



Monticello Bird Club

The formerly annual Gordon Avenue Library Book Sale—now held twice a year—would not be complete without at least a few copies of Edwin Way Teale's books kicking around. Teale, perhaps the best known American naturalist of the mid-twentieth century and a close friend of Roger Tory Peterson, wrote numerous books but most famous are those that chronicle an epic ramble around the United States that he began in 1947 with Nellie Imogene, his wife and eager accomplice. Partly an attempt to cope with the death of their only son in the late months of World War II, they turned their travels into an American classic that I hope will be circulating at such sales for years to come.

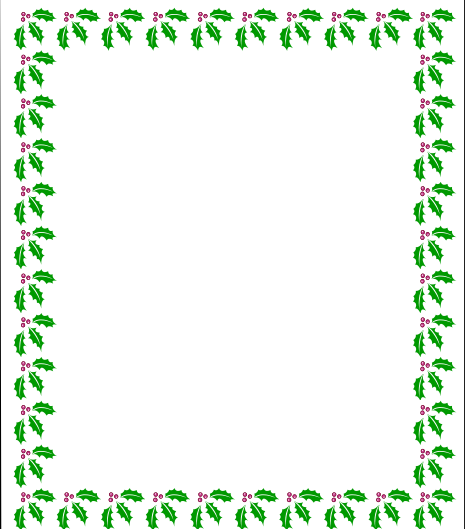
Chasing the seasons, he began with North with the Spring, then followed it with Autumn Across America, Journey into Summer, and Wandering through Winter. In all four Teale is a guide with an awesome amount of knowledge at his disposal and a gift for the sort of anecdote that sticks in the memory. At Monticello in May 1947 he notes that

Jefferson had called our cardinal the 'Virginia Nightingale' and our flicker the 'yucker' and days later, somewhere near Natural Bridge, he heard and ever after remembered a young boy whistling to himself in imitation of a wide variety of birds. Such are the treasures to be found on a trip with the Teales.

In 1947 America had more bobwhites and cerulean warblers, half as many people, no Interstate highways, and less busyness in general. A great many things are infinitely better now to be sure and I certainly harbor no serious desire to go back in time even were it possible. Still, it is a great joy to travel with such warm companions and to see the country as a great naturalist saw it at midcentury. Some years down the road, assuming there is still enough gas in the tank and gypsy in the soul, we hope to take a similar trip. Teale's books will most definitely be in the luggage.

Happy holidays.

Upcoming Field Trips	2
Christmas Bird Counts	2
Blue Ridge Young Birders Club	2
November Meeting Minutes	3
Monticello Bird Alert	4
Monticello Bird Club Contacts	4



Award-winning nature photographer Victoria Dye will speak at the December 13th bird club meeting. Her topic will be "Tips for Photographing Birds."

Since graduating from veterinary school in 1994, Victoria has developed an interest in photography that has grown and matured. As passionate about teaching as she is about photography, she has taught digital photography at several local places, including Albemarle County Open Doors and Piedmont Virginia Community College.


She donates a percentage of her photographic sales to non-profit groups such as Friends of Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge.

Victoria realizes that most people will not have the caliber of photographic equipment she carries around. With that in mind, she will focus in her talk on equipment the average birder or natural history observer might use.

As in the past, we take our speakers to dinner before their talks. If you would like to participate in this camaraderie,

please come to the Brick Oven Restaurant, Rio Hill Shopping Center, at 5:30 PM on December 13th. I look forward to seeing you there.

I would like to thank those who have given me suggestions for programs. For instance, our November speaker Katie Fallon came to us through a tip from Dan Bieker while our January 2013 speaker, Bill Leaning, will be with us because of a suggestion from Nancy Newman. I appreciate ever so much this sort of help. Keep your ideas and suggestions coming.

