for wildlife researchers and managers for teaching, publishing, funding and grant proposal writing, litigation issues, and for gaining support by local lobbyists, politicians, and the general public. This six-part workshop on graphic design and communication skills for oral presentations, printed materials, Power Point presentations, posters, and cartography for scientific publications and presentations will help improve your communication skills. Part of the workshop will include an opportunity for an expert critique of participant's work.

#### **Bird Monitoring and Detectability: Understanding and Applying Appropriate Methods** **February 27-March 3**

(<http://www.warnercnr.colostate.edu/FWB/Workshops/MonitoringSymposiumMain.html>)

The website currently has information on the agenda, lodging options, information for planning travel and other local information (via CSU Conference Services link), and other information.

#### **Registration:**

<https://wsprod.colostate.edu/cwis10/ocs/registration/index.cfm>

Registration fees will be as follows:

- Early Registration (by Jan. 26) -- \$150 [\$75 students]
- Late Registration (after Jan. 26) - \$225 [\$150 students]
- Computer Applications Workshop - \$50 (Notebook computer required, and limited to 40 participants).

#### **General Information:**

<http://www.warnercnr.colostate.edu/FWB/Workshops/MonitoringSymposiumMain.html>

**Reminder** - the audience for this workshop is professional biologists that are involved with the

development, implementation, and/or interpretation of bird monitoring programs and related research. Although we will be discussing some technical methods, an advanced background in biometrics is not required to benefit greatly from this workshop. While our focus is on birds, these methods are applicable to many other taxa and all are welcome to attend.

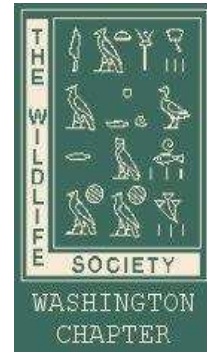
## April 2007

### OR/WA PIF Spring Meeting in Pendleton, Oregon April 12, 2007

We are in the early stages of planning the spring OR/WA PIF meeting and wanted to get an announcement out so that you can mark it on your calendar. We are excited to be having a morning session, PIF Presents Tools For Bird Conservation, within the joint Oregon Washington Wildlife Society Meeting. The Wildlife Society Meeting will be held in Pendleton Oregon April 10 to 13. The PIF Session will be held on Thursday April 12, and we will also be having a short business meeting in the evening.



### The Oregon and Washington Chapters of The Wildlife Society Annual Meeting Pendleton, Oregon April 11-13, 2007



The Oregon and Washington Chapters of "The Wildlife Society" will hold a joint annual meeting in Pendleton, Oregon this year. The theme of the meeting is: *Connected by Fire and Water: Wildlife, Landscapes, and People.*

Pre-meeting and workshops include:

- Invasive Species of the Northwest – April 10 (8:00-5:00)
- Oregon Habitat Joint Venture Meeting – April 10 (1:00-5:00) and April 11 (8:00-12:00)
- Washington/Oregon Conservation Strategies – Cooperative Conservation Planning and Acquisition – April 10 (8:00-5:00)

Potential oral presentations include:

- |  |   |                                   |
|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| • Policy Forum   | • Mammal Ecology                              | • Avian Ecology                   |
| • Forest Wildlife Ecology and Management               | • Natural History of the Pacific Northwest    | • Wildlife and Transportation     |
| • Sagebrush Steppe Ecology and Management              | • Carnivore Ecology and Management            | • Fire Management and Ecology     |
| • Conservation Marketplace                             | • Seabird Ecology                             | • Marine Mammal Ecology           |
| • Urban-Wildlife Interactions                          | • Reptiles and Amphibians                     | • Wind Energy and Wildlife        |
| • Columbia River and Plateau: Conservation and History | • Wetland and Riparian Ecology and Management | • Ungulate Ecology and Management |

- Tribal Wildlife  
Conservation and  
Management

For the current announcement see: <http://www.washingtonwildlifesoc.org/shared/07AnnualMeeting.pdf>.  
To download the registration form: <http://www.washingtonwildlifesoc.org/shared/07RegForm.pdf>  
(Register by 2/23/07 for Early Registration rate!)

