



# Monticello Bird Club

May 2013

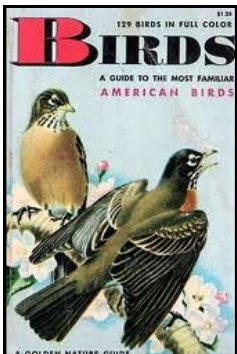
Volume 27 Issue 9

## Comments from The President

Lou Tanner

With the possible exception of The How and Why Wonder Book of Dinosaurs, the finest book or rather series of books ever written was the Golden Nature Guide series. Edited by one Dr. Herbert Zim from somewhere out in Illinois, it introduced tons of American kids to the wonders of beetles of the non-Liverpool sort, feldspar, salamanders, turtles, and woodpeckers. He even labored to get his young charges to learn their warblers and sparrows though that would have to come much later if at all.

The field has well and truly advanced since then. Though the human material nowadays would appear to be roughly the same quality, the binoculars, scopes, and the guidebooks themselves are incomparably better. And on trips out into the



wilds of Albemarle County—I cannot tell a lie--Peterson or Sibley are far more reliable companions. Nevertheless, giant reference books from early in the previous century and Dr. Zim's little pocket guides, the sort that were made for the pockets of a nine year old, i.e., have more than earned their place on the bookshelves of a less patient world. As a fan of both birds and old books, I have to hope there is still room.

## Inside This Issue

First Saturday Bird Walk	2
Pocosin Fire Road Field Trip	2
Pine Knot Field Trip	2
Birding Before Work	2
April Meeting Minutes	3
Incoming Board Members	4
VSO Summer Field Trip	4
Monticello Bird Club Contacts	4

[http://www.wnrn.org/?powerpress\\_pinw=11862-podcast](http://www.wnrn.org/?powerpress_pinw=11862-podcast)

In April Joanne Bricker recorded a podcast with local radio station WNRN promoting the Monticello Bird Club. Listen to it at the link above and help the club stay vibrant by telling a friend!

## Member's Night on May 9th at 7:00pm

Stauffer Miller

The May 9th program of the bird club will be the work of our members, our so-called Member's Night. I urge you to bring approximately ten slides—on a USB drive is good—of your travels, your yard, most any topic that relates to nature. All of us will enjoy seeing them. Since Member's Night is a collective effort, we need your participation to make this night work. Don't make it a bust. If you don't have slides, bring a favorite reading, present a poem, put on a skit. All activities, within certain boundaries, are permissible.

As I end another year of arranging programs for the club, I thank those who have helped me. Janet Paisley, Nancy Newman and Dan Bieker gave me program ideas. Peg Watson, Ken Klotz and the Mapels, in their respective newsletter, website and publicity roles, have been a pleasure to work with. I welcome any ideas for future programs. Coming up with eight programs for 2013-2014 is a challenge. Let me hear from you if you have ideas. Also, what programs of the past year did you most like. Were there some you did not care for? Also, it may be time for someone else to take over for me. If you would like to arrange programs, or serve on a programs committee with me, let me know. It's really a rather easy job. See you on Member's Night.



# Monticello Bird Club

## Club Activities

### First Saturday Bird Walk

**Saturday, May 4, 7:30am**

Novice bird watchers as well as expert birders are invited to join Stauffer Miller on May 4 for the First Saturday Bird Walk. Meet at 7:30 am in the parking lot of Ivy Creek Natural Area. In Charlottesville, the first week of May is the peak of migration. Brilliant Scarlet Tanagers, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, and a variety of warblers are frequently seen in May. Stauffer, an excellent birder, has an uncanny ability to find unusual birds. The walk lasts 1-2 hours and most walks are around 1 mile in length.

### Pine Knot

**Saturday, May 11, 8:30am**

Lou Tanner will be leading a field trip at Pine Knot, Edith and Theodore Roosevelt's retreat near Keene, VA, on Saturday May 18th. Time is a less spartan 8:30am. Pine Knot is at 711 Coles Rolling Road, Albemarle County. Directions available online or call Lou at (434) 979-1722.

### Rockfish Valley Trail

**Saturday, May 25, 8:30am**

Marshall Faintich and Walt Childs will lead us on a tour of the Rockfish Valley Trail in Nelson County. This site has a great diversity of birds and Walt and Marshall know this area extremely well, so this should be a great trip.

Directions: Take Route 250 west to Route 151 (Critzler Shop Road) South. Go 14 miles and pass through Nellysford. The trail head is on the right at the Hurricane Camille Memorial marker.

### Pocosin Fire Road

**Saturday, May 11, 7:00am**

Meet the trip leader Doug Rogers at Mile Post 59 ½, on the eastern side of the Skyline Drive.

