

The Broadwing



Publication of the Montclair Bird Club
February 2023

Montclair, NJ
Volume LXIX, Number 6

Message from the Editor February 2023

Dear Members and Friends,

Most of this issue is dedicated to FOY, or First of Year bird sightings. It appears that many respondents saw a “better” bird shortly after the first, and others heard but didn’t see “better” birds. For fairness, if it was reported, it was included.

This issue also includes the first installment of a book that will be serialized in *The Broadwing*.

I would like to thank everyone that contributed to this issue, including Deb DeSalvo, who should have had every opportunity to see something other than an FOY Canada goose.

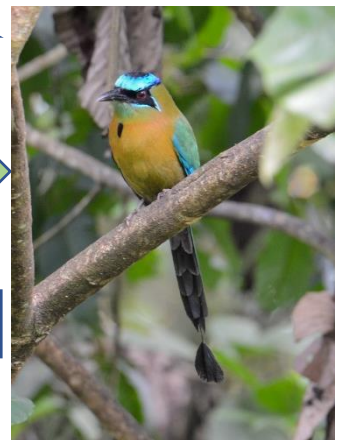
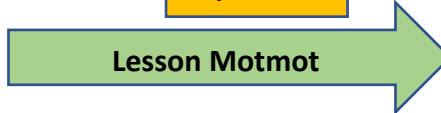
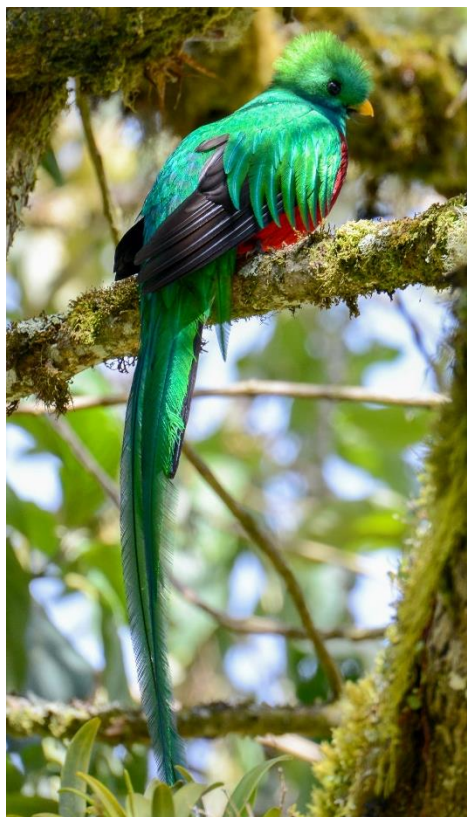
Sandy

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Next club meeting: Wednesday February 8, 2023
Virtual Bird Walk: Thursday, February 23, 2023
Theme: A Month in the Life of a Birder

Great Tails



FOY 2023: Mourning Dove

Rick Wright

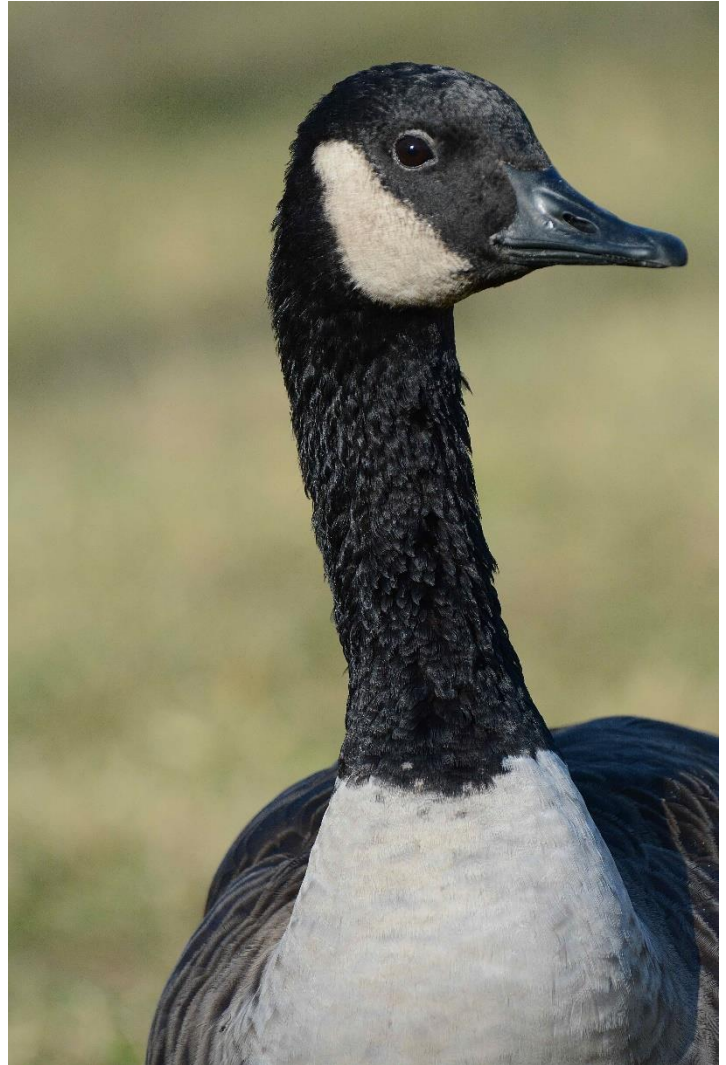
“At least,” thought I, “it wasn’t a starling or a house sparrow.” The mourning dove shuffling around beneath our feeders still felt a bit humdrum as a New Year’s bird. But then I reminded myself that this lovely native pigeon wasn’t always so deadeningly familiar a sight here in northern New Jersey, especially at this season. In the mid-1950s, Fables considered wintering mourning doves exceptional north of the Raritan; a century ago, Griscom listed the species as rare to uncommon anywhere near New York City. From 1905 to 1910, our local area’s most active birder, Louis Kohler, tallied a total of ten mourning doves in Essex County, and his last nesting record was from 1903. Today, the mourning dove is one the most abundant and most conspicuous land birds on the continent, hard to miss in Bloomfield and Montclair on any day of the year. Especially, it seems, on New Year’s Day.



