

THE MONTCLAIR BIRD CLUB

YOUR WEEKLY BIRD 48

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by Ric Cohn

Downy Woodpecker

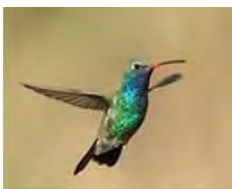
I've been out with many birders who seem to have very fast eyes. A bird appears for a second and they spot many details needed for identification. I'm not one of those. But I do have a camera, and I enjoy catching details and behaviors which my slow eyes have missed. Case in point, the way woodpeckers close their eyes every time they strike. I believe one reason is to protect their eyes from flying debris, but there may be other reasons such as one of the adaptations to avoid brain injury from the impacts.



This downy woodpecker was photographed at Garret Mountain Reservation February 21. It was hunting for grubs overwintering inside the reeds by the pond. How they know where to peck is another fascinating question.



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](mailto:MontclairBirdClub100@gmail.com).



Southwest Wings

