

THE RED-BELLIED NEWSLETTER

Monthly Update of the Margaret Watson Bird Club

Mark your calendar:

Sept. 7 - Regular Meeting

6:40pm - County Ext. Office

Sept. 15-17 - Hull Springs Farm

8am @ 1504 Shields Circle

Sept. 23 - Kiptopeke Challenge

MWBC Team Event

Sept. 26 (T) - Greenfield

Departure Time TBD

What to look for:

We need to find the following birds to round out our monthly August records in eBird. Please log them if you see them!

Week #3

Little Blue Heron
Barred Owl
Eastern Whip-poor-will

Week #4

Greater Yellowlegs
N. Rough-winged Swallow
Ovenbird
Hooded Warbler

Field Notes

Heart of Virginia Festival 2017



This marked the first time the MWBC has hosted a booth at the Heart of Virginia Festival in Downtown Farmville. The experience was a wonderful success as we shared bird information with the public, kept a bird sightings tally, and brought in over \$100 to the club coffers selling bird feeders.

Warbler Road 2017

On Tuesday, May 9 a group of eleven MWBC members and friends completed the annual trip to Warbler Road, a series of interconnected forest roads in the Appalachian Mountains about 13 miles long. The route has been named "Warbler Road" due to the diversity of warblers found during the spring between the end points of the route. Starting on the Blue Ridge Parkway at the Sunset Field overlook (milepost 78.4 at 3474 ft in elevation), the route descends about 2600 ft until you reach the Arcadia area at 853 ft.



Just a note...

Hi Friends!

Summer is flying by for me and I am looking forward to a season of new programming, fabulous field trips and great community engagement. Lots has been going on behind the scenes these past few months to make sure we have a great year.

For starters, I'm thrilled to let you know that our club was awarded a \$500 VSO Conservation Grant to build prothonotary warbler houses in the coming year, so we have one more thing to be working on while the snow flies this winter!

Secondly, we are jumping right into our new programming with a short talk from Evan Spears summer birds in our area. We traditionally think of summer as the slow season in birding but you'd be surprised by what's been spotted nearby. Then we will have a - how shall we say? - *substantive* business meeting to tie up some loose ends from last May. Also, the first field trip is a weekender, so be sure to let me know if you want to go!

Best birding,

August Newsletter

Notable species included multiple Worm-eating, Cerulean and Hooded Warblers. Part of the group witnessed two Canada Warblers sparring prior to reaching their northerly territories. On the way, we encountered other birders from Ohio and Richmond, Va.

Consider this...

Field Trip - Hull Springs Farm, Montross, Va.

The MWBC will travel for a three day, two night weekend excursion to Virginia's Northern Neck on September 15-17, 2017. We plan to leave early Friday morning and return Sunday afternoon, birding locations throughout the area. **Please confirm your spot with Amanda ASAP as space is limited.** \$50 per person is payable upon arrival.

Support for the Coastal Wildlife Conservatory

The MWBC will send a team of birders to the 23rd Annual Kiptopeke Challenge on Saturday, September 23. The Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory (CVWO) sponsors this annual event. It's not only an opportunity for some great Fall birding, but it's also to support a very important organization. This is the annual fundraising event for CVWO. Check out the [website](#) for a description of some of the great work being accomplished there.

Our team is accepting much needed sponsorship donations to support the work of this great organization.

Please consider a tax deductible gift in any amount, payable to the CVWO and given to our treasurer, Regina Schwabe.

Book Nook

Beginning with an examination of the stunning eggs of the guillemot, each of which is so variable in pattern and colour that no two are ever the same, acclaimed ornithologist Tim Birkhead then looks at the eggs of hens, cuckoos and many other birds, revealing weird and wonderful facts about these miracles of nature.

