

## Alabama Ornithological Society

Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes of Winter Meeting

January 25, 2020

Auburn, Alabama

President Geoff Hill called the meeting to order.

The following members signed in:

Joan Dixon, Barry Fleming, Larry Gardella, Greg Harber, Ken Hare, Geoff Hill, Anne Miller, Kathryn Palmore, Bob Reed, Pat Reed, Lew Scharpf, and Eric Soehren. Scott Rush, a visitor, was present.

### Treasurer's Report

Joan Dixon reported for the year 2019. AOS income was \$20,030.23 less expenses of \$29,848.05 leaving a net income loss of \$9,817.82; however when added to existing assets, the total assets are \$51,295.30. (The complete financial report is attached to original minutes.) The board discussed how to handle the CD in the amount of \$28,943.44 that matures January 27, 2020. After discussion Ken Hare moved the CD be split into two, one for \$10,000 and one for the remainder (\$18,988.34) and renegotiated for the best interest rate, over a three-year period. Anne Miller seconded, and the motion was approved.

Mrs. Dixon stated Geoff Hill, as the president, should be authorized to sign checks, etc. It was pointed out this was approved at the fall meeting on October 12, 2019. Mrs. Dixon reported on Pay Pal costs and charges. After discussion Bob Reed moved that an additional 3% charge be added to all Pay Pal transactions on the web site and in *The Yellowhammer*. Ken Hare seconded and the motion was approved.

Geoff Hill stated that Yahoo will no longer host ALBirds and reported a new host has been located that appears to be working well. He suggested this be left as is for the present. The new ALbirds is [ALbirds@groups.io](mailto:ALbirds@groups.io).

The consensus of opinion was the entire ALBirds archive definitely needs to be saved and put on the web site. A suggestion was offered that if a way can be found to accomplish this for \$200 that we move forward with the possibility of utilizing a student to do the work. Ken Hare noted this needs to be discussed with Joe Watts and the cost determined.

Geoff Hill thanked Eric Soehren for taking over *Alabama BirdLife*, but stated he would need specific software that would cost approximately \$500 yearly. Ken Hare moved AOS provide the money for whatever is needed, with other options being explored for a better price. Anne Miller seconded and the motion was approved.

Eric Soehren stated SORA (Searchable Ornithological Research Archive) needs a platform for the journal. Geoff suggested we also pay a student to provide this service. After more discussion Larry Gardella moved AOS pay a student to convert print information to digital. Ken Hare seconded and the motion was approved.

Bob Reed stated he was asked to scan all *Yellowhammers*, but he was not sure he could do this. Geoff suggested ALBirds become accessible then begin work to make all *Yellowhammers* accessible.

Geoff reported there is no clean membership list. He suggested that we have one email list printed with all problem emails highlighted available at the registration desk at the Spring meeting (later broadened to every meeting). Upon registering each person will be asked to update their email as well as others they are aware of. Bob Reed suggested AOS adopt a rule that incomplete membership applications be returned. The consensus was these suggestions should be implemented.

Geoff stated he and Barry would like input on speakers. Several possibilities were mentioned including some in-house. The consensus was all wanted a variety of entertainment, educational and scientific. There was discussion about the past practice of holding workshops on Saturday afternoons.

Anne Miller suggested students be encouraged to participate, and Ken Hare suggested a student rate be considered as well as getting a qualified student on the Board. Bob Reed moved AOS establish registration and meal rate at one-half the normal rate for a students with student ID. Anne Miller seconded and the motion was approved.

Geoff mentioned having an over-night trip for a winter meeting, or an out-of-state trip to meet a guide. The 2021 winter meeting is tentatively set for Guntersville State Park. Great interest was expressed for an AOS sponsored trip to an out-of-state birding location noting AOS has an in-house guide.

Bob Reed reminded all *The Yellowhammer* deadline is February 10. Information is needed on speakers, cost of food, poster winners, field trips, etc.

The minutes of the **spring** meeting were not approved as these had not been emailed prior to the current meeting. These will be sent along with the current minutes and both voted on at the spring meeting.

Greg Harber stated there is only one submission for the Dan Holliman award. Hannah Wright proposed to study, "Quantifying Chemical Preservatives in Red-headed Woodpeckers Relative to Utility Infrastructure." The total amount requested is \$1,290. Ken Hare moved to fund the full amount, and Ms. Wright be strongly requested to make a presentation at an AOS meeting or provide a written report of her findings to be published in *The Yellowhammer* or *Alabama BirdLife*. Anne Miller seconded and the motion was approved.

Greg Harber reported on legislation. He has sent a letter for AOS in support of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (H. R. 3742). He has also sent a letter in support of the Migratory Bird Protection Act (H.R. 5552) to restore longstanding protections for migratory birds, which has been weakened significantly by the current administration.

Geoff Hill introduced member-guest, Lew Scharpf, who provided information on the Kreher Preserve and Nature Center. He spoke of specific programs including the Purple Martin Project, Bluebird Boxes and Streaming Eagle Cam. Geoff Hill stated AOS would like to have all Center information on the AOS web site.

Kathryn Palmore reported the spring meeting is scheduled for the Shelby Center. The Saturday banquet will cost \$25 per person.

Andrew Haffenden emailed his report on spring field trips. Friday trips: Ft. Morgan with banding and then on to Splinter Hill. Saturday trips: Pelican Island and around Dauphin Island. Sunday: Blakely.

Steve McConnell emailed his Alabama Bird Records Committee report, which stated 25 record reviews were completed, 18 reaching decision. Black-capped Petrel was accepted to the list based on four inland rehab birds in four different counties following Hurricane Irma. American Flamingo and Harris' Hawk both received 6-1 votes and go to the second voting. Three committee members rolled off the voting rolls. The ARBC will meet late in February and these positions will be filled.

Shirley Farrell's email report stated Flying Wild Guides had been purchased for two workshops, and a third workshop will be held in the spring. Also, five boxes of books from Mary Porter's estate will be sold at the Spring Silent Auction. Once again AOS will support the Alabama Green Ribbon Schools as soon as the winning schools are announced.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Pat Reed, Secretary