

Monticello Bird Club

February 2007

Volume 21, Number 6

February Meeting Topic: Birding Guyana —The New Frontier

Ken Klotz and Marcelle Morel will present a talk on birding in Guyana, the only English speaking country in South America. Guyana is just beginning to promote ecotourism for bird-watchers and nature lovers worldwide.

This small country has only one main dirt road into the interior, and there are still large tracts of untouched tropical rainforest that are home to 790 species of birds - and the list is still growing as more species are documented. Travel is still accomplished mainly by river or small planes. Eight species of monkeys, abundant jaguar, caiman, giant river otters and Harpy Eagles all attest to the quality of this environment.

As pressure grows to exploit the forests for timber and minerals, ecotourism presents perhaps the best alternative to an economically sustainable alternative that

will allow these areas to be protected from destruction. The United States Agency for International Development, USAID, that supported this trip is dedicated to helping Guyana realize the twin goals of economic development and conservation.



The Hoatzin is the national bird of Guyana.

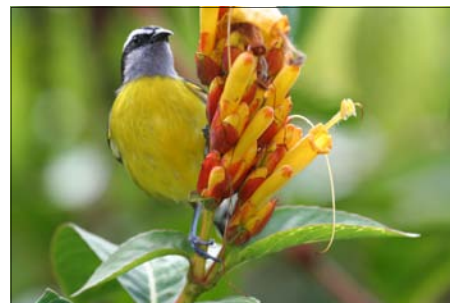
Please join MBC members and our speaker for dinner at Wild Greens Restaurant in the North Wing of Barracks Road Shopping Center on February 8th at

5:45 pm prior to the meeting.

Upcoming Meeting Topics

March 8: Greg Sours will speak on the bird banding program MAPS at Blandy Experimental Farm in Boyce, Virginia.

April 12: Stauffer Miller will speak on Birds and Birding on Cape Cod, Massachusetts.



Bananaquit

Photo by Ken Klotz

Comments From the President

The Monticello Bird Club is most fortunate to have a member who hosts our webpage on his business domain and acts as our webmaster at the same time. Ken Klotz of EcoVentures has done this as a volunteer since 1999. Within the last month Ken has come forward with an even better offer. He has recently switched to a new web host for his business that enables him to host a few domain names, for a minimal fee, in addition to his own. We are the lucky recipients of this opportunity. Ken has also offered to continue as our webmaster if we choose to accept. I put this offer before the board and the entire group responded with a resounding yes! So, check us out at our new URL: www.monticellobirdclub.org.

Henry Konat, our treasurer, has agreed

to act as the club contact who will watch the website and communicate with Ken if any changes are needed or if new ideas come up. One new idea proposed by Ken is a photo of the month submission. Anyone who would like to share a photo should send it in jpeg format to Ken at kk@ecoventurestravel.com. Let's accept this challenge - all you folks with digital cameras get busy!

We owe Ken Klotz - yes, the very same Ken Klotz who is this month's speaker - an enormous thank you for all that he has already done for the club and for the new opportunity he has made possible to enhance our identity on the net. Come and meet him on February 8th and hear what he has to tell us about birds and birding in Guyana.

- Jennifer Gaden, president

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Monticello Bird Club

Monticello Bird Alert!

Monticello Bird Alert is an internet newsgroup that provides members of the Monticello Bird Club with an opportunity to post sitings of rare and interesting birds spotted in Charlottesville and Albemarle County, Virginia, and surrounding counties. Members may only post sitings of birds that are sited on public property or viewed from public roadways. Members may also post a siting of a bird on private property, if the landowner has granted express permission for you to make such a posting to this group. We are starting this on a 90-day trial basis, and will decide at the end of the trial whether we think this is a useful capability for club members. To join the group, please follow these steps:

- 1) Go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/monticellobirdalert/>
- 2) Click on the button: Join this Group
- 3) If you have a Yahoo ID, sign in

Bird Club Key Info

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 March issue is February 25.** Please email information to Amy Gilmer at akgilmer@comcast.net or send to 3166 Welsh Run Road, Ruckersville, VA 22968.

