

AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



2022 AOS William Brewster Memorial Award winner
Amanda Rodewald extracting a Green Jay
(*Cyanocorax yncas*) from a net near Jardin, Colombia
Photo by G. Santos

AOS LEADERS

I am honored to be serving as one of many dedicated leaders of the American Ornithological Society (AOS). I am proud of our unified vision, shared values, collaborative actions, and collective accomplishments. The theme of our 2022 conference aptly describes where we are as a community: “On the Wings of Recovery: Resilience and Action.” Despite the many challenges we’ve recently endured, we’ve remained resilient and our programs are flourishing.

This year’s highlight for me was reuniting with friends and colleagues and building new relationships at our first in-person meeting in three years. Our joint conference with BirdsCaribbean in Puerto Rico was vibrant, filled with scientific excellence and camaraderie, and teeming with new ideas and initiatives. This year, with everyone’s help, we also made tangible progress on our journey to become a more welcoming, inclusive, and equitable community and to ensure all voices are heard. Our distinguished journals continue to thrive, our science is exceptional, our committees are dynamic. I am excited about 2023, when we will be forging a new strategic plan to continue to move us forward along our shared journey as a diverse, dynamic, and resilient society—together, we are the AOS!

COLLEEN HANDEL President



2021–22 AOS Officers
Mike Webster, Colleen Handel, and Judith Scarl on a walk during a leadership retreat at Sapsucker Woods – Cornell Lab of Ornithology

As I reflect on 2022, I marvel at how far we’ve come as an organization and as a community in just one year—and what a year! In 2022, we rejuvenated and reconnected our community at our first in-person annual meeting in three years. Our top-ranked journals showcased ornithological science from across the globe, and our achievement awards program, initiated more than 100 years ago in 1921, celebrated the accomplishments of our colleagues throughout their careers. Perhaps most significantly, we intensified our efforts to create a more inclusive and welcoming community that provides a “home society” for people across a variety of backgrounds, interests, identities, and geographies. Our consistent actions to broaden our leadership pipeline, improve our culture to support a more representative community of ornithologists, and develop policies to better ensure equity throughout our organization are key steps to create a stronger sense of community and belonging for our current and future members, colleagues, partners, and friends.

I am proud to lead an organization with so much promise and possibility, and I am thrilled to be part of such a strong community that is constantly striving for improvement. Thank you for being part of the AOS!

JUDITH SCARL Executive Director



CREATING A CULTURE OF BELONGING

The AOS strives to enrich ornithology as a profession and to support a broad and representative community of ornithologists. Embracing diversity, equity, inclusion, belonging, and justice (DEIBJ) in our practices is critical to creating a strong, vibrant, accessible, and welcoming ornithological community. The AOS is committed both to self-reflection and to action to improve our practices and strengthen our community.



AOS Culture: Understanding Our Community

In January 2022, the AOS conducted a survey to evaluate our culture and better understand our members' sense of belonging, feeling valued, having a voice, and having access to resources within the AOS. While the majority of our members have positive perceptions of the AOS's culture, comparisons between demographic groups yielded important and stark results that highlight opportunities for improvement. For example, 63% of individuals identifying as Black, Indigenous, or people of color agreed with statements about having a sense of belonging within the AOS, compared to 75% of white people.

Women were significantly less likely to feel valued within the AOS, compared with men. Women and Black, Indigenous, and other individuals of color were less likely to agree with statements about feeling they have a voice within the AOS, compared with men and white individuals, respectively. Individuals from Latin America and the Caribbean found meetings to be less accessible than did individuals from the United States. Insights from this survey can help guide how we improve our culture, especially as we continue to identify and address the barriers that have led to these patterns.



Striving for Improvement: Increasing Representation and Reaffirming our Commitment

In 2022, the AOS concluded a year-long project with Diversity Crew to perform a diversity audit of our organization, conduct qualitative and quantitative surveys to identify areas for improvement, and develop a three-year diversity strategic plan. In December 2022, the AOS Council approved a new Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Belonging, and Justice Value Statement that provides the foundation for our continued and expanded emphasis on creating a more welcoming community. In 2022, the AOS also formalized the addition of two voting student representatives on the AOS Council, starting in August 2023. This change gives students a more direct voice in Society leadership and helps to develop a more visible pathway to leadership for early-career members. In addition, the AOS Council approved a charge for a new Leadership Development Committee, which is tasked with developing a plan to increase transparency and equity in the pathway to leadership within the AOS, and recruit and support a more diverse and representative population of current and future leaders.