## **February 2008 – save the date!**

The 4th International Partners In Flight Conference will be held 13-16 February 2008, at the new McAllen Convention Center in McAllen, Texas. The conference theme will be Tundra to Tropics: Connecting Birds, Habitats and People, which will be shared with International Migratory Bird Day (<http://www.birdday.org/>) for 2008. The focus of the conference will be international connections of all sorts that further bird and habitat conservation throughout the Western Hemisphere. Concurrent paper sessions will focus on issues in bird conservation and will be of two types, 1) standard sessions typical of scientific society meetings, and 2) sessions followed by a facilitated discussion session.

The goal of each of the latter sessions will be to produce a strategic action plan to be distributed to all partners within weeks of the conference. There will also be keynote speakers, vendors, social events, a poster session, a variety of single- and multi-day birding field trips, and proceedings that will include papers developed from posters. Details will be posted on the PIF web site (<http://www.partnersinflight.org>) and distributed through various bird conservation listservs as they develop. In the mean time, contact Terry Rich with inquiries ([terry\\_rich@fws.gov](mailto:terry_rich@fws.gov)).

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## **JOB OPPORTUNITIES:**

### **The Nature Conservancy**

The Nature Conservancy has re-advertised a new position to coordinate joint venture partnership efforts to conserve sagebrush habitats in Eastern Oregon under the umbrella of the Oregon Sagebrush Cooperative. Although Burns remains the preferred location for this position, there may be some flexibility for the right candidate. The detailed job description is currently posted at: <http://www.nature.org/cgi-bin/zope.pcgi/careers/natureorg/20061222165544.html>. A resume and cover letter are due by **January 26, 2007**. Please feel free to forward this to potential candidates. For more info, contact Garth Fuller, TNC's Eastern Oregon conservation director in Bend, at [gfuller@tnc.org](mailto:gfuller@tnc.org); 541-388-3020 x303.

### **Audubon Society of Portland**

The Audubon Society of Portland is looking for one or two “hack site” interns to assist in releasing captive-raised Peregrine Falcons into the wild during June, July, and August. Interns will live on a local Portland-area wildlife refuge and will be responsible for feeding and monitoring young falcons during a six-week time period as the birds learn to fly and hunt on their own. Internships provide a great opportunity to learn about various aspects of bird of prey management including hacking, field monitoring, captive rearing, captive care and treatment, and handling. Interns will be provided with housing and a \$1,500 stipend. For more information, go to [www.audubonportland.org/about/jobs/](http://www.audubonportland.org/about/jobs/).

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## GRANT PROPOSALS:

### **The Five Star Restoration Grant 2007 - Applications must be postmarked by March 9, 2007**

<http://www.nfwf.org/programs/5star-rfp.cfm>

The Five Star Restoration Program brings together students, conservation corps, other youth groups, citizen groups, corporations, landowners and government agencies to provide environmental education and training through projects that restore wetlands and streams. The program provides challenge grants, technical support and opportunities for information exchange to enable community-based restoration projects. Funding levels are modest, from \$5,000 to \$20,000, with \$10,000 as the average amount awarded per project. However, when combined with the contributions of partners, projects that make a meaningful contribution to communities become possible. At the completion of Five Star projects, each partnership will have experience and a demonstrated record of accomplishment, and will be well-positioned to take on other projects. Aggregating over time and space, these grassroots efforts will make a significant contribution to our environmental landscape and to the understanding of the importance of healthy wetlands and streams in our communities.

### **Fish and Wildlife Service Seeks Proposals for Funding under the Private Stewardship Grants Program – Applications due February 14, 2007.**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is seeking proposals for conservation projects to benefit imperiled species on private lands through its Private Stewardship Grants Program. This program provides federal grants on a competitive basis to individuals and groups engaged in voluntary conservation efforts on private lands that help federally listed endangered or threatened species as well as proposed, candidate, and other at-risk species.

