

Minutes of the Sussex Bird Club
Sunday, September 11th, 2011

President Bill Fintel opened the meeting

Treasurer Lou Archdeacon presented the finance report:

- Opening balance of \$2,261.47
- Closing balance of \$2,293.47

Chris Bennett reported on field trips:

- Today is the first day of the Fall Hawk Watch at Cape Henlopen. Will meet at the Hawk Watch the day of each SBC Meeting from 8:00AM to 1:00PM to observe migrating raptors as well as other birds.
- Upcoming field trips:
 - Next Saturday – Inland Bays Migrants
 - October 1st – Bombay Hook Shorebirds
 - October 9th – Hawk Watch
- Plans are in work for a monthly Sea Watch with Anthony Gonzon for the DOS at Indian River to check for seabirds. Visit the DOS Website for details and dates.

Program – Sharon Lynn introduced today's Speakers: John and Donna Hoyt and Sharon Lynn.

John and Donna visited Alaska from May 20th to June 6th and were joined by Sharon for the last six days of the trip. The trip started in Anchorage, then to St. Paul Island, Nome and Denali.

On St. Paul Island, 300 miles from the nearest land the high temperatures ranged around 40°. St. Paul Island is about 14 X 7 miles in size with about 500 residents. John and Donna were guided on the Island by Forest Rowland who is now guiding there with High Lonesome Eco Tours. From St' Paul Island, John & Donna went to Nome with a slightly larger population of 1,500 residents, then on to Denali where they met Sharon for the last leg of their trip. They shared a host of excellent photos of the birds and other wildlife the encounter including sand pipers, ducks, auklets, puffins, emperor geese, plovers, phalaropes, longspurs, murre, kittiwakes, wrens, gulls cormorants, curlews, ptarmigan, black-billed magpie, thrushes, chickadees, thrushes, and warblers, highlighted by a northern hawk-owl and grey owl. The trip was also highlighted by wild flowers and a full suite of Alaska's other wildlife including: fur seals, arctic and red foxes, musk ox, caribou, Dall sheep, wolf, porcupine, beaver and a pair of mating Grizzly bears!

The camera of choice for John was Nikon with a 200 to 400 F4 zoom lens, hand held. Thanks to John, Donna and Sharon for a very informative and entertaining program!

Round Robin:

- Loons, Orioles and parasitic jaegers at the morning's hawk watch

- Shorebirds in flooded fields including: plovers, sandpipers, and approximately 60 Hudsonian and marbled godwits!
- People are beginning to see migrating fall warblers and the hurricane brought large numbers of hummingbirds to local feeders

Respectfully submitted, Bob Edelen