

**2016-2017  
VSO  
SPEAKERS  
DIRECTORY**



Compiled and published by  
Lesley Bulluck  
Richmond, VA

Copies of this directory may be obtained from:  
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On-line version: <http://www.virginiabirds.net/>

### ***A note about using this directory . . .***

The directory is published each spring as a public service by the Virginia Society of Ornithology (VSO). It has been compiled from sources which indicate that the individuals listed have presented well-received programs to bird clubs and similar groups. Individual programs, however, are not reviewed or endorsed by the VSO. There is no charge to either the speakers listed or to the organizations or individuals requesting a copy of the publication. The directory is also available online at: <http://www.viriniabirds.net/>

The capsule comments inform you of each speaker's specialty. When you contact a speaker, ask about fees. We believe that most will visit you for a modest honorarium or travel expenses; others for free; and a few for professional fees. Unless you are well-acquainted with the speaker, it is almost impossible to know his or her tastes and preferences. Therefore, in most cases, a gift or gift certificate is not an appropriate remuneration for a speaker. A check or cash helps defray traveling expenses or allows the speaker to donate the fee to a favorite project or cause.

Details concerning fees, length of program, travel arrangements, meals, equipment needed, overnight accommodations, and special considerations should be discussed at the time of initial contact with the speaker.

Occasionally, contact information for a speaker changes during the year and some phone numbers and/or addresses may not be current. If you have difficulty reaching an individual listed in this directory, check the Speaker's Directory on the VSO Website for updated information. You may also contact the editor, Lesley Bulluck (see below). She may have received new information on the whereabouts of the person you are trying to contact.

The Virginia Society of Ornithology has no role in any arrangements concerning these bookings.

If you have a presentation you would like listed in this directory, or wish further information regarding its publication, please contact:

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Phone: 804-828-0072  
email: [lpbulluck@vcu.edu](mailto:lpbulluck@vcu.edu)*

# THE 2016-2017 VSO DIRECTORY OF SPEAKERS AND ORGANIZATIONAL PROGRAMS

## **Mark Adams**

2300 Rocky Run  
Charlottesville, VA 22901  
434-296-0222 (day), 434-245-2250 (evening), 434-249-0584 (cell)  
*markadamsphd@yahoo.com*

Mark is a professional astronomer and an avid bird and butterfly watcher who moved to Charlottesville in January 2004 from the Davis Mountains of western Texas. For the past 20 years, Mark's professional responsibilities at the University of Texas-McDonald Observatory and the National Radio Astronomy Observatory have included public outreach and education. Mark has organized and led, for example, numerous "Star Parties" to explore the night-time sky with the naked eye, binoculars, and telescopes. Mark also has extensive experience giving informative and entertaining presentations about astronomy, birds, bird watching, butterflies, and butterfly watching. His audiences have included school children of all ages, bird clubs, conservation groups, astronomy clubs, and civic groups.

Mark has organized and led bird and butterfly field trips and seminars for the Big Bend Natural History Association, the Texas Ornithological Society, the Nature Conservancy, and the Monticello Bird Club. Drawing on his extensive natural history knowledge, field experience, and image collection, Mark can assemble and present a program that will entertain and inform any audience. Mark is most often asked to present a program about his birding "Big Year," a year-long bird watching adventure that Mark has chronicled in his book, *Chasing Birds across Texas: A Birding Big Year*, published by the Texas A&M University Press in October 2003. Will travel; fee negotiable.

## **American Kestrel Nesting Box Project**

## ***NEW PROGRAM***

**.....If We Build Them, They Will Come!!**

Patti Reum and Dan Bieker  
540-474-3245  
*pareum@gmail.com*

Our program will be a presentation about the American Kestrel Nesting Box Project given by Patti Reum of Highland County, and Dan Bieker of Albemarle County.

Both Patti and Dan are board members of the VSO and serve on the Conservation Committee. The kestrel has shown population decreases because of loss of grassland habitat, loss of nesting cavities and use of insecticides and pesticides on agricultural fields. The Project's goal is to provide nesting boxes in suitable habitat where kestrels are found throughout Virginia. We will show photos of our project and present information on the habitat and biology of this fascinating and valuable species. We will also describe a monitoring program we started to keep track of the nesting success of kestrels using our boxes.

Patti has been involved in many bird projects in Virginia, including the Golden Chase Project (working with biologists at the Center for Conservation Biology) where a Golden Eagle was trapped and fitted with a telemetry device. Many Virginians donated to this project and followed the migration of "Virgil Caine" for four consecutive years. She has also assisted the Golden-winged Warbler research project done by Virginia Commonwealth University. She has been a wildlife biologist in Canada, Maryland and Virginia and also taught math and science for 18 years. Now "retired", she spends much of her time working on the kestrel project and helping out with bird projects whenever she can. She is Vice President of the Bath-Highland Bird Club.

Dan is a farm owner and adjunct professor at Piedmont Virginia Community College in Charlottesville, where he teaches Field Ornithology and Appalachian Ecology. He has been involved with kestrel research and nest boxes for over 30 years, and builds the boxes for the VSO project in his workshop.

## **Jeff Blalock**

103 Elizabeth Court  
South Boston, VA 24592  
434-470-4352 (Cell)  
434-572-8619 (Home)  
[jcbabirder@gcronline.com](mailto:jcbabirder@gcronline.com)

Jeff has been birding in Virginia for over 30 years and has participated in Breeding Birds Surveys, the VSO Atlas Project, lead the Halifax County VSO Foray and established and compiler for the Banister River WMA Christmas Bird Count. He has been to Texas, Maine, Idaho, California, both North and South Carolina and Alaska birding. Besides birding he enjoys all things in nature and loves being out doors.

**"Alaska – Birds, Mammals and Scenery"** Jeff traveled to Alaska in June 2013 with Field Guides for nearly three weeks. Based out of Anchorage, he visited St. Paul Island, Denali National Park, Stewart and Kenai Fjords National Park, Nome and Barrow. This slide programs covers birds, mammals and the great scenery seen along the way.

**"Winter Birding – Japan"** Jeff travelled to all three major islands to see thousands of cranes of six different species including a single Siberian, both Steller's and White-tailed Eagles along with the Blakinston's Fish-Owl. There were plenty of songbirds as well and even Japanese Snow Monkeys. We went on three pelagic trips and even an overnight ferry ride to Hachijojima Island to looks for endemic species and to look for albatrosses on the way back to Tokyo we saw Black-Footed, Short-Tailed and Laysan.

## **Erwin Bohmfalk, PhD**

1500 Woodrow Ave.  
P.O. Box 1401  
Waynesboro, VA 22980  
540-836-9168 (cell), 540-942-9463 (office)  
540-943-3668 (fax)  
[purpleft@cfw.com](mailto:purpleft@cfw.com) or [erwin@ntelos.net](mailto:erwin@ntelos.net)

## **UPDATED PROGRAM**

A world traveler with an emphasis on nature, and unparalleled photography of out-of-the-way places. Erwin's most popular programs include:

**"Birds of the Vredefort Dome"** A photographic field guide of the birds in this new UN International World Heritage Site in South Africa. Erwin will present his unique approach to providing an easy guide for identifying birds based on his photographs in his published guide. This 'Vredefort Dome' Heritage Site is the location of the largest and oldest impact crater on Earth, created by a meteorite about 2 billion years ago. The book currently contains over 700 photos of 217 species, obtained since 2003, and attempts to cover each species with several photos depicting in flight, male vs. female, immature vs. mature, breeding vs non-breeding, feeding, nesting, etc. He will also discuss the Wildlife Center of Virginia's wildlife/birding photo and viewing safaris conducted in Southern Africa.

