



Publication of the Montclair Bird Club

Montclair, N.J.

January 2020

Volume LXV, Number 2

Happy New Year



Hummingbird, by Janet Markman, won first place in the bird category of the Montclair Bird Club's 100th-anniversary photo contest.

Inside: President's message from Sandy Sorkin; a summary of the 100th-anniversary festivities, winning photos, upcoming field trips, and more.

President's Message

January 2020

Our 101st year began with a presentation by Keith Utter of his trip to Tanzania that combined climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro and then traveling through the Serengeti. While the beauty of the trip was evident from the landscapes and flora shots taken on the mountain, it was made even more so with the incredible variety of animals he saw on the plains. I doubt that many of us will attempt to do the trip ourselves after we learned the amount of physical training required in preparation to climb to 19,000 feet. We are just thankful Keith took a camera with him.

Last week we have received an excellent proposal to deliver a lecture at our March meeting from a Montclair High School student. The topic: Effects of Climate Change on North American Migratory Bird Phenology. The lecture is timely as we are all seeing the influence of climate change while we engage in bird watching activities. There is more student interest and we can expect additional proposals. Unfortunately, we did not receive any proposals from interested Montclair State University students.

I have also been asked to write a piece every other month on birds in the backyard for the Montclair Local. I have plenty to discuss from my yard, but if unusual things are happening in your yard, I would love to hear about it.

— Sandy

Montclair Bird Club Officers for 2019-20

President.....Sandy Sorkin
Vice President.....Jim McGregor
Treasurer.....Donna Traylor
Recording Secretary.....Pat Sanders

Committees

Field Trips. Bill Beren
Programs. Donna Traylor
Publicity. Wayne Greenstone
Refreshments JoAnn Katzban & Betsy Cohen

A CENTURY OF BIRDING GOODNESS*

The club celebrated its 100th anniversary on Nov. 13, in a sparkling affair arranged by Sandy Sorkin and Donna Traylor, with help from many other club members.

There was history, humor, science, a revolving slideshow of winning photos, a delicious dinner from Pete's Deli in Nutley, ornithological cookies made by Jim McGregor, and a New Jersey-focused keynote by MBC member Rick Wright, author, naturalist and international field trip leader. (Rick's talk is available on [YouTube](#).)



Amazonia, by Wayne Greenstone

Judging the limerick contest was a group effort, guided by official judge Rick Wright. Avril Wright read the limericks very professionally and the audience laughed, groaned, or was silent, as appropriate. The narrowing-down process resulted in a half-dozen or so semifinalists, and Adriana O'Toole's submission, a commentary on the contest itself, was judged most popular:

You make writing limericks sound easy
But instead it makes me feel queasy
A word here and there
Just out of the air,
It leaves me breathless and wheezy.

On the visual arts side, MBC members proved to be keen photographers of birds and nature generally and the resulting slideshow made it hard to concentrate on the great buffet choices. Judge Phil Echo chose the following photos:

In the bird category:

First place, "Hummingbird," by Janet Markman
Second place, "Great Blue Heron," by Sandy Sorkin
Third place, "Northern Pintails," by Donna Traylor

In the nature photography category:

First place, "Early Morning at Cape May," by Elizabeth Oguss
Second place, "Sunrise at Sagamore Lake, Adirondacks," by Beni Fishbein
Third place, "Amazonia," by Wayne Greenstone



Beni Fishbein's "Sunrise at Sagamore Lake, Adirondacks"



Northern Pintails, by Donna Traylor



Early Morning at Cape May, by Elizabeth Oguss



Great Blue Heron, by Sandy Sorkin

*Yes, we used this headline in the last newsletter, but we like it and it works for this article as well.



Electric Ostrich
Brac Buffa (age 10)



Owl Dreaming
Kai Choat (Age 7)



Cayla Rosenhagen
Golden Eagle (Age 13)

Taking Flight

An International Juried Bird Art Exhibition
For Youth Ages 4 to 18

The Taking Flight Exhibition aims to create greater awareness and appreciation for birds, support the development of young artists, and share their art with the public at a professional museum.

Submissions will be accepted between January 15 and June 15, 2020.
Juried art will be exhibited at the museum September 2020 - March, 2021

FIELD TRIPS

All field trips are open to Bird Club members and the public at no charge.

Coming up soon: Act now!

