



Monticello Bird Club

November 2014 Newsletter

Website: www.monticellobirdclub.org

Volume 29

Issue 3

Facebook: [Monticello Bird Club](#)

MBC Monthly Meeting—Thursday, November 13th at 7:00pm

Comments from the President

Doug Rogers

So, what's up with your president? For the past two months I have been treated for a herniated disk in my lower back. It has been two months that I never want to repeat! I will spare you the details. The good news is that, beginning today, I can drive again and will be working on rebuilding my stamina and fitness. You might even see me at a birding event or a Club meeting soon.

Let's turn now to a vision for the future of our Club. In November I want to convene a meeting of a Team consisting of some long-time members and some relative newcomers. It will be a brainstorming session with every idea considered. We will look at such questions/issues as:

- Should we move the Club more in the direction of Facebook or Twitter? (I have no idea how to do this!)
- How do we attract new and enthusiastic members and keep them involved?
- Should we have a list-serv? Should we join an existing list-serv?
- Should we have refreshments before or after meetings or continue to not have them at all? (The Hampton Roads Club has refreshments before their meetings.)
- What are the demographics of our membership? Who is coming to the meetings and who is not and why? Why do people join?
- Should we sponsor nest cameras at schools like the Virginia Bluebird Society does? (We can get good advice on how to do this from the VBS.)
- Should we focus more on "Backyard Birding" and have programs about backyard feeding, gardening for wildlife, etc.?



These are only my ideas; I welcome yours!

We now have two vacant Board positions. Those of us who already had jobs have absorbed those jobs. I will solicit the Team's ideas on how to get those positions filled for next year.

Please contact me with your willingness to serve on this Team. My email and phone number are both shown on the last page of this newsletter. Ideally, I would like to hear from you before the November meeting. As a member of this Team you will be making a significant contribution to the future direction of the MBC!

Speaker of the Month: Nell Fredericksen

Stauffer Miller

The November 13th speaker at the bird club will be **Nell Fredericksen**. Nell and her husband Todd work at Ferrum College near Roanoke and also raise horses. Nell and Todd lived for six years in the South American country of **Bolivia**. They visited forests little touched by humans that were rich in color, scent and sound. She also conducted research there on the effects of sustainable logging on local birds, mammals and reptiles. She and her husband traveled extensively in Bolivia and in doing so experienced its varied bird populations from the lowlands to the Andes. Her experiences in Bolivia also influenced her artwork. Nell is a many-dimensional person who I am sure will give an excellent presentation. I hope you can come to hear her talk on one of the world's most beautiful yet least-known countries.

For the talk of December 11th, Elizabeth Evans will be with us. Elizabeth is with the Loudoun County, Virginia Wildlife Conservancy which has done much to create awareness of wildlife diversity in that part of the state. She has studied monarch butterflies and will talk about their biology and environmental plight. Much has been in the news recently about the decline of monarch populations so this should be a compelling talk.

We take our speakers to dinner. We continue to dine at the Brick Oven Restaurant at Rio Hill shopping center. Our server there is Clara. She is Albanian and is a delight. Come meet Clara as well as our speaker Nell on November 13th at the Brick Oven at 5:30 pm. Hope to see you there or afterward at Ivy Creek.



Andean Condor
photo by Dic Culbert
Wikimedia Commons

First Saturday Bird Walk

November 1st at 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 - Fall 2014

Sept 6....Tom Jones

Oct. 4 Leigh Surdukowski

Nov. 1 ... Stauffer Miller

Dec. 6 ... Dave Hogg

For information about opportunities and events at Ivy Creek Natural Area, follow this link to the [Ivy Creek Foundation Public Program Calendar](#).

Birding Tidbits

...about a bird you might find on the Bird Walk at Ivy Creek in November
by Jenny Gaden

Downy Woodpecker

The Downy Woodpecker, our smallest woodpecker, is found in all of our Albemarle County woods as well as at our feeders. A black and white bird with white stripes on the head and a prominent white stripe down the center of the back, it got its common name from Mark Catesby, an American colonial naturalist. He observed that the feathers on the white stripe at the lower back were soft, as opposed to the more hairy feathers in the same place on the larger Hairy Woodpecker. (My bet is that he shot the birds thus availing himself of the opportunity to touch and look closely at them.) You can tell the difference between the male and female Downy by observing the way they forage for insects and other invertebrates. The female Downy prefers the trunk and larger branches while the male chooses smaller branches. If, however, that doesn't work for you, notice that the male has a red nape bar and the female doesn't.