**"Around the Bottom of the World"** The 67-day, 13,000 mile first-ever, (now only-ever to date) non-scientific circumnavigation of the Antarctic continent on a Russian icebreaker, with literally millions of penguins (seven species, including Emperors), other seabirds, seals, whales, icebergs, glaciers, volcanoes, nine research stations, and the explorer huts of Shackleton and Scott.

**"Across the Top of the World"** The Russian Arctic .The first-ever surface ship crossing of the Geographic North Pole, on a Russian nuclear-powered icebreaker, featuring polar bears, walruses, seabirds, expedition sites, derelict Russian Gulag, and mucho ice.

**"The Islands of the Falklands and South Georgia"** The wildlife and scenery of these islands is incredible—South Georgia will blow your mind. We will see a spectacular variety of birdlife and seals, visit thousands of penguins and albatrosses in their rookeries, and retrace the final footsteps of Sir Ernest Shackleton's ill-fated Endurance expedition.

***“The Deserts of Namibia During their ‘Rainy’ Season”*** A rare glimpse into the unique wildlife and plant life of the Namibian desert as they literally come to life during the momentary, transient rainy season.

Erwin is a member of the prestigious Explorers Club of New York, and is Chairman Emeritus of the Board of Directors of the Wildlife Center of Virginia at Waynesboro. An honorarium is requested which will be donated to the Wildlife Center of Virginia.

## **Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory**

P.O. Box 764  
Lightfoot, VA 23090  
[Taberzz@aol.com](mailto:Taberzz@aol.com)

Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory offers programs on spring and fall bird migration, hawk watching, prothonotary warbler monitoring, waterbird surveys, monarch butterfly tagging, and related habitat and conservation issues. Several speakers are available for presentations. Contact Brian Taber at the address listed above. A color brochure containing information about the Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory is available upon request.

## **Maureen Eiger**

2415 Mount Vernon Rd. S.W.  
Roanoke, VA 24015-3617  
540-342-4890  
[meiger@cox.net](mailto:meiger@cox.net)

Maureen Eiger is an avid bird watcher and currently the Vice President of the Roanoke Valley Bird Club. A contributing writer to the North American Bluebird Society Journal and The Roanoke Star newspaper, she is also a State and Federally Permitted Wild Bird Rehabilitator. A screen is all that is required for all Maureen's presentations.

***"Hard wired"*** Interesting information about what birds have to learn and what they figure out on their own. Observations about bird behaviour taken from years of experience, raising orphaned birds in a rehab situation.

***"Growing up Bluebird"*** *See what goes on in a Bluebird nest box.* Learn about some of the reasons why nesting attempts are unsuccessful. How do bird rehabbers take care of nestlings and fledgling Bluebirds that are orphaned? What is it like growing up in a nest box? Up close and personal video and photos of a most beloved bird, the Eastern Bluebird.

***"Baby Bird ID"*** We know the field marks for adult birds, but how do you identify that "naked" bird in a nest? Or maybe a bird with just a few pin feathers? Learn a new set of field marks and see more common bird species in a new way. Test your group's skills with a "What baby bird is that?" quiz at the end of the program. Program includes a photo/power point presentation with lots of interaction with the audience.

***"Baby Bird ID 2"*** See different species not covered in the previous Baby Bird ID. Learn field marks to identify that "naked" bird in a nest, test your group's skills with a "What baby bird is that?" quiz at the end of the program. Program includes a photo/power point presentation with lots of interaction with the audience.

***"You CAN Save a Bird"*** Simple things you may not think about and easy things anyone can do to protect birds and their environment. How to prevent window hits, cat attacks and more. Create a better feeding station and prevent diseases. What to do when you find a sick or injured bird. Power point presentation and props.

***"Bluebirds in Rehab"*** For Bluebird lovers! Signs to look for when your nest box babies may be in trouble. When to call a bird rehabilitator. How Bird Rehabbers take care of Bluebirds. Nest box monitoring tips. A power point presentation with lots of photos of bluebirds.

***"Beyond Birdwatching"*** Learn about the process involved to be permitted to rehabilitate wild birds and why birds end up at rehabbers? Maureen will also discuss the rewards and pitfalls of being an Avian Rehabilitator. Photo/power point presentation and props.

**“Amazing Birds”** (Some very unusual bird behaviors and interesting facts). A program with photos and case histories of rehabbed birds with an intimate look at unusual bird behaviors and little known and interesting facts about each species. Bird species covered include Sora, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Coopers Hawk, and more.

**“Fascinating Feathers”** All birds have feathers, but why do they come in different colors, shapes and sizes? Learn how feathers get their color. Learn which birds use feathers as “tools.” What bird has poison feathers? What bird can be its own little copper mine? Are blue feathers really blue? We will learn some unusual facts and uses for feathers by birds. Several (legal) feather examples will be available for close inspection.

### **Dr. Marshall Faintich**

Birding Activity Manager, Rockfish Valley Trail  
261 Sawmill Creek Drive  
Nellysford, VA 22958  
[434-361-0114](tel:434-361-0114) between 9 a.m. and 10 p.m.  
[mfaintich@theworddoctor.com](mailto:mfaintich@theworddoctor.com)  
[www.symbolicmessengers.com](http://www.symbolicmessengers.com)

Marshall is the author of *A Photographic Guide to the Birds of Wintergreen*. His bird photography can be found on several nature trails in Virginia and Maryland, has been used on numerous websites and has been published in Virginia newspapers. He offers a one-hour photographic presentation on the birds of Wintergreen (located in central Virginia) when the hosting organization can provide a laptop computer projection system.

Dr. Faintich also can give a one-hour presentation on global wildlife (mostly birds) that excludes most of the species that are commonly seen in central Virginia.

Expenses for travel outside his local area are expected and hosting organization’s usual honorarium is greatly appreciated.

### **Katie Fallon**

60 Hickory Hills Drive  
Morgantown, WV 26508  
304-685-5292  
[katie@katiefallon.com](mailto:katie@katiefallon.com)  
[www.katiefallon.com](http://www.katiefallon.com)

### **UPDATED PROGRAM**

Katie is the author of the nonfiction books *Vulture: The Private Life of an Unloved Bird* (forthcoming University Press of New England, Spring 2017) and *Cerulean Blues: A Personal Search for a Vanishing Songbird* (Ruka Press, 2011). *Vulture* chronicles the life and times of one of the world’s most under-appreciated and overlooked birds, the turkey vulture. Part ecological memoir, part travel narrative, part scientific exploration, and part love story, this book examines the roles turkey vultures—and vultures worldwide—play in healthy ecosystems. *Cerulean Blues* describes the plight of the cerulean warbler, the fastest-declining Neotropical migrant songbird. Due to activities such as mountaintop removal coal mining in Appalachia and deforestation in the Andes for coffee production, cerulean numbers have dropped by 3% a year since 1966. Katie is available to give visual presentations about cerulean warblers or turkey vultures.

Katie’s essays and articles have appeared in a wide variety of magazines and literary journals, and *Cerulean Blues* was a finalist for the Reed Award for Outstanding Writing on the Southern Environment. She has taught writing at Virginia Tech and West Virginia University, and she is also a co-founder of a nonprofit organization, the Avian Conservation Center of Appalachia (<http://www.accavv.org>). She lives in Morgantown, WV.

