



Friendly, fun, and Informative Bird Watching

2018
Year of the Bird

March 2018, Issue 9

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 was held this year on March 17.



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.
- Pat and Clay Sutton are our guest speakers for the joint program with Atlantic Audubon Society on Sept. 13. Program: **Birds and Birding Cape May**. Put it on your calendar, you don't want to miss this one!

April 5 Meeting



Our next meeting is **April 5** 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 **SAVING BARNEGAT BAY** presented by Britta Wenzel, Executive Director. Save

Barnegat Bay's mission is to restore and protect Barnegat Bay and its ecosystem. They have advanced their mission by being a strong and independent voice for the Bay throughout the watershed, including all of Ocean and part of Monmouth Counties. Save Barnegat Bay has been responding to the vast number of factors that threaten the health of Barnegat Bay and its ecosystem. Come and learn about what is being done to protect the Bay and what you can do to help.

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.

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. Bad weather will postpone the event to the fall.

Trip to Ecuador-Part 1

by Jeanine Apgar

In late January, Pete Mooney, Greg Prelich and I took a very rewarding birding trip to Ecuador. Ecuador is home to many birds due to the differing altitudes. We birded the high peaks of the eastern Andes and the tropical rainforests of the Napo River, a tributary of the Amazon, as well as making stops at elevations in between. At each elevation the birds were different, and although we had a few birding guides, for most of the trip we found and identified the birds on our own, and enjoyed the gorgeous scenery, flowers, butterflies, people, and food.

After flying into Quito, we rented a car and drove to the Narupa Reserve. Our lodging here was in a beautiful cabin near a waterfall, with hummingbird feeders on the grounds. One favorite hummingbird was the Gorgeted Woodstar, it looked like a flying bee buzzing around. Walking the grounds around the cabin we were surprised that there were nesting Blue-gray Tanagers this time of year. There were also Cock-of-the-Rock and Amazonian Umbrellabirds just outside the dining area!

At our next stop, Wildsumaco, there was a roaring fire every evening in the main lodge, as it was quite cool and rainy. That didn't stop us from birding all day however. We put the raincoat over the scope

and went out! Here some of my favorite hummingbirds were Booted Racket-tail and Wire-crested Thorntails. There were many bird families that we don't see here in the US, including Guans and Aracari's.

We stayed two nights at the Jatun Sacha Biological Station where students were volunteering their time to help the rainforest in many ways. We also birded by the Napo River finding tropical species that we didn't find elsewhere. Hoatzin, Black-faced Nunbirds, and my lifer nemesis, Purple Gallinule, were some birds seen along a beautiful and lush river from a canoe. (To be continued next month). To see a more detailed write-up and photos, go to <http://birdquiz.net/the-2018-adventure-begins/>



Masked Trogon



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