



# Monticello Bird Club

October 2007

Volume 22, Number 2

## October Meeting Topic: Natural Wonders of Shenandoah Mountain and the George Washington National Forest

At more than 1 million acres in size, the George Washington National Forest is home to a multitude of natural wonders, from black bears and bobcats to Wild Turkeys and wood turtles to pond-breeding salamanders and wild trout streams - and the geologic features and plant communities that support them. Our October speaker, David Hannah will present a PowerPoint presentation on these under-appreciated resources on

our public lands in western Virginia.

David Hannah is Conservation Director for the nonprofit group Wild Virginia. He received his M.S. degree in Wildlife Ecology from the University of Florida and has worked as a professional in the conservation and natural resource field since 1993.

Please join MBC members and our speaker for dinner at Wild Greens Restaurant in the North Wing of Barracks Road Shopping Center on October 11th at 5:45 pm prior to the meeting.

### *In Memory*

The recent death of Ken Lawless was a great loss to the botanical community and to the Monticello Bird club. He was a tireless participant in the yearly Christmas bird counts for Charlottesville and Warren since 1947 and a charter member of the Turkey Sag bird club which was named for a gap in the Southwest Mountains near Stony point.

The Turkey Sag club was started by Dr. John Grey, a minister of the Charlottesville Presbyterian Church about 1945 or 1946. Original members were Dr Grey, Mo Stevens, Bill Minor, Ken Lawless, Catherine Michie, Mrs. Colgate Darden, wife of the President of the University at the time, Boo and Bill Lewis.

-Bill Minor

### Inside October 2007

<i>MBC Minutes</i>	2
<i>Field Trips</i>	3
<i>Use of Recorded Songs</i>	4
<i>Membership Form</i>	4

## Upcoming Meeting Topics

**November 8:** Carl Boast will present "Wildlife in Alaska"

**December 13:** Bruce Ingram will present "Life Cycle of the Wild Turkey"

## 2007 Bird Seed Sale

Fall is here, and it is time for our Annual Bird Seed Sale. We need volunteer callers and loaders -- but most importantly we need salesmen. We not only need your orders, but those of your friends and neighbors. Order forms are due November 2. Lets beat last year's sales! Thanks in advance for your help.



## Comments From the President

Sunday, September 16th, was a very "birdie" day. I was one of four who met at 5:15 am to scour the Albemarle County countryside for birds. By 6 am we were hearing Screech Owls and Whippoorwills and about 9 am we hit the jackpot. At a random stop on Route 722, we found an open area on the edge of which was a cluster of bushes and small trees. This cluster was boiling with birds. They were coming and going so fast we didn't know where to look first: eight species of warblers, four species of vireos, two species of flycatchers, tanagers, hummingbirds, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, and many of the expected year-round residents. We stood transfixed for 45 minutes and all agreed that we had never experienced anything quite like it before.

Meanwhile, up at Rockfish Gap the hawks were streaming across the sky. "Clouds", "rivers", "walls" of birds were some of the words used to describe the masses of Broad-winged Hawks that passed overhead. It was one of the best days on record for the number of hawks counted at the Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch, totaling over 6000.

So what is the lesson to be learned? Mid-September is a time not to be missed for witnessing outstanding avian activity in Central Virginia. October brings its rewards as well with the winter residents arriving and different species of raptors sailing south over the Blue Ridge. Birders a-bed miss out. Arise and be enthralled.

- Jennifer Gaden, president

## Monticello Bird Club

### MBC Minutes September 13, 2007

President Jenny Gaden welcomed members to the first meeting of the new season. She then introduced Bruce Gatling-Austin, the new Education Coordinator for Ivy Creek Foundation. Jenny also expressed her sincere thanks to the members of the board of directors for their fine work in preparation for the new season. There were 44 in attendance.

**Treasurer's Report:** Henry Konat reported that income since the beginning of the fiscal year was \$805, expenses were \$324 and the club's current bank balance is \$14,388.

**Field Trips:** Before describing upcoming field trips, John Zimmerman addressed the members on the need for greater participation in club field trips. He said that a number of recent trips had been very poorly attended and, in fact, more than one had been cancelled due to a lack of interest. He strongly encouraged members to attend the many interesting trips he is planning for the coming year. In particular, he encouraged members to take advantage of Peter Brask's invitation to visit his home for early morning birding before the hawk-watching trip to Calf

Mountain. He also spoke at some length concerning the November 16-18 trip to the Eastern Shore by way of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel. For those wishing to stop on the tunnel islands on the way to the Eastern Shore it is necessary to fill out and file security forms before November 2nd. John passed out blank forms to interested people in attendance and can provide others to those who call him (he will not be present at the October meeting). There is a 15-person limit for the Tunnel Island portion of this field trip.

**Seed Sale:** Jim Hill provided an update on planning for the sale and stressed the importance of the sale for funding club programs and donations to conservation organizations. He encouraged members to promote sales to friends, neighbors and others who are not MBC members and added that he would be seeking volunteers at the October meeting to make reminder calls about the seed pick up and to help load bags of seeds on the delivery day.