## **Dr. Todd S. Fredericksen**

Associate Professor of Forestry and Wildlife  
212 Garber Hall  
Ferrum College  
Ferrum, VA 24088  
540-365-4360 (office), 540-493-3132 (cell)  
*tfredericksen@ferrum.edu*

Todd conducts research on forestry practices and their effects on forest health and biodiversity in the Appalachian Mountains. He is willing to give presentations on the following topics: managing forest woodlots for wildlife, white-tailed deer management and conservation issues, wildlife management and conservation issues at the wildland urban interface, and the use of prescribed fire as a management tool in Virginia forests. He also conducts research on the eastern box turtle, pond amphibians and the southern flying squirrel in Virginia. He has visited the Galapagos Islands several times and could give an overview of the geology, biodiversity and conservation of this archipelago.

## **Nell Fredericksen**

Sugar Grove Studio  
540-365-7400  
*nfedericksen@ferrum.edu*  
*www.nellfredericksen.com*

## ***UPDATED PROGRAM***

A biologist / zoologist before becoming a professional artist, Nell spent six years in Bolivia, dividing her time between artwork and wildlife research. Her programs reflect these varied interests and talents.

***"Between Art and Nature, the Path of Inspiration"*** This program integrates how her background in science and love of the natural world is expressed in her designs.

***"Reptiles and Amphibians of Virginia"*** This is a two-hour program popular with Master Naturalist groups. It can be broken down into two one-hour programs as listed below. These delve into the group characteristics and life cycles and then into individual species and their specific environments.

***"Reptiles of Virginia"*** - see above

***"Amphibians of Virginia"*** - see above

***"What are Reptiles" (for kids)*** This program is appropriate for children of all ages and is good for schools, scouts and summer camps. It includes several live animals.

***"What are Reptiles and Amphibians" (for kids)*** Similar to reptile program but with additional study of amphibians.

***"The Geographical, Cultural and Biological Diversity of Bolivia"*** This program can be tailored as a natural history presentation or a more scientific presentation on the impacts of selective logging techniques on wildlife.

***"Birds of Bolivia"*** A tour of the avian diversity from the high Andes to the tropical lowlands of Bolivia.

***"How Snakes Kill"*** This is an hour long presentation giving an in-depth look at the evolutionary and mechanical aspects of different feeding strategies in snakes.

## **Daphne Gemmill**

215 10th Street, SE  
Washington, DC 20003  
202-546-3624 until 10:00 p.m.  
*daphnedgemmill@verizon.net*

Daphne Gemmill offers a wide variety of slide presentations, most of which are approximately 45 minutes in length. Travel expenses are expected and honoraria greatly appreciated. Among the selections are:

### ***"The Birds of Vieques Island, Puerto Rico"***

Daphne recently published a book titled: *Birds of Vieques Island, Puerto Rico: Status, Abundance, and Conservation*.

*“The Flora and Fauna of Our National Forests”*  
*“Plight of the Snow Geese”*  
*“Birding at the End of the Earth, Attu, Alaska”*  
*“Banding Warblers in the Bahamas”*  
*“The Birds of the Falkland Islands”*  
*“Birds of the Southern Oceans: Falklands, South Georgia, and Antarctica”*  
*“Birding the Roof of the World in Tibet”*  
*“Birding the Four Corners of South Africa”*  
*“Madagascar: A Conservation Challenge”*  
*“Birds of High Altitudes and Latitudes”*  
*“Southeast Asia: Birds, Culture, and Food”*

## **Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge**

Deloras Freeman, Outdoor Recreation Planner  
3100 Desert Road  
Suffolk, Virginia 23434  
757-986-3705 (office)  
757-986-2353 (fax)  
[deloras\\_freeman@fws.gov](mailto:deloras_freeman@fws.gov)  
[www.fws.gov/northeast/greatdismalswamp](http://www.fws.gov/northeast/greatdismalswamp)

Refuge hours of operation: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.- 4 p.m. Trails are open 7 days a week, dawn to dusk. Refuge orientations are available on request by contacting the refuge office, for organized groups of at least 10 members. Off-site programs are offered when staff scheduling permits. Reservations are required for all programs and should be made at least two weeks in advance. Call the refuge office during business hours.

## **Sergio Harding**

Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries  
7870 Villa Park Dr, Suite 400  
Henrico, VA 23233-6510  
804-367-0143  
[sergio.harding@dgif.virginia.gov](mailto:sergio.harding@dgif.virginia.gov)  
[www.dgif.virginia.gov](http://www.dgif.virginia.gov)

Sergio is a Nongame Bird Conservation Biologist for the Bureau of Wildlife Resources, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF). He coordinates the Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) in Virginia and participates in many of the DGIF's bird survey and monitoring programs, including peregrine falcons, bald eagles, marsh birds, golden-winged warblers, loggerhead shrikes and Wildlife Management Area breeding bird surveys. He is available to give presentations on the BBS, as well as on bird survey and monitoring activities by the DGIF. His schedule is tight, so the more advance notice, the better.

## **Bruce Ingram**

1009 Brunswick Forge Road  
Troutville, VA 24175  
540-992-6214 after 5:00 p.m.  
[be\\_ingram@juno.com](mailto:be_ingram@juno.com)  
[www.bruceingramoutdoors.com](http://www.bruceingramoutdoors.com) <https://sites.google.com/site/bruceingramoutdoors/>

**Bruce Ingram is the author of over 2,200 magazine articles on the outdoors and has sold over 2,700 photos to magazines since he began writing in 1983.** Ingram writes for a number of outdoor magazines such as Virginia Wildlife, Wildlife in North Carolina, Bassmaster, Virginia Game and Fish, Turkey Country, and many others. He is

the author of a new edition of the James River Guide which details the over 30 float trips available on the upper James from the river's beginning to Richmond, plus trips on the Maury River. The book includes information on access points, major rapids, topographical references, and fishing, birding, paddling, and photography tips. Ingram has also published a new edition of *The New River Guide* which covers the same topics as the James book and the 29 float trips on the New River in North Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia.

His third book is The Shenandoah/Rappahannock Rivers Guide and has a similar format, except much historical information is included. Ingram's fourth book is Fly and Spin Fishing for River Smallmouths. The book deals with fishing tips, of course, but also has chapters on improving wildlife habitat. Ingram's fifth book is the The South Branch and Upper Potomac Rivers Guide. Ingram's latest book is *Living the Locavore Lifestyle*, a guide for health eating and living, as well as living a sustainable life. In 2014, Bruce and his wife Elaine were named Land Savers of the Year by the Blue Ridge Land Conservancy. The couple also has two venison cooking columns for magazines. For signed, dedicated copies, contact Bruce through his website or e-mail address. Bruce and Elaine also write a weekly blog for his website. Topics that Ingram has spoken on before include the following:

*"The James River"* (see book reference above)

*"Life Cycle of the Wild Turkey"* (including its many calls and demonstrations on how to make them)

*"Grouse and Quail in Virginia and Their Status and Future"*

*"How to be a Successful Freelance Photojournalist"*

*"Canoeing and Birding the New River"*

*"Conservation Land Trusts and Their Importance to Wildlife"*

*"Canoeing and Birding the Shenandoah and Rappahannock Rivers"*

*"Creative Timber Harvesting and Wildlife Plantings for Songbirds and Other Wildlife"*

*"Gathering, Cooking, and Eating Wild Foods and Game"*

## **Teta Kain**

7083 Caffee Creek Lane  
Gloucester VA 23061-3374  
804-693-5246 (cell)  
[tkdragonrun7@gmail.com](mailto:tkdragonrun7@gmail.com)

Teta has all of her own equipment and has no restriction on travel distances. The programs listed below are about 45 minutes long, but the time can be adjusted to suit individual needs. Occasionally, Teta can fill in on short notice if a program chairman has an unexpected cancellation.

