

# DELAWARE VALLEY ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

(As revised and amended)

## CONSTITUTION

### ARTICLE I

The name of this Association is the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club.

### ARTICLE II

The objectives of this Club are the advancement and diffusion of ornithological knowledge.

### ARTICLE III

The members of this Club shall be male persons who are interested in ornithology considered in its widest sense. There may be four classes of members: Fellows (in which term are included Life Members and Sustaining Fellows), Active Members (in which term are included Life Members and Sustaining Members), Corresponding Members and Honorary Members.

### ARTICLE IV

The officers of this Club shall be a President, a Vice President, a Secretary and a Treasurer, elected at the annual meeting, and an Editor, appointed by the Council. The five officers, the last preceding President if the By-Laws so provide, and six additional Fellows or Active Members elected at large shall constitute the Council of the Club. The Editor may, but need not, be one of the six elected members-at-large of the Council. The Council shall be the governing body of the Club.

### ARTICLE V

Amendments of this Constitution to be effective shall require the affirmative votes of at least three-quarters of the Fellows and Active Members in good standing present at a regular stated meeting attended by a quorum. Such amendments shall not be valid unless they shall have been submitted at a preceding regular stated meeting attended by a quorum, and unless notice of the proposed amendments and of the meeting at which they are to be acted upon shall have been mailed to all Fellows and Active Members in good standing.

## BY-LAWS

### ARTICLE I. MEMBERS

Sec. 1. Fellows and Active Members only, in good standing, shall be eligible to hold office, to be Councillors, and to vote. Fellows shall be chosen, in the manner provided in Article IV, Section 3, from among the Active Members of at least one year's standing, as a recognition of the high quality of their ornithological work.

Sec. 2. Persons capable of furnishing desirable ornithological information to the Club, but unable, on account of place of residence, to attend meetings regularly, may be elected Corresponding Members. They may attend the scientific sessions of the Club and contribute notes or papers, but shall have no further privileges of membership. They may, upon request and the payment of any fees due, be transferred from the Corresponding class to the Active class. Fellows and Active members removing to a distance may, upon request, be transferred to the Corresponding class.

Sec. 3. Ornithologists who have attained especial prominence in their ornithological work may be chosen at the annual meeting Honorary Members of the Club.

### ARTICLE II. OFFICERS AND COUNCIL

Sec. 1. The President shall preside at the meetings of the Club and of the Council, and the President shall appoint all Committees.

Sec. 2. The Vice President shall assume the duties of the President in his absence.

Sec. 3. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the meetings of the Club and Council; shall notify members-elect of their election; shall acknowledge gifts and communications to the Club; and shall, in cooperation with the Committee on Communications, notify all Fellows and Active Members in good standing of the time and place of meetings.

Sec. 4. The Treasurer shall collect all dues from members and shall have charge of all moneys belonging to the Club. He shall make no disbursements unless approved by the Council. He shall present a report for audit at the annual meeting of the Club.

Sec. 5. The Editor, with the cooperation of the Publication Committee, shall edit and superintend the publication of such matter as the Council may authorize. He shall also, with the cooperation of the Committee on Publication and the Treasurer, distribute Club publications to members, subscribers and exchanges who are entitled to receive them. The Editor shall be appointed by Council to serve at its pleasure.

Sec. 6. The Council shall consist of the elected officers and members-at-large of the Council, the Editor (who may, but need not, be chosen from the members-at-large of the Council) and the last preceding President for one year following the end of his service as President. The Council shall transact all business of the Club, except the elections of members and officers.

### ARTICLE III. COMMITTEES

Sec. 1. There shall be a standing Committee on Communications which shall cooperate with the Secretary in selecting subjects for presentation at the meetings, and in distributing notices of meetings to Fellows and Active Members in good standing.

Sec. 2. There shall be a standing Committee on Field Trips which shall select localities which can be visited with profit, arrange trips, and notify members of such selections and arrangements. It shall provide for transportation and other things so far as may be necessary, but it shall incur no indebtedness without the approval of the Council.

Sec. 3. There shall be a standing Committee on Publication which shall cooperate with the Editor in the preparation and publication of such matter as may be authorized by the Council.

Sec. 4. There shall be a Nominating Committee which shall perform the duties herein-after prescribed.

Sec. 5. There shall be a standing Committee on Conservation.

Sec. 6. There shall be a standing Committee on Ornithological Studies which shall operate through such sub-committees as the Council or it may deem necessary on such ornithological subjects as the Committee may, from time to time, select.

Sec. 7. The President shall decide upon the number of members to constitute each committee and shall appoint such additional committees as may from time to time be required.

