

# The Broadwing



Publication of the Montclair Bird Club  
September 2023

Montclair, NJ  
Volume LXX, Number 1

## Message from the Editor September 2023

Dear Members and Friends,

Fall is with us again, and the *Broadwing* is back. By now you have received Quiz number 200. I don't think that Rick and I ever envisioned 200 quizzes. The purpose of the quizzes was twofold: education and keeping us connected, but now we are going to try something new.

To facilitate the connection aspect, we have introduced Your Weekly Bird. Each week, another bird club member or friend will contribute pictures and a short paragraph.

We hope you enjoy what we've done, and if you have pictures to share, please submit them to me at [MontclairBirdClub100@gmail.com](mailto:MontclairBirdClub100@gmail.com).

Sandy

## In This Issue

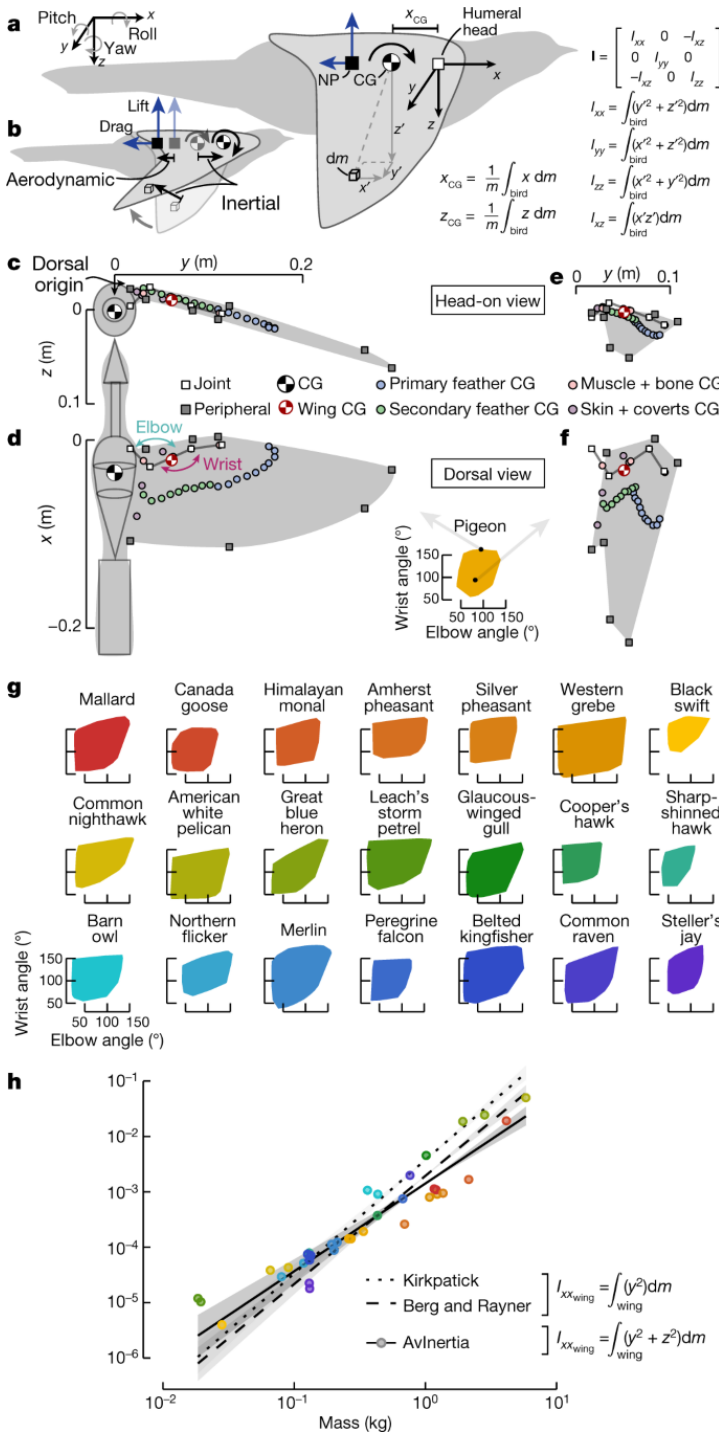
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**Next club meeting: Wednesday, September 13, 2023**  
**Virtual Bird Walk: Thursday, September 21, 2023**

# Birds can transition between stable and unstable states by wing morphing

C. Harvey, V. B. Baliga, J. C. M. Wong, D. L. Altshuler, and D. J. Inman

Birds morph their wing shape to accomplish extraordinary maneuvers, which are governed by avian-specific equations of motion. Solving these equations requires information about a bird's aerodynamic and inertial characteristics. Avian flight research to date has focused on resolving aerodynamic features, whereas inertial properties, including center of gravity and moment of inertia, are seldom addressed. Here we use an analytical method to determine the inertial characteristics of 22 species across the full range of elbow and wrist flexion and extension. We find that wing morphing allows birds to substantially change their roll and yaw inertia, but has a minimal effect on the position of the center of gravity. With the addition of inertial characteristics, we derived a novel metric of pitch agility and estimated the static pitch stability, revealing that the agility and static margin ranges are reduced as body mass increases. These results provide quantitative evidence that evolution selects for both stable and unstable flight, in contrast to the prevailing narrative that birds are evolving away from stability. This comprehensive analysis of avian inertial characteristics provides the key features required to establish a theoretical model of avian maneuverability.



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The full story in *Nature*: [Wing Morphing](#)

**7:30 pm on ZOOM**

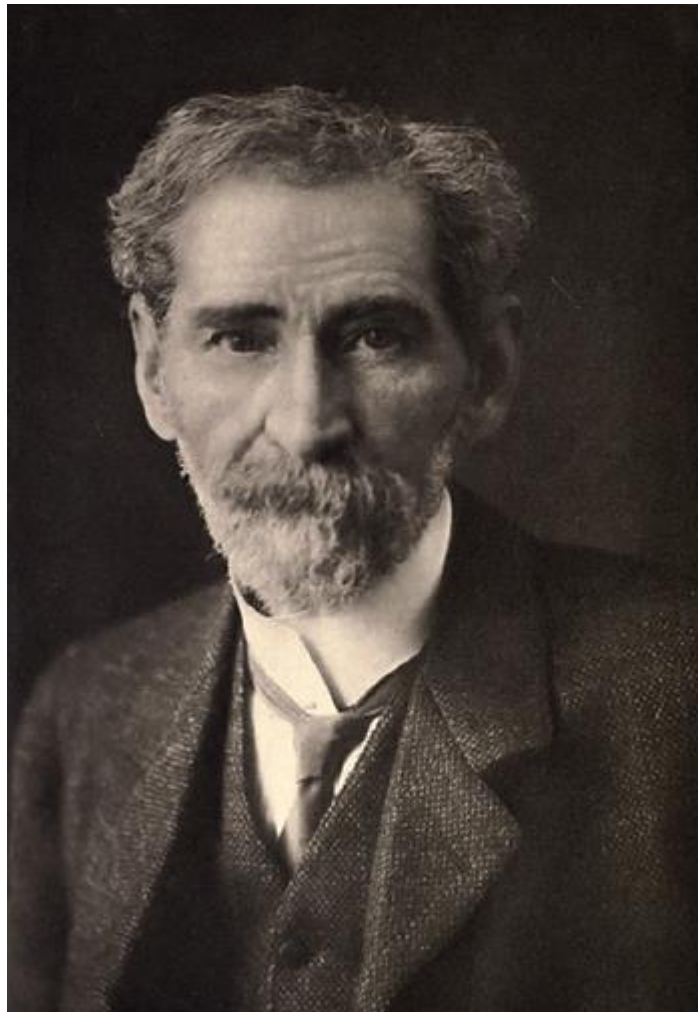
**Wednesday, October 11, 2023**

**Finding W. H. Hudson**

**The Writer Who Came to Britain to Save the Birds**

***by* Conor Mark Jameson**

Read an interview with Conor Mark Jameson [here](#).





Montclair Bird Club  
2023 Bird of the Year  
**Belted Kingfisher**



Photo by Ric Cohn  
Garret Mountain Reservation

It is time to give some thought to  
what bird should be recognized as  
the Bird of the Year for 2024.