In 2022, the AOS Council approved a budget for DEIBJ-focused training in 2023. Initial training for AOS leadership will focus on understanding power and privilege dynamics and how to overcome the implicit biases and barriers that result. Our 2022 Annual Meeting emphasized representation, inclusion, and accessibility through diverse programming, expanded financial support, real-time translations, and affinity group events; read more about the Annual Meeting on page six.



Rainbow Lorikeet
Photo by Paul Charlier

Student Representatives on AOS Council



Teresa Pegan
Ph.D. Candidate
University of Michigan



Olivia Wang
M.Sc. Candidate
University of Hawai'i

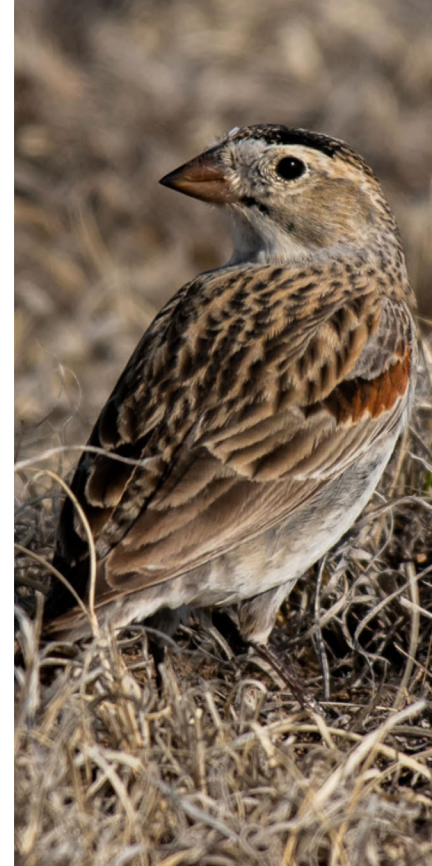
Our Commitment

Diversity | Equity | Inclusion | Belonging | Justice

English Bird Names

Changing harmful or exclusionary English bird names is a priority for many ornithologists and others interested in birds, and the AOS holds the honor and responsibility of determining how to address the challenge of such problematic bird names. In 2022, we engaged a diverse group of interested individuals, with representation from North and South America, consisting of employees of government agencies and non-profit organizations, bird-guide authors and checklist leaders, AOS members and non-members, and individuals from a broad array of racial and ethnic backgrounds. This committee is tasked with developing a process that will allow the AOS to change harmful and exclusionary English bird names in a thoughtful and proactive way for species within the AOS's purview.

This team has been meeting regularly since September 2022 and is exploring broad considerations for a name-change process, evaluating how addressing problematic names can broaden participation in bird conservation, and identifying ways to overcome technical and communication challenges that name changes may produce. The AOS is committed to developing a thoughtful and inclusive process to address harmful English bird names and is grateful for the broad range of feedback and encouragement from our members and partner groups throughout this process.



The Thick-billed Longspur's recent name change reflects an increased understanding of harm that can be caused by some eponyms, names commemorating individuals.
Photo by Kerry Hargrove



English Bird Names ad hoc Committee Chairs



Troy Peters



Erica Nol



Carlos Daniel Cadena

ANNUAL MEETING

AOS & BC 2022

The AOS's 140th annual meeting, held in San Juan, Puerto Rico, from 27 June to 2 July 2022, was hosted jointly with BirdsCaribbean and with support from local organizations Para La Naturaleza and the Sociedad Ornitológica Puertorriqueña, Inc. The theme "On the Wings of Recovery: Resilience and Action" reflected the challenges of both the global pandemic and the passage of devastating hurricanes through the Caribbean in recent years, and celebrated how our community has moved forward.

At the AOS's first in-person meeting in three years, the atmosphere was joyous as participants reconnected with their colleagues, enjoyed the diverse local avifauna, and explored the rich culture of Puerto Rico. The meeting was a tremendous success by many measures: **809 registrants** from **37 countries** with **99% attendee satisfaction** and **257 first-time attendees**. In addition to a strong scientific program, we focused on making the conference safe, welcoming, and relevant for a broad diversity of participants, and we featured important discussions and presentations about non-academic career paths, decolonizing bird conservation, engaging local communities for conservation, and empowering diversity in ornithology. Our popular and dynamic Storytelling event, featuring early-professional ornithologists, helped to link the personal and professional sides of our community, and our student-led Quiz Bowl yielded laughter, fun, and head-scratching!



