



Friendly, fun, and Informative Bird Watching

June 2019

Issue 25

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.

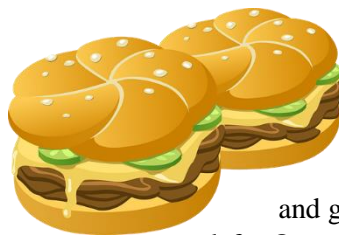
Field Trips

- **July 8**—Boat ride on Osprey, back bays in Cape May. Meet at Miss Chris Marina at 9:30 a.m. 1212 Wilson Drive, Cape May (Rain date: July 15). Cost is around \$30 per person for 2.5 hours on boat
- **August 24**—Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge for migrating shorebirds



Friends in Southern Ocean Birding Group (group)

July 13 Members Picnic



As we don't have a meeting in July, we have something better—a members bar-b-que on July 13th. It starts around noon

and goes on to whenever one has left. Our gracious hostess is Nancy

Lynch, who is located at **102 S. Commodore Drive, Little Egg Harbor.**

A listing of what members are bringing has been sent out to members for you to sign up with an item, if you haven't already. The SOBGB provides burgers, hot dogs, and rolls. We suggest you bring your own water in a reuseable container—for the environment. You can also bring wine/beer and family members. See you then, rain or shine!

Next Meeting is August 1. More information to follow next month.

Feathers and Eggs

- **Congratulations to members:**

Jason Nargiz, Neil Persh, and Pat Steo who made the finals of the Friends of Forsythe 2019 Open Juried Photographic Exhibition. Exhibition runs at Forsythe VIC until July 26.

- **Don't forget about the Forsythe Big Year.**

https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Edwin_B_Forsythe/visit/visitor_activities.html

Evenings at Forsythe

The next Evenings at Forsythe is July 18, 6:30-8 p.m. at the Visitor Information Center. The program is *The Future is NOW: How the Internet of Wildlife (IOW) is uncovering the mysteries of bird behavior around the Globe!* The presenter is David LaPuma and promises to be a very informative program.

Birding Southern California Part 1, By Greg Prelich

March is a tough time of year for me to be in New Jersey. By this time of the year I've seen most of the winter birds, it has been cold for far too many months, and spring seems to take its sweet old time arriving. For these reasons I like taking birding vacations during this time of year, especially to a warmer climate to escape the lingering NJ winter. This year my friends Pete and Jeanine joined me for a 10-day trip to southern California, birding from San Diego up 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. So, we drew up a list of target species and set out to take advantage of those diverse habitats.



We enjoyed two full days exploring the coastal scrub habitat in the San Diego area, especially Lake Hodges, located just 21 miles

north of downtown San Diego (but still within the San Diego city limits). Before we even left the parking lot we were already enjoying species that we don't see back home, with Western Bluebird, Black Phoebe, Nuttall's Woodpecker, and Townsend Warbler.

The scrub was filled with other species that soon would become familiar to us: Cassin's Kingbird, Say's Phoebe, Greater Roadrunner, California Towhee, and Bushtit. The lake hosted several ducks that we were familiar with from birding in the east, but also held dozens of Western Grebes and at least one Clark's Grebe. Amazingly, some

of the grebes were performing their mating dance ritual, which was A-MAZING to behold in person.



Two of our new lifer target species were also found at Lake Hodges: California Gnatcatcher and California Thrasher. The thrasher is even larger than our eastern Brown Thrasher. Luckily, they were singing loudly, and as expected they were

doing so from the top of the trees, giving excellent views. My final landbird lifer from the SD scrub was a secretive Wren-tit that Jeanine found deep in the brush at Tecolote Canyon the following morning.



The SD waterfront provides ample opportunities for viewing gulls, terns, and shorebirds that we don't see on the east coast. La Jolla Cove is a

photographer's dream, where we enjoyed impeccable views of Western, California, and the delightful Heermann's Gulls among the nesting Brandt's Cormorants. Both Brown Pelicans and American White Pelicans frequently patrolled the coastal waters. Western shorebirds such as Black Turnstone, Long-billed Curlew, Wandering Tattler, and Snowy Plover were all seen, although Black Oystercatcher and Surf-bird eluded us.