Driving time from Pantops Mountain is an hour. The best way to go is to drive up Route 29 to Ruckersville. Turn left on to Route 33, and take it to Skyline Drive. You will enter Skyline Drive at milepost 67 and drive north. As soon as you reach milepost 60 (about 14 minutes drive from the entrance) start watching on your right for the fire road. It is in an area where Skyline Drive is making a gentle right turn and the fire road is easy to miss.

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 several years and have had good success in seeing a variety of warblers. We are starting early since the birding slows down significantly after 10:00am.

For more information please contact Doug at [doug5996@gmail.com](mailto:doug5996@gmail.com)



## Birding Before Work

**All trips will begin at 7:00am and will end by 8:30am.**

We will continue the program of short trips to see migrants during the last of April and beginning of May. Most of the trips will be at the Ivy Creek Natural Area (ICNA). Special trips will be on April 30 to Secluded Farm and May 1 to Observatory Hill.

### Meeting Places:

**Ivy Creek 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 Route 20 North, just north of the intersection with Route 53 and across from the entrance to PVCC.

- 4/29 Ivy Creek-Doug Rogers
- 4/30 Secluded Farm-John Davis
- 5/1 Observatory Hill-Lou Tanner
- 5/2 Ivy Creek-Teresa Shaner
- 5/3 Ivy Creek-Jenny Gaden



Monticello Bird Club April 11, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Peggy Cornett

Lou Tanner opened the meeting of 32 members by greeting two first-timers—one from western Maryland and one from New York.

Gabriel Mapel followed with a short eulogy of Augusta resident YuLee Lerner who passed away recently. YuLee was a mentor to Gabriel and many others and will be very much missed by the Augusta birding community. A service is scheduled April 12 at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Staunton.

Gabriel and Mary Mapel both thanked MBC for its financial support of Blue Ridge Young Birders Club as well as donations of books and a spotting scope given by Doug Rogers. They mentioned that through affiliation with Eagle Optics and Amazon.com, BRYBC is entitled to 5% of sales to anyone shopping at these websites and mentioning the affiliation. Access the Eagle Optics website through [www.blueridgeyoungbirders.com](http://www.blueridgeyoungbirders.com).

Doug Rogers gave the Treasurer's report. Receipts for the month were \$0, disbursements were \$481.66, and bank balance \$10,483.05. We are on budget for the year, with anticipated expenses of \$300 to June 30, 2013. Current paid memberships are 120; paid memberships on 3/13/12 were 128.

Construction of the birding trail on Gilbert Station Road is set for April 23, 2013. The date March 20 was reported in error by the treasurer in last month's newsletter. Five have volunteered to help with the project and more are welcome! If interested, contact Doug Rogers.

Doug Rogers presented nominations for Officers and Board Members for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2013: President, Doug Rogers; Vice President, Kathy Sudduth; Secretary, Peggy Cornett; Treasurer, Maynard Davis; Field Trips, John Davis; Speakers, Stauffer Miller; Publicity, Gabriel Mapel; Hospitality, Ron and Priscilla Kingston; Newsletter, Joanne Bricker; Membership, Lesslie Crowell; Birdseed Sale, Jim Hill. A motion was made to accept the nominations. The motion was seconded and the vote passed.

John Davis gave the Field Trips report. Walks are scheduled for the next three weekends. John announced that although he is listed as leader for the Birding Before Work walks on April 26 and 30, it conflicts with his work schedule and he would appreciate volunteers for those two dates. Let John know by May 1 if you intend to go on the Piney Grove trip on May 18.

Lesslie Crowell asked for volunteers to help at the MBC/BRYBC publicity table at the Tufton Farm Open House on April 27.



Bird sightings included a yellow-throated warbler at John Davis's feeder; an American redstart spotted by Gabriel Mapel at Oak's Overlook on the Skyline Drive as well as a Louisiana Waterthrush at Ivy Creek; about fifteen Louisiana waterthrushes reported by Nancy Newman on the Appalachian Trail at Afton; a common yellowthroat reported by Jenny Gaden at Riverview Park; many purple finches at Stauffer Miller's feeder; chimney swifts and a black and white warbler in Lou Tanner's yard; and an odd red-winged blackbird with bobolink-like coloring on the head seen by Joanne Bricker. Lou Tanner concluded by suggesting the Northern Neck of Virginia as an excellent birding destination.

Stauffer Miller invited all to bring photos to share at Members' Night, May 9 at 7:00pm. He offered birding literature available for members to take home free of charge, and then introduced the speaker, Peter Kaestner, who gave a fascinating presentation on the 949 species he has seen during his years living in India as a State Department employee.

