

THE MONTCLAIR BIRD CLUB

YOUR WEEKLY BIRD 29

March 24, 2024

by Rick Wright

Song Sparrow

The familiar song sparrow is one of the most geographically variable of all birds, with a good two dozen subspecies recognized at the moment. The races differ not just in color but in size, with the larger, found on Bering Sea islands, nearly thrush-sized.



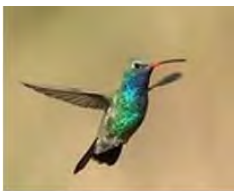
This photo shows a dark, slender-billed bird from the Pacific Northwest and a pale, lightly marked individual from the Sonoran Desert.

Pale reddish birds like this are so un-song sparrow-like that they are named *fallax*, “the trickster.” For those of us from the east, northwestern birds, like this *morphna* from British Columbia, can be just as puzzling.



The song sparrows of coastal southern California, such as *heermani*, are bright white below with crisp black streaks.

If you would like to see your photographs highlighted here, send one or two pictures with a short paragraph to Sandy Sorkin & Rick Wright at MontclairBirdClub100@gmail.com.



Southwest Wings

