Contents

Message from the President .... 3

Mission & Goals ..... 4

AOS Council ..... 5

Membership ..... 6

Annual Meeting ..... 8

Research Funding .... 10

Publications ..... 11

Conservation ..... 13

2019 Award Winners ..... 14

Get Involved ..... 15

Financial Snapshot ..... 16
A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

These are extraordinary times for AOS and the birds we study and seek to conserve. While our community documents the myriad pressures on birds and their habitats from every front, each day I marvel at the efforts of our more than 3,000 members to expand our knowledge and address these threats. It is truly an honor to serve as AOS President working with so many dedicated individuals to deepen our global reach to ensure that AOS remains relevant, influential and responsive, in service to ornithology.

For me, the highlight of 2019 was celebrating the life and legacy of Brina Kessel, a former president of our society. Brina’s transformative gift to AOS revealed her extraordinary vision for the future of ornithology. Her legacy reflects a lifelong commitment to advance ornithological science and mentor emerging scientists. Brina’s generosity positions AOS to strengthen its support for early-career ornithologists in research, publishing, and career building.

Join me in 2020 in helping our society address the challenges and opportunities in the new decade ahead — thank you for being part of AOS!

Kathy Martin
AOS President
AOS Mission

To advance the scientific understanding of birds and disseminate ornithological knowledge, enrich ornithology as a profession and mentor young professionals, and promote a rigorous scientific basis for the conservation of birds.

Our Goals

Connect a vibrant community of ornithologists throughout the Americas

Publish openly accessible ornithological research of the highest quality

Achieve excellence in organizing and hosting annual conferences that meet the ever-changing needs of ornithology and ornithologists

Recognize and promote significant accomplishments in ornithology

Excel in professional development for members at all stages of their careers

Sustain scientific impact through financial support for ornithological research

Inform public policy on all issues pertaining to ornithology
President: Kathy Martin (2018–2020)

President-Elect: Thomas Sherry (2018–2020)

Secretary: Andrew Jones (2014– )

Treasurer: Rebecca Kimball (2015– )

Executive Director: Melinda Pruett-Jones

Councilors – Terms Ending 2020

Anna Chalfoun
Abby Powell
Andrea Townsend
Michael Webster

Councilors – Terms Ending 2021

Peter Dunn
Sharon Gill
Sara Morris
Christopher Witt

Councilors – Terms Ending 2022

Sara Kaiser
Erica Nol
Lauryn Benedict
Kristen Ruegg

Past Presidents (Voting)

Steve Beissinger
Sue Haig
Scott Lanyon
Frank Moore
Marty Raphael
3,142 members
8% increase over 2018
81% retention of 2018 members
Note: Percentages by region shown here do not include 1,609 members for whom no data are available.

Members by Region

- U.S.: 81.9%
- Other: 2.0%
- United Kingdom & Europe: 4.2%
- Mexico & Central & S. America: 3.7%
- Canada: 6.7%

Members by Gender

- Female: 32.2%
- Male: 55.4%
- No Data Available: 12.2%
- Other/Did Not Disclose: 0.2%
Annual Meeting

- 1,004 attendees (up 33% from 2018)
- 24 countries represented
- 768 presentations (oral & poster)
- 14 professional development workshops
- 237 students & postdocs awarded general travel funding
- 14 students & postdocs awarded Diversity & Inclusion travel funding
- 14 attendees awarded Caregiver Grant funding (new for 2019)
- 140 eBird checklists submitted
- 9 out of 10 would recommend attending an AOS meeting to others

Highlighting Diversity...

The Anchorage meeting featured a plenary lecture by members of Alaska Native communities, videos and banners honoring women in ornithology, an LGBTQIA+ reception sponsored by Audubon Alaska, and rainbow "Celebrate Diversity" signage and ribbons.
“I had a fantastic time at the 2019 American Ornithological Society meeting in Anchorage. I’m so grateful to AOS leadership for providing a caregiver grant that enabled my 3.5-month-old baby girl and husband to travel with me. Because my husband was present to take care of baby Sophia, I was able to participate in the conference. Kudos to AOS for implementing thoughtful diversity and inclusion strategies and for finding ways to ensure parenthood (especially early motherhood) isn’t a barrier to a great career!”

–Sarah Schulwitz, Caregiver Grant Recipient

“I don't have results from my postdoc yet, but I can no longer get travel support from my PhD institution to present my PhD work. The travel grant I received really helped my current advisor support my attendance at this conference to present results from my PhD! Being around the AOS community has made me enjoy working with birds even more. Apart from learning about a lot of exciting science, networking with potential future postdoc advisers and colleagues at the meeting and attending the early professional symposium and workshop were really beneficial.”

–Anusha Shankar, Diversity & Inclusion Travel Grant Recipient
Research Funding

- $84,500 in research funds awarded to 38 students
- $12,500 awarded to 5 postdocs
- 15% increase over 2018 research funding

New Kessel Fellowships

New in 2020, AOS will award three $15,000 fellowships for early-career researchers, funded by a generous bequest from Dr. Brina Kessel.

“The Hesse Student Research Award I received from AOS allowed me to greatly increase the scope of my study. Thanks to AOS, I can collect genetic samples from underrepresented populations of Sporophila corvina in Costa Rica and Panama. The samples will be used for next-generation sequencing, which will provide a better resolution of patterns of diversification and gene flow between populations and subspecies. The sampling funded by this award is key to understanding the complete evolutionary history of this species complex, which is central to my dissertation project.”

