



Friendly, fun, and Informative Bird Watching

September 2022 Issue 61

Annual Dues for 2023

Dues for 2023 are due and can be paid starting in August. 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**.

Fall Migration is Still Here!

Cape May is considered one of the best birding destinations in North America to witness fall migration, especially for raptors. Peregrine falcons, sharp-shinned hawks and northern harriers are just a few of the incredible raptors you'll see on our preserves during fall migration. NJ is on the Atlantic Flyway, and with Northwest winds, migrants can be found almost anywhere, but Cape May is the best.



See you at the Hawkwatch or by CMBO Northwood.

On their journey south to Mexico, monarch butterflies stop in Cape May County for a few weeks, numbering in the tens of thousands! Migration runs from September to October, peaking in the last weeks of September.



October 6 Meeting

We are meeting in person at the Hunting Shanty, Tuckerton Seaport on October 6, from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Join

us as Josh Gant and Jason Nargiz (a.k.a. the JnJ boyz) present a lively PowerPoint program describing their LONG road trip to southern Arizona last April-May. Armed with lifer targets aplenty, JnJ left no stone unturned to find their quarry. Southern AZ might never be the same.

We hope to see you in person, and please feel free to wear a mask if you wish. We will have light refreshments and a chance to catch up with everyone. Hoping to see you there.

Field Trips:

October 15—Searching for Fall Migrants (Possibly Cape May as Fall Festival is going on)

November 5—Hotspots in Cape May or Island Beach State Park

Cape May House

The Cape May house still has a bed or two available if you wish to come down for a day or two. Again, that's October 17-21. All are invited to visit for the day and head out to bird with the group. 1112 Washington Street, Cape May.



Friends in Southern Ocean Birding Group (group)

Living with Atlantic White Cedar

By Jeanine Apgar

I have been lucky enough to live adjacent to an Atlantic White Cedar bog for the past 12 years. Atlantic White Cedar is a native coniferous tree



found along creeks and in large wet areas of the NJ Pinelands. It grows within 50 miles of the eastern coastline, can reach 80 ft in height, and will live for 1000 years, if undisturbed. It creates dense stands that filter light and create hummocks of sphagnum moss, which serve as

habitat for ferns, rare orchids and mosses. The ecosystem is very insulated, staying cool in summer and warm in winter as it filters water and creates natural fire-breaks.

Many rare and threatened species use AWC swamps, including Swamp Pink (a wetlands perennial



wildflower), Pine Barrens Treefrog, and Timber Rattlesnake. Barred Owls, Black-throated Green Warblers, and Black and White Warblers nest in its thick branches and hidden corners and Hessel's Hairstreaks (a bright green butterfly that is a State-designated Species of

Special Concern) feeds on Atlantic White Cedar



leaves as its host plant. Shrubs associated with the bogs are winterberry, inkberry, highbush blueberry, native rhododendron, and

swamp azalea. White-tailed deer use the trees and seeds as food and shelter from winter winds.

Landowners in New Jersey are encouraged to work

toward removing competitive hardwoods. This creates areas that encourage seedling regeneration by opening up the canopy. In the 1800's, many AWC bogs were drained to be converted to commercial cranberry bogs. As the greatest threat to New Jersey's wildlife is loss of habitat, our hope is to make a contribution to the recovery of more Atlantic White Cedar forests for the future.

