

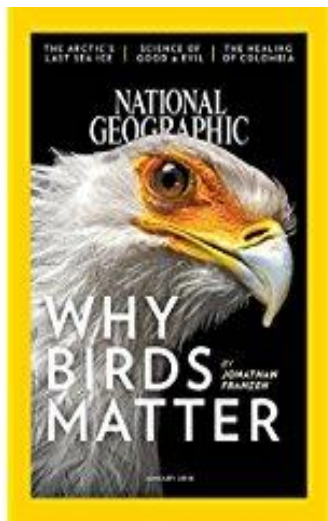


Friendly, fun, and Informative Bird Watching

January 2018, Issue 7

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

The Year of the Bird

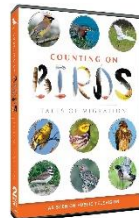


The National Geographic Society is partnering with the National Audubon Society, BirdLife International, and Cornell Lab of Ornithology in declaring 2018 The Year of the Bird. Quoting biologist and conservationist, Thomas Lovejoy, "If you take care of the birds, you take care of most of the big problems in the world."

Besides humans, birds are the only species found on all seven continents. This group of organizations is going to "examine how our changing environment is leading to dramatic losses among bird species around the globe."

Beginning this endeavor is this month's National Geographic magazine.

On January 19, watch **Planet of the Birds** on **Nat Geo Wild**, if you have that on your cable TV stations. It will be DVR'd for possible transfer to a dvd for future viewing.



February 1 Meeting

Our next meeting is **February 1** 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, which would have been the January meeting, but snowstorm Grayson got here first.

Light refreshments will be available.

Field Trip January 21

Our next field trip is scheduled for January 21 to Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, Oceanville. We will meet in the parking lot of the Visitor's Center at 9 a.m. Hope to see you there as we begin 2018. Bad weather conditions will postpone until January 28

2018 Highlights

Upcoming highlights of the year ahead:

- Woodpecker program with Pete Bacinski in March
- Our 9th Annual Wings Over LBI on March 17
- Our annual cleanup of Great Bay Boulevard April 7
- Field trip to Lakehurst Naval Station in June for rare grassland birds
- Cape May Raptor Banding Project program in June
- Field trips to Monmouth County ponds in March and some other new locations thru the year
- Cape May Point Lakeside Lodge reserved for Sept. 24-28
- Increasing our MATES scholarship and other donations to environmental organizations in NJ
- 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)

NJ Bird Species of Concern



The NJ DEP Division of Fish and Wildlife released a draft of a revised State Wildlife Action Plans for species of concern for greatest conservation needs. Besides amphibians, plants, mammals, insects, and the North Atlantic Right Whale, there are many bird species on this list for habitat

identification, management and research.

Shorebirds include: American Oystercatcher, Least, Common, and Forster's terns, Black Skimmer, Little Blue Heron, Tri-colored Heron, Snowy Egret, Piping Plover, Pied-billed Grebe, Ruddy Turnstone, and Red Knot.

Woodland, meadow and field species include: Woodcock, Northern Bobwhite, Red-headed Woodpecker, Eastern Meadowlark, and Scarlet Tanager.

Also, Grasshopper and Vesper sparrows, and Golden-winged, Cerulean, Kentucky and Prothonotary warblers. Finally, two raptors: Northern Harrier and Peregrine Falcon. Surprised that the Kestrel isn't listed.

The revised plan will take into consideration habitat loss, wildlife management of invasive species, managing for biodiversity on public and private lands, and other sound science practices.

The Division of Fish and Wildlife is accepting comments on the plan from the public until January 19. You can view and submit comments of the plan at: nj.gov/dep/fgw/ensp/waphome.htm or mail comments to: Wildlife Action Plan Commission, NJDEP, Division of Fish and Wildlife, PO Box 420, MC501-03, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420