



THE RED-BELLIED NEWSLETTER

Monthly Update of the Margaret Watson Bird Club

Mark your calendar:

Feb. 1 (Th) - Mike Roberts:

Prothonotary Warbler Research

6:40pm @ Farmville-Prince Edward

Community Library

Feb. 3 (S) - Dutch Gap

7:30am @ Sandy River Reservoir

Feb. 17 (S) - GBBC

8am @ The Fehrer Home

188 Farmville Lake Road

More Info:

Great Backyard Bird Count

For those who didn't want to brave the chill for the CBC, the Great Backyard Bird Count may be more up your alley. This worldwide event will be conducted from February 16 through the 19th. Once again, the Fehrer's have invited us to their home on **Saturday, 2/17** to count birds in their yard and neighborhood. We'll bird from **8:00 AM to 10 or 11 AM**. Hot drinks and yummy treats will be provided if you need an additional reason to enjoy the fellowship on this "field trip". For those of you who haven't been to the Fehrer's home, they are located at 188 Farmville Lake Road, Farmville.



Christmas Bird Count

On January 7, over over 20 members and friends of the Margaret Watson Bird Club conducted the 41st annual Christmas Bird Count. Despite the bitter cold, nineteen volunteers from our club enjoyed the opportunity to work together on a worthwhile project. No one in the group could remember a winter bird count on such a cold day. Three teams delayed rounds for an hour, owing to the frigid temperatures ranging from -1 F at 8 AM to a high of 28 F late in the afternoon. The teams that started owling at 6 AM experienced temperatures as low as -4 F! "Like many CBC's in the past, we dreaded it ahead of time because of the weather forecast, but when the birds showed up to be counted, we lost

Just a note...

Hello bird friends!

The early-January deep freeze that wreaked so much havoc on our CBC brought plentiful ducks to the only open water around - Sandy River Reservoir! The diversity was amazing!

Highlights included but were not limited to the following:

Greater White-Fronted Goose

Tundra Swan

Northern Pintail

Northern Shoveler

Green-Winged Teal

Blue-Winged Teal

Common Merganser

Red-breasted Merganser

Horned Grebe

Common Goldeneye

While most everything has moved on since the waters have thawed, you're not out of luck! If you'd like to have a gander (pun intended!) at some of these species and more, be sure to join us for our field trip to Dutch Gap. This is quite possibly the easiest, most fascinating day-trip we have planned all year.

Amanda

ourselves in the excitement of the count," said Damien Fehrer.

Combined, the teams counted 65 species with highlights being numerous American Robins (over 10,000!), a covey of Northern Bobwhite Quail, a Bald Eagle, and a large number of Pine Warblers, Winter Wrens, Red-Headed Woodpeckers, and Hermit Thrushes.

Thanks to everyone whose time and effort made this another successful winter bird count. Several local MWBC members opened their homes for bathroom breaks and warm-up stations. Patsy Miessler headed up a group of volunteers that prepared a hearty meal for the birders at the end of the day served at Tina Wells' home. Carolyn Wells tabulated the data and submitted it to the Virginia Society of Ornithology.

Book Nook

Just in time for the February thaw, this oldie-but-goodie selection comes to mind.

Bird-by-Bird Gardening by Sally Roth includes nineteen garden designs for attracting specific bird families—such as hummingbirds,

nuthatches, swallows, thrushes, or wrens—as well as water projects and feeder recipes for each bird family. Roth provides detailed instructions for selecting the plants that will keep your favorite birds lingering longer in the backyard—and revisiting year after year.

