

The Broadwing



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June 2020

Montclair, NJ
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Hooded Mergansers at Garret Mountain

President's Message June 2020

This is the first Montclair Bird Club Broadwing picture issue in the tradition of Life Magazine and Sports Illustrated without social commentary or swimsuits. Fifteen members and friends of the club contributed with wonderful pictures and some poetry reflecting the last twelve months. A few people had the opportunity to travel in the first part of the year and others concentrated on the view from their window or backyard.

Ironically, social distancing has generated a renewed interest in birding and nature across the country, which is precisely the focus of our club. We had interesting speakers throughout the year and awarded two scholarships to Montclair High School students for professionally researched and informative lectures in March. Once we resume regular meetings, we will request another lecture proposal be distributed to students.

I hope this issue is well received by everyone, and that everyone keeps creatively active and starts to create submissions for next June. Ideally, it will be at a regular meeting, but maybe we should also have another photography Broadwing.

Finally, I want to thank you to everyone who participated.

Sandy

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Rick Wright



Belding Sparrow, Orange Co., CA

Darkly elegant, the Belding sparrow is found only in the coastal marshes of southern California and Baja California, where this globally rare bird can be seen in good concentrations. It shares its imperiled habitat with snowy plovers, Ridgway rails, and wintering black brant.



Cassin Sparrow, Hidalgo Co., Texas

Most birders know the Cassin sparrow from its southwestern breeding grounds, where males show off in a spectacular song flight during monsoon season. The rest of the year, though, this plain-plumaged bird is secretive and silent. One of the best areas to get good looks at numbers of them in the non-breeding season is southern Texas, where small groups winter on brushy fencelines.



Collared Pratincole, Catalonia, Spain

Vaguely plover-like on the ground, these elegant Old World shorebirds behave like giant swallows in the air, taking insects in powerful swooping flight. They are most abundant in eastern Europe, but numbers persist in Italy, France, and Spain. A similar species, the Oriental pratincole, has occurred in Alaska.



Common Redstart, Tuscany, Italy

This uncommonly colorful little bird gave its English name to the only very distantly related redstarts of the Americas. Closely related to the robins and chats of the Old World, common redstarts live up to their name over much of their extensive range, nesting commonly in orchards, suburban yards, and open woodlands.



Dunnock, Catalonia, Spain

This is a familiar garden bird over much of its European range, though in Spain, where this photo was taken, the dunnock tends to occupy scrubby, rocky habitats at high elevation. Dunnocks are notorious for the easygoing flexibility of their mating systems.



Grasshopper Sparrow, Stutsman Co., North Dakota

The homely but charming grasshopper sparrow is one of the most abundant breeding birds on the mid-continent's mixed-grass prairies. This bird shows the purplish streaked collar of adults, usually impossible to see in the field, and the dull gray panel in the greater coverts, a severely under-appreciated field mark for the species.



Eurasian Wigeon, Monmouth Co., New Jersey

Though it still has not been proved to nest in North America, the Eurasian wigeon is a regular winter visitor across the continent: uncommon on the east coast, scarce in the interior, and common on the west coast, where dozens can be encountered in a good day's birding in Washington or British Columbia. This bird was photographed in the Shark River estuary in Belmar.



Greater Flamingo, Tuscany, Italy

Abundant and gregarious on the salt flats of the Mediterranean, the greater flamingo was long considered conspecific with the American flamingo, in spite of the great difference in coloration: while the American flamingo is deep pinkish red, greaters are a "white" flamingo, revealing the shocking scarlet of their wings only in flight.



European Jay, Małopolska, Poland

Birders used to such flamboyantly rambunctious American species as the blue jay or California jay are often surprised to discover how shy this widespread but inconspicuous European bird is: often the only sign of its presence is a square white rump patch receding into the wooded distance. Like the blue jay, this species is given to irregular fall movements, in some years massive, in others barely noticeable.



Eurasian Griffon, Salzburg, Austria

These huge vultures--only rather distantly related to the American vultures--are doing well in much of southern Europe, where re-introduction programs and increased human tolerance seem to have helped their populations. Birds at the famous griffon roost near Salzburg, Austria, supplement their diet by stealing food from the animals in the nearby zoo.



Gray Jay, Alberta, Canada

Silent, sneaky cheeto-eaters, gray jays are big, fluffy residents of boreal and montane forests in the US and Canada. The eastern subspecies, the Canada jay, typically has a darker head than the subspecies here, the Rocky Mountain jay. Juveniles of all populations are much darker.