## New Montclair Bird Club Members 2023

### January

Monica Cardoza	Ridgewood, NJ
Susan & Michael Monaghan	Montclair, NJ
Anil & Seema Nerurkar	Wayne, NJ

### February

Karen Nikeson	Edgewater, NJ
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### March

Grace Friend	Montclair, NJ
Camille Gutmore	Nutley, NJ
Christie Morganstein	Randolph, NJ

### April

Hillary Leonard	Montclair, NJ
Kathrine McCaffery	Maplewood, NJ
Kathy & Bob Wilson	Newton, NJ

### May

Michael Yellin	Montclair, NJ
Amanda & A. J. Tobia	Rockaway, NJ

### June

Vicki Seabrook	New York, NY
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### July

Michael Davenport	Succasunna, NJ
Eileen Diaz	Upper Montclair, NJ
Victor Go	Bloomfield, NJ
Liz Hillyer	
Marc Holzapfel	
John Smallwood	Randolph, NJ

### August

Eric Knies	Clifton, NJ
Diane Louie	Madison, NJ
Roland Straton	Montclair, NJ
Susan Sheldon	Seattle, WA
Peter Rosario	

This list reflects new members, returning members, and additions from our Friends roster.

**2023–2024 Officers  
elected at the June 2023 Members Meeting**

**OFFICERS**

President	Donna Traylor
Vice President	Evan Cutler
Secretary	Pat Sanders
Treasurer	Sandy Sorkin

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Bill Beren  
Ric Cohn  
Wayne Greenstone  
Don Traylor  
Rick Wright

**Fish dropped from the sky knocked out power in N.J. town.**

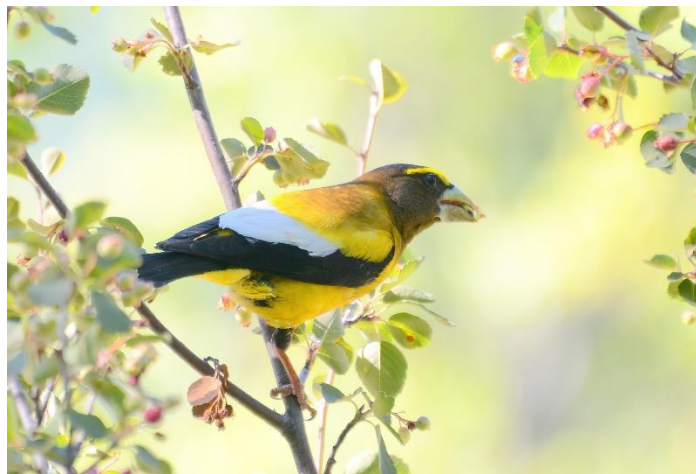


A tongue-in-cheek image released by the Sayreville Police Department after a bird allegedly dropped a fish on a transformer, knocking out power to the borough. Provided by the Sayreville Police Department.

Migrant Trap  
by Æneas Faber  
VII

I left my daypack and scope in Tuck's car when he dropped me off in front of the big house with olive siding on Nuttall Street, where I brushed the caked-on gunk from my jeans and stamped my boots before ringing the bell. Phoebe was waiting for me, and though she looked a bit pale, a little drawn, she seemed to have weathered the strain of the big day better than I had. She showed me down the long hall and asked me to take a seat in the dark library while she brought us a snack from the kitchen. I settled gratefully into one of the tall Morocco leather chairs, careful not to shake any more mud than necessary from my boots onto the deep wool carpets, and ran my eyes along the well-stocked shelves.

I had known this room for years, and some of my earliest memories were of accompanying my father on his visits to old Mr. Miller, a friend of the family's and one of Faber and Co.'s most important clients; while the men examined whatever new treasure my father had brought along, Miss Miller—Phoebe—would sit in a corner of the room with me and feed me cookies and point out the birds at the feeders just outside the windows. While my father and Mr. Miller leafed reverently through the massive musty volumes of long-dead ornithologists, Phoebe and I watched the living, flitting counterparts to their hand-colored plates: frosty chattering redpolls; evening grosbeaks the color of winter sun and ice; and once a small, absurdly tame, mock-serious owl, the ferocity of his yellow eyes made ridiculous by the black ear-muffs he wore, like me, against the midwestern cold. Phoebe, who must have been a little younger than I am now, seemed to me immeasurably old and immeasurably wise, and in some confused way I believed that she incorporated the knowledge contained in the books in her father's library, most of them purchased from my father's store, and that the books spoke to me through her.



Just as she had all those years before, Phoebe came humming into the library with a plate of sugar cookies, this time, however, with a tall dark bottle beside them on the silver tray. "A hair of the Duck!," she announced, and poured us both a flute of slightly flat champagne left over from last night's—or was it that morning's?—celebration at The Cave. "I'm so glad that you were able to find some time this afternoon, and hope that I haven't pulled you away from anything important." Phoebe listened intently to my account of the day's birding with Tuck, and made a note of the red-necked phalaropes at the settling ponds; she then settled back with a cookie, looked lingeringly over the shelves in what was now in her library, and sighed.

. *To be continued*

**The Wizardry of ID**  
**Black Corvids**  
**Rick Wright**

Few are the birds as easy to describe as the American crow: It's black. Unfortunately, so is the fish crow. So is the common raven.

And all three species are common in our area, hard for the skyward-directed eye to miss on any day of the year. The time-honored characters for distinguishing our three black corvids are neatly covered in every standard field guide, but the problem, of course, is that those characters aren't always on display: size can be devilishly difficult to assess at a distance—and often enough, at close range, too—and not every crow is always as voluble as we might like. A “mid-sized” silent bird? Nigh onto impossible.

This time of year, though, there is a field mark that is as helpful as it is poorly known. I first noticed it years ago in eastern Massachusetts, and was delighted to find that others had discovered it earlier, gratifying confirmation of my tentative suspicion.

Like all other North American passerines, both the fish and the American crow undergo a complete molt after breeding; that is to say, adults of both species replace all of their feathers once they have survived the energetic demands of egg-laying and young-rearing. Obviously, these molts are most readily visible in the most conspicuous of the bird's feathers, the long, stiff flight feathers of wing (remiges) and tail (rectrices). As relatively large birds, crows exhibit more obvious molt than many other passerines, and any individual showing symmetrical gaps in the wing or in the tail is in active molt.

The clou here is that fish and American crows have distinct average breeding phenologies, and thus the timing of the adult's pre-basic (“post-breeding”) molt also differs between the two species. At our latitude and north, fish crows bring off their young a full month later than American crows, and the adult's molt is displaced accordingly: as Kevin J. McGowan has pointed out, fish crows in our area begin their molt in July, while the corresponding molt in American crows commences as early as the beginning of June. Thus, any northern New Jersey crow in obvious wing or tail molt before about mid-July is an adult American, and any still exhibiting gaps in the remiges and rectrices after about mid-September is an adult fish crow. It's a great party trick, especially if the bird in question deigns to call immediately after what seems like a magical identification.





## Field Trips

### **Montclair Chimney Swift Roost**

**Sunday, September 10, 2023**

**6:00 to 7:30 pm**

**Rain date: Monday, September 11, 6:00 to 7:30 pm**

**Leader: Evan Cutler**

For decades, Buzz Aldrin Middle School in Montclair has played host to one of the most fascinating birding spectacles in all of New Jersey. Each evening, flocks of Chimney Swifts fill the sky, feeding on flying insects, until suddenly, one by one they enter the school's chimney, where they will roost until the next morning. This is a terrific opportunity to watch this spectacle close-up. Please feel free to bring a lawn chair and a snack or beverage. We'll meet on Norwood Avenue between Lorraine Avenue and Bellevue Avenue, next to the rear parking lot of the Bellevue Avenue Branch of the Montclair Public Library.

Contact us at [mbcoutings@gmail.com](mailto:mbcoutings@gmail.com) for further information.

### **Clarks Pond, Bloomfield, NJ**

**Friday, September 15, 2023, 8:00 am**

Meet in the parking area at the end of Hobson Place off Broughton Avenue in Bloomfield. In case of inclement weather, the trip will be cancelled. Contact Beni at 973 202-5579 for further info.

