



Friendly, fun, and Informative Bird Watching

2018
Year of the Bird

November 2018, Issue 17

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

2018 Holiday Party



We will celebrate the holidays together on December 6, this year at the **Jacques Cousteau NERR at 130 Great Bay Blvd, Tuckerton.** We will start to

set up at 5:30 and clean up before 8 p.m. Due to the Christmas Market at the Tuckerton Seaport, it was decided to move the location, for this event only, down the street to JCNERR, who were kind enough to allow to use their facilities.

If you wish to bring food or drink, please contact Jeanine Apgar at jga-2@comcast.net Come and help us celebrate 2018 and bring in the New Year!

Feathers and Eggs

- The program with Scott Weidensaul on Project SNOWstorm at Friends of Forsythe was cancelled due to the Nor'easter on November 15. Efforts are being made to reschedule the program in early January. Will keep you posted.
- The next field trip is January 26 to Forsythe NWR to see our winter waterfowl. Meet at parking lot at the Oceanville division at 9 a.m.

January 3 Meeting



Our next meeting is January 3, 2019, at 6:30 p.m. at the Hunting Shanty of Tuckerton Seaport.

Sue Puder will present a program **“Portugal, Birds and Nature.”** She will

present highlights of a 10 day trip to Portugal with NJ Audubon Society, lead by Dale Rosselet. We visited a wide range of habitats—all within a three-hour drive from Lisbon. Be an armchair traveler and learn about the culture and birds of this fascinating country.

Light refreshments will be available.

Tuckerton Christmas Bird Count



The SOBG will conduct the 2018 Tuckerton Christmas Bird Count on December 15, all day, rain or shine. Morry Kapitan is leading our count this year with able assistance from our veteran leader, Linda Gangi. It starts at 7 a.m., meeting at the

Tuckerton Seaport parking lot. You can volunteer for half a day (morning or afternoon), or the whole day. We will break at 11 for lunch at the Dynasty Diner on Rt. 9, Tuckerton. At 5 p.m. we will gather at the Hunting

Shanty to review our counts for the day and share some pizza and drinks. A great way to end **The Year of the Bird!**

The Christmas Bird Count is a census of birds in the Western Hemisphere, performed annually in the early Northern-hemisphere winter by volunteer birdwatchers and administered by the National Audubon Society. The purpose is to provide population data for use in science, especially conservation biology, though many people participate for recreation. As of 2018, the CBC was the longest running citizen science survey in the world. If you would like to participate and haven't contacted Morry yet, let him know: mlkapitan@me.com

Thanks Pat Sutton

By Nancy Gallagher



Amidst all the activity around Election Day, an unexpected visitor arrived in my yard. That Monday I glanced out my family room window to see if there were any birds at the feeders near the woods. Imagine my surprise when I spotted a hummingbird sipping nectar from the

hummingbird feeder near the house. On November 5th! Ruby-throated hummers frequent my yard in the summer, but I usually bring in the feeder in late September, so I mentally thanked Pat Sutton for the advice to leave out a feeder for late migrants and got on with my day.

On 11/07, I noticed my visitor again, this time using my bins for a better look. "Oh my god! That's not a Ruby-throated," I shouted and ran for a bird guide. A Rufous? I had to wait for it to return to the feeder before I could get a picture to put on the SOBG Facebook site to confirm it was a Rufous.

It wasn't too long before the phone rang. Donna Ortuso. "Is it all right if I come over to see the hummer?" "Sure," I said. "Great. I'll be right there. I'm in your driveway."

She was even more excited than I was. The Rufous was a lifer for her. I'd glimpsed one in Cape May years ago, but this was my first clear view. Donna asked if it was okay for David LaPuma to come to band it. I couldn't imagine how anyone could catch a hummer and imagined it being chased around the yard with a net. But Donna assured me Dave could

catch it and that he is the only person in New Jersey qualified to band hummingbirds. I said okay.

That evening, Dave called, and we agreed that he could arrive at 6a.m. Thursday morning. I pointed out that I'd have to leave by 9:30 to volunteer at Forsythe. He said he had to get back to Cape May in time to open the Bird Observatory.



His arrival Thursday morning began my most amazing birding experience yet:

witnessing the capture, banding, and identification of a hummingbird.

Dave explained that it was important to be ready for the hummer at first light, since it would be the hungriest then after the night's fast. Outside, he first set up a table with adjustable legs under the feeder. Then he placed a metal cage on the table and hung the feeder inside it, so that it was at the same height as it had been. Shortly after Dave came back inside, the hummer was at the feeder, sipping nectar. And Dave remotely closed the cage door.

He gently wrapped his hand around her, placed her in a small bag, and brought her inside, where he proceeded to examine her. The Allen's and Rufous hummingbirds are nearly identical, so he examined and measured various features, such as her weight, length of the bill and whether it was grooved, tail feathers, and wing feathers to make the final determination that it was female, not first year, and she was indeed a Rufous.

Jamie Harrison arrived in time to witness most of the examination and the hummer's release. When Dave took the hummer out to release her, he placed her on my palm and she left from my hand.

The last time I saw her was the morning of Sunday, November 11th before leaving for Cape May. When I returned home at 4:30, I kept watching for her, but she never returned. I learned she had moved to Barnegat Light. Since she was banded, a positive identification was possible.

If Pat Sutton hadn't suggested leaving out a hummingbird feeder for late migrants, this little hummer wouldn't have had the week at my feeder to

bulk up to continue south. My feeder is still out.
Who knows, maybe another late hummer will stop
and rejuvenate here.



**Friends in Southern Ocean
Birding Group (group)**