



Monticello Bird Club

October 2009

Volume 26, Number 2

Comments From the President

Upcoming Meeting Topics

President's Message

We are now in Lincoln's Sparrow season. From now until around October 10 is about the only time in our area to see this little bird. Everything about this sparrow is understated—slight crest, subtle eye ring, soft shadings of the breast. Partly it's the bird and its unobtrusive nature, partly the season in which it appears that I like. I associate it with a crisp, gradually-warming, dew-strewn morning as I walk along a fence row or past a brushy area, when suddenly comes a little chip note utterance and out it pops into view for a moment or two. Let me know if you see one.

On September 19th, I led an outing for the bird club from North Garden to and across Heard's Mountain, along Craig's Store Road and eventually to Batesville. We had a great group of birders, eager to see whatever, but unfortunately we had low bird activity, possibly because it was breezy. For a while there was even a debate as to whether a Turkey Vulture might be the bird of the trip. The best bird turned out to be a Barn Owl, seen too briefly, however, to identify. Dan Bieker flushed it when he walked past an old abandoned house. We also had a fleeting look at a Palm Warbler. These warblers are starting to filter into our area and should be around in good number for the next few weeks.

Curious about the possible owl, I went back to the old house a day later. It was a creepy, and creaky, experience walking in that house. It was also extremely dirty. I checked out every rafter, but saw nothing. I probably would not recommend this type of birding. Outside the house, the birding was good. I had good looks at a few Black and White Warblers and enjoyed watching some Rose-breasted Grosbeaks feasting on elderberries. Back at my house, I saw a Blue-winged Warbler and a Swainson's Thrush. Migrants were really moving through our area this past September 20th.

I am still looking for someone to be our field trips co-ordinator. As I keep saying, this is a very easy job. At the moment I am both president and field trips person. With all the talented people in our club, there's no reason we can't spread our few positions around. Until we get that person, send your field trips ideas to me. I'm open to all suggestions. Jim Hill is working on our birdseed sale, and I hope you'll support it. Our next speaker is Lou Verner, speaking on what would seem a relevant topic in today's society, effects of urbanization on wildlife. Thanks to program person Pat Wilczek for another fine speaker. Dinner with the speaker, before this October 8th program is at 5:45 at Wild Greens Restaurant.

Hope to see you there, at the meeting or in the field.

Stauffer Miller

November 12th:

Ecology/Conservation of Vernal Pool Wetlands

December 10th:

Birds of Paradise

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October Meeting Topic: Effects of Urbanization on Wildlife

Our Speaker, Lou Verner is the Wildlife Mapping Coordinator in the Virginia Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries Watchable Wildlife Program. Lou earned his doctorate in Ecology and prior to coming to Virginia, served as an Urban Wildlife Biologist in Texas.

Lou will do a PowerPoint presentation about how traditional development radically alters natural habitats with predictable negative effects on wildlife. Together, individuals and municipalities can restore urban habitat, benefiting both citizens and wildlife.

This is a timely and interesting topic.

Monticello Bird Club

The Eagles Have Landed

Just arrived at the Wild Bird Crossing in Charlottesville is a 2010 calendar graced with stunning views of the Bald Eagles of the Norfolk Botanical Garden. On appropriate blocks of the calendar is information you won't see on too many calendars, Bald Eagle egg-laying, hatching and fledging dates. The calendar would be a great gift idea. Proceeds go to the Wildlife Center of Virginia.

From your new Editor:

Field Trips are a big part of the reason that we join a club devoted to birding. On Field Trips we get to see our old friends and develop new ones. We learn from our peers and those who are much more experienced than ourselves. We teach the new birders. In short, Field Trips are a vital part of what makes this club special. This year we have no Field Trips chair—at least not yet. **THIS IS A CALL TO ACTION!**

I add a "second" to Stauffer's request for a volunteer to assume this vital position to coordinate our Field Trips!

