



Friendly, fun, and Informative Bird Watching

November 2019 Issue 27

www.southernoceanbirdinggroup.org

Holiday Party



Our annual Holiday Party is December 5, starting at 5:30 p.m. at the Jacques Cousteau

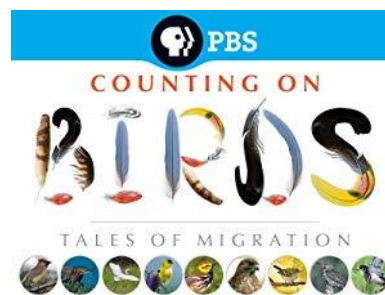
National Estuarine Research Reserve, 130 Great Bay Blvd., Tuckerton. If you are planning to go, please contact Jeanine Apgar to find out what you can bring. An invitation will be sent to all members shortly.

Annual Dues for 2020

It's that time of year again to pay your annual dues to the group. Singles are \$20, and couples are \$35 for the year. We cannot accept at this time dues online, but you can send a check, payable to Southern Ocean Birding Group, to: SOBG, c/o Jeanine Apgar, 204 N. Frankfurt Ave, Egg Harbor City, NJ 08215. Otherwise, you can pay at the next meeting.

These funds are used to pay for our programs and donations that we make to other environmental groups. Thank you for your support.

January 2, 2020 Meeting



a nature documentary voted on by the audience. Popcorn will be available.

Our next meeting is January 2, 2020, at 6:30 p.m. at the Hunting Shanty of Tuckerton Seaport. There is no meeting in December. Our program will be a

Field Trips

- **December 14**—Tuckerton Christmas Bird Count
- **January 18**—Lake of the Lilies and Manasquan Inlet area

Tuckerton Christmas Bird Count—December 14



afternoon), or the whole day. We will break at 11 for lunch at the Dynasty Diner on Rt. 9, Tuckerton. At 5 p.m. we will gather at the Hunting Shanty to review our

The SOBG will conduct the 2019 Tuckerton Christmas Bird Count on December 14, 2019, all day. Morry Kapitan is leading our count. It starts at 7 a.m., meeting at the Tuckerton Seaport parking lot. You can volunteer for half a day (morning or

counts for the day and share some pizza and drinks. A great way to end the year. If needed to reschedule due to terrible weather like last year, the new date would be January 4, 2020.

The Christmas Bird Count is a census of birds in the Western Hemisphere, performed annually in the early Northern-hemisphere winter by volunteer birdwatchers and administered by the National Audubon Society. The purpose is to provide population data for use in science, especially conservation biology, though many people participate for recreation. As of 2019, the CBC was the longest running citizen science survey in the world. If you would like to participate and haven't contacted Morry yet, let him know: mlkapitan@me.com

Feathers and Eggs

- **Forsythe NWR Big Year**
https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Edwin_B_Forsythe/visit/visitor_activities.html

Evenings at Forsythe

The next Evenings at Forsythe is November 21, 6:30-8 p.m. at the Visitor Information Center. Program with our own Alex Majewski on Cedar Bonnet Island.

Wings Over LBI

We are looking to go in a new direction for Wings Over LBI and need a few volunteers to help plan it. It will be a temporary committee, so let us know if you'd like to help. Keep the date: March 20 & 21.

New SOBG Brochures Are Here!

Our redesigned brochures are in. They will be available at the Holiday Party and at our meetings. Please take some for your local Ocean County Parks.

SOBG Becoming a Federal Non-Profit Organization

We are filing the paperwork this month to become a Federal 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization with the IRS. We are already a non-profit registered with the state of New Jersey, but this does not allow any donations or dues to us to be tax deductible.

Some advantages are besides tax deductibility, limited liability to officers of organization, perpetual existence, and availability to apply for grants if the need ever comes up.

We meet the requirements for the IRS 1023-EZ application, which is only 3 pages and cost is only \$275 to file. This change will require minor revisions to our Bylaws, which needs review as we have grown over the past 10 years. Draft changes will be made by the Executive Committee in January and then all members will be able to vote on those revisions.

This action will allow us to use the Wings Over LBI Wine and Cheese fundraiser being planned to raise monies for our SOBG Scholarship Fund and increase our awards to MATES seniors.

We will keep our membership informed on the status of this change in the coming month or two.



Friends in Southern Ocean Birding Group (group)