

[From Spring 1996]

## **ESVA Refuge Visitor Center to Reopen**

After approximately 18 months of hammering nails, fabricating exhibits and twisting arms, the Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center is expected to reopen on May 1. It has nearly doubled in size, and the new exhibits and other special features are outstanding.

The main theme of the center, "Coming to the Point," will focus on migratory birds and their use of the Chesapeake Bay, barrier islands, intertidal marshes and upland habitat. Visitors will be able to watch short videos on each of the four habitats and walk around exhibits that depict these areas. Another section of the visitor center will feature exhibits about the Fish and Wildlife Service. Visitors will have an opportunity to watch video segments on a variety of wildlife management activities.

The most popular addition to the center will probably be the wildlife observation viewing area. A large window overlooks a fresh water pond that is used by waterfowl, wading birds and a variety of other species. Some of the other highlights of the center include an exhibit on tourism on Virginia's Eastern Shore, an auditorium where wildlife presentations will be offered daily, and a replica of an old hunting shack where visitors can listen to stories about waterfowl hunting and duck trapping in the 1930's and 40's.

A dedication for Phase II of the Visitor Center is tentatively scheduled for June 1, 1996. For additional information about the dedication contact the refuge at (804) 331-2760.

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