Clarks Pond is a 12-acre green space behind Bloomfield Middle School. The park's natural area consists of a pond, a stream, and a wet woodland, all under-birded and overlooked. Come and explore this hidden local gem with us. In September, we have a chance to see warblers, wood ducks, herons, and other migrants on their way south for the winter.

Bring binoculars, bug spray, and water, and wear shoes you don't mind getting wet. This walk will last up to 3 hours. There are no bathrooms at Clarks Pond.

## **Troy Meadows Natural Area**

**Saturday, October 21, 2023**

**8:30 to 11:30 am (rain or shine)**

Troy Meadows in Parsippany and East Hanover is an excellent place to encounter a wide variety of songbirds, waterfowl, wading birds, raptors, and, if we're lucky, rarities, especially some hard-to-find sparrows. This very special area is one of the best freshwater marshes in Northern New Jersey.

Drive to the end of Troy Meadows Road; the turnoff is at 40.84913908249395, -74.38472085305187. We will meet in the small parking area on your left close to the gas pipeline crossing. The area can be very wet, and waterproof boots are highly recommended. There are no bathrooms here.

## **Mill Creek Marsh Photography Trip**

**Saturday, November 11, 2023**



**with Sandy Sorkin and Ric Cohn**

**Rain date: Sunday, November 12**

Join us for a Montclair Bird Club photography field trip to Mill Creek Marsh. We'll meet at the entrance gate by Bob's Discount Furniture at 8:00 am with cameras, tripods, scopes, and smartphones. We'll take our time on the trail, keeping the sun over our shoulders, and

concentrate on photographing birds, landscapes, groundhogs, and any other slice of nature we encounter—sharing tips, helping each other with equipment, or reviewing shots. If you are new to photography or just like to watch photographers, you are welcome to come along. Contact Sandy Sorkin at 973 698-7900 for further information.

Search in your GPS for Mill Creek Marsh Trail, Secaucus, NJ 07094, or for Bob's Discount Furniture and Mattress Store, 3 Mill Creek Dr., Secaucus, NJ 07094. The entrance to the marsh is right next to Bob's Furniture.

1. Take NJ Route 3 East.
2. Follow NJ-3 E to State Rd 3 E Local in Secaucus. Take the exit from NJ-3 E toward N Bergen/Kennedy Blvd/I-95. **This exit comes up quickly, immediately after the second overpass.**
3. Take Harmon Meadow Blvd.
4. Harmon Meadow Blvd. brings you to a T-intersection in front of Sam's Club; turn left and stay to the right.
5. Turn right at the next light to park at Bob's Discount Furniture.



## Field Trip Reports

**Mill Creek Marsh**  
**July 30, 2023**  
**with Rick Wright**

It truly is *the* natural spectacle of northern New Jersey, and this year, tide, time, and glorious weather all came together for sixteen participants to experience the awe of the annual semipalmated sandpiper gathering at Mill Creek Marsh. Small flocks of semipalmateds—all adults, as the juveniles continue to stuff themselves on their natal tundra—were in evidence on our arrival, and numbers grew steadily as the tide rose, pushing birds from other Meadowlands sites into the upper reaches of the salt marshes. By the time we left, three hours on, we estimated that seven thousand of these tiny shorebirds were crowded onto the ancient stumps and dwindling mudflats of Mill Creek Marsh.

Barely halfway through a southbound migration that can take them 3,000 miles from the Arctic to the South American wintering grounds, these birds are hungry, and they tend to ignore human disturbance, giving us sometimes breathtakingly close views as they probed the muck for worms and other tasty invertebrates. Only the rising tide interfered, moving the birds closer and closer to the paths.

Only the rising tide—and the peregrine. If the Mill Creek phenomenon has only recently been discovered by human birdwatchers, the most dashing of aerial predators has certainly known about it from the beginning, and the sheer density of the sandpipers at high tide makes them a temptation too hard to resist. As we returned to the parking lot, two juvenile peregrines, one of them banded, made several passes at the flock, driving the panicked birds right over our heads as we watched open-mouthed. The falcons' youth kept the sandpipers safe this time, but as the peregrines gain experience, and as juvenile semipalmateds begin to appear in the days to come, those spectacular stoops and dives are more likely to reward the falcons with a plump little meal.

Many thanks to everyone who came out to enjoy the afternoon with the Montclair Bird Club. I look forward to seeing all of you again soon!





## Birds Observed

Canada goose	Gadwall	Mallard
Mourning dove	Feral pigeon	Chimney swift
Least sandpiper	Semipalmated sandpiper	Lesser yellowlegs
Spotted sandpiper	Laughing gull	Ring-billed gull
Herring gull	Great blue heron	Great egret
Snowy egret	Black vulture	Turkey vulture
Cooper hawk	Downy woodpecker	Northern flicker
Peregrine falcon	Willow flycatcher	Crow sp.
Barn swallow	Marsh wren	European starling
Gray catbird	Northern mockingbird	American robin
Cedar waxwing	House sparrow	House finch
American goldfinch	Song sparrow	Baltimore oriole
Red-winged blackbird	Common grackle	Yellow warbler
Northern cardinal		



**Sásabe, Sonora**  
**August 8, 2023**  
**Sandy Sorkin**

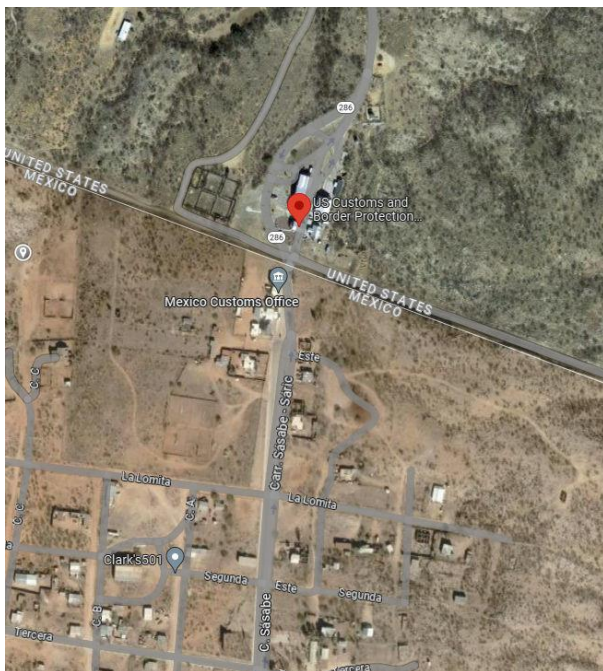
The weather was less than ideal, the temperature hovering around 104°, but we decided to cross the border and bird in Mexico. We walked from Sasabe, AZ, population 42, to Sásabe, MX, population 1024. The American border guard was concerned that we might want to photograph the wall in violation of the signs posted on the fence. We assume you are not permitted to post any bills on the wall, at least not on the US side.

There were no crowds at the border crossing, and according to the guard, we were the only two people to cross that day. We walked across the border without any incidents. We might have driven, but we did not have the required corporate status to drive across the border in a Budget rental car. On the Mexican side of the border, two guards in completely unnecessary camouflage waved us through. They had also not seen anyone cross the border that day.

The map clearly shows the border between our two countries. It should also be noted that from a Mexican perspective, the Google Maps grass is greener on the other side of the fence. It probably has something to do with the height of the wall.

We walked south and then hiked some of the east-west streets until we found a small bird bonanza in a small tree in an otherwise nondescript corral.

The heat was oppressive, and after enjoying some time beneath that bounteous tree, we determined it was time to walk back to the border after an hour's birding.



The US border guards were much more thorough on our return, requiring passports and a complete explanation of why we had parked the car and walked. Considering how productive our hour was, the next time we will probably go for two hours.

We observed 21 species.

Eurasian collared dove	Barn swallow
Inca dove	Cactus wren
Common ground dove	Phainopepla
White-winged dove	House sparrow
Black vulture	House finch
Turkey vulture	Black-throated sparrow
Ladder-backed woodpecker	Lark sparrow
Vermilion flycatcher	Northern cardinal
Common raven	Pyrrhuloxia
Verdin	Blue grosbeak
Purple martin	

**Walker Avenue Wetlands**  
**August 12, 2023**

Walker Avenue Wetlands, near the Pompton River in Wayne, New Jersey, is a shallow marsh surrounded by woodlands. It is also the Passaic County site most notable for rarities. Last year, when we visited Walker in August, it was very dry and filled with birds. This year, not so much. The marsh was flooded and few shorebirds or wading birds were seen. We did enjoy, among other things, a green heron precariously leaning out of a tree in search of prey, numerous great crested flycatchers, a flock of cedar waxwings including many juveniles, a northern waterthrush skirting a puddle in the woodland, and what appeared to be a family of Baltimore orioles bathing in a puddle with some goldfinches.

