



Monticello Bird Club

October 2014 Newsletter

Website: www.monticellobirdclub.org

Volume 29

Issue 2

Facebook: [Monticello Bird Club](https://www.facebook.com/MonticelloBirdClub)

MBC Monthly Meeting—Thursday, October 9th at 7:00pm

Comments from the President

Doug Rogers

FALL — *It's not only that beloved and familiar time of year when birds are migrating, but also it's the season when Monticello Bird Club launches its only fundraiser, our annual **MBC Bird Seed Sale.***



We start the planning in August — shopping for the best wholesale prices, making sure we can use the same location for Pick-up Day (Saturday, November 1, 8am to 1pm), planning how to advertise the sale, deciding how to track the orders so everyone will get what they paid for, and looking for help with loading it all into our customers' vehicles. Last year, we sold over 11,000 pounds of seed! Our treasurer, Maynard Davis, and I will plan and steer this year's operation, but we asked for help and we got it. This year's enthusiastic **volunteer team (Stacey Aikman, Jenny Gaden, Tom Leback, Chris Murray, Janet Paisley, Jon Rockett, and Sylvia Ward)** will cheerfully greet you and carefully load your orders into your vehicles at the Department of Forestry on Pick-up Day.

However, in order to put this team to work and to finance local MBC Bird Seed Sale ads through The Charlottesville Radio Group (have you heard our ad yet?), **we need your help** with bird seed sales. Our seed prices are competitive (many are lower than last year), and the seed comes directly from a small, caring Amish farm to your backyard feeder (via the MBC Bird Seed Team!). Orders must be received by Wed, Oct. 22 to be processed for the Nov. 1 delivery. Here's how each and every MBC member can help make our sale a success.

- Please talk up the sale with your family, friends, neighbors, and whoever else will listen!
- Distribute flyers and order forms. (PDFs for you to print out are included with this newsletter email).
- Carry them with you to hand out to interested bird lovers, who may order by mail or online. Please direct potential customers to our website www.monticellobirdclub.org for specific ordering information.
- Don't forget to place **your** order too!

We will continue to use our earnings to support nature-related projects and organizations plus undertake some other creative projects in the community — like putting nest cameras in selected bluebird boxes in elementary schools. Do you have any ideas for other projects? If so, you know how to reach me.

Thank you for your efforts to promote our MBC Bird Seed Sale!

Speaker of the Month: Peter Nebel — Birds of Korea

Stauffer Miller

Our September speaker, Fletcher Smith, will be hard to top but I'm not sure our **October 9th** speaker might not do it. Peter Nebel has spoken to our group before and I think all who heard him enjoyed his combination of information and humor. Peter is trained as a biologist and has had a varied career working on environmental matters and international development. His five years spent in the small city of Kunsan on South Korea's Yellow Sea gave him the opportunity to learn about the birds of that part of the world. His talk will examine the birds, culture and environmental problems of Korea. Peter lives in Waynesboro.

Our November 13th talk will be given by Nell Frederickson of Ferrum College. Nell is both an artist and birder. She has spent a number of years in Bolivia, and will be speaking about that avian-rich country that embraces tropical lowlands and Andean high country.

As usual, all are welcome to have dinner with the speaker. We meet at the Brick Oven Restaurant in Rio Hill shopping area at 5:30 pm. Hope to see you there, at the meeting at 7:00 pm or at both.



Juvenile **Oriental Scops Owl**
Otus sunia
photo © Robin Newlin

First Saturday Bird Walk

October 4th 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 October

by Jenny Gaden

The Kinglets

The smallest bird to visit us in the summer is the Ruby-throated Hummingbird. By the middle of October the adult females and first year birds have followed the adult male to the tropics where they will spend the winter. Another species, actually two species, take the honored place of our smallest bird in the winter.

These are the kinglets – the Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned. Typical of birds their size

they move rapidly, often flicking their wings or hovering at tips of branches as they forage for insects and spiders and their eggs. To distinguish between the two, observe the head markings. Besides a bright yellow cap, the Golden-crowned has a white line over its eye and a



Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Photo by Donna Dewhurst
Fish and Wildlife Service

black line through it. The Ruby-crowned, with its sometimes-visible bright red crown, has no stripes on its head but an eye ring instead. Both birds have tiny bills, wing bars and yellow on the wings. They reveal themselves by voice as well – tiny, high “zee-zee-zee” sounds from the Golden-crowned and a raspy “ji-dit” from its cousin. You will find them at Ivy Creek in deciduous and coniferous trees as well as shrubs, often consorting with other birds in mixed flocks.