Remembering Bill Minor

Amateur ornithologist and naturalist Bill Minor died in August. Unfortunately for me, I knew him only in the last year of his long life. Although he was quite infirm when I knew him, with ailments confining him to his home, he was always upbeat and eager to talk about his favorite topics, raptors and local birds. He never mentioned his poor health. Bill became a bird student in 1942 and was a charter member of the Turkey Sag Bird Club, the predecessor of our own. He and his birding buddies of those days saw many bird sights in Albemarle County which will never again be seen. From 1992 to 1995, he, his wife Maureen and Paul Saunier monitored and wrote about nestings of Red-shouldered Hawks in and around Charlottesville. Bill made sure I got a copy of his article on this, in a 1995 issue of *The Raven*. A memorial service for Bill will be held at 4:00 PM October 3rd at Ivy Creek Nature Center. He will be missed. Stauffer Miller

Memorial to Peggy Opengari

Peggy Opengari, a long-time member of the Virginia Society of Ornithology, died in mid-July from pancreatic cancer. Many members of the Monticello Bird Club knew her from field trips to Virginia Beach, Back Bay, Chincoteague and Mt. Rogers that she helped organize and where she was a very welcoming presence. She also was a much sought-after speaker at bird clubs and gave several talks to our club, most recently one on Madagascar and one about Borneo and the Peninsula of Malaysia. Peggy created and was the driving force behind The Mountain Lake Migratory Bird Festival that has taken place for several years in late May. Her work on behalf of birds reached beyond Virginia through trips she organized to many places around the world. In fact, during the last months of her life she was arranging for a group to visit northern Peru. She was unable to go with them and died while they were there.

Peggy will be remembered for her many contributions to the world of birding, but she will be missed most for her warm and effervescent personality. Working with and knowing Peggy was a happy experience and an honor. Jenny Gaden

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 Earlsyville 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 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

Monticello Bird Club Board Members

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

Upcoming Field Trips

Hog Island WMA Surry County Saturday, Oct 3

Oct 2-3. Hog Island Wildlife Management Area, Surry County. Co-leaders Doug Rogers and Stauffer Miller. After meeting at the intersection of Rts. 10 and 617 east of the town of Surry at 8:00 AM Oct 3, we'll visit the wildlife area, then take the ferry across the James and perhaps do some birding around Jamestown. Those who wish can spend night of Oct 2 at the EconoLodge Inn at Carrollton, VA (757-357-1740). Contact leaders for further details.

Crozet and Area Saturday, Oct 17

Join John Zimmerman for his traditional and always enjoyable trip to Beaver Creek Reservoir, "Sparrow Road," Old Trail and King Family Vineyard October 17. Meet in the parking lot at Seminole Square in front of Giant at 7:15 AM or at Beaver Creek at 7:30 AM. Leader: John Zimmerman 434-974-9273 or jozimmva@embarqmail.com.

Charlottesville Christmas Count

The count will be December 20, according to compiler Jenny Gaden. Details later,

Secluded Farm Saturday, Oct 10

Meet at Saunders-Monticello Trail overflow parking lot, entered from north bound route 20, just north of its route 53 intersection. Easy walk of several hours over grassy trail. We should see a variety of song birds. Leaders Dave Hogg and a second person, undetermined at this time. E mail: dhogg@nrao.edu for further details.

First Saturday Bird Walks at Ivy Creek Natural Area

On the first Saturday of each month, MBC hosts a bird walk at Ivy Creek at 7:30 AM. These walks are easy, great for beginners and fun for all levels of birders. The walk this month, led by Lou Tanner, will be on October 3rd. In other words, see you at either Hog Island or Ivy Creek on the 3rd!

Monticello Bird Club 10 September 2009, Minutes Peggy Cornett, Secretary

President Stauffer Miller presided and welcomed new members and guests, including Mr. & Mrs. John Davis, Judy R., Kathy S., Jason Halbert, Sharon & Paul Wilcox. There were 48 people present.

Treasurer's Report

Henry Konat reported that renewals have been coming in. Financial activity: \$810 in; \$219 out; with a net of \$590. He reminded members of the bird seed sale on November 7 and Jim Hill is in charge.

Ivy Creek Foundation request

Bruce Gatling-Austin, program coordinator for ICF, made an appeal for people willing to become volunteer guides for children's programs. He is currently holding training programs. Bruce also reported on an upcoming fundraiser for ICF, which takes place October 9 at the Paramount Theatre in Charlottesville. There will be a presentation by National Geographic photographer Nick Nichols, known as the Indiana Jones of wildlife photography. Tickets are available for \$18 and \$21.

