



Monticello Bird Club

September 2012

Volume 27 Issue 1

Comments from The President

Lou Tanner

Soon be warblers and hawks. A reproduction of an antique map that decorated the wall in my father's den read "there be monsters" beyond where the boundaries of current geographical knowledge lay. Since that grammar did not accord with what I was learning in school, it seemed to violate the right way to do things but the image of wildness was exciting. It still is.

A recent trip to Boston took us to the Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology, where Nabokov spent hours with his beloved butterflies and dinosaur skeletons and dead birds in their hundreds can be examined. My life bird list has exploded though whether birds that expired over a century ago can be called 'lifers' remains to be decided. A committee can be appointed to rule on this one, but I will not hold my breath.

People did Natural History differently back then. Without the high-tech goodies we now possess, there was no option though it still leaves one a little queasy to ponder all that slaughter. Nevertheless, to my mind anyway, it was a necessary step in the History of Natural History and we can still pay a qualified sort of homage to those ultra-serious Victorians who spent hours out in fields and forests looking for specimens. A young child's imagination could still be set on fire by an afternoon at the Museum. Some might never quite recover their senses, which presumably is the point.

Dear MBC Members,

I am your membership chair, again making a plea for saving natural resources as well as MBC resources by switching your newsletter from a mailed to an emailed copy. For those who prefer having the paper copy, I suggest printing your own from the emailed version.

We have revised the 2012-2013 Membership Form— included in this newsletter--so that the category of Individual member paying \$15 dues and requesting a mailed newsletter is asked to include an additional \$10, which about covers the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter for one year. Under this plan, an individual's dues will support speakers and club projects with the full \$15 rather than with only \$5. Those members unable to receive the newsletter electronically will not be required to pay the additional \$10.

For questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me at lessliecrowell@aol.com or 434-295-1395.

*Sincerely,
Lesslie Crowell*

Joelle Buffa is September Speaker

Stauffer Miller

Leading off our speaker parade for 2012-13 will be Joelle Buffa. She comes to us with an assist from Janet Paisley, who brought her to my attention. Joelle will be speaking on **September 13th at 7:00pm** about birds and birding in Cuba.

Joelle is a supervisory wildlife biologist at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge. Prior to coming there she was manager of the Farallon Islands California National Wildlife Refuge. In 2008, just after coming to Chincoteague, she discovered the nest of a loggerhead turtle. Chincoteague is at the northern limit of nesting for that species of turtle.

Joelle will talk about a recent excursion to Cuba in which she was a participant and was led by that country's foremost bird authority, Arturo Kirkconnell. Their group found over 150 species in two weeks of birding. Two highlights were the tiny Bee Hummingbird and the elusive Blue-headed Quail-dove. The latter is endangered and seriously declining in number.

We take our speakers to dinner at the Brick Oven Restaurant, beside the Kroger Grocery Store at Rio Hill Shopping Center. Food and service are excellent at the Brick Oven so I invite you to join us at 5:30pm.

Our speaker for October 11th will be Gabriel Mapel, our junior birder par excellence. Gabriel will give a program about his junior big year of birding in 2011. Please come and welcome Joelle in September and Gabriel in October.



Monticello Bird Club

Club Activities

Organized By John Davis

First Saturday Bird Walk

Saturday, September 1, 7:30am

Join Peter Dutnell for the first Saturday bird walk on September 1 at Ivy Creek Natural area at 7:30. Despite the warm temperatures, many of our songbirds are starting to migrate, including the jewels of the birding world, warblers.

Beginners and novice birders are welcomed. Walks usually last 1-2 hours.

A Visit to Fan Mountain

Saturday, September 15, 8:00am

Fan Mountain is an isolated mountain a few miles south of North Garden. Meet at the Crossroads Store at North Garden at 8:00am. We'll make frequent stops as we ascend the mountain, walk some atop it and have restrooms available there. We should see some warblers and other fall

migrants. From there we may visit a few other places. We should be back at the store no later than 1:00pm. Leader: Stauffer Miller, 434-296-5505, stauffer@seepub.com



Nighthawk Watch

Monday, August 27, 7:00pm

Wednesday, August 29, 7:00pm

Don't miss the exciting evening flights of migrating nighthawks! With luck, we might observe their acrobatics as they feed over the native grass field. Join Dave Hogg for these evenings, beginning at the Ivy Creek Natural Area parking lot.



