



Friendly, fun, and Informative Bird Watching

September 2019 Issue 25

www.southernoceanbirdinggroup.org

Volunteers Needed!

The SOBG has tables at the Ocean County Decoy Show on Sept. 24, Tip Seaman Park in Tuckerton. Time 10-4 p.m.; and the Pine Barrens Jamboree on October 14, at Wells Mills County Park, Waretown. 10-3 p.m. We need a few volunteers from our membership to help with the tables, where we distribute free information about the SOBG and sell our field guides. If we were to have enough volunteers, we could split the day, with members only having to be at each 3 hours. Please let us know if you are interested in helping. These events are great for getting our Group known to the public.

Field Trips



Most of the gang at Sandy Hook on Sept. 14. Not a great day for birds, but we had fun and great food.

- **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.
- **October 19**—Cape May Hawk Watch and Avalon SeaWatch
- **November 9**—Cedar Bonnet Island, Forsythe NWR

October 3 Meeting



Our next meeting is October 3, 2019, at 6:30 p.m. at the Hunting Shanty of Tuckerton Seaport.

Our October meeting will be the *Piping Plovers and Other*

Beach Nesters at Forsythe, presented by Jesse Amesbury, who has worked for the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife and Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ. Jesse is a graduate of Stockton University and has worked the past six summers protecting beach nesting birds in Ocean County. He is currently this fall's hawk counter for the Cape May Bird Observatory at Cape May Point's hawk watch.

This PowerPoint presentation discusses the beach nesting bird life on Forsythe's two beaches; Holgate and Little Beach. Take an in-depth look at what goes on at these critical habitats through the eyes of a beach-nesting bird technician.

So, come and learn these endangered birds and what is being done to help them recover; an informative program that all will enjoy. Light refreshments will be available.

Feathers and Eggs

- **Forsythe NWR Big Year**
https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Edwin_B_Forsythe/visit/visitor_activities.html
- **Holiday Party scheduled for Dec. 5**
Details to follow

Evenings at Forsythe

The next Evenings at Forsythe is Sept 19, 6:30-8 p.m. at the Visitor Information Center. Program is **“The Future is Now: How the Internet of Wildlife (IOW) is uncovering the mysteries of bird behavior around the Globe”**, presented by David LaPuma. Only the first 80 people will be allowed in, so come early.

Southwest Birding Festival in Sierra Vista, AZ

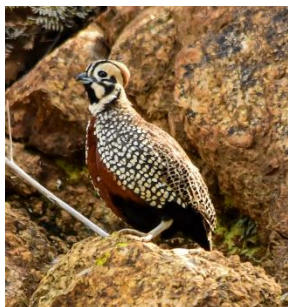
By Susan Puder

At the end of July this year, Nancy Gallagher and I took off from Philadelphia to head to Tucson for the Southwest Birding Festival being held in Sierra Vista, about 2 hours southeast of Tucson.

Once we landed after an early morning flight with a brief layover in Houston, we got into the rental SUV and headed to the west unit of Saguaro National Park, and the temps were over 100. A quick drive around only produced 1 Gila Woodpecker, so we next headed to the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. Here we got our first taste of some of the birds we would see on our field trips: Gambel’s Quail, Costa’s, Broad-billed, and Rufous Hummingbirds.



Once we settled into our motel in Sierra Vista, we experienced the monsoon season in southern AZ, booming t-storms and lightning covering the skies in the afternoon.



There were dozens of field trips to select from before we left NJ, and this being our first venture to southern AZ, we chose 4 less strenuous ones, just to get a feel for the area. Our first trip was to Box Canyon and Las Cienegas National Conservation Area. First day I picked up 19 lifers, highlights being Montezuma Quail, Canyon Wren, Cassin’s Kingbird, and others. We also got to see a small herd of Pronghorns. Temps were in 80-90 range,

warm but not awful, as we were at higher altitudes than Tucson.



Again, monsoon rains that afternoon, cooled the temps down a bit.

The second day we went to Fort Huachuca, for which we had to have previously obtained security passes. As it was close to our motel, we got them the day we arrived. The Fort is a highly secured part of our national intelligence system, but it was also the home of the Buffalo Soldiers in the 1800’s. Lots of history here.



The main target bird here was the Elegant Trogon, which we only heard unfortunately. A few other new birds were the Painted Restart and Sulfer-bellied Flycatcher. Vermillion Flycatchers also gave us some great views.



The third day was a trip to Las Cienegas for sparrows and the Paton Center for Hummingbirds in Patagonia. Picked up Cassin’s and Botteri’s Sparrows, along with a Scaled Quail. The Hummingbird Center was fun, with Broad-billed and Violet-crowned Hummers, along with Canyon Towhee and Curved-bill Thrasher.

The last day’s trip was of disappointing and very hot. We chose to stay by a lake instead of a hike in 100-degree temps. One of my target birds was the Roadrunner and I had not seen one all 5 days we were there. Then at the almost last moments of the last field trip, there was one standing in the middle of the road. Lousy photos from the van, but got it!

Nancy will conclude next month on trips to Mt. Lemmon and Mt. Evans in CO.



Friends in Southern Ocean Birding Group (group)