

2023-2024 VSO SPEAKERS DIRECTORY



Compiled and edited by
Russell Taylor
Vienna, VA

On-line version: <https://www.virginiabirds.org/publications/speakers-directory>




A note about using this directory . . .

The Virginia Society of Ornithology (VSO) Speakers Directory is updated and published each spring. It contains programs that the individuals and organizations listed have developed for presentation to bird clubs and similar groups. There is no charge either to the speakers to be listed or to the organizations or individuals requesting a copy of this publication; it is compiled as a public service by the VSO. Please be aware that individual programs are not reviewed or endorsed by the VSO.

The directory can be downloaded from the VSO Web site at

<http://www.virginiabirds.org/publications/speakers-directory/>

The capsule comments in this directory inform you of each speaker's specialty. When you contact a speaker, ask about fees. Most will visit you for a modest honorarium or travel expenses, some for free, and a few for professional fees. The VSO suggests that in most cases a gift or gift certificate is not suitable; a check or cash to defray traveling expenses is more appropriate. Details concerning 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. Please note that the VSO has no role in any arrangements concerning these bookings.

Note that speakers who are equipped and willing to do virtual programs have the "virtual presenter" symbol  in the header of their entry. Other speakers may also be willing to do virtual programs, but these speakers have indicated that they are comfortable with this option.

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 (see below). We may have received new information for the person you are trying to contact.

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

Russell Taylor

Phone: 703-319-7880

email: gnatcatcher@gmail.com



THE 2023-2024 VSO DIRECTORY OF SPEAKERS AND ORGANIZATIONAL PROGRAMS

Jennifer Ackerman



NEW PROGRAM

434-825-0719

jenackerman24@gmail.com

www.jenniferackermanauthor.com

NEW “What an Owl Knows: The new science of the world’s most enigmatic birds” – A presentation based on a new book about owls (Penguin Press, June 2023), an exploration of recent exciting science on this most elusive group of birds, and an investigation into why they exert such a hold on the human imagination. The presentation runs about an hour and is illustrated with brilliant new videos and photographs of owls and owl behavior by some of the world’s foremost owl photographers.

What is it about owls that so enthralls us? They appear in the Chauvet cave paintings of France dating to 30,000 years ago and in the hieroglyphics of ancient Egyptians, in Greek mythology and among the deities of the Ainu people of Japan, in the prints and etchings of Picasso and as couriers in the Harry Potter stories, shuttling between the realms of matter-of-fact muggles and the magical. Though our obsession goes back centuries, scientists have only recently begun to study these birds in deep detail and understand their secrets, the nature of their quiet flight, superb hunting skills, sophisticated communication and sensory prowess, complex family lives, and subtle psychology.

Join Jennifer on a rich visual tour of the nature of owls around the globe, their ubiquity in human myth and culture, and the remarkable scientific discoveries about their biology, their brains, and their remarkable behavior.

“The Bird Way: A New Look at How Birds Talk, Work, Play, Parent, and Think.” – Jennifer Ackerman, author of the New York Times bestseller *The Genius of Birds*, offers a multimedia talk (in person or as part of a virtual event) about her book, *The Bird Way: A New Look at How Birds Talk, Work, Play, Parent, and Think*. In the book, Ackerman offers a lively distillation of the latest findings in bird science that are dramatically shifting our understanding of how birds live and think. We meet birds that give gifts and birds that steal, birds that dance or drum, birds that paint their bowers and paint themselves, bird that build walls of sound to keep out intruders and birds that summon playmates with a special call—which may hold the secret to our own penchant for playfulness and the evolution of human laughter. Ackerman’s talk includes photographs and audio recordings by professionals and draws on her field observations and research from around the world, from the tropical rainforests of eastern Australia and the remote woodlands of Hokkaido, to the rolling hills of lower Austria and the islands of Alaska’s Kachemak Bay. Everywhere, Ackerman investigates the odd ducks—and seabirds, hawks, cuckoos, corvids, wrens, and vultures—whose novel behavior reveals the striking cleverness and ingenuity to be found in the avian world.

In a starred review, *Kirkus Reviews* calls *The Bird Way* “a brightly original book... Ackerman is a smooth writer; her presentation of ideas is deft, and her anecdotes are consistently engaging... [She] demonstrates bird science as an evolving discipline that is consistently fascinating.”