Cape Ann, Massachusetts

Leader: Donna Traylor

Friday, Feb. 14, to Monday, Feb. 17

The Cape Ann trip has become a yearly pilgrimage to beautiful coastal Massachusetts. Many birds of more northerly climes consider the shorelines here as downright balmy. We will bird all day Saturday and Sunday and half a day Monday at locations including Newbury and Newburyport, Plum Island, Rockport, and Gloucester, and many small towns and parks in between.

Birds we always hope to see include alcids (last year we had a most cooperative dovekie), owls (snowy, short-eared, eastern screech and sometimes great horned), common and king eider, long-tailed duck, purple sandpipers, crossbills and other unusual winter finches, and bald eagles.



Surf scoter. Photo by Donna Traylor

There is limited walking on this trip; we drive, park and scan at most locations. Please be prepared to car pool if we have a good turnout — it makes it a lot easier for the leaders to keep cars together as we journey from one hotspot to the next. Dinners will be a group affair at some of the best local restaurants; usually we try to stop quickly for an indoor lunch in order to allow people to warm up a bit.

If you plan to go: Let Donna and Don know no later than Feb. 12, at dtraylor@ptd.net.

The Fairfield Inn rate is \$69 per night plus applicable tax and hotel charges. Reservations must be made by Feb. 4 and can be done by calling the hotel directly at 978-388-3400 and using Montclair Bird Club to identify yourself, or go [here](#) to make reservations at the Fairfield Inn. (If you're reading a hard copy, go to <https://tinyurl.com/wrtjh2g>)

New Mexico

Leader: Rick Wright

March 4-10

Central New Mexico is a remarkably under-birded springtime paradise. Based at a single Albuquerque hotel, we will be looking for Ross's and Cackling Geese, Black and Say's Phoebes, Bushtit, and Spotted Towhee. A day at world-famous Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge should produce an impressive list, including a good selection of such fine Southwestern specialties such as Clark's Grebe, Scaled Quail, Greater Roadrunner, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Vermilion Flycatcher, Crissal and Sage Thrashers, and Lesser Goldfinch. High in the dramatic Sandia Mountains, we will hope to encounter Mountain Chickadee, Gray-headed Junco, American Three-toed Woodpecker, and any or all of the American rosy finches. Raptors may include Golden Eagle, Ferruginous Hawk, and Prairie Falcon. The nonrefundable registration fee (amount based on number of participants) includes van transportation from Albuquerque and covers the volunteer field trip leader's expenses.

N.B.: Limited to eight registrants; one spot is still available. Email Sandy Sorkin at montclairbirdclub100@gmail.org to register.

Liberty State Park Birds & Beer

Leaders: Bill Beren & JoAnn Katzban

Sunday, March 22, 2:30-6:30 p.m.

Meet at the second parking lot on Morris Pesin Drive at the South end of Liberty State Park (exit 14B on the NJ Turnpike.) We will stroll on the paved Hudson River Walkway for about 1 mile in each direction, viewing waterfowl and some early migrants along the way. Typical species include Brant Geese, Shovelers, Green Wing Teals, Killdeer, Red Breasted Mergansers, Buffleheads, Yellow Warblers, Red Wing Blackbirds and others. Then on to Zeppelin Beer Hall for bratwurst, BBQ and beer.

Dress for the weather with comfortable walking shoes. Binoculars recommended, scopes are a plus. Email trip leader at beren1@verizon.net to register.

Beer and Brats to follow at Zeppelin Hall Biergarten.

Wednesday Spring Warbler Walks at Garret Mountain Reservation

Leader: Fred Pfeiffer

Each Wednesday from April 15 to May 20, 8-11 a.m.

Meet at the Stony Brook Picnic Grove Parking Lot in Garrett Mountain Reservation, 8 Mountain Ave, Woodland Park. We will walk along groomed park trails circumnavigating the reservoir, looking for early migrating warblers, towhees, orioles and other passerines.

Sandy Hook

Leader: Pat Hamill

Saturday, April 25, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Meet the leader at Parking Lot B. Participants should bring sunscreen, binoculars, a light lunch, and themselves.

May In Montclair Bonsal Preserve

Leader: Deb DeSalvo

Saturday, May 9, 8:30-10:30 a.m.

Meet at the entrance to Bonsal Preserve in Montclair (Riverview Drive off Alexander Ave, east of Grove Street.) Spring migration brings a great many species to this jewel of a natural area hidden away in Montclair. Usual sightings include lots of migrating warblers, scarlet tanagers, woodpeckers, and ruby-throated hummingbirds. Excellent opportunity for families to be introduced to birding. Bring bug spray! And dress in protective clothing. Parts of the trail will be quite muddy, so wear appropriate footwear.

