



Monticello Bird Club

October 2012

Volume 27 Issue 2

Comments from The President

Lou Tanner

A teacher who isn't careful could learn something. A student's senior thesis topic revolves about propaganda, a subject that interests me enormously, and that furnished the perfect excuse to go trolling for information on the internet. Wartime morale-boosting movies, however corny, sometimes make for fascinating entertainment because they offer glimpses into yesteryear. Tawny Pipit, a British movie from WWII that was labeled a comedy though it touched on far bigger things to my mind, revolves about a recovering airman who with his nurse-now-lady friend stumbles on a nesting pair of rare tawny pipits while rambling through the countryside. As this is England after all, the people of the village in which he was convalescing become besotted with their feathered charges and will stop at nothing to protect their nest. This gentle sort of reminder to British filmgoers of why they fought is combined apparently with glowing treatment of their Russian allies, some of whom come to share their own tales of war and sing songs that became unwelcome almost before the film was released.

It all sounds utterly charming if very dated too, the sort of thing that would not have been made just a few years later when new sides had already been chosen for the postwar world. Movies that would have appealed alike to the little old ladies that make up the British equivalent of Audubon Societies and Joseph Stalin must be few and far between. I was thinking of offering my right arm to see Tawny Pipit but fortunately will not have to once I find someone young enough to understand the science of downloading films. Thanks to that person in advance and a belated thanks too to whoever the genius was who had this magnificent idea for a movie way back in 1944.

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Annual Birdseed Sale

Orders Must Be Received by October 26
Seed Pickup Saturday November 3

Gabriel Mapel to Speak at Bird Club on October 11

Stauffer Miller

Gabriel Mapel, publicity person of Monticello Bird Club, will speak at the October 11th MBC meeting. His topic will be the junior big year he did in 2011. Last October Bob Ake spoke to us about his big year (a year in which a birder tries to see as many species as possible in a given locale). Bob, of course, is a grown-up. Gabriel, however, is a young man and that is why his big year was a "junior" one. Gabriel is the first birder to do such a big year.

Gabriel and his parents, all well known to us, live in the New Hope section of Augusta County. Gabriel traveled to Alaska, Arizona and Texas in his quest for birds in 2011. His program will focus on the birds he searched for as well as the diversity of habitats he visited in his quest. The most unusual bird he found was a Brown Shrike. Gabriel has also written and published "Oh No, Gertrude: The True Story of a Not-so Naughty Black Bear."

As always, we take our speaker to dinner. We continue to dine at the Brick Oven Restaurant, beside Kroger, in Rio Hill Shopping Center, at 5:30 p.m. Come visit with Gabriel over dinner. If you can't make it there, be sure to come hear him at 7:00 p.m. on October 11th.



Monticello Bird Club

Club Activities

Organized By John Davis

First Saturday Bird Walk

Saturday, October 6, 7:30am

On the first Saturday of each month, the Monticello Bird Club offers a bird walk at the Ivy Creek Natural Area. Please join Peter Brask on October 6 and enjoy the fall migration. Meet at the parking lot of the Natural Area at 7:30am.



Preddy Creek Trail Park

Saturday, October 13, 7:30am

Doug Rogers will lead us on a visit to Preddy Creek Trail Park. This will be a new site for the club to visit and recent reports on the Monticello Bird Alert are very encouraging. We will meet in the park's parking area at 7:30am.

Directions: Route 29 north, 4 miles beyond Airport Road turn right on Burnley Station Road. Travel 2.6 miles and the park entrance is on the left.



Rockfish Valley Trail, Nelson County

Saturday, October 20, 8:30am

Marshall Faintich and Walt Childs will lead us on a tour of the Rockfish Valley Trail in Nelson County. This site has a great diversity of birds and Walt and Marshall know this area extremely well, so this should be a great trip.

Directions: Take Route 250 west to Route 151 (Critzler Shop Road) South. Go 14 miles and pass through Nellysford. The trail head is on the right at the Hurricane Camille Memorial marker.

If anyone would prefer to carpool, come to John Davis's house. To get to John's house, take the Ivy exit off of I-64. At the stop sign, turn left onto Route 637 (Dick Woods Road) and go for 1.7 miles. Turn right on Taylors Gap Road. (Be alert to the fact that the road to the right is Dry Bridge Road). Take Taylors Gap Road for approximately 0.4 miles and, after crossing a narrow bridge, turn right into the driveway for 578 Taylors Gap Road. After entering the driveway, it will split straight or left. Go left and use a low gear going up the hill to John's house. Plan to arrive between 7:30 and 7:45. We should leave by 7:45 to give plenty of time to get to our destination.

Trip to Chincoteague NWR and the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel Islands

November 16-18, 2012

Join Dave Hogg for this annual pilgrimage. Meet at the south end of the CBBT in the administration parking lot at 9:45 AM on Friday, November 16, 2012. The visit to the CBBT islands is limited to 15 persons with prior submission of an information sheet for security clearance. The information form can be downloaded at

<http://www.cbbt.com/forms/2011RevisedINDIVIDUALBirdingApp.pdf>

or can be obtained from John Davis at the October meeting. It must be returned to John by October 18 to be mailed to the CBBT. Depending on the number of participants there will be a fee of about \$10 per person payable at the time of the trip to the CBBT. You must also present a picture ID, such as a driver's license, to the security officer.

