

## SIOUX FALLS BIRD CLUB

### MINUTES OF MEETING ON 02/11/2025

Held at the Auditorium Room of the Outdoor Campus, 4500 S Oxbow Ave, Sioux Falls SD

1. **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order at 7:20pm by President Chris Anderson. (The meeting started slightly later than 7:00pm because of technical challenges in setting up the presentation on the computer.)
2. Ten members were present. A list of attendees is attached to these minutes.
3. **Treasurer's Report.** Treasurer Bob Bork presented a verbal report and said that there was approximately \$4,200.00 in the checking account, and that the expenditures since the last meeting in October 2024 were for bird seed. Bob mentioned that so far there had been only 20 renewals this year. It was suggested that a reminder be sent out. In response to a question, Bob stated that the seed used in the feeders maintained by the Club is a mix of sunflower and other seeds. He also said that Pat Dunn provided the suet block.

Post-meeting, Bob supplemented his verbal report with the following information: For the calendar year 2024, the Sioux Falls Bird Club income was \$1,250.00 and expenses were \$657.00. The checking account balance at the end of 2024 was \$4,137.25. Currently, the checking account balance is slightly higher - \$4,214.17.

#### 4. Old Business.

- A. Chris Anderson reported on the Christmas Bird Counts, which were held on December 21, 2024 in Sioux Falls and on December 28, 2024 in Canton.
  - (i) In Sioux Falls, 56 species were observed on December 21, and an additional 3 species were observed during count week (the period 3 days before and 3 days after the actual count day). This number ties the record high for Sioux Falls.
  - (ii) In Canton, 46 species were observed. This number was the second highest recorded.

There was some discussion about how to recruit more people to be field observers. We could split up the zones and perhaps would get better coverage with more observers. It was suggested that perhaps more publicity, such as an ad in the newspaper, might help recruit people. It was mentioned that a potluck gathering after the bird count might also attract more observers. There was also some discussion about whether a bird count should be resurrected for Wall Lake area and established for Lake Vermillion. A comment was made that perhaps we should recruit more observers before we expand the territory.

- B. Chris mentioned that we needed to be thinking about officer elections in October and a nominating committee. He would like to see a few more formal procedures followed that had been abandoned during the pandemic.
- C. There was no unfinished old business brought up.

#### 5. New Business.

- A. Membership renewal. See comments under **Treasurer's Report** above.

B. Upcoming Events. Chris mentioned the following:

- (i) February 14-17 (this weekend) is the Great Backyard Bird Count supported by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society. For information on how to participate, see [How to Participate – Great Backyard Bird Count \(https://www.birdcount.org\)](https://www.birdcount.org).
- (ii) February 20 – Dennis Skadsen will be doing a presentation on bird banding at 7:00pm at Good Earth State Park.
- (iii) February 22 will be the monthly SFBC field trip. Meet at the Outdoor Campus at 8:30am. Further details will be emailed in the near future.
- (iv) May 16-18 – There will be a South Dakota Ornithologists Union (SDOU) spring meeting. It will be put on jointly by the South Dakota, Iowa and Nebraska Ornithologists' Unions.

C. Field Trip Schedule. There was no discussion of this.

D. Any Other New Business from the Floor. Chris proposed that as part of the field trip in June or July, we go to a park like Newton Hills, Good Earth, or Palisades, and that the trip be more "pot luck" than bird watching. Anyone willing to volunteer to help organize?

6. **Adjournment.** At 7:55pm, at the request of Chris Anderson, Gay DeJonge moved to adjourn the business portion of the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mick Zerr.

7. **Presentation by Doug Chapman on "Mexico Birds & More."** Doug's fabulous presentation finished at 8:40pm.

  
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Melanie Huff, Secretary