**Proposed Amendment to the MBC Bylaws:** The Board of Directors has proposed an amendment to the bylaws that would authorize the President to appoint an at-large member of the board. In accordance with the proce-

dures set forth in the bylaws this proposal was read by Jenny Gaden at the September meeting. It will be read for a second time at the October meeting and then voted on by the members present.

**Announcements:** Jenny announced that there would be a meeting at Ivy Creek on September 25th to establish a working group and begin planning for the production of an annotated check list for the birds of Albemarle County, Charlottesville and Nelson County. She invited anyone interested in participating to attend. This project was described in detail in the September newsletter.

Betty Mooney has volunteered to organize a binocular show-and-tell get-together for the benefit of those who are considering the purchase of new binoculars. This event will be open to the public; more information will be provided at the October meeting.

Charlottesville Christmas Bird Count: Jenny announced that the National Audubon Society had set the dates for CBCs this year as December 14th through January 5th. The date for the Charlottesville CBC has tentatively been set for Sunday, December 16th. She encourages participation by anyone who

*(Continued on page 3)*

## 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 November issue is October 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 at Scottsville Saturday, October 13

Jim Nix will lead this moderate hike along the James River at Scottsville. **Meet 7 am in park at sewage disposal plant.** Take Route 20 south to Scottsville and turn right at the last street before the bridge across the James River. Continue to a "T" intersection and turn left (toward the river). Questions? Contact Jim Nix at 434-973-7366 or [jim-nix@comcast.net](mailto:jim-nix@comcast.net)

### Sparrow Road Saturday, October 20

John Zimmerman will lead this trip along Sparrow Road. This trip will include stops at Beaver Creek Reservoir and Mint Spring Valley Park. **Meet at Seminole Square in the Giant parking lot at 7:00 am.** It will be an easy walk, and we will return by noon. Questions? Contact John at 434-974-9293 or [jozimmva@embarqmail.com](mailto:jozimmva@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 David Hogg on the October 6th walk and Lou Tanner on the November 3rd walk.

### Western Greene and Albemarle Counties Tuesday, October 23

On this trip we'll cover the western sections of Greene and Albemarle counties, including areas such as Shady Grove, Mission Home, Boonesville, and Dyke. We'll do as much walking as we can. **Meet at the courthouse area in Stanardsville at 8 am.** The group should get back to Stanardsville about noon, possibly having lunch there. Leader: Stauffer Miller. Contact Stauffer at 434-296-5505 or [Stauffer@seepub.com](mailto:Stauffer@seepub.com) for the latest information.

### Pen Park Nature Trail Sunday, November 11

Join Jenny Gaden for an easy 3 mile hike on the Pen Park Nature Trail. **NOTE: This is a Sunday trip. Meet at 7:30 am by Shelter #2 in the Pen Park picnic area.** Questions? Contact Jenny Gaden at 434-293-6275 or [jgaden@embarqmail.com](mailto:jgaden@embarqmail.com)

### Use of Recorded Songs on Field Trips

The Board of Directors of the Monticello Bird Club passed a resolution that no recording devices for the playback of bird songs in order to attract birds be used on club field trips. The single exception is the playing of owl tapes.

### Chincoteague NWR & Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel November 16-18

Join field trip leader, John Zimmerman on a visit to this birding hotspot. **Meet at south end CBBT in administration parking lot at 9:45 am on Friday, November 16th.** The visit to CBBT islands limited to 15 persons with prior submission of information sheet for security clearance. Information sheet can be downloaded from the [www.cbbt.com/birding.html](http://www.cbbt.com/birding.html) or can be obtained from John Zimmerman, but must be returned to John by November 2nd to be mailed to the CBBT. Depending upon the number of participants there will be a fee of around \$10/person payable at time of trip to the CBBT. You must also present a picture ID (e.g. driver's license) to the security officer. If you do not choose to do the CBBT, meet at Visitors Center, Eastern Shore National Wildlife Refuge between 12:30 - 1 pm. Reservations for Chincoteague for the nights of November 16 and 17 can be made at the Island Motor Inn (757-336-3141), mention you are with the Monticello Bird Club for the group rate of \$88/ night. 7 day prior cancellation limit.

*(Continued from page 2)*

is interested and will provide more information as the date approaches.

**Bird Sightings:** Carol Hill reported an unusual oriole seen recently at her house. In overall appearance it closely resembled Audubon's Oriole, a Mexican species found in the U.S. only in extreme south Texas. Lou Tanner reported that an extraordinary number of Chimney Swifts can be seen each evening at dusk in the vicinity of a large chimney in downtown Charlottesville. He said that the chimney is located south of the Downtown Mall around 4th or 5th street and can be seen easily only from the top of the Water Street garage. Several members present mentioned other locations in the area where large numbers can be seen. There were also reports of Great Horned Owls calling and of a Bald Eagle seen over the south fork of the Rivanna River below the dam.

- Jim Nix

# 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*