

**2011-2012
VSO
SPEAKERS
DIRECTORY**



Compiled and published by
Alyce Quinn
Wirtz, VA

Copies of this directory may be obtained from:
Thelma Dalmas
1230 Viewmont Dr.
Evington, VA 24550
email: jtdalmas@juno.com

A note about using this directory . . .

This directory has been compiled from sources which indicate that the individuals listed have presented well-received programs to bird clubs and similar groups. The capsule comments inform you of each speaker's specialty.

The directory is published each spring as a public service. There is no charge to either the speakers listed or to the organizations or individuals requesting a copy of the publication.

When you contact a speaker, ask about fees. We believe that most will visit you for a modest honorarium; 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, contact the editor, Alyce Quinn (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:

Alyce Quinn
681 Edgewood Farm Lane
Wirtz, VA 24184
Phone: 540-719-0109
e-mail: twoquinns@yahoo.com



THE 2010-2011 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 16 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.

Robert Ake

6603 Catherine Street

Norfolk, VA 23505

757-489-2903

rake@cox.net

Bob did an ABA Big Year in 2010. If you would like to review it, his blog is at <http://bobsbirds.blogspot.com/>. Bob would appreciate help with a place to stay for longer trips, and any financial help in his attempt to recover the costs of the Big Year would also be appreciated.

Bill Akers

3265 Laurel Drive
Blacksburg, VA 24060
540-951-7692
bill.akersj@comcast.net

Bill offers “**An Eastern Shore Experience**,” with slides and music. This program is about nesting colonial birds (gulls, terns, herons, etc.) as well as other beach nesters such as plovers and oystercatchers.

Fred Atwood

Flint Hill School
10409 Academic Dr.
Oakton, VA 22124
703-242-1675
fredatwood@yahoo.com (preferred method of contact)

Both an educator and naturalist, Fred has a variety of slide programs available. Some of these include:

“**Wildlife and Conservation in Papua New Guinea**”

“**From the Gaspé to Cape Cod**”

“**Natural History of Costa Rica**”

“**A Teacher in Antarctica**”

“**East African Birds and Wildlife**”

“**An Ecological Study Trip to Ecuador: Amazon Basin, the Andes, and the Galapagos**” (he could emphasize the mainland or the Galapagos if you would like).

Programs are also available on Virginia natural history (can emphasize birds, insects or plants).

Also available are “**The Earth is the Lord’s: A Biblical Perspective on Conservation**” and a new presentation titled “**Svalbard: Polar Bears, Ivory Gulls, Walrus and Spectacular Scenery in this Arctic Archipelago of Norway.**”

Carl Boast

3368 Hickory Cove Lane
Moneta, VA 24121
540-297-7336
carlandlinda@earthlink.net

Carl has several presentations he has put together based on his interests in wildlife photography and travel. One is on **Florida’s Feathered Friends**, a mid-winter perspective. Another is on **Awesome Alaska**, which is set to music

and uses zoom and pan effects provided in Windows Movie Maker. This program includes a variety of wildlife and scenes (i.e. not exclusively birds). A third is on **Birds of Costa Rica**. His newest program is entitled **Wildlife Photography Experiences**. Carl presents his own digital photography and brings his own computer and projector (a screen could be provided if needed).

Erwin Bohmfalk

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 or erwin@ntelos.net

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

“Birds of the Vredefort Dome” - a photographic field guide of the birds in this new UN International World Heritage Site in South Africa. Erwin has just published this first edition of his guide and will present his unique approach to providing an easy guide for identifying birds based on his photographs. This Heritage Site is located at the site 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 attempting to provide each species with several photos to show different angles of view, in flight, male vs. female and immature vs. mature (where differences occur), feeding, nesting, etc. He will also discuss the Wildlife Center of Virginia's wildlife photo and viewing safaris, including their birding safaris, that are being made available in South Africa.

“Around the Bottom of the World.” The 67-day, 13,000 mile first-ever, 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.

“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 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.