First Bird of the Year: 2023

A few people sent me “practice entries” in the last week of December and were reminded that I was looking for 2023 birds. While the request was for a first bird, a few people sent their second as well. Maybe in the future, I’ll ask for the best bird of the first. After compiling the list below, I was presented with a small dilemma: should there be a distinction between hearing and seeing? Next year, it will be either. This year I was a bit fussy and if more than one bird is listed for a person, they both count, but the first listed one is the first bird seen.

Kathryn Sorkin	White-throated sparrow, mourning dove
Sandy Sorkin	Mourning dove, tufted titmouse, black-capped chickadee
Debra DeSalvo	Canada geese
Ewelina Gradzka	European herring gull
Frank Friedman	Blue jay
Gary Annibal	Tufted titmouse, black-capped chickadee, white-breasted nuthatch
Mathew Schuler	Eastern bluebird
Sara Poor	Mourning dove
Karenne Snow	House finch, yellow-bellied sapsucker
AnneMarie DeRemer	Mourning dove
Ivan Kossak	Merlin
Jimmy Lee	Tufted titmouse
Benita Fishbein	Northern cardinal, slate-colored junco
Evan Cutler	Dark-eyed junco
Carolyn Blanckmeister	Red-bellied woodpecker
Betsy Broihier	Nanday parakeet
Ric Cohn	Fish crow
Rick Wright	Mourning dove
Michael Sheldon	Northern cardinal
Vera Lazarv	Blue jay
Alex Bernzweig	Northern cardinal (male), downy woodpecker
Ardith Bondi	Pigeon
Marianne Ofenloch	Black-capped chickadee, song sparrow
Diane Holsinger	Verdin
Dawn Pompeo	Tufted titmouse
Robert Baum	Ring-billed gull, white-throated sparrow
Karyn Cichocki	Dark-eyed junco, great horned owl
Diana Lunin	Red-winged blackbird
Susan Stevenson	Mountain chickadee
Donna Traylor	Canada goose, northern cardinal
Fred Pfeifer	Mallard
Wayne Greenstone	Canada goose



Garret Mountain Reservation

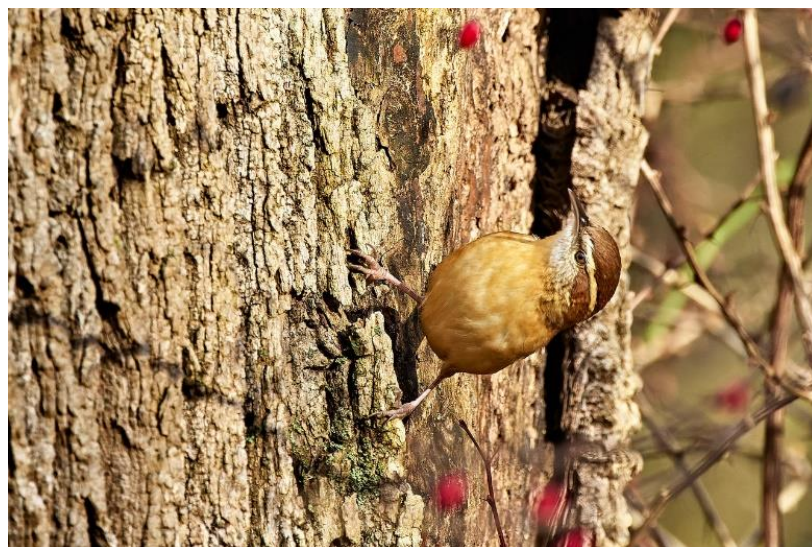
January 1, 2023

Ric Cohn and Fred Pfeifer had a lot to choose from for First of Year. Ric reported a fish crow. Here is the rest of the list from their four-hour walk.

