



# Monticello Bird Club

May 2011

Volume 27, Number 9

## Comments From the President

A few years back, someone brought to the Christmas MBC meeting, for recycling, a copy of *Bird Neighbors* by the nearly forgotten Neltje Blanchan, a pioneer birder. I had first made her acquaintance some years before and I have stumbled across her books on several occasions since then at book sales and in dusty old stores. Despite the fact that we need no more books at our house—and especially the sort that make one sneeze because they are a century old-- I pounced. Blanchan's era was the late nineteenth/early twentieth century and though her writings now seem a bit dated to say the least in this age of Swarovski and Sibley (bless them—don't get me wrong), to my mind that is precisely what lends them such abiding charm.

Critics of Rachel Carson and her cohorts used to refer dismissively to them as “the little old ladies in tennis shoes.” Doubtless Neltje Blanchan never wore them since she died in 1918, long before comfortable footwear even became legal. But had such marvelous things existed, I am sure she would have cheerfully discarded her whalebone corset and lined up for her pair of Converse, the better to bring discomfort to those who regarded warblers and bluebirds to be mere obstacles to human progress.

Folklorists and anthropologists talk of culture heroes, the mythical characters who brought great inventions or ideas to a mankind wallowing in darkness. I like to think of Neltje Blanchan in their number. She and the rest of the tennis shoe brigade.

Lou Tanner

## May Meeting Program

The program of May 12 will be the traditional member's night. To make this night a success, we need the participation of you, the members. Do you take pictures of birds, of scenery, of people? If so, load about ten such photos onto a flash drive and bring it to the meeting. Don't feel intimidated that others might have higher quality photos than yours. If seven people come with ten slides apiece, we will have a fine program.

If you're not a photographer, you can still contribute. Do you have a favorite piece of writing, yours or someone else's, you'd like to read? Do you have a favored piece of bird art you'd like to show and talk about? Or would you like to do a short bird quiz? All avenues are open on member's night.

This completes my first year as program person of the club, taking over from the able endeavors of Pat Wilczek. I'd like to hear from you. Have you enjoyed the past year's programs? What topics would you like to hear about in 2011-2012? Can you recommend any speakers? Would you like a new restaurant for our pre-program speaker's dinners? I look forward to hearing your ideas.

Stauffer Miller

## Upcoming Meeting Topics

May 12th, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.  
Member's Night

June 9th, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.  
Annual Pot Luck

## Inside This Issue

<i>Bird Club Information</i>	2
<i>Welcome New Members</i>	1
<i>Bird Club Meeting minutes</i>	2
<i>Outings for April</i>	3
<i>Birding before work</i>	3
<i>Ivy Creek Natural Area</i>	3
<i>Nominating Committee</i>	4
<i>VSO News</i>	4

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome the following new members to the Monticello Bird Club.

We welcome them all and wish them great birding and good fellowship at our meetings.

Bonnie Yoder  
Brenton Mundt  
Bridget Archer  
Sylvia Glover  
Marjorie Hill  
Thomas Jones  
Gerry and Nancy Mayer  
Daniel, Mary and Gabriel Mapel

# Monticello Bird Club Business Meeting Minutes

Monticello Bird Club Minutes, 14 April 2011

Lou Tanner opened the meeting by welcoming newcomers. He welcomed a high school student from Augusta County, Gabriel Maple, who is already a keen birder and who has seen over 250 species this year. A couple from Maine, Connie Avery and Jerry Therrien, have recently moved to Charlottesville and both are avid birders. The attendance at the meeting was 59.

**Treasurer's Report:** Lou Tanner announced that Henry Konat plans to resign as MBC treasurer at the end of his 5<sup>th</sup> term this year. He thanked Henry for his fine service and the members gave a round of applause. Henry then reported that the income for the period was \$10,683 and expenses were \$11,597, for a balance of (-\$914). MBC still has \$11,300 in the bank.

**Field Trips:** Dave Hogg reported that Vesper Sparrows were spotted at Panorama Farm. The Secluded Farm walk with Jim Nix is planned for April 23. The "Birding Before Work" series will take place in April and May at Ragged Mountain Natural Area, Observatory Hill, Ivy Creek Natural Area, and at Secluded Farm.

Jenny Gaden announced the recent death of Patrick Toomey. Patrick had created a database for the bird records that Jenny is keeping and she is now appealing for help from anyone who is computer savvy and knowledgeable about managing databases.

**Bird Sightings** for the month were shared. Bill Leaning saw his first Hummingbird at his home in Earlysville. He also watched Red-breasted Nuthatch, Goldfinch, Pine Siskin, Great Crested Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and Field, Song, Tree, Chipping, and Swamp Sparrows all while having lunch earlier that day. Gabriel M. mentioned that a Prothonotary Warbler was reported at Riverview Park on the Monticello Bird Alert Web site. Gabriel also saw a Hermit Thrush and Louisiana Water Thrush at Ivy Creek. Bob Gilges reported a Ruffed Grouse and he has two pairs of Wood Ducks at his pond near the Mormons River. Lou Tanner mentioned his recent discovery that Alta Vista Avenue in Belmont is a flyway for migrating hawks and Ospreys and that he watched over 50 Ospreys flying over. Jenny Gaden had an Oven Bird at her house. Stauffer Miller talked about a Violet-green Swallow and Trumpeter Swan. Five Broad-winged Hawks and an Osprey were seen in the Hollymead neighborhood, as well as a Great Blue Heron and male Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Peggy Cornett reported that the Bald Eagle nest near Tufton Farm apparently has hatchlings.