Ned Brinkley - *New Listing*

124 Peach Street

Cape Charles, VA 23310

757-442-1365 until 9 p.m.

thalassoica@gmail.com

Ned, author of the NWF *Field Guide to Birds of North America* (2007), editor of *North American Birds* journal since 2001, and formerly a film and literature professor at the University of Virginia, now offers a program entitled "**Miss Hathaway and Her Kind: Birders on TV and in the Movies.**" A visual tour of images of birders in popular culture from 1930 to 2005, this entertaining multimedia presentation features clips of some of the best-known on-screen birders as well as more obscure figures that go back to the earliest days of talking pictures. One hour, 15 minutes. A projection screen is needed, but all other equipment is brought by speaker.

Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory

P. O. Box 1225

Virginia Beach, VA 23451

Taberzz@aol.com

Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory offers programs on spring and fall song-bird banding, fall hawk banding, spring and fall hawk watching, monarch butterfly tagging and related habitat and conservation issues. Several speakers are available for a PowerPoint presentation. Contact Brian Taber at the address listed above. A color brochure containing information about the Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory is available upon request.

John Coiner

3024 Cranehill Drive

Lynchburg, VA 24503

434-384-7312 (home), 434-426-7553 (cell)

jrcoiner@comcast.net

John is an accomplished and award-winning photographer who concentrates on landscape and nature subjects. While John is well traveled, he has spent countless hours photographing the flora and fauna of the Central Virginia region.

He has published a CD on *Wildflowers of the Blue Ridge Mountains* that shows and describes many of the area's beautiful wildflowers. John's programs include the following:

"Southeast Shore Birds." As the name implies, this presentation provides beautiful photographs of birds found along the Atlantic coast from Virginia to Florida, as well as the Everglades and Florida gulf coast. While many of these birds may be common, the presentation does include several rare species including the Florida Whooping Crane and the Reddish Egret.

"Wildflowers of the Blue Ridge Mountains." This program provides photographs and information on wildflowers found in the Blue Ridge mountains of Virginia. Information on habitat, uses, and status is provided.

"American Parks." This show provides photographic glimpses of 20+ parks spread across the United States. Included are national seashores, parks, monuments, and wilderness areas, as well as tribal parks and one state park.

"Central Virginia Byways." This program is an attempt to capture snapshots of interesting buildings, views, and scenes along the byways of central Virginia before they vanish. The presentation consists of photographs taken in and around Lynchburg, Virginia, from 1972 through 2007. The photographs are from an area circumscribed within a 20-mile radius centered in Lynchburg. These 628 square miles encompass all of Lynchburg, as well as portions of Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford, and Campbell counties. Amherst and Bedford counties are mountainous, while Appomattox and Campbell counties are in the flatter Piedmont region.

Marlene Condon

Author, The Nature-Friendly Garden

Nature Writer/Photographer/Speaker

Crozet, VA 22932-2204

marlenecondon@aol.com

www.marlenecondon.com

"The Nature-friendly Garden" is a 45-minute slide presentation by Crozet, VA naturalist Marlene A. Condon, author/photographer of *The Nature-Friendly Garden: Creating a Backyard Haven for Plants, Wildlife, and People* (Stackpole Books). Marlene shares images of wildlife working in her yard to keep it—and the environment—functioning properly. Learn how to create your own nature-friendly garden in which Mother Nature furnishes, free of charge, most of the labor for you!

Mileage costs required beyond 20 miles from speaker's home but speaker's fee is negotiable. A slide projector and extra projector bulb is preferred but not required, and screen or wall suitable for viewing slide images is a must. Au-

thor will have copies of her book available for purchase. For more information and to contact the speaker, please visit her website listed above.

Thelma Dalmas

*1230 Viewmont Drive
Evington, VA 24550-2006
434-821-1136
jtdalmas@juno.com*

This program is for those of you who would like some information on bird feeding. What is the best type of seed to offer, who eats what, is there really a way to keep squirrels off the feeders, what types of feeders are available, how can suet be offered, and many other questions that are of interest to those of us who feed birds. This is not a slide program, but you will have the opportunity to see a variety of seeds, feeders and other items that may be used to attract birds to the yard. Overnight motel accommodation required if presentation is more than 100 miles from Lynchburg.

