

[From Spring 1997]

## **CNHA Funding Obtains Challenge Grants**

As a member of the Chincoteague Natural History Association, you are probably aware of the contributions made to both the Chincoteague and Eastern Shore of Virginia Refuges on an annual basis. For this year, your organization contributed \$21,700 in materials and services to these two refuges. These funds are generated from the two sales outlets, which collectively are visited by well over 100,000 people each year.

However, you may not be aware that sometimes the refuge is able to take CNHA's contribution and do more than accomplish the projects selected for funding. For 1997, the CNWR received \$16,500 from the CNHA. These funds will be used to: hire interns to assist with the refuge's education and interpretive programs; help fund the 3rd Annual International Migratory Bird Celebration; provide support for volunteer and environmental education programs, as well as the Junion Refuge Manager and Junior Birder Programs; print leaflets; begin data collection for a breeding bird interpretive display; and assist with the refuge outreach effort.

Although this is an impressive list, the refuge has secured another \$13,000 to match most of the CNHA's contribution. These funds were obtained by "challenging" other offices or organizations to match various projects, which your Association had already approved. Without this prior approval, these additional funds would not have been made available to this refuge. Thanks to the generosity of your organization, the dedicated work of your Board of Directors, and a hard working public use staff, this station will have a very successful visitor services program during 1997.

*John Schroer,  
Manager, CNWR*