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Monticello Bird Club
 P.O. Box 4362
 Charlottesville, Virginia 22905
 Please visit our website at
www.monticellobirdclub.org



10TH ANNUAL GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

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ORNITHOLOGY

 Audubon

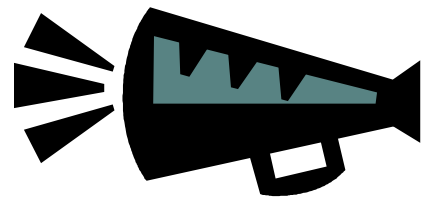
This February, the tenth annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), sponsored by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, will give everyone a chance to discover the birds in their neighborhood and "Count for the Record."

During February 16–19, 2007, people of all ages, from beginners to experts, are invited to join this event which spans all of the United States and Canada. Participants can take part wherever they are – at home, in schoolyards, at local parks or wildlife refuges. Observers simply count the highest number of each species they see during an outing or a sitting, and enter their tally on the Great Backyard Bird Count web site at www.birdsource.org/gbbc.

- and go to "Step 5"
- 4) If you don't have a Yahoo ID, click on the link: Sign Up. (It's free.)
 - 5) Fill in the required information, read the terms of the agreement, and signify your agreement by clicking on "I Agree".
 - 6) Once you are a member, you can post messages by sending messages to monticellobirdalert@yahoogroups.com

- 7) Remember the cardinal rule (stated above) about respecting private property rights.

-Robert Capon



Monticello Bird Club Board Members

President	Jennifer Gaden	jgaden@earthlink.net	293-6275
Vice President	Jim Hill	jimcarhill@adelphia.net	975-6523
Secretary	Peggy Cornett	pcornett@monticello.org	984-9816
Treasurer	Henry Konat	henryk54@verizon.net	540-948-4771
Field Trips	John Zimmerman	jozimmva@earthlink.net	974-9293
Speakers	Pat Wilczek	patwilczek@earthlink.net	985-4444
Publicity	Ellen Dudley	emdudley@nexet.net	244-2688
Hospitality	Priscilla Kingston	kingston@cstone.net	293-5173
Newsletter	Amy Gilmer	akgilmer@comcast.net	825-2170
Membership	Robyn Kells	rkells@ntelos.net	970-1044

Upcoming Field Trips

Scottsville Area Thursday, February 8

Stauffer Miller will lead this trip along the rural roads west of Scottsville, checking fields and ponds for birds. We will do as much walking as we can with a probable coffee stop in Scottsville. **Meet at the Green Mountain Country Store in Keene (along Route 20 in southern Albemarle County) at 8 am.** Questions? Contact Stauffer Miller at 434-296-5505 or stauffer@seepub.com

Highland County Excursion Saturday, February 17

Join field trip leader Cricket Barlow on an exciting trip to "Virginia's Switzerland", Highland County. **We will meet at 6:30 am in the Giant parking lot at Seminole Square or in the parking lot at the Inn at Afton at 7 am.** Plan on carpooling. The group will meet Patti Reum at 9 am in Monterey; she will then lead the group to various "hot spots" hoping for golden eagles, rough-legged hawks and northern finches. Bring a snack, although the group will stop for lunch. If the weather appears questionable, call Cricket at 434-823-5272.

NOTICE

Someone left two small triangular serving dishes – each painted with a veggie – at ICNA after the MBC December meeting/Christmas party. Please come to the February meeting and retrieve them. Otherwise they will be given away or disposed of otherwise. Thank you.

VSO Winter Field Trip North Carolina Outer Banks February 9-11

The Virginia Society of Ornithology's annual North Carolina Outer Banks Field Trip promises to be an exciting weekend. This year's trip features a Friday evening orientation and slide presentation. On Saturday the group will visit Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge and the beaches of Cape Hatteras National Seashore. The generally milder climate and the proximity of the Gulf Stream make for an interesting combination of wintering waterfowl, shorebirds, ocean birds and sometimes whales. Saturday evening there will be a tally at 6:00 pm in the VSO conference room at the hotel. Sunday will be your opportunity to watch birds from your room, or check out some of the areas visited on Saturday. The Clarion Inn of Nags Head Beach will serve as the field trip headquarters. To make reservations call 252-441-6333 or fax 252-441-7779. For more information contact Bill Akers at 540-951-7692, Bill.Akers@adelphia.net or Jerry Via at viaj@vt.edu, or see http://www.virginiabirds.net/trips/VSO_winter_trip_07.htm.

