



AOS MEMBER

Welcome Packet



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www.americanornithology.org



Table of Contents

Welcome from the AOS	2
Strategic Plan, Mission, Vision, and Strategic Goals	3
Benefits of Your AOS Membership	4
AOS Governance and Organizational Structure	5
How to Get Involved in the AOS	6
AOS Committees	7
AOS Communications	16
Accessing and Publishing in the AOS Journals	17
Awards and Grants	18
AOS Annual Meetings & Other Events	22
Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics	22
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Belonging, and Justice	23
Closing Statement	24

Pictured on cover: AOS members Luis Sandoval (*top left*), Zachery Holmes (*bottom left*), Judit Szabo (*right*)



Welcome

Welcome to the [American Ornithological Society](#) (AOS)! The AOS has been the world's largest professional organization for ornithologists since the American Ornithologists' Union (founded 1883) and the Cooper Ornithological Society (founded 1893) merged in 2016. Our mission is to connect ornithologists, science, and bird conservation by supporting science that advances the understanding and conservation of birds, promoting broad access to ornithological science, supporting ornithologists throughout their career paths, and fostering a welcoming, diverse, supportive, and dynamic ornithological community. We remain steadfast in our support of bird conservation efforts to halt the rapid decline in bird populations and their natural habitats throughout the Americas.

As a member of the AOS, you play a critical role in helping the Society promote connections and collaborations among ornithologists across the Americas and the world to a more diverse population of ornithologists. The AOS financially supports ornithological research and disseminates peer-reviewed ornithological science in our journals, *Ornithology* and *Ornithological Applications*, and through the *Birds of the World* online database. Our annual meetings offer an opportunity for our members to share science, access professional resources, and engage with a supportive and dynamic community of ornithologists. The AOS continually invests in its members, with a focus on professional development across a range of disciplines.

We appreciate your support as an AOS member and we want to support you, as well. Please take advantage of the many membership benefits available to you. We encourage you to apply for research grants, nominate yourself for an award, or become a reviewer for our journals. Connect with all the professionals who are the AOS through virtual or in-person events, and through our many programs. You can help direct the future of the Society by joining or leading a committee, or by exploring other pathways to Society leadership. This is your Society. Through our work together, we strengthen our Society's core values and practices to create a welcoming, diverse, and safe professional home for all AOS members.

Sincerely,

The American Ornithological Society



AOS Strategic Plan

In 2023, the AOS approved a new [Strategic Plan](#) with an updated mission, vision, goals, and strategies. This foundational document, guided by feedback from our members, helps define the AOS and our priorities in the coming years. The AOS organizes Committee efforts, Council conversations, and staff work around the strategic plan.

AOS Mission

To connect ornithologists, science, and bird conservation by supporting science that advances the understanding and conservation of birds, promoting broad access to ornithological science, supporting ornithologists throughout their career paths, and fostering a welcoming, diverse, supportive, and dynamic ornithological community.

AOS Vision

The AOS vision is a broad and engaged ornithological community that advances the understanding and conservation of birds.

AOS Strategic Goals

1. **Support impactful ornithological science**

- Ornithologists, with an emphasis on early-career members and those from under-resourced regions of the Americas, have access to resources to conduct ornithological research that advances the understanding and conservation of birds.

2. **Communicate and provide access to ornithological science**

- High-quality ornithological research is broadly accessible through publications, society events (virtual and in-person), and other effective communications.

3. **Broaden and strengthen professional development and career support**

- AOS values and welcomes ornithologists of all career types and supports continued development across all professional stages.

4. **Foster an inclusive ornithological community**

- AOS promotes an inclusive culture and diverse membership where everyone feels a sense of belonging. We create an ornithological community that connects, values, and empowers all ornithologists from different disciplines, career paths, and geographic regions, as well as from different backgrounds, experiences, and identities.

5. **Promote excellence in governance and operations**

- AOS's governance, operational structures, policies, and procedures reflect the values of the society, enable effective implementation of the strategic plan, facilitate efficient operations, maintain a strong fiscal position, ensure an effective and engaged staff, and provide a meaningful volunteer experience.

Benefits of Your AOS Membership

- Unlimited online access to [Ornithology](#) and [Ornithological Applications](#) via the [Member Portal](#).
- No author page charges to publish in AOS journals as a corresponding author, plus a 25% discount on optional open access fees.
- Free access to [Birds of the World](#), the most comprehensive and authoritative online resource available on the biology of the world's birds via the [Member Portal](#).
- Eligibility for prestigious [awards and research grants](#) and access to a range of [professional development opportunities](#); see information below for further details.
- Discounted registration for our [annual meeting](#).
- 30% discount on ZEISS products. Log in to the [Member Portal](#) for more details.
- 25% discount on Oxford University Press books. Receive the coupon code in the [Member Portal](#).
- 30% discount with Princeton University Press. Receive the coupon code in the [Member Portal](#).

