



THE RED-BELLIED NEWSLETTER

Monthly Update of the Margaret Watson Bird Club

Mark your calendar:

**Oct. 31 (T) - Bear Creek Lake/
Cumberland State Forest**

8am @ Winston Lake or
7:30am @ Walmart

Nov. 2 (R) - Regular Meeting

6:40pm @ Farmville-Prince Edward
Community Library

Nov. 18 (S) - James River SP

Departure Time TBD

Dec. 7 (R) - Christmas Party

6:30pm @ Farmville Pres. Church

Book (And Gift!) Swap

During the month of November, sort through your libraries for any bird or nature related books or magazines you'd like to part with or share.

Bring them to our holiday party on December 7th to swap them out with new things you might find interesting.

Also, if you'd like to participate in our annual holiday gift swap, bring a new, wrapped bird-themed gift valued around \$20.

Brian Eick to Speak

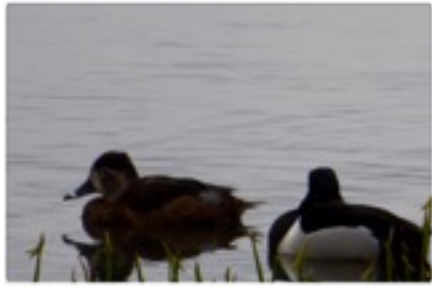
We hope you will join us for our next program on Thursday, the second of November at 7:00pm. Brian Eick, Natural Resource Manager from Appomattox Court House National Historical Park. He will be showing us how the park is managed for birds while still remaining true to its historic features. Almost 100 species of birds have been logged in eBird for this location, which boasts diverse habitat for local and migratory birds alike.

Field Notes

You never know what you might find on a MWBC field trip! On National Public Lands Day, several club members joined High Bridge State Park staff for an interpretive tour of the recently discovered cemetery, a quiet bird walk, and a trash pick-up. Read more about that trip and more [on the blog!](#)



For information on future trips, visit the [calendar page](#).



Just a note...

Hi Friends!

Confession: I have a very bad habit of wishing away my time. If pressed for an answer regarding my favorite season, I'd likely respond, "the next one." In winter I long for the sunny, long days of summer. In summer, I pine for sweater weather. But one thing that never changes is that I wish every season were duck season!

WELL, HELLO DUCK SEASON!

The very earliest waterfowl have started making their way south. Pied-billed Grebes are popping up on local bodies of water both big and small. An early Common Loon was spotted on Sandy River Reservoir in addition to small flocks of Gadwall, Green-winged Teal and Canada Geese.

To join us for an evening duck count, come to the SRR Boat Ramp during the last 30 minutes of daylight. Someone is there most nights through November and we will count ducks until we can't see them anymore. Drop us (Evan, Julian, me) a line to know to expect you. Dress warmly!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amanda".

Slow Juncos...



Our winter sparrows are slowly returning to the area, taking their time as the season soldiers on without frost or leaf-drop. Specifically, Dark-eyed Juncos and White-throated Sparrows have returned to areas of dense vegetation but not in enough numbers to be common occurrences in our yards. Expect to see and hear them nearby over the next 10-14 days.

Book Nook

Join birdsong expert Donald Kroodsma on a ten-week, ten-state bicycle journey as he travels with his son from the Atlantic to the Pacific, lingering and listening to the birds across our continent as no one has before. *Listening to a Continent Sing* is a guided tour through the history of a young nation and the geology of an ancient landscape, and an invitation to set aside the bustle of everyday life to follow one's dreams.

