



Monticello Bird Club

March 2010

Volume 26, Number 7

March Meeting Topic: Birding Medley, an Informative talk on the VSO

This Month's Topic, "Birding Medley" will be done by Biologist Andrew Dolby. His presentation will include an overview of our local bird club's parent organization, the Virginia Society of Ornithology—its field trips, programs, and research—and also information about bird calls, nests, and winter adaptations.

Early spring is a great time to see both our winter residents and also some early spring migrants, so bird club experts will be leading outings to some special spots. Come and get details about upcoming bird walks and field trips.

Always free. Beginners always welcome.

Comments From the President

This has been a rough month for our bird club's activities. Bad weather cancelled the first Saturday walk at Ivy Creek. Then, the second big snow of the winter (it would help if these snows had names) made the February 6th trip to Highland County utterly impossible. Leader Doug Rogers and his wife Joanne even went to Highland County on February 13th to see if conditions were suitable for a rescheduled trip. However, lack of birds and pulloffs for cars made a make-up untenable, at least for now. Then, last week Pat Wilczek called to say that our February speaker couldn't get out of her driveway in Sperryville, which left us with little choice but to cancel the meeting, something that hasn't happened very often. I sometimes feel as if this winter has put bird club members into the same state as birds, survival mode.

The first activity of the month to come off was on February 17th when I led a field trip that met at the Starbucks Coffee at Hollymead Town Center. Kathy Sudduth was the only person there for the trip at the starting time, so we left and drove over to Chris Greene Lake and Park. Both of us noticed and remarked on the beautiful mountains to the west, cloaked in

snow. Winter, we must remember, *does* have a few up sides. We had to park at the entrance kiosk and walk in, the road inside the park being snow covered. If we had just had a sled, we could have had a nice ride down the hill into the park. Although there was some open water on the lake, there were no waterfowl. The latter have been a big no-show this month. The best we could come up with were a few Yellow-rumped Warblers, some woodpeckers and a close Hermit Thrush feeding on sumac berries. As we started to leave, we saw two forms trudging toward us that turned out to be Peter Brask and Dan Bieker, who had arrived a little late at Hollymead. We told them we hadn't seen much at the Lake, so the four of us returned to the cars. We weren't sure where next to go, but since Kathy had seen a Tree Sparrow at her house in the Woodbrook area, we drove there. Unfortunately, the sparrow decided not to show up.

A woman named Nancy Lowry has contacted our club to see if any members would like to set up and operate a small display booth in the Ivy area on April 18th and 19th. This would be in conjunction with Historic Garden Week. If you might like to do this, let

Upcoming Meeting Topics

March 11th at 7:00 p.m.

Birding Medley

April 8th at 7:00 p.m.

The Flora and Fauna of our National Forests

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me know and I will provide more information. It seems like a fine idea. Also, David A. Bryan has contacted us about the Virginia Important Bird Areas program. The important bird area locally is the Upper Blue Ridge Mountains, nesting site of Cerulean Warblers, a species of concern. Again, I am looking for a volunteer. If you might have an interest in working with Mr. Bryan on this, let me know. I'm not sure of the duties of a volunteer, but probably not too much.

I am still looking for a volunteer to do publicity for our club. After five years, Ellen Dudley is signing off. I know that everyone is busy, but despite that, we need someone. I'm sure Ellen would work closely with the new person to show him or her what she does. If our club is to be viable, we need a few people doing a few things, such as publicity. It might be that several people could combine on this, one doing one type of media, one doing another, so as to divide the work.

Don't forget about our new start time for meetings (7:00 PM) and the speaker's dinner before, at 5:30 at Ruby Tuesday. Have a good March.

Stauffer Miller

Monticello Bird Club

The Hawk Migration Association of North America Conference

The 2010 Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA) conference will be hosted by Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory at the Radisson Hotel in Duluth, Minnesota. Positioned at the southwestern tip of magnificent Lake Superior, Duluth offers a mix of great birding, picturesque scenery and a terrific spring raptor migration. April birding in Northern Minnesota offers a wide variety of boreal species (Boreal Chickadee, Black-backed Woodpecker, Gray Jay), winter specialties (Pine Grosbeak, Hoary Redpoll), northern owls (Great Gray, Boreal and Northern Hawk Owls) and spring migrants (you name it!) as the convergence of three different biomes maximizes the number of different species to be seen.

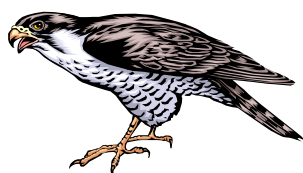
The 2010 conference will feature scientific presentations, informative posters, entertaining keynote speakers and fantastic northern-specialty field



trips.

