



# The Flyer

Newsletter of the Williamsburg Bird Club

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October 2017

## 40<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Overview

By Bill Williams, WBC President



*(The following is from Bill Williams' opening remarks at our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration at Williamsburg Regional Library on September 20<sup>th</sup>.)*

We did it! It

took a little more than 40 years, but we got here and we are excited to celebrate Williamsburg Bird Club's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting. We are so very pleased to have you here with us.

The purpose of the Bird Club is to promote interest in the study of wild birds; protect birds and their habitat; and share the joy of birding with others.

Perhaps there is no more fitting example of the club's public outreach than the student artwork displayed around the Schell meeting room. There were 66 pieces contributed by York County and Gloucester County schools to recognize our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We can thank Deane Gordon for coordinating this effort and for making sure these were showcased at out two local bird stores and our local public libraries.

When the Williamsburg Bird formed in 1977, joint replacement was relegated to counter-culture participants and Mute Swans were locally unheard of; Canada Geese had yet to nest here; Northern Bobwhite and Loggerhead Shrikes could readily be found; Brown Pelicans were rare anywhere in the state; House Finches were rare, but Evening Grosbeaks and Pine Siskins were common in winter. We have been here to formally chronicle those and other changes to our local bird populations.

*(Continued on Page 3)*

*(Bill Williams' President's Corner for October can be found on page 7.)*

## Our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting's Guest Speaker: Who Is Dr. Byrd?

By Cheryl J. Jacobson, WBC Vice President, Programs

*(The following is from Cheryl Jacobson's introduction of Dr. Mitchell Byrd at our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on September 20<sup>th</sup>.)*



In 2005, a local newspaper described Dr. Byrd this way: "Dr. Byrd is the man, many say, who saved the Bald Eagle as well as



the man who brought the Peregrine Falcon back to life east of the Mississippi River." William and Mary's nationally recognized biology program truly took shape during the 13 years that Mitchell Byrd chaired the department. He is Chancellor Professor of Biology Emeritus at

William and Mary and Director Emeritus of the Center for Conservation Biology. He has received numerous honors and awards for his work with birds and conservation issues. Dr. Byrd has been associated with birds for well over 70 years.

*(Continued on Page 2)*



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**Our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting's Guest Speaker: Who is Dr. Byrd?**  
*(Continued from Page 1)*

After receiving his bachelor's, master's, and doctorate from Virginia Tech, Byrd joined the faculty of the College of William and Mary in 1956, eventually becoming chairman of the biology department, leading it to national recognition. He later founded the Center for Conservation Biology before retiring in 1994. Over the years, the Chancellor Professor Emeritus and Director Emeritus, who remains active at the center, has worked with almost every species of bird found in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Leading the Eastern Peregrine Falcon Recovery Team, Byrd took up hammer and nails to help build towers to serve as nesting areas for some 240 Peregrine Falcon chicks being reintroduced to the Chesapeake coastal area. The birds had been almost completely exterminated in Virginia by pesticide poisoning — down to a single breeding pair in 1981 — but in 2014 the breeding population was close to 40.

Byrd also built Osprey nesting platforms, tagged at least 3,500 Osprey, and worked to protect rare woodpeckers, but he will always be best known for his work with eagles. In 2007, he received the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Recovery Champions Award for his monitoring, research, and protection of the Chesapeake Bay Bald Eagle population.

With a colleague, Dr. Mitchell Byrd was instrumental in the founding of the Williamsburg Bird Club in 1977 and at the end of his presentation, Dr. Byrd was made a Lifetime Member of the Williamsburg Bird Club, an honor well-deserved.

*Lois and Mitchell Byrd at the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reception — photo courtesy of Cathy Millar*



## 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Overview (continued from page 1)

As noted in stating the club's purpose, we pride ourselves for community service and education. So let's review what we've done in 4 decades:

