



Publication of the Montclair Bird Club

Montclair, N.J.

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European blue tit; photo by John Ludas

### **June 14: Members Night & Picnic**

Union Congregational Church, 6 p.m. Bring your own dinner; MBC will supply dessert. If you're planning to bring images, let Sandy know at [sandy.sorkin@gmail.com](mailto:sandy.sorkin@gmail.com). Images should be on a flash drive.

Note that we will NOT be meeting at Essex County Environmental Center.

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## **Action advisory from Wally Koenig**

Wally Koenig has shared the following recent memo from Vera Lazar, secretary of Friends of Garret Mountain Reservation, on the proposed installation of a Frisbee "disc golf" course in Rifle Camp Park.

Dear Friends:

Passaic County Parks is proceeding with their plan to install a frisbee "disc golf" course throughout Rifle Camp Park. Friends of Garret Mountain is deeply opposed to this project, as it will make the park unsafe for birders, hikers, and other visitors.

The sport of disc golf is not compatible with passive recreation uses. The discs used in this sport are made of hard, heavy plastic (often having a sharp edge) and can travel at high speeds. If a person (or animal) should accidentally be struck by a disc they would be severely injured.

In addition to being a safety hazard, there would be many negative environmental / ecological impacts. Removal of many small trees and saplings will be necessary. Any remaining understory plants will be destroyed due to trampling. Large trees would remain as "obstacles." However, as discs hit the trees, damaging cuts are made into the bark which then allow insects and diseases to enter. There is also the threat of direct injury to wildlife and birds and destruction of bird habitat.

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Rifle Camp Road, continued from page 1

The route of the proposed course has been marked with orange ribbons. The route traverses the forest as well as through mossy glades and ridgetops. These are delicate ecosystems with thin soil which will be destroyed with frequent foot traffic. The proposed course also passes through areas which support ephemeral spring wildflowers such as bluets and native plants like striped wintergreen. There has been no environmental review nor any opportunity for public input or comment. We can only hope that the county will reconsider and decide NOT to install the disc golf course in Rifle Camp Park.

In this highly urbanized region of the county, Rifle Camp Park offers a tranquil forest sanctuary for both people and wildlife. We can only hope that this beloved park will not be taken away. Please go to our Facebook page to see photos and join the conversation: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/238256699670035/>

If you oppose these changes it is essential that you make your opinion known!!!

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

PLEASE SEND EMAIL DIRECTLY TO THE FREEHOLDERS OF PASSAIC COUNTY  
Please send letters to Freeholder Pat Lepore and the other freeholders. Email addresses and phone numbers provided below. Do not submit via the website. Concerns submitted over the county website are FILTERED and will never reach the Freeholders. It is of great importance that everyone who opposes the disc golf course makes their opinion known. Everyone should send their own individual letter and/or phone call. The county has already been receiving letters in support of the disc golf course. The more letters of opposition they receive the better.

**Passaic County Freeholders and Administrators:**

Freeholder Pat Lepore: [plepore@passaiccountynj.org](mailto:plepore@passaiccountynj.org) 973-881-4402

Freeholder Deputy Director Bruce James: [bjames@passaiccountynj.org](mailto:bjames@passaiccountynj.org) 973-881-4402

Freeholder Director Sandi Lazzara: [clazzara@passaiccountynj.org](mailto:clazzara@passaiccountynj.org) (link not currently working)

Freeholder John Bartlett: [jbartlett@passaiccountynj.org](mailto:jbartlett@passaiccountynj.org) 973-225-5415

Freeholder Duffy: [tduffy@passaiccountynj.org](mailto:tduffy@passaiccountynj.org) 973-881-4402

Freeholder Best: [tjbest@passaiccountynj.org](mailto:tjbest@passaiccountynj.org) 973-225-5427

Freeholder Assad Akhter: [AAkhter@passaiccountynj.org](mailto:AAkhter@passaiccountynj.org) 973-881-4412

Anthony DeNova, county administrator: [adenova@passaiccountynj.org](mailto:adenova@passaiccountynj.org)

Darryl Sparta, director of parks: [DarrylS@passaiccountynj.org](mailto:DarrylS@passaiccountynj.org)

Further info on disc golf: <http://www.leddypark.org/voices/disc-golf-safety-at-leddy-park;>  
[http://www.savemclarenpark.org/SMP4\\_reports.html](http://www.savemclarenpark.org/SMP4_reports.html)

Thank you everyone for your support.

Regards,

Vera Lazar / FoGMR

**Link to petition: <https://tinyurl.com/mb8d9wx>**

## Mark your calendar: Mill Creek Marsh field trip July 28

From Rick Wright, leader:

The tidal creeks and open impoundments at Mill Creek are excellent for migrant shorebirds; late July sees hundreds or thousands, especially adult semipalmated sandpipers, feeding and loafing on the rising tide. We should also encounter breeders such as willow flycatcher, tree and northern rough-winged swallows, marsh wren, yellow warbler, and Baltimore oriole. Osprey, bald eagle, and peregrine falcon are also likely, the last hunting shorebirds on the mudflats. For more information and driving directions for those not carpooling, see the MBC website.

# The MBC Bulletin Bird

## BROADWING publication schedule

The Broadwing is published five times a year, at roughly the following times:

Early January  
Late March  
May (that's this one!)  
mid-August  
October

Send photos, field notes, or articles to the editor at [oguss.editor@gmail.com](mailto:oguss.editor@gmail.com) or mail to Elizabeth Oguss, 200 Valley Road, Montclair, NJ 07042. Thanks!

The annual May **Bonsal Preserve** walk led by Deb DeSalvo took place on May 21, a week later than planned owing to rain. Seven birders saw 27 species; the list can be found on eBird.

## Meetings of the Montclair Bird Club

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

There are no meetings in July, August, or December.



Photo by E.O.

### **Article of interest**

“The mystery of how Brown-headed Cowbirds—which are raised by members of other species—learn to see themselves as cowbirds has finally been solved. The answer lies deep in the brain.”

Thanks to Sandy Sorkin for tipping us off to this fascinating article on Audubon.org. <https://tinyurl.com/ya2y6szu>

### Useful links

NJAS online: [njudubon.org](http://njudubon.org)

Hawk watch: <https://tinyurl.com/cqawsnq>

Find the Montclair Bird Club at  
[montclairbirdclub.org](http://montclairbirdclub.org)  
[facebook.com/montclairbirdclub/](https://facebook.com/montclairbirdclub/)