

**Minutes of the Sussex Bird Club**  
**Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

**The meeting was called to order by President Bill Fintel. There were 28 members and 1 guest in attendance.**

**Treasurer's Report:**

- The treasurer's report was given by Lou Archdeacon:
- Opening balance of \$1,299.91. After dues payments from 1 new family membership and newsletter expenses, the current balance is \$1,288.99.
- Currently we have 125 memberships.

**Miscellaneous:**

- Christmas Bird Count Dates will be posted on the website soon. Bill will send out an e-mail notice when they are available.
- Bill Fintel covered upcoming field trips. Details are in the latest Newspaper and are on the website.
- Because of the photo contest at Prime Hook, the November meeting will be held at Cadbury in Lewes. Directions are available on the SBC website.
- There will be no December meeting because of the Christmas Bird Count.
- Our Coast Day exhibit was very popular with over 200 visitors stopping to talk and look at the pictures. Approximately 150 brochures were handed out.
- Hawk Watch:
  - Look for the article on the hawk watch in Delaware Beach Life
  - Over 1,100 raptors were spotted this past Thursday
- A suggestion was made to consider purchasing a couple laser pointers for use on field trips. Bill Fintel will look into it.
- Thanks to Herb Archdeacon for constructing 4 new wood duck boxes for Chapel Branch!

Today's Program: Jean Shaw Introduces today's speaker, Bill Fintel who recounted his and Sally's recent month long trip to Papua New Guinea and Australia. The birding started in Brisbane, Australia immediately after touchdown from a 22 hour flight! Over the next 3 days in Australia, Bill & Sally were treated to numerous new species including raptors, parrots, cockatoos, pigeons, wading birds, butcher birds, magpies, cranes, waterfowl and much more, including kangaroos in all directions!

Following their brief intro to birding in Australia, Bill & Sally headed to Papua New Guinea in search of the magnificent birds of paradise. Papua New Guinea is a country about the size of California, with a population of about 6 Million people, consisting of numerous indigenous tribes scattered through a largely inaccessible landscape. Bill and Sally's adventure took them to numerous parts of the island all by air, as roads were either nonexistent or impassible. Along the way they were treated to incredible sightings of birds of paradise with their extravagant plumage, vibrant colors and incredible mating displays. Numerous other species kept the Fintels busy as well, including kingfishers, kookaburras (kingfishers, that don't eat fish), Frogmouths (a bird that resembles a cross

between a potoo and a night jar), honey eaters, ibises, kites, spectacular pigeons (I'll never think of a pigeon in the same way), and bower birds, an intriguing species that assembles a nest of grasses and decorates it with flowers, leaves, bottle caps and other assorted paraphernalia to attract a mate. Birds were not the only species sighted during their adventure; they also were treated to sightings of koalas, wallabies, a platypus, great flying foxes - a bat the size of a red-tailed hawk, orchids and magnificent moths. Oh yes, because the weather was almost always cloudy and rainy there were terrestrial leaches and chiggers that brushed off the damp foliage and penetrated their clothing to make a yummy meal of the unsuspecting travelers. Bill's talk was interspersed with very informative discussion of native history, culture and customs, and excellent photography of the birds, native landscape, lodges, parks and snorkeling in crystal clear waters! Thanks to Bill for a truly wonderful look into this other side of the world!

Respectfully submitted, Bob Edelen