



Monticello Bird Club

June 2011

Volume 27, Number 10

Comments From the President

I would like first of all to express my appreciation for the rousing reelection vote last meeting and to say that I am looking forward to again serving as President come September. The lopsidedness of the tally just might have had something to do with the fact that the opposition could not be located but it is appreciated nonetheless. A goal will certainly be to try to iron out any kinks that have appeared. Following on good advice given by a former President, I would like also to make it clear that any advice would be gratefully received so please don't be shy.

Nuggets sometimes take a while to surface. I recently got around to reading an article from a 2008 magazine, proof that things happen slowly over here in Belmont. Entitled The Loneliness of the Chinese Birdwatcher, it dealt with the devotion of the tiny few in China who are trying against all odds to make room for their feathered brethren as their country continues to industrialize at a dizzying pace. The author's observations on the scarcity of birdlife there certainly tallied with our own experience some twenty years ago when we were forever commenting on how few birds we were seeing. As I have often thought that the experience of the U.S. a century ago provides a good parallel to the rapid growth now transforming that young/old giant, it gives me hope that some Chinese Theodore Roosevelts and Neltje Blanchans are out there getting revved up for the big fights ahead. The easiest thing in the world it seems to me is to simply give up because so much in the news is just so terribly discouraging, and indeed it is often hard to keep insisting to oneself that the glass that looks half-empty is really half-full. Nevertheless, the news that there are birders in China can only be good news for anyone who cares about the health of the planet. Birding by itself is hardly a guarantee that environmental decay will stop but—and author's bias here—any country where twitcher numbers are growing is on the right track. May they thrive.

Lou Tanner

June Meeting Program

Join us for the last meeting of the season at our **25th Annual Potluck Picnic** on June 9th.

Members are invited to bring a dish to share. Please bring your own plates, utensils and cups. The Monticello Bird Club will provide the drinks.

The meeting will start at **6:00 p.m.** with a short bird walk afterwards, depending upon the weather.

Upcoming Meeting Topics

**June 9th, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.
Annual Pot Luck**

Inside This Issue

Bird Club Information	2
Organizations we supported	1
May Meeting minutes	2
Bird Club Walks	3
Purple Martin Field Day	3
Junior Big Year	3
Home Made Suet Recipe	4
Dickcissel Photo	4

Organizations We Supported 2010 - 2011

The practice of making public the names of any organizations a Bird Club supports seems like an excellent one. It is fitting that members are aware of just where their MBC dues are going so here goes:

- Ivy Creek Foundation \$500
- Nature Conservancy \$150
- American Bird Conservancy \$500
- Piedmont Environmental Council \$200
- Wildlife Center of Virginia \$100

The Club has also donated generously to local school programs and other causes from time to time. These contributions are reviewed annually and new proposals are entertained at that time.

Monticello Bird Club Business Meeting Minutes

The first order of business was the voting on a new slate of officers for the upcoming year. There was little turnover for the most part though a bit of reshuffling of positions was necessary what with the retirement of Henry Konat as Treasurer. Doug Rogers served as the Nominating Committee and announced the slate for 2011-2012. It was then voted on by all present.

Numerous recent sightings of warblers and other migrants were reported as it is that time of year after all. The walks at Ivy Creek and Observatory Hill seem to have been productive and popular.

Ron Kingston announced that next month's picnic will begin at six and asked people to make note of that change.

The program for the evening was the traditional members' night. Bill Leaning, Mary Janet Fowler, Gabriel Mapel, and Stauffer Miller shared their excellent slides. As usual, it made for an entertaining evening.

Submitted by Peggy Cornett, Secretary

Nominating Committee

The slate for the 2011 - 2012 year was presented and voted on by all members present. By a unanimous vote the Club chose the new Board as shown to the right.

Please welcome our incoming Board and provide them with your support and assistance.

Let's keep the MBC a vibrant club!

Doug Rogers

MBC Board for the 2011 - 2012 Club year

President	Lou Tanner
Vice President	Joanne Bricker
Secretary	Peggy Cornett
Treasurer	Doug Rogers
Field Trips	Dave Hogg
Speakers	Stauffer Miller
Publicity	Gabriel Mapel
Hospitality	Priscilla Kingston
Newsletter	Peg Watson
Membership	Jim Nix
Birdseed Sale	Jim Hill

Bird Club Information

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

The editor of the MBC Newsletter welcomes submissions including articles, photographs and notices. **DEADLINE for the coming issues will be set by our new Newsletter Editor, Peg Watson.**

Monticello Bird Club
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 Please visit our website at
www.monticellobirdclub.org

