

The Montclair Bird Club

Organized 1920

Else Greenstone Avian Essay Competition May 2022

Overview

The Montclair Bird Club (MBC) is soliciting proposals for an original essay to be published in the Club's newsletter, *The Broadwing*. The contest honors the decades of contributions that Else Greenstone made at the Montclair Hawkwatch to raptor conservation, the MBC, New Jersey Audubon and the Hawk Migration Association of North America. Through her passion and commitment, thousands of visitors to the Hawkwatch, including generations of schoolchildren, novice birders, hawkwatchers and members of the general public were inspired to look up and experience the magic of migration. This competition is intended to honor and continue that legacy.

New Jersey students ages 12 to 17 are invited to submit an original essay about birds, illustrated if possible, through photographs or other graphic media, suitable for inclusion in *The Broadwing*. The essay should be approximately 700-1,000 words in length. The author of the winning essay selected by the MBC Executive Committee will be presented an honorarium of \$500.

The Montclair Bird Club

The MBC was organized in 1920 and celebrated its 100th Anniversary in 2020. The purposes of The Montclair Bird Club are to stimulate and increase the appreciation of nature and an understanding of birds and their natural environment, and to encourage conservation practices through support and education. The Club holds monthly meetings with guest speakers (except for July, August, and December). The June meeting features presentations by club members. While the Club name implies a primary focus on birding topics, many of the meeting lectures address other nature-related topics, such as forestry, soil management, and endangered species, and non-avian species, including reptiles, butterflies, and bats.

Objectives of the Competition

The competition was established to honor Else Greenstone by encouraging students to pursue their interests in nature, and to introduce them to the MBC, and invite them to join in our monthly meetings. It will also serve to enhance the Club's mission by expanding our commitment to a mutually beneficial relationship with the community.

Essay Format

- Title:** A short descriptive title that can be used to promote the topic in *The Broadwing* and on our website.
- Length:** Between 700-1,000 words. Photographs or other Illustrations are desirable.
- Full Description:** The essay can reflect your birding experiences, other encounters with the natural world, conservation, your research or academic interests, or any other related topic. The scope can be local, national, or even international. The topic should be addressed clearly and in an organized fashion.
- Contact Information:** Please provide your name, age, class grade, an e-mail address, how you would like to be contacted. If your preference is a phone call, please provide that number.
- Selection Criteria:** The MBC Executive Committee will be solely responsible for reviewing essays and selecting the winning essay. The submitted essays will be judged on originality and relevance to the mission of the MBC (set forth on page 1 in the description of the MBC). All decisions of the Executive Committee will be final. If more than one exceptional essay is received, the Executive Committee may grant the author(s) a smaller honorarium and request permission from the authors to also publish their essays in the *Broadwing*.
- Timeline:** **May 2, 2022**—Essays must be received by the MBC Executive Committee by this date. The submission in a PDF or DOC format should be made to MontclairBirdClub100@gmail.com
- June 8, 2022**—Notification of winning essay. Publication will be in the September *Broadwing*.
- Legal:** You own the copyright to your original work. If you have used additional resources, please give credit where it is due. The selection(s) of the Executive Committee are final.

If you need clarification or additional information, please email your question to: MontclairBirdClub100@gmail.com.