A bird-lover since childhood, Jennifer Ackerman is the author of the New York Times bestselling book on bird intelligence, *The Genius of Birds*, now published in 25 languages, and the more recent award-winning book on bird behavior, *The Bird Way*. She has written several other books, as well, and published articles and essays in *National Geographic*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *Natural History*, *The Wall*



Street Journal, Birding, and many other publications.

Jennifer asks that organizations she speaks to provide a buy-link to *The Bird Way* on the event Web page and other communications announcing the event, so that members have easy access to purchase before and during the presentation.

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 25 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 studied Virginia's butterflies annually since 2004, and has recently spent seven weeks photographing butterflies in the Neotropical forests of the Peruvian Andes and the Afrotropical forests of Ghana. He has mined these experiences to create a new program titled ***Butterfly Journeys, Near & Far*** that features many of his butterfly photographs and experiences from Peru, Ghana, and Virginia.

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 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 Bird Conservancy



NEW SPEAKER

American Bird Conservancy
P.O. Box 249
The Plains, VA 20198
540-253-5780
<https://www.abcbirds.org>
Speakers program contact:
Jordan E. Rutter, M.Sc. (she/her)
Director of Communications
ABCBirdsComms@abcbirds.org

American Bird Conservancy (ABC) is dedicated to conserving wild birds and their habitats throughout the Americas. This mission has guided us throughout our history of 30 years. With an emphasis on achieving results and working in partnership, we take on the greatest problems facing birds today,



innovating and building on rapid advancements in science to halt extinctions, protect habitats, eliminate threats, and build capacity for bird conservation.

ABC has many interesting projects and potential speakers; contact Jordan for information on what may be available for your event timeframe and location. Please note that virtual presentations increase the available topic and speaker options.

For in-person presentations ABC requests that host organizations cover their speaker's travel and that any honorarium be donated to ABC.

Patti Reum and Dan Bieker

Patti Reum
540-474-3245 (H) 540-292-2959 (cell)
pareum@gmail.com

Dan Bieker
434-971-9618
danbieker@gmail.com

“American Kestrel Nesting Box Project” - Patti Reum of Highland County, and Dan Bieker of Albemarle County offer this program about the Virginia Society of Ornithology's American Kestrel Nest Box Project. The American Kestrel has shown dramatic population decreases in recent decades for a variety of reasons including habitat loss, fewer nesting cavities, and use of pesticides on agricultural fields. The VSO's Nest Box Project has established hundreds of boxes throughout the state and continues to educate landowners on habitat preservation and other conservation measures. We will show photos of our project and present information on the habitat and biology of this fascinating and valuable species.

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. 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. Patti is a past VSO board member and chairs its Conservation Committee.

Please see the next entry for Dan Bieker's bio.

Dan Bieker

Dan Bieker
434-971-9618
danbieker@gmail.com

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 contributes extensively to the vertebrate database for Albemarle County's Natural Heritage Committee. Dan currently is a past VSO President and serves on the Conservation Committee.

NEW “Rare and Unusual Wildlife of Virginia” - With its varied topography, patches of wilderness and



abundant waterways Virginia harbors a wide diversity of plant and wildlife species. This program highlights many of the fascinating yet rarely observed birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and fish found in Virginia, especially the Mountain and Piedmont regions of the state.

Rob Cahill

Director
Community Cloud Forest Conservation
Chichen Coban, A.V.
Guatemala
011-502-4010-0852
Rob@CloudForestConservation.org
www.CloudForestConservation.org

Nearly one third of the country of Guatemala is designated as *Important Bird Areas*. Guatemala is rich in diversity with over 730 species. Rob Cahill and his son John Cahill are eBird reviewers for Guatemala. The Cahills have lived in Guatemala since 2001 and direct Community Cloud Forest Conservation, a not for profit NGO.

The Cahills have led VSO birding trips in Guatemala annually since 2017.

Rob's presentation focuses on regional endemic birds, cloud forests and conservation. Rob is an experienced public speaker and an excellent photographer.

Rob travels to Virginia from Guatemala several times a year. He has the flexibility to plan his travels to coincide with speaking opportunities. However, advanced notice is important. While Rob does not require reimbursement for travel expenses, he would appreciate directing honoraria to Community Cloud Forest Conservation.

Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory

P.O. Box 764
Lightfoot, VA 23090
taberzz@aol.com

Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory offers programs on spring and fall bird migration, hawk watching, Prothonotary Warbler monitoring, water bird 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 (best way to contact me)
meiger@cox.net

www.helpwildbirds.org

Maureen Eiger is the founder and Director of Help Wild Birds, Roanoke's only nonprofit wildlife rehabilitation organization that exclusively rehabs migratory birds. She is the author of one of the new chapters and co-author of another chapter in *Hand-Rearing Birds, Second Edition* edited by Rebecca Duerr and Laurie Gage. As a State and Federally Permitted Bird Rehabber, Maureen has been rehabbing various species of birds and presenting programs for 20 years. She often teaches bird rehab classes at statewide wildlife conferences. She has been a contributing writer to the *North American Bluebird Society Journal*, *The Roanoke Star Newspaper*, various Audubon and bird club newsletters and the blog *10,000 Birds*. She receives hundreds of calls a year from bird rehabbers / people from all over the country asking for advice to solve their "bird problems" or answer bird related questions.

Maureen is an avid birder and previously a Virginia Bluebird Society Board Member and Vice President of the Roanoke Valley Bird Club. She enjoys teaching bird rehab, presenting non-rehab bird programs to various groups, and networking with other bird rehabbers across North America. You can say her passion in life is very "birdy."

All that is needed for Maureen's programs is a projector and screen.

"Eastern Screech-Owls! Our fierce little raptors" – Learn about the life of Eastern Screech-owls, one of our smallest but fiercest owls that we often see in Virginia. Learn how to attract them to your yard, what they eat, and why they often come in to be rehabbed. Presentation includes photos of screech owlets that were raised in captivity and possibly a live education screech owl will be available, depending on location and time of year. Power point presentation, need projector and screen.

"American Robins our (UN)common bird" - Robins are probably the most recognizable bird in America. We take them for granted and most of us don't really know that much about their life. Can you tell the difference between male and female birds or who's who, by the unique markings on the bird's face?

This program will shed some light on how and where they go to migrate and why. You will discover how robins are altruistic birds, and the unique personality each bird has. Learn about their diet and how they seem to find earthworms so easily. This program is will let you in on some unique and surprising facts about our American Robin so even the most knowledgeable birder may learn something new. PowerPoint presentation.

"Bird Safe and Bird Friendly?" - Simple things you may not think about and easy things anyone can do to protect birds and their environment. Save money on your bird food bill and still attract birds. Create a better feeding station and prevent diseases. Learn what you can do to attract birds to nest on your property. How can you prevent window hits or cat attacks? What should you do if that happens? Is wind and solar power bird friendly? A PowerPoint presentation with props.

"Growing up Bluebird" - For Bluebird lovers! See what goes on in an Eastern Bluebird nest box with time lapse video. Learn about some of the reasons why nesting attempts are unsuccessful. Nest box monitoring tips; signs to look for when your nest box babies may be in trouble, when do you need to intervene? How do bird rehabbers take care of nestling and fledgling bluebirds that are orphaned and still keep them wild? This program presents an up close and personal life of a most beloved bird, the Eastern Bluebird. A PowerPoint and video presentation with lots of photos of bluebirds.

"Baby Bird ID" - We know the field marks for adult birds, but how can you identify that "naked" bird in



a nest? Or identify a bird with just a few pin feathers? Learn a new set of field marks and see some 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 is a PowerPoint presentation with lots of interaction with the audience.

"Baby Bird ID 2" - See the more uncommon species (flycatchers and others) not covered in the previous Baby Bird ID. Learn the 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 is a PowerPoint presentation with lots of interaction with the audience.

"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 uses for feathers by birds. This is an in depth program about bird feathers. A PowerPoint presentation with several (legal) feather examples will be available for close inspection.

"Amazing Birds" - This program is an intimate look at unusual bird behaviors and little known facts about a few specific species of birds. Do you know which birds have teeth or a toe with a comb? Some bird species covered include Sora, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Coopers Hawk, Common Nighthawk and more. PowerPoint presentation

"Beyond Birdwatching" - Ever want to know what it takes to become a permitted migratory bird rehabilitator? Maybe that is something you would like to do? Learn about the process involved to be permitted to rehabilitate wild birds and why birds end up in rehab. Maureen will also discuss the rewards and pitfalls of being a State and Federally Permitted Migratory Bird Rehabilitator. A PowerPoint presentation and props.

"Bird Rehabbing in Virginia" – There are a lack of permitted bird rehabbers in Virginia. We can use more people in this field. Learn what it takes and how you can become a state and federally permitted bird rehabber. Learn what you can do legally to help injured or orphaned birds. Photos of baby birds and ideas for a home based set up for bird rehabbing from your home.

