



SOBG

**2018
Year of the Bird**

February 2018, Issue 8

Friendly, fun, and Informative Bird Watching

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

Wings Over LBI

The 9th Annual Wings Over LBI will be held this year on March 17th. Besides having members at Barnegat Light State Park helping to identify birds and lead walks, our program at the Long Beach Island Foundation of the Arts and Sciences will be the “Twelve Months of Birding in New Jersey”, which will start at 11 a.m. If you are not a member of the LBIF, the cost is \$5.

Later at 1 p.m. Vinny Turner, biologist from EB Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, will present a program on the progress of the Forsythe NWR area being developed on Cedar Bonnet Island, off the Rt. 72 Causeway bridge, which is scheduled to open this year.



Barnegat Lighthouse State Park **March 17, 2018**
10:00 - 4 pm

Long Beach Island Foundation for Arts & Science
Science Saturday: 12 Months of Birding in NJ
11:00 a.m. (\$5 fee for non-members)

Lighthouse Program 1 p.m.
Forsythe NWR on Cedar Bonnet Island
With Vinny Turner, Biologist EBF NWR

For more info: SouthernOceanBirdingGroup.org



March 1 Meeting



Our next meeting is **March 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 **“OUR FASCINATION WITH WOODPECKERS”** presented by our member, Pete Bacinski. Birders and non-

birders alike are fascinated by the sight of a woodpecker. There are 22 species of woodpeckers in North America and we will touch on all of those with special attention to woodpeckers found here in New Jersey. We will discuss behavior, identification, distribution, abundance and some of my personal stories as well as interesting and little-known facts that will make us appreciate this amazing group of birds even more. Come early to make sure you get a seat for this wonderful event.

Light refreshments will be available.

Field Trip March 3

Our next field trip is scheduled for March 3 to the northern ponds of Monmouth County and Point Pleasant. We will meet in the parking lot of Forked River Rest Area, north end at 8 a.m. Hope to see you there; let us know if you are going so no one is left behind. Bad weather conditions will cancel the trip.

The Great Backyard Bird Count

The Great Backyard Bird Count started in 1998 and was the first online citizen-science project to collect data about wild birds. The count is done in February each year to give a snapshot of bird distributions before spring migration. By participating in the bird count, citizen scientists help researchers better understand patterns of bird diversity and abundance, as well as issues such how weather or climate change influences bird populations, how migrations compare to those of the past, and how diseases affect birds in various parts of the country.

A query of Great Backyard Bird Count data showed that 669 species of birds were observed in the United States in 2017. This year, 5 members took part in counting birds on LBI and came up with numbers over 1000 of 40 different species, from buffleheads, brant, to golden-eyes and 3 snowy owls.

If you have 15 minutes to spare during the Great Backyard Bird Count (Feb. 16-19), you can make a difference and help birds. You do not have to be an expert bird watcher. Beginning observers and families with children can count birds around the house or neighborhood.

Tally the numbers and kinds of birds you see during the 15 minutes. Then, enter your bird count tally into the eBird smartphone app, or on the bird count website (<https://gbbc.birdcount.org>).

www.southernoceanbirdinggroup.org

Visit us on Facebook at:

Friends in Southern Ocean Birding Group (group)

Feathers and Eggs

A new periodic column to bring you up to date with stuff going on:

- Morry Kapitan was elected Vice President at our last meeting. Congrats!
- If you have not renewed your membership for 2018, there is still time. Bring your check or cash to the next meeting.
- The SOBG website is currently being re-done with a new host, but hopefully the new site will be uploaded without issues next month.
- The Calendar for 2018 is now updated on our website with all the field trips and some programs that are set at this time. More updates will be made as they are firmed up.
- Lake of the Lillies in Point Pleasant Beach is filled with Redheads and other great waterfowl. Our March 3rd trip will make a stop here.
- Snowy Owls have been seen rather frequently over the past weeks at EB Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge in Oceanville and at Holgate.
- Three members of the SOBG recently traveled to Ecuador and will have a guest column about the trip soon.
- Two single beds are still available at the Cape May Point Lakeside Lodge for our Cape May week. Cost: \$65 per person per night.