

# THE MONTCLAIR BIRD CLUB

## YOUR WEEKLY BIRD 33

April 21, 2024

by Rick Wright

### Golden Eyes



One of our scarcer winter ducks is the common goldeneye, a plump little bird with the head profile of a wildebeest. The male is startlingly black and white, the female silver-gray and copper-red; both flash the eponymous yellow eyes, but only males show the big white spot at the base of the bill, a character responsible for the Italian name “quattr’occhi.”

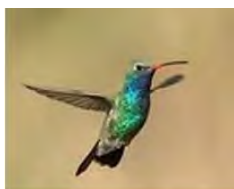
Wintering goldeneye are fond of big rivers, in some years including the Hackensack and even the Passaic, where they bob about in the icy water or fly low over the surface, wings whistling. They move north to the breeding grounds early.



In the boreal forests of America and Eurasia, female goldeneye nest in woodpecker holes as high up as 40 feet in dead or dying trees. The dark-eyed downy ducklings drop from the nest cavity just a day after hatching and follow their mother to water.



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Southwest Wings

