

[From Spring 1997]

## **News From the Point - Eastern Shore of Virginia NWR**

### *The Revolving Door*

Carol Reith completed her internship on March 1 and Mark Ploski started his 12 week work assignment on February 18. The refuge is funded for nine interns in 1997, and most of that funding comes from the Chincoteague Natural History Association and a matching grant from the Fish and Wildlife Service. It takes time to recruit and train interns every couple of months, but without their help many projects could not be accomplished.

Carol was the first member of our staff to have a hearing disability. She was a great lip reader and communicating with her was never a problem. Carol's primary responsibility was running the American Woodcock Program. She conducted a number of night surveys to compare the results under various weather conditions. Carol banded woodcocks, conducted environmental education programs, and developed interpretive materials on the Woodcock Management Program. Like most of the interns we have had, Carol did an excellent job.

### *Winter Visitation*

During January and February, the visitor center at Eastern Shore of Virginia NWR was open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, and the hours of operation were 10 AM - 2 PM. Visitation rose and fell with the temperature and overall weather conditions. In February, which is usually the slowest month of the year, the center was open 12 days and total visitation was 644 or approximately 54 people per day. That may not be an impressive number when compared with Chincoteague, but visits to our center often take 30-45 minutes.

*Jim Kenyon,  
Outdoor Recreation Planner*