



Monticello Bird Club

November 2011

Volume 26 Issue 3

Comments from the President

Lou Tanner

Last Saturday's walk along the relatively new Belvedere Trail was excellent as usual and resulted in several rewarding sightings, among them six different woodpeckers, a brown creeper, winter wrens, a couple of raptors, both kinglets, and numerous small brown and greenish things. It also resulted in lots of frustration for at least one of us when the little wretches declined to stay put and be identified (after Bob Ake's talk we can all feel less inhibited about using unflattering words for uncooperative birds). It brought to mind a favorite song, of which I had just been reminded by a movie a couple of nights before. Iris DeMent, countryish singer extraordinaire with as distinctive a voice as one could find on planet earth, was not thinking ornithological thoughts when she wrote "Let the Mystery Be." She had in mind larger questions, the eternal mysteries of life, and was expressing her own satisfaction with letting some of the big ones go unanswered. To my mind, it applies as well or ought to apply at any rate to the feathered question marks that get away and leave so many befuddled humans in their wake. Learning to identify what we see is satisfying. So is letting the mystery be. Or at least that's one good way to rationalize being stumped.

Peter Nebel November Speaker at Bird Club Thursday, November 10, 2011 at 7:00pm

Peter Nebel will speak November 10th at the bird club. He will be talking about birds of the Middle Eastern country of Qatar. Peter, who lives in Waynesboro, has spent much of his life working overseas in Honduras and Korea as well as Qatar. Most of his work has been environmental management of U.S. air bases in foreign countries. His interest in birds, he says, "goes back as far as I can remember."



Isabelline Shrike photo by Peter Nebel

Qatar is a Arab emirate that projects off the northeast coast of the Arabian Peninsula into the Persian Gulf. The country has close military ties to the United States and is a center of U.S. air operations in the area. It also has the highest amount of proven oil and natural gas reserves in the world. Come hear Peter speak about not only the birds of this small but fascinating country but also aspects of life and culture there.

Inside This Issue

Club Activities	2
◆ First Saturdays plus presentation	
◆ Birdseed Order Pickup	
◆ Birding Trips This Fall	
◆ Riverview Park	
◆ Christmas Bird Count	
Meeting Minutes	3
Audubon Events	3
VSO Field Trip	4
Monticello Bird Club Contacts	4

Change in Restaurant for Speaker's Dinner

New Location: Brick Oven Restaurant

After some thought and research, I have decided to change the restaurant at which we dine with the speaker, from La Cocina del Sol to The Brick Oven. This change will be in effect starting with November 10th, when we have dinner with speaker Peter Nebel.

The Brick Oven Restaurant is in Rio Hill Shopping Center, Charlottesville, and is located between the Kroger Supermarket and Dick's Sporting Goods. The Brick Oven has a nice selection of pizzas, pastas, calzones, and other Italian food plus a superb salad bar. I think you will enjoy the new restaurant and look forward to seeing you there at 5:30 PM on November 10th. *Stauffer Miller*

Club Activities

First Saturday

Saturday, November 5, 7:30am
Saturday, December 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 Peter Dutnell on November 5, and Teresa Shaner on December 3, to see what species have come to winter over this year.

Monticello Bird Club
Annual Birdseed Sale Order Pick Up
Saturday November 5
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.

How to Attract and Feed Fall and Wintering Birds

Saturday, November 5, 9:30am

After the first Saturday bird walk on Saturday, November 5th, Elinor Miller will present the second of her two popular one-hour power-point programs at the Ivy Creek Educational Center. The November program will cover how to make your yard friendly for our fall and wintering birds and what to feed them...and what not to feed them. There will also be handouts on these topics. For more information, contact Ellie at 434-296-5505.

Birding Trips So Far This Fall

We have had four field trips so far this fall during which the groups have tallied 81 species. The trips to Licking Hole Creek and Panorama Farms were especially interesting. Among the notable birds were White Ibis, Red-headed Woodpecker, Bay-breasted and Cape May Warblers, and Lincoln's Sparrow.

The trip to Chincoteague on November 18 is completely full.

Riverview Park

Saturday, November 12, 7:00am

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, down 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. Please join David White to look for wintering birds. Bring waterproof footwear in case the ground is wet. Get details from David at dizoo@comcast.net

Bird Watch:
A Book of Poetry

by Jane Yolen

New York : Philomel Books, c1990.

