



Monticello Bird Club

September 2015 Newsletter

Website: www.monticellobirdclub.org

Volume 30

Issue 1

Facebook: [Monticello Bird Club](#)

MBC Monthly Meeting—Thursday, September 10th at 7:00pm

Comments from the President

Doug Rogers



With a new birding season about to begin, I find my thoughts (like last year) turning to our Club. We are starting off the year with all of the Club's "jobs" filled. We are thankful for those who filled Board positions last year and are continuing for another year: Kathy Sudduth, V.P.; Peggy Cornett, Secretary; Maynard Davis, Treasurer; Gabriel Mapel, Field Trips; Priscilla Kingston, Hospitality; Joanne Bricker, Newsletter Editor; Lesslie Crowell, Membership.

We welcome Guy and Susan Babineau to the Board and to the Publicity Chair job. Also they will assume the job of administering the Club's Face Book page. They bring considerable talent and are a welcome addition to the Club's Team.

Past-president, Lou Tanner will take over the job of Speakers Chair. Stauffer Miller is retiring from this job. Stauffer recruited a series of speakers who entertained and informed us and we acknowledge a job well done! We look forward to working with Lou as he engages in the annual talent search.

We are fortunate to have John Holden on board as our Bird Seed Sale Chair. (John declined to become a Board member) John brings an impressive skill set from a career in retail. To assist John, we have a team of enthusiastic Club members who have volunteered to make the Bird Seed Sale a success. We look forward to the results of their efforts. Please join them and submit your order in early September.

Our current budget has a line item for "Club Projects" this year with a nice amount available for projects. (Of course, this is based on our assumptions for Bird Seed Sale profits, dues paid, etc.) We are working on ideas for projects that reflect the Club's values and mission. Ours should not be the only ideas; please submit yours for consideration.

Again this year, we will look forward to an impressive selection of Field Trips, all arranged by our very talented Field Trips Chair, Gabriel Mapel. Please join in for the birding and excellent camaraderie. Bring family and non-members. All are welcome!

Let's make it a great year.

Programs

Lou Tanner



Topic for Sept.: *E-Birding, etc.*

Speaker: *Pete Myers*

Welcome back birders. September's speaker will be Pete Myers, who not only knows just about every bird there is but also is expert in the application of the newest gadgets to a simple hobby we all love. For those like myself who are for the most part strangers to the world of e-birding and higher technology in general, Pete is going to walk us gently through the wonders of the twenty-first century way of birding, though he would have been just as accomplished in the nineteenth (or eighteenth or) Owner of an eye-popping resume described by our own Stauffer Miller in the [January 2012 newsletter](#), Pete is quite literally the perfect guide for this exciting journey, and we look forward to an excellent opening to the season.



(Editor's Note: To learn more about this incredible Renaissance Man and his important environmental health advocacy work, visit Pete's [Environmental Health Sciences website](#). You may also want to subscribe to this organization's [Environmental Health News e-letter](#).)

I hope also you will come at 5:30pm to the Brick Oven Restaurant in the Rio Hill Shopping Center to have "Dinner with the Speaker." The food is simple, but good, and not too expensive. This traditional pre-meeting gathering may be informal but can be quite informative; please consider yourself cordially invited to these DWS gatherings throughout the birding year. And, I look forward to having you join me to "meet, greet, and eat with Pete" on Sept. 10th!

Next month's Speaker will be Andrew Rapp of the Blue Ridge Young Birders' Club. He will talk about his time at the Audubon Society Hog Island Camp last summer.

First Saturday Bird Walk

September 5th at 7:30am

On the first Saturday of each month 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 Fall 2015

Sept 5....Tom Jones

Oct. 3 Leigh Surdukowski
Nov. 7 ... Peter Brask
Dec. 5 ... Dave Hogg

For information about opportunities and events at Ivy Creek Natural Area, follow this link to the [Ivy Creek Foundation Public Program Calendar](#).