Maureen Eiger

*2415 Mount Vernon Rd. S.W.
Roanoke, VA 24015-3617
540-342-4890
2chirp@cox.net*

A State and Federal permitted Category IIA -Avian rehabilitator, Board member of the Roanoke Valley Bird Club, and bird observer and photographer, Maureen has two programs about wild birds from a different point of view.

“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 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.

“Beyond Birdwatching.” This program covers how to keep birds safe in your yard such as how to prevent window strikes, etc., what you can do to help injured birds and prevent the main reasons birds are brought to rehabbers. Learn about the process involved to be permitted to rehabilitate wild birds. Maureen will also discuss the rewards and pitfalls of being an Avian Rehabilitator. Photo/power point presentation and props.

Dr. Marshall Faintich

*Official photographer and senior birding editor, Rockfish Valley Trail
261 Sawmill Creek Drive
Nellysford, VA 22958
434-361-0114 between 9 a.m. and 10 p.m.
mfaintich@theworddoctor.com
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. Expenses for travel outside his local area are expected and the hosting organization's usual honorarium is greatly appreciated.

Donna Finnegan - New Listing

*2908 Wallers Quarters Rd.
Bumpass, VA 23024
540-895-9261
toadrana@earthlink.net*

Donna is a Virginia Master Naturalist, Fredericksburg Chapter, who has presented many nature programs for garden groups, Naturalists, Virginia Native Plant Society and Lake Anna State Park. Programs are free but expenses may be requested for distances. Donna offers the following programs:

*Birding by Ear 101—For Beginners
Creating Backyard Habitat with an Eye on Conservation
Don't Mow the Toad—Helping VA Amphibians and Reptiles
Butterflies of Virginia—ID of Most Common Species*

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 has conducted research on the impacts of logging on biodiversity, including birds, in Virginia and Pennsylvania. Other potential presentation topics

include forestry practices; deer and regeneration in Virginia forests; forest management in Bolivia; wildlife management and conservation issues in the wildland urban interface.

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. Among the selections are:

“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.”

Travel expenses are expected and honoraria greatly appreciated.

Bill Grant

2648 Clover Street
Salem, VA 24153-2146
540-389-3294 (home), 540-520-9185 (cell)
clarinetman@earthlink.net

A retired educator and member of The Roanoke Valley Bird Club, Bill has several video programs available as listed below. The programs require the largest TV that can be made available and a VCR. If needed, Bill can bring a VCR but the TV is a must. As an advanced photographer and videographer he feels that presenting the programs on video rather than slides gives the audience a better experience in being able to see the birds and their actions in motion. Five programs are now available:

“Bird Behaviors.” This program explores different maintenance and social bird behaviors with video examples of the actual behaviors by varied species of birds.

“The Birds of Texas.” This program was developed from a ten-day trip made to Texas in 2000 with emphasis on the birds found in Bentsen Rio Grande State Park, on South Padre Island and in the Port Aransas area. The video shows around 40 species from Texas. Many ornithologists have discussed their beliefs that the same species of birds from different areas have different dialects and Bill addresses this in the video with the mating calls of male Great-tailed Grackles from different parts of the state.

“The Birds of Arizona.” This program was developed from a three-week trip to Arizona in the summer of 2002. A total of 47 different species are seen along with other animals of the area. Many of the birds were found at the home of retired Cornell Lab of Ornithology ornithologist Sally Spofford, who for many years opened the yard of her home to birders visiting the Portal area. Sally passed away shortly after this video was made. It also features the Pattons of Patagonia and their fantastic hummingbirds as well as other birds found in the area around Patagonia and in the desert.

