



Monticello Bird Club

November 2008

Volume 23, Number 2

November Meeting Topic: Antarctic Ice—The Ultimate Adventure

In the autumn of 2002, Teta Kain, along with three friends, spent 17 days on a ship plying the Antarctic seas looking for those special birds found primarily near the Antarctic Circle. This trip is a little different from the usual sub-polar adventure story in that the party left from Cape Town, South Africa and ventured hundreds of miles south across the 40th and 50th parallels to reach the pack-ice that surrounds the continent of Antarctica. You won't soon forget the wild ocean, breath-taking icebergs, beautiful seabirds and the remote sub-antarctic islands in this once-in-a-lifetime story that Teta will present at our November 13th meeting.



arrived in Virginia, 25 years ago. She is a past-president of the VSO. She is also president an environmental group on Virginia's Middle Peninsula, dedicated to preserving the unique and pristine river known as Dragon Run.

Please join MBC members and our speaker for dinner at Wild

Greens Restaurant in the North Wing of Barracks Road Shopping Center on November 13th at 5:45 pm prior to the meeting.

Teta Kain has been a wildlife photographer for over 35 years, and although she has traveled extensively throughout the United States, and especially in Virginia, photographing everything from bugs to birds, the Antarctica trip was her first trip out of this country. Teta has been involved with nature and environmental organizations ever since she

Upcoming Meeting Topics

December 11th: Charles Ziegenfus will present "Acorns, chipmunks and ground nesting birds"

January 8th: Marc Puckett will present "The Bobwhites and the Bees"



Comments From the President

During the past year or so it has been my pleasure, through the assistance of Jenny Gaden, to look over and transcribe the bird records of Mo Stevens. Mo, who is now up in years and doesn't get out much, has kept records of Albemarle County sightings and observations since the 1940s. Sometimes the sightings were his own, sometimes those of others, duly acknowledged. It is a great fund of information. Since I am the sort of birder who is usually on the prowl for the more unusual birds, these were the ones to which I was most drawn as I looked over Mo's notes. Based on his records, and those of a few others, what unusual species might be searched for in November in our area?

According to the Stevens records, the greatest number of Snow Geese ever seen in Albemarle County, ten, were near Scottsville November 26th of 1988. Tundra Swans can also be around. Peter Brask noted seventy of them flying over Batesville November 11, 1994 while Peter Mehring counted the same number over Coveseville Nov 13, 2004. This tells me we should be looking skyward in November. The only White-winged Scoter, an ocean duck, ever seen in Albemarle County was found near Crozet by Jim Childress November 4, 1983. Continuing with waterfowl, Rob Capon and I saw a Redhead, mixed with Canada and a few Snow Geese, last November 10th at the King Family Vineyard pond at Crozet.

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Monticello Bird Club

(Comments from the president continued from page 1)

A mega-bird for any birder in the eastern United States would be a Golden Eagle. In Albemarle County, only four of these large raptors have been seen, three in November. The most recent was an Ivy Creek sighting by Jim Nix on November 6, 1993. Since this was a Saturday, it must have been on the bird club's Saturday walks there. Again, keep your gaze upward.

A good deal smaller than a Golden Eagle is a little bird of northern barrens, the Snow Bunting. In Frederick County, Maryland, where Ellie and I used to live, we looked for these birds on snow-covered fields over which farmers had recently spread manure. As for Albemarle County, none have been seen that way. Rather, all the records are for the first few days of November, in the higher ridges, such as Buck's Elbow and Big Flat (Loft Mountain). This tells me a walk on the gravel road to the communications tower at Beagle Gap of the Sky-

line Drive might be a wise strategy for this one.

All of which brings me, rather tangentially, to Canadian vocalist Gordon Lightfoot, a fine singer and even finer lyricist. In his hit song *The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald* we find the following:

**“The wind in the wires made
a tattle tale sound,
and a wave tumbled over the
railing.
And every man knew, as the
captain did too,
‘twas the witch of November
come stealing.”**

May the witch of November, with perhaps a little help from Mo's records, bring you good birding in our next-to-last month of 2008.

-Stauffer Miller

Thanksgiving Window Watch Count

The VSO Thanksgiving Window Watch Count will take place on November 27, 2008. Anyone can participate by watching for one hour at any time on Thanksgiving Day, filling out the form (see <http://www.virginiabirds.net/>, form located in the VSO fall newsletter pdf), and returning it to the address below. To participate select a circular area 15 ft. in diameter which includes feeders, bird baths, or habitat which attracts birds. Count the number of birds of each species, which come into the area during one hour. Try to judge the actual number birds, not number of visits.

