

American Ornithological Society

Officers, Elective Councilors and Student Representatives

Classes of 2023, 2024 and 2025

Executive Committee

Officers

Colleen Handel, President (2022-2024)

Sara R. Morris, President-Elect (2022-2024)

Sushma Reddy, Secretary (2022 -)

Matthew Carling, Treasurer (2021 -)

Executive Director

Judith Scarl



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.



SARA R. MORRIS

Title: Vice President for Academic Affairs and Professor of Biology, Canisius College

BIO: PhD, 1996, Cornell University. AOU/AOS member (since 1990), Elective Member (2004), Fellow (2010). AOU Secretary (2006-2014), AOU/AOS Bylaws Committee (2014-present), AOS Early Professionals Committee (2014-2017), AOS Nominations of Elective Members and Fellows Committee (2019-present), Wilson Ornithological Society President (2015-2017, First Vice President 2013-2015, Second Vice President 2011-2013), North American Ornithological Conference VI

and VII Steering Committee Member, North American Ornithological Conference V and VI Scientific Program Committee. Began attending AOU/AOS meetings in 1993 and have attended most meeting since then. Received the Marion Jenkinson Service Award (2014) and Canisius's Koessler Distinguished Faculty Award (2016). Published in *Auk*, *Animal Behaviour*, *Wilson Journal of Ornithology*, *Avian Conservation and Ecology*, *Condor*, *Journal of Field Ornithology*, *Hormones and Behavior*, *Frontiers in Zoology*, *Vector-borne and Zoonotic Diseases*, *Journal of Vector Ecology* and *American Biology Teacher*. My areas of interest include migration and stopover ecology, flight calling behavior, impacts of anthropogenic structures on birds, and the relationship of migratory birds to the expansion of zoonotic diseases.

Why are you interested in serving the American Ornithological Society in this leadership position?

I am grateful for the many opportunities that I have had to be a scientist, a field biologist, an academic, and an educator, and I would like to repay my mentors by helping to ensure a strong future for the AOS and for ornithologists of all backgrounds. As ornithologists, we face a variety of issues affecting our professions: environmental changes and a dismissal of the impacts of climate change, an assault on science and scientific pursuits, a devaluation of institutions of higher education, and a decrease in state and federal funding for science and for conservation. These issues lead me to worry about the future of ornithology, ornithologists, and birds over

both the short-term and long-term. As the AOS has been changing over the last decade, it is well positioned to ensure that opportunities are available for ornithologists and to leverage the interests of the general public for birds to help support the science of ornithology and the use of this science in conservation of birds (and the environment more broadly). As a scientific society, we need to ensure that there are a variety of forms of mentoring at all stages of careers and for a myriad of ornithological careers, opportunities and funding for basic scientific research, quality outlets for our research results (both presentations and publications), and application of research into conservation efforts.

What key interests, experience, or skills would you bring to this position?

I believe that my background with the AOU and AOS (as Secretary, as an elected member of Council, on the Early Professionals Committee, on the Nomination of Elective Members and Fellows Committee, and on the Bylaws Committee), with the Wilson Ornithological Society (as a Vice President and President, as Secretary, as a member of Council, and on several awards committees), with the North American Ornithological Conferences (as a member of two steering committees, two scientific program committees, and the Safe NAOC Conduct Committee), and as a college academic administrator (dealing with strategic planning, implementation of major initiatives, changes to higher education, accreditation, financial aid, specific regulations, grant funding, and the myriad of impacts of Covid) will help me be an effective leader of the AOS. I have navigated changes in our publications, challenges with our meetings, financial strains, and issues of access and recognize the importance of broad participation and varied viewpoints when facing challenges. I also bring my long-standing commitment to mentoring individuals at different career stages and with different career goals to this role to ensure that we are supporting the wide range of ornithologists and varied fields of ornithology.

How have your background and experiences prepared you to be effective in a professional scientific society that values diversity?

