

Minutes of the Sussex Bird Club
Sunday, October 10th, 2010

President Bill Fintel opened the meeting with general announcements:

- There were 34 members and one guest present!
- The Friends of Cape Henlopen Bird Seed Sale is underway. Orders will be taken until November 3rd with delivery set for November 8th.
- Jeff Gordon has accepted a position as president of the American Birding Association and will be relocating to Colorado Springs in early November – congrats to Jeff!
- Thanks to Lorraine Logan, Sharon Lynn, and & Bob Edelen for today's refreshments!

Treasurer Lou Archdeacon presented the finance report:

- Opening balance of \$2076.49 including \$185.21 in the Freck Memorial Fund
- Minus expenses of \$73.48 for newsletter and \$150 for honoraria.
- Closing balance of \$1,853.01
- Currently there are 119 members

Chris Bennett gave the field trip report:

- The Cape Henlopen trip started out with a bang with 12 Baltimore Orioles and flickers at the Nature Center followed by a good day at the hawk watch.
- The trip to Ted Harvey has been postponed to Sunday, October 17th to avoid conflict with muzzleloaders.

Notes from Sharon Lynn – Program Coordinator:

- The 'Big Sit' is underway today at the Cape Henlopen Hawk Watch. Participants stand in a 17 ft. circle and count as many bird species as possible in a 24 hour period. Since 4:00AM this morning 117 species have been tallied!
- Next month's program will be held at Cadbury in Lewes. Forrest Rowland will talk about the 'Culture and Birds of Oman'.

Sharon Lynn Introduced today's speaker Kevin Fleming. Kevin is a world renowned photographer and author who has traveled the world with National Geographic and other exceptional publications. Kevin's Program today focused on his latest book "Wild Delmarva" which will be released in early November. Wild Delmarva includes 156 photographs amassed over the last year and a half, and includes chapters on favorite birding spots by Jeff Gordon and the ponies of Chincoteague by Erik Stoner. Kevin's talk was highlighted with photographs of pages directly from the book with some of the most spectacular photography found anywhere! The book includes a wonderful assortment of wildlife and scenery including, waterfowl, eagles, egrets, herons, perching birds, skunks, foxes, rabbits, deer, insects and butterflies, crabs and fish, turtles, snakes, raccoons, turkeys and much, much more!

Kevin's Talk was punctuated with a myriad of helpful tips for photographers amassed over years as a professional photographer and journalist. Kevin uses a Nikon D35 digital

camera with a 600 MM lens mounted on a tripod for most all of his 'distant' shots, but stressed the importance of being close even with such a large lens. Kevin also uses a 400MM lens a 105MM macro lens for close ups and a wide angle lens for scenery. Kevin never uses a flash but might merge photos using Photo Shop with different exposures to capture the correct lighting of foreground and background objects. Nearly all of his photos are taken in the early morning or late evening when the lighting is perfect. The only exception is insects which might only be active during daylight hours.

Some hot-spots to consider are the Conowingo Dam from November to January where eagles amass to feed on fish disoriented by the massive turbines and the Cape May Ferry on the last trip of the day returning to Lewes during the winter when Gannets follow the ferry to feed on fish in the ferry's wake.

Look for Wilde Delmarva in early November on line and get the book and 2011 calendar for just \$50.00!

Thanks to Kevin for a truly magnificent program!!

Round Robin:

- Chris Bennett reported the most successful day ever at the Hawk Watch with over 3,500 raptors including 111 peregrines reported
- Some people are still seeing hummingbirds at their feeders

Respectfully submitted, Bob Edelen