



# Monticello Bird Club

May 2014 Newsletter

Website: [www.monticellobirdclub.org](http://www.monticellobirdclub.org)

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*MBC Monthly Meeting*—Thursday, May 8th at 7:00pm  
Member's Night

## Comments from the President

Doug Rogers



It is May and spring migration is upon us. As I look back at the past year and all the things this Club has done, I feel thankful for the efforts of all who have made it happen. The year started with the formation of the Bird Seed Sale Team led by Jim Hill: Dave Hogg, Eileen Stephens, Jenny Gaden, Joanne Bricker, Lou Tanner, Maynard Davis, Sandra Williams and our newest Club member at that time, Scott Con-nuck. The efforts of this Team made our Bird Seed Sale the most successful ever.

Kathy Sudduth has been our very active V.P. Along with other duties, she has kept our web site in ship shape condition. Peggy Cornett has been our faithful Club Secretary, doing the attest function on the Board's decisions and keeping our minutes up to par. Maynard Davis has done a superb job as Treasurer! He worked on re-designing our website and is working on making the Club totally legal to solicit donations. John Davis has kept us in the field with an excellent selection of trips – thanks to John and to all those who led those trips! And thanks to all those who led the First Saturday Bird Walks at ICNA and those who will lead the Birding Before Work trips.

Stauffer has entertained and informed us with a wealth of programs! We are delighted to learn that he will continue to serve us as Speakers Coordinator for yet another year. (But, alas, see his column below.) I think of the efforts of Priscilla Kingston – at every meeting to set up and take down, to provide refreshments when needed, to keep our name tags organized. She makes a real difference that we all appreciate. Gabriel Mapel has kept the MBC and the BRYBC on the minds of everyone who will listen through his efforts as Publicity Chair. Joanne Bricker has brought a new level of creativity to the Club Newsletter. Her efforts have received accolades from members and non-members alike. Our Club has exceeded its membership goal for this fiscal year, thanks to the efforts of Lesslie Crowell. She advertises our Club at functions around the area and is diligent about welcoming new members; she is there to meet and greet any guests. Good job, Lesslie!

What a team all of you have been! I feel privileged to have been a part of it.



## Annual Member's Night

Stauffer Miller

Our next meeting, May 8th, will be our annual member's night. Before writing about that, I wish to review our speakers for 2013 to 2014. I am grateful to Brenda Lambert, who suggested the speaker we had from the Rockfish Wildlife Sanctuary. I would also like to single out Joanne Bricker and Doug Rogers who brought us John Lampkin, whom I think everybody much enjoyed. These suggestions make my job so much easier. Let me hear from you if there is a speaker or topic you'd like to hear about. Also, if you are traveling somewhere to see a few birds, consider taking some photos and giving us a talk. I know many of you travel and have a camera. You don't have to be a world-class speaker or photographer to appear before Monticello Bird Club. We mostly want your enthusiasm.

On another subject, I have held the speaker co-ordinator position with the club for about six years. I am uncertain as to when Pat Wilczek handed the job over to me. I now feel it is time to pass the baton to someone else. I can work closely with whomever replaces me. The job is not hard and can be quite pleasurable.

**Member's night, May 8th, will be what we as members make of it.** Consider bringing a few slides to show, a story or anecdote to tell, a birdcall to imitate. **This is your chance to perform and perhaps even shine.**

## First Saturday Bird Walk

May 3, 7:30am

On the first Saturday of each month (for twenty years!), the Monticello Bird Club offers a bird walk, led by a Club member, at Ivy Creek Natural Area. Participants gather in the parking lot at 7:30am. Birders of all levels are welcome.

### Walk Leaders Spring-Summer 2014

### May 3...Peter Brask

April 5.... Janet Paisley  
June 7 ....David White  
July 5 .... Gabriel Mapel  
Aug. 2 ... Jenny Gaden  
Sept. 6 ...Tom Jones

## Birding Tidbits

...about a bird you might find on the Bird Walk at Ivy Creek in May  
by Jenny Gaden

### Common Yellowthroat

A sprightly little bird with a black mask and yellow throat will soon be nesting (I hope) in the brushy vegetation of the field near the Ivy Creek parking area. This migratory warbler has made its home there the last few summers, and chances are a pair will do so again this year. The male's song, *wich-i-ty wich-i-ty wich-i-ty*, is immediately recognizable, especially by the female, as he sings from a prominent spot declaring his ardor for a mate and claiming his territory.