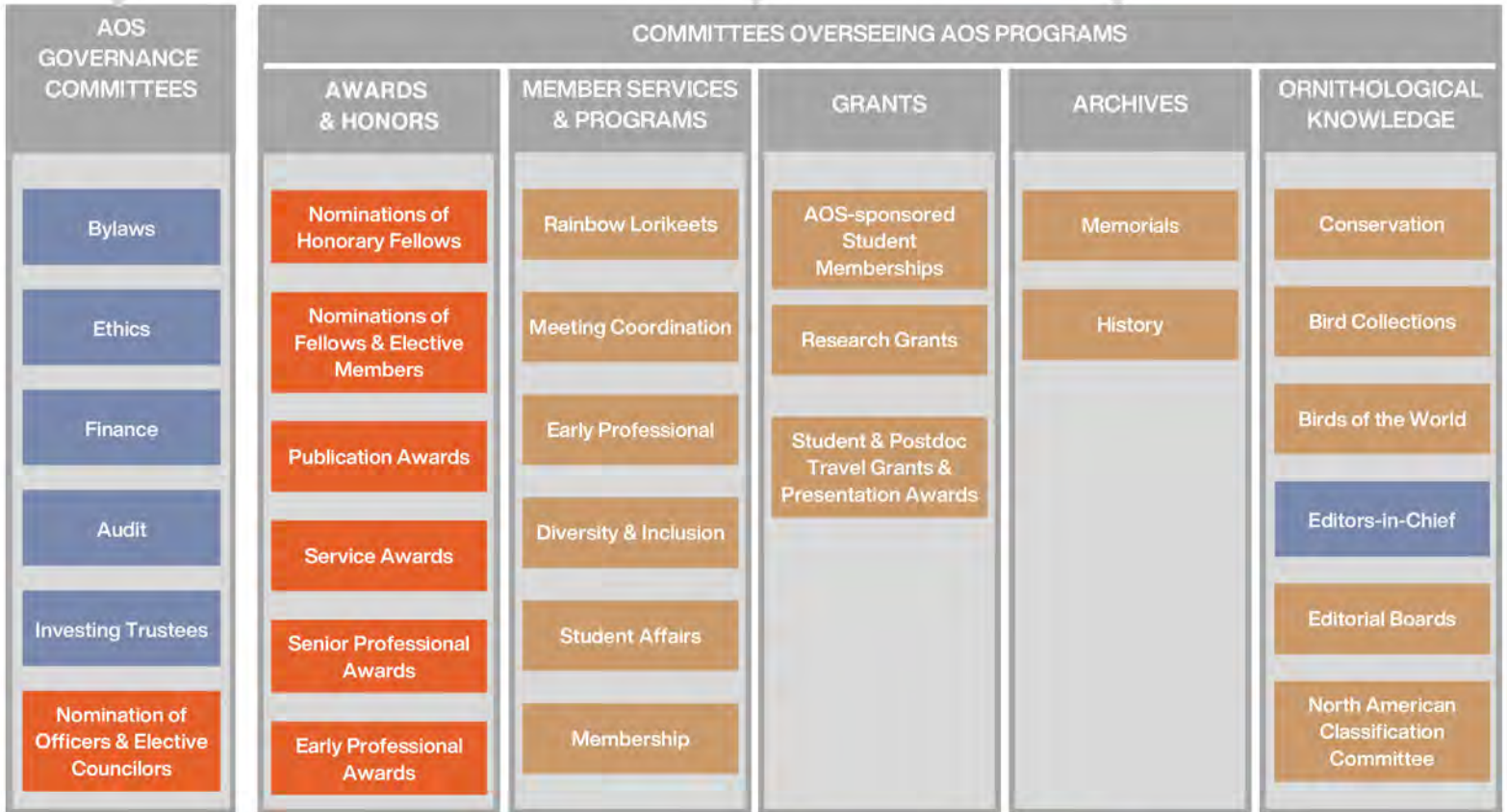
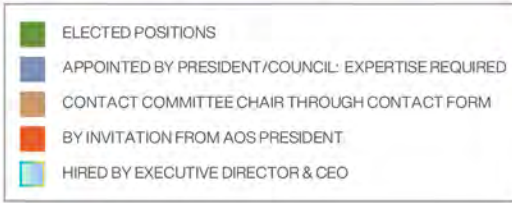


The **Cornell** Lab of Ornithology
Birds of the World



Seeing beyond

AOS Governance and Organizational Structure



AOS OFFICERS 2024-2025	AOS ELECTIVE COUNCILORS	MEMBERS OF AOS COUNCIL		AOS PROFESSIONAL STAFF
President Sara Morris (2024-2026) President-Elect Morgan Tingley (2024-2026) Secretary Sushma Reddy (2022-) Treasurer Matthew Carling (2021-) Executive Director & CEO Judith Scarl (2021-) <i>Voting members listed in green.</i>	Terms ending 2025 Christopher Balakrishnan Nancy Chen Dan Mennill Allison Shultz Terms ending in 2026 Sahas S. Barve Kristen M. Covino Camila Gómez Cristina Yumi Miyaki Terms ending in 2027 José Maria Cardoso da Silva Anna Chalfoun Jennifer Owen Luis Sandoval	ELECTIVE STUDENT COUNCILORS Term ending 2025 Jacob Drucker Term ending 2026 Faiza Hafeez PAST PRESIDENTS Colleen Handel Michael Webster Kathy Martin EX OFFICIO Judit Szabo Christina Riehl Jennifer Owen	HONORARY MEMBERS Steven Beissinger Bonnie Bowen Erica Dunn Susan Haig James Kushlan John Fitzpatrick Scott Lanyon Frank Moore Dennis Power C. John Ralph Martin Raphael Terry Rich John Rotenberry J. Michael Scott Kimberly Sullivan	Executive Director & CEO Judith Scarl Director of Operations & Administration Crystal Ruiz Communications & Marketing Manager Chris Anne Handel Membership & Data Operations Manager Chris Mulvaney Meeting Manager Ramona Fletcher Managing Editor Mark Penrose Diversity & Inclusion Coordinator Amani Edwards Administrative Assistant Mint Jang

How to Get Involved in the AOS

This section accompanies the AOS governance map and describes how new AOS members can become more involved with the Society and the various AOS committees. Here, we provide a brief description of each committee and a description of how new members can contribute or how the committee is populated. Unless otherwise specified, to express your interest in getting involved in volunteering on a committee please use the [AOS Contact Form](#).

Note that chairs of the various committees are appointed by the President, as defined in the AOS bylaws.