Canada Goose	American Crow
Mallard	Fish Crow
Ring-necked Duck	Black-capped Chickadee
Hooded Merganser	Tufted Titmouse
Common Merganser	White-breasted Nuthatch
Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon)	Winter Wren
Mourning Dove	Carolina Wren
Ring-billed Gull	Northern Mockingbird
Great Blue Heron	American Robin
Black Vulture	House Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	Dark-eyed Junco
Red-tailed Hawk	White-throated Sparrow
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Song Sparrow
Downy Woodpecker	Northern Cardinal
Blue Jay	



Garret Mountain: photos by Ric Cohn



The First Bird of 2023, Or: Oh, Canada!

Deb DeSalvo

The sunrise this morning was spectacular! The sky was clear, which was most welcome after yesterday's thick and dramatic fog. There were pink and orange clouds scattered across the azure sky, as well as a few long contrails stretching from east to west. The brilliant sun, as it came over the horizon and above the tree line, lit up our farm field planted with mustard, turning it golden, as a gentle mist was lifting. It was a magical sight.

And with the sun came the Canada geese: My first bird(s) of 2023. At all times of the day, every day of the week, all year long, these local "honkers" fly from one pond to another in our bucolic neighborhood. I see them all the time. It makes sense. They are living the good life and have all the things that make them stick around: Agricultural fields in which to nibble on old corn stalks, grassy rolling horse farms, and plenty of ponds. In our neighborhood alone, we have three large ponds. And the geese fly from one to the next to the next thrice daily.



I realize it isn't too kind of me to wish my first bird of the year were anything but a Canada goose. It's not that I don't like them—unlike the neighbors I had in Montclair who would fight their presence in a local park and advocate using a series of methods to get rid of them and their filthy, evil goose-y ways. It is just that I see Canada geese every day. And not just one. Many.

I had hoped my first bird of the year would be the female northern harrier who has shown herself here on our farm three or four times a week. She loves to perch on our deer fence, which was made from our very own cedar trees that had blown over in a storm some years back. I think our harrier appreciates that the posts are actual trees. Maybe it is just that they provide an excellent vantage point. She sits and looks in every direction onto the mustard, which is about three feet high. Or she looks down into the swale that extends along the back of the house and is covered with wildflowers that have gone to seed. The voles, shrews, and field mice take shelter in these areas, and our harrier takes advantage of the bountiful habitat.

My first bird of 2023 could have been one of the six eastern bluebirds that have chosen to stay

here this winter, after successful broods in our two nest boxes this past summer. They continue to explore these boxes almost daily: The males typically sit on top, and the females tend to peek their heads and bodies into the cavity. They, too, love our deer fence and perch on the posts or the wire squares, sitting side by side and hunching their bodies to take a side glance to the ground. They dart down and come back up with some sort of crawly critter.



I had hoped that my first bird of the year would be the local great blue heron that fishes in our brook and does a daily commute from north to south along the edge of our field, near the brook. Or perhaps the local belted kingfisher, who also fishes in our brook and makes that distinctive trill almost every day to let us know he is there. Two days ago, I heard two kingfishers calling to each other.

It would have been a real treat to have my first bird of 2023 be an American kestrel. We had a few visit us for a few days in late October, perhaps part of a migrating bunch, but they are not seen regularly, and I knew it was a long shot. We have two nest boxes on our property and are ever hopeful that we will host a pair in the spring. The starlings, not a bird I would have wished for as my first bird of the year, typically nest in one of the boxes, and we must be quick to remove them before they take over and begin nesting.



Now, I know March is only two months away. At that time, the woodcocks will return, and I will be out there (as will some of you) in the dusk hours listening to their distinctive “meeps” and watching their acrobatic propulsions into the skies. Of course, the woodcock would not be my first bird of 2023. It would either indicate I saw nothing in January and February or that something was very wrong in the mating and migrating schedule of one of my favorite birds. And so, alas, I am resigned to the fact that it was many Canada geese. They may be a nuisance to park-goers in Montclair, but out here in

Hunterdon County, they are part of the landscape and very much a part of the neighborhood. I remind myself that even though I see them every day, and they are ubiquitous, if I didn't see

them, I would be sad. I guess I can dream about next year. Maybe I will go out at the crack of dawn and try to get a glimpse of or a sound from our local great horned owl.