BIRD WATCHER

Across the earless
face of the moon
a stretch of Vs
honks homeward.
From the lake
laughs the last joke
of a solitary loon.
Winter silences us all.
I will miss
these conversations,
the trips at dawn
and dusk,
where I listen carefully,
then answer
only with my eyes.



Meeting Minutes, October 13, 2011

Peggy Cornett, Secretary

President Lou Tanner opened the meeting by welcoming newcomers, including Daniel Mapel (father of Publicity Chair Gabriel Mapel), and visitors from Augusta County. There were 56 present.

Treasurer Doug Rogers began his report by inviting everyone to join him and other members at the Carmike theatre for the Saturday (October 15) afternoon matinee of, "The Big Year," the newly released film starring Jack Black, Owen Wilson, and Steve Martin. Following the movie, there were plans for dinner at nearby Thai 99 restaurant, located in the same shopping center. Doug then presented the financial report for the period: income \$1,635, expenses \$618 for a balance of \$1,016. The club currently has \$11,623 in the bank. As of the end of September there have been 65 membership renewals and 6 new members. About 15 members submitted dues during the meeting. Doug has all of the documents completed for the club's application for non-profit status

and will mail the material to the IRS. Doug thanked Gabriel Mapel for launching the club's official Facebook page.

Dave Hogg reported on field trips, including the very successful visits recently to Licking Hole Creek and Panorama Farm. The Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel trip scheduled for November is filled with 15 registered. Dave brought a box of books once owned by Thad Kelly, an avid birder who died a few years ago. The books were offered free to those interested after the meeting.

Jim Nix briefly spoke about the upcoming seed sale, reminding members that this is our only major fund raiser and encouraging participation. The delivery date is Nov. 5 at the Forestry Department in the Fontaine Office Park.

Bird sightings during the past month were shared. Lou Tanner saw a Bald

Eagle carrying a 3' long stick during the recent Licking Hole Creek outing. Peggy Cornett had an eye-level view of a Bald Eagle flying down the center of the Rivanna River along Riverview Park, with several Crows in hot pursuit. Gabriel Mapel watched a Sharp-shinned Hawk snatch a bird in his backyard. Stauffer Miller saw a Cooper's Hawk nab a Flicker in his backyard near Rugby Road, and watched it consume the entire bird, leaving only one feather. Juncos, Chipping Sparrows, a Swainson's Thrush, and a Black-throated Green Warbler were noted at Ivy Creek Natural Area. Jerry Therrien reported a Golden-crowned Kinglet and Brown Creeper at Monticello. A Pileated Woodpecker was observed dancing around the base of a pine tree at Virginia Beach. A Northern Parula was reported. Bill Leaning had a Red-tailed Hawk posing by his window in Earlysville. Barred Owls were observed hooting at each other in the Shenandoah National Park. Another Barred Owl was seen scoping out some chickens.

November Audubon Events

Mary Elfner, Virginia IBA Coordinator, National Audubon Society

Snicker's Gap Hawk Watch, Saturday, November 5. We will meet and watch the hawks from the commuter parking lot (which is located just off of Route 7) starting at 10am. Dr. Greg Butcher, Audubon's Director of Bird Conservation will be leading the Watch! Coffee and bagels will be on-hand. For more information and to register contact Lynne Mecum at lmecum@audubon.org. Advance registration is required. DIRECTIONS: From Northern Virginia and the Washington, D.C. area, travel west on Virginia Route 7 to the intersection with Virginia Route 601. Make a left turn and the public commuter lot will be on your immediate right. From Winchester, travel east on Route 7 to the intersection with Route 601, make a right turn and an immediate right turn into the public commuter parking lot.

<http://virginia.hometownlocator.com/maps/distance-directions2.cfm?snickers%20gap@39.1156611,-77.8452729>

Also, on Saturday, November 5th, join in a bird watch and survey within the secluded environment of the wildlife refuge. The Williamsburg and Hampton Roads Bird Clubs will lead a group of interested volunteers with various levels of bird identification expertise (ranging from novice to highly skilled). New birders are welcome. Feel free to bring your binoculars and bird guides. The group will document all the avian species observed during the nature hike along the trails. Also on Saturday, November 5th, volunteers will clear trails, collect storm debris and participate in other activities that help maintain Bethel Beach and New Point Comfort Natural Preserves. Advanced registration is required! Please volunteer to take part in the bird survey and/or clean-up effort. Volunteers will meet at Mathews High School on Saturday November 5th at 8:30 am. Please bring your own insect repellent, sunscreen, hat and snacks, lunch and water as necessary. Additionally, for the bird walk and survey, if you are able and willing to bring along a scope or binoculars to help with marsh bird identification, that would be greatly appreciated. Advanced registration is required. Please contact Dave Youker of the Hampton Roads Bird Club at 757-224-1188 or youkerd@aol.com to register or gain additional information such as directions. E-mail general questions about the events to [Ashley Smiley at acemiley@gmail.com](mailto:Ashley.Smiley@gmail.com)

