



# Monticello Bird Club

December 2007

Volume 22, Number 4

## December Meeting Topic:

## Life Cycle of the Wild Turkey

Bruce Ingram is the author of over 1,800 magazine articles and has sold over 2,100 photos to magazines. He is the author of three books, *The James River Guide*, *The New River Guide*, and *The Shenandoah/Rappahannock Rivers Guide*. Mr. Ingram's work regularly appears in such magazines as *Virginia Wildlife*, *Virginia Game & Fish*, *Turkey Call*, *Bassmaster*, *Blue Ridge Country*, as well as many others.

At our December 13th meeting Mr. Ingram will present: "Life Cycle of the Wild Turkey." He will present a mix of facts, biology, and trivia as well as imitate the multitude of sounds that Wild Turkeys produce, everything from clucks to cuts, putts to purrs, and kee kees to yelps, as well as, of course, the gobble.

You can purchase a book from Mr. Ingram when you meet us for dinner prior to the meeting at Wild Greens Restaurant in the North Wing of Barracks Road Shopping Center on December 13th at 5:45 pm.

## Upcoming Meeting Topics

**January 10: Peggy Opengari** will present "Borneo and Peninsula Malaysia: Land Below the Wind"

**February 14: Anne Little** will present "Good Bluebird Stewardship"



*Greater Yellowlegs photographed by Stauffer Miller at Chris Greene Lake.*

## Celebrate Some Holiday Cheer

Following the regular December 13th meeting, enjoy a bit of food and time with friends.

Consider bringing a holiday treat or a bird-related door prize. Our Hospitality Chair, Priscilla Kingston, will distribute door prizes.



## Comments From the President

I was walking in my wooded neighborhood one morning earlier in the fall when I heard a racket of small voices coming from the pines on either side of the road. Yes, I thought, the Red-breasted Nuthatches are back again. We never know when they will turn up because they are an irruptive species. This means that their migration patterns are irregular depending upon the food sources available to them in the northern forests in which they nest and often winter. When food is scarce in the homeland they come south and charm us here at our feeders and in our woodlands. They are similar to our year-round White-breasted Nuthatches but smaller with

a bold white eyebrow and a reddish-orange breast.

The nasally vocalization of these little birds is distinctive, and the repetitive persistence of their tiny (and tinny) toot-like sounds that morning made me think that something was amiss. But there was no sign of a cat or threatening avian creature to upset them so I figured their excitement was simply a matter of private concern. Perhaps they were sharing good news about seeds or insect eggs lodged under the bark. Anyway, it is a joy to have these birds with us again. Welcome back, little irruptives.

*- Jennifer Gaden, president*

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## Monticello Bird Club

### MBC Minutes for November 8, 2007

President Jenny Gaden called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. and welcomed many newcomers among the 42 in the audience, including J. J. (a biologist who lived in Alaska for 11 years), Kelly Miles, Carolyn McGrath from Long Island, and Bob Campbell from Richmond among others.

**Treasurer's Report:** Henry Konat reported that the club's income during the past month was \$5,666 and expenses were \$1,654. He expects the club will add \$1,500 from the bird seed sale after expenses.

**Field Trips:** John Zimmerman reported that the recent Sparrow Road walk was the best ever, with 52 species. Beaver Creek Park was outstanding and there were a lot of raptors. He noted the two upcoming trips for November: November 11 at Pen Park with Jenny Gaden and the Chincoteague excursion November 16-18.

**Bird Seed Sale:** Jim Hill reported that, to date, there has been \$7,144 in sales and over 11,000 pounds of bird seed as well as bird feeders, houses, etc.

**Membership:** Jim Nix reported that membership renewals have trickled in and reminded those who have been delinquent to send their dues as soon as possible.

#### Announcements and Reminders:

- Binocular Day takes place December 1 at Ivy Creek
- The First Saturday at Ivy Creek needs a few more volunteer leaders
- Priscilla Kingston reminded everyone to bring food and door prizes to the December meeting, which will end with our annual holiday party.