AOS & BC 2022 Meeting Co-chairs
Sushma Reddy (left) and **Adrienne Tossas** (right)

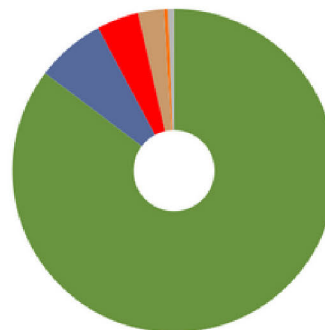


Puerto Rican Tody
(*Todus mexicanus*)
Photo by W. Marissen



Purnima Devi Barman
AOS & BC 2022 Plenary
Speaker; United Nations
"Champion of the Earth 2022"

2022 Meeting Attendance by Region



- **U.S. & Territories**; 85.3%
- **Caribbean, Mexico, Central & South America**; 6.9%
- **Canada**; 4.2%
- **Europe**; 2.6%
- **Africa, Asia, Australia, Middle East**; 0.4%
- **No data**; 0.6%

"I enjoyed the incredible quality of talks, particularly from the younger generation. The future of our societies is in good hands!"

— 2022 meeting survey respondent

AOS & BC 2022 Meeting Coordination Committee



Quiz Bowl hosts Jenn Houtz & Amelia-Juliette Demery



Ann Haynes-Sutton at Tody Trot 5K Finish



2022 AOS TRAVEL AWARDS

Our annual scientific conference brings the AOS community together. These meetings provide opportunities for sharing science and stories as well as for building and growing a more diverse and vibrant community. As the AOS works to encourage and support students and foster a more diverse and representative community, our travel awards program plays an integral role in administering funds to bring members to our annual conferences. These funds are instrumental in creating an accessible and inclusive AOS and providing networking and professional development opportunities for students, postdocs, and others who might otherwise struggle to attend our meetings.

Student & Postdoc Travel Awards

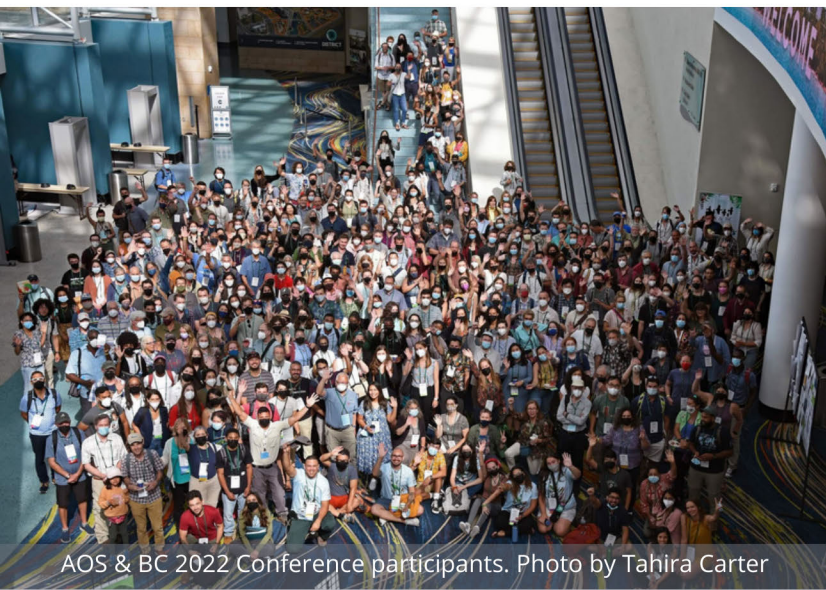
For the AOS & BC 2022 conference, the student and postdoc travel awards committee provided support to **13** postdocs (\$13,640) and **102** students (\$57,740) through our general travel awards program, providing more than 10% of our meeting attendees with funds supported by the AOS's endowment.



2022 AOS Student Presentation Award winners

Diversity & Inclusion and Caregiver Grants

In 2022, AOS leadership worked with the Diversity & Inclusion and Meeting Coordination committees to raise funds to expand our Diversity & Inclusion Travel Awards and Caregiver Grants in 2022. In addition to our general student travel awards, generous support from a National Science Foundation grant allowed AOS to provide an additional \$58,885 in grants to **42** individuals who were from historically excluded communities or have made significant contributions towards fostering a diverse and inclusive community. We also supported meeting attendance by **22** local Puerto Ricans (\$5,603 total). The Student Travel and Presentation Awards Committee also awarded **10** Caregiver Grants totaling \$9,311 for the 2022 conference to reduce barriers to participation for individuals with child- or elder-care responsibilities. Our Caregiver Grants program has made a big difference in increasing accessibility for early professionals with caregiver responsibilities and has served as a model for other scientific societies trying to advance similar initiatives.



