



# Friendly, fun, and Informative Bird Watching

May 2021

Issue 45

[southernoceanbirdinggroup.org](http://southernoceanbirdinggroup.org) Due to Covid, all in person meetings at the Tuckerton Seaport are cancelled for the foreseeable future.

## Annual Dues for 2021

Dues for 2021 are due. 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.**

## Field Trips This Spring



We have had 3 field trips since the last newsletter, Belleplain State Forest, Double Trouble State Park, and Heislerville WMA and Delaware Bayshore. All have been well attended, and we have seen warblers and other passerines along with migrating shorebirds including Red Knots.

Our next trip is scheduled for June 15

(Tuesday). We will look for spring migrants at Island Beach State Park. We will meet at the first parking lot on the right after passing through the entrance at 8:30 a.m. If you are over 62, fee is free.



## Members June 3, 2021 Virtual Meeting

We will have a virtual Zoom Meeting on **June 3, 2021** at 7 p.m., when writer and environmental consultant **Rick Radis** will present "**Return of the Raven**". The presentation will cover the historic status of the Common Raven in eastern North America from the late 1880s, its remarkable return in the 1990s, and its present status as a nesting species in many (often surprising) areas of NJ and the eastern states.

Rick is an editor, writer and environmental consultant who has worked on land and water preservation and as an endangered species specialist since the late 1970s. He is a past editor of NJ Birds, NJ Audubon Magazine, and other conservation publications. The program promises to be entertaining as well as educational. Join us for this Zoom meeting.

A Zoom invite will be sent shortly. In the meantime, stay safe and get vaccinated.

## Field Trips

- June 15—Island Beach State Park
- July 10—SOBG Member Picnic
- July 14—Boat ride on Osprey, CM

## Cape May House



As the Lakeside Lodge was no longer available to us this year, we have rented another house for October 4-8, located in Cape May. The location is not as convenient as the Lodge, but it is only about 5-10 minutes from Cape May Lighthouse.

Most of the rooms are already spoken for, but we will accept a few names to

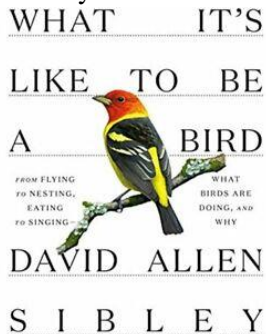
be put on a wait list. Everyone will have been vaccinated by then and hopefully so will all the people in Cape May. We have started collecting the fees. Please send your check to SOBG, 2 Newport Street, Barnegat, NJ 08005.

As always, friends and members are welcome to visit and stay the day birding with us. The address is 1112 Washington Street, Cape May. It is right next to the Physick Estate.

## Bird Brains, Revealed; A new Sibley books looks at life through the eyes of a Bird

(reprinted from Nature Conservancy Magazine winter 2020)

David Allen Sibley's new book, *What It's Like to Be a Bird*, is full of intriguing details: birds bob their heads when they walk to stabilize their vision; they have a



brilliant sense of balance; and some can even sense magnetic fields to help with long-distance navigation. Across nearly 200 pages, Sibley diverges from his famous birding guidebooks to give readers a sense of how birds really work—and to develop a deeper

understanding of the world we share with them.

“One of the themes that impressed me throughout my work on this book is that a bird’s experience is far richer, more complex, and more ‘thoughtful’ than I’d imagined,” writes Sibley. Crows, for example, can recognize human faces and convey to other birds whether a person is dangerous.

Sibley also sets the record straight on a few common myths about birds. “Eating like a bird,” it turns out, is not at all like picking at a salad. Birds eat some 10% of their body weight every day. If a person were to do the same, it would mean putting away 25 pizza a day.

There are several programs on You Tube with Sibley talking about his book, and I highly recommend if you have a free hour to check one out. Highly informative and interesting. Also, you can purchase the book and enjoy it year-round.

## 2021 MATES Scholarship Award

We had five seniors from MATES apply for the 2021 SOBG Scholarship Award. Our award committee is reviewing the applications and essays and the winner will be announced next month. Congratulations to all who submitted this year for outstanding achievements.

## SOBG Annual Summer Picnic

After missing a year due to the pandemic, we are planning to hold our annual summer picnic this year on July 10<sup>th</sup>. Again, Nancy Lynch has graciously opened her home in Little Egg Harbor for us. A list will be sent to all members to indicate your attendance and what items you will bring. The SOBG provides the hot dogs and hamburgers as always. So, mark your calendars!



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