My husband and I moved out to Tewksbury, NJ, in 2020 and into our farmhouse in 2021. We live in a net-zero home on a farm and grow heirloom grains. Please come visit. The birding is wonderful and the area is gorgeous. We will be hosting a couple of walks this spring for the MBC on our farm. We hope you can join us. In the meantime, feel free to peruse our website to see what we are all about. It is much more interesting than counting geese.



www.coldbrookfarmnj.com

Deb DeSalvo
Cold Brook Farm
Oldwick, NJ

Montclair High School Bird Club First Bird of Year 2023

Sherry Sutphen Sackie	Junco
Dave Aguilar	Osprey
Maria Moyser	Tufted titmouse!
Barbara Conover	I always hear the crows first every morning, before I'm vertical... first seen, well: darned house sparrow, as usual...
Erin Patelmeyer	House finch!
Sagar Patelmeyer	American Crow!
Kathee Shaw Cousins	Final memorable 2022 sighting: LOB! don't wish to hijack this post but wondering if anyone else saw the ginormous eagle in Montclair or Glen Ridge this week. I saw it soaring over Walnut Street Wed and over South End Thur.
Mike Davenport	Heard: American crow, Seen: mourning doves
Lisa Croft	Starlings. Happy New Year!
Steve Turrise	Peregrine falcon!!! 😎
Kathee Shaw Cousins	A very melodic and friendly chickadee in my dogwood tree.
Sarah Levin Goodstine	Northern cardinal (female)!
Melissa Major	Turkey vulture!
Patrick Belardo	Red-bellied WP outside my window. But I was later rewarded with a new yard bird: 8 Snow Geese flew over. A long overdue bird for my yard.
Alyssa De	Dark-eyed juncos on my feeders.
Joseph Barbieri	American Robins digging for worms

Edwin B. Forsythe NWR (aka Brigantine)

January 9, 2023

Donna Traylor

The day of our Brigantine trip dawned soggy, but by the time our group of twelve bird enthusiasts started out, the sun was out and the sky was blue—a good omen! Our cumulative list numbered 49 species by mid-afternoon, when we called it a day.

We began with a quick look in the woods near the visitor center. American goldfinches shared space high in the trees with house finches and several yellow-rumped warblers. A nearby cedar hosted a downy woodpecker with a hermit thrush perched just below—a nice winter find. In the brushy areas were song and white-throated sparrows and a lone Carolina wren who made a quick appearance for some.

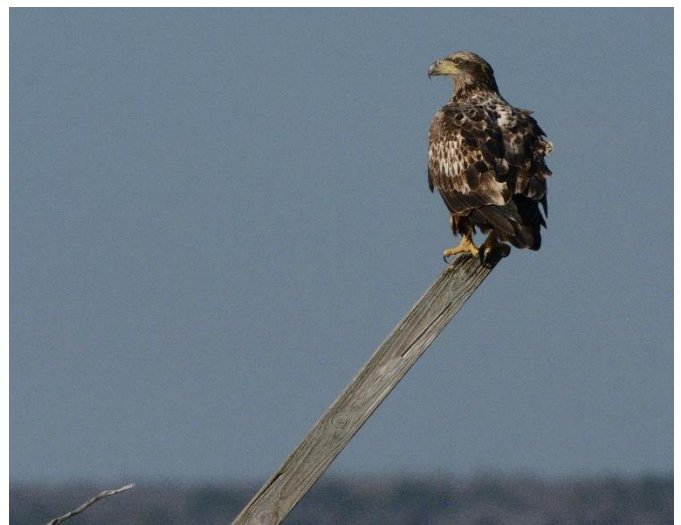
As we departed the parking lot, our first (of about five) bald eagles appeared circling high over the marshes. Stop one of the nine-mile wildlife drive was the Gull Tower. Ducks started popping up –mallard, black duck, northern shoveler, hooded merganser to name a few, along with mute swans and a distant northern harrier. Our group had a leisurely ride for the next four hours or so, stopping frequently to scope the marshes. All three species of merganser were tallied along with close-ups of northern pintails in nice light. Both species of scaup were seen, along with small ducks including good numbers of green-winged teal and buffleheads and some ruddy ducks. A treat was finding three redheads among a flock of scaup: very nice. Along the back end, we finally came across American wigeon. The snow geese numbered in the thousands, and were occasionally put up by a circling peregrine falcon. We did have a flock of geese within about 25 feet of the road at one point, and it was neat to not only watch them feeding but to listen to the variety of sounds they make.

