

Minutes of the Sussex Bird Club Meeting - Jan 12, 2014

President John Hoyt opened the meeting at 2:00PM

Cris Bennett talked about the ongoing Sea Watch at Indian River.

Sharon Lynn introduced the speaker Bill Stewart, of ABA and DOS, to a packed auditorium.

Bill Stewart began the presentation with a comparison with past years of sightings of Snowy Owls. The proper word to describe this year is an irruption of Snowy Owls. These irruptions are always food driven. Warming of the Arctic also is a factor. The diet of these Owls are mostly lemming but also rabbits, ducks, and small birds. This year saw a significant increase in lemmings.

Bill's photographs showed how to identify female from male, though it still can be difficult to see the difference.

Many of the recent sightings locations in our area were mentioned.

Bill also mentioned birding ethics which we birders should be aware of.

Project Snow Storm.org is a way we can support the placing of radio transmitters on the Snowy Owls to learn more about their movements.

Bill's presentation included personal stories of his own sightings.

Secretary: David Weber