35 species were seen or heard.

Canada goose	Wood duck	Mallard
Mourning dove	Spotted sandpiper	Great blue heron
Green heron	Belted kingfisher	Red-bellied woodpecker
Downy woodpecker	Northern flicker	Great crested flycatcher
Eastern kingbird	Blue jay	American crow
Common raven	Black-capped chickadee	Tufted titmouse
Barn swallow	White-breasted nuthatch	Blue-gray gnatcatcher
House wren	Carolina wren	Gray catbird
American robin	Cedar waxwing	Baltimore oriole
Red-winged blackbird	Common grackle	Northern waterthrush
Yellow warbler	Northern cardinal	Rose-breasted grosbeak





## From the Archives

In this 1980 memorandum, George Breck, former MBC President, describes how the Montclair Hawk Lookout was saved from development. These two pages will also bring back memories of typewritten material with pencil corrections.

- (The news made the New York Time  
Geo. W. Breck  
Ex-Pres. MBC.  
11-16-80



V

### ~~the~~ Acquisition Of The Montclair Hawk Lookout

When I took over as President of the Montclair Bird Club in June, 1956, among the first field trips was one to Hawk Mt., Pa. We had heard a talk by Maurice Broun on the Hawk Mt. Lookout and read his book, *Hawks Aloft*, about it and couldn't wait to get there. We had also visited the Montclair Lookout several times and heard of the large flights the oldtimers had seen there. From these things was born ~~the~~ <sup>my</sup> idea of having a continuous watch at the Montclair Lookout ~~some~~ what similar to that at Hawk Mt. Oldtimers Lee Edwards and Floyd Wolfarth advised us to watch continuously <sup>only</sup> for the Broad-winged flight which they said would ~~start~~ <sup>usually go from</sup> about Sept. 10th ~~and end~~ <sup>to</sup> Oct. 1st. In the fall of 1957 the Watch started with 9.00 to 5.00 coverage <sup>each day</sup> in two shifts.

Soon after the Watch started we were visited up there by Howard Gies a building contractor who lived nearby, ~~in Upper Montclair~~. He confided that he planned someday to build a house right where the Lookout was. He had built other houses near the Lookout and this one on the top was to be his masterpiece -- on the peak, with all that marvelous view. We also learned that the boundary line between Montclair and Cedar Grove went right down the center of the top of the first Watchung Ridge where the Lookout was, so it was supposedly about half in each town.

Another key bit of news was that Gies had originally owned the Montclair Lookout Lot but had let the taxes go unpaid so that the Town then owned it. He planned to pick it up from the Town when the Lookout house was to be built. No one else could possibly use it, he said as he owned the Cedar Grove half.

That news stimulated us to action. We asked <sup>the</sup> Park Commission of ~~the~~ Montclair if they would like to make ~~it~~ <sup>and thus preserve the Hawk Lookout (the "Montclair half")</sup> a Town Park of it. They soon advised in the negative. We then

inquired whether the Montclair Bird Club might buy the lot. There was no immediate response on this. In the meantime we saw maps which the Town had on this area showing the north-south line separating the Montclair lot from Cedar Grove as a straight line down the ridge. We were also told that the Town could not sell just the Lookout Lot <sup>by itself.</sup> ~~but~~ whoever bought it, would have to take 2 other lots adjoining, which would be useless to anyone else without the Lookout lot. These included a lot to the east with a sharp "cliff dropoff" and one to the north between the Lookout and Edgecliff Rd.

Several months went by and it was probably ~~late 1958/early 1959~~ <sup>early ~~late~~ 1958</sup> before the Town gave us the news that they would sell to the M.B.C. The Executive Committee was willing to acquire it. Sid Berry told me I was foolish to put up my own \$1400 to complete the transaction. But we feared someone else beating us to the purchase and dared not wait. /Atty. Romaine charged us \$125 to search the title, which consisted of finding out that the Town was the previous owner and deciding that that was all that was needed. The Club acquired the Lookout (3 lots) in ~~the~~ early 1958. When the ~~the~~ 1958 fall hawk-watch started, the Lookout lot belonged to the Club.

This did not, however, put an end to Mr. Gies' interest in the ~~the~~ lot. We told him what had happened to the title <sup>which</sup> ~~and~~ surprised and disappointed him greatly. He mentioned something about the line between the two towns, was understood to go from highspot to highspot down the ridge, rather than in a straight line as the town map showed.

Soon thereafter he had a bull-dozer <sup>scrape</sup> ~~scrape~~ the topsoil off the <sup>ridge</sup> ~~edge~~ on both the <sup>Cedar</sup> ~~Cedar~~ Grove side and the Montclair side, to uncover the rocky highspots and thus apparently try to prove that he really owned land on what we understood was the Montclair side of the ridge center. He appeared one day with another man, a long measuring tape and a surveyor's transit. With these he checked the rocky highspots he had uncovered on the "Montclair side". He didn't tell us the results, and we never heard more from him thereafter.

Frank Frazier took over as President in June ~~1959~~ 1958. That fall he appointed Mary Arny to head-up the drive to raise the \$1400 plus expenses <sup>us back</sup> to pay/for the Lookout lots. So some ~~xxxx~~ months later this was all accomplished. My recollection is that I had contacted the N.J. Audubon Society to see if they would like to take it over as a sanctuary and they obtained approval of this from their Board. ~~So~~ So with the Club now fully owning the Lookout, plans were made and approved to turn it over to that Society. On Sept. 18, 1959, during the hawk-watch of that year, the Lookout was deeded to ~~the~~ N.J. Audubon with 25 Club members present, and Frank McLaughlin and John J. Neal, Jr. representing Audubon as officers. (The news made the New York Times of that date, with a large picture of the Lookout top, and 20 or 30 people with binoculars and telescopes looking up the ridge to the north).

Geo. W. Breck  
Ex-Pres. M.B.C.

11-16-80

Panama is the finest birding area in Central America, and a stay at the world-famous Canopy Tower offers a rare combination of easy access to extensive tropical forest, fine accommodations, good food and water, and a wealth of wonderful birds. In October, you can join Rick on a VENT tour to this dream destination, co-led by expert local leaders; please let him know if this is your first VENT tour, as a significant discount is available. Registration can be made by emailing [erik@ventbird.com](mailto:erik@ventbird.com) or calling 800 328-8368.

## Panama: The Canopy Tower and the Canopy Lodge July 3–13, 2023





Arrival in Panama City was smooth for three of us, but Alison waited in Orlando for the later flight she had been assigned to at what was apparently the last minute and without notice. While we puzzled out the first hummingbirds at the Canopy Tower feeders and took an early evening stroll down the entrance road, she was on the road from Panama City; once she'd caught up with us, we settled in to our rooms with time to spare for the first "happy hour" in the dining room.

The next morning, the start of our first full day together in Panama, found us on the observation deck, at treetop level in the forest. The soundtrack started with the eerie calls of great tinamous and the bubbling pops of rufous motmots; as the sun rose over the jungle, the canal in the distance, the first mixed flocks appeared in the sparsely leafed trees of the canopy, and our first parrots arrived to look for fruit.

After breakfast, we set out with Igua and Eric for Pipeline Road, one of the most famous sites in world birding. Birds were everywhere, most of them audible well before visible, and we had our first encounters with many species that would quickly become familiar—and with others, such as



the streak-chested antpitta, that rank high on the list of most birders' most highly sought-after sightings.

Our daily rhythm was established with the return to the tower for lunch, followed by some more hummingbird watching and a visit to the Summit Ponds, on the banks of the canal. A boat-billed heron slept, half-concealed, in the foliage, and we met our first green and Amazon kingfishers. If any bird could be considered best, it was the jet antbird, an uncommon species, always shy and inconspicuous, but a pair eventually gave surprisingly good views in the trailside brush.

