

was gained quickly. All prey was eaten while the kites were in flight. Both of the bird's legs may or may not hang down while feeding; however, only one foot was used to hold the insect. The bird's wings are held steady and level, the tail generally half-spread. Slow, easy circles are performed with an occasional wing beat. There was a general tendency to gain altitude during the whole process.

The method of attack on grasshoppers was a straight, swift drop of approximately 90 degrees, terminating a couple of feet from the ground. The instant the prey was grasped, deep wing strokes carried the bird off 50 to 75 meters (50 to 75 yards) distant and 30 to 40 meters elevation, at which time feeding took place. On other areas, where grasshoppers frequented tall grass or wheat, they were captured by the kite in a sweeping, continuous stoop with a partial break in speed at the point of contact.

Several times individual kites were observed for periods of up to 40 minutes to determine the amount of prey taken and the time involved between each take. Forty minutes was the maximum time a kite was noted to feed before leaving the area or rising to an elevation too far to be observed. The soaring time between each strike was three to six minutes. The required time to consume each prey animal was 30 to 70 seconds. There was an average of 10 kites feeding at one time, which would indicate approximately 60 prey species taken in a 40-minute period or about six grasshoppers, beetles, or dragonflies taken by each kite.

There was a general tendency for all the kites on the area to feed during the same period of time and for all to disappear about the same time. Occasionally, one or two would stay within view of the feeding area but appeared not to be feeding or feeding only sporadically.

Robert W. Skinner, State Conservation Dept., Game & Fish Division, Montgomery, Ala.

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#### Duck Bag Limit Reduced

Because of adverse weather conditions in their northern breeding grounds, the hunting limit on ducks has been reduced to two per day. This means there is a severe shortage in breeding stock and therefore, we in the South, should do everything possible to return the survivors in good health next Spring. Well managed private ponds, such as our Dauphin Island Sanctuary, will help.

## ALABAMA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY CONSTITUTION

### Article I. Name

This organization shall be called the Alabama Ornithological Society.

### Article II. Objectives

1. To foster a greater knowledge of the birds of Alabama through observation, education and publication.
2. To be a potent voice in Conservation of all of Alabama's natural resources, but especially in birds.

### Article III. Membership

The membership shall consist of Active, Associates, Sustaining, Student, Life and Honorary Members, who have a sincere interest in bird life.

### Article IV. Officers

The Officers shall consist of Elected, Appointed Officers and Directors.

Sec. 1. ELECTED OFFICERS. The Elected Officers shall be the President, Vice-President and Treasurer. They shall be elected by a majority vote of the members present at the Annual Meeting and shall serve for a period of one year. The Vice-President will succeed the President.

Sec. 2. APPOINTED OFFICERS. The President shall appoint Regional Directors, a Secretary, a Librarian, and Editors.

Sec. 3. THE DIRECTORS. The Regional Directors shall represent districts of the State of Alabama proportioned to cover the entire state for representation in the Society.

Sec. 4. THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL. The Executive Council shall consist of the Elected and Appointed Officers, the Immediate Past President and the Directors.

### Article V. Meetings and Quorum

Sec. 1. TIME OF MEETINGS. The Society shall hold at least one business meeting a year, which is to be known as the Annual Meeting. Three meetings are recommended: One in the winter, one in the spring and one in the fall. Other special meetings may be called by the President at his discretion.

Sec. 2. QUORUM. No quorum is necessary to conduct business at any meeting, Regular, Council, or otherwise, provided written notice of one month of time and place is given to the membership.

## Article VI. Life Membership Funds

Life Membership Funds shall be treated as an endowment fund and invested at the discretion of the Executive Council. The interest from this principal may be dispensed at the discretion of the Executive Council.

## Article VII. Amendments to the Constitution

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present at any regular meeting, provided that thirty days written notice of the proposed change be given each voting member.

## Article VIII. Rules

The rules contained in ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER, Revised, shall govern this Society in all cases to which they are applicable, and in which they are not inconsistent with this Constitution.