Working at a Jesuit college has provided me with numerous professional development opportunities to identify and address access, equity, and justice in today's world broadly and on my campus specifically. While I cannot change the level of privilege that I have experienced, I am committed to increasing equity in opportunities moving forward. On my campus, I helped craft (two years) and implement our Plan for Racial Equity (we are in year three). I championed beginning our work prior to finalizing the plan, recognizing that some changes could be accomplished quickly and shouldn't be delayed. I also successfully advocated for an audit of our campus policies and practices with an equity lens to improve access, equity, diversity, and inclusion across our programs and activities. As an ally to Canisius's Unity organization, I have advocated for, helped facilitate, and contributed to numerous initiatives and activities in collaboration with the Canisius LGBTQIA+ community. For example, my attendance at lavender graduation means that a senior leader at my catholic college is there in solidarity and support. The pandemic has shined a light on the range of inequities faced by different groups in our country and across the world. To make real change, we need to recognize the inequities across racial, ethnic, gender, sexuality, ability, social, cultural, socioeconomic, geographic, and nationality groups, to determine what are the barriers, and to work to eliminate them.



SUSHMA REDDY

Title: Associate Professor, Breckenridge Chair of Ornithology, Curator of Birds, Bell Museum of Natural History

BIO: Breckenridge Curator of Birds, Bell Museum of Natural History, Associate Professor, Department of Fisheries, Wildlife, Conservation Biology, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. PhD, Columbia University in the City of New York. Member of AOS

since 2002; Elective Member (2011); Fellow (2018), Chair, Meetings Coordination Committee (2020-2); Meeting Coordination Committee (2017-8); Local Organizing Committee (2013); Student Awards Committee (2020). Published in *The Auk*, *Science*, *Proceedings of National Academy of Sciences*, *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution*, *Systematic Biology*, *BMC Evolutionary Biology*, *Current Zoology*, *Journal of Field Ornithology*, *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, *Journal of Biogeography*.

My research is centered on the evolutionary history of birds with a focus on diversification patterns in the Old World tropics and the early evolution of modern birds. As an educator, researcher and museum curator, I have a strong interest in promoting natural history collections as a key resource for understanding biodiversity and environmental change. My goals are to continue to support and promote research, education, and outreach activities to advance scientific understanding, public awareness, and conservation of biodiversity.

Why are you interested in serving the American Ornithological Society in this leadership position?

AOS has been the key professional organization that supported me throughout my career trajectory. I continue to be impressed with the variety of people from diverse backgrounds and interests who come together to promote the study and conservation of birds. There is no singular way to be an ornithologist - I believe this is the most important message we can send to create a more inclusive and supportive atmosphere. Diverse perspectives promote excellence and innovation in science and education. In recent years, I have felt a responsibility to actively participate in AOS, which is largely driven by my own feeling of belonging as I interact with members with varied experiences and backgrounds. As part of the Meetings Coordination Committee, I know how hard, yet rewarding, it is to engage in the collective efforts to bring together and facilitate connections across people and disciplines. I would like to continue my service by promoting activities that engage a broader community with a special focus of reaching out to underserved groups. As a society, I believe we have a responsibility to advancing the role of science and conservation of birds while building support for current and future ornithologists.

What key interests, experience, or skills would you bring to this position?

I believe my professional career as an ornithologist as well as my demonstrated organizational skills in my current role serving as chair of the Meeting Coordination Committee has prepared me well for this leadership position. As an educator and researcher, I have a keen awareness of the importance of birds for teaching, learning, and caring about the natural world. In my daily activities, I strongly uphold and work towards the mission of the AOS – to advance science and conservation of birds and the scientists who study them. I am proud to support students navigate their scientific pursuits while also encouraging them in public engagement to communicate their

work to varied audiences. For the past two years, I have been honored to play a key role in the meetings organizing team. In planning the 2021 virtual meeting, we worked hard to address many barriers to participation and were successful in attracting a large number of attendees from across the globe. Moving back to an in-person conference in 2022 has presented a different set of challenges. I am proud to be part of the hard-working team whose efforts will undoubtedly be rewarded when ornithologists can mingle again and celebrate in our passion for birds, science, education, and nature.

