

The Broadwing



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Montclair, NJ
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Message from the Editor January 2022

Dear Members,

Variants and reasonable precautions dictate that we continue to hold virtual meetings for the foreseeable future.

We have all read about the contribution birds make, from canaries in mines to delivering coded messages. This issue takes the contributions a step further in their war time efforts.

We are also reminded about lost birds and the efforts to relocate them. If they are lost, we lose their beauty and their voice. There is a link in the article to the Songs of Disappearance.

This will be our first year to select a Montclair Bird Club **Bird of the Year**, and now is an excellent time to start giving it some thought.

Sandy

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Next meeting: Wednesday, January 12
Virtual Bird Walk: Thursday, January 20

The Turn-of-the-Century Pigeons That Photographed Earth from Above

By Andrea DenHoed

In 1907, just a few years after the Wright brothers lifted off in Kitty Hawk, and while human flight was still being measured in meters and minutes, Dr. Julius Neubronner, a German apothecary, submitted a patent application for a new invention: the pigeon camera. The device

was precisely what it sounds like—a small camera fitted with straps and equipped with a timer so that pigeons could carry it and take photos in flight. Neubronner first used the device on his own flock of homing pigeons, which he sometimes used to deliver prescriptions. In the following years, he showed his camera at international expositions, where he also sold postcards taken by the birds. Additionally, he developed a portable, horse-drawn dovecote with a darkroom attached to it, which could be moved into the proximity of whatever object or area the photographer hoped to capture from on high. These inventions



Photograph courtesy Rorhof / Stadtarchiv Kronberg

represented a breakthrough at the time, allowing for surveillance at a speed and range that had been impossible. (Whether the cameras would actually capture the desired object, however, depended on luck and the whims of the pigeons.) The technology would soon be adapted for use in wartime—the cameras served as very early precursors to drones—although by the time of the First World War, just a few years later, airplanes were allowing people to do things that only pigeons could have done before.

THE
NEW YORKER

April 14, 2018

Submarine Detectors

Rick Wright

In June 1914, R. M. Strong began a study of the herring gull colonies of the Sister Islands in Door County, Wisconsin. Over the course of the summer, Strong made detailed records of the gulls' behavior and breeding from a blind "made from dark green cambric lining cloth, costing seven cents a yard." From his cramped hiding place, he could watch the birds pairing, building, incubating, brooding, and, of course, squabbling. Strong's observations were so meticulous that in those pre-Tinbergen days, he quickly became *the* authority on gull behavior.



In 1917, a few months after the entry of the United States into the First World War, Strong turned his expertise to the investigation of another, more immediately practical problem:

I read in 'Science' the recommendation of the Committee on Zoology of the National Research Council that the problem of "utilization of gulls and other aquatic seabirds in locating submarines be studied."

Strong's experience had taught him that it would be useless to try to train gulls captured as adults, so he secured a small corps of chicks and newly fledged juveniles to work with. The preliminary results were encouraging. The young birds quickly grew tolerant of their human keepers, and herring gulls, he found, could recognize new situations and new objects in their

environment: the hope was, of course, that they could be taught to recognize submarines and somehow alert human monitors to the threatening presence.

THE AUK, VOL. XXXI.

PLATE V.



Strong's scheme proposed capturing large numbers of unfledged gulls, raising them, and keeping them on board navy ships until "regions of danger" had been reached. Once released, he predicted, the gulls would make short feeding flights from their "home" ship, when

by careful watching ... variations in their movements would at least suggest that an unusual object was in the water.

The plan — of which Strong admitted "that the chances of success were limited, to say the least" — was never carried out. While Strong and his colleagues were working out the details, other, "very efficient methods for detection of submarines were developed," and the "raid" on the gulls' nesting colonies was never carried out. The herring gulls of Lake Michigan could go back to their loafing and quarreling, activities they continue to excel in today.

February Virtual Bird Walk

The theme of our February Virtual Bird walk is **Birds of a Color**. The more color the better. Bird pictures are wonderful, but our overall emphasis is nature. Personally, I would like to see a dog romping in red and yellow autumn leaves. But color is often in the eyes of the beholder.

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.

