



# Monticello Bird Club

June 2007

Volume 21, Number 10

## Annual Potluck Picnic June 14th

Join us for the last meeting of the season, our 21st Annual Potluck Picnic!

Members are invited to bring a dish to share. Please bring your own plates, utensils and cups. MBC will provide the drinks.

The meeting will start at 6:00 pm with a short bird walk afterwards.



*Singing Common Yellowthroat. Photo by MBC member Robert Capon.*



### Comments From the President

This summer I, as many of you, intend to travel to new places where I anticipate encountering birds I've never seen before. But I also intend to enjoy the birdlife around my home and I've already had a little adventure of a new kind there. On the afternoon of May 15 my husband and I were enjoying the company of old friends while sitting on our deck. My mind kept being distracted by a song that I was 90 percent sure was the resident Louisiana Waterthrush. I have heard this bird singing from our woods every day since March 28, but the song didn't sound quite the same as usual. As soon as our company left I followed the sound into the woods. Naturally it ceased. But the sharp ticks which are the call of the waterthrush led me to the stream that bor-

ders our property where I saw two adults moving quickly about in the low foliage. Then something caught my eye on the opposite bank of the stream – a little movement. I hid behind a tree and peered around, binoculars to my eyes. There was a waterthrush fledgling nestled into the dead leaves and roots, voicing demanding little tick sounds of its own. An adult appeared at its side and promptly stuffed a caterpillar down its mouth. The base of the fledgling's beak showed bright yellow markings along the edge. I've never seen a Louisiana Waterthrush fledgling before. You never know what lies in wait in your own back yard.

Have a happy summer wherever you are.

*- Jennifer Gaden, president*

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## Purple Martin Field Day

The 13th Annual Purple Martin Field Day is set for Saturday June 23 this year at the farm of Merle & Lance Wood in Louisa County. From 9:30 am until noon you can learn how to establish a colony of Purple Martins, including information on housing requirements and protection devices. There will also be a short nesting box trail tour, featuring nest boxes for different species of birds. Directions: From Charlottesville, take I-64 East to Exit 136 (Zion Cross-roads).

Travel north on US 15 for 3.5 miles until it intersects with Route 640(east). The farm is located near the intersection of US 15 and Route 640 and you will see signs directing you to the Purple Martin Field Day.

For more information, see <http://purplemartin.org/meetings/> and contact Ron & Priscilla Kingston at 434-293-5173 or [kingston@cstone.net](mailto:kingston@cstone.net)

## Volunteer Opportunity: Identify Bird Vocalizations

Twelve volunteers with excellent hearing ability to listen to audio recordings and identify bird vocalizations are needed. The project is a collaborative effort among Antonio Celis-Murillo (USGS Bird Banding Laboratory), Jill Deppe (NASA Goddard Space Flight Center/Oak Ridge Associated Universities), Ted Simons (USGS Cooperative Research Unit), Ken Pollock (NC State University), Jim Nichols (USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center), and Jim Hines (USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center).

Responsibilities of volunteers: Each volunteer will listen to a maximum of thirty 3-min recordings and identify all individuals and species heard. All bird species are found in Maryland. The results of individual participants will not be revealed. Results will be analyzed as a group rather than by individual volunteers.

*(Continued on page 4)*



## Bird Club Information

The Monticello Bird Club normally meets at 7:30 p.m. 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 September issue is August 22.** Please email information to Amy Gilmer at [akgilmer@comcast.net](mailto:akgilmer@comcast.net) or send to 3166 Welsh Run Road, Ruckersville, VA 22968.

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>	Jennifer Gaden	<a href="mailto:jgaden@earthlink.net">jgaden@earthlink.net</a>	293-6275
<b>Vice President</b>	Jim Hill	<a href="mailto:jimcarhill@adelphia.net">jimcarhill@adelphia.net</a>	975-6523
<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>	John Zimmerman	<a href="mailto:jozimmva@earthlink.net">jozimmva@earthlink.net</a>	974-9293
<b>Speakers</b>	Pat Wilczek	<a href="mailto:patwilczek@earthlink.net">patwilczek@earthlink.net</a>	985-4444
<b>Publicity</b>	Ellen Dudley	<a href="mailto:emdudley@nexet.net">emdudley@nexet.net</a>	244-2688
<b>Hospitality</b>	Priscilla Kingston	<a href="mailto:kingston@cstone.net">kingston@cstone.net</a>	293-5173
<b>Newsletter</b>	Amy Gilmer	<a href="mailto:akgilmer@comcast.net">akgilmer@comcast.net</a>	825-2170
<b>Membership</b>	Robyn Kells	<a href="mailto:rkells@ntelos.net">rkells@ntelos.net</a>	970-1044

