



# Monticello Bird Club

May 2007

Volume 21, Number 9

## May Meeting Topic:

## Members' Night: Share Your Photos and Stories!

Our May meeting is the traditional Members' Night. Anyone who would like to share pictures of birds or birding experiences is welcome to do so. There will be a slide projector and a projector and laptop for PowerPoint presentations. If you would like to be a "presenter" please notify Bill Leaning (964-1610). If some other equipment is needed also contact Bill.

Before that we will be treated to a short report from Laurel Gillette's third grade students. MBC provided

this Red Hill School classroom with materials for a bird feeding station for the first time this school year and the children will tell us what they have learned from the experience.

Please join us at 7:30 pm on May 10th for this exciting meeting!



*Palm Warbler. Photo by MBC member Robert Capon.*

## Annual Potluck June 14th

Mark your calendars and join us for the MBC annual potluck supper at the Ivy Creek Natural Area's Education Building. Please bring a dish to share. More details to follow in next month's newsletter.

## Inside May 2007

<i>Blue Ridge Mountains Important Bird Area</i>	2
<i>Field Trips</i>	3
<i>The Golden Chase</i>	4
<i>Minutes</i>	4

## MONTICELLO BIRD ALERT

The MonticelloBirdAlert provides birders in Central Virginia with an opportunity to post sightings of rare and interesting birds spotted in Charlottesville, Albemarle County, and surrounding counties. Members of the group should only post sightings of birds that are sited on public property or viewed from public roadways. Members may also post a sighting of a bird on private property, if the landowner has granted express permission for you to make such a posting to this group.

In just the past few months, birds reported on the MonticelloBirdAlert have included the Loggerhead Shrike, Surf Scoter(!), Fox Sparrow, Common Goldeneye, Horned Grebe, Horned Lark, Red Headed Woodpecker, American Woodcock, Northern Harrier, Bank Swallow and many others. The Surf Scoter was only here for one day, and appears to be a county record, so rapid information is very important.

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 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 your a member, you can post messages by sending messages to [monticellobirdalert@yahoo.com](mailto:monticellobirdalert@yahoo.com)
- 7) Remember the cardinal rule (stated above) about respecting private property rights.

## Upper Blue Ridge Mountain Important Bird Area

On April 5, 2007, the Monticello and Augusta Bird Clubs agreed to jointly adopt the Albemarle, Augusta and Nelson County section of the [Upper Blue Ridge Mountains Important Bird Area](#) (IBA). This IBA is critical for many breeding, wintering, and migrating species of conservation concern including the Cerulean Warbler, Peregrine Falcon and a suite of Neotropical migratory birds. In so doing, we have agreed to participate in any of the following ways:

- To help identify and participate in appropriate conservation, education, or outreach projects including but not limited to: restoration projects, survey efforts, clean-up days, or educational programs
- To act as a focal point for collaborative efforts among interested organizations within the IBA

- To be advocates for the IBA when local policy decisions threaten its integrity for birds
- Any other efforts mutually



agreed upon by the Clubs and the IBA Coordinator.

Victoria Dye has agreed to act as the liaison between Aimee Weldon, IBA Coordinator for Virginia, and the Monticello Bird Club. She will impart information from Aimee to club members and organize the club

volunteer activities. A survey of Cerulean Warblers in the IBA will be an important summer project. Work-days to remove invasive plants have already been organized. Please contact Victoria - [victoria@victoriasimages.com](mailto:victoria@victoriasimages.com); 434- 962-7212 - if you are interested in participating in this effort. There may be times between newsletters that Victoria will want to inform the club of some important matter. To pass on this information we would like to send out an addendum to the newsletter to all those who receive the club newsletter electronically. If you do not wish to receive this information please inform

Victoria. This mechanism will rarely be used.

The training meeting for volunteers who would like to participate in the IBA Cerulean Warbler count will be on Wednesday, May 16, 6 pm at the Augusta Medical Center education center in Fishersville.

### Bird Club Information

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 Amy Gilmer at [akgilmer@comcast.net](mailto:akgilmer@comcast.net) or send to 3166 Welsh Run Road, Ruckersville, VA 22968.

