



# Monticello Bird Club

June 2012

Volume 26 Issue 10

## Comments from The President

Lou Tanner

Summers can be awfully quiet on the birding front. For a downtown resident, even chimney swifts and mockingbirds lose their charm by mid-June and starlings and pigeons never had it to begin with. Heat and humidity on top of it all make some of us long for October before July is half-over.

At least one sure-fire way, however, to both beat the heat and rediscover the magic of birds is to take a bicycle ride at daybreak around the nooks, crannies, and cul-de-sacs of our city. While Stephanie runs, my knees dictate that biking better suits me and the greater mobility it affords makes for better birding anyway. While we chug along roughly in tandem, I am able to explore those tiny lanes and side streets we all have seen forever and yet never had the leisure time or inclination to ride down. Eccentric architecture, cute gardens, perplexed wildlife, and the symphony that is birdlife at dawn leave one almost euphoric. The temperatures are downright civilized, the mosquitoes cannot keep up long enough to bite, and rumor has it that it is even good for the circulation although the Surgeon General has yet to confirm this. My amateur recommendation, however, is to try it. Happy summer.



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P.S. A recent trip yielded 29 species and 32 if starlings, pigeons, and house sparrows count. Wood thrushes, a chat, and a white-eyed vireo were highlights. There were no lowlights.



## Monticello Bird Club's Fiscal Year

Doug Rogers, Treasurer

Virtually all businesses set their fiscal years based on their business cycle – i.e. they end their fiscal years at the time when their business is at its lowest point. The Monticello Bird Club has done the same thing; our fiscal year ends on June 30 and the new fiscal year begins on July 1.

Last year, I was asked several times when dues are payable. Some members felt it was in December. Dues are payable on July 1; that is the slowest time of the year for the Club; we generally don't mention dues until we start up activities again in September. In the September Newsletter we will again urge you to pay your 2013 dues as soon as is reasonable. We will attach a Membership form with instructions on how to pay and what address to use, etc. It will then be time to be "known to the Treasurer."

Now to the expense side of the ledger: If anyone has any unpaid invoices for fiscal year 2012, please get them to me by no later than June 30. This will help me close the books in a timely manner. Send them to me at: Monticello Bird Club, P.O. Box 4362, Charlottesville, VA 22905-4362

Have a great summer!

## Monticello Bird Club

### Club Activities

Organized By Dave Hogg

#### First Saturday Bird Walk

##### Saturday, June 2, 7:30am

On June 2, Leigh Surdukowski is leading the First Saturday Bird Walk at Ivy Creek. This is a great walk for beginner bird watchers. Spring migration is over and the summer resident birds are raising young. Early in the morning, Crested Flycatchers and Wood Thrushes can be heard singing. Barn Swallows, Tree Swallows and Chimney Swifts zip around the barn like frantic racecar drivers. The walk starts at 7:30, lasts 1-2 hours, and covers approximately one mile. Meet in the parking lot of Ivy Creek Natural Area.

#### Thank You to Field Trip Leaders

As another year of bird trips comes to an end, I want to thank the many people who have led the trips during the last two years when I have had the pleasure of organizing the outings. They include: Mark Adams, Peter Brask, Joanne Bricker, Peter Dutnell, Jenny Gaden, Mike Iwanik, Stauffer Miller, Jim Nix, Janet Paisley, Patti Reum, Doug Rogers, Leigh Surdukowski, Brenda Tekin, Jerry Thierren, and David White.

It is great for the Club that so many members have offered to help with the trips. Without their effort, we could not have had the fine and diverse program which so many have enjoyed. I thank Stauffer in addition for finding many new and interesting places for our visits. I look forward to going on birding trips next year with the new Field Trip Leader John Davis.

Dave Hogg



## Monticello Bird Club Meeting Minutes, May 10, 2012

Submitted by Peggy Cornett, Secretary

President Lou Tanner opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. by welcoming newcomer Janna Belton, who found out about MBC through the First Saturday Bird Walk at Ivy Creek. There were 26 present at the meeting.

Doug Rogers gave the treasurer's report. Check book balance on 1 July 2011 was \$10,609.79; receipts to date: +\$11,023.50; disbursements to date: -\$11,250.94. The check book balance on 1 May 2012 was \$10,382.35 and excess of disbursements over receipts: \$ 227.44. Receipts through the end of our fiscal year will be minimal. We project that we will finish the fiscal year with an excess of disbursements over receipts of approximately \$400 due to the non-budgeted expenditure of \$1,000 for the Ivy Creek Foundation Project. To date we have had 110 members renew their membership. We have welcomed 22 new members.

