

**AUGUSTA BIRD CLUB
CONSTITUTION AND BY LAWS
(Revised and Approved 2014)**

ARTICLE I NAME

- SECTION 1** The name of this organization shall be the Augusta Bird Club.
- SECTION 2** The Augusta Bird Club shall maintain membership in the Virginia Society of Ornithology.
- SECTION 3** The Augusta Bird Club shall function as a 501 (c) (3) organization.

ARTICLE II PURPOSES

- SECTION 1** The Augusta Bird Club shall operate exclusively for scientific and educational purposes with emphasis on the study of birds in Virginia, conservation of bird life and education in relation to birds and bird life.
- A. Support the study of birds in Virginia and, with emphasis on the birds that populate the County of Augusta, the club shall record, collate and permanently maintain accurate and authentic data, both past and present, on the distribution, abundance, seasonal occurrence, breeding and behavior of all such birds.
 - B. Contribute to the conservation and protection of bird life by promoting local conservation efforts and by supporting local, state and federal authorities, as well as other organizations, with efforts to protect our natural resources.
 - C. Educate the members of the community concerning the varied bird life of Virginia and the existing laws which conserve and protect such bird life.
- SECTION 2** The club shall not allow any part of its net income or its assets to inure to the benefit of any individual. (Refer to Article X for distribution of funds in the event of dissolution of the club.) The

club shall not participate in activities that attempt to influence legislation or intervene in any political campaign.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

- SECTION 1** Any person who is interested in bird study may apply for membership and may be admitted upon payment of dues to the Treasurer.
- SECTION 2** The following categories of membership shall be available: Active, Sustaining and Contributing. Annual dues shall be established by the Executive Board with the approval of a majority vote of the members at any regular meeting of the organization.
- SECTION 3** All members whose dues are not in arrears shall be entitled to vote.
- SECTION 4** The fiscal year of the organization shall be from January 1 to December 31.
- SECTION 5** Any new member joining and paying dues during the last quarter (Oct, Nov, Dec) of the year shall pay the full amount of the annual dues and have their membership extended through the following year.
- SECTION 6** Members who have not paid their dues by March 15 of any calendar year, after having been notified two times will be removed from the membership rolls.

ARTICLE IV OFFICERS

SECTION 1 The elected officers of the Augusta Bird Club shall be: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Editor.

SECTION 2 DUTIES OF THE PRESIDENT

- A. Preside at meetings of the organization and the Executive Board.
- B. Create standing or special committees as needed.
- C. Appoint chairpersons of the established committees.
- D. Appoint committee members as needed.
- E. Fill vacancies on committees.
- F. Call meetings of the organization and Executive Board.

SECTION 3 DUTIES OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT

- A. Assume the duties of the President, the Secretary, the Treasurer or any Committee Chair in his/her absence.
- B. Chair the Program Committee.

SECTION 4 DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY

- A. Keep an up to date copy of the Constitution and Bylaws.
- B. Keep a record of the proceedings of the organization and Executive Board.

SECTION 5 DUTIES OF THE TREASURER

- A. Receive and disburse all monies of the organization and keep a record of receipts and disbursements.
- B. Make financial reports to the membership and to the Executive Board as requested.
- C. Maintain a record of the membership and follow up on payment of membership dues.
- D. File tax reports as required by the Internal Revenue Service.

SECTION 6 DUTIES OF THE EDITOR

- A. Prepare a bulletin to be distributed to the membership each month from September through May.
- B. Send out membership notices and other notices as authorized by the Board.

ARTICLE V

COMMITTEES

SECTION 1 PROGRAM

Program shall plan and arrange for regular educational programs to be presented to the members and public.

SECTION 2 PUBLICITY

Publicity shall publicize all meetings and activities.

SECTION 3 CONSERVATION

Conservation shall inform members on important conservation issues on the local, state, and national levels, and to initiate and carry out plans which would contribute to the conservation and protection of our natural resources.

SECTION 4 EDUCATION

Education shall provide scholarships, develop programs and provide education materials for study in the field of natural science.

SECTION 5 FIELD TRIPS

Field trips shall arrange for regular and varied field trips to observe birds throughout the region.

SECTION 6 HOSPITALITY

Hospitality shall provide for refreshments/eats when appropriate.

SECTION 7 FUND RAISING

Fund shall devise methods of raising money to provide scholarships, donations to charitable organizations and agencies devoted to the protection of wildlife and preservation of our natural resources.

SECTION 8 NOMINATING

Nominating shall procure a slate of candidates for office and present it at the March meeting of the organization.

SECTION 9 RECORDS

Records shall maintain records of birds in Augusta County, including status, extreme dates, peak counts and breeding: to periodically update field checklists: to periodically update field checklists: submit seasonal reports to regional editors of ornithological publications.

SECTION 10 MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall provide information for new members, prospective members and distribute membership information at strategic locations in the county, maintaining membership cards and check lists for the membership.

SECTION 11 HISTORIAN

Historian shall keep clippings, photographs, and other significant activities of the organization or information pertaining to the natural history of the area.

ARTICLE VI EXECUTIVE BOARD

SECTION 1 The Executive Board shall be composed of the elected officers, immediate past-president, and the appointed committee chairs.

SECTION 2 The Executive Board shall implement projects and programs which will fulfill the intent and purpose of the club and authorize the disbursements of funds in support thereof.

ARTICLE VII ELECTIONS

SECTION 1 The officers of the organization shall be elected at the Annual Meeting held in April.

SECTION 2 The term of each officer shall be for one year with no restrictions.

SECTION 3 Nominations shall be provided by the Nominating Committee at the March meeting of the organization.

SECTION 4 Nominations may be received from the floor, with prior permission of the nominee.

SECTION 5 Election shall be determined by simple majority and if there is more than one nominee for an office, shall be determined by secret ballot.

ARTICLE VIII MEETINGS

SECTION 1 Meetings of the organization shall be held at least once per month from September to May.

SECTION 2 The Annual Meeting of the organization shall be held in April with persons elected taking office after the May meeting.

SECTION 3 One-tenth of the members of the organization shall constitute a quorum.

SECTION 4 For conditions not covered by these Bylaws, Robert's Rules of Order shall govern.

ARTICLE IX AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1 In order to amend the Constitution and Bylaws, a proposed amendment must be presented to the membership at least one month prior to the meeting at which it is to be voted upon.

SECTION 2 For an affirmative ballot, at least two-thirds of the votes must be in favor of the amendment.

ARTICLE X DISSOLUTION

In the event of the dissolution of this club, all assets, whether tangible, intangible, personal, or real shall be distributed in the following manner:

- A. To any local ornithological club, society, or corporation which is a qualified 501(c) (3) organization as determined by the Internal Revenue Service.
- B. In the event such society does not exist, than the assets shall be distributed to the Virginia Society of Ornithology but only so long as it is a qualified 501 (c) (3) as designated by the Internal Revenue Service.
- C. In the event assets of the club cannot be distributed in accordance with the provisions of Items A and B above, then the assets of the club shall be distributed pursuant to Section 12. 1-907 of the Virginia Code (1950 as amended) pertaining to the distribution of assets of a Virginia Non-Stock Corporation.