## ALABAMA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

### BY-LAWS

## Article I. Dues and Membership

- Sec. 1. There shall be six classes membership.
- a. ACTIVE MEMBERS. Entitled to all privileges of the Society upon payment of the annual dues...\$2.00.
  - b. ASSOCIATE MEMBERS (out-of-state). Entitled to all the privileges of the Society, except the privilege to hold office and vote, upon payment of the annual dues...\$1.50.
  - c. SUSTAINING MEMBERS. Entitled to all the privileges of the Society upon payment of the annual dues...\$5.00.
  - d. STUDENT MEMBERS. Any High School or College Undergraduate Student; will not be eligible to vote or hold office...\$1.00.
  - e. LIFE MEMBERS. Will be entitled to all the privileges of the Society, as a member desiring to pay his dues for the rest of his life in one sum. Memberships may be paid within a two-year period...\$50.00.
  - f. HONORARY MEMBERS. An Honorary membership may be bestowed upon any person of eminence in Ornithology, who has made such contributions in the State of Alabama. 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.

Sec. 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 year, 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.

Sec. 1. The name of the scientific journal of the Alabama Ornithological Society shall be "Alabama Birdlife". It shall be published quarterly 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.

Sec. 2. The Newsletter 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.

Sec. 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:

1. Call to order.
2. Report of the Secretary, including the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting and their approval and also the reading of the correspondence.
3. Treasurer's report.
- Old or unfinished business: report of associate committees.
5. New business: report of committees.
6. Election
7. Program
8. 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

Sec. 1. ELECTED OFFICERS: The Elected Officers shall be the President, Vice-President and Treasurer. Except for the President, they shall be elected by a majority vote of the membership present at the Annual Meeting. The Vice-President automatically becomes President. If, for any reason, he does not, then the President is elected by a majority vote of the members at the Annual Meeting. The Elected Officers shall serve for a period of one year from the time elected.

Sec. 2. APPOINTED OFFICERS. The President shall appoint the Regional Directors, a Secretary, a Librarian and two Editors, each of whom shall serve until a successor is chosen. Other committees shall be appointed when necessary to the efficient performance of the Society, serving only until the end of that year.

Sec. 3. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL. The Executive Council shall consist of the Elected and Appointed Officers, the Directors, and the Immediate Past President. They shall act as an advisory body to the President. Consistent with time and distance, they shall manage as much as possible of the business and property of the Society between the regular meetings.

Sec. 4. NOMINATING AND ELECTING. 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. Candidates for each office shall be elected by a majority vote of the members present.

Sec. 5. VACANCIES. A vacancy occurring in any office shall be filled by appointment by the President for the unexpired term of office. The Vice-President shall become President if that office is vacated.

## Sec. 6. PRESIDENT.

- a. The President shall manage the affairs of the Society and shall preside at its meetings.
- b. He is responsible for the agenda for all meetings.
- c. He is Chairman of the Executive Council.
- d. He shall appoint all committees not otherwise provided for, with the approval of the Executive Council.
- e. Special meetings may be called by the President at his discretion.

## Sec. 7. THE VICE-PRESIDENT.

- a. He shall automatically become President the year following his term as Vice-President.
- b. He shall preside in the absence of the President.
- c. He shall work in coordination with the President at all times.

- d. He shall serve as Chairman of the Program Committee.
- e. He shall serve as Chairman for all arrangements of the Annual Meeting.

## Sec. 8. THE SECRETARY

- a. The Secretary shall record and report the minutes of all meetings.
- b. He shall record the actions taken at all membership meetings.
- c. He shall handle the correspondence of the Society when the President so requests.
- d. He shall compile said minutes into a permanent binder furnished by the Society.
- e. He shall keep a register of the active members and call the roll whenever requested.
- f. He shall work closely with the President in the matter of courtesy correspondence and notices.
- g. Previous to the Executive Council and Membership meetings, he shall send the President a copy of the last minutes.

## Sec. 9. THE TREASURER.

- a. The Treasurer shall keep the financial records and have custody of the funds of the Society.
  - b. He shall disburse the funds as may be ordered by the Executive Council, taking proper vouchers therefor.
  - c. He shall keep a roster of the members of the Society and provide the President, other Officers and all Committee Chairmen with a running list of active members.
  - d. All checks and drafts of the Society shall be signed by the Treasurer, except drafts for the Life Membership Funds; then the President will be a co-signer.
  - e. The Treasurer shall work in conjunction with the Membership Committee Chairman.
  - f. There shall be an independent audit made annually of the Treasurer's books and records at the end of the fiscal year by the Auditing Committee. It shall be reported at the Annual Meeting and placed on file with the Secretary.
- Sec. 10. THE DIRECTORS. The Directors shall act as a coordinator of the Society, each in his own district; doing everything possible to develop local interest of ornithology in his district; and serving on the Executive Council.
- Sec. 11. THE EDITORS.