Verona Park

Leader: Deb DeSalvo

Saturday, May 16, 8:30-10:30 a.m.

We will meet by the bridge, just south of the boathouse, in the center of the park. Verona Park is off Bloomfield Avenue in Verona. You can also access our meeting point by foot if you park along Pleasant Valley Way. Bring binocs and walking shoes. We will remain on paved paths and will do a full loop of the park. This is a great walk for beginners. Last year's highlight was a young Red Tail Hawk sparring with a mature Canada Goose. We will definitely see a host of spring migrants, some of which will be nesting in the park.

Nickerson Beach (Long Island)

Leader: Rick Wright

Saturday, June 6, 5:30-10 a.m.

We will meet in the beach parking lot to visit one of the most exciting nesting sites in our area, the tern and plover colony of Nickerson Beach, on the Southern Shore of Long Island. There should be plenty to see, with breeding well underway for large numbers of common and least terns and black skimmers. This is also a traditionally reliable locality for excellent views of roseate terns. Should the odd Forster, royal, Caspian, Sandwich, Arctic, black or gull-billed tern drop in, the morning will be even more memorable. American oystercatchers and piping plovers are common nesters here, and loons, eiders, gannets, and other seabirds may linger through the summer. The beach is a short walk from the parking lot; we will cover another mile or so on the sand, always at a slow and easy pace. Bring a notebook and pencil, a good sunhat and sunscreen, plenty of water, and a snack or lunch. Binoculars and spotting scopes often produce spectacular views here, but are not necessary as many of the birds are very close. Carpooling is strongly recommended for this trip.

Directions: From Southern State Parkway on Long Island, take Meadowlands State Parkway south. Turn right on Loop Parkway toward Point Lookout, and right again on Lido Beach Boulevard to Nickerson Beach parking lot (880 Lido Beach Boulevard, Lido Beach, New York).

Starlings in Winter, by Mary Oliver

Chunky and noisy,
but with stars in their black feathers,
they spring from the telephone wire
and instantly

they are acrobats
in the freezing wind.
And now, in the theater of air,
they swing over buildings,

dipping and rising;
they float like one stippled star
that opens,
becomes for a moment fragmented,

then closes again;
and you watch
and you try
but you simply can't imagine

how they do it
with no articulated instruction, no pause,
only the silent confirmation
that they are this notable thing,

this wheel of many parts, that can rise and spin
over and over again,
full of gorgeous life.

Ah, world, what lessons you prepare for us,
even in the leafless winter,
even in the ashy city.
I am thinking now
of grief, and of getting past it;

I feel my boots
trying to leave the ground,
I feel my heart
pumping hard. I want

to think again of dangerous and noble things.
I want to be light and frolicsome.
I want to be improbable beautiful and afraid of nothing,
as though I had wings.

Bob-o-Links

Thanks to Bill Beren for two links of interest: Some cheerful news for red-shouldered hawks in this [news article](#) from the Dec. 12 Record. And Jim Wright discusses the [complicated issue](#) of feeding birds year round, also in the Record.

For an ABA podcast on the best bird books of the year, go to <https://tinyurl.com/weadf6k>

The MBC Bulletin Bird

Support the Montclair Bird via Amazon Smile

The Montclair Bird Club is registered as a 501(c)(3) with Amazon.

If you order from Amazon, but have never chosen a charity, consider the Montclair Bird Club. Place your orders at smile.amazon.com (not just amazon.com) and select a charity from the upper-right corner of the home page.

MBC will be credited with .5 percent of each Amazon Smile order.

Meetings and dues

Regular meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month (except July, August, and December) at 7:30 p.m., at Union Congregational Church, 176 Cooper Ave. All programs are open to the public.

Annual membership dues are \$35 for a family and \$25 for an individual. Applications for membership are at montclairbirdclub.org on the About page.

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!



Photo by E.O.

To mark its five-score anniversary
The bird club invited your
versery.
The limericks submitted
Were droll and quick-
witted,
And ranged from sublime
to much worsery. —E.O.

Read all the limerick
contest entries at <http://montclairbirdclub.org/limericks.html>

Find the Montclair Bird Club at
montclairbirdclub.org
facebook.com/montclairbirdclub/