



Monticello Bird Club

May 2012

Volume 26 Issue 9

Comments from The President

Lou Tanner

A better name for the proverbial bee in the bonnet might be a bird in the bonnet. I am driven to that conclusion at least from noting the vast number of times that tales about them—and often eccentric ones at that—appear in folklore from around the world. Birds anywhere have proven to be impossible to ignore though in modern times many try their best to do just that. The names given those that fly are colorful, being either descriptive of their habits or perhaps imitating their sounds. For the former, what the Germans call the eisvogel or ice bird (Dutch ijsvogel) is to the Russians the zimorodok or the winter born one (close enough). It is our kingfisher (formerly king's fisher) but the Frenchman's martin-pecheur (martin pescador/pescatore in Spanish or Italian respectively). To the Greeks it is a halcyon but a family member in Australia was the kookaburra (the Aboriginal contribution based perhaps on their sense of its call). And just to be contrary the Ojibwa of the Great Lakes Region thought its call sounded somehow like a knife being sharpened on stone. Choose for yourself. Regardless, we sighted no ijsvogels and heard nothing like a grinding on stone last Saturday down by the Rivanna. Other than that, twas a fine little excursion.

Erratum: a recent tale by one who neither lives there nor fought in the Civil War had it down as Trevilian's Station. It is Trevilian Station. Thank you for not throwing brickbats.

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Annual Member's Night on Thursday, May 10, 2012 at 7:00pm

Stauffer Miller, Programs

The May 10th program of the bird club will be our annual member's night. This is your opportunity to show off your slides, poetry, prose, whatever you like that is bird related. If you have slides, bring around 10-12 only, and bring them on a flash drive. I will be bringing my slide projector and MacIntosh laptop because in past years there have been difficulties when MacIntosh users have tried to integrate their slides into other varieties of computers.

This May marks the completion of my second year as program coordinator, and soon I will be assembling speakers for 2012-2013. Many of you have given me suggestions of programs, for which I am much appreciative. If you have ideas for programs, let me know. Also, if you see ways to improve the methods now in place of doing programs, let me know that as well. I hope all enjoyed the speakers we had for 2011-2012.

Message from the New Field Trip Coordinator

John Davis



After two years of doing a wonderful job of arranging bird club field trips, Dave Hogg has stepped down and I have taken the job. I would first like to thank Dave as well as all of the members who have led the field trips. I have enjoyed them immensely and have learned a great deal. I hope I can rely upon you to continue to make yourselves available to lead trips in the future. Being the field trip coordinator is going to be a learning experience for me as I am relatively new to the Charlottesville area. Many club members are far more knowledgeable than I am about birds and birding sites so I hope you will be willing to share what you know with me. If you have suggestions for field trips and/or are able to lead any trips, please let me know. I can be reached at 434-296-7613 or jdmath1@gmail.com.

Club Activities

Organized By Dave Hogg

First Saturday Bird Walk

Saturday, May 5, 7:30am

Novice bird watchers as well as expert birders are invited to join Stauffer Miller, May 5, for the First Saturday Bird Walk. Meet at 7:30 am in the parking lot of Ivy Creek Natural Area. In Charlottesville, the first week of May is the peak of migration. Brilliant Scarlet Tanagers, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, and a variety of warblers are frequently seen in May. Stauffer, an excellent birder, has an uncanny ability to find unusual birds. The walk lasts 1-2 hours and most walks are around 1 mile in length.

Birding Before Work

We will continue the program of short trips to see migrants during the first week of May. Most of the trips will be at the Ivy Creek Natural Area (ICNA). Special trips will be on May 1 to Secluded Farm and May 2 to Observatory Hill. All trips will begin at 7:00 am, and will end by 8:30 am.

Meeting Places:

Ivy Creek Natural Area: Parking Lot

Observatory Hill: Parking lot of the National Radio Astronomy Observatory, 520 Edgemont Road, at the northeast base of O-Hill. It is reached by taking McCormick Road west from its intersection with Alderman Road.

Secluded Farm: Meet at the overflow parking lot for the Thomas Jefferson Parkway (Monticello Trail); the entrance is off Route 20 North, just north of the intersection with Route 53 and across from the entrance to PVCC.

Week Two

April 30 ICNA. Leader: Janet Paisley

May 1 Secluded Farm. Leader: Jim Nix

May 2 Observatory Hill. Leader: Mark Adams

May 3 ICNA. Leader: Stauffer Miller

May 4 ICNA. Leader: Leigh Surdukowski



Interest in Pelagic Trip from the Other Banks?

Member David Shoch is gauging interest in a pelagic trip from the Outer Banks this summer in July or August for a MBC group. Please relay your interest and availability to him at dshoch@hotmail.com

Warbler Walk on Skyline Drive

Saturday, May 19, 7:00am

Pocosin Fire Road

Meet the trip leader Doug Rogers at Mile Post 59 ½, on the eastern side of the Skyline Drive.

Driving time from Pantops Mountain is an hour. The best way to go is to drive up Route 29 to Ruckersville. Turn left on to Route 33, and take it to the Skyline Drive. You will enter the Skyline Drive at milepost 67 and drive north. As soon as you reach milepost 60 (about 14 minutes drive from the entrance) start watching on your right for the fire road. It is in an area where Skyline Drive is making an gentle right turn and the fire road is easy to miss.

