



SOBG

Friendly, fun, and Informative Bird Watching

October 2017, Issue 4

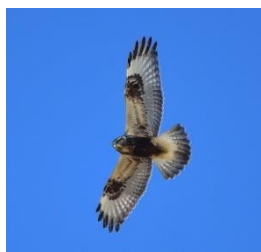
Checkout our website at www.southernoceanbirdinggroup.org for our calendar of events, informational links, and other news.



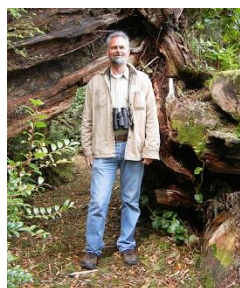
Cape May Week Full of Great Birds

Our Cape May week came and went in a flash of feathers. We were 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 high lite of the week for most of us was the appearance of several Rough-legged Hawks over the Hawk Watch earlier in the week. These are birds that live in the tundra during the summer and are occasionally seen along the coasts in winter. To see 2 or 3 in Cape May is very rare. The Cape May Raptor Project was able to trap one and band it, the first time in over 20 years. Other rarities were Soras, Virginia Rails, Winter Wrens, and Parasitic Jaegers off the coast.



Rough-legged Hawk



November 2 Meeting

Our next meeting is **November 2** at 6:30 p.m. at the **Tuckerton Seaport, Hunting**

Shanty. The **Seaport** is located right on Route 9 in **Tuckerton**. Our program will be “**Made in New Jersey**” with **Rick Wright**, who will present a light-hearted look at the personalities, the adventures, and the birds that gave science its earliest glimpses into the richness of the North American avifauna.

Rick Wright, a native of southeast Nebraska, studied French, German, philosophy, and life sciences at the University of Nebraska, where he worked in the bird collections of the State Museum After a detour to Harvard Law School, Rick took the M.A. and Ph.D. in German at Princeton University. He is also the author of the American Birding Association’s field guides to birds of New Jersey and of Arizona, and of the Peterson Reference Guide to North American sparrows.

Light refreshments will be available.

Unusual Sightings in New Jersey

New Jersey is now seeing the peak of the raptor migration in Cape May and Sandy Hook. When the prevailing winds are North or Northwest, especially after a cold front, this is the time to get out with your binoculars and check the skies.

Holiday Party On December 7

Our 9th Annual Holiday Party is set for December 7th and all are asked to bring along a dish or dessert for the event. A signup sheet will be passed around at the next meeting on November 2nd. It's always a lot of fun and gives members a chance to catch up with other members in a relaxed and delicious setting. Not sure yet of the venue at the Seaport, but hoping we can have the Lighthouse building as it has more room for the group.

Volunteer Opportunities

We have purchased a new covering for our tables at the various outdoor events that we participate by giving out information about the Group and selling our field guides for our MATES scholarship. The season is over and we thank those members that helped out this year. We will continue to sell the field guides at our meetings.



Nancy Gallagher at the Pinelands Jamboree on October 14, 2017

November 4 Field Trip

Join us on our next field trip on November 4th, heading to Cape May Hawk Watch and the Avalon Seawatch. We will be looking for eagles and northern hawks heading south (with any luck possibly a Northern Goshawk??). At the Avalon Seawatch the winter migration of waterfowl, including all three scoters, loons, mergansers, and maybe a Humpback Whale. We'll meet at the Galloway Rest Area on the GS Parkway, mile 41 at 8:30 a.m. Last year Snow Buntings were plentiful at Avalon, too. Let us know if you plan on going so no one is left behind. Constant rain will cancel the trip.

Cape May Raptor Banding Project

For 51 years the Cape May Raptor Banding Project has been banding and monitoring raptors traveling through Cape May during the fall migration. The Project was created to conduct long-term monitoring of the status and trends of migrating raptors and to analyze and disseminate this information. They have four banding stations situated around the Cape May area, and on the weekends from September to the end of October you can attend a banding demonstration at 10 a.m. at the Cape May Lighthouse State Park, near the hawk watch platform.

Volunteers capture the hawks, band them with U. S. Geological Survey (USGS) bands, record measurements, and release them. The information is sent to the U.S.G.S. Bird Banding Laboratory and is available to various research projects. Since 1974 over 141,000 raptors have been banded. The SOBG is hoping to have a representative of the Project for a program in 20018.



The demos at the hawk watch or at the Meadows (Saturdays only) also gives you a wonderful way to see these mighty birds

up close and person. For photographer, it's a great way to get those portraits that are impossible with flying birds.

