



Monticello Bird Club

June 2010

Volume 26, Number 10

June Meeting Potluck Picnic

Join us for the last meeting of the season at our 24th **Annual Potluck Picnic** June 10th. Members are invited to bring a dish to share.

Please bring your own plates, utensils and cups, since ICNA has a limited supply. 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.



Upcoming Meeting Topics

June 10th at 6:00 p.m.

Annual Pot Luck Picnic

September 9th at 7:00 p.m.

To be announced

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Comments From the President

As we move into June, I want to recall a little of May. On May 16th, I went out on a morning of birding with Rob Capon, Gretchen Gehrett and Amy Gilmer. I had initially suggested we try the east side of Albemarle County.

However, based on the reports of Chris Murray on the Monticello Bird Alert regarding Mint Springs Park in Crozet, Gretchen suggested we try that place. It was a wise decision. Greeting us as we arrived at the park and stepped out of the car was a chorus of Swainson's Thrushes. Their flute-like songs reverberated through the forest.

Leaving the thrushes behind, we ascended the trail until we heard a close Kentucky Warbler. Aided by the young eyes of Amy and Gretchen, the singer was found and Rob took some photos. We watched the Kentucky for perhaps five minutes, then continued our climb until the trail leveled and turned left. Not far along I became aware of a warbler song I was sure I'd heard before, but not recently. Slowly it came to me—Mourning Warbler. Behaving characteristically, it sang from dense cover and did not come into view. No matter, it was wonderful to hear the rich

song and know that one of the rarer birds of Albemarle County was trail-side. Birds don't have to be seen to be fully enjoyed.

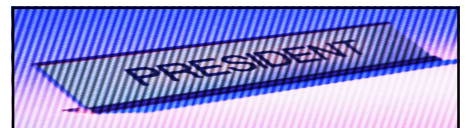
When I got home, I submitted the "sighting" of the warbler to the bird alert. Chris Murray, who lives near Crozet, read what I had submitted, went to the site, *saw* the warbler and photographed it. All of which makes a good lead-in to making a plug for our Monticello Bird Alert, started by techno-birder Rob. He reports close to a hundred people have now signed up to it and are receiving its very unobtrusive reports and updates. Contact me for information on how to subscribe.

You may or may not know that Jenny Gaden has spearheaded an effort to publish an annotated checklist of birds of Albemarle County. This spiral bound book will be published some time later this year if all goes well. It will bring together a lot of bird sightings and related information long needful of compilation. Jenny has worked hard on this and I think you will find the finished product very professional and useful.

As I leave the presidency of our club and place the reins of leadership in the capable hands of new president Lou Tanner, I wish to thank all who have assisted me in my two years. This includes officers, board members and "rank and file" members. Your support has greatly facilitated my work. I would like to single out Doug Rogers, who took on the newsletter when I was beginning to despair about finding an editor. I don't know where our organization would be without its newsletter. He also assisted in field trip planning and execution when I most needed that. I would also like to recognize Priscilla and Ron Kingston who do so much behind the scenes work. Without them, the job of president would indeed be a difficult one.

Hope to see you at our potluck picnic June 10th at **6:00 PM**. Bring a dish to share. The club will provide the beverages. A short bird walk follows. Good birding to all.

Stauffer Miller.



Monticello Bird Club

MBC Donations

Over the years the Monticello Bird Club has generously donated money to numerous organizations and projects. Many of our members are probably not aware of our generosity. The total yearly donations have typically been \$1500 to \$2000, with individual amounts ranging from about \$100 to \$500.

Donations are made each year to birding and environmental organizations such as the Ivy Creek Foundation, Piedmont Environmental Council, the Nature Conservancy, the Wildlife Center of Virginia and the American Bird Conservancy.

We have donated to several local schools, including Venable School and Stone Robinson to fund bird feeder projects. Students from these schools have attended MBC meetings and given us very entertaining presentations about their projects.

We have also donated to special events such as the VSO team participating in the World Series of Birding, the Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch 20 Year celebration and the Rivanna River Days.

This year we have donated \$1804.26 to the following organizations and projects: Venable School Bird Feeder project, Piedmont Environmental Council, Vernal Pools Foundation – Sweet Briar College, Ivy Creek Foundation, Nature Conservancy Stone Robinson Bird Feeder Project, American Bird Conservancy, and the Wildlife Center of Virginia.

Henry Konat – Treasurer, MBC



Bird Club Information

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 Earlsyville 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 8:00 a.m. August 28.** Please email information to Doug Rogers at MBCNEWS@embarqmail.com or send to 1065 Weybridge Ct. # 304, Charlottesville, VA 22911.

