



# Friendly, fun, and Informative Bird Watching

March 2023

Issue 67

## Annual Dues for 2023

Dues for 2023 are due. 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**.

## Field Trips:

**April 15—Belleplaine State Forest, meeting at 8:30 a.m. the Visitor Center Parking Lot, 1 Henkinsifkin Road, Woodbine.**

## Birdy News Bits

- The 2023 Great Backyard Bird Count exceeded all expectations. Organizers estimate that more than 500,000 participants from around the globe made the latest count the best ever. Participants reported 7,538 bird species and uploaded more than 151,000 photos, videos, and sounds.
- **GBBC 2023 in a Snapshot:**
  - 7,538 species of birds identified.
  - 202 participating countries
  - 390,652 eBird checklists
  - 372,905 Merlin Bird IDs
  - 151,479 photos added to Macaulay Library
  - 555,291 estimated global participants



## April 6 Meeting

The SOBG monthly meeting will be with Carole Hughes presenting

**“Garret Mountain Reservation: The Migration Hotspot”**. Garret Mountain has a well-deserved reputation as one of the premiere spring migrant traps in New Jersey. This program will discuss the geography and the micro habitats that make Garret unique. Learn about the expected species, the timeline of spring migration at Garret and tips to get the most out of your birding day at this special place.

Carole has been an avid birder for 30+ years in Texas and New Jersey. She volunteered for the Houston Zoo, working with a Crested Caracara. For the past 15 years, she has led adult and youth birding field trips for NJ Audubon and served on the Board of Directors. She is a current member of the NJ Bird Records Committee. She has traveled extensively for birding across the U.S., Central and South America, the Caribbean, Europe, and Africa.

We'll see you at the meeting April 6 at 7PM in the **Lacey Library at 10 East Lacey Road in Forked River**. The meeting starts at 7PM, but doors open by 6:30.



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

## Wing Over LBI—March 18, 2023

A cold windy day greeted the group of about 20 birders as they started “Wings Over LBI” this with only field trips to three great birding locations. First was Cedar Bonnet Island, part of Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, where several meadowlarks appeared, and one orange-crowned warbler were the highlights of the morning.

Next the group, where several dropped off and others joined in at Barnegat Lighthouse State Park for a few hours of exploring the jetty. Harlequins didn’t disappoint, along with oystercatchers, Ipswich Sparrow, Long-tailed



ducks, loons, and purple sandpipers made appearances.

The last stop for the day was Holgate, at the southern end of the LBI and also a unit of Forsythe NWR. Ocean birds were flying by, including scoters, horned grebes, and more oystercatchers.



Everyone had a fun but cold time. Thanks to all who participated in our annual event.



Photos on this page thanks to Claude deLorraine



Our thanks for a great trip goes out to our leader and VP, Josh Gant for all his knowledge and great leading skills.



Photos on this page thanks to Charlie Baniewicz