



# Friendly, fun, and Informative Bird Watching

August 2023

Issue 69

## Annual Dues for 2024

Dues for 2024 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:

September 16—Fall migration TBD

October—Cape May, date tbd

November—TBD

December 16—Tuckerton CBC

## 2023 Scholarship Winner

By Nancy Gallagher

Nicholas Guerriero, a senior at The Marine Academy of Science and Technology (MATES), was this year's scholarship recipient in the amount of \$1000. His love of nature has inspired him to volunteer in a variety of activities that benefit the environment. Nicholas plans to continue his studies in college with the goal of educating people about the importance of preserving nature.



## September 7 Meeting



The SOBG September 7 meeting will be **"Photographing Birds"** presented by Jim Mitchell.

Photography is a huge part of birding, and just about every birder carries a camera these days. Whether your goal is to document a rarity or for the personal pleasure of taking beautiful photos, everyone will benefit from our speaker/discussion meeting on September 7 at the Lacey Public Library.

Jim Mitchell is a frequent contributor on the SOBG Facebook page. As a self-taught amateur, he has a passion for capturing beautiful images with lighting, action, and mood. He believes great photos can help raise environmental awareness and spur people into action to protect the natural environment. Jim will focus on developing observation skills, learning patterns of behavior, and framing your photo.

To keep the discussion moving, we encourage all our member photographers to bring along a tip or two from your own photo experience that you would be willing to share following his presentation discussion.

We'll see you at the meeting September 7 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)

# Ospreys Having a Tough Year

By Susan Puder

As many of the Friends of Forsythe Osprey Cam followers can attest, osprey young are having a tough time in 2023 making it to fledge. This is occurring throughout New Jersey and along the Chesapeake Bay area. For those who have been watching the osprey pair on the Friends of Forsythe live view, two of the hatchlings didn't make it past



four weeks old. This brood reduction is something that has attracted concern from their partners, Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey. According to Ben Wust, CWF senior wildlife biologist, "Ever since a spring nor'easter impacted the coast with strong onshore winds for

several days, young osprey have been dying of starvation in plain sight. This year, weather has impacted the availability of fish and outcomes of nests in the Garden State. "

Wurst states, "Brood reduction is actually quite common in ospreys, as they are specially adapted for it." But he added, "we have not witnessed such widespread brood reduction in ospreys over the past two decades. This year it was observed at almost every osprey cam nest in New Jersey."

Decreased abundance of Atlantic menhaden, or bunker, may be an issue, as strong onshore winds made it hard for ospreys to find their favorite food.



He added, "Ospreys have done quite well in New Jersey over the past several decades, so the recent nest failure should not affect their long-term stability. It is only problematic if this trend continues, like the situation on Chesapeake Bay, where many nests are failing and not meeting thresholds to sustain the population.



The limited availability of menhaden is to blame. Ospreys are indicating that something is wrong in the environment. The climate is changing, and we should all be concerned for the future of our planet and its inhabitants."