Monticello Bird Club  
Officers and Board Members 2013 - 2014

President	Doug Rogers
Vice-President	Kathy Sudduth
Secretary	Peggy Cornett
Treasurer	Maynard Davis
Field Trips	John Davis
Speakers	Stauffer Miller
Publicity	Gabriel Maple
Hospitality	Ron and Priscilla Kingston
Newsletter	Joanne Bricker
Membership	Lesslie Crowell
Birdseed Sale	Jim Hill



Virginia Society of Ornithology Summer Field Trip

Highland County, June 7—9, 2013

Join us in the beautiful mountains of western Virginia for our summer field trip! Highland County is a hot spot among birders throughout Virginia.

The Highland Inn at 68 West Main Street in Monterey is the host hotel. Special rates for our block of rooms at the Inn range from \$89.10 to \$116.10 (plus tax). The owners of the Inn also own the Montvallee Motel, just down the street at 54 East Main Street. Special rates: \$66.60 (one queen bed) and \$71.10 (2 double beds), plus tax. Check-in time is 2:00 PM, and check-out is 11:00 AM. There are coffee makers in all rooms and no refrigerators. **They will release the block of rooms at both locations MAY 7, so be sure to register before MAY 7.** Call (888) 466-4682 for reservations at either location.

Directions: From I-81, take Exit 225 West, Woodrow Wilson Parkway. The Parkway will take you to US 250 West. Follow US 250 West to Monterey. U.S. 250 becomes Main Street in Monterey.

Meals are on your own. The Inn has a restaurant, and there are a few others in Monterey. A complimentary continental breakfast is included for those staying at the Inn, and they'll open for us at

7:00am each morning. For Saturday's field trip, you can order sandwiches in advance from a local restaurant.

Friday Morning 7:45am - For those who'd like a three-day weekend of birding, Lee and Meredith Bell will lead a field trip to Gaudineer Knob in adjacent Pocohantas County WV (one hour drive). Meet in the parking lot behind the Highland Inn at 7:45am to form carpools, and we'll return to have lunch before the afternoon trip.

Friday Afternoon 2:00pm – In case you're arriving after lunch on Friday, you can meet us in the parking lot behind the Highland Inn at 2:00pm to form carpools for our afternoon trip to Forks of Water, just 5 miles north on Route 220 (10 minute drive). The trip will return to the Inn by 5:00pm.

Friday Evening 6:00pm - Lee and Meredith will host a pre-dinner social at the Crafter's Suite (50 Fleisher Avenue), located just a block away from the Inn and motel. Bring a snack to share and beverage of your choice. We'll overview the week-end and give you a chance to interact with other attendees. Dinner is on your own afterwards.

Saturday Field Trip 7:45am - This will be an all-day field trip. Meet in the parking lot behind the Inn at 7:45am on Saturday to organize carpools for the day. We'll travel north and west, covering Blue Grass Valley, Straight Fork, Laurel Fork, and Locust Springs.

Saturday Evening 6:00pm - There will be a tally to total the species seen Friday and Saturday. Location to be determined. Dinner is on your own.

Sunday Field Trip 7:45am - We'll explore some private property on Wimer Mountain in the Blue Grass area on Sunday morning (20-minute drive). Meet in the parking lot behind the Inn at 7:45am to form carpools.

To help us plan for the number of leaders and groups we'll need for the field trips, please register in advance. Provide the names of participants in your party, a telephone number and email address. Register with Meredith Bell at merandlee@gmail.com or call 804-824-4958.

NOTE: Please bring a walkie-talkie if you have one to make communication easier among members of the same caravan.

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. Membership is \$15 per year for individuals, \$25 for a family or for printed newsletters. Membership year is July 1—June 30. The editor of the MBC Newsletter welcomes submissions including articles, photographs and notices. **DEADLINE for each issue is 9:00AM on the 20th of the month.**



Monticello Bird Club  
P.O. Box 4362  
Charlottesville, Virginia  
22905

Please visit our website at  
[www.monticellobirdclub.org](http://www.monticellobirdclub.org)

President	Lou Tanner	ashokatg@hotmail.com	434-979-1722
Vice President	Kathy Sudduth	kas3m2@embarqmail.com	434-973-0690
Secretary	Peggy Cornett	pcornett@monticello.org	434-984-9816
Treasurer	Doug Rogers	doug5996@gmail.com	434-409-8156
Field Trips	John Davis	jbtdavis@gmail.com	434-296-7613
Speakers	Stauffer Miller	stauffer@seepub.com	434-296-5505
Publicity	Gabriel Mapel	birdmangabriel@yahoo.com	540-363-5035
Hospitality	Priscilla Kingston	kingston@cstone.net	434-293-5173
Newsletter	Peg Watson	monticellobirdclubnewsletter@gmail.com	434-996-9831
Membership	Lesslie Crowell	lessliecrowell@aol.com	434-295-1395
Birdseed Sale	Jim Hill	jimcarhill@comcast.net	434-975-6523