

Monticello Bird Club

May 2005

Volume 19, Number 9

May Meeting Topic

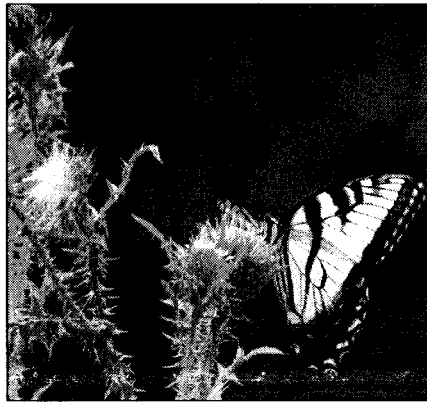
Member's Night Zooms in on Photos, Stories

On May 12, members of the Monticello Bird Club will have an opportunity to show off their photography skills. If

Don't wait until the last minute! You may contact Bill at 964-1610 or omanu@earthlink.net. These photos by Brenda Tekin are a taste of what's to come!



Downy Woodpecker.



Eastern Swallowtail Butterfly.



Great Horned Owl (aka Silent Tiger, Cat Owl, Hoot Owl) are uncommon and widespread. Picture was taken in early April in Rockingham County. Adult birds will roost in nearby trees, leaving young unattended throughout the day, returning at night to feed them. This nest had two young; the older one had already left.

you have photographs to share—either stills or nature slides—please contact Bill Leaning prior to the meeting. He will make sure everyone has a place on the schedule and that we can provide the correct audio-visual equipment.

Comments From the President

When next I see a Hooded Warbler my mind will flash back to an afternoon in early April when I was sitting on a rock by Chan Chich Creek in Belize. Chan Chich is a wonderful lodge surrounded by 133,000 acres of pristine jungle (technically tropical moist deciduous forest). Shallow pools form here and there in the creek and one in particular attracts birds late in the afternoon. While we were sitting, three warblers came along and settled on a log overlooking the pool – the Prothonotary, Kentucky and Hooded. Side by side, they jockeyed for position and then, as the spirit moved them, each hopped off for a dip in the stream. As they were lined up in their gold and black glory another bird arrived - a hummingbird with emerald on the backside, pure white on the front, a black mask and violet forecrown. Undisturbed

by the non-resident visitors, the Purple-crowned Fairy hovered over the pool, turning in little sudden movements to the right, to the left, to check out the security arrangements. And then, like a stone, he dropped, splashed in the shallow water, and rose straight up again, shimmering in the sunlight like a jewel suspended in the forest.

Every beautiful bird is a gift that we must not take for granted. The pleasure derived from watching birds – whether in far away places or in our own back yards – carries with it the responsibility of stewardship. If we want our grandchildren to experience the joy of bird watching, it is incumbent upon us to take action now to help birds survive. We can do this in a number of ways such as

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Hands-On Purple Martin Workshop

The 11th Annual Purple Martin Field Day and Workshop will be held on Saturday June 25 from 9:30am until noon at the farm of Merle and Lance Wood in Louisa County, about 20 miles east of Charlottesville. Last year more than 100 Purple Martin enthusiasts attended this annual event, which is free but donations are always appreciated to help defray costs. The hosts request that guest do not bring pets.

Topics to be covered include:

- how to establish and increase a colony of Purple Martins
- advantages and disadvantages of different types of martin housing
- how to protect martins from starlings, house sparrows, snakes, owls, raccoons, etc.
- adding the newly-developed starling-resistant entrance holes to martin gourds and houses
- how to protect martin housing from windstorms and other hazards
- how to grow and process Purple Martin nesting gourds
- life history of Purple Martins

The featured speaker, Lance Wood, is a widely published expert on Purple Martin colonies. Field Day events will begin at 9:30am and last about two hours, followed by an optional discussion on bluebirds and Tree Swallows. Also offered will be a short nesting-box trail tour, including nesting-boxes for bluebirds, Tree Swallows, kestrels, Barn Owls, etc.

DIRECTIONS: From Charlottesville take I-64 East to Exit 136 (Boswell's Tavern). Travel north on US 15 for 3.5 miles until it intersects with Rte. 640. The farm is located near the intersection of US 15 and Rte. 640/ East Jack Jouett and you should see signs there directing you to the farm.

For further information and directions call Ron or Priscilla Kingston at 293-5173 or kingston@cstone.net.

Current MBC Board Nominated Again

The Nominating Committee offers the following list of candidates for the Executive Officers of the Monticello Bird Club for the year 2004-2005.

- President.....Jenny Gaden
 Vice president.....Jim Hill
 Secretary.....Peggy Cornett
 Treasurer.....Bob Gilges

This slate will be presented at the May 12th meeting for a vote. MBC members may also make nominations from the floor. The Nominating Committee, headed by Dede Austin, is still soliciting volunteers to take over the Field Trip Committee and the Guests Speakers Committee. Please contact Dede at 434-293-6587 if you are interested.

