



# Friendly, fun, and Informative Bird Watching

October 2022 Issue 62

## 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**.

## Holiday Party—December 7



Join us for our Annual Holiday Party, this year on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 6-8 p.m. at the Jacques Cousteau National Research Reserve, 130 Great Bay Blvd, Tuckerton, NJ.

Carol Yorkanis is in charge of coordinatin

the food. An email about the party was sent out on October 28 with details to all members. Food set up will begin at 5:30. Let's celebrate the end of 2022, looking forward to the new year.

## Tuckerton Christmas Bird Count

Keep December 17 on your calendar for the Annual Christmas Bird Count. Details to follow.



## November 3 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 Sue Puder will talk about birding in Belize. Take

a virtual trip to this wonderous Central American country. You will learn about some of the animals and butterflies that can be found there and explore some of the ruins left behind from the Mayan Empire that stretched over most of Central America a thousand years ago.

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:

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

**December 17—Tuckerton Christmas Bird Count**



Friends in Southern Ocean Birding Group (group)

# Cape May Week 2022

By Susan Puder

The SOBG annual Cape May week, actually only 5 days, was a bit late in the season this year. It seems like everyone had had it with being stuck in the house, and real estate bookings were already in high gear last February when we reserved, so October 17-21 was it. There were 8-9 members staying overnight, with a few day trippers stopping by. It was quite birdy all over, especially with Yellow-rumped Warblers and Kinglets. But if you took the time and effort, many other species were still around to be seen.

Raptor migration was in full swing at the hawk watch in Cape May Lighthouse State Park. Merlins, Cooper's, and Sharpies were the top numbers, but Kestrels, Bald Eagles, Harriers were seen every day. An



occasional Red-tailed and Broad-winged Hawks made appearances during the week also. We missed the Golden Eagle

by minutes one day. But the highlight for me was the fly over of a Hudsonian Godwit on Tuesday, which gave everyone wonderful views and photo ops.

I would say almost every possible birding area was checked out by our members: Rea Farm, Cox Hall, the Meadows, Northwood and Lily Lake, CMLH State Park, Circle Garden, Higbee, and all places in between. Some lingering warblers, including Blackpoll, Prairie, Nashville, Common Yellowthroat, Cape May, Magnolia, Northern Parula, and the ever present Yellow-rumped were found.



Sparrows were also in abundance, including White-throated, Swamp, Chipping, Lincoln, and first of season Dark-eyed Juncos.

Of course, the food prepared by our members was great as always, and thanks to Jeanine Apgar for putting the schedule together and everyone that contributed. We were very happy to have Dale Rosselet and Kevin Karlson join us again for dinner on Tuesday evening. After the year they have been through, it was wonderful to see them and share an evening with them.



My other highlight was birding at Rea Farm (Beanery) primarily looking for sparrow. And the Swamp didn't disappoint, giving many great photo opportunities. But the Nashville Warbler was really a treat; it was feeding along the edge

of field and didn't pay too much attention to two photographers anxiously trying to get great shots. At one point, it flew to grasses right by my leg, so close I just stood frozen in place as it was just inches away. Amazing! A wonderful moment in nature.

The weather was nice and cool, even if the winds were mostly SW. So, all in all, it was another great five days birding Cape May. What could be better. Next year we hope to get a place earlier in the fall season, and we will keep everyone up to date.