### ARTICLE IV. ELECTIONS AND EXPULSIONS

Sec. 1. All elections of officers and councillors shall be by written ballot. Balloting shall be conducted separately in the following order: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Councillors. A person may be nominated for more than one office but may not be elected to more than one office. Officers shall be elected for one-year terms and Councillors shall be elected for three-year terms. The President may serve not more than two terms in that office. The Vice President may serve any number of terms in that office but not more than two of such terms may be consecutive. Councillors shall not be eligible to succeed themselves in that office for a period of at least two years after the expiration of their terms.

Sec. 2. Nominations to Active Membership shall be made in writing by two Fellows or Active Members in good standing and shall state the qualifications of their candidates, their age, the genuineness of their interest in ornithology and the probability of active participation in the Club, all of which the Council shall take into consideration in approving or disapproving candidates. A candidate shall be entitled to have his name presented for election provided he shall have received the endorsement of at least two-thirds of the members of the Council present at a Council meeting attended by a quorum. The name of a candidate whose nomination for membership has been approved by Council shall be announced and shall be posted on the bulletin board at least one meeting prior to the meeting at which the election is to be conducted. Elections to Active Membership may take place

at any regular stated meeting of the Club. The affirmative votes of at least three-quarters of the Fellows and Active Members in good standing present at the balloting shall be necessary for the election of an Active Member.

Sec. 3. Nominations for Fellows, Corresponding Members and Honorary Members shall be made by the concurrence of at least two-thirds of the members of the Council present at a Council meeting attended by a quorum, shall be announced at the first December meeting and shall be posted on the bulletin board. The election of Fellows, Corresponding Members and Honorary Members shall take place at the annual meeting. The affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the Fellows and Active Members in good standing present at the balloting shall be necessary for election.

Sec. 4. Elections of officers and members-at-large of the Council shall take place at the Annual Meeting of the Club. The Nominating Committee shall collect nominations for officers and councillors to be elected. The nominations shall be made orally from the floor and shall be confirmed in writing. Nominations may be made at the first and second regular meetings in December. Unless at least five Fellows or Active Members in good standing join in a nomination, the nomination shall not be valid. If no nominees for one or more of the offices or memberships-at-large in the Council are made at the December meetings, then, and only then, the Nominating Committee shall make nominations for the offices and memberships-at-large in the Council for which there have been no nominations submitted. The Nominating Committee shall contact the nominees to obtain their acceptance and prepare the ballot to be presented at the Annual Meeting. The affirmative vote of a majority of the Fellows and Active Members in good standing present shall be necessary for election. If in an election for an office other than that of Councillor no candidate obtains a majority on the first ballot, a second ballot shall be taken in which only the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes on the first ballot shall be eligible to participate. In addition to those persons who have been nominated directly for the position of Councillor, all defeated nominees for the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer (except those persons who are ineligible for election as Councillors under section 1 of this article) shall automatically be nominees for the position of Councillor. The two memberships-at-large in the Council shall be balloted on simultaneously, each Fellow or Active Member in good standing having a right to cast votes for two candidates. If in an election for memberships-at-large in the Council only one candidate obtains a majority on the first ballot, he shall be declared elected, and a second ballot shall be taken in which only the two candidates receiving the second and third highest number of votes on the first ballot shall be eligible to participate. If in an election for memberships-at-large in Council no candidate obtains a majority on the first ballot, a second ballot shall be taken in which only the four candidates receiving the highest number of votes on the first ballot shall be eligible to participate. If on the second ballot only one candidate or no candidate obtains a majority, further ballots shall be taken in which the candidate receiving the least number of votes on the second ballot shall be ineligible to participate.

Sec. 5. The terms of Councillors shall be such that the terms of two Councillors expire at each Annual Meeting.

Sec. 6. If a vacancy takes place in an elected position the vacancy for the unexpired term shall be filled according to the provisions of section 4 of this article except that nominations for the unexpired term shall be received at the first and second regular meetings following the occurrence of the vacancy and the election shall take place at the third regular meeting following the occurrence of the vacancy. If a vacancy occurs in a position which requires immediate occupancy, such as Secretary or Treasurer, the President is empowered to appoint an acting officer until the vacancy is filled by election.

Sec. 7. Any member may be expelled from the Club on satisfactory evidence that he is an improper person to be connected therewith. He shall have the privilege of a hearing and representation before action is taken. Such expulsion to be valid shall require a vote in favor of expulsion of at least three-quarters of the Fellows and Active Members in good standing present at a regular stated meeting attended by a quorum. Not less than one month's notice of the proposed action shall be given to all Fellows and Active Members in good standing and to the member accused.

