



Friendly, fun, and Informative Bird Watching

May 2019

Issue 24

www.southernoceanbirdinggroup.org

Cape May Point—Lakeside Lodge's New Look



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 for some dates! Friends or family can share the room.

Field Trips

- **June 5**—Lakehurst Joint Naval Station—pre-registration required; waiting list only
- **July TBD**—Boat ride on Osprey, back bays in Cape May
- **August 24**—Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge for migrating shorebirds



Friends in Southern Ocean Birding Group (group)

June 6 Meeting



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

Our May meeting will be the *Birding Southern California; From Seas to Deserts*,

presented by Greg Prelich, member of the SOBG and volunteer naturalist for Ocean County Parks and Recreation. Join Greg, Jeanine, and Pete on a 10-day trip birding from San Diego to Santa Barbara. This part of California has the advantage that different habitats, ranging from seaside to foothill scrub to mountains and deserts, occur within a relatively short distance.

Come and learn about birding in Southern California; a fun 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
- A boardwalk plank at Forsythe will be ordered in memory of Pete Bacinski from the SOBG

Birding England: Hard Birding on Weak Roads

By Susan Puder

In April, Nancy Gallagher and I went on a Cheepers! Birding on a Budget trip to the United Kingdom. This month I'll discuss the England part of the trip, and in June, Nancy will do Scotland.



In the UK, about 600 birds can be found, but it isn't easy, except for waterfowl. We started our 10

days in England at Heathrow on April 24, and traveled to Saxmundham in Suffolk, and visited during the trip many of the preserves established by the RSPB—the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. They would be equivalent to our National Wildlife Preserves, but no hunting or fishing is allowed anywhere on them.

In the beginning of the trip we spent most of the time at wetlands and marshes. Places with names of Minsmere, Lackford Lakes, Cley Marsh, Potteric Carr, and Rutland Water.

As I had been in Portugal the year before, many of the species I had already seen. But did add some geese and Garganey to my life list. Seeing Red Grouse and especially Black Grouse at their lek was a treat.



The weather wasn't great most of the time; temps were way below average and very windy. Pied Avocets, Northern Lapwings, Marsh Harriers, Great Crested and Little

Grebes were always present at the marshes. The preserves had great hides (buildings you could sit in and view like our blinds) that made viewing and photography easy.



One of my favorite stops was Titchwell Marsh, and even though the weather was awful windy and cold, we did get

to see one of target birds, the Bearded Reedling or Tit.

Another great place was Bempton Cliffs, an RSPB reserve with high limestone cliffs that attracts the largest colony of Northern Gannets in mainland Britain, along with Northern Fulmars, and Kittewakes.



My favorite bird, though, was the Robin. We saw them almost every day. They were friendly, beautiful, and sang for us. What more could you ask for in a bird.