Sandy

Recent Montclair Bird Club Meetings

May 2020:	An Online Quiz, with Rick Wright.
June 2020:	A Walk on Pipeline Road, by Sandy Sorkin.
July 2020:	The Real James Bond, by Jim Wright.
August 2020:	An Online Quiz, with Rick Wright.
September 2020:	Manakins and Microbes, by Jeniffer Houtz.
October 2020:	The Bizarre Breeding Behaviors of Tropical Cuckoos, by Christine Riehl.
November 2020:	Dispersal in Young Peregrine Falcons, by Elise Morton.
December 2020:	An MBC Story Slam, by Pamela Olsen.
January 2021:	Modern-Day Exploration in the Tropics, by Dan Lane.
February 2021:	Winter Raptors, by Giselle Smisko.
March 2021:	Damselflies and Dragonflies: the Other White Meat, by George Nixon.
April 2021:	Wolf Natural History and Tourism in Yellowstone, by Paul Brown.
May 2021:	Sandhills and Saw-whets, by Matthew Schuler.
June 2021:	Magnificent Namibia, by Linda Woodbury.
September 2021:	Raptors, by Wayne Greenstone.
October 2021:	Watershed, by Hazel England.
November 2021:	Build-a-Bird, by Rick Wright.
January 2022:	A Tale of Many Penguins, by Ardith Bondi.

Light-colored Feathers May Help Migrating Birds Stay Cool on Long Flights

Jonathan Lambert

From teeny hummingbirds to giant whooping cranes, roughly half of the world's more than 10,000 bird species migrate. Longer wings and beefed-up flying muscles often help these birds crisscross vast expanses of air. But a study of nearly all bird species suggests that many migrators share another, unexpected flight aid: lighter-colored feathers.

Being a tad more lightly colored than non-migrating birds may help these long-distance fliers stay cool as they work hard under the hot sun to fly, as researchers reported last month in *Current Biology*.

It's known that color can help birds hide from predators by blending in or attract mates by standing out. But color has subtler effects too, including regulating temperature by absorbing or reflecting light, says Kaspar Delhey, an ornithologist at the Max Planck Institute for Ornithology in Seewiesen, Germany. For example, eggs laid in colder climates tend to be darker, which may help keep them warm.

Migrating birds push their bodies to the physiological limit, which creates excess heat. Some species cope by ascending to cooler air during daytime. "If overheating is a problem in migratory birds, another way of dealing with that would be to evolve lighter colors," which absorb less heat, Delhey says.

Delhey and his colleagues analyzed over 20,000 illustrations of 10,618 bird species, ranking plumage lightness for each species and comparing that with how far the birds fly. On average, lightness slightly increased with migratory distance, the team found. The colors in longest-distance migrators were about 4 percent lighter than non-migrators, an effect that wasn't explained by size, climate, or habitat type.

"It's not a big difference," Delhey says, noting that many migrators are dark-colored, perhaps for reasons unrelated to flight. But the trend was remarkably consistent.

"Very different groups with very different biologies show this pattern," Delhey says. "That surprised us."



Albatrosses Divorce More Often When Ocean Waters Warm



F. Ventura

When it comes to fidelity, birds fit the bill: Over 90 percent of bird species are monogamous and—mostly—stay faithful, perhaps none more famously than the majestic albatross. Albatross couples rarely separate, sticking with the same breeding partner year after year. But when ocean waters are warmer than average, more of the birds split up, a new study finds.

In years when the water was warmer than usual, the divorce rate—typically less than 4 percent on average—rose to nearly 8 percent among albatrosses in part of the Falkland Islands. It's the first evidence that the environment, not just breeding failure, affects divorce in wild birds. In fact, the team found that during warmer years, even some females that had bred successfully ditched their partners.

The result suggests that as the climate changes as a result of human activity, a higher incidence of divorce in albatrosses, and perhaps in other socially monogamous animals, may be “an overlooked consequence,” the researchers write.

Albatrosses can live for decades, sometimes spending years out on the ocean searching for food and returning to land only to breed. Pairs that stay together have the benefits of familiarity and improved coordination, which help when raising young. This stability is particularly important in dynamic marine environments, says Francesco Ventura, a conservation biologist at the University of Lisbon in Portugal.

But if breeding doesn't work out, many birds—mostly females—leave their mate and try to find better luck elsewhere. Breeding is more likely to fail in years with more difficult conditions, with knock-on effects on divorce rates the following years. Ventura wanted to find out whether the

environment also has a direct impact, changing the rate of divorce regardless of breeding success and failure.

Ventura and his team analyzed data collected from 2004 to 2019 in a large colony of black-browed albatrosses (*Thalassarche melanophris*) on New Island in the Falkland Islands. The team recorded nearly 2,900 breeding attempts in 424 females and tracked bird breakups. Then, accounting for previous breeding success in individual pairs, the researchers checked to see if environmental conditions had any noticeable further impact on pairings.