AOS & BC 2022 Conference participants. Photo by Tahira Carter

2022 AOS AWARDS

Achievement Awards

The AOS Achievement Awards Program is one of the Society's oldest activities, with the first award given in 1921. Awards recognize and reward outstanding achievements and contributions to ornithology by individuals and groups in a comprehensive and inclusive way across the membership. In 2022, the AOS gave out **14** achievement awards: **seven** Senior Professional Awards, **two** Service Awards, **three** Early Professional Awards, and **two** Publication Awards. Nominations were advanced by independent committees for each awards category in coordination with the AOS's Centralized Awards Committee, with focused efforts to increase transparency, improve equity, and broaden representation across our slate of awardees. The AOS will present an inaugural Conservation Practitioner Award in 2023.

EARLY PROFESSIONAL AWARDS

James G. Cooper Early Professional Award

Stephanie M. Aguillon, Stanford University

Ned K. Johnson Early Investigator Award

Benjamin G. Freeman, University of British Columbia

Allison J. Shultz, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County

SERVICE AWARDS

Marion Jenkinson Service Award

Erin S. Morrison, New York University

Peter R. Stettenheim Service Award

Melinda Pruett-Jones

PUBLICATION AWARDS

2022 Florence Merriam Bailey Award

Amelia-Juliette C. Demery, Cornell University; co-authors Kevin J. Burns & Nicholas A. Mason

"Bill size, bill shape, and body size constrain bird song evolution on a macroevolutionary scale"

2022 Brina C. Kessel Award

Benjamin M. Winger and Teresa M. Pegan, University of Michigan

"Migration distance is a fundamental axis of the slow-fast continuum of life history in boreal birds"

SENIOR PROFESSIONAL AWARDS

Elliott Coues Award

Bruce E. Lyon, University of California, Santa Cruz

Bridget J. Stutchbury, York University

Loye and Alden Miller Research Award

John C. Wingfield, University of California, Davis

Ralph W. Schreiber Conservation Award

David G. Ainley, HT Harvey & Associates and Point Blue Conservation Science

Eric A. VanderWerf & Lindsay C. Young, Pacific Rim Conservation

William Brewster Memorial Award

Amanda D. Rodewald, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Cornell University, Center for Avian Population Studies

Roxana Torres, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México



2022 William Brewster Memorial Award winner Roxana Torres with former AOS president Mike Webster



2022 Elliott Coues Award winner Bridget Stutchbury



2022 Loye and Alden Miller Research Award winner John C. Wingfield

2022 AOS AWARDS

Student Research, Presentation, and Membership Awards

The AOS's research awards provide critical funding to launch and sustain student and postdoctoral research across numerous institutions and a wide variety of disciplines. In 2022, the AOS provided **\$134,685** in research support; **\$104,685** of these funds supported **46** student and postdoctoral research awards to recipients from nine countries. **In addition, we awarded two prestigious Kessel Fellowships**, larger research grants to support postdocs and early-career professionals as they launch their research careers. We also recognized **21** outstanding student scientific contributions to our annual meeting with a variety of presentation awards. The AOS provided **34** Student Membership Awards to first-time student members in 2022 to encourage early-career individuals to join the AOS community.



2022 AOS Council
Student Presentation
Award winner Prashant
Ghimire birding in
Puerto Rico at the
AOS & BC 2022
Conference

2022 Awardees

FELLOWSHIPS

Brina C. Kessel Fellowships for Ornithological Research

Umesh Srinivasan
Amberleigh Henschen

STUDENT/POSTDOC RESEARCH AWARDS

Alexander Wetmore Memorial Research Award

Ivy Ciaburri
Patricia Rodrigues
Aaron Skinner
Erin Renee Stewart
David Vander Pluym
Kristen Wacker