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**Monticello Bird Club**  
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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@earthlink.net">jgaden@earthlink.net</a>	293-6275
<b>Vice President</b>	Jim Hill	<a href="mailto:jimcarhill@adelphia.net">jimcarhill@adelphia.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@earthlink.net">jozimmva@earthlink.net</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>	Robyn Kells	<a href="mailto:rkells@ntelos.net">rkells@ntelos.net</a>	970-1044

## Upcoming Field Trips

### Birding Before Work Ivy Creek Natural Area April 30 - May 4

Enjoy the Spring migrants each morning before work on a bird walk at Ivy Creek Natural Area 7-8 am. **Meet in the ICNA parking lot at 7 am.** Leaders include April 30 - Lou Tanner, May 1 - Jenny Gaden, May 2 - Dave Hogg, May 3 - Teresa Shaner, and May 4 - John Zimmerman. Questions? Contact John at 434-974-9293 or [jozimmva@earthlink.net](mailto:jozimmva@earthlink.net)

### South River Falls Shenandoah National Park Saturday, May 5

Stauffer Miller will lead this trip along the beautiful South River Falls trail in Shenandoah National Park. Expect to see a variety of warblers on this moderately to difficult hike through lush woods. **Meet at Seminole Square in the Giant parking lot at 6:15 am.** We will be at the trail head in the South River Falls picnic area about 7 am, if you would like to meet us there. Questions? Contact Stauffer Miller at 434-296-5505 or [stauffer@seepub.com](mailto:stauffer@seepub.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 Peter Brask on the May 5 walk and Jim Nix on the June 2.

### Tufton Farm Wednesday, May 9

Join Peggy Cornett and Dave Hogg on this mid-week birding adventure. **Meet at 7 am at Tufton Farm.** Tufton Farm Road is located just off Rte. 732 (Milton Road) which can be reached with a left turn, going east on Rte. 53 just before Jefferson Vineyards. Milton Road can also be reached off U.S. 250 in Shadwell (starting as Rte. 729, then becoming Rte. 732). Questions? Contact Peggy Cornett at 434-984-9816 or [pcornett@monticello.org](mailto:pcornett@monticello.org)

### Route 610 and Cowbane Pasture Saturday, May 19

Enjoy seeing a diversity of species on this field trip led by John Zimmerman. **Meet at Seminole Square in the Giant parking lot at 6:15 am or the Afton Inn parking lot (Rockfish Gap) at 6:45 am.** Hiking should be easy, but Cowbane Pasture could be wet. Questions? Contact John at 434-974-9293 or [jozimmva@earthlink.net](mailto:jozimmva@earthlink.net)

### Blue Bird Trail Help

If you are interested in helping with the monitoring and maintenance of area Bluebird houses, please contact Bob Hammond at 434-978-1859 or Mary Janet Fowler at 434-244-7862.

### Albemarle County Spring Bird Count

The 2007 Albemarle County Spring Bird Count will take place on Saturday, May 5. It operates the same way as the Christmas Count, but a little less formally. Teams or individuals count all the birds that they see in a given area that day and turn the information in to Jim Childress. This county count has been going on since the 1970s but not that many people know about it. Many of the folks who have been doing it for decades are getting older now and new participants are not only welcomed but desired. If you are interested, please contact Jim at 434-823-4462 and he will suggest an area for you to cover.

### Upcoming Upper Blue Ridge Mountains IBA Events

**MAY 12th** - Join Audubon and the National Park Service in removing Oriental Bittersweet, Mile-A-Minute vine, Japanese Barberry and other invaders along Skyline Drive at Thornton Gap (near US 211) on May 12th 10am - 1 pm. Snacks and water provided and volunteers get Free Admission to the Shenandoah National Park! To sign up contact Victoria at [victoria@victoriasimages.com](mailto:victoria@victoriasimages.com)

**MAY 16th** - There will be a training meeting for volunteers who would like to participate in the IBA Cerulean Warbler count will be on Wednesday, May 16, 6 pm at the Augusta Medical Center education center in Fishersville, Virginia.