**Bird Sightings:** Lou Tanner saw Blue Jays harassing a Red-shouldered Hawk along the Avon Road area of Belmont. Betty

Mooney saw two Bald Eagles in a field in Gordonsville and a Bald Eagle was sighted flying over Rose Hill Drive. Stauffer Miller heard Fox Sparrows singing in the Blenheim Road area of southern Albemarle County. Nancy Newman saw a Bald Eagle at Lake Louisa and a Golden Eagle on her trip to Highland County. Ruffed Grouse were seen on the Blue Ridge Parkway. Someone saw 5,000 Starlings heading south. Jenny Gaden had a precocious Sharp-Shinned Hawk in her backyard. Several people have watched flocks of Robins and Cedar Waxwings.

- Peggy Cornett, secretary



## 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 January issue is December 20.** 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@embarqmail.com">jgaden@embarqmail.com</a>	293-6275
<b>Vice President</b>	Jim Hill	<a href="mailto:jimcarhill@comcast.net">jimcarhill@comcast.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@embarqmail.com">jozimmva@embarqmail.com</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>	Jim Nix	<a href="mailto:jim-nix@comcast.net">jim-nix@comcast.net</a>	973-7366
<b>Birdseed Sale</b>	Jim Hill	<a href="mailto:jimcarhill@comcast.net">jimcarhill@comcast.net</a>	975-6523

## Upcoming Field Trips

### James River Area Saturday, December 8

Meet at 8 am at **Scottsville Town Park**, just north of the sewage disposal plant. Turn right off US 20 on the last road before the James River bridge and then turn left at the T-intersection. We will visit a few farm ponds near the James River for waterfowl and walk a semi-wooded area. We will probably be back to Scottsville before noon. Lunch there, if interested. Questions? Contact Stauffer Miller at 434-296-5505 or [stauffer@seepub.com](mailto:stauffer@seepub.com)

### Charlottesville Christmas Bird Count Sunday, December 16

The Charlottesville Christmas Count will take place on Sunday, December 16. Questions? Contact Jenny Gaden at 434-293-6275 or [jgaden@embarqmail.com](mailto:jgaden@embarqmail.com)

### 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 Teresa Shaner on the December 1st walk.

### Warren Christmas Bird Count Sunday, December 30

The Warren Christmas Count will take place on Sunday, December 30. Questions? Contact Allen Hale at 434-263-8671.

## MONTICELLO CLUB BIRDERS BREAK CENTURY MARK

Eleven members of the Monticello Bird Club diligently discovered over 100 species of birds during a three day excursion, November 16<sup>th</sup> through 18<sup>th</sup>, along the Eastern Shore from the CBBT to Chinco-teague. Although the continuing drought in the area reduced the extent of open fresh water, 24 species of waterfowl were identified along the ocean bays and in freshwater ponds. Other notable observations were several Short-eared Owls at Saxis marsh, hundreds of Tree Swallows still migrating south, all three species of nuthatches in a single tree, an American Bittern, and a thousand-or-so Snow Geese (not to mention the morning flights of thousands and thousands of other Snow Geese continuing south in long echelons at several hundred feet altitude and not choosing to stop). Most notable of all was a single LeConte's Sparrow seen within 15 feet as it sought protection from the strong wind along the lee side of a wall on island 4 of the CBBT.

## Welcome New MBC Members!

Kelly Belew  
Harriet and Frazier Bell  
Gerald Frost  
Eve Gaige  
Bill Holroyd  
Robert and Carolyn McGrath  
Kelly Myles and Chris Seitz  
Patrick Toomey  
Mary Beth Wills



*LeConte's Sparrow* photographed by Brenda Tekin on island 4 of the CBBT on the recent MBC trip to the Eastern Shore of Virginia.

# Monticello Bird Club

## Membership Form

### BECOME A MONTICELLO BIRD CLUB MEMBER FOR 2007-2008!

*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*