*"Feeding Wild Birds"* - Highlights those species that are commonly encountered at feeders and what to feed them, and also how to help keep them safe from predators as they feed and seek shelter in your yard.

*"Nesting Birds"* - Adventures while observing and photographing nesting birds. The program takes a look at a few of the common species and what you can do to attract them to your backyard to nest.

*"Butterflies Of Virginia"* - Butterflies that are likely to be found in backyards and neighborhoods and what can be done to help protect them. Many strange facts about these colorful insects are revealed.

*"Moths"* - Discovering, identifying, and photographing moths, along with stories about caterpillars, cocoons, and host plants. Some folks meet the idea of this program with skepticism, but when they see it, they are astonished by the beauty and variety of these fascinating insects.

*"The Strange World Of Fungi"* - Virginia is home to a bewildering variety of mushrooms, brackets, slimes, jellies, cups, many other types of fungi. Teta has amassed many stories about fungi, how they get their strange names, whether they are edible, and what other uses they might have.

*"Along Came A Spider"* - Explore the world of the spider as Teta brings us a close-up investigation of this greatly maligned, often feared, creature that lives in such close proximity to man. The talk is laced with folk lore, scientific facts, and mysteries of the spider, along with stories of Teta's encounters with this greatly misunderstood animal.

**"Wildlife Along Virginia's Rivers"** - Teta takes her camera along on float trips to capture the beauty and variety of our rivers. She covers not only flora and fauna, but she also stresses the importance of taking better care of our rivers.

**"Dismal Swamp"** - A place packed with wildlife, Dismal Swamp is the scene for bird counts, butterfly counts, and many days of simply wandering along the roads enjoying and photographing whatever comes by. Few places in Virginia can boast a greater variety of rare and exciting species of wildlife.

**"Dragon Run"** - For years Teta has prowled the cypress swamp/river called Dragon Run on Virginia's Middle Peninsula. She has spent hundreds of hours kayaking the river and has explored the woods along its shores, looking for those special creatures and plants that inhabit this wet and pristine world.

**"Plover Paradise"** - A few years ago, Teta had opportunities to accompany research teams out to the barrier islands of Virginia while they banded and studied the endangered Piping Plover population and other birds that come to the islands each spring to nest and raise young.

**"What's In Your Backyard"** - Do you realize what is going on right in your own back yard? Great battles are waged. Love flourishes. Intricate homes are constructed. Ruthless evictions are common. Teta's program takes a look at selected birds, animals, bugs, and plants, and how they interact.

**"Australia - Land Down Under"** - From Sydney to Adelaide, Darwin, Kakadu, Cairns, and many points in between, this program is based on a journey to experience the varied habitats and strange flora and fauna of that very different continent.

**"Antarctic Ice—The Ultimate Adventure"** - In the autumn of 2002, Teta, along with three friends, spent 17 days on a ship plying the Antarctic seas looking for those special birds found primarily near the Antarctic Circle. You won't soon forget the wild ocean, breath-taking icebergs, beautiful seabirds, and the remote sub-Antarctic islands of this once-in-a-lifetime story that Teta tells.

**"Panama"** - When birders decide to visit Panama, they often chose "Canopy Lodge" and "Canopy Tower" as their destinations. Canopy Lodge is home to a myriad of colorful birds and exotic animals. Canopy Tower is a converted radar tower that overlooks the Panama Canal. This presentation highlights the special birds and animals they saw in the jungles and along the famed Pipeline Road.

**"Ecuadorian Adventure"** - Fascinated by tales of exotic hummingbirds, volcanic mountains, and an opportunity to stand in both the Northern and Southern hemispheres at the same time, Teta and two traveling companions spent 12 days experiencing the strange world of cloud forests, the majestic Andean Mountains, and the incomparable flora and fauna of Ecuador.

**"Borneo"** - With about 15,000 species of flowering plants, 221 species of terrestrial mammals and 420 species of resident birds, Borneo is one of the top birding/nature destinations in the world. This is Teta's pictorial exploration of her visit to that island in 2007.

**"Amazing Argentina"** - In November 2014 Teta and her long-time friend Thelma Dalmas, sign up for a two-week exploration of Argentina, from Buenos Aires to the city of Ushuaia, the southernmost city in the world. By the end of the trip, the group had tallied over 250 species of birds and 12 native mammals. Teta's camera captured a great cross-section of wildlife and the scenic beauty of this exotic country.

## **Bill Leaning**

95 Graemont Lane  
Earlysville, VA 22936  
434-964-1610  
[omanu@embarqmail.com](mailto:omanu@embarqmail.com)

Dr. Bill Leaning, originally from New Zealand, is a retired veterinarian and enthusiastic nature photographer. He has traveled extensively throughout the world, visiting some 44 countries.

Following retirement in 1991 and the acquisition of "some serious photographic equipment," nature photography has become an incurable disease and a major retirement avocation. Since moving to their Earlysville, Virginia, home in April of 1998, Bill and his wife Clare have been almost full-time "in the garden." Their 17-acre wooded property is named "Omanu," which, in the New Zealand Maori language, means "the place of birds." The major

objective of all new planting and landscaping is to attract more birds. Rarely without a camera nearby, Bill is continuously adding to his portraits of nature as interesting wildlife subjects present themselves. Topics recently presented include:

***“Gardening for Birds”*** This program is a pictorial diary of the winged creatures, including birds, butterflies and dragonflies as well as other critters that have visited Omanu in recent years. We hope all who attend this presentation will come away with an even deeper appreciation of nature’s wonders.

***“Birding Down Under”*** This program is a sample of the unique birdlife in the Antipodes. Because of long isolation from other landmasses, the bird life of Australia and New Zealand has a very special and distinctive character. Many of the bird species occur nowhere else in the world; others are either highly unusual or especially primitive forms. With each visit “Down Under,” new images of the unique wildlife are added to constantly update this program. Sit back and enjoy some portraits of the wonderful birds down under.

***“New Zealand, The Living Land”*** Eighty million years ago, a primal southern land mass called Gondwana, slowly broke apart, leaving a lone sliver of land adrift on the rim of a tectonic plate, later becoming the islands of New Zealand. These islands were completely dominated by some 250 species of birds. When first discovered over 800 years ago, it was a truly primeval environment. Within a hundred years of man’s arrival, more than a quarter of these, mostly unique to New Zealand, birds would disappear forever. Although the adverse impact of human settlement is enormous, with many habitats and species lost, much beauty and diversity still exists. New Zealand remains a unique natural environment, continually reminding us that while much has been lost, there is much to save in that other land “down under.”

***“Australia”*** Another spin-off from “Birding Down Under” is a program devoted to Australia, an ancient land of stark contrasts, wide open spaces and weathered plains, mostly desert or semi-desert. Forests hug the Eastern Ranges and Southwest corner. Australia has an eclectic mix of bird species. The majority of the approximately 750 species are land birds, and almost half are endemic.

***“Birding in Thailand”*** One of the world's richest bird watching destinations. A new presentation based on photographs taken of birds and other wildlife seen in Central Thailand during two visits with family living in Bangkok in 2007 and 2009. A bird list of 287 species from, both, visits represents only a quarter of the more than 925 bird species (resident and migratory) recorded in Thailand. Interspersed throughout the talk are glimpses of an extraordinary people, fascinating architecture and, of course, examples of unusual fauna.