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 Eileen Rowan on the February 3rd walk and John Zimmerman on the March 3rd walk.

Visit The American Tallgrass Prairie

The American tallgrass prairie is a unique ecosystem. If you would like to see birds like greater prairie-chickens, upland sandpipers, Bell's vireos, Bewick's wrens and Henslow's sparrows, as well as bison, and a panoply of wildflowers please read on. The Wintergreen Nature Foundation (TWNF) is sponsoring a trip to the tallgrass prairie from June 12-19, 2007. The itinerary includes prairies in Missouri and Kansas ending up at the Konza Prairie in eastern Kansas. Leaders are Doug Coleman, botanist and director of TWNF, and Dr. John Zimmerman, retired professor of ornithology at Kansas State University and author of Birds of the Konza Prairie. The approximate cost is \$1600 including airfare, double occupancy. An \$800 non-refundable deposit is required by **March 15th**. For more information contact Doug Coleman at director@twmf.org.

MBC Minutes for January 11, 2007

President Jenny Gaden presided over the meeting. There were 42 present, including seven newcomers.

Treasurer's Report: Henry Konat reported on the club's financial activities. Income: \$9,587; expenses: \$7,403; and \$16,203 in the bank.

Field Trips: John Zimmerman detailed the two upcoming field trips on January 18 and 27. He drew attention to the Highland County excursion set for February 17 and noted that former MBC member Patti Reum, who now lives in Monterey, will meet with the group. Jenny Gaden encouraged members to consider joining the VSO

trip to the Outer Banks of North Carolina, February 9-11. Details are available on their web site at: www.viriniabirds.net

Newsletter: Editor Amy Gilmer requests article and photograph submissions for the club's monthly publication.

Miscellaneous Announcements: Doug Coleman, Director of the Wintergreen Nature Foundation, is leading an eight-day birding and wildflower trip in early June to explore the long grass prairie regions of southeastern Kansas and southwestern Missouri. Contact Jenny Gaden or Doug Coleman for more information. Teresa Shaner and Leah Surdukowski are compiling a list of birds in Albemarle County

and the City of Charlottesville and are asking for submissions to add to their lists, including dates when birds are first seen.

Bird Sightings: Bill Leaning watched two Bald Eagles feeding on a deer carcass near the Reservoir and he also saw a Barn Owl. Ten pairs of Mallards were seen at the Reservoir. A Red-headed Woodpecker was sighted on Route 633 in Warren County. John Zimmerman spotted a Logger-head Shrike north of the Hardware River on Blenheim Road. It was noted that the Short-eared Owls and Northern Harrier, which are normally observed this time of year in Louisa County, have not been seen.

- Peggy Cornett, secretary

Call for County Lists

Did you keep a year list for birds found in Albemarle County during 2006? If so, we would be interested in comparing your list to ours, and to promote knowledge and trends of the birds close to home. For example, how many species could one reasonably expect to see in a calendar year? We do ask that you were within the boundaries of Albemarle County, including Charlottesville, to count your sighting. Please submit a copy of your year list to either Teresa Shaner or Leigh Surdukowski at the MBC club meeting, e-mail to twshaner@earthlink.net, or regular mail to P.O. Box 7803, Charlottesville, VA 22906 by March 1, and we will disclose the results later. If you didn't keep a list for 2006, now's the time to get started on 2007. (Bonus: Try to track arrival and tougher yet, departure dates for your sightings). Questions? Call Teresa at 434-964-9420.



Vulnerable Albatrosses

At the November meeting, Bird Conservation Alliance members were alerted to the situation on Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge, where government buildings are shedding lead-based paint that is being eaten by Laysan Albatrosses. Jennifer Arnold, Seabird Program Director for ABC, has been working on this issue, but while some progress is being made the federal government is being slow to respond.

Midway is home to the world's largest breeding colony of Laysan Albatrosses, a species already listed as globally vulnerable to extinction. Lead poisoning from the peeling paint is predicted to kill 10,000 of these magnificent ocean wanderers in the next ten years unless action is taken soon.

The cost for removing the lead paint from the buildings is \$5.6 million.

Please visit www.albatrossaction.org to send an automatically-generated email to President Bush. For more information visit www.albatrossaction.org or contact Jennifer Arnold at jarnold@abcbird.org. (Text from www.albatrossaction.org)