AOS Postdoctoral Research Award

Peri Bolton

Betty and Herbert Carnes Research Award

Michelle Ross

Donald L. Bleitz Research Award

Danny Jackson
Nick Vozza

Joseph Grinnell Research Award

Bradley Scholten

Josselyn Van Tyne Memorial Research Award

Clara Howell
Henry Stevens

Margaret Morse Nice Research Award

Varalika Jain
Sarah Haley Stewart

Werner and Hildegard Hesse Research Award

Po-An Chen
Holland Galante
Maina Charlotte Handmaker
Michał Tomasz Jezierski

Mewaldt-King Research Award

Lauren Puleo

Penny Ficken Research Award

Emily Ostrow

AOS Student Research Awards

Jonah Alderson
William Churchill Anderson
Catherine Rose Andreadis
Justin Baldwin
Quinn Carvey
Mac Lee Chamberlain
Carolyn Coyle
Emily Donahue
Andrew Dreelin
Robert Driver
Yasmeen Erritouni
Trey Hendrix
Agostina Silvia Juncosa-Polzella
Amy Rongyan Luo
Margaret Claire Mackinlay
Anastasia Madsen
Taylor Michelle Miller
Sarah Nichols
Kerstin Ozkan
Alberto Piña Ortiz
Ashley Cozette Romero
Emma Stierhoff
Stephanie Jayne Szarmach
Michael Tofflemire
Juliana Maria Villa

STUDENT PRESENTATION AWARDS

A. Brazier Howell Award

Jarome Russell Ali

AOS Council Award

Prashant Ghimire
Rosalyn Price-Waldman
Aimee Michele Van Tatenhove
Jessie L. Williamson

Frances F. Roberts Award

Samuel Case

Mark E. Hauber Award

Claire Nemes
Jennifer J. Uehling

Nellie Johnson Baroody Award

Yesenia Aurora Mora

Robert B. Berry Student Award

Jordan C. Giese

Honorable Mentions

Carrie Ann Adams
Bruna Rodrigues do Amaral
Robert Barber
Cory Robinson Elowe
John Anthony Jones
Shelby Lawson
Callum Scott McDiarmid
Jessie F. Salter
Katy Silber
Jaclyn Tolchin
Juan Daniel Zuluaga

AOS JOURNALS

The year 2022 brought exciting news for our two journals, *Ornithological Applications* and *Ornithology*: **these publications moved into the #1 and #3 rankings for all ornithology journals***, respectively, **putting the AOS's journals at the top of our field.** With *Ornithological Applications* focusing primarily on applied research and methods that inform conservation and *Ornithology* featuring fundamental ornithological research, these important journals featured a wide range of topics in 2022, ranging from unprecedented heat mortality of Magellanic Penguins in Argentina to advances in avian diet analysis. Submissions increased in 2022 after experiencing pandemic-associated declines in 2021, a trend seen across similar science journals during the pandemic. Authors in 2022 were primarily based in the U.S. and Canada, Europe, and Neotropical countries, although our author representation extended into Asia.

With a rapidly changing publication landscape, the AOS's editorial team works closely with our publishing partner, Oxford University Press, to monitor trends in Open Access publishing and prepare the journals for the future of publications.



*Source: Journal Citation Reports (Clarivate, 2022): © Clarivate Analytics

Five Publication Initiatives for Impact & Accessibility

The AOS continued or launched five initiatives to increase the scholarly impact and accessibility of our journals. First, 2022 marked the second round of the Wesley Lanyon Award competition, which publishes review papers from early-career ornithologists. Second, in 2022, AOS editors and other leaders engaged in discussions with Neotropical ornithologists to better understand how the AOS can help address publishing challenges faced by Neotropical authors. In early 2023, *Ornithological Applications* published two pivotal papers, coauthored by more than 100 scientists primarily from Latin America and the Caribbean, that described research and publishing challenges faced by Neotropical ornithologists and identified ways to address those barriers. Third, the AOS awarded travel grants to Associate Editors for the first time, enabling three editors to attend the AOS meeting in Puerto Rico. Fourth, articles are now published online as soon as they are accepted, resulting in decreased publication times for both journals. Finally, we launched two new article types—*Insight* and *Monograph*—to better reflect and showcase different types of scientific investigation and discovery.

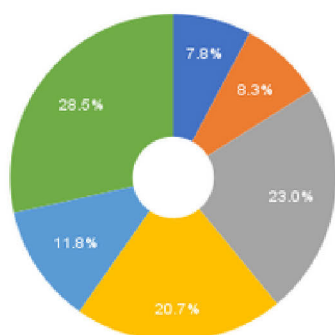


Editors-in-Chief **Catherine Lindell** (left) and **T. Scott Sillett** (right)

OPERATIONS & FINANCES

While the AOS's parent societies, the American Ornithologists' Union and the Cooper Ornithological Society, were run almost entirely by volunteers and contractors, the AOS employs six full-time and one part-time staff to oversee operations, support program coordination and implementation, provide improved member support, develop communications, and support the AOS's volunteer leaders. This "professionalized" model helps the AOS improve efficiency, increase capacity, provide better support to volunteer leaders, and ensure legal compliance. Our dedicated, hardworking staff strive for continuous improvement to provide relevant member resources and create a strong and welcoming community for our members. In October 2022, AOS staff held our first-ever annual staff retreat to identify tangible ways to improve our support for members and volunteers. Reach out and say hi — we love to hear from you!

