

## Minutes of the Sussex Bird Club Sunday, May 17th, 2009

The meeting was called to order by President Bill Fintel. There were 36 members and 1 guest in attendance.

### Treasurer's Report:

- The treasurer's report was given by Lou Archdeacon:
- Opening balance of \$1,461.93. After dues payments and cost of the website, the closing balance is \$1,526.11.
- Current membership is at 117 members. Last year at this time it was 111.

Bill Fintel announced that Chris Bennett will now be our Field Trip Coordinator

- Chris commented that field trip leaders are needed
- Leaders do not need to be good birders, just a good place or agenda for seeing birds
- There will be plenty of experienced birders on hand to help identify birds

There will be a field trip at the DuPont Nature Center on Wednesday the 27th of June from 6:00 to 8:00PM to observe migrating shorebirds:

- The trip is scheduled to coincide with the low tide for optimum viewing
- There were 7,000 to 8,000 yesterday and more should be expected next week
- Bring a chair, insect repellent and a spotting scope if available

The Next meeting will be our annual picnic on Sunday, June 14th at 1:00PM

- Please make note of the time change!
- At that meeting we will discuss our field trip agenda.

The membership unanimously approved a donation to the Cape Henlopen Hawk Watch of \$200.

- The funds will be used to support an intern for the fall program
- Members who wish to make a personal donation can contact Bill Fintel

There is an event planned at Dogfish Head on Tuesday May 26th to support Sharon Lynn's Birdathon Team – Stay tuned to the website for details

Jean Shaw then introduced our speaker Anthony Gonzon for our program on the Delaware Breeding Bird Atlas:

- The breeding bird Atlas Project is now in its second of 5 years
- The purpose of the project is to help understand population trends and guide management decisions for bird preservation
- The project had over 100 volunteers last year who volunteered 2,307 hours
- Anthony compared the current effort to the previous survey which occurred in 1983 and the increase in volunteer involvement was quite dramatic:
  - o Year           1983       2008
  - o Records entered   3,300       18,761

- o Blocks covered 68 170
- o Percent of coverage 31% 66%

Anthony went on to discuss trends already reflected by the current data then went on-line to demonstrate how data is entered, showed maps of survey areas and made several member requested queries of specific birds. Volunteers are still needed for many blocks within the state. You can volunteer to take on a specific block or can simply volunteer to be a more casual observer, entering data for a more localized area or unusual sightings throughout the state. To volunteer to enter data you will need a log-on to access the data entry page on the Fish & Wildlife Website. You can contact Anthony, Bill Fintel or Chris Bennett who will set you up with a log-on. You may also access the data base for performing your own queries without a log-on, but will not be able to enter you observations. To try your hand at querying the data base, go to <http://www.fw.delaware.gov/BBA/Pages/BreedingBirdAtlas.aspx>. Thanks to Anthony for a most entertaining and informative program!

Respectfully submitted, Bob Edelen