How have your background and experiences prepared you to be effective in a professional scientific society that values diversity?

I will be honest here and state that my desire to serve is driven primarily by AOS's commitment to diversity. Promoting science and nature is clearly important but can only be achieved by building a strong community that is diverse, equitable, inclusive, and accessible. I know from my own experiences and hearing others speak about theirs, professional scientific societies can feel impersonal and unapproachable, especially for people of marginalized ethnicities, backgrounds, and genders. Creating a more welcoming atmosphere needs to be an active endeavor. In my efforts for AOS, I strive towards this in multiple ways including by advocating for speakers from diverse backgrounds and experiences; promoting themes relevant to broad audiences; elevating the recognition of women and early-career researchers; encouraging policies that broaden participation. We are all feeling the reverberations of a global pandemic and a worldwide reckoning of racial justice that has exposed deeply engrained inequities. Amid all this, we saw the power of birds to uplift, empower, and advance discourse. Now it's our responsibility to harness this excitement to create a more inclusive and equitable environment for people from diverse backgrounds and abilities.



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: 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 2025

Chris Balakrishnan

Nancy Chen

Dan Mennill

Allison Shultz



CHRISTOPHER N. BALAKRISHNAN

Title: Associate Adjunct Professor, East Carolina University

BIO: Program Director, Division of Environmental Biology, National Science Foundation. Associate Adjunct Professor, East Carolina University (Assistant/Associate Professor 2012-2021). Research Associate, National Museum of Natural History. Ph.D., 2005 Boston University. Published in *The Auk*, *Emu*, *Ibis*, *Wilson Journal*, *The American Naturalist*, *Behavioral Ecology*, *Current Biology*, *G3: Genes, Genomes & Genetics*, *Genes, Brains & Behavior*, *Genome Biology*, *Genome Biology & Evolution*, *Molecular Ecology*, *Nature*, *PNAS*, *Proceedings of the Royal Society Series B*, *Science*, *Systematic Biology* and others. AOU/AOS member since 2000, Elective Member (2016), Fellow (2020) AOS Diversity and Inclusion Committee, 2016-present. Diversity and Inclusion Travel Awards Committee Leader, 2016-2019. Regular AOU/AOS poster/presentation judge.

My research is focuses on the evolutionary biology of birds with an emphasis on the mechanisms of speciation, behavior and genome evolution. As a graduate student I studied the mechanisms of speciation in brood parasitic indigobirds in West Africa. Through my postdoctoral work, I helped develop genomic resources for birds using the zebra finch as a model system. Since then, my lab has worked to apply these genomic tools to better understand some of the intriguing oddities of the bird world (e.g, white-throated sparrows, manakins, and brood parasitic birds).. I am very active in outreach as the founder of Nerd Nite, a public lecture series held at venues around the world. I also work closely on outreach and education efforts with Sylvan Heights Bird Park, a renowned bird-focused zoo and captive breeding center in rural, eastern North Carolina. I recently moved from a faculty position at East Carolina University to take on the highly service-oriented work of the National Science Foundation.

Why are you interested in serving the American Ornithological Society in this leadership position?

The AOS has been my home society since I began graduate school. More than any other academic society, the AOS and its members have helped support me through my career. I know, however, that this positive experience has not been shared by all. With this in mind, I am eager to give back to the society that served me so well, better serve the current membership, and help make the AOS a better place for future members.

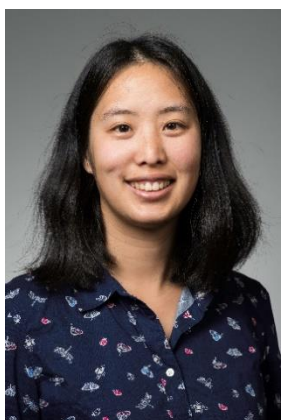
What key interests, experience, or skills would you bring to this position?