Birding Tidbits...about a bird you might find on the Bird Walk at Ivy Creek this month

Jenny Gaden

Northern Cardinal

Our state bird, the Northern Cardinal, will usher in our new season. All who read this newsletter are familiar with the "red bird" (as many of my students used to call it) and do not need a detailed description. At this time of year, however, the cardinal sometimes startles us with its strange appearance. Feathers may be missing on the head and other parts of the body, making it look disheveled, if not sickly. This is due to molting, a process all birds undergo at least once a year. Feathers get worn and broken and cannot repair themselves, so a new set grows in. Molting is highly energy-intensive, undertaken when the big tasks of courtship, nesting and rearing young are complete. For Cardinals there's more involved than merely acquiring a new set of clothes. Research indicates that the diet consumed during molting, specifically food containing carotenoid pigments, determines the intensity of the red plumage. Bright color in the breast feathers of the male and underwing-coverts of the female indicate the likelihood of especially good parental care of nestlings. Juveniles, by the way, have gray to black beaks, but assume the orange-red of adults by winter.



**Northern Cardinal
Adult Male in Molt**
Photo by Corey
10000birds.com

Field Trips

Gabriel Mapel



Common Nighthawk Watch

Dates: Wednesday, August 26th and
Friday, August 28th

Meeting Place & Time: 7pm in the Ivy Creek
Natural Area parking lot

Leader: Dave Hogg

Don't miss the exciting evening flights of migrating nighthawks! With luck, we will observe their acrobatics as they feed over the native grass field of Ivy Creek Natural Area. Join Dave Hogg for one (or both!) of these evenings.

Scogo Lake and Blandemar Parts of Southwest Albemarle County

Date: Saturday, September 12th

Meeting Place & Time: 8am, Crossroads Store
in North Garden

Leader: Stauffer Miller
434-296-5505, stauffer@seepub.com

Join Stauffer on his annual trip to southern Albemarle County to look for fall migrants. The Scogo Lake Road has been birdy in the past, so we'll walk that road slowly. Food and rest rooms are available at the store. The trip should be over by 11am.

Old Mills Trail A section of the Rivanna Greenway (across the river from Riverview Park)

Date: Saturday, September 19th

Meeting Place & Time: 7:30am, Subway parking lot
in the [Pantops Shopping Center](#)
off 250 East near Free Bridge

Leader: Doug Rogers
434-973-7634, doug5996@gmail.com

From Subway, we will walk down to the Old Mills Trail and follow this unpaved but user-friendly path as it winds its way along the Rivanna, opposite the Riverview Park trail. Expect a few moderate changes in elevation and some lovely wooden pedestrian bridges on this 2+ mile walk. We hope to view some fall migrants along with woodpeckers, nuthatches, a resident Red-shouldered Hawk pair, kingfishers and the usual woodland inhabitants.

Lickinghole Creek

Date: Saturday, September 26th

Meeting Place & Time: 8am, Great Valu parking lot
Rte 240, just east of downtown Crozet.

Leader: Peter Brask
pbrask@yahoo.com

Lickinghole Creek is an interesting birding area the the Club began visiting in 2010. The trail beside the pond offers a rich variety of habitat. Peter Brask will guide us around the area, as we sample the fall migrants. It will be a 2-3 hour trip, walking 2 miles.

Festival, Anyone?

by Lesslie Crowell



On Saturday, September 12 from 8am until 6pm, MBC will have a table with other non-profits under the tent at [Monticello's Heritage Harvest Festival](#). I have 3 volunteer wristbands available for free all-day entry to the festival. If you would like to help me "talk up" our bird club to community members attending the festival for a two hour shift in the morning, at midday, or in the afternoon, please email me (lessliecrowell@aol.com) by Sept 5th and indicate your volunteer time preference. This is a great opportunity to get involved in supporting our club and being an advocate for nature-related events and practices in our community. Plus, you'll have a free pass to the bounty and beauty of this seasonal Monticello celebration! I hope to be hearing from you.

Do You Facebook?

by Maynard Davis

Not all of us do! But *if* you do, Monticello Bird Club invites you to join the MBC Group Facebook page. Your fellow birders are already there commenting on their enjoyable birding experiences – ordinary and extraordinary – and posting their engaging bird photos. You too can network with fellow birders, all at the click of a Facebook button.



The MBC Group Facebook page is a closed group website. It's administered by Susan and Guy Babinéau (gsbabineau@comcast.net), our new Publicity Co-chairs. (Welcome, Guy and Susan!). They will admit you to the site, which they monitor to ensure all postings are appropriate. No Facebook spam!