“In Search of the Atlantic Puffin.” In 2003, Bill and his wife, Loretta, traveled to Maine for a trip to Machais Seal Island and Eastern Egg Rock Island to see the fabulous Atlantic Puffin. This documentary centers on the area around Jonesport, Maine and Captain Barna and John Norton and the trip to Machais Seal Island. Pelagic birds seen on the way are shown in slow motion so that identifying marks and wing movement can clearly be seen. In addition to the puffins, Razorbills and Common Murres were also present. After departing from Jonesport, Bill and Loretta went down to Brunswick and set out with Audubon naturalists to search for some of the puffins from the southernmost established colony of the birds. Here also were Black Guillemots and a fantastic shot of a Northern Gannet taking off from the island, one of the first seen there. In addition, Bill has prepared a three-page handout for anyone interested in making this trip of a lifetime listing places to stay, whom to book passage with, as well as some of the best eating in the area.

“Our Disappearing Birds” is an in-depth look at the state of our avian friends today and the number of species that are in serious decline. The program examines the causes and possible solutions to this current dilemma.

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

www.fws.gov/northeast/greatdismalswamp

Refuge hours of operation: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.- 3:30 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
4010 W. Broad St.
Richmond, VA 23230
804-367-0143
sergio.harding@dgif.virginia.gov
www.dgif.virginia.gov*

Sergio is Nongame Bird Conservation Biologist for the Wildlife Diversity Division of the 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 breeding marsh bird surveys, bald eagle monitoring, 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.

Mike Hayslett

*Director, Virginia Vernal Pools Program
Department of Biology
Sweet Briar College
c/o P.O. Box 1144
Amherst, VA 24521
434-381-6523 (office)
mhayslett@sbc.edu*

Mike's 25-year career as a naturalist, field biologist, and conservation educator has centered around the areas of field ecology and Virginia's natural history. His specialties include watchable wildlife habitat management, herpetology (reptiles and amphibians) and **vernal pools**—unique, declining habitats which are a special type of isolated, freshwater wetlands that are characterized by the presence of certain amphibians, crustaceans, and other fascinating biota. For more information visit www.virginiavernalpools.org. Mike has also been a birder for over 30 years.

Important Bird Areas Program

530 E Main Street

Suite 810

Richmond, VA 23219

804-788-7660

melfner@audubon.org

Mary A. Elfner is the Virginia Important Bird Area (IBA) program coordinator. 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.

Bruce Ingram

1009 Brunswick Forge Road

Troutville, VA 24175

540-992-6214 after 5:00 p.m.

be_ingram@juno.com

www.bruceingramoutdoors.com

Bruce Ingram is the author of over 2,100 magazine articles on the outdoors and has sold over 2,500 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 Call*, and many others. He is the author of the ***James River Guide*** which details the 26 float trips available on the upper James from the river's beginning to Richmond. The book includes information on access points, major rapids, topographical references, and fishing, birding, paddling, and photography tips. Ingram has also published ***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. The books are all available from Ecopress (800-326-9272). The New and Shenandoah books cost

\$18.25. Ingram's latest 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. The cost is \$19.25. For signed, dedicated copies, contact Bruce via e-mail, or send a check to him at the address above.

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"

Bruce now has a website with a weekly outdoors themed blog at the address listed above.

Teta Kain

7083 Caffee Creek Lane

Gloucester VA 23061-3374

804-693-5246

tkdragonrun7@gmail.com

Teta has been presenting nature shows around the state for many years and over time has added quite a few new topics. She has all of her own equipment and has no restriction on travel distances. For a description of any or all of her presentations, contact Teta at the phone number or e-mail above.

General Nature:

"Feeding Wild Birds"

"Nesting Birds"

"Butterflies of Virginia"

"Moths of Virginia"

"The Strange World of Fungi"

"Spiders of Virginia - Their Lives and Times"

Virginia Natural Areas:

"Wildlife Along Virginia's Rivers"

"Dismal Swamp"

"Dragon Run"

“Plover Paradise”

Travelogs:

“Wild Wonderful Borneo”

“Australia – Land Down Under”

“Antarctic Ice – the Ultimate Adventure”

“Panama”

Ken Klotz

P.O. Box 3881

Charlottesville VA 22903

434-831-2575 or 800-743-8352

kk@ecoventurestravel.com

www.ecoventurestravel.com

Ken Klotz is a long time member of the Monticello Bird Club and the VSO. He and his wife, Marcelle Morel, travel extensively to offer nature-oriented tours and birding with local experts in many parts of the world.