I have served on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion committees at the AOS, ECU and NSF, starting with the AOS in 2016. Whereas in 2016 I'll admit I had a lot of learning to do, through my experiences I feel that I've become an effective voice for culture change. I have worked at multiple different

kinds of institutions (R1, non-R1, government). My research and current work at NSF is highly collaborative, and I would bring my collaborative nature to this role in the AOS. My ornithological interests are also diverse, from conservation-oriented to mechanistic and neurobiological, and I would work to attract this scientific diversity to the AOS.

How have your background and experiences prepared you to be effective in a professional scientific society that values diversity?

I have been a part of the AOS Diversity and Inclusion Committee since its inception in 2016. In this role I've been able to witness some of the proactive, progressive steps we've taken to improve the society and also, some of the growing pains and conflict associated with this type of culture change. I would come into this position with a clear sense of the work left to be done. At NSF I have been deeply involved in developing new programs aimed at broadening participation, and I'd look forward to bringing this experience to my role on council.



NANCY CHEN

Title: Assistant Professor, Department of Biology, University of Rochester

BIO: Ph.D. 2014, Cornell University. Published in *Emu*, *Nature*, *PNAS*, *Current Biology*, *PLOS Genetics*, *Nature Genetics*, *Genetics*, *American Naturalist*, *Evolution*, *Molecular Phylogenetics & Evolution*, *Molecular Ecology Resources*, and others. James G. Cooper Young Professional Award, 2017. AOS Elective Member, 2019. AOS Diversity & Inclusion Committee, 2017–present; AOS Diversity & Inclusion Travel Awards Committee Chair

2019–present; AOS/AOU Early Professionals Committee, 2014–2021; AOS Scientific Program Committee, 2018–2019.

My lab studies the evolution of natural populations on short timescales by integrating evolutionary genomics and pedigree data from long-term demographic studies of vertebrates. We aim to characterize the evolutionary processes shaping genetic variation through space and time, and to link genetic variation to variation in individual phenotypes, fitness, and eventually, population dynamics. We are also interested in elucidating the genomic consequences of population decline, and our research on inbreeding and the importance of gene flow helps inform conservation efforts for the Federally Threatened Florida Scrub-Jay. I have supervised 3 postdoctoral scholars, 2 Ph.D. students, 1 M.S. student, 6 rotation Ph.D. students, and over 20 undergraduate students. I have a strong commitment to promoting justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion in science. Currently, I am the Chair of the American Society of Naturalists Diversity Committee, an active member of the diversity committees for my current department and the AOS, and I co-founded and co-lead the Diversity and Inclusion in Biological Sciences group on campus. My efforts include educating others and myself on equity and inclusion issues, organizing events or creating resources that foster safe, diverse, and inclusive communities, and advocating for systemic change at multiple institutions and scientific societies.

Why are you interested in serving the American Ornithological Society in this leadership position?

AOS has played a formative role in my development as a scientist, mentor, and advocate for justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion in STEM. The first few conferences I attended as a graduate student were AOU meetings, where I felt welcomed and inspired by the ornithological community. My first service opportunities were also through the AOS, first as a judge for student presentations, then as a member of the Early Professionals Committee and the Diversity & Inclusion Committee. I would be honored to increase my involvement with the society, and continue to help AOS build a more equitable and inclusive society for people of all identities and support its members in pursuing diverse career options and impactful, cutting-edge research.

What key interests, experience, or skills would you bring to this position?

I have a long track record of service in AOS and extensive experience leading justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI) in STEM efforts. I have been a member of the AOS Diversity & Inclusion Committee since 2017, the Chair of the AOS Diversity & Inclusion Travel Awards Committee since 2019, and a member of the Early Professionals Committee for 7 years. I have co-organized multiple JEDI trainings and symposia at AOS meetings as well as contributed to efforts to quantify society demographics, create funds and events to support historically excluded groups, improve society policies, and much more. Also, I am working to create sustained change in ecology and evolution as the current Chair of the Diversity Committee for the American Society of Naturalists (ASN) and an ex officio member of the ASN Executive Council (both terms end December 2022). These roles involve leading JEDI efforts for the entire society, coordinating with the Diversity Committees of our sister societies SSE and SSB on several tri-society initiatives, and participating in general society governance. At my university, I am a member of the Department of Biology Diversity Committee, and a co-founder and coorganizer of the Diversity and Inclusion in Biological Sciences group.