Pathways to AOS Leadership

We encourage any members interested in leadership positions to pursue the following pathways:

- Volunteering to serve on or lead a Committee is often the first step for members looking to become leaders within the AOS. We encourage you to browse our list of Committees to find opportunities that match your interests.
- Members who are currently enrolled students may be elected to the office of Elective Student Councilor, but they may continue to hold their position after graduation. Candidates for Elective Student Councilor are nominated by and voted on by the AOS student members. The final nominees then advance to the full electoral slate for approval by the entire AOS membership.
- Any member in good standing may nominate persons for President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and Elective Councilors.
- Any member may run for the office of Treasurer.
- Members may be nominated by current AOS Elective Members or Fellows to become AOS Elective Members.
- AOS Elective Members may be nominated by Fellows to become Fellows.
- Elective Members and Fellows may run for the offices of Secretary and Elective Councilor.
- AOS Fellows are eligible to hold the offices of President-Elect and President, to take part in the election of Fellows, including Honorary Fellows, and to make final decisions regarding amendments to the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.

Guidelines for expected qualifications and nomination procedures for [Elective Members](#) and [Fellows](#) (including self-nomination for direct consideration by the nominations committee) are available on our AOS website.

AOS Committees

Elected Leadership and Committees of Council

Chair: The President of the Society presides at Council meetings

Description: Currently, voting members of Council are made up of the four elected Officers of the Society (President & President-Elect [each 2-year terms]; Treasurer and Secretary [each elected annually]); twelve Elective Councilors (3-year terms); the three most recent Past Presidents (3 successive 2-year terms, or 6 years); and two Elective Student Councilors (who each serve 2-year terms).

How to get involved: Officers and Elective Councilors, including past presidents, are all elected by the general membership. The Executive Director, as the Chief Executive Officer, serves on Council as a non-voting member. Elective Student Councilors are nominated by and voted on by the AOS student members. The final nominees then advance to the full electoral slate for approval by the entire AOS membership. The President may appoint other individual members to serve as non-voting participants. Non-voting members of Council currently include the Chair of the Investing Trustees Committee, the Editors-in-Chief of the two journals, and Honorary Past Presidents interested in continuing to serve on Council.

Executive Committee

Chair: Standing AOS President, with support of the Executive Director/CEO

Description: Executive Committee of Council consists of the four Elected Officers of the Society and the Executive Director/CEO. The Executive Committee provides ongoing business oversight of the activities and operations of the Society as may arise between meetings of the Council to advance the AOS's long range goals. The four elected officers of the Society are responsible for evaluating the performance of the Executive Director/CEO on an annual basis.

How to get involved: Officers are elected by the general membership to their positions, as defined by the AOS Bylaws. The Executive Director/CEO is hired by the AOS Council.

Audit Committee

Chair: Doug Phillips

Description: Directs, reviews, and presents the annual audit and tax returns to the Council. Works with the Executive Director to review the financial statements of the Society after the annual audit to approve the audit report, ensure that financial peculiarities of the Society have been appropriately treated, and alert Council to any issues raised by the auditors.

How to get involved: Appointed by the President and by invitation. This committee is composed of Council members and special advisors and is not open to the general Society membership.

Bylaws Committee

Chair: Jim Herkert

Description: Oversees the process of changing and amending the AOS Bylaws, which govern the operations and programs of the Society.

How to get involved: Appointed by the President and by invitation.

Investing Trustees Committee

Chair: Jennifer Owen

Description: Reviews market conditions and determines and regularly reviews the Society's endowment asset allocations. Works with the Treasurer and Executive Director to review policies for investment instruments and evaluates performance of the investments and the professional investment managers. Annually presents to Council an overview of performance and activities over the past five years and the recommended amount of transfer from investments to the operating account for the next fiscal year.

How to get involved: Appointed by Council annually. This committee is composed of Council members and special advisors and is not open to the general Society membership.

Finance Committee

Chair: Matt Carling [AOS Treasurer]

Members: John Fitzpatrick, Jim Herkert, Rebecca Kimball, Jennifer Owen, Doug Phillips, Judith Scarl

Description: Works with the Executive Director to establish and implement a strategic financial plan for the Society. From time to time, the Finance Committee may be called upon by the Executive Director to review the financial statements and budget or to address financial management issues or emerging needs and opportunities that affect the Society's fiscal health and security.

How to get involved: Appointed by the President and by invitation. This committee is composed of Council members, former treasurers, and special advisors and is not open to the general Society membership.

Professional Ethics Committee

Chair: Jeanne Fair

Description: Works to promote a high level of ethical conduct by ornithologists through the development of educational activities for AOS members and other ornithologists. The committee

oversees the investigation of complaints concerning misconduct of AOS members and affiliates including attendees of AOS-sponsored meetings, and activities associated with AOS publications and communications and to supervise mediation or recommend disciplinary actions/sanctions when a violation of the Code of Conduct is found to have occurred.

How to get involved: Appointed by the President and by invitation.

Nomination of Officers and Elective Councilors Committee

Chair: President-Elect

Description: Ensures that a sufficient number of persons are nominated to stand for election for the [AOS Council](#) positions of President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and Elective Councilor, in accordance with the [AOS Bylaws](#).

How to get involved: Committee membership consists of second-year Elective Councilors and the Executive Director/CEO.

Committees Overseeing AOS Programs

Membership Committee

Chair: Erin Morrison

Description: Develops strategies for retaining, increasing, and diversifying membership of the Society. Works with AOS committees to evaluate effective ways to best serve and engage our members and provide meaningful opportunities for members to contribute to their profession.

How to get involved: The Membership Committee is open to any AOS member. Interested volunteers are encouraged to use the [AOS Contact Form](#) to learn more about potential opportunities.