## **Allyson Lee**

4441 Old Mountain Road NE  
Roanoke, VA 24019  
540-397-1008  
[swampwitch@cox.net](mailto:swampwitch@cox.net)

Wildlife Care Alliance volunteer Allyson Lee offers programs with visual excitement and stimulation. Some live animals are available depending upon program topics and needs. She is a trained educator, permitted wildlife rehabilitator, and licensed veterinary technician. She covers topics such as:

***“Wildlife Rehabilitation”*** - *Who we are, what we do, and how you can help*

***“What to do if you find a wild animal in need”*** - *And how to determine if it is in need*

For more specific interests, programs can be tailored to specific animals such as...

***“Reptile Rehabilitation”***

***“Bird Rehabilitation”***

***“Mammal Rehabilitation”***

Programs can be tailored to more specific needs and age groups. Travel expenses for the speaker and a tax deductible donation to the organization are requested.

## **Gabriel Mapel**

540-363-5035

*birdmangabriel@yahoo.com*

Gabriel is a home-schooled teenager who began birding five years ago, at the age of 11. While waiting patiently for hours in a tree-stand in the hopes of spotting a Black Bear, Gabriel began to notice the Red-bellied Woodpeckers and other bird activity in the surrounding woods. He was hooked! That fall he became a regular visitor at the nearby Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch, and at age 13 he became the youngest-ever officially qualified Hawk Counter at Rockfish Gap, where he continues to volunteer hundreds of hours each fall. In 2011 Gabriel undertook a pre-teen version of a Big Year, traveling the ABA in a quest to reach his goal of seeing 400 birds. In 2012 he became the founder and was elected President of the Blue Ridge Young Birders Club. He also serves on the Augusta County avian records committee and is the Field Trip Coordinator for the Monticello Bird Club in Charlottesville, VA.

Gabriel has deep love for and connection with all animals, and is the published author of a children's book about Black Bears, *Oh No, Gertrude!*, which is sold in National Parks around the country. Gabriel has spoken at numerous locations around the state, and has been honored with the privilege of being invited by Kenn Kaufman as a guest speaker at the Biggest Week in American Birding in Ohio. He offers talks on various topics which he is eager to share with you.

**"My Junior Big Year: A Young Birder's Quest to See 400 Birds"** Gabriel's goal of seeing at least 400 species of birds within the United and Canada in a single calendar year (2011) took him to Florida, Texas, Alaska, Arizona, Ontario, and Ohio. Along the way he encountered many amazing birds including the Brown Shrike, Gyrfalcon, Horned Puffin and Black-vented Oriole. The question is--did he reach his goal of 400 species? Come and find out as Gabriel, who is now 16, takes us on a journey through some of the most memorable moments of his Junior Big Year adventure. His informative talk mixes a sense of humor with the sheer delight and wonder of a pre-teen discovering the world of birding in the adventure of a lifetime.

**"Birding Texas, Arizona and New Mexico"** Gabriel travels to discover birds in a diverse range of habitats. In this talk he shares the joy of birding the southwest regions of the Lower Rio Grande Valley area in Texas, the Upper Rio Grande Valley and High Mountain areas of New Mexico, and the canyons of southeast Arizona. Enjoy learning about the Rio Grande Birding Festival, three species of quail, Greater Roadrunners, many other birds, and some of the best birding hotspots in the country!

**"The Biggest Week in American Birding, Magee Marsh Ohio"** Gabriel shares the joy of birding this rich migratory hotspot. Learn about the magnificent spring migratory stop-over of warblers that can be witnessed in Ohio on the edge of lake Erie, as warblers and other neotropical migrants stop over before crossing Lake Erie on their way to Canada. Magee Marsh hosts the "Biggest Week in American Birding each May," an event offering bus trips, guided walks on their famous boardwalk, and a host of world renowned speakers and workshops. Gabriel is an invited guest speaker at this festival which is attended by 50,000 visitors, as well as a guide on the boardwalk at Magee.

**"Black Bears of Shenandoah"** Along with being an avid birder, Gabriel is also an avid black bear enthusiast having spent hundreds of hours in Shenandoah National park studying black bear behavior. At the age of 10 he wrote a book entitled, *"Oh No, Gertrude! The True Story of a Not-So-Naughty Black Bear,"* a full-color children's book that tells the true story of a Shenandoah National Park black bear named Gertrude, whose life was put into danger because of naughty people. The book is sold in national parks across the country and has sold over 5,000 copies to date. In this talk, Gabriel shares his stunning bear photos as well as his stories and insights of bear encounters from witnessing newly emerged cubs, to mating behaviors, to the autumn hyperpygia.

## Mary Mapel

540-363-5035

mary@wildearth.com

Most people know Mary as Gabriel's mom, an avid supporter of her son's birding passion, but behind the scenes Mary serves as the Adult Coordinator of the Blue Ridge Young Birders Club, formed in 2012, as the extension of Gabriel's passion for birds. As the lead Adult Coordinator for the club she facilitates the behind the scenes operation of a club, including organizational guidelines, educational programs, and mentoring of the youth in self-governing roles.

*"Young Birders on the Rise"* In this presentation, Mary shares with you her experience of supporting young birders in creating a bird club that nurtures and inspires them as avid birders and in becoming deeply involved in ecology and bird conservation. The Blue Ridge Young Birders Club serves Charlottesville, Shenandoah Valley and the surrounding areas and has become instrumental in supporting area youth age 7-18 in learning about birds and their behavior as well as conservation issues.

## Pete Myers

White Hall VA 22932

434-249-3448

jpm@ehn.org

Pete Myers is an avid birder and bird photographer with decades of field experience. He received a Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley for his field research on shorebirds, which took him from Arctic Alaska to southern Argentina. He was a research ornithologist at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, where he continued shorebird research in California, Peru and Chile. For three years he served as Senior Vice President for Science at the National Audubon Society. His photographs appeared on four covers of Audubon's birding magazine, *American Birds*, and he wrote about shorebird behavior for *Audubon Magazine* and *Natural History* magazine. After leaving Audubon to become director of the W. Alton Jones Foundation, he served on Audubon's board for four years. In 2009 he co-created BirdsEye, the iPhone birding app that uses eBird to help birders find birds and great places to go birding. BirdsEye was the *New York Times* app of the week in 2010. In 2011 he surprised the Virginia birding community by discovering and documenting the first state record of the Violet-Green Swallow near his home in central Virginia.

Pete has lectured widely on birds, bird behavior and bird photography. His talks include stunning close-ups of common and rare species. His recent lectures have focused on *"The evolution of a bird photographer."* Pete was co-author of the bestselling book, *Our Stolen Future*, about how chemical contamination affects fetal development. He also lectures around the world on this subject, and how a revolution in environmental health science holds the promise for making people healthier.

Pete would appreciate receiving the honorarium customary for the speaking venue, as well as travel expenses.

**Bob Schamerhorn****NEW LISTINGS & UPDATED PROGRAMS**

1101 Glidewell Rd.

Richmond, VA 23227

H. 804-477-3433 (best) • C. 804-929-6568

*bob@iPhotoBirds.com**www.iphotobirds.com*

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Bob Schamerhorn, an Award Winning Nature Photographer, believes in, *“The education and advocacy of nature, through sharing its beauty.”* He is a long time member of the Audubon Society; a fledgling of the VSO and the Lynchburg Bird Club since the 1970’s, with decades of field experience in The Commonwealth. His work has been published in Virginia Wildlife Magazine, plus several other Virginia based News Papers and Nature Magazines; he was Keynote Speaker at both the Virginia Bluebird Society Annual Meeting and at Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens’ “A Day of Photography at the Garden” in 2015. He has presented programs at over 40 different nature based organizations in the Commonwealth, some of them multiple times. He is author of *The Bird Spa*, publishes an annual calendar, and displays his photography at numerous art shows and festivals every year.

