



# Friendly, fun, and Informative Bird Watching

April 2019

Issue 23

[www.southernoceanbirdinggroup.org](http://www.southernoceanbirdinggroup.org)

## Great Bay Blvd. Cleanup--April 13<sup>th</sup>



Members of the SOBG came out for our annual Cleanup of Great Bay Blvd. This is

our community service project that we have done for the past 4 years. More photos are on our FB page; we collected 41 bags of trash. Way to go team!

## Field Trips

- **April 27: Trip to Double Trouble State Park, Bayville, NJ, Exit 77 on Garden State Park. Meet at Parking lot at 8 a.m. Passerines and warblers are in.**
- **May 4: Atlantic County Park (Estell Manor), off Rt. 50 in Mays Landing. Meet at parking lot at 8 a.m. Songbirds and warblers.**
- **May 19: Heislerville and Delaware Bayshore; meet at Galloway Rest Area on GSP at 8 a.m. to carpool. Shorebirds are in!**

## May 2 Meeting



**O**ur next meeting is May 2, 2019, at 6:30 p.m. at the Hunting Shanty of Tuckerton Seaport. Our April meeting will be the ***Northern Bobwhite Restoration Initiative***,

presented by John Parke, Stewardship Project Director for New Jersey Audubon Society. Northern Bobwhite populations declined by 82% between 1966 and 2010, one of the most dramatic declines in the U.S.

In New Jersey Northern Bobwhite is believed to be functionally extinct with the possibility of some birds still existing in southwestern NJ. Shifts in farming practices, along with the loss of farmland and young forest habitat are the primary causes of the decline. In order to save this native species, we must restore large tracts of quality habitat and reintroduce the birds. New Jersey Audubon is leading a unique partnership to restore Northern Bobwhite quail to New Jersey.

Come and learn about how Northern Bobwhite is being restored. A fascinating and informative program that all will enjoy. Light refreshments will be available.

## Feathers and Eggs

- **Don't forget about the Forsythe Big Year.** Go to for more information: [https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Edwin\\_B\\_Forsythe/visit/visitor\\_activities.html](https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Edwin_B_Forsythe/visit/visitor_activities.html)

## 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

### Cape May Point—Lakeside Lodge

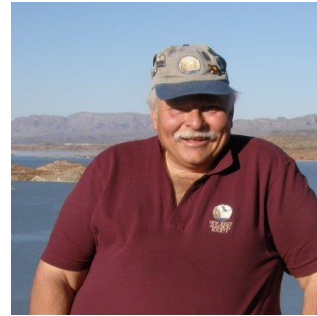
The house is being rented from Sept. 23-27.  
Cost is \$70 per person per night, still a  
bargain as the fun we have is free. First  
come, first reserved! There is at only one  
twin room still available! Friends or family  
can share the room.



Friends in Southern Ocean  
Birding Group (group)

## A Remembrance

By Susan Puder



On April 12, we all received the news of Pete Bacinski's passing the evening before. He was on the way home from his beloved Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, where he served on the Board of Trustees for the Friends of Forsythe. He was probably planning another field trip or program to prepare, or just thinking of a migrating bird he had seen that afternoon that caught his fancy.

I first met Pete at the Sandy Hook Bird Observatory that he ran for NJ Audubon. He was full of information and advice as to the best places in Sandy Hook for finding elusive birds. That life-long knowledge he eventually brought to the SOBG. We were only blessed with his presence for 2 years, but, wow, everyone who came to a meeting or went on one of his field trips, tapped into that knowledge and we all learned things we never would have known otherwise.

This year, he participated in our 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Wings Over LBI, making the presentation at Barnegat Lighthouse especially interesting. It was about birds here in NJ, but he imparted his enthusiasm about the activity of birding to get all the standing room only crowd motivated to go out and get involved in birding. What better an ambassador could you hope for.

Today, our birding community is in mourning for a guy with a big grin, big heart, hardy laugh, and who loved not only birds, but all of nature. There will be a memorial celebration of his life in June, date TBD. We all hope he has now found the Ivory-billed Woodpecker. After all, "hope is a thing with feathers".