<p>The 2012 Charlottesville Christmas Bird Count (CBC) will take place on Sunday, December 16. We will join tens of thousands of other volunteers around the country who, over a 3 week period, will head out before dawn on a winter day to count the winter birds.</p> <p>All levels of birders, from beginners to professional scientists, participate in the count. These Citizen Scientists are taking action for conservation. By participating in the National Audubon Society's CBC they help scientists understand how birds are faring amid unprecedented environmental challenges. The data collected informs the world about the State of Birds, and provides the information we need to shape their future and ours. This is the 113th Christmas Bird Count.</p>	<p>Each count occurs in a designated circle, 15 miles in diameter, and is organized by a designated "compiler" - Jenny Gaden for the Charlottesville CBC. Previously the National Audubon Society charged a \$5 fee for each participant. This fee has been eliminated mainly because American Birds, the annual report of the Christmas Bird Count, will no longer be produced on paper. From now on it will be strictly electronic, and available on the NAS website.</p> <p>Other counts take place in our region too. The Gordonsville count will be December 30. The compiler, Buzz Van Santvoord, is hoping that some MBC birders will participate on that one as well. Contact him at 540-672-5759, vansantvoord@verizon.net.</p>	<p>Those interested in participating in the Charlottesville count should let Jenny know (434 293-6275; jengaden@gmail.com). If you are an inexperienced birder you will be able to join a more experienced person or group. If you are an experienced birder maybe you would consider starting a new route in a part of the county which is currently not covered. Bring hand and foot warmers if it's cold; bring snacks, water or a hot drink if you expect to get hungry and thirsty; bring a camera to support your case when you spot a rare bird. And bring enthusiasm and a spirit of adventure.</p> <p>A potluck supper will follow the count at the home of Nancy O'Brien and Francis Fife. Directions will be available through the group leaders.</p>
<p>Saturday, December 1, 7:30am</p> <p>On the first Saturday of each month, the Monticello Bird Club offers a bird walk at Ivy Creek Natural Area at 7:30 am. Some of the walks stay near the main building and parking lot, others go out on the peninsula. Some outstanding birds have been seen on these walks.</p> <p>Please join Jerry Therrien on December 1 for the last outing here of 2012 to check out the wintering birds.</p>	<p>The Warren, Virginia Christmas Bird Count (113th CBC) will be conducted on Sunday, December 30, 2012. The center of the 15- mile diameter of the Warren CBC circle is at Keene in southern Albemarle County and includes portions of Buckingham and Fluvanna Counties. This count was</p>	<p>first conducted by C.E. (Mo) Stevens, Jr. during the 48th CBC (1947/1948). There are indications we may find winter finches this year, which would be very exciting. Please contact Allen Hale, Compiler, at 434-263-8671 or super@buteobooks.com, if you're interested in participating.</p>
	<p>The Blue Ridge Young Birder's Club (BRYBC) is continuing to rapidly form! We have been invited to meet the Fluvanna 4-H Group and teach them how to use binoculars and spotting scopes, talk to them about how we (whatever young birders present there) got interested in birds, and share some of our birding experiences. Afterwards, we will take a walk in nearby woods and hopefully show the 4-H students some birds! It will be a fun experience for the BRYBC youth and hopefully we will recruit some new BRYBC members as well.</p>	<p>Also, our next meeting is going to be Saturday, December 1st, after the 1st Saturday Bird Walk. Some of the youth will be on the 1st Saturday Bird Walk and then go to the meeting. Place and exact time of the meeting is still undecided. If you know of any youth interested in attending the meeting, please contact me at birdmangabriel@yahoo.com or 540-363-5035 and I will send you information about the BRYBC and the meeting details. Our website will soon be up and running and we have several youth working on logos, one of which will be selected soon.</p>
<p>Saturday, December 8, 7:30am</p> <p>Leigh Surdukowski will lead us on a tour of some of the lakes and ponds of western Albemarle County. We will meet at the parking lot of the Harris Teeter store on Route 250 in Crozet and depart from there. We will be looking for incoming winter birds.</p>		

President Lou Tanner brought the meeting to order with a reminder from Ron and Priscilla Kingston that the December 13 meeting is our annual Christmas party. Members are encouraged to bring holiday foods (desserts, treats, etc.) and door prize items. First-timers to the meeting included Rose, a master naturalist, and Hannah, a creative writer. There were 35 attending.

Jim Hill reported on the bird seed sale. The numbers were off from last year, with sales: 45 (down 9); income: \$6,730 (down \$1,000); and profit: \$1,215.70 (down \$600). However, thanks to our new 501-C3, nonprofit status, we saved \$275 in sales taxes. Jim thanked all who purchased seed and helped with the sale.

Leigh Surdukowski is recruiting guides to lead the First Saturday at Ivy Creek bird walks. She has openings for June, July, and December, but there are options to switch. She thanked all the regular leaders and helpers, including Ron Kingston who led the recent walk. Leigh also stressed that these walks are geared for beginners.

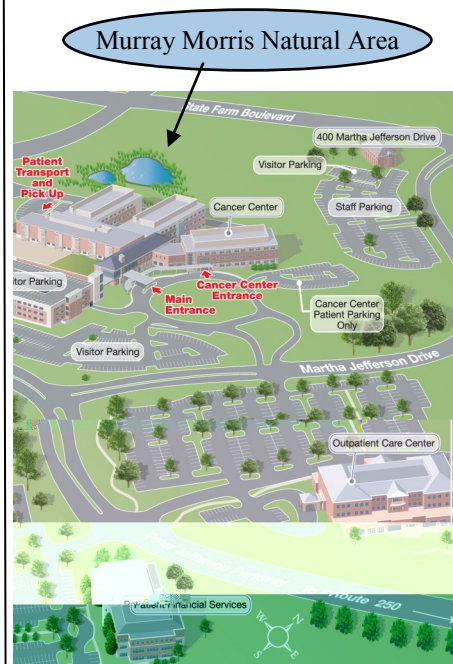
Doug Rogers gave the treasurers report. Paid memberships this year are at 88, compared to 109 last year to date. Receipts year to date: \$8,895; expenses YTD: \$677 (waiting for Wetsel invoice for bird seed among other pending invoices); and we have \$18,855 in the bank.

