



SOBG

Friendly, fun, and Informative Bird Watching

August 2017, Issue 2

Welcome to our second newsletter of the Southern Ocean Birding Group. We hope to keep you up to date on what's going on with the group, latest news on the birding front, and what's been seen lately.

Of course, you can always checkout our website at www.southernoceanbirdinggroup.org for our calendar of events, informational links, and other news.



Fall is coming and Cape May Awaits

Our Cape May week is coming fast and even if you are not staying overnight at our house on West Lake Drive, Cape May Point, we invite our members to come and spend the day birding with us. We will be at the house from October 16 through 20th. We will be raptor watching at the Hawk Watch platform at Cape May Point Lighthouse State Park, looking for migrating songbirds including warblers around Lily Lake, the State Park, and Higbee Wildlife Management area.

The 2017 Cape May Fall Festival is from October 19th to 22nd, with programs and vendors at the Cape May Convention Center. The schedule of events can be found at: www.njaudubon.org

September 7 Meeting



Our next meeting is September 7 at 6:30 p.m. at the **Stafford**

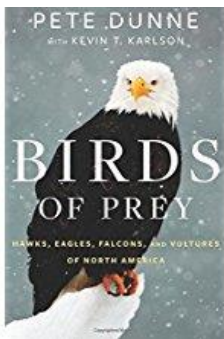
Library, Rt. 9, Stafford, NJ. The Library is located right on Route 9 in Manahawkin. We will be kicking off our 9th Year with a preview of programs and field trips for 2018, and what is coming up for the last 3 months of 2017. We also invite our members to bring along 10-20 photos they have taken over the past year to share with the Group.

We have many members who are photographers, and we're sure that all the members would be interested to see the results of those of us who photograph the birds and lug around 5-8 lbs. extra besides binoculars. Light refreshments will be available, and we meet in the downstairs meeting room of the library.

August Field Trip was very successful for the 10 members who came to Whitesbog Village. Seen were Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Solitary, Pectoral, Least and Spotted Sandpipers, along with Gull-billed Terns.

Birds of Prey

Our joint program with Atlantic Audubon is September 14th at the Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve at 6 p.m. Our special guest speaker is Kevin Karlson, doing a program on his new book, written with Pete Dunne, **Birds of Prey**.



September 10 Field Trip

A field trip is scheduled for September 10 to Palmyra Cove Nature Park for migrating warblers and other songbirds. We will meet at the Target parking lot, Stafford Park, Rt. 72, at 7 a.m. to carpool. If you drive yourself, we should be at the Nature Park around 8-8:30 a.m.

Volunteer Opportunities

The 35th Ocean County Decoy & Gunning Show is September 23 & 24th. We will have a table in the non-profit tent and need volunteers for September 23 to help at the table, where will be selling our pocket field guides for next year's MATES Scholarship Fund.

The Pine Barrens Jamboree is October 14th at Wells Mills Park, Waretown. Again, we need volunteers to help at the table.

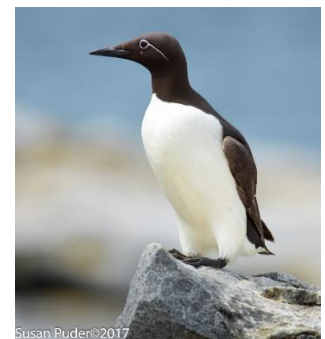
American Birding Expo at Greater Philadelphia Expo Center, Sept. 29-October 1, 2017. If you would like to carpool on Saturday, September 30, please let us know at soceanbirds@yahoo.com

Birding Maine

Three members of the SOBG headed to Maine the last week of July through August 4, primarily to see and photograph Atlantic Puffins, but also to find pelagic birds on two whale watches, and Nancy Gallagher, Nancy Lynch, and Sue Puder were not disappointed. We also saw over a dozen lighthouses, 4 Humpback and 1 Minke whale, Atlantic White-sided Dolphins, Harbor Porpoises, a Mola Mola (Ocean Sunfish), and gray and harbor seals. We would highly recommend the Cape Ann Whale Watching trip, the Bar Harbor Whale Watching tour, and especially Machias Seal Island trip from Bold Coast Charter Company. Instead of descriptions, here are some photos.



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