



Friendly, fun, and Informative Bird Watching

2018
Year of the Bird

April 2018, Issue 10

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

Great Bay Blvd. Cleanup April 14th



The cleanup of Great Bay Blvd. is scheduled for April 14, starting at **8 a.m.** at the Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine

Research Reserve, 130 Great Bay Blvd, Tuckerton. We will assemble our volunteers there, assign areas for cleanup, load out grabbers, and bags. Bathrooms will be available for volunteers during the day. We hope to complete the cleanup by 1 p.m. This is our main service project for the year, and we hope our members and others will come out to help. The forecast is for pleasant weather this Saturday.

Feathers and Eggs

- Two single beds are still available at the Cape May Point Lakeside Lodge for our Cape May week. Cost: \$65 per person per night.
- There are only a few spots left for our field trip to Lakehurst Naval Station (Joint Base) on June 13, with rain date June 30. Let Jeanine Apgar or Donna Ortuso know if you want to go.

May 3 Meeting



Our next meeting is **May 3** 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 on Grassland Birds of Lakehurst Naval Station presented by Meghan Kolk, Wildlife Biologist with Conserve Wildlife of New Jersey. The talk focuses mainly on the upland sandpiper, but also includes some of the other birds that nest at the Base (grasshopper sparrow, savannah sparrow, bobolink, horned lark, eastern meadowlark). Meghan will also describe the conservation work being done at the Base.

This ties in nicely with our field trip on June 13 to Lakehurst Naval Station, so be sure to come and learn about an important grassland area right in our own county.

Light refreshments will be available.

Field Trip April 21

Our next field trip is scheduled for April 21 to Belleplain State Forest for warblers and Heislerville for returning shorebirds. Member Pete Bacinski will lead the trip. We will meet at the Galloway rest area on the Garden State Parkway at 8 a.m. to carpool. Please let us know if you plan on going. Bad weather conditions will cancel the trip.

Additional Field Trips



Over the next 2 months we have scheduled additional trips to take advantage of the spring migration of warblers, songbirds and shorebirds.

April 25—Forsythe NWR leader Pete Bacinski

May 5—Estell Manor (Atlantic County Park) leaders Greg Prelich and Jeanine Apgar

May 19—Heislerville and Delaware Bayshores leaders TBD

June 13—Lakehurst Naval Station leaders Pete Bacinski, Linda Mack, Scott Barnes, Rick Radis

Trip to Ecuador-Part 2

by Jeanine Apgar

In late January, Pete Mooney, Greg Prelich and I took a very rewarding birding trip to Ecuador. Part 2 continues: Another birding lodge, San Isidro, had lush green trails into the jungle, which we spent hours exploring. The cabins were surrounded by singing Mountain Wrens and the famous San Isidro Owl, which we heard but never saw. One of the nicest parts of the birding lodges was the people we met from all over the world, including a young 12-year-old birder who knew as many species as I do. Probably more.

Upslope at the Guango Lodge and the Papallacta area, the skies were blue against the surrounding mountains, a beautiful sight. Along the way we found Torrent Ducks and White-capped Dippers in streams along the roadsides. For our last evening we enjoyed soaking in natural thermal pools in a hot spring resort.

Most of our birding was in thick rain forest or in open habitat, but the final day was spent in the high altitude paramo where no trees can grow. Here, with the awe-inspiring snow-capped Antisana Volcano in view wherever we went, we found an Aplomado Falcon, Carunculated Caracara, and Black-faced Ibis. It was a great trip with great friends, more than 250 species seen overall, including 200 new lifers for me, including 32 species of hummingbirds, and memories to last a lifetime. To see a more detailed write-up and photos, go to <http://birdquiz.net/the-2018-adventure-begins/>



Long-tailed Sylph



Black-faced Ibis

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