



Monticello Bird Club

October 2013 Newsletter

Website: www.monticellobirdclub.org

Volume 28

Issue 2

Facebook: [Monticello Bird Club](#)

MBC Monthly Meeting—Thursday, October 10th at 7:00pm

Comments from the President

Doug Rogers

On Friday, September 13 of this year, Joanne and I set off for Chincoteague Island and a weekend of birding with the VSO. One of my target birds for the trip was the Bar-tailed Godwit – a life bird for both of us. When we arrived, one of the members told us he had seen all four of the Godwits that occasionally pass through that area. That heightened our excitement! At least one person had seen the Bar-tailed there.

My interest in seeing that Godwit was more than just being able to tick another life bird off my list. I am fascinated and awed by many species of birds; the Bar-tailed is at the top of my list. When I saw it on the mud flat gathering food, my imagination kicked into overdrive. In my mind's eye I saw this bird breeding in Alaska – to the west and north of Anchorage, just below the Arctic Circle. Unlike Chincoteague, there were no humans close by observing it and its chicks there in the Yukon Delta. I

saw it flying across Alaska, flying over the boreal forests of British Columbia, crossing the tar-sands operation in Alberta, landing and refueling on the shores of Lake Winnipeg, Lake Huron and Lake Michigan, making its way across Ohio and Virginia and finally landing there on Chincoteague Island. I wondered where it would go next; and would it survive to breed again in Alaska?

A research study, led by Robert E. Gill Jr., a biologist with the U.S. Geological Survey, published in October 2008, reported that these Godwits fly 7,242 miles from their breeding grounds in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta of Alaska to their wintering areas in New Zealand. The birds completed the trip in five to nine days of non-stop flying over the open ocean without food, water or rest! Am I fascinated and awed by the Bar-tailed Godwit? You bet!



Bar-tailed Godwit
Photo by Doug Rogers

Speaker of the Month: Vic Laubach

Stauffer Miller

Our speaker at the October 10th meeting of the bird club will be Vic Laubach. Vic is well-known as the co-coordinator, with Brenda Tekin, of the Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch. Vic was raised in central Pennsylvania and began birding at age twelve. He has a PhD in Genetics from George Washington University and currently is a professor of surgery at the University of Virginia where he does research on lung transplantation.

Vic, who lives in Waynesboro, became co-coordinator of the hawk watch in 2008. He says he enjoys birding of all kinds and is always looking for an excuse to go birding. His talk is entitled “**Raptor Migration at Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch.**” He will cover the history of the hawk watch, explain raptor migration and identification and present information on the fourteen species that migrate through the gap. This should be a highly interesting talk. Hope you can make it.

I hope also you will come at 5:30 PM to the Brick Oven Restaurant in the Rio Hill Shopping Center to meet and have dinner with our speaker. The food is simple but good and not too expensive. It can be quite informative to talk over dinner with our speaker. Try to make it October 10th.

Looking ahead to November 14th, Marcia Heacker of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC will be with us to talk about “Birds in the Nation’s Attic: A Glimpse into the Smithsonian’s Division of Birds. This will be a program you will not want to miss.

Addendum: At the September meeting, I announced that Gary Morris who lives in Charlottesville and has been totally blind for four years has a keen interest in learning bird songs and calls. He is looking for someone to help him with that. His phone number is 434 409 7191. Please phone him if you think you could help.



Broad-winged Hawk
Photo from [birding.com](#)
Google Images

First Saturday Bird Walk

October 5th, 7:30am

On the first Saturday of each month, the Monticello Bird Club offers a bird walk, led by a Club member, at Ivy Creek Natural Area. Participants gather in the parking lot at 7:30am. Birders of all levels are welcome.

Walk Leaders for Winter-Fall 2013

Sept. 7 Tom Jones

Oct. 5 ... Peter Brask

Nov. 2.... Peter Dutnell

Dec. 7 Dave Hogg



"Confusing fall" Blackpoll Warbler
Photo: en.wikipedia from
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Wikimedia Commons

The Same Bird??

Bird looking like photo (on left) ID'd by sharp-eyed experts Tom Jones, Stauffer Miller, and Gabriel Mapel on the glorious Sept. 7th First Saturday Bird Walk.



Blackpoll Warbler in Breeding Plumage
Photo: Cephass
Wikimedia Commons

In her post-walk Monticello Bird Alert posting, Janet Paisley wrote...

With perfect birding conditions and spectacular weather, the MBC First Saturday Walk(ers) spent a fun and challenging morning sorting through a river of migrating songbirds. Thanks to everyone who turned out, and especially to Tom Jones, for his sharp identification skills and for capably assisting the newcomers and young birders.