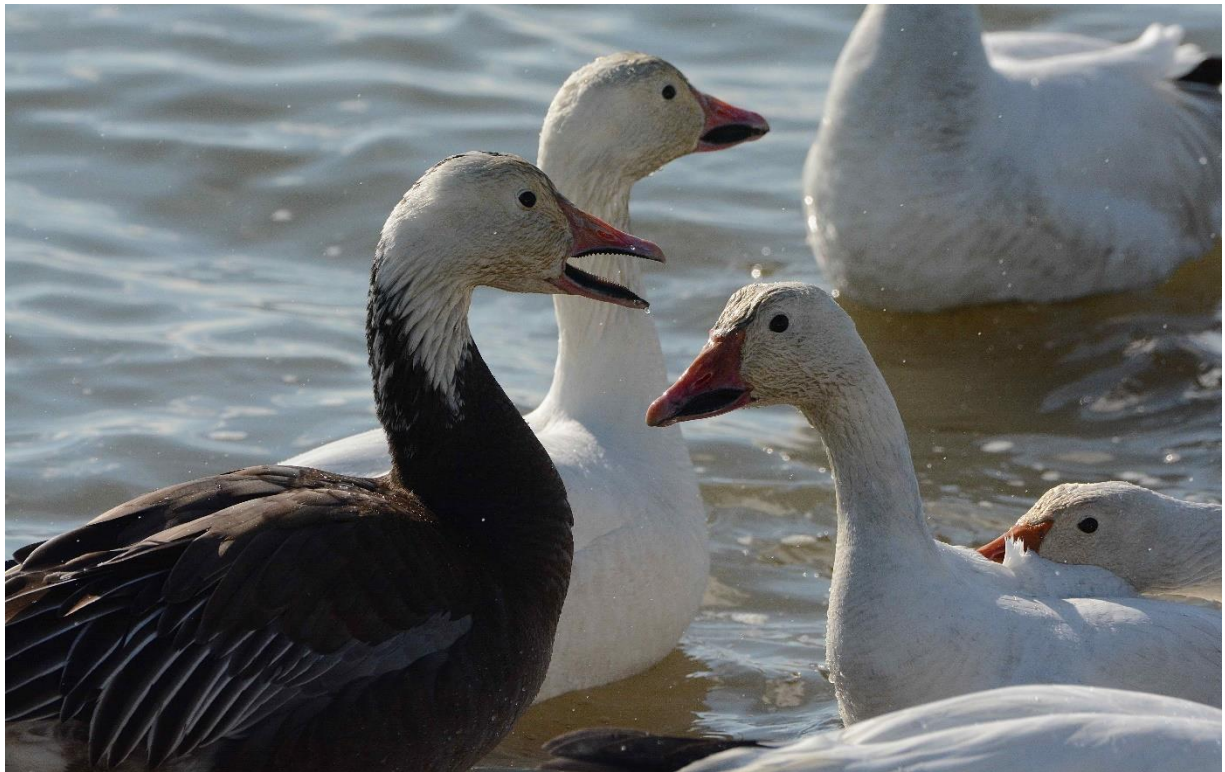
We searched for the elusive Ross goose, but it was not to be. A surprise bird of the day was a lone red-necked grebe that was reasonably close but gave only a quick teasing look to some before diving, never to be relocated. Finishing off our sightings for the day was a single American tree sparrow in a bush, which let us get scopes on it.

Our group worked well together and helped everyone to get onto as many species as possible: thanks to everyone for sharing your knowledge. It was a good winter day of birding at the Jersey Shore!

Edwin B. Forsythe NWR (aka Brigantine)
January 9, 2023

Canada goose	Red-breasted merganser	Northern flicker
Mute swan	Ruddy duck	Peregrine falcon
Northern shoveler	Horned grebe	Blue jay
Gadwall	Red-necked grebe	American crow
American wigeon	American coot	Carolina chickadee
Mallard	Dunlin	Tufted titmouse
American black duck	Ring-billed gull	Carolina wren
Northern pintail	Herring gull	Hermit thrush
Green-winged teal	Great black-backed gull	American robin
Redhead	Great blue heron	House finch
Ring-necked duck	Turkey vulture	American goldfinch
Greater scaup	Bald eagle	American tree sparrow
Lesser scaup	Northern harrier	Song sparrow
Bufflehead	Cooper's hawk	White-throated sparrow
Hooded merganser	Belted kingfisher	Yellow-rumped warbler
Common merganser	Downy woodpecker	Northern cardinal





**Montclair Bird Club Meet-up: Forsythe/Brigantine
January 9, 2023: Photos by Ric Cohn**



Migrant Trap

Æneas Faber

ONE

It was a good day, a big day. In fact, it was *The Big Day*, the annual spring migration count of our Averno Bird Club. With only 134 species on our day's list, my group had pretty clearly not beat out the other four or five teams scouring Lavinia County, but we had turned up one find that would almost certainly take the prize for best bird of the day. Early that morning, I'd been birding a little apart from the other members of our team with Dorothy, Averno's most skilled birder and my part-time sales assistant at Faber and Co. The light rain that had been falling since before dawn was tapering off, and warblers were everywhere. Suddenly, Do stopped and reached out to touch my hand—and then I heard it, too, a soft, fast, buzzy song, coming from somewhere in the honey locust above us. Distracted, I couldn't quite place it: "Green?" "Maybe," Do whispered, "but I've never heard...."

Just as the rest of the group caught up with us, a black-and-white mite of a bird dropped for a second to a bare branch at eye level; it plucked a fat inchworm from behind a leaf, bludgeoned it against its perch, and opened its mouth to sing. Behind us we heard a soft gasp, a whispered oath, and the hissed identification: "Black-throated gray warbler!" Indeed it was, a first for Lavinia County, a thousand miles east of its usual range, and one of only a few records for the species ever in the state; the bird sang once again and disappeared into the foliage as we congratulated each other on what was sure to be a once-in-a-lifetime sighting. Phoebe Miller, the usually reserved grande dame of local birders, grinned broadly and twirled her gilt opera glasses as she pronounced the bird "unprecedented"; Penny Lenquist exchanged a high-five with a whooping Tuck Salter, whose county list—helped along by years of rural house calls—had been hovering just one species shy of 300 for nearly three years.

