



# Monticello Bird Club

September 2013 Newsletter

Website: [www.monticellobirdclub.org](http://www.monticellobirdclub.org)

Volume 28

Issue 1

Facebook: [Monticello Bird Club](#)

*MBC Monthly Meeting*—Thursday, September 12th at 7:00pm

## Comments from the President

Doug Rogers



As we kick off a new season of birding, first, I want to say, "Thank You!" to all who are on board to help make this coming year a memorable one!

In June of this year, Joanne and I spent the better part of a week at National Audubon's Hog Island Camp in Bremen, Maine. We got to see Atlantic Puffins up close and personal in their breeding colony on Eastern Egg Rock. We enjoyed great camaraderie with sixty other birders, ate great food, and added three life birds. The birding trips all week were well orchestrated by Audubon, and the Hog Island Camp Staff had planned for challenges presented by the unruly Maine weather.

On Tuesday of our week there, the afore-mentioned Maine weather arrived with a vengeance. We donned our rain gear and insulating layers, while our leaders set up several indoor workshops from which we could pick and choose. All were interesting, but there was one that was particularly enjoyable and poignant for both of us.

In this workshop there were eight participants from several states. Our leader asked us to do a writing exercise describing a very personal moment that brought the joy of birding home to us, and, well, to our soul.

The result was a wonderful outpouring of very personal feelings. We were moved to tears as we listened to what was written and shared by the group members. We felt a very special bond with each and every group member. This experience was one of the highlights of our most enjoyable Hog Island experience!

Going forward into the new birding season, I would like to challenge each of you to do this same exercise. Birding is an adventure that many of us have spent countless hours and many dollars pursuing. It has touched us all at a very deep level.

So, please, take some time to think of your personal birding moment, and try to capture it into a short piece that will give others a glimpse of what birding means to you. If you feel comfortable doing so, I would encourage you to share your story with fellow club members in one of the following ways:

- For the extroverts—Read your narrative at the club meeting.
- For the introverts—Submit your story to me; I'll read it at the meeting. Anonymity will be respected, if so requested.
- For the writers amongst us—Submit your article for a monthly column in the Newsletter, "The Joys of Birding." (see pg.5)

I hope you will be encouraged to share your personal narratives about our common passion and thereby foster even deeper connections among our fellow birders. I look forward to your wonderful stories, as we move into this new season of birding!

## Speaker of the Month: Bob Schamerhorn

Stauffer Miller

Our beginning speaker for our 2013-2014 bird club meetings will be Bob Schamerhorn. Bob is a native of Lynchburg and has studied art and design at Virginia Tech. He and his wife have a son Michael. They now live in Richmond, where Bob runs his own business, Infinity Graphics, which specializes in website design.

While Bob is an outstanding bird and nature photographer, he insists he is not a professional. A sample of his photography is his beautiful photo of a Northern Mockingbird that adorns the cover of the Birds of Albemarle County Checklist book. Several of his photos have won awards. He also maintains a weekly photo-blog at [iPhotoBirds.com](http://iPhotoBirds.com).

Bob's topic for our September program will be the use of water to attract birds to your yard. His dynamic presentation will show how birds are attracted to water in all seasons. Enhancing his presentation will be video clips and bird calls. Come see this dramatic program which shows over fifty bird species enjoying a simple water feature.

As in the past, we meet beforehand for dinner with the speaker at the Brick Oven Restaurant at Rio Hill Shopping Center (very close to the Kroger store there). We meet at 5:30 and after dinner proceed to Ivy Creek for the 7:00 p.m. presentation. Hope to see you at the Brick Oven or later at Ivy Creek.



## First Saturday Bird Walk

September 7th, 7:30am

On the first Saturday of each month, the Monticello Bird Club offers a bird walk, led by a Club member, at Ivy Creek Natural Area. Participants gather in the parking lot at 7:30am. Birders of all levels are welcome.