VSO Annual Field Trip to Virginia Beach
 Shirley Devan, Board Member, Virginia Society of Ornithology

The VSO'S annual field trip to Virginia Beach will be Friday, December 2 through Sunday, December 4, 2011. An outstanding weekend is planned with a Friday afternoon field trip to the Whitehurst Tract for those arriving early. Field trips include a visit to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel (CBBT) on Saturday and a half day at Back Bay NWR and False Cape State Park on Sunday. The possibilities are endless for these areas at this time of the year! You do need to sign up in advance because two trips have limited space and require a nominal fee. See registration details below or on the VSO web site: <http://www.virginiabirds.net/index.html>

FRIDAY AFTERNOON FIELD TRIP: Friday afternoon's field trip will leave the hotel at 12:15 PM for the Whitehurst Tract, one of the many good birding areas in Virginia Beach.

SATURDAY FIELD TRIPS: Morning on the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel. Fee is \$10 per person to cover the cost of the security guards. This trip is limited to 45 people. Register with Clark White ASAP so you can complete the security form and return it to him by November 11. **Afternoon on the Eastern Shore.** 12 noon - 4 pm. Meet at Kiptopeke State Park at noon to join the group coming from the CBBT trip.


SUNDAY FIELD TRIPS: Back Bay NWR and False Cape State Park. 8 am. Trip limited to 25 people; fee is \$10 for tram transportation from Refuge Headquarters to False Cape State Park and Back. **First Landing State Park.** 8 am.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS: The Country Inn and Suites at 1801 Atlantic Avenue, Virginia Beach will be the host hotel. Oceanfront rooms with private balconies will be available at \$75 plus tax. All rooms have refrigerators, microwaves, and coffee makers. The hotel has an indoor pool and a free parking garage. Check-in time is 4:00 PM and check-out is 11:00 AM. It will be necessary to check out on Sunday before leaving on the field trip. Those planning to stay at the hotel should make reservations by November 11, 2010, specifying they are with the VSO. The hotel phone numbers are (757) 437-9100 or (800) 456-4000.

REGISTER BY NOVEMBER 11: Register with the trip coordinator, Clark White, by US mail or e-mail. Include your name, street or e-mail address and telephone number, the field trips you are requesting and a check for the cost of the trips (if applicable) payable to Clark White. Send registration to: Clark White, 101 Brookstone Court, Yorktown, VA 23693 Phone: 757-875-7649 or email: cwbirds@cox.net

Hope you'll make plans to join us.

FOR SALE



Binoculars Zeiss 10 X 42 Victory F1 with case. Will swap for 8 X 42 binoculars of comparable quality or sell for \$1,200. Contact Doug Rogers at 434-409-8156 or email doug5996@gmail.com

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 each issue is 9:00AM on the 4th Thursday of the month.**



President	Lou Tanner	ashokatg@hotmail.com	434-979-1722
Vice President	Joanne Bricker	jbricker524@gmail.com	434-825-2676
Secretary	Peggy Cornett	pcornett@monticello.org	434-984-9816
Treasurer	Doug Rogers	doug5996@gmail.com	434-409-8156
Field Trips	Dave Hogg	dhogg@nrao.edu	434-974-7592
Speakers	Stauffer Miller	stauffer@seepub.com	434-296-5505
Publicity	Gabriel Mapel	redtailbirder@yahoo.com	540-363-5035
Hospitality	Priscilla Kingston	kingston@cstone.net	434-293-5173
Newsletter	Peg Watson	monticellobirdclubnewsletter@gmail.com	434-996-9831
Membership	Jim Nix	jim-nix@comcast.net	434-973-7366
Birdseed Sale	Jim Hill	jimcarhill@comcast.net	434-975-6523

Monticello Bird Club
 P.O. Box 4362
 Charlottesville, Virginia
 22905
 Please visit our website at
www.monticellobirdclub.org