It was a state bird for me, too, but I am not the impassioned lister that Tuck and some of our other club members are, and so I was surprised to find myself experiencing the classic symptoms of the twitch: my heart beating so fast, my skin tingling so warm, my breath coming so short. Tuck put his arm around Dorothy and clapped me vigorously—quite vigorously—on the shoulder, booming out: "Go ahead, you



two, give us old geezers the slip all the time if you're going to come up with birds like that!" Do smiled politely, and blushing, gently let go of my hand, which had been clutching hers unawares, in the excitement of the chase, since we first heard the black-throated gray.

To be continued

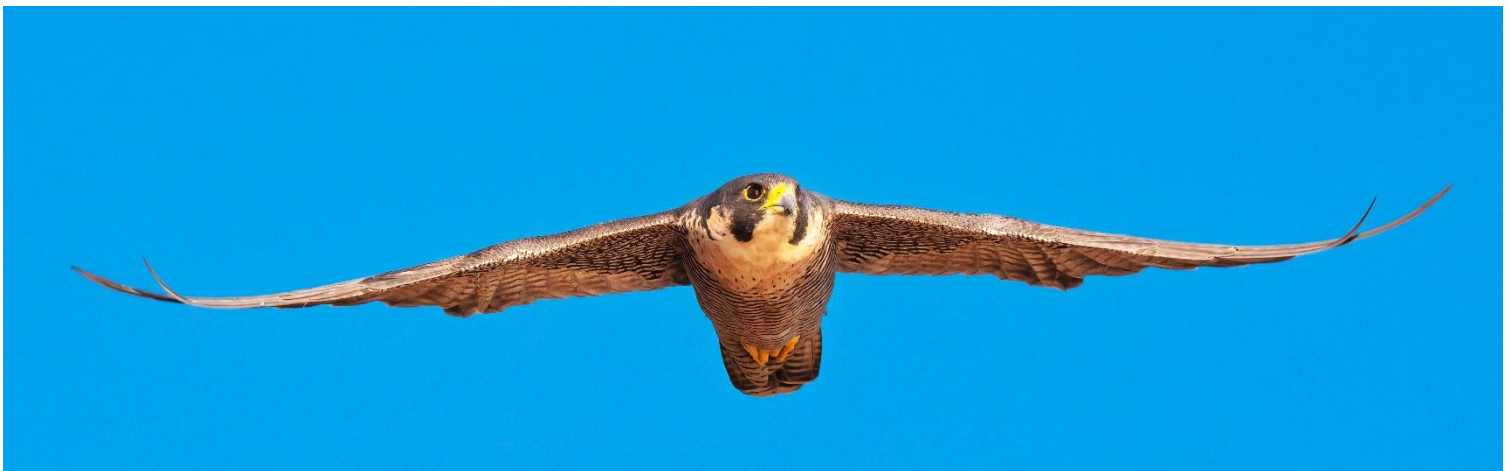
SAVE THE DATE **COUNTING FOR ELSE**

The Montclair Broadwings will soar once more in the fortieth New Jersey Audubon World Series of Birding, on May 13, 2023.

We are calling all hawkwatchers, counters, interns, friends, and family of the Montclair Hawkwatch to count birds on that day, wherever in the world you are, to add to the species list—and to raise funds to support its important conservation mission.

Our goals are simple: to have the highest number and diversity of bird species of any team in the World Series and to raise the most funds for a New Jersey Audubon Ambassador team.

Details on how to register and submit your count will be provided in future communications.



New understanding of how woodpeckers hammer trees

Laura Erickson

One of the great pleasures of winter is listening for drumming woodpeckers. Their loud tattoos ringing out across a frigid, otherwise silent northern landscape fill me with hope that winter will eventually come to an end, even as I marvel at the adaptations that allow these splendid birds to slam their faces into solid wood.

Natural selection would obviously favor physiological and morphological modifications protecting woodpeckers from concussions and long-term brain damage. But natural selection must also favor adaptations making their percussive pecks as loud as possible and their hammering as powerful as possible to dig out insects deep in the wood and excavate nesting and roosting cavities. The needs for protection and for power would seem to be diametrically opposed.

Traditionally, people have been more focused on understanding adaptations that protect woodpecker brains than those that make them such mighty hammerers. Indeed, some engineers have incorporated elements of woodpecker anatomy into football helmet designs. One of the most-read articles at BirdWatchingDaily.com, written by the late Eldon Greij in 2013, is titled “Why woodpeckers can hammer without getting headaches,” an overview of the ways scientists have speculated that woodpecker anatomy protects the brain.