In addition to your monthly MBC Newsletter, the MBC Group Facebook page will be a source for MBC news, including field trip listings and monthly meeting speaker announcements. Keep up on all the Club news! (*Note that the MBC Group Facebook page is **not** intended to replace the Monticello Bird Alert. Bird Alert continues as a key MBC resource, and it is more focused on "rare" or "unusual" bird sightings in the area. Nor is it meant to replace your monthly MBC Newsletter, which will continue to arrive in your email inbox a few days before the 1st of the month.*) The MBC Group Facebook page will be *another* resource available to you and fellow bird enthusiasts. It is up to you to decide which resources best fit into your birding life.

Most of all, the Facebook page is fun! See Doug's wonderful bird photos. Post your own photos, comments, and observations. Plan your next MBC field trip. Experience the camaraderie of birding on Facebook! To enroll in the MBC Facebook Group, if you are already a Facebook user, just visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/221207967905209> and click on *join*. Susan or Guy will accept your membership shortly after that.

"See you there!"

Last Minute News—Wildlife Photographers, Take Note

by your Editor

Thanks to [Eve Gaige](#) for sending in this lovely photo of a **Yellow-rumped Warbler** (at right) ages ago. I thought it made a perfect segue into something I learned just before the final editing of this newsletter. So, here's Eve's photo to enjoy and perhaps inspire (or intimidate!?) the photographer in you. And here's the last minute information...

You may enter a photo in **the 2nd annual Wildlife Photo Contest** that The Great Frame Up (in Rio Hill Shopping Center) is sponsoring to support the Rockfish Wildlife Sanctuary. Full details may be found at www.rockfishwildlifesanctuary.org, but briefly, it's easy to enter. Bring an 8X10 print to The Great Frame Up and they will mat it and hang it in their shop. The \$20 entry fee goes directly towards operating expenses at RWS. The deadline is August 31. *Best of luck!*



Our Annual Bird Seed Sale

John Holden

As fall approaches and we renew ties at our meetings and on fields trips, we also join forces to support the Monticello Bird Club and our community by participating in the Club's only fund-raising event of the year — our Bird Seed Sale. The profits from the sale enable us to support local and national organizations and projects that share our values, as well as provide modest honorariums for the excellent speakers at monthly meetings. *(Among the local organizations MBC supported for the 2014-15 fiscal year were Blue Ridge Young Birders Club, Ivy Creek Foundation, Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch and two elementary schools.)*

As Chair of this year's Bird Seed Sale, I want to share with you some important dates and specifics, and ask for your concerted efforts to help us reach our lofty goal for 2015. Ordering information will be available and online soon, but for now, know that we are using the same great bird seed that we used last year. Our distributor is Lizzie Mae's Bird Seed. They are an Ohio-based Amish business that takes special pride in its high quality, fresh bird seed and customer satisfaction. From "Amish farm to backyard feeder" are the words on Lizzie Mae's logo. The products offered will be almost the same as last year. *(Two differences—the sunflower chips will be whole, not "medium ground" and the suet will be peanut-butter based.)*



Two important dates to put on your calendar are as follows:

- Saturday, **October 26, 2015**— The **final day for seed orders** to be received.
- Saturday, **November 7, 2015** —**Pick-up Day** at the usual site, Virginia Department of Forestry Warehouse. *(If you are unable to pick up your seed on this date, you may contact me (see page 8 of this newsletter) to arrange for free delivery in Albemarle County.)*

Last year we had nearly \$10,000 in sales, and this year we want to grow this to a goal of \$12,000.

WHY?...Our sales support nature-oriented organizations and projects, and more sales will allow us to do even more for our community. *(Thanks to Mary Mapel, there is an exciting new educational outreach project in the works for MBC to partner with the Blue Ridge Young Birders to educate the public about birds and bird-related conservation issues. We should be able to get this worthy project up and running soon. A successful Bird Seed Sale will enable us to do so. Stay tuned for updates.)*

What can you do to help us reach this lofty goal? Yes, buy your seed from the Club and get your friends and family involved. We already have volunteers for making 'order reminder' phone calls and helping the the loading of bird seed on pick-up day. Where we really need help this year is **getting the word out** — beyond just our immediate circles of friends to clubs, neighborhood associations, and any places or events around town where nature-oriented people gather. Make a conscious effort to speak out about the sale and carry a small flyer in your purse or pocket to hand out and "strike while the iron is hot." Each of us can have a tremendous impact on our seed sales, if we make the concerted effort to do so.