How have your background and experiences prepared you to be effective in a professional scientific society that values diversity?

Eradicating systemic racism and other inequities in our fields requires sustained engagement across multiple fronts. I am deeply committed to promoting justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI) in science, and I prioritize JEDI work in my research, teaching, mentoring, and service activities. Through my multiple leadership and Diversity Committee roles at different scientific societies and my university, I have experience successfully tackling a range of issues at multiple levels. For instance, I have organized multiple JEDI events and trainings at conferences and schools. I have helped increase resources and networking opportunities for historically excluded groups, implement climate surveys to assess the impact of JEDI efforts, and change nomination and application policies to make the process more transparent and equitable. I have been collaborating with JEDI consultants and other scientific society leaders to develop a JEDI action plan and to create an inclusive leadership program and learning community. I am continually learning from readings on evidence-based strategies for culture change, from attending JEDI trainings, from interacting with people of diverse perspectives and backgrounds, and from working with organizations with different policies and practices. I am excited to continue working with AOS to make our community more inclusive and diverse.



DAN MENZIES

Title: Professor, Associate Dean of Science, Graduate Studies and Research

BIO: Professor of Ornithology and Associate Dean of Science, University of Windsor, Canada. Ph.D., Queen's University (2003). Editorial Board of *Condor* (2015-2019), *Acta Ethologica* (2017-2019), and *Biology Letters* (2009-2015). 160 publications in ornithological journals (including 10 papers in *Ornithology/Auk* and 7 papers in *Ornithological Applications/Condor*) and other journals (*Science, Current Biology, Evolution, Ecology, American Naturalist, Proceedings B, Animal Behaviour*, etc.). Elective Member (2006) and Fellow (2013) of the AOS/AOU. Lifetime member of the Society of Canadian Ornithologists (SCO) and the Animal Behaviour Society. Elected Councilor of the SCO (2014-2018). Chair of the AOS/AOU Student Membership Awards Committee (2005-2022).

I study acoustic communication in temperate and tropical birds. Together with a team of undergraduate students, graduate students, and postdocs, I use a field-based approach to study wild birds in Canada, the United States, Mexico, and Costa Rica. In the temperate zone, we study vocal learning and network-based vocal behaviours, especially in chickadees, sparrows, and warblers. In the tropics, we study duetting and other vocal behaviours, especially in wrens. I have helped to pioneer new technologies for bioacoustic studies of wild birds, including multi-channel array recording, passive acoustic monitoring, multi-speaker playback, and interactive playback. I have attended 13 AOS meetings over the past 20 years. My favourite ornithological activities are collecting field recordings, analyzing those recordings with my students and collaborators, and sharing that work through publications and conference presentations.

Why are you interested in serving the American Ornithological Society in this leadership position?

I have been a member of the AOS/AOU since my first meeting 20 years ago, and I value our society very highly, especially our journals, our annual meetings, and our student awards. I am standing for election as councilor so that I can take a turn sharing in the service of overseeing our society. If I am elected as a councilor, I will take the role seriously. I am interested in continuing to emphasize high-quality scientific journals, promoting outstanding meetings that are accessible to everyone, and growing student awards for membership, research, travel, and presentations. As a Canadian, I have always felt welcome within the AOS/AOU; I am interested in working to ensure our society welcomes people from all countries, especially in Central and South America. I am also interested in supporting our society's ad hoc committee on bird names, recognizing that the issue of exclusionary bird names is a vitally important ornithological issue of our times.

What key interests, experience, or skills would you bring to this position?