The Private Stewardship Grant program is just one of a variety of tools available under the Endangered Species Act that help landowners plan and implement projects to conserve species. These grants and cooperative agreements provide incentives to foster citizen participation in the stewardship of our nation's natural resources. In 2006 the Service awarded 80 grants totaling more than \$6.9 million to individuals and groups to undertake conservation projects for endangered, threatened, and other at-risk species on private lands in 35 states. For example, Audubon of Kansas received a grant of \$83,000 last year to work with four ranchers to conserve black-tailed prairie dogs and restore habitat for the endangered black-footed ferret. Trout Unlimited in Lincoln County, Wyoming was awarded \$120,000 to return water flows to a portion of Grade Creek which enabled Bonneville cutthroat trout to return to their historic spawning grounds.

Landowners and their partners must submit their proposals to the appropriate Regional Offices of the Service by February 14, 2007. For additional information regarding this grant opportunity and how and where to submit proposals, please visit the Service's Private Stewardship Grants Website at: [http://www.fws.gov/endangered/grants/private\\_stewardship/index.html](http://www.fws.gov/endangered/grants/private_stewardship/index.html).

You may also contact: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Branch of State Grants, Endangered Species Program, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 420, Arlington, VA 22203 Phone: (703) 358-2061. The Private Stewardship Grants Program is identified in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance as number 15.632.

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## MISCELLANEOUS:

### Countdown to Audubon Society of Portland - 28<sup>th</sup> year of Birdathon!

May 5 & 6, 2007

Did you know that the Audubon Society of Portland has the reputation of having **the greatest Birdathon event** of any Audubon chapter in the nation? **It's true!** They involve more birders, run more trips, have more fun, and raise more money than anyone!

Chapters in other parts of the country are asking, "How do we do it"? It's the Portland Audubon spirit"! Everyone, our friends, members, volunteers, and staff all come together for the love of birds and the support of Portland Audubon.

**For those of you who've never participated in Birdathon before, come join the fun. Help support the Audubon Society of Portland, and make 2007 your year to get out and go birding!**

Birdathon works like a "Walk-a-thon." Instead of logging miles, you're enjoying nature while counting birds. It's a unique and effective way to support the Audubon Society of Portland. You can join in the fun for gathering as little as \$35 in pledges. Pledge yourself or have your friends and family pledge you. The dollars you collect will help protect Oregon's native and migratory birds.

You DO NOT need to be an expert birder! All participants will be led by expert leaders and all are invited to take advantage of our FREE Introduction to Birding class held on Thursday, March 29 at 7pm.

For questions or registration materials, contact Gary Slone, Events Manager, at 503-292-6855 x 108 or [gslone@audubonportland.org](mailto:gslone@audubonportland.org), or visit their web site at [www.audubonportland.org](http://www.audubonportland.org).

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## • *New Internet Resources*

### LandHelp

Colorado State University has developed a website titled "LandHelp" at [www.LandHelp.info](http://www.LandHelp.info). LandHelp contains links to 31 broad categories of information with links to more than 2,613 resources. Major topics include but are not limited to: fish and wildlife (over 150 links to information on birds); recreation, tourism and value added enterprises; planning; water; forests; fire; and a "Teaching Packages" Section.

### Oregon Coastal Bird Trail

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently announced the launch of the Oregon Coast Bird Trail website. The Oregon Coast Bird Trail is divided up into four sections: North Coast, Central Coast, South Coast, and California Redwoods. To download a pdf copy of the bird trail document visit the website at: <http://www.oregoncoastbirding.com>. Any questions can be directed to Dawn Grafe at [dawn\\_grafe@fws.gov](mailto:dawn_grafe@fws.gov) or Rebecah Morris at [Rmorris@VisitTheOregonCoast.com](mailto:Rmorris@VisitTheOregonCoast.com).

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- *Contributions to the Newsletter and Website*

**Newsletter**

Submissions for to the Oregon/Washington Partners in Flight newsletter are welcome throughout the year. If you are interested in preparing an article or would like to submit an announcement please contact Michelle Michaud ([wilesmichaud@mns.com](mailto:wilesmichaud@mns.com)).

**Website**

Likewise, contributions to the Oregon/Washington Partners in Flight website are welcome throughout the year. To submit materials, please contact Aaron Holmes ([aholmes@prbo.org](mailto:aholmes@prbo.org)).

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