Early Professionals Committee

Co-Chairs: Nandadevi Cortes-Rodriguez and Jennifer Houtz

Description: Discusses the needs of early-professional ornithologists (postdoctoral researchers, pre-tenure faculty members, and non-academic scientists who have received degrees within the past five years) and designs and promotes professional development resources, training, and opportunities for these individuals.

How to get involved: Early Professional Committee is open to any AOS early professional member (graduate students, non-academic and academic professionals who are ≤ 5 years out of their terminal degree). Interested volunteers are encouraged to use the [AOS Contact Form](#) to learn more about potential opportunities.

Student Affairs Committee

Co-Chairs: Faiza Hafeez, Kristen Rosamond, Akshit Suthar, Angela Brierly

Description: Evaluates and recommends efforts that address the needs of student members and increase student participation in AOS activities, committees, annual meetings, and Society communications. Fosters Society-sponsored activities to promote interaction between students and professional ornithologists.

How to get involved: Student Affairs Committee is open to any AOS student member (undergraduate or graduate). Interested volunteers are encouraged to use the [AOS Contact Form](#) to learn more about potential opportunities.

Diversity and Inclusion Committee

Co-Chairs: Nancy Chen and Dai Shizuka

Description: Increases the relevance and impact of the AOS in ornithology by ensuring that Society activities and outreach efforts are accessible to the broadest diversity of ornithologists, students, and members of the public. The Committee works to empower AOS members by creating an environment where all members feel welcomed and encouraged to fully engage and participate in all activities and governance. (See also: [AOS Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Belonging, and Justice \(DEIB\) Values Statement](#).)

How to get involved: Diversity and Inclusion Committee uses an [application form](#) for anyone interested in Committee participation and evaluates applications annually.

Rainbow Lorikeets

Chair: Sarah Winnicki

Description: An affiliate caucus of [Out to Innovate™](#) (formerly NOGLSTP, the National Organization of Gay and Lesbian Scientists and Technical Professionals) and AOS committee that strives to represent and serve the Queer ornithological community. The group works to increase visibility of LGBTIQ+ ornithologists, identify and address issues that face Queer scientists and researchers, and to serve as allies to other underrepresented groups.

How to get involved: Rainbow Lorikeets is open to any AOS member. Interested volunteers are encouraged to use the [AOS Contact Form](#) to learn more about potential opportunities.

Meeting Coordination Committee

Chair: Currently vacant for 2025

Description: Provides strategic oversight and coordination of AOS annual meetings, all of its activities, and development of the scientific program. The Meeting Coordination Committee (MCC)

works in collaboration with the Local Planning committee for in-person meetings.

How to get involved: The MCC is typically composed of chairs of or committee members from other AOS committees with activities held at the annual meeting. Additionally, each conference requires the assistance of many volunteers to help with translations, run the technology during individual sessions, and other activities. The MCC puts out a call for volunteers interested in supporting conference events. Members who have suggestions for programming, nominations for plenary speakers, or are interested in assisting in planning and support should use the [AOS Contact Form](#) to get in touch with the chair.

Nominations

Nomination of Fellows and Elective Members Committee

Chair: Sarah Knutie

Description: Surveys the AOS membership and coordinates nominations of [qualified members](#) for the special membership class of [Elective Member](#), and nominations of qualified Elective Members for the class of [Fellow](#), according to the criteria established in [AOS Bylaws](#).

How to get involved: Any current AOS Member can suggest the names of deserving nominees for Elective Member or Fellow. The Committee will review suggestions and nominate [qualified](#) nominees. A group of three or more Fellows may nominate Elective Members and Fellows directly, without Committee action. A group of three or more Elective Members can nominate Elective Members directly, without Committee action. All nominations are made through the Society's [Member Portal](#).

To serve on the Committee: Appointed by the President and by invitation. Per [AOS Bylaws](#), Committee members must be AOS Fellows.

Nomination of Honorary Fellows Committee

Chair: Andre Dhondt

Description: Nominates candidates for [Honorary Fellows](#), non-members of AOS who are chosen for exceptional ornithological eminence according to the criteria established in AOS Bylaws.

How to get involved: A group of three or more Fellows may submit a nomination for Honorary Fellow to be reviewed by the Committee.

To serve on the Committee: Appointed by the President in accordance with the [AOS Bylaws](#).

Awards & Research Grants

AOS-sponsored Student Memberships Committee

Co-Chairs: João Marcos G. Capurucho and Erin Grabarczyk

Description: Oversees the process for granting one-year [AOS-sponsored student memberships](#) to undergraduate and graduate students interested in pursuing a career in ornithology.

How to get involved: Open to any AOS member. Interested volunteers are encouraged to use the [AOS Contact Form](#) to learn more about potential opportunities.

Research Grants Committee

Co-Chairs: Scott Rush and Sahas Barve

Description: Solicits and reviews applications for [Student and Postdoctoral Research Grants](#) funded by the Society. These grants support student and postdoctoral research in various areas of avian biology.

How to get involved: Open to any AOS member with a Ph.D. Interested volunteers are encouraged to use the [AOS Contact Form](#) to learn more about potential opportunities.

Kessel Fellowships Selection Subcommittee

Chair: Carrie Branch

Description: Solicits and reviews applications for [Kessel Fellowships](#) made from AOS research grant funds. These awards support early career scientists in various areas of avian biology.

How to get involved: Open to any AOS member. Interested volunteers are encouraged to use the [AOS Contact Form](#) to learn more about potential opportunities.

Publication Awards Committee

Chair: Sarah Oyler-McCance

Description: Selects candidates for the Society's annual [Publication Awards](#), recognizing outstanding peer-reviewed papers in ornithology by AOS members at different career stages published in AOS journals and elsewhere.

How to get involved: By invitation.

