

ALABAMA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE 1 -- DUES AND MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. There shall be six classes of membership of the Society:

ACTIVE MEMBERS. Entitled to all privileges of the Society upon payment of the annual dues.

FAMILY MEMBERS. Entitled to voting and office-holding privileges for two adult members in the same family unit, but to only one copy of all Society publications.

SUSTAINING MEMBERS. Entitled to all of the privileges of the Society upon payment of the annual dues.

STUDENT MEMBERS. Any High School or College Undergraduate Student; will not be eligible to vote or hold office.

LIFE MEMBERS. Entitled to all the privileges of the Society; for those members desiring to pay their dues for the rest of their lives in one sum. Memberships may be paid within a two-year period.

HONORARY MEMBERS. An Honorary membership may be bestowed upon any person of eminence in ornithology, who has made such contributions in Alabama or Northwest Florida. They must be elected upon the recommendation of the Council and by a majority vote of the members present at the meeting. They are exempt from dues and cannot hold an Elected office.

The dues for each class of membership shall be recommended by the Board of Directors and ratified by a majority vote of the members present at the meeting. (Amended 1-25-97)

Section 2. The fiscal year of the Society shall coincide with the calendar year. All annual dues shall be payable at the beginning of the calendar, January 1. After April 1, there shall be sent a written notice to all members in default that their names are being dropped from the roll of membership as of May 1.

ARTICLE II -- OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS

There are two publications of the Society, a scientific journal and a newsletter.

Section 1. The name of the scientific journal of the Alabama Ornithological Society shall be *Alabama Birdlife*. It shall be published at least twice a year or more frequently as recommended by the Editor and approved by the Board, and shall be sent to each member in good standing of the

Society. All members shall be encouraged to contribute worthwhile articles and field notes and should feel free to call upon more experienced members for help in proper presentation.

Section 2. The newsletter, *The Yellowhammer*, shall be published as many times per year as is necessary to keep the members informed of the activities of the Society and other items of interest.

Section 3. There shall be an editor for each publication and as large a committee as necessary to produce a satisfactory publication.

ARTICLE III -- ORDER OF BUSINESS AT THE MEETINGS

As nearly as possible, the business at each meeting shall be conducted in the following order:

- A. Call to order.
- B. Report of the Secretary, including the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting and their approval and also the reading of the correspondence.
- C. Treasurer's report.
- D. Old or unfinished business, report of associate committees.
- E. New business, report of committees.
- F. Election.
- G. Program.
- H. Adjournment. Every effort should be made by the chairman and members who have the floor to make the business meetings short, whereby to allow as much time as possible for the members to enjoy the program and the social and field aspects of the meeting.

ARTICLE IV -- OFFICERS

Section 1. **ELECTED OFFICERS.** The elected officers shall be the President, Vice President and Treasurer, who shall serve for a period of two years from the time elected. This may be extended by no more than one year if approved by a majority of members present at the Annual Meeting.

A. **President**

1. **Election.** The Vice-President automatically becomes President. If for any reason the Vice President does not, then the President is elected by a majority vote of the members at the Annual Meeting.

2. **Duties:**

- a. Management of the affairs of the Society and presiding at its meetings.
- b. Responsibility for the agenda at all meetings.
- c. Choosing the location of all meetings.
- d. Choosing the speakers at meetings.
- e. Chairman of the Board of Directors.
- f. Appointment of all committees and offices without other provision for membership.
- g. Calling of special meetings at his discretion.

B. Vice-President.

1. Election. The Vice-President shall be elected by a majority vote of the members present at the Annual Meeting.

2. Duties:

- a. Automatically becomes President when that office is vacated.
- b. Presiding in the absence of the President.
- c. Working in coordination with the President at all times.
- d. Arrangement of membership meetings in coordination with the President.

C. Treasurer.

1. Election. The Treasurer shall be elected by a majority vote of the members present at the Annual Meeting.

2. Duties:

- a. Keeping the financial records and custody of the funds of the Society.
- b. Disbursements of funds as may be ordered by the Board of Directors, taking proper vouchers therefor.
- c. Working in conjunction with the Membership Committee Chairman and the Custodian of the Slide Collection.

d. Signing of all checks and drafts of the Society, except for drafts of the Life Membership Funds, then the President will be a cosigner.

e. Preparation of an Annual Report which will be published annually in either *Alabama Birdlife* or the Society's newsletter.

Section 2. APPOINTED OFFICERS. The President shall appoint the Regional Directors, a Secretary, a Curator and Editors, each of whom shall serve until a successor is chosen. Committees shall be appointed as necessary for proper functioning of the Society (see below).

A. Regional Directors (Amended 4-11-92)

1. There shall be two Directors from each of the following regions: Tennessee Valley, Mountain Region, Coastal Plain, Gulf Coast and Northwest Florida. The first four regions shall be defined by Imhof's Occurrence of the Birds of Alabama by Season and Region; Northwest Florida shall be defined as Florida west of the Apalachicola River.

