

# The Broadwing



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May 2022

Montclair, NJ  
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## Message from the Editor May 2022

Dear Members and Friends,

The eastern screech-owl was selected as the MBC Bird of the Year. Other nominated birds included cedar waxwing, mourning dove, rose-breasted grosbeak, and my favorite, the gray catbird.

The slate of officers for 2022–2023 will be presented at the regular May meeting. The names and offices can be found on page 13.

The club is currently planning to resume in-person meetings in September. We will be testing our AV setup to conduct hybrid meetings with any combination of local and remote speakers and attendees. It will be nice to return to our old digs with coffee and cookies.

Sandy

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**Next club meeting: Wednesday, May 11**  
**Virtual Bird Walk: Thursday, May 19**  
**Birders’ Meet-up: Check website for the May date!**

*Bird Gods*, by Charles DeKay, with accompaniment of decorations by George Wharton Edwards. New York: A. S. Barnes & Co., 1898.

PREFACE

EARLY men endowed with keen faculties of observation found the regular return of birds to their haunts mysterious. A closer watch on their habits revealed a forethought, a method, a genius for work, an industry that astound the naturalists of our day; certain actions of birds gave the men of old warrant to concede them powers of prophecy. To

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The Bird of Fire and Lightning~



The Cuckoo Gods



Paan the Peacock~



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I Swear by the Swan

## May 7 Bird Walk

**Meet at 8:30 am at Deb DeSalvo's home  
36 Cold Brook Road, Oldwick, NJ 08858**

Google Maps doesn't recognize the address yet, so you may have to plug in #31 instead, which is DIRECTLY ACROSS the ROAD.

Park by the barn (blue) or by the house (gray). Please do not park on the road. Or across the road at the neighbors. And please note, it is a dirt road with a 20-mph speed limit. Please be respectful. If you can carpool, please do so.

Call Deb at (973) 941-9941 if you will be late or are not coming. And you can call for directions, though most people have GPS these days—just see note above for address tweak.

**The theme of our May Virtual Bird walk is [Local Birds](#). Once again, you may interpret the theme as you see fit. Local may be your yard, your community, or even your state.**

**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](mailto:MontclairBirdClub100@gmail.com).**

## 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.

**The Shakespearean Tall Tale That Shaped How We See Starlings**  
The *New York Times* tells the story: [STARLINGS](#)



## Poetry From One of Our Members

### *Spring Love Duet*

*Cherish spring love,  
Hush a moment.*

*A blush pink cascade,  
An elegant veil,  
Of Japanese cherry blossoms,  
Bows down,  
To honor,  
A sweet sparrow pair,  
Gently nestled together,  
Tweeting in harmony,  
Singing a love duet,  
For our Spring.*

*Unveiling love.*

*© Lene De Coursin  
March 2022*

## What's the Connection? The Allen Hummingbird

Rick Wright

The Allen hummingbird, *Selasphorus sasin*, occupies one of the smallest breeding ranges of any US bird, restricted to a narrow coastal strip from southwesternmost Oregon to San Diego County, California. Strays away from this limited range are recorded in migration and winter, but this tiny green-backed ember of a bird remains one of the scarcest hummingbird vagrants east of the Great Plains, and it is unlikely that it will ever be more than the most vanishingly rare of vagrants to New Jersey.



There is a stronger, historical link between this California specialty and our state, though, a connection that reaches back to the Battle of Vitoria in 1813, a decisive engagement in the Duke of Wellington's struggle against Napoleon on the Iberian Peninsula. When that battle was lost, and with it the Peninsular War, King Joseph I, the eldest brother of the French emperor, abdicated and fled to Paris; on Napoleon's definitive surrender at Rochefort in 1815, Joseph and his family made their way to the New World, where they lived in lavish style at Point Breeze, above the Delaware at Bordentown.

The exiles were accompanied by Louis Mailliard, Joseph's private amanuensis. When the Bonapartes returned to Europe, Mailliard went with them, but he would return to Bordentown as the executor of Joseph's will. His son Adolphe Mailliard was born at Point Breeze, and lived there until 1867, when he and his family sought the more healthful climate of California.

The Mailliards and their sons, Joseph and John, settled on a ranch in Marin County. The boys embarked on natural historical explorations of their new and exotic surroundings, and they soon made the acquaintance of a local collector, Charles A. Allen, whom they found "a handy and interesting man to be with in camp, and a pleasant companion in the field" (*The Condor* 26 [1924]: 14). Not long thereafter, Allen was given a cabin and an acre of land on the Mailliards' San Geronimo Ranch, where he spent the rest of his life, even after the ranch was sold.