When nest-building begins the pair remains hidden in the dense vegetation, and they are not so easy to see. The female lacks the black mask, but as the male, has yellow underparts and light olive upper parts. Common Yellowthroats also inhabit thick, tangled vegetation in low wet areas. It is one of North America's most widespread warblers, breeding in all parts of the continental United States and parts of all the Canadian provinces.



Common Yellowthroat  
Photo by Matt Tillett  
Wikimedia Commons

## Field Trips

Organized by John Davis

### Birding Before Work:

**Weekday Mornings: 7:00-8:30am**

April 28—May 2

May 5—May 9

#### Meeting Places and Directions:

**ICNA: Ivy Creek Natural Area**  
Gather in the Parking Lot.

#### O-Hill: Observatory Hill

Meet in the parking lot of the National Radio Astronomy Observatory, 520 Edgemont Road, at the northeast base of O-Hill.

#### RP: Riverview Park

The park is at the eastern terminus of Chesapeake Street, past Riverview Cemetery. Where the road ends, turn left into the park. One can also go east on East Market Street, turn left just after passing Woolen Mills Church, and follow that road one block to the "confluence" of Chesapeake and the park. Go straight into the park.

Join us on any or all of these **short, early morning walks** at birding hotspots in and around town as we **welcome migrants** to Charlottesville, before heading off to the rest of your day!

### Week One



### Week Two

Date	Site	Leader
April 28	ICNA	Dave Hogg
April 29	O-Hill	Janet Paisley
April 30	ICNA	Jim Nix
May 1	ICNA	Gabriel Mapel
May 2	RP	Stauffer Miller

Date	Site	Leader
May 5	O-Hill	Janet Paisley
May 6	ICNA	Peter Dutnell
May 7	RP	Joanne Bricker
May 8	ICNA	Lou Tanner
May 9	ICNA	Jenny Gaden

## Hog Island WMA Surry County, VA

**Saturday, May 10, 7:00am**

**Led by Doug Rogers**

**Important:** Doug has acquired a group access permit issued by the VA DGIF. **Please contact Doug to be registered as part of the group.** (434-973-7634, doug5996@gmail.com)

The Hog Island peninsula juts out into the James River; it is a mixture of flat, open land and pine forests interspersed with tidal marshes and controlled ponds. Bald Eagles nest here, and we should see numerous adults and juveniles. Also, we will very likely see wading birds, four species of hawks, migrating warblers, vireos, and flycatchers. In the past we've spotted Red-headed Woodpecker and nesting Cedar Waxwings. (Just in...Eve Gaige, who visited there with a VSO group on April 27, reported seeing 83 species!)

**Directions:** Meet at **Starbucks on Pantops** in time for a **7:00am carpooling departure** for the 2 1/2 hour drive to the site, where we will need to enter as a group through the **security checkpoint**; have a **valid ID** ready. Bring water, lunch and bug spray. Plan on having a really good day of birding.

## Pocosin Fire Road Skyline Drive

Saturday, May 17, 7:00am  
Led by Janet Paisley

Janet will lead our walk at this favorite spot for hearing and viewing spring migrants and returning residents.

**Directions:** Meet at 7:00am at milepost 59 1/2, on the eastern side of the Skyline Drive. Driving time from Pantops Mountain is an hour. The best way to go is North on Route 29 to Ruckersville, Turn left onto Route 33, and take it to Skyline Drive. Enter Skyline Drive (at milepost 67) and head north. As soon as you reach milepost 60 (about a 14 minute drive from the entrance), watch for the fire road on your right. It is in an area where Skyline Drive is making a gentle rightward swing.

## Notes from the Field...

### Lickinghole Creek—April 12

Submitted by Trip Leader, Peter Brask

Thirteen of us turned out on a perfect spring morning. There was some nice activity at the pond—Osprey, Great Egret, 2 amorous Bald Eagles, Blue Heron overhead, and one hot air balloon. Also, we saw a Red-shouldered Hawk hunting (and eating) frog at the water's edge and had a close look at a Spotted Sandpiper. We were treated to lots of Brown Thrashers's 3 Wilson's Snipe, much raucous Killdeer activity, a few Rough-winged Swallows, Swamp Sparrows, and a Purple Finch. I counted 41 species but may have missed a few.