Our conference will open on **Thursday** evening with a welcome social and introductions. **Friday** and **Saturday** will be filled with speakers, presentations and field trip options. We'll have programming available from sunrise to sunset. We will offer the same field trips on **Friday AND Saturday** so you don't have to choose between the speakers you want to hear and the birds you want to see!"

MBC member Allen Hale, owner of Buteo Books, was elected to the Board of Directors of HMANA in **December** and will be attending the conference. Further information may be found at: http://www.hmana.org/read_article.php?id=14&PHPSESSID=d59471431d3d94a1ab746936b1acc9e5 or by calling Allen at **263-8671**."



Rare Bird Sightings on the 2009 CBC

Two birds seen on the 2009 Christmas Bird Count required the submission of a rare bird form to Teta Kain, the regional editor of the count. The Blue-headed Vireo seen by David Hogg and the Brant reported by Peter Dutnell were both accepted.

Jenny Gaden

Monticello Bird Club Dues and Membership

A report from our Club Treasurer:

Membership in the bird club now stands at 166. So far, only 108 of that number, 65%, have paid dues for 2009-2010. This is way behind last year's renewal rate. Those of you who haven't paid dues know who you are. We can do a lot better than 65%!

Please attend to this issue right away!
Henry Konat, Treasurer



Bird Club Information

The Monticello Bird Club meets at **7:00 pm** 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 April issue is 8:00 a.m. March 27.** Please email information to Doug Rogers at MBCNEWS@embarqmail.com or send to 1065 Weybridge Ct. # 304, Charlottesville, VA 22911.

Monticello Bird Club

P.O. Box 4362

Charlottesville, Virginia 22905

Please visit our website at

www.monticellobirdclub.org

Monticello Bird Club

President	Stauffer Miller	stauffer@seepub.com	296-5505
Vice President	Jim Hill	jimcarhill@comcast.net	975-6523
Secretary	Peggy Cornett	pcornett@monticello.org	984-9816
Treasurer	Henry Konat	henryk54@verizon.net	540-948-4771
Field Trips	Stauffer Miller	stauffer@seepub.com	296-5505
Speakers	Pat Wilczek	pat.wilczek@comcast.net	985-4444
Publicity	Ellen Dudley	emdudley@nexet.net	244-2688
Hospitality	Priscilla Kingston	kingston@cstone.net	293-5173
Newsletter	Doug Rogers	mbcnews@embarqmail.com	409-8156
Membership	Jim Nix	jim-nix@comcast.net	973-7366
Birdseed Sale	Jim Hill	jimcarhill@comcast.net	975-6523

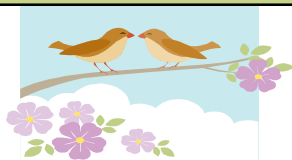


Field Trips

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.

The walk for this month will be on March 6th. See you there!



Birding in the Crozet Area

Wednesday, March 3 at 8:00 a.m. Meet at Beaver Creek Lake Parking Lot

We'll walk in several areas near Crozet, ending about 11:30. Very little traffic around on weekdays.

Trip leader will be Stauffer Miller. 296-5505 or stauffer@seepub.com.

Birding at Tufton Farm Nursery

Saturday, March 6th at 7:30 a.m. Meet at Tufton Farm Nursery. The address is 1293 Tufton Farm for those with GPS.

Target birds will be Pine Siskins, Winter Wrens, Hermit Thrush, Bald Eagle and Meadowlark.

Trip Leader will be Doug Rogers.

Birding at Shirley Plantation

Saturday March 13th at 8:30 a.m. Meet at the Shirley Plantation Gift Shop to purchase tickets which will be \$15 per person. Your ticket will provide access to the bird walk and to the House and Grounds following the bird walk.

The bird walk will be led by Tom McCary and Randy Carter.

Tom and Randy will take you to parts of the Plantation that are normally off-limits to the public.

Shirley Plantation is just east of Richmond. For more information go to: www.shirleyplantation.com

Albemarle/Charlottesville Bluebirds

2009 was a busy bluebirding year in the Albemarle/Charlottesville area. Last winter, thanks to grants from both the MBC and the Virginia Bluebird Society (VBS), we were able to refurbish eight of the 24 sites within the Bob Hammond Bluebird Trail. During the breeding season twenty five plus volunteers monitored 334 nest boxes located on both the Hammond Trail as well as those established by Ron Kingston and the late Bill Minor. A total of 1413 songbirds fledged from these boxes including 1080 bluebirds, 289 tree swallows and an assortment of chickadees, titmice and house wrens.

