

# THE MONTCLAIR BIRD CLUB

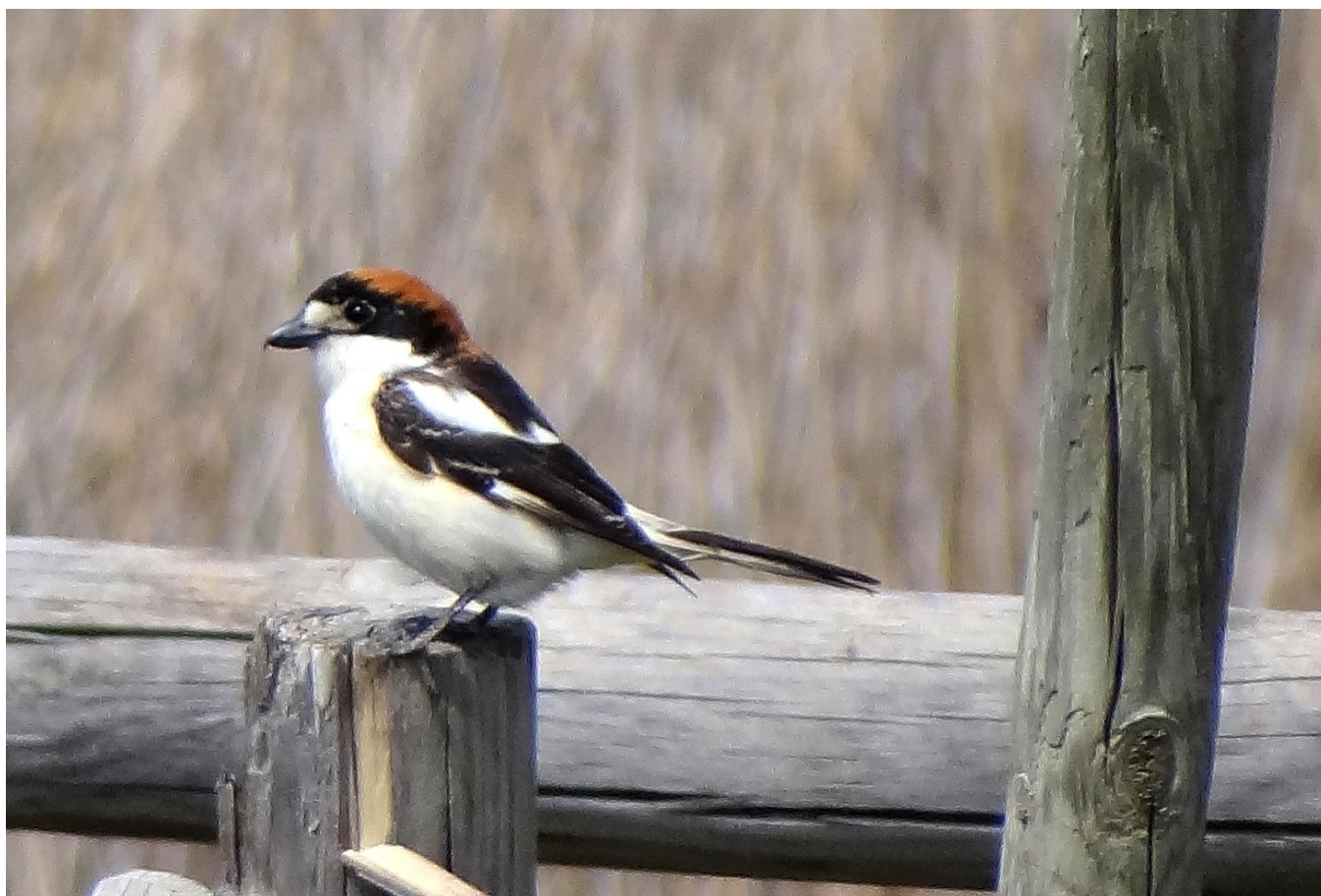
## YOUR WEEKLY BIRD 12

November 26, 2023

The pictures in this issue are by Rick Wright

### The Woodchat Shrike

It's easy for us shrike-starved Americans to forget just how diverse the family Laniidae is: as currently constituted, the family includes no fewer than 34 species, and is unrepresented only in South America, Antarctica, and Australia. The colorful little woodchat shrike, breeding across southern Europe and Asia Minor, is one of my favorites; I photographed this one in Provence.



The name “woodchat” is slightly mysterious, given that the bird is neither a chat nor a forest dweller. The best explanation is that the English name is a creative corruption of one of the species’ German names, *Waldkatze*, “wild cat,” in reference to the shrike’s bloodthirstiness. I suppose . . .

**Here's a red-backed shrike for comparison, photographed in Italy.**



**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