John Davis reported on field trips. He thanked Gabriel Maple, Eve Gage, and Stauffer Miller for leading recent trips. About 30 species were recorded on Doug Rogers' trip to Preddy Creek County Park. In November John Davis will lead a walk at Riverview Park. Dave Hogg will lead the trip to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel and Chincoteague on November 16-18. There will be a trip to western Albemarle County on December 8 to see Red-headed Woodpeckers. The

Christmas Bird Count takes place December 16.

Recent bird sightings were shared. Gabriele Maple reported on his visit to the owl banding program at James Madison University in Harrisonburg. He saw 25 Saw-whet Owls the first night, and 27 the second. He also saw six Golden Eagles in the past week and Indigo Buntings at Broadway (near West Virginia). Nancy Newman read an enchanting letter from her friend Jesse who lives on Jarmans Gap Road on Buck Mountain. She described her recent experience with a Ruffed Grouse that followed her around for about an hour. The bird eventually followed her into her house. It was an extraordinary account. Many members have watched large numbers of Pine Siskins at their feeders. One member reported seeing a couple with eye problems, likely Avian Conjunctivitis. John Davis had a Hermit Thrush hit his sliding glass door and it took about an hour for it to recover and fly away. A discussion ensued on how to deal with injured and stunned birds. Jenny Gaden said she sometimes covers the birds with flannel to keep them warm and puts them in a cage

until they recover. The Kingstons saw a Red-breasted Nuthatch at their feeder and about 40 Pine Siskins. Stauffer Miller recently went birding with Janet Paisley and they had a rare sighting of an Orange-crowned Warbler by Kohl's Store. Stauffer also watched an American Kestrel at the Murray Morris Hillside Area of the New Martha Jefferson Hospital.



Realizing that the Monticello Bird Club has new members who may not know about the Monticello Bird Alert I have asked the its founder, Rob Capon, to provide information on how one subscribes to it. The bird alert serves birders in central Virginia by providing a means by which they can post and discuss their sightings. For instance, through September's fall migration, Marshall Faintich of Nellysford provided almost daily accounts of what he had seen on the Rockfish Valley Trail in Nelson County. Accompanying his reports were outstanding bird photographs that were highly instructive. I would urge all with an interest in local birding to subscribe. I think you'll be happy you did.

Rapid Information Exchange about Rare Bird Sightings in Our Area !

The MonticelloBirdAlert was created by Robert Capon to provide birders in Central Virginia with an opportunity to post sightings of rare and interesting birds spotted in Charlottesville and Albemarle County, Virginia, and surrounding counties. The Monticello Bird Alert has almost 150 active members! Members of the group should only post birds that are sited on public property or viewed from public roadways. Members may also post a siting of a bird on private property, if the landowner has granted express permission for you to make such a posting to this group.

Since its inception, birds reported on the Monticello Bird Alert have included the Loggerhead Shrike, Fox Sparrow, Common Goldeneye, Horned Grebe, Horned Lark, Red Headed Woodpecker, American Woodcock, Surf Scoter, Glossy Ibis, Dunlin, American Bittern, and many others!

To join the group, please follow these steps:

- 1) Go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/monticellobirdalert/>
- 2) Click on the button: Join this Group
- 3) If you have a Yahoo ID, sign in and go to "Step 5"
- 4) If you don't have a Yahoo ID, click on the link: Sign Up. (It's free.)
- 5) Fill in the required information, read the terms of the agreement, and signify your agreement by clicking on "I Agree".
- 6) Once you're a member of the MonticelloBirdAlert, you can post messages by sending messages to monticellobirdalert@yahoogroups.com
- 7) Remember the cardinal rule (stated above) about respecting private property rights.



When you sign up, you'll have the opportunity to see individual messages or receive a daily digest of messages. The individual messages will enable you to see photographs posted within email messages, however the daily digest does not enable photographs to be seen. Since the Monticello Bird Alert only provides a trickle of a small handful of messages a day, we suggest that you set up your account to receive individual messages and enjoy the photographs that are often sent with postings of interesting birds!

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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www.monticellobirdclub.org

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