



Monticello Bird Club

June 2009

Volume 23, Number 10

June Meeting Topic:

Annual Potluck

Join us June 11th for the last meeting of the season at our 23rd Annual Potluck Picnic. Members are invited to bring a dish to share. Please bring your own plates, utensils, and cups. The Monticello Bird Club will provide the drinks.

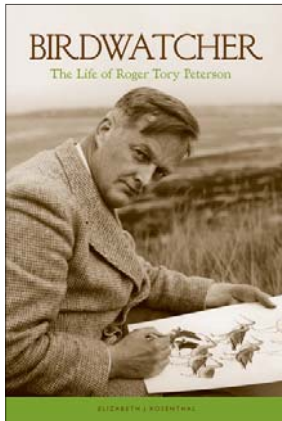
The meeting will start at **6:00 pm** with a short bird walk afterwards depending upon the weather.



Birdwatcher: The Life of Roger Tory Peterson

This biography of the great ornithologist, Roger Tory Peterson, by Elizabeth Rosenthal is full of wonderful stories that provide a complete picture of this complex man. Rosenthal examines Peterson's life and accomplishments from his impact on field guides

to his role in land conservation and habitat restoration campaigns. Numerous direct quotes give the reader a clearer sense of Peterson's passion for birding and the natural world. I suggest this very pleasant book on one of birding's greatest heroes for your summer reading list.



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Comments From the President

One of my favorite birding roads is Stony Point Pass, which connects routes 20 and 231, in Northeast Albemarle County. This gravel road passes through some reasonably good bird habitat. The best portion of the road is at about its halfway point, where there is a metal gate on the south side. Sometimes there are birds in the vegetation around the gate, and some times you have to walk up a slope through a fairly recently logged over area in order to find them.

I had occasion to go birding at this spot the morning of May 9 with Jenny Gaden. The first bird of interest there was a Baltimore Oriole. After hearing the oriole's chatter, we found it, followed it and by doing so discovered its nest, already completed. Presently we heard the chunky-tuck call of a Summer Tanager, and found both a male and female. As best I can tell, this tanager nests on this slope, as I have seen it there in previous years. While I watched a Chestnut-sided Warbler, Jenny found the bird of the morning, a handsome

Bay-breasted Warbler. Moving with it was an equally good-looking Blackpoll Warbler. Off in the distance a Hooded Warbler, which also nests on this slope, delivered its pert song. A little further down the road we heard the upward spiral of a Swainson's Thrush.

From Stony Point Pass, we re-crossed the mountain on Turkey Sag Road. Along that road, we heard the rich song of a Kentucky Warbler, tracked it down and had a fine look at a songster often hard to see. We eventually made our way over to Chris Greene Lake and had nice looks at another migrant, a Caspian Tern, on its way from and to who knows where. This is quite an uncommon species in the county. We ended our morning of birding with over eighty species, not working all that hard for them. That is the way it can be on a morning in May in these parts. I hope all of you have gotten out for some May birding and had success. Activity will all too soon slow down.

Jenny and I were out as participants in the Albemarle County spring count.

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Monticello Bird Club

(Comments from the president continued from page 1)

This is a bird count done for a number of years by a group of twenty-five or so "friends." The count, begun around 1975, has been co-ordinated most recently by Jim Childress. Jim would like the count to have wider participation. I would like to see it made a truly county-wide effort. At the moment, huge areas of the County go uncovered. An effort is being made to map all areas presently covered. Once that is done, we can see exactly which areas needs coverage. I am hopeful Monticello Bird Club members will set aside the first Saturday of May in 2010 in order to participate. In most cases, a half-day only is necessary. I will be reporting on this from time to time. Many counties around the United States have spring bird counts. We should be among them.

Ron and Priscilla Kingston tell me that our June potluck will be June 11 at 6:00 PM at Ivy Creek. Bring a dish to share and your own utensils, plates and cups. The bird club will provide

beverages. Afterward, weather permitting, we'll have a bird walk.

I am completing my first year as president. With the help of so many of you, the job has been quite easy. It looks as if you will have me for a second year as president, not so much because I want it, but because no one is campaigning for it. If any of you out there have ever wanted the title "president" in front of your name, here is your chance. And you don't even have to have a secret service detail. We do need still a field trips chairperson. Doug Rogers is ready to take over as our newsletter editor. Amy, thanks for your fine three year tenure. I would like to acknowledge the work of our programs co-ordinator, Pat Wilczek. She has quietly done a great job. Have a good summer.

-Stauffer Miller

Please Welcome Our Newest MBC Members

Please welcome our newest members and wish them good birding and good fellowship at our meetings. New members are

Helen Destrempes
John Davis
Sher & David Sedgwick
Paul Groner & Cynthia Benton-Groner



Bird Club Information

The Monticello Bird Club meets at 7:30 pm 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.

The editor of the MBC Newsletter welcomes submissions including articles, photographs and notices. **DEADLINE for the September issue is August 20.** Please email information to Amy Gilmer at akgilmer@comcast.net or send to 2341 Highland Avenue, Charlottesville, VA 22903.

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Please visit our website at
www.monticellobirdclub.org

Monticello Bird Club Board Members

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Birdseed Sale	Jim Hill	jimcarhill@comcast.net	975-6523

Upcoming Field Trips

First Saturday Bird Walks At Ivy Creek Natural Area

On the first Saturday of each month the Monticello Bird Club hosts a bird walk at Ivy Creek Natural Area (ICNA) at 7:30 am. Each month a different walk leader takes groups on the trails to see the birds of ICNA. Join Jenny Gaden on June 6th in the parking lot of ICNA. Peter Brask will lead the July 4th walk for your summer birding fix.