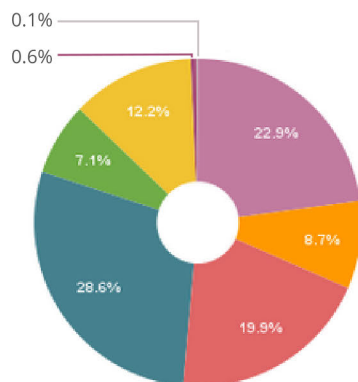
2022 Revenue



• Membership Dues	\$124,189
• Contributions & Grants	\$132,882
• General Funds Transfer	\$367,240
• Restricted Funds Transfer	\$331,010
• Publications	\$188,673
• Meetings	\$455,398

Total: \$1,599,392

2022 Expenses



• General & Administrative	\$356,452
• Communications	\$134,982
• Grants	\$309,891
• Meetings	\$445,485
• Membership	\$111,126
• Publications	\$189,360
• Projects & Activities	\$8,714
• Fundraising	\$2,117

Total: \$1,558,127

Total Assets \$26,138,653*

* Note that figures on this page represent preliminary, unaudited numbers as of 31 December 2022. The AOS operates with a balanced budget, using annual income and transfers of general and restricted funds as necessary to meet expenses.



Judith Scarl
Executive Director
& CEO



Crystal Ruiz
Director of Operations
& Administration



Chris Mulvaney
Membership & Data
Operations Manager



Mark Penrose
Managing Editor



Christine Handel Schmidt
Communications &
Marketing Manager



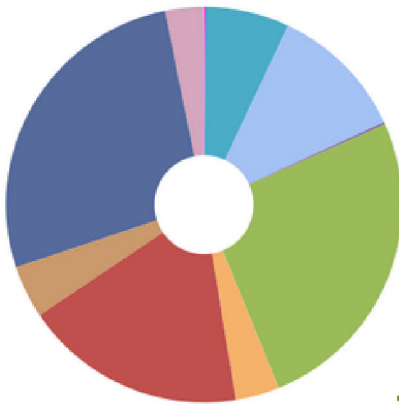
Lauren Gates
Event Coordinator



Mint Jang
Administrative
Assistant

MEMBERSHIP & VOLUNTEERING

2022 AOS Membership



- **Contributing Member**; 0.1%
- **Early Professional**; 6.8%
- **Emeritus/Retired**; 11.2%
- **Family Member**; 0.2%
- **Graduate Student/Postdoc**; 25.5%
- **Honorary Fellow**; 3.6%
- **Life Member**; 18.1%
- **Pre-College/Undergraduate**; 4.3%
- **Regular**; 27%
- **Special Country**; 3.2%

Total 2,821

AOS Member Benefits Overview

- Unlimited online access to AOS journals, *Ornithology* and *Ornithological Applications*.
- No author page charges to publish in AOS journals as a corresponding author, plus a 25% discount on optional Open Access fees.
- Access to "The Flock" AOS Member Directory.
- Eligibility for prestigious awards and research grants and access to a range of professional development opportunities.
- Free access to *Birds of the World*, the most comprehensive and authoritative resource available on the biology of the world's birds.
- 25% discount on Oxford University Press books.
- 30% discount with Princeton University Press.
- Discounted registration for our annual meeting.

2023 Opportunities

Get involved in the AOS journals

Publish Your Research As an AOS member, you can publish in *Ornithology* and *Ornithological Applications* for free and receive 25% off Open Access publication fees.

Become a Reviewer Reviewing papers provides an outstanding opportunity for early-career researchers and students to practice skills needed for writing their own papers, while working with some of the top researchers in ornithology.

Volunteer at our annual meeting

Already a regular at AOS meetings? You can make them better by volunteering, such as joining an organizing committee, chairing a session, or volunteering as a judge for the Student Presentation Awards competition.

Participate in AOS elections & awards

Make the AOS stronger by participating in important elections for leadership roles within our Society and by nominating members for AOS awards in recognition of their scientific achievements and contributions to the AOS.



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