### Great Blue Heron Rookery, Richmond—April 29

Photos submitted by Trip Leader, Doug Rogers



*Great Blue Herons were in abundance, on their nests (above left) and waiting for a meal (below left) in the shad and herring-rich waters of the roaring James River. These urban birds went about their avian affairs in the heart of Richmond, seemingly unperturbed by the nearby city traffic and noise from the overhead train trestle.*



*Above, an Osprey nabs its breakfast, aligns it in his talons, and shortly perches in a nearby metal tower to dine.*



*Over the pedestrian bridge leading to Belle Isle, Cliff Swallows (right) were busily tending to nesting duties in their incredible pottery jar nests built on the underside of traffic-laden Robert E. Lee Bridge.*

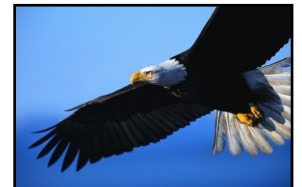


## Noteworthy Local Projects Need your Support...

### Please Support our Raptorthon

Posted on the Monticello Bird Alert by Victor Laubach

On May 3, team "Fly Like An Eagle!" (me, Brenda Tekin, Gabriel Mapel and Penny Warren) will be conducting our 2nd annual RAPTORTHON! The purpose is to have fun and to raise money to support HMANA's and hawkwatchers' work for raptors and hawkwatching throughout the Amerias. We will spend the whole day birding around Augusta County. Half of the proceeds we raise go to HMANA and half stay with our local Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch. Please consider sponsoring our team by simply using the link below, and click on team Fly Like An Eagle to submit an online donation. We'd really appreciate your help! We'll share the results of our Raptorthon to all sponsors. Thank you for your support! *Vic*



<http://www.hmana.org/raptorthon/#Sponsor>

## Lark for the Arc VI



Who's that knocking, you ask? Yes, it's **Lark** redux: the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual **Lark for The Arc** will be upon us come the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May. That is the day designated in our part of the world to do an avian census to add to the local repository of bird lore, a form of "citizen science" which does have scientific merit, in fact.

So, while I sweat it out in the weeds for science I also ask you to consider contributing to another passion, also of merit... and that is the people with intellectual disabilities (ID) and developmental disabilities (DD) who are supported at **The Arc of the Piedmont**, a 60 year-old 501-c-3 charitable organization that is home and family to people with ID and DD who are among our most vulnerable citizens and neighbors.

As each species of bird has its characteristic colors and songs so, too, do the people we support at **The Arc** have their own feelings, emotions and other unique characteristics which identifies each of them as a person and a personality. Birds have the Audubon Society, et al, to represent them; the people whom **The Arc** represents have many needs but few advocates working on their behalf. **The Arc** is the nation's leading agency doing this work, providing direct services and doing advocacy work at every level. Funding, as always, is precarious and we depend on public support to augment our efforts.

So I ask that **YOU** consider making a tax-deductible donation to **The Arc** based on my efforts, e.g., \$1 for each species identified on Count Day, or any amount of your choosing, based on the number of species, or not. You should know that, on average, I have identified about 75 species per count over the past five years. Of course, for the non-gamblers amongst you, a donation of *any* size is extremely helpful and is very much appreciated.

Dan Bieker, another **Arc** volunteer, and I will be trekking o'er hill and dale, counting for a cause. Knowing that we have your support will be our antidote to the spiders and snakes, rain, rabid raccoons and other assorted obstacles that we are sure to encounter. *Please take pleasure from our discomfort; that way you can actually enjoy making your gift knowing that we are suffering for our friends at The Arc.*

To make a gift please send a check to **The Arc** to the address below or you can use your credit card to make a secure on-line donation via PayPal at our website, also listed below. After the count, and after I pick the last tick, I will circulate the species list for the day. All donations received, before or after count day, will be gratefully acknowledged. I personally thank you for considering this request and our cause! *David*

David I. White, Jr., The Arc of the Piedmont, 509 Park Street Charlottesville VA 22902, [www.thearcofthepiedmont.org](http://www.thearcofthepiedmont.org)

### Treasurer's Notes

by Maynard K. Davis



This month we invested \$1,000 as "start-up funds" for the 2015 Virginia Society of Ornithology Annual Conference, which we are co-sponsoring. We expect to recover these funds once the Conference has occurred.

Lesslie Crowell and I applaud our newest membership count of 140, now eight more than our goal of 132.

### Membership Notes

by Lesslie Crowell



MBC members helped promote our club at the Tufton Farm Open House on April 5 and again at City Market April 12. Our club will also be represented at the Annual Plant Sale held by Piedmont Master Gardeners & Charlottesville Area Tree Stewards on Saturday, May 3, 9:00 to noon at the Ix Complex at 2nd St. SE. Come to buy plants for indoors and outdoors, also veggies, herbs, shrubs, trees. Help desk and much more! If you are interested in giving an hour or two in the fall to help publicize MBC, BRYBC, and our birdseed sale, please contact me.

