

Minutes of the Sussex Bird Club Meeting—May 16, 2001

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m. by President Bill Fintel. There were no visitors.

The treasurer's report was given by Louise Archdeacon. There was an opening balance of \$2,213.08 which includes \$185.21 in the Frech Memorial Fund. There was income of 5 single memberships @ \$10.00, giving a subtotal of \$2,263.08. Expenses were \$49.09 to Sally Fintel for newsletter expenses for printing, stamps and envelopes, and a speaker's Honorarium to Michael Fritz for \$150.00, totaling \$199.09 for expenses, giving a balance as of May 12, 2010 of \$2,063.99. We have a membership of 117 paid members, the same number as in May, 2009.

Field Trips: Chris Bennett reported on the field trip to the Great Cypress Swamp. Unfortunately that day it rained, but it is a great place with good birding. Several days later the birding was excellent, including red headed woodpeckers.

There was a field trip to the White Clay State Park. The Wheelers and Bob Strayhart attended. Again it was rainy, although, eleven species of warblers, Baltimore Orioles, Scarlet Tanagers, Vireos, etc. were seen. The trip lasted from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. It was a good trip.

The next trip will be Tuesday, May 18 at the DuPont Nature Center on the Mispillian River from 6 – 8 p.m. Chris Bennett reported that 3,000 red knots are in Delaware now.

Bill Fintel reported on the field trip to Prime Hook one week ago. There was another trip yesterday, May 15th also to Prime Hook. 18 – 19 people attended. One hundred species were seen. Warblers had just come in, including a Cerulean Warbler.

The June meeting will be the picnic to be held in the auditorium at Prime Hook on Sunday, June 13th from noon until 2 p.m. Chris Bennett will be asking for suggestions for field trips for the year. He is taking suggestions now. There will be a pre-picnic field trip at Prime Hook from 9 to 11:30 a.m.

There will be a Kayak trip on June 19th at Delaware Seashore State Park at the Marina. It will go through the marshes. Expect to see breeding Laughing Gulls, Herons, Oyster Catchers, Great Black Backed Gulls, etc. Bring your own kayaks.

David Weber has made arrangements for a pontoon boat ride field trip at Trap Pond State Park at 8 a.m. on June 20th. If anyone wants to attend, they should call David now. The boat can carry up to 16 people. The charge will be \$6 per person. Doug Southerland will operate the boat.

It was announced that tonight at 8 p.m. on PBS WHY Channel 12 will be a program titled "Nature Today." It is about horseshoe crabs red knots shorebirds, and is an excellent show.

It was announced that Ponders Track is now officially open. There is a nice parking area, but use caution as there are lots of ticks if you get off the main trails.

It was announced that Lagerhead Shrikes from Cape May NJ tied for first in the World Series of Birding. They have placed first for three years running. One of their members, Mike Fritz, was our speaker in April.

On the 29th of May the Horseshoe Crab Festival will take place in both Milton and Prime Hook. Giesela Spence needs helpers.

Jean Shaw introduced today's speaker Anthony Gonzon, a DNREC employee. He spoke about the Breeding Bird Atlas. We are now in the 3rd year of collecting data. Delaware has been divided into 265 reporting blocks. There are now over 100 volunteers. This is a five-year project. In 2008, 2,623 hours were spent in collecting data. In 2009, 2258 hours were devoted to data collection; however, not all of the reports have been received yet. Anthony mentioned that the hours volunteered are converted into dollar credits, so for the years 2008 and 2009 the volunteer hours have been converted into \$62,000. Thus far in 2010, 173 species statewide have been seen, with 133 species being confirmed, for a total number of 48,031 sightings. All of the data in Anthony Gonzon's report is from the U.S. Geological Survey.

A very interesting Round Robin session showed that those present are very active bird watchers.

The meeting was concluded at 4:10 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Louise Archdeacon, Substitute Secretary