The site is a fire road which leads downhill to a variety of edge habitat. We have been there at this time of year for the past several years and have had good success in seeing a variety of warblers. We are starting early since the birding slows down significantly after 10:00am

For more information please contact Doug at doug5996@gmail.com

Young Birder Nomination

In recognition of his birding skill, accomplishments, and contributions, Gabriel Mapel is being nominated for a young birding contest sponsored by Leica and Bird Watcher's Digest. The prize is a pair of Leica Trinivid binoculars. The contest winner will be announced in the July/August 2012 issue of Bird Watcher's Digest.

Monticello Bird Club Meeting Minutes, April 12, 2012

Submitted by Peggy Cornett, Secretary

President Lou Tanner opened the meeting and welcomed newcomer David Finch. There were 49 in attendance. Jenny Gaden thanked everyone for the many kind expressions of condolence upon the recent death of her husband. She also thanked those who attended the service and was deeply moved by the remembrance written by Lou Tanner, which appeared in the bird club newsletter.

Doug Rogers gave the treasurer's report. Check book balance on 1 July 2011 was \$10,609.79. Receipts to date were +\$10,783.50; disbursements to date were -\$11,091.18; check book balance on 8 March 2012 was \$10,302.11. Excess of disbursements over receipts was \$307.68. Receipts through the end of our fiscal year will be minimal. He projects that the club will finish the fiscal year with an excess of disbursements over receipts of approximately \$700. This is due to the non-budgeted expenditure of \$1,000 for the Ivy Creek Foundation Project.

Doug Rogers next presented nominations to the board for the coming 2012-2013 year. Kathy Sudduth was nominated to replace outgoing vice-president Joanne Bricker. Dave Hogg is also stepping down as field trips coordinator and John Davis was nominated to succeed him. The club members present voted to approve the full slate of officers: Lou Tanner, president; Kathy Sudduth, vice-president; Peggy Cornett, secretary; Doug Rogers, treasurer; John Davis, field trips; Stauffer Miller, program chair; Gabriel Mapel, publicity; Priscilla Kingston, hospitality coordinator; Peg Watson, newsletter editor; and Lesslie Crowell, membership coordinator.

Dave Hogg gave the field trips report. He reminded members about the re-opening of the barn at Ivy Creek Natural Area on April 21, 2 p.m. The "Birding before Work" trips will include six trips at Ivy Creek, two at Secluded Farm, and two at Observatory Hill.

Publicity chair Gabriel Mapel announced that he, Lesslie Crowell, and his mother Mary will host a table at the Center for Historic Plants Open House at Tufton Farm, April 28, 10:00am-4:00pm. He also produced business cards to promote the club and has been updating the club's Facebook page.

Recent bird sightings were shared. White-eyed Vireos have been noted south of Charlottesville on Blenheim Road, and also at Riverview Park on the Rivanna. Swifts have returned and 100s have been observed at Albemarle High School. Louisiana Water Thrush, Pectoral Sandpiper, Northern Harrier, and Purple Martin were seen in Augusta County. Stauffer Miller heard two Vireos, which may have been Blue-headed Vireos. Carol Bratton saw a Eurasian Collared-Dove. Dave Hogg reported a Hawk that caught a chicken at his neighbor's house. A Sharp-shinned Hawk that flew into a window at the library recovered. Dan Bieker sighted a Blue-headed Vireo and a White-eyed Vireo on March 20th.



American Woodcock photos taken by Rob Capon on March 29 at Humpback Rocks.

Monticello Bird Club

Appalachian Ecology

New course offered at PVCC



This June Piedmont Virginia Community College will offer a hands-on study of the central Appalachians - the wildlife (especially birds!), geology, and forest types of the Virginia/West Virginia Highlands. The class will run June 12 thru 17, with evening lectures in Charlottesville, and a weekend stay centered in Highland County.

This course can be taken for 3 semester credits, or audited for no credit. Cost: tuition plus \$175 to cover meals, lodging and transportation Friday thru Sunday afternoon.

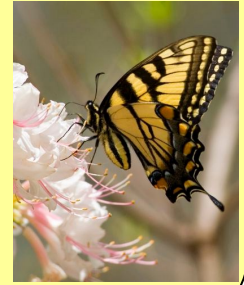
Instructors: Dan Bieker, Tom Dierauf, and Amy Gilmer.

Register at the college, or online at www.pvcc.edu

For details call Dan at 434-971-9618 or email: danbieker@gmail.com

May Each Day Bring Renewed Strength for Dede Austin

Long time Monticello Bird Club member Dede Austin had open heart surgery this spring. She's been an active member for many years. Many of you may remember MBC's big banquet about 10 years ago. Dede made 50 Great Blue Herons with two blades of grass out of copper for the center pieces for all of the tables. If you would like to send Dede a note or card, her address is 138 Buckingham Circle, Charlottesville, VA 22903.



FOR SALE:

Almost New, Never-Used

Galapagos Diary: A complete guide to the archipelago's birdlife : \$20.00

The Sibley Guide to Bird Life and Behavior: Paperback: \$20

BIRDWATCHER: The Life of Roger Tory Peterson (430 pp): Hard Cover: \$25

If interested, call Ellie Miller at (434) 296-5505

May 10-12, 2012

All activities and events are free and open to the public. Bus tours, canoe birding, guided walks and workshops require reservations as space is limited.

Call (757) 986-3705 to reserve your space!

<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/greatdismalswamp/pdf/2012BFschedulepdf.pdf>

GREAT DISMAL SWAMP NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE



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 4th Thursday of the month.**



Monticello Bird Club
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Please visit our website at

www.monticellobirdclub.org

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