Breeding failure, especially early on, was still the main factor behind a divorce: Each female lays just a single egg, and those birds whose eggs didn't hatch were over five times as likely to separate from their partners as those who succeeded, or those whose hatched chicks didn't survive. In some years, the divorce rate was lower than 1 percent.

Yet this rate increased in line with average water temperatures, reaching a maximum of 7.7 percent in 2017 when waters were the warmest. The team's calculations revealed that the probability of divorce was correlated with rising temperatures. And surprisingly, females in successful breeding pairs were more likely to be affected by the harsher environment than males or females that either didn't breed, or failed. When ocean temperatures dropped again in 2018 and 2019, so did divorce rates.

Warmer water means fewer nutrients, so some birds may be fueling up out at sea for longer, delaying their return to the colony or turning up bedraggled and unappealing. If members of pairs return at different times, this can lead to breakups (*SN: 10/6/04*).

What's more, worse conditions one year might raise stress-related hormones in the birds too, which can affect mate choice. A bird may incorrectly attribute its stress to its partner, rather than the harsher environment, and separate even if hatching was successful, the researchers speculate.

Such misreading between cues and reality could make separation a less-effective behavior, suggests Antica Culina, an evolutionary ecologist at the Netherlands Institute of Ecology in Wageningen who was not involved in the study. If animals divorce for the wrong reason and do worse the following season, that can lead to lower breeding success overall and possibly population decline.

Similar patterns could be found in other socially monogamous animals, including mammals, the researchers suggest. "If you imagine a population with a very low number of breeding pairs ... this might have much more serious repercussions," Ventura says.

Shark River Meet-Up, December 11, 2021

Beni Fishbein

Go? Don't go? Cancel? Don't cancel? The weather reports were iffy and, worse yet, conflicting. In the end, I decided to go with the most optimistic forecast, and happily, that turned out to be correct: It was blustery and overcast but warm for our Shark River Meet-Up. Ten of us gathered at the Belmar Marina, where we saw a bald eagle and laughing gulls, and watched, aghast and amazed, as one great black-backed gull attempted to drown another. We then headed to nearby MacLearie Park and to Belmar Boulevard for looks at a Eurasian wigeon hanging out with a flock of American wigeon. We stopped at Marconi Road and then went on to the Shark River Inlet, where we were buffeted by strong winds and saw northern gannets, common and red-throated loons, scoters, and a lone ruddy turnstone. Our final stop was at Silver Lake, where we found four redhead, two lesser scaup, and ruddy ducks, along with many stunning hooded mergansers in breeding plumage.

35 species observed:

#	Species	#	Species
1300	Brant	15	Ring-billed gull
110	Canada goose	X	Herring gull (many)
2	Mute swan	X	Great black-backed gull (many)
1	Eurasian wigeon	4	Red-throated loon
30	American wigeon	3	Common loon
43	Mallard	20	Northern gannet
49	American black duck	2	Double-crested cormorant
4	Redhead	3	Great blue heron
2	Lesser scaup	2	Bald eagle
10	Surf scoter	1	Merlin
1	Black scoter	2	Tree swallow
300	Bufflehead	1	Northern mockingbird
67	Hooded merganser	40	House sparrow
50	Red-breasted merganser	3	White-throated sparrow
21	Ruddy duck	2	Song sparrow
75	Rock pigeon	15	Yellow-rumped warbler
1	Ruddy turnstone	3	Northern cardinal
11	Laughing gull		

Snow Bunting Video from Rick Wright



<https://ebird.org/checklist/S98295465?view=video>



In the Rockies—Part 3

Sandy Sorkin

I acknowledged in the first installment that Colorado is big. It is one of the largest states, at 104,185 square miles. New Jersey is on page two of the largest state list, with a respectable 8,722.6 square miles. (When you are on page two, you get to use decimal places.) Driving from any place in New Jersey to any other usually takes a morning. Not so Colorado. This Colorado trip covered hundreds of miles to places I had never seen before.

The grasslands were a new experience for me. But the Rockies inspire awe at every turn. I have spent a fair amount of time in the Rockies, but that never changes my feelings each time a new vista appears with almost every turn in the road.



Rocky Mountains on a clear day

The trees change with each increase in elevation until you finally notice, somewhere around 11,000 feet, that there is a complete absence of trees.

Depending on where the wind is headed, the days and mountain views are crystal clear. On other days, the haze from California wildfires blankets the valleys.