Dr. Marshall Faintich

3258 Rowcross Street
Crozet, VA 22932
434-760-2278 between 9 a.m. and 10 p.m.
mbf@faintich.net
www.faintich.net

Marshall is the author of *A Photographic Guide to the Birds of Wintergreen* and is a past birding activity manager for the Rockfish Valley Trail. His wildlife photos have appeared in newspapers, magazines, web sites, government reports and presentations, and on wildlife and birding trail signs in Virginia and Maryland. His own web site contains more than 8,000 of his best wildlife photos, and gets about 3 million hits per year from visitors in more than 80 countries around the world.

He offers a one-hour photographic presentation on the **"Birds of Central Virginia"** when the hosting organization can provide a laptop computer projection system. Expenses for travel outside his local area are expected, and hosting organization's usual honorarium is greatly appreciated.

Dr. Faintich can present 45 minute programs on birds from his extensive birding trips to the following areas:



“Birds of Southwest Florida” - The Naples area offers an exceptional winter getaway for birding. Since 2008, he has made four trips to there, all in January, and totaling about 80 days, as he explored Naples and birding sites within a two-hour drive from Naples. His Florida bird list includes 142 species, and the presentation includes the most popular birding sites, as well as some lesser-known but even better birding sites, and the birds seen there.

“Birds of Southern Texas and South-central Arizona” - The Texas hill country and the Lower Rio Grande River Valley, as well as south-central Arizona from Sedona down to the Mexican border, offer great birding, and an opportunity to see many western bird species. He made one trip to Texas in May, and three trips to south-central Arizona in the months of January, April, and May. His Texas bird list includes 117 species, and my Arizona bird list includes 154 species. The presentation includes the most popular and some lesser-known birding sites, and the birds seen there.

“Birds of England and Scotland” - In addition to the historical and cultural value of visiting the United Kingdom, many Eurasian bird species can be seen there. He has made seven trips to England/Scotland between April 2008 and May 2017. This presentation covers bird species that can be seen in suburban London and at the London Wetlands Centre, as well as in the Scottish highlands. His UK bird list includes 101 species.

“Birds of Australia and New Zealand” - It’s really an adventure to go birding in a location where almost every bird you see is another life bird, and a North American winter trip there is a southern hemisphere summer adventure. He went on a 23 day tour there in January 2011, and although it was a general tourism activity, he still saw 88 avian species in Australia and 41 in New Zealand. From the urban parks to the desert outback to the rugged mountains and coastal waters, this was an experience of a lifetime.

“Birds of Alaska” – This presentation highlights a wildlife trip to the Denali area, coastal waters south of Seward, and the Katmai Peninsula. Highlights include newly fledged avian species that breed there, spectacular scenery, and Alaskan brown (grizzly) bears.

“Birds of Ecuador and Galapagos” – This presentation highlights a wildlife trip to Mashpi eco-lodge in the western Andes, and a week-long tour of several of the islands of Galapagos. Highlights include numerous hummingbird and warbler species of the Ecuadorian cloud forest, and many of the endemic avian species of Galapagos.

Dr. Faintich also can give a two hour tutorial on bird photography (\$200 fee for tutorial for unlimited attendance).

Katie Fallon

87 Morgan Hill Road
Morgantown, WV 26508
304-685-5292
katie@katiefallon.com
www.katiefallon.com

Katie is the author of the nonfiction books ***Vulture: The Private Life of an Unloved Bird*** (2017) and ***Cerulean Blues: A Personal Search for a Vanishing Songbird*** (2011), and two books for children, ***Look, See the Farm!*** (2018) and ***Look, See the Bird!*** (2017). *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. *Look, See the Farm!* is about two children who visit their grandparents' organic farm and discover the many wild birds that make the farm their home. *Look, See the Bird!* is about Neotropical bird migration; both books are intended for children ages 3-7 years.

Katie is available to give visual presentations about Turkey Vultures or Cerulean Warblers. She can also give presentations about the importance of shade-grown coffee to Neotropical migrants. And she is always happy to read her children's books to young audiences.

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, West Virginia University, West Virginia Wesleyan College, and Chatham University, and she is a co-founder of a nonprofit organization, the Avian Conservation Center of Appalachia (<http://www.accawv.org>). She currently serves as President of the Mountaineer Chapter of the National Audubon Society.

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”

“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

nfredericksen@ferrum.edu

www.nellfredericksen.com

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”

Note that Daphne will have very limited availability in 2024. Please contact her well in advance of any desired program date.

Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge

3100 Desert Road
Suffolk, Virginia 23434
757-986-3705 (office)
757-986-2353 (fax)
greatdismalswamp@fws.gov
https://www.fws.gov/refuge/great_dismal_swamp/

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 Wildlife Resources
7870 Villa Park Drive (P.O. Box 90778)
Henrico, VA 23228-0778
804-367-0143
sergio.harding@dwr.virginia.gov
www.dwr.virginia.gov

Sergio is a Nongame Bird Conservation Biologist for the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR). He leads or participates in many of the DWR's bird survey and monitoring programs. He is available to give presentations on:

“Ecology and conservation of the Golden-winged Warbler in Virginia”

“Ecology and conservation of the Loggerhead Shrike in Virginia”



Bruce Ingram

1009 Brunswick Forge Road

Troutville, VA 24175

540-520-2582

bruceingramoutdoors@gmail.com

<https://sites.google.com/site/bruceingramoutdoors/>

Bruce Ingram is the author of over 2,800 magazine articles on the outdoors and has sold over 4,000 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 (delete in red) Game and Fish, Turkey Call, Whitetail Times, Blue Ridge Country and many others. In 2014, Bruce and his wife Elaine were named Land Savers of the Year by the Blue Ridge Land Conservancy. The couple also has a venison cooking and a wild edible column for a magazine and website, respectively.

Ingram is the author 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.

Bruce Ingram's other books include:

- *The Shenandoah/Rappahannock Rivers Guide* which includes much historical information.
- *Fly and Spin Fishing for River Smallmouths*. The book deals with fishing tips, of course, but also has chapters on improving wildlife habitat.
- *The South Branch and Upper Potomac Rivers Guide*.
- *Living the Locavore Lifestyle*, a guide for healthy eating and living, as well as living a sustainable life.
- Four Young Adult Fiction novels, *Ninth Grade Blues*, *Tenth Grade Angst*, *Eleventh Grade Stress*, and *Twelfth Grade Hopes and Fears*. His latest book is a children's picture book, *Horrible Holiday Gifts*.

For signed, dedicated copies, contact Bruce through his e-mail address.

Topics that Bruce Ingram is available to speak on 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 Bring Back the Golden-winged Warbler and Other Birds that Need Early Succession Habitat"

"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"

"How to Raise Chickens"



Allyson Lee

4441 Old Mountain Road NE
Roanoke, VA 24019
540-397-1008
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.

Pete Myers **NEW PROGRAM**

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 cocreated *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 closeups of common and rare species. His recent lectures have focused on ***“The evolution of a bird photographer.”***

In 2022 he added a **new** lecture to his repertoire: ***“Bird bedlam on California’s beaches”***. The lecture uses stunning images Pete has taken of Sanderling, Black-bellied plover and Long-billed Curlew, among many other occupants of this tumultuous habitat, to tell the story of life on the beach. For people it’s fun and sun. For birds, it’s life and death.



Upon seeing the photos, Kenn Kaufman reacted: "I have to say, those are by far the most beautiful photos of Long-billed Curlews I've ever seen. The artistry of your photography continues to be more amazing all the time."

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.

Paul A. Napier



6358 Crosswoods Dr.
Falls Church, VA 22044
703-507-5214 cell
napierpa@verizon.net
www.capemayraptors.org

"The Cape May Raptor Banding Project" – Paul presents a brief history, some impressive Project statistics, an overview of the intern program, how the Project contributes to science projects, and portraits and facts about the raptors banded. There will be lots of great close-up photographs.

Paul Napier has been banding raptors since 1988. He started out as a birdwatcher, then discovered raptors and never recovered. He has traveled extensively in the U.S. and abroad in order to learn more about the many exciting birds of prey that share our environment. Paul has been President of the Cape May Raptor Banding Project since the early 2000s when Project founder and noted raptor expert William S. Clark retired.

Ashley M. Peele, PhD



NEW SPEAKER

Community Science and Engagement Coordinator
Appalachian Mountain Joint Venture
American Bird Conservancy
1700 Kraft Drive, Suite 1375
Blacksburg, VA, 24060
APeele@abcbirds.org

Ashley is an avian ecologist who has spent 18 years studying avian ecology and conservation in the US and Caribbean. She received a BA in Zoology from Ohio Wesleyan University in 2007, working on a range of avian evolutionary biology projects with her mentor, Dr. Edward Burt, Jr. She completed a PhD in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Tulane University and the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center in 2015, studying population dynamics of migratory songbirds during the nonbreeding season. Following grad school, she became a research scientist at Virginia Tech's Conservation Management Institute, where she coordinated the second Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas' data collection and analyses from 2015-2023. During this time, she also worked on many collaborative social science and migratory connectivity projects, incorporating a wide range of both traditional and community science-based methodologies.