Chimney Swift project

Jason Halbert is interested in documenting the Chimney Swift colonies roosting now in Charlottesville, with the intention of helping to conserve their roosting habitat before they migrate to the Amazon Basin. He would like to form an ad hoc committee. Those interested can contact him at 923-0107 or email: jasonhalbert@gmail.com

MBC Bird Feeding Project

Nancy Newman passed around a bird-watching diary created by the Venable School second grade class. Nancy also mentioned an exhibit by local nature artist Mark Collins, to be held at Millcreek on 10/9/09.

Norfolk Botanical Garden Bald Eagles

The NBG has created a 2010 calendar of the nesting Bald Eagles in the garden, taken from the Web cam documentation. Sales of the calendar will help raise funds for the Wildlife Center of Virginia. A handsome book is also available

Field Trips

Stauffer is acting as field trips coordinator until a volunteer steps forward to organize these trips. The upcoming trips will be to Scogo Lake on September 12 (led by John Zimmerman) and Hog Island on the James River, October 2-3 (led by Doug Rogers).

Bird Sightings

There has been a lot of interest in sightings of the Greater Sand Plover, an Asian species, which is rare in the United States. A member believes she spotted it in Staunton, along with an American Avocet. Jenny Gaden mentioned that the July issue of *Birding Magazine* has a photo of the Greater Sand Plover taken in Florida. Jenny saw a Sharp-shinned Hawk capture a young Red-bellied Woodpecker in her back yard. Chestnut-sided Warblers have been reported and a migration of an estimated 10,000 Black Skimmers. Nancy Newman saw an Osprey at Free Bridge near Pantops. Teresa Shaner saw a Great Egret on the Rivanna River.



Screech Owl in Highland County
(Photo by Doug Rogers)

National Geographic Photographer and Editor at Large for Photography

Michael “Nick” Nichols

Photographing Nature’s Giants

Paramount Theater, October 9th, 8pm

A Fundraiser for Ivy Creek Foundation’s Local Environmental Education Programming



Award-winning photographer and Ivy Creek member Michael “Nick” Nichols will share with us his passion for the natural world through awe-inspiring images from his recent and past projects photographing redwoods, elephants, apes and other giants of the natural world. Nick will also share with us techniques he has developed to capture these impressive images.

Passionate and committed, Nick was called the “Indiana Jones of Photography” by Paris Match magazine. He is a sought-after speaker and brings humor and insight to his presentations. Nick’s photography is inspired by his intense desire to preserve and conserve the natural wonders of our world. We are honored to have him speak at the Paramount to benefit Ivy Creek’s Educational Programming.

Tickets available at the Paramount Box Office and at Ivy Creek public programs.

\$10 (youth), \$18 (general) and \$25 (reserved)

Co-sponsored by National Geographic, Ivy Creek Foundation, Piedmont Environmental Council, and LOOK3 Festival of the Photograph.

For more photographs by Michael “Nick” Nichols, see the October, 2009 issue of *National Geographic Magazine* on newsstands September 29.

The Monticello Bird Club Annual Birdseed Sale

It's that time of year again! Order now to keep your birds happy this winter; and in the process help support the Monticello Bird Club in its **only fund raising event of the year**. We use this money to support nature-related educational and conservation projects such as the Ivy Creek Natural Area, the American Bird Conservancy, the Nature Conservancy and the Afton Mountain Hawk Watch. We also pay our monthly speakers a modest honorarium.

- Our Birdseed Sale is based on a convenient pre-order system. Complete the Order Form on the back and mail it to us by Friday Oct. 30, 2009. Then come to the Virginia Department of Forestry Warehouse on Saturday Nov. 7, 2009 to pick up your order.
- We offer a wide variety of **high quality seed** to meet every bird feeding need. See our Wild Bird Feed Guide below for suggestions.
- This year we will again be offering **high quality Western Red Cedar Bluebird Nesting Boxes** (Bird Houses) made by the **Pennsylvania Amish**. These might be perfect for a very special holiday gift.
- **Spread the word!!!** If you know of someone who needs more Order Forms or might be interested in making copies of this Order Form have them contact Jim Hill at 434-975-6523 or jimhill@comcast.net.

