

# American Ornithological Society Officers and Elective Councilors

*Classes of 2022, 2023 and 2024*

## Executive Committee

### *Officers*

**Michael S. Webster, President (2020-2022)**

**Colleen Handel, President-Elect (2020-2022)**

**Andrew W. Jones, Secretary (2014 - )**

**Matthew Carling, Treasurer (2021 - )**

### *Executive Director*

**Judith Scarl**



## **MICHAEL WEBSTER**

Title: Robert G. Engel Professor of Ornithology.  
Department of Neurobiology and Behavior, Cornell  
University, Ithaca, NY

BIO: Robert G. Engel Professor of Ornithology. Department of Neurobiology and Behavior, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY; and Director, Macaulay Library, Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Ph.D. Cornell (1991). Editorial Board for *Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology* (2000-2004), *Evolution* (2004-2010), *Emu* (2007-2020), and *Animal Behaviour* (2011-2015). Over 100 publications in ornithological (*Auk*, *Condor*, *Emu*, *Journal of Avian Biology*,) and other journals (e.g., *Animal Behaviour*, *American Naturalist*, *Behavioral Ecology*, *Biology Letters*, *Evolution*, *Molecular Ecology*, *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, *Trends Ecology & Evolution*). Edited volume *The Extended Specimen: Emerging Frontiers in Collections-based Ornithological Research (Studies in Avian Biology, no. 50)*. Elective Member (2008) and Fellow (2009) of AOU/AOS. Elected Fellow of the Animal Behavior Society (2015). AOU Council 2010-2012; AOS Council 2017-2020. Committee Service: COS Student Research Awards (2004); AOU Student Presentation and Travel Awards (2005-2008, chaired 2007-2008); Joint Publications Taskforce (2012-2014); AOS Public Responsibility Committee (2019-present); Co-Chair of AOS Meetings Coordination Committee (2017-present).

In addition to being Director of the Macaulay Library, I am a faculty member that teaches courses in animal behavior and evolution, and I am proud of my role as mentor for a number of students and postdocs. My research centers primarily on the social and reproductive behavior of birds, particularly the evolutionary causes and consequences of variation in sexual signals, behavioral plasticity in the face of a variable social and ecological environment, and connectivity across populations of migratory birds. I also have developed and promoted the concept of the

“Extended Specimen”, which promotes a broader definition of biological specimens and expanded use of research collections for basic and applied research.

STATEMENT: A central pillar of our society’s mission is to grow, enrich, and diversify ornithology throughout the hemisphere. That mission has never been more important than it is now, as we move into a world that will be dramatically different from the one that our society was first born into: COVID will bring dramatic changes to research and education for all of us, whether we work in academia or in state and federal agencies; dramatic and horrific events have brought into sharp focus the critical need for diversity in science; and the recent recognition that over a quarter of our birds have disappeared emphatically demonstrates the need for high quality ornithological research, education, and outreach. I feel strongly that AOS can and should work to make the post-COVID world a better place for birds and the people who study them. This can be done best by taking a number of critical steps now. First, we can and must foster the training and development of those AOS members in early stages of their careers, those from biodiversity critical regions, and those from groups that have been traditionally under-represented among the ranks of ornithologists. Second, as our society grows, we must develop strategies and partnerships to support and amplify the voices of groups that are focused on birds in key regions of the hemisphere, and also to facilitate the ability of our members to do their work. Third, we must embrace newly developed technologies for communication, not to replace in-person conferences, but to enhance and facilitate our ability to deliver science and scientific training more broadly. By taking these steps now, our society can transform the ways that we study and conserve the birds we love.



**COLLEEN M. HANDEL**

Title: Research Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Geological Survey, Alaska Science Center, Anchorage, Alaska

BIO: Research Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Geological Survey, Alaska Science Center, Anchorage, Alaska. Ph.D., University of California, Davis. Member of AOS (AOU/COS) since 1978; Elective Member (2006); Fellow (2013); AOS Council (2014–2016). Co-Chair of North American Ornithological Conference (2020); Co-Chair (and Local Chair) of AOS Annual Meeting (2019, Anchorage). Member of Committee for Nomination of Fellows and Elective Members (2014–present). Deputy Editor for *The Condor* (2016–present); Associate Editor for *The Auk* (2003–2016). Published in *The Auk*, *The Condor*, *Animal Behaviour*, *Birds of North America*, *Canadian Journal of Zoology*, *Climatic Change*, *Ecography*, *Ecological Applications*, *Environmental Toxicology & Chemistry*, *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution*, *Ibis*, *Integrative and Comparative Biology*, *Journal of Morphology*, *Journal of Virology*, *Journal of Wildlife Diseases*, *Journal of Wildlife Management*, *Parasites & Vectors*, *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, and others. I have published chapters in books and recently co-edited a volume on avifaunal change in western North America. My research interests include population ecology of landbirds and shorebirds, monitoring techniques, and avian disease. My current field projects focus on the dynamics and evolutionary impacts of emerging diseases and on the response of terrestrial bird

populations to climate-mediated changes in Arctic and boreal ecosystems. I have mentored students at all levels, from middle school to Ph.D.

I was honored with a National Leadership Award by *Partners in Flight* in 2008 and with the Isleib Award in Avian Conservation in 2019 for outstanding contributions to avian conservation in Alaska.