If you do not choose to do the CBBT, meet at the Visitors Center, Eastern Shore National Wildlife Refuge between 12:30 and 1:00 PM.

Reservations for Chincoteague for the nights of November 16 and 17 can be made at the Island Motor Inn Resort (757-336-3141). Mention that you are with the Monticello Bird Club for the group rate of \$99 per night (plus tax). There is a 3-day prior cancellation limit.

Monticello Bird Club Meeting Minutes 13 September 2012

Submitted by Peggy Cornett, secretary

President Lou Tanner brought the meeting to order and welcomed 52 audience members, including eight newcomers. The first time attendees heard of the bird club through various sources, including the Ivy Creek newsletter, the PVCC ornithology class, and the hawk watch. A young bird enthusiast, Max Nootbaar, came with his grandfather and mother after discovering the club through the recent C'ville Review article.

Treasurer Doug Rogers reported on club finances (see below.) He also discussed recent suggestions for new programming, including Eve Gaige's plans to launch a Young Birders Club.

Gabriel Mapel discussed new plans for a Virginia Young Birders Club. Doug Rogers has offered to host the next planning meeting. Gabriel also talked about the Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch in Afton. September 15—22 should be the peak migration period. He just counted 1,000 Broad-winged Hawks on September 12, and he reported that on September 22, 2010 over 10,000 Broad-wings were counted.

Jenny Gaden gave away a booklet by the American Bird Conservancy on bird-friendly building design.

Jim Hill reported on the bird seed sale. Order forms will go out in the October newsletter. Pick-up date is November 3 at the Forestry Building site.

John Davis reported on field trips. The annual Night Hawk watch at the end of August was a success. Five were seen the first night and 14 the second. In September, Stauffer Miller will lead a trip to Fan Mountain in southern Albemarle County, where the astronomy observatory is located; and a trip is planned to Shire Natural Area in Fluvanna County, where Gabriel just counted 24 species in one day. In October, there will be a trip to Preddy Creek Natural Area to see Warblers (11 species were just seen Thursday morning); and October 20 a trip to the Rockfish Battle Trails, South of Nellysford.

Recent sightings were reported. Bill and Claire Leaning saw 6-8 Nighthawks in Earlysville. John had a Red-breasted Nuthatch at his feeder. He also identified a Pine Warbler at Secluded Farm. Jenny Gaden recently heard Red-eyed, White-eyed, and Blue-headed Vireos at her property. Nighthawks were also seen at Afton Mountain. Dave Hogg saw a juvenile Common Cuckoo with yellow tail and wings and a black bill. Stauffer Miller saw 12 Bobolinks at Panorama Farm. Lou and Stephanie Tanner visited Mt. Rogers in early June and saw Warblers and Crossbills. They also have Chimney Swifts in the chimney of their home in Belmont. Jim and Carol Hill enjoyed listening to Wood Thrush singing all summer.



Treasurer's Report

Submitted by Doug Rogers

From July 1 to the date of the meeting:

Receipts from Memberships were \$1,115.00

Disbursements were \$120.41

Check book balance \$11,432.08

I recommended that we maintain our bank balance at around \$10,000.00.

We have received approval for the Club's non-profit 501 (c) 3 status with the IRS. This means we are now eligible to request grant money from all companies who are willing to give us grants for as-yet-unnamed creative projects. Also, all monies given to the Club are tax deductible provided the donee receives nothing of value from the Club. I also advised all present that I am not in the business of giving tax advice and everyone should seek tax advice from their tax adviser.

In addition, we have applied for and received approval from the State that the Club is exempt from paying Sales and Use Tax on all purchases. This will save us approximately \$350.00 every year on our purchase of bird seed for the bird seed sale.

Report on Fan Mountain Field Trip September 15

Submitted by Stauffer Miller

The group met at the Crossroads Store in North Garden, where we consolidated into three cars. From the store we proceeded to the gravel road that winds to the top of Fan Mountain. Unfortunately, a cold front had passed bringing windy conditions. This had a depressing effect on bird activity. We did enjoy seeing the observatory and spectacular view from its encircling catwalk.

On the descent, several of us got a look at a Swainson’s Thrush as it called from a roadside thicket. After some rearranging of cars at the store, we went over to Scogo Lake. Where Jenny Gaden spotted a distant bird on a fallen branch protruding from the lake. We spent a lot of time studying the mystery bird and discussing its identity, but since no one had a spotting scope, we could not make an identification. It did appear to be a shorebird.



One last stop was the large pond and undulating fields of Blandemar area. Again there were few birds. I think our tally for the morning was around forty species. Oh, after the trip ended, I couldn’t stand lacking the identity of our mystery bird, so I returned and relocated it, still perched on the tree branch. A look through my scope quickly revealed the bird to be a...Spotted Sandpiper.

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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Please visit our website at
www.monticellobirdclub.org

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