



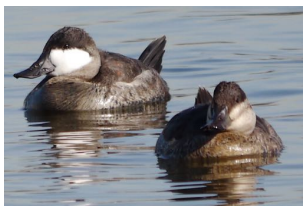
Scenes at Masonville Cove: Think spring and pollinators-bumblebee visiting a spotted bee balm flower last summer; MES' John Oltman installing a Nest Box in the Conservation Area; Look what's under a log- 2 slugs and a cluster of eggs(ringed in red); American Coots overwintering in the nearshore area of Masonville Cove.

A variety of waterfowl and Shorebirds make Masonville Cove their winter habitat.

Maryland Environmental Service specialist Tim Carney regularly monitors wild birds at the Masonville Dredged Material Containment Facility (DMCF) and in the mitigated areas of Masonville Cove. His observations document bird species that use the upland and aquatic habitats.

During winter, Masonville Cove provides habitat for migratory waterfowl and other birds that favor aquatic habitats. December's Bird Report from Tim Carney cites rafts of Bufflehead and Ruddy Ducks in the Cove. We see them out on the cove at the end of January, too.

These small diving ducks congregate in quiet tidal estuaries and freshwater wetlands and lakes during winter and migrate to the central plains' wetlands(ruddy ducks) and Canadian forests(bufflehead) to breed. They are a blast to watch as they disappear below the surface and pop up a short time later. Ruddy ducks are shaped like rubber duckies; males have white cheek patches and hold their tails upright. Buffleheads are somewhat smaller with a white patch at the nape



of the neck. Outside the breeding season, it is more difficult to distinguish females and males.

Also spotted in our area were red-breasted merganser, lesser scaup, canvasback, gadwall and American coot(pictured at top of page). You are invited to Masonville Cove to see for yourself. We can loan you binoculars and ID materials. The public hours include weekdays from 9am-4pm or Saturdays from 9am to 1pm.



Did you know that Masonville Cove is a Nest Watch site?

Nancy O'Hara, a member of the Baltimore Bird Club, plus a couple of MC staff participate in this Citizen Science project sponsored by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. When birds are breeding, we make observations 1-2 times every week. There are data entry forms developed by scientists. These help keep observations consistent among observers and among sites. To kick off the season we have a 1-hour Nature Walk slated for Tuesday February 7th at 11:30am, plus NestWatch briefing. We'll be inspecting the nest boxes in the conservation area and recording locations of old nests in trees.

About Masonville Cove and the Campus...

Masonville Cove is located on 70 acres of water and 54 acres of cleaned-up land including wetlands, nature trails, and a protected bird sanctuary. The Masonville project developed from mitigation tied to the creation of a Dredged Material Containment Facility (DMCF) by the Maryland Port Administration (MPA). This created an opportunity for the local residents and schoolchildren (from Brooklyn, Curtis Bay, and Cherry Hill) to connect with their natural environment and participate in meaningful stewardship projects related to Masonville Cove and their communities.

MPA worked with the community associations from Brooklyn and Curtis Bay, the Living Classrooms Foundation, and the National Aquarium to create the Masonville Cove Environmental Education Campus (MCEEC). Maryland Environmental Service coordinates the mitigation project. The MCEEC has been a model for community involvement and environmental awareness from its inception to its opening as a landmark urban environmental education center. The sustainable growth of this urban wilderness conservation area and its wetlands will remind the community that they are a part of something positive for generations to come.



- A Partnership among:**
Maryland Port Administration
Living Classrooms Foundation
National Aquarium
Maryland Environmental Service
US Fish & Wildlife Service