- 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.

Sec. 12 THE LIBRARIAN. The Librarian shall gather and preserve all scientific material of the Society, either as records, publications, or other property. He shall, with his judgment, assist members to make proper use for research purposes, whatever material is in his care.

Article V. Local Groups

Sec. 1. Local Groups may be formed by 5 or more members who reside in any one county.

Sec. 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.

Sec. 3. Any existing organization containing 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 Executive Council is required.

Sec. 4. Advantages of organizing into local groups:

- a. Develop and maintain local interest in birds.
- b. AOS officers are available with information and assistance on methods of organizing field trips and programs for meetings of local groups.

Sec. 5. Objectives of such local groups should be:

- a. Teach birds to beginners and advanced alike.
- b. Keep a county bird list.
- c. Maintain interest in birds during the interval between statewide meetings.
- d. Reconnoited local places for statewide meetings and field trips.
- e. Act as hosts on such occasions.

Article VI. Admendment 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 30 days prior to said meeting.

Proposed Revision Approved:

By the Executive Council February 18, 1962

By the Membership at the Annual Meeting April 28, 1962

Christmas Bird Count 1961, Auburn, Alabama

The 1961 Christmas bird count at Auburn, Alabama was made on December 23. The same area was used as in previous years, using three parties for a total of 24 party-hours. Weather was variably cloudy and clear with a westerly wind 20-25 miles per hour. Temperature averages about 45 degrees.

The following list of birds was counted: Pied-billed Grebe 4, Great blue Heron 2, Mallard 5, Ring-necked Duck 37, Lesser Scaup 3, Common Goldeneye 2, Turkey Vulture 11, Black Vulture 67, Red-tailed hawk 2, Red-shouldered Hawk 1, Marsh Hawk 1, Sparrow Hawk 6, Bobwhite 11, Killdeer 27, Common Snipe 5, Spotted Sandpiper 1, Mourning Dove 30, Screech Owl 1, Belted Kingfisher 3, Yellow-shafted Flicker 11, Red-bellied Woodpecker 2, Red-headed Woodpecker 2, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 3, Hairy Woodpecker 1, Downy Woodpecker 15, Eastern Phoebe 6, Blue Jay 26, Common Crow 35, Carolina Chickadee 37, Tufted Titmouse 9, Brown-headed Nuthatch 30, Brown Creeper 2, Winter Wren 2, Carolina Wren 16, Mockingbird 15, Brown Thrasher 4, Hermit Thrush 1, Eastern Bluebird 27, Golden-crowned Kinglet 4, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 19, Water Pipit 27, Cedar Waxwing 6, Loggerhead Shrike 15, Starling 30,000, Myrtle Warbler 29, Pine Warbler 16, Palm Warbler 1, Yellowthroat 1, House Sparrow 300, Eastern Meadowlark 50, Redwinged Blackbird 600,000, Rusty Blackbird 30,000, Common Grackle 100,000, Brown-headed Cowbird 40,000, Cardinal 23, American Goldfinch 200, Rufous-sided Towhee 15, Savannah Sparrow 3, Bachman's Sparrow 1, Slate-colored Junco 87, Chipping Sparrow 42, Field Sparrow 117, White-throated Sparrow 300, Fox Sparrow 9, Swamp Sparrow 8, and Song Sparrow 21. Total species - 67. Total individuals - 801,761.

Julian L. Dusi

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Created in 1849, The Department of the Interior -- America's Department of Natural Resources -- is concerned with the management, conservation and development of the Nation's water, wildlife, mineral, forest, and park and recreational resources. It also has major responsibilities for Indian and Territorial affairs

As the National's principal conservation agency, the Department works to assure that nonrenewable resources are developed and used wisely, that park and recreational resources are conserved for the future, and that renewable resources make their full contribution to the progress, prosperity, and security of the United States -- now and in the future.