



THE RED-BELLIED NEWSLETTER

Monthly Update of the Margaret Watson Bird Club

Mark your calendar:

Dec. 7 (R) - Christmas Party
6:30pm @ Farmville Pres. Church

January 7 (Su) - Christmas Bird Count
7am @ Darlington Heights Firehouse

January 20 (Sa) - Sandy River Reservoir and Briery Creek Lake
7am @ SRR Boat Ramp

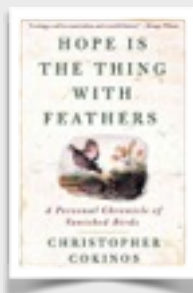
For more information, visit the [calendar page](#). >>>

Book Nook

Hope is the Thing With Feathers —

Even readers with no special interest in birds will be caught up in this marvelous book.

In recounting the histories of six extinct North American birds, along with stories of the people who killed them off and those who tried to save them, Cokinos transforms each extinction into a deeply disturbing tragedy—both for the species itself, and for human civilization.



Announcements

Christmas Plans Set

Plans for our annual holiday party are set for **Thursday, December 7 at 6:30pm at the Farmville Presbyterian Church**. We will enjoy heavy hors d'oeuvres, desserts, and each other's company before going beak-to-beak over the best birdie gifts. Please bring two food items, either both savory or one savory and one sweet. If you'd like to participate in our a gift swap, bring a new, wrapped bird-themed gift valued around \$20.

In addition, bring your bird/nature themed guides, novels, magazines, etc. to swap with others if you're finished with them.

Field Notes

Bear Creek Lake SP/Cumberland State Forest

On October 31, nine members of our club enjoyed birding through the Cumberland State Forest and Bear Creek Lake State Park and finished the trip at David and Jennifer's house for a delicious lunch. For more details, click [here](#). >>>





Just a note...

Hi Friends!

I just want to take one more opportunity to thank everyone who made the Flight Deck become a reality!

To Damien, for your guidance of the project from conception to completion;

To the special projects committee who found the funding, secured the materials, and developed the concept fully;

To the businesses and donors who supported us financially;

To the sign installers, who did a lot of heavy lifting to make a great presentation to the public;

To the ribbon cutting event helpers, who made sacrifices on the day to pull it all together...

THANK YOU!

It is a pleasure to have such a wonderful, supportive membership and to have such a positive impact on our community.

Consider This...

Recipe: Birdie Biscuits

INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 cup water
- 3 tsp unflavored gelatin
- 3 T corn syrup
- 3/4 cup flour
- 4 cups bird seed



DIRECTIONS

Heat water, gelatin and corn syrup together over a low heat. No need to boil. Mix flour and seed together and then slowly add to gelatin mixture. While cooling, put out parchment paper on our counter, and choose your favorite cookie cutters. Spray those cookie cutters with cooking spray.

Next, fill the cutters with the gelatin mixture, pressing in the mixture tightly. Before you remove the ornament, use a straw or toothpick to poke a hole through the ornament (for hanging). Then remove from cookie cutters and let dry for several hours.

Once dry, you can attach ribbon or string and hang for the birds! Be sure you hang it somewhere that the birds can perch while feeding.

Chincoteague in March 2018 - Waitlist Only

We are finally heading to Chincoteague! The field trip committee is planning a three day, two night trip, costing about \$100 per person during the week of March 5-9.

We are presently booked with interested participants but are keeping a waitlist, should anyone back out. A 50% deposit will be required by February 1 to secure your spot. Cancellations after will result in a refunded deposit only if a waitlist participant is confirmed in your place. Speak to Joann Jones for more details.