



Monticello Bird Club

March 2008

Volume 22, Number 7

March Meeting Topic:

Time Travel in Faulkner's Big Woods: Encounters with the Ivory-billed Woodpecker in the Choc-tawhatchee River basin of Florida and Bayou de View, Arkansas

Bob Anderson will give a DVD presentation on the infamous Ivory-billed Woodpecker at our March meeting. Don't miss this chance to learn about the largest woodpecker in the United States.



Ivory-billed Woodpecker. Copyright George M. Sutton, Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Mr. Anderson has a B.S. from Old Dominion University and a M.A. from the College of William and Mary in biology. He has been a biologist with U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command since 1987. He has also served as vice president and raptor research chair for the Coastal

Virginia Wildlife Observatory.

Please join MBC members and our speaker for dinner at Wild Greens Restaurant in the North Wing of Barracks Road Shopping Center on March 13th at 5:45 pm prior to the meeting.

Upcoming Meeting Topics

April 10th: Liz and Sam Williams will present "Backyard Birding in Kenya, East Africa"

May 8th: Member's Night. MBC members share their favorite slides and photographs.



Comments From the President

March is the month of expectation, The things we do not know, Persons of Prognostication Are coming now.

This is the way Emily Dickinson begins one of her poems. March is the month when we turn away from winter and embrace the approach of spring. While we never know quite what to expect from the weather – one day balmy, the next bitter – March has ancient promises to keep and we can expect her to fulfill them. So here I come – a Person of Prognostication. Let me prophesize what is in store in the next few weeks.

The weather will be changeable. The earth will keep its appointed rounds and sail to a place where day and night are equal. The Pine Warbler

will give its buzzy trill and treat us to flashes of yellow high in the pines. Peepers will call to one another with silvery sounds from wet places. In the woods the tiny Spring Azure and the dark brown Mourning Cloak will be the first butterflies in flight. Hepatica, the small blue wildflower that hugs the ground, will be in bud and, in places, in bloom. Before the end of the month I expect to hear the bubbly song of the Louisiana Waterthrush when he returns to the stream behind my house. Goldfinches will be show a brighter yellow than in February and some Red-shouldered Hawks will be hunkered down on the nest. The male woodcock will spiral into the early evening sky and zigzag down to earth where a lady awaits in judgment. "Peent," he'll say. In these things March will not disappoint us.

-Jenny Gaden

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Monticello Bird Club

MBC Minutes for February 14, 2008

President Jenny Gaden welcomed the large crowd of 56, which included many newcomers.

Treasurer's Report: Henry Konat reported on the club's finances. Income: \$10,244; expenses: \$8,177; Net: \$2,066 and there is \$16,260 in the bank.

Field Trips: John Zimmerman made a correction to the newsletter information about the Secluded Farm walk, which takes place in late April and will be led by Dave Hogg. Stauffer Miller is leading a walk at Lake Anna February 26.

Hospitality: Ron Kingston noted that Bluebirds mate on Valentine's Day. He thanked Carol and Jim Hill for providing special Valentine's cookies for refreshments.

Bird Count Report: Jenny Gaden announced that the results of the offi-

cial Audubon bird count and the Big Flat Mountain bird count on the Blue Ridge are available on the Web.

PVCC Ornithology Class: Dan Bieker's Field Ornithology class is offered this semester at PVCC and is highly recommended.

Monitoring Bluebird Boxes: Mary Jane Fowler is coordinating Bob Hammond's Bluebird trail and asks for volunteers to help monitor boxes from April through August.

University Village Feeders: Jenny Gaden's appeal for volunteers to help maintain bird feeders for the residents at University Village was answered by Michelle Scott and Carole McGrath.

Annotated Check List for Birds: The Augusta County Bird Club has published a very nice annotated check list, which can be purchased for \$12 plus shipping.

MBC Mail and Miscellaneous Announcements: Periodicals and publications sent to the MBC address this month include: VSO Newsletter and the Raven, The Nature Conservancy Earthwatch Newsletter, and 3 brochures from the Old City Cemetery in Lynchburg. Check Google for information about Cornell's annual 4-day backyard bird count. Jenny is looking for someone to help her learn about creating PowerPoint presentations.