European Robin, Bornholm, Denmark

Thanks to Christmas cards and Valentines, the red-breasted adults of this widespread chat are known even to those who have never seen one in life. The juveniles are quite different: greenish brown with dense yellowish spotting. They share their parents' retiring habits and fondness for tail twitching and knee bends.



Slender-billed Gull, Provence, France

Once quite scarce in its western European range, this handsome pink-flushed gull has increased considerably in numbers over the past two decades and is now easily found in summer on Mediterranean salt pannes and mudflats. The scientific name commemorates the nineteenth-century director of the natural history museum in Turin.



Melodious Warbler, Provence, France

It remains a mystery why this scratchy-voiced little bird should be called "melodious." What it lacks in musical ability it more than makes up for in enthusiasm, singing long and loud from every tamarisk clump in southwestern Europe. Melodious warblers can sometimes be hard to glimpse, but the males return again and again to favored song perches; patience almost always pays off.



Squacco Heron, Provence, France

This inconspicuous buffy-brown heron is uncommon in Mediterranean marshes, where it usually spends its time quietly feeding in the vegetation. Squaccos are fairly undistinguished on the ground, but in flight the pure white wings flash bright.



Brewer Duck, Provence, France

There aren't many birds a mallard won't breed with, and when a drake mallard mates with a hen gadwall, the result is the handsome Brewer duck. Audubon discovered this combination in Louisiana in 1822, and later named it for his colleague Thomas M. Brewer, father of America oology and the eponym for a sparrow and a blackbird.



Northern Wheatear, Öland, Sweden

A long-legged, sturdy chat of open country, the northern wheatear is an annual autumn stray to northeastern North America, including New Jersey. The photo is of a fresh juvenile, raised in the low stone wall bordering a pasture on the Baltic Sea island of Öland.



Eurasian Wryneck, Öland, Sweden

These weird Old World birds look more like a shrike or a miniature nightjar than their real relatives, the woodpeckers. The ancients prepared love charms with the mummified bodies of wrynecks, a practice that gave us the English word "jynx," from the bird's Greek name. The bird in the photo is one of a pair breeding in the parking lot of a Swedish campground.



Ruff, Öland, Sweden

Not many decades ago, ruffs in their fine nuptial plumage could be seen reliably every spring in the marshes of Pedricktown. Now we see mostly dull autumn birds in New Jersey. This white male ruff on the Baltic Sea was rapidly losing his eponymous ornaments, but still stood out nicely on the flats with the other shorebirds.



Whooper Swan. Päijänne Tavastia, Finland

The Old World counterpart to our trumpeter swan, this species, too, has recovered significantly from its population low point last century. The cygnets take full advantage of the long days of the Nordic summer as they grow to their parents' size.



Red-tailed Hawk, Alberta, Canada

One of the most variable birds in North America, on the northern Great Plains red-tailed hawks are often strikingly white-headed. The palest birds, known as Krider hawks, have white tails and almost unmarked underwings, leading predictably to confusion with ferruginous hawks. This individual's red tail and dark upper parts suggest a form intermediate between the Krider hawk and the "normal" eastern red-tail.



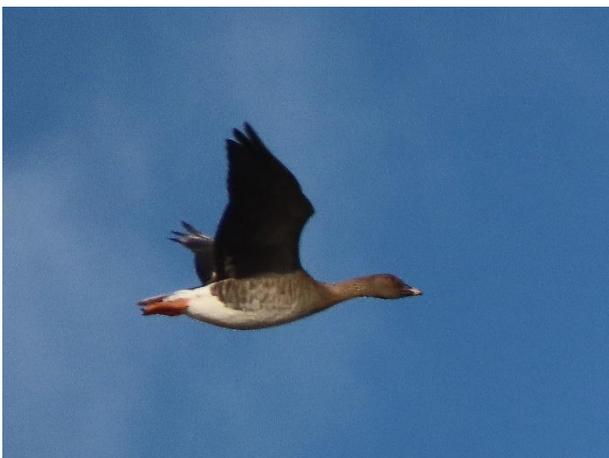
White-tailed Eagle, Brandenburg, Germany

The fortunes of this huge fish- and carrion-eating raptor have paralleled those of its American cousin, the bald eagle. Once very scarce and restricted to wild swampy forests, the white-tailed in northern Europe has recovered to the extent that at certain times of the year it is a surprise not to see at least one lurking on the shore of a lake or surveying the ground from high overhead.



Great Bustard, Brandenburg, Germany

Common only in Spain and Hungary, a few small populations of great bustards hang on in eastern Germany, where they are helped along by constant monitoring and in some cases human fostering of the chicks. Down to only about 50 birds mid-century, there are now five times that many in Berlin and Brandenburg, but actually finding them is never a sure thing.



