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Recycling: Not Just a Catchy Phrase

Jeremy Christian

There is an on-going battle throughout the world, bigger than World War I or World War II. The nations of the earth have pulled together to fight a common enemy: pollution. Now Brevard has entered the fight. Armed with enthusiasm, dedication, and an excellent plan of attack, BC's community is ready to make the world a better place.

Brevard College's recycling program is drawing rave reviews. Headed by students and faculty, the program is taking great strides in reducing the amount of Brevard College trash through recycling. In 1998 alone, the program was responsible for recycling over 15 tons of Brevard College waste!

Begun in 1990 by Dr. Bob Glesener, the program now is under the direction of Dr. Jennifer Frick and Linda Helms, Director of the Center for Service Learning. These leaders share their knowledge and discipline with a cast of Brevard College students. Bob Bridges, Durbin Davis, Stephon Frazier, Angela Hayes, Amanda Jacobs, Joe Raymond, Bill Rickman, Denny Weafer, Selome Bekure and Katie Smith all volunteer their time to this worthy project. Work-study students in Beam Administration and environmental study students also give their time to the recycling cause. Other staff members who consistently recycle are Raymond Floyd, Angela Hemphill, and Bobbie Jean Whitmire.

Joining in the battle is the town of Brevard. ACE Hardware discounted recycling containers for each BC dorm and the Village. These containers hold steel and aluminum cans, #1 and #2 plastics, glass containers, and mixed papers. Classrooms also have containers for mixed paper and other recyclables.

Impressed by the student response to the recycling containers, Dr. Frick states that BC students are

doing well at recycling. As she notes, "The Village is doing a great job, along with the other dorms."

As students of Brevard College, we should all join the battle against pollution by washing and depositing recyclables into appropriate containers throughout the day. If we, as a college community, all do our part to help the environment, we can win the war against pollution.



BC recyclers are (from left to right) Bill Rickman, Joe Raymond, Steven Frazier, Denny Weaver.

Get Mugged Yet?

The Brevard College Mug Program, just one of many Earth Week-generated activities, is well underway with several local businesses offering discounts to customers bearing BC mugs. Those who have not yet been mugged, should proceed immediately to King's Creek Book, where for the minimal charge of \$4.99, someone will gladly "take care of you." Psst....take *The Clarion* with you and receive a 10% discount!

Mick Daniel, Shawn Stevens Flying High Over Two Rare Local Bird Sightings

Shannon McGuigan

Reporter's Note: The following information was adapted with permission from Norma and Bill Siebenneller's Dec. 17, 1998, and Feb. 15, 1999, *Transylvania Times* articles *Birds in Focus*.

Everyone wants to make his or her mark in history. Here at Brevard College, Dr. Frick's birding class seems to be helping students accomplish that task. Last semester, Mick Daniel, a student in Dr. Frick's Biology 110 class, spotted a partial albino cardinal at a feeder close to Brevard. The cardinal's head was totally white. Although albinism is not extremely rare in birds, it is unusual. Surprisingly, another different yet also partially albino cardinal appeared soon after. Now, the question being asked is whether two such birds in the same area, at the same time is a rarity.

In October of last semester, junior Shawn Stevens, who was taking Dr. Frick's Local Birds, Biology 374 class, put a bird feeder in his yard to attract some of the birds he was studying at the time. Two weeks later, he saw a bird that he could not identify. He wanted to take

note of the bird's features and ask Dr. Frick to identify the bird type. His video camera happened to be nearby, so he taped the creature for about 10 minutes.

Upon viewing the film, Dr. Frick could not identify the bird either, so she queried local birders in the Transylvania County Bird Club, who led her to Simon R.B. Thompson, Chair of the North Carolina Bird Club Records Committee. After two months of investigation, the surprising answer came: the bird was a brambling, a species common to England and other nearby regions, but extremely rare in North America. Bramblings were sighted in New England a few decades ago, and one or two others have been spotted recently in other parts of the United States, but only a few states have accepted it onto their bird lists. The brambling is not on the NC list.

The task at hand now is for the North Carolina Bird Club Records Committee to view the tape and decide whether the bird was wild or just an escaped caged bird. If determined to be wild — a position many local birders hold to — the brambling will stand as the first such record in North Carolina. This being the case, Shawn Stevens' name will go down in history as the first ever to sight a brambling in the southeastern United States.

Obviously, looking up is paying off these days. In fact, the *Transylvania Times* would like to know of any possible sightings of albino birds, bramblings, or other rare species in the area. Those who believe they have spotted such birds are asked to call any reporter at 884-5443. Those wondering whether or not the bird they have seen is unusual, might first check with Dr. Frick!