



# Friendly, fun, and Informative Bird Watching

June 2020

Issue 35

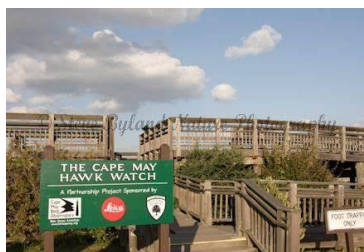
[southernoceanbirdinggroup.org](http://southernoceanbirdinggroup.org)

Due to the CoVid-19 emergency, we are announcing that all meetings, field trips, and events are cancelled for the foreseeable future. Some field trips may go on as we can drive individually to location and use social distancing. 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 open to drive around the Refuge, and Cedar Bonnet Island is also open; Ocean County parks facilities are open, and you can walk around the park trails. Please use common sense, a face covering, and 'social distancing'.

## Annual Dues for 2021

Dues for 2021 can start to be paid in August, which will cover you until December 31, 2021. Singles are \$20, and couples are \$35 for the year. 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 is now available for renewals, new memberships, and donations on our website.**

## Cape May House Rental Canceled for this year



## August 6, 2020 Virtual Meeting

We will have a virtual Zoom meeting on August 6 at 7 p.m. At that time Jesse Amesbury will present a program on the Cape May Hawk Watch last fall 2019.

Jesse is a Stockton University graduate who has worked the past 6 summers for NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife and the Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ protecting beach nesting birds in Ocean County. He currently is the hawk counter for the Cape May Bird Observatory this fall.

Details on the login to the program will be sent out shortly. Apologies are needed for last month's date error in the newsletter.

## Field Trips

- **August 8—Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, wildlife Drive. Meet at VIC parking lot at 8:30 a.m. This is a go.**
- **September 19—Palmyra Cove Nature Park, possible**

**2020 Juried Photographic  
Competition  
Celebrating E.B. Forsythe  
National Wildlife Refuge**



**Open Submissions:** Open to general public  
**Student Submissions:** Open to students age 21 and under

Supporting the mission of the  
Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge

**Cash Awards**

**Date for entries begins March 14, ends August 8**  
Go to <https://friendsofforsythe.org>  
for fees, categories, and award information

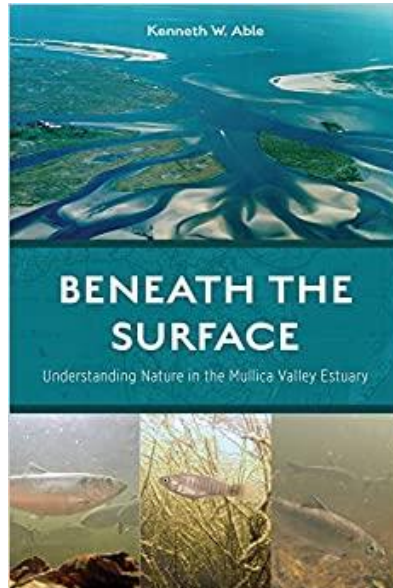


**Sponsored by  
Friends of Forsythe National  
Wildlife Refuge**

**The dates have been extended to August 8. Forsythe Wildlife Drive is open but please use common sense. Also, photos taken over the past 3 years can be entered. There will not be any exhibition this year, so you do not have to make any prints. Awards will be presented digitally on August 29<sup>th</sup> and displayed on the Friends of Forsythe website and FB page. BTW, American Avocets are still being seen there.**



**Friends in Southern Ocean Birding  
Group (group)**



A friend of the SOBG, Dr. Ken Able's new book is now available.

From the publisher:

The Mullica Valley estuary and its watershed, formed over the last 10,000 years, are among the cleanest estuaries along the east coast of the United States.

This 365,000-acre ecosystem benefits from a combination of protected watershed, low human population density, and general lack of extensive development. In *Beneath the Surface*, marine scientist Ken Able helps the reader penetrate the surface and gain insights into the kinds of habitats, animals, and plants that live there.

Readers will gain a better understanding of the importance of these shallow waters; how the amount of salt in the water determines where animals and plants are found in estuaries; the day-night, seasonal, and annual variation in their occurrence; and how change is occurring as the result of climate variation. Throughout the book are insightful sidebars telling intimate stories of where various animals came from and where they are going as they travel through the estuary on their way to and from other portions of the east coast. *Beneath the Surface* emphasizes the kinds and importance of the animals and plants that live beneath the surface of this unique ecosystem.

I'm sure our members will be interested in this, as it's our backyard. Plus, we have a lot of time on our hands these days.

## Webinars

Wildside Nature Tours has some interesting free webinars to view, as does Holbrooke Travel. You learn and enjoy the nature they explain. Fun thing for hot days stuck indoors.