- Held at least 370 monthly programs and conducted more than 450 Field Trips
- Provided more than 250 bird-related resources to the local library since 1977
- Conducted a highly successful community Bird Seed Sale for many years
- Since 1982 we have awarded a total of \$35,585 to support 72 graduate student ornithological research grants
- Provided 21 Nature Camp Scholarships since 2008
- Created and monitored Eastern Bluebird and Purple Martin projects
- Held 40 Christmas and 40 Spring Bird counts
- Hosted the 1987 and 1995 VSO Annual meetings
- Served as Early Risers Bird Walk leaders for the Annual Colonial Williamsburg Garden Symposium
- Provided feeders and bird seed for the Child Development Resources Center
- Coordinated highway clean-up along a 3-mile stretch of Historic Rt. 5 for more than 20 years
- Produced a Birds of the Colonial Historic Triangle Annotated Checklist in 1998 and 2012
- Lead monthly/twice monthly bird walks at New Quarter Park since June 2005
- Conducted a Nature Camp for Adults in 2006
- Ran a spring and fall bird banding study near the Population Ecology Lab off South Henry Street
- Been involved in Prothonotary Warbler nest monitoring studies
- Worked with local schools on bird/nature clubs and natural history studies projects for many years
- Taught a Williamsburg Area Learning Tree ornithology course and have taught Christopher Wren Association bird courses for at least 20 years
- Monitored beach-nesting and colonial waterbirds on the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel, Grandview Nature Preserve, and Craney Island
- 7 current and/or former Williamsburg Bird Club members have served as VSO Presidents
- Members of the Williamsburg Bird were founders of:
  - The Kiptopeke (1977) and College Creek (1996) hawkwatches
  - The Historic Virginia Land Conservancy
  - The Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory
  - The Historic Rivers Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists, which was recognized in September as Virginia's 2017 Chapter of the Year

And, as if that's not enough, in terms of recognition for the Club—

- A number of the club's members have been featured in Next Door Neighbors: Geoff Giles, Shirley Devan, Jeanette Navia and Bill Williams
- Our support of New Quarter Park earned the club special recognition by the York County Board of Supervisors in 2006.
- On May 15, 2015 the club was recognized by the College of William and Mary's Alpha Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa with the Life Long Learner Award

AND...Because inquiring minds want to know, those with continuous 40-year involvement with the bird club are:

**Mitchell Byrd, Fred Blystone, Jim Booth, Brian Taber, and Bill Williams!**

As you might guess, there is no moss growing under the feet of the Williamsburg Bird Club and if it did, rest assured, it would be immediately identified and cataloged for Wildlife Mapping by someone affiliated with this great organization!

## OUR NEWEST LIFETIME MEMBERS

*On September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017, at our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, eleven people, including Dr. Mitchell Byrd, were made Lifetime Members of the Williamsburg Bird Club. Here are their stories.....*

### Alex Minarik

Alex Minarik has served the Williamsburg Bird Club in many leadership capacities including President, Secretary, and as a Member-at-Large of our Board of Directors. She has led numerous field trips over the years and continues to be a regular and valued member of the CVWO waterbirds team with its work on the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel and Craney Island. For her many years of contributions and leadership we are pleased to recognize Alex Minarik with this Life Membership recognition.

### Cynthia and Bob Long

Bob and Cynthia Long have been and continue to be ardent supporters of the Williamsburg Bird Club since they joined more than 30 years ago. Bob served as club president in 2007 for our 30 Birby Years Anniversary Celebration, for which Cynthia was one of the key planners. Their friendship with artist Spike Knuth facilitated his extraordinary Red-headed Woodpecker painting we recognize as the club's current logo. Cynthia's knowledge of native plants was crucial to her leading role in working with York County Parks and Recreation to establish Northern Bobwhite Quail habitat at new Quarter Park and she served as the club's Historian for many years. Bob and Cynthia were members of this year's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Committee. For their long-standing service to the Williamsburg Bird Club it is with great pleasure we grant Life Memberships to Bob and Cynthia Long.



### Dan Cristol

Always sporting an enthusiastic and welcoming smile, Dan Cristol has had a profound impact on the Williamsburg Bird Club, the ornithology of Virginia and in particular students at the College of William and Mary, where he is a Chancellor Professor of Biology. He has received more than \$2.25 million in research funding. Among his distinguished list of awards are:

- Alumni Fellowship Teaching Award (William & Mary)
- Phi Beta Kappa Faculty Award for Advancement of Scholarship
- M. S. Curtis Distinguished Associate Professorship of Biology
- Outstanding Faculty Award from the State Council of Higher Education
- Plumeri Faculty Excellence Award
- The Virginia Society of Ornithology's Mitchell A. Byrd Award for Scientific Achievement

Dan has served as the Bird Club's Program Chair and has been our invaluable liaison with the university for our monthly meeting space and parking.

Dan writes monthly column for Virginia Gazette and donates his stipend for that to the Williamsburg Bird Club. He is personally responsible for Virginia's second fully documented records for Limpkin and Townsend's Warbler. With a huge debt of gratitude the Williamsburg Bird is proud to recognize Dan Cristol with a Life Membership.



