



May 2010

Monticello Bird Club

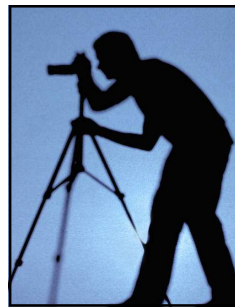
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May Meeting Topic Member's Night

At this always popular meeting, Monticello Bird Club members are invited and encouraged to bring and share some of their favorite nature slides and photographs. Bring your photos of birds, birders, mammals, reptiles, amphibians (even grandchildren if they are photographed in a natural setting enjoying nature.)

Those who have 35 mm slides, please bring your slide projector. For those who have digital photos, please bring those on a travel drive (USB). Stauffer's Power Point projector and Mac laptop will be available for showing digital photos.

So, let's make this meeting a success. Go through your files and bring in some good photos to share. During the business part of our meeting, we will be welcoming the incoming officers. See Stauffer's comment below.



Upcoming Meeting Topics

May 13th at 7:00 p.m.

Member's Night - bring birding photos

June 10th at 7:00 p.m.

Annual Pot Luck Dinner

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Comments From the President

When you keep yearly bird lists for your county as long I have—now approaching twenty-five years—you learn in what months you have your best chance of seeing certain species, and that if you miss them that month, your chances of seeing them another one are slim. One such bird is the American Bittern. I have learned that April is its month, more specifically Tax Day, April 15th. My records prove it. In 1992 I saw my one and only American Bittern of the year for Frederick County, Maryland, where I was then living, on that date. Seven years later I again saw one April 15th. In 2008, I saw one in this county at a small marsh on April 16th, and this year saw one at the same marsh on—you guessed it—April 15th.

American Bitterns are one of my favorite birds. Sometimes I am lucky enough to see one before it flushes. Invariably it will have seen me first, and be standing still in the marsh, its head pointed upward affecting its camouflage technique. Most times I do not see it

and flush it, at which point I can admire the dark trailing edge of the wings and dull, gilded color of the back feathers as it flies to the other side of the marsh. I don't think the field guides capture the full beauty of this bird.

American Bitterns migrate through this area, presumably journeying from their wintering ground on the Gulf Coast to a northern nesting area, perhaps in Maine. I have only heard one a few times. I can remember being in central Maine, and hearing one with Ellie, I think in June. In olden times, the "booming" of the American Bittern caused great unease among the superstitious and roused a prejudice against them to the point that many were wantonly shot. Fortunately, I think we have moved beyond those times.

On another subject, our bird club has some changes on deck in officer and board of directors makeup. I am happy to say that Lou Tanner will



become our new president. Lou will do a first rate job I'm sure. Joanne Bricker will be our new vice-president, replacing Jim Hill. Replacing Ellen Dudley and Pat Wilczek, both of whom have served five years capably doing publicity and programs respectively, will be Peg Watson and yours truly. Dave Hogg will be taking on the field trips coordinator duties. I welcome the new people and thank the ones leaving.

Don't forget that May, our next to the last meeting of the season, has no formal program. We have no speaker and no dinner before the meeting.

Rather, members are invited to bring in some of their nature photos for viewing. To be a success, we need good participation. So bring along your 35 mm slides and projector and/or save some of your digital photos on a travel drive (USB) and bring them to the meeting.

This can be an enjoyable time of sharing. See you May 13th at 7:00 p.m..
Stauffer Miller.

New Online Brochure: How to Prevent Birds from Colliding with Home Windows/Doors

(Washington, D.C., [March 25, 2010](#)) American Bird Conservancy (ABC) has just published a new, downloadable brochure (www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/policy/collisions_flyer.pdf) that offers a variety of tips on how to reduce the chances of birds flying into home windows and glass doors. Scientists estimate that 300 million to one billion birds die each year from collisions with glass, the majority of which is on homes.

A Birding Vacation Opportunity and You Don't Have to Leave the State

A member of the **Richmond Audubon Society** e-mailed me with information on The Island at Winter Harbor (www.TheIslandatWinterHarbor.com) in Mathews County, Virginia. This birder has thoroughly enjoyed the birding opportunities this special place affords for many years. **Birders and like minded naturalists** love the simple, rustic Beach House, the 3 mile long private island and white sand beach, and the surrounding habitat. Please visit the web site and check it out for yourself.



Bird Club Information

The Monticello Bird Club meets at **7:00 pm** 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 June issue is 8:00 a.m. May 29.** Please email information to Doug Rogers at MBCNEWS@embarqmail.com or send to 1065 Weybridge Ct. # 304, Charlottesville, VA 22911.

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Please visit our website at www.monticellobirdclub.org

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Birdseed Sale	Jim Hill	jimcarhill@comcast.net	975-6523



Field Trips

Monticello Bird Club's Newest Members

NEW MEMBERS

We have had several new individual and family members join the Monticello Bird Club in 2010.