Our next morning's canopy watch was if anything even more successful than that of the day before, and our confidence and familiarity with the parking lot hummingbirds increased with each sighting. We joined Igua and Eric for a walk down the entrance road, highlighted first by a tank with red-legged tree frogs in amplexu and, then, by a pair of black-and-white owls, drowsily staring back at us from their roost right next to the road.



The afternoon was time for a visit to some more open habits, chief among them the Ammo Dump Ponds, where rufescent tiger herons, purple gallinules, and smooth-billed anis were among our first sightings; the highlight here, though, was a white-throated crane, a tiny and usually maddeningly secretive rail that this time, for whatever reason, decided to emerge from the dense marsh vegetation to clamber about in the low bushes, giving unprecedentedly good views.



Our last morning at the tower was one of the best, with excellent sightings of masked tityras, blue dactyls, and white-shouldered tanagers. Hard as it was to leave, we knew that our next destination, the Canopy Lodge, would be at least as productive—and probably cooler.







First, though, we had to pass through the hot and humid lowlands, where a bathroom (and shopping) stop gave us the only saffron finches of our trip, a pair feeding unconcerned at our feet in a strip mall.



Our arrival at the lodge coincided with the beginning of what came to be the expected midday rains, but the feeders were busy nonetheless, and the welcoming party included a fine fasciated tiger heron, discovered by Mark right from the dining area. Orange-billed sparrows, crimson-backed tanagers, and snowy-bellied hummingbirds were among the new species we could watch from the comfort of the couches and chairs, keeping dry while they went about their business in the rain.

That rain was decidedly an afternoon phenomenon, and the next morning dawned bright and cool.

Tino led us on a walk up the hill from the lodge, starting at the waterfall and ending with an army ant swarm. We got to know the plain-brown (unfair name) and cocoa woodcreepers, and plain (even more unfair name) xenopses crept up the vines just off the trail. It was a fine wren day, with excellent views of a rufous-and-white wren—usually very retiring—and rufous-breasted wrens,







with their orange underparts and complexly patterned black and white faces some of the most attractive of a very attractive tropical American family.

The after-lunch downpour gave us a greatly appreciated afternoon off. We were back at it and eager the next morning, though, with a trip uphill to Las Minas. If the day before had featured the wrens, this was the day of the tanager: we saw no fewer than eight different

species, including the weird and uncommon dusky-faced, the spectacular silver-throated, and the striking tawny-crested. It was a brown bird, though, the wedge-tailed grassfinch, that would make our outing so memorable, perched singing on a tall grass stem in a clearing overlooking the distant Pacific.

The Gaital Trail is not far from the La Mesa trailhead, but the experience the next morning was very different.

Green hermits, perhaps the most beautiful of the tropical hummingbirds, were chirping at their display posts in the forest, and chestnut-capped brush finches and chestnut-capped warblers emerged from the dark foliage for lifebird-quality looks. With seven tanager species tallied, we nearly matched the record of the day before.





The afternoon rain never arrived in anything approaching earnest, so we met up for another outing, this time to La Moza.

A pair of nesting spectacled owls was a treat, but the real star of this excursion was the rarely seen and spectacularly colored rosy thrush tanager. Our first was a female, attractive enough with her rusty underparts and supraloral, but we eventually saw adult males as well, an implausible combination of black and cherry red.





We'd enjoyed the coolness of the high elevations so much that it was with only half a heart that we decided to undertake the long drive to the Pacific the next day—but it turned out to be a very good decision indeed.

We padded the trip list with a great variety of waterbirds, from black-bellied whistling ducks to wood storks, and the land birding was just as good, peaking with a pair of ferruginous pygmy owls and, finally, good looks at one of the most appealing of the tropical quail, the crested bobwhite. Red-breasted meadowlarks, crested caracaras, and fork-tailed flycatchers, all classic birds of the Central American lowlands, all put on a good show for us, but perhaps the most delightful experience ashore was Lori's discovery of a nesting pair of straight-billed woodcreepers, making their family home in a hollow fencepost right next to the road.

Lunch at Villa Denise was a chance to enjoy the beach and the water, all under the slightly sinister watchful eye of hordes of black vultures and magnificent frigatebirds. It was here, too, that we discovered by far the rarest bird of our entire time in Panama.

Watching the abundant frigatebirds, brown pelicans, and Sandwich terns, we found a brown shearwater headed toward us, headed steadily for shore. Any tubenose is scarce onshore in Pacific Panama, but the sooty shearwater, so abundant elsewhere in its range, is so rare that the authoritative field guide to the region, Valley and Dyer's *Central America*, does not even admit it to the official list. This bird came to rest on the water for several minutes, then continued north just off the beach, giving excellent and diagnostic views and deigning to permit aesthetically mediocre but identifiable photos. This was a lifebird for Danilo, an infrequent enough occurrence; we would later learn that others had been seen that day off the Osa Peninsula,

marking a phenomenon the extent of which will become clear only when all the records are eventually compiled.

Surely we couldn't hope to equal our day on the coast. But our next, and our last, full day in the Canopy Lodge area was nearly as good.



The Candelarios Trail was extremely birdy, a fine mix of second growth, old forest, and cultivated land. If the sooty shearwater had been our rarest find, the most exciting of the entire trip was the black-crowned antpitta, a bird Tino had cautiously listed among the tentative possibilities on our outing. The first site we checked had no antpittas at all, but the second proved to be the site of one of the most exhilarating experiences a birder could have. A black-crowned responded vocally to playback, then moved in bounding circles around us, giving brief but splendid views on the forest floor before ultimately pausing on a fallen limb just a few feet away. This group of birds encapsulates the exotic appeal of the American tropics, and this species—a lifebird for all of us—is among the most dramatically and startlingly patterned of all. Never did I expect to see this species so well or in such good company.





Our final afternoon excursion took us to the daytime roost of a pair of tropical screech owls, then on to the beautiful garden of Eric's family in Mata Ahorgado. In between, we made an amazing stop at an anonymous-looking, rather scrubby yard, where a single tree hosted no fewer than fourteen species of birds as we looked on. Black-striped sparrows, blue-black grassquits, snowy-bellied hummingbirds, and best of all, a pair of noisy and inquisitive barred antshrikes visited this modest plumeria; a male garden emerald, as breathtaking as the eponymous gem, made repeated forays into the nearby flowers, while a short-tailed hawk and a crested caracara joined the ever-present vultures overhead. The feeders did their best to keep up, with fine looks at a Lesson motmot and several red-legged honeycreepers, but the "bird tree" remains one of the most memorable sights of a memorable day.

Our last morning in Panama started with a leisurely watch of the feeders at the Canopy Lodge, visited by all of what seemed by now old friends. The three-hour drive back to the tower, up and over the spine of southern Central America, was uneventful, and soon enough we found ourselves seated at lunch in the dining room where we'd started. An early afternoon's hummingbird watching was interrupted by an adventure of a different sort, when Mark, safely harnessed, ascended to the very top of the bright yellow dome, where he enjoyed a view seen by very few over the past sixty years.

We ended the day, and our time together in Panama, with a climb up the discovery center's tower, constructed of remnants reclaimed from buildings associated with the building of the canal a century and a quarter ago. The helical staircase was dizzying, and so was the view from the top, but well worth the climb. A pair of scaled pigeons perched close, and a distant bare-limbed tree rising above the canopy played host to a variety of rainforest birds, finally including a male blue cotinga, an increasingly scarce species that we had virtually written off for this trip.

A final dinner, a farewell, and a diabolically early departure for the Panama City airport: we can't wait to do it again!