BirdWatching: [Woodpeckers](#)

QUIZ: Bird is the Word

This short quiz will require that you know at least eight different four-letter words. In this case, the words are all bird names. For example, in H___CUSES, the bird’s name is IBIS and the English word formed is **HIBISCUSES**.

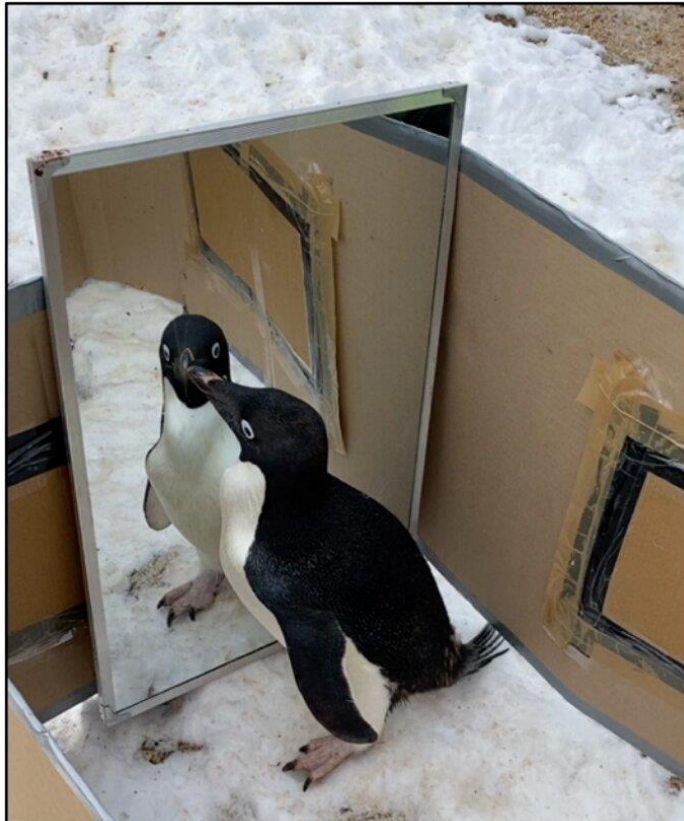
Add a different four-letter bird name to each of the following to complete an English word.

T___LES, S___TH, FRA___AL, ES___OLOGIC

MA___Y, HAN___R, SEMIT___ER, ES___ED

The answers are on page 18.

Mirror test of wild penguins suggests they may possess self-awareness



An Adelle penguin gazing intently at their image during a modified mirror test. *bioRxiv* (2022)

A trio of researchers—one with the Indian government's Ministry of Earth Sciences, another with the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, and the third with the National Institute of Advanced Studies, also in India—has found that some species of wild penguins may have some degree of self-awareness.

Prabir Ghosh Dastidar, Azizuddin Khan, and Anindya Sinha have written a paper describing their study of the behavior of Adelle penguins in Antarctica and what they learned in their effort. The full paper is available on the *bioRxiv* preprint server.

Prior research has shown that self-awareness is rare in the animal kingdom—up to now, only a few mammals, some birds, and some fish have been found to have it. In humans, it is an easy thing to test, but in animals

it takes some doing. Most studies have used what is known as the mirror test, where, as the name suggests, test animals are allowed to see themselves in a mirror while researchers study their reactions. Phys.org: [Penguins](#)

DUES

Annual membership dues are due. Individual dues are \$25, and family dues are \$35.

Students are free.

Please make your check out to the *Montclair Bird Club* and mail it to

**Montclair Bird Club
c/o Sanford Sorkin, Treasurer
3 Marquette Road
Upper Montclair, NJ 07043-2625**

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.

Cape Ann, Massachusetts

Wednesday, February 15, through Friday, February 17



The Montclair Bird Club's annual Cape Ann, Massachusetts, trip will run from Wednesday, February 15, 2023, to Friday February 17, 2023; arrive on Tuesday so that we can start birding first thing Wednesday morning. We will stay at the Fairfield Inn in Amesbury, Massachusetts (details to follow). As soon as I firm up whether we will make reservations through a group rate or Birders rate, I will advise all; details and phone numbers for the hotel will then be posted.

Typically, we plan to spend one full day birding Gloucester and Rockport and the second day in Amesbury and Newburyport. Both days will be along the coast, so dress for windy and cold conditions—layers are important. The locations we will bird include Salisbury Reservation and Plum Island (on the Amesbury and Newburyport day) and Bass Rocks, Eastern Point Lighthouse, and Halibut Point Reservation. There is minimal walking on this trip, but good boots are still recommended due to potential snowy and icy conditions. The trip list can be a who's who of wintering birds along the Atlantic Coast. Hopefully, this will include all three species of scoter, two species of loon, harlequin ducks, eiders, alcids, both cormorants, grebes, winter finches (should any be reported, we will search them out), owls including snowy and short-eared, rough-legged hawks, and eagles. Friday is usually a half day of birding along the (short) New Hampshire coast; the trip normally concludes around noon, allowing you to return to New

Jersey by dark. If you have a scope, please bring it, since many birds are at a distance on the open water.