Walk Leaders for Winter-Fall 2013

## Sept. 7...Tom Jones

Oct. 5 ... Peter Brask  
Nov. 2.... Peter Dutnell  
Dec. 7 .... Dave Hogg

## Field Trips

Organized by John Davis

### Nighthawk Watch

Monday, August 26, 7:00pm

Wednesday, August 28, 7:00pm

Led by Dave Hogg

### Rockfish Valley Trails

Saturday, September 14, 8:30am

Led by John Davis

### A Visit to Fan Mountain

Saturday, September 21, 8:00am

Led by Stauffer Miller

### Trump Winery

Saturday, September 28, 7:30am

Led by Ed Russo or John Davis



## Birding Tidbits...about a bird you might find on the Bird Walk at Ivy Creek this month

by Jenny Gaden

If you look at the top of your newsletter and within this article, you will see a gray bird with a long tail. This is the Northern Mockingbird, the club's logo. The club chose this bird partly because it is common in Albemarle County, but also because it was Thomas Jefferson's favorite species. In 1772 he purchased one from the Tidewater area for five shillings and kept at least one as a caged pet for the rest of his life. He was entranced with their rich singing repertoire; they copy (or "mock") the sounds they hear around them. Mostly that's the songs of other bird species.

Today you can usually find at least one when you visit the Ivy Creek Natural Area. They like to hang out in the trees and shrubs around the education building where they find insects and fruits, such as cedar berries and cherries. They are territorial birds, often claiming ownership of a single tree, and have been known to attack people, cats, dogs and other birds that intrude on their turf. Look for a bird with a gray back, wings and tail, and white under parts, wing-bars and outer tail feathers. Those wing-bars turn out to be wing patches when the mockingbird spreads its wings in flight, or when it lifts its wings over its back while foraging on the ground. The flash of white probably startles insects, thus making them easier to find.



Don't miss the exciting evening flights of migrating nighthawks! With luck, we might observe their acrobatics as they feed over the native grass field. Meet at the **Ivy Creek Natural Area** parking lot.



A tour of the Rockfish Valley Trails in Nelson County is always a treat. This site has a great diversity of birds and our two trips there last year were very successful.

**Directions:** Take Route 250 west to Route 151 (Critzler Shop Road) South. Go 14 miles and pass through Nellysford. The trailhead is on the right at the Hurricane Camille Memorial marker, just after passing over the Rockfish River.

Meet at the **Crossroads Store at North Garden**. Fan Mountain is nearby. We'll make stops as dictated by bird activity as we ascend the mountain on a gravel road. We may walk some at the summit as we enjoy the splendid panoramic views. Restrooms are available there. Afterward we'll return to the store, which also has restrooms. Those who wish can continue to two other places, Scogo Lake and Blandemar Pond.

**Stauffer's contact information:** 434-296-5505 or [stauffer@seepub.com](mailto:stauffer@seepub.com)

The Monticello Bird Club has been invited for this special one day opportunity to bird Trump Winery, a private property not normally open to the public. This will be the first time that anyone from MBC has birded this site, so what may turn up is anyone's guess. However, we are optimistic that we will have a great morning. It is possible that Ed Russo of the Trump organization will lead the trip. If Ed is unable to attend, John Davis will lead with the assistance of those present. We will meet at the winery.

**Directions:** From Route 20 near PVCC, turn onto Route 53, Thomas Jefferson Parkway. 1.5 miles after passing Monticello, turn right onto James Monroe Parkway/Route 795, just past Jefferson Vineyards. Continue for 2.6 miles. Route 795 will make a sharp left turn and Route 627 will go straight ahead. Take Route 627/Carter's Mountain Road. Continue on Carter's Mountain Road for 1.7 miles, turn right at the sign for Trump Winery, and park by the barn.

## From the Field...

### Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch Is Under Way

**August 15 through November**

**Coordinators: Vic Laubach and Brenda Tekin**

In their Monticello Bird Alert posting, Vic and Brenda invite us to drive on up to the Rockfish Gap Hawkwatch to take part in this incredible fall phenomenon right in our own back yard. Daily totals are regularly posted on the Bird Alert.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/monticellobirdalert/> Don't miss it!

Here are some paraphrased excerpts from the posting...

Our fabulous new information panel has been completed and installed, making the watch accessible to raptor watchers of all levels. The grass has been mowed, weeds have been pulled, and one HUGE bush has been cut down at the corner of the patio, making for much wider views and more seating space!

The hawk watch is located on the north side of the Inn at Afton, just off highway 64 at exit 99. Help us find the raptors and see if this year of crazy weather will bring us some new raptor records! The hawk watch will be manned every weekend and most weekdays, weather permitting, usually from 8am - 5pm. Bring a chair or blanket, sunscreen & hat, snacks & drinks ... and don't forget your binoculars!

