



# 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: Lakehurst Naval Station Bird Trip: June 22

There maybe 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](mailto:jga-2@comcast.net)

## Trip to Garrett Mountain Preserve



A hardy group of five traveled to Garrett Mountain Preserve on May 20, with light rain off and on during the morning hours looking for warblers and other migrants. The weather didn't help with the search, but over 50 species of birds were seen. Also, deer, squirrels, chipmunks, and a Common Musk Turtle crossed our path. By noon the rains came, and the group headed to the covered tables to share lunch before heading home. Under better conditions, Garrett Mtn. is a great place to bird during spring migration.



## June 1 Meeting

The SOBG June 1 meeting will be *Owls of North America and Beyond* with **Josh Gant**. Owls are beautiful and mysterious birds that have captured the

imagination of people around the world. This program will cover owl species from North America and across the globe. Come ready with questions about our friendly nocturnal neighbors.

Josh Gant works as the park naturalist at Wells Mills County Park, along with being the President of Atlantic Audubon Society, and is Vice President of SOBG. He is an avid birder and a guide for birding trips around the state.

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



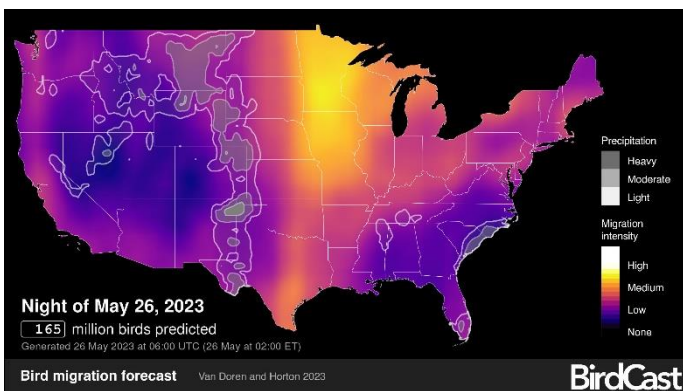
**Friends in Southern Ocean Birding Group (group)**

## Common Musk Turtle



## Birdy Bits News:

**Birdcast.Info** is a website by The Cornell Lab and partners that provides a tool for up-to-date information on migration throughout the U.S. When, where, and how far will birds migrate? How many birds passed last night? Their tools help you explore the answers to these and many other questions about bird migration. The dashboard can give you how many birds passed through your state the night before and bird migration forecast maps show predicted nocturnal migration 3 hours after local sunset and are updated every 6 hours. Colorado State University and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology currently produce these forecasts.



For example, last night May 25-26, over 360,000 birds flew over New Jersey, with 229,000 of those flying over Ocean County. It can give you the peak hours, the direction, and altitude of the flights, along with expected nocturnal species flying that night. Great source of information for birders. Live data feeds begin each night after sunset. Check it out.