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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Discovering the New World: Early Naturalists' Accounts  
of the  
People, Flora and Fauna of Carolina

NEW BERN, NC --- Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens' mission includes a commitment to interpreting North Carolina from early settlement through the twentieth century. The landscape and in particular the natural environment define the path of settlement and development of the region.

In keeping with our recent scheme of selecting a year-long theme for programming and interpretation, Tryon Palace will present a natural history exhibit commemorating the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of John Lawson's journal, *A New Voyage to Carolina*. The exhibit, located in the Visitor Center, is scheduled to open April 25<sup>th</sup> and is free to the public.

Settlers coming to the New World encountered flora and fauna never before seen in the old world. It was an age of discovery. John Lawson wrote the first natural history of the Carolinas, "*A New Voyage to Carolina, Containing the Exact Description and Natural History of That Country*" and traveled to England in 1709 to get it published. It

was the first major attempt at a natural history of the New World,<sup>1</sup> and he founded the science of ornithology in America with his considerable observations.

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<sup>1</sup> Catesby's Birds of Colonial America, Edited by Alan Feduccia, Chapel Hill, The University of North Carolina, p. 8

Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens, located in New Bern, N.C., is an agency of the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources. Tickets and tour information are available at the visitor center located at the corner of George and Pollock streets. The visitor center and the first floor of Tryon Palace are accessible to visitors with disabilities. For directions and further information about special events, programs or group tours, phone 800.767.1560, 252.514.4900 or check out our web site: **[www.tryonpalace.org](http://www.tryonpalace.org)**

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<sup>1</sup> Catesby's Birds of Colonial America, Edited by Alan Feduccia, Chapel Hill, The University of North Carolina, p. 8