



Monticello Bird Club

November 2012

Volume 27 Issue 3

Comments from The President

Lou Tanner

Though the novelty wears off long before the white throated sparrows head back north in May, the first ‘Oh sweet Canada, Canada’ each fall never fails to bring great pleasure. The old friends are back if only for a few months.

Canada Geese once conjured up similarly romantic notions about the frozen North and produced shivers of delight in twitcher hearts down below. Nowadays they are more likely to conjure up visions of suburban golf courses and lawns too dangerous to walk across. Still, they remain considerably more scenic than starlings and other that have long since worn out their welcome. They remain gorgeous birds and we should perhaps hold our tongues lest they hear us and subtract themselves from our Christmas Counts by heading home. That would surely qualify as killing the goose that lays the Canadian eggs.



And in 1812, precisely two centuries ago, the most curmudgeonly character to ever sit in the U.S. House of Representatives and a cousin of Thomas Jefferson to boot—one John Randolph of Roanoke—thought that the ‘warhawks’ who so wanted to take on Great Britain again in hopes of gaining the lands to the north sounded like a bunch of whippoorwills. Their monotonous call of “Canada, Canada, Canada,” a land they just knew would

leap at the chance to join the young nation to its south, reminded him of that odd and secretive bird that once must have been so common down his way, just thirty miles from where I grew up. The people of the North declined the honor, rudely administered to the overconfident Americans a bloody nose or two, and went on being a sort of summer resort for many a species of bird. It is just as well. Canada Warbler has a far nicer ring to it than northern New York Warbler.

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Dinner With The Speaker

November 8th at 5:30pm

Brick Oven Restaurant

Everyone Welcome

(Pay Your Own Tab)

Katie Fallon to Speak on November 8

Stauffer Miller

Katie Fallon of Morgantown, WV will speak at the bird club at 7 p.m. on November 8th. She is the author of *Cerulean Blues: A Personal Search for a Vanishing Songbird*. Her book was a finalist for an award for outstanding writing.

Katie, whose writing has appeared in a number of magazines, has taught creative writing at Virginia Tech and West Virginia University. She is also a co-founder of the Avian Conservation Center of Appalachia, a non-profit organization dedicated to conserving wild birds through scientific research. Some of her other interests are hiking, canoeing, yoga and belly dancing.

Cerulean Blues is a tribute to the Cerulean Warbler, a bird that bridges two continents, nesting in North America and wintering in South America. She has studied the Cerulean in both places. The Cerulean is struggling to survive on both its nesting and wintering grounds. Come hear Katie discuss all that confronts this beautiful warbler and what can be done to help it overcome its challenges.

If you would like a little more time to get to know Katie, come to dinner with her and others of the bird club at the Brick Oven Restaurant in the Rio Hill Shopping Center. The service and food are excellent, and as Gabriel will attest, the pizzas are excellent. See you there at 5:30 p.m. on the 8th.



Monticello Bird Club

Club Activities

Organized By John Davis

First Saturday Bird Walk

Saturday, November 3, 7:30am

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

Please join Dave Hogg on November 3 to see what species have come to winter over this year.



Riverview Park

Saturday, November 10, 7:30am

Please join John Davis at Riverview Park. Riverview Park is a part of the Rivanna Trail system that has often had interesting birds. The Park is at the eastern terminus of Chesapeake Street, past Hollywood Cemetery. Where the road ends, turn left into the park. One can also go east on East Market Street, turn left just after passing Woolen Mills Church, follow that road one block to the "confluence" of Chesapeake and the park, and go straight into the park.

**Monticello Bird Club
Annual Birdseed Sale Order Pick Up
Saturday November 3**

**at the
Virginia Department of Forestry Warehouse
8:00am — 11:00am**

Directions: From Route 29, take the Fontaine Avenue Exit. Turn east onto Fontaine Avenue toward UVA. At the first light, turn right into the Fontaine Business Park. At the yield sign, turn right toward 900 Natural Resources Drive and continue to the Virginia Department of Forestry Warehouse on the left. Signs for the MBC Birdseed Pick-up will be posted.

2012 Charlottesville Christmas Bird Count

Jenny Gaden

Sunday, December 16

The 2012 Charlottesville Christmas Bird Count

will take place Sunday, December 16.

Everybody welcome, newcomers and old hands, alike.

Please mark your calendars.

More details will follow in the December newsletter.

September 2012 eBirder of the Month

Pete Myers

Here's a shout-out for Gabriel Mapel, whom the Cornell Lab of Ornithology named 'eBirder of the Month' in September. Around here we already knew Gabriel was a star. It's great for him to get such national recognition!