Visit <http://www.iphotobirds.com/programs.html> for **SAMPLE IMAGES and REVIEWS ONLINE**

***“Adventures of Bob The Birdman” – NEW LISTING***

Fun and entertaining stories shared from the latest travels of professional nature photographer “Bob The Birdman”. Hear about our most recent adventures from the Mid-Atlantic to the South Pacific. Exciting bird and nature experiences, accompanied with colorful photos and the occasional HD video. This program is constantly updated and is **never the same show twice**. *An excellent program for Master Naturalists, Bird Clubs, Library Programs, Seniors Groups and Photography Clubs.* (About 45 minutes)

***“Along The River's Edge” – NEW LISTING***

Come discover the amazing diversity of wildlife that lives along the banks of the commonwealth’s watershed system. Designed to inform and entertain, this multimedia program is based on extensive observation and riverside encounters with flora and fauna. Includes riverine birds as well as some of the other creatures that frequent Virginia’s river valleys from Eagle Rock to the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay. Also contains a lengthy segment on Great Blue Heron rookeries (nesting colony), resident riverbank species, plus other avian delights that migrate along our riverine ecosystems. Presented in colorful award winning photography, supplemented with bird calls and the occasional HD video. *A great program for all birding skill levels, interests, and ages.* (About 45 minutes)

***“Attracting Birds With Water – The Bird Spa” – UPDATED: NEW SPECIES & VIDEOS***

Birds, like all other animals, prefer habitats that meet all their basic survival needs: food, shelter and water! Birds depend on water for hydration, to maintain body temperature, and to condition their feathers for flight. Having a constant, reliable, clean running water source in your landscape will attract more birds than ever before. This inspiring, multi-media presentation contains an amazing array of birds drinking, bathing and splashing around. **Over 75 species at a single location in Central Virginia!** Learn how to make this vital resource available, whether it is winter, breeding season, spring, or fall migration. Come see how a little water can greatly improve both your backyard habitat and your personal bird watching experience. Stories shared from thousands of hours of observation. There is even a segment on how to built and install this simple, low-maintenance “BIRD SPA” yourself. This informative program is displayed with award winning photography, supplemented with birdsongs, and High Definition video clips. *Makes a great Bird Club or Garden Club program. Highly Rated - See online reviews.* (About 45 minutes).

***“Our Wonderful Wood Warblers – NEWLY UPDATED***

Presents the indisputable beauty and diversity of some of our most spectacular birds. Warblers are amongst our smallest, yet most brilliantly colored avian visitors. Finding and viewing these beauties often becomes a passion for many birdwatchers, if not solely for their esthetics. Most of these birds are only present in the Commonwealth for brief periods, during their spring and fall migrations, while a few reside and breed in the state. A majority of our native Virginia species are represented. Many have entirely different plumages at different times of the year making them difficult to differentiate. Learn about identification of this diverse group of birds by sight, sound, season, and habitat. Or just sit and enjoy their sound and beauty. This multimedia presentation is displayed with professional photography, HD video clips, and accompanying birdsong. *Entertaining for all age and birding skill levels. Makes a*

*great identification course in preparation for spring migration. See reviews online.* (45 minutes)

### **"Birds Of Prey"- ALL NEW PROGRAM**

Experience the beauty and majesty of these apex predators. This program includes some of our most exciting, fierce, and perhaps most interesting North American predatory birds which includes: Hawks, Owls, Falcons, Eagles and even Vultures. Focuses primarily on mid-Atlantic raptor species, with information on food, migration, adaptations and identification. Learn about some of their protection history, survival struggles, and successes. Includes stories and discussion of the characteristics of these amazing birds. Presentation displayed in colorful award winning photography, with HD Video clips, audio samples. *A great program to host during fall migration. See reviews online.* (About 45 minutes).

### **"Birds In Flight" – NEW LISTING**

This multimedia program contains the many different elements of bird flight including take-off, travel, and landing. Plus discussion about the reasons birds fly, the motivations, and characteristics of flight including: migration, food gathering, plus avoidance of danger and weather. Includes both basic and more technical photography skills needed to capture sharp images of birds in flight. Moving objects are an especially difficult subject to capture photographically. Learn how to improve your flight photography abilities both technically and physically. Also covers: optimizing your location, good motor-skill practices, camera focus mode, recommended shutter speeds, weather conditions, and more. *A Great presentation for bird club or photography club too.* (About 45 minutes)

### **"Birds of Virginia" – COMPLETELY RE-BUILT**

This popular program is loaded with beautiful HD images of birds of the Commonwealth. From the mountains to the coast, spring to winter, with stories, information and experiences of where and how these images were captured. A highly informative and enjoyable program for any group, novice to experienced. It covers a wide variety of species and conveys the great diversity of habitats in Virginia. **Each participant receives a FREE copy of "Common Birds of Virginia" ID card.** (About 45 minutes)

### **"Birds of Bosque Del Apache"**

This presentation displays the amazing birds, animals and beautiful landscape of Bosque Del Apache National Wildlife Refuge in New Mexico. Bosque is considered a "bucket list" location for any birder, nature lover or wildlife photographer. Colorful HD photographs and an overview of the best places to bird and view wildlife in that area are featured. Each winter a spectacle of thousands of Sandhill Cranes and Snow Geese spend the winter months at this refuge. The result is a spectacular occurrence of nature, displayed within the amazing scenery of the southwest. (About 45 minutes)

### **"Easy Access Birding Around Florida" - FREE MAP**

This program displays a spectacular array of species that only Florida can offer and the easy access places to find them. Contains Swallow-tailed Kites, Snail Kites, Sandhill Cranes, Roseate Spoonbills, Crested Caracara, Limpkin, Florida Scrub Jays, Burrowing Owls, Painted Buntings and lots more. Presented with colorful HD photographs, locality maps and discussion of some of the best places to birdwatch and view wildlife in Florida from St. Augustine to Orlando, down to the Everglades and over to Fort De Soto. Great for any level birder, novice to expert. **A map with location information is provided for each attendee.** (About 45 minutes)

### **"Atlantic Coastal Birds" – NEW IMAGES ADDED**

The Atlantic Coastline contains a great diversity of bird species: Gulls, Terns, Skimmers, Sandpipers, Plovers, Herons, Egrets, Swans, Ducks, Geese, Mergansers, Grebes, Rails and more. This wide variety of species, typical to the coast, is discussed and shown with beautiful photography and entertaining stories. Information about our favorite shorebirds, discussion of habitats, migration and their challenges. This program covers the gamut from Maine to Florida. (About 40 minutes)

### **"Birds Of Oahu, Hawaii" – NEW IMAGES ADDED**

Oahu's birds are a mixture of native, migrant and introduced species. Colorful bird images accompany brilliant landscape photography and adventuresome stories. Information about these unique birds and the struggles they face. The Aloha spirit will leave you hungry for Pacific travel and fresh pineapples. Includes species such as: Red-footed Boobie, Laysan Albatross, Pacific Golden Plover, Hawaiian Green Sea Turtle, Monk Seal and more. (About 45 minutes)

## **Fletcher Smith**

Research Biologist  
The Center for Conservation Biology  
The College of William and Mary/Virginia Commonwealth University  
Williamsburg, VA  
757-221-1617 (office)  
[fmsmit@wm.edu](mailto:fmsmit@wm.edu)

Several programs are available. All are picture or video heavy and appropriate for bird clubs and nature groups.