“Birding Guyana: the New Frontier.” Join us for a fascinating photographic journey through a little known part of the world that still preserves some of the finest unspoiled natural areas in South America. Birds and wildlife abound here alongside other natural wonders. This small country has only one main dirt road into the interior, and there are still large tracts of untouched tropical rainforest that are home to 790 species of birds—and the list is still growing as more species are documented. Travel is still accomplished mainly by river or small planes. Eight species of monkeys, abundant jaguar, caiman, giant river otters and Harpy Eagles all attest to the quality of this environment.

Guyana is located in South America and is bordered by Venezuela, Brazil, and Surinam. It is the only English-speaking country in South America, and has a vibrant blend of Amerindian, Caribbean and South American traditions. The country is often referred to as South America’s last frontier, as it has been relatively undiscovered by tourists. Guyana is a real paradise for nature lovers. Although it has only one national park (Kaieteur Falls), its natural beauty is mostly unspoiled and ranges from vast open savannahs to virgin rainforests, from mountains to huge rivers and waterfalls.

“Brazil’s Pantanal and Amazon Rainforest.” Jaguars, Jacanas, and Jabiru – Oh my! We will begin with a natural history expedition cruise into a remote area of the Amazon where man lives close to nature. In the flooded forests walking trails become waterways for boats, and houses, even gardens, built to float on the rivers rise and fall with the seasons.

Continue with us next on a journey to the wildlife rich Pantanal of Brazil,

including a very productive visit to a reserve where sightings of the elusive jaguar are possible. Located in central-western Brazil, the Pantanal is a mosaic of seasonally-flooded savannahs and tropical forests. It is almost 10 times the size of the Everglades. The Pantanal is also one of the world's most productive habitats. Annual floods, fed by tropical rains, create a giant nursery for life. As the waters recede in the dry season, the Pantanal attracts a great influx of birds and other animals. The seasonally flooded savannahs and tropical forests offer some of the finest wildlife viewing in Latin America.

“Expedition Cruise Around Spitsbergen, an Arctic Archipelago.” Join us on a natural history cruise where Polar Bears, pack ice and a million seabirds nesting on sheer rocky cliffs highlight this island wilderness above the Arctic Circle. The huge bird cliffs along the Spitsbergen coasts are a major attraction. Spitsbergen is a breeding ground for large numbers of guillemots such as the Brunnich's and the Black Guillemot. Other bird species such as Atlantic Puffin, Little Auk, Northern Fulmar and Kittiwake can also be found on or around the cliffs, while the Arctic Tern, Ringed Plover, Purple Sandpiper and four species of skua prefer the tundra. On top of the list for many birders are the rarely seen, elusive gulls - Ivory, Sabine's and Ross's. Walruses and whales, including the snow white Beluga, are among the marine mammals also seen here. The indigenous Svalbard Reindeer and Arctic Foxes are among the land mammals to be found.

Spitsbergen is an Arctic archipelago 400 miles north of Norway. The archipelago ranges from Bear Island at 74° North to Rossøya at 81° North. It is by far the largest wilderness area of Europe; it covers an area about the size of Ireland, yet has less than 30 miles of road. About 60% of the land is glaciated. Since 1925 Norway has had sovereignty over Spitsbergen and the Norwegian name for the archipelago is Svalbard. Spitsbergen has a population of only about 3000 in 4 settlements and is still today virtually an unspoiled wilderness.

Bill Leaning

95 Graemont Lane

Earlysville, VA 22936

434-964-1610

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 photo-

graphic 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. After several years of procrastination, he changed over from film to digital photography during a birding trip to Belize in 2004. He has been enjoying the extraordinary versatility of this medium ever since.