STATEMENT: Resilience. When a system, or a society, suffers a major disturbance, there are key characteristics that will enable it to recover to a stable state and maintain its important functions and services. Adaptability, diversity, and connectivity immediately spring to mind. We live in challenging times, both socially and scientifically, and it is imperative that we maintain resilience in the AOS in the face of rapid and sometimes abrupt change. I served on the Council during the recent merger of the AOU and COS, during which we strove to respect the history of these venerable societies while building towards the challenges of the future. One of our most thoughtful discussions was about what to name our 'new' organization. 'American' and 'Ornithological' were straightforward descriptors. To me, however, our choice of 'Society' spoke deeply about who we truly are and should always endeavor to be. 'Society' translates readily to community, camaraderie, commonality, companionship, and culture. As the largest organization of professional ornithologists in the world, the AOS has an incredible capacity to accomplish our shared mission—to advance the scientific study and conservation of birds. As a long-term editor and current co-chair of annual meetings during this era of rapid change, I have helped guide the adaptation of two excellent, essential services of our society—our scientific journals and our conferences. I understand the utmost importance of communicating, mentoring, training, and networking among our diverse members. If elected, I pledge to lead our society in its continued quest for resilience and to strengthen and broaden these essential services.



## **ANDREW W. JONES**

Title: William A. and Nancy R. Klamm Chair and Curator of Ornithology, Cleveland Museum of Natural History

BIO: William A. and Nancy R. Klamm Chair of Ornithology and Curator of Ornithology, Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Adjunct Faculty, Cleveland State University, Case Western Reserve University, Kent State University. Ph.D. 2006, University of Minnesota, Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior. Published in *Auk*, *Condor*, *Biological Journal of the Linnean Society*, *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution*, *BioScience*, *Cotinga*. AOU Member 1997, Elective Member 2009, Fellow 2017. My research concerns geographic variation in birds, primarily using molecular markers for comparative phylogeography and resolving evolutionary relationships among species in diverse genera.

STATEMENT: I first volunteered as Recording Secretary for the AOU in 2009, and served in that role for five years. I was then elected to the AOU Secretary position in 2014. As Secretary, I play an active role in the governance of the AOS, working with the elected officers and councilors as well as our Executive Director and staff. I manage communication among these groups as well as

with the general membership. With ongoing efforts such as professionalizing the society and expanding our society's online communications, it is an exciting time for the AOS, and I am honored to serve in this position.



**MATTHEW CARLING**

Title: Associate Professor, University of Wyoming

**BIO:** Associate Professor, Department of Zoology and Physiology, and Curator, Museum of Vertebrates, University of Wyoming. PhD, 2008, Louisiana State University, Department of Biology and Museum of Natural Science. AOU Member 2003, AOU Elective Member 2013, AOS Fellow 2020. Chair and then co-Chair of Student and Postdoc Travel Awards Committee, 2014 - present. Chair and then co-Chair of Student Presentation Awards Committee, 2014 - present. Associate Editor for *Evolution*, 2016 - 2017. Rotating Program Officer, Evolutionary Processes, Division of Environmental Biology, National Science Foundation, 2017-2018. Published in *Auk*, *Condor*, *Journal of Field Ornithology*, *Western Birds*, *Nature*, *Molecular Ecology*, *Evolution*, *BMC Evolutionary Biology*, *Ecology and Evolution*, *Conservation Genetics*, *Molecular Biology and Evolution*, *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution*, and *Genetics*, among others. My students and I focus on a variety of questions related to speciation and adaptation in birds. Much of this work focuses on using naturally-occurring hybrid zones to study the processes important in generating and maintaining reproductive isolation between closely-related bird species.

**STATEMENT:** As a graduate student, I joined AOS (then AOU) in 2003 and have considered it my home society ever since. As a student, I benefitted tremendously from research and travel awards and connections I made at meetings. Because AOS was so supportive of me as a student, I volunteered to chair the Student/Postdoc Travel Awards and Student Presentation Awards Committee beginning in 2014. Over the past six years, I have, along with co-chair Morgan Tingley and Jen Walsh, worked hard to improve both the travel and presentation awards. This has included working with AOS leadership to greatly increase the amount of funding available for travel awards (but we still need more!), streamlining the application processes to make them more transparent and objective, and ushering in more efficient judging mechanisms that have allowed us to greatly expand the number of students competing for presentation awards while still providing feedback to all presentation award competition participants. I am proud of what we've accomplished. Moving forward, I am energized by the opportunity to help build and support programs that benefit the whole of AOS. This includes efforts to increase financial support for Ornithologists at all career stages and the on-going work to make AOS a more diverse and inclusive society. I would be honored to continue my service to AOS by serving as Treasurer.





**JUDITH C. SCARL**

Title: Executive Director, American Ornithological Society

BIO: BIO: Executive Director and CEO, American Ornithological Society. Ph.D. 2009, Cornell University, Department of Neurobiology and Behavior. Published in *Animal Behaviour*, *Behaviour*, *Emu*, and *Proceedings of the Royal Society of London, Series B*, and co-author of multiple national and international conservation publications, including the State of North America's Birds and a Field Guide to Developing Partnerships. My research background focused on vocal communication in birds, frogs, and primates (both human and non-human) and my current professional interests and focus lie in developing partnerships, building community, and strategic planning. Prior to joining AOS, I served as the U.S. Coordinator of the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI) and the Bird Conservation Program Manager for the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA), where I worked with state and federal agencies, non-profit organizations, and other bird-focused partnerships to identify and address shared priorities for bird conservation.