2. Duties:

a. Acting as district coordinators of the Society.

b. Promotion of birding and ornithology in their districts.

c. Serving on the Board of Directors.

d. Assisting with Society meetings in their districts.

B. Secretary.

1. Duties:

a. Recording and reporting of the minutes of all meetings.

b. Recording the actions taken at all membership meetings.

c. Handling the correspondence of the Society when the President so requests.

C. Curator. The Curator shall maintain and preserve the archival records of the Society, and provide a repository for all past issues of *Alabama Birdlife* and the professional journals received as exchange subscriptions.

D. Editors.

1. Duties:

- a. The editors and their committees shall gather and edit materials for the official publications of the Society and arrange for the printing and distribution to the membership.
- b. The Editors shall advise the membership of the format to be used in the preparation of articles and notes for publication.
- c. The Editors shall keep copies of the publications for which they are responsible, and shall pass these copies to their successors.

E. Committees.

1. **Nominating Committee.** The Nominating Committee shall consist of from one to three persons, one of whom will be the Chairman. This committee shall be responsible for choosing nominees for the Elected Offices of the Society. They shall consult with the current Elected Officers regarding this selection. The committee is responsible for obtaining approval of willingness to serve from the nominees.
2. **Conservation Committee.** The Conservation Committee shall consist of a Chairman and any other persons recruited by the Chairman to assist him in his duties. The committee shall advise the Board of Directors on conservation matters in our region, especially those of ornithological significance. They shall draft letters and resolutions as necessary to convey the Society's position to the appropriate persons involved. The committee should coordinate its activities with other environmental organizations in our area.
3. **Membership Committee.** The Membership Committee shall consist of from one to three persons, one of whom will be the Chairman. This committee will be responsible for maintaining a current list of the members of the Society and their membership status. The committee shall coordinate its activities with the Treasurer, the Editors, and the Public Relations Committee, so as to provide current mailing lists and promote the growth of the Society.
4. **Public Relations Committee.** The Public Relations Committee shall consist of a Chairman and any other persons as may be necessary to assist him in his duties. This committee shall promote the activities and goals of the Society to members of other environmental groups in Alabama and adjoining states, as well as to the public-at-large. This would include publication of literature about the Society, as well as arranging occasional joint activities with other groups, all in consultation with the President.
5. **Alabama Bird Records Committee.** The Bird Records Committee shall function under separate By-Laws, but still within the auspices of the Society and its By-Laws.
6. **Slide Committee.**

a. **Membership and Term of Office.** The Slide Committee shall consist of three persons, one of whom is the Custodian. The Custodian shall serve as long as he and the Board of Directors find this to be mutually agreeable. Other members on the committee shall be replaced with each new Presidential term, to ensure a variety of opinions over the course of time.

b. **Duties.** This committee shall be responsible for the selection and maintenance of the Society's slide collection, both Educational and Scientific. The committee shall meet at least once each year to select new slides from contributors and to carry out other business, and between meetings the collection shall be maintained by the Custodian. The Custodian shall work with the Treasurer regarding funds generated by the Committee.

Section 3. BOARD OF DIRECTORS. The Board of Directors of the Society shall consist of the Elected and Appointed Officers, the Regional Directors, the Committee chairmen, the American Birds Regional Editors for Alabama and Northwest Florida, and the Immediate Past President. They shall act as an advisory body to the President. Each person on the Board shall have an equal vote. Consistent with time and distance, they shall manage as much as possible of the business and property of the Society between the regular meetings.

Section 4. NOMINATIONS. A slate of prospective officers shall be presented to the membership by the chairman of the Nominating Committee at the Annual Meeting. Any member with voting privileges may nominate from the floor with the candidate's consent (except that a member may not nominate himself).

Section 5. VACANCIES. A vacancy occurring in any office shall be filled by appointment by the President for the unexpired term of office (except for those committees having a defined mechanism for filling vacancies). The Vice President shall become President if that office is vacated.

ARTICLE V -- LOCAL GROUPS

Section 1. Local Groups may be formed by five (5) or more members who reside in any one county.

Section 2. These groups shall be autonomous regarding their local constitution and officers, except that the local treasurer shall be responsible for the collection and submission of state dues to the state treasurer.

Section 3. Any existing organization containing five (5) or more members of the Alabama Ornithological Society may affiliate with said Society. Approval of the membership of the local organization and of the AOS Board of Directors is required.

Section 4. Advantages of organizing into local groups:

A. Develop and maintain local interest in birds.

Section 5. Objectives of such local groups should be:

- A. Teach birds to beginners and advanced alike.
- B. Keep a county bird list.
- C. Maintain an interest in birds during the intervals between statewide meetings.
- D. Reconnoiter local places for statewide meetings and field trips.
- E. Act as hosts on such occasions.

ARTICLE VI -- AMENDMENTS TO BY-LAWS

The By-Laws of this Society may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the membership present at any regular meeting, provided that written notice of such amendments shall have been received by the membership at least thirty days prior to said meeting.

Amended:

11-19-66,
01-23-71,
02-12-72,
11-06-76,
01-23-88,
04-11-92 and
01-25-97.