Service Awards Committee

Chair: Colleen Handel

Description: Selects candidates for the Society's annual [Service Awards](#). These awards recognize AOS members at different career stages for their outstanding service to the Society.

How to get involved: The most recent class of outgoing Councilors serve as members of this Committee; other senior AOS members may also be considered.

Senior Professional Awards Committee

Chair: Marty Leonard

Description: Selects candidates for the Society's annual [Senior Professional Awards](#), recognizing the outstanding contributions to ornithology of established professionals.

How to get involved: By invitation; interested members can fill out the contact form to indicate interest.

Early Professional Awards Committee

Chair: Christopher Witt

Description: Solicits and reviews nominations and applications for the Society's annual [Early Professional Awards](#), the James G. Cooper Early Professional Award and the Ned K. Johnson Early Investigator Award.

How to get involved: By invitation; interested members can fill out the contact form to indicate interest.

Student and Postdoc Travel Grants, Caregiver Grants, and Presentation Awards Committee

Co-Chairs: Evan Adams and Sarah Saunders

Description: Solicits and reviews applications for [Student and Postdoc Travel Grants](#) and [Caregiver Grants](#) to help defray costs of travel to attend in-person annual meetings. The committee also administers the [Student Presentation Awards](#) that recognize the best scientific papers and posters given by student members at the annual meeting.

How to get involved: By invitation; interested members can fill out the contact form to indicate interest.

Archives

History Committee

Chair: Daniel Lewis

Description: Collects materials of historical importance and submits them to the Smithsonian Institution archivist assigned to managing AOS records. Provides materials to the Memorials Committee upon request and responds to requests for access to the [AOU archives](#).

How to get involved: Open to any AOS member. Interested volunteers are encouraged to use the [AOS Contact Form](#) to learn more about potential opportunities.

Memorials Committee

Co-Chairs: Daniel Lewis and Greg Nobles

Description: Solicits authors for and oversees the preparation of memorials honoring deceased AOS members and nonmembers who are prominent figures in ornithology and avian conservation to be published in the AOS journals *Ornithology* and *Ornithological Applications*.

How to get involved: Open to any AOS member. Interested volunteers are encouraged to use the [AOS Contact Form](#) to learn more about potential opportunities.

Ornithological Knowledge

Editorial Boards, AOS Journals

Chairs: The Editors-in-Chief of the journals

Description: Interested in joining the editorial board of *Ornithological Applications* or *Ornithology*? Associate Editors manage the peer review process by assigning papers (maximum of one new manuscript per month) to reviewers, synthesizing reviews received, and making recommendations to the Senior Editors or Editor-in-Chief. They also serve as ambassadors for the AOS journals and encourage manuscript submissions from authors. Editorial board terms are 3 years. Qualifications: a doctoral degree or equivalent research experience, evidence of an active and relevant publication record for current career stage, and experience with peer review. Previous service on a journal editorial board is not required.

How to get involved: Please send a CV and brief statement of interest describing your areas of expertise to the Editors-in-Chief of the journals: [Judit Szabo](#), *Ornithological Applications* or [Christina Riehl](#), *Ornithology*. We particularly seek Associate Editors who are fluent in Portuguese and/or Spanish. We will keep your documents on file for at least a year if a position is not immediately available. The editorial office also distributes calls for Associate Editors through AOS media channels.

Reviewers, AOS Journals

Chairs: The Editors-in-Chief and Senior Editors of the journals

Description: Serve as a reviewer for manuscripts submitted to *Ornithology* and *Ornithological Applications*. Our peer review process is double-blind. Authors and reviewers remain anonymous to each other, although reviewers can sign reviews if they wish.

How to get involved: Serving as a reviewer is open to all researchers. Please email the Managing Editor, [Mark Penrose](#), to learn about opportunities. Graduate Students, including those between degree programs, with no previous experience are invited to participate in the [AOS Student Reviewer Program](#).

Conservation Committee

Co-Chairs: Angelina Ruiz Sanchez and Jeff Walters

Description: Identifies and implements appropriate means for AOS to promote sound ornithological science for making conservation and management decisions for birds. Among its activities are organizing symposia of conservation interest at annual meetings, and engaging in science arbitration, which involves evaluating the science relevant to an issue and providing the results to decision-makers.

How to get involved: Open to any AOS member. Interested volunteers are encouraged to use the [AOS Contact Form](#) to learn more about potential opportunities.

North American Classification and Nomenclature Committee (NACC)

Co-Chairs: R. Terry Chesser and Carla Cicero

Description: Evaluates and codifies the latest scientific developments in the systematics, nomenclature, and distribution of North and Middle American birds. Publishes the [Check-list of North American Birds](#) and its annual supplements.

How to get involved: Appointed by the President and by invitation.

Bird Collections Committee

Chairs: John Bates and Carla Cicero

Description: Monitors the status and promotes improvements of avian scientific collections and specimen-based data. Facilitates collections-based research, including providing access to collections data and information on permits, protocols, preparation techniques, and supplies. Sponsors workshops on these topics.

How to get involved: Open to any AOS member. Interested volunteers are encouraged to use the [AOS Contact Form](#) to learn more about potential opportunities.

Birds of the World Advisory Committee

Chair: Currently open

Description: Reviews content provided through the [Birds of the World](#) (BOW) website and provides oversight on functioning of the BOW-AOS partnership. Recommends improvements to increase scientific value usability of the web content.

How to get involved: The committee and BOW encourages all members interested to participate in updating the BOW species' accounts or contributing other content. Interested volunteers are encouraged to use the [AOS Contact Form](#) to learn more about potential opportunities.

AOS Communications

The American Ornithological Society (AOS) offers many ways to connect and stay up-to-date on important Society news and updates in ornithology.