Submitted by Peggy Cornett, Secretary

## 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 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 June issue is 8:00 a.m. May 22.** Please note that this is earlier than usual. Please email information to Doug Rogers at [MBCNEWS@embarqmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.monticellobirdclub.org)

## Monticello Bird Club Board Members

<b>President</b>	Lou Tanner	<a href="mailto:ashokatg@hotmail.com">ashokatg@hotmail.com</a>	979-1722
<b>Vice President</b>	Joanne Bricker	<a href="mailto:mbcnews@embarqmail.com">mbcnews@embarqmail.com</a>	825-2676
<b>Secretary</b>	Peggy Cornett	<a href="mailto:pcornett@monticello.org">pcornett@monticello.org</a>	984-9816
<b>Treasurer</b>	Henry Konat	<a href="mailto:henryk54@verizon.net">henryk54@verizon.net</a>	540-948-4771
<b>Field Trips</b>	Dave Hogg	<a href="mailto:dhogg@nrao.edu">dhogg@nrao.edu</a>	974-7592
<b>Speakers</b>	Stauffer Miller	<a href="mailto:stauffer@seepub.com">stauffer@seepub.com</a>	296-5505
<b>Publicity</b>	Peg Watson	<a href="mailto:appleorchardmountain@gmail.com">appleorchardmountain@gmail.com</a>	996-9831
<b>Hospitality</b>	Priscilla Kingston	<a href="mailto:kingston@cstone.net">kingston@cstone.net</a>	293-5173
<b>Newsletter</b>	Doug Rogers	<a href="mailto:mbcnews@embarqmail.com">mbcnews@embarqmail.com</a>	409-8156
<b>Membership</b>	Jim Nix	<a href="mailto:jim-nix@comcast.net">jim-nix@comcast.net</a>	973-7366
<b>Birdseed Sale</b>	Jim Hill	<a href="mailto:jimcarhill@comcast.net">jimcarhill@comcast.net</a>	975-6523

**Belvedere Trail Bird Walk- May 14**

Belvedere Trail meanders down a hill to the flood plain and then follows the river to the confluence of the Powell Creek and the South Fork of the Rivanna River. We should see a variety of spring and summer birds. Plan on walking 1-2 miles. After a heavy rain the top section of the trail can be muddy. Meet at 7 a.m. in the parking lot in front of the old Circuit City building in Albemarle Square.

Call Leigh Surdukowski at 295-8241 if you have additional questions.

**Warbler Walk on the Skyline Drive Pocosin Fire Road May 21**

Meet the trip leader Doug Rogers at 7:00 a.m. at Mile Post 59 ½, on the eastern side of the Skyline Drive. The site is a fire road which leads downhill to a variety of edge habitat. We have been there at this time of year for the past two years and have had good success in seeing a variety of warblers. We are starting early since the birding slows down significantly after 10:am.

For more information please contact Doug at mbcnews@embarqmail.com

**Birding Before Work**

**W**e will again have short trips to see migrants during the last week of April and the first week of May. Most of the trips will be at the Ivy Creek Natural Area (ICNA). Special trips will be on April 27, to Observatory Hill; April 29, to Secluded Farm; and on May 5, to the Ragged Mountain Natural Area (RMNA). All trips will begin at 7:00 am, and will end by 8:30 am.

**M**eeting Places.

- Ivy Creek Natural Area. Parking Lot
- Ragged Mountain Natural Area. Parking Lot
- Observatory Hill. Parking lot of the National Radio Astronomy Observatory, 520 Edgemont Road, at the northeast base of O-Hill. It is reached by taking McCormick Road west from its intersection with Alderman Road.
- Secluded Farm. Meet at the overflow parking lot for the Thomas Jefferson Parkway (Monticello Trail); the entrance is off Rte 20 North, just north of the intersection with Rte 53 and across from the entrance to PVCC.

**Week One**

- April 25 ICNA  
Leader Dave Hogg
- April 26 ICNA  
Leader Jim Nix
- April 27 Observatory Hill  
Leader Mark Adams
- April 28 ICNA  
Leader Janet Paisley
- April 29 Secluded Farm  
Leader Stauffer Miller

**Week Two**

- May 2 ICNA  
Leader Leigh Surdukowski
- May 3 ICNA  
Leader Peter Brask
- May 4 ICNA  
Leader Peter Dutnell
- May 5 RMNA  
Leader Dave Hogg
- May 6 ICNA  
Leader Jenny Gaden

**First Saturday Bird Walks**

**May 7, 2011 and June 4, 2011 at 7:30 a.m.**

On the first Saturday of each month, the Monticello Bird Club offers a bird walk at the Ivy Creek Natural Area. The spring migration will soon be in full swing, and ICNA has traditionally been an excellent place to see a good selection of these migrants.

