



# Monticello Bird Club

November 2007

Volume 22, Number 3

## November Meeting Topic: Wildlife in Alaska

Dr. Carl Boast is an internationally known Behavioral Neuroscientist who has conducted drug discovery research primarily in models of Alzheimer's Disease. His retirement has allotted him increased time to spend on his favorite pastime - nature pho-

tography. He and his wife Linda reside at Smith Mountain Lake in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. His photos include images from five continents as well as from his own backyard. His presentation is a Microsoft Movie Maker with music and is a result of a month-long trip taken in June of 2005.

Please join MBC members and our speaker for dinner at Wild Greens Restaurant in the North Wing of Barracks Road Shopping Center on November 8th at 5:45 pm prior to the meeting.



Mary Janetatos, the first Executive Director of the North American Bluebird Society, presented the North American Bluebird Society's **Mary Janetatos Award** for distinguished service to **Ron Kingston** for 29 years of dedicated service to the North American Bluebird Society. The award was presented at the annual North American Bluebird Society's convention in Athens, GA September 21, 2007. Ron is the first recipient of the annual award. Congratulations Ron!

## Upcoming Meeting Topics

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

**January 10: Peggy Opengari** will present "Borneo and Peninsula Malaysia "Land Below the Wind"



*Northern Harrier photographed by Rob Capon at Langborne Road Farm .*

## Comments From the President

Jack Marshall from ASAP (Advocates for a Sustainable Albemarle Population) gave a ten minute talk at the beginning of our October meeting. He spoke about the future of Albemarle County and urged us to consider what we wanted our area to look like a few decades from now. Population growth brings with it changes in the character of our landscape and the viability of natural communities – our forests, wet areas, grasslands. As a way of grabbing our attention (and perhaps justifying this presentation to our group) he mentioned how birdlife suffers as development extends its reach into the county. That's for sure. We, as a group of people who care about birds, have to recognize that places that have been havens for birds in

the past are no longer. In reading over records developed by Mo Stevens and in listening to him and others who have "birded" the county for decades, it is clear that rich spots that yielded much of avian interest have disappeared.

Which of our favorite places today will be gone tomorrow? Will our grandchildren wonder to hear or read of forests that always rang with the song of the wood thrush? Will the meadowlark be but a memory? Can we do more than whistle "Que Sera, Sera"? The answer is yes. There are many opportunities to speak up when habitat is threatened. We must get in the habit of doing so.

*- Jennifer Gaden, president*

## Inside November 2007

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**MBC Minutes for  
October 11, 2007**

President Jenny Gaden presided over the meeting and welcomed newcomers, including Kathy and Bill Marshall.

Preceding the general meeting, Jack Marshall, president of ASAP (Advocates for Sustainable Albemarle Population) made a short presentation about his organization's efforts to promote a "smart growth movement" in our region. He pointed out that we now have 130,000 residents in Charlottesville and Albemarle County. In order to cope with the impact of further growth, ASAP is putting together a research proposal and plan of action for the future. He provided membership brochures and information about ASAP and encouraged MBC members to support their efforts.

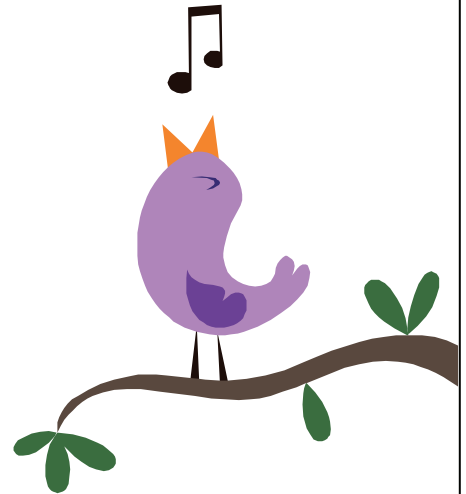
**Treasurer's Report:** Henry Konat was not present. Jenny reported that the October income was \$1,355 and

that the club spent \$576.61, for a NET of \$758.39. The club has \$14,576.53 in savings.

**Field Trips:** John Zimmerman was not present. Highlights for upcoming meetings were noted, including Jim Nix's walk along the James River in Scottsville, John Zimmerman's Sparrow Road walk; and Stauffer's mid-week trip to Stanardsville. The First Saturday Walk at Ivy Creek takes place November 1, and there will also be a walk at Pen Park scheduled for November 11.

**Binocular "Show and Tell":** After the First Saturday in December bird walk at Ivy Creek, the club is hosting a binocular "show and tell," at which members are encouraged to bring their own binoculars and to learn about various models that are now available.

**Bird Seed Sale:** Jim Hill reported that the club has sold 1,100 pounds of seed to date. The deadline for ordering is November 2 and the



order form was mailed with the newsletter. He asked for volunteers to make telephone reminders and to distribute seed on the pick-up day. Jim reminded members that the bird seed sale is the club's major fundraising effort and that last year we donated over \$2,000 to a variety of organizations and special projects such as providing bird seed for three elementary schools and providing scholarships for school teachers to attend a natural history courses at PVCC.

