

The Broadwing



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June 2022

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In This Issue

Message from the Editor June 2022

Dear Members and Friends,

June 8 is our Friends & Members meeting. As in our Virtual Bird Walks, we will take time to allow everyone to virtually “mingle,” then give everyone the opportunity to show pictures of birds, nature, favorite trips, or anything else you think will entertain a bird club audience. (More details are on page 12.)

This will be the last Broadwing until we resume meetings in September. Hopefully, the meetings next year will be in person, but the final decision will be made in August.

Sandy

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Next club meeting: Wednesday, June 8
Virtual Bird Walk: Thursday, September 22
Birders’ Meet-up: Check website for the June date!

The birds are protected from raccoons and other predators, and the alligators get food.



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, by 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 is the Members Meeting, with everyone having the opportunity to present pictures from the previous year. Therefore, we will not conduct a Virtual Bird Walk this month.

Participants will be able to share their screens or email their pictures for inclusion in a group PowerPoint. Emails should be sent at least four days before the meeting to MontclairBirdClub100@gmail.com.

Counting bug splats on vehicle license plates shows numbers of flying insects have dropped significantly

by Bob Yirka , Phys.org



The splatometer installed over a license plate. *The Bugs Matter Citizen Science Survey*

A team of researchers from the Buglife project, working with the Kent Wildlife Trust, has found evidence that suggests the number of flying insects in the U.K. has dropped significantly over the past several years. The group has published a [technical report](#) on the findings.

Buglife is a British-based nature conservation charity organization that focuses mainly on the preservation of pollinators and freshwater habitats. In this new effort, the group noted that most studies of flying insect numbers have been focused on distribution rather than total population. To learn more about the abundance of insects in the U.K., they created a smartphone app called Bugs Matter for use by ordinary citizens. Users were asked to clean their license plates before heading out in their vehicle and then to photograph and count the number of bugs found splattered on the plates when they returned. Those records were then sent to the team at Buglife, who unified the data into a count of bug splats in the entire U.K. between 2004 and 2021.

The researchers found that the number of splats recorded had dropped dramatically over the course of the study—totals were 58.5% lower at the end of the study than at the beginning.

Matt Shardlow, the Buglife spokesman, described the findings as "dramatic and alarming." He also noted that the survey showed a decline in flying bugs by approximately 34% each decade.

Scientists have suspected for some time that flying insect numbers were dropping around the world as a result of insecticide use, habitat and food loss, and climate change. Earlier work has suggested the worldwide population numbers for flying insects could be half of what they were just several decades ago, an estimate this new effort appears to back up.

Windhover

Rick Wright

Windhover, of course, is a euphemism.

The most notoriously colorful of English names assigned the common kestrel of the Old World is first attested at the very end of the sixteenth century in Thomas Nashe's *Lenten Stuff*, a satirical panegyric on the fish served during Lent. "Filling themselves with wind [to] fly against the wind evermore," Nashe's hovering kestrels play the role of flag-bearers in the bizarre military campaign to restore a herring to his throne.



The offending name may have been current at the time for the real living bird, too, but it seems to have been used mostly as a crude insult, as when George Chapman sniffed at a certain "envious" such who, like a fluttering bird, could do no more than seek to impregnate the wind.

To my knowledge, everyone has assumed that the notion of the hovering kestrel copulating with the breeze was an entirely English conceit. But the same image was already afloat in Italy in the early sixteenth century.

In his Emblem 83, Andrea Alciato rebukes indolent poseurs—the *ignavi*—with the story of Asterias, a slothful slave who was transformed into an "ardeola stellaris," presumably a bittern. Ancient poets, Alciato goes on, used the name *ardelio* for such a degenerate, "who moves his haunches lewdly against the air like the falcon."



Leaving aside the catachresis, it is obvious that Alciato is describing the kestrel's hovering exactly as Nashe and Chapman did. The Latin verb he uses, *ceveo*, has no meaning other than the prurient one, a counterpart to the better-known *criso* (from which ornithology has the terms "crissum" and "crissal"). Thus, kestrels appear to have exhibited the same aerial proclivities in Italy as in England—or rather, the Italians and

the English seem to have humorously interpreted their motions in the same way.

