



Friendly, fun, and Informative Bird Watching

April 2023

Issue 68

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:

May 6---Double Trouble State Park, Bayville
May 20—Garret Mountain

Lakehurst Naval Station Bird Trip: June 22

There are a few spots left for the Lakehurst trip, which spends a few hours checking out the grasslands of the station for various species, including upland sandpipers, grasshopper sparrows, meadowlarks, and horned larks. Please email Jeanine Apgar if you are interested in going; jga-2@comcast.net

Birdy News Bits



- The 2023 ABA Bird of the Year is the Belted Kingfisher.



May 4 Meeting

The SOBG May 4 meeting will be ***Beach Nesting Birds: Horseshoe Island and Beyond***

Starting in 2021, beach nesting birds, including state endangered colonial nesting species such as black skimmer and least tern, as well as common and royal tern, began nesting on Horseshoe Island, a newly formed island off the Atlantic coast of New Jersey near the Little Egg Inlet. Todd Pover, a Senior Wildlife Biologist with the Conserve Wildlife Foundation, will provide an inside look at the nesting and other bird activity on the island that he has helped monitor. The beaches of the Edwin B. Forsythe NWR, which are adjacent to Horseshoe Island, now host the highest concentration of piping plovers in the state. Todd will also provide an update on their status at the Refuge, as well as the outcome of a habitat restoration in Barnegat Light, another important site for nesting birds on the opposite end of LBI.

Todd Pover is a Senior Wildlife Biologist for the Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey. He has been involved in the research, monitoring, and management of beach nesting birds, in particular, piping plover, in New Jersey and other portions of the flyway for 30 years. He is a graduate of Rutgers University.

The meeting is at **Wells Mills County Park, Wells Mills Road, Waretown**, starting at 7 p.m., but doors open at 6:30.

Belleplaine State Forest Field Trip, April 15

By Jeanine Apgar

In early April 17 SOBG members went south to find some of the early spring migrants. Greg Prelich and Jason Nargiz led us through trails and woodlands following the sounds of singing. One of our biggest



targets was Yellow-throated Warbler, which did not

disappoint. On the first walk there were 3 putting on a great show. In addition to Chipping Sparrows, we also found a Eastern Phoebe sitting on a nest and several Blue-gray Gnatcatchers.

On our way to an area known as the Triangle, we saw a Red-tailed Hawk fly in front of the cars, and a group of Wild Turkeys.



At the Triangle were Black and White Warblers, many White-eyed Vireos, Hooded Warbler, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Yellow-rumped Warblers and

many Pine Warblers. A surprise fly-over Broad-winged Hawk was unexpected. A Prairie Warbler was a nice ending to a beautiful morning of birding.

Added by Sue Puder:

On the way towards the Triangle, a flock of wild



turkeys with a gobbler gave us nice views from the cars. Also, though I didn't see many birds, the butterflies were giving a great

show, especially the Spring Azures and a Dusky

Wing also gave a nice photo opportunity.



Great Bay Blvd. Clean Up

On April 8, twelve members of the Southern Ocean Birding Group and other volunteers partnered with the Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve and NJ Watershed Ambassadors for the eighth annual clean-up of accumulated trash in the Great Bay Boulevard Wildlife Management Area. The hardy volunteers braved cool but sunny conditions to fill about 20 jumbo bags of trash and other debris from along the road.



This annual event began in November 2015 after we realized that this WMA and the surrounding marsh, which is one of the top birding locations in Ocean County, had become too filthy to enjoy while birding. This clean-up project is part of our efforts to partner with other like-minded environmental organizations and to have the Southern Ocean Birding Group known throughout the state. Join us for this annual event next spring.



Friends in Southern Ocean Birding Group (group)