Downy Woodpecker
Photo by Eve Gaige

Field Trips

Organized by Gabriel Mapel



Panorama Farms

Date: Sunday, November 2nd

Meeting Place & Time: 8:00am
Ivy Creek Parking Area

Leader: Stauffer Miller
stauffer@seepub.com

We will carpool from Ivy Creek the short distance to the farms. First will be a walk in the composting area of the farm, then a walk to a pond. This trip has to be on a Sunday, as heavy equipment is in operation at the farm other days.

Riverview Park

Date: Saturday, November 15th

Meeting Place & Time: 7:30am
Riverview Park Parking Lot

Leader: Gabriel Mapel
birdmangabriel@yahoo.com
540-363-5035

Please join Gabriel at Riverview Park, a part of the Rivanna Trail system that often has interesting birds. We will take a morning stroll and hope to find sparrows, kinglets, creepers, and other late fall migrants and resident birds.

Directions: Riverview Park is at the eastern terminus of Chesapeake Street, past Riverview 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, and follow that road one block to the "confluence" of Chesapeake and the Park.

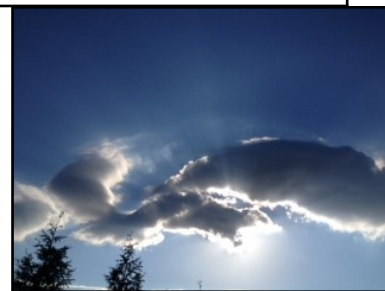
MBC Crozet Trip Report

by Gabriel Mapel

On Saturday, October 18th, I led a Bird Trip to the Crozet area. There were 27 birders in attendance, including 9 young birders from the Blue Ridge Young Birders Club. It was an absolutely gorgeous morning to be out, but bird activity was on the low side, in part due to the gusty winds. The glorious sun allowed for beautiful views of two kestrels and 3 species of hawk, and we ended up with a total of 40 species for the day.



Part of the crew of 27 at Beaver Creek
Photo by Mary Mapel



Birds at Sparrow Road
(behind clouds)
Photo by Peter Brask

Bird Seed Sale Pick-up—Saturday, November 1, 2014

Rev your engines and come on in to the Department of Forestry Warehouse on Saturday, November 1st between 8am and 1pm to pick up your bird seed order. Members of the Bird Seed Sale Team will graciously greet you and carefully load your wares. We will be holding orders for those of you who have already notified us and contacting you promptly to arrange alternative pick-up plans. Maynard and Doug will soon have the final results of the sale tallied. There was a flurry of order activity on the sale website during the last few days of the sale, so stay tuned...**(late bulletin—we reached our fundraising goal!)**

We appreciate your supporting MBC.



Treasurer's Notes

by Maynard K. Davis



Financial results are in line with budget so far this year. Club expenses are at normal levels. Our birdseed sale goal (\$10,000) is ambitious, but it is definitely within reach as the sale draws to a close.

The Board has approved a \$125 scholarship award to Andrew Rapp for attendance at next summer's Audubon Hog Island (Maine) camp. Andrew is one of the dynamic leaders of the Blue Ridge Young Birders' Club. This continues a tradition started last summer, when Gabriel Mapel attended Hog Island camp,

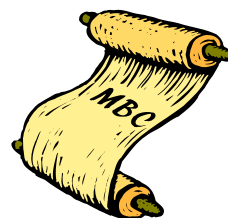
Best,
Maynard

Membership Notes

by Lesslie Crowell

MBC extends a very warm welcome to our newest member, Susan Babineau.

The fall membership drive continues through November. Those who have not yet renewed can do so by check or online.



Best,
Lesslie

MBC Minutes—October 9, 2014

Submitted by Peggy Cornett



Immediate past-president Lou Tanner filled in for Doug Rogers, who was recovering from back issues, and started by welcoming newcomers. Thirty people attended the meeting.

-Lesslie Crowell announced new members: Eric Davis (Maynard's son) and Carolyn Polk.

-Lou made some general announcements about supporting wildlife conservation by buying duck stamps. He reminded members that Panorama Farm is privately owned and birders should contact the Murray family for permission to bird on the property.

-Treasurer Maynard Davis was also not present and Lesslie Crowell reminded us that membership renewals are due. She encouraged everyone to buy bird seed. Orders are due by October 22; pick-up on November 1, 8 AM-1 PM, at the Forestry Department. Prices are lower this year, and seed can be held for alternative pick-up if noted on the order. Membership renewals and bird seed orders can be placed online.

-Gabriel Mapel gave the Field Trip report. There were three in September: Fan Mountain (Stauffer Miller), Rockfish Valley Trail (Janet Paisley), and Lickinghole Creek in Crozet (Peter Brask). There is a walk scheduled October 11 at Secluded Farm (Dave Hogg); Oct. 18, King Family Vineyard and Sparrow Road in Crozet (Gabriel Mapel); and Oct. 25 at Belvedere Trail (Leigh Surdukowski). November 2 Stauffer will lead a trip to Panorama Farm.