Small and large flyers will be available at our September and October meetings for you to distribute, and online PDFs of these flyers will be available for members to print and hand out as well. The ordering options will be the same as last year — electronic or mail-in. More information on products, pricing and ordering/pick-up will be available by our September meeting.

We hope all club members will give thought to and take action for making this year's Bird Seed Sale a rousing success. Thanks in advance for your participation.

Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch News & Special Invitation

by Gabriel Mapel

The 40th season at Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch started on August 15, and in five days we have tallied 62 raptors, including impressive early season showings of Red-shouldered Hawks and Osprey, and our season's first Bald Eagle. Brenda Tekin and I will be posting daily hawk watch reports on the Monticello Bird Alert.

Our season runs through November 30th, and we always welcome visitors to drive up the mountain to learn and help us spot some raptors. However, we'd *especially* like to invite you to our annual "**Where the Raptors Soar—A Day at the Hawk**

Watch" event on **September 12th from 10am to 3pm!** For this special event we will have a falconer on site with a live bird-of-prey, free food and drinks, and experts on site to help you with raptor identification.

On behalf of the Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch crew, I hope to see you at the watch this fall!



Red-shouldered Hawk
by Doug Rogers

Treasurer's Notes

Maynard K. Davis



We finished last year with a \$542 surplus. The Board adopted a break even budget for FY2016 with ambitious goals: membership of 175 and bird seed sales of \$12,000. Both the FY2015 results and the FY2016 budget have been posted on the MBC Facebook page.

As our Fiscal Year runs from July 1—June 30, it is now time to renew your 2015-16 MBC membership. Lesslie's column (*at right*) will detail the specifics.

Thank you,
Maynard

Membership Notes

Lesslie Crowell



Dues for 2015-2016 are now payable. Your payment options are **electronic** (thru PayPal at our [website](#)) or **check** (print, fill out & send in *Membership Form* on page 9 of this newsletter). New members who joined as of March 1, 2015, or later are covered for the current fiscal year.

Thank you for your timely renewal and your continued support of the club. (Renewing members are always welcome to upgrade their memberships!) If you choose *not* to renew and would like me to remove your name from our roster, please email me at lessliecrowell@aol.com.

Here's to a great birding season! *Lesslie*

MBC Board Meeting Minutes, July 25, 2015

Peggy Cornett



-The Meeting of the Board convened at 2pm in the Ivy Creek Natural Area Education Building. In attendance: Doug Rogers, Maynard Davis, Peggy Cornett, Priscilla and Ron Kingston, Kathy Sudduth, Leslie Crowell, Guy and Susan Babineau, John Holden, Lou Tanner, Joanne Bricker, Gabriel Mapel, and Mary Mapel.

-Guy and Susan Babineau were introduced as the club's new Publicity Chairs and John Holden has been appointed as the club's agent for the Bird Seed Sale.

-Board members discussed best ways for the Publicity, Membership, and Newsletter Chairs to function and collaborate. It was decided that the Babineaus would manage the MBC Facebook page. We recognized a need to publicize what the MBC Facebook offers to members, and the new membership form will promote our site. The new form will also include a line asking, "How did you learn about the club?" Gabriel will turn over the list of publicity contacts to Susan and Guy.

-To date there are 162 members. The new membership goal is 175. Twenty one still receive the mailed newsletter, but most receive it electronically. The board would like to eliminate the mailing at some point. (*Editor's note: thanks to many members' cooperation, we have reduced the total of monthly mailed newsletters to 7.*)

-Discussion of the Bird Seed Sale included the timing of events; product mix (Bluebird boxes can be ordered up front); quotes from suppliers; team recruitment; unpaid advertising via newsletter, Facebook, PSA's and the Publicity Chairs; tracking sales; verifying receipt of orders; pickup and delivery coordination. We set a new sales goal of 175 orders and \$12,000. The pickup date is November 7th.

-The 2015-16 programs will feature nine speakers. It was decided that the December program would be a presentation by the Blue Ridge Young Birders Club, before the annual Christmas party. There will be no June meeting. Honorariums will stay the same.

-The Board agreed that three field trips per month was a good goal during the heavy migration months of September/October and April/May; and two trips per month during non-migration periods.