**TINAMOUS—TINAMIDAE**

**Great Tinamou, *Tinamus major***

**WATERFOWL—ANATIDAE**

**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, *Dendrocygna autumnalis***

**GUANS—CRACIDAE**

**Gray-headed Chachalaca, *Ortalis cinereiceps***

**PIGEONS—COLUMBIDAE**

**Rock Pigeon, *Columba livia***



**Pale-vented Pigeon, *Patagioenas cayennensis***



**Scaled Pigeon, *Patagioenas speciosa***

**Plain-breasted ground dove, *Columbina minuta***

**Ruddy Ground-Dove, *Columbina talpacoti***

**Gray-chested Dove, *Leptotila cassinii***

**White-tipped Dove, *Leptotila verreauxi***

**Mourning Dove, *Zenaida macroura***

**CUCKOOS—CUCULIDAE**

**Greater Ani, *Crotophaga major***

**Smooth-billed Ani, *Crotophaga ani***

**Groove-billed Ani, *Crotophaga sulcirostris***



**Striped Cuckoo, *Tapera naevia***



**Squirrel Cuckoo, *Piaya cayana***

**POTOOS—NYCTIBIIDAE**

**Great Potoo, *Nyctibius grandis***

**SWIFTS—APODIDAE**

**Band-rumped Swift, *Chaetura spinicaudus***

**Short-tailed Swift, *Chaetura brachyura***

**Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift, *Panyptila cayennensis***

**White-collared Swift, *Streptoprocne zonaris***

**HUMMINGBIRDS—TROCHILIDAE**

**White-necked Jacobin, *Florisuga mellivora***



**White-tipped Sicklebill, *Eutoxeres aquila***

**Rufous-breasted Hermit, *Glaucis hirsutus***

**Green Hermit, *Phaethornis guy***

**Long-billed Hermit, *Phaethornis longirostris***





**Stripe-throated Hermit, *Phaethornis striigularis***

**Rufous-crested Coquette, *Lophornis delattrei***



**Garden Emerald, *Chlorostilbon assimilis***  
**Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer, *Chalybura urochrysis***