## Upcoming Field Trips

### Eastern Virginia Rivers NWR - Wilna Unit Saturday, June 9

Sandy Spencer, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service wildlife biologist, has invited us to visit the Eastern Virginia Rivers NWR, Wilna Unit. We will meet her there at 8 am, therefore **we will meet at 5:30 am to car pool at the Food Lion in the Pantops shopping center on U.S. 250 east.** We will be walking off-trail through fields, so prepare yourself for possible tick and chigger attacks. Expected species are a variety of grassland, brushy field, and edge species including Common Yellowthroat, Prairie Warbler, Pine Warbler, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-breasted Chat, Dickcissel, and Grasshopper Sparrow. Additionally there is forest habitat with Acadian Flycatcher, both tanagers, Wood Thrush, Ovenbird, and Northern Parula. Bring a snack, since it will probably be early afternoon before we return to Charlottesville. Trip is limited to 10 participants (although we might squeeze in one or two more). So sign-up with John Zimmerman, 434-974-9293 or [Jozim-mva@earthlink.net](mailto:Jozim-mva@earthlink.net) ASAP.

### First Saturday Bird Walks At Ivy Creek Natural Area

On the first Saturday of each month the Monticello Bird Club hosts a bird walk at Ivy Creek Natural Area (ICNA) at 7:30 am. The walks start in the parking lot of ICNA. Join Jim Nix on the June 2 walk, Jenny Gaden on the July 7 walks and Ron Kingston on the August 4.

### VSO Mount Rogers Field Trip June 22-24, 2007

This Virginia Society of Ornithology trip provides an opportunity to visit Mount Rogers and White Top Mountain, the two highest peaks in Virginia and to have an absolutely wonderful time in southwestern Virginia. On Saturday, participants can choose from an exhilarating hike up to Mt. Rogers or a driving trip on a National Forest road through high-altitude forests to the summit of White Top, where flocks of Red Crossbills, sometimes numbering in the hundreds, are often seen. A wide variety of bird species including Black-capped Chickadee, Brown Creeper, Alder Flycatcher, Hermit Thrush, and Winter Wren. Veery, Least Flycatcher, Black-throated Blue Warbler, and Magnolia Warbler are plentiful in the campground.

#### HEADQUARTERS / WHERE TO STAY

Camping is wonderful at the Grindstone Campground, which is also the headquarters for the trip. For those preferring to stay in an Abingdon motel, see other suggested options on the VSO web site.

#### DIRECTIONS TO GRINDSTONE

From I-81, take exit 45 in Marion, VA. Go south on Route 16 to Troutdale. Turn right onto Route 603 and continue until you see the entrance to the campground.

For more information visit the VSO web site, <http://www.virginiabirds.net/> or call or email [Peggy Opensari](mailto:Peggy.Opensari) (if you plan to come and let her know where you will be staying).  
Phone: 540- 921-4340  
Email: [gramby@pemtcl.net](mailto:gramby@pemtcl.net)

## Welcome New MBC Members

Please welcome our newest members. We have had 38 new members join us since July 2006. We welcome them all and wish them good birding and good fellowship at our meetings. New members are:

Mildred Abraham  
Anne Atwell  
Lucille Beths  
Dorine Brown  
Robert Capon  
Audrey Dannenberg  
Tom & Margaret Dierauf  
Elizabeth Dinwiddie  
Victoria Dye  
Judy Edwards  
Dick & Barbara Fontaine  
Donald Hanberry & Rose Ferreri  
Margaret Keating  
Dean Lashbrook  
Jill Midgett  
Stephen Muskie  
Douglas Rogers & Joanne Bricker  
Eileen Rowan  
Michelle Scott  
Wendy Shapiro  
Ron & Jo Smith  
Richard & Natalie Somer  
Donna Spray  
Mary Stack  
Alberta Swan  
Mary Taylor  
Gerald Ward  
Frances Webber  
Judith Wiegand  
Carolyn Zimmerman & Robert Hing



