

THE MONTCLAIR BIRD CLUB

YOUR WEEKLY BIRD 67

December 15, 2024

by Beni Fishbein

Eastern Phoebe

For me, the arrival of the eastern phoebes confirms that spring has truly arrived. It's always a delight to see them perched on the lowest, often upcurved, branch of a tree, flying out to snatch an insect and returning, often to the same perch. In the fall, they are even more snazzily dressed, sporting a pale lemony belly that contrasts nicely with their white upper breast.



Eastern phoebes can be confused with eastern wood pewees. One difference is that pewees have distinct white wing bars. Juvenile phoebes have buffy wing bars, and adults can have white on the leading edge of the secondaries, which can look a bit like a wing bar. But eastern phoebes pump their tails up and down fairly reliably, which is helpful when trying to identify a bird.



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](mailto:MontclairBirdClub100@gmail.com).



Southwest Wings

