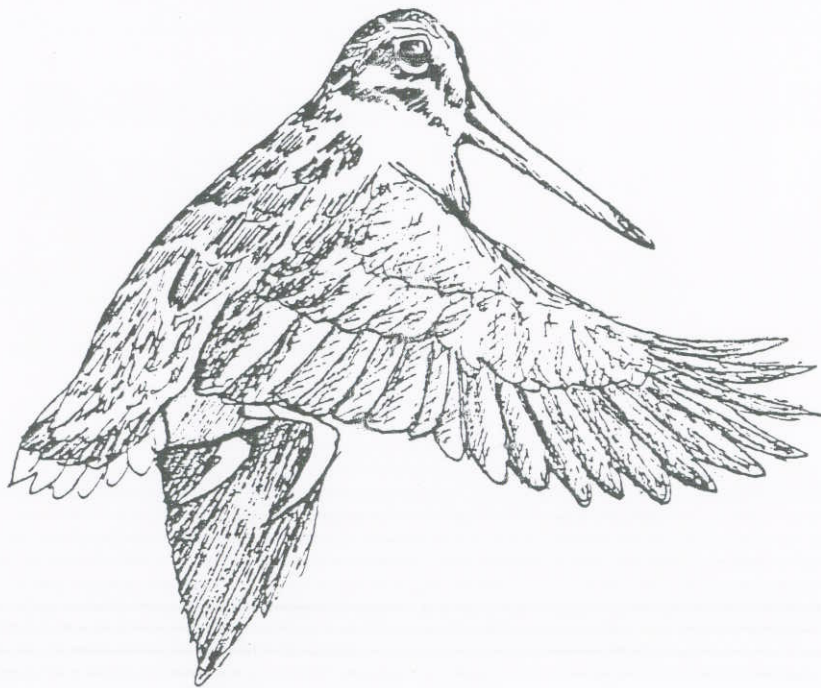


A NATURAL HISTORY OF
THE POCOMOKE RIVER WATERSHED
WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO
ITS WETLANDS



WILLIAM S. SIPPLE

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1994

*To
the People Living in
the Pocomoke River Watershed
and
in memory of Norman H. Dill, a dedicated
student of the Delmarva Peninsula's natural history*

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"On Tuesday morning leaving Mr. Waples, within a mile of the entrance of the swamp I met with an old man who usually conducts strangers into the swamp...The old man went with me and in about a mile from his house we began to enter one of the most frightful labyrinths you can imagine...on Wednesday I went across the swamp about 7 miles without meeting with one extraordinary vegetable excepting the Bartonia...In this part of the swamp there are bears not unfrequently met with as many as 7 having been caught not many months back."

Thomas Nuttall, 1809

"Tons of soggy peat were scooped from above tree-trunks. Oxen foundered and wheezed, chains pulled taut, men cursed, and the logs were dragged out to where crosscut saws could be used."

A. Higgins, 1935

"Many decades ago, Delaware boasted of vast areas of cedar and cypress swamps where the trees stood so thick that semi-darkness prevailed beneath the canopy of their matted crowns and sphagnum moss grew luxuriantly over their roots."

William S. Taber, 1937

"One has but to launch a canoe south of Pocomoke City to float through a cypress wilderness which, except for the absence of Spanish moss, reminds one of the Santee in South Carolina, or the Ogeeche in Georgia."

Brooke Meanley, 1949