STATEMENT: We are in a period of great opportunity for AOS, and I'm honored to help lead this organization during such an exciting time. I have long focused on building welcoming and inclusive communities, both within ornithology and through volunteer work where I live. AOS has the potential to fill a tremendously important niche in the ornithological and conservation communities through engaging a more diverse and representative cohort of students and young professionals and setting a standard for diversity and inclusion in ornithology. I also see tremendous opportunities to move AOS into the future of ornithology by building and strengthening connections between science, management, conservation, and policy, and by encouraging connections between biological and social science research. The opportunities for AOS are tremendous, and my focus will be on helping our community better define what we want to accomplish and how to get there. Over the next few years I look forward to a broad collaboration on an impactful strategic plan that will help AOS work together as a community towards a unified big picture.

## Councilors – Terms ending 2024

Emily B. Cohen

Dai Shizuka

Jen Walsh



### EMILY B. COHEN

Title: Assistant Professor, Appalachian Laboratory, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science

**BIO:** Postdoctoral Fellow and Research Associate Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center, Washington D.C. (2012-2019), Ph.D. Univ. of Southern Mississippi (2011), M.S. Michigan State Univ., (2003). Publications in ornithological (*The Auk*, *The Condor/ Ornithological Applications*, *Journal of Ornithology*, *Studies in Avian Biology*, *Journal of Field Ornithology*, *Ornitologia Neotropical*, *The Wilson Journal of Ornithology*) and other journals (*Ecology Letters*, *Biology Letters*, *Methods in Ecology and Evolution*, *Global Change Biology*, *Ecosphere*, *Ecological Applications*, *Ecology and Evolution*, *Remote Sensing*, *International Journal for Parasitology*, *PloS One*, *Applied and Environmental Microbiology*). Elective Member (2016); AOS Fellow (2019). Associate Editor for *Ornithology* (2019-present); AOS Scientific Program Committee (symposia, 2021); NAOC Scientific Program Committee (symposia, 2020); AOU Early Professional Committee (2014-2016); AOU/COS/AOS Communications Committee (2012-2019). I have attended 14 society meetings since 2000, including organizing two symposia that resulted in collaborative publications, one in *Ornithological Applications*.

My research examines animal migration biology in the context of the full annual cycle. We live in a rapidly changing world where many species are declining, and this is especially true for migratory species. Changes in habitat, climate, and resource availability due to unprecedented human activity may be inflating the costs associated with animal migration. At the same time, advances in technology and analytical tools enable us to finally solve important mysteries about migratory animals. I make use of integrated data types and quantitative tools to 1) address fundamental questions about migration biology, 2) understand how and why migration is changing and migratory species are declining, and 3) develop tools for the inclusion of stopover and airspace habitats into conservation and management efforts for migratory species. I have mentored 2 M.S., 3 Ph.D. and over 30 undergraduate students.

**STATEMENT:** I see the collaborative nature of science as one of its greatest strengths and AOS has provided me with opportunities to learn from and generate new ideas with a community equally passionate about ecology and avian conservation. Halting the dramatic declines in the species we study and love will require new levels of collaboration and innovation among scientists with diverse perspectives. Since attending my first society meeting before graduate school, AOS has supported me through grants, mentoring opportunities, training workshops, and

platforms to present my ideas and publish my work. The early sense of opportunity and community fostered by this society sparked my enthusiasm for the field and I have tried to ignite that spark in others through service to the society. I appreciate the work AOS has done in recent years to build a more inclusive environment. As an AOS council member, I will work with the society to continue to meet the needs of all current and potential future members and to be particularly welcoming to those who are just entering the field. This past year of challenges and isolation has highlighted the critical importance of our communities and support networks. As a member-led and member-serving organization, AOS can facilitate these crucial connections to support both ornithological research and those who conduct it. As our interactions are increasingly virtual, I will work with AOS to help continue to develop effective communication and collaborative opportunities that support members while helping to grow the society.



### **DAIZABURO 'DAI' SHIZUKA**

Title: Associate Professor, School of Biological Sciences, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

**BIO:** Associate Professor, School of Biological Sciences, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Ph.D. 2009, University of California, Santa Cruz. Published in *The Auk*, *JFO*, *Animal Behavior*, *Behavioral Ecology*, *Nature*, *PNAS*, *Ecology Letters*, *Current Biology*, *Evolution*, *Evolution Letters*, and others. AOU Elective Member 2016. AOS presentation awards judge 2014, 2016, 2017, 2019. My research focuses on the central role of social interactions on ecological and evolutionary processes in birds. I explore a wide-range of topics, including brood parasitism, parent-offspring conflict, song learning, speciation, communication systems, social networks and species interactions. I have supervised 5 Ph.D. students and 3 postdoctoral scholars and over 30 undergraduate students. I am a passionate advocate for diversity, equity, inclusion and social justice, and I look to serve in capacities where I can increase my sphere of influence to push for progress. I served for 6 years on the board of a non-profit organization that works to support and empower members of immigrant and refugee communities in Nebraska (2yrs as board president). At my institution, I serve on a university-level Chancellor's Commission for the Status of People of Color, and I am particularly engaged in work to dismantle barriers to success of faculty of color. I also represent the commission on the university police advisory board.

