

Publication of the Montclair Bird Club

Montclair, N.J.

March 2020

Volume LXV, Number 3

Starting Our Next Century!



Fish Crow at Mill Creek Marsh

There may be a few rough edges in this issue of The Broadwing. The actual editor is engaged in helping our community during the Covid-19 emergency. I'll follow Elizabeth's format, but add lots of pictures in lieu of an enormous amount of writing.

-Sandy

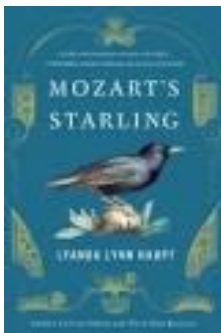
President's Message

March 2020

The concept of a club rarely, if ever, concerns itself with social distancing. By its nature we assume that clubs will engage in mutually enjoyable activities and find satisfaction in sharing and relating experiences with one another. Unfortunately, for the foreseeable future, there will be no Montclair Bird Club meetings and all club activities are cancelled or postponed. I am confident that none of our members are considering spending this unprecedented time doing absolutely nothing and are doing nothing more than household chores. I know that I reached a level of boredom that drove me to my basement intent on cleaning. As mind-numbing as cleaning can be, I am still gratified when I climb out of the basement and peer out the back window where I see my wife's budding gardens and backyard birds busily staking out territory.

Seed is spread on the ground and a suet feeder hangs from a pole at the edge of the patio. Feeding activity never seems to end. The birds with boundless energy hardly ever stay still. The Juncos and White-throated Sparrows were plentiful through the beginning of March. Today the Cardinals, House Sparrows, Robins, and Blue Jays are the most common birds in my somewhat urban backyard. Small flocks of Starlings stop briefly, while pairs of Grackles spend more time pacing the yard. We even have a Red-tailed Hawk that likes to watch from the lower limbs of the spruce tree.

In other seasons I would be able to discuss the birds and share the patio with other birders, but today that isn't feasible. We may not be able to physically birdwatch together, but that should not stop us from sharing individual experiences. The question for all of us is how do we share, and how do we stay engaged with each other? I would like to suggest that we can share by submitting walk and backyard bird reports to be included in the Broadwing, submit checklists to eBird, send e-mails to friends, make a few phone calls, and for the old-fashioned among us, write and mail a letter. We need to also embrace social media and even try video conferencing. Whatever avenues you choose to stay connected will be welcomed by everyone suffering from the isolation of social distancing.



If you haven't been outside lately, and found time to read a good book, consider writing a short review for the Broadwing. Ideally, the book will have an avian or nature bent. I just finished *Mozart's Starling* by Lyanda Lynn Haupt. It is a delightful story about the most reviled bird in the world and why W.A. Mozart would want one as a pet. She weaves a wonderful blend of bird behavior and classical music. Now I watch Starlings with a little more interest, and the bird hovers in the back of my mind when I listen to *Eine kleine Nachtmusik*.

— Sandy

Field Trips

All field trips are open to Bird Club members and the public at no charge. When scheduled field trips resume, notices will be sent to the entire membership.

In and Around New Jersey

Looking ahead...

Sandy Hook, New Jersey

with Rick Wright

A joint outing with Linnaean Society of New York

Saturday, October 3
8:30 am - 2:30 PM

Join Rick Wright to explore the beaches, bays, and thickety woodlands of Sandy Hook, one of New Jersey's finest spots for observing fall migrants. The shallow waters at the northern tip of the Hook can host a good selection of shorebirds, sometimes including White-rumped or Baird Sandpipers or American Golden Plover, while over the ocean the first Northern Gannets of the season may encounter Royal Terns and often astonishing numbers of Laughing Gulls. Arrivals may include sapsuckers, both species of kinglet, and a nice variety of New World sparrows, perhaps including Lark and Clay-colored Sparrows or even scarcer species.

We will spend most of our time together on foot, walking beaches and paved trails. The trek to the northern Hook is a bit over a mile round-trip on deep soft sand.

Please bring a notebook and pencil, snacks and drinks, and lunch. It may be cool on the beaches, making a light jacket and gloves helpful in the morning. A good hat and other sun protection are essential. Spotting scopes are not strictly necessary, but can provide more enjoyable views of distant birds (and stunning views of nearby birds).

Meet at 8:30 am in Parking Lot B, on the ocean side north of the entrance station.

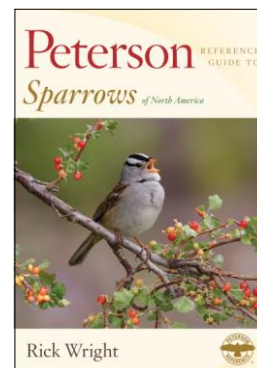
Any scheduling changes or adjustments will be noted on the club website:

MontclairBirdClub.org

A “not-exactly-a-book-review” about MBC’s own Rick Wright

“Rick Wright knows everything about birds. I’m not necessarily saying Rick’s the world’s best ‘field birder,’ although he’s right up there with the greats. And I’m certainly not saying he’s our finest ornithological illustrator. I don’t think he can draw anything at all. But when it comes to knowledge about birds, Rick is in a league of his own. Rick is the foremost ‘public intellectual’ in contemporary birding.”

