



# Friendly, fun, and Informative Bird Watching

March 2022 Issue 55

[southernoceanbirdinggroup.org](http://southernoceanbirdinggroup.org) Due to Covid, all in person meetings at the Tuckerton Seaport are cancelled for the foreseeable future, but we are hoping that we can all get back together for meeting in August.

## Annual Dues for 2022

Dues for 2022 are due from now. 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**.

## Annual Clean Up of GBB

Keep the date on your calendar for April 9 when the SOBG will do its annual cleanup of Great Bay Blvd., Little Egg Harbor. We will meet at the Jacques Cousteau NERR, 130 Great Bay Blvd. at 9 a.m. to receive bags, grabbers, and instructions. Please bring your own work gloves and water. We will have some donuts to provide energy for the tasks. We should be done around 1 p.m.

This is our annual community service project, which helps collect trash and especially plastic, keeping it out of our Barnegat Bay and the ocean. On average, an estimated 8 million metric tons of plastic hit the waves each year due to littering, illegal dumping, and poor waste management on land and at sea. Microplastics are widespread in aquatic environments and can be ingested by a wide range of organisms. Estuaries and other tidal wetlands may be particularly prone to this type of pollution. With sea rise and tidal flooding occurring more frequently, plastic, and other debris ends up in our bays and oceans and may be eaten by shorebirds, adding to the steep decline in bird populations over the past 50 years.



## April 7, 2022 Virtual Meeting

Our April 7th meeting will be a special exchange meeting with Tucson Audubon, “*Southeast Arizona’s Most Wanted Birds*”, presented by Luke Safford. Elegant Trogon, Red-faced Warbler, Montezuma Quail, Violet-crowned Hummingbird...many of us remember the first time we saw one—whether in real life or in the pages of our Sibley or Golden Guide. We'll discuss what makes birding in the Tucson area so amazing and how to go about planning your first (or next) trip to the Sonoran Desert and Sky Islands of Southeast Arizona.

Luke Safford currently serves as the Director of Engagement & Education for Tucson Audubon Society, which includes overseeing the Paton Center for Hummingbirds, Tucson Audubon Nature Shop, field trip and event programs, the Southeast Arizona Birding Festival, and student education opportunities. He started birding and keeping a life list when he was six years old in Washington State thanks to his grandparents. His favorite place to bird is at Sweetwater Wetlands where he's been leading a weekly walk with Tucson Audubon since he moved to Tucson in January 2015.

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

## Field Trips:

**April 9—Annual Clean Up Great Bay Blvd**

**April 24—Early Spring Migrants—tbd**

**May 14—Spring Migrants—tbd**

*Wine and Cheese Fundraiser*  
**Saving Barnegat Bay Islands**  
 Benefit for **MATES SCHOLARSHIP**

**SPEAKERS:**  
**Virginia Rettig**  
 Manager of EB Forsythe NWR  
**Kimberly McKenna**  
 Stockton University  
 Coastal Research Center  
 Associate Director

Presented by  
 Southern Ocean  
 Birding Group  
**\$40 per person**  
 We are a 501c3 Non-profit

Reservations: Eventbrite,  
[southernoceanbirdinggroup.org](http://southernoceanbirdinggroup.org)  
 or at the door

**Date: April 22, 2022**  
**6:30-8:00 PM**  
 Long Beach Island Foundation for the  
 Arts and Sciences (LBIF)  
 120 Long Beach Blvd.  
 Loveladies, NJ

SILENT AUCTION



Afterwards at 1 p.m. we lead three birding walks in the sunny but windy afternoon. The walk at Barnegat Inlet



was led by Greg and Jeanine Appgar, with 14 participants joining the walk. 15 species were seen, including Harlequin and Long-tail ducks, Ipswich Sparrows, and hundreds of Northern Gannets.



## Wings Over LBI

Our 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Wings Over LBI was held on March 19<sup>th</sup> at the Long Beach Township Field Station in Holgate for the first time. The parking was a bit tight, but the weather held out and the program given by Greg Prelich on “Shorebirds of New Jersey” was a rousing success with almost a full house in attendance. Plus, we sold 15 field guides; thanks all who helped with parking, sales, setup, and Greg.



The Holgate walk was led by Marian Jordan with 7 participants with the highlight being 2 Piping Plovers, and 13 species in total.

The last walk was at Cedar Bonnet Island, led by Bob Leifeste, which had 7 participants. They topped the day with 24 species.

So, in total we had about 34 people on the walks and around 35 at the talk, so it was a great day. Thanks to all!



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