

# NEWS RELEASE



**Contact:** Meg Puckett  
Content Management Specialist  
Office: (757) 441-2374 ext. 272  
Cell: (757) 650-6611  
Email: meg.puckett@norfolk.gov

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Nov. 7, 2014

## UNIQUE BIRD TAPE ART RETURNS TO THE VIRGINIA ZOO

NORFOLK, Va. – For the second year, volunteer artists are helping reduce the risk of birds flying into animal exhibit windows at the Virginia Zoo.

Three area volunteer artists, Angie Van Dyke, a Zoo volunteer from Norfolk; William E. Curry IV, age 12, from Churchville; and Shelby Horton, age 19, from Poquoson, were selected to create unique works of art using bird tape at the Zoo's tiger pool and orangutan viewing areas.

In 2012, Virginia Zoo staff noted that 78 percent of bird strikes at the Zoo were from Oct. 7 through Nov. 6, and that 90 percent of bird fatalities involved yellow-rumped warblers. This is the second year the Zoo has been working with the American Bird Conservancy and Old Dominion University to study how patterns of bird tape can affect bird strikes on large windows.

As an additional project, the Zoo's executive director, Greg Bockheim, wanted to see how the bird tape might be used to create art, and for the second year, the Zoo called for volunteer artists to help out. "Birds can't see glass, so they sometimes fly into windows and may be seriously injured or killed as a result," said Bockheim. "We wanted to learn how bird tape might help prevent bird strikes, but we also wanted something fun that might inspire visitors to learn more about protecting birds at home."

Visitors can see the bird tape art, along with patterns from the ODU study, now through the end of November. All the bird tape will be removed at the end of the month, when the ODU study and the migration period of the subject bird species, the yellow-rumped warbler, ends.

More about bird tape can be found at [www.abcbirdtape.org](http://www.abcbirdtape.org).

- more -

## ZOO BIRD TAPE ART, 2 OF 5



**Bird tape art by Angie Van Dyke, a Zoo volunteer from Norfolk, Va., at the Virginia Zoo's orangutan viewing area, Nov. 7, 2014 (Virginia Zoo photo by Winfield Danielson).**

- more -

## ZOO BIRD TAPE ART, 3 OF 5



Bird tape art by Angie Van Dyke, a Zoo volunteer from Norfolk, Va., at the Virginia Zoo's orangutan viewing area, Nov. 7, 2014 (Virginia Zoo photo by Winfield Danielson).

- more -

## ZOO BIRD TAPE ART, 4 OF 5



Bird tape art by William E. Curry IV, age 12, from Churchville, Va., at the Virginia Zoo's orangutan habitat, Nov. 7, 2014 (Virginia Zoo photo by Winfield Danielson).

- more -

## ZOO BIRD TAPE ART, 5 OF 5



**Bird tape art by Shelby Horton, age 19, from Poquoson, Va., at the Virginia Zoo's tiger pool viewing area, Nov. 7, 2014 (Virginia Zoo photo by Winfield Danielson).**

**###**

*As an accredited Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) facility, the Virginia Zoo exhibits more than 400 animals on 53 beautifully landscaped acres. For more than a century, the Virginia Zoo has demonstrated a commitment to education and conservation, and offered a fun-filled day for visitors of any age. Open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and located at 3500 Granby Street in Norfolk. Daily admission prices are \$11 for adults, \$10 for seniors (age 62 and over) and \$9 for children ages 2-11. Children under 2 admitted free! Visit [www.virginiazoo.org](http://www.virginiazoo.org) or call (757) 441-2374 for more information.*