



Monticello Bird Club

June 2005

Volume 19, Number 10

Comments From the President

The speaker for our April meeting was George Fenwick, President of the American Bird Conservancy. You may remember his mentioning a possible contribution that the Monticello Bird Club might make towards an ABC project. At the time the matter was under consideration by the Board. After much discussion within the Board as well as with representatives from the respective organizations, the Board has agreed to grant a request of \$1000 submitted by the Piedmont Environmental Council and the American Bird Conservancy. The two organizations, in a joint project, are developing a handbook, "A Piedmont Landowner's Guide to Bird Conservation," which is intended to improve bird habitat in Albemarle County and 10 other counties.

The purpose of the project is to put directly into the hands of landowners and resource managers, specific management techniques for improving bird habitat in various habitat types including grasslands, forested areas, early successional fields, and wetlands. Implementation of these techniques and follow-through with

individual landowners will take place in the final stages of this project. The Monticello Bird Club may participate in the implementation when the time comes. One of the persuasive arguments for supporting this effort was put forward by David Pashley of the ABC, the person who will be writing the text of the handbook. He pointed out that in the Eastern United States conservation of bird habitat will take place primarily on private lands rather than public. It is vital that private landowners become informed about bird habitat and can find help in developing it. The Board felt that this project is consistent with one of our purposes, that of bird conservation, especially as it affects local birds.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Board for all the work they have done this year in running the club activities as well as considering new opportunities for the club. These new opportunities are possible because of the funds that we have accumulated over the years. The rewarding thing, I believe, is that everyone has enjoyed working for the club because most of the Board is returning for another year of fun. Can we persuade more of you to join us? Our most pressing need at the moment is additional help in planning programs for the monthly meetings.

I hope that many of you will come to the June potluck picnic. But for those who do not, have a happy summer and we look forward to seeing everyone again in the fall.

—Jennifer Gaden, president

Greetings From: Warbler Road



Canada Warbler. Once again, Brenda Tekin has captured a special birding moment. This was taken on the May 1 Warbler Road Field trip. Don't miss the next one!

June Meeting "Topic" Potluck Supper

Please join us for the last meeting of the season...our 19th Annual Potluck Supper! Members are urged to bring a dish to share on June 9 at the Ivy Creek Natural Area's Education Building. The club will provide plates, utensils and drinks. Please note:

WE'LL START AT 6:00 PM.

The next meeting of the Monticello Bird Club will be September 8. The newsletter heads off for a "leisurely" summer vacation of weeding, watering, and waiting for cooler weather.

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Bird Notes and News

ROVING RAVENS

Congratulations to Alan Schreck, Linda Fields, Kurt Gaskill and Bob Ake, members of the VSO Roving Ravens team that participated in the 2005 Word Series of Birding in NJ. They finished 8th overall and 3rd in the non-resident category (behind Cornell) with 194 species. Pledge money will offset the cost of printing "Virginia Birds" and it's not too late to pledge. Here's a link: www.virginiabirds.net/Roving_Ravens/pledge.htm.

ROCKFISH SANCTUARY

A small animal sanctuary and rehabilitation facility has opened in Central Virginia. The Rockfish Sanctuary will provide care for injured and orphaned wildlife and prepare them for release back into the wild. Director Nathou Attinger is a licensed wildlife rehabilitator. She is looking for financial support and volunteers. To get help for injured/orphaned animals, you may

call Nathou at 434-962-7429 or 434-831-2900.

PURPLE MARTIN DAY

Just a quick reminder...The Annual Purple Martin Workshop in Louisa County will be held Saturday June 25 this year. For more information/directions contact Ron or Priscilla Kingston at 293-5173 or kingston@cstone.net.



Flacate Orangetip seen on the Warbler Road Field Trip May 1st. Photo by Brenda Tekin.

Membership Dues

There has been some confusion about when to pay dues to the Monticello Bird Club. In June, we remind members that their dues are due in July. In addition, last October we sent a Membership Form in the newsletter which inadvertently caused a few conscientious members to pay twice.

Here's the new plan: In September, you will receive a Membership Renewal Form. The following list of people have *already* paid through June 2006 and should NOT pay in September.

Margie Adamson, Jack Andrews, Meredith Bennett, Barbara Besse, Fran Boninti, Peter Brask, Peggy Cornett, Alice Davis, Louise Fernandez, Bette Flickinger, Jenny Gaden, Marilyn Gillespie, Marjory Giullano, Amy & Gary Haden, Bob Hammond, Dee Henderson, Edith Henn, Elizabeth Ihle, Stephen Jamme, Howard Jones (thru 06/07), Marcia Kirkpatrick, Bill & Clare Leaning, Ed & Donna Lewis, Leo & Ann Mallek, James & Jean Murray, Pat Napoleon, Jim Nix, Susan Pleiss, Helen Priest, Pat Punch, Paul Saunier, Kay Slaughter, Mo Stevens, Linda Trimble.