**STATEMENT:** The AOS has been critical to my professional development. I have been lucky enough to meet many friends and mentors through the AOS over the years, starting with my first ever conference in Veracruz. But I also know the feeling of finding yourself on field research teams and in conferences where few others look like you or share your experiences. Over the past year, I have been inspired by movements led by Black birders and field researchers to reflect on how systemic racism acts as a barrier to inclusion, even to the simple act of watching and studying birds. This is a time when the AOS can distinguish itself as a professional society that truly pushes for greater racial justice, diversity, equity and inclusion. As a council member, I would champion policies and actions that will (i) help bring in students who have traditionally been excluded, (ii) empower members who have had little voice, and (iii) support and elevate students and early-career researchers from marginalized groups to help them launch successful

careers. There is much work to be done. I will advocate for an all-hands-on-deck approach where all committees to engage in collective efforts towards diversity, and I will prioritize supporting initiatives that make the most direct positive impact on students and early-career researchers right now and into the future. Birds have always had the peculiar power to bring people together. Empowering our members to bring their whole selves to ornithology will help the AOS fulfill their mission to enrich the profession, and to advance the scientific study and conservation of birds.



### **JENNIFER WALSH**

Title: Research Associate, Lovette Lab and the Fuller Evolutionary Biology Program, Cornell Lab of Ornithology

**BIO:** Research Associate, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Cornell University. Ph.D. 2015, University of New Hampshire. Published in *The Auk*, *Evolution*, *Molecular Ecology*, *Evolution Letters*, *Molecular Ecology Resources*, *Conservation Genetics*, *Biological Journal of the Linnean Society*, and *Wilson Journal of Ornithology*, among others. AOS Elective Member, 2018. Editorial Board with *Ornithological Applications*, 2020-present; Co-Chair of AOS Student Travel and Presentation Awards Committee, 2019-present; Early Professionals Committee, 2018-present; Professional Ethics Committee, 2020-present; Meetings Coordination Committee, 2021; Presentation Judge, 2015-2018; Recipient of the Ned K. Johnson Early Investigator Award, 2020.

My research focuses on the integration of genomic and ecological approaches to characterize the drivers of avian divergence, within populations and among species, and across time scales. Much of my work is focused on birds spanning harsh ecological gradients to better understand the drivers of adaptation. My work therefore largely falls into two broadly overlapping areas: the genomics of speciation and local adaptation, and implications of hybridization in natural populations and the resulting implications for avian conservation and management. My professional contributions also include a long-term commitment to supporting diversity and inclusion in both the student community and in the scientific ornithological community more broadly. These actions include mentoring many undergraduate and graduate students, especially other women and women of color, and co-leading workshops for girls in Grades 6-8.

**STATEMENT:** The AOS has been my home society for almost 15 years and is the scientific community to which I feel the strongest connection. At the time I started attending conferences, I was the only graduate student in my lab group studying birds, and I often went to AOS meetings alone. While initially nervous, I was struck by how inclusive and welcoming the AOS community was to me and my peers. It was this vibrant and passionate group of scientists that inspired me as a young researcher and played a prominent role in shaping my career trajectory. As a student and early professional member, this support took many forms (mentorship from AOS members, student research and travel grants, caregiver grants, etc.), all of which made science and ornithological research more accessible. Given my experiences as a first-generation female scholar, I think it is of utmost importance that AOS continues to provide a safe, welcoming, and



supportive environment while striving to promote accessibility, diversity, and inclusion. Moreover, I believe our commitment to engaging students and early professionals is of particular importance. My deep interest and commitment to these endeavors is reflected in my committee involvement within AOS. My recent efforts have focused on fostering involvement by student members and increasing transparency of the student presentation award process as a co-chair of the Student Travel and Presentation Award Committee, evaluating our collective view on society ethics as a member of the Professional Ethics Society, and my commitment to a safe and inclusive environment as a member of the Meeting Safe Committee at our upcoming 2021 conference. If elected, I would be honored to continue my service to the AOS in this role and look forward to increasing accessibility and inclusivity within the society for years to come.

## Councilors – Terms ending 2023

W. Alice Boyle  
Carlos Daniel Cadena  
Courtney J. Conway  
Morgan W. Tingley



### **W. ALICE BOYLE**

Title: Associate Professor, Division of Biology, Kansas State University

BIO: Associate Professor, Division of Biology, Kansas State University. Ph.D. 2006, University of Arizona. Published in *The Auk*, *American Naturalist*, *Animal Behavior*, *Biology Letters*, *Biological Conservation*, *Biological Reviews*, *Canadian J. Zoology*, *Ecology*, *Evolutionary Ecology*, *Functional Ecology*, *J. Avian Biology*, *J. Applied Ecology*, *J. Tropical Ecology*, *Landscape Ecology*, *Proceedings of the Royal Society of London*. AOU Elective Member, 2013; AOS Fellow, 2017. Associate Editor with *Ecosphere*, 2013-2020; COS Board 2013-2016; AOU/AOS Publications Advisory Committee co-chair 2014-2016 then chair 2016-2019; COS Student Presentations Award Committee 2014-2015; Search Committee Chair for the Editor-in-Chief position of *The Auk* 2017-2018.

