



Monticello Bird Club

September 2010

Volume 27, Number 1

September Meeting Program

Mary A. Elfner is the Virginia Important Bird Areas (IBA) program coordinator. The IBA program is an international effort to identify, conserve, and monitor a network of sites that provide essential habitat for bird populations. BirdLife International began the IBA program in Europe in 1985. Since that time, BirdLife partners in more than 100 countries have joined together to build the global IBA network. Audubon, the BirdLife Partner in the U.S., has been working since 1995 to identify and conserve hundreds of IBAs all across the United States. The Virginia IBA program, established in 2002, is administered by the National Audubon Society and the Virginia Audubon Council in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and the Virginia Society of Ornithology, among others. Mary provides an overview of the international IBA program and specific information and status of the VA IBA effort in a presentation filled with beautiful pictures of Virginia birds, and what is being done on-the-ground to conserve the Commonwealth's birdlife.

Comments From the President

Late August brings some relief, at least psychologically. Monarchs, raptors, and warblers are hitting the road south, katydids are at their wondrously raucous best, garden orb spiders are just now appearing in our garden, the incomparably beautiful purple ironweed is still magnificent, and mosquitoes have not long to live. Who could ask for anything more?

If ever there was a long hot summer, this was certainly it. We will all be sad to be losing so many of our summer residents for the next several months but at this point, for me at least, it seems like a more than fair trade. All bird lovers should thrill to the spectacle that awaits us in the weeks to come. Those ever confusing fall warblers and the high flying raptors at Rockfish Gap make this one of the very best places in the country to get out and enjoy nature.

On a personal note, I am honored to be serving as President even as one cannot help being mindful of the size of the shoes of those who have occupied this position be-

fore. Since Stephanie and I first joined some fifteen years ago, the leadership of John Zimmerman, Jenny Gaden, and Stauffer Miller has been, in my opinion, superb and the contributions of numerous others have likewise helped make this a model for how Bird Clubs ought to be. Learning the ropes is a challenge. I thank you in advance for your patience.

Speaking of John and Jan, I can only add to what just might be happening on Meeting night that on every walk with John, I came back having learned something valuable I had not known before. It has happened time and time again that one of John's little asides would cut through years of my puzzling over descriptions and pictures in guidebooks. The Zimmermans' departure is our loss but out there on the range where the prairie chickens still roam—albeit in dwindling numbers--birders ought to be smiling. Many thanks to John and Jan and best of luck.

Thanks is due too to Jenny

Upcoming Meeting Topics

September 9th at 7:00 p.m.

Virginia Important Bird Areas Program

October 14th at 7:00 p.m.

To be announced

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Gaden, in addition to all those others who helped on the project, for her Herculean efforts to produce the new Albemarle County Annotated Checklist. I think it is going to be quite a stunner, one that serious birders will want to own. They will be available for purchase at a modest cost at the upcoming meeting.

Meanwhile, get out and enjoy one of the very finest parts of the country and regardless of how spectacular our winged friends are, spare some moments to gaze too at the flowers, trees, and insects that surround us but sometimes get taken for granted. The field trips planned for upcoming weeks are varied and promise to be excellent. As always, I wish it were possible for me to take advantage of more of Stauffer's midweek jaunts but a bird-friendlier schedule this year just may enable that.

Lou Tanner

Monticello Bird Club

In Memoriam

Betty Jean Cox

One of our Club's long time members passed away on July 29, 2010 at her residence.

Betty Jean was born on May 20, 1930 in Lee County, NC.

She attended West Carolina College and Watts Nursing School. She was employed by hospitals in NC and VA as a Lab Technician before retiring from the UVA Hospital in Charlottesville.

A funeral service was held at Moore Union Christian Church with Rev. David Yarborough officiating. Burial was at the church cemetery.

Helen Elizabeth Priest

Helen Elizabeth Priest was a long time member of our Club and a former resident of Charlottesville. She passed away on August 19, 2010 at the age of 79 at her home in Leeds, England.

Our hearts go out to the friends and family of Betty Jean and Helen Elizabeth.



Bird Club Information

The Monticello Bird Club meets 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 October issue is 8:00 a.m. September 28.** Please email information to Doug Rogers at MBCNEWS@embarqmail.com or send to 1065 Weybridge Ct. # 304, Charlottesville, VA 22911.

Monticello Bird Club

P.O. Box 4362

Charlottesville, Virginia 22905

Please visit our website at

www.monticellobirdclub.org

New Restaurant for Speakers Dinner

Stauffer Miller

This summer Ellie and I had dinner at Lord Harwicke's Restaurant along Rt. 29 in Charlottesville, liked it and decided to try it for our speakers' dinners. Therefore, beginning with the dinner of September 9th, we will be dining there. The menu includes a nice variety of appetizers, entrées, pizzas and desserts. Also, the atmosphere may be a little quieter than at Ruby Tuesday, where we have been dining. Lord Harwicke's is also willing to provide separate checks. The restaurant is on the east side of Route 29, not too far north of the Barrack's Road intersection.

I would encourage you to come to these dinners, as it is fun to dine with fellow bird club members and get to know the speaker a little better. The dinners begin at 5:30 PM, and about 6:45 we hustle out of the restaurant in order to get to Ivy Creek by the start of the meeting. Let me know if you plan to attend so we have some sort of count to give the restaurant when we phone to make a reservation.

My number is 434 296 5505.

New Book

Through the initiative and hard work of Jenny Gaden and a committee of five other members of Monticello Bird Club, Albemarle County has a new and important bird publication, *An Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Albemarle County and Charlottesville, Virginia*. Jenny, David Hogg, Stauffer Miller, Jim Nix, Brenda Tekin and John Zimmerman, have assembled all the salient bird sightings for the County since bird observation began here, organized them and put them into book form.