We hope to see you up at "the Watch" this fall! <http://www.rockfishgaphawkwatch.org>



Information Display Sign  
Photo by Vic Laubach

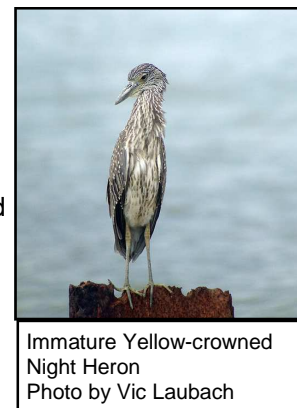
### A Great Day at Craney Island

Fourteen intrepid birders ID'd a total of 53 species on the August 10th MBC field trip to the critical bird habitat at Craney Island, Portsmouth, Virginia. Organizers and guides Mike Iwanik, David Hughes, and Adam D'Onofrio shared their expertise in shorebird identification with the group. Vic Laubach compiled the list for ebird and submitted the following account of trip highlights.



Black-necked Stilts  
Photo by Brenda Tekin

Interspersed with the many Semipalmated Sandpipers throughout the morning were a number of other shorebirds including Least Sandpipers, Semipalmated Plovers, Spotted Sandpipers, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Killdeer, Ruddy Turnstones and a few Sanderlings. In one small pond we also observed a group of Short-billed Dowitchers, White-rumped Sandpipers, Stilt Sandpipers, a Marbled Godwit and a Pectoral Sandpiper. In the larger and deeper ponds were groups of American Avocets, Black-necked Stilts, Ruddy Ducks, Mallards, Laughing Gulls and a couple Great Black-backed Gulls. Royal Terns far outnumbered Caspian and Least Terns. The shore of the James River held Canada Geese, Double-crested Cormorants, Brown Pelicans, Great Blue Herons, Great and Snowy Egrets and one immature Yellow-crowned Night Heron. Raptors were represented by a pair of Red-tailed Hawks, some Osprey and a nice Cooper's Hawk.



Immature Yellow-crowned  
Night Heron  
Photo by Vic Laubach

### Notes from BYRC

by Gabriel Mapel

The Blue Ridge Young Birders Club (BRYBC) wishes to thank the Monticello Bird Club for its wonderful support. Coming up in October is our 1st anniversary and the club is going great! We've had wonderful field trips to various locations. The BRYBC installed a Bluebird nest box trail at PVCC this spring, thanks to a grant from the Virginia Bluebird Society. We have had a very successful season on the trail, and the young birders have had such a fun time taking turns with trail monitoring! To keep up with BRYBC's activities, you can visit our website: [www.blueridgeyoungbirders.org](http://www.blueridgeyoungbirders.org)



#### Editor's Note:

Gabriel is the recipient of a 2012 HMANA (Hawk Migration Association of North America) Appreciation Award for his many birding accomplishments and his contributions to the Rockfish Gap Hawkwatch. See the HMANA journal, "Hawk Migration Studies" Volume 38, No.2 to read a fine article about this stellar young birder.

## Club News

### MBC Board Meeting Minutes, August 5, 2013

Submitted by Peggy Cornett, Secretary

Monticello Bird Club board members met at President Doug Rogers' home to discuss and approve the fiscal year 2014 budget, the upcoming bird seed sales, and other club issues.

Changes approved for 2014 include moving the newsletter printing (for those few members requesting a paper copy) from Kinkos to ALC, cutting costs from \$.49 to \$.28/issue. The speaker honorarium will increase to \$125. The board approved to continue the \$300 donation to the Blue Ridge Young Birders Club.

There was discussion on the rate of liability insurance for the directors and officers. Treasurer Maynard Davis will determine how to terminate the General Liability policy and file documents to make the club a corporation. It was decided to discontinue the club's maintenance and use of the birding trail on the Hall property. Newsletter editor Joanne Bricker wants to share more birding moments from members. She plans to explore adding an MBC Bird Notes column to the regular Ivy Creek Foundation Newsletter. The MBC newsletter will also include a BRYBC Corner each month. Joanne will inquire if ALC would consider donating the printing cost. Publicity chair Lesslie Crowell requested funds for additional publicity and flyers, and for purchase of a 10' X 10' pop up tent.