-Budget goals were firmed up. According to the Treasurer's report, the club's budget is on track. The club will recoup about \$950 from the VSO, which MBC advanced for the organization's annual meeting. We discussed the mix of organizations the club supports with surplus funds from the Bird Seed Sale. We decided to continue support for the BRYBC; Ivy Creek Foundation; National Audubon Society (to support a young birder to Hog Island); Richmond Audubon Society; Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch; Rockfish Wildlife Sanctuary; Roosevelt Pine Knot Foundation; VSO; and the VSO Kestrel Box project. We will make a special donation to the Thomas Jefferson Foundation in memory of Jason R. Stevens, manager of The Trail at Monticello, who died over the summer. Birdseed will be donated to Ivy Creek Foundation and Stone-Robinson and Venable Elementary Schools.

-Other items discussed included the Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch Open House on September 12. Lesslie Crowell will promote MBC at Monticello's annual Heritage Harvest Festival, September 12.

-Meeting concluded at 3:30pm.

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Gardening for Wildlife: *Wisdom, musings, and photographs from Omanu*

Bill Leaning

PAWPAW *Asimina triloba* For Butterflies, Birds and Others

All you wanted to know about Pawpaws and were afraid to ask!

Other common names include Indian Banana, Poor Man's Banana and Hoosier Banana. It is the largest edible fruit native to America. I had read that the caterpillars of the Zebra Swallowtail butterfly feed, exclusively, on young Pawpaw foliage. I also had high hopes that, if I planted some Pawpaw trees I would attract fruit-eating birds. My real wish was that this member of the Custard Apple Family would be an Oriole magnet.



In the spring of 1998, I purchased two container grown Select Pawpaw seedlings from Edible Landscaping in Afton, Virginia. The Select Pawpaw seedlings are from superior varieties from the Pawpaw Foundation at the University of Maryland. A year later, I purchased two more, hoping that I was obtaining at least two different clones to encourage better fruiting. Three out of the four Pawpaws have fruited quite well for the last four years. It was six seasons before a reasonable number of flowers appeared.



The Pawpaw is a tree of temperate, humid woodlands of the Eastern US with fossil proof that it is truly indigenous to North America. The American Indian is credited with spreading one of their favorite fruits from Southern Michigan to the Gulf Coastal Plain and westward as far as Texas and Eastern Kansas.

Although the Pawpaw is capable of fruiting in the shade, optimum yields are obtained in all day filtered sun. However, protection from wind is essential. Slightly acid, fertile and well-drained soil is preferred. The Pawpaw is a small tree seldom taller than 25 feet with attractive large, dangling leaves. It is an excellent edible landscape addition to any wildlife garden. Pollination is a major limitation to Pawpaw fruit set. Maroon, upside-down flowers 1 to 2 inches across (depending on the variety) develop in the axils of the previous years' leaves. The bloom period extends over several weeks in the spring. To make things difficult, the flowers have a decidedly unpleasant, even fetid odor, making them unattractive to bees. Pawpaw flowers are pollinated by flies and certain beetles. To complicate matters even more, the flowers are protogynous, meaning that the female stigma is receptive to pollen before pollen is released from the male anthers of the same flowers. If your flies and beetles are undependable, hand pollination can be well worth the effort. Using a small, soft-haired artist's brush, transfer a little fresh pollen from the anthers of one tree (clone) to the ripe stigma of an unrelated tree. Pollen is ripe when the little ball of anthers is brown in color and appears loose and friable; the pollen grains themselves will look like yellow dust on the brush hairs. The stigma is ripe and receptive when it appears green and glossy. (The anther ball on the same flower will still be hard and green!) Being too enthusiastic with the brush can overburden the tree with fruit and may cause limbs to break under excessive weight.

Commercial Pawpaw growers, officially, list larvae of *Eurytides marcellus*, the Zebra Swallowtail, as a pest. The damage is minimal, however, as the caterpillars are never in great numbers. The adult butterfly (we have only seen two or three a year, recently) is of such great beauty that this should be thought of, not as a pest but, as a blessing. Another blessing is that neither deer nor rabbits will eat the leaves, twigs or fruit of the Pawpaw – Hallelujah! Foxes, opossums, squirrels and raccoons will eat the fruit. Pawpaw fruit ripens during a four week period (depending on the individual tree) between mid-August and into October. A ripe Pawpaw is soft and yields easily to a gentle squeeze (how romantic!). The skin of the green fruit will lighten in color as it ripens and often develops blackish splotches. The first time I saw this, I thought I had some unknown fungal disease. This does not affect the flavor or edibility for humans or critters.