The 2010 breeding season will soon begin. We invite anyone to join us who would like to help in our continuing effort to maintain, expand and monitor our area bluebird trails. All information is sent to the VBS and ultimately to the North America Bluebird Society.

If you would like to help, please contact:

Ann Dunn: add7k@virginia.edu or Janet Paisley: janetaislet@comcast.net

Items of Interest - Virginia Festival of the Book

Marshall Faintich (/A Photographic Guide to the Birds of Wintergreen/) will show images and discuss his book on birds of Central Virginia at 8:00 pm at Blue Ridge Mountain Sports on 3/17/10.

Jonathan Alderfer (/Illustrated Birds of North America/), a bird artist and consultant for National Geographic, will show his art and discuss birds at Blue Ridge Mountain Sports on 3/20/10.





First Saturday Bird Walks at Ivy Creek Natural Area



2010 is the 15th year of MBC leading the first Saturday of the month bird walk at Ivy Creek. Thanks to the support of many club members this program has been a huge success. We have introduced and welcomed hundreds of new birders to Charlottesville through this program.

Our program guidelines are as follows:

All walks begin at 7:30 a.m. in the parking lot at Ivy Creek. Bruce Gatling-Austin, our Ivy Creek Programs Director, will introduce the trip leader and will bring extra binoculars. The purpose of each walk is to share with the novice birders our knowledge and enthusiasm about bird watching. The trip leader will usually ask at the start of each walk if anyone is new to birding and try to give him or her extra help during the walk. The leader will also encourage the other birders in the group to help find birds and to help the folks who are new to birding. The leader will bring a field guide to show the new birders in the group and also to help ID birds.

At the end of the walk, the leader will make a tally of the birds seen and record it in the Ivy Creek Wild Life Observation Log found in the education building.

Bruce will contact each leader a few days prior to the assigned walk. If the leader cannot lead a walk, they are asked to please switch with another leader or contact Leigh Surdukowski (295-8241).

If a leader switches dates with another leader they are requested to let Bruce know so he can correct the publicity information. (Ivy Creek phone # [973-7772](tel:973-7772) or programs@ivycreekfoundation.org). Bruce will contact each leader if the walk needs to be cancelled due to bad weather.

Each first Saturday bird walk will begin at 7:30 a.m. in the Ivy Creek parking lot.

From Ivy Creek and from the Monticello Bird Club we send a heartfelt **Thank You** to the following people who signed up to be this year's leaders: Leigh Surdukowski, Jim Nix, John Zimmerman, Stauffer Miller, Jenny Gaden, Ron Kingston, Mary Janet Fowler, Gretchen Gehrett, Peter Brask, Dave Hogg and Teresa Shaner.

IVY Creek Trip Leaders for 2010

2-Jan	Leigh Surdukowski	lsurdukowski@k12albemarle.org	295-8241
6-Feb	Jim Nix	jim-nix@comcast.net	973-7366
6-Mar	John ZimmermanJ	Jozimmva@embarqmail.com	974-9293
3-Apr	Stauffer Miller	stauffer@seepub.com	296-5505
1-May	Gretchen Gehrett		293-5544
5-Jun	Mary Janet Fowler	maryjanetf@yahoo.com	244-7862
3-Jul	Ron Kingston	Kingston@cstone.net	293-5173
7-Aug	Jenny Gaden	jgaden@embarqmail.com	293-6275
4-Sep	Leigh Surdukowski	lsurdukowski@k12albemarle.org	295-8241
2-Oct	Peter Brask		823-2363
6-Nov	Dave Hogg	dhogg@nrao.edu	974-7592
4-Dec	Teresa Shaner	twshaner@embarqmail.com	964-9420

Ivy Creek programs: Bruce Gatling-Austin [973-7772](tel:973-7772)
MBC: Leigh Surdukowski [295-8241](tel:295-8241)

Monticello Bird Alert

Several years ago Rob Capon set up a bird alert for our region and it has become quite popular. To join the group, follow these steps;

Go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/monticellobirdalert/>
><http://groups.yahoo.com/group/monticellobirdalert/>

Click on the button: Join this Group

If you have Yahoo ID, sign in and go to "step 5"

If you don't have a Yahoo ID, click on the link: Sign Up (it's free).

Fill in the required information, read terms of the agreement and signify by clicking on "I agree."

Once you are a member, you can post messages by sending messages to <<mailto:monticellobirdalert@yahoogroups.com>>monticellobirdalert@yahoogroups.com

Minutes of MBC Meeting on February 11, 2010

Due to the cancellation of the February meeting, there are no minutes to report.

Regards,

Peggy Cornett, secretary

