



# Monticello Bird Club

March 2011

Volume 27, Number 7

## Comments From the President

Gretchen Gehrett's dramatic presentation at the last meeting of the tragic saga of Napoleon and Josephine, twenty-first century style, brought to mind other Napoleonic connections. The energetic Bonaparte clan not only busied itself with re-arranging the map of Europe, but it did its part for the cause of birding on these shores. Charles Lucien Bonaparte, nephew of the great disturber of the peace himself and a distinguished naturalist/ornithologist in his own right, lived, traveled, and birded in this country from 1823-1826. While visiting his transplanted uncle and father-in-law in New Jersey for much of this time, he also became a close friend of John James Audubon and even gulled someone into naming a seabird after him. Our local bluebird friends have a distinguished family tradition to follow.

A school trip next week will place us in the very heart of America's first birding capital. Philadelphia was early on known as "the Athens of America." Its Quakers founders were blessed with many good habits, toleration in general being foremost, but not least among them was an insatiable curiosity about the natural world. Botanists, ornithologists, and all kinds of other lovers of learning ought to pay homage on a daily basis for the example set by "the City of Brotherly Love". There are countless things to see, of course, with many of the perennial favorites like Independence Hall being essential viewing that I wouldn't miss. Still—though it might be hard to persuade a gaggle of adolescents or anyone else for that matter of its great value—a graveyard with the resting places of a couple of old ornithologists or botanists--gone to seed you might say—would do me just fine.

Lou Tanner

## March Meeting Program

Teta Kain to Present March Program

Teta Kain will make a return appearance at the Monticello Bird Club March 10th. Her topic will be spiders. Teta is an inveterate photographer and observer of Virginia's natural world. She has visited every habitat of the state in order to learn about its fauna and flora. She sums up her activities like this: "The study of nature and preservation of the natural world has been my driving force for many decades. It has led me down incredible avenues of adventure and has provided some of the most exciting moments in my life."

Teta's March talk will be a rare opportunity to hear about the strange world of the spider, that creature so maligned and feared that at the same time lives in such close proximity to man. She will weave into her talk the facts, folklore, myths and mysteries that surround arachnids.

Don't forget to come out at 5:30 PM on March 10th to dine with Teta at La Cocina del Sol Restaurant. Teta is an engaging person whom you will enjoy getting to know better. And I promise no spider will sit down beside her as we eat our curds and huevos.

I am pleased to announce two programs for this fall: Ken Klotz speaking about his travels to places such as Spitzbergen; Bob Ake talking about his recent big year of birding. Stauffer Miller

## Upcoming Meeting Topics

**March 11th, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.**

Spiders

**April 14th, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.**

TBA

## Inside This Issue

<i>Bird Club Information</i>	2
<i>February Meeting minutes</i>	2
<i>March Field Trips</i>	3
<i>Bird Walks at Ivy Creek</i>	3
<i>Barn Owls in June</i>	3
<i>Need for drinking cups</i>	3
<i>Feast of the Hawthorns</i>	4

## WAITING FOR BIRDS by David Kherdian

two day old  
seed-filled bird feeder  
hanging from  
the porch --  
having birds come  
fills our home  
with what is  
outside  
our home:  
as much  
a part of our  
lives  
as the furniture  
we sit in  
food we eat  
books we write  
waiting



## Monticello Bird Club

### Monticello Bird Club Business meeting minutes

10 February 2011

President Lou Tanner opened the meeting with observations on the lengthening days and signs of spring. He also commented on the outstanding presentation on Barn Owls at the January meeting and the recent field trips to Southern Albemarle County. There were 54 attending this meeting, including long-time member Bob Hammond, who coordinated the Blue Bird Trail for about 20 years. Three newcomers to the meeting introduced themselves: Susan Reeves from Green County, Diane from Free Union (who is also a Blue Bird Trail monitor), and a Charlottesville resident.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Lou Tanner in Henry Konat's absence. Income for the period was \$10,560; expenses were \$11,398 for a deficit of \$828. Currently the club has \$11,374 in the bank. Dave Hogg gave the field trips report. He thanked Al Varner for leading the recent trip where a magnificent Rough-winged Hawk was seen along with a Bald Eagle on its nest, a Night Heron, and a Loggerhead Shrike. He reported that last week Short-eared Owls were back in Louisa County. Dave is interested in arranging a trip to Rockingham in Greene County to watch the Barn Owl banding that was described at the January meeting. The best time for this is May or June and there would need to be car pooling because only two cars are allowed at the site. Dave closed his report by mentioning that it might be snowing for the upcoming trip to Highland County

