

Application for Membership

Purpose of the Society.

The **Southern Illinois Audubon Society** promotes the perpetuation of our native flora and fauna and their habitats. Toward this end, the Society will initiate, assist, and support programs that seek effectively to conserve our native plants and animals and their unique environments. Fundamental to this end are the control of pollution of natural ecosystems, the conservation of energy and all natural resources, and a sound ecological relationship between human populations and their environments. The Society will support positive programs that promote these aims.

Objectives of the Society.

- (a) To promote public awareness, knowledge, appreciation, and the natural world with special attention to avian wildlife.
- (b) To propose and support public programs that seek to protect and enhance the natural world, with special attention to declining, threatened, and endangered species.
- (c) To inform the membership and the general public of specific threats to the environment.

Membership Responsibilities

1. No member of the Society shall publicly represent or commit the Society to any action or position without previous consent of the Board.

2. While constructive criticism of Board actions or of Board authorized actions is welcome, any member who continually engages in verbal or written harassment of any other member, as determined by the Board, shall be subject to reprimand and subsequent suspension or expulsion by the Board should such behavior continue.

3. No member shall appropriate funds or property belonging to the Society.

4. No member shall continue activity ruled out of order by the chair of a meeting.

5. No member shall publicly misrepresent positions or actions taken by the Society.

6. Prospective members by all not misrepresent themselves or their activities when applying for membership.

7. Members shall treat other members, guests and speakers with courtesy and respect.

8. Members temporarily unable to fulfill obligations to the Society shall notify the appropriate person as quickly as feasible. Members unable to fulfill obligations on a continuing basis shall resign from their positions.

9. Members resigning from their positions shall give written notice to the appropriate person and with an effective date of resignation.

American Birding Association

Principles of Birding Ethics

Everyone who enjoys birds and birding must always respect wildlife, its environment, and the rights of others. In any conflict of interest between birds and birders, the welfare of the birds and their environment comes first.

1. Promote the welfare of birds and their environment.

Support the protection of important bird habitat. To avoid stressing birds or exposing them to danger, exercise restraint and caution during observation, photography, sound recording, or filming. Limit the use of recordings and other methods of attracting birds, and never use such methods in heavily birded areas or for attracting any species that is Threatened, Endangered, or of Special Concern, or is rare in your local area.

Keep well back from nests and nesting colonies, roosts, display areas, and important feeding sites. In such sensitive areas, if there is a need for extended observation, photography, filming, or recording, try to use a blind or hide, and take advantage of natural cover.

Before advertising the presence of a rare bird, evaluate the potential for disturbance to the bird, its surroundings, and other people in the area, and proceed only if access can be controlled, disturbance can be minimized, and permission has been obtained from private land-owners. The sites of rare nesting birds should be divulged only to the proper conservation authorities.

Stay on roads, trails, and paths where they exist; otherwise keep habitat disturbance to a minimum.

2. Respect the law and the rights of others.

Do not enter private property without the owner's explicit permission. Follow all laws, rules, and regulations governing use of roads and public areas, both at home and abroad. Practice common courtesy in contacts with other people. Your exemplary behavior will generate goodwill with birders and non-birders alike.

3. Ensure that feeders, nest boxes, and other artificial bird environments are safe.

Keep dispensers, water, and food clean and free of decay or disease. It is important to feed birds continually during harsh weather. Maintain and clean nest structures regularly. If you are attracting birds to an area, ensure the birds are not exposed to predation from cats and other domestic animals, or dangers posed by artificial hazards.

4. Group birding, whether organized or impromptu, requires special care.

Respect the interests, rights, and skills of fellow birders, as well as those of people participating in other legitimate outdoor activities. Freely share your knowledge and experience. Be especially helpful to beginning birders.

If you witness unethical birding behavior, assess the situation and intervene if you think it prudent. When interceding, inform the person(s) of the inappropriate action and attempt, within reason, to have it stopped. If the behavior continues, document it and notify appropriate individuals or organizations.

As a group leader, be an exemplary ethical role model for the group. Teach it through word and example. Keep groups to a size that limits impact on the environment and does not interfere with others using the same area.

Application Form

Return to:
Southern Illinois Audubon Society
PO Box 222
Carbondale, IL 62903-0222

In applying for membership in the Southern Illinois Audubon Society, I am affirming that I subscribe to the purposes of the society, the statement of membership responsibilities, and the ABA Code of Ethics.

I have provided the names and signatures of two full members, who have agreed to sponsor my membership. It is understood that annual dues of \$5 for student membership, \$15 for individual membership and \$10 for each additional household member will be payable following notice of acceptance of the application by the Society's Board of Directors.

Date _____

Name(s) of applicant(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home phone _____ Work phone _____ E-mail _____

Signature(s) _____

I HAVE BEEN RECOMMENDED TO THE SOCIETY BY THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

Name _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Name _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Accepted for Membership _____