Tundra Bean Goose, Brandenburg, Germany

Unlike the taiga bean goose, which appears to have undergone a severe decline recently, the tundra bean goose is locally abundant and probably still increasing at favored migration stopovers in northern and eastern Europe. One of the treasured signs of autumn is the September arrival of tundra beans on the north German plain.



Sparrow Parking, Los Angeles Co., California
California towhees and rufous-crowned sparrows are among the highlights for birders in the parking lot at Pasadena's Eaton Canyon.



White-throated Dipper, Salzburg, Austria
White-throated dippers breed high in the mountains of continental Europe, but in most years winter snows drive them down to lowland streams and rivers, even in the very heart of the cities. Like their American counterpart, white-throateds dive, swim, and walk on the stream bed in search of invertebrate prey.



Pied-billed Grebe, Bernalillo Co., New Mexico
Most birders are familiar with several species of grebe, but only infrequently do we get to see them in sustained flight. This pied-billed grebe briefly considered granting us such a rare view, but decided that revealing its seldom-seen upper wing pattern was enough.



Savannah Sparrow, Hudson Co., New Jersey
Very rare now as a breeding bird in New Jersey, the Savannah sparrow is still a common, sometimes even abundant migrant on fields, marshes, and other open habitats. Some individuals, like this one, show relatively extensive lemon-yellow on the head, while others are grayer and plainer.

Sandy Sorkin

**Red-billed Tropicbird,
Little Tobago**



**Rhinoceros Auklet
swimming by the ferry
to Whidbey Island, WA.**



**Tufted Puffin,
south of
Vancouver Island**



Wood Ducks, New Mexico

Pearl Kite in flight



Masked Cardinal in Trinidad, Caroni Swamp



Greater Roadrunner





**Red-throated Loon,
New Jersey shore**



Cocoa Woodcreeper, Costa Rica

Tufted Coquettes, Asa Wright Nature Center





Carolina Wren



Female Guianan Trogon



Rufous-browed Peppershrike

Red-tailed Hawk



Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch



Gambel Quail in New Mexico

Bruce Christensen

Red-headed Woodpecker, Avenel, New Jersey

Barred Owl, Great Swamp



Blackburnian Warbler, Clinton Road



Hairy Woodpecker, Oros Preserve, Avenel, New Jersey



Piping Plover, South Amboy, New Jersey



Purple Sandpiper, Barnegat Light, New Jersey



Sandhill Crane, Weston Canal Road, New Jersey



Winter Wren, Garret Mountain, New Jersey



Yellow-breasted Chat, Brigantine, New Jersey

Long-eared Owl



Sunset at Bombay Hook



Don Phillips



Backyard Aviary



The birds and animals are following social distancing, rules at this restaurant, but one animal didn't understand the use of masks idea.

Rich Masson



Cardinals on the Deck



Alex Bernzweig



Black Guillemot- another rare visitor at Island Beach State Park



King Eider- a rare adult male photographed at Barnegat Light State Park



Velvet-purple Coronet- a gorgeous hummingbird endemic to the Choco region of northwestern Ecuador and southern Colombia.



Green-headed Tanager- Abundant in southeastern Brazil despite having a limited range along the coast from just north of Rio De Janeiro and down to the border with Paraguay at Iguazu Falls.



Blue-and-yellow Macaw- nesting pair in southern Trinidad



Crested Owl- a widespread species in the Neotropics that is normally very difficult to spot in the dense canopy of lowland or montane humid forest. Photographed in western Ecuador



Festive Coquette- A tiny and ornate hummingbird of the Amazon rainforest and Atlantic forest of Brazil. Photographed near Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Benita Fishbein



Bosque Del Apache on a foggy morning



Garret Mountain Reservation in the Fall

**Cooper's Hawk,
Cape May Hawk Watch Platform**



Garret Mountain Ice Storm



David Fishbein



Elana Gallego Park



Maligne Lake, Jasper



New Crescent Sunrise, NYC

Avril Huang



Canada Goose and their Goslings.
Mill Creek Marsh
Such cute little things!



Tree Swallow
Mill Creek Marsh
Nice bird to be seeing at this time of year.



Greater Yellowlegs.
Mill Creek Marsh
It was a cool bird.



Lesser Yellowlegs
Mill Creek Marsh
Cool. I GUESS.



Female Mallard
Mill Creek Marsh
It was cute.

Snowy Egret
Mill Creek Marsh
Very beautiful.