From Ted Floyd’s review of Rick’s *Peterson Reference Field Guide to Sparrows of North America*.



Read the full review at:

<http://blog.aba.org/2019/06/ask-rick-wright-thoughts-on-beingbirderly.html>

Montclair Bird Club Officers for 2019-20

PresidentSandy Sorkin
Vice PresidentJim McGregor
TreasurerDonna Traylor
Recording SecretaryPat Sanders

Committees:

Field TripsBill Beren
ProgramsDonna Traylor
PublicityWayne Greenstone
RefreshmentsJoAnn Katzban & Betsy Cohen

Trip Report

New Mexico

March 4-10, 2020

Leader: Rick Wright

This list has 102 species. A few members saw an additional bird or two making this a very exciting trip. Many of us had the good fortune to add species to our life lists. The weather forecasts were generally good, and while it was frequently cold, no one got wet. Some exceptional sightings included the Rosy Finches on Sandia Crest, several Sage Thrashers, and a Tundra Swan.

300	Snow Goose	1	Double-crested Cormorant	5	European Starling
500	Ross's Goose	3	Great Blue Heron	2	Curve-billed Thrasher
10	Cackling Goose	3	Great Egret	5	Sage Thrasher
2	Canada Goose	1	Turkey Vulture	20	Western Bluebird
1	Tundra Swan	4	Northern Harrier	10	Mountain Bluebird
25	Wood Duck	1	Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	Townsend's Solitaire
4	Cinnamon Teal	1	Cooper's Hawk	1	Hermit Thrush
25	Northern Shoveler	1	Red-tailed Hawk	2	American Robin
20	Gadwall	1	Western Screech-Owl	15	Cedar Waxwing
35	American Wigeon	1	Williamson's Sapsucker	6	House Sparrow
2	Mallard	1	Downy Woodpecker	9	American Pipit
3	Mexican Duck	2	Ladder-backed Woodpecker	20	Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch
25	Northern Pintail	1	Hairy Woodpecker	10	Black Rosy-Finch
14	Green-winged Teal	3	Northern Flicker	2	Brown-capped Rosy-Finch
1	Canvasback	2	American Kestrel	8	House Finch
25	Redhead	1	Prairie Falcon	2	Cassin's Finch
15	Ring-necked Duck	2	Black Phoebe	4	Pine Siskin
2	Lesser Scaup	2	Eastern Phoebe	9	Lesser Goldfinch
63	Bufflehead	2	Say's Phoebe	8	American Goldfinch
1	Common Goldeneye	1	Vermilion Flycatcher	9	Dark-eyed Junco
1	Ruddy Duck	1	Steller's Jay	1	White-crowned Sparrow
30	Gambel's Quail	25	Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay	2	White-throated Sparrow
1	Ring-necked Pheasant	85	American Crow	2	Song Sparrow
1	Pied-billed Grebe	7	Chihuahuan Raven	3	Canyon Towhee
50	Rock Pigeon	1	Common Raven	1	Spotted Towhee
1	Eurasian Collared-Dove	2	Black-capped Chickadee	3	Yellow-headed Blackbird
3	White-winged Dove	6	Mountain Chickadee	32	Western Meadowlark
1	Mourning Dove	2	Juniper Titmouse	3	Red-winged Blackbird
2	Greater Roadrunner	1	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	15	Brown-headed Cowbird
5	American Coot	40	Bushtit	12	Brewer's Blackbird
10	Sandhill Crane	1	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	9	Great-tailed Grackle
2	Killdeer	2	Red-breasted Nuthatch	4	Yellow-rumped Warbler
13	Long-billed Dowitcher	3	White-breasted Nuthatch	1	Pyrrhuloxia
2	Ring-billed Gull	5	Pygmy Nuthatch		
1	Neotropic Cormorant	2	Bewick's Wren		

The numbers reflected here are from my eBird lists for New Mexico. As such, the numbers shown are from the first submitted list where the bird was recorded. In almost all cases, the total for the trip is much higher.

New Mexico, March 2020



Gary, Rick, Lee, Soheil, Beni, Chris, Sandy, David



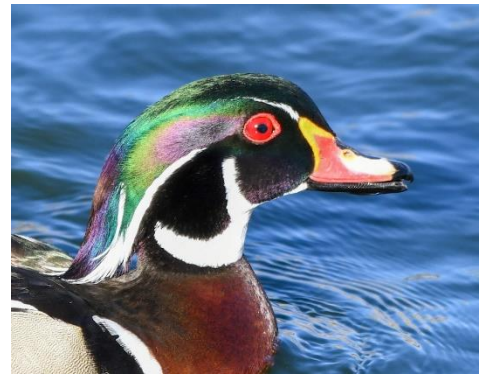
Petroglyph



Western Screech Owl



Sandhill Crane



Wood Duck



Wood Ducks

Sandia Crest

Williamson Sapsucker

Quarai Ruins



Gambel Quail

Prairie Falcon

Spotted Towhee

Pied-billed Grebe

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!**

Support the Montclair Bird Club 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](https://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.

Breaking news:

“The number of birds in the United States and Canada has declined by 3 billion, or 29 percent, over the past half-century, scientists find.”

The New York Times:

<https://tinyurl.com/yx9bla4e>

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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