AOS News & Alerts

In the [My Account section of the AOS Member Portal](#), members can choose to receive regular email updates from AOS by opting in to AOS communications. The AOS News offers a timely news digest of the latest updates, science, events, and more from the Society. Our AOS Alerts serve to highlight policies or initiatives concerning birds and disseminate crucial information on actionable steps AOS members can undertake.

Social Media

You can stay up-to-date on all the latest news from AOS by following our channels on [X](#), [Facebook](#), [Bluesky Social](#), [Instagram](#), and [YouTube](#).

AOS Blogs

The main AOS blog, Wing Beat, offers the latest news from the AOS, including new research published in our journals, Society updates, awards and funding announcements, and opportunities to get involved in AOS efforts. [Subscribe to Wing Beat](#) to receive new posts delivered directly to your email inbox. If you're interested in following the Society's progress with the [English Common Bird Names Pilot Project](#), you can subscribe to receive updates from our [English Bird Names blog](#).

AOS Websites

Learn more about the AOS by visiting and bookmarking these websites:

- AOS Website: www.americanornithology.org
- AOS Annual Meeting Website: meeting.americanornithology.org
- AOS Member Portal: <https://my.americanornithology.org/>

Contacting AOS Staff or Society Leadership

We welcome hearing from you!

Contact an [AOS staff member](#) using the [AOS Contact Form](#). Contact the AOS Executive Director via email at jscarl@americanornithology.org. Contact any AOS officer at ExecCommittee@americanornithology.org.

Accessing and Publishing in the AOS Journals

The American Ornithological Society (AOS) publishes [two top-ranked scientific journals](#), [Ornithology](#) and [Ornithological Applications](#). Access our journals through our publishing partner, [Oxford University Press](#) (OUP), or through [BioOne](#), by logging in through the [AOS Member Portal](#). Sign up for new journal issue email alerts for [Ornithology](#) and [Ornithological Applications](#) through OUP.

AOS members can access and publish in our journals free of charge, plus enjoy a 25% discount on open access fees. Submit your paper to our journals via [Editorial Manager](#). Our [Instructions for Authors](#) are available through the OUP website.

Substantive areas for *Ornithology*

- Anatomy & physiology
- Behavior & behavioral ecology
- Biogeography
- Climatology & global change
- Ecology of populations, communities, and landscapes/seascapes
- Evolutionary biology
- Feather biology
- Genetics
- Life history
- Movement & migration
- Parasites & disease
- Quantitative methods
- Reproductive biology
- Systematics

Substantive areas for *Ornithological Applications*

- Population biology, including threats to bird populations
- Conservation and management issues
- Conservation genetics
- Conservation social science
- Ecosystem services and disservices of birds
- Restoration of bird taxa and their ecological functions in degraded landscapes
- Effects of habitat alteration and fragmentation
- Responses to climate change
- Other anthropogenic effects, including energy infrastructure and environmental contamination, on birds
- Avian diseases and disease transmission by birds in changing landscapes
- Birds in urban and agricultural landscapes

Awards and Grants

The American Ornithological Society (AOS) bestows a range of awards and grants that recognize excellence in ornithology, honor outstanding service to the Society, and provide direct funding for students, postdocs, and early career professionals. All eligibility and application information about AOS Awards and Grants is available on our website. Eligibility for awards is an often under-utilized benefit of being a member of the AOS. You may be competitive for several of these awards; please consider nominating your colleagues or yourself!

The AOS offers a range of grants awards for student and postdoctoral researchers, including [Travel Grants](#) and [Caregiver Grants](#) that offset the costs of traveling to attend the annual meeting, [Presentation Awards](#) that recognize the best oral and poster presentations by students and postdocs at the annual meeting, and [Research Grants](#) that provide funding to support student research. Postdocs may also be interested in the AOS's [Kessel Fellowships for Ornithological Research](#).

Research Grants

Student Research Grants

The AOS gives annual [Student Research Grants](#) of up to \$2,500 to support research in various areas of avian biology by undergraduates, graduate students, and postdocs. The AOS encourages students and postdocs from any region to apply. These grants are administered by the Research Awards Committee.

Early Professional Research Grants

In 2019, the Society introduced a new research fellowship program for early-career professionals, the [Kessel Fellowships for Ornithological Research](#). This fellowship has been made possible through a generous bequest by Dr. Brina Kessel and is directed to early-career scientists. The full range of ornithological research currently published in peer-reviewed journals, such as avian biology, ecology, behavior, conservation, genetics, interdisciplinary work, etc. can be supported. Poultry and agricultural research will not be considered. Kessel Fellowships are open to early-career researchers. This includes those who have received their Ph.D. within ten years of the grant submission date (an extra year of eligibility may be granted for parental leave). Postdoctoral researchers, early career faculty members, and Ph.D. students who meet the degree requirements are encouraged to apply. The Kessel Research Fellowship program is overseen by the Research Grants Committee.

Latin American/Caribbean Conservation Research Grant

The AOS Conservation Committee sponsors the [Latin American/Caribbean Conservation Research Grant](#) program to support early-career scientists from Latin America and the Caribbean conducting conservation-related research on either migratory or resident birds in these regions.

Travel & Participation Grants

AOS-sponsored Student Memberships

The AOS awards one year of gratis student membership to students from anywhere in the world interested in pursuing a career in ornithology. [AOS-sponsored Student Memberships](#) grantees receive the full benefits of AOS membership. These awards are administered by the AOS-sponsored Student Memberships Committee. Applicants cannot have been an AOS member previously. Applications are typically due by 31 December annually, and announcements are made in early January.

Successful applicants will be notified in time to register early for the annual meeting and to apply for Student Travel Grants, the Student Presentation Award competition, and Student Research Grants.