My research has sought to identify the ultimate ecological causes of inter- and intra-specific variation in migratory behavior, the dispersal and abundance of threatened grassland songbirds, and the behavioral ecology of tropical frugivorous birds. Current research in my lab seeks to understand the patterns and mechanistic basis of avian responses to temporal variation in rainfall in both wet tropical forests and temperate grasslands. While all my work addresses basic questions relevant to behavioral, physiological, and evolutionary ecology, I try to simultaneously fill gaps in scientific knowledge that are important to inform conservation. I have mentored and trained 3 PhD students, 4 MSc students, and over 20 undergraduate students. I believe that developing strong communication skills to a wide variety of audiences is central to our role in an era of climate emergencies and distrust of science.

STATEMENT: I am standing for election to council because I believe in the value of the AOS, and know that for societies to thrive, we must all share in service. My association with the AOS began 18 years ago; I have been an active member and attended most conferences since then. I have benefited enormously from the AOS in tangible ways (student research funds, young professional award) and in many less tangible ways. These of course include the fantastic science presented at meetings and published in our journals, but also the professional networks, opportunities to develop leadership skills, and the personal friendships I have developed. If elected, I hope to make sure that the next generation of scientists feels as welcomed as I did as a junior graduate

student. I will continue to advocate for enhanced representation of under-represented groups in science among leadership, and promote policies that remove barriers to being successful for the less privileged among us. I believe that societies will only persist if they remain relevant and valuable to the breadth of our membership and they have a role to play in public advocacy. I will work to help develop and promote initiatives that make our science accessible to the public and relevant to professionals outside of academia.



### **CARLOS DANIEL CADENA**

Title: Professor, Departamento de Ciencias Biológicas, Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia

BIO: Professor, Departamento de Ciencias Biológicas, Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia. Ph.D. 2006, University of Missouri-St. Louis. Published in *The Auk*, *The Condor*, *American Naturalist*, *Current Biology*, *Ecological Monographs*, *Evolution*, *Journal of Biogeography*, *Proceedings of the Royal Society of London*, *Nature*, *Systematic Biology*. AOU Elective Member, 2008; AOS Fellow, 2016. Associate Editor with *The Auk: Ornithological Advances*, 2013-2019; Reviewing Editor with *The Condor*, 2008-2013; Member of the AOU-AOS South American Classification Committee, 2006-2019; Member of the search committee for the editor of *The Auk: Ornithological Advances*, 2018; Member of AOS Committee for Nomination of Fellows and Honorary Members, 2018-present; Spanish abstract translator for *The Auk*, *The Condor* and other North American ornithology journals, 2001-2016.

I am interested in ecology and evolutionary biology of birds and other vertebrates. I have worked on a broad range of topics, from genomics, physiology, migration and behavior all the way up to diversification and broad-scale patterns of diversity, with a little bit of everything in between. I am most interested in questions in biogeography and speciation, being especially intrigued about the causes of high tropical diversity at various levels, from genes to clades and ecosystems. I like to pursue my interests in tropical diversity from a wide variety of perspectives combining field, lab, museum, and computational work, and have an increasing interest in outreach activities promoting the importance and value of birds, natural history collections, and science in general to society. I have supervised 3 Ph.D. students (4 currently), 21 masters students (3 currently), and numerous undergraduates.

STATEMENT: I first became a member of the AOU and the Cooper Ornithological Society when I was an undergraduate student in the late 1990s, and have since felt a strong connection with the societies initially through their journals but later thanks to their scientific meetings and the various activities in which I have been honored to serve as my career has progressed. I would like to work with the AOS to help continue its tradition advancing the scientific study and conservation of birds, with a particular focus on expanding the society's scope and reach beyond North America and on strengthening its means to support students and early-career professionals in collaboration with local and regional ornithological societies in Latin America. Being able to attend AOU meetings with society support as a graduate student helped me develop important skills and build personal networks which have been of tremendous value for me until today, and receiving student presentation awards from the society was a tremendous honor and substantial motivation which boosted my career in many ways. I would very much

like that many more students from developing countries may have similar opportunities. With widespread access to the internet and social media, increasing connectivity and interaction among members of the society across continents, career stages and social backgrounds should move us towards becoming a more inclusive and diverse group, with greater impacts on ornithological science, the conservation of birds, and society at large.



**COURTNEY J. CONWAY**

Title: Professor and Unit Leader, USGS Idaho Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit, Department of Fish and Wildlife Sciences, University of Idaho

BIO: Professor and Unit Leader, USGS Idaho Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit, Department of Fish and Wildlife Sciences, University of Idaho. Ph.D. 1998, University of Montana. Published in *The Auk*, *The Condor*, *Wilson Journal of Ornithology*, *Studies in Avian Biology*, *Journal of Field Ornithology*, *Ibis*, and many other ecology, behavior, and evolution journals. Member of AOU and COS since 1987; AOU Elective Member, 2006; AOS Fellow, 2015. Chair of the Scientific Committee for 3 years (NAOC 2016, AOS 2018, AOS 2019); AOS Conference Coordination Committee (2016-2019); COS Miller Award Committee (2008-2010); Associate Editor for *The Journal of Wildlife Management*, 2019-present; Associate Editor for *Wetlands*, 2011-2015.

