



Monticello Bird Club

September 2008

Volume 23, Number 1

September Meeting Topic: Chasing Birds across Texas

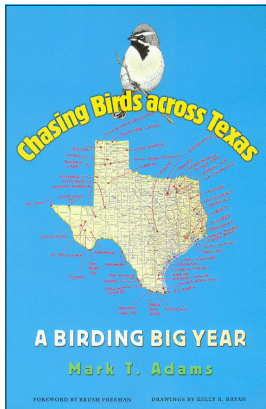
Mark Adams is a professional astronomer who works for the National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO) in Charlottesville, Virginia, where he is the Assistant Director for Education & Public Outreach.

Mark was born in Baltimore and was raised in Maryland and Pennsylvania. He received an undergraduate astronomy degree from the Pennsylvania State University and then attended the University of Arizona, where he completed his Ph.D., also in astronomy. After 13 years working in the defense industry in Florida, Mark returned to astronomy in 1994 when he became the Site Director for the University of Texas - McDonald Observatory in the Davis Mountains of West Texas. Mark moved to Charlottesville and the NRAO in January, 2004.

Mark became interested in birds in 1995 while living in West Texas. In

the year 2000, Mark did a birding Big Year in Texas, traveling across the entire state, visiting a great variety of places and habitats, and recording 489 species of birds. Mark chronicled his Big Year in a book published in 2003 by Texas A&M University Press titled "Chasing Birds across Texas." Mark's next book is about citizen science and will be published by Texas A&M University Press in spring 2010. Mark has also written popular articles on astronomy and natural history, and book reviews.

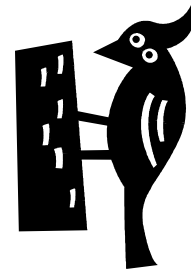
(Continued on page 3)



Upcoming Meeting Topics

October 9th: Clair Mellinger will present "Northern Saw-whet Owls in northwestern Virginia"

November 13th: Teta Kain will present "Antarctic Ice—The Ultimate Adventure"



Comments From the President

Allow me to introduce myself. I am Stauffer Miller, your new president. After four years of solid and steady leadership, Jenny Gaden has handed off the presidential reins to me. Jenny will be a hard act to follow and big shoes to fill. I can only say I will do my best.

I accept the presidency with a great deal of hesitancy, partly because the Gaden tenure set such a high standard and partly because, as a newcomer to the area, I feel I do not know the Monticello Bird Club members so well. It's my hope that assumption of this office will enable me to know you, and you me, better. I want to hear from you. What do you want from your bird club? What are your strengths and assets? Do you see some way your talents could be tapped?

I have able officers and a great board of directors. I hope they will be as willing to carry out their tasks as they have in the past. Pat Wilczek, with support and aid of her husband Frank, has engaged an exciting series of speakers for 2008-2009. You will not want to miss these talks and programs. For September she has lined up local birder Mark Adams, who will bring us the story of his year of chasing birds around the state of Texas, arguably the best of the states for bird species number. Mark has solid identification skills, which are apparent in the posts he makes on our Monticello Bird Alert.

Regarding the Bird Alert, this is an internet forum in which local birders can write of their bird sightings in Albemarle County or elsewhere and disseminate them for the rest of us to

(Continued on page 2)

Inside September 2008

Former MBC Presidents Recognized	2
Field Trips	3
Membership Form	4

Monticello Bird Club

(Comments from the president continued from page 1)

read about. By this means, those who wish can pursue a rare bird in the county within hours of its first being seen. Even if you don't want to pursue such birds or post your own sightings, it's fun to read the latest buzz. Rob Capon, who established the Alert, can set you up with this service, which now has about forty subscribers. If you want to get connected, let me know, and I'll put you in touch with Rob, as this is at much too high a point in the technological curve for me to understand.

September is our second best month, after May, for birding—at least that's my opinion. It's hard to beat a September morning after a cold front has passed, as the sun strikes and warms a patch of scrubby trees, and the warblers and other songbirds begin to chip and move around—and you're there to experience it! Don't let these great days pass you by. And don't let Mark Adams' talk of September 11th pass you by either. See you then.

