



Monticello Bird Club

June 2014 Newsletter

Website: www.monticellobirdclub.org

Volume 28

Issue 10

Facebook: [Monticello Bird Club](#)

MBC Monthly Meeting—Thursday, June 12th at 6:00pm
Pot Luck Picnic

Comments from the President

Doug Rogers

The Birder's Bank of the Blue Ridge opened, in the small town of McDowell, with great fanfare and lots of advertising. On their opening day, they offered to give every birder who arrived with binoculars a crisp new \$50 bill!

No one came... Why? All of the birders wanted only tens and twenties – not a single fifty.

Our Club had two exciting field trips scheduled recently; one to the Great Blue Heron rookery in Richmond and one to the Hog Island WMA in Surry County. Joanne and I went to the GBH rookery in Richmond the week before the event to check it out, make sure the directions were correct, and verify that parking was available with a nice lunch place close at hand. We found it all. And, the herons were there too – about 30 + nests. On the day of the trip, only two people showed up. We were certainly happy to have them, and our little group of four had a delightful time, **but** a greater showing was hoped for.

Prior to the proposed Hog Island trip, Joanne and I travelled there and spent two days checking it out, making sure there would be no issues with security or with the VA Dept. of Game & Inland Fisheries. We saw as many eagles as we saw in Alaska! They were there at every age from hatch-year to full adults. I even photographed a snaggy tree with **five** eagles perched in it! In addition, we saw orioles, warblers, wading birds and the largest group of Green Herons we have ever seen. We had good fun! On the day of the trip no one showed up.

So, the message is clear. We need to reconnect with our membership and find out what **you** want for birding trips in the coming fiscal year. During the summer, working with our new Field Trips Chair, Gabriel Mapel, we will be sending out a survey asking for your input on **what trips** you want, **where** you want to go and **when** you want to go. We don't want to guess. We want a good group turn out to share in the fun and camaraderie that is birding. Fair enough?

Please send us your ideas when you receive the survey. We will act on them all.

Have a good summer!

28th Annual Potluck Picnic

Hosted by Ron and Priscilla Kingston

Please join us for the last meeting of the season at our **28th Annual Potluck Picnic** on **June 12th at 6:00pm**.

Members are invited to bring a covered dish to share.

Please bring your own plates, utensils and cups.

The Monticello Bird Club will provide the drinks.

The meeting will start at **6:00 pm** with a short bird walk afterwards, weather permitting.



Regular MCB meetings and our newsletter will be on hiatus for July and August.
Both will resume in September.

First Saturday Bird Walk

June 7, July 5, August 2,
and September 6
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.

While our monthly meetings are on summer hiatus, our First Saturday Bird Walks continue. Please join us!

Walk Leaders Summer 2014

June 7David White
July 5 Gabriel Mapel
Aug. 2 ... Jenny Gaden
Sept. 6 ...Tom Jones

Birding Tidbits

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

Red-eyed Vireo

Were it not for the voice of this summer visitor, the Red-eyed Vireo would be an inconspicuous bird. It is well camouflaged among the leaves of woodland trees where it resides, with its olive back, pale underparts, white eyebrow and black line through the eye. The red eye is discernable only with a close-up view. Vireos generally move more slowly than warblers, for example, because they are a little bigger and seek larger insects. Their beak is thicker than that of a warbler, with a tiny hook at the tip, which facilitates capturing prey. The voice, however, is what tells us that the Red-eyed Vireo is a constant companion throughout the summer. The bird sings any time during daylight hours. A lyrical, question-answer song, it seems to say, "Where are you? Here I am." The nest hangs in the fork of two twigs, around which they tightly wrap fine fiber to hold the nest in place. Look and listen for the Red-eyed Vireo in the deciduous woods of Ivy Creek. Take your time. You have all summer to find it.



Red-eyed Vireo
© Marshall Faintich

Field Trips

Organized by John Davis

Secluded Farm

Saturday, June 14, 7:00am
Led by Jim Nix



Summer Tanager
Photo by Ospr3yy
Wikimedia Commons

Secluded Farm is a 150-acre mix of open grassy areas and mature forest with good trails adjacent to Monticello. It is one of the few places in the area to see nesting Summer Tanagers and is also a good spot for Orchard and Baltimore Orioles as well as a wide variety of more common summer visitors and year round residents.