Virginia Society of Ornithology 2009 Field Trips

The Virginia Society of Ornithology will have two field trips this fall:

Chincoteague
September 11-13,
Leader: Jerry Via

Virginia Beach
December 4-6,
Leader: Clark White

For more information visit the VSO web site: <http://www.virginiabirds.net>



VSO Foray —in search of Bachman's Sparrow

Time and Location: June 12-17, 2009, covering Greensville and Sussex Counties plus portions of surrounding counties as time permits.

Mission: Survey of breeding birds of the area with a special focus on Bachman's Sparrow.

How to participate: Prior to April 24 and after May 10, please contact Wendy Ealding at WEalding_AT_aol.com, phone (804) 598-9243). Between April 24 and May 10, please contact Adam D'Onofrio at BIGAD-FROMLB_AT_comcast.net, phone (804) 861-2390. Please indicate which dates you will be available to participate, whether you have any preference as to which locations you would want to cover (see Foray Sites [36Kb MS Word® file] for more information) and whether you have any experience with Bachman's Sparrow.

For more information visit http://www.virginiabirds.net/2009_foray.html



Purple Martin Field Day

The 15th Annual Purple Martin Field Day is set for Saturday June 27 this year at the farm of Merle & Lance Wood in Louisa County. From 9:30 am until noon you can learn how to establish a colony of Purple Martins, including information on housing requirements and protection devices. There will also be a short nesting box trail tour, featuring nest boxes for different species of birds.

Directions: From Charlottesville, take I-64 East to Exit 136 (Zion Crossroads). Travel north on US 15 for 3.5 miles until it intersects with Route 640 (east). The farm is located near the intersection of US 15 and Route 640 and you will see signs directing you to the Purple Martin Field Day.

For more information, see <http://www.purplemartin.org/meetings/> and contact Ron & Priscilla Kingston at 434-293-5173 or kingston@cstone.net



**Bachman's Sparrow ©
Bob Ake**

MBC Minutes for May 14th, 2009

President Stauffer Miller welcomed newcomers. There were 33 people attending the meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Stauffer gave the report in Henry Konat's absence. The club's net worth is \$12,685.

Field Trips: John Zimmerman will retire from this position at the end this term.

Newsletter: Doug Rogers will replace Amy Gilmer as newsletter editor beginning in September 2009. Amy has served as editor for three years and the members applauded her good work.

Election of Officers: The club's President Stauffer Miller, Vice President Jim Nix, Secretary Peggy Cornett, and Treasurer Henry Konat have agreed to serve another term and Bill Bloom moved that the members accept the slate of officers by acclamation. Teresa Shaner seconded the motion and all present approved the proposal.

End of Season Pot Luck: The final meeting of the year takes place at Ivy Creek Natural Area on June 11, beginning at 6 pm. In addition to a dish, members are encouraged to bring their own plates and utensils. An informal bird walk will take place after the meal.

Feeding Stations: It was reported that the third graders at Peabody School have enjoyed the bird feeding station provided by the bird club.

Recent Bird Sightings: Jenny Gaden has seen Swainson's Thrush all over her subdivision off Garth Road this year and four were reported at Secluded Farm. A photo of a male

Blue Grosbeak with brown wing feathers was passed around. Ellie Miller has observed that a Catbird had laid eggs in a Cardinal's nest after the Cardinals had fledged. Jim Nix has a Cooper's Hawk nesting near his house and visiting his bird bath. Peggy Cornett has heard Bobwhite at Tufton Farm after many years. Mary Jane watched a male Sharp-shinned Hawk knock over a Blue Jay and drug it into the woods.

-- Peggy Cornett, Secretary

A Message of Gratitude...

I have enjoyed putting the Monticello Bird Club newsletter together for the past three years. However, I cannot take all the credit, it has been a group effort. Many of you have contributed articles, photos, and even poetry, making our newsletter richer and more entertaining. I thank you for all your wonderful submissions. Starting with the September issue, the newsletter will be in the able hands of Doug Rogers. I look forward to seeing each of you at club meetings and field trips.

-Amy Gilmer

2008 Albemarle County Birds

After compiling Albemarle County year lists submitted earlier this year, the total for species observed in 2008 was 207 birds. There were 15 birds recorded in 2007 not noted in 2008, and 16 found last year but not in 2007. They are as follows:

2007 Birds

Tundra Swan
Canvasback
Common Goldeneye
Little Blue Heron
Northern Goshawk
Merlin
Peregrine Falcon
Marbled Godwit
Pectoral Sandpiper
Black-billed Cuckoo
Loggerhead Shrike
Connecticut Warbler
Mourning Warbler
Lark Sparrow
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow

2008 Birds

Common Merganser
Ring-necked Pheasant
Least Bittern
White Ibis
Glossy Ibis
Black-bellied Plover
Semipalmated Sandpiper
White-rumped Sandpiper
Short-billed Dowitcher
Barn Owl
Alder Flycatcher
Wilson's Warbler
Henslow's Sparrow
Le Conte's Sparrow
Snow Bunting
Dickcissel

This represents an amazing 222 birds during the past two years! Thanks to Peter Brask, Dave Hogg, Stauffer Miller and Leigh Surdukowski for submitting their year lists, and a hearty congratulations to Stauffer for finding 201 species in 2008!

For a complete list, please call me at 964-9420 or email me at twshaner@embarqmail.com.

-Teresa Shaner