

## CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE WILSON ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY\*

As adopted December 29, 1930, and amended by the Executive Council on August 11, 1944, and October 13, 1945; the revised Constitution and Bylaws were approved by the membership on November 29, 1946, and amended September, 1951 (mail ballot), and April 9, 1955.

### CONSTITUTION

#### ARTICLE I

##### *Name and Object*

- Section 1. The organization shall be known as the "Wilson Ornithological Society."  
Section 2. The object of the Wilson Ornithological Society shall be to advance the science of ornithology, particularly field ornithology as related to the birds of North America, and to secure cooperation in measures tending to this end by uniting in a group such persons as are interested therein, facilitating personal intercourse among them, and providing for the publication of the information that they secure.

#### ARTICLE II

##### *Membership*

- Section 1. The membership of this society shall consist of five classes: Active Members, Sustaining Members, Life Members, Patrons, and Honorary Members.  
Section 2. Any person who is of good moral character and in sympathy with the object of this society may be nominated for membership. Nominations and applications for membership shall be made through the Secretary. Applications for membership shall be endorsed by at least one member. Members shall be elected at the annual meeting by a majority of the members present. Nominations presented in the interim between annual meetings shall be received and confirmed by the Secretary, subject to ratification at the next annual meeting.  
Section 3. The annual dues of Active Members shall be three dollars (\$3.00); and of Sustaining Members, five dollars (\$5.00). Any member may become a Life Member, exempt from further dues, by making a payment into the endowment fund of the Society of one hundred dollars (\$100.00). Any member may become a Patron, exempt from further dues, by making a payment into the endowment fund of the Society of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) or more. Upon the unanimous recommendation of the Executive Council, honorary membership may be conferred by the Society by a three-fourths vote at any annual meeting.  
Section 4. All members shall be entitled to vote and to hold office.  
Section 5. All annual dues for the ensuing year shall be due on January 1. Any member in arrears for dues for one year shall be dropped from the roll of members, provided that two notices of delinquency, with an interval of two months between them, shall have been sent to such member.

#### ARTICLE III

##### *Officers*

- Section 1. The officers of this society shall be a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and an Editor. The duties of these officers shall be those usually pertaining to their respective offices.  
Section 2. All officers except the Editor shall be elected at the annual meeting by ballot of the members. The Editor shall be elected annually by the Executive Council.

\* Incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois on October 16, 1944.

Section 3. Officers shall hold office for one year, or until their successors are elected, and shall be eligible for re-election. Their term of office shall begin at the close of the meeting at which they are elected.

Section 4. The officers of the Society, all past Presidents of the Society, and three additional members who shall be elected by ballot of the Society, shall constitute an Executive Council. The Executive Council shall also constitute the Board of Directors of the Corporation. The business of the Society not otherwise provided for shall be in the hands of the Executive Council, which shall pass upon any urgent matters that cannot be deferred until the next annual meeting. Five members of the Council shall constitute a quorum.

Section 5. Vacancies in the staff of officers, occurring by death, resignation, or otherwise shall be filled by appointment of the Executive Council, but the person so appointed shall hold office only until the close of the next annual meeting of the Society, except in the event of his election to that office by the members of the Society.

ARTICLE IV

*Meetings*

Section 1. The Executive Council shall determine the time and place of meetings of the Society.

Section 2. Twenty-five (25) members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

ARTICLE V

*Accounts*

Section 1. A committee of two shall be appointed annually by the President to audit the accounts of the Treasurer.

Section 2. The proper care of an Endowment Fund shall be provided for by a Board of Trustees. This Board shall consist of three members appointed by the President, one member for one year, one for two years, and one for three years. At the expiration of each respective term, a member shall be appointed for three years. Any vacancy on the Board, occurring by death, resignation, or otherwise, shall be filled for the unexpired term.

ARTICLE VI

*Amendments*

Section 1. This constitution may be amended at any annual meeting by a two-thirds vote of the members present, provided that the amendment has been proposed at the preceding annual meeting or has been recommended by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Council, and a copy has been sent to every voting member of the Society at least one month prior to the date of action.

ARTICLE VII

*Bylaws*

Section 1. Bylaws may be adopted or repealed at any annual meeting by a majority vote of the members present.

BYLAWS

1. Notice of all meetings of the Society shall be sent to all members at least one month in advance of the date of the meeting.
2. The time and place of the business session shall be published prior to the opening session of the annual meeting.
3. A program committee, of which the Secretary shall be chairman, and a local committee on arrangements for the annual meeting shall be appointed by the President at least ninety days in advance of the meeting.

4. Election of officers, except the Editor, shall be by ballot, but by the unanimous consent of the members, the Secretary may cast one ballot, representing the unanimous vote of the members present. A nominating committee shall be appointed by the President at the beginning or in advance of the annual meeting, which shall offer nominations of officers to serve the Society during the ensuing year. Nominations may also be made by any member in good standing from the floor.
5. A committee on resolutions, consisting of three members, shall be appointed by the President at the beginning or in advance of the annual meeting.
6. The accumulation and care of one or more Wilson Ornithological Society Libraries shall be provided for. A library committee of three or more members shall be appointed annually by the President.
7. The Executive Council shall have power to expel any person found unworthy of membership in the Society.
8. The official organ of the Society shall be *The Wilson Bulletin*. It shall be sent to all members not in arrears for dues.
9. Any member three months in arrears for dues shall be ineligible to vote or to hold elective office in the Society.
10. The fiscal year of this Society shall be the calendar year.
11. The order of business at regular annual meetings shall be as follows:
  1. Calling of meeting to order by the President.
  2. Reading and approval of minutes of the previous meeting.
  3. Reports of officers.
  4. Appointment of temporary committees.
  5. Election of members.
  6. Business.
  7. Reports of committees.
  8. Election of officers.
  9. Adjournment.

The program may be interpolated in the order of business according to convenience.

12. The rules contained in Roberts' Rules of Order shall govern the Society in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are consistent with Constitution and Bylaws of the Society.
13. If no annual meeting can be held, election of officers may be conducted by a mail ballot.
14. This constitution may be amended by mail ballot provided that the amendment has been recommended by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Council, and a copy has been sent to every voting member of the Society at least two months prior to the date of action.