Recent Bird Sightings: Carol Hill reported on an immature male Red-tailed Hawk who sits on a bird house hunting for mice in the culverts. Dede Austin had a good, close-up look at a Peregrine Falcon that perched on the front porch railing of her house. She has had a flock of Purple Finches at her feeder all winter but has not seen the Red-bellied Woodpecker. Stauffer Miller announced that there is an exhibit of bird paintings currently on display at the Mud House Coffee House. Betty Mooney noted that a male Baltimore Oriole has returned to her feeder af-

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Bird Club Information

The Monticello Bird Club meets at 7:30 pm 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 April issue is March 20.** Please email information to Amy Gilmer at akgilmer@comcast.net or send to 3166 Welsh Run Road, Ruckersville, VA 22968.

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Please visit our website at
www.monticellobirdclub.org

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Membership	Jim Nix	jim-nix@comcast.net	973-7366
Birdseed Sale	Jim Hill	jimcarhill@comcast.net	975-6523

Upcoming Field Trips

Pen Park Nature Trail Saturday, March 15

Join John Zimmerman on this easy hike on the Pen Park Nature Trail and the Dunlora bottoms. **Meet at 7:45 am at the head of the nature trail by Shelter #2 in the Pen Park picnic area.** Easy hike but moderate in length. Questions? Contact John at 434-974-9293 or jozimmva@embarqmail.net

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. Each month a different walk leader takes groups on the trails to see the birds of ICNA. The walks start in the parking lot of ICNA. Join Jenny Gaden on the March 1st walk.

(Continued from page 2)

ter a short hiatus. Two Golden Eagles, 2 Red-tailed Hawks, a Kestrel were among the birds reported during the recent Highland County trip. Theresa Shaner went on the trip led by Cricket Barlow and saw Golden Eagles and 10-11 Bald Eagles, Rough-legged Hawks and lots of raptors as well as one Evening Grosbeak, but no Red Crossbills. Nancy Newman saw a spectacular Hooded Merganser recently.

-Peggy Cornett

Humpback Rocks Visitor Center Blue Ridge Parkway Saturday, March 22

Join field trip leader Jenny Gaden as we look for American Woodcocks putting on their aerial display. Bring a strong flashlight to spot the woodcocks. **Meet at the Humpback Rocks Visitor Center on the Blue Ridge Parkway at 6 pm.** Questions? Contact Jenny Gaden at 434-293-6275 or jgaden@embarqmail.com



Downy Woodpecker photographed by Jenny Gaden in her backyard.

Monticello Bird Club members featured on "The Rivanna Rambler"

Stauffer Miller and Jenny Gaden were featured on the January 31st WTJU radio program, "The Rivanna Rambler" written by Leslie Middleton. This show focused on getting to know the Rivanna River watershed through its birds. To listen to this show or read the transcript visit <http://www.cvillepublicmedia.org/rambler/2008/01/31/75-just-birding-around/>

VSO Annual Meeting and Mountain Lake Migratory Bird Festival May 16-18, 2008 Giles County, Virginia

Register now for this year's annual Virginia Society of Ornithology meeting, held in conjunction with the Mountain Lake Migratory Bird Festival in Giles County, Virginia at the Mountain Lake Hotel. This weekend promises to be an exciting experience.

The keynote speaker will be Ian Sinclair, who will provide a view from the Eastern Hemisphere with his presentation "The Lighter Side of Birding Darkest Africa". Also, Bill Hilton, Jr. will provide a view from the Western Hemisphere with a review of his continuing work banding Ruby-throated Hummingbirds on both their breeding grounds in the United States and on their wintering grounds in Costa Rica.

There will be a rich variety of field trips and workshops to attend. All will be lead by birders or naturalists that are knowledgeable about their subject and enthusiastic about sharing their knowledge. Also scheduled are guided rafting trips on the historic New River offering unique bird sightings. In addition to the many hikes and workshops around the Mountain Lake Hotel and Jefferson National Forest, there will be activities for children in the conservancy at Mountain Lake.

Registration for field trips will be in advance. To make certain that everyone has an equal opportunity to sign up for the trips of their choice, the trips and their descriptions are posted on the festival website: www.mountainlakebirding.com.

Those wishing to receive information by mail may call Peggy Opengari at 540 921-4340 or email at gramby@pemtel.net. Registration can be done online or by mail.

Monticello Bird Club

Membership Form

BECOME A MONTICELLO BIRD CLUB MEMBER!

When you join MBC, you will receive ten issues of the MBC Newsletter full of information about field trips, speakers, bird sightings, and more. You will be sent a 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!

- Individual (\$15)
- Family / Contributing (\$25)
- Sponsor (\$50)
- Additional Donation \$ _____



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Send my newsletter: by mail only by e-mail only by mail & e-mail.

Please make check payable to Monticello Bird Club.

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