In July 1877, Henry W. Henshaw published a description of what he believed was a new species of hummingbird (*Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club* 2 [1877]: 53–58). He named it *Selasphorus alleni*, honoring Charles A. Allen, who, Henshaw wrote, had long recognized that these specimens were not merely rufous hummingbirds but a distinct species, the adult male characterized by a green back and peculiarly shaped rectrices. The name was "a deserved compliment to the zeal and enthusiasm" of the collector, "but for whose efforts in obtaining the specimens necessary for comparison, and careful field-notes, the species might have remained for a long time unrecognized." The ornithologist Joseph Grinnell later pointed out that the species had already been assigned a scientific name, *sasin*, but Henshaw's English

name, commemorating Allen's assiduous attention to the birds of California, persists, a reminder of the startling connections between imperial France, a tiny western hummingbird, and a city on the Delaware River here in New Jersey.



## **San Diego**

### **Ric Cohn**

The MBC trip to San Diego was my first multi-day birding experience. For members who have not joined one, I highly recommend doing so. Members who have done this (possibly dozens of times) will know what a great experience—and how much fun—it can be.

As the youngest birder (by experience, NOT age), I needed a lot of help identifying many of the birds. For me, there is nothing like actually locating and watching a bird to help learn its markings, behaviors, and calls for identification. During the trip I pondered what was so different about a birding trip compared to other travel I have done. Most of my travel experiences have been focused either on visiting for beauty and culture or for photography.

For this birding trip, I realize the focus was on ecological zones. Whether it was a beautiful coastline or mountain view or a frankly ugly mud flat, what was important was visiting different habitats where birds of different species were likely to be found. In the end, what I most appreciated was the good humor and willingness to help shown to me by everyone on the trip. Thanks to all!

Richard Cohn

**San Diego**



**The Group that Went West**

**Ric's Pictures**







## Trip List San Diego April 4- 11, 2022 - Total of 149 species seen:

Brant	Ring-billed gull	Violet-green swallow
Canada goose	Western gull	Barn swallow
Wood duck	California gull	Cliff swallow
Blue-winged teal	Caspian tern	Bushtit
Cinnamon teal	Forster's tern	Wrentit
Northern shoveler	Royal tern	White-breasted nuthatch
Gadwall	Elegant tern	Pygmy nuthatch
American Wigeon	Red-throated loon	House wren
Mallard	Common loon	Bewick's wren
Northern pintail	Brandt's cormorant	European starling
Green-winged teal	Pelagic cormorant	California thrasher
Redhead	Double-crested cormorant	Northern mockingbird
Ring-necked duck	Brown pelican	Western bluebird
Lesser scaup	Great blue heron	Hermit thrush
Surf scoter	Great egret	Cedar waxwing
Bufflehead	Snowy egret	Phainopepla
Red-breasted merganser	Little blue heron	Scaly-breasted munia
Ruddy duck	Black-crowned night-heron	House sparrow
Mountain quail	Yellow-crowned night-heron	House finch
California quail	Turkey vulture	Lesser goldfinch
Pied-billed grebe	Osprey	Lawrence's goldfinch
Eared grebe	Northern harrier	Chipping sparrow
Western grebe	Cooper's hawk	Brewer's sparrow
Rock pigeon	Red-tailed hawk	Dark-eyed junco
Band-tailed pigeon	Belted kingfisher	White-crowned sparrow
Eurasian collared-dove	Acorn woodpecker	Savannah sparrow
Mourning dove	Downy woodpecker	Song sparrow
White-throated swift	Nuttall's woodpecker	California towhee
Anna's hummingbird	American kestrel	Green-tailed towhee
Allen's hummingbird	Merlin	Spotted towhee
Ridgway's rail	Peregrine falcon	Western meadowlark
American coot	Lilac-crowned parrot	Hooded oriole
Black-necked stilt	Red-masked parakeet	Bullock's oriole
Black-bellied plover	Pacific-slope flycatcher	Red-winged blackbird
Semipalmated plover	Black phoebe	Tricolored blackbird
Killdeer	Say's phoebe	Brown-headed cowbird
Whimbrel	Ash-throated flycatcher	Brewer's blackbird
Long-billed curlew	Cassin's kingbird	Great-tailed grackle
Marbled godwit	Western kingbird	Orange-crowned warbler
Black turnstone	Bell's vireo	Nashville warbler
Red knot	Hutton's vireo	Common yellowthroat
Surfbird	Warbling vireo	Yellow warbler
Dunlin	Steller's jay	Yellow-rumped warbler (Audubon & Myrtle)
Least sandpiper	California scrub-jay	Black-throated gray warbler
Western sandpiper	American crow	Townsend's warbler
Short-billed dowitcher	Common raven	Wilson's warbler
Long-billed dowitcher	Mountain chickadee	Western tanager
Spotted sandpiper	Oak titmouse	Black-headed grosbeak
Greater yellowlegs	Northern rough-winged swallow	Lazuli bunting
Willet	Tree swallow	