The hotel provides a good hot breakfast. We will try to find indoor lunch stops. If we anticipate running into a problem regarding lunch, we will let you know the day before so you can make arrangements to bring your own food. Dinners are a group affair; I will make reservations prior to the trip. There are some wonderful restaurants in Newburyport, about a ten-minute drive from the hotel, offering a diverse menu of seafood, beef, and chicken dishes.

I will need to know **by February 8** whether you are planning on attending so I can make the dinner reservations for Wednesday and Thursday. Also, if you plan on arriving early enough for dinner on the 14th and would like to have a group dinner, let me know as soon as possible, since this is Valentine's Day and restaurants will likely be busy. Feel free to email me with any questions at dtraylor@ptd.net.



2022–2023 Officers

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Vice President	Evan Cutler
Secretary	Pat Sanders
Treasurer	Sandy Sorkin

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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 reduce anxiety and make us smile.

Sandy

MontclairBirdClub100@gmail.com

Answers:

Ruff, teal, tern, chat
Lark, dove, rail, crow

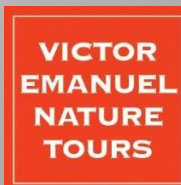
TruffLES, StealTH, FRATernAL, ESchatOLOGIC

MAlarkY, HANdover, SEMITrailer, ESCrowED

Upcoming VENT Tours

VentBird.com

Kansas	Shorebirds on the Prairie	April 23–29, 2023
France	Birds and Art in Provence	May 22–30, 2023
Colorado	A Summer Stay in Estes Park	June 18–24, 2023; June 17–23, 2024
Colorado	Northeast Colorado Extension	June 24–27, 2023; June 23–26, 2024
Germany	Birds and Art in Berlin	September 28 – October 7, 2023
Italy	Venice and the Po Delta	October 7–15, 2023
Israel	Birds and Culture in the Holy Land	November 3–15, 2023
Nebraska	Sandhill Cranes and Prairie Chickens	March 15–22, 2024
Alabama	The Gulf Coast and Dauphin Island	April 21–26, 2024
Greece	The North of Greece	May 5–20, 2024
Scotland	Wild Scotland	May 26 – June 27, 2024
Spain	Birds and Art in Asturias	August 28 – September 6, 2024



In This Issue

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- Page 5: Mountain chickadee, by Susan Stevenson; tufted titmouse, by Gary Annibal; northern cardinal, by Donna Traylor (DT); Canada goose (DT)
- Page 6: White-breasted nuthatch, by Ric Cohn (RC)
- Page 7: Winter wren, red-bellied woodpecker, downy woodpecker, Carolina wren (RC)
- Page 13-14 Northern pintail, snow geese, bald eagle (DT)
- Page 15: Snow geese, bald eagles, great blue heron (RC)
- Page 16: Black-throated gray warbler (SS)
- Page 17: Peregrine falcon, by Wayne Greenstone

February Virtual Bird Walk

The theme for February 23: **“A Month in the Life of a Birder”**

You select the month.

You are welcome to display your own images or forward them to Sandy at MontclairBirdClub100@gmail.com, to be included in a group PowerPoint.



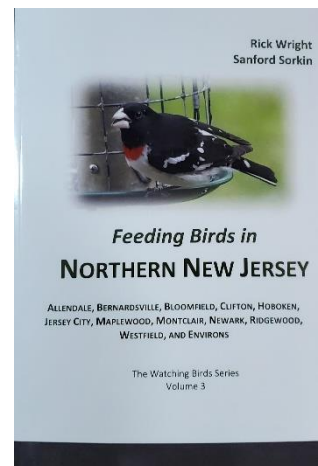
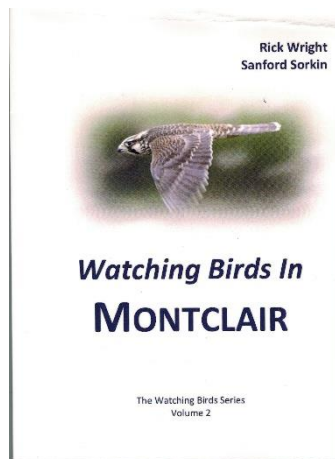
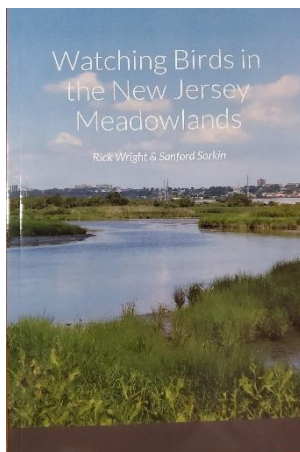
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THE BROADWING

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

**Send photos, field notes, or articles to Sandy at
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