




**SOBG**

# Friendly, fun, and Informative Bird Watching

September 2017, Issue 3

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](http://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 20<sup>th</sup>. 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 19<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>, with programs and vendors at the Cape

May Convention Center. The schedule of events can be found at: [www.njaudubon.org](http://www.njaudubon.org)



## October 5 Meeting

Our next meeting is October 5 at 6:30 p.m. at the **Stafford Library, Rt. 9, Stafford, NJ**. The Library is located right on Route 9 in Manahawkin. Our program will be "Panama Birding Adventure" with Sue Puder and Nancy Gallagher. They will talk and present a powerpoint show on their recent trip to Panama.

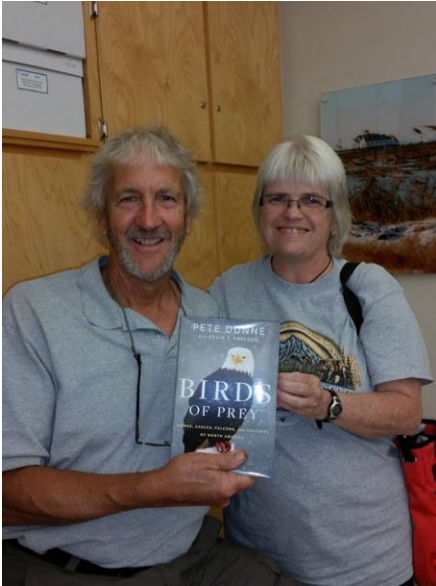
Come see beautiful photos of tropical birds and maybe even get the travel bug to go their yourself.

Light refreshments will be available, and we meet in the downstairs meeting room of the library.

## Unusual Sightings in New Jersey

New Jersey was a stopover for some unusual southern birds recently. Two Wood Storks were seen in Cape May, with a Roseate Spoonbill making everyone travel down to Heislerville Wildlife Management Area in Cumberland County. Though not the first time see in NJ, they stayed awhile for birders and photographers to get good views.

## Birds of Prey Program



**Kevin Karlson and Linda Gangi after program on Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>. Great turnout and wonderful and informative program.**

## Volunteer Opportunities

The Pine Barrens Jamboree is October 14<sup>th</sup> at Wells Mills Park, Waretown. We will have a table in the non-profit tent and need volunteers to help at the table, where will be selling our pocket field guides for next year's MATES Scholarship Fund.



Rachel Corso and Sue Puder at the Ocean County Decoy Show, September 23, 2017

**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](mailto:soceanbirds@yahoo.com)



## A Message from our 2016 Scholarship Winner

My name is Christopher Sayers, and I was your 2016 scholarship recipient. I am emailing just to let you know how I have been doing! My freshman year at Cornell was amazing, and quite eventful. Last year was mainly focused on completing general course requirements; however, this upcoming semester I will be taking classes that are more pertinent to my major. I am most excited for Field Methods in Avian Ecology, which will teach me all about bird banding! Aside from doing well in all of my classes and making the Dean's List, I had the pleasure of competing in the World Series of Birding with the Team Redhead Cape May County team and I also got a job working as a curatorial assistant at the Macaulay Library of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Through my involvement at the Lab, I was also offered a paid summer position working as a field technician.

For the past 8 weeks, I have been helping a Cornell PhD candidate with his dissertation research in central Pennsylvania. The project is focused on the management of timber harvests in Appalachia to benefit Golden-winged Warblers. I was responsible for conducting point-count and vegetation surveys; however, I learned skills like radio telemetry and orienteering as well. It is by far the toughest job I have ever had, but I'm glad I persevered until the end. I now have a much better understanding of true field work. Below are some pictures of me in the field.

Since returning home, I have started working as a naturalist at Island Beach State Park. I am enjoying being so close to the ocean again! The fall semester starts on August 22nd, and as much as I love relaxing at the beach I am excited to start my sophomore year. I would like to express my gratitude yet again for awarding me your scholarship, it has gone a long way in helping me complete my degree. I hope all is well with your organization, and I hope to be hearing from you soon.