

The Broadwing



Publication of the Montclair Bird Club
February 2022

Montclair, NJ
Volume LXVIII, Number 6

Message from the Editor February 2022

Dear Members and Friends,

Covid uncertainty means we will continue to rely on Zoom for meetings and Virtual Bird Walks. Everyone is welcome to attend and to share our invitations with friends.

We continue to welcome people to participate in club activities with *The Broadwing*, weekly quizzes, meetings, and Virtual Bird Walks. As birders sample what we do, there has been a welcome stream of new dues-paying members. Pre-Covid membership was approximately 55 memberships, and we now have over 100 memberships.

Sandy

In This Issue

Natural History Museum Bird Gallery.....	2
Bird Swarm	4
Bringing Colombian Bird Knowledge Home	4
Birds with Multiple Homes	4
Barnegat Light with Rick Wright.....	5
Great Swamp Meet-Up.....	12

Next meeting: Wednesday, February 9
Virtual Bird Walk: Thursday, February 17
Birders' Meet-up, Liberty SP: Saturday, February 19

Natural History Museum Bird Gallery

Nature, March 19, 1896

May I ask when the “common people” Mr. R. B. Sharpe speaks of in your issue of February 20 will “have the opportunity to read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest what the Museum is trying to teach”? As regards the Bird Gallery, the “opportunity” seems to be no nearer than it was fourteen years ago. Surely there has been time during that period for the preparation of a “guide” for the Bird Gallery, equally with the Shell and various other departments. *All* the “common people” can learn at present is the scientific and, in some cases, the popular name of the bird, and its habitat. Among the thousands of species exhibited, there must be many whose history, written in a few lines, as is done with the British specimens in the table cases, would be both interesting and instructive. I may add that there is no “guide” to the Department of British Zoology.



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.

Birds in Texas Parking Lot Swarm Outside Cheesecake Factory

[Video link](#)

Bringing Colombian Bird Knowledge Home

Researchers in Colombia are redoing a legendary bird survey done more than a century ago by the pioneering US ornithologist Frank Chapman. They are surveying the areas that Chapman catalogued between 1911 and 1915, to investigate how a century of war, global warming, and industrialization has affected one of the most biodiverse landscapes in the world. But this project will not snatch birds and whisk them to a museum abroad, as Chapman's team did. Instead, local scientists will keep specimens in Colombia and engage with local communities during their expeditions, to include them in the momentous endeavor, improve the quality of the research, and set an ethical standard for future fieldwork.

[Nature](#)

Across the Sahara in a Day: The Swift Lives up to Its Name

We tracked pallid swifts (*Apus pallidus brehmorum*) from a single breeding colony in Gibraltar over two years. Our results show movement of birds between specific regions within the non-breeding area at specific times of the year. The tracking of a single individual showed remarkable fidelity to the areas visited between years. Furthermore, two pallid swifts tracked over the entire eight-month nonbreeding period gave no indication of coming to land while in Africa, supporting previous findings of an airborne existence in swifts outside the breeding season. In addition, the crossing of the Sahara Desert to and from the breeding grounds is remarkably fast, with one individual crossing it in just over a day. We discuss our findings in the context of bird migration evolutionary strategies.

[Pallid swift Link](#)



Barnegat Light *with* Rick Wright

January 4, 2022

The day before had brought more than a foot of snow to much of coastal southern New Jersey, and the wind howled like a banshee. From our utterly snowless perch here in Essex County, we watched anxiously, fingers ready to hit “Cancel” on the trip we’d planned so many months before. Could we trust the forecast of sun to come—



and would we even be able to get out to our destination at the northern tip of Long Beach Island?

It turned out that we could and we did. It was a chilly 22° F on our arrival, with a brisk northwest breeze still churning the waters of Barnegat Bay



and the inlet. But the sun was shining, the wind quickly settled, and the bright, clean snow turned the scrubby dune vegetation into a wonderland for birds and their watchers.



Early arrivals among the five MBC members on the trip got to watch an adult peregrine falcon plucking breakfast atop the Surf City water tower. But our birding started in earnest along the top of Barnegat Inlet. The first of the day’s Ipswich sparrows was feeding in the lee of the boardwalk, and a small gang of harlequin ducks bobbed and fussed almost at our feet. A bald eagle looked over the scene as the odd loon or long-tailed duck flew up and down the inlet.

That notorious jetty is unsafe even when it isn’t ice-covered, so we walked to Fourth Street to start our trudge across the sand. More Ipswich sparrows accompanied us as we skirted the dune goldenrod, and half a dozen male red-winged blackbirds were a bit of a surprise in the phragmites. Once out on the beach, we quickly found a small duck flock riding the waves. The dozen or so common eider, including spectacular white drakes, were joined by a few scoters, red-breasted

mergansers, and bufflehead. It took some time, but eventually we all had good views of the female king eider that has been present there for a few weeks. As we turned to end the day, a few

ruddy turnstones and purple sandpipers emerged from their nooks and crannies to bid us farewell. Thanks to all for a great day afield!



