



Friendly, fun, and Informative Bird Watching

March 2020

Issue 31

www.southernoceanbirdinggroup.org

Due to the CoVid-19 emergency, we are announcing that all meetings, field trips, and events are cancelled for the foreseeable future. The Tuckerton Seaport is closed, as is Jacques Cousteau NERR, Long Beach Island Foundation, and the Visitor Information Center at E. B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge. The Wildlife Drive is still open at this time to drive around the Refuge; Ocean County parks facilities are closed, but you can still walk around the park trails. Please use common sense and 'social distancing'.

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. Online Paypal should be available shortly for new memberships and renewals.

Great Bay Blvd. Cleanup



Our Cleanup of Great Bay Blvd., LEH, is scheduled for April 4th is **cancelled**. Hopefully we can reschedule for the fall.

March 5, 2020 Meeting

At the March 5th meeting, everyone had a fun time showing their photos from 2019 and telling great birding stories from the past year. This will become an annual event, so even with the emergency in place, you can still travel in your car, or take walks around the area to gather new photos and fun stories for next year.

Thanks to Greg Prelich for the original idea and putting together the PowerPoint presentation for all. Great job!

Field Trips

- **March 21—Wings Over LBI Cancelled**
- **April 18—Double Trouble State Park, probably cancelled**
- **May 17—Heislerville and Delaware Bayshore, unsure at this point.**

Evenings at Forsythe

The next Evenings at Forsythe are cancelled until further notice.

Wings Over LBI

Our 11th Annual Wings Over LBI is cancelled for this year. We may try to hold the Wine and Cheese Fundraiser in early November. We'll keep you posted.

Gone Missing—3 Billion Birds Panel Discussion

By Susan Puder



Just under the wire, we got the event off on March 7th, which was sponsored by Friends of Forsythe NWR and NJ Audubon. Over 200 people attended the discussion, which was a great success. After my opening remarks, I think everyone was super impressed with Adriaan Doktor's presentation that began the event. He went into detail about the initial study that led to the report in Science back in October.

Then Eric Stiles, President and CEO of New Jersey Audubon, took over as moderator and introduced our six panelists: John Cecil from NJ Audubon, Dr. Emile DeVito from NJ Conservation Foundation, our own Josh Gant from Ocean County Parks and Rec, Virginia Rettig from Forsythe NWR, Adriaan Doktor from Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and Linda Widdop from DVOC.

The panel discussion kicked off with questions for each panelist before being open to the audience. Members of the Environmental Club at Stockton University bounded up and down the stairs of the auditorium to hand the mic to questioners.



Organizations involved had tables in the lobby with information about their groups available to attendees. We also had printed materials from Cornell Lab of Ornithology available, which I have copies for members who couldn't attend.

Forsythe NWR provided packets of native flowers for all as they left the auditorium. The food service at Stockton provided beverages and fresh cookies for those who came early.

The event was videotaped by the University and will provide us with a DVD and link for the video. Now that all colleges and schools are closed, I'm not sure when we will be receiving that. There were a few minutes of a sound glitch, which they strived to correct quickly.



I think we were so lucky to have such esteemed speakers, and to be able to present such an important forum for the public. We hope that people left with a new sense of urgency and

with ideas and solutions that they can implement themselves with the 7 Simple Actions to Help Birds. There are also Action Plans for Bird Conservation and for North American Birds. If you are interested in more information, please visit: 3Billionbirds.org

During these trying times here at home and across the globe, we need to take care of our families and friends. But don't forget to help the species that brings us all together.

Cape May House



The Lakeside Lodge is going to be rented from October 5-9, 2020. The price per night has not been set yet, as we are awaiting the contract. At that time, we will open up reservations.



Friends in Southern Ocean Birding Group (group)