**White-vented Plumeleteer, *Chalybura buffoni***



**Crowned Woodnymph, *Thalurania colombica***

**Blue-chested Hummingbird, *Polyerata amabilis***



**Snowy-bellied Hummingbird, *Saucerottia edward***

**Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, *Amazilia tzacatl***

**Sapphire-throated Hummingbird, *Chrysuronia coeruleogularis***

**Violet-bellied Hummingbird,  
*Chlorestes julie***





**RAILS—RALLIDAE**

**Gray-cowled Wood-Rail, *Aramides cajaneus***



**Purple Gallinule, *Porphyrio martinicus***



**Purple Gallinule, *Porphyrio martinicus***

**White-throated Crane, *Laterallus albigularis***

**STILTS AND AVOCETS—RECURVIROSTRIDAE**

**Black-necked Stilt, *Himantopus mexicanus***

**PLOVERS—CHARADRIIDAE**

**Southern Lapwing, *Vanellus chilensis***

**JACANAS—JACANIDAE**

**Wattled Jacana, *Jacana jacana***



**GULLS AND TERNS—LARIDAE**

**Sandwich Tern, *Thalasseus sandvicensis***

**SHEARWATERS—PROCELLARIIDAE**

**Sooty Shearwater, *Ardenna grisea***



**STORKS—CICONIIDAE**

**Wood Stork, *Mycteria americana***

**FRIGATEBIRDS—FREGATIDAE**



**Magnificent Frigatebird, *Fregata magnificens***



**BOOBIES—SULIDAE**

**Blue-footed Boobie, *Sula nebouxii***

**DARTERS—ANHINGIDAE**

**Anhinga, *Anhinga anhinga***

**CORMORANTS—PHALACROCORACIDAE**

**Neotropic Cormorant, *Nannopterum brasilianum***

**PELICANS—PELECANIDAE**

**Brown Pelican, *Pelecanus occidentalis***

**HERONS—ARDEIDAE**

**Least Bittern, *Ixobrychus minutus***

**Rufescent Tiger-Heron, *Tigrisoma lineatum***

**Fasciated Tiger-Heron, *Tigrisoma fasciatum***



**Great Egret, *Ardea alba***

**Little Blue Heron, *Egretta caerulea***

**Cattle Egret, *Bubulcus ibis***

**Green Heron, *Butorides virescens***

**Black-crowned Night-Heron, *Nycticorax nycticorax***

**Boat-billed Heron, *Cochlearius cochlearius***

**IBIS—THRESKIORNITHIDAE**

**White Ibis, *Eudocimus albus***

**Glossy Ibis, *Plegadis falcinellus***

**NEW WORLD VULTURES—CATHARTIDAE**

**Black Vulture, *Coragyps atratus***

**Turkey Vulture, *Cathartes aura***

**Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture, *Cathartes burrovianus***

**HAWKS, EAGLES, AND KITES—ACCIPITRIDAE**

**White-tailed Kite, *Elanus leucurus***

**Swallow-tailed Kite, *Elanoides forficatus***

**Gray-headed Kite, *Leptodon cayanensis***

**Double-toothed Kite, *Harpagus bidentatus***

**Crane Hawk, *Geranospiza caerulescens***

**Snail Kite, *Rostrhamus sociabilis***

**Great Black Hawk, *Buteogallus urubutinga***



**Roadside Hawk, *Rupornis magnirostris***



**Semiplumbeous Hawk, *Leucopternis semiplumbeus***



**Short-tailed Hawk, *Buteo brachyurus***

**Zone-tailed Hawk, *Buteo albonotatus***

**OWLS—STRIGIDAE**

**Tropical Screech-Owl, *Megascops choliba***

**Spectacled Owl, *Pulsatrix perspicillata***

**Black-and-white Owl, *Ciccaba nigrolineata***



**Ferruginous Pygmy Owl, *Glaucidium brasilianum***



**Mottled Owl, *Strix virgata***

**TROGONS—TROGONIDAE**

**Slaty-tailed Trogon, *Trogon massena***

**Black-tailed Trogon, *Trogon melanurus***

**White-tailed Trogon, *Trogon chionurus***

**Gartered Trogon, *Trogon caligatus***

**Black-throated Trogon, *Trogon rufus***



Collared Trogon, *Trogon collaris*



**MOTMOTS—MOMOTIDAE**

**Tody Motmot, *Hylomanes momotula***



**Whooping Motmot, *Momotus subrufescens***

**Lesson Motmot, *Momotus lessonii***



**Rufous Motmot, *Barythengus martii***



**Broad-billed Motmot, *Electron platyrhynchum***







**KINGFISHERS—ALCEDINIDAE**

**Ringed Kingfisher, *Megaceryle torquata***

**Amazon Kingfisher, *Chloroceryle amazona***

**Green Kingfisher, *Chloroceryle americana***

**American Pygmy Kingfisher, *Chloroceryle aenea***

**PUFFBIRDS—BUCCONIDAE**



**White-necked Puffbird, *Notharchus hyperrhynchos***





**TOUCANS—RAMPHASTIDAE**

**Collared Aracari, *Pteroglossus torquatus***



**Keel-billed Toucan, *Ramphastos sulfuratus***

**Yellow-throated Toucan, *Ramphastos ambiguus***



**WOODPECKERS —PICIDAE**

**Black-cheeked Woodpecker, *Melanerpes pucherani***



**Red-crowned Woodpecker, *Melanerpes rubricapillus***

**Cinnamon Woodpecker, *Celeus loricatus***

**Lineated Woodpecker, *Dryocopus lineatus***

**FALCONS AND CARACARAS —FALCONIDAE**

**Crested Caracara, *Caracara plancus***



**Yellow-headed Caracara, *Milvago chimachima***



NEW WORLD PARROTS—PSITTACIDAE

Orange-chinned Parakeet, *Brotogeris jugularis*



**Brown-hooded Parrot, *Pytilia haematotis***



**Blue-headed Parrot, *Pionus menstruus***

**Red-lored Parrot, *Amazona autumnalis***

**Mealy Parrot, *Amazona farinosa***

**MANAKINS—PIPRIDAE**

**White-ruffed Manakin, *Corapipa altera***

**Velvety Manakin, *Lepidothrix velutina***

**White-collared Manakin, *Manacus candei***

**Golden-collared Manakin, *Manacus vitellinus***

**COTINGAS—COTINGIDAE**

**Purple-throated Fruitcrow, *Querula purpurata***

**Blue Cotinga, *Cotinga nattererii***

**TITYRAS AND ALLIES—TITYRIDAE**

**Masked Tityra, *Tityra semifasciata***

**White-winged Becard, *Pachyramphus polychopterus***

**ROYAL FLYCATCHERS—ONYCHORHYNCHIDAE**

**Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher, *Myioborus sulphureipygius***

**TYRANT FLYCATCHERS—TYRANNIDAE**

**Golden-crowned Spadebill, *Platyrinchus coronatus***

**Olive-striped Flycatcher, *Mionectes olivaceus***

**Sepia-capped Flycatcher, *Leptopogon amaurocephalus***

**Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant, *Lophotriccus pileatus***

**Southern Bentbill, *Oncostoma olivaceum***

**Common Tody-Flycatcher, *Todirostrum cinereum***

**Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher, *Todirostrum nigriceps***

**Olivaceous Flatbill, *Rhynchocyclus olivaceus***

**Brown-capped Tyrannulet, *Ornithion brunneicapillus***

**Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet, *Camptostoma obsoletum***

**Mouse-colored Tyrannulet, *Nesotriccus murinus***

**Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet, *Tyrannulus elatus***

**Yellow-bellied Elaenia, *Elaenia flavogaster***

**Mistletoe Tyrannulet, *Zimmerius parvus***

**Bright-rumped Attila, *Attila spadiceus***

**Dusky-capped Flycatcher, *Myiarchus tuberculifer***



**Panama Flycatcher, *Myiarchus panamensis***



**Lesser Kiskadee, *Philohydor lictor***

**Great Kiskadee, *Pitangus sulphuratus***



**Boat-billed Flycatcher, *Megarhynchus pitangua***

**Rusty-margined Flycatcher, *Myiozetetes cayanensis***

**Social Flycatcher, *Myiozetetes similis***

**Gray-capped Flycatcher, *Myiozetetes granadensis***

**Streaked Flycatcher, *Myiodynastes maculatus***



**Piratic Flycatcher, *Legatus leucophaeus***

**Tropical Kingbird, *Tyrannus melancholicus***

**Fork-tailed Flycatcher, *Tyrannus savana***

**GNATEATERS—CONOPOPHAGIDAE**

**Black-crowned Antpitta—*Pittasoma michleri***

**TYPICAL ANTBIRDS—THAMNOPHILIDAE**



**Fasciated Antshrike, *Cymbilaimus lineatus***



**Barred Antshrike, *Thamnophilus doliatus***



**Black-crowned Antshrike, *Thamnophilus atrinucha***

**Russet Antshrike, *Thamnistes anabatinus***

**Plain Antvireo, *Dysithamnus mentalis***

**Spot-crowned Antvireo, *Dysithamnus puncticeps***

**White-flanked Antwren, *Myrmotherula axillaris***

**Slaty Antwren, *Myrmotherula schisticolor***

**Checker-throated Stipplethroat, *Epinecrophylla fulviventris***

**Dot-winged Antwren, *Microrhoptias quixensis***

**Jet Antbird, *Cercomacra nigricans***

**Spotted Antbird, *Hylophylax naeviodes***



**Bicolored Antbird, *Gymnopithys bicolor***

**ANTPITTAS—GRALLARIIDAE**

**Streak-chested Antpitta, *Hylopezus perspicillatus***

**ANTTHRUSHES—FORMICARIIDAE**

**Black-faced Antthrush, *Formicarius analis***

**OVENBIRDS AND WOODCREEPERS—FURNARIIDAE**

**Plain-brown Woodcreeper, *Dendrocincla fuliginosa***

**Wedge-billed Woodcreeper, *Glyphorhynchus spirurus***

**Cocoa Woodcreeper, *Xiphorhynchus susurrans***

**Black-striped Woodcreeper, *Xiphorhynchus lachrymosus***

**Spotted Woodcreeper, *Xiphorhynchus erythropygius***



**Straight-billed Woodcreeper, *Dendroplex picus***



**Plain Xenops, *Xenops minutus***

**VIREOS—VIREONIDAE**

**Green Shrike-Vireo, *Vireolanius pulchellus***

**Lesser Greenlet, *Pachysylvia decurtata***

**Golden-fronted Greenlet, *Pachysylvia aurantiifrons***

**Yellow-green Vireo, *Vireo flavoviridis***

**CROWS AND JAYS—CORVIDAE**

**Black-chested Jay, *Cyanocorax affinis***

**SWALLOWS—HIRUNDINIDAE**

**Mangrove Swallow, *Tachycineta albilinea***

**Blue-and-white Swallow, *Pygochelidon cyanoleuca***

**Southern Rough-winged Swallow, *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis***

**Gray-breasted Martin, *Progne chalybea***

**GNATCATCHERS—POLIOPTILIDAE**

**Long-billed Gnatwren, *Ramphocaenus melanurus***

**White-browed Gnatcatcher, *Polioptila albiloris***

**WRENS—TROGLODYTIDAE**

**Rufous-breasted Wren, *Pheugopedius rutilus***

**Black-bellied Wren, *Pheugopedius fasciatoventris***

**Isthmian Wren, *Cantorchilus elutus***

**Bay Wren, *Cantorchilus nigricapillus***

**White-breasted Wood-Wren, *Henicorhina leucosticte***

**Song Wren, *Cyphorhinus phaeocephalus***

**Rufous-and-white Wren, *Thryophilus rufalbus***

**House Wren, *Troglodytes aedon***

**MIMIC THRUSHES—MIMIDAE**

**Tropical Mockingbird, *Mimus gilvus***

**THRUSHES—TURDIDAE**

**Pale-vented Thrush, *Turdus obsoletus***

**Clay-colored Thrush, *Turdus grayi***

**OLD WORLD SPARROWS—PASSERIDAE**

**House Sparrow, *Passer domesticus***

**FINCHES—FRINGILLIDAE**

**Yellow-crowned Euphonia, *Euphonia luteicapilla***

**Thick-billed Euphonia, *Euphonia laniirostris***

**Tawny-crowned Euphonia, *Euphonia anae***

**Lesser Goldfinch, *Spinus psaltria***

**THRUSH-TANAGER—RHODINOCICHLIDAE**

**Rosy Thrush-Tanager, *Rhodinocichla rosea***

**NEW WORLD SPARROWS—PASSERELLIDAE**

**Black-striped Sparrow, *Arremonops conirostris***



**Orange-billed Sparrow, *Arremon aurantirostris***

**Chestnut-capped Brush Finch, *Arremon brunneinucha***

**ICTERIDS—ICTERIDAE**

**Red-breasted Meadowlark, *Leistes militaris***

**Yellow-billed Cacique, *Amblycercus holosericeus***



**Crested Oropendola, *Psarocolius decumanus***



**Chestnut-headed Oropendola, *Psarocolius wagleri***

**Scarlet-rumped Cacique, *Cacicus uropygialis***

**Yellow-rumped Cacique, *Cacicus cela***

**Yellow-tailed Oriole, *Icterus mesomelas***

**Shiny Cowbird, *Molothrus bonariensis***

**Giant Cowbird, *Molothus oryzivorus***

**Great-tailed Grackle, *Quiscalus mexicanus***

**NEW WORLD WARBLERS—PARULIDAE**

**Buff-rumped Warbler, *Myiothlypis fulvicauda***

**Chestnut-capped Warbler, *Basileuterus delatarii***



**CARDINAL GROSBEAKS—CARDINALIDAE**

**Hepatic Tanager, *Piranga flava***

**Red-throated Ant-Tanager, *Habia fuscicauda***

**Red-crowned Ant-Tanager, *Habia rubica***

**Black-faced Grosbeak, *Caryothraustes poliogaster***

**Blue-black Grosbeak, *Cyanoloxia cyanoides***

**MITROSPINGUS—MITROSPINGIDAE**

**Dusky-faced Tanager, *Mitrospingus cassinii***

**TANAGERS—THRAUPIDAE**

**Blue-gray Tanager, *Thraupis episcopus***



**Palm Tanager, *Thraupis palmarum***

**Golden-hooded Tanager, *Stilpnia larvata***

**Plain-colored Tanager, *Tangara inornata***

**Bay-headed Tanager, *Tangara gyrola***



**Silver-throated Tanager, *Tangara icterocephala***



**Saffron Finch, *Sicalis flaveola***

**Green Honeycreeper, *Chlorophanes spiza***

**Black-and-yellow Tanager, *Chrysothlypis chrysomelas***

**Blue-black Grassquit, *Volatinia jacarina***



**White-shouldered Tanager, *Tachyphonus luctuosus***

**Flame-rumped Tanager, *Ramphocelus flammigerus***



**Crimson-backed Tanager, *Ramphocelus dimidiatus***



**Red-legged Honeycreeper, *Cyanerpes cyaneus***

**Scarlet-thighed Dacnis, *Dacnis venusta***

**Blue Dacnis, *Dacnis cayana***  
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**Bananaquit, *Coereba flaveola***