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Purple Martin Field Day

The 16th Annual Purple Martin Field Day will be held on **Saturday, June 26** at the farm of Mrs. Merle Wood and Mr. Lance Wood in Louisa County, VA.

This is about 40 miles west of Richmond and about 20 miles east of Charlottesville. Take Exit 136 on I-64 at Zion Crossroads, go north on US Rt. 15 and turn right onto county Rt. 640.

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 information, call (434) 962-8232 or email: kingston@cstone.net.
See the new web site : <http://www.purplemartinfieldday.org>



First Saturday Bird Walks at Ivy Creek Natural Area

On the first Saturday of each month, the Monticello Bird Club offers a bird walk at Ivy Creek Natural Area at 7:30 a.m.

Some of the walks stay near the main building and parking lot, others go out on the peninsula. Each month has a different leader. Some outstanding birds have been seen on the walks.

These walks will be offered all summer. The leaders will be as follows:

- June 5th: Mary Janet Fowler
- July 3rd: Ron Kingston
- August 7th: Jenny Gaden
- Sept 4th: Leigh Surdukowski



Results of the Warbler Walk on the Pocosin Fire Road off the Skyline Drive on May 16, 2010

American Redstart
Black and White Warbler
Blackburnian Warbler
Blackpoll Warbler
Canada Warbler
Cerulean Warbler
Chestnut Sided Warbler
Hooded Warbler
Yellow Breasted Chat

Hairy Woodpecker
Eastern Wood Peewee
Least Flycatcher
Blue Headed Vireo
Red-eyed Vireo
Common Raven
Veery
Wood Thrush
American Robin

Gray Catbird
Ovenbird
Scarlet Tanager
Eastern Towhee
Rose-Breasted Grosbeak
Indigo Bunting
Brown-Headed Cowbird
American Goldfinch
Yellow Billed Cuckoo

Monticello Bird Club Minutes, May 13, 2010

MBC President Stauffer Miller opened his last meeting as president with a welcome to several first time attendees. There were 45 individuals attending the meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

Henry Konat was unable to attend the meeting but he sent a message to Stauffer saying that the current balance in the club's bank account is \$12,358.

Election of Officers:

Doug Rogers presented the slate of officers recruited by the nominating committee. Nominations from the floor were invited. None were offered, nominations were closed and the new slate was elected by acclamation. Lou Tanner will be the new President and Joanne Bricker will be the new Vice-president. Peggy Cornett and Henry Konat will remain Secretary and Treasurer. There will also be three new board members with Dave Hogg taking over field trips, Stauffer Miller assuming responsibility for speakers and programs and Peg Watson becoming publicity coordinator.

Charlottesville/Albemarle annual species report:

Teresa Shaner presented the results of the annual species tally that she and Leigh Surdukowski have been compiling for the past four years. She reported that 189 species were seen in 2009 by MBC members in Charlottesville and Albemarle County. That compares with 207 reported the previous year. The grand total for all the years of this study is 225 including two new ones added in 2009 – Long-tailed Duck and Clay-colored Sparrow. Teresa thanked those who submitted lists including Peter Brask, Dave Hogg and Stauffer Miller and asked everyone to keep track of sightings in 2010 since you never know what may turn up.

Purple Martin Day:

Ron Kingston announced that the annual Purple Martin Field Day will take place this year on June 26. Details can be found in the June newsletter or at the following web site: <http://purplemartinfieldday.org/>.

Bird Sightings:

John Zimmerman told an interesting story about a family of Mallards he recently observed. A female led her brood of eight young to the end of a dock with about a three-foot drop to the water, jumped in and started quacking instructions to them to follow. They moved close to the edge but would not make the jump even after she returned to the dock and tried again. Eventually she gave up and they waddled away from the dock on to dry land. The following day, John reports, she brought them

back for another try, jumped off the dock and once again started quacking for them to follow. There was hesitation, but one finally made the great leap. It was soon followed by the others and they swam away. This shows that there are limits to the stimulus releasing mechanism and automatic response that are hard wired into ducklings and other creatures. These young birds evidently could think for themselves and made up their own minds about when to enter the water.

A number of spring migrants were reported including Rose-breasted Grosbeaks at the Leaning's feeder, a Canada Warbler reported by Dave Hogg and Bank Swallows reported by Stauffer Miller at Old Trail Pond. Dave Bonnett reported seeing a Western Tanager on Skyline Drive; that would be a great bird for Leigh and Teresa's count next year but was it in Albemarle County?

June meeting:

The meeting on June 10th will be a pot luck as usual but members should note that the starting time for this event is **6:00 pm** - not our usual time of 7:00 p.m..

Jim Nix



Photos by Rob Capon