## Jim Booth

In March 1977, Jim was stationed at the Naval Weapons Station. His wife saw a notice in the newspaper about the formation of the Williamsburg Bird Club. Jim attended the meeting, and so became involved. Birding was a hobby for his parents and that is how he developed the interest in birds. After a year and a half, he was transferred but returned in 1986 as the CO for the Weapons Station. During that time, he was active in the club until 1988 when he was again transferred. He always paid his dues and got the newsletter as the club was important to him. When he retired in 1991, he and his wife returned to Williamsburg and he has been an active member since.



Jim has always participated in the Christmas and Spring Bird Counts and Feeder Watch. Club highlights for him have been the owl walks (which the club did often in the early days) and the Eastern Shore Field Trips. He said he has never gone to a meeting or event with the Club that he has not had fun, learned something, and enjoyed the fellowship of other birders. He has slowly passed on his passion to his grandson. With gratitude for his many contributions to the Williamsburg Bird Club, we present Jim Booth with a WBC Life Membership.

## Lee Schuster

Lee Schuster has been a career science educator holding instructional positions at the Virginia Living Museum and Toano Middle School. While at Toano she implemented Project Feeder Watch, from which a number of her students had their research published in that project's nationally recognized student newsletter. Lee has served the Williamsburg Bird Club in many capacities including President, co-Editor of the Flyer, and Christmas Bird Count compiler. For many years Lee has coordinated our annual purchases of bird-related resources for the local public library and has helped with bird studies at Waller Mill Elementary School. For the last 3 years Lee has been the Virginia Department of Transportation's primary contractor for its colonial waterbirds monitoring team on the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel and has been a primary member of the Craney Island bird survey team. Her love of birds is no more evident than during this time of year as she is a more-than avid Atlanta Falcons fan. With much pleasure we recognize Lee Schuster as Williamsburg Bird Club Life Member.



## Tom McCary

Tom McCary became a member of the Williamsburg Bird Club in 1983. He served the club as its Vice President for Programs and was always huge hit at club meetings with his erudite book review presentations. Tom is a retired English teacher and for many years served as a historical interpreter at Sherwood Forest Plantation and most recently at Shirley Plantation. Tom has willingly been a New Quarter Park Saturday Morning Bird Walk leader, and can always be counted on, as it were, to cover a portion of the College Woods section for the Williamsburg Christmas and Spring bird counts. He currently serves the club as its Historian. As thanks for his talented contributions to the Williamsburg Bird Club we present Tom McCary with a Life Membership.



## Shirley Devan

During the life of every organization there are periods of renewal and revitalization. For the Williamsburg Bird Club that most recent period was skillfully navigated by Shirley Devan. Her unsurpassed organizational talents, seemingly indefatigable energy, and strengths in technology took the club above new horizons as she served the club as President for 6 consecutive years—an exhausting tenure, unmatched in the club’s history. Throughout much of that same time period Shirley was a founder of the very successful Historic Rivers Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists, serving that organization in innumerable leadership roles including its President. In 2011 she initiated a Prothonotary Warbler study on the Northwest River in Chesapeake that required weekly monitoring of up to 100 nest boxes. Those commitments to the natural sciences did not go unnoticed. Shirley was honored in spring of 2012 with WHRO’s Community Impact Environment Award. As if that was not enough, Shirley served on the Virginia Society of Ornithology’s Board of Directors and is currently the VSO’s Membership Chairman. She continues her Prothonotary Warbler studies and expanded it to our local Chickahominy Riverfront Park in 2017. And just to fill in her free time she took on the responsibility of acquiring our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary note cards, book marks, and cloisonné pins. It is with more than a great deal of pride that we acknowledge Shirley Devan’s contributions to the Williamsburg Bird Club with a well-deserved Life Membership.



## Valerie and George Copping

Valerie and George Copping, owners of Wild Birds Unlimited in Williamsburg, have always been outdoor enthusiasts from her time in forestry school and wildlife rehabilitation and George’s childhood upbringing in Louisiana. As George was retiring from the Army, and both were transitioning out of real estate, they decided to parlay their love of the outdoors into a business. It was 1990 and they were one of the first fifty Wild Birds Unlimited Stores in the country and the first in Virginia. Their interest in and support of the Williamsburg Bird Club started shortly thereafter. In 1991, they provided the club, at cost, a Purple Martin house, to be donated to The Nature Conservancy for installation on the Eastern Shore. Then, in 1994, they began the program that continues to this day of donating 5% of all purchases made by club members at their store back to the Williamsburg Bird Club. This much needed revenue has been used to help fund our annual Graduate Student Research Ornithology Grants. In honor of their long time contributions to the bird club, we are pleased to recognize Valerie and George as lifetime members.