### MBC Minutes April 10, 2014

Peggy Cornett, Secretary



Because Doug Rogers was presenting the evening's program, Vice-president Kathy Sudduth presided over the business meeting. There were 35 members attending the meeting.

Bird sightings were reported. Gabriel Mapel saw a Sandhill Crane in Augusta County, a fourth county record. Nancy Newman reported three Louisiana Waterthrush, and Peggy Cornett heard one at Monticello. Doug Rogers reported that a friend saw a Northern Goshawk on Route 20 and Gabriel mentioned that there also have been sightings near Keswick.

Maynard Davis and Lesslie Crowell gave the Treasurer and Membership reports. (*Please refer to their columns, above.*) Maynard also reminded members that renewals for the 2014-15 fiscal year will come due in July.

Newcomers at the meeting were introduced, including Larry and Terry Saunders, who went on the First Saturday Bird Walk at Ivy Creek.

Doug Rogers gave more details about our involvement with the VSO meeting, May 8-10, 2015 at Wintergreen. Doug is also sole member of the nominating committee for MBC officers. He listed the roster of returning and departing members as follows: President (Doug Rogers), Vice-President (Kathy Sudduth), Secretary (Peggy Cornett), Treasurer (Maynard Davis), Field Trip Coordinator (Gabriel Mapel), Speakers Coordinator (Stauffer Miller), Publications Chair (Open), Hospitality (Priscilla Kingston), Newsletter Editor (Joanne Bricker), Membership and Publicity (Lesslie Crowell, who would like another person onboard), and Bird Seed Chair (open). Elections take place next month.



It only takes one individual to spark a love for the natural world, and in my case, that person was a marvelous great aunt who spent her 85 years living in Orange County, VA. During pre and post UVA days, my visits with her included hikes on the Appalachian Trail, overnights on bunks in Pocosin Cabin (migrating birds'paradise!), and general botanizing and animalizing. I realized more with each visit that I could actually *hear* an Indigo Bunting, know *what* it was and *where* to look for it. I would fall in love with the bluebirds and, actually, everything feathered, scaled, furry and growing in the ground.

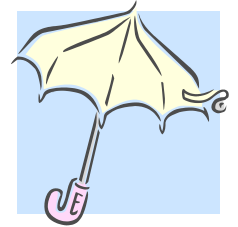
That spark my my great aunt kindled in me has burned for a lifetime. Over 50 years later, each Indigo Bunting I hear or see is extra special and as thrilling as my first!



Indigo Bunting  
by Kevin Bolton  
Wikimedia Commons

Contributed by Nancy Newman

Not all bird encounters are joyful and benign. Consider the following piece, **submitted by Linda Lester**, that she found on the American Library Association's weekly email news.



PORT ORANGE, Florida

Residents in Port Orange said Red-shouldered Hawks have become a big nuisance at the city's library. Workers at the library told Channel 9's Julie Salomone they're stocking up on umbrellas for guests to use as protection against the hawks. County officials said a nearby nest has made the hawks more protective.

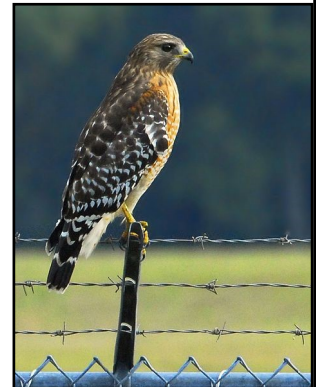
"Luckily I ducked right before it got to me, and it flew over my head and onto the top of the building," said library guest Don Cornejo.

The family of hawks lives in a tree next to the building and there are at least two babies in the nest. The adult birds fly to the ground and attack people as they approach the library, according to library workers and guests.

The county is urging visitors to always use umbrellas as they walk to and from the library. after several reports of the birds getting too close and injuring people. The county shared a picture with Salomone, showing where one woman was scratched on the head by the birds.

"She had a pretty good-sized wound on the back of her head," said Volusia County spokesperson Dave Byron.

County officials placed numerous signs outside the library warning people about the aggressive birds. Florida Fish and Wildlife officials said the hawks are protected and in some cases officials will come out and remove the nests, but not in this case. The Red-shouldered Hawk is one of the most common hawks in the state.



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[www.monticellobirdclub.org](http://www.monticellobirdclub.org)  
for club and membership information.

The **Club meets** on the **second Thursday** of each month, September through June, at the **Education Building of the Ivy Creek Natural Area** on Earlysville Rd, 1/2 mile north of Hydraulic Rd.

The editor of the **MBC Newsletter** welcome submissions, including articles, photographs and notices. **DEADLINE** for each issue is **9:00AM on the 20th** of the month.

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