–Diego Ocampo, Student Research Award Recipient
I have very much enjoyed my first few months as the new Editor-in-Chief of The Condor, and I’m looking forward to guiding The Condor as we traverse a world with ever-increasing human influence. This influence demands that we generate, analyze, and interpret data to provide managers and policy-makers with the best information possible. We continue publishing papers on topics including migratory connectivity, impacts of climate change, urbanization, and energy infrastructure on birds, and effects of habitat restoration and management. I am excited about increasing the geographic scope of The Condor to include more papers from tropical areas with high bird diversity. I’d also like to see more interdisciplinary work, such as research that combines ornithology and economics to estimate the biological and financial costs and benefits of particular conservation strategies, or that quantifies the ecosystem services and disservices provided by birds.”

–Catherine Lindell, new Editor-in-Chief of The Condor
“My experience publishing in The Auk was quite positive, with a straightforward submission process, a good response time, and fair and constructive reviews. I am pleased that The Auk helped facilitate such a positive publishing experience, especially since it was my first time publishing in a peer-reviewed journal. I learned a great deal about the various steps and processes involved in peer review and publication, all of which will aid me greatly in future academic endeavors.”

–Liam Mitchell, University of Lethbridge undergraduate

- Introduced the new Wesley Lanyon Award for best review paper published in an AOS journal by an early-career AOS member
- Introduced mandatory double-blind peer review to maximize objectivity and reduce unconscious bias
- Introduced mandatory data archiving to improve transparency (no cost for AOS members)
- Eliminated page charges for AOS members and introduced a 25% member discount on optional open access fees
- Research from AOS journals covered by ABC News, Discover, National Geographic, Newsweek, and more
AOS’s Conservation Committee contributed in significant ways to a paper published in September 2019 in *Science* showing that North America’s total bird population has declined by approximately 28% since 1970. The study received extensive media coverage, and a coalition of bird conservation organizations created a new website, 3BillionBirds.org, to inform audiences about bird declines and how they can help.

AOS was a signatory on important commentary letters to federal agencies on issues central to our mission, including proposed amendments to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Endangered Species Act and threats to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. AOS is also a contributing member of the Ornithological Council, which serves the needs of AOS members and the scientific community.
2019 Award Winners

William Brewster Memorial Award
Helen James & Craig Benkman

Elliott Coues Achievement Award
Linda Whittingham & Peter Dunn

Ralph W. Schreiber Conservation Award
José Maria Cardoso da Silva

Loye & Alden Miller Research Award
A. Townsend Peterson

James G. Cooper Early Professional Award
Karan Odom & Kyle Horton

Ned K. Johnson Early Investigator Award
David Toews

Marion Jenkinson Service Award
Alice Boyle

Peter R. Stettenheim Service Award
Phil Stouffer & Mark Hauber

Katma Publication Award
Benjamin Winger, Giorgia Auteri, Teresa Pegan, & Brian Weeks

Harry R. Painton Publication Award
Jason Carlisle, Anna Chalfoun, Kurt Smith, & Jeffrey Beck
Get Involved!

Undergraduate or emeritus professor? New to AOS or been a member for decades? Do you never miss an annual meeting or do you keep up with the Society from afar? Regardless of your circumstances, there are plenty of ways to get more involved in our community — you are AOS!

Engage on social media. Follow AOS on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to keep up with Society news and see what your fellow AOS members are up to. (You can also showcase your research through a week-long “takeover” of our Instagram account regardless of whether you have an account of your own — contact us if you’re interested!)

Attend a meeting. Our annual meeting is one of the biggest events for ornithology worldwide. We offer travel funding, grants to offset caregiving costs, student registration discounts in exchange for volunteering, and more to make our meetings accessible to as many members as possible.

Do more at meetings. Already a regular at AOS meetings? You can help them function smoothly by volunteering for extra tasks such as chairing a session (indicate your willingness when you submit your abstract) or being a judge for the student presentation awards (contact us to let us know you’re interested!).

Nominate colleagues (or yourself!) for awards. AOS bestows a number of annual awards recognizing exemplary scientific achievement in ornithology; research excellence; exceptional publications in ornithology; and notable sustained service to the Society.

Get involved in our publications. If you’d like to review papers for *The Auk: Ornithological Advances* and *The Condor: Ornithological Applications*, create an account on Editorial Manager and then contact us to let us know you’re interested in being a reviewer.

Serve on a committee. AOS has standing committees related to almost every aspect of ornithology and the Society — there’s guaranteed to be one related to your interests, and the Society couldn’t function without the support of our volunteer committee members.

Run for Council. The AOS Council is the Society’s governing body. If you’re interested in helping set the course for AOS's future, consider nominating yourself for an open position during the next election cycle.
Financial Snapshot

2019 Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Membership Dues</td>
<td>$148,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions &amp; Grants</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Funds Transfer</td>
<td>$338,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Restricted Funds Transfer</td>
<td>$303,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Publications</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meetings</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,487,000</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Note that figures on this page represent preliminary, unaudited numbers.

AOS operates with a balanced budget, using annual income and transfers of general and restricted funds as necessary to meet expenses.

2019 Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General &amp; Administrative</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communications</td>
<td>$181,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants &amp; Awards</td>
<td>$265,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meetings</td>
<td>$364,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>$147,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Publications</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Projects &amp; Activities</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
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<td>Public Affairs/Orn. Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,487,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Assets as of 30 Nov. 2019: $23,205,000