



Friendly, fun, and Informative Bird Watching

2018
Year of the Bird

December 2018, Issue 18

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

2018 Year in Review

As 2018 winds down, now is a good time to review the year:

- Our new website was launched
- First Field trip to Lakehurst Naval Station (Joint Base)
- Great programs with Pete Bacinski, Pat & Clay Sutton, Larissa Smith, Britta Wenzel, Jenny Uehling, among others
- Increased our Scholarship to \$750
- Successful Wings Over LBI in March
- Clean-up of Great Bay Blvd in April
- Cape May week in September for warblers didn't disappoint
- Holiday Party at new location at JCNERR

Feathers and Eggs

- 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.
- If you haven't paid your dues for 2019, you can at the next meeting or mail check to: SOBG, 206 N. Frankfurt Ave, Egg Harbor City, NJ 08215 (At this time, you cannot renew online—hopefully next year it will be available)

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, led by Dale Rosset. 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 Rescheduled



The SOBG will conduct the rescheduled 2018 Tuckerton Christmas Bird Count on January 5, 2019, all day. 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. If you would like to participate and haven't contacted Morry yet, let him know: mlkapitan@me.com

Important Issues

- Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ needs to raise money to keep its Bald Eagle Project going next year. They did a wonderful program for us this fall, so if you would like to help, visit: gofundme.com/savenjeagles
- The current administration is planning to weaken federal clean water rules designed to protect millions of acres of wetlands and thousands of miles of streams nationwide from pesticide runoff and other pollutants. Once the proposal is announced, there will be a 60-day period to comment. Google "WOTUS II" for more information.
- The current administration has also given permits for seismic exploration in the Atlantic Ocean in preparation for oil drilling off the East Coast. We may have a program on this issue next year.

News from EB Forsythe National

Wildlife Refuge

- Forsythe NWR will be celebrating its 80th Anniversary in 2019 with many events being planned.
- They will be having a Big Year competition and to kick it off, a bus tour of three units will be held on January 1st. You can register by emailing: forsythe@fws.gov. The SOBG will be providing coffee and hot chocolate at

the Cedar Bonnet Island unit around 11:30 a.m. Come out and help!



Wishing everyone a wonderful holiday season and Happy 2019!

Ideas:

The Executive Committee will be meeting in January to plan the year ahead; if you have ideas for programs and/or field trips, let us know. We want to make it an exciting year as we celebrate our 10th anniversary year. So email us or let an officer/committee chair know of your suggestions.



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