Please join Stauffer Miller on May 7, and Leigh Surdukowski on June 4 to find out how this season is shaping up. Meet at the parking lot of the Natural Area at 7:30am.

A special thank you to Joanne Bricker and Karen Anderson who helped edit this Newsletter!

**2011 Ivy Creek Bird Walks**

**First Saturday Bird Walks at Ivy Creek**

2011 marks the 16<sup>th</sup> year of the popular 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday Bird Walk at IVY Creek. Rain or shine, bitter cold or intense heat; novice birders as well as veteran birders turn out for these walks. Although we have a strong cadre of walk leaders, the success of these walks is greatly enhanced by other club members on the walk generously sharing their bird knowledge and helping novice birders. Many thanks to the following people who agreed to lead the Ivy Creek walks this year: Janet Paisley, Jim Nix, Leigh Surdukowski, Lou Tanner, Stauffer Miller, Jenny Gaden, Dave Hogg, Peter Dutnell and Teresa Shaner. Many of our leaders have led these walks for over 15 years and their dedication is greatly appreciated. Contact Leigh Surdukowski (295-8241) if you are interested in leading a 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday bird walk.

**Nominating Committee**

I am the chair of the Nominating Committee for this year.

Serving the Club as the Newsletter Editor these past two years has been a privilege. I have found that it allowed me to get to know the inner workings of the Club and to get to know more of its members.

It is that time of year again where we nominate Board Members for the upcoming year. We welcome and express our appreciation to those who have already agreed to serve and we welcome those who are interested in serving.

If you would like to compete for any of the positions shown in the table, please let me know as soon as possible and I will place your name in nomination.

Doug Rogers

**Nominations for the 2011 - 2012 Club year**

President	Lou Tanner
Vice President	Joanne Bricker
Secretary	Peggy Cornett
Treasurer	<i>We need a candidate</i>
Field Trips	Dave Hogg
Speakers	Stauffer Miller
Publicity	Peg Watson
Hospitality	Priscilla Kingston
Newsletter	Doug Rogers
Membership	Jim Nix
Birdseed Sale	Jim Hill

**Bird Sightings**

On March 12 Karen Shank of the Rockingham Club reported that another Club member had verified a nesting Eurasian Collared Dove in Rushville by riding up in a bucket for a close look at the bird on the nest. So far as we know, this may be the first confirmed nest of this species in Rockingham County.

**Unusual Visitor**

Henry Konat has had a pair of red-breasted nuthatches coming to one of his feeders in Madison for the past 6 weeks. This is the first time in many years that he has seen this species at his feeders.

This photo, at right, was taken on April 19, 2011.



Photo by Henry Konat

**VSO Annual Meeting  
Harrisonburg, Virginia May 13-15,  
2011**

The annual meeting of the Virginia Society of Ornithology will be held May 13 - 15, in Harrisonburg, located in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley. Hosted by the Rockingham Bird Club and headquartered at the Holiday Inn, the meeting will feature a banquet, field trips, exhibits, vendors, a technical paper session, and the VSO's annual business meeting. The banquet speaker will be Dan Cristol, Professor of Biology at the College of William and Mary.

Rockingham County lies astride the Shenandoah Valley, extending from Shenandoah Mountain in the west to the Blue Ridge in the east. Both mountain ranges are flyways for spring migrants, as well as breeding grounds for numerous

species, and should offer abundant opportunities for excellent birding along the ridge tops and in the foothills. Farmed lowlands in the valley provide good habitat for grassland birds and feature numerous stock ponds that attract a variety of shorebirds. Lake Shenandoah, just east of Harrisonburg, is a popular year-round birding spot.

The Holiday Inn at 1400 East Market Street will be the meeting headquarters (540-433-2523; [www.holidayinn.com](http://www.holidayinn.com)). A block of rooms has been reserved at a special rate of \$84, plus tax. Reservations must be made by May 1, using the code "RBC", to obtain the special rate. Other lodging options include the Jameson Inn (540-442-1515) and the Sleep Inn (540-433-7100).

All meals, other than the banquet, are on your own. A list of conveniently located restaurants will be provided at reg-

istration.

To register for the meeting and the banquet, use the registration form on page 7 of the VSO newsletter or download the form from the Rockingham Bird Club website, [www.rockinghambirdclub.com](http://www.rockinghambirdclub.com).

The registration deadline is May 1, 2011. Upon arrival registration packets can be picked up at the VSO table located in the Tropical Court at the motel. Participants may also sign up for field trips at that time. Direct questions to Elizabeth Ihle, 540-234-8296 or [eliza51@aol.com](mailto:eliza51@aol.com).

[http://www.vabirds.org/VSO\\_PDFs/VSO\\_Nwsltr\\_WI2010\\_2011.pdf](http://www.vabirds.org/VSO_PDFs/VSO_Nwsltr_WI2010_2011.pdf)