I oversaw student membership awards for the AOS/AOU between 2005 and 2022. I was very happy to use my organizational and communication skills to administrate an award that recruited many new members to our society, from around the globe. Through that experience, I became familiar with the administrative structure of our society. I served as an elected councilor

of the Society of Canadian Ornithologists between 2014-2018, and therefore I have experience serving as a councilor for an ornithological society. I have served as an Associate Dean of Science at my home university for the past five years, and I have developed considerable administrative skills through that experience.

How have your background and experiences prepared you to be effective in a professional scientific society that values diversity?

As a professor, a graduate student supervisor, and as an Associate Dean, I have prioritized equity, diversity, and inclusivity, in principle and in practice. As an Associate Dean, I created new scholarships and awards programs to make my university more accessible for international students. I assisted with new efforts within my university to support LGBTQ+ students in the Faculty of Science, and I have worked to promote EDI considerations on par with research- and teaching-considerations among our university's administration. In organizing scientific and administrative meetings, I have worked to increase accessibility for parents of young children, especially mothers. I would like council to focus on taking concrete steps towards making our society's journals, meetings, and operations more accessible to diverse people throughout North and South America.



ALLISON SHULTZ

Title: Assistant Curator, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County

BIO: Pronouns: she/her. Assistant Curator, Ornithology Department, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. Ph.D. 2017, Harvard University. M.S. 2011, San Diego State University. Published in *The Auk*, *The Condor*, *Elife*, *Biology Letters*, *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution*, *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*, *Evolutionary Applications*, *Ecology and Evolution*, *Evolution*, and *Ibis* among others. AOS Member 2007 - present. AOS Elective Member, 2019. Member, Collections Committee, 2019-present; Member Meeting Coordination Committee, 2018-2021; Accessibility Subcommittee 2020-2021; Scientific Program Subcommittee 2020-2021; Student Presentation awards judge, 2019-present.

For my research, I seek to understand the evolution of bird diversity, focusing on two major areas. First, I focus on how birds are responding to human-caused environmental changes from both an ecological and evolutionary perspective. Second, I focus on how feathers (especially their colors) are shaped by selection for multifunctionality given underlying mechanistic constraints. In my position, in addition to research, I am responsible for overseeing the bird collection and representing birds across all other areas of the museum (e.g., education and public programs, exhibitions, and advancement). I interact with many students and researchers across the LA area, nationally and internationally, by guest lecturing, giving tours, assisting with research, collaborating, providing support, or formally mentoring (supervisor for 1 postdoctoral fellow, committee member for 6 graduate students, mentor for 6 undergraduates). A substantial part of my job involves informal science education, public outreach, and community science. I am passionate about increasing diversity, inclusion, access and equity in the sciences, and inspiring a love of nature in everyone.

Why are you interested in serving the American Ornithological Society in this leadership position?

The AOS has been my home society since I went to my first meeting as an undergraduate in 2007. I have regularly attended meetings, but only really became engaged in service to the society upon finishing my PhD in 2017. Since that time, I became involved in several AOS committees, but most deeply involved in the Meeting Coordination Committee (MCC). The MCC touches upon many other committees and aspects of the organization, and provided insights into the inner workings of the AOS. My experience on this committee, particularly in hosting the two first two virtual conferences, left me excited to take what I learned, and to apply them to broader AOS efforts. The last two years have seen tremendous change, and AOS has shown that it values diversity and has begun the process of changing to better serve members (or future members), especially those from historically excluded groups. In a leadership position, I would continue and strengthen these efforts to create a society where all feel welcomed and valued, and feel that they can participate in many different ways.

What key interests, experience, or skills would you bring to this position?