My research includes behavioral ecology, migration, life history evolution, conservation, and effects of management actions. Current questions include causes of bird migration, causes of environmental gradients in life history traits and species richness, causes of declines in rare species, and effectiveness of population recovery actions for endangered birds. I have supervised and mentored 16 M.S. students, 7 Ph.D. students, 5 postdocs, and many dozens of undergraduate students. My students and I have given >400 presentations, including 40 talks at AOU/AOS conferences. I have been given several workshops on Early Professional development and Scientific Writing.

STATEMENT: The AOS has been my “home” scientific society for the past 30 years. I gave my first scientific talk at an AOU meeting in San Francisco in 1987 and immediately became a member and have attended the annual AOU/AOS meetings ever since. I typically bring students and staff to the annual conference each year, and I often have a ‘reunion’ during the annual conference for all of my past and current grad student cohorts to get together, meet each other, and socialize. New generations of ornithologists seem to place less and less importance on membership in a professional society and so I think it is vital as a society that we keep mid- and late-career ornithologists coming to the annual conferences and use them to help bring new generations to the meetings and form the bridge to long-term society engagement for younger ornithologists. Involving our younger members in annual conferences is critical, and including more activities that are fun, creative, and engaging (but still professional and educational) will help ensure that AOS grows and remains strong. During my 3 years as AOS Science Program Committee Chair and 5 years on the AOS Scientific Planning Team, I was involved with many efforts (and lead several of those efforts) to re-think how our annual AOS conferences could better engage with younger members (and potential future members) and attendees who often don’t know many folks at the



conference. Most of those efforts were successful and have been adopted annually at the conferences. Our profession is much stronger if we are all engaged and unified via our professional society, and our annual conference plays a key role in the strength of our society and in recruiting new members. As such, we need to keep innovating and improving the experience at our annual conferences so that first-time attendees look forward to each year's meeting and tell their peers how enjoyable each AOS meeting was. I would be honored to further expand my service to the AOS as an Elective Councilor.



**MORGAN W. TINGLEY**

Title: Associate Professor, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of California – Los Angeles

BIO: Associate Professor, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of California – Los Angeles. Ph.D. 2011, University of California – Berkeley. Published in *The Auk*, *The Condor*, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science*, *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, *Nature Climate Change*, *Ecology*, *Journal of Animal Ecology*, *Journal of Applied Ecology*, *Conservation Biology*, *Avian Ecology and Conservation*, and *Western Birds*, among others. AOU Elective Member, 2014; AOS Fellow, 2018. Editorial Board with *Studies in Avian Biology*, 2013–2020; Subject Editor with *Ecography*, 2013–present; Board of Governors for Cooper Ornithological Society, 2015–2017; Transition Board for Cooper Ornithological Society, 2016–2017; Co-Chair of AOS Student Travel and Presentation Awards Committee, 2017–present; Co-Chair of NAOC Student Travel and Presentation Awards Committee, 2020.

My research examines how species and communities of birds respond to anthropogenic environmental change, focusing primarily on how montane birds of temperate forests respond to climate change and shifting fire regimes. My research also centers on developing statistical and modeling methods to quantify these effects. I have supervised 3 M.S. and 4 Ph.D. students, and 3 postdoctoral fellows. Across multiple societies and universities, I have been active in building institutional support and representation for LGBTQIA+ scientists. I am currently the Treasurer of the “Rainbow Lorikeets,” the ornithological caucus of the National Organization of Gay and Lesbian Scientists and Technical Professionals (NOGLSTP).

STATEMENT: My very first professional conference was a joint AOU-COS meeting over a decade ago, and as my career has progressed, AOS has unquestionably become my home society. I first had the honor of participating in society governance when I was elected to the COS Board of Governors in 2015, during which I had the unique perspective of helping broker the historic merger between the two societies – an important move that I strongly believed was for the betterment of ornithology. For two years, I then sat on Cooper’s “Transitional Committee,” participating in AOS council meetings as a non-voting member. The last four years, I have become deeply involved in the organization of AOS’s annual conferences through my position as co-chair of the Student Travel and Presentation Awards committee. In this position, I have worked to increase transparency and objectivity of both awards processes, and had the honor of advocating strongly to AOS leadership for increased access for students to AOS conferences. Having benefited from both travel and presentation awards myself, I know how critical student

participation and retention is for the continuity and vibrant life of a society. Since merging, AOS has begun many exciting new initiatives, particularly with regards to communication, publications, diversity, and student support. Moving forward, I see maintaining and strengthening these initiatives as key to our society's continued success, particularly during a time of global uncertainty.

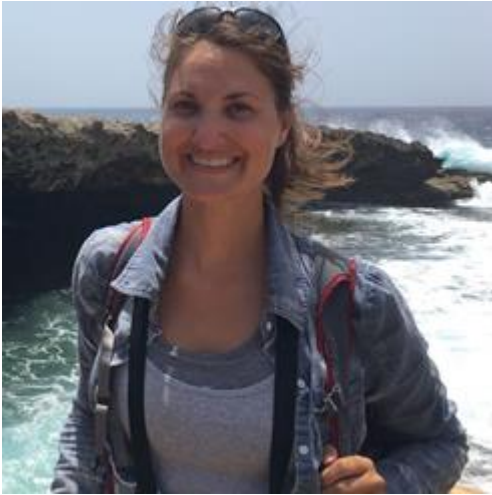
## Councilors – Terms ending 2022

Sara Kaiser

Erica Nol

Lauryn Benedict

Kristen Ruegg



### **SARA KAISER**

Title: Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute's Center for Conservation Genomics

