



Friendly, fun, and Informative Bird Watching

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www.southernoceanbirdinggroup.org



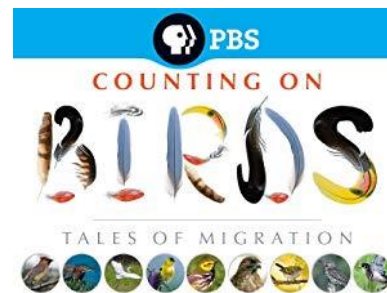
Wishing everyone a Wonderful Holiday Season and Happy Birding Year.

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. In 2019 we had 89 paid members, let's see if we can top that in 2020.

As of December 17, 2019, we are officially a Federally recognized 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization, with donations and dues being tax-deductible.

January 2, 2020 Meeting



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

Field Trips

- **January 18**—Lake of the Lilies and Manasquan Inlet area or Forsythe NWR

Tuckerton Christmas Bird Count—December 14



The SOBG conducted the 2019 Tuckerton Christmas Bird Count on December 14, 2019. We had 18 hardy volunteers throughout the day, which was foggy and warm, with a dash of drizzle. When we met up at the Hunting Shanty, our CBC leader, Morry Kapitan, counted the species, and we ended up with an all time high (for this territory) of 88 species! Way to go team! Thanks to everyone who participated, and special thanks to Morry for organizing it.

Evenings at Forsythe

The next Evenings at Forsythe is January 17, 6:30-8 p.m. at the Visitor Information Center. Program with Forsythe biology team.

Wings Over LBI

Plans for the *Wings Over LBI* event are taking shape. We are having a Wine and Cheese fundraiser at the Long Beach Island Foundation of Arts and Sciences on Friday, March 20th, 6:30-8:30 p.m., raising funds for our MATES scholarship. The committee has secured Chris Huch, former Executive Director of Alliance for a Living Ocean as a speaker and are awaiting another speaker commitment early in January. Donation amount TBD.

On March 21, we are presenting for Science Saturday, *Identifying Shorebirds* with Greg Prelich. After the presentation at 1 p.m. (allowing time for a quick lunch break), we will be offering two field trips: Barnegat Inlet with leaders Greg Prelich and Jeanine Apgar; Cedar Bonnet Island (Forsythe NWR) with leaders Alex Majewski and Bob Leifeste.

New SOBG Brochures Are Here!

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

SAVE The Date—March 7, 2020

Friends of Forsythe is hosting a panel discussion for the public on:

Gone Missing—3 Billion Birds

Time from 1-4 p.m. at the Visitor Information Center, Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, Galloway. Five top-notch panelists will discuss the science behind the report, what it means, how the

numbers were arrived at, what can be done to reverse the trend. After opening remarks by the panelists, the discussion will be opened to the public for comments and questions.

Panelists:

Dr. Emile DeVito—NJ Conservation Foundation

Adriaan Doktor—an Edward W. Rose postdoctoral fellow at Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and co-author of the report

Josh Gant—Biologist for Ocean County Parks and Recreation, Graduate student at Stockton University

Virginia Rettig—Manager of Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge

Linda Widdop—President of Delaware Valley Ornithological Club

Details of how to register will be sent out by the end of January. If the response is larger than the VIC can hold, the location may be changed.



Friends in Southern Ocean
Birding Group (group)