



SOBG

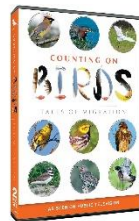
Friendly, fun, and Informative Bird Watching

December 2017, Issue 6

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

Happy Holidays to our Band of Happy Birders

We, the Executive Board of the Southern Ocean Birding Group, would like to wish all our members a Very Happy Holiday Season and Happy 2018. Wonderful things are planned for next year.



January 4 Meeting

Our next meeting is **January 4** 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 an audience choice of a video on either: Saving Songbirds, Plight of the Grasslands Birds, or Journey of the Broad-winged Hawk.

Light refreshments will be available.

Snowy Owls in New Jersey



Snowy Owls are making a return showing in New Jersey this winter season, being seen at Island Beach State Park, Holgate,

Brigantine Island, Stone Harbor, and Cape May. Four years ago, we had another irruption year and this winter is starting to look as good. There was an abundance of lemmings in the Arctic this summer, thus the overflow of juvenile owls heading our way.

Be sure to try and find some this winter...they are a rare treat for New Jersey birders.

Allen's Hummingbird in Little Egg Harbor

From the 52" wingspan of a Snowy Owl, we go to the 4.5" wingspan of a Allen's Hummingbird. One of these little birds showed up at an undisclosed location in Little Egg Harbor the beginning of December and has been seen ever since at the feeder in the area.



You have to understand that not only are hummers usually long gone from NJ by this time, but this little guy is common in

coastal chaparral and low riparian woods along the Pacific Coast of the US. How he got here is anyone's guess, but David LaPuma from CMBO came up to identify the bird (they look very similar to Rufous Hummers) and to band it.

So far he has survived cold temperatures and even a brief snow storm. If you are interested in seeing the bird and if it hangs around longer, let us know and you'll be put in contact with the person managing the visits.



Results of Tuckerton CBC

The Tuckerton Christmas Bird Count (CBC) was held on December 16 with 10 members of the SOBG. The preliminary count is 71 species with unusual sightings such as, Pine Warbler, Red-shoulder Hawk, Hermit Thrush, and White-winger Scoter, along with Allen's Hummingbird. Thanks to all who participated, and special thanks to Linda Gangi for organizing the event

and finally, to Morry Kapitan, who is going to update our check list.

2017 Year in Review

Just a few items to review the past year:

- We ended the year with 87 paid members
- Our 8th Annual Wings Over LBI was very successful with good crowds at both programs
- Our annual cleanup of Great Bay Boulevard in April filled over 55 bags of trash
- We awarded \$1,100 to three MATES scholarship winners
- Our guest speakers have included some of the best birders in NJ: Pete Bacinski, Kevin Karlson, Rick Wright, and Paul Guris. Mary Lenahan did another great program on Monarchs. Over 300 monarchs were raised and released by members.
- We had information tables at: Pinelands Short Course, Barnegat Bay Festival, Ocean County Decoy Show, and Pinelands Jamboree. We've sold several hundred field guides for our scholarship fund.
- We conducted 11 field trips and our Cape May week saw a full house every night
- We have great plans for 2018; the website calendar should be updated by the end of January with programs and field trips. Be sure to check it out at:

www.southernoceanbirdinggroup.org

Visit us on Facebook at:

Friends in Southern Ocean Birding Group (group)