Here's a link to the story on the eBird website: <http://bit.ly/PFITPK>

It's also wonderful to see the next generation of birders diving fully into eBird, which is a wonderful international resource for birders created by the Cornell Lab. eBird recently rocketed past its 100 millionth bird observation. Over a million are being entered each month. Visit eBird.org, join the flock and start reporting your observations! Birding in Albemarle will become that much stronger.



Monticello Bird Club Meeting Minutes October 11 2012

Submitted by Lesslie Crowell

President Lou Tanner opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. by introducing first-timers to the audience of 46: Paul Grimm, from Ohio; Anne Shavis, introduced by Carol Hill; Scott Williams, guest of the Mapels; Mary Pat and John Hulbert, who have attended first-Saturday walks; Max Nootbaar (friend of Peggy Cornett who has become a founding member of the newly-formed Blue Ridge Young Birders Club), accompanied by his family, returned for the second time.

Doug Rogers gave the Treasurer's Report. Receipts were \$2,451 (\$1,425 in membership dues which is half of the expected amount; \$926 in birdseed sales; and \$70 in donations). Disbursements were \$246. The bank balance is \$12,642.

Jim Hill gave the report on birdseed sales. So far he has received just a few forms but there are still two weeks left until the deadline. Forms can be procured from the October newsletter. Jim circulated a sign-up sheet for volunteers. He emphasized three needs: MBC members to sell birdseed to friends, family, and neighbors; strong people to help load birdseed orders on the November 3 pick-up day, telephone callers to remind people to pick up their orders.

Carol Hill reminded everyone to lock their property in the trunks of their cars while attending evening MBC meetings.

John Davis spoke about Field Trips. The report on Stauffer Miller's September 15 trip to Fan Mountain is in the October newsletter. Although it was windy, the group visited several places and was able to identify about 40 species. Seventeen people attended the Scheier Natural Area walk, September 22. About half were MBC members and half affiliated with Scheier. Expertly led by Gabriel Mapel, the group tallied about 29 species. On October 13, Doug Rogers will lead a walk at Preddy Creek. John Davis leads the Rockfish Valley Trail field trip October 20. Meet at John's house to carpool; however, newsletter directions are wrong. From Dick Woods Road, turn LEFT, not right, onto Taylor's Gap Road. The following weekend's field trip to Riverview Park is still lacking a leader. John will step in if nobody volunteers to lead. Anyone interested in going on the trip to Chincoteague and the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel on November 16-18 needs to fill out a security clearance form in advance and get it to John by the middle of next week. Go to the link in the October newsletter to download and print a form.

Bird sightings were reported. John Davis has a resident Red-breasted Nuthatch. Max Nootbaar spotted a Red-breasted Nuthatch in his backyard as well as a Marsh Wren and a Blackburnian Warbler. Bill Leaning had a first-year black-throated green warbler as well as hundreds of Grackles and amongst them, a Rusty Blackbird. While travelling in Germany, Daniel Mapel saw a Saker Falcon. As Pam Howie opened her back door, she surprised a Common Yellowthroat sitting on the porch railing. Also in her yard were an Oven Bird, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and a Hawk zooming down her alley chasing something. At Moore's Creek near Sunset Avenue, Betty Mooney saw a Cuckoo and a Swainson's Thrush. Lou Tanner sighted a Black-billed Cuckoo at Montebello on a school field trip and on a recent hike at Hanging Rock near Covington; he had excellent views of several Red-tailed Hawks, Kestrels, Peregrine Falcons, Bald Eagles, and Sharp-shinned Hawks.

Stauffer Miller announced upcoming programs. Katie Fallon, author of *Cerulean Blues*, will be speaking on Cerulean Warblers as well as selling and signing her book after her talk on November 8. Victoria Dye, talented nature photographer, teacher and veterinarian, will speak December 13. Stauffer introduced tonight's speaker, thirteen-year-old MBC member Gabriel Mapel, author of *Oh, no, Gertrude!* Before commencing, Gabriel announced that the newly formed Blue Ridge Young Birders Club (of which he is president and whose mascot is the Great Horned Owl) is accepting new members aged 12-18. Anyone who knows of potential members should contact him. Gabriel's presentation, entitled "My 2011 Junior Big Year," chronicled the travels of the first young birder to undertake a Junior Big Year of Birding, yielding him an impressive 437 species.





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 or for printed newsletters. 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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