The local bird populations change with altitude as well. One of the first birds to greet us was the Steller jay. I get the impression that most of a jay's waking day is spent monitoring picnic tables.



Forest fire haze



While a major focus of the trip was on birds, it would be hard to overlook the variety of mammals encountered in Rocky Mountain National Park. I may appear to be too close to these animals in some of pictures, but I was using a 500mm telephoto lens, and there was a car to run to for a quick getaway. The general rule is to remain at a minimum of 75 feet from most park animals, but the recommendation is mostly ignored by tourists and by the animals, who tend to

congregate wherever there is something to eat. The recommendation goes to 120 feet for moose and bear. There is no specific distance recommendation when encountering chipmunks.



Moose, on the other hand, have earned the 120-foot regulation. This, of course, doesn't stop every tourist with a camera or iPhone from seeing how close they can get.

Elk, on the other hand, look a bit more formidable. In the park, there is the issue of elk jams. Moving from one grazing location to the next requires the male elk to serve as a crossing guard until all the cows and calves make it to the other side. In theory, crossing a two-lane road shouldn't take very long, but looking at the traffic backup, it clearly does.



Two young bighorn sheep on the side of the road had a dispute over a small tuft of grass and engaged in a traditional head-butting exercise. We didn't wait long enough to see who eventually had the meal.





Lost Birds



Illustrations of the top 10 most-wanted lost birds. Top row (left to right): Himalayan quail, Negros fruit-dove, Itwombwe nightjar, Santa Marta sabrewing. Middle row (left to right): Vilacamba brushfinch, Scops-owl. Bottom row (left to right): Jerdon courser, Cuban kite, dusky tetraka, South Island kōkako. (Illustrations © Lynx Edicions)

A new global search effort is calling on researchers, conservationists, and the global birdwatching community to help find 10 rare bird species that have been lost to science. The Search for Lost Birds is a collaboration of Re:wild, American Bird Conservancy (ABC), and BirdLife International, with data support from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and its eBird platform used by birders around the world. It's an extension of Re:wild's [Search for Lost Species](#) program, which launched in 2017 and has since rediscovered eight of its top 25 most-wanted lost plant and animal species. As its name suggests, however, the Search for Lost Birds focuses exclusively on rediscovering enigmas in ornithology.

"During the past five years, since we launched the Search for Lost Species, our list of species that could be considered lost has grown to more than 2,000," said Barney Long, Director for Conservation Strategies for Re:wild. "We never planned to look for all of them alone, but to encourage others to search and develop partnerships to help. Through this new partnership, we'll be able to get more targeted expeditions in the field. If we can find these lost birds, conservationists can better protect them from the threats they face."

Songs of Disappearance

An album consisting entirely of birdsong has debuted towards the top of Australia's Aria chart, beating Mariah Carey, Michael Buble, and Abba to get to Number 5 one week after its release.

Songs of Disappearance, a collaboration between the multimedia duo the Bowerbird Collective and David Stewart, who has been recording the sounds of Australian birds for over four decades, features the calls and songs of 53 threatened species.

With all proceeds donated to BirdLife Australia, it has sold just over 2,000 units, around 1,500 of them in presale—a far cry from the number that used to be required to enter the charts, before the era of music streaming.



The project was the result of a conversation between the Bowerbird Collective's Anthony Albrecht, a PhD student at Charles Darwin University, and his supervisor, Stephen Garnett, the author of the recently updated Action Plan for Australian Birds, which found that one in six Australian birds is now threatened with extinction.

"He asked whether the Bowerbird Collective could do anything to help promote [the Action Plan], and it was immediately obvious to me what we needed to do," Albrecht said. "I'm really keen to understand whether environmental art such as this project can have an impact on attitudes and behavior."

Albrecht's collaborator and Bowerbird Collective co-founder, the violinist Simone Slattery, arranged a musical collage of the 53 species for the opening track of Songs of Disappearance.

Christmas Bird Counts 1921/2021

Rick Wright

On December 27, 1921, R. F. Haulenbeek walked from the Forest Hill section of Newark to Bloomfield. He was back home for lunch and spent an hour in the late afternoon in Branch Brook Park. The weather was seasonable: clouds giving way to sun, with an inch of new snow on the ground and temperatures from 29° to 38° F. This single-observer effort covering about 10 miles constituted the Newark Christmas Bird Count, the only CBC conducted in Essex County that year.



