



# Friendly, fun, and Informative Bird Watching

June 2021

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[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.**

## SOBG Picnic—July 10



Join the Annual SOBG Picnic on July 10<sup>th</sup> at Nancy Lynch's home at 102 S Commodore Drive, LEH. The SOBG is providing the hamburgers and hot dogs and there is still time to sign up for

items to bring. A listing of what's being brought so far will be sent out by July 1<sup>st</sup>. We can finally get all together for some fun!

## Birding by Boat on the Osprey—July 12

Depending on the weather, we plan on doing Birding by Boat on the Osprey on July 12. Details will be sent out shortly.

## August 5, 2021 Virtual Meeting

We will have a virtual Zoom Meeting on **August 5, 2021** at 7 p.m, with a presentation by Chelsea Hockenbury. Details in the July newsletter.

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

## Field Trips

- July 10—SOBG Member Picnic
- July 14—Boat ride on Osprey, CM

## Cape May House



The Cape May house is fully reserved for Oct. 4-8.

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.

## 2021 MATES Scholarship Award

Our winner of the 2021 MATES Scholarship is Cassandra Vongrej from Forked River. The awards were presented virtually, so I did a brief video presentation that was added to the others on YouTube. Congratulations to Cassandra.

## Successes and Declines of Threatened/Endangered Species

Over the past year, reports have come out from Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ and the NJ DEP's Division of Fish and Wildlife on how certain species populations in the state are doing.

First the bad news, that the number of Red Knots seen at the various Delaware Bayshore beaches has dropped to its lowest numbers since counting began almost 40 years ago. We witnessed this on our field trip in May, where we had to really search to come up with less than 100 Knots in total from several beaches. Conservationists



found around 7000 this year, bringing our rufa subspecies closer to extinction. One issue is climate change, which is getting the arrival of the horseshoe crab and Red Knots out of sync. Joanna Burger from Rutgers has called for ban on all harvesting of the crabs for bait, which is still allowed in DE, MD, and VA. They are also using the crab's blood for medical testing, especially with the Covid-19 vaccines.

There was a mixed bag of information on Piping Plovers, which the state DEP reported a decrease of 10% from the previous year. However, Conserve Wildlife Foundation



of NJ reported an increase of fledged chicks at areas that CWF-managed sites, especially at Barnegat Light and Holgate and Little Beach. CWF also

reported that Least Tern, Black Skimmers, and Oystercatchers at their sites were not as successful as the plovers. Habitat loss and predators are the major issue for beach nesters.

Now some good news: Bald Eagle nests have been found in every county of NJ, all 21 of them. More than 40 years

after nearly going extinct due to DDT, eagles are back with resounding success. In 1980 there was one eagle



nest in NJ, and now there are 220 nesting pairs in the state. They produced a total of 307 eaglets last year. Recovery of eagles, Peregrine Falcons, and Osprey

are helped with the funds from the Wildlife Tax Check-off on state income tax forms.

Finally, the Osprey is a great success story and did really well last year. After arriving in late March, early April, they get right to it, fixing up the nests, laying eggs, and feeding the young.



Last year, CWF counted 503 active nests, which produced 812 young. A total of 209 were banded by staff of the CWF.

Last year was extremely difficult for all of us, and it provided new challenges for the staff of CWF and DEP to count and monitor all these species. The SOBG donates to the CWF for maintaining the Osprey nest on Great Bay Blvd, nearest to the Rutgers Marine Field Station. So, when you're out birding on GBB, look for "our" Osprey nest and check out how they are doing.



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