The primary use for Pawpaws is fresh eating. (I haven't given up on my Orioles quite yet.) The yellow flesh is custard-like and highly nutritious. It has a complex, tropical flavor unlike any other temperate zone fruit. The ripe fruit is very perishable with a room temperature shelf life of only 2 or 3 days. They will, however, keep up to 3 weeks in the refrigerator. Although Pawpaw fruit is not yet a commercially viable commodity, the "domestication" process is well underway. Seventeen regional trial sites are scattered throughout the Eastern U.S. Kentucky State University is the site of the USDA Pawpaw National Clonal Germ-

plasm Repository.

Other interesting trivia include research on acetogenins found in the Pawpaw Tree. There are several publications reporting on potent anti-tumor, pesticidal and/or insect and mammalian anti-feedant properties of the Annonaceous acetogenins found in the Pawpaw and its close relatives. Initial work on the stem-bark and seeds of the Pawpaw focused on asimicin, a major bioactive component. The development of new, environmentally, botanically-derived pesticides is, increasingly, more desirable. Initial studies indicate higher anti-feedant and pesticidal activity in the twigs, unripe fruit, seeds and bark. This seems logical as these are the plant parts most easily damaged by herbivores and environmental pests.



Plant selection for the home garden has been made much easier since I purchased my first Pawpaws. There are a number of mail-order sources of both seedling and grafted cultivars. The grafted cultivars are preferred and, if I was starting over that would be my choice with a definite emphasis on, at least, three unrelated varieties to help the pollination process. Over 60 Pawpaw cultivars have been listed but the majority are not yet in the nursery trade. The most current list of desirable cultivars is from Kentucky State. I have selected five good candidates from this list. Incidentally, the first two are available here in Virginia from Edible Landscaping. My choices are 'Wells Delight', 'Davis', 'Sunflower', 'Mitchell' and 'Taytoo'. Three's a crowd except when you are a Pawpaw.

Give this extraordinary, bird, butterfly, mammal and, environmentally friendly tree a try in your wild garden.

Bill

The Joy of Birding.....a sharing of stories



photos



& links



from MBC members

Alaska Sojourn—Inside Passage including St. Lazaria Island & Denali National Park

Contributed by [Myrlene Staten](#), Photos by [Richard Teig](#)

In June, we took an 8 night cruise on a small catamaran, Alaskan Dream, with a maximum of 48 passengers from Ketchikan to Sitka, Alaska. The company is owned and operated by Alaskans, and the trips they run focus mostly on nature, with some attention to native peoples.



While on the boat, we saw humpback and orca whales in various types of feeding behavior, and we even saw humpbacks breach! There were glaciers and turquoise blue icebergs to which we took small rubber dinghies to get up close and even touch the icebergs! As far as mammals go, we saw bears on the shoreline, Stellar sea lions, fur seals and sea otters.

From the Alaskan Dream, we saw Harlequin Ducks, Marbled Murrelets, Pigeon Guillemots, Pacific Loons, Tufted Puffins and a few Horned Puffins. On land we heard lots of Varied Thrushes, but I got only one good, early morning glimpse of this thrush. Bald Eagles, Pacific Wrens and White-crowned Sparrows were plentiful.

Upon disembarkation in Sitka, we went out to St Lazaria Island, accompanied by a well-known local birder, Matt Goff. Matt helped me pick out the uncommon Thick-billed Murre among the plentiful Common Murres. We also got great views of Rhinoceros Auklets, Tufted Puffins, and Black Oystercatchers. On the island there was a Peregrine Falcon, but he would not stay around for pictures. Horned Puffins nested farther away along the sea coast, so we got glimpses only as they flew by. The Leach's and Forked-tailed Storm Petrels were nesting but were out to sea during the time we visited.

Leaving Sitka, we headed to Anchorage where at Westchester Lagoon a local birder helped me see the Red-necked Grebes with chicks and the Artic Tern nests that were on small islands on the large pond.

In Denali, we got a close-up view of a Willow Ptarmigan family from the bus on the way through the park to our lodge. While walking in the park we saw Wilson's and Orange-crowned Warblers, American Dipper, and Golden Eagle. On the way out of the park, our bus stopped to allow us to get a good look at a Gyrfalcon pair. Unfortunately, due to distance and the lighting, the birds are not recognizable in any of our pictures. As a farewell gesture, Mt. Denali came out from behind its curtain of clouds and revealed the enormity of its greater than 20,000 foot snow-covered, huge mass!

