

Reminder: DSA has no **August** meeting this year.

Have a good summer, all, and we look forward to seeing you in **September!**



Keep up-to-date with field trips/hikes of **Creation Encounter**

at www.creationencounter.com/tours

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For your summer viewing pleasure, DSA's Own **Kyle Justice** and **Pat Roy** have recently produced a documentary film.



Watch it online for free up to **August 31** at <https://bydawnsearlylightfilm.com/>

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Treasurer Needed for DSA

Our present DSA Treasurer, **J.D. Mitchell**, will be retiring from the position. If you have bookkeeping experience or are even good at balancing a checkbook then please [contact us](#). It is a paid part-time role for several hours a month. DSA will open a new postal mail box convenient to your home for collecting DSA mail.

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### Creation Notes

**Steve Hayley** offers these field observations on **Vaux's Swift** birds

“**Swift**” is certainly the perfect name for the birds we have been observing this summer in



our neighbor's chimney! In our many observations

during the past few weeks we could easily miss their feeding visits to a brood of 3-7 babies, as they appear to literally fall straight down from the sky into the narrow chimney opening. That this is at breakneck speed, without any sign of slowing or stopping the rapid descent is an amazing engineering feat our Creator has given these small, dark birds! These are **Vaux's Swifts** - the same birds that flock by the thousands to the furnace chimney of Chapman\* Elementary School in NW Portland each Fall. This happens to be the “world's largest known colony” of Vaux's Swifts, according to signs at the school. We found it well worth the trip one September, even with a large crowd gathered to witness this spectacle.

**Similar to swallows**, but much faster, with rapid wingbeats and more direct flight, these amazing birds do almost everything “on the wing”, including eating (5,000 insects/day), drinking, bathing, gathering nesting materials (twigs), and even sleeping while flying. Families of swifts gather in huge flocks in the Fall until the first “cold snap” of Autumn, when they all fly to Southern Mexico, Central or South America to feed on the abundant insects of the jungle.

The **swift's nest** is unique as well, being a combination of small twigs, pine needles, and other materials glued to the chimney (or the inside of a hollow tree) with "swift spit"- a sticky liquid that dries as glue.

**How** does the swift build such a carefully crafted nest attached to a flat brick or tree surface with its own sticky glue? This nest had to work the **FIRST TIME IT WAS BUILT** or there would be NO swifts!

Our Creator, the **LORD Jesus Christ**, gave these amazing birds their special abilities to His Praise and Glory! Psalm 111:2

Steve and Dolly Hayley

\* A recent contact with a Vaux's Swift expert at Backyard Bird Stores indicated that the Chapman School Chimney is not currently being used. Instead, there are smaller groups using other colonial roosts prior to migration.

Image credit: <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=148300306>

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Coming up at our Sept 19 Meeting

Dr. Tim Chaffey of ICR will be speaking on
Nephilim

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Check out DSA's website <https://DesignScienceNW.org> for additional events.

Our mailing address is:

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