Directions: Meet at 7:00am in the **Thomas Jefferson Parkway Overflow Parking lot**. 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.

Common Nighthawks

Monday, August 25, 7:00pm
Wednesday, August 31, 7:00pm
Led by Dave Hogg



Common Nighthawk
Photo by Dominic Sherony
Wikimedia Commons

Don't miss the exciting evening flights of migrating nighthawks! With luck, we will observe their acrobatics as they feed over the native grass field of Ivy Creek Natural Area. Join Dave for one (or both!) of these evenings.

Directions: Meet Dave in the **Ivy Creek Natural Area Parking Lot** at 7:00pm.

Homemade Suet is an Avian Favorite!

Jim Nix mentioned at our last meeting that he makes his own suet, which has attracted many appreciative birds, most notably, a faithful Ruby-crowned Kinglet! He kindly submitted a copy of the original suet recipe, handwritten by Dede Austin, from the early days of the bird club in the 1980s. Her son, Bruce Gattling-Austin, is the Education Coordinator at Ivy Creek.

Jim writes, "I usually make a double or triple batch in the fall and keep the blocks in the freezer until I need them. You can buy lard at Kroger or most any other supermarket, usually in three or four pound plastic tubs. I adjust the proportions based on the quantity of lard in one container, since I have no other use for lard, while all the other ingredients have other uses. Making this suet is cheaper than buying the ready made suet blocks, but the real benefit is that the birds absolutely love this stuff."

You are welcome to follow the original recipe (right), but for those requiring more eye-friendly font, see below.


Peanut Butter Bird Food

- 1 lb **lard**
- 18 oz jar of **peanut butter**
- 2 lb package of **yellow corn meal**
- 3 cups **whole wheat flour**

Melt lard & peanut butter in large sauce pan over low to medium heat. When melted, add corn meal and flour, stirring until mixed. Pour mixture into a 2 qt. milk/juice carton and refrigerate 'til firm. Cut into 7 equal blocks, and wrap with plastic wrap. (See Ms. Austin's helpful diagram at right.) Keep cool or frozen.

Dede Austin

(Thanks Jim. Next fall your returning Ruby-crowned Kinglet may have a **choice** of dining locales. Hopefully, he/she will alert his/her feathered friends to partake in the home-cooked bounty of Albemarle County!)

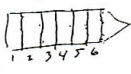


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? Dede Austin 293-6587



Don't Miss The 20th Annual Purple Martin Field Day

Date: Saturday, June 21, 2014

Time: 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Where: Louisa County at the farm of Mrs. Merle Wood and son, Lance.

Open to the Public: See the updated web site for Directions & Video.

<http://www.purplemartinfieldday.org>

Anyone interested in establishing or expanding a Purple Martin colony is invited to see and learn about the most current and effective techniques and equipment available for successful Purple Martin management.

Ron Kingston invites MBC members to attend and sends driving directions for the field day site, which is about 20 miles east of Charlottesville.

From I-64 take Exit 136, Zion Crossroads.

From there take Rt 15 North and then turn Right onto Rt 640.

For information, call [\(434\) 962-8232](tel:4349628232) or email kingston@cstone.net



Photo by Kathy Laine

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for your generous support of MBC
in 2013-14!

Treasurer's Notes

by Maynard K. Davis

Our financial results for the year are excellent. We currently have a surplus of just over \$500 for the year, and our bank balance is eleven thousand dollars.



Membership Notes

by Lesslie Crowell

MBC extends a warm welcome to the following new members:

K.B. Johnston
Laura Pixley
Carolyn Huyghe



Dues are payable on July 1 for next season. (Dues for any new member joining in March or later are automatically applied to the 2014-15 membership year.)

MBC Minutes May 8, 2014

Peggy Cornett, Secretary



Doug Rogers opened the meeting by welcoming newcomers. K.B. Johnston heard about MBC when he attended the recent Monticello Bird Walk at Tufton Farm. Marilyn and Art A. are new to the area and interested in birding. Dave Clark from Fluvanna has been enjoying the Birding before Work walks.