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 September issue is August 24.** Please email information to Nancy King at turnermtn@mindspring.com or send to P.O. Box 22, Ivy, VA 22945.

Monticello Bird Club
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Please visit our website at www.ecoventures-travel.com/mbc

Monticello Bird Club Board Members

President	Jennifer Gaden	jg3p@cstone.net	293-6275
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Spring Field Trip Reports From Near and Far

Jenny Gaden Reports: Woodcocks--March 12

Our evening field trip was scheduled to watch American Woodcocks perform their mating display at Humpback Rocks on the Blue Ridge Parkway. A road barrier, however, greeted us when we arrived at the Parkway. The road was closed due to ice and snow, a problem in no way evident that evening. Instead, four of us went to an alternative site near Whitehall. We arrived there a little after 6:30pm and the moment we stepped out of the car we heard the “peenting” of the male woodcock. There was still enough light to see a woodcock rise into the air, and we could hear the dry sound of its wings as it flew up and out of sight. After waiting a minute or so we heard the liquid sounds of singing as the bird descended. At the last moment the black silhouette of the woodcock plopped to the ground. This happened several times before the light gave out and a Great Horned Owl flew low overhead patrolling the brushy field.

Dave Hogg Reports: O-Hill--April 21 & 27

With the kind help of Mike Iwanik we ID'd the calls of the worm-eating, Nashville, and Black-throated Green Warblers along with the call of the Blue-headed Vireo. It was a beautiful morning April 21, with cloudless skies and a temperature of 50 F. 23 species were observed, the most surprising of which was the Double-crested Cormorant; a flock of seven flew by. A Red-bellied Woodpecker peered at us from his nesting hole in a dead tree near the top of the hill. There were many Ruby-crowned Kinglets. On April 27, it was considerably more active although the total number of species rose only a bit, to 26. The weather was similar. Critical assistance with the warbler calls provided by Mike Iwanik and Mark Adams resulted in the identification of 7 species—Tennessee, Northern Parula, yellow-rumped, black-throated green, Nashville, American Redstart, and Worm-eating Warblers. Favorites such as the Indigo Bunting and Wood Thrush had also returned.

Jim Nix Reports Scottsville--April 24

The weather was cold and windy but we had a good walk in spite of it. We saw 51 species, a mix of permanent residents, summer visitors and winter birds hanging on for a bit longer. The most unusual sighting was an immature Bald Eagle sitting on the railroad tracks. It was apparently investigating the desiccated remains of a possum between the tracks. Of interest also was a pair of Common Ravens being chased by crows. Spring migrants included Green Heron, Eastern Kingbird, Northern Parula, Palm Warbler, Prairie Warbler and lots of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers. We also saw a number of Swamp Sparrows that had not yet headed north. The last bird was a Wild Turkey sitting in the middle of Rte 20 about halfway back to Charlottesville. It appeared to be a female and looked alert and uninjured but it was just sitting on the double yellow line in the middle of the road as traffic passed by on both sides.

Brenda Tekin Reports: Warbler Road—May 1

The blustery, cold morning atop the parkway gave way to warming sunny skies as we traveled down the mountain to the James River. Along the way our group enjoyed the sights and sounds of spring, including cerulean, chestnut-sided, Northern Parula, American Redstart, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Scarlet Tanager and rare close-up looks at Ovenbird and a singing Canada Warbler. Wildflowers in a wonderful array of colors were abundant attracting a variety of butterflies including Falcate Orangetip, azure, swallowtail and duskywing species.

(See pages 1 & 2 for trip photos!)

John Zimmerman Reports: South River Falls—May 14

Eleven folks participated on a beautiful day. Perhaps it was too beautiful. We totaled only a little over 30 species. Good look at a Veery, and everyone learned the call note and song. Of course, Wood Thrushes were singing, but we heard only a single Cerulean Warbler song even though when we scouted the trail two days before they were singing quite actively. Yet Hooded Warblers were singing and seen by almost all. Other warblers identified were chestnut-sided, Ovenbird, Louisiana Waterthrush, Canada, and American Redstart. Scarlet Tanagers and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks added to the color display.