Birding Tidbits...about a bird you might find on the Bird Walk at Ivy Creek in October

by Jenny Gaden

Hermit Thrush



Photo by William H. Majoros
Wikimedia Commons

Migratory birds go both ways – some are here in the summer and gone for the winter; others are here in the winter and gone in the summer. In October one of our winter residents will return to our woodlands – the Hermit Thrush. It is sort of the counterpart to the Wood Thrush, who nests in our woodlands, and returns to the tropics for the winter. The Hermit Thrush will nest in New England and Canada.

The Hermit Thrush is smaller and less colorful than its cousin the robin. It is a brown bird with spots on its breast and a reddish-brown tail that it pumps while perched. It has a thin white eye-ring. Hermit Thrushes like dry, brushy woods; I often see one or two or more while following the Red Trail at the Ivy Creek Natural Area. Sometimes I hear the bird before I see it. It gives a quiet little "chuck" and sometimes a slurred whistle. Hermit Thrushes will come to your yard if you offer water. I have discovered that they also like a hot pepper suet cake.

Field Trips

Organized by John Davis

Secluded Farm

Saturday, October 5, 7:30am

Led by Dave Hogg

Dave Hogg will lead this easy walk across the grassy trails of Secluded Farm. We should see a variety of songbirds, including some migrating warblers.

Directions: Meet in the **parking lot on Dairy Barn Road**, near the intersection of Route 20 and Route 53, across from the entrance to PVCC.

Preddy Creek Trail Park

Saturday, Oct. 12, 7:30am

Led by Doug Rogers

The club had two successful outings to this site last year and we are hoping to see some lingering warblers.

Directions: Route 29 north, four miles beyond Airport Road turn right onto **Burnley Station Road**. Travel 2.6 miles and the park entrance is on the left. We will meet in the park's parking area.

Licking Hole Creek

Saturday, Oct. 26, 8:00am

Led by Peter Brask

Licking Hole Creek is an interesting birding area, with the trail beside the pond offering a rich variety of habitat. This very successful trip has been led by Peter Brask for the past three years, and he will once more serve as our guide on Oct. 26.

Directions: Meet Peter in the parking lot of the **Mudhouse on the Square** in **Crozet**. Out of consideration to the residential neighborhood, we will carpool from there.

From the Field...

Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch Is in Full Swing!

August 15 through November, Coordinators: *Vic Laubach and Brenda Tekin*

In their Monticello Bird Alert posting, Vic and Brenda invited us to drive on up to the Rockfish Gap Hawkwatch to take part in this incredible fall phenomenon right in our own back yard. Daily totals are regularly posted on the Bird Alert.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/monticellobirdalert/>

Have you been keeping track? The official talliers have been put through a workout, clicking their counters like mad, as over 23,000 Broad-winged Hawks have flown southward for the month of September at the time of this writing!



*Kettle of Broad-winged Hawks
Photo from <http://hmana.blogspot.com>*

Notes from BRYBC

by *Gabriel Mapel*

The Blue Ridge Young Birders Club is enjoying Fall Migration. We have field trips scheduled to look for migrating warblers and other songbirds, as well as raptors. We finished our successful season of Bluebird trail monitoring at PVCC.

We ask for your support. We are an affiliate with BOTH Eagle Optics and amazon.com. If you are in the market for new optics, or ordering from Amazon, please first go to our website www.blueridgeyoungbirders.org and click on the Eagle Optics or Amazon link. Then on the commercial website, find your item and order it. If ordering on the phone, just say you are going through the Blue Ridge Young Birders. That way, the young birders will get a 5% commission. THANKS!



Club News...

Birdseed Sale

by *Jim Hill*

The Birdseed Order form is on page 5 of this newsletter. If you prefer to order and pay electronically, please go to our website: www.monticellobirdclub.org

Note that this year four prices are LOWER (a real savings on Black Oil Sunflower Seeds—it's time to stock up!), eight prices remain the same, and only three prices are raised (by one dollar each). Help spread the word to make our only Fund Raiser of the year a smashing success!

We also need your assistance to make the sale run smoothly. We will need people to call every purchaser late in the week of Nov. 4. On Birdseed Pickup Day, November 9, 2013, between 8:00 AM and 11:00 AM, we will need administrators to see that the purchases are accurately loaded and loaders to do the heavy work. I will have a sign-up sheet at the October MBC Meeting; bring your volunteering spirit with you!



*Photo by Markus Leupold-Löwenthal
Wikimedia Commons*

Treasurer's Notes

by *Maynard K. Davis*

The Board has approved a break-even budget for this year with the following ambitious goals:

1. 132 members, up from 122 last year, and
2. birdseed sales of \$8,000, up from \$6,790 last year.

