

was gained quickly. All prey was eaten while the kites were in flight. Both of the bird's legs may or may not hang down while feeding; however, only one foot was used to hold the insect. The bird's wings are held steady and level, the tail generally half-spread. Slow, easy circles are performed with an occasional wing beat. There was a general tendency to gain altitude during the whole process.

The method of attack on grasshoppers was a straight, swift drop of approximately 90 degrees, terminating a couple of feet from the ground. The instant the prey was grasped, deep wing strokes carried the bird off 50 to 75 meters (50 to 75 yards) distant and 30 to 40 meters elevation, at which time feeding took place. On other areas, where grasshoppers frequented tall grass or wheat, they were captured by the kite in a sweeping, continuous stoop with a partial break in speed at the point of contact.

Several times individual kites were observed for periods of up to 40 minutes to determine the amount of prey taken and the time involved between each take. Forty minutes was the maximum time a kite was noted to feed before leaving the area or rising to an elevation too far to be observed. The soaring time between each strike was three to six minutes. The required time to consume each prey animal was 30 to 70 seconds. There was an average of 10 kites feeding at one time, which would indicate approximately 60 prey species taken in a 40-minute period or about six grasshoppers, beetles, or dragonflies taken by each kite.

There was a general tendency for all the kites on the area to feed during the same period of time and for all to disappear about the same time. Occasionally, one or two would stay within view of the feeding area but appeared not to be feeding or feeding only sporadically.

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Duck Bag Limit Reduced

Because of adverse weather conditions in their northern breeding grounds, the hunting limit on ducks has been reduced to two per day. This means there is a severe shortage in breeding stock and therefore, we in the South, should do everything possible to return the survivors in good health next Spring. Well managed private ponds, such as our Dauphin Island Sanctuary, will help.

ALABAMA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY CONSTITUTION

Article I. Name

This organization shall be called the Alabama Ornithological Society.

Article II. Objectives

1. To foster a greater knowledge of the birds of Alabama through observation, education and publication.
2. To be a potent voice in Conservation of all of Alabama's natural resources, but especially in birds.

Article III. Membership

The membership shall consist of Active, Associates, Sustaining, Student, Life and Honorary Members, who have a sincere interest in bird life.

Article IV. Officers

The Officers shall consist of Elected, Appointed Officers and Directors.

Sec. 1. ELECTED OFFICERS. The Elected Officers shall be the President, Vice-President and Treasurer. They shall be elected by a majority vote of the members present at the Annual Meeting and shall serve for a period of one year. The Vice-President will succeed the President.

Sec. 2. APPOINTED OFFICERS. The President shall appoint Regional Directors, a Secretary, a Librarian, and Editors.

Sec. 3. THE DIRECTORS. The Regional Directors shall represent districts of the State of Alabama proportioned to cover the entire state for representation in the Society.

Sec. 4. THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL. The Executive Council shall consist of the Elected and Appointed Officers, the Immediate Past President and the Directors.

Article V. Meetings and Quorum

Sec. 1. TIME OF MEETINGS. The Society shall hold at least one business meeting a year, which is to be known as the Annual Meeting. Three meetings are recommended: One in the winter, one in the spring and one in the fall. Other special meetings may be called by the President at his discretion.

Sec. 2. QUORUM. No quorum is necessary to conduct business at any meeting, Regular, Council, or otherwise, provided written notice of one month of time and place is given to the membership.