It is important to note that just as Alciato uses the image of the hovering kestrel disparagingly, all of the English-language citations in the OED are taken from contexts ranging from the satirical to the insulting: none, in other words, applies the offensive label to a real bird. In addition to the quotations offered there, it is also found in Pepys and in Jonson, but there too only as a term of opprobrium for a human, not as a genuine bird name.

It seems likely that the English moniker was in fact *never* used to straightforwardly denote the bird we know as *Falco tinnunculus*, and that behind it lurks a jocular, perhaps learned, simile like Alciato's, to the effect that the lazy wannabe merely *cevet* in the breeze like a kestrel.



Montclair Bird Club 2022 Bird of the Year

Eastern Screech-Owl

These little owls are found throughout New Jersey, including Montclair. They occur year-round in small woodlots, yards, and forests, although they are often overlooked. They could be in your backyard. They are in ours! Most of the time we only hear them.



A juvenile eastern screech owl photographed in Montclair. The mother is in a nearby tree watching the youngster.

Garret Mountain Wednesday Walk, led by Evan Cutler

On May 11, there were 16 attendees—but not a lot of birds. The highlight was an American bittern that had remained at Garret Mountain for at least 10 days.

The following photographs are by Ric Cohn.





The original date for this field trip was Saturday, May 7, but it poured all day and the trip was, wisely, postponed to Sunday. On Sunday, Mother's Day, ten of us assembled to bird Deb and Jason DeSalvo's Tewksbury property. It was overcast, cold, and very windy but, thankfully, it was not raining.

We were greeted by an eastern bluebird sitting on a fence post and a dozen or so swallows gliding back and forth across their farmland. Intermixed with the barn swallows, purple martins, and tree swallows, were a surprising cliff swallow and, later, a chimney swift. As we started to walk the perimeter, we found an eastern bluebird accommodately posing on an old tractor seat, joined by a Carolina wren on the tractor's wheel. A quick look up, and there was an adult bald eagle soaring overhead, followed by an osprey. In the oak trees we found lots of yellow-rumped warblers flitting through the trees. We heard a northern parula sing, along with several annoyingly elusive common yellowthroats and yellow warblers. The yellow-rumps continued to show in large numbers throughout the walk as we saw or heard several field sparrows, chipping sparrows, and two Baltimore orioles. Quite the yard list! In total, 39 species were seen or heard. It was a wonderful Mother's Day gift to us all!

- Beni Fishbein

Canada goose	House wren
Mourning dove	European starling
Chimney swift	Gray catbird
Black vulture	Eastern bluebird
Turkey vulture	American robin
Osprey	House sparrow
Bald eagle	American goldfinch
Red-tailed hawk	Chipping sparrow
Red-bellied woodpecker	Field sparrow
Downy woodpecker	White-throated sparrow
Northern flicker	Song sparrow
Warbling vireo	Baltimore oriole
Blue jay	Red-winged blackbird
Crow sp.	Brown-headed cowbird
Purple martin	Common yellowthroat
Tree swallow	Northern parula
Barn swallow	Yellow warbler
Cliff swallow	Yellow-rumped warbler
White-breasted nuthatch	Northern cardinal
Carolina wren	



2022 NJA World Series of Birding

Longtime birder Wayne Greenstone, while participating in the world Series of Birding, was kind enough to share his thoughts about the importance of conservation legislation for the birding community. Click [here](#) for the video.



Importance of Conservation Legislation from Longtime Birder Wayne Greenstone

Join us on June 8 for a fun Zoom meeting to chat and share favorite images. Please let Sandy Sorkin know if you will be presenting images that evening (limit 20–30 per person). You can either send them to Sandy no later than Sunday before the meeting or elect to share your screen. Images do not have to be birds. They can be nature-related or just your favorite photos.

Document Rare Sightings for Conservation in Audubon's Garret Mountain IBA

Sharon Petzinger, NJDEP ENSP; Sharon.Petzinger@dep.nj.gov

More information on rare species in NJ is available at <https://www.nj.gov/dep/fgw/spclspp.htm>.

