

Alabama Ornithological Society
DAN C. HOLLIMAN RESEARCH FUND
Information and Guidelines for Applicants

The purpose of the Alabama Ornithological Society's Dan C. Holliman Research Fund is to provide small grants in support of scientific research projects of an ornithological nature that are clearly applicable to Alabama birds. Priority is given to projects involving natural history or field biology involving ornithological research, or environmental issues that impact birds, and those performed in Alabama or by individuals or institutions affiliated with Alabama. Preference is also given to graduate students (outstanding undergraduates may also apply) or others not having access to normal mainstream funding. Applicants are welcome to discuss the general suitability of a potential project with the chairman (see below) before submission. Grants will be offered as single awards in amounts usually ranging up to \$1,000, and are intended as seed-money to help initiate larger projects, or to facilitate applications to major funding agencies. Two awards are anticipated, depending on the merit of proposals received. Applications will be considered competitively, and decisions on funding made within 2-3 months.

The next deadline for receipt of proposals is December 15, 2012.

Each application should include:

1. The project title; name of the applicant and the institution through which the work will be performed, including postal address, telephone and FAX numbers, and e-mail address;
2. A brief description of the significance of the project and its relevance to ornithological issues in Alabama (up to one page);
3. A brief description of the project and the methods to be used, in language understandable by a scientifically literate layperson (2-3 pages);
4. Appropriate references to the scientific literature (up to one page);
5. A detailed budget and justification with respect to the items requested, plus assurance of availability of other funds needed for the project (or the plans for obtaining additional support);
6. A description of the applicant's qualifications and interests (one page);
7. The names and addresses (including phone, FAX, and e-mail) of at least two references for the applicant. Ideally one of these should be the student's supervisor (if applicable), and the other should be independent of the project.

Grants will be made only for direct research expenses such as supplies, minor equipment, and essential economic travel (personal vehicle costs should be based on fuel consumption rather than on official mileage rates). The Fund does not cover salaries, stipends, indirect costs (overheads, or "facilities and administration"), items such as publication costs, thesis production, or attendance at scientific conferences. Applications will be reviewed by a committee appointed by the President of AOS, and awards are subject to the approval of the AOS Board of Governors whose decision is final. The amounts awarded may be adjusted at the discretion of AOS, and awards may be contingent upon obtaining other necessary support. Proposals will be judged according to the following criteria:

- 1) Importance of the project and its relevance to Alabama's birdlife;
- 2) Scientific quality of the proposals and appropriateness of the budget;
- 3) Ability of the applicant to carry out the proposed work;
- 4) Potential to initiate a major project or to attract future funding from a major agency.

Additional conditions. The results of the research must be reported briefly in writing to AOS, normally 1-2 years after an award has been made (2-3 pages with 1-2 tables or figures as appropriate; standard e-files are acceptable). Bibliographic references and copies of publications are appreciated, and if the work contributes to

a thesis, a copy of the abstract and note of where the thesis is deposited are desirable, but a copy of the thesis itself is not required. Recipients should also agree, if asked, to give a presentation on the project at an AOS meeting (modest travel expenses will be covered). The sponsorship of AOS should be acknowledged in presentations and publications arising from the research. Recipients who move during the course of a project, or before reporting the findings, should inform the chairman of the Fund of their new contact information.

Applications should be sent in electronic format (as e-mail attachments, in MS Word or other standard word-processor format, or PDF file); please contact the chairman if this is not possible. Applications will be acknowledged on receipt.

Send applications and inquiries to:

Greg Harber
Chairman, Dan C. Holliman Research Fund
E-mail: gharber@mindspring.com
or gharber@uab.edu
Phone: (205) 251-2133 (home)
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