*(Continued on page 4)*

**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 December issue is November 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

### 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)

### 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.

### First Saturday Bird Walks At Ivy Creek Natural Area

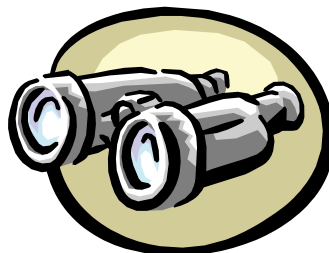
On the first Saturday of each month the Monticello Bird Club hosts a bird walk at Ivy Creek Natural Area (ICNA) at 7:30 am. The walks start in the parking lot of ICNA. Join Lou Tanner on the November 3rd walk and Teresa Shaner on the December 1st walk.

### December Trip To Be Announced Saturday, December 8

Details for this trip will be announced in the December newsletter. The trip leader will be Stauffer Miller, 434-296-5505 or [stauffer@seepub.com](mailto:stauffer@seepub.com).

### Charlottesville Christmas Bird Count Sunday, December 16

Contact Jenny Gaden for the name of a leader with whom you might go. Compiling will be a pot-luck supper at 6 pm, location to be announced in the December newsletter along with additional information. Questions? Contact Jenny Gaden at 434-293-6275 or [jgaden@embarqmail.com](mailto:jgaden@embarqmail.com)



### VSO Virginia Beach Field Trip December 7-9, 2007

The Virginia Society of Ornithology's annual Virginia Beach Field Trip promises to be an exciting weekend. This year's trip features a Friday afternoon trip to the Whitehurst Tract, a visit to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel on Saturday, and a trip to the Back Bay NWR/False Cape State Park on Sunday.

The Howard Johnson at 1601 Atlantic Avenue, Virginia Beach, VA 23451 will serve as the field trip headquarters. Make reservations by November 6, 2007, specifying that you are with VSO. Call 757 437-9100 or 1 800 258-5878. For more information and to register contact Clark White at 757-875-7649, [cwbirds@cox.net](mailto:cwbirds@cox.net), or see <http://www.virginiabirds.net/>

### Binocular Show and Tell Day

December 1st 9 am at Ivy Creek Education Building. Bring your binoculars to share with members of the public who may never have had the opportunity to see the world with "new eyes" and open their awareness to the wonderful world of nature they may never have noticed. Please e-mail me, [bsmooney8@earthlink.net](mailto:bsmooney8@earthlink.net), or call at 434-293-6710 if you can attend or just show up on December 1st. This is the type of outreach that will help bring more members to our club and more attention to the wonderful joy of seeing birds up close. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

(Continued from page 2)

**Bylaws Amendment:** The members voted to make an amendment to the bylaws allowing the president to appoint an “at large” board member when it is deemed necessary.

**Trip to Bald Cypress-Tupelo Forest:** Jenny Gaden is coordinating a trip to visit Cypress Bridge, a Bald Cypress-Tupelo Forest in Southampton County owned by the International Paper Company, which has never been logged and which reput-

edly has 2,000 year old trees. She welcomes any who would like to join her. The property is about a four hour drive from Charlottesville.

**Bird Sightings:** Frances Fife reported an albino skunk and Bill Leaning saw two albino fauns. Dave Hogg noted Swainson’s Thrush at Monticello’s Secluded Farm. Jim Hill reported a white Baltimore Oriole believed to be a Scott’s Oriole. Jim Nix has seen a Red-breasted Nuthatch and Cape May Warblers

in Nelson County while on a trip with Allen Hale. Pam Howie saw a Kingfisher flying from Sperry to Seminole Square. Peter Brask and Lou Tanner saw Turkeys and a Bald Eagle has been noted on the Rivanna River near Wal-Mart. Stauffer Miller saw two Sora Rails and a Marsh Wren at Scogo Lake.

- Peggy Cornett, secretary

## A Fine September

September was so exceptional for birds in my yard in Batesville that I have the urge to brag about it. September is always the busiest month and in 20 years of watching and listing this was probably the best.

Several Red-breasted Nuthatches were here all month, actually arriving August 29<sup>th</sup>. There were 18 species of warblers including Mourning Warbler, the first Golden-winged Warbler in ten years and a life bird for me, the Connecticut Warbler on September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

This bird few up from the garden as I stepped outside. I located him in a *Weigela* shrub 2 feet off the ground. He stayed there totally exposed for a minute, maybe two. It felt very satisfying to have this bird come to me that I had no expectation of ever seeing.

I also had a Philadelphia Vireo and a new yard bird, the Warbling Vireo on my September list.

Happy Birding!

- Peter Brask

# 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 \_\_\_\_\_  
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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*