

**Twin Capes Bird Migration Exhibit
at
Newport News-Williamsburg International Airport**



Background: The objective of the Twin Capes exhibit was to educate the public about the importance of the Twin Capes Region (Cape May, NJ to Cape Charles, VA) for migratory birds. This area is one of the most important migratory corridors and stopovers in the world. Bird migration along the mid-Atlantic coast is a spectacular phenomenon, with millions of birds moving through each spring and fall. Hundreds of species are involved, from tiny Golden-crowned Kinglets to shorebirds to waterfowl to powerful Peregrine Falcons. Birds, such as sparrows and warblers, travel from breeding grounds in Canada to wintering areas in South America. The biggest threat to migratory birds is the loss of habitat due to development. Habitat reduction has led to population declines in many species. Migratory birds are highly dependent on having good quality habitat along their route. Birds rely on stopover areas, like twin capes for resting and feeding before continuing on their demanding journey. Like colorful clockwork, this area is the scene of a spectacular drama as millions of songbirds, monarch butterflies, and thousands of raptors cluster at the tip of the peninsulas. This spectacular event can be easily observed at a number of locations. An estimated two million people viewed this exhibit.

Partners: Delaware Bay Estuary Project, Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory; Cape May Bird Observatory, NJ Audubon Society; Smithsonian Institution (Washington, DC) ; New Jersey Division of Parks and Forestry; Delaware Division of Parks and Recreation; Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation; USFWS EcoTeam for the Delaware River and Delmarva Coastal Area; Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge; Cape May National Wildlife Refuge; Chesapeake Bay Ecological Services Field Office; Patuxent National Wildlife Refuge; Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife

Refuge: Newport News -Williamsburg International Airport; and Joan Carol Design & Exhibit Group.

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