Interested in Birds? Check out the **Monticello Bird Club!** We conduct frequent field trips and hold monthly meetings featuring interesting speakers and programs at 7:30 PM on the 2nd Thursday of each month from September through June at the Ivy Creek Nature Center Educational Building. For more information contact Jim Nix, Membership Chairman, at 434-973-7366 or jim-nix@comcast.net.

WILD BIRD FEED GUIDE

Food Type

Description

- Black Oil Sunflower Seed.....** Most birds love sunflower seeds: cardinals, doves, juncos, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, finches, chickadees and titmice. Black oil is a smaller seed which may be easier for small birds to eat. Its high oil content means high energy for birds. It's the birds' #1 choice is sunflower seed!
- Striped Sunflower Seed.....** Striped sunflower seeds are larger than the black oil-type seeds.
- Ultimate Mixed Seed.....** A super blend for those who desire the very best. Contains black oil sunflower seeds, white proso millet, split peanuts, safflower seed, sunflower chips, and red proso millet.
- Sunflower Chips.....** Hulled sunflower seeds are attractive to virtually all birds. Birds whose beaks are incapable of cracking the shells of sunflower seeds readily eat the chips. Although chips are more expensive per pound, you pay only for edible food and not for the shell. Chips are highly recommended for feeding areas where shell litter under the feeder is undesirable.
- Finch Blend.....** Contains nyger, sunflower, German millet, and canary seed. Will attract a wide variety of finches.
- Peanut Hearts.....** Loved by titmice, Carolina Wrens, Blue Jays, and woodpeckers.
- White Proso Millet.....** Ground-feeding birds, such as juncos, cardinals, White-throated Sparrows, Indigo Buntings, Rufous-sided Towhees love white millet. It can be offered on the ground or on a tray.
- Nyger (Thistle) Seed.....** This is extremely attractive to goldfinch. Think of nyger as a special treat for those colorful little birds!
- Safflower Seed.....** Attracts cardinals. Squirrels **do not** like this seed.
- High Energy Suet Cakes.....** Made of rendered beef suet, sunflower seeds, millet and corn. Woodpeckers will swoon.

The Monticello Bird Club Annual Birdseed Sale

Order Must Be Received By: Friday October 30, 2009

Pick Up Order: Saturday November 7, 2009

at the

Virginia Department of Forestry Warehouse

8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Directions: From Rte 29, take the Fontaine Avenue Exit. Turn **east** onto Fontaine Avenue toward UVa. At the first light, turn **right** into the Fontaine Business Park. At the stop sign, turn **right** toward 900 Natural Resources Drive and continue to the Virginia Department of Forestry Warehouse on the **left**. Signs for the MBC Birdseed Pick-up will be posted.

If unable to pick up your order, please make arrangements to have a friend pick it up for you. Free wooden Pallets (4'x4') will be available while they last.

For More Information Call: Jim Hill -- 434-975-6523

Jim Nix -- 434-973-7366

Or E-mail: jimcarhill@comcast.net

jim-nix@comcast.net

Detach order form below and mail with check before October 30, 2009 to:

Monticello Bird Club P.O. Box 4362 Charlottesville, Va. 22905

Bird Seed Pick-up Date -- November 7, 2009

MBC Birdseed Order Form

ALL NEW LOWER PRICES

Size Lb.	Product	Quantity	Unit Price	Total Price	Customer Information
40	Black Oil Sunflower		\$23.00		Name:
25	Black Oil Sunflower		\$14.00		
25	Striped Sunflower		\$21.00		Address:
40	Ultimate Mixed Seed		\$25.00		
20	Ultimate Mixed Seed		\$13.00		
25	Sunflower Chips		\$28.00		Phone:
25	White Proso Millet		\$10.00		
25	Safflower Seed		\$22.00		E-mail:
5	Finch Blend		\$ 6.00		
5	Peanut Hearts		\$ 6.00		Is a Friend Picking up your order?
8	Nyger (Thistle) Seed		\$11.00		Their Name:
12oz	Hi-Energy Suet Cake		\$ 1.00		Their Phone #
12oz	Hi-Energy Suet Cake Case of 12	Cases	\$11.00		
	Bluebird Boxes		\$15.00		
	Totals				

Make check payable to: Monticello Bird Club. Thank you for your support of our Club!