# The Golden Chase

Patti Reum, owner of Bear Mountain Farm, is organizing [The Golden Chase](#) to raise funds to help pay for the satellite time needed to monitor radio transmitters on Golden Eagles. This event is sponsored by Bear Mountain Farm and the Virginia Society of Ornithology.

Dr. Todd Katzer of the National Aviary in Pittsburgh will also participate to help capture the Golden Eagles (sheep carcasses will be the bait) and track their movements. This is an excellent opportunity for you to help determine if Golden Eagles breed in the mountains of Highland County. Each winter Highland County gets a few Golden Eagles and there are a few sightings of this spe-

cies into late spring and then late summer into fall! The information obtained on the behavior of the Golden Eagles would be valuable for conservation planning

Your help is requested. Donations are important, but it is also important to get a few groups of people participating in the Golden Chase – a classic bird-a-thon that will take place May 19, 2007. There are several properties that will be made available to teams to count: The Goodall property from the state border, The Miller property near Laurel Creek (site of a Northern Saw-whet Owl response during last springs foray), the TNC property near Sapling Ridge, and the Bear Mountain Farm area. All of these

are high altitude Virginia properties renowned for their wildlife – and hold many enticing possible species such as Sharp-shinned Hawk, Northern Goshawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Northern Saw-whet Owls, Long-eared Owls, Ruffed Grouse, Black-billed Cuckoos, Golden-crowned Kinglets, Winter Wrens, scads of warblers, Vesper Sparrows, Purple Finch, Pine Siskins, and Red Crossbills.

To donate or for more information, contact Patti Reum at 540-468-2700 or [bearmountain@ntelos.net](mailto:bearmountain@ntelos.net). The Monticello Bird Club will also be supporting this project by sponsoring Stauffer Miller's Big Day group for their Big Day count of birds in Albemarle County on May 1st. Stauffer's group will receive \$1 per bird. The funds generated will be sent to support the Golden Chase fundraiser.

## MBC Minutes for April 12, 2007

President Jenny Gaden welcomed one newcomer. Forty-one people attended the meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:** Henry Konat reported that the club's income was \$10,300 and expenses were \$9,961 with a net of \$339. The club has \$14,092 in the checking account.

Henry also reviewed the club's donations so far this year:

Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch - \$200  
Bird Seed donation to schools - \$40  
Ivy Creek Foundation - \$500  
Earth Watch - \$100

The Nature Conservancy - \$150  
Wildlife Center of Virginia - \$100  
Roving Ravens (VSO) - \$100  
American Birding Conservancy - \$500.

**Field Trips:** John Zimmerman reviewed the upcoming April trips, including the trip to Huntley Meadow in Fairfax County on April 28. The "Birding Before Work" walks to

watch the spring warblers will take place in May.

### Nominations Committee Report:

The club will vote on the slate of officers at the May meeting. All of the current officers will return next year, but Jenny Gaden has to nominate a coordinator for the bird seed sale and a membership secretary to replace Howard Davis and Robyn Kells, respectively. Jim Hill has offered to assume Howard's duties coordinating the bird seed ordering, etc., but we are in need of someone with Excel spreadsheet program who can track the orders. Also, the publicity chair, Ellen Dudley, could use help and new ideas.

### Special Announcements:

#### IBA—Important Bird Area

Aimee Weldon of the National Audubon Society has asked for help monitoring birds slopes of the Blue Ridge. MBC will combine with the Augusta Bird Club to survey the Albemarle and Augusta County areas of the Blue Ridge. The project also involves clearing of invasive

plants and the first clean-up date takes place April 28. MBC needs a point person to coordinate with Aimee Weldon.

### The "Golden Chase"

MBC member Patti Reum, who now lives in Highland County, has invited the MBC to support a program to attach monitors and track Golden Eagles to see if they are nesting in Highland County. If so, this would be the first time east of the Mississippi.

### Albemarle County "Bird-a-thon"

Stauffer Miller will take part in the first official 24-hour bird count in Albemarle County and is asking for pledges. The money raised will be donated to the Golden Chase event.

### A Fond Farewell

Longtime member Helen Preist will be moving back to England after living in Charlottesville for ten years and she thanked the members for their friendship over the years.

- Peggy Cornett, secretary