Bird sightings during the past month included several reports of Cooper's Hawk activity. Lou Tanner saw one in Charlottesville's Belmont neighborhood. An immature Cooper's Hawk was watched as at perched by a bird feeder, but didn't bother the birds. Jim Nix spotted a Cooper's Hawk near his house as it dove for a bird, followed by an explosion of feathers. Margie Giuliani saw a flock of about 24 Wild Turkeys in a field near her house. A Brown Creeper was spotted near Ivy. The Monticello Bird Alert Yahoo Group has recently listed a Horned Grebe and Canvas Back Duck.

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 April issue is 8:00 a.m. March 26.** Please email information to Doug Rogers at [MBCNEWS@embarqmail.com](mailto:MBCNEWS@embarqmail.com) or send to 1065 Weybridge Ct. # 304, Charlottesville, VA 22911.

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

### Monticello Bird Club Board Members

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**Humpback Rocks  
Visitor Center**  
Blue Ridge Parkway  
Saturday, March 12

**Tufton Farm**  
Saturday, March 19

**Barn Owls, in June**

Those of you who attended the interesting presentation by Jill and Lance Morrow about their work at the New Market Gap Raptor Research Station will be interested to learn that there is a possibility of visiting the station during the first half of June. Jill Morrow has offered to show a small group around, with a focus on Barn Owls. If you would be interested please contact Dave Hogg at 434-974-7592, or at [dhogg@nrao.edu](mailto:dhogg@nrao.edu), before March 20.

Join field trip leader Jenny Gaden as we look for American Woodcocks putting on their aerial display. Bring a flashlight to help you since it will be dusk. Meet at the Humpback Rocks Visitor Center on the Blue Ridge Parkway at 7:00pm. PLEASE contact Jenny if you plan to attend. [jengaden@gmail.com](mailto:jengaden@gmail.com) or 434-293-6275

Join Peggy Cornett and Jim Nix as they explore the fields of Tufton Farm. The hike is moderately difficult, and waterproof shoes and long pants are advised. It will last about two hours. We will meet at 7:15am in 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. Since parking is limited at Tufton Farm, we will carpool from the parking lot to Tufton Farm. Questions? Contact Jim at his cell phone 434-987-3321 or [jimnix@comcast.net](mailto:jimnix@comcast.net)

**Licking Hole Creek**  
March 26 8:00am

Licking Hole Creek is an interesting birding area that was first pointed out by Stauffer. The trail beside the pond offers a rich variety of habitat. Peter Brask will guide us around this area on Saturday, March 26. Meet Peter in the parking lot of the Mudhouse on the Square in Crozet, at 8:00am. Please call Peter at 434-823-2363 for additional information.



Photo by Bill and Claire Leaning

**The Need for Drinking Cups**

Just a notice to everyone who drinks coffee, water or whatever at the MBC meetings: Please bring your own mug or cup. Ivy Creek will no longer allow us to use their dish washer. So we need to bring our own

**First Saturday Bird Walks  
at Ivy Creek Natural Area**

**2011 Ivy Creek Bird Walks**

Saturday March 5 and Saturday April 2, 2011

On the first Saturday of each month, the Monticello Bird Club offers a bird walk at Ivy Creek Natural Area at 7:30 a.m. Beginning birders are especially encouraged to come to enjoy and learn, but Club members are also most welcome at these outings. The ICNA is one of the area's finest birding spots and some outstanding birds have been seen on these walks.

Lou Tanner will lead the trip on March 5, and Janet Paisley will lead the trip on April 2.

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

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 lead 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.



## The Annual Feast of the Hawthorns

The entrance to our property in Earlysville is flanked by eight large Winter King Green Hawthorns, whose fruit is a bird magnet, every mid to late February, to a mixed flock of Cedar Waxwings and American Robins with several Eastern Bluebirds included. Clare and I never tire of watching these hungry birds strip the trees of their bounty. In a few more weeks, the gorgeous spring blossoms will indicate that the cycle is ready to begin, again.

Text and photos by Bill and Claire Leaning