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.” More recent visits to New Zealand have provided more images of the birdlife and the beauty and diversity of one of the last places on earth to be settled. This program is a spin-off from “Birding Down Under.” The majority of New Zealand’s 305 bird species are seabirds, waders or freshwater birds. This extraordinary land also has several unique endemic species of birds and other wildlife inhabitants.

“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.

Allyson Lee

4441 Old Mountain Road NE
Roanoke, VA 24019
540-397-1008
swampwitch@cox.net

Wildlife Care Alliance volunteer Allyson Lee offers PowerPoint programs with visual excitement and stimulation (some live animals available depending on program and needs.) 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/How to determine if it is in need***; and for those interested in becoming rehabilitators, she offers ***Reptile Rehabilitation***; ***Bird Rehabilitation***; or ***Mammal Rehabilitation***.

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

Stephen Living

3909 Airline Blvd.
Chesapeake, VA 23321
757-465-6868
stephen.living@dgif.virginia.gov

Stephen is a Watchable Wildlife Biologist with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. Stephen's experience includes extensive environmental education as well as habitat evaluation and restoration. Stephen gives presentations on a number of topics including: backyard habitat, invasive species, urban biology, the Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail—as well as various species and groups of organisms. With a variety of responsibilities and a large geographic area to cover, please allow as much advance notice for scheduling as possible.

Jim Minick

315 Ward Branch Rd.
Rural Retreat, VA 24368
jminick@RADFORD.EDU
www.jim-minick.com

Writer, teacher, and birder Jim Minick probes the natural world through essays and poems, searching for ways to link people to their home ground, especially through feathered creatures. He is the author of ***The Blueberry Years***, a new memoir from St. Martin's. Jim has also written a collection of essays, ***Finding a Clear Path***, two books of poetry, ***Her Secret Song*** and ***Burning Heaven***,

and he edited *All There Is to Keep* by Rita Riddle. In 2008, the Virginia College Bookstore Association awarded *Burning Heaven* the Jefferson Cup for best book of the year. Of his first book, Scott Weidensaul wrote: “In *Finding a Clear Path*, Jim Minick maps the trails, real and metaphorical, that twine through the ancient Appalachian hills and through the hearts of those who love them, gracefully uniting the land, the wildlife and its people.” He has read his work to diverse audiences. Will travel; fee negotiable.

Bob Schamerhorn

1101 Glidewell Rd.

Richmond, VA 23227

804-477-3433

bob@iPhotoBirds.com

www.iphotobirds.com

Nature photography enthusiast and life-long birder Bob Schamerhorn is a Virginia native. He’s been an avid birder since childhood in the 1970’s and is a member of the Richmond Audubon Society. Visit his webpage listed above for sample images.

“Birds of Oahu, Hawaii.” See many of Oahu’s native birds, immigrant and introduced birds and the island paradise they live in. Colorful photographs accompany information on these unique birds and the struggles they face. This show will leave your group wanting make the 5,000 mile trek themselves. Approx. 40 min.

“Birds of the Mid-Atlantic.” This popular program is packed full of beautiful avian images of the Mid-Atlantic region, from the mountains to the coast, from spring to winter. A photographic trip through Virginia’s checklist, accompanied by stories, information and experiences of where and how these stunning photos were taken. Highly informative and a great program for any viewer, novice to experienced. Enjoy viewing these sharp colorful bird photographs, presented by a life-long birder. Approx. 40 minutes.

“Wet and Wild II.” See how the addition of a simple water feature can attract more birds to any yard and keep them coming back! This updated presentation contains video clips, audio and detailed still photos of over two dozen local species, warblers and spring migrants as they drink and bathe. Includes step-by-step instructions on how to install this low maintenance water feature. Approx. 40 minutes.

Phil Shelton

University of Virginia's College at Wise
1 College Ave.
Wise, VA 24293
276-328-0200 (office), 276-706-4074 (home)
pcs@uvawise.edu

This well-traveled professor of the University of Virginia's College at Wise presents entertaining slides and narrations of the many places he has visited around the world. Selections include "*Birds of the Pacific*," "*Isle Royale*," "*Mt. Rogers*," and programs on India and China.

