



Friendly, fun, and Informative Bird Watching

February 2019 Issue 21

www.southernoceanbirdinggroup.org

Field Trip February 16



The next field trip is scheduled for February 16 in conjunction with The Great Backyard Bird Count. This year we plan on heading north for the count, starting at the Lake of the Lilies in Point Pleasant Beach and Manasquan Inlet.

We will meet at the Forked River rest area (north end) on the Garden State Parkway at 8 a.m. to carpool. If you wish, you can meet us at the Lake of the Lilies at around 8:30-8:45 a.m. If light showers, the trip is on, heavy rain cancels. Check FB or your email for updates.

Says Dr. Gary Langham, vice president and chief scientist for the National Audubon Society: “The Great Backyard Bird Count is a great way for all bird watchers to contribute to a global database of bird populations. Participants in the Great Backyard Bird Count help scientists understand how things like climate change are impacting bird populations so we can better inform our conservation efforts.”

Feathers and Eggs

- 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)

March 7 Meeting



Our next meeting is March 7, 2019, at 6:30 p.m. at the Hunting Shanty of Tuckerton Seaport. Our March meeting will be an audience participation event entitled *My Favorite Birds*

of 2018, where members are invited to tell us about their favorite birding experiences of the past year. Tell us about some rare bird that you chased, or a common bird that was doing some interesting behavior, or an exotic bird that you saw on vacation, or an interesting visitor to your yard, or a bird that posed nearby for a great photo opportunity. Greg Prelich will be coordinating this program, so let Greg know how many birds you want to share, and send any documenting photos that can be incorporated into the slide show to Greg (gprelich@gmail.com), preferably within the next two weeks. Members can describe up to six birds each, and if you don't have photos, at least share the story to help us relive your birding highlights of the past year. You can contact Pete Bacinski (petebacinski@comcast.net) if you want to use some of photos he has in his library. If you cannot attend but want to participate, just send along with your photos a brief description of your experience.

Light refreshments will be available. Bring your own water bottle.

News from EB Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge

The Refuge at Oceanville is open for now. There is planned a Nature Bus Tour on March 2 of three units of the Refuge. Please contact the Refuge if you are interested. The SOBG will be providing coffee and hot chocolate at the Bonnet Island unit for the attendees.

Other News:



2019 Juried Photographic Exhibition
Celebrating 80 years
of Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge

Open submissions:
open to general public
Student submissions:
open to students age 22 and under

Supporting the mission of the
Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge
Cash Awards
Date for entries begins March 15, ends May 15
Go to <https://friendsofforsythe.org>
for fees, categories and awards information.

 Friends of Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge

There is still time to sign up for the 30th Annual Pineland Short Course to be held at Stockton University on March 9. To register online: www.Stockton.edu/pinelands



Friends in Southern Ocean Birding Group (group)

Wings Over LBI



The 10th Annual Wings Over LBI Birding Festival will be held on March 16, 2019.

The event is held in partnership with the Friends of Barnegat Lighthouse State Park, the Long Beach Island Foundation of the Arts and Sciences, and the

Southern Ocean County Chamber of Commerce. The event will be filled with learning about and watching birds in action. It is suitable for the whole family and newcomers to birding.

The Science Saturday program at the Long Beach Island Foundation in Loveladies, 11:00 a.m., will be “Birding the Pine Barrens” presented by Susan Puder. There is a \$5 charge by the LBIF if you are not a member.

The free presentation at Barnegat Lighthouse State Park at 1 p.m. will be “The World of Birds Around Us in New Jersey” by Pete Bacinski. This is a program designed for the whole family featuring backyard bird and birds you can see here in NJ. He will also discuss birds that winter in our area along the coast.

Throughout the day members of the SOBG will be along the jetty with scopes to help visitors identify the birds in and around the inlet. After the program at 1 is over, members of SOBG will lead a walk along side of the jetty for better views of eiders, scoters, harlequins, sandpipers, and maybe Snow Buntings. We usually see first of the year Piping Plovers showing up, too.

The SOBG will have tables at both events to sell our field guides, which goes to our scholarship fund. Volunteers are Needed!

Cape May Point—Lakeside Lodge

The house is being rented from Sept. 23-27. Cost is \$70 per person per night, still a bargain as the fun we have is free. First come, first reserved!