

Minutes of the Sussex Bird Club
Sunday, March 14th, 2010

The meeting was called to order at Prime Hook by President Bill Fintel. There were approximately 28 people in attendance.

Treasurer's Report:

- The treasurer's report was given by Lou Archdeacon:
- Opening balance of \$1,640.39. There were 11 single memberships and 4 family memberships paid. After website expenses there is a closing balance of \$1,690.99.

Discussion:

- There was discussion of using Delaware birds as an avenue for communication. After a show of hands, very few members used the site – recommendation tabled.
- There was discussion of putting notices of future meetings in local newspapers. This has been very successful in the past. We will get email addresses from Bill Jones and give it a try.
- The Horseshoe Crab Festival will be held in Milton on May 29th. If we can get volunteers, we will set up our display – It has been very successful at Coast Day!
- The next meeting will be held the 3rd Sunday in April and will feature Mike Fritz with a program featuring many local destinations we might not often visit – off shore! Don't miss it!
- It's election time and a nominating committee has been established. Most officers have agreed to stay on for another term; however a Vice President for programs is needed. If interested, please contact Jean Shaw.
- The annual spring picnic will be held at Prime Hook the second Sunday in June with great food and field trips – mark your calendar!
- Jean Shaw is recovering from Pneumonia – we wish her well!

Field Trips – Chris Bennett reported on field trips:

- The February trip to Ocean City and Indian River Inlets and Silver Lake had 15 to 18 participants with looks at common eiders, redheads, harbor seals, pipits and more! See the website for photos a complete report!
- There are lots of exciting trips planned for upcoming months – check them out on the SBC Website!

Today's Program: (Editor's Note – Our programs just keep getting better and better – don't miss out!) Bill Fintel introduced today's speaker, SBC Member, Chuck Fulmer. Chuck is owner of Pontoon Express on Rt. 5, and in his leisure time is an avid birder, bird feeder and amateur bird photographer. Chuck lives in Georgetown adjacent to 700 acres of forest. Chuck's talk was loaded with helpful tips on photography, finding and attracting birds, and superb photographs of local birds – mostly taken in Sussex County during 2009! Chuck uses a Nikon camera with a tripod mounted 500MM lens and a 1.5 extender. When roaming the wood, he uses a hand-held 300 MM lens – Still he stressed the closer to the subject the better! He tries to keep to a 4.0 aperture to keep the subject

in focus and the background blurred and always focuses on the eye letting other features fall into place. Chuck will occasionally use an IPOD to call birds into photographic range and uses a listening device 'Song Finder' to magnify bird songs in the field – great for those with hearing difficulties! Chuck enhances his photos using Adobe Photoshop 3, but only for brightness and contrast – there is never a replacement for a good photo!

Chuck's interest in birds started at an early age and today much of his photography occurs in his own back yard where he keeps three Purple Martin houses, a mealworm feeder for bluebirds (he grows his own mealworms – yum!), a peanut butter feeder for woodpeckers, pine warblers and others, nine hummingbird feeders, a water dripper, a suit feeder (Chuck uses venison suit), and other assorted feeders and houses. He started out using photography as a means for identifying birds, but his passion grew making him a top notch photographer!

Chuck's photos were a who's who of local birds, including; warblers, woodpeckers, wrens, sparrows, flycatchers, nuthatches, grosbeaks, waterfowl, shorebirds, herons, raptors, finches, vireos, kinglets, tanagers and many, many more! Many of Chuck's photos were taken at home or just driving the roads of Sussex County using his truck as a blind. Some of his favorite spots include:

- Undeveloped developments – good infrastructure, but no homes or people,
- Thompson's Island – look for warbler fallouts on the spring and fall.
- Prime Hook
- Cape Henlopen
- And more!

Thanks to Chuck Fulmer for an exceptional program!!

Round Robin: Red-shouldered hawk, Wild Turkeys, Wood ducks, and pileated Woodpeckers

Respectfully submitted, Bob Edelen