-Ruth Douglas mentioned a recent Washington Post article on a Hawk catching a drone. The video has now gone viral and has been picked up by several major news broadcasts.

-Unusual bird sighting reports: Lou Tanner saw a Black-throated Blue Warbler on the Downtown Mall recently. Gabriel reported that it was a great season for the Rockfish Hawk Watch; this included sightings of Northern Goshawk, Swainson's Hawk, Nelson's Sparrow, and a Black-throated Green Warbler caught in a spider web (which he was able to set free). Stauffer mentioned that he received an email from a friend who has a male Painted Bunting at his feeder. The address is 310 Lake Forest Lane. Betty Moony saw Red-headed Woodpeckers at Veritas Vineyard & Winery. The birds were flying back and forth between two oak trees. Ron and Priscilla Kingston still have Ruby-throated Hummingbirds at their feeder. Lou still sees Chimney Swifts near Downtown Charlottesville, especially at chimneys behind the gas station (formerly owned by Patricia Kluge) on the corner of 9th and East Market Street.

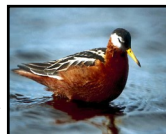
The Joy of Birding a personal sharing of stories and photos by MBC members



Editor's Note: I once again called upon West Coast avian researcher Max Czapanskiy, son of MBC members Karen and Dana Czapanskiy, and asked him to recount for us this wondrous encounter from the wilds of Cooper Island (way "up" there off the northern Alaska coast) from the summer of 2013. He obligingly searched through his archives, dusted up his writing pen, and sent us this gem.... Read on and be amazed.

One Smart (Red Phalarope) Chick

Submitted by Max Czapanskiy



Red Phalarope adult (left)
Parasitic Jaeger (right)
Photos courtesy of
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Cooper Island has treated us to a series of **thisworldly** experiences. **Thisworldly?** I'll explain.

One of the privileges of field work is its immersion in the natural world. My typical experiences in Seattle, such as driving my car and reading articles on my laptop, are artifacts of a purely human system. Compared to my quotidian tasks, life on the island is certainly otherworldly. However, I would argue that watching a guillemot fly in over the north shore with a cod for its chicks has more grounding in the real world than anything I've ever done at a desk. In my mind, the latter is the otherworldly event; nature's performances are all **thisworldly**.

Today's performance features a villain and a hero. The former: a nefarious Parasitic Jaeger. Jaegers are gulls' kleptomaniac cousins and a good portion of their diet is composed of prey items stolen from upstanding seabirds. You know, the kind of seabirds that have a job, pay their rent, and raise their kids. Furthermore, jaegers are nothing if not opportunistic. Why bother stealing food if killing and eating another bird presents itself? Enter our protagonist: a juvenile Red Phalarope (small, sandpiper-esque shorebirds) freshly fledged from his parents' nest.

This morning, as we were walking from E to D subcolony, we looked up to see a flock of phalaropes flush at the sight of the Parasitic Jaeger. Like the Millennium Falcon keying in on a Tie Fighter, the jaeger set his sights on our young friend. The pursuit was intense. Jaegers may be related to gulls but they fly like a falcon. The pair banked, dived, hit the brakes, and then accelerated. The pursuit unfolded a mere twenty feet over our heads. Each time the phalarope dipped closer to us, the jaeger would pull up - keeping his distance - before re-engaging. Our clever young friend started to realize his advantage and his flight pattern began tightening around us. The jaeger was discouraged but didn't give up until the phalarope actually landed on the ground between the three of us. He shuffled over to stand between my legs and waited for his pursuer to fly away. As if saluting us, our tiny companion tilted his head and rejoined his flock.

The chase was as **thisworldly** of an experience as I've ever had.

Thoughts at mid-October submitted by Peter Brask

Beautiful fall day after a chilly morning (36° here). First flock of Purple Finches in the pm along with a late hummingbird. Still haven't heard the Hermit Thrush or Red B. Nuthatch. White throats returned 10/12, a bit later every year, it seems.

Last Saturday I attended the MBC trip led by Gabriel. When I got to the meeting place I was shocked at the size of the group. 27 people, I think, many of them the "Young Birders" and parents of. When we got to Beaver Ck. Dam, I was again shocked (and amazed) at the sight of these kids running every which way with binocs and shouting out the names of birds. I've never seen birding like that. All I could do was laugh! So Kudos to Gabriel and others who've helped put that together.

Looking forward to some good winter birds, and what ARE kudos?



Mark Your Calendars!

The 2014 Charlottesville Christmas Bird Count is set for Sunday, December 14.

Details to follow in the December newsletter.



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Monticello Bird Club
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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 Earlsville Rd, 1/2 mile north of Hydraulic Rd.

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

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Birdseed Sale	VACANT		