

THE MONTCLAIR BIRD CLUB

YOUR WEEKLY BIRD 22

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The pictures in this issue are by Sandy Sorkin

Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle)



Most warblers are scarce or absent during January in northern New Jersey. The exception is the myrtle warbler, currently considered conspecific with several other taxa as the yellow-rumped warbler. Every winter, many hungry yellow-rumped find their way to the large stands of red-berried holly and blue-berried juniper trees at Sandy Hook (Gateway National Recreation Area) in New Jersey. The junipers seem to attract the most birds. On the day these pictures were taken, a flock of over 100 starlings were maneuvering around the junipers. They would land on a tree en masse, eat for 15 seconds, then leave as if they had seen a peregrine falcon; a minute later, they circled back to the tree to restart the process.



The yellow-rumped warblers followed their own pattern that day. Small groups would congregate on a juniper and eat the blue berries, then retreat for a while. As they left the tree, house finches would move onto the same perches.

The two photographic challenges in January are to keep your fingers from freezing and to capture a picture of the warbler with a just-plucked berry.

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.