In Fall 2023, Ashley became the first Community Science and Engagement Coordinator for the Appalachian Mountain Joint Venture. Her current work for the JV focuses on applying community science methods to a range of avian conservation questions and data gaps in the Appalachian region. She



works with a diverse range of partners in the Appalachian region, including many state and federal agencies, land trusts, conservation NGOs, citizen scientists and private landowners.

In her spare time, she can typically be found hiking around southwest Virginia, birding, gardening, and/or chasing her toddler around her place in the New River Valley.

Programs Ashley can present include:

"Virginia's Second Breeding Bird Atlas" – an overview of the VABBA2 project, including results and outcomes. What have we learned from this effort and how will it inform Virginia bird conservation and management over the next decade?

"The Appalachian Mountain Joint Venture" – an overview of the Migratory Bird Joint Venture program, focusing specifically on the Appalachian Mountain Joint Venture's (AMJV) work to conserve migratory birds in both their Appalachian breeding grounds and southern wintering habitats.

"Building Conservation Communities in Appalachia" – a deep dive into the modern landscape of wildlife conservation and community science – how volunteers and private landowners are helping us move towards more sustainable habitat management, species monitoring, and community engagement in environmental conservation.

Note: Ashley requests, for in-person programs with travel exceeding 75 miles from Blacksburg VA, that travel expenses (i.e., mileage, food, lodging) be reimbursed by the host organization.

Robyn Puffenbarger, Ph.D. NEW PROGRAMS

Professor and Chair, Department of Biology and Environmental Science
Bridgewater College,
Bridgewater, VA 22812
540-828-5713
rpuffenb@bridgewater.edu

"Robins to Raptors" – This is an opportunity to examine preserved bird skins to help with identifying the birds that come to our yards and feeders. The talk can be 45-60 minutes and can include all species of Virginia woodpeckers, along with other common and uncommon species in a backyard setting. This is a unique opportunity to see the bird species represented by the skins up close. Other topics raised can include habitat, diet, breeding behaviors, plus feathers and molting. Other topics of avian biology and behavior can be added! The presentation only requires a few long tables for setup, Robyn brings the birds to you. Help with mileage and other travel expenses are appreciated.

"Chile for Thanksgiving" – Robyn and her husband Bill Benish, plus a friend traveled to Chile for Thanksgiving. Besides sightseeing and wonderful meals, they enjoyed three day trips with Birdwatching Chile guide Rodrigo Reyes. From the beaches near Valparaíso to the Andes, the bird watching was excellent. Chile has a number of endemics, plus penguins on the beach, and the Andean Condor in the mountains. This is a PowerPoint presentation; Robyn can bring a computer-projector or use your setup. Help with mileage and other travel expenses are appreciated.



NEW “*Beautiful South Africa*” –Robyn has had four trips to South Africa with students and more recently, a VSO trip exclusively for birding. South Africa has dramatic landscapes, amazing ecosystems, awesome animals other than birds to enjoy. Then there are the birds – from rockjumpers to penguins, this is a fun sweep across species that will be familiar like shrikes and gulls or unique like the sunbirds and sugarbirds. This is a PowerPoint presentation; Robyn can bring a computer-projector or use your setup. Help with mileage and other travel expenses are appreciated.

NEW “*Biodiversity in the Backyard*” – As a master gardener and bird enthusiast, Robyn changed the 1/3 acre lot at her previous home into a wildlife magnet. Now with 7.5 acres to manage, she is changing old hay fields and lawn into gardens for pollinators, veggies, berries, with hopes to attract Eastern Meadowlarks, Chipping and Field Sparrows to breed! What steps can you take in your space to make it more of a habitat and home for wildlife? We will talk about everything from containers to bigger spaces to help ‘bring nature home,’ as Doug Tallamy suggests in his work. This is a PowerPoint presentation; Robyn can bring a computer-projector or use your setup. Help with mileage and other travel expenses are appreciated.