Monticello Bird Club Board Members

President	Lou Tanner	ashokatg@hotmail.com	979-1722
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Secretary	Peggy Cornett	pcornett@monticello.org	984-9816
Treasurer	Henry Konat	henryk54@verizon.net	540-948-4771
Field Trips	Dave Hogg	dhogg@nrao.edu	974-7592
Speakers	Stauffer Miller	stauffer@seepub.com	296-5505
Publicity	Peg Watson	appleorchardmountain@gmail.com	996-9831
Hospitality	Priscilla Kingston	kingston@cstone.net	293-5173
Newsletter	Doug Rogers	mbcnews@embarqmail.com	409-8156
Membership	Jim Nix	jim-nix@comcast.net	973-7366
Birdseed Sale	Jim Hill	jimcarhill@comcast.net	975-6523

Bird Walk on a private Madison County Farm - Friday June 3, 2011

A visit to the 200 plus acre farm of Julie Connelly at Rochelle, Madison County. Julie has had a colony of Red-headed Woodpeckers, which we hope to see. Even if we don't, there should be lots of other birds. Meet at 9:00 AM at the parking lot of Lowe's, just north of the Route 29/33 stoplight in Ruckersville. We may car pool the ten or so miles from there to the farm. Leader, Stauffer Miller, 434-296-5505, stauffer@seepub.com.

Gabriel Mapel joins the MBC Board as our youngest member!

One of our newest members, 12 year old Gabriel Mapel of New Hope, has joined our Board as the Publicity Chair. We look forward to working with Gabriel in this role.

Also, Gabriel is doing a "Junior Big Year." He currently has seen 255 bird species for the year and hopes to have at least 350 by year's end.

Gabriel has been to Florida, California and Texas and has seen some awesome birds including Brown Shrike, Black-vented Oriole, and Whooping Crane. He plans to travel to Magee Marsh in Ohio, Denali and the Coast in Alaska and Algonquin Park in Ontario, Canada later this year.

Annual Purple Martin Field Day

The 17th Annual Purple Martin Field Day will be held on **Saturday, June 25**, at the farm of Mrs. Merle Wood and her son, Lance, in Louisa County. This is about 20 miles east of Charlottesville. Take Exit 136 on I-64 at Zion Crossroads and go north on US Rt. 15 and look for county Rt. 640 and turn right. Anyone interested in establishing or expanding a Purple Martin colony is invited to see and learn about the most current and effective techniques and equipment available for successful Purple Martin management.

For information, call (434) 962-8232 or email kingston@cstone.net. See the web site <http://www.purplemartinfieldday.org>



Summer 2011 First Saturday Bird Walks
First Saturday Bird Walks

On the first Saturday of each month, the Monticello Bird Club offers a bird walk at Ivy Creek Natural Area at 7:30 a.m.

Some of the walks stay near the main building and parking lot, others go out on the peninsula. Some outstanding birds have been seen on these walks.

The walks will occur on each of the summer months, as follows:

- Saturday June 4 Leigh Surdukowski
- Saturday July 2 Jenny Gaden
- Saturday August 6 Teresa Shaner

Please join any or all of these adventures to see what birds are nesting at Ivy Creek this summer.

A special Thank You to Joanne Bricker who helped edit this edition of the Newsletter!

2011 Ivy Creek Bird Walks

First Saturday Bird Walks at Ivy Creek

2011 marks the 16th year of the popular 1st Saturday Bird Walk at IVY Creek. Rain or shine, bitter cold or intense heat; novice birders as well as veteran birders turn out for these walks. Although we have a strong cadre of walk leaders, the success of these walks is greatly enhanced by other club members on the walk generously sharing their bird knowledge and helping novice birders. Many thanks to the following people who agreed to lead the Ivy Creek walks this year: Janet Paisley, Jim Nix, Leigh Surdukowski, Lou Tanner, Stauffer Miller, Jenny Gaden, Dave Hogg, Peter Dutnell and Teresa Shaner. Many of our leaders have led these walks for over 15 years and their dedication is greatly appreciated. Contact Leigh Surdukowski (295-8241) if you are interested in leading a 1st Saturday bird walk.

We have asked Jim Nix if he would share his GREAT home-made suet recipe. He agreed and here it is!



Peanut Butter Bird Food

Ingredients:

One Pound of Lard

One 18 ounce jar of peanut butter

One two pound package of corn meal

Three cups of whole wheat flour

Melt lard and peanut butter in a large sauce pan over low - medium heat. When melted add corn meal and flour, stirring until mixed. Pour mixture into a 2 quart milk/juice carton and refrigerate until firm.

Cut into 6 equal blocks and wrap with plastic wrap.

Keep cool or frozen until ready for use.

Rob Capon supplied us with this photo of a Dickcissel - shot at Greenfields Farm.