-Stauffer Miller

Former Club Presidents Recognized



A Jefferson cup was presented by Jim Nix to Jenny Gaden on June 12, 2008 at the 22nd Annual Potluck Picnic of the Monticello Bird Club. Jenny was president from 2004 - 2008. She is pictured with her husband, Elmer. *Photo courtesy of Ron Kingston.*

A Jefferson cup was also presented by Jim Nix to John Zimmerman on June 12, 2008 at the 22nd Annual Potluck Picnic of the Monticello Bird Club. John was president from 1999 - 2004. He is pictured with his wife, Janis. *Photo courtesy of Ron Kingston.*



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 October issue is September 20.** Please email information to Amy Gilmer at akgilmer@comcast.net or send to 2341 Highland Avenue, Charlottesville, VA 22903.

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

Monticello Bird Club Board Members

President	Stauffer Miller	stauffer@secpub.com	296-5505
Vice President	Jim Hill	jimcarhill@comcast.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@embarqmail.com	974-9293
Speakers	Pat Wilczek	pat.wilczek@comcast.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	Jim Nix	jim-nix@comcast.net	973-7366
Birdseed Sale	Jim Hill	jimcarhill@comcast.net	975-6523

Upcoming Field Trips

Nighthawk Watch At Ivy Creek Natural Area August 26 & 28

Don't miss the exciting evening flights of these cryptic birds! Join us on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, 6:30 pm, at Ivy Creek Natural Area (ICNA).

King Family Vineyard Saturday, August 30

Meet at the King Family Vineyard in the gravel parking lot next to the retail store at 8:00 am. The vineyard is on Half Mile Branch Road off Jarman's Gap Road in Crozet. Owner-manager Carrington King will show us around the pond/wetland he has created and talk about his goals for the site. We should see a few shore and water birds as well (in the past Glossy and White Ibis as well as Dunlin, Pectoral Sandpiper, and Short-billed Dowitcher have been seen here). Leader, Stauffer Miller, 434-296-5505 or stauffer@secpub.com

Scogo Lake Saturday, September 13

Join John Zimmerman on this trip to Scogo Lake. Meet in parking lot at Scogo Lake at 7:15 am. To reach the lake go south on US 29 for 6.8 mi from I-64 interchange to Route 710 (Taylor's Gap Road). Turn right on 710 and go 0.7 mi. to Route 696 (Edge Valley Road). Turn left and travel about 2 mi to entrance to Scogo Lake on your left. Easy hiking around the lake through fields, wetlands, and forest edge. Leader, John at 434-974-9293 or jozimmva@embarqmail.net

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.

Southern Albemarle Saturday, September 20

Meet at Crossroads Store in North Garden (Route 29 south of Charlottesville at Plank Road) at 8 am. We will carpool over Sharon and Old Green Mountain roads and then walk stretches of these pleasant, little-used roads to discover migrant songbirds. We will return to the Crossroads Store around noon. We may have lunch at the small, but very nice, restaurant in the store. Leader, Stauffer Miller, 434-296-5505 or stauffer@secpub.com

(September meeting continued from page 1)

Mark's presentation for the Monticello Bird Club's meeting on Thursday, September 11th will describe many of his interesting and often unexpected Big Year experiences, a wide range of Texas habitats, and the state's birds.

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

VSO Chincoteague Field Trip September 5-7, 2008

This Virginia Society of Ornithology trip provides an opportunity to visit this popular birding hotspot.

Headquarters: The Refuge Motor Inn, P.O. Box 378 Beach Road, Chincoteague, Virginia 23336, Phone 800-544-8469 or 757-336-5511. Room rates are \$100 per night for a single or a double room, minimum two night stay.

Meals are on your own. Chincoteague is known for its fine dining and you will be able to choose from any number of excellent restaurants.

Schedule: *Friday-* Night-Shorebird Review and a preview of birds in the area and a synopsis of the field trips. *Saturday-* We will have a wide variety of field trip experiences for you to choose from. There will be the favorites; birding and biking, which will test your balance and biking skills; a "Confusing Fall Warbler Walk", which will test your patience with our fall migrants. Shorebird watching always turns up a surprise. We will have a tally of the day's species late in the afternoon. *Sunday-* We will repeat many of the field trips from Saturday, so you will have a chance to sample many different areas. You may want to check out other birding areas on the eastern shore such as the Eastern Shore National Wildlife Refuge and Kiptopeke State Park.

For more information visit the VSO web site, <http://www.virginiabirds.net/> or call or email Peggy Opengari Phone: 540- 921-4340 Email: gramby@pemtel.net

Monticello Bird Club

Membership Form

BECOME A MONTICELLO BIRD CLUB MEMBER FOR 2008-2009!

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