



# Friendly, fun, and Informative Bird Watching

July 2019

Issue 2

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

## July 13 Members Picnic



About 20 members and friends of the SOBG enjoyed a wonderful day at Nancy Lynch's home for our annual Picnic. The weather was great, the food was yummy, and everyone had a fun day. Thanks Nancy!

## Field Trips

- **August 24**—Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge for migrating shorebirds
- **September 23-27**—Cape May Point house at 508 West Lake Drive, on Lily Lake. Come down for the day if you're not staying over.



On the Osprey July 8<sup>th</sup>.

## August 1 Meeting



**O**ur next meeting is August 1, 2019, at 6:30 p.m. at the Hunting Shanty of Tuckerton Seaport.

Our August meeting will be the *Finding Birds Rarities in Ocean County*, presented by Capt. Alex Majewski, member of the SOBG and member of the Friends of Forsythe Board. With around 400 species of birds to its checklist, Ocean County is home to almost all the birds that can be seen in NJ. But what makes a bird rare? Capt. Alex will answer the question and discuss some the county's rare birds.

So, come and learn about finding rare birds in Ocean County; a fun and informative program that all will enjoy. Light refreshments will be available.

## Feathers and Eggs

- **Congratulations to members:** Jason Nargiz, who received an Honorable Mention at the Friends of Forsythe 2019 Open Juried Photographic Exhibition. Exhibition runs at Forsythe VIC until July 26.
- **Forsythe NWR Big Year**  
[https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Edwin B Forsythe/visit/visitor\\_activities.html](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. Program is "It's a Jungle Out There", presented by Pat Sutton. Only the first 80 people will be allowed in, so come early.

## Birding Southern California Part 2, By Greg Prelich

A remarkable thing about birding in southern California is how quickly you can be in completely different habitats. After 2 1/2 days in San Diego, we literally left the beach and just one hour later found ourselves in the Laguna Mountains, hoping to find some higher altitude species. We stayed overnight in a town called Pine Mountain (3,700 ft elevation) and woke up the following morning to a light fog that unfortunately became more dense as we drove up to higher altitudes, forcing a change in plans. The fog was likely due to the unseasonable snowstorm that they received the previous week, coating the ground outside of town in 6 inches of snow and resulting in some road closures in one of our destinations, Cuyamaca Rancho State Park.

We made the best of the situation, and ultimately found most of our expected targets. In the town park we found our first Acorn Woodpeckers of the trip, and being a sociable species, a single oak hosted nearly a dozen of these distinctive birds. Dark-eyed Juncos were feeding on the ground, but for a nice change they were of the Oregon race, unlike the Slate-colored sub-species that we left behind in New Jersey. Groups of Band-tailed Pigeons flew above the pines, and a Bewick's Wren and Steller's Jay joined the group.

In Cuyamaca Rancho Park the trails were difficult to walk due to the snowcover, so we focused on the cleared roads in Paso Picacho Campground (5,000 ft). The Ponderosa Pines here were FILLED with Acorn Woodpeckers and their acorn stashes, but we had other birds in mind. We started with a brilliant Red-breasted Sapsucker, and then started finding species that replace our familiar eastern mixed-flock birds. In southern NJ we have Yellow-shafted Flicker, Carolina Chickadees, Tufted Titmouse, and White-breasted Nuthatch, but up here they were replaced with Red-shafted Flicker, Mountain Chickadees, Oak Titmouse, and Pygmy Nuthatch. (to be more accurate, both

White-breasted and Pygmy Nuthatches were present, so it wasn't a true nuthatch 'replacement').



Driving downhill from Cuyamaca Rancho towards the desert we spied our first Phainopepla of the trip. Upon arrival in Borrego Springs we took a break in the desert warmth with a short walk around the Anza-Borrego State Park Visitor's Center followed by a dip in the motel pool. A lone Verdin was our first introduction to the desert species that we would see over the next three days.



(Photos: Acorn Woodpecker, Bewick's Wren, and Oak Titmouse)

## SCHOLARSHIP WINNER



Winner of this year's SOBG Syracuse Memorial Scholarship is MATES senior, Claudia Schreier. She will be attending the University of Delaware. We wish her all the best.



Friends in Southern Ocean Birding Group (group)