 ★
 ★ **June 9: Annual Potluck** ★
 ★ Please bring a dish to share. We'll begin this meeting at 6:00pm—an hour earlier than usual—so we have time to visit, eat, and eat some more! ★
 ★

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 June issue is May 25.** Please email information to Nancy King at turnermtn@mindspring.com or send to P.O. Box 22, Ivy, VA 22945.

Monticello Bird Club
 P.O. Box 4362
 Charlottesville, Virginia 22905
 Please visit our website at
www.ecoventures-travel.com/mbc

Monticello Bird Club Board Members

President	Jennifer Gaden	jg3p@cstone.net	293-6275
Vice President	Jim Hill	jimcarhill@adelphia.net	975-6523
Secretary	Peggy Cornett	pcornett@monticello.org	984-9816
Treasurer	Bob Gilges	rgilges@msn.com	823-7638
Field Trips	Scott Clark	sc8y@swissinfo.org	296-5823x3325
Guest Speakers	Bill Leaning Jim Nix Ron Kingston	omanu@earthlink.net jnix@cstone.net kingston@cstone.net	964-1610 973-7366 293-5173
Publicity	Ellen Dudley	emdudley@nexet.net	244-2688
Hospitality	Priscilla Kingston	kingston@cstone.net	293-5173
Newsletter	Nancy King	turnermtn@mindspring.com	293-7201
Membership	Robyn Kells	rkells@ntelos.net	970-1044
Birdseed Sales	Howard Davis Teresa Shaner	howardsuedavis@juno.com twshaner@adelphia.net	964-1242 964-9420

Upcoming Field Trips

South River Falls Saturday, May 14

John Zimmerman will lead this trip which will cover several different habitats. At least 10 species of warblers are possible including cerulean, Blackburnian, Canada, hooded, black-throated blue, chestnut-sided, and ovenbird; also yellow-throated vireo, rose-breasted grosbeak, veery, and scarlet tanager. The trip is a **moderately difficult climb** - a 3.5 mile loop descending from an elevation of 2940' on Skyline Drive to 2120' at the brink of the falls through a second growth deciduous forest of oak, maple, hickory and patches of pine and back up to Skyline Drive.

Meet at 6:15 am in the parking lot of Giant Grocery in Seminole Square on US 29. Will return to Seminole Square around 12:30 pm.

Contact: John Zimmerman at 974-9293 or jozimmva@aol.com.

Rte 610/ Cowbane Prairie Saturday, May 21

Interesting habitat on this trip will range from Blue Ridge hardwood forest and edge at about 3000 feet, to old fields, marshy meadow, and pastures in the Shenandoah Valley. Accordingly, leader John Zimmerman says we should find a good diversity of species. Hiking will be **difficulty to easy**.

Meet at 6:15 am in the Giant parking lot, Seminole Square on US 29. Plan to car-pool. Alternately, you can drive to Afton Inn parking lot at Exit 99 off I-64 and meet us there at approximately 6:45 am. We will caravan along Rte 610, stopping from time to time to bird the roadsides and continue to the intersection of US 340 in Stuarts Draft. Turn left to Cowbane Natural Area on Rte 909 where we will park and walk. It will be wet and soggy (hopefully). We will return to I-64 at Exit 91 via the Guthrie Road loop and Tinkling Springs road.

Contact: John Zimmerman at 974-9293 or jozimmva@aol.com.

First Saturday Bird Walk Ivy Creek Natural Area June 4

Ron Kingston will lead a walk along the Bluebird trail and perhaps we'll see summer residents like the Scarlet Tanager and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. **Meet in the Ivy Creek Natural Area parking lot at 7:30 am.**

Contact: Ron Kingston at 293-5173 or kingston@cstone.net.

John Zimmerman Reports Ivy Creek—March 5

Ten folks showed up on this snowy morning for the First Saturday Bird Walk in March. In spite of dim light, poor visibility, and snow on the lenses of our binoculars we spent the first half hour around the Education Building and then headed out on the Peninsula Trail in search of Wood Ducks. There were Canada Geese, Mallards, and a Great Blue Heron, but no Wood Ducks. We only found 23 species, but some notable observations were a male Red-winged Blackbird and a Brown Thrasher. Carolina Wrens, White-throated Sparrows, Mourning Doves, Carolina Chickadees, and cardinals were singing but the chorus was somewhat subdued; I suspect they were spending more time hunting for food between bouts of shivering.

Newsletter Notice

All MBC members will continue to receive the paper version of the newsletter in June and September. All members who have also been receiving the electronic version will receive that as well for the next two issues. If you want to receive the e-newsletter and are not now, please send your email address to Robyn Kells at rkells@ntelos.net, and she will mail you the e-newsletter.

In September, members will be asked to choose whether they would prefer to receive the paper newsletter or the electronic newsletter, when they renew their membership.



Black Rosy-Finch at Sandia Crest near Albuquerque, NM. I had the great fortune to see 30+ rosy-finches (including Brown-capped and Gray-crowned) when I visited on March 19. I saw the birds through a restaurant window with ten feet of snow on the ground outside. Armchair birding at its best!