Deborah DeSalvo



Cooper's Hawk (imm), Bonsal Preserve



Prairie Warbler, Bonsal Preserve



Great Horned Owl, Bonsal Preserve

Montclair Fox



Anna Karapin-Sprinorum



Mourning Dove



Blue Jay



Chipmunk

Gray Catbird



Donna Traylor



Bald Eagle

Swainson's Hawk is a fairly common bird in the western states. We saw many of them in our journey last year to Colorado.



Black Skimmers



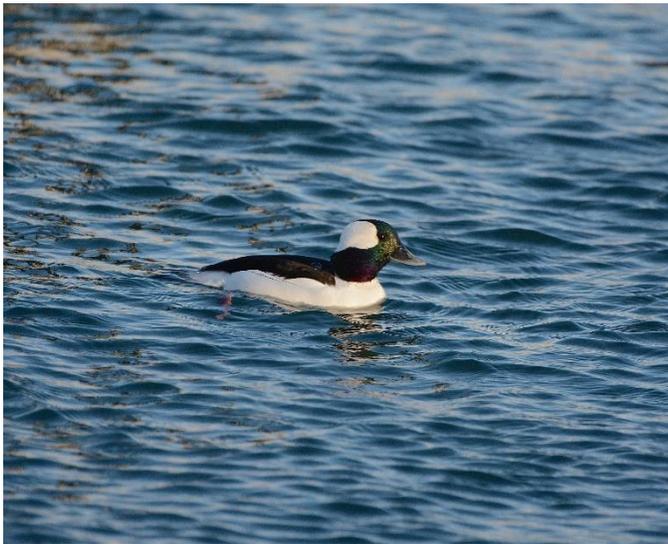
Barn Swallow



Black-and-white Warbler

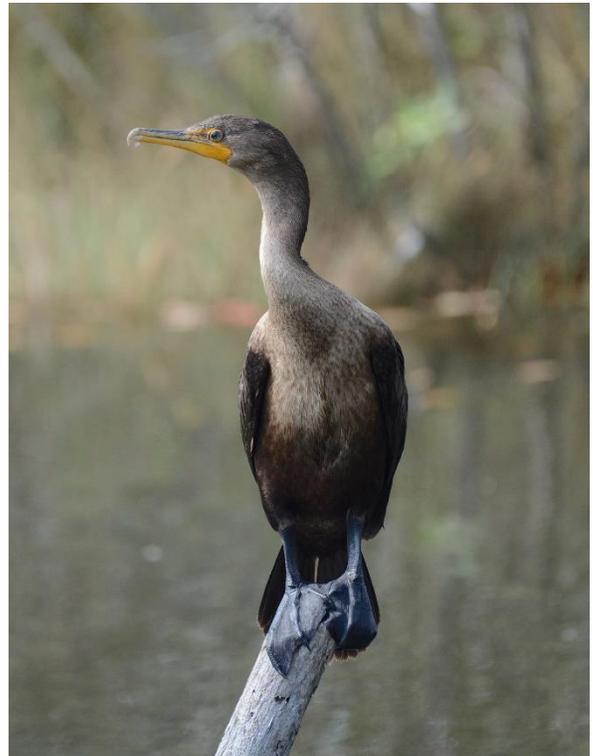


Coyote - Now, here is something you don't often see - a coyote running down the beach with Canada geese in the background. It was taken on route to Eastern Point near Gloucester, Massachusetts during the February 2020 MBC Cape Ann trip.



Bufflehead - This bufflehead was photographed during a North Shore trip this past winter in New Jersey. I have fond memories of this species as one of the first I learned on a field trip with Dr. Marie Kuhnen in the early 1980's.

Double-crested Cormorant - This double-crested cormorant was photographed last year in Delmarva at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge. The Delmarva peninsula is a great place to bird throughout the year. MBC used to run a trip there the first weekend of May. Don and I visited last year in the early fall and it didn't disappoint



Black-billed Magpie - This image was taken in Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado this past summer where the species is relatively common in the grass and brushy areas.



Short-eared Owl -

Photographing a short-eared owl has been one of my challenges. I have seen them many times in several states but have never been close enough - until this year's Cape Ann, Massachusetts trip. We were driving back from Plum Island (Parker Ridge NWR) and David Fishbein (David and Beni were riding

with us) asked us to stop so he could photograph the beautiful sunset. He got out, set up his tripod and was photographing when another party stopped and commented on the short-eared owl in front of us. We were looking just slightly in the other direction and never noticed this beautiful bird. Luckily, it sat for a minute and allowed me a few images.



White-crowned Sparrow

Marsh Wren - Though more often heard than seen, this marsh wren put on a display last year along the Delaware Bayshore during May.