Haulenbeek recorded eight species for the day. The most abundant bird he encountered was the European starling; the species had arrived in our area only in 1903, but even then it was obviously on the path to success, as the day's tally of some 100 birds suggested. More surprising was the species that occupied second place on the list, the horned lark. Haulenbeek found some 50 larks on the farm fields along his morning's route—fields, and larks, that are long gone today. The list was fleshed out by white-throated, song, and American tree sparrows, and one each of the sharp-shinned hawk, slate-colored junco, and blue jay. The total individuals counted came to about 167 birds.

On December 27, 2021, I walked from the southern edge of Branch Brook Park to Bloomfield. I was back home for lunch. The weather was seasonable: clouds and the occasional patch of sun, with very light snow at mid-day and temperatures from 28° to 37° F. I was joined for part of the morning by Alison; all told, I covered just shy of 10 miles on foot in the course of this mock CBC.

I recorded 24 species for the day. The most abundant bird was the Canada goose, with 60% of the approximately 1000 total birds at Clarks Pond; most appeared to be genuinely Canadian, migratory birds of the *canadensis/interior* type, but of course, most flocks also contained giant geese, the descendants of *maxima/moffitti* Canadas introduced to the eastern US sixty years ago. Unsurprisingly, the commonest passerine was the European starling, still going strong a century and a quarter after it colonized New Jersey. The small selection of native songbirds we found was dominated by white-throated sparrows; a minimum of 134 were seen and heard, most of them in a single active flock in Branch Brook Park. The only other species to reach double digits were the mallard, at an impressive 330 individuals, and the feral pigeon, with a sloppily counted 249 on the day's list; I suspect that Haulenbeek did not bother keeping track of the pigeons on the barn roofs along his 1921 route.



Several species on my list would have startled the observer 100 years ago. I most likely undercounted mourning doves, recording only 71—but early last century, this was apparently a rare bird in Essex County, and one very active birder, Louis S. Kohler of

Bloomfield, recorded only ten individuals between 1905 and 1910, all of them migrants. Writing in that latter year, Kohler did not list the hooded merganser at all for Essex County; the four on one of the ponds in Branch Brook Park in 2021 were unsurprising, as were the 38 northern shovelers there, also a species Kohler did not encounter in our area. Our 17 ring-billed gulls struck me as a poor showing for that species, an abundant and familiar bird unnoticed by Kohler.

Among the highlights of our 2021 count were the two peregrine falcons that dashed through Branch Brook Park at the start of the walk; one was an adult and probably a female, the other too fast to age or sex. This dramatic bird is probably more common in New Jersey today than at any time in history. As expected, we were unable to replicate the experiences of birders a century ago, for whom another falcon, the American kestrel, was a common permanent resident in Essex County.

Three classic “southern” species were also unknown in our area a hundred years ago. In the first two decades of the twentieth century, northern cardinals were rare in New Jersey anywhere north of southern Union County. Their abundance today, even in suburban backyards, is the result of what John Bull called a “positively phenomenal” increase and northward range expansion beginning in the 1950s. Northern mockingbirds were only erratic visitors to Essex County until the late 1950s, when their populations, too, exploded and birds moved into areas where they had formerly been rare. And as late as 1937, Witmer Stone considered the red-bellied woodpecker nothing more than “an accidental straggler,” even in southern New Jersey; as of 1955, Fables knew of only three records from the northern part of the state. Today, the red-bellied has nearly vanquished the downy as the most abundant picid in our area.

The story of the house finch in northern New Jersey is less clearly linked to global warming, though the survival and success of the birds released in New York in the early 1940s was certainly not entirely independent of changes in the climate. This early winter of 2021, it seems that there is still wild food available for house finches in our area—asters, goldenrod, poison ivy, liquidambar—and few are being seen yet in urban habitats. All the same, it is virtually impossible not to see or hear this bird almost anywhere in Bloomfield or Newark now, a species undreamed of by our co-hobbyists a hundred years ago.

A century to the day after R. F. Haulenbeek conducted his Christmas Bird Count, we saw approximately 13 times as many individual birds as he did. Even removing the waterfowl and feral pigeons, our count exceeded his by a good 500 birds—small consolation for encountering not a single one of the descendants of the horned larks on any of the parking lots and golf courses that have replaced the

pastures and fields of an earlier landscape. But comparisons are always invidious. What matters—what counts—is enjoying a walk on a cold winter’s day.



2022

First Bird of the Year

Lee Gaitskill
Karen Cichocki
Kathy Sorkin

Song sparrow
Heard: cardinal, Seen: pair of common ravens
Black-capped chickadee. Usually, the birds start feeding quite early and we see them from the back window. Today, they were all late arrivals including this black-capped chickadee.