The new Bird Seed Sale Team includes: Eileen Stephens, Sandra Williams, Dave Hogg, Maynard Davis, Lou Tanner, Jenny Gaden, and Doug Rogers. They will work with Jim Hill to increase organization and support for this important annual event. Plans are in the works for ordering and purchasing seed online.

In attendance: Doug Rogers, Joanne Bricker, Gabriele Mapel, Lesslie Crowell, Maynard Davis, Jim Hill, Stauffer Miller, Ron and Priscilla Kingston, Kathy Sudduth, and Peggy Cornett

### Dues Are Due!

by Maynard K. Davis, Treasurer

It's a bit challenging to introduce yourself when you're asking for money. But that's my job. I'm the new treasurer. By way of introduction, suffice it to say that I retired from a financial career at World Wildlife Fund two years ago and have been enjoying Charlottesville ever since.

Now on to the money pitch. MBC's membership year runs from July through June, so dues are due now for the new year. The five membership categories are as follows:

Individual with emailed newsletter	\$15
Individual with printed newsletter	\$25
Contributing (individual)	\$25
Family	\$25
Sponsor	\$50

In addition to the Membership Form on the last page of this Newsletter, you can find one on our website ([http://www.monticellobirdclub.org/MBC\\_Membership\\_Form\\_2013.pdf](http://www.monticellobirdclub.org/MBC_Membership_Form_2013.pdf).) You may mail us a copy of the form with your payment. Or, by the time you read this, electronic payment will be available on our website "Membership" page. Thanks to the efforts of our incoming President, Doug Rogers, MBC is now recognized as a 501(c)(3) organization, so dues are tax-deductible.

If you're not sure of your membership status, please email me at [davismk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:davismk@sbcglobal.net). As you would expect, dues are our biggest source of funds. Thank you in advance for your prompt payment.



### Birdseed Sale

By Jim Hill

It's not just the old Birdseed Sale (our only fundraiser) again — this year we have added a couple of surprises. Sure - we will have all the great old standbys - Black Oil Sunflower Seed, Albemarle Gourmet Mix, Sunflower Chips, Bluebird Nesting Boxes and all the Golden Oldies - but this year we **have added** a couple of new twists. We are offering **DELIVERY** within a 20 mile radius of the Forestry Department Warehouse for just \$5.00 per 100 lbs. of birdseed. We are also going to have a **special mailing** of just the Birdseed Order Form in order to get it into your hands faster. And, stay tuned, as we hope to have an **online ordering and payment option** on our website available for members who would prefer the digital route.

The Birdseed Sale will start as soon as we send out the order forms. All orders must be received by Friday November 1, and Pick-up Day will be Saturday Nov.9 at the Forestry Department Warehouse. All deliveries will also be made that morning. **We ask all MBC members to spread the word** and make this the **best and most profitable sale ever**.



## CBC Goes Digital

by Jenny Gaden

As you may know, Audubon is moving to digital delivery of the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) results rather than printing and mailing *American Birds*, the CBC summary, to participants. In its place, Audubon will be producing a quarterly citizen science eNewsletter which will contain the results of all Audubon's Citizen Science programs, including the articles and summaries that previously were distributed in the printed CBC summary editions of *American Birds*.

If you would like to receive this citizen science eNewsletter, you must sign up online at [www.audubon.org/citizenscience](http://www.audubon.org/citizenscience) by entering your email address just to the right of "Want to keep up with Citizen Science?"

Joining Audubon's online citizen science network ensures you will receive updates on the latest research results, reports from Audubon scientists, and quarterly notification about count summaries posted online. In addition, you will learn about other citizen science programs and opportunities that may interest you.

## Thank You, Ken Klotz

from All MBC'ers

The Monticello Bird Club wants to publically thank Ken Klotz for his many contributions to our organization. Many of us remember him as a presenting speaker at monthly meetings. In this role, Ken introduced members to exotic birding destinations from the tropical climes of Guyana to the Arctic archipelago of Svalbard. Not all of you may know, however, that Ken generously donated web space on his business domain to us, giving MBC an online presence since 1999! In addition, he donated his time and efforts to serve as our Webmaster Extraordinaire for the entire time. Once more we express our sincere appreciation for Ken's expertise, generosity, and countless hours of service on behalf of the Monticello Bird Club.

