

**Minutes of the Sussex Bird Club**  
**Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

**Because of the Photo Contest at Prime Hook, the meeting was held at Cadbury in Lewes. The meeting started with a greeting from Jim Bazzoli who kindly arranged for the meeting facility. Jim welcomed members and guests, and introduce club president, Bill Fintel. There were approximately 60 people in attendance including a large number of guests from Cadbury.**

**Treasurer's Report:**

- The treasurer's report was given by Lou Archdeacon:
- Opening balance of \$1,288.99. With no transactions this month, the balance remains at \$1,288.99

**Miscellaneous:**

- Christmas Bird Count Dates are now posted on the SBC Website.
- Chris Bennett reported on field trips – check the website for upcoming trips. Chris will soon be setting up the field trip schedule for January, February and March.
- Bill Fintel asked for a show of hands of those interested in a trip to Conowingo Dam on Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, to view eagles feeding below the dam. Will carpool from Prime Hook. There was enough interest, so stay tuned for details.

**New Business:**

- President Bill Fintel discussed the possibility of changes to our dues structure to raise funds for honoraria to attract speakers who might have to travel significant distances to address the club. The proposal included:
  - Raise Family Memberships from \$10.00 to \$15.00.
  - Raise Individual Memberships from \$7.00 to \$10.00.
  - Do away with any new Life memberships. Current Life memberships would not be affected.
  - Stop offering Student Memberships.The motion passed unanimously
- President Bill Fintel proposed the formation of a new standing committee to represent SBC in all matters regarding the cape Henlopen Hawk Watch. The motion passed unanimously.
- The SBC Constitution and Bylaws will soon be published on the website.

**Today's Program:** Jean Shaw Introduced today's speaker, Forrest Rowland who gave a spectacular recount of 'An Ecuadorian Adventure'. In March, 2009, Forrest and Jeff Gordon led a trip with SBC members and others to Ecuador. Forrest, a graduate of Texas A&M, lived, traveled and guided in Ecuador for over 5 years. Forrest provided and extremely educational and entertaining look at the geography, and wildlife of the country.

Ecuador is a small country about the size of Nevada with incredible habitat diversity, including over 1700 species of birds. The group covered habitats that ranged from the tropical rainforest of the Amazon at 500 feet elevation to the barren heights of the Andes approaching 15,000 feet. Though plagued with rain for much of the trip (the rains came most days around 10:00AM) the group managed incredible sightings of mammals, butterflies, moths, reptiles, orchids and other flowers, and over 500 species of birds! The photography Forrest shared was nothing less than spectacular, providing incredible looks at humming birds, flycatchers, warblers, trogons, tanagers, finches, toucans, ant pitas, herons, parrots and macaws at leks, and much more. The photography of butterflies, moths, tree frogs, flowers and scenery were equally mesmerizing! The group was treated to sightings of some very rare species of birds and mammals including San Ysidro Owl, Mountain Tapir, Andean Fox, Pigmy Marmoset, Andean Condor and others. Forrest complimented the outstanding photography with his in-depth knowledge of all things Ecuadorean! Stay tuned; Forrest and Jeff are planning a trip next year to Guatemala!

Respectfully submitted, Bob Edelen