

President Bill Fintel in the Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge auditorium called the meeting of the Sussex Bird Club to order at 2:30 pm on 4/18/10.

Bill pointed out that minutes of the 3/14/10 meeting are on the SBC website.

Treasurer, Louise Archdeacon read the treasurer's report. The balance last month was \$1,690.99, which includes \$185.21 in the Frech Memorial Fund. Income: 23 single memberships; 21 family memberships, and one \$15 donation = \$560.

Expenses: Photocopies of letter for overdue dues, stamps and envelopes = \$37.91 Balance as of April 16, 2010 = \$2,213.08

President, Bill Fintel, made a suggestion that we contact the Prime Hook gardeners, and perhaps use the funds in the Frech Memorial Fund to enhance the Frech Memorial Garden at Prime Hook NWR. Bill Beiser seconded this suggestion.

Chris Bennett, Chairman of Field Trips, announced that there were ten participants on the Cape May – Lewes Ferry trip. About 200 – 300 gannets were seen, and were heard vocalizing. Also seen were a couple of loons, some scoters, and gulls.

– The next field trip will be next Sunday, April 25 to the Great Cypress Swamp and will begin at 7:30 a.m. at the nature center.

Pete Martin will lead the trip to areas not usually seen. Directions are on the web site.

– On May 6, the field trip will be held at Prime Hook NWR. It will begin at 7 a.m. from the refuge office area.

– On May 12, the field trip will be held at the White Clay Creek State Park. This is one of the best birding sites in Delaware. This will take most of the day.

– On Tuesday evening, May 18, the field trip will be held at the DuPont Nature Center to see red knots and other shorebirds. Since this trip is earlier than last year's trip, we can expect to see a minimum of 5,000 – 6,000 red knots.

The next meeting of the bird club will be held on Sunday May 16 at 2:30 p.m. at Prime Hook NWR in the auditorium. Anthony Gonzon will be the speaker and present the status of the current Breeding Bird Atlas.

On May 29th, the Horseshoe Crab Festival will be held at two locations--Prime Hook NWR as well as in the town of Milton.

Election of Officers--Jean Shaw, Chair of the Nominating Committee announced the slate of proposed officers. They are:

President--Bill Fintel;

Vice President Programs--Sharon Lynn;

Vice President Field Trips--Chris Bennett;

Secretary--Bob Edelen;

Treasurer--Louise Archdeacon.

Since there were no other nominations from the floor, the slate of proposed officers was seconded by Bill Beiser, and approved by a unanimous voice vote. The term of office is two years.

Jean Shaw mentioned she had handed out brochures about the Delaware Ornithological Society Annual Bird-A-Thon. A question was asked by Bill Fintel whether the club had made a donation to D.O.S. in 2009. The treasurer noted that a donation had been made on 5/19/08 to D.O.S. for building materials for osprey platforms and a donation of \$250 had been given to D.O.S. President Fintel suggested that donations can be mailed directly to D.O.S. Also donations can be made to sponsor two teams. One team will be of Sharon Lynn, Jeff Gordon, et al; the other team will be Chris Bennett, Anthony Gonzon, et al.

The Delmarva Birding Weekend will occur next weekend. Details can be found of [Delmarvabirdingweekend.org](http://Delmarvabirdingweekend.org). The events will begin on Thursday at the DuPont Center, on Friday at the Cape in the morning and at Prime Hook in the afternoon. Also there will be trips in Maryland.

On Wednesday the Nature Conservancy will have a ceremony at Ponder's Tract at 1 p.m. to celebrate the opening of some new trails.

President Bill Fintel introduced our speaker for today's program. Mike Fritz is a member of the New Jersey Audubon Society, a Pelagic trip leader guide out of Lewes, DE, Cape May, N.J., and California. He was also Captain of the winning 2009 World Series of Birding Team, The Lagerhead Shrikes. Mike showed many fantastic pictures of pelagic birds found in the Atlantic coast waters as well as the Pacific coast waters. Along with pelagic bird pictures were

many pictures of pelagic fish found along both coasts. This was a wonderful educational and entertaining presentation.

The program ended around 4 p.m. with a short round robin. It was mentioned that the next issue of the Beach Life magazine will have an article on red knots.

By Louise Archdeacon for Bob Edelen