Golden-crowned Kinglet
Photo by Dick Daniels
Wikimedia Commons



Field Trips

Organized by Gabriel Mapel

Secluded Farm

Date: Saturday, October 11th

Meeting Place & Time: 7:30am

Thomas Jefferson Parkway Overflow Parking

Leader: Dave Hogg

dhogg@nrao.edu

This familiar area has been visited by the Club in both the spring and the fall. In October a couple of years ago, we had a nice flock of migrating Swainson's Thrushes, and we might find these and other migrants on this outing. The walk is on fairly level ground.

Directions: From south of town, head north on Route 20. Immediately after its intersection with Route 53, turn right onto Dairy Barn Road and bear right into the parking lot.

Crozet Area (“Sparrow Road”, Beaver Creek Reservoir, Old Trail, King Family Vineyards)

Date: Saturday, October 18th

Meeting Place & Time: 7:30am at the Crozet Great Valu, which is on Rte 240 just east of Crozet

Leader: Gabriel Mapel

birdmangabriel@yahoo.com

434-295-8241

Gabriel will lead a morning excursion through the Crozet area to find fall migrants. We will first carpool the short distance to Beaver Creek Reservoir where we may find some early Waterfowl. From there, we will go around the corner and drive the several mile long, aptly-nicknamed “Sparrow Road” to search for sparrows or other birds. We will then head back to the Great Value. Time permitting, some of us may want to continue on to Old Trail Pond and King Family Vineyards where we could find any early Waterfowl, late Shorebirds, or even Warblers. Return to Great Valu by 12-1pm.

Belvedere Trail

Date: Saturday, October 25th

Meeting Place & Time: 8am

RFT hiking trail sign, Belvedere Development

Leader: Leigh Surdukowski

lsurdukowski@gmail.com

434-295-8241

This 1-2 mile walk on the Rivanna Trail passes through several habitats including overgrown fields, hardwood forests and river frontage.

Directions: Belvedere Development is located off Rio Road East. Heading east from 29 on Rio Road East, make a left (just past Covenant Church) onto Belvedere Boulevard and follow it through the neighborhood and rotary to its culmination near the Rivanna Trail. Meet Leigh at this far end of the Belvedere development near the RTF hiking trail sign.

The Blue Ridge Young Birders Club

by Mary Mapel

This fall marks the second anniversary of the founding of the Blue Ridge Young Birders Club and we are delighted with how far the club has come in two years. Our membership has grown from the original four members, to twenty-four youth currently participating in field trips and meetings in the past year. We have had a diverse offering of field trips, interesting and educational presentations at our meetings, and have participated in numerous conservation and citizen science projects including a Bluebird trail at PVCC, Nightjar Survey, Christmas Bird Counts, Breeding Bird Surveys, and the Rusty Blackbird Blitz.



One of the biggest changes in the club over these two years has been the lowering of age for membership. The club is now open to anyone 7 and older who has a keen interest in birds, and who demonstrates the ability to bird quietly enough on field trips so as to not disturb the birds or the experience of the other young birders. This change was initiated by our older members who felt passionate about mentoring younger birders and teaching not only bird identification and ecology, but promoting conservation of birds for future generations. The programs for our meetings have all been presented by club members, and each field trip has been lead by young birders as well. It is so very heartwarming to see club members share their passion and knowledge of birds.

As we look to the future of the club we continue to seek ways to reach out to more youth, and to share with them the joy of discovering nature up close and personal with the birds. We are working on a traveling photo exhibit featuring bird photos taken by club members. Our vision is that this exhibit will be displayed in schools, libraries, coffee shops and other public venues as a way of sparking the public's interest in birds, while promoting the club. We are excited to be in working negotiation with a local nature center to build and install a Chimney for Swifts, providing another conservation and educational opportunity for our young birders. Lastly, we are looking forward to our participation in the 2015 Virginia Society of Ornithology meeting next May, with an offering of youth field trips, exhibits and more. It is an exciting year ahead, and we hope that young birders will flock to us, and join in the fun of discovery! Please follow this link to our website to learn more about our club BlueRidgeYoungBirders.org

The Joy of Birding a personal sharing of stories



and photos



by MBC members

Caroline Wren Fledglings Rescue

Contributed by [Ruth Douglas](#)

(Editor's Note. Ruth shared this wonderful story at our September MBC meeting. She was kind enough to put it in written form for us all to delight in this experience of a lifetime.)