John Spahr

234 West Frederick St.
Staunton, VA 24401
540-887-2345 (home)
Jspahr@yahoo.com (preferred method of contact)

John has combined a long-term interest in birds and conservation with a technical facility for digital presentation. His programs intend to inform and entertain.

"Owls - Birds of Mystery and Majesty." John shares his knowledge of these nocturnal birds via a digital presentation that includes some amazing images. This program covers some of the unique and special adaptations, behaviors and "lifestyles" of owls. It continues with an elaboration of some of our more common eastern owls.

"Birds of Paradise and New Guinea Birding." New Guinea, the world's largest tropical island, holds a diverse array of cultures and a wealth of natural history. It is a birder's paradise with more than 700 species, including the ever-amazing Birds of Paradise. After two trips to this island, John has assembled a program that concentrates on the Birds of Paradise while also touching on many of the fascinating aspects of this unique place.

"Psittacine Science" is John's latest program that discusses cockatoos, parrots, parakeets, macaws, etc. from around the world. The discussion touches upon the systematics, biology, habitats and conservation status of these long-lived, and intelligent birds. This is an amazingly diverse taxonomic order. For example, a few members of this group can be as small as our ruby-throated hummingbird, while at least one is as large as a black vulture. Their plumage can vary from nearly all white (or all black) to the full spectrum of primary colors. Their impressive features make them some of the most sought-after cage birds. This, however, is not a pet-oriented program. Rather it focuses on wild birds, many of which are imperiled.

David Spears

3928 Bell Road

Dillwyn, Virginia 23936

434-951-6350 (office), 434-983-1817 (home)

merlin2752@yahoo.com

VSO president from 2007 to 2009, David presents an informative talk on the history of the organization, its programs, accomplishments, publications and field trips.

Randy Thrasher

120 Woodbine Drive

Lynchburg, VA 24502

434-239-5850

siskin1@verizon.net

Randy Thrasher is a VSO Life Member and has become passionate about videotaping birds and other animals. He and his wife Sue have had an opportunity go to far-away places to bird. Smaller birds are not often seen on nature television because of the difficulties with taping them, and this is Randy's greatest interest. Randy has videos entitled:

“Madagascar People, Birds, and Lemurs” shows birds, lemurs, and a touch of the culture and music of this exotic island nation.

“Birding Peru, a World Class Adventure” gives the experience of traveling in a third world country, good looks at many birds, and beautiful Peruvian music.

“Birding Northern Peru” features many birds that were seen while traveling 21 days through varied habitat found in the northern part of this country near the Pacific coast Amazon head waters and the Andes. Peruvian music is beautiful and the Andes scenery is breathtaking, literally and figuratively.

“Birding the Eastern U.S. through the Seasons” provides looks at many sought-after birds that pass through the Mid-Atlantic throughout the year, including close-up shots of warblers and rare winter visitors.

“Ecuador Birds and People” is a candid view of birds, music, and people of Ecuador.

“Birding the Southwest United States in April (Grand Canyon, Las Vegas, and San Diego)” provides great looks at 50 western birds including good looks at California Condor and a look at the area's cultural uniqueness.

“Birding Brazil” looks at birds of the Atlantic Rainforest, the Pantanal, and southern tributaries of the Amazon. Over 140 bird species and many rare animals are shown in the video.

“Birding in Borneo and mainland Malaysia” shows birds, most of the native primates, and people.

“Calypso Birding in Trinidad and Tobago” shows good video of many of the birds with Calypso music in the background.

Randy enjoys sharing his experiences through use of his videos. If a group is interested in seeing any of his programs they will need to provide a large screen TV, DVD player, or some other means to project or play a video from the DVD player.