Matt Smith

Executive Director
The Central Virginia Parrot Sanctuary
3026 Ellisville Dr.
Louisa, VA 23093
540-967-0447
matt@projectperry.com
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

Professor Emeritus, 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 emeritus of 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, murres, 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 life-long interest in birds and conservation. For the last 7 years he's been doing field research on Eastern Screech-Owls in Highland County, where he is also helping Patti Reum monitor over 30 American kestrel nest boxes. In his quest to continually learn more about birds he has developed a number of informative programs. His presentations are "image intensive," designed to inform and entertain. A few of John's most popular and recent presentations are listed.

"Hummingbirds: Jewels of the Americas" - There are well over 300 species of hummingbirds, all are limited to the Americas. In multiple trips to the American tropics John has seen about half 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 in 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 and a few short videos.

"The Eastern Screech Owl in Virginia and Beyond" - John has done field work of this small owl for several years in Highland County. He is also 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 mostly "reds", while Ontario and Michigan has mostly "grays"? The program does include graphs and charts, which will be mercifully



few, and will be highlighted 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:

“Extreme Birding”

“Kingfishers and Kookaburras”

“Bird of Paradise”

“Wild and Weird Birds of the World”

Requests for these will be considered with sufficient advance notice.

The Virginia Bluebird Society

Valerie Kenyon Gaffney, President
3805 Wagon Wheel Lane
Woodbridge, VA 22192-6440
(703) 973-9194
vbs@virginiabluebirds.org
www.virginiabluebirds.org

The Virginia Bluebird Society offers a program on bluebirds, other common secondary cavity nesters, and methods for establishing and monitoring bluebird nest box trails. Will tailor ppt presentation to audience – birding clubs, garden clubs, youth groups, school students, etc. Our speakers bring exhibit materials and handouts. Members throughout the state are available to give this program. Available for in-person and virtual presentations, as well as festivals. Donation to VBS in lieu of personal honoraria appreciated, as are travel expenses. Email vbs@virginiabluebirds.org for further information.

Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources

7870 Villa Park Drive, #400
Henrico, VA 23228
804-367-1000 (main number)
www.dwr.virginia.gov

The Department has wildlife biologists, fisheries biologists, nongame biologists, conservation police officers 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

1132 Thomas Jefferson Rd.
Forest, VA 24551-9223



804-829-6580

434-525-7522

P. O. Box 996
517 Lee Highway
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

Virginia Working Landscapes



NEW SPEAKER

Virginia Working Landscapes
Smithsonian's National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute
1500 Remount Rd, MRC 5537
Front Royal, VA 22630
540-635-0035
VirginiaWorkingLandscapes@si.edu
www.VAWorkingLandscapes.org

Virginia Working Landscapes (VWL) is a program of the Smithsonian's National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute that promotes the conservation of native biodiversity and sustainable land management through research, education, and community engagement. VWL collaborates with landowners, farmers, NGO's, federal and state agencies, and academic institutions to conduct research that helps us better understand how our land management decisions impact native species. Research results are then shared with partners to help guide conservation.

Ongoing research includes assessing impacts of habitat management (native grass restoration, regenerative grazing, delayed haying, etc.) on grassland bird communities, testing various methods to restore and manage native warm season grasses, identifying habitat associations of flagship bird species on a mixture of public and private lands, and social science research with landowners and citizen scientists to understand what motivates conservation behaviors on private lands.

VWL staff expertise ranges from ornithology and botany to community science and conservation management on private lands. They can present various programs to groups, including: the Virginia Grassland Bird Initiative and its goals; the status of grassland bird species in Virginia; and the impact of modified farming practices on grassland biodiversity.



Wildlife Center of Virginia

P.O. Box 1557
Waynesboro, VA 22980
540-942-9453
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 most programs. 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 **UPDATED AND NEW PROGRAMS**

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

Jeff is a Virginia Master Naturalist and a former President of the Northern Neck of Virginia Chapter. He is the President of the Friends of Dragon Run. He is the President of the Old-Growth Forest Network a national organization with the mission to create a national network of protected old-growth forests. He is a member of the Virginia Society of Ornithology (VSO), the Northern Virginia Audubon Society (NVAS), the Northern Neck Audubon Society, the American Birding Association (ABA), and the North American Butterfly Association (NABA). Among his favorite philanthropic institutions supporting birds are The Nature Conservancy, American Bird Conservancy, and The Cornell Lab of Ornithology. He serves as a county coordinator for the Old Growth Forest Network, Compiler for the Middle Peninsula and Northern Neck Winter Waterfowl Count, Compiler for five Butterfly Counts and two Christmas Bird Counts, as a Trail Monitor for The Nature Conservancy in Virginia, and a kayak tour guide for the Friends of Dragon Run.

