



Position Description: Editor-in-Chief, *Ornithology*

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

The American Ornithological Society (AOS, or Society) seeks an editor-in-chief (EIC) for *Ornithology*, a top-ranked, international, peer-reviewed journal with a [147-year history](#) of publishing original research that advances fundamental, scientific knowledge of living and extinct bird species. *Ornithology* is published by Oxford University Press (OUP) on a quarterly basis. The journal receives more than 200 submissions per year and demonstrates editorial efficiency, with fast decision times and rapid online publication of manuscripts upon final acceptance. *Ornithology* enjoys the third-highest 5-year-average Journal Impact Factor score among 29 ornithological journals worldwide.

The EIC of *Ornithology* serves as the chief scientific authority and is solely responsible for selecting and approving scientific content for the journal. To achieve this, the EIC assembles and oversees a diverse editorial board to work effectively with the Society's professional publications staff. In addition, the EIC aids the Society in developing new policies responsive to changing publishing needs.

The EIC is an independent contractor of the AOS, and reports to the executive director. The term of the appointment is one year with annual reappointment subject to the AOS governing Council's approval. The EIC is generally expected to serve a minimum of five years. The AOS provides a stipend of \$16,000 per year, paid in quarterly installments and full financial support to attend the AOS Annual Meeting.

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES

Responsibilities of the EIC of *Ornithology* (the journal) during an annual performance period of 1 January through 31 December of each year include:

1. Serves as the chief scientific authority responsible for the process and output of top-quality, original, peer-reviewed articles and content in *Ornithology*. Directs editorial procedures that conform with editorial best practices laid out by the [Committee of Publication Ethics](#).
2. Collaborates with the two senior editors of *Ornithology* and the special features editor, who serves both AOS journals, to develop and maintain a smooth workflow and consistent experience amongst the journals for authors. Supervises these editors jointly with the EIC of *Ornithological Applications*, the AOS's companion ornithological journal.
3. Works as a member of a team, collaborating with the EIC of *Ornithological Applications*, senior editors, associate editors, AOS staff, and publication partners at Oxford University Press, to develop strategy and vision for AOS's two journals, to identify opportunities and challenges, and to oversee the publication program's progress.
4. Ensures that the EIC's own conduct and the conduct of the other journal editors and publication staff (a) conform to the Society's Code of Professional Ethics, (b) demonstrate the highest standards of professional conduct and scientific integrity, (c) follow and adhere to the Society's Conflict of Interest policies for its journals upon receipt and assignment of manuscripts to self, editors, and/or associate editors, (d) conform to applicable laws and regulations, and (e) reflect positively on the Society and its publishing partner, OUP, at all times.
5. Establishes and maintains a team of journal editors, including associate and specialty editors, consisting of distinguished scientists in the field. Diversity in this team will reflect the Society's values for diversity and inclusion, including but not limited to gender, ethnicity, disciplinary expertise, geography, and career stage, as described in the Society's Diversity Statement.
6. Provides strategic leadership with respect to the Society's communications and marketing plan to promote the content of both *Ornithology* and *Ornithological Applications* through the Society's social media and web platforms, newsletters, etc., and to strategically amplify the publishing partner's marketing and promotion of the journals' content.
7. Ensures the timely inflow of contributions of superior scientific, academic, and professional merit sufficient to fill the journal's annual publication schedule. Arranges appropriate peer-review procedures for manuscripts submitted for publication in the journal, and ensures that manuscripts conform to the instructions to authors.
8. Oversees the competition of the [AOS Wesley Lanyon Award](#). Reviews

- applications, selects the finalists, and recommends the winner together with the other editors of the two journals for the Council's approval.
9. Reports to the Society's Professional Ethics Committee any grievance received in relation to editorial decisions.
 10. Advises and assists the Society in its efforts to adopt new policies, content types, or topics to guide its scholarly publishing program in response to relevant advancements and trends in peer-reviewed, science-based scholarly publishing.
 11. Serves as an ex officio, non-voting member of the Society's governing body, the AOS Council. Apprises the Council of achievements, advancements, challenges, or threats to the journal and/or the Society's publication program.
 12. Serves as a senior representative of the Society on all matters related to its publications program. Serves on committees, as assigned, charged with providing strategic oversight of the Society's publications program.
 13. Provides editorial management oversight for the Society's managing editor in cooperation with the other EIC, as appropriate, and contributes to the annual evaluation of the managing editor.
 14. Attends the annual stated meeting of the Society and prioritizes time at the meeting to: (1) coordinate activities at the meeting that advance the goals of the publications program, (2) convene the journal's editorial board, (3) interact with current and prospective authors, editorial board members, reviewers, committee chairs, members, and others, (4) meet with representatives of the publishing partner, OUP, and (5) attend Council and any other leadership meetings, as requested.

POSITION REQUIREMENTS

- Active, mid- or late-career researcher with demonstrated experience mentoring students, postdocs, or early-career ornithologists
- Leader in a discipline with ornithological links
- Demonstrated body of published accomplishments in ornithology
- 5 or more years of cumulative service as an associate editor, senior editor, or editor-in-chief at one or more international peer-reviewed journals
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Demonstrated ability to work with and lead a team of fellow scientists
- Consideration of and sensitivity to diversity and inclusivity in our field
- Maintains membership in the AOS during their tenure as EIC

TO APPLY

Formal applications, consisting of a letter of interest and curriculum vitae, should be sent electronically to Dr. Dan Mennill, Chair, *Ornithology* Editorial Search Committee, at jobs@americanornithology.org. Your letter of interest should include:

- Relevant information about your background and qualifications for the position, including editorial experience and ability to meet the annual time demands of the position
- Statement of your vision for the journal's future positive trajectory, and your primary goals and proposed actions that would allow the journal to achieve that vision

Applicants should be current members of the AOS at the time of their application.

The closing date for receipt of applications is 15 July 2023.