

THE EDGAR A. MEARN'S BIRD CLUB, INC.
Constitution and By-Laws

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I: NAME

This organization shall be known as The Edgar A. Mearns Bird Club, Incorporated by the State of New York.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

Section 1. Objectives

Edgar A. Mearns Bird Club is a group of experienced and beginning birders who share an interest in birds and nature in general.

Section 2. Activities

The club sponsors weekly field trips to local areas and occasionally weekend trips to birding hotspots on the east coast. There are also monthly programs where members can exchange ideas on topics ranging from nesting behavior, migration patterns and protection of habitats. The members also participate in national and statewide surveys which keep ongoing data on bird populations.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to all who share an interest in birds.

Section 1. Regular Membership

Regular membership is payable by January 1. Regular members include individuals, full-time students, seniors (over age 60) and family (having the same address).

Section 2. Life Membership

Life members include the Founding Members and Honorary Members as elected by the Board. Life members pay no annual dues.

Section 3. Benefits

All members receive the same benefits and all have voting privileges.

ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS

Section 1. Executive Officers

The officers of the club will be a President, a Vice President, a Treasurer and a Secretary. Officers will be elected every two years at the September meeting with no term limits.

Section 2. Board of Directors

A Board of Directors will consist of a minimum of five and a maximum of seven members. All four officers will be eligible for serving on the Board of Directors. Additional Board members will be elected at a regular meeting at least two weeks before the annual Board of Directors meeting.

ARTICLE V: AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended at regular meeting by a majority vote by the members present. One month's notice of motion shall be required except where all members present agree to accept the motion from the floor.

ARTICLE VI: DISSOLUTION OF ORGANIZATION

Section 1. The organization will be dissolved if Board members present the motion to full membership and a vote is taken to do so.

Section 2. In the event of Dissolution of Organization all assets (financial and material) will be donated to the Orange County Land Trust, 10 Mulberry Street, Middletown, NY 10940.

BY- LAWS

ARTICLE I: FEES

Section 1. Anyone interested in the objectives of the Edgar A. Mearns Bird Club, Inc. may apply for membership.

Section 2. Classes of membership include Individual, Family, Student, Senior, Honorary and Life Member.

Section 3: Membership application and annual dues are to be made payable to Edgar A. Mearns Bird Club and sent to the Treasurer by the first of January.

Section 4. Honorary members may be nominated by the Board and elected by a majority vote at the next announced meeting. Honorary and Founding members will pay no annual fee.

ARTICLE II: MEETINGS

Section 1. The club will hold one regular meeting per month with no meetings in July and August.

Section 2. The meetings will be held at a designated location (school, church, museum or community center) depending on availability.

Section 3. Members will be notified of meeting locations and time in the biannual newsletter.

Section 4. Board of Directors meetings will be held once a year at a designated location.

ARTICLE III: TERM OF OFFICE AND DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. Officers will be nominated at a general meeting every two years. A majority vote by those present is necessary to elect.

Section 2. The President shall:

- a. preside at all meetings
- b. act as chair of the Board
- c. be responsible for the supervision of all assigned and delegated duties
- d. post an agenda of each meeting at least three days before meeting
- e. limit non-club related topics to 5 minutes

Section 3. The Vice President shall:

- a. be the chief assistant to the President
- b. become President should that office become vacant
- c. be a member of the Board

Section 4. The Treasurer shall:

- a. receive and disburse funds on behalf of the Club
- b. keep an accurate list of members
- c. prepare and present financial statement at each meeting
- d. be a member of the Board

Section 5. The Secretary shall:

- a. keep minutes of general meetings and Board meetings
- b. conduct and preserve all correspondence of Club
- c. be a member of the Board

ARTICLE IV: COMMITTEES

Section 1. Committees may be appointed by the President as needed and approved by a majority of those present.

Section 2. Standing Committees consist of Field Trips, Programs, Publications, Check Lists, Records and Web-Site. Temporary Committees may also be approved.

ARTICLE V: AMENDMENTS

These By-Laws may be amended at a general meeting by a majority vote of members present. A minimum of one month notice is required before a vote on such a motion.

ARTICLE VI: EXPENSE GUIDELINES

Section 1. Expenses for insurance, speaker fees and publications will be paid when due.

Section 2: Fees for speakers and meeting locations will be kept at a minimum. Economic responsibility will be implemented.

This Constitution and By-Laws approved by a majority vote on 10/10/2011.