**Yellow-faced Grassquit, *Tiaris olivacea***

**Thick-billed Seedfinch, *Sporophila funerea***

**Variable Seedeater, *Sporophila corvina***

**Yellow-bellied Seedeater, *Sporophila nigricollis***

**Ruddy-breasted Seedeater, *Sporophila minuta***

**Wedge-tailed Grass Finch, *Emberizoides herbicola***



**Buff-throated Saltator, *Saltator maximus***

**Streaked Saltator, *Saltator striatipectus***





*Where to next?*



## Virtual Bird Walks

### 2020

July	1	Local Birding
August	2	Backyards and a Marsh
September	3	Backyards and Trips
October	4	Member Birding
November	5	Member Birding
December	6	Member Birding

### 2021

January	7	International Birding and New York City
February	8	International Birding
March	9	Member Birding
April	10	Shore Birds
May	11	Local Birding
June	12	Member Birding
July	13	Birding, Costa Rica
August	14	Identify a Bird by Its Eyes
September	15	Birds and Water
October	16	Birds with Masks
November	17	Winter Birds

### 2022

January	18	Personal Choice
February	19	Color
March	20	Signs of Spring
April	21	Birds Eating or Black & White Birds
May	22	Local Birds
September	23	My Summer
November	24	Bird Pairs
December	25	A Trip

### 2023

January	26	Winter
February	27	A Month in a Birder's Life
March	28	Egrets, Herons, and Wading Birds
April	29	Woodpeckers
May	30	Small Birds
June		Members Meeting, no Virtual Bird Walk
July		Summer vacation, no Virtual Bird Walk
August		Summer vacation, no Virtual Bird Walk
September	31	What I Did on My Summer Vacation

## Montclair Bird Club Meetings

### 2020

May	An Online Quiz, with Rick Wright.
June	A Walk on Pipeline Road, by Sandy Sorkin.
July	The Real James Bond, by Jim Wright.
August	An Online Quiz, with Rick Wright.
September	Manakins and Microbes, by Jennifer Houtz.
October	Bizarre Breeding Behaviors of Tropical Cuckoos, by Christine Riehl.
November	Dispersal in Young Peregrine Falcons, by Elise Morton.
December	An MBC Story Slam, by Pamela Olsen.

### 2021

January	Modern-Day Exploration in the Tropics, by Dan Lane.
February	Winter Raptors, by Giselle Smisko.
March	Damselflies and Dragonflies: The Other White Meat, by George Nixon.
April	Wolf Natural History and Tourism in Yellowstone, by Paul Brown.
May	Sandhills and Saw-whets, by Matthew Schuler.
June	Magnificent Namibia, by Linda Woodbury.
September	Raptors, by Wayne Greenstone.
October	Watershed, by Hazel England.
November	Build-a-Bird, with Rick Wright.

### 2022

January	A Tale of Many Penguins, by Ardith Bondi.
February	Oh! Canada, by Chris Sturm.
March	Tracking the Migration of New Jersey Birds Using the Motus Network, by Cailin O'Connor.
April	Spotlighting Voices in Bird Conservation, by Mardi Dickinson.
May	101 Great Birds from Around the World, by Mark Garland.
June	Member's Meeting.
September	Exploring the Big Bend in Southwest Texas, by Donna Traylor.
October	Build-a-Bird, with Rick Wright.
November	On Safari: Botswana and South Africa, by Ric Cohn.

### 2023

January	America's Iconic Birdman: Frank Chapman, by James Huffstodt.
February	A Bird Club in San Diego, by Rick Wright.
March	The Peregrine Project, by Wayne Quinto Greenstone.
April	Piping Plovers on the Rockaway Peninsula, by Chris Allieri.
May	Basic Ornithology, by Phil Echo.
June	Members Meeting.

## 2023–2024 Officers and Executive Board

### OFFICERS

President	Donna Traylor
Vice President	Evan Cutler
Secretary	Pat Sanders
Treasurer	Sandy Sorkin

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

Bill Beren  
Ric Cohn  
Wayne Greenstone  
Don Traylor  
Rick Wright

### From the Editor's Desk

Please feel free to email any items you would like included in future issues of *The Broadwing*. Please include pictures and any other news that will entertain or educate our members.

Sandy

**MontclairBirdClub100@gmail.com**



## Upcoming VENT Tours

[VentBird.com](http://VentBird.com)

<b>Panama</b>	Fall at the Canopy Tower	October 21–28, 2023
<b>Nebraska</b>	Sandhill Cranes and Prairie Chickens	March 15–22, 2024; March 17–24, 2025
<b>Texas</b>	Totally Texas Solar Eclipse	April 5–11, 2024
<b>Alabama</b>	The Gulf Coast and Dauphin Island	April 15–21, 2024; April 14–20, 2025
<b>Greece</b>	The North of Greece	May 5–20, 2024
<b>Scotland</b>	Wild Scotland	May 26 – June 7, 2024
<b>Colorado</b>	A Summer Stay in Estes Park	June 17–23, 2024; June 15–21, 2025
<b>Colorado</b>	Northeast Colorado	June 23–26, 2024; June 21–24, 2025
<b>Spain</b>	Birds and Art in Asturias	August 28 – September 6, 2024
<b>France</b>	Birds and Art in Provence	May 1–9, 2025
<b>Scotland</b>	Scotland in Style	May 10–19 2025
<b>Germany</b>	Birds and Art in Berlin and Brandenburg	September 19–28, 2025
<b>France</b>	Brittany in Fall	October 1–9, 2025

**VICTOR  
EMANUEL  
NATURE  
TOURS**

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Page 8: American crow (SS)

Page 10: Bald eagle (SS)

Page 11: Herring gull (SS)

Page 12: Semipalmated sandpipers (SS)

Page 13: Semipalmated sandpipers (SS)

Page 15: Green heron



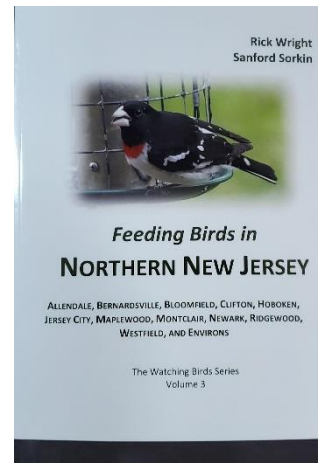
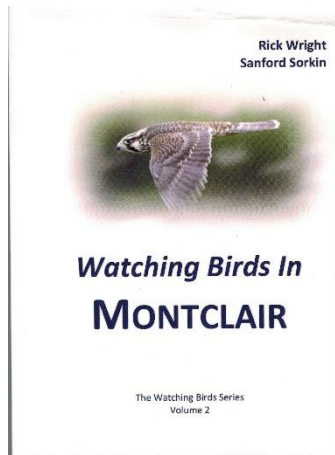
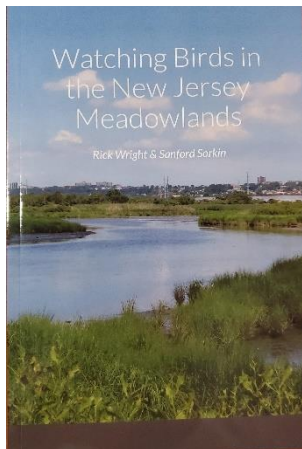
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# The MBC Bulletin Bird

## Montclair Bird Club Officers for 2023–2024

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Refreshments.....Betsy Cohen  
**The Broadwing Editor  
and Photographer** ....Sandy Sorkin

## THE BROADWING

The *Broadwing* is published ten times a year:  
We vacation during July and August.

Send photos, field notes, or articles to Sandy at  
[MontclairBirdClub100@gmail.com](mailto:MontclairBirdClub100@gmail.com).

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