Interesting bird sightings were reported. Ron Kingston had a Rose-breasted Grosbeak at the bird feeder. Bill Leaning observed a Great Blue Heron, Catbirds, Great Crested Flycatcher, and Indigo Buntings galore in his Earlsville garden. Jim Nix has a pair of Red-shouldered Hawks nesting in a pine in his back yard, and he's seen crows harassing the hawk at his bird feeder. Dave Hogg saw a Great Egret and watched a Red-tailed Hawk and a Red-shouldered Hawk fighting in a tree at Pineknot. John Davis had a Rose-breasted Grosbeak hit his window, but it recovered. Lou Tanner reported Yellow Warblers in Maplewood Cemetery. Jenny Gaden saw a Worm-eating Warbler in her neighborhood on the side of the road, feeding in clumps of leaves. Henry Konat saw a Mockingbird attacking a black snake. Jim Nix also reported many Veerys at Secluded Farm.

The *Cville Weekly* (May 7-13, 2014 issue) had a front page article, "For the (love of the) Birds," featuring MBC members and local birders Dan Bieker, Stauffer Miller, Pete Myers, Rob Capon, and Gretchen Gehrett. The author, Graelyn Brashear, followed the birders on a 24-hour Big Day excursion for Albemarle County. The team ended the day with a record-breaking 124 species. (If you missed the article, here's the link.

<http://www.c-ville.com/for-the-love-of-the-birds-what-does-it-take-to-break-albemarles-one-day-birding-record/#.U3oUQSjF5Xc>

Lesslie Crowell reported that we now have 142 members. She had a promo booth in the Master Gardener tent on May 3. Lesslie also cited an article about Janet Paisley and Eve Gaige in the *Suffolk News Herald* on the Great Dismal Swamp birding festival. (Janet & Eve were great ambassadors of birding in this fine article. Again, the link...)

<http://www.suffolknewsherald.com/2014/04/27/warblers-wow-birders/>

Newsletter editor Joanne Bricker thanked those who have submitted articles to the Joy of Birding column this past year, including: Stauffer Miller, Kaye Slaughter, Eve Gaige, Margie Giuliani, and Jenny Gaden. More submissions are welcome for future newsletters.

Henry Konat, former MBC treasurer, bid farewell to the bird club community as he prepares to move back to Cape May, New Jersey.

The Treasurer's report was presented by Doug Rogers. The club has a surplus of \$500 after the \$1000 contribution for the 2015 VSO annual meeting. The surplus will go toward work on Jenny Gaden's database of birds of Albemarle.

John Davis gave his final report as Field Trip Coordinator. He thanked the many trip leaders of the past season: Dave Hogg, Lou Tanner, Jim Nix, Stauffer Miller, Jenny Gaden, Gabriel Mapel, Janet Paisley, Peter Brask, and others. Peter Brask led a recent trip to Lickinghole Creek and Doug Rogers went to the Heron Rookery in Richmond. Upcoming trips include Hog Island (May 10), Pocosin Fire Road with Janet Paisley (May 17), Secluded Farm with Jim Nix (June 14), and a Nighthawk watch scheduled for August 25 and 27. Doug Rogers led the elections for new and returning board members. Returning officers: Doug Rogers (president), Kathy Sudduth (vice president), Peggy Cornett (secretary), Maynard Davis (treasurer), Stauffer Miller (who needs help as speaker coordinator), Joanne Bricker (newsletter editor), Lesslie Crowell (who needs help with membership). Gabriel Mapel is replacing John Davis as field trip coordinator. Publicity chair and Bird Seed Sale offices remain vacant. Doug made a pitch to members to become more involved with the club by taking on officer rolls.

The Joy of Birding a personal sharing of stories in the Month of May



and photos



by MBC members



"Tee-CHER, Tee-CHER, Tee-CHER!"
resonates the **Ovenbird's** song.

Photo by Doug Rogers

Hear Them Sing!



Anybody know the phonetic equivalent
of the "squeaky wheel" song of the
Black and White Warbler?!?

Photo by Doug Rogers

Blue-headed Vireo hard at work

Photo by Nancy Newman



Take a Peek at their Nesting Behavior!

Female **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**
gathering nesting material

Photo by Doug Rogers



Janet Paisley was amazed to find this
leucisitic **Blue Jay** checking out her
bird-friendly back yard in early May.

And above all, Expect the Unexpected!



Rob Capon is thrilled to welcome this hand-
some pair of **Northern Bobwhite** to his patio,
right here in Albemarle County!



Monticello Bird Club

P.O. Box 4362
Charlottesville, Virginia 22905

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 Nat-
ural 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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