Landbirds The state of New Jersey is documenting sightings of listed birds mainly during the breeding season, but is also documenting non-breeding/migratory/wintering sightings of a number of species. The landbirds documented during migration/winter are:

Northern bobwhite	Bicknell thrush
Ruffed grouse	Evening grosbeak
Black-billed cuckoo	Grasshopper sparrow
Common Nighthawk	Vesper sparrow
Eastern whip-poor-will	Henslow sparrow
Upland sandpiper	Bobolink
Red-headed woodpecker	Eastern meadowlark
Olive-sided flycatcher	Rusty blackbird
Loggerhead shrike	Golden-winged warbler
Horned lark	Kentucky warbler
Sedge wren	Cerulean warbler
Gray-cheeked thrush	Canada warbler

Waterbirds The state documents mainly active nests of listed waterbirds, but is also documenting non-breeding/migratory/wintering sightings of

Pied-billed grebe
American bittern
Least bittern
Little blue heron
Tricolored heron
Black-crowned night-heron
Yellow-crowned night-heron

PLEASE REPORT SIGHTINGS to the NJ DEP Endangered and Nongame Species Program using a Rare Wildlife Sighting Report Form: state.nj.us/dep/fgw/ensp/pdf/rptform.pdf.

2022–2023 Proposed Slate of Officers

Voting for next term's officers will take place at the June 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





Roman theater of Arles

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Sweden:	Fall on Öland	August 28 – September 4, 2022
Spain:	Birds and Art in Asturias NEW	September 7–16, 2022
Antarctica:	Bird and Mammal Odyssey	December 26, 2022 – January 17, 2023
New Jersey:	Birding the American Revolution NEW	May 13–20, 2023
France:	Birds and Art in Provence	May 22–30, 2023
Germany:	Birds and Art in Berlin	September 28 – October 7, 2023
Italy:	Venice and the Po Delta	October 7–15, 2023
Israel:	Birds, Culture, and History NEW	November 3–15, 2023
Nebraska:	Sandhill Cranes and Prairie-Chickens	March 15–22, 2023
Kansas:	Shorebirds on the Prairie	April 17–23, 2023



Triumphal arch at Glanum,
first century BCE

June 2022



Montclair Bird Club



Viking ship burial
on Öland

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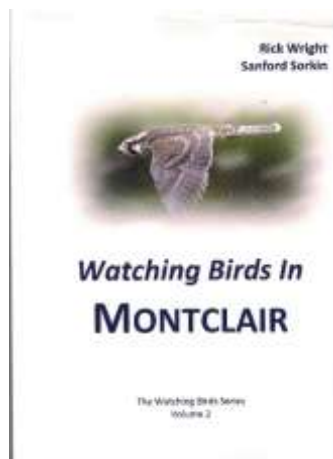
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With over 70 combined years of bookselling experience, the staff knows how to choose challenging, nurturing, and inspiring books, and knows, too, how to value the input and advice of readers and writers in our area's thriving literary community. Watchung Booksellers further serves the community with a full schedule of events, including author presentations, poetry readings, children's story times, in-house book groups, and special programs for writers and readers of all ages. The store and its staff are fierce supporters of our community's schools and libraries among many other political, religious, and civic institutions, including the Montclair Bird Club.



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 reduce anxiety and make us smile.

Sandy

MontclairBirdClub100@gmail.com

2021–2022 Montclair Bird Club Officers and Executive Board

President – Jim McGregor
Vice President – Donna Traylor
Treasurer – Sandy Sorkin
Secretary – Pat Sanders
Bill Beren
Evan Cutler
Wayne Greenstone
Don Traylor
Rick Wright

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The MBC Bulletin Bird

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Vice President..... Donna Traylor
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Recording Secretary ... Pat Sanders

Committees

Field Trips..... *vacant*
Programs..... Donna Traylor
Publicity Wayne Greenstone
Refreshments JoAnn Katzban
Betsy Cohen

**The Broadwing Editor
and Photographer** Sandy Sorkin

THE BROADWING

The *Broadwing* is published five times a year: January, March, May, late summer, and October, but **monthly during a pandemic**.

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

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