Newest members are:

- Grace Cangialosi
- Ron Loque
- Robert and Margaret McLemore
- Victoria Metcalf
- Ted and Kathleen Pearson
- Scott and Martha Stinson

We welcome you all and wish you good birding and good fellowship at our meetings.

Please join in on the walks, the field trips and other MBC events.

In order for the club to get to know you, please send a brief bio about yourself to our Newsletter editor, Doug Rogers.
 mbcnews@embarqmail.com
 Include a digital photo if you'd like, and briefly introduce yourself to us.

First Saturday Bird Walks at Ivy Creek Natural Area

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. Each month has a different leader. Some outstanding birds have been seen on the walks.

The walk for this month was on May 1st. Hope you were there!

Warbler Walk Pocosin Fire Road Skyline Drive

Sunday, May 16th. at 7:00 a.m. Meet at Mile Post 59 1/2 on the eastern side of the Skyline Drive.

The site is a fire road which leads down hill to a variety of edge habitat. We have been there this time of year for the past two years and have seen quite a variety of warblers. Early morning is the best time. The birding slows down significantly after 9:00 a.m.

Trip Leader, Doug Rogers
 mbcnews@embarqmail.com.

Birding Before Work

You can still join us for the second week of Birding Before Work at Ivy Creek Natural Area. All walks begin in the Ivy Creek parking area at 7:00 a.m. and are probably over no later than 8:30 a.m.. Y'all come!

Week Two

- | | |
|-------------------|---------|
| Monday, May 3 | Leader, |
| Stauffer Miller | |
| Tuesday, May 4 | Leader, |
| Dave Hogg | |
| Wednesday, May 5 | Leader, |
| Peter Dutnell | |
| Thursday, May 6 | Leader, |
| Jenny Gaden | |
| Friday, May 7 | Leader, |
| Leigh Surdukowski | |



Monticello Bird Club Minutes, April 8, 2010

Stauffer Miller opened the meeting and welcomed two guests; Beth Silvio Ward and Kaki Pearson. There were 38 present at the meeting. Stauffer reminded everyone that the May meeting is members' night and hopes that many will participate by sharing their birding experiences.

Treasurer's Report: Henry Konat reported the financial data for the past month: income was \$10,639; expenses were \$10,925 with a deficit of \$286. The club has \$12,282 in the bank. Membership renewal is still only 65% of previous years.

VSO Annual Foray: this June the VSO is sponsoring a trip to visit grassland areas in Culpeper. Stauffer has been assigned a route for the morning of June 12. If people are interested in taking part in this foray contact Stauffer or Susan Brown.

Doug Rogers reported on the 2010-2011 nominations for MBC officers:

- Lou Tanner for president
- Joanne Bricker for Vice President
- Peggy Cornett returning as Secretary
- Henry Konat returning as Treasurer

Board Members:

- Field Trips Dave Hogg
- Speakers and Programs Stauffer Miller
- Publicity Coordinator Peg Watson
- Hospitality Priscilla Kingston
- Newsletter Doug Rogers
- Membership Jim Nix

Woodcock Watch: Jenny Gaden had an unsuccessful attempt to see Woodcocks on April 6th, but plans a trip to Humpback Rock on the Blue Ridge Parkway on April 10th at 7:30 p.m.

"Birding before Work": Stauffer cleared up the confusion about location and dates for the walks. (The MBC minutes section of the Newsletter had incorrect information.) The correct schedule was as shown on Page 3 of the Newsletter: Secluded Farm trips during the week of April 26-30; Ivy Creek trips the week of May 3-7. Leaders for each date are published in the newsletter.

Recent Bird Sightings: Teresa Shaner saw a Palm Warbler foraging at Ivy Creek Natural Area. Jenny Gaden heard a very exuberant Ruby-crowned Kinglet singing.

Joanne Bricker saw a pair of Wood Ducks at Ivy Creek. Lou Tanner reported seeing Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks. Gretchen saw Hermit Thrush in her neighborhood. Stauffer reported Vesper Sparrows at the James River and Panorama Farm. Peggy Cornett saw a flock of Wild Turkeys foraging at Tufton Farm.

Peggy Cornett, Secretary

Photos of hummingbirds by Jim Nix from his trip to Colombia in April. The Tourmaline Sun-angel was photographed at a ProAves reserve in the western Andes of Colombia at an elevation of around 9000 feet. The Violet-crowned Wood nymph was photographed at another ProAves reserve at around 7000 feet altitude in the Santa Marta Mountains of extreme northern Colombia. They are among the more than fifty hummingbird species seen on the trip.



Tourmaline Sun-angel



Violet-crowned Wood nymph