One spring day a number of years ago I was in my backyard and heard Carolina Wrens raising a ruckus, as only they can, up near my metal storage shed. I figured there was probably a snake up there and walked up to investigate. As I got closer to the shed, I could hear little bonks against the walls of the shed—the mystery deepened. As I got to the partially open door of the shed, the sounds of the wrens and the little bonks got louder, so I peered inside. There were five fledgling Carolina Wrens flying around the shed and bumping into the walls. The poor parents were frantically calling them to get on out there. But they couldn't figure out how to do it.

I am not that familiar with caged birds, but recalled seeing someone put a finger against the breast of a parrot, and the bird climbed right up on their finger. In desperation, I decided to give it a try. Well, I approached the first one sitting on the back of a lawn chair, put my finger lightly against its breast, and up it climbed on to my finger. Wow! I carefully carried it outside, angled my finger against a small branch, and the fledgling climbed off my finger and on to the branch. I went back in and one by one got the youngsters on my finger and transported them to a branch. Both youngsters and parents flew off and I hope lived happily ever after. I've had families of Carolina Wrens around my yard ever since, but none ever nested in the shed again. Lesson learned.

It was such a thrill for me to have those little ones confidently climb on to my finger and ride it out to the branch, a natural moment highlight of my life.



Juvenile Carolina Wren
Photo by Susan Rose

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Treasurer's Notes

by Maynard K. Davis

Last year MBC had a \$562 surplus; the club put \$1,000 (which it will recoup) towards the VSO upcoming conference; there were 142 members; and over \$9,000 worth of bird seed was sold.

Next year, the surplus goal is \$166; membership goal is 150; bird seed sale goal \$10,000; and currently there is \$1,625 in membership dues already, with a current surplus of \$860.

Best,
Maynard



Membership Notes

Thank you to the two-thirds of our club who have renewed membership, especially our generous Sponsors and Contributing members. Please remember that unless you are a new member who joined March 1 or later, dues were payable on July 1.

You may renew by check or by using Paypal at

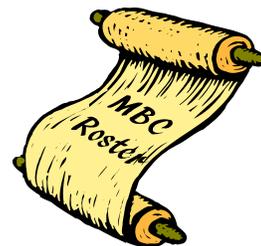
www.monticellobirdclub.org/membership.

And remember to update us with any new contact information.

MBC extends a warm welcome to the following new members:

- Mary Jo Bracken
- Eric Davis
- Mary and Bill Wardlaw

Good birding,
Lesslie



MBC Minutes—Sept. 11, 2014 Submitted by Eve Schwartz for Peggy Cornett

Kathy Sudduth opened the meeting by welcoming about eight visitors and new members. Bird sightings included a Carolina Wren story (see Joy of Birding, page 3) by Ruth Douglas; Gabriel Mapel's viewing of two Mississippi Kites and 2,000 Nighthawks at the Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch; and a Blackburnian Warbler seen by those on the First Saturday Bird Walk.

Treasurer's Report: See Maynard's column above.

Bird Seed Sale: MBC is changing bird seed suppliers after comparison shopping. The club will spend money on advertising, including radio ads. Seed can be ordered online or by check. To date more dues and bird seed payments have been made online than by check.

Membership Report: Thus far there have been 83 membership renewals. Thanks to Peggy Cornett, MBC has been invited to participate in Monticello's Heritage Harvest Festival. There was a call for volunteers to help at the event, as well as for volunteers to help with membership and publicity on an ad hoc basis. Contact Lesslie Crowell if interested.

Field Trips Report: August 25 and 27 were the viewing of the Nighthawks led by Dave Hogg. First Saturday Bird Walk was led by Tom Jones. Stauffer Miller leads a trip to Heards Mountain, Scogo Lake, and Blandemar Pond on September 13. Janet Paisley takes us to Rockfish Valley Trail September 20, and Peter Brask will once again lead the Lickinghole Creek walk on September 27. Don't forget the Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch Open House Sunday, September 14 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. October promises a trip to Secluded Farm, one to Crozet, and one to be announced by Leigh Surdukowski.

Stauffer Miller introduced the speaker, Fletcher Smith, who spoke on his work with Whimbrels.



Monticello Bird Club

P.O. Box 4362
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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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