Dave Hogg reported on upcoming field trips to see Warblers on the Blue Ridge. Dave thanked all the field trip leaders during his tenure as coordinator, and gave special thanks to Stauffer Miller. Dave also introduced the incoming field trip leader, John Davis.

Many recent bird sightings were reported. Bill Leaning had a Scarlet Tanager, Wood Thrush, and Sandpiper at his Earlsville property. He is also having the best start to Bluebird nesting this year. Thirty of his 32 boxes are already filled. Dave Hogg reported Summer Tanager at Secluded Farm. Stauffer Miller reported Northern Water thrush and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Nine Bluebird boxes have been placed at the new Martha Jefferson Hospital by the Bluebird Trail committee and all are occupied. Jerry Therrien heard a Northern Bobwhite at Tufton Farm. Peggy Cornett and Lou Tanner each saw a White-crowned Sparrow at their backyard feeders in Belmont. Nancy Newman and Jenny Gaden took a field trip to McGee Marsh in NW Ohio, which is on the edge of Lake Erie. The area draws migrating birds and attracts many avid birders. They also visited the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge east of Toledo. David White saw a Bald Eagle flying along Riverview Park by the Rivanna River. Peggy Cornett responded that it was probably one of the nesting pair at Tufton Farm where they are raising two juveniles that are close to fledging. David is also doing a spring bird count as a fund raiser for ARC of the Piedmont. Woodcocks are still active.

## 18th Annual Purple Martin Field Day

Louisa, Virginia

**Date:** Saturday, June 23, 2012

**Main Presentation begins at 10:00am.**

**Please try to arrive before 10:00am.**

**Scheduled activities end by 2:00pm.**

**The 2011 event was a huge success with 100 attendees from 4 states.**



Photo by Kathy Laine

This Field Day will be held at the farm of Mrs. Merle Wood and her son, Mr. Lance Wood. Establishing and maintaining a healthy Purple Martin colony can be difficult; see the most effective techniques and equipment available for successful martin attraction and management, and learn how to increase the size of an existing colony. The Wood family has expanded their colony from four pairs of Purple Martins in 1992 to more than 130 nesting pairs!



Predator Deterrence Display at 2010 Field Day; photo by Kathy Laine

The 10:00am lecture by featured speaker Mr. Lance Wood will cover these topics:

- ◆ How to establish and increase a colony of Purple Martins
- ◆ Advantages and disadvantages of different types of martin housing
- ◆ Protecting martins from snakes, owls, raccoons, House Sparrows, Starlings, wind damage, lightning, etc.
- ◆ Adding starling-resistant entrance holes to martin gourds and houses

Following the 10:00am lecture:

- ◆ Mr. Lance Wood will lecture on how to grow and process natural gourds for Purple Martin nesting
- ◆ Mr. Ron Kingston will lead a nestbox trail tour to view bluebirds, tree swallows, kestrels, and barn owls.

Enjoy watching hundreds of these beautiful birds soaring and feeding their young while the instructor teaches!

No registration. Event is FREE, but donations will be appreciated to help cover expenses.

Bring: Lawn chairs, binoculars, notepad, camera, lunch (feel free to eat on the grounds). Drinks and snacks provided. The hosts request that guests do not bring pets.

For more information, contact (434) 962-8232 or [kingston@cstone.net](mailto:kingston@cstone.net)

For More information about Purple Martins, see [www.PurpleMartin.org](http://www.PurpleMartin.org)

# Monticello Bird Club

## Great Backyard Bird Count Word Search

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owl	hawk	robin	thrush	birding	cardinal	nuthatch	sandpiper	binoculars	spotting scope
dove	duck	goose	falcon	warbler	goldfinch	pheasant	migration	field guide	ornithology
eggs	eagle	oriole	flight	swallow	nestling	blue jay	chickadee	house finch	hummingbird
crow	heron	cuckoo	turkey	sparrow	habitat	blackbird	flycatcher	woodpecker	conservation

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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. Membership is \$15 per year for individuals, \$25 for a family. Membership year is July 1—June 30. The editor of the MBC Newsletter welcomes submissions including articles, photographs and notices. **DEADLINE for each issue is 9:00AM on the 20th of the month.**



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