BIO: Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Center for Conservation Genomics, Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute. Ph.D. 2013, Cornell University. M.S. 2004, Michigan State University. Published in *Animal Behaviour*, *Animal Conservation*, *Behavioral Ecology*, *BMC Research Notes*, *Condor*, *General and Comparative Endocrinology*, *Journal of Evolutionary Biology*, *Journal of Wildlife Management*, *Molecular Ecology Resources*, *PLoS ONE*, *Proceedings of the Royal Society of London*, *The American Naturalist*, *The Auk: Ornithological Advances*, *The Birds of North America*, *Wilson Journal of Ornithology*. AOS Member, 2001-present; AOS Elective Member, 2017. Chair, Early Professionals Committee, 2017-present; Early Professionals Committee, 2013-present; Meetings Coordination Committee, 2018-present; Membership Committee, 2016-2017; Early Professionals Mini-talk Symposium, 2013-present; Diversity in Ornithology Symposium, 2017; Presentation Judge, 2014-2017. My research focuses on an integrative understanding of how the environment shapes the evolution of complex social behavior, especially reproductive strategies and cooperation. I am particularly interested in the role of social behavior in population and evolutionary dynamics involving sexual selection, population differentiation, and adaptation to environmental change. My research has included behavioral and demographic studies of warbler, sparrow, babbler, and thrush populations in North America, the Caribbean Islands, and Borneo, and comparisons of life histories and reproductive strategies of temperate and tropical birds. I have a strong record of mentorship and promotion of diversity in research. I have trained and supervised 90 undergraduates and recent graduates in the field and lab and have served as a research mentor for 17 undergraduates. I am committed to encouraging and expanding opportunities and participation in research for undergraduates from underrepresented backgrounds and to support their development as scholars.

STATEMENT: AOS is my home society. I attended my first meeting in 2001 to present my undergraduate research. The experience was transformational. Even at that early stage, I was welcomed into the community and immediately felt a sense of belonging. AOS continued to support me as a graduate student through travel, research, and presentation awards and as a

professional working in multiple sectors — NGO, government, and academic. AOS meetings have become reunions bringing together colleagues from different chapters of my life — a chance to catch up with friends and their science — and I rarely miss a meeting. My service to the society has focused on identifying the challenges and concerns facing early professionals and on working towards solutions to meet the emerging needs of their membership. As an AOS council member, I will 1) support professional development programs that are inclusive of diverse career paths, 2) provide service and leadership opportunities to support a diverse and inclusive ornithological community, 3) promote engagement of undergraduate members, 4) support membership incentives that provide access to meeting workshops to members unable to attend and to professional development programs throughout the year, and 5) support travel, research, and presentation awards for members from Latin America. My service to the society as Chair of the Early Professionals Committee, member of the Membership and Meetings Coordination Committee, and co-organizer of events with the Student Affairs Committee and Diversity and Inclusion Committee demonstrate my commitment to these goals.



**ERICA NOL**

Title: Professor of Biology, Trent University

BIO: Professor of Biology, Department of Biology, Trent University, Peterborough, Ontario, Canada. Ph.D. University of Toronto, M.Sc. University of Guelph. Published in *Auk*, *Condor*, *Wilson J. of Ornithology*, *J. Field Ornithology*, *Ibis*, *J. Avian Biology*, *Waterbirds*, as well as *Nature*, *Movement Ecology*, *Landscape Ecology*, and many others. AOU/AOS Elective Member 1991 and Fellow 2001. Past member of the Council of the American Ornithologists Union, past councilor and President of both the Society of Canadian Ornithologists (SCO-SOC) and the Waterbird Society, as well as subject editor of several journals, including *The Condor*. Current member of the Equity and Diversity group of the Waterbird Society. Founding member of the American Oystercatcher Working Group. I have served on many society committees over the years. I have supervised over 50 graduate students in their studies on avian ecology and conservation. Effective mentorship of students, regardless of their level of study or their academic ambitions, is a goal that I hope I've achieved. I conducted my Ph.D. research on the ecology of oystercatchers. Since then I have, with my graduate students, conducted research on breeding, migrating and wintering populations of Semipalmated Plovers, and the ecology of many other species, including songbirds and woodpeckers in southern Ontario. I have authored over 130 scientific publications on behavior, conservation and ecology of birds, and am the co-author on two Birds of North America accounts.



STATEMENT: The American Ornithological Society can make a significant contribution to the study and conservation of birds by fostering communications between scientists worldwide who are struggling to maintain natural habitats while continuing to conduct ornithological research. AOS can accomplish this through effective communication, its scientific journals, strategically-located annual meetings, continued excellent support for student and young professional travel awards and ongoing outreach to our international partners. I believe in promoting and nurturing diversity in our society and hope that we can use our finances effectively to engage and assist scientists around the world in their work. I will be happy to serve the AOS as a councilor for the next three years.



