



✧ News, reports and information for October, 2019 ✧

SDOU Fall Meeting, Pierre

Some SFBC members attended the Fall meeting of the SDOU in Pierre. Student researchers presented their papers, while Dan Svingen, Federal Grassland biologist entertained and informed us with an interesting presentation. Field trip highlights for most folks included seven gull species highlighted by Sabin's, Little, and Lesser Black-backed gulls.



Fall Meeting of the SFBC

The SFBC met at the Outdoor Campus in SF. Speaker was Lynn Purdy, bird rehab expert who gave a very interesting talk, helped by a Screech Owl (Olli), and an American Kestrel (Ace).



Donations: Generous members donated to help refresh the bird seed at Good Earth State Park, and to help Lynn with the rehab program.

Field Trips: President Chris presented the new field trip schedule for 2020. New locations include Adams Homestead and the Missouri River, an October trip to Freeman Preserve, and a social/feeder watch meeting in February. See the complete list on our [website](#).

Membership: List Serv- 182, Facebook-95, Paid members- 52, Website views- 950
A reminder if you have not paid your dues, feel free to use PayPal at our website, give it to an officer at a field trip, or send to Treasurer Bob Bork (address on the website) Dues are \$5, and club funds upkeep of our blind at Dewey Gevik and seed and upkeep at the feeders at Good Earth SP. New members get a club shoulder patch, (←Illustrated at left), which they can pick up at a meeting or field trip.

October Field Trip Results: We got 40 species including a few good finds, including Snowy Egret, and Black-crowned Night Heron, which were extra special since the youngsters were all lined up on a branch with the adults on either side. Unfortunately, they were too far out for a good photo. Also we were treated with White-faces Ibis' (see photo) at Wall Lake south wetlands and at Weisensee Lake. Both wetlands south of Wall Lake had thousands of gulls. Dewey Gevik had a nice number of migrating sparrows, including beautiful Fox Sparrows. The east state park at Lake Vermillion is totally inaccessible due to a large washout, and the highway on the south side of the lake is minus the major bridge, but we saw the season's first Pine Siskins there.



Your Favorite Sioux Falls Area Birding Sites

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| Arrowhead/Perry Parks | Newton Hills State Park | | |
| Big Sioux SRA | Your Yard/Neighborhood | | |
| Beaver Creek SNA | Klondike GPA | | |
| Great Bear Rec. Park | Grass Lake | | |
| Dewey Gevik | Sioux Falls Landfill | | |
| Sioux Falls Cemeteries | Gitchi Manitou SNP | | |
| Lake Vermillion | Sioux Falls Quarries | | |
| Sioux Falls City Parks | Wall Lake | | Private Feeders |
| West Minn. Co. Wetlands | Scott's Slough | | Palisades State Park |
| Big Sioux River Spillway | Big Sioux River | | Bucher Prairie |
| Good Earth State Park | Lake Alvin | Outdoor Campus | |



Access to Lake Vermillion from the east is washed out.

Dewey Gevik and Makoce Washte updates:

The firebreak at Makoce is done, ready for the Nature Conservancy to do a controlled burn in the spring.

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Dewey Gevik and Wall Lake are as full as anyone can remember for an autumn.

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The Fall colors are much better this year making birding more fun. Areas with good birds and colors include: Wall Lake, Dewey Gevik, Arrowhead Park, Good Earth SP, (photo from one of the park overlooks) Beaver Creek State Nature Park, Great Bear Rec. Park, and Big Sioux SRA.



Palisades State Park
Looking from bridge



Wall Lake
Island Bridge

Volunteers at State Parks : Current state park volunteer opportunities --Apply online today for a state park volunteer position.

Protecting, managing and interpreting South Dakota's natural lands and wildlife are no small tasks. Each year, hundreds of people donate their time and talents to do just that as they volunteer within our state park system. On-site volunteers are provided with a campsite during their service in exchange for 24 hours of service per person per week. The majority of volunteer sites are full hook-up (water, sewer and electric). Volunteers provide their own housing and personal items. Service is purely volunteer. These are unpaid positions. Most work takes place on the weekends, but schedules are fairly flexible. Commuter volunteers travel from home and work as needed.

Volunteers are a great part of Good Earth State Park's success.

Needed: Visitor Center Volunteers:

[Apply HERE](#)

Duties: Welcome guests to visitor center
answer questions and direct visitors
answer telephone
light office work

Volunteers are also needed at Palisades State Park

**Campground / Cabin Host
Maintenance
Program / Events / Office**



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FROM SDOU

Yahoo is discontinuing groups, which the SDOU list-serv is one of.

SDOU is moving the list to groups.io. If you wish to continue to receive sd-birds e-mail contact: sd-birds+owner@groups.io.

Bird Seed Note

Word comes from North Dakota that the sunflower crop in ND and northern SD will be very small due to wet fields. At least one processing plant has shut due to lack of seeds. Likely, the prices of black-oil sunflower seeds will rise sharply in the near future.

Birds to search for in October and November

- The Fall goose migration is starting. Watch for skeins of Snow Geese and Greater White-fronted Geese.
- The Juncos have arrived. White millet or finch mix placed on the ground or on a ground platform feeder will draw them. Watch for Pink-sided and Oregon variations.
- Soon the cones on evergreens might bring in Crossbills.