We appreciate everyone's help to achieve these goals. Let me (davismk@sbcglobal.net) know if you have any questions. And be sure to take advantage of our new online payment capability for both membership dues and birdseed purchases. See the MBC website.

Thanks, Maynard

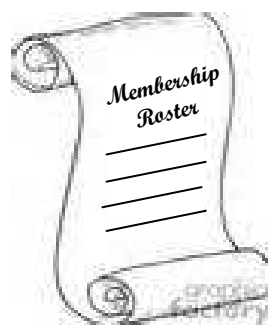


Membership Notes

by *Lesslie Crowell*

We're about halfway through our annual membership drive. We have 64 paid memberships, including 12 new members (Welcome!), 3 Contributing and 10 Sponsor members (Thank you!) If you haven't renewed your membership yet, remember that you can do so online at our website.

Thank you, Lesslie.



More from the President about The Birding Trail

by *Doug Rogers*

Earlier this year, Stauffer Miller and I met with a local landowner and obtained his permission to build a birding trail on property in the northern part of Albemarle County on Gilbert Station Road near the railroad tracks.

We had two very productive work parties there and chopped and sawed out a trail. However, the trail has seen virtually no use since. At this summer's Board meeting, it was decided that we would thank the landowner and abandon the trail.

Several members have received permission cards, signed by the owner and issued by me, to this land. Kindly return these to me or destroy them. After October 15th of this year, we will abandon this trail and cancel the Club's liability insurance for this property. Please do not go on this land after this date without first obtaining permission for yourself, not as an MBC member, from the landowner. If you have any questions, please email or call me. *Thanks, Doug*

MBC Minutes, September 12, 2013

submitted by Peggy Cornett, Secretary



President Doug Rogers brought the meeting to order at 7 PM and began by asking for recent bird sightings. Summer Tanagers, Chestnut-sided Warblers, and Baltimore Orioles were seen near Richmond. Lou Tanner spotted two Ravens at the Charlotte County border.

There were 43 members and guests at the meeting, including five newcomers. We had introductions from: Manual Lender, an ecology professor at UVA; Judy Lautner; Pat Wood; and Blair Amberly, who goes on the First Saturday bird walks at Ivy Creek with his 7-year-old son.

John Davis reported on field trips. First he thanked trip leaders from this past May as well as Dave Hogg, who hosted the Night Hawk watch at Ivy Creek in August. John is leading the upcoming trip to Rockfish Valley Trails; on Sept. 21 Stauffer leads a trip to Fan Mountain; Sept. 28 John Davis and Stauffer Miller will lead a trip to Trump Winery in Central Albemarle County. Stauffer reports that there are some outstanding patches of weeds and bird habitat at the Trump property. On Oct.12 Doug Rogers leads a trip to Preddy Creek. John asked for more responses to his field trips survey. So far there has been a weak response for a trip to Chincoteague.

It was announced that Gabriel Mapel was featured in The Journal of the Hawk Migration Association of North America and also appeared on Channel 29 News for a story about the Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch.

Maynard Davis began the treasurer's report by announcing that last year we had a \$67 surplus and this year's approved budget has a \$7 surplus. The budget is based on a projected membership of 132, which is ten more than last year. Membership renewals can now be made online using a secure browser. We are projecting \$8,000 in bird seed sales. This year delivery service will be available. Other bird seed sale announcements will appear in the upcoming newsletter.

Joanne Bricker talked about her ideas for new columns in the newsletter. She would like to print personal birding experiences from members, relating the joys of birding. Jenny Gaden will be posting a regular birding tidbits column; there will be reports on the birds seen on the Ivy Creek walks; and we'll enjoy reports from the Blue Ridge Young Birders Club. Next issue will have bird seed sale information and Joanne can forward PDF formatted flyers to those interested.

Stauffer Miller had a request from Gary Morse, who lives on Park Street and who is blind. He would like to learn about birding by their songs and vocalizations. (See addendum to Stauffer's article on page 1.)

The Joy of Birding

... a personal sharing of stories by MBC members

This column needs you! Please consider submitting your personal story of a poignant birding experience to share with our community of birding and nature enthusiasts.

Thank you,
Joanne



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Visit our website at
www.monticellobirdclub.org
for club and membership information.

The **Club meets** on the **second Thursday** of each month, September through June, at the **Education Building of the Ivy Creek Natural Area** on Earlysville Rd, 1/2 mile north of Hydraulic Rd.

The editor of the **MBC Newsletter** welcome submissions, including articles, photographs and notices. **DEADLINE** for each issue is **9:00AM on the 20th** of the month.

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