Scheier Natural Area, Fluvanna County

Saturday, September 22, 7:30am

Join Eve Gaige and Gabriel Mapel for a bird walk at the Scheier Natural Area in Fluvanna County, near Palmyra. Eve and Gabriel birded Scheier this spring but were among the first people to bird this un-birded park, with the exception of a few visits by John Zimmerman who created the initial Scheier Natural Area bird list. Because of the lack of birding that has been done at Scheier, we don't know exactly what to expect for birding. There are great habitats including ponds, woods, fields, a stream, and more so who knows what we might see! Once we are at Scheier the bird walk will likely last 2-3 hours, depending on how active the birds are. Come join in the fun at a new location during fall migration!

Meeting place and time: 7:30am at the lot at Dairy Barn Road, right near the junction of Routes 20 and 53. Gabriel will meet the group there, help to arrange carpooling and lead the group to Scheier where Eve will meet us. The drive from the Dairy Barn lot to Scheier is just about 30 minutes. If anyone would prefer to drive directly to Scheier, meet us there at about 8:00am. Parking is limited so carpooling is suggested. More information about Scheier Natural Area, including directions if you plan to drive yourself can be found at: <http://www.rivannariver.org/scheier.html>

Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch Open House on September 8 from 11:30am—1:30pm

Brenda Tekin

The start of the 37th season at Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch has begun and we're off to a great start! Although raptor migration typically is slow during this time of year, within the first week we tallied 154, including eight Bald Eagles and 132 Broadwings. We will be holding an OPEN HOUSE at the hawk watch on Saturday, September 8, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm. Please plan to visit to meet some of our volunteer counters, learn about what we do, how we do it and why, try out some binoculars and spotting scopes (donated by our new sponsors, Bushnell and Eagle Optics), and hawk watching. Free refreshments will be provided.

The Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch is held on the grounds of the Inn at Afton, located on the southern side of Rockfish Gap in the Blue Ridge Mountains, right off I-64 exit 99 (at the intersections with Rt. 250, the southern end of the Skyline Drive and the northern end of the Blue Ridge Parkway) just 5 miles east of Waynesboro and 20 miles west of Charlottesville. The hawk watch provides panoramic views of the gap and both the Shenandoah Valley to the west and the Piedmont Region to the east. Be sure to bring your binoculars, a lawn chair and sunscreen! We'd love to have you visit and experience the raptor migration (and help us spot the hawks)! We are sponsored by the three area bird clubs, Augusta, Monticello and Rockingham, Bushnell Optics, and Eagle Optics and hosted by The Inn at Afton.

For further information or questions please visit our website www.rockfishgaphawkwatch.org. See you at "The Watch" soon!

From Your "Old" Treasurer

Doug Rogers

Your treasurer has morphed from your "NEW" treasurer to your "OLD" treasurer; the message, however, is essentially the same this year – but with some exciting news.

In every organization, there are members who are said to be "in good standing." These members are defined as persons who participate in the Club's activities, support the Club's goals and are "known to the Treasurer."

It is that time of year again when you are needed to be "known to the Treasurer." The membership application form is included in this Newsletter. Please note the change for Individual Memberships. Use this form to both renew your membership and to join as a new member. If you don't know whether your dues are current or not, please email me at doug5996@gmail.com.

Our Club pays its bills and contributes to other like-minded organizations with funds received from members' dues and our only fund-raiser, the Bird Seed Sale. During the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2012 our Club contributed a total of over \$2,200 to American Bird Conservancy, Ivy Creek Foundation, Audubon CBC, The Nature Conservancy and the VSO. In addition, we paid an honorarium to our excellent speakers that totaled around \$1,000. Revenue from membership dues and our net profit from the Bird Seed Sale paid for all of this.

This coming year we will again have exciting Field Trips, great presenters and we are investigating the possibility of forming a Junior Monticello Bird Club with members from 12 to 18 years of age. We will continue to contribute to the organizations mentioned above and make a difference in our community. And we will continue to share our birding skills, have great camaraderie and create memorable experiences in birding.

On Tuesday, August 21, 2012 the long-awaited letter from the IRS arrived! The Monticello Bird Club is now officially a non-profit, tax exempt organization under Section 501 (c) 3 or the Internal Revenue Code. As such, all contributions to the Club are tax deductible and we are eligible to receive grants for special projects. The effective date of our new status is October 6, 2011.