## SOME PHOTOS FROM OUR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AND OUR PICNIC



144 delicious cupcakes were provided by *Small Cakes*. The Owl Cake was the creation of *Cake.Alicious!* Many thanks to both bakeries for making our evening so sweet!





At our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary picnic, folks lined up for the great catered lunch and potluck desserts....YUM!

Nancy Barnhart kept folks guessing with her bird trivia quiz...but the club members were knowledgeable enough to make her offer several 'break the tie' questions.



Folks were gathered around Saturday morning, September 30<sup>th</sup>, to celebrate both the Bird Club's 40<sup>th</sup> and a presentation to Molly Nealer of gift certificates to Wild Birds and Backyard Birder for all her support for the Bird Club as she managed New Quarter Park.  
*All four photos courtesy of Shirley Devan*



**A MESSAGE FROM BILL WILLIAMS--**

This edition of the Flyer is a retrospective of the bird club's September 2017 Fortieth Anniversary celebrations that included field trips, bird walks, a packed-house monthly meeting and a spectacular-day picnic feast at New Quarter Park. Without question the perfect center piece for all of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events was the standing ovation Dr. Mitchell Byrd received at the conclusion of his September 20, 2017 key-note address. Attendees at that Williamsburg Public Library gathering came from as far away as Charlottesville, Virginia and Cape Hatteras, North Carolina. They represented the broad spectrum of people who have been, and in many cases continue to be, impacted by Mitchell's passion for birds. With the exemplary skill of a gifted teacher, he chronicled witty, yet significantly poignant, anecdotes of his life of birding and ornithological research experiences that ranged from molecular level studies to more than five decades of field work devoted to recoveries of Virginia's threatened and endangered species. Embedded throughout his presentation was an overview of how populations of species he and his students investigated changed over time, and most importantly, what was believed to cause those changes. As much as human intervention has been able to accomplish in the short term for species nearing extirpation or extinction, the need to see them as part of a much larger support network is essential. It was with that as background that Dr. Byrd concluded his remarks with a call to create and sustain large scale ecological systems to ensure long-term species' survival. The full-audience tribute that followed that rallying cry was as much about its message as it was about the man who has lived that message.

As the bird club was founded on principles directly related to those Mitchell Byrd inspired in so many people, he was the first of eleven Williamsburg Bird Club Honorary Life Memberships presented at the Anniversary meeting. Also awarded Honorary Life Memberships were Jim Booth, Valerie and George Copping, Cynthia and Bob Long, Tom McCary, Dan Cristol, Alex Minarik, Shirley Devan, and Lee Schuster.

As much as pictures will evoke some thousands of words that made this 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary month so vibrant, none of that would have come to pass without the support, diligent efforts, and sheer delight to learn that characterize our organization. On behalf of the Williamsburg Bird Club's past and present members we owe ourselves a resounding Thank You and Continue the Great Work!!!

## A FEW MORE PHOTOS FROM OUR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



Art work, created by students and coordinated by Deane Gordon, was displayed on all the walls in the Schell Room.

Welcoming visitors and WBC members were (L-R) Keith Navia, Nancy Barnhart, Jeanette Navia, Shirley Devan, Patty Maloney, and (seated) Ann Carpenter. They were busily selling WBC hats, pins, patches, and notecards, while giving away bookmarks—all designed by Shirley Devan.



(Left) WBC President Bill Williams and guest speaker (and new Lifetime Member) Dr. Mitchell Byrd chat just before the celebration began.



(Right) Our honored guest, Lois Byrd, sits awaiting the program to begin.

And, of course, no WBC meeting is complete without our birding buddy.





Beautiful artwork, great food, standing room only, and a dynamic speaker....our 40<sup>th</sup> was definitely an evening to remember!



## **DR. MITCHELL BYRD'S LECTURE – SEPTEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup>, 2017 AT THE WILLIAMSBURG LIBRARY THEATER**

*A Summary compiled by Cathy Millar*

One hundred twenty people from as far away as Charlottesville and Hatteras, North Carolina filled the Williamsburg Library auditorium to celebrate our club's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the highlight of which was Dr. Mitchell Byrd's presentation for which some of his former grad students were also in attendance.