January 4, Barnegat Light

Atlantic brant
Canada goose
mallard
American black duck
king eider
common eider
harlequin duck
white-winged scoter
black scoter
long-tailed duck
bufflehead
red-breasted merganser

mourning dove
feral pigeon



ruddy turnstone
purple sandpiper

ring-billed gull
herring gull
great black-backed gull

red-throated loon
common loon

northern gannet

great cormorant
double-crested cormorant

northern harrier
bald eagle
belted kingfisher

peregrine falcon

blue jay
American crow

Carolina chickadee

Carolina wren
European starling

American robin

house sparrow

house finch

red fox sparrow
slate-colored junco
white-throated sparrow
Ipswich sparrow
song sparrow

red-winged blackbird
boat-tailed grackle



Photos, this and the next 4 pages, courtesy of Ric Cohn

myrtle warbler

northern cardinal









Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge Meet-Up, January 13, 2022

Nine intrepid and warmly dressed birders joined me in birding the Great Swamp on the exceptionally cold morning of Saturday, January 13. The thermometer read 9° when we started and warmed to a whopping 19° by the time we left. Nevertheless, it was a great day to be out, and though the ponds were frozen over, there were still birds to be found. We visited the Helen C. Fenske Visitor Center grounds, the Wildlife Observation Center boardwalks and blinds, and Pleasant Plains Road including the Bluebird Parking Lot and Overlook. Highlights of the day included several sightings of fox sparrow and American tree sparrow and a gorgeous rufous northern harrier that patrolled back and forth over the marsh offering excellent looks. We saw a total of 33 species.

#	Species	#	Species
142	Canada goose	1	Black-capped chickadee
2	Wood duck	1	Tufted titmouse
1	Mallard	4	White-breasted nuthatch
40	American black duck	1	Carolina wren
1	Green-winged teal	5	European starling
4	Mourning dove	1	Northern mockingbird
1	Black vulture	4	American robin
4	Turkey vulture	4	American tree sparrow
1	Northern harrier	4	Fox sparrow
1	Bald eagle	60	Dark-eyed junco
1	Red-shouldered hawk	51	White-throated sparrow
4	Red-tailed hawk	2	Song sparrow
5	Red-bellied woodpecker	24	Red-winged blackbird
2	Downy woodpecker	2	Rusty blackbird
1	Hairy woodpecker	2	Common grackle
15	Blue jay	1	Northern cardinal
2	Common Raven	2	Crow sp.

Beni Fishbein



Roman theater of Arles

Upcoming VENT Tours

VentBird.com



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



Montclair Bird Club



Viking ship burial
on Öland



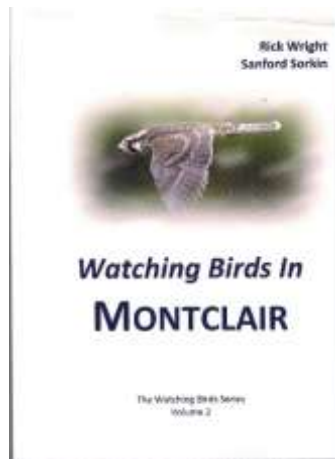
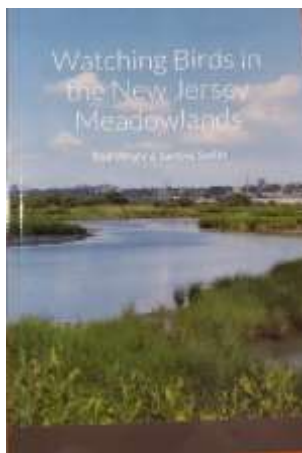
watchung booksellers

YOUR COMMUNITY BOOKSTORE

54 Fairfield Street, Watchung Plaza, Montclair, NJ 07042 Monday - Friday 10-7
973.744.7177 • info@watchungbooksellers.com Saturday & Sunday 10-5

Not every community is so fortunate as to have a community bookstore. Here in Montclair and Bloomfield, Watchung Booksellers has supported our communities, and vice versa, for more than three decades. Watchung Booksellers offers a carefully selected range of literary fiction, biography, history, travel, education, poetry, the arts, and natural history, including *Watching Birds in Montclair*, *Watching Birds in the New Jersey Meadowlands*, *Feeding Birds in Northern New Jersey*, and other titles in the Custom Bird Guides series.

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.



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, wrenit, 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

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

In This Issue

Page 1: Striated heron
Page 4: Harlequin ducks, Ipswich sparrow
Page 7: Harlequin ducks, common loon
Page 8: Ipswich sparrow, yellow-rumped warbler (myrtle)
Page 9: Carolina wren, song sparrow
Page 10: Ipswich sparrow, yellow-rumped warbler (myrtle)
Page 11: Long-tailed ducks

The MBC Bulletin Bird

**Support the
Montclair Bird Club
Using Amazon Smile**

The Montclair Bird Club is registered as a 501(c)(3) with Amazon. If you order from Amazon but have not chosen a charity, consider the Montclair Bird Club. Place your orders at

[SMILE.AMAZON.COM](https://www.amazon.com/?ref=A_Smile)

Select a charity from the upper right corner of the home page.

MBC will be credited with 0.5 percent of each Amazon Smile order.

**Montclair Bird Club
Officers for 2021-2022**

President..... Jim McGregor
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.

© Copyright 2022. All rights reserved by the contributors.

