

Minutes of the Sussex Bird Club
Sunday, September 12th, 2010

President Bill Fintel opened the meeting. There were 46 members and six guests present for a standing room only meeting! We are trying something new at this meeting. We will be having snacks at the end with an opportunity to chat, discuss the day's meeting and share information. We are seeking people to provide refreshments at each meeting and there will be a sign-up sheet for those wishing to participate. Thanks to Sally Fintel and Bill & Grace Beiser for today's refreshments!

Treasurer Lou Archdeacon presented to finance report:

- Opening balance of \$2078.99
- One new member at \$10.00, minus expenses of \$12.50 for the picnic
- Closing balance of \$2076.99
- Currently there are 119 members

Chris Bennett gave the field trip report:

- The next field trip will be at Milford Neck and Mispillion Inlet, Saturday, September 18th for early migrants. Chris took an exploratory trip there this past week and found some good warblers! Meet at the Valero/Shore Stop at the intersection of New Wharf Road and SR1, just north of the SR1 US 113 merge.
- There are field trips scheduled for September, October and November. For information check out the current issue of the Newspaper at:
http://www.sussexbirdclub.com/yahoo_site_admin/assets/docs/Sept_2_2010_Newspiper_Sep-Oct_v1.24675946.pdf
- Forrest Rowland is beginning weekly field trips at Cape Henlopen State Park every Tuesday. Meet at the Nature Center at 8:00AM. Note: **This week's trip will be on Thursday September 16th.**
- Jason Beal will be leading field trips at Abbot's Mill Nature Center every Thursday at 8:00AM

Sharon Lynn introduced today's speaker Jeff Gordon. Jeff is a world renowned writer, photographer, naturalist and speaker, and is an editor for Bird Watcher's Digest.

Jeff Gordon's talk today focused on Kingfishers and their relatives. Jeff opened with a copy of the new Peterson's Field Guide to Eastern Birds where all of the photographs in the guide were provided by Jeff and most of the photos were taken in Delaware! Jeff then gave a brief lesson in taxonomy leading up where kingfishers stand in the order. Jeff was inspired to develop his talk on kingfishers at the Space Coast Bird Festival where the winner of a photo contest was a picture of a Belted Kingfisher. There are 95 species of kingfisher world wide with only 6 residing in the new world.

Jeff initially focused on the Belted Kingfisher, the only kingfisher found in our area. He presented spectacular photographs showing the difference between the male and female, where the major difference is the rufous breast-band of the female that is not present on the male. Belted Kingfishers mate for life, but are mostly solitary except when breeding.

Nests are in a burrow in the side of a cliff excavated by both parents and can be from 3 to 10 feet deep. Nests may contain from 2 to 8 eggs requiring from 14 to 28 days incubation. Both parents share in the incubation and caring for the young. The five other species of kingfisher found in the new world are the Ringed and Green Kingfishers found in South Texas, the Amazon Kingfisher from northern Mexico south, and the American Pigmy and Green and Rufous Kingfishers from Central America south.

Jeff delighted club members with outstanding photos of many old world kingfishers which range from Africa to Europe, Asia and Australia. Many old world kingfishers are endemic to isolated islands and not all are associated with water. They may also be found in woodlands, arid African plains, and cool mountain highlands where they feed on a variety of insects, and reptiles as well as fish. Jeff's Presentation was not limited to just Kingfishers. He also thrilled the membership with photos and discussion of kingfisher relatives including the motmots of Central and South America, todys of Jamaica and Puerto Rico, Rollers of Africa and Europe, ground rollers of Madagascar, bee-eaters from Africa, Europe and Asia, hoopoes of Europe and hornbills from Africa and Asia. Jeff's talk was filled with exciting photography, interesting lore, humorous anticdotes, and a wealth of information about the kingfishers and their relatives. Thanks to Jeff Gordon for a truly remarkable program!

Round Robin:

- Bill Fintel touched on a recent Pelagic trip to San Diego with 8 new life birds and good views of Blue Whales.
- The Hawk watch is now open with over 1,300 hawks in the first 11 days, including 445 on Friday and 280 yesterday.

Respectfully submitted, Bob Edelen