

SIoux FALLS BIRD CLUB (SFBC)

MINUTES OF MEETING ON 01/29/2026

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 7:15pm by President Chris Anderson. Eleven SFBC members and the guest speaker were present. A list of attendees is attached to these minutes.
2. **Minutes from the October 7, 2025 Meeting.** The secretary had forgotten to bring a copy of the October 7, 2025 minutes so it was not possible to approve the minutes. A copy of those minutes is attached to these minutes, and both sets of minutes will need to be presented for approval at the next SFBC meeting.
3. **Treasurer's Report.** Treasurer Bob Bork gave an oral report on the 2025 finances as follows: The total income for 2025 was \$700 (consisting largely of dues), and the total expenses were \$606 (largely for bird seed at the feeders maintained by SFBC). As of December 31, 2025, the balance in the SFBC bank account was \$4,226. Dues (\$5 per member) are still coming in for 2026.
4. **Old Business.**
 - A. Recap of Christmas Bird Counts by Chris Anderson:
 - Sioux Falls, 12/20/2025 – The Sioux Falls CBC was conducted by 19 field observers and 6 feeder watchers who counted 53 species and 7,640 individuals. The 53 species is down slightly from 2024's record 56 species, but more than the 10-year average of 49. Notable species included the first-ever finding of a Red-shouldered Hawk for the count. There are not many records of Red-shouldered Hawk for Minnehaha County. There was also a Hooded Merganser for only the 5th time in 86 counts, and a record high number of 9 Fox Sparrows (previously just 1). There was also a pair of Carolina Wrens observed during count week for just the 6th time. Not many notable absences to mention; Common Merganser is probably the only species not found that could be considered expected. Detailed numbers can be found here: <https://siouxfallsbirdclub.org/christmas-bird-counts>.
 - Canton, 1/3/2026 - The Canton CBC was conducted for the 15th time. Thirteen field observers found 43 species and 2,158 individuals, which is a slightly lower number of species than last year's 46 but right about average for the count historically. Notable sightings included the first-ever Northern Pintail and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and second-ever observations of Red-shouldered Hawk and Hermit Thrush. We also bested our previous high totals of individuals for number of species including Rock Pigeon, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Cooper's Hawk, Northern Flicker, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and Hermit Thrush. Observed most years but absent this year were Mourning Dove, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Horned Lark, House Finch, and Lapland Longspur. Detailed numbers can be found here: <https://siouxfallsbirdclub.org/christmas-bird-counts>.
 - B. Officer elections in October/nominating committee
Chris Anderson stated that he had not yet named a nominating committee, but anticipated naming it in time for it to present a slate of officers for election at the October meeting.
 - C. There was no other unfinished old business brought up.

5. New Business.

- A. Membership renewal. Membership dues are \$5 and are currently due. They can be given in person or mailed to Bob Bork. See further comments under **Treasurer's Report** above.
- B. Upcoming Events. Chris mentioned the following:
- (i) The Great Backyard Bird Count is scheduled for February 13-16. See <https://www.birdcount.org>.
 - (ii) The next monthly SFBC field trip will be Saturday, February 21. Meet at the Outdoor Campus at 8:30am. Probable destination is Lake Vermilion.
 - (iii) There will be an "Eagle Hike" at Good Earth State Park, Saturday, March 7 from 10:00-11:00am, led by the park naturalist. Meet at the Visitor Center.
 - (iv) The South Dakota Ornithologists Union (SDOU) spring meeting will be held in Pierre May 15-17. Probable speakers are Roger Dietrich and Jay Carlisle (see <https://www.boisestate.edu/ibo/staff>).
- C. (Reprinted from October minutes) 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):

February 21 – Early waterfowl, late winter birds (Lake Vermilion?)	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.
<i>May 15-17 – SDOU Spring Meeting (Pierre, SD)</i>	
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.
<i>SDOU Fall Meeting (TBD)</i>	

- D. Any Other New Business from the Floor.

- Mick and Chris discussed the issue of numerous people, with questionable email addresses, asking to join the listserve and Facebook page. There is concern that all they wanted was to use the listserve and Facebook page for marketing purposes.
 - The Karl E Mundt National Wildlife Refuge, a critical habitat for nesting bald eagles, has been closed to visitors. See <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/karl-e-mundt>. Doug Chapman expressed concern that recent federal enactments would have the effect of opening the Refuge to the public. After some discussion, Doug Chapman moved and Mick Zerr seconded that the Sioux Falls Bird Club be on record as opposing the opening of the Refuge. The passed on unanimous voice vote.
 - Deb Hagemeyer of Our Savior Lutheran Church would like to have a speaker from SFBC to speak to their small group of birders at the church. Discussion was had that the group could be invited to join our May field trip, scheduled for Good Earth State Park.
6. **Adjournment.** At 7:35pm, at the request of Chris Anderson, Gay DeJong moved to adjourn the business portion of the meeting. The motion was seconded by Doug Chapman.
7. **Program: Presentation by Emily Oyos, Education and Outreach Manager, Friends of the Big Sioux River.** Emily spoke for about one hour on the mission and activities of the Friends of the Big Sioux River (<https://www.friendsofthebigsiouxriver.org>), as well as on the importance of maintaining watersheds generally and the challenges faced by the Big Sioux River Watershed in particular.

The meeting ended at approximately 8:30p.m.



Melanie Huff, Secretary