



Friendly, fun, and Informative Bird Watching

September 2020 Issue 37

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. **Online Paypal is now available for renewals, new memberships, and donations on our website.**

Cape May in October

Some members of the group will be in Cape May during the week of Oct. 3-10. If you wish to go birding with us, text 609-276-0541 when you are in town. The NJ Audubon Fall Festival is virtual this year and being held Oct. 2-4, 2020. There will be birding going on all over Cape May and environs, but speakers are virtual and no indoor events will be held.



October 1, 2020 Virtual Meeting

We will have a virtual Zoom meeting on October 1 at 7 p.m. At that time, Ryan Rebozo of the Pinelands Preservation Alliance will present a program "Rare Species of the Pinelands".

Ryan joined PPA in January 2015 and completed his Ph.D. from Drexel University in March of the same year. Ryan is an ecologist whose interests include fire ecology, plant-insect interactions, mycology, and rare plant demography. He grew up in Union County New Jersey and attended Rutgers University for his undergraduate degree in ecology. Ryan also chairs the Partnership for New Jersey Plant Conservation, the Monroe Environmental Commission, is on the Barnegat Bay Science and Technical Advisory Committee and is the President of the Philadelphia Botanical Club.

The Zoom invitation to the program will be sent out shortly.

Field Trips

- **September 19—Cape May for warblers and raptors (meet at Hawkwatch between 9-9:30 a.m.)**
- **October—Cape May (10/3 – 10/10; any day is a great day to be in Cape May in the fall)**

Members Write What They Did the Summer That Wasn't

We are asking our members to send an email with one sentence to tell us what you did outside your home the summer of 2020 that was fun or interesting; doesn't have to be birdy, just something that broke the boredom of staying in the house. Join In!

Nancy Gallagher: During my two grandchildren's three-week visit, we went to the beach on LBI and took their newly adopted greyhound for walks at Cloverdale County Park.

Sue Puder: I went over to Waretown to see the Mississippi Kite chick a few times, along with trips to Brig to see the American Avocets.

E. B. Forsythe Audio Tour

There is now an audio tour that you can listen to on your phone has you take the Wildlife Drive at Forsythe. The link is:

<https://soundcloud.com/user-736657310-150626105/forsythe-nwr-wildlife-drive-audio-tour>

Pesticides

Please be aware of using pesticides on your lawn or garden. During the 3 Billion Bird Panel Discussion, Dr. DeVito brought up neonicotinoids as a real hazard for plants and insects. Neonics are one of reasons for the decline in bird and monarch populations. There is a bill that has been introduced in Congress, H.R. 2854 Protect our Refuge Act of 2019, that would prohibit the use of neonics with the National Wildlife Refuge System. You can encourage your congressman to co-sponsor this bill.

Also, reported by the Sierra Club, Imidacloprid, one of the world's most widely use insecticides, suppresses the appetites of birds, depriving them of the precious fat they need to migrate.

eBird Status and Trends

Now that we had a program on how to use eBird, given by member Josh Gant, let's check out some of the information we can find on eBird.

With eBird Status and Trends you can discover movements, range boundaries, and areas of abundance for over 600 North American birds. Follow bird populations on a weekly basis across the entire Western Hemisphere at an astounding level of detail. The eBird Science team linked bird sightings from hundreds of thousands of eBirders with habitat information from satellites to create valuable predictions of when and where birds occur. eBird data products are free to use for research, conservation, or to better understand the amazing lives of birds. They have some nifty animations for bird migrations, which you can find on their website.

If you have not downloaded eBird and Merlin to your phone, you should because you can have loads of information right at your fingertips.

UPCOMING

November 5—Next Zoom meeting

November 21—Field trip to Island Beach State Park



Friends in Southern Ocean Birding Group (group)