Common Eider - This common eider was photographed at Cape Ann, Massachusetts February 2020 during our annual MBC trip. It was at Gloucester Harbor.

Black-necked Stilt



Janet Markman



Red-bellied Woodpecker



Starling



Scarlet Tanager



Blue Jay



American Crow



Common Grackle

American Kestrel





Northern Cardinal

© Janet Markman Photography



Mourning Dove

© Janet Markman Photography



Red-tailed Hawk

© Janet Markman Photography



Rose-breasted Grosbeak



Red-bellied Woodpecker

Cormorants



Downy Woodpecker

Wayne Greenstone



Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture
Quitos, Peru

American Goldfinch Cranford, New Jersey



Female House Sparrow
Cranford, New Jersey

The Chase
Great Swamp NWR





Uncommon Beauty
Female Mallard, Echo Lake Park, Springfield



Bald Eagle
Snake River, Wyoming



Camouflage
Long-nosed Bat, Amazon River, Peru



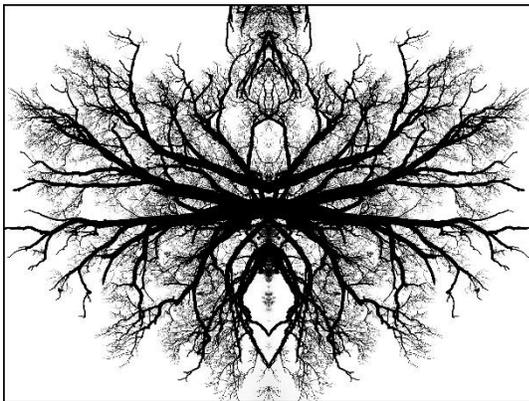
Listen My Children
Tulip Interior, Cranford, New Jersey



Fall Mandala



Cecropia Mask



Swamp Tree Mandala



Pansy Mandala



***World Series of Birding
Cape May***



***River of Raptors
1998 MBC Trip to Vera Cruz, Mexico***



***Get A Load of That Gal
Liberty Park Café, Jersey City***



***Ready to Takeoff
Jackson Hole Wyoming Airport***

Poetry Section

Susan Tepper

COURSE

for Simon Perchik

Shared course: the rivers and the streams
our words come out of their harsh winter—
frost melting edges smoothing
spring's first rush: the birds, shoots;
bristle grass softening to brighter green
—we have learned to take our name
pushed shoreline to shoreline
the wave's force till it crumbles
shells and the hour
the heart meets itself, blankly
hears its name in the crumpled page
its spool running out in the dark

RECEIVED

You have received darkness
in bags and in pieces

the way people picked up
coal near train tracks
during The Great Depression

running home to light the stove
cook an egg shivering wet

the cold as night
splattering the floor

Its fragments of shell
for birds

The MBC Bulletin Bird

Broadwing publication schedule

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

**Send photos, field notes, or articles to the editor at
oguss.editor@gmail.com or mail to Elizabeth Oguss,
200 Valley Road, Montclair, NJ 07042. Thanks!**

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From the Desk of the Very Temporary Editor:

Please feel free to e-mail me with 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.

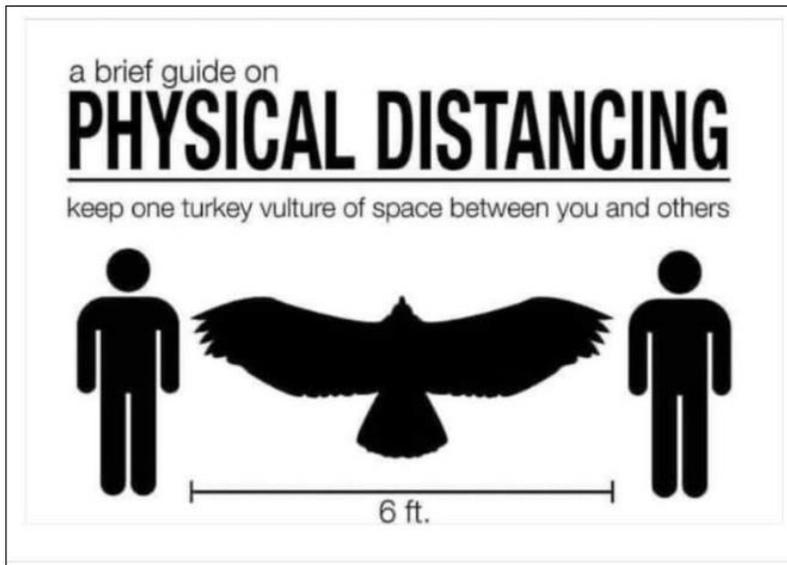
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