**Montclair Bird Club  
2022 Bird of the Year**

**Eastern Screech-Owl**



Photo: Donna Traylor

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, but there was a time for many years when they would winter in our wood duck box. On warm, sunny winter days they could be seen filling the hole to the box as they caught some rays. When we bought our house almost 30 years ago, they were the bird that welcomed us with their soft call as we put the key in the lock for the first time. They come in red or gray colors, and we've had both in the yard.

Donna Traylor



## Your Morning Coffee is Served Up by the Birds and the Bees

*Excluding the winged creatures from the branches of coffee plants meant fewer flowers and smaller fruit.*

It takes a village to produce the beans that go into a cup of coffee. Field experiments suggest that birds and bees boost coffee production much more when working together than either does in isolation.

Alejandra Martínez-Salinas and Adina Chain-Guadarrama at the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center in Turrialba, Costa Rica, and their colleagues assessed the effects of bees and birds on the productivity of Arabica coffee plants (*Coffea arabica*) at 30 farms in Costa Rica. The researchers used large nets and gauze bags to exclude bees, birds, or both from some plants or branches, while leaving others accessible.

Compared with branches that neither animal could reach, branches visited by both bees and birds bore fruit that were on average more than 6% heavier; they also had 24% more pollinated flowers. Infestations by one of the most harmful coffee pests were halved when birds were present.

The researchers estimate that without birds and bees, the farms' average yield would decline by nearly 25%, leading to a loss of more than \$1,000 per hectare.

*Nature* 604, 220 (2022)

Martínez-Salinas, A. et al. Proc. Natl Acad. Sci. USA. 119, e2119959119 (2022).





## 2022-2023 Proposed Slate of Officers

**Voting for next term's officers will take place at the June Members Meeting.**

### OFFICERS

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

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

Bill Beren  
Ric Cohn  
Wayne Greenstone  
Don Traylor  
Rick Wright





**Roman theater of Arles**

## Upcoming VENT Tours

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



<b>NY to WA:</b>	Birding America by Train <b>NEW</b>	May 18–31, 2022
<b>Colorado:</b>	Summer in Estes Park <b>NEW</b>	June 19–25, 2022; June 18–24, 2023
<b>Colorado:</b>	Mountain Plover and Longspurs	June 25–28, 2022; June 24–27, 2023
<b>Sweden:</b>	Fall on Öland	August 28 – September 4, 2022
<b>Spain:</b>	Birds and Art in Asturias <b>NEW</b>	September 7–16, 2022
<b>Antarctica:</b>	Bird and Mammal Odyssey	December 26, 2022 – January 17, 2023
<b>New Jersey:</b>	Birding the American Revolution <b>NEW</b>	May 13–20, 2023
<b>France:</b>	Birds and Art in Provence	May 22–30, 2023
<b>Germany:</b>	Birds and Art in Berlin	September 28 – October 7, 2023
<b>Italy:</b>	Venice and the Po Delta	October 7–15, 2023
<b>Israel:</b>	Birds, Culture, and History <b>NEW</b>	November 3–15, 2023
<b>Nebraska:</b>	Sandhill Cranes and Prairie-Chickens	March 15–22, 2023
<b>Kansas:</b>	Shorebirds on the Prairie	April 17–23, 2023



**Triumphal arch at Glanum,  
first century BCE**

May 2022



Montclair Bird Club



**Viking ship burial  
on Öland**

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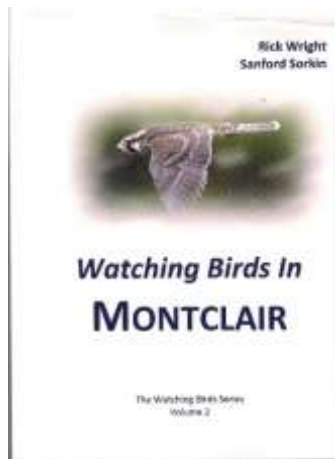
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With over 70 combined years of bookselling experience, the staff knows how to choose challenging, nurturing, and inspiring books, and knows, too, how to value the input and advice of readers and writers in our area’s thriving literary community. Watchung 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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