Sandy Sorkin

Heard: northern cardinal, Seen: dark-eyed junco



Remarkably, our little family made it to midnight this year—with a consequent late rising New Year’s morning. The day was dim and damp, but there beneath the feeder was a bird, my first for the calendar year 2022.

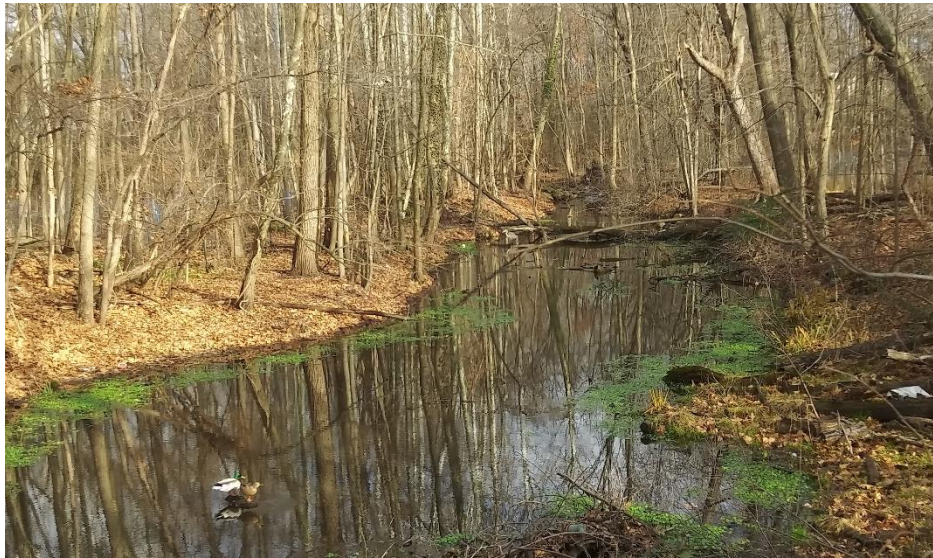


When I came to open a proud first day’s eBird list, I was reminded that song sparrows are, or at least can be, more complex here than we sometimes think. The “slash” category *atlantica/melodia* invites us to think beyond the species, to always be aware of geographic variation in even the commonest bird. The song sparrow subspecies *melodia* is the widespread and abundant breeder of most of the eastern US and Canada, variable in plumage but generally dark, sometimes reddish-tinged, brown with rich brown streaks below. The distribution of its sister subspecies *atlantica* is much more restricted, both geographically and in terms of habitat. These somewhat grayer, colder-toned birds are salt marsh breeders, found year-round from Long Island to the Carolinas. As eBird’s virgule suggests, they are probably not reliably distinguished in the field, but if you pay attention to your song sparrows, you will soon notice warm-colored birds and cold-colored birds, gray ones and brown ones, and it is likely that in at least some cases, those differences coincide with subspecies limits.

My New Year’s resolution for 2022: To look hard at as many song sparrows as I can. And at every other bird I run across, too.

Gary Annibal
Judy Graf
Rich Masson
Time will tell.

Dark-eyed junco
Heard: blue jay, Seen: white-breasted nuthatch
Great blue heron. Lion Gate Park Bloomfield- Still there today-Wintering?



Matthew Schuler Common redpoll in Wisconsin



Sara Farber
Karenne Snow

Crow
American black ducks off the deck in Port Republic. They are not usually here!

Justine Carson

Northern pintail duck at DeKorte Park

Marianne Ofenloch	Heard: northern cardinal, Seen: black-capped chickadee
Benita Fishbein	Northern cardinal
David Fishbein	Black-capped chickadee
Don Phillips	Mourning dove



Donna Traylor	White-breasted nuthatch
Don Traylor	Tufted titmouse
Nancy Wolff	Three crows in Hackettstown, New Jersey
Deb DeSalvo	Junco. My first bird of 2022—Delightful and a joy to see every time: A junco! Actually, a flock of dark-eyed juncos at our little pond.
Anna Karapin-Springorum	Blue jay
Nora Hummel	Blue jay
Jack Leigh	Canada goose
Rick Wood	Carolina chickadee



Susan Sheldon	Herring gull
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The Montclair Bird Club 2021 Year in Review

December 31, 2021

For the second time, I unfortunately make the following statement: In a tumultuous year unlike any we have ever experienced before, the Montclair Bird Club met the challenge of staying in contact with its membership throughout the year with virtual meetings, a newsletter, and quizzes. The last in-person meeting was held in March 2019. Our meetings continue to be virtual, but we are again in the field watching birds and appreciating nature.