—Nancy King, ed.

(Photo by Hans Spiecker.)

President's Message

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establishing plants that provide food for migrating birds, keeping cats indoors, making financial contributions to organizations that do ornithological research and preserve habitat, and writing to political representatives about environmental legislation. If those of us who love the birds do not act on their behalf, who will?

—Jennifer Gaden, president

Gardening for Wildlife: "Omanu" Plant List

If you are interested in planting a garden for wildlife, you can do no better than "steal" the plant list from Bill Leaning's garden in Earlsyville. He has tested, rejected, and edited his plants over the years with such care, that you can safely assume the following selections are likely to do very well in this area. We are grateful that Bill has generously agreed to share his hard-earned knowledge with us.

Evergreen Hollies

American Holly *Ilex opaca*

Meserve Hybrid Hollies

Prostrate holly *Ilex rugosa* x English holly *I. aquifolium*

Chinese holly *I. cornuta* x Prostrate holly *I. rugosa*

Red Hybrid Hollies

"Cardinal"

Nellie R. Stevens

Chinese holly *I. cornuta* x English holly *I. aquifolium*

Dwarf Burford Holly

"Burfordii Nana" *I. cornuta*

Inkberry *Ilex glabra*

Japanese Holly *Ilex crenata* "Helleri"

Deciduous Hollies

Ilex verticillata

Common Winterberry or Winterberry Holly

Female Cultivars

"Winter Red," "Red Sprite," "Maryland Beauty"

Male Cultivars

"Apollo," "Southern Gentleman," "Jim Dandy"

Ilex serrata x *Ilex verticillata* hybrids "Sparkleberry"

Dogwoods

Flowering Dogwood *Cornus florida*

Kousa Dogwood *Cornus kousa*

Rutgers Hybrid Dogwood

Cornus kousa x *Cornus florida* "Cornus Constellation"

Pagoda Dogwood *Cornus alternifolia*

Silky Dogwood *Cornus amomum*

Bloodtwig Dogwood *Cornus sanguinea*

Cornelian Cherry *Cornus mas* "Golden Glory"

Viburnums

Linden Viburnum *Viburnum dilatatum*

"Asian Beauty," "Erie"

Doublefile Viburnum *Viburnum plicatum* var. *tomentosum*

"Shasta," "Maresii"

American Cranberry Bush Viburnum *Viburnum trilobum*

"Hahs," "Compactum"

Blackhaw Viburnum *Viburnum prunifolium*

Arrowwood Viburnum *Viburnum dentatum*

Siebold viburnum *Viburnum sieboldii*

Leatherleaf Viburnum *Viburnum rhytidophyllum*

Lantanaphyllum Viburnum

Viburnum rhytidophyllum x *V. lantana*

Burkwood Viburnum *Viburnum burkwoodii*

Maple Leaf Viburnum *Viburnum acerifolium*

Smooth Witherod *Viburnum nudum* "Winterthur"

(Next month: More trees, shrubs and hedgerow plants)



MBC Minutes for April 14, 2005

President Jenny Gaden presided. There were 40 present, including two newcomers.

Treasurer's report: Bob Gilges reported several members have accidentally paid ahead. We will run those names in the newsletter with a renewal notice. MBC has \$14,857.68 in the bank.

Nominations: Dede Austin thanked the current MBC officers for agreeing to serve another year. She solicited volunteers to for the Field Trips and Guest Speakers Committees. MBC members will vote on the new Board in May.

Newsletter: Due to some confusion over the paper and electronic version of the newsletter, members who have been getting the e-newsletter will receive BOTH versions for the next two months. In September, members will be asked to choose which one they would prefer to get.

Field Trips: Jenny spoke about April Field Trips and urged members to take advantage of these opportunities to see birds nearby. She also said she had a description of and Bird List for Pine Knot, for those who are interested.

MISC: Jenny announced that Mattie Attinger had started the Rockfish Sanctuary, a wildlife rehabilitation center. Mattie is a trained rehabber and is working with the Virginia Wildlife Center. Jenny also shared mail she had received from different bird clubs and organizations.

Bird Sightings: (The temporary secretary apologizes for not knowing everyone's name.)

Stephanie Tanner spotted her first hummingbird of the season in Belmont on April 13. Lou Tanner saw a Brown Creeper on the Downtown Mall. A Ring-necked Dove was seen and a dead Golden-crowned Kinglet was found. One member spoke highly of birdingpal.com internet service, which links you up with a local birder when you travel. Very few Purple Martins have been noted (tree swallows are taking over their houses), although some were spotted at Yoder's General Store. Jim Hill observed a hungry Red-tailed Hawk catch and eat a squirrel and a frog! Jenny Gaden will give people who call her directions to a Great Horned Owl's nest (with a chick) in Bellair. Brenda Tekin says the Great Blue Heron rookery on private property in Albemarle has 29 occupied nests; two more than last year.