



Friendly, fun, and Informative Bird Watching

2018
Year of the Bird

May 2018, Issue 11

Checkout our **NEW** 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. was held on April 14, with over 10 members coming out to help out. We covered the area from the beginning of the WMA to the first wooden bridge and filled over 30 jumbo bags of trash. The weather was perfect, and we were done a bit after noon. Thanks to all who volunteered for our community service project. We'll be at it again next April.

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. If not reserved by members by June 1, the room will be open to non-members.
- The Southern Ocean Birding Group Virginia Syracuse Memorial Scholarship will be presented to the winner on June 5 at MATES.

June 7 Meeting



Our next meeting is **June 7** 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 the Cape May Raptor Banding Project, with their president Paul Napier. 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 several banding stations located around Cape May every fall, and volunteers capture the hawks, band them with United States Geological Survey (U.S.G.S) 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 146,000 raptors have been banded. During migrations, these birds may be recaptured to check the band or if the band is found, the information is reported back to the U.S.G.S.

The volunteers also bring over during this season the banded birds to the Cape May Hawk Watch every Saturday and Sunday for public educational sessions. Usually 3-5 raptors in cylindrical tubes are brought over and each bird is taken out and shown to the public.

Light refreshments will be available.

Field Trip May 19



Our next field trip is scheduled for May 19 to Heislerville and the Delaware Bayshore for returning shorebirds. 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. Donna Ortuso and Nancy Lynch will lead the trip. Bad weather conditions will cancel the trip.

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

Birding Portugal Part 1

By Susan Puder

In mid-April I joined NJ Audubon Society for their eco-trip to bird Portugal. I have never been to the country, so it was a new adventure trip, lead by Dale Rosselet, VP of NJAS. Portugal is a country about the size of Indiana, and about 550 birds can be seen through out the year, many are migrating to Europe from Africa. April is the height of the spring migration, and with the great diversity of habitats in a relatively small area, we were able to see hundreds of species without traveling long distances.

The trip began with a 4-hour tour of Lisbon, after being on the plane for almost 8 hours, with no sleep. The weather was sunny and mild, and we visited some of the historical areas of the city. And I got my first 5 lifers that day: Yellow-legged Gull, Common Blackbird, Crested Myna, Pallid Swift, and Common Swifts.

The next two days were spent in Alcochete, visiting a variety of areas of the Tagus Estuary Nature Reserve, including mudflats, salt marshes, salt pans, rice fields, and pastures. As I had never birded Europe, almost every bird was a lifer, and after 2 days I had 84 more birds to my life list.



European Bee-eater

These included Little Grebe, Little Bittern, Grey Heron, White Stork, Eurasian Spoonbill, Ringed Plover, Black-winged Stilt, and my favorite, European Bee-eater.



Black-winged Stilt



Collared Pratincole

The third day of the birding tour, our guide, Joao Jara, owner of Bird & Nature Tour Portugal, lead us to Mertola, a medieval wall city with a large fortress for our next 4 nights.



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