



Friendly, fun, and Informative Bird Watching

February 2020 Issue 30

www.southernoceanbirdinggroup.org



The SOBG conducted the count on **Feb. 15 at Cloverdale Farm Ocean County Park**. Twelve hardy members went out in 20-degree weather to count 28 species found around the park. Thanks to all our frozen members for helping as citizen-scientists.



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, 206 N. Frankfurt Ave, Egg Harbor City, NJ 08215. Or you can pay at meetings.

Great Bay Blvd. Cleanup



Our Cleanup of Great Bay Blvd., LEH, is scheduled for April 4th. More info in next month's newsletter. Just want to get it on your calendar.



March 5, 2020 Meeting

Our next meeting is March 5, 2020, at 6:30 p.m. at the Hunting Shanty of Tuckerton Seaport. Our

March meeting will be an audience participation event entitled "**My Favorite Birds of 2019**", where members are invited to tell us about their favorite birding experiences of the past year. Tell us about some rare bird that you chased, or a common bird that was doing some interesting behavior, or an exotic bird that you saw on vacation, or an interesting visitor to your yard, or a bird that posed nearby for a great photo opportunity.

Greg Prelich will be coordinating this program, so let Greg know how many birds you want to share and send any documenting photos that can be incorporated into the slide show to Greg (gprelich@gmail.com), preferably by Feb. 28. Members can describe up to five birding experiences each (although you can present fewer than that if you prefer), and if you don't have photos, at least share the story to help us relive your birding highlights of the past year. Join us at the Hunting Shanty to re-live our collective highlights of the past year. This will be great fun and enjoyment for all!

Field Trips

- **March 21—Wings Over LBI**
- **April 18—Double Trouble State Park**
- **May 17—Heislerville and Delaware Bayshore**

Evenings at Forsythe

The next Evenings at Forsythe is March 19 20, 6:30-8 p.m. at the Visitor Information Center. Program is The NJ Bald Eagle Project with Larissa Smith of Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ.

Wings Over LBI

On March 21, we are presenting for Science Saturday, *Shorebirds of New Jersey* 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.

The Wine and Cheese fundraiser at the Long Beach Island Foundation of Arts and Sciences on Friday, March 20th, 6:30-8:30 p.m. has been cancelled, and we are attempting to reschedule in April. More information to follow.

Defend and Strengthen the Migratory Bird Treaty Act

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) has provided more than 100 years of protection for nearly all of the nation's birds and returned many of our bird species from the brink of extinction. Historically, this law prohibited the killing or capturing of more than 1,000 species without a permit. Yet in December 2017, the current administration eliminated protections for birds from industrial hazards. This weakening of the MBTA undermines industry's incentive to minimize preventable bird mortality and puts birds at even greater risk. We must reverse these changes and strengthen the law with solutions that benefit birds and industry alike.

New rules are being proposed that the original intent of the MBTA was limited to humans, not corporations, thus allowing takings of birds by the oil and gas industry without penalties. This is a complex issue and you are urged to do some research if you wish to comment. This topic may come up at the Gone Missing Panel Discussion.

Anyone wishing to comment on the change before March 19, 2020, can go to:

<http://www.regulation.gov> and refer to the docket number FWS-HQ-MB-20180090. Or you can send letters by mail to: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MS:JAO/IN, 5275 Leesbury Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803.

Gone Missing: 3 Billion Birds

Dr. Adriaan Dokter of the
Cornell Lab of Ornithology and
a Regional Panel of Conservationists Will
Discuss the Issues



Stockton University -
Alton Auditorium

Saturday
March 7, 2020
2 - 5 p.m.

Come learn about the
avian crisis
and how YOU can help
make a difference!

Hosted by:



FREE event!

Go to Eventbrite to Register NOW

Good News—NJ Peregrine Falcons Continue Comeback



Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ reports that there were 38 nesting pairs of Peregrines in NJ last year and that they had 78 fledglings, up slightly from 2018. Great way to end 2019.

Search "Gone Missing"



Friends in Southern Ocean Birding Group (group)