### **LAURYN BENEDICT**

Title: Associate Professor in the School of Biological Sciences,  
University of Northern Colorado

BIO: Associate Professor, School of Biological Sciences, University of Northern Colorado. Ph.D. 2007, University of California, Berkeley. Published in *Animal Behaviour*, *The Auk: Ornithological Advances*, *Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology*, *Biology Letters*, *The Condor*, *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution*, *Ibis*, *Journal of Avian Biology*, *Journal of Zoology*, *PLOS One*, and more. AOU Elective Member 2014. Associate Editor for *The Auk: Ornithological Advances*, 2013-present - Editorial Board Member *Studies in Avian Biology*, 2015-2018 - AOU/COS Meeting Local Host Committee 2014 - Student Presentation awards judge 2014, 2016, 2018 - Meetings Symposium and Roundtable Organizer 2016, 2018- AOS Meetings Scientific Program Committees 2018, 2019. My primary research interests are in avian communication and behavior. I study a range of avian vocalizations, with an emphasis on the ecological and evolutionary forces that shape signal form and function among male and female birds. I teach courses in the areas of General Biology, Ornithology, and Animal Behavior, and I curate the University of Northern Colorado's Zoology Museum. I have supervised six M.S. students, two Ph.D. students, and more than 60 Undergraduate students in research, museum curation, and student teaching. I conduct outreach to general audiences through public talks, educational programs in my community, and national outlets including *Birding Magazine*, and the *Science Journal for Kids*.

STATEMENT: I have been a member of AOS (then the AOU and the COS) since 2001, when I was a beginning graduate student. The Society has offered me valuable resources and an active professional network; I welcome the opportunity to further improve its offerings and culture. I believe that the ornithological community is strengthened by the participation of diverse stakeholders with a range of research interests, goals, and perspectives. I am committed to AOS's

mission to advance ornithology as a science, to improve avian conservation efforts, and to promote the professional success of its members. We can best achieve this mission by welcoming researchers at all career stages, by establishing connections across the Americas, by supporting excellent science, by translating that science into actionable initiatives, and by making all of these outcomes widely visible. To further these goals, I have served as an editor for two AOS publications. I support the Society's move towards open access publishing and would work to help our journals publish high quality, widely accessible research. I believe that creating a welcoming community for students will build a stronger society, and I am invested in supporting early career scientists. I have helped to plan multiple meetings, including organizing Undergraduate Symposia that foster student involvement. In an effort to retain early career researchers within the field, I worked with the AOS Diversity and Inclusion and Executive committees in 2018 to draft a best-practices document for creating family-friendly policies at annual meetings. This resulted in caregiver grants implemented for 2019 and expanded accommodations for conference attendees. I look forward to growing and improving these resources and others in the years to come.



**KRISTEN RUEGG**

Title: Assistant Professor, Department of Biology, Colorado State University

BIO: Assistant Professor, Department of Biology, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO. Ph.D. 2007, University of California, Berkeley. Published in Ecology Letters, Science, Nature Ecology and Evolution, IBIS, Proceedings of the Royal Society B., Methods in Ecology Evolution, Molecular Ecology, Evolution, Ornithological Monographs, Journal of Parasitology, Journal of Biogeography, Ecological Applications, Zeledonia: Boletín de la Asociación Ornitológica de Costa Rica, and Conservation Genetics. AOS Elective member, 2017, Associate Editor at The Auk: Ornithological Advances 2015 – present, Editorial Board Member at Ecology Letters, 2015 – present, AOS Student Presentation awards judge 2014. My research is focused on conservation and evolutionary genetics of migratory birds. I co-direct the Bird Genoscape Project, which brings together hundreds of volunteers from NGOs, government agencies, and academic institutions in an effort to map the population specific migratory flyways for North American Birds. I have also focused on the role of migration in the process of avian diversification and spent my early career developing the Swainson's thrush as a model system. I teach courses in General Biology and Conservation Genomics at Colorado State University and teach a short course in the Ecology of Animal Migration as part of the CanMove graduate workshop at Lund University in Sweden. I have supervised 1 M.S. student, 3 Ph.D. students, 3 Post-doctoral Researchers, and over 20 undergraduate researchers in avian research. I am a National Geographic Research Explorer and regularly give presentations to general audiences in my

community as well as at the National Audubon Society and as part of the National Geographic Explorer Classroom webcast series.

STATEMENT: My career has followed a non-linear path for a variety of personal and professional reasons, but the one thing that has always remained constant is the support I have felt from the American Ornithological Society. As a graduate student, I felt this support through travel grants, research awards, and the opportunity to participate in student-mentor lunches. As a postdoctoral researcher, I felt this support through the leadership and encouragement of several senior members of the society who offered sage advice during uncertain times in my career. As a mid-career scientist, I have enjoyed the opportunity to give back to the society and develop my leadership skills as an Associate Editor at *The Auk: Ornithological Advances* and a committee member for a variety of meeting related events. As an Elective Councilor for the American Ornithological Society, I welcome the opportunity to participate in the long-range planning for the society going forward. In particular, I welcome the chance to offer my expertise in fundraising to help secure financial support for ornithological research and my experience in networking with scientists from across the Americas (as part of my work with the Bird Genoscape Project) to help foster the Society's diverse and vibrant community of researchers. As someone who did not have a direct path through academia, I also believe I would be particularly well suited to help continue to develop programs that foster professional development for scientist in early and transitional career stages. Overall, as an Elective Councilor it will be my pleasure to work with other Society members to continue to build an inclusive, supportive community grounded in integrity, collaboration, and the desire to produce high-quality research.