

SIOUX FALLS BIRD CLUB (SFBC)

MINUTES OF MEETING ON 10/07/2025

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 7:02pm by President Chris Anderson. Fifteen members and two guests were present. A list of attendees is attached to these minutes.
2. **Reading of the Minutes from the February 2025 Meeting.** Copies of the minutes were distributed for the attendees to read. Doug Chapman moved that the minutes be approved. Jack Mallek seconded the motion. The minutes were approved on a voice vote. A copy of the approved minutes is attached to these minutes.
3. **Treasurer's Report.** Treasurer Bob Bork gave an oral report on finances as follows: As of the end of September, the Club has \$4,129 in its checking account and \$35 in cash. Since January 1, we have taken in \$550 in dues and donations. We have had \$553 in expenses. Dues (\$5) are now being accepted for 2026.

4. Old Business.

A. Officer elections/nominating committee

Chris Anderson stated (as he did at the February meeting) that he would like to see more formal procedures followed in the nominating and election of officers. (During the pandemic and in its aftermath, formal nominating and election procedures had been abandoned.) Chris mentioned that he had served as president for the past 11 years and he would not like to serve as president anymore.

Chris said he would research the Club bylaws to see what the procedures, if any, were for establishing the nominating committee and electing officers. Doug Chapman suggested that Chris, as president, should appoint a nominating committee. (Not a motion, just a suggestion.) The general consensus appeared to be that a 3-member nominating committee would be the best alternative.

Chris thought we should aim to have a nominating committee appointed, with a plan of having elections at the October 2026 meeting.

B. There was no other unfinished old business brought up.

5. New Business.

- A. **Membership renewal.** See comments under **Treasurer's Report** above. Mick mentioned that he had patches for the new members who had not yet received their patch.
- B. **Upcoming Events.** Chris mentioned the following:
 - (i) The next monthly SFBC field trip will be Saturday, October 11. Meet at the Outdoor Campus at 8:00am.
 - (ii) The Christmas Bird Counts will be December 20 (86th CBC, Sioux Falls) and January 3 (14th CBC, Canton).

(iii) Dennis Skadsen said there will be bird banding at Good Earth State Park from the third week in April through the first week in June, Mondays through Fridays from 8:00am-noon.

C. Field Trip Schedule. Chris presented the following proposed field trip schedule for 2026 (includes business meetings dates, Christmas Bird Counts dates, and SDOU meeting dates):

January 13 – Owl prowl (Big Sioux Rec Area) 7:00 p.m.

January 24 – Wintering waterfowl, finches (Sioux Falls spillway, cemeteries) 8:30 a.m.

February 10 – Business meeting (Outdoor Campus) 7:00 p.m.

February 21 – Early waterfowl, late winter birds (near Sioux Falls) 8:30 a.m.

March 28 – Waterfowl (wetlands near Sioux Falls) 8:00 a.m.

April 25 – Shorebirds (wetlands near Sioux Falls) 8:00 a.m.

May 9 – Migrating warblers, etc. (Good Earth State Park) 7:30 a.m.

May 15-17 – SDOU Spring Meeting (Pierre, SD)

June 6 – Late migrants and nesting songbirds (Newton Hills State Park) 7:30 a.m.

July 11 – Nesting grassland and woodland birds (Touch the Sky Prairie, Palisades State Park) 7:30 a.m.

August 22 – Shorebirds (wetlands near Sioux Falls) 8:00 a.m.

September 12 – Migrating warblers, sparrow etc. (Beaver Creek Nature Area) 8:00 a.m.

October 6 – Business Meeting (Outdoor Campus) 7:00 p.m.

SDOU Fall Meeting (TBD)

October 10 – Sparrows, late warblers, gulls (Outdoor Campus, wetlands near Sioux Falls) 8:00 a.m.

November 14 – Waterfowl (wetlands near Sioux Falls) 8:00 a.m.

December 19 – Sioux Falls CBC 8:00 a.m.

January 2 – Canton CBC 8:00 a.m.

D. Any Other New Business from the Floor.

It was mentioned that SFBC has done overnight birding trips in the past, and it was suggested that we might consider re-instituting such trips. Two potential trips might be visits to Sax-Zim Bog near Duluth MN and the Rowe Sanctuary and Iain Nicholson Audubon Center near Kearney NE, particularly when the sandhill cranes are migrating through (late March to early April).

Doug Chapman mentioned that the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union had an interesting article on woodpeckers in its quarterly journal, *The Loon*. If you are a member of MOU, you can access the journal online. See the Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/MNornithU>.

6. **Adjournment.** At 7:30pm, at the request of Chris Anderson, Jack Mallek moved to adjourn the business portion of the meeting. The motion was seconded by Julie Ermer.
7. **Program: Presentation by Alina Krone-Hedman, Urban Conservation Education Coordinator of the Minnehaha Conservation District.** Alina spoke for about 10 minutes outlining the work that was being done at Dewey Gevik, including a new digital kiosk, improvement on signs, improvement on the restroom facility, and pollinator plantings. She then took questions and a lively discussion ensued.

Various things mentioned and discussed:

The bird blind at Dewey Gevik needs painting (or staining) and a new sign. The bird blind used to be surrounded by cattails, but they died out one year. (Replanting?) Water quality was improving and the farmers were cooperating more in controlling movement of cattle that affected the water. There was interest in building a bridge over the creek that ran between the body of water at Dewey Gevik and Wall Lake so that there could be better viewing of the (lots of) fish that ran through the creek at spawning time. Work is needed on the "pier," and discussion was had about calling the pier something else because fishing is not allowed at Dewey Gevik.

The Minnehaha Conservation District website has the most information concerning Dewey Gevik. See [Gevik Site | MCD Website](#). The District puts out regular newsletters. Back issues of the newsletters can be found here: [Resources | MCD Website](#).

The meeting ended at approximately 8:15p.m.



Melanie Huff, Secretary

Sioux Falls Bird Club
Sign-In Sheet 10/7/2025

Jenda Heckenlaible

Deb Johnson

Bobbie Bock

MELANIE HUFF

Dennis Skadsen

Pat Dann

KINGSHUK PASGUPTA

Linda Johnson

Leslie Tufts } visitors

Carol Bengtson

Julie Ermer

Pam Ephgrave

Jack Mallek

Bob Bork

Chris Anderson

Doug Chapman

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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.



Melanie Huff, Secretary