A key interest and skill that I would bring to this position would be taking advantage of technology to better serve our members, create new opportunities for engagement, and increase accessibility. For five years, prior to getting involved in AOS service work, I was chair of the technology committee at Graduate Women in Science, where some major achievements were revamping their website and fellowship application process. In AOS, my major role on the Meeting Coordination Committee began as the person responsible for the meeting app, which evolved into running the platform of the entire conference when the meeting went virtual in 2020. I am interested in considering how we can continue to incorporate technology into not only AOS annual meetings, but throughout the organization. This has the potential to lower the barrier for participation not both nationally and internationally. Additionally, I would like to use my experience engaging many different types of stakeholders (e.g., academic institutions, conservation organizations, community organizations) to better understand how AOS can expand its reach as an organization, and become relevant for a broader community.

How have your background and experiences prepared you to be effective in a professional scientific society that values diversity?

A scientific society that values diversity aligns well with my personal values and passions. Since becoming a graduate student, I have participated in, or held leadership positions in organizations promoting women or other underrepresented genders in science. Shortly after starting my current position as a museum curator, I started a group promoting gender diversity in museum ornithology (Underrepresented Genders in Museum Ornithology). I recognize that gender diversity is only one axis of diversity, and that there is a great need to increase diversity along other axes (e.g., racial, ethnic, sexual orientation, ability, etc.), especially recognizing the struggles associated with intersectionality. To address these issues within my institution, in November, 2020, I joined the NHMLAC Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access (IDEA) working group as a Co-lead of the team in charge of Content. Together, we created a Transformational Framework which was unanimously approved by the board of trustees and governors. This document is the guiding light for all subsequent IDEA work of the institution and has prepared me well for continuing this work as an AOS leader.

Councilors – Terms ending 2024

Emily B. Cohen

Juan Francisco Ornelas

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.



JUAN FRANCISCO ORNELAS

Title: Full Professor, Instituto de Ecología, A.C. (INECOL)

BIO: Ph.D. 1995, University of Arizona, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. Published in ornithological (from *The Auk* to *Ornithology*, *Journal of Ornithology*, *Journal of Avian Biology*, *The Condor*, *The Wilson Bulletin*, *Neotropical Ornithology*, *The Wilson Journal of Ornithology*, *Bird International Conservation*) and other journals (*Behavioral Ecology*, *Journal of Biogeography*, *BMC Evolutionary Biology*, *Oikos*, *Oecologia*, *Functional Ecology*, *Biotropica*, *Molecular Ecology*, *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution*, *American Journal of Botany*, *Plant Biology*, *Annals of Botany*, *Plant Systematics and Evolution*, *Ecology and Evolution*, *Journal of Evolutionary Biology*, *PLoS ONE*, *Scientific Reports*, *Journal of Heredity*, *Ecoscience*, *Ecology*, *Global Ecology and Biogeography*, *Journal of Tropical Ecology*, *PeerJ*, *Tropical Conservation Science*, *New Phytologist*, *Biological and Botanical Journals of the Linnean Society*, and *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*). Elective Member of the American Ornithologists' Union (2010); NAOC Scientific Program Committee (2006); Neotropical Ornithological Congress Scientific Program Committee (1999); Associate Editor for *Ornithology* (2021–present), *The Auk: Ornithological Advances* (2018–2020), *Journal of Evolutionary Biology* (2010–2015). Recipient of the NAPPC Pollinator Advocate Award, 2009.

My primary research interests are in ecology and evolutionary biology of birds, with a focus particularly on hummingbirds and their interactions with plants. I have worked mainly with my graduate students on a broad range of topics, from natural history and genomics up to broader population, community, phylogeographical and biogeographical scale patterns addressing questions leading to understand hummingbird-plant interaction traits and speciation. My current professional interests and experience focus in developing partnerships and building community to promote the importance of pollinators and conservation of hummingbirds. I have supervised and mentored 13 Ph.D. (3 currently), 15 MSc. (2 currently) and 8 undergraduate students, and 6 postdoctoral scholars. I am a passionate advocate for diversity, equity, inclusion and social justice. I look to serve in promoting the long-range strategic plans of the society, including full commitment for the AOS' Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) strategic plan.

Why are you interested in serving the American Ornithological Society in this leadership position?