John Zimmerman Reports: Cowbane Prairie—May 21

A dozen people surveyed the western slope of the Blue Ridge on Route 610 from Rockfish Gap down to Stuarts Draft. Turning left on U.S. 340 we reached Cowbane sanctuary. A total of 54 species were noted, including ten warbler species. Everyone had excellent views of blackpolls that for once were not hidden in the upper canopy of the forest but actively feeding in the lower branches. The target species for Cowbane was the Willow Flycatcher which was first found singing, appropriately enough, in full view on the top of a small willow tree.

Gardening for Wildlife: Learn from "Omanu"

Part Two: By trial and error, Bill Leaning has discovered which plants thrive in our Central Virginia climate and soil conditions. Take advantage of his hard work to select plants for your own garden that will benefit wildlife.

"Omanu" Successes Stories

Red Cardinal Flower *Lobelia cardinalis*
 American Beautyberry *Callicarpa americana*
 Crabapples *Malus* spp.
 "Indian Summer"
 "Prairiefire"
 "Donald Wyman"
 "Winter King" Green Hawthorn *Crataegus viridis*
 Eastern Redcedar *Juniperus virginiana*
 Chinese Juniper *Juniperus chinensis*
 "Pfitzeriana"
 Japanese Garden Juniper *Juniperus procumbens*
 Procumbens nana
 Hinoki Falsecypress *Chamaecyparis obtusa*
 "Nana Gracilis"
 "Fern Spray Gold

Hedgerow Plants

Wild Cherries (*Prunus* spp.)
 Hazelnuts (*Corylus* spp.)
 Spice Bush (*Lindera benzoin*)
 Highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*)
 Viburnums various (*Viburnum* spp.)
 Hawthorns (*Crataegus* spp.)
 Eastern Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*)
 Greenbriar (*Smilax* spp.)
 Sumacs (*Rhus* spp.)
 Blackberries (*Rubus* spp.)
 Serviceberries (*Amelanchier* spp.)
 Hollies (*Ilex* spp.)
 Gooseberries and currants (*Ribes* spp.)
 Native Roses (*Rosa* spp.)
 American Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*)
 Oregon Grape Holly (*Mahonia* spp.)
 Trumpet Vine (*Campsis* spp.)
 Virginia Creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*)
 Honeysuckle (*Lonicera* spp.)
 Alders (*Alnus* spp.)



MBC Minutes for May 12, 2005

President Jenny Gaden presided and there were 35 present. Newcomers included a couple who have just moved to Ruckersville from Tucson, Arizona; a couple from Japan who are visiting the area; Bob and Lynn Forester; and Bob Gilges' brother Bill from Kansas City.

Treasurers report: Bob Gilges reported that there has been very little membership income activity in the past month. The club donated \$100 to the Roving Ravens and we joined the American Bird Conservancy. We also ran an advertisement in the *Daily Progress* from May 2-6 for the club's weekday early morning warbler walks in April.

Field Trips: John Zimmerman is leading the two upcoming field trips and Ron Kingston will represent MBC in leading the First Saturday Bird Walk at Ivy Creek.

Nominating Committee report: Dede Austin announced that she and the nominating committee, which included Lou Tanner and Dave Hogg, had an easy task this year as all the previous board members have consented to serve another term. The membership approved the return of the standing officers.

Interesting bird sightings: Over the past month Robyn Kells noted a Cape May Warbler on Stribling Avenue. Ron Kingston reported that there were 20 species of warblers, including a Magnolia Warbler, for the Ivy Creek First Saturday Walk in May. They recorded around 80 species of birds on that morning, including 12 hawks. Peggy Cornett and Ruth Douglas led a bird walk from Monticello's Tufton Farm and the highlights included Prairie Warblers, Grasshopper Sparrows, meadowlarks, a kingfisher, a very noisy Brown Thrasher, and either a mother Wood Duck or Pied-billed Grebe with six ducklings swimming across the Rivanna River. Bill Leaning has observed Black-throated Blue Warblers, a male Red-

start, and he rescued a Wood Thrush. Bill also has noted the hatching of chickadees and has had 34 bluebirds hatch from 18 out of 24 of his bluebird boxes. Dede Austin saw a Carolina Wren destroy some bluebird eggs. Bob Gilges has seen an Osprey on the Mormon River and Rose-breasted Grosbeak at his feeders. He also asked if anyone has heard Whippoorwills this year and it was mentioned that Peter Dutnell has heard them in Batesville and Mark Adams out Garth Road. Brenda Tekin suggested that it's been too cold for a lot of birds this year and various species have been late to make their appearance.

June Picnic: Jenny reminded members that the final gathering of the club will be an end-of-season picnic beginning at 6:00 pm at Ivy Creek. Jenny also thanked Carol Hill for providing the beverages for the meeting, which included Postum.

—Peggy Cornett, secretary