***“Satellite Tracking of Whimbrels in Virginia”*** This talk focuses on the satellite tracking program that CCB has been spearheading since 2008.

***“The Status of Red Knots in Virginia”*** An overview of the status, distribution, and conservation implications of the Red Knot in Virginia. Talk is based on over 20 years of CCB research on the species.

***“The Status and Distribution of Sharp-tailed Sparrows in Virginia”*** This talk focuses on status and distribution of Saltmarsh and Nelson's Sparrows in Virginia based on 8 years of field research, and includes a detailed "field identification" section.

***“Northern Saw-whet Owl Studies on the Lower Delmarva Peninsula of Virginia”*** This talk focuses on the nearly 20 year study CCB conducted on the Eastern Shore of Virginia.

***“Birding and Research above the Arctic Circle”*** This talk focuses on the birds and animals encountered during a three year stint in a field camp along the Mackenzie River Delta and one year on Bathurst Island. The talk also goes over what it's like to live in the tundra for 2 months in a tent, and a brief history of the region that frames the talk.

## **Matt Smith**

Executive Director  
The Central Virginia Parrot Sanctuary  
3026 Ellisville Dr.  
Louisa, VA 23093  
540-967-0447  
[matt@projectperry.com](mailto:matt@projectperry.com)  
[www.projectperry.com](http://www.projectperry.com)

Matt established the Central Virginia Parrot Sanctuary, also known as Project Perry, in 2006. The Sanctuary is dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation, adoption and sanctuary of exotic parrots and other birds living in captivity. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, the Sanctuary is funded largely by public contributions. Matt has spoken at various events and meetings including bird clubs, animal control associations and animal welfare conferences. Topics include avian welfare, caring for birds in a shelter setting and establishing a companion animal rescue or sanctuary. The Sanctuary is located in Louisa County and is one of only a handful of accredited parrot sanctuaries located throughout the Country. A main focus of the Sanctuary is to provide natural, free flight environments with others of their kind. During a speaking engagement you can learn about the issues that affect non-native birds commonly kept as pets as well as how you can help them. Approximately one hour is needed along with a projector to display a power point presentation. Matt does not have a set fee, but does ask that a donation be made to the sanctuary, with the minimum based on distance traveled.

## **Len Smock**

## **NEW PROGRAM**

Professor, Department of Biology and Rice Rivers Center  
Virginia Commonwealth University  
Richmond, VA 23284-2012  
804-387-3138 (cell)  
lsmock@vcu.edu

Len is a long-time birder, professor in VCU's Department of Biology and former director of the Rice Rivers Center, the university's environmental research and education center on the James River. His passion for birding has taken him throughout the country and beyond.

***"Birding Western Alaska"*** Many of us have birded Alaska from Seward to Anchorage, Denali and Fairbanks, but birding in far western Alaska and on roadless St. Lawrence Island, in the Bering Sea just 34 miles from Siberia, is a different kind of adventure. The presentation will lead you through this beautiful, wind-swept environment and introduce you to its birds and people. Meet the Upik Native-Americans and their subsistence way of life - have you ever walked through, and birded in, a centuries-old boneyard full of whale, seal and walrus bones? And of course there are the birds. Clouds of over 600,000 auklets, murrelets, puffins, guillemots, eiders and others that fly by twice a day as they head out to sea to forage and then return to the island's seaside cliffs. There also are the Asian species such as bluethroats, wagtails and greenshanks, as well as species of the tundra like snow buntings, longspurs, bristle-thighed curlews and gyrfalcons. Afterwards, you will be ready to pack your bags and head out to this remote and beautiful area of North America.

## **John Spahr**

234 West Frederick St.  
Staunton, VA 24401  
540-471-6193  
jspahr@yahoo.com (preferred method of contact)

John is a retired physician (pathologist) with a long-term interest in birds and conservation. In his quest to continually learn more about birds he has developed a number of informative programs. He has a technical facility for digital presentations and uses high quality images to illustrate the contents of each program. His presentations are designed to inform and entertain. A few of John's most popular and recent presentations are listed here

***"Hummingbirds: Jewels of the Americas"*** There are well over 300 species of hummingbirds and all are limited to the western hemisphere (North, Central and South America). In multiple trips to the American tropics John has seen about 1/2 of these. Their amazing flight capabilities, fantastic plumage, and unique physiology have enthralled all. Our own ruby-throat is a common and welcome warm weather visitor to Virginia from its winter range in Central America. This annual journey requires an 18-20 hour non-stop flight across 500 miles of open seas across the Gulf of Mexico. John will discuss many other interesting and fascinating aspects of "hummers," all illustrated with colorful images.

***"The Eastern Screech Owl in Virginia and Beyond"*** John has done field work and studies of this small owl for several years. The field work is in Highland County, VA. He is currently in the process of examining most of the museum specimen collections of this species throughout the US. This program will include some of his findings, such as habitat and elevation preferences, nest selection, and roosting strategies. Also, what's with the two color morphs - red and gray? Why do we in Virginia have more "reds" and Ontario and Michigan more "grays"? What can we learn from this distribution variation? Is there really an intermediate or "brown" morph? The program does include graphs and charts, which will be mercifully few and interspersed with lots of quality images.

***"Feathers and Plumage"*** All birds are covered in part by feathers. Tundra swans, for example, have about 25,000, while many songbirds have less than 4,000. Feathers warm and protect birds and are essential for flight. They come in various shapes, sizes and colors and also serve as camouflage and adornment. This program will explore the structure and function of feathers with images and illustrations. It will also highlight some amazing plumage adornments of birds (e.g. hummingbirds, birds of paradise), some of which are truly "eye candy."

Other program titles include:

***“Birding Basics”***  
***“Extreme Birding”***  
***“Avian Flight”***  
***“Warblers of North America”***  
***“Kingfishers and Kookaburras”***  
***“John’s Big Year – 2010”***  
***“Bird of Paradise”***  
***“Madagascar”***  
***“Wild and Weird Birds of the World”***

Requests for these will be considered with sufficient advance notice.

### **Virginia Audubon Council**

Richmond, VA

Please contact by email:

[director@virginiaauduboncouncil.org](mailto:director@virginiaauduboncouncil.org)

[www.virginiaauduboncouncil.org](http://www.virginiaauduboncouncil.org)

Mary A. Elfner, a Toyota TogetherGreen Fellow, class of 2011 (<http://www.togethergreen.org/fellows/fellow/mary-elfner>), is the Virginia Important Bird Area (IBA) program and Team Wood Thrush coordinator and works for the Virginia Audubon Council (VAC). The IBA program is an international effort to identify, conserve, and monitor a network of sites that provide essential habitat for bird populations. BirdLife International began the IBA program in Europe in 1985. Since that time, BirdLife Partners in more than 100 countries have joined together to build the global IBA network. Audubon, the BirdLife Partner in the U.S., has been working since 1995 to identify and conserve hundreds of IBAs all across the United States. The Virginia IBA program was established in 2003 by the National Audubon Society and the Virginia Audubon Council in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and the Virginia Society of Ornithology. Mary provides an overview of the international IBA program and specific information and status of the Virginia IBA effort in a presentation filled with beautiful pictures of Virginia birds, and what is being done on-the-ground to conserve the Commonwealth’s birdlife.

### **The Virginia Bluebird Society**

President: Cathy Hindman

14701 Conway Drive

Manassas, VA 20112

703-590-0715

[vbs@virginiabluebirds.org](mailto:vbs@virginiabluebirds.org)

[www.virginiabluebirds.org](http://www.virginiabluebirds.org)

The Virginia Bluebird Society offers a spectacular program on bluebirds, other common cavity nesters, and methods for establishing bluebird trails. Our speakers bring exhibit materials and handouts. Several members throughout the state are available to give this program. Please contact our main office, our web page, or email us to make arrangements.

