

Article I: Name

This organization shall be known as the **Ocmulgee Audubon Society**, a chartered chapter of the NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Article II: Purpose

Section 1. The purposes and objectives of this Society shall be:

To engage in recreational, educational, literary, and charitable pursuits in keeping with the NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY'S Chapter Policy and fulfill the *Required and Recommended Activities* included in that Policy.

To promote interest in, and appreciation of, the aesthetic, economic, and scientific value of birds and to ensure the conservation of birds and their environment.

Section 2. No member of this Society shall benefit financially from activities of the Society, nor shall any substantial part of its activities consist of propagandizing or attempting to influence legislation or the outcome of elections to public office.

Article III: Membership

Section 1. Any person interested in the purposes and objectives of this Society is eligible to apply for membership.

Section 2 Members of the NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY residing within the geographical area defined by the national organization as the **Ocmulgee Audubon Membership Area** are considered to be members of the local chapter as well, unless they decline.

Section 3 Chapter Dues to defray the costs of operation of the local chapter will be as determined by the Board of Directors

Article IV: Meetings

Regular meetings of members shall be held at least ten months of the year at times and places determined by the Board of Directors. The Annual Meeting shall be held in March each year.

Article V: Officers

Section 1. The elective officers of the Society shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

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Section 2. The elective officers shall be elected by the members present at the Annual Meeting of the Society. The President shall serve for two years. All other officers serve for one year. All officers may succeed themselves in office if re-elected.

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Section 3. In the event of an elective officer's resignation, disability, or death, the President may appoint a successor, upon approval of the Board of Directors, to serve until the next regular election. The Vice President shall succeed the President until the next regular election in the event of the President's resignation, disability, or death.

Article VI: Board of Directors

Section 1. The control and conduct of business of the Society shall be vested in its Board of Directors, consisting of the elected officers, the chairs of Standing Committees, and, if the members so desire, not more than two Directors-at-Large to serve for terms of one year.

Section 2. Regular meetings of the Board shall be held at least five times a year at times and places determined by the president. A simple majority of the Board shall constitute a quorum.

Section 3. Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President or a majority of its members.

Article VII: Elections

Section 1. Election of officers and, if any, Directors-at-Large shall take place at the Annual Meeting of the Society. They will be installed immediately following the election.

Section 2. The President shall appoint a Nominating Committee of at least three members other than the current elective officers at least three months prior to the Annual Meeting and require their report to him or her one month before the Annual Meeting/Election. Desirably, this report will be published in the Society's newsletter distributed just prior to the Annual Meeting.

Article VIII: Duties of Officers

Section 1. The **President** shall preside at all meetings of the Society, serve as Chairman of the Board, an *ex-officio* member of all committees, enforce due observance of the by-laws and perform such other duties as the office may require.

Section 2. The **Vice President** shall assume the duties of the president in the latter's absence. He or she will oversee the provision of programs at monthly meetings and the planning of field trips, ensuring that timely information of coming events is relayed to the newsletter editor.

Section 3. The **Secretary** shall be responsible for the minutes of meetings of the Society and its Board of Directors, ensuring that they are recorded, preserved, and made available on call. The secretary shall keep on file the by-laws, any formal agreements made by the Society, and copies of significant correspondence of possible historic value

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Section 4. The **Treasurer** shall receive and manage all monies belonging to the Society keep an account of all receipts and expenditures, and serve as a designated person in signing checks, paying bills, and filing tax returns if required.

The Treasurer shall prepare a detailed income statement and a balance sheet listing all assets and fund balances of the society and present this report at the Annual Meeting of the Society. Such reports shall be kept as a matter of record.

At the close of each President's term in office, the President shall appoint one or more qualified persons to audit the Treasurer's books and submit a report to the incoming President.

Article IX: Committees

Section 1. The President, with the approval of the elected officers, shall appoint chairs of Standing Committees who, in turn, may select their own committee members with recommendations and suggestions from the Board. Terms of office for committee chairs shall be for one year or until their successors are appointed.

Section 2. The Standing Committees of the Society, whose chairs become *ex officio* members of the Board of Directors, may be as follows:

CONSERVATION

The Conservation Committee shall work on at least one major conservation or environmental project per year. The Committee may also lead or actively participate in a local conservation campaign, and take an active role in supporting a major NATIONAL AUDUBON campaign or other projects of the Society's choice.

EDUCATION

This committee furthers the Educational Services of the National Society by encouraging the schools and youth organizations of the community to conduct courses in, or otherwise stress, natural history, ecology, and conservation, and works to inform and educate the public about the natural environment.

FIELD TRIPS

This committee plans, organizes, and arranges for the proper conduct of at least five field trips a year which are open to non-members and friends as well as members. The Vice President may or may not chair this committee, but provides oversight in any event.

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MEMBERSHIP

It shall be the duty of this committee to cooperate with the Membership Department of the NATIONAL SOCIETY by such measures as obtaining lists of names and addresses of members residing within the allotted territory of this Society, to process membership applications, and to conduct membership campaigns and attempt to reinstate members who have become delinquent in payment of their dues.

PROGRAM

The Program Committee shall make all plans and arrangements for the regular meetings of the Society, and shall promote interest and appreciation of the Society's activities through exhibits and publications. This chairmanship may or may not be assumed by the Vice President, who provides oversight in any event.

PUBLICATIONS

The editor of the Society's newsletter chairs the Publications Committee, which in addition may prepare any other publications helpful to the chapter. Newsletters will be published and mailed to each chapter member at least six times a year.

PUBLICITY

This committee, working closely with the Program and Field Trip committees, publicizes through newspaper, radio, TV, and other media the programs and activities of the Society to stimulate interest and participation by members and non-members alike.

Section 3. The president, with the approval of the Board, may appoint Special or Task Committees to serve for the duration of the project or task to be performed

Article X: Amendments

These by-laws may be amended at any regular, monthly meeting of the Society by a two-thirds vote of the members present provided that notice of the impending action has been publicized in the newsletter prior to the meeting and at least fifteen members are present.

Article XI: Chapter Policy

The relationship between this Society and the NATIONAL SOCIETY shall be governed by the Audubon Chapter Policy promulgated by the NATIONAL SOCIETY'S Board of Directors.

Approved by majority vote of the membership this ____th day of _____ 2002

President

Secretary