

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.
<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>	
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