Immediately after I received the IRS' approval, I re-opened our application for exemption of the VA Sales and Use Tax. On Saturday August 25, I received our confirmation that the Club is exempt from VA Sales and Use Tax. The big thing that this means to us is that we won't have to pay approximately \$300 for VA Sales Tax when we make this year's buy for bird seed.

Now it is time to be creative! What special projects would you like to undertake? Go on-line and identify sources of grant money and let's match up the sources of grant money with your projects. When you find one or more, please propose them to the Board for approval and assistance. I will personally assist you in writing the grant application, if need be.

To keep our club vital and vibrant, this year I ask you to do three things:

1. Renew your membership before October 1.
2. Bring a friend, acquaintance, neighbor, co-worker or relative to a meeting when there is a program that would interest them.
3. Support the Bird Seed Sale.

Together, let's make this a great year of birding!!

Virginia Young Birders Club

Eve Gaige

MBC is in the process of starting a Young Birders Club (YBC) in order to bring young people interested in nature together with a community of their peers.

Gabriel Mapel, our Publicity Chair, will be a leader in the group. Eve Gaige will be our Adult Coordinator.

We need to identify a core group of young birders to form a Youth Advisory Council, which will be the foundation the VAYBC. In addition we need adults willing to support the club (perhaps providing transportation for field trips etc.). The club is in a formational stage so all input and ideas are welcome (especially from young people).

Our intention, beyond enjoying time in nature, is to encourage youth leadership and exploration of conservation careers. Involvement in a YBC provides a unique opportunity for adults to promote appreciation of nature and develop young people's interest in the future of conservation.

So please get the word out to your children, grandchildren, neighbors etc. Anyone who is interested or has any questions please feel free to

Monticello Bird Club

Monticello Bird Club Board Meeting Minutes, August 2, 2012

Submitted by Peggy Cornett, Secretary

Present: Peg Watson, John Davis, Lou Tanner, Doug Rogers, Stauffer Miller, Jim Hill, Eve Gage, Lesslie Crowell, Ron and Priscilla Kingston, Peggy Cornett.

Eve Gaige began the meeting with a proposal to start a Youth Birding Club based on similar clubs in Ohio, PA, and NY. The club could be independent or under the Monticello Bird Club umbrella. Board members discussed decisions that would have to be addressed, such as the possible age parameters (i.e. 12-18), and dues (possibly \$10 for youth, \$20 for adults), producing an electronic newsletter, having an annual convention, and the role adults would play as supporters, advisors via an advisory panel, as drivers to meetings and field trips, etc. The Youth Birding Club could reach out to 4-H groups, homeschoolers, and could also seek funding for purchasing binoculars. The board unanimously agreed that this is a great idea and encouraged Eve to continue her research, to contact the VSO, and to write an article for the upcoming newsletter. Doug Rogers will research liability insurance issues. Gabriel Mapel, who is very excited about this idea, will also give a presentation on his big year.

Doug Rogers led the discussion on the 2013 budget proposal:

Membership goals: the board voted to budget for a net gain of 10 family memberships and eight individual memberships.

Dues: Doug explained that it is becoming more and more expensive to print and mail the newsletter. Membership is \$15 and it now costs about \$11/year per member to mail the newsletter, leaving only \$4 to cover the cost of meetings and other MBC expenses. He proposed that membership should be raised to \$25 for those who want a mailed newsletter, but to stay the same for those receiving it electronically. The board voted to make the following changes. Lesslie and Peg will re-design the membership form to reflect the changes.

Bird Seed Sale: Jim Hill reported that Wetsel's, the bird seed supplier, is reorganizing, but the cost of seed should remain around the same. We are planning on having gross sales from bird seed to be \$8,000 and the cost of that seed - including what we donate - to be \$6,450. This would leave a net profit of \$1,550, which funds our memberships in other non-profit organizations.

Club donations and memberships in other non-profit organizations: board members elected to maintain memberships in The Nature Conservancy, Ivy Creek Foundation, ABC, CBC, and VSO. The board also decided to add memberships to NRDC, the Wildlife Center, and to provide \$200 for bird feeders. The proposed budget was approved as revised.

"Gardening for Birds"

with

Guest Speaker Bill Leaning

Wednesday, September 12 at 7:30pm

Ivy Creek Natural Area Education Building

Presented by

Jefferson Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

All MBC members are invited.

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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