



Friendly, fun, and Informative Bird Watching

September 2021 Issue 49

southernoceanbirdinggroup.org Due to Covid, all in person meetings at the Tuckerton Seaport are cancelled for the foreseeable future.

Annual Dues for 2022

Dues for 2022 are due from now until December 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 available for renewals, new memberships, and donations on our website.**

September 18 Field Trip

Palmyra Cove Nature Park (PCNP) had 10 members attending after some trouble trying to get into the park with construction going on at the normal entrance. So, the adventure started with the Visitor Center being closed when we arrived and no bathrooms in sight.

We got through that issue and started the walk only to find thousands of Spotted Lanterflies all over the park. We made efforts to stomp on many, who could jump away, making it harder than it seemed.



The birds were few and far between for most of the trip, but Nancy Lynch and Vicki McErlean (photo left) got us on a path to warbler heaven, with at least 6 species right in a 100-foot area flying all around us. That helped to make the trip a

success.

November 4, 2021 Virtual Meeting

We will have a virtual Zoom Meeting on **November 4, 2021** at 7 p.m, with a presentation on “**Birding China and India**” with member, Chris Thomas. Chris will talk about birding in China and India and the many people he’s met. He discusses how much birding has really grown over the years in these countries, how people are embracing the environment and building parks to promote wildlife and nature studies, and the habitat and types of species you may encounter. A PowerPoint slide show of birds he’s encountered on his trips will be presented.

Chris has been birding for 9 years, and he has photographed and uploaded photos of 674 species on eBird, while also become an avid pelagic birder.

A Zoom invite will be sent the end of October. In the meantime, stay safe and get vaccinated. Only vaccinated people will be allowed into indoor events.

Field Trips

- October 4-8—Birding Cape May
- November 6—Cape May Hawkwatch and Avalon Seawatch
- December 18—Tuckerton Christmas Bird Count

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. BTW, the Lakeside Lodge is up for sale.

Ocean County Decoy Show and Pinelines Jamboree



The SOBG can use volunteers for the Ocean County Decoy Show on September 25 (Tip Seaman County Park in Tuckerton) and for the Pinelands Jamboree on October 9 (Wells Mills County Park in Waretown). We will have our table setup and be selling our field guides. It's under a tent but

essentially outdoors. Please feel free to wear a mask if you wish.

A Visit to Glacier National Park

By Susan Puder

After almost two years of only traveling locally due to the pandemic, Nancy Gallagher and I were finally able to take a trip that had been scheduled since 2019 to Glacier National Park in Montana.



It wasn't a birding trip,

per se, but I can always hope. I did get one lifer, the Pink-sided Dark-eyed Junco, when a small flock was feeding near the lodge one night. Putting birds aside, Glacier contains some of the most beautiful landscapes in the U.S. Called the 'Crown of the Continent', its waters flow into 3 water sheds, the Pacific Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, and Hudson Bay, making one of the most unusual river systems in the world. It is part of the Rocky Mountain range, which extends up into Canada with Banff and Jasper Parks in Alberta.



There is only one road that transverses the entire park, Going-to-the-Sun Road, which is a 50-mile highway that crosses the Continental Divide at Logan Pass. We stayed



on the shores of Lake McDonald, one of the many glacier lakes that was carved out during the last ice age, about 12,000 years ago. In fact, the name is not because of

the current 25 glaciers still left but how it was formed over time. At one time the area was a great inland sea,

slowly drying up with glaciers growing and spreading that carved today's landscape.

In 1995 Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park was named a World Heritage Site (Waterton being a national park in Canada).

It is a hiker's paradise, with dozens of well-maintained hiking trails, going through diverse landscapes, from old-



growth forests, wind-swept prairies, to deep lakes formed from glaciers with a great variety of plants and animals calling it home. We saw a variety of squirrels, Mountain Goats, Big-horn Sheep, Hoary Marmot, deer, and the best was a young bull moose.

The bears eluded us, though a black bear was seen in the vicinity of the lodge and motel, and the Grizzlies were not found, but probably up near Many Glacier, an area we didn't visit.

This was a Road Scholar trip, and they ran the show. Don't ask about the bathrooms in the motel; just say it left a lot to be desired. The motel rooms were rustic, but we were in them basically only at night.



We hiked and walked in four days about 28 miles, and the elevation ranged from about 3000' to over 7000'. The last afternoon, we took a float ride on the Middle



Fork of the Flathead River, which was very relaxing and could have used a bit more white water.

All in all, it was fun, met some nice folks, great food even if we had to eat outside, wonderful weather, and terrific scenery. It was introduction to the park, our first time there, and I know I would love to go back—missed those bears.



Friends in Southern Ocean Birding Group (group)