Student & Postdoc Travel Grants

The AOS provides [Travel Grants](#) for students (undergraduate, masters, and doctoral students, and those in between degree-serving programs) as well as postdocs to help defray expenses to attend our annual meeting. These grants, made possible by endowed funds established through the generosity of Marcia Brady Tucker (in 1978) and Brina Kessel (in 2017), are administered by the Student & Postdoc Travel Grants and Presentation Awards Committee. Occasionally, travel funds will also be made available through special competitions for other purposes, such as travel to the International Ornithological Congress (IOC).

Travel Grants In Support of Diversity & Inclusion

As part of our ongoing efforts to foster a diverse and inclusive community, the AOS is proud to offer [additional Travel Grants](#) supporting individuals from underrepresented groups and/or those who have made significant contributions towards fostering a diverse and inclusive community. Membership in the AOS is not required to be eligible for these grants. Students and postdocs (as described above) that wish to be considered for these grants should select the appropriate option in the travel grant application process. These grants are administered by the Diversity and Inclusion Committee in collaboration with the Student and Postdoc Travel Grants and Presentation Awards Committee.

Caregiver Grants

The AOS provides [Caregiver Grants](#) to help attendees of the annual meeting offset the extra costs incurred by caregivers (such as parents of young children or those providing elder-care). Any conference registrant will be eligible, although priority will be given to presenters and early-career researchers. Applicants can apply for [Travel Grants](#) as well as Caregiver Grants.

Achievement Awards

Student Presentation Awards

Each year, AOS confers several prestigious [Student Presentation Awards](#) to students (undergraduate, masters, and doctoral) who present an outstanding poster or oral paper at the Society's annual meeting. Each award consists of a \$500 honorarium. These awards are administered by the Student & Postdoc Travel Grants and Presentation Awards Committee.

Individuals wishing to be considered for a Student Presentation Award must apply directly for inclusion in the competition. Applications for the Student Presentation Award are available via the AOS Member Portal and should be completed immediately after abstracts have been submitted. The submission form will include a set of questions for those who want to be considered for the Student Presentation Award competition. Please note that spaces are limited and that answering these questions does not guarantee a spot in the competition. Individuals will be notified later as to whether or not they have been invited to compete.

Early Professional Awards

The AOS is deeply committed to supporting the career development of early-career ornithologists working worldwide. AOS offers two Early Professional Awards, the [Ned K. Johnson Early Investigator Award](#) and the [James G. Cooper Early Professional Award](#), for outstanding research achievements by early-career professionals in ornithology.


The Johnson and Cooper awards are administered by the Early Professional Awards Committee that strives to develop a balanced slate of nominees that represents the Society and the diversity of its members. Candidates for the Cooper and Johnson awards may apply for these awards themselves or may be nominated by another member(s) of AOS, and the Early Professional Awards Committee may also make its own nominations to the slate of candidates.

We encourage early-career ornithologists to also consider competing for the [Wesley Lanyon Award](#), which recognizes the best review paper on any topic in ornithology, published in either AOS journal, authored by an early-career researcher, and the [Florence Merriam Bailey Award](#), administered by committee, which recognizes an outstanding article published within the preceding two calendar years by an early career member in an AOS journal.

Senior Professional Awards

The AOS bestows four prestigious [Senior Professional Awards](#) in recognition of outstanding contributions to ornithological science and conservation. Nominations are reviewed by the Senior Awards Committee and a final recommendation for each award is made to the AOS Council for approval.

The Committee strives to develop a balanced annual slate of nominees that represents the



diversity of individuals not only within the Society's membership but throughout the field of ornithology. Members are encouraged to nominate their colleagues, and self-nominations are accepted. Please nominate an individual for only one award. AOS officers currently serving on the Executive Committee of Council are not eligible to be nominated for these awards.

Publication Awards

The AOS bestows five prestigious awards on its members in recognition of outstanding ornithological publications. The [Wesley Lanyon Award](#) recognizes the best review paper on any topic in ornithology, published in either AOS journal, authored by an early-career researcher. The [Florence Merriam Bailey Award](#) recognizes an outstanding article published in an AOS journal within the preceding two calendar years by an early-career member. The [Harry R. Painton Award](#) is given in odd-numbered years and is presented to the author(s) of an outstanding paper published in the two preceding years in *Ornithological Applications*. The [Brina C. Kessel Award](#) is given in even-numbered years and recognizes the most outstanding article by a single or multiple authors published in *Ornithology* over the preceding two-year period. The [Katma Award](#) recognizes papers proposing ideas or testing theories that replace current dogma or settled opinion and that could change the course of thinking about the biology of birds. Papers may also include those that propose a largely untested idea or those that develop and advance it.

These awards are administered by the AOS [Publication Awards Committee](#), with the exception of the Lanyon Award, which is administered by the Editors-in-Chief of AOS's journals.

Service Awards

The AOS offers [two service awards](#), the [Peter R. Stettenheim Service Award](#) and the [Marion Jenkinson Service Award](#), to recognize members who have rendered exceptional service to ornithology and to the Society. The selection of annual awardees is made by the Service Awards Committee. The AOS Awards committees strive to develop a balanced annual slate of nominees that represents the Society and the diversity of its members.

Conservation Awards

The AOS [Conservation Committee](#) bestows two annual awards, the [Ralph W. Schreiber Conservation Award](#) and the [Conservation Practitioner Award](#), that recognize ornithologists who are dedicated to the conservation of migratory and resident birds throughout their full annual life cycle.

AOS Annual Meetings and Other Events

A major benefit of joining the AOS is your access to member events, including our annual meeting, professional development and training opportunities, networking events, social mixers, member forums and roundtables, and more! Bookmark our [website events calendar](#) to stay up-to-date on the latest opportunities to attend AOS-sponsored events.

