



# Friendly, fun, and Informative Bird Watching

October 2021 Issue 50

[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 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.**

## Cape May Week

The SOBG group that stayed in Cape May during the first week of October had a wonderful time and great



weather. The new house proved to be quite comfortable, and everyone seemed to enjoy all it's amenities, though parking and location could have been better. The birding was a bit slow, but we did manage to see

as a group 142 bird species in five days! And we were invited to visit a beautiful butterfly garden along the Delaware Bay.



## 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

- November 7—Cape May Hawkwatch and Avalon Seawatch
- December 18—Tuckerton Christmas Bird Count

## MATES Scholarship Fundraiser

April 22, 2022, is the date for our fundraiser at the Long Beach Island Foundation. Save the date.

## Ocean County Decoy Show and Pine Barrens Jamboree

The SOBG had tables at both events and did really well selling our pocket field guides, profits of which go to our MATES Scholarship Fund. Thanks to all that helped out.



## Return to Yellowstone National Park

By Linda Gangi

I recently visited Yellowstone National Park for the fourth time and it is still a marvel! It never ceases to amaze me how large it is and what is contained within its borders.

The Park really isn't known as a birding hotspot, but certainly with time, patience, and a scope you would add to your western bird list. One of the most surprising things that I found in the park were breeding White Pelican in Pelican Valley. At one time they were killed because hunters believed they were destroying the fish supply. Eventually, conservation measures were put in place to stop the slaughter. Another bird that we are familiar with, the Harlequin Duck breeds in the park and can be found at LeHardy Rapids area and I'm sure in other rough water areas also. I missed seeing the Dipper again this year, so called because of its bobbing motion, and has the unique ability to dive and swim underwater; another bird that enjoys the rough water of rapids. Barrow's Goldeneye is a common duck that can be found. How many people in New Jersey would travel miles to see that? Friendly Canada Jays are always willing to visit your picnic table for a handout. Clark's Nutcrackers are quite common flying treetop to treetop.

On my very first visit I was lucky to see a Cinnamon Teal in Pelican Valley and listen in the evening to

the calling of Soras throughout the marsh area. One of the more stunning birds, the Mountain Bluebird, can be seen throughout the park along with the Mountain Chickadee. The Violet/Green Swallows are common and one of my favorites. In the North up by Mammoth people take pictures of the Great Gray Owls. I've never seen one there but hope to on my next visit.

Yellowstone is a vast park. It takes two to three hours to travel from one end to the other. Birding is only one small part of what you will find there. On my first visit I was surprised to find out that it had its own Grand Canyon. The Falls of the canyon are something to behold! The Yellowstone River flows over two falls on its way to the canyon, first over Upper Yellowstone Falls and then the Lower Falls. The canyon itself is 1,000 feet deep.

Other areas that are a must see are Lamar and



Hayden Valley. Both are known for their wildlife viewing. Bison roam free in Yellowstone (driver be

warned) and large herds can be found throughout the park. This September we found the herds still up in Lamar Valley, which is in the northern region of the park. One of the most iconic wildlife to be found in Lamar and Hayden Valley are the wolves, which were reintroduced to the park in the 1990s. Just like we line up with our scopes to watch the birds, wolf watchers can be seen throughout Lamar and Hayden looking for wolves. Grizzly Bears are a common sighting along with Black Bear and Elk. Bighorn Sheep and Mountain Goats are also viewable around the mountainous areas.

In the southern region of the park, you'll find one of the largest collections of Geysers in the world. Everyone, I think, has heard of Old Faithful Geyser, which is one of around 500 geysers in the park. Most people visit Old Faithful not realizing that there are so many more geysers a short walk away. Within walking distance to Old Faithful, you'll find Geyser Hill, with geysers like Beehive and Lion and the down basin where some of the largest geysers in the world, like Grand, are located. Watching Grand is like watching water fireworks,



different jets of water surging up to 200 feet in the air.

There are many other features within the park that I haven't touched on, but those are for you to explore. Hopefully, I've managed to pique your interest about the marvelous sights that await you in Yellowstone. I highly recommend a visit to the park; I don't think it is something you would ever regret. The most common times to visit range from May to

September. It can snow in Yellowstone at any time, but the chances in Spring and Fall are greater. There are winter trips that can be arranged but these require special reservations since you must travel by snow coach. Temperatures in the park can drop to minus 30F, so special clothing is required also. I hope one day to make it into the park in winter when the views are glorious.

## **SOBG Holiday Party**

**The SOBG Holiday Party is scheduled for December 2. It will probably be at Carol & Dave Yorkanis's home. Details to follow next month.**



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