Broadwing

The *Broadwing*, our club newsletter, was distributed monthly over the entire year. All the 2021, issues, and some back issues, are available on the club website. Contributions were received from friends and members in the United States, United Kingdom, Trinidad & Tobago, and Costa Rica. Some issues carried stories about birding and nature locations that could be of interest to our members and friends.

Quizzes

Fifty-two quizzes were distributed, one each Sunday morning. The quizzes are still intended to be educational, but the audience is getting smarter and knows more of the answers. The quizzes will continue to be a Sunday feature until we run out of ideas.

Zoom

All our meetings this year were virtual Zoom gatherings. Though we were making plans to resume in-person meetings in 2022, Covid has halted those plans for the foreseeable future. It does not, however, change our intention to continue with hybrid meetings (Zoom plus in-person) when we are able to return to meetings with refreshments.

Zoom will be an essential component of meetings even after we return to in-person bird club meetings. Zoom has allowed us, and will continue to allow us, to invite speakers from anywhere without the need to ask them to travel to New Jersey. It has also enabled us to expand membership well beyond our state borders.

Bird Club Meetings

Computer teleconferencing helped realize our ambition to remain connected with friends and members. A significant portion of our membership appears to be comfortable with using Zoom, but one of our goals for next year is to increase participation in virtual meetings.

January 2021:	Modern-Day Exploration in the Tropics, by Dan Lane.
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Virtual Bird Walks

Monthly VBWs continued through 2021. Each of the themed meetings allowed the club's photographers and people interested in photography to present their work. The images were excellent, and the stories that accompanied them were a very welcome addition. The club will continue with VBWs in 2022. The monthly themes are decided upon at the preceding meeting and posted in the *Broadwing*.

MontclairBirdClub.org

The website is updated frequently, and we have a reasonable number of visits. The **Let's Chat** feature has been used by members and prospective members to ask questions and seek birding guidance.

All the details for each of the planned trips can be found on the website. If you haven't visited the website recently, it will be worth your while to explore it again.

The website's **Archive** contains all the quizzes the club has distributed and all 2021 issues of the *Broadwing*.

Essay Competition

The Else Greenstone Avian Essay Competition was initiated this year. Covid has interfered with the competition. The deadline for entries was extended to the end of the year. The portion of the competition open to younger children who submit pictures will award prizes from a random drawing.

High School Student Lectures

An RFP has been sent to Montclair High School trying to identify students interested in submitting proposals for a nature lecture. No entries were received in 2021. The offer remains open in 2022. The winning lecture will be presented either in person or on Zoom.

University Student Lecture

Another RFP for a university student to present a lecture was distributed by Montclair State University on January 1, 2021. No entries were received. In 2022, our outreach will be extended to additional universities.

Meet-ups

Meet-ups, or leaderless walks, were introduced in 2021 and were organized by a club member. Attendance at the meet-ups has been excellent.

Binoculars

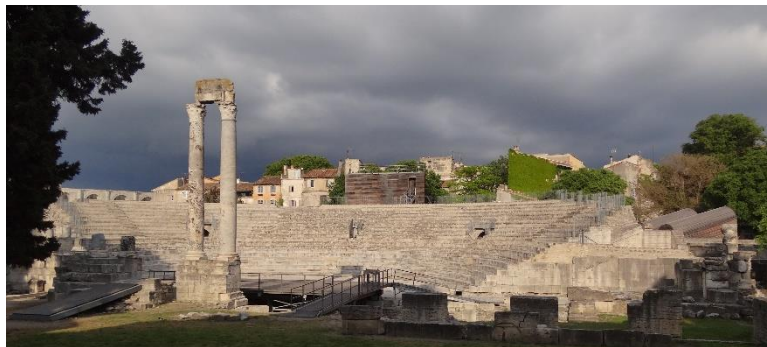
The club purchased 10 pairs of binoculars for school birding events and for use at the Montclair Hawkwatch. Zeiss donated a pair of binoculars to one of our club members.

Membership

The club membership at the end of the year is 100. The combined number of members and friends is 333.

