



Friendly, fun, and Informative Bird Watching

**2018
Year of the Bird**

September 2018, Issue 15

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

Special Event



A good crowd enjoyed the talk with Pat and Clay Sutton at our joint presentation with Atlantic Audubon Society on Sept. 13. "Birds and Birding Cape May" was perfect for our

upcoming stay in Cape May Point, Sept. 24-28. Thanks to all who attended.

Feathers and Eggs

- We will have tables at the Ocean County Decoy Show on Sept. 29 (Tip Seaman Park in Tuckerton) and the Pine Barrens Jamboree on October 13 (Wells Mills County Park in Waretown). We need volunteers to help with the tables. Thanks.
- Our 2018 Holiday Party will be on December 6. Sign up sheets for items to bring will be at the next meeting.

October Meeting



Our next meeting is **October 4** 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 "World Series of Birding in Ocean County" with Alex Majewski presenting.

Alex is a science teacher at Barnegat High School, a member of the Science Committee at the Long Beach Island Foundation for Arts and Sciences along with being co-chair of the Science Saturday programs, owner of Lighthouse Sportfishing, and a member of the Board for Friends of Forsythe NWR. Alex will present a program describing what it's like to participate in the World Series of Birding in Ocean County, what it does, how his team prepares, and the day of the event.

Light refreshments will be available.

Field Trip Sept. 24-28



Our next field trip is actually our trip to Cape May, Sept. 24-28. Members will be staying at the house at 508 West Lake Drive, Cape May Point, so you can meet us

at the house or at the CM Hawkwatch at 9 a.m. Tuesday thru Friday.

World of Dragonflies

By Becky Hedden

When birding in the fall, you are sure to notice dragonflies and may be surprised to learn that several dragonfly species migrate, following geographic formations; such as, mountains and coastlines, just as birds do. Some predators of dragonflies include flycatchers, Cedar Waxwings, American Kestrels, Merlins, and Mississippi Kites. These birds have been found to migrate at the same time as the dragonflies and surely feed on them during their southward journey.

Dragonfly species have different life strategies; some overwinter as eggs, others overwinter as predatory larvae, underwater in rivers, streams and lakes, and of the over 175 species found in New Jersey, several migrate far away to spend the winter in a warmer climate, primarily Common Green Darners, Black Saddlebags and Wandering Gliders. The first two follow the coastline as far as the east coasts of Texas, Mexico and beyond. Black Saddlebags catch your attention with the large black marking on their wings and with luck, can be observed in migratory swarms behind the dunes along our beaches. In 2005, Rutgers University researchers placed miniature radio transmitters on 14 Common Green Darners in New Jersey and followed them with Cessna airplanes for part of their migration. They were found to migrate every three days, resuming flight after two nights of cooler temperatures, covering up to 40 miles a week on their journey southward, feeding and laying eggs along the way.



Wandering Gliders follow the coast southward and continue south to voyage over the ocean to the Intertropical Convergence Zone, a calm

winds area near the equator referred to as the doldrums; a distance of 4400 miles, feeding on tiny insects, known as aerial plankton, along the way. (for comparison, a Monarch Butterfly migrates up to 2500 miles) After their spring arrival in New Jersey, they breed in rain puddles, where their larvae

develop quickly in this predator-free environment. It is not uncommon to see Wandering Gliders in parking lots, laying their eggs on cars, mistaking the shiny finish for a rain puddle! During migration, Wandering Gliders put off breeding until they arrive at their destination. Wandering Gliders are found around the world except for Europe and Antarctica.



A local non-migrant dragonfly to enjoy now through early December is the aptly named and striking,

Autumn Meadowhawk, with a fuzzy brown thorax and bright red abdomen.



Common Green Darter



Black Saddlebags

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