What is an annotated checklist? It's a list of birds seen in a given area with notes added such as how many were seen, when, where, and in some cases circumstances. For instance, the Tundra Swan listing includes the information that the most of that species ever recorded in the County is seventy. And, that the only Varied Thrush ever seen here was seen on January 16, 1977.

These notations and a great deal more information are packed into this excellent publication. See it and learn more about it at the September 9th meeting of the bird club. The price is \$10.00.

Monticello Bird Club Board

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Birdseed Sale	Jim Hill	jimcarhill@comcast.net	975-6523

First Saturday Bird Walks at Ivy Creek Natural Area

On the first Saturday of each month, the Monticello Bird Club offers a bird walk at Ivy Creek Natural Area at 7:30 a.m.

Some of the walks stay near the main building and parking lot, others go out on the peninsula. Each month has a different leader. Some outstanding birds have been seen on the walks.

The leader for the Sept 4th walk will be Leigh Surdukowski.

Rockfish Gap and the Blue Ridge

Saturday, September 18, 2010

Peter Brask takes us on a morning walk in search of fall migrants. Meet at 9:00 am at the old Howard Johnson's just below the new Visitor Center on Afton Mountain. It is located off I 64 at exit 99, about 22 miles west of Charlottesville. Turn right on US 250, and take the first right.

Be prepared for a leisurely hike over uneven terrain. If you'd like, bring a drink or snack to share on the hike. The trip will end near the site of the Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch, and you are welcome to join the hawk watchers after the hike. Please contact Peter Brask

(434-823-2363) for additional information



Nighthawk Watch at Ivy Creek Natural Area

Monday, August 30, and Wednesday September 1.

Don't miss the exciting evening flights of these cryptic birds. Join us these evenings at 6:30 pm at the Ivy Creek Natural Area parking lot.

A Visit to Fan Mountain

September 25, 2010.

Fan Mountain is an isolated peak in southern Albemarle County. Atop the mountain is an observatory, with encircling walkway. We'll do some walking on roads near the observatory and as the day warms, go up to the walkway to enjoy the panorama and look for raptors. Meet at 8:00 AM at Crossroads Store, Rt. 29 South at North Garden. Leaders Rob Capon and Stauffer Miller, 434 296-5505.

stauffer@seepub.com.

Secluded Farm

Saturday, October 9, 2010

Meet at Saunders-Monticello Trail overflow parking lot at 7:30 am, entered from north-bound Route 20, just north of its intersection with route 53.

We should see a variety of songbirds during this easy walk of several hours over a grassy trail.

Please contact the leader Dave Hogg (434-974-7592) for additional information.

Farewell to John and Jan Zimmerman

John and Jan Zimmerman joined the Monticello Bird Club in 1998 shortly after they arrived in Charlottesville from Manhattan, Kansas where John had been a professor of ornithology in the Division of Biology at Kansas State University for thirty-five years. They are about to leave Charlottesville and move St. Louis Missouri where they will be near their son. Their departure will be a real loss to our bird club.

John has been a great contributor to MBC. He served as president from 1999-2004 and during that period presided over the organization for the VSO annual meeting that took place in Charlottesville in 2003. For eight plus years he collected data about the birds of Ivy Creek, resulting in the publication of a booklet in 2008, *The Birds of Ivy Creek*, which is an important resource for our club. He was chair of the field trip committee for a number of years and led the fall trip to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel and Chincoteague for several of those years. In addition he led lots of other local field trips. Finally, he was one of six committee members who worked together for three years to produce the 2010 annotated checklist *The Birds of Albemarle County and Charlottesville, Virginia*. It is a cliché, but it is true – he will be greatly missed.

Please come to our next meeting on Thursday, September 9, and join us after the meeting for cake and an opportunity to wish John and Jan farewell.



It's Dues Time

Just a reminder that Monticello Bird Club dues for Fiscal Year 2010-2011 were due beginning July 1st (our current fiscal year is from July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011). Dues become "overdue" on December 31, 2010, when we may terminate your Newsletter subscription.

Membership categories are: Individual Member \$15, Family/Contributing Member \$25 and Sponsor \$50. A membership form is included in this Newsletter, or can be downloaded from the MBC website: monticellobirdclub.org.

Please send your check, payable to the Monticello Bird Club to:

- Monticello Bird Club
- P.O. Box 4362
- Charlottesville, VA 22905

Important! Please indicate your newsletter format preference for receiving the MBC Newsletter. This can be either electronic (via Email) or paper. Electronic is the preferred format in that it is environmentally friendly because it saves paper and postage. Either mark your format preference on the membership form when sending in your 2010-2011 dues, or Email your preference to either:

- Jim Nix (Membership Chairman) at jim-nix@Comcast.net or
- Henry Konat (Treasurer) at henryk54@verizon.net.

Thanks and have a great year birding and enjoying our meetings.

From David Bryan of the Virginia Important Bird Areas Program

"Thanks to the help of over twenty volunteers, including several members of the Monticello Bird Club (Joanne Bricker, Ann Dunn, Chris Murray, Janet Paisley & Doug Rogers), the Virginia Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program completed a successful May survey of the Central Piedmont IBA. Please take the time to read our online survey summary at <http://ebird.org/content/va/news/central-piedmont-iba-survey-summary>. Additionally, if you have questions or wish to obtain an in-depth scientific write-up of the survey results, please contact David Bryan, Outreach Coordinator for the IBA Program, at dbryan.audubon@gmail.com. Thank you."