**MBC Minutes for  
May 10, 2007**

President Jenny Gaden welcomed five 3rd graders from Red Hill Elementary and their teacher, Mrs. Gillette. The students gave a PowerPoint presentation on their experiences feeding birds during the course of the school year, using the seed and materials provided by the Monticello Bird Club. There were 42 in attendance, including the students and their parents.

**Treasurer's Report:** Henry Konat's report was given by Jenny Gaden. The club's income was \$10,102; expenses were \$10,148 and there is \$13,905 in the bank.

**Field Trips:** John Zimmerman was not present to give a report.

**Hospitality Report:** Priscilla and Ron Kingston reminded members about next month's annual pot luck picnic, June 14, beginning at 6:00 pm.

**Nominating Committee:** Lou Tanner, chair of the committee, reported that all standing officers were returning and the members voted to approve Jenny Gaden, president; Jim Hill, vice-president; Henry Konat, treasurer; and Peggy Cornett, secretary. Jenny Gaden nominated new committee chairs: Jim Nix to serve as membership chair and Jim Hill to take over as Bird Seed Sale coordinator, with Jim Nix's help maintaining the order spreadsheet. These nominations were approved and the remaining committee chairs will remain the same.

**"Big Day" Bird Count:** Stauffer Miller and Rob Kapon organized a bird count in Albemarle County to raise money for the Golden Chase project, which is monitoring nesting

Golden Eagles in Highland County. The day took place May 1st and began at 5 a.m in North Garden and ended at 7 pm with 105 species counted. MBC supported the effort with a pledge of \$1.00 per bird.

**Albemarle County Bird Lists:**

Teresa Shaner and Leigh Surdukowski compiled eight lists of birds seen in Albemarle County and the city of Charlottesville during 2006. A total of eight lists were submitted from: Mark Adams, Dave Hogg, Stauffer Miller, Rebecca Minor, Jim Nix, Teresa Shaner, Leigh Surdukowski, and John Zimmerman. Total species reported was 172 for 2006. Leigh had the highest year list with 150 birds, while Dave's list was impressive with 92 species in his yard.

**Announcements:** The Gold Book Check List is now available through VSO and can be ordered from their Web site: [www.virginiabirds.net](http://www.virginiabirds.net)

**Bird Sightings:** Teresa Shaner saw a Summer Tanager at O-Hill; Red-headed Woodpeckers are becoming more common.

- Peggy Cornett, secretary

**LOST**

A pair of Nikon Monarch binoculars may have been left at the April MBC meeting. If anyone picked these up after the meeting, please contact Pam Howie at 973-5658.



*(Continued from page 2)*

Time commitment: half a day; it will take no more than 5 hours to introduce volunteers to the playback room and listen to all the recordings (no longer than it would take you to complete a BBS route).

Necessary skills: None other than those required to perform a BBS route (i.e., great hearing ability and knowledge of bird vocalizations). Data will be recorded on the same type of datasheet used during BBS surveys.

Where: Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Beltsville Campus, Laurel, MD (approximately 5 min east of the Patuxent Wildlife Visitors' Center)

When: Below is a list of potential dates for the study. We will only be able to accommodate 3 persons per day because of limited playback equipment. Please contact us to indicate your interest in participating in the study and a date that works best for you.

June 23, 24, 30; July 1, 7, 8, 14, 15  
Start time: 9:00 am

Contacts: If you have any questions or are interested in participating in this study, please contact Tony or Jill by phone or e-mail.

Tony Celis (301)-497-5832 [acelis-murillo@usgs.gov](mailto:acelis-murillo@usgs.gov)  
Jill Deppe (301)-614-5875  
[jdeppe@pop600.gsfc.nasa.gov](mailto:jdeppe@pop600.gsfc.nasa.gov)

*Ruffed Grouse and chick. Photo by MBC member Robert Capon.*

**HAVE A GREAT  
SUMMER!**