Delivering a captivating 45 minute talk without notes, Dr. Byrd began by humorously noting that folks have often asked him if his name had anything to do with his getting interested in birds back in the 30's and 40's when birding was not popular, and he proceeded to describe the sequence of events that led to his illustrious career in ornithology. His 1<sup>st</sup> pair of binoculars was an abandoned pair that his father had found and that weighed nearly "10 pounds". He remembered at age 14 seeing the sky black with Brant at Chincoteague. There were so many waterfowl that the bag limit was 15 per day with a requirement that 5 be Black Ducks. The sight of all those birds got him hooked. He continued to bird when he went to Virginia Tech and recalled seeing during spring migration a fallout of up to 15 species of warblers on a typical morning. Two weeks after graduation, the Army snatched him and put him in the Biological Warfare Laboratory where he was ordered to raise Oriental rat fleas on an artificial medium. 1956 found him traveling the country looking for an academic job. He was driving through Williamsburg where he found that there had just been a resignation at W&M and was offered a job for one year that rolled into 50!

He was delighted to finally be able to work with birds. His first project was researching a parasitic disease in Wild Turkeys on game farms. He related injecting hens with prolactin to make them broody and that that was so successful that those without chicks would brood his feet which he described as one of life's great adventures.

After studying the release of exotic game birds in Virginia, he started developing a baseline for the populations of colonial birds on the Eastern Shore barrier islands. Four years later he'd written a report documenting what was on each island and submitted it to the Nature Conservancy. He likes to think that his report may have been influential in that eventually every one of those islands has come under the protection of the Conservancy, state or federal government. His observations had included Cattle Egrets who'd first nested there in 1961. After having arrived from Africa to Suriname and then Florida, they'd spread rapidly throughout the United States and at one point became the most abundant heron in NA with well over 1500 pairs in Virginia. It was found that they did not compete with native

herons, yet for unknown reasons, their population everywhere dropped by 89% in one decade. The first White Ibis was seen nesting in 1977 and the population has since exploded whereas nesting Glossy Ibis are in decline.

While conducting those surveys he had noticed a decline in Ospreys and observed that the Ospreys in Williamsburg were also not successfully producing offspring. A 20-year project resulted beginning with surveys documenting all the nests from the Potomac River to the James River. There were 400 breeding pairs at that time but most of the nests' eggs did not hatch. A study of the eggs revealed incredibly high levels of the metabolite of DDT. After DDT was banned in the US in 1973, the population began to expand and extend its range. He banded 2500 Ospreys including about 200 pairs who were color banded to identify the birds individually to study mate and site fidelity. He described Ospreys as the greatest collectors of junk in their nests including monofilament line and that he had to frequently cut free birds that were wrapped in those lines. Posters they made warning of this danger at marinas and other coastal sites seemed to help for a while but the problem has returned to the previous level of concern. But Ospreys have made a remarkable recovery with now over 300 Osprey nests just on the James River. It is estimated that there are now about 10,000 breeding pairs in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

With the passage of the Endangered Species Act, there were three species in Virginia of concern: Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, Peregrine Falcons and Bald Eagles. In 1978 Dr. Byrd was asked to manage a series of programs regarding those species. Describing the unusual behavior of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers breeding in clusters and nesting only in cavities of living pine trees at least 80-100 years old, he related spending a year searching the Dismal Swamp for them and eventually finding 28 places in Virginia where Red-cockaded Woodpeckers occurred with about 45 clusters. Over the next few years all those sites were logged despite his protests of the presence of an endangered species and finally just one place, Piney Grove, was left with only eight to nine birds. Upon his recommendation of proper land management, there is now a maximum of 63 birds. He noted an attempt two years ago to establish Red-cockaded Woodpeckers in the Dismal Swamp that has resulted in two pairs laying eggs and two offspring.

The Peregrine Falcon project was more difficult as they'd been totally extirpated east of the Mississippi River. Dr. Byrd was a member of the recovery team and it was decided to establish a captive breeding program at Cornell to provide the birds for release into the wild. This was controversial because they obviously had to use Peregrine Falcons that were not indigenous to the area but did share 90% of the genetic background. Using falconer's hacking technique, Peregrines have been successfully reestablished in Virginia with currently 31 nesting pairs in Tidewater. He was observing a pair nesting in the crow's nest of a mothballed ship when he saw they had a throat infection caused by a flagellate from eating pigeons. So he got a prescription for Flagyl from a veterinarian. When the pharmacist questioned the legality of a vet ordering a drug for a human, he said it was not for him but for a Peregrine Falcon. "Are you Mr. Falcon?" "No, a Peregrine Falcon is a bird." Whereupon she asked what his name was and of course he had to answer "Byrd!"