Myrlene & Richard



*Pigeon Guillemots—above
Horned Puffins—left
Willow Ptarmigan—below*



Other travelling Club members share glimpses of their exploits below...

...a gorgeous shot of a cooperative **Atlantic Puffin** from [Chris Murray](#)...



I met this guy in Ireland mid-May. He was hanging out with kittiwakes, fulmars, guillemots, razorbills, and shearwaters
Chris



*Doug Rogers didn't need to travel far from home to capture this image of a **Green Heron** one overcast summer morning. In fact, it spent a good part of the summer as a neighbor, right here on Pantops!*

In July, while serving as a beach steward with the Sarasota (FL) Audubon Society, [Janet Paisley](#) sent in these photos of **Black Skimmers**. She describes the duties of stewarding their nesting colony below...



Come and get it, Junior!

Haulin' around this beak, I need some rest!

...We try to keep the beach goers from flushing the skimmers and separating them from their chicks, as the gulls and crows are right there to pick up the chicks. The colony has about 300 adults this year, and some of the chicks are old enough to fly. They are having problems making sorties to the water and back with the hordes of people on the beach. Janet

(Update: Janet has just learned from Audubon that thanks to the efforts of the beach steward volunteers, 183 Black Skimmer juveniles fledged from that colony!)

So much information, so little time.... Follow these links to articles that your fellow birding enthusiasts recommend.

From [Carolyn Schoemer](#)—[New technology for photo ID of birds](#) (not mobile-ready just yet...)
And here's an [eBird article](#) about this same tool.

From [Chris Murray](#)—Here's a delightful tidbit about [birds and ant baths](#).

From [Janet Paisley](#)—A beautifully written report clearly delineating the [importance of the northern boreal forests to birds](#).



Monticello Bird Club
P.O. Box 4362
Charlottesville, Virginia 22905

Visit our website at
www.monticellobirdclub.org
for club and membership information.

The **Club meets** on the **second Thursday** of each month, September through May, at the **Education Building of the Ivy Creek Natural Area** on Earlsyville 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.

President	Doug Rogers	doug5996@gmail.com	434-409-8156
Vice President	Kathy Sudduth	kas3m2@embarqmail.com	434-973-0690
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Field Trips	Gabriel Mapel	birdmangabriel@yahoo.com	540-363-5035
Programs	Lou Tanner	lmtannerxiv@gmail.com	434-979-1722
Publicity	Susan & Guy Babineau	glbabineau@comcast.net	434-981-6285
Hospitality	Priscilla Kingston	kingston@cstone.net	434-293-5173
Newsletter	Joanne Bricker	mbcneditor@gmail.com	434-825-2676
Membership	Lesslie Crowell	lessliecrowell@aol.com	434-295-1395
Birdseed Sale	John Holden	runningwithantlers@gmail.com	434-973-9179

MONTICELLO BIRD CLUB

Membership Form

BECOME A MONTICELLO BIRD CLUB MEMBER FOR 2015-2016!

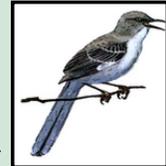
The membership year is July 1-June 30.

When you join MBC, you will receive nine emailed issues of the MBC Newsletter, chock full of information about field trips, speakers, bird sightings, and more. You will be sent timely notification of our annual Bird Seed Sale. You will know that you are supporting bird-friendly programs locally and regionally. And you will be among a group of warm, friendly, and sharing people who have a passion for birds and birding!

Yes, I want to join the Monticello Bird Club!

Renewal

New Member—How did you hear about us?



Membership Categories Please select one.

Individual (\$15)

Contributing Individual (\$25)

Family (\$25)

Sponsor (\$50)

(If receiving your MBC Newsletter via email is not an option for you, please contact your Newsletter Editor. Contact info on website — www.monticellobirdclub.org — and final page of newsletter.)

Would you like to be a member of the **Monticello Bird Club Facebook Group**?

____ Yes (If so, we will contact you.)

____ No

____ Unsure

*I am enclosing an additional **Donation** to the **Monticello Bird Club** \$ _____*

Payment Options

Online: (PayPal) available at www.monticellobirdclub.org/membership

Mail-in: Print and fill out this form. Make check payable to *Monticello Bird Club*. Mail form & check to: *Monticello Bird Club, P.O. Box 4362, Charlottesville, VA 22905*

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____