Respectfully submitted by Sanford Sorkin





Roman theater of Arles

Upcoming VENT Tours

VentBird.com

**VICTOR
EMANUEL
NATURE
TOURS**

Nebraska:	Cranes and Prairie-Chickens	March 15–22, 2022; March 15–22, 2023
Kansas:	Shorebirds on the Prairie	April 18–4, 2022; April 17–23, 2023
New Jersey:	Birding the American Revolution	May 13–20, 2023
France:	Birds and Art in Provence	May 12–20, 2022; May 22–30, 2023
France:	Birds and Art in Burgundy	May 20–29, 2022
Germany:	Birds and Art in Berlin	May 30 – June 9, 2022; September 28 – October 7, 2023
Colorado:	Summer in Estes Park	June 19–25, 2022; June 18–24, 2023
Colorado:	Mountain Plover and Longspurs	June 25–28, 2022; June 24–27, 2023
Sweden:	Fall on Öland	August 28 – September 4, 2022
Spain:	Birds and Art in Asturias	September 7–16, 2022
South Africa:	Birds, Culture, and History	September 27 – October 4, 2022
Italy:	Venice and the Po Delta	October 7–15, 2023
Israel:	Birds, Culture, and History	November 3–15, 2023



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



**Viking ship burial
on Öland**



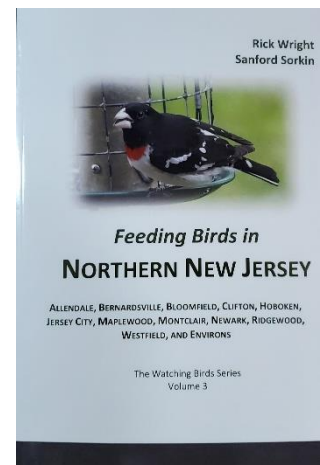
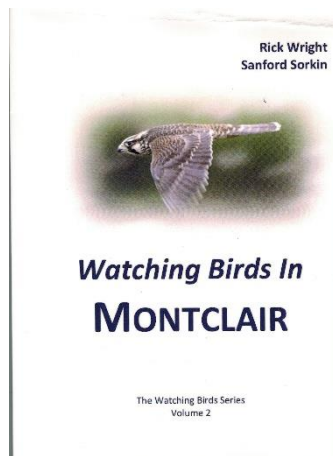
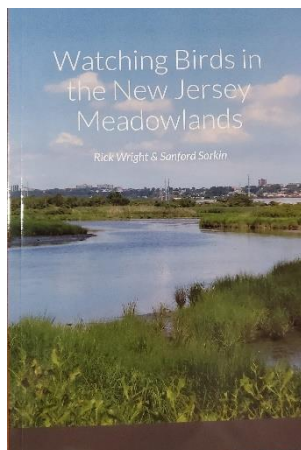
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SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
April 5–11, 2022
with Rick Wright

A perennial winner in the contest for Birdiest County in the US, San Diego offers the visiting birder an almost overwhelming mix of habitats, from tidal salt marsh and desert chaparral to boreal forest. Among the specialties and rarities to be sought here are the mountain quail, Allen hummingbird, Nuttall and white-headed woodpeckers, wrentit, and “the Californians”: the quail, the thrasher, the towhee, and the endangered gnatcatcher.

April is also prime time for a wide variety of more common and more widespread western migrant, too. Based in a single hotel, we will drive each day to a different combination of sites--none much more than 60 miles from the San Diego airport--as we get a taste of some of the most exciting birding on the continent.

Minimum of 4, maximum of 7 registrants. Participants are responsible for their own airfare, lodging expenses, and food. The non-refundable registration fee, covering vehicle rental and the volunteer leader’s expenses, is expected to be between \$700 and \$900, depending on number of participants. **To be placed on the waiting list for this trip, email Sandy Sorkin at montclairbirdclub100@gmail.com.**

SOUTH AFRICA: WESTERN CAPE AND KRUGER
September 27 to October 14, 2022
with Rick Wright and Patrick Cardwell

We start in Cape Town and return from Johannesburg, in between visiting sites such as West Coast National Park, the Cape of Good Hope, Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden, and Kruger National Park. We will enjoy a vast range of birdlife, from penguins to rollers to cisticolas, along with many of the large mammals that South Africa is so famous for. With visits to Robben Island, the site of Nelson Mandela's long imprisonment, and Johannesburg's Apartheid Museum, our trip also offers insight into the history and culture of this beautiful and diverse country.

Strictly limited to 12 participants plus the two leaders, this trip is open to LSNY members, members of the Montclair Bird Club, and clients of Victor Emanuel Nature Tours. For more information and to register, please email or phone Erik Lindqvist at erik@ventbird.com or (800) 328-8368.

\$750 early registration discount for registrations before June 1!

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

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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
Treasurer Sandy Sorkin
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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