

THE MONTCLAIR BIRD CLUB

YOUR WEEKLY BIRD 63

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by Ric Cohn

Cory Shearwater — Scopoli Shearwater



How do you get a life bird when you've seen it before? When it is recognized again as a distinct species!

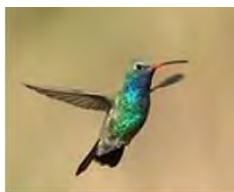
On a 24-hour pelagic in August, our expert leader was eagerly photographing every "Cory" shearwater he could to identify individuals of a newly recognized species. The bird most of us know as the Cory shearwater has once again been separated into two species. The birds breeding primarily on islands in the eastern Atlantic will continue to go by the name Cory, while the group that breeds on Mediterranean islands will be known as the Scopoli (pronounced SCOPP-o-lee) shearwater. The re-split was recognized by many authorities several years ago, "based on differences in DNA, vocalizations, and the lack of hybridization." In October, eBird entries for Cory shearwater (Scopoli) will automatically be changed to Scopoli shearwater. (See ebird.org/news/preparing-for-taxonomy-time-changes-to-corys-shearwater.)



The Scopoli shearwater differs from the Cory (in the narrow sense) in several ways. Most obvious from a boat is the different pattern of the primaries. The Scopoli shearwater has more white in the underwing than the Cory, with white on the outermost primaries extending toward the feather tips.

This is just one change that may be coming to your own bird lists. To learn more, see “Check the List,” pp. 6–8 in the September 2024 issue of *The Broadwing*, online at montclairbirdclub.org/broadwing.

If you would like to see your photographs highlighted here, send one or two pictures with a short paragraph to Sandy Sorkin & Rick Wright at MontclairBirdClub100@gmail.com.



Southwest Wings

