

# BYLAWS OF THE ARKANSAS BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE (1996)

## I. Name and affiliation

A. Name. The official name of this organization shall be the "Arkansas Bird Records Committee," hereinafter referred to as the "ABRC".

B. Affiliation. This is a committee of the Arkansas Audubon Society, Inc.

## II. Purpose

A. Determine the validity of reports of birds in Arkansas that are rare in the state, difficult to identify, or seen out of season.

B. Maintain permanently the original documentation of reports submitted, and all results of committee votes and comments for future use by interested parties. [After a reasonable length of time, the material may be deposited in the University of Arkansas Library.]

C. Publish in *ARKANSAS AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER* (a quarterly publication) at least minimal information on all reports receiving a decision.

E. Establish high standards of observation and reporting that will set a positive example for, and encourage, other field observers.

F. Maintain, update and periodically publish the official Arkansas state bird list, following the nomenclature and sequence of the current edition of the AOU Checklist and its Supplements.

## III. Membership

A. Number and Definitions. The ABRC shall consist of the Curator, who shall serve as chair, and four other members. The Curator is an elected officer and board member of the Arkansas Audubon Society. The other four members are appointed by the Curator, approved by vote of the Arkansas Audubon Society Board of Directors, and serve at the pleasure of that Board and the Curator. Each member of the ABRC shall have one vote on such reports of birds as shall come before the committee.

### B. Duties

1. The Curator will receive and evaluate Verifying Documentation of bird reports; for those requiring action by the ABRC, the Curator shall circulate copies to all Committee Members.

2. All five members shall vote on all documents circulated. A member may not abstain from voting.

C. Alternates. The Curator shall select one or more knowledgeable people to serve as alternate members whenever the committee is considering a report submitted by one or more of the regular members.

D. Votes. Votes shall be to accept or not accept bird reports. A vote not to accept must be accompanied by comments explaining reasons for that vote.

#### **IV. Bird Records**

A. Definitions. For purposes of the ABRC and these Bylaws a "report" is a written documentation submitted to the curator to substantiate the identity of a bird that has been sighted, heard, banded, collected, tape-recorded or photographed within the boundaries of Arkansas.

B. Verifying Documentation Form. The ABRC has prepared a preferred form, which is attached. All reports of extraordinary bird records should be submitted on the official form.

C. Policy. Documentations received by the Curator will not necessarily require circulation. All "First, Second and Third State Records" shall be circulated to the ABRC members, but in the case of other documents, discretion of the Curator will determine the necessity for circulation.

#### **V. Decisions**

A. A Verifying Documentation that has been circulated shall be considered accepted if it receives no more than one "Not Accepted" vote, or at least four "Accepted" votes; otherwise it is rejected.

B. A Report that has been rejected may be recirculated if the Curator receives additional identification material. All documentation of rejected reports shall remain on file.

C. A Report that has been accepted will be considered a usable record with respect to the official Arkansas State Bird List.

D. On the initiative of the Curator or of any two members of the committee, the committee may re-examine the evidence for any accepted record. In such a case, the standard for retaining/rejecting the record shall be the same as for a new report, i.e. at least four votes to retain/accept.

#### **VI. Adoption**

A. Bylaws. These Bylaws must be approved by a majority vote of the Committee Members.

B. Changes. These Bylaws may be changed or amended by a majority vote of the Committee Members.