If elected, I would like to serve on actions that might support students, early-career researchers and other groups of people interested in birds, particularly those that have traditionally been excluded or marginalized.

What key interests, experience, or skills would you bring to this position?

I believe that my experience as researcher and adviser for about three decades, mainly in Mexico, might enrich discussion and actions to promote advance the scientific study and rigorous scientific basis for the conservation of birds.

How have your background and experiences prepared you to be effective in a professional scientific society that values diversity?

In 1988, I earned a 4-y scholarship from the *Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología* (CONACyT-Mexico) to conduct graduate studies in the USA. I was so proud of myself! Few weeks later, once the semester started, I got the feeling from the “environment” along hallways and lab meetings that I was just not smart enough for such enterprise. But, somehow I managed through, passed prelims (and the post trauma), acted as a teaching assistant in the ornithology course, and hey, ... eventually I got the meritorious University of Arizona Foundation’s Award as the most outstanding teaching assistant (1992/1993) and a PhD. Nonetheless, three decades later, I have pretty much the same feeling, every time I write my first and last names in a manuscript, when I get a rejection letter from a journal or grant agency indicating directly or in some subtle ways that I am a non-native English speaking guy. In a period of great opportunity for AOS, I will be honored to help those in the early careers with similar feelings and hope that my background and experience would contribute to develop more sensitive, diverse and inclusive communities along with the AOS into the future.



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 upmost 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.

Student Representative on Council

Teresa Pegan – Term ending 2023

Olivia Wang – Term ending 2024



TERESA PEGAN

Title: PhD candidate, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Michigan

BIO: I received an undergraduate degree from Cornell University and I am currently a PhD candidate in the lab of Ben Winger at the University of Michigan. I study how seasonal migration influences evolution in North American boreal birds. I am especially interested in how tradeoffs associated with migratory behavior influence other aspects of bird evolution, including life history, molecular evolutionary rates, and population genetic structure. I am a former member of my academic department's executive committee and a former president of its graduate student association.

Statement: Ever since I presented my first poster at an AOS conference as an undergraduate, the AOS has provided me with a great sense of professional community. The society has shaped my time as an ornithology student through the opportunities it provides for networking, professional development, and research funding. The prominent presence of students (both undergraduate and graduate) at conferences and in the society has always made me feel welcome and supported. My academic department has a strong tradition of student leadership, and I have seen firsthand the benefits that student perspectives can bring as we face the challenges and opportunities of making our scientific communities more inclusive and accessible. I appreciate the chance to give back to the AOS, especially our student community, by providing a student perspective on Council and helping the society formally develop the Student Elective Councilor positions.



OLIVIA WANG

Title: Graduate Assistant, Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Management, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

BIO: My master's research focuses on the breeding ecology of Pueo (Hawaiian Short-eared Owls), the effects of land management on their nest site selection, and applying this data to their conservation across the Hawaiian archipelago. Previously, I have worked for USFWS, USGS, and a variety of NGOs assisting with long-term research projects involving raptors, seabirds, and songbirds. I've also worked in environmental outreach and education, providing experiences with wildlife to communities who face barriers to spending time in nature. As someone who grew up in an urban environment with limited access to nature and wildlife, I am always grateful for the few experiences I did have that lead me to pursue ornithology professionally and now strive to

provide these opportunities for others who were in my position. Being a part of AOS has been a wonderful way for me to network with other ornithologists and for my professional development, and I hope that as a student councilor I can help the society continue to provide such opportunities for others. My main goal for the future of AOS is a greater emphasis on providing students and other early-career ornithologists strong opportunities for growth and addressing barriers to diversity within our field. For example, underpaid field/lab technician jobs and even poorly paid graduate positions remains a major barrier towards diversity, equity, and inclusion within our field, and I believe AOS can play a greater role in helping students find positions that pay them properly and are not exploitative. I would also like to work on how AOS appears to those not yet professionally involved in ornithology but who may be considering it; this is one way to ensure that the future of the organization and the field as a whole is accessible to everyone and accurately represents the diverse communities we live in.