## ARTICLE V. FEES AND ASSESSMENTS

Sec. 1. The annual membership fee for Fellows and Active Members shall be determined by Council. A Fellow who elects to pay an annual membership fee of ten dollars or more shall be known as a Sustaining Fellow. An Active Member who elects to pay an annual membership fee of ten dollars or more shall be known as a Sustaining Member. At any time a Sustaining Fellow or a Sustaining Member may elect to return to his former status and discontinue the payment of the larger membership fee. The fee shall be due and payable at the annual meeting, except in the case of a new Active Member elected after the annual meeting and prior to June, who shall pay the first annual membership fee at the time of his entrance into Active Membership. Active Members elected in October, November and December shall not be liable for the annual membership fee for the calendar year in which they are elected. No member shall be liable for any annual membership fee due for any calendar year during which the member is in military service for the United States of America.

Sec. 2. Corresponding and Honorary Members shall not be subject to dues of any kind.

Sec. 3. A Fellow or an Active Member one year or more in arrears for dues shall be considered not in good standing and shall not take part in the meetings of the Club or Council.

Sec. 4. The names of Fellows and Active Members two years in arrears for dues shall be dropped from membership provided that they have been twice notified in writing of their indebtedness by the Treasurer and their attention has been called to this By-Law.

Sec. 5. Any member may become a Life Member, with full membership privileges, exempt from further dues, by making a payment into the D.V.O.C. Endowment Fund of one hundred dollars.

## ARTICLE VI. MEETINGS

Sec. 1. The regular stated meetings of the Club shall be held at 8:00 P.M. on the first and third Thursdays in each month from October to May, inclusive, at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia or other places selected by the Council, except that when January 1 falls on a Thursday the regular stated meetings in that month shall be on the second and fourth Thursdays, and except when, at the discretion of Council, the last meeting in May shall be held on the fourth Thursday of that month. The Annual Meeting of the Club shall be the first stated meeting of January.

Sec. 2. Special meetings of the Club or Council may be called by the President with the approval of three Fellows or Active Members in good standing.

Sec. 3. Thirty-five Fellows and Active Members in good standing or one-half of the total number of Fellows and Active Members in good standing, whichever is less, shall constitute a quorum for a business meeting of the Club.

Sec. 4. Each meeting of the Club shall consist of a business session and a scientific session. The business session shall be open to Fellows and Active Members in good standing only.

Sec. 5. Meetings of the Council shall be held at 7:30 P.M. immediately preceding the regular stated meetings of the Club. Six members of Council shall constitute a quorum. All matters shall be decided by a majority vote of the members present at a meeting attended by a quorum except those matters which by other parts of these by-laws require a larger vote.

Sec. 6. The order of business at the regular stated meetings shall be as follows:

Business Session: Minutes of last business and scientific session  
Reports of Council  
Nomination of Officers and Members  
Election

Scientific Session: Reports of Committees and Announcements  
General Field Notes (30 minutes)  
Stated Subject of the Meeting  
Other Communications  
Adjournment

#### ARTICLE VII. WITMER STONE AWARD

An award of twenty-five (\$25.00) dollars, to be known as the Witmer Stone Award for Ornithological Research, may be awarded annually at the discretion of the Council to that member of the Club who submits the best paper, not published prior to the last award of the Witmer Stone Award, which embodies the results of ornithological research not undertaken in the course of professional duties. Papers shall be submitted to the Secretary not later than the first meeting in November. Any award shall be announced and presented at the annual meeting of the Club. An author shall have the right to resubmit for reconsideration in any later year a paper not receiving the award.

#### ARTICLE VIII. ENDOWMENT FUND

The proper care of a D.V.O.C. 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 member for two years, and one member 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 by appointment by the President for the unexpired term. The annual income from the Endowment Fund shall be deposited with the Treasurer for current Club expenses.

#### ARTICLE IX. JULIAN K. POTTER AWARD

The Julian K. Potter Award may be presented annually to that member of the Club who has made an outstanding contribution to field ornithology. The award will be generally in the form of a suitable book, inscribed as follows: "The Julian K. Potter Award for outstanding contribution to field ornithology for the year ..... awarded to ....." The Award will be underwritten by the interest earned from the special fund created by Mrs. Julian K. Potter in her husband's memory and deposited with the Treasurer of the Club. The presentation of the Award will be made at the annual meeting. The President may appoint a committee to consider and recommend one or more candidates for selection by Council.

#### ARTICLE X. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to these By-Laws to be effective shall require the affirmative votes of at least three-quarters of the Fellows and Active Members in good standing present at a regular stated meeting attended by a quorum. Such amendments shall not be valid unless they shall have been submitted at a preceding regular stated meeting attended by a quorum, and unless notice of the proposed amendments and of the meeting at which they are to be acted upon shall have been mailed to all Fellows and Active Members in good standing.