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, butterflies, bats, and bees – the Fabulous Flying 4Bs. High Definition (HD) Imagery, video, and interactive discussion with the audience are used. The materials used include data from birding and Citizen Science projects from Virginia and adjacent areas. The presentations are each approximately 45 minutes long and can be adjusted to your meeting needs. Each presentation includes materials related to the geographic area within Virginia of the host organization. He prefers presentation locations where an internet connection is available. Jeff 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. Jeff is available to do presentations live or virtual throughout Virginia.

UPDATED “Hummingbirds, Butterflies, and Tulips Too!” – Updated for 2024. A phenology and climate focused presentation about the four seasons and how our gardens, yards, and communities are important habitat for flora and fauna. Examples from the life cycles of Hummingbirds, Butterflies, and Tulips are used in the presentation. As birders we can apply citizen science projects to cultivate a richer understanding of wildlife habitat, for people concerned with their local environments. These projects of



course also support the birds we need and love. Bird-focused Citizen Science for documenting climate change, collecting census data on Flora and Fauna, Phenology, the global study of wildlife migration and seasonal change, and for teaching America's youth about climate and seasons.

UPDATED “*Citizen Science, Birding, and Virginia*” – Updated for 2024. An overview of some of the newest and best Citizen Science Projects supporting birds, food chains, and habitat. The focus is on Citizen Science projects for birding and habitat protection. Also discussed are Birding Tools and applied technologies that are important to Citizen Science. Many of the projects and tools discussed help support Citizen Science projects in Virginia to protect birds and further our understanding of challenges faced by birds from habitat loss and climate change.

UPDATED “*Birds in Our Yards: Helping Nature's Pairing*” – Updated for 2024. Climate change is having an impact on seasons, birds, and plants across Virginia. In this presentation you'll learn how you can fine tune your yards features and plantings to attract, enjoy, and help a wider variety of birds while at the same time-sharing observations about your yard to help science and conservation within Virginia.

UPDATED “*Selected Butterflies and Skippers and the Host Plants They Need and Love*” – Updated for 2024. The presentation focuses on species of butterflies and skippers and their host native plants. The presentation aims at what can be done to attract the fabulous flying “4Bs” (birds, butterflies, bats, and bees) to your neighborhood and your “patch.”

NEW “*Climate Change and Virginia – A Key Destination for Birds in a Changing World.*” Virginia - *from the mountains to the sea* - is key to the life cycle of many birds. The presentation discusses Virginia with Climate Change and the presence or absence of selected warblers, raptors, waterfowl, and even hummingbirds. Emphasis on the importance of habitat protection and citizen science to help determine the presence or absence of key species. How does science depict Virginia and birds in 2030 and beyond? What can the birding community do to help birds now and in the future?

Sylvia Hoehns Wright



804-347-9464

Sylvia@TheWrightScoop.com

www.TheWrightScoop.com

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.



William Young



1211 South Eads Street
Apt. 1408
Arlington, VA 22202
703-522-7921
wcy@wcy42.com
www.MPNature.com

Bill is a writer who lives in Arlington, Virginia. He has taught numerous classes for the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia, and he has given presentations about birds and natural history for numerous groups. He has traveled to all seven continents as well as throughout the United States. Bill is especially interested in bird behavior and bird conservation. His book *The Fascination of Birds: From the Albatross to the Yellowthroat*, published by Dover in 2014, 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 makes videos about birds and other natural history subjects which he posts on his YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/user/williamyoung42?feature=watch>. His videos have had about a million views. He is the co-creator (with Ashley Bradford) of the website MPNature.com, which provides information about the natural history at Monticello Park in Alexandria, VA, as well as a broad range of information about other natural history subjects.

Bill presents material in a manner that will keep the interest of experienced birders while being accessible to beginning birders. He *only does* virtual presentations. He does not accept payment for speaking and asks instead that a contribution be sent to the American Bird Conservancy. Among the topics of some of his programs are:

“99 Reasons to be Fascinated by Birds” (based on his book)

“The Wildlife of Uganda”

“A Million Penguins” (about Antarctic wildlife)

“Birds and Language”

“Birds in Culture”

“Identifying Spring Warblers”

“Identifying Fall Warblers”

“Identifying Waterfowl”
