



Publication of the Montclair Bird Club

Montclair, N.J.

January 2018

Volume LXIII, Number 2

2018: YEAR OF THE BIRD

This year, Audubon, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, National Geographic, BirdLife International, and dozens of other organizations are celebrating the centennial of the ratification of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. To learn more, go to birdyourworld.org.

For six resolutions to help you birdyourworld in 2018, go to <https://tinyurl.com/yeh9poyf>:

#BirdYourWorld

SO MUCH TO SEE IN THE YEAR OF THE BIRD!

You don't have to go far to see birds: The sharp-shinned hawk at right was Sandy Sorkin's "second backyard bird of the year." (The feathers on the ground are from the first backyard bird of the year.)

But to go farther afield, check out all the field trips coming up, including MBC's annual Cape Ann trip next month, on pages 2 and 3.



Great news about Rifle Camp Park

On Dec. 12, 2017, the Passaic County Freeholders announced that the Disc Golf project proposed for Rifle Camp Park will be built instead at Preakness Valley Golf Course in Wayne.

Excerpts from an editorial on NorthJersey.com, Dec. 14:

“In the end, though, give the freeholders credit for seeing the mistake and recognizing a miscalculation, and moving finally, to set things right.

“‘Your voices have been heard,’ Freeholder Director Cassandra ... Lazzarra told about a dozen activists who came to a meeting Tuesday night to protest the proposal again. ‘We will not proceed with the disc golf course at Rifle Camp Park, and we thank you for your comments.’

“If the county’s decision to pull the disc golf course at Rifle Camp Park off the table is anything, it is a testament to the power of ordinary people, a tradition in this country that dates to the founding of the republic. ...

“Credit all the members of the Save Rifle Camp Park Coalition, as well as many other activists and concerned individuals, who spoke out against this wrong-headed plan by attending freeholder meetings, writing letters to the editor, and making up yard signs of protest. This, in a nutshell, is how democracy works, and because it worked so well this time, Rifle Camp Park is preserved.”

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, Jan. 20: Sandy Hook. Alex Bernzweig, leader. Meet at 9 a.m. in Lot B, the first large parking lot past the toll booths at the park entrance. We will drive to several different beaches along the hook, with some moderately long walks through sand and/or snow. Winter visits to Sandy Hook can be very productive, and we hope to see lots of ducks and seabirds. The dunes may host flocks of horned larks and snow buntings, and occasionally a rarity like Lapland longspur or lark sparrow. Interesting passerines or owls may be found in the woods. Be prepared for cold weather —wear gloves, boots, and thermal layers. Moderate physical exertion required.

Sunday, Feb. 4, and Sunday, March 4, weather permitting: Search for Eagles — Delaware Water Gap NRA. Jack Padalino, leader. Dress warmly, bring binoculars, and a lunch. The search for eagles will conclude along the Lackawaxan River at about 4 p.m. There is no charge but please register by contacting jack@brandwein.org or call 570-296-6752

Sunday, April 1: Liberty State Park, Jersey City. Bill Beren, leader. For birds, meet at Boat Launch parking lot off Morris Pesin Drive at 2:30 p.m. Beer and Brats to follow at Zeppelin Hall Biergarten. Directions at montclairbirdclub.org Field Trips page.

Saturday, May 5: Bonsal Preserve, Montclair, Deb DeSalvo, leader. Meet at the entrance on Riverview Drive, off Alexander Avenue, at 8 a.m.

Cape Ann: Saturday-Monday, Feb. 17-19

The Cape Ann trip is just a month away. **Please contact the leaders if you plan to attend, by emailing dtraylor@ptd.net.**

The group will stay at Fairfield Inn Marriott at 35 Clarks Road, Amesbury, MA 01913. The rate is \$99 until Jan. 26; for reservations, call 800-228-2800. Our group code is MONR.

Directions: From I-95 N, take exit 58B. From I-495 N, take exit 55. Meet at 8 a.m. in the lobby.

From leader Donna Traylor:

Be prepared for all sorts of weather, it could be bitterly cold and windy, or even on rare occasions unseasonably pleasant. Pack and dress accordingly, you will be outside all day. The Fairfield Inn typically has a breakfast bar which usually accommodates early morning birders.



Rocky coast near Rockport, Mass.

Photo by Donna Traylor

We will endeavor to find an appropriate lunch stop but if you decide to brown-bag it, arrangements will be made for a meeting spot after lunch. If you have an FRS radio bring it, as we will be driving through small New England towns where the group can get separated. Dinner will be a group endeavor and the leaders will have made reservations due to being a holiday weekend.

On Saturday, birding will most likely begin at Amesbury, Newburyport, Plum Island, and Salisbury Beach. This could produce winter finches, snowy and short-eared owls, northern shrike, and white-winged gulls.

On Sunday we will work toward Gloucester and Rockport, doing a circuit concentrating on waterfowl, grebes, and gulls. The longest hike will be approximately half a mile out to Halibut Point. A scope will be handy if you have one.

On Monday we will visit any spots missed or that need rechecking depending on bird reports. We normally conclude about midday to allow the drive back to New Jersey during daylight.

Please note: The speaker for the Feb. 14 meeting is still TBA; we'll send out the details as soon as possible.

Coming up at the March 14 meeting:

Histories and Mysteries of Mills Reservation: Tucked away in the midst of suburbia, Mills Reservation is an oasis for hikers and hawks. Helen Fallon, trustee of the Montclair History Center, will talk about how Mills Reservation came to be, what it **almost** came to be, and other historical tidbits, trivia and lore. Her presentation includes peeks at rarely viewed maps and plans, historic documents, and vintage pictures gathered during her research.

The MBC Bulletin Bird

Deb DeSalvo will lead a **birding hike for families** at Van Vleck Gardens on Sunday, Feb. 4, from 9 to 10 a.m. To register, go to vanvleck.org or email education@vanvleck.org.

The **Great Backyard Bird Count** will take place Feb. 16-19. For details on how to participate, go to birdcount.org.

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!

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:

“A single bird caused a \$220,000 boost to the US economy”

<https://tinyurl.com/y96e24u6>

A team of Australian researchers determined that the appearance of a black-backed oriole brought \$223,000 into the economy when it appeared at a bird-feeder last January.

Thanks to Sandy Sorkin for the link.

Useful links

NJAS online: njudubon.org

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

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