

**Minutes of the Sussex Bird Club**  
**Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

**The meeting was called to order by President Bill Fintel. There were 23 members and 1 guest in attendance.**

**Treasurer's Report:**

- The treasurer's report was given by Lou Archdeacon:
- Opening balance of \$1,360.00. After dues payments from 2 single and 1 family memberships, Coast Day expenses and newsletter mailing, the current balance is \$1,299.91.

**Field Trip News – Chris Bennett provided an update on field trips:**

- The field trip to the DuPont Nature center found a few shorebirds, but not what was anticipated, but the trip in netted 16 clapper rails – one with 7 chicks plus marbled godwits.
- The trip to Prime Hook highlighted a painted bunting, bobolinks and numerous shorebirds.
- The next field trip will be Saturday September 19<sup>th</sup>, 8:00AM at Milford Neck – check the website for details.

**Coast Day:** Jean Shaw and others will be setting up the SBC Exhibit at Coast Day on Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup> and could use some help staffing the exhibit in the afternoon. If you can help, please contact Jean!

**Salt Water Intrusion at Prime Hook:** SBC President, Bill Fintel, commented about the negative effects of saltwater intrusion on the freshwater marshes at Prime Hook. He read a letter to be mailed to Senator Gary Simpson, requesting assistance in blocking the saltwater. The letter was approved overwhelmingly by the membership. The letter will be mailed to Senator Simpson and will be available for viewing on the SBC website.

**SDALL Birding Classes:** For information on Southern Delaware Academy of Lifelong Learning Check out the SBC Website.

**Today's Program:** Jean Shaw Introduces today's speaker, Chris Bennett who provided an exceptional look at birding in Adirondack Park in northeastern New York State. Adirondack Park is a 6 million acre park (about 4 times the size of Delaware) established in 1892 to protect the headwaters of the Hudson River. 3 Million acres of the park are publicly owned while the other 3 million are privately held. Chris grew up only a short ½ hour drive from the park and has been birding there since the early 1980s. The park consists of an incredible diversity of habitats including bogs, mountains, boreal forests, hardwood forests lakes, ponds, rivers and streams. Chris has birded Adirondack Park during all seasons, but considers the late May to early July breeding season the best time to see and hear the largest diversity of birds. Chris dazzled the audience with excellent photography of the scenery, habitats, birds and wildlife of Adirondack Park including warblers, flycatchers, thrushes, chickadees, woodpeckers, grouse, wild turkeys, raptors,

vireos, tanagers, waterfowl, loons, marsh birds and more. Many of the birds, particularly warblers, found breeding in Adirondack Park are more typically associated with the boreal forests of Canada and many very exciting species were found within or very near the campsites where Chris and friends stayed.

Birds are not the only interests within in the park. Wild orchids, trillium, pitcher plants, butterflies, newts and numerous mammals including ground squirrels, snowshoe hares, otters, fishers, moose, coyotes and beavers abound. The Park also has its downsides. Visitors in the prime breeding season for birds need to be prepared for possible massive swarms of black flies and though winter can be exciting for pine siskins, bohemian waxwings, evening grosbeaks, crossbills, goshawks and a possible northern hawk-owl, be prepared for deep snow and sub zero temperatures.

For more information on the Adirondack park, check out [www.visitadirondacks.com](http://www.visitadirondacks.com) on the web or pick up a copy of a recently published book, titled; Adirondack Birding – 60 Great Places. Finally there are birding festivals that might be of interest. Just check out ‘Adirondack Birding Weekends’ on your search engine. Thanks to Chris Bennett for an extremely entertaining and informative program!

Respectfully submitted, Bob Edelen