Lou Verner

1320 Belman Road

Fredericksburg, VA 2201

540-907-8496

Lou.Verner@dgif.virginia.gov

Lou is a Region IV Terrestrial Biologist in the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and is Coordinator of the agency’s WildlifeMapping Program. Lou earned his doctorate in Ecology and prior to coming to Virginia, served as an Urban Wildlife Biologist in Texas. He has given presentations on a wide variety of topics, especially those concerning urban habitats. In addition to presentations on WildlifeMapping (DGIF’s citizen wildlife monitoring program) and the Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail, Lou is available for presentations on creating backyard habitats, the ecological value of riparian and wetland habitats, urban pond management, invasive species, amphibian monitoring, the effects of urbanization on wildlife, and conservation design for subdivisions. Given his demanding schedule, it is best to schedule as much in advance of the program date as possible.

The Virginia Bluebird Society

4794 Tapestry Dr.

Fairfax, VA 22032

703-764-9268

cjbish@aol.com

bj.chambers@cox.net

vbs@viriniabluebirds.org

www.viriniabluebirds.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

4010 W. Broad St.

Richmond, VA 23230

804-367-1000 (main number), 804-367-9369 (information desk)

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

P. O. Box 996

Verona, VA 24482

540-248-9360

1796 Highway Sixteen

Marion, VA 24354

276-783-4860

1320 Belman Road

Fredericksburg, VA 22401

540-899-4169

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 Care Alliance

Gwenn H. Johnston, President

P.O. Box 222

Thaxton, VA 24174

540-586-4394 (best method of contact)

WCA Hotline 540-587-4007

ghjbird@aol.com

Wildlife Care Alliance is a non-profit group of licensed wildlife rehabilitators and concerned citizens working together to benefit native Virginia wildlife. Our organization serves a geographic area encompassing Roanoke, Bedford, Lynchburg, Blacksburg, adjacent counties and beyond—a large area of central-southwest Virginia. Our rehabilitators provide quality specialized care to orphaned, injured, sick, or displaced wildlife. Our goal is to release healthy, viable animals into appropriate habitat and to help the public understand the value of wildlife. WCA helps at least 1,500 wild animals each year. At least half of them are birds.

The presentation consists of a 45-minute PowerPoint presentation about wildlife rehabilitation—what it is, why we do it, and how the public can help. This is followed by a short demonstration of how to safely capture and transport injured wild birds and mammals to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator.

We would be grateful if you could provide a PowerPoint projector and a screen or a blank white wall on which to project the images, and a table for demo items. There will be no live animals—only photos, stuffed animals and props.

Expenses and honorarium gratefully accepted. All donations go to WCA to help defray expenses of wildlife rehabilitation. We would like to present within 50 miles of Bedford/Lynchburg/Roanoke, but distance is negotiable. The presentation is approximately one hour long. We are available mid-October to mid-April. Availability is negotiable at other times.

Wildlife Center of Virginia

P.O. Box 1557

Waynesboro, VA 22980

540-942-9453

edu@wildlifecenter.org

The Wildlife Center of Virginia is the foremost wildlife care and rehabilitation facility in the state and offers a variety of programs for both young and adult groups. 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. For more information about both adult and children's programs, as well as fee schedules, call the number above and ask for the education department.

Sylvia Hoehns Wright

804-672-6007

Sylvia@TheWrightScoop.com

www.TheWrightScoop.com

Sylvia Hoehns Wright, recipient of the 2008 *Turning America from Eco-weak to Eco-chic Award*, is a nationally recognized author and lecturer, workshop instructor, and landscape/garden designer. In her exploration of eco-chic she discusses a variety of eco-sustainable topics that include roof gardens, use of native plants, or environmentally-friendly products. Although historically earth-friendly is defined in terms of reduce, reuse, and recycle, Wright's eco-chic perspective takes this definition a step further. It is the reflection of how we feel about the environment, not just as a lifestyle choice but a decorating style, too. For details, see Wright's web site or acquire a copy of her book, *From Eco-weak to Eco-chic: landscape green*.

Charles Ziegenfus

Mathematics Dept.

James Madison University

Harrisonburg, VA 22807

540-568-6408 or 540-434-3164

ziegencw@jmu.edu

“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.