## The Joy of Birding... a personal sharing of stories by MBC members

contributed by Joanne Bricker

It was late in life that I met Doug. Match.com must have recognized that our common interest in birds and the natural world would make us compatible. Well, they were surely right. Our common and somewhat casual hobby which brought us together has evolved into a shared passion for birding. We have traveled and pursued birding together; it has become the glue which cements our bond.

However, when our relationship was at its fledgling stage and we were consciously trying to expand our birding knowledge (as, of course, we still are!), I became quite discouraged to learn that the visual noting of details and spotting skills that I so admired in Doug and a great many of the more accomplished birders we encountered did not come naturally to me. Eventually, it dawned on me that many of these talented birders were not only excellent spotters; some were also fabulous listeners. And I, too, have an ear. I decided I wanted to learn more about birdsong. This was something I thought I could be good at.

Mistakenly, I began with Donald Kroodsma's *The Singing Life of Birds*. The book title sounded right, but Kroodsma's excessively visual approach to birdsong learning, while helpful to some, was not for me, a much more auditorally attuned person. Fortunately, I finally became acquainted with the *Birding by Ear* CD's by Walton and Lawson. Their carefully crafted comparisons and contrasts of birdsong made complete sense to me, and I began to study and hone my listening skills.

Shortly thereafter, came the moment that will be etched in my memory forever. Doug and I had been on a lovely birding foray into Highland County, VA. We were driving homeward, wending our way up the long and winding mountainside road out of McDowell, when we decided to stop at the lone roadside picnic table there. As we were munching and talking, I became vaguely aware, and then acutely conscious, of a bird's song... Why, it sounded just like "a robin with a sore throat!" I looked up into the tall trees above us, and there, lit by the sun as if in perfect spotlight, was the serenading scarlet tanager.



That was my birding moment. I was hooked!



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

Visit our website at  
[www.monticellobirdclub.org](http://www.monticellobirdclub.org)  
for club and membership information.

The **Club meets** on the **second Thursday** of each month, September through June, at the **Education Building of the Ivy Creek Natural Area** on Earlysville Rd, 1/2 mile north of Hydraulic Rd.

The editor of the **MBC Newsletter** welcome submissions, including articles, photographs and notices. **DEADLINE** for each issue is **9:00AM on the 20th** of the month.

President	Doug Rogers	doug5996@gmail.com	434-409-8156
Vice President	Kathy Sudduth	kas3m2@embarqmail.com	434-973-0690
Secretary	Peggy Cornett	pcornett@monticello.org	434-984-9816
Treasurer	Maynard K. Davis	davismk@sbcglobal.net	434-205-4268
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Hospitality	Priscilla Kingston	kingston@cstone.net	434-293-5173
Newsletter	Joanne Bricker	mbcnleditor@gmail.com	434-825-2676
Membership	Lesslie Crowell	lessliecrowell@aol.com	434-295-1395
Birdseed Sale	Jim Hill	jimcarhill@comcast.net	434-975-6523

# MONTICELLO BIRD CLUB

## Membership Form

**BECOME A MONTICELLO BIRD CLUB MEMBER FOR 2013-2014!**

The membership year is July 1-June 30.

*When you join MBC, you will receive ten issues of the MBC Newsletter, chock full of information about field trips, speakers, bird sightings, and more. You will be sent timely notification of our annual Birdseed Sale. You will know that you are supporting bird-friendly programs locally and regionally. And you will be among a group of warm, friendly, and sharing people who have a passion for birds and birding!*

**Yes, I want to join the Monticello Bird Club!**

**Renewal**

**New Member**



**Membership categories. Please select one.**

**Individual** (\$15) with **Emailed** Newsletter

**Individual** (\$25) with **Mailed** Newsletter

**Contributing Individual** (\$25) with **Emailed** Newsletter

**Family** (\$25)

**Sponsor** (\$50)

For Family and Sponsor Memberships only. Please send my newsletter

by Email

by Postal Mail

**Additional Donation** \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make check payable to **Monticello Bird Club**.*

*Mail form & check to: Monticello Bird Club, P.O. Box 4362, Charlottesville, VA 22905 or*

*Visit our website [www.monticellobirdclub.org](http://www.monticellobirdclub.org) for electronic membership payment.*