## **VA Department of Game & Inland Fisheries**

7870 Villa Park Drive, #400  
Henrico, VA 23228  
804-367-1000 (main number), 804-367-9369 (information desk)  
[www.dgif.virginia.gov](http://www.dgif.virginia.gov)

The Game Department has wildlife biologists, fisheries biologists, nongame biologists, game wardens and other staff stationed throughout the state who may be called upon to assist with a program or presentation, as time permits. In addition to our headquarters office above, the Department has several regional and field offices. Please contact the office nearest you for assistance.

### *Regional Offices:*

3801 John Tyler Memorial. Hwy. Charles City, VA 23030 804-829-6580	1132 Thomas Jefferson Rd. Forest, VA 24551-9223 434-525-7522
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P. O. Box 996 Verona, VA 24482 540-248-9360 1320 Belman Road Fredericksburg, VA 22401 540-899-4169	1796 Highway Sixteen Marion, VA 24354 276-783-4860
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### *Field Offices:*

3909 Airline Blvd. Chesapeake, VA 23321 757-465-6811	2206 S. Main St., Suite C Blacksburg, VA 24060 540-961-8304
107 Foxwood Dr. Farmville, VA 23901 434-392-9645	

## **Wildlife Center of Virginia**

P.O. Box 1557  
Waynesboro, VA 22980  
540-942-9453  
[edu@wildlifecenter.org](mailto:edu@wildlifecenter.org)

The Wildlife Center of Virginia is one of the world's leading teaching and research hospitals for wildlife and conservation medicine. The Center offers a variety of public education programs for adults, children, and mixed audiences. Topics suitable for bird clubs and other conservation-minded organizations include birds of prey, wildlife habitats, problems facing wildlife, and a behind-the-scenes look at the care and rehabilitation procedures performed at the Center. Live native wildlife is included in each program. There are also opportunities for online education with virtual programs and classes. Please visit the Center's website at <http://wildlifecenter.org/education-outreach> for more information about program fees and scheduling.

## **Jeff Wright**

P.O. Box 564  
Ophelia, VA 22530  
703-801-0239 (mobile)  
[pec11908@mac.com](mailto:pec11908@mac.com)

## **NEW PROGRAM**

Jeff's presentations is contemporary and kept up to date. It focuses on Birding Tools, applied technologies, and Citizen Science projects for birding and habitat protection.

The presentation: **Birding Tools, Citizen Science, and Virginia**

The presentations is approximately 50 minutes long and can be adjusted to your meeting needs. Each presentation includes materials related to the geographic area of the host organization.

He brings all necessary video and audio equipment with the exception of a projection screen. He uses a high definition projector to better depict images of birds and supporting materials. He can respond to short notice requirements. Available for presentation throughout Virginia.

His presentation is an over view of some of the newest and best tools for birding. The goal is to help each of us find the tools – and build a tool kit - to add to our enjoyment of birding and help us share birding experiences with others.

Additionally, many of the tools discussed help support Citizen Science projects to protect birds and further our understanding of challenges faced by birds from habitat loss and climate change. The quality and number of new tools available is really exciting. Most of the best tools are actually free! The focus of the talk is to help find the best “species” of tools and technologies.

Aspects of Jeff's presentation touch on Apps, the Internet, Blogs, Podcasts, Video, Photography, Media, Birding Organizations, life-long learning resources, and Citizen Science Projects.

Humor and pathos are woven into the materials depicting the state of birds and birding and what can be done to improve the plight of birds. High Definition (HD) Imagery, video, and interactive discussion with the audience are used to reach the inter-workings of both “Hopeful” and “Hopeless” Birders. The materials used include data from birding and Citizen Science projects from Virginia and adjacent areas.

Following the meeting, Jeff will stay to answer questions and assist with App related questions and issues. He will also help anyone wanting to set up an eBird account. He will provide a hand-out on installing Apps on a smart phone or pad. Jeff will also provide a hand-out listing the tools discussed in the presentation.

He is regular and accomplished bird spotter, but an irregular and unaccomplished bird identifier, thus the need for tools. He serves as a Director in the Northern Neck Audubon Society, he is a member of the Virginia Society of Ornithology (VSO), The North American Blue Bird Society (NABS), the Northern Virginia Audubon Society (NVAS), and the American Birding Association (ABA). Among his favorite philanthropic institutions supporting birds are The Nature Conservancy, American Bird Conservancy, and The Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

Jeff is a regular participant in wildlife census and citizen science projects primarily focused on birds. Over the holidays he “endured” four Christmas Bird Counts in Virginia – Brooke, Cape Charles, Matthews, and Williamsburg-Gloucester as well as the Audubon Water Fowl count on the Potomac River, north of Great Falls. He is active as a volunteer with the Nature Conservancy of Virginia as a trail monitor at the Voorhees Preserve in Westmoreland County, and for trail, facilities, and habitat work on the Barrier Islands of Virginia managed by the Nature Conservancy's Virginia Coast Reserve.

## **Sylvia Hoehns Wright**

804-347-9464

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Sylvia Hoehns Wright, recipient of the Turning America from Eco-weak to Eco-chic Award sponsored by Hines Horticulture and Project Evergreen, is a nationally recognized author and lecturer, workshop instructor, and eco-landscape/garden advocate. Identified by the Landscape Architect Association as an Industry Mover and Shaker, she is founder of the Plants of CARE, plant recognition of program. Wright discusses a variety of eco-sustainable topics that include roof gardens, use of native plants, and environmentally-friendly products. Wright's 6 P approach—place, plant, planting strategy, purchase, people perspective and eco prosperity—enables landscapes of CARE: conservation, accountability, recovery and eco-efficiency. Not simply a focus of lifestyle choices but a reflection of how we feel about the environment. For details, visit Wright's web site [www.TheWrightScoop.com](http://www.TheWrightScoop.com).

## **William Young**

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Bill is a writer who lives in Arlington, Virginia. His long-time interest in birds developed when he was growing up in suburban Philadelphia. He has traveled around the world to study birds and is especially interested in bird behavior and bird conservation. His travels have taken him to all seven continents as well as throughout the United States.

**"99 Reasons to be Fascinated by Birds"** is the title of one of Bill's programs. It is based on his book *The Fascination of Birds: From the Albatross to the Yellowthroat*, published by Dover in 2014. The book contains 99 essays that combine his extensive field experience with reflections drawn from biology, ecology, literature, music, history, linguistics, politics, sports, entertainment, and other areas.

He presents material in a manner that will keep the interest of experienced birders while being accessible to beginning birders. He has given bird presentations entitled **"Singing and Dancing Through Ecuador and the Galapagos"** and **"The Wildlife of Tanzania."** Bill also makes videos about birds and other natural history subjects which he posts on his YouTube channel.

## **Charles Ziegenfus**

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**"Everything You Wanted to Know About a Dark-eyed Junco and Maybe More!"** Breeding biology of the Carolina Junco, altitudinal and latitudinal migration, winter population structures, winter dominance studies in free ranging birds (both Carolina and Northern juncos), and other demographic items.

**"Acorns, Chipmunks and Ground Nesting Birds"** This is about the ecology of the mountain top; how mast crop production fluctuation affects over-winter survival of chipmunks and deer mice, major predators of ground nesting birds (juncos in particular) and subsequent nesting success.