Mail completed forms to:

Thanksgiving Window Watch
Thelma Dalmas
1230 Viewmont Drive
Evington, VA 24550

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 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

Pen Park Nature Trail Saturday, November 15

Join Jenny Gaden for an easy 3 mile hike on the Pen Park Nature Trail. **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

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.

Chincoteague NWR & Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel November 21-23

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 21st.**

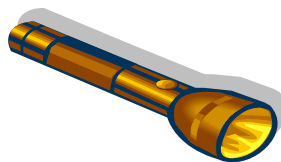
The visit to CBBT islands limited to 15 persons with prior submission of information sheet for security clearance. At present there is still one opening remaining. Information sheet can be downloaded from the www.cbbt.com/birding.html or can be obtained from John Zimmerman by phone or e-mail, but must be returned to John by November 7th 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 on Friday. Reservations for Chincoteague for the nights of November 21st and 22nd 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.

Christmas Bird Count Sunday, December 14

Mark your calendars now! The 2008 Charlottesville Christmas Bird Count will be held on December 14th.

FLASHLIGHTS: Don't forget to bring a flashlight to our monthly meetings to light your way from the Education Building to the parking lot!



VSO Virginia Beach Field Trip December 5-7, 2008

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 or Craney Island on Sunday.

The Howard Johnson at 1601 Atlantic Avenue, Virginia Beach, VA 23451 will serve as the field trip headquarters. Make reservations by November 7, 2008, specifying that you are with VSO. Oceanfront rooms will be available for \$45 plus tax. Call 757 437-9100 or 1 800 258-5878.

Friday Afternoon - Depart from the hotel at 1:00 pm for a visit to the Whitehurst Tract.

Friday Evening - Trip overview and light refreshments will be served at 6:30 pm at the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum.

Saturday Field Trip - A visit to the CBBT will leave at 8:00 am. This trip requires a fee of \$10 for the security guard and a completed security form submitted by Nov. 21, 2008.

Sunday Field Trips - Back Bay NWR/False Cape State Park tram trip will begin at 9:00 am. Craney Island trip will meet at Craney Island at 8:00 am.

For more information and to register contact Clark White at 757-875-7649, cwbirds@cox.net, or see <http://www.virginiabirds.net/>

MBC Minutes for October 9, 2008

MBC president Stauffer Miller welcomed 53 people to the second meeting of the fall season. Several of the newcomers were there because they had read about the owl presentation in *CVille Weekly*.

Treasurer's Report: Henry Konat reported that some money was already coming in from the birdseed sale. Income \$1,926; expenses \$1,309; net gain \$616. The club has \$14,500 in the bank.

Birdseed Sale: Jim Hill reminded the group about the birdseed sale and asked for volunteers. He needs folks to "greet and load" on pick-up day, Saturday November 8th at the Virginia Department of Forestry warehouse. He also needs people to make reminder phone calls to those who have made purchases.

Field Trips: John Zimmerman gave a brief description of the upcoming field trips. Jim Nix and Dave Hogg will take a trip to Secluded Farm on October 11th. John Zimmerman will take a group to Beaver Creek and King Family Vineyards on October 18th. The annual trip to the CBBT and Chincoteague will take place November 21st and 22nd this year. Participants MUST fill out a security form (www.cbbt.com/birding) and return to John by November 7th. MBC Annual Christmas Bird Count will be December 14th; Jenny Gaden says newcomers are welcome and will be paired with experienced birders.

Stauffer extended his thanks, on behalf of the club, to Ron and Priscilla Kingston for their efforts behind-the-scenes prior to each meeting setting up chairs, making coffee, organizing nametags, etc.

Recent Bird Sightings: Carol Hill described the idiosyncrasies of a Northern Gannet, a bird she encountered on her trip to Newfoundland. Bill Leaning saw a Black-throated Blue Warbler on its fall migration through Earlysville and still has two hummingbirds hanging around. Jim Nix's hummers departed for southern climes on Monday. Betty Mooney said the Saturday Bird Walk at Ivy Creek was productive and they spotted a Tennessee Warbler among others. Jenny Gaden says fall is clearly upon us; she's seen a Yellow-bellied Sap-

sucker and a Hermit Thrush. Stauffer also spotted a sapsucker and still sees some Chimney Swifts that haven't left. Henry Konat said a flock of 600 Chimney Swifts near him has not departed either.

-Nancy King
for Peggy Cornett



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!

Renewal New Member

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*