Starting in 1978, he began conducting Bald Eagle surveys which he has continued for 41 years in a row. Initially there were 32 nesting pairs in Virginia and for about five years there were no breeding pairs on the James River. The population began to slowly grow after the banning of DDT and this past year there were 272 nesting pairs on the James River alone. The James having initially had no Bald Eagles followed by a successful recovery provided a perfect site to study what causes a population to grow to a certain size and stop. Already by the 1990's the reproduction of eagles was beginning to decline. It was observed that the number of young adults was exceeding the availability of new territories for them to establish. These non-breeding adults were harassing the breeding ones which had been thought to be creating a negative behavior feedback mechanism that could eventually be a factor in stabilizing the population.

Whereas Dr. Byrd had frequently filled the auditorium with laughter with his tales of our own President Bill Williams as a young lad as well as his recollections of critters such as Beauregard the bull, Little Mitchell the southern flying squirrel who lived to a ripe old age of 13, and Lightning, the mouse that any man would be proud to own.

But he concluded on a very serious note of how the general population doesn't realize what is happening to bird populations all over the world. He believes we are on the verge of an environmental catastrophe and gave examples

that 70% of boreal forest birds are endangered and that the population of almost all shorebirds is declining. The Endangered Species Act, he noted, has focused us too much on high profile species like the Bald Eagle and California Condor. He suggested it was time to focus on systems rather than individual species. He targeted improper land management a problem because no one refuge or protected area is designed to protect high levels of biodiversity. For this he wants to see really big pieces of land protected which he believes can be accomplished by tying together existing lands as best as possible. Noting that the problem with fragmentation of habitat is related to fragmentation of agencies dealing with habitat that have different objectives, it would require an unprecedented degree of cooperation. Giving an example of how it could work, he described that Fort A.P. Hill sits on thousands of acres and right next to it is a wildlife management area and a huge marsh with another big marsh across the river. Together they total about 90,000 acres in one continuum that could benefit from a coordinated management plan. Otherwise he fears a biological impoverishment in this country and the world that is neither biologically nor morally acceptable. He pointed out that we birders can help by getting a lot more involved in conservation projects and making sure our representatives hear our voices. He pointed out that conservation is more than protecting pristine habitats but protecting areas of biodiversity. Otherwise he warned that in maybe 25 years from now we won't be practicing conservation biology but instead restoration ecology.

The respect, admiration and affection for this remarkable man and his life's work were palpable in the standing ovation Dr. Mitchell Byrd received.

Inge Curtis illustrated his lecture with many of her outstanding bird photographs.

## CALENDAR

Sunday, October 1	Hampton Roads Bird Club sponsors a Bird Walk at Newport News Park, 7 am. Meet in the parking lot near Ranger Station.
Saturday, October 14	Williamsburg Bird Club sponsors a Bird Walk at New Quarter Park, 8 am. Meet at the parking lot near the office.
Saturday, October 15	Hampton Roads Bird Club sponsors a Bird Walk at Newport News Park, 7 am. Meet in the parking lot near Ranger Station.
Wednesday, October 18	WBC Monthly Meeting, 7 pm, Andrews Hall, Room 101 on W&M Campus—parking pass needed. Bill Williams will be our speaker, featuring his recent birding trip to Puerto Rico last spring.
Saturday, October 21	Williamsburg Bird Club field trip to Grandview Beach, Hampton, VA – details will be coming in an email soon.
Saturday, October 28	Williamsburg Bird Club sponsors a Bird Walk at New Quarter Park, 7 am. Meet at the parking lot near the office.
Saturday, November 11	Project FeederWatch begins....sign up at <a href="http://www.feederwatch.org/">www.feederwatch.org/</a>
Sunday, November 19	Williamsburg Bird Club field trip to Hog Island. Details to come in the next newsletter. Please note that this field trip is on SUNDAY due to hunting restrictions.
Sunday, December 17	Audubon Christmas Bird Count—contact Jim Corliss ( <a href="mailto:jcorliss240@cox.net">jcorliss240@cox.net</a> ) for more information.