Our 2025 annual meeting will be held **11–15 August 2025** in St. Louis, Missouri, United States. Visit our [meeting website](#) for details on the meeting's scientific and social programs, opportunities to volunteer, and meeting registration and travel details.

Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics

At the AOS, we work to create a safe, welcoming, professional community for ornithologists.

The American Ornithological Society Code of Conduct and Ethics is intended to advance the mission of the Society through the open and honest communication of research and exchange of ideas; to promote equality of opportunity and treatment for all members; to assure appropriate accessibility of accurate and reliable information to colleagues, policy makers, and the public; and to encourage the effective professional development of researchers in the continuum of disciplines of ornithological sciences.

The AOS is dedicated to providing a safe, hospitable, and productive environment for everyone participating in AOS activities regardless of gender, race, ethnic origin, religion, age, marital status, sexual orientation, disabilities, or any other protected status. The AOS acknowledges that effective communication requires that we treat each other with respect and courtesy in face-to-face, written and electronic interactions and that we respect the intellectual property of our colleagues.

Participants in AOS activities should be able to engage in open discussions free of discrimination, harassment and retaliation. Harassment will not be tolerated in any form. Harassment includes offensive gestures or verbal comments related to ethnicity, religion, disability, physical appearance, gender, or sexual orientation in public spaces, deliberate intimidation, stalking, following, harassing photography or recording, sustained disruption of talks or other events, inappropriate physical contact, and unwelcome attention. Participants asked to stop any harassing behavior are expected to comply immediately.

[View the full AOS Code of Conduct and Ethics Policy webpage](#)—this includes information about reporting a violation of the Code.

[Download the full AOS Code of Conduct and Ethics Policy.](#)

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Belonging, and Justice

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Belonging, and Justice (DEIBJ) Values Statement

The greatest asset of the American Ornithological Society (AOS) is the diversity of our individual members, who represent many different backgrounds, identities, abilities, viewpoints, disciplines, and regions. Together, through the generous sharing of our knowledge, experiences, and time, we can advance a global perspective in ornithology.

The AOS highlights, supports, and promotes our members, who conduct research on birds throughout the world. Supporting and giving a voice to ornithologists with diverse perspectives is key to fully exploring avian biodiversity and understanding and addressing the complex challenges of bird conservation. The AOS recognizes that organizational and societal barriers to participation and inclusion in ornithological activities exist, and we commit to addressing and dismantling the historic barriers that have prevented us from fully supporting diversity in our membership. By empowering and promoting historically excluded communities, the AOS will bring new creativity, effectiveness, and leadership to our work throughout ornithology. We are committed to creating and fostering opportunities for people with diverse backgrounds, traits, and perspectives to participate at all levels of the organization.

One key element of the AOS's mission is to enrich ornithology as a profession. Embracing diversity, equity, inclusion, belonging, and justice (DEIBJ) as values and in our practices is critical to advancing our mission. We maintain that achieving DEIBJ requires an enduring commitment to a journey, not a destination. This long-term commitment is critical to creating and supporting an ornithological community that is safe and supportive, accessible to everyone, and provides an environment where all individuals can thrive. To that end, we commit ourselves to DEIBJ in our programmatic and communication priorities, vendor engagement, and internal organizational development. We will implement these commitments by providing educational and developmental opportunities for our members, implementing inclusive recruitment and support of staff, council members, and volunteers, and by fostering a diverse and inclusive culture throughout the AOS. To hold ourselves accountable, we commit to regularly assessing our progress and sharing results with membership.

Integrating DEIBJ more clearly into our decision-making processes prompts us to ask new questions, collect informative data, and shift how we think about outcomes, progress, and success. Leading by example, the AOS aspires to make diversity, equity, inclusion, belonging, and justice core strengths among our membership.

Definitions

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Belonging and Justice (DEIBJ) are terms we hear a lot about today, but what exactly do they mean for AOS?

Diversity: Diversity refers to the broad range of identities among individuals or groups. It includes characteristics such as race, ethnicity, gender, age, national origin and nationality, religion, abilities, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, education, marital status, language,

veteran status, physical appearance, and the intersectionalities of these and other identities. It also refers to different ideas, perspectives, and values held by individuals within a group.

Diversity comprises the variety among us and forms the basis through which we experience advantages or encounter barriers to opportunities. Different dimensions of diversity can be related to different types of barriers to inclusion.

Equity: Equity means ensuring fair treatment, access, opportunity, and advancement for all people, which requires identifying and eliminating barriers that prevent the full participation of some groups. The principle of equity acknowledges that systematic barriers have historically underserved, excluded, and caused underrepresentation of some populations, and addressing these imbalanced conditions is necessary to provide equal opportunities to all groups.

Equity refers to **justice**, and is distinguished from **equality**, which is defined as providing the same resources to all. Equity accounts for individual differences in needs, circumstances, and assets by removing some of the intentional and unintentional barriers that preclude full participation and success. Equity means allocating the resources needed to ensure everyone has access to the same opportunities. Equity recognizes that advantages and barriers exist, including sexism, racism, ableism, and other systems of oppression.

Inclusion: Inclusion refers to the practice of creating an environment in which any individual or group will be welcomed, respected, supported, and valued as a fully participating member.

An inclusive environment fosters a sense of **belonging** by centering, valuing, and amplifying the voices, perspectives, and styles of those who experience more barriers based on their identities.

Belonging: Belonging is the experience of feeling included, accepted, and valued. Inclusion and equity should create a sense of belonging, where a person is accepted and welcomed as they are, with all aspects of their identity valued. Belonging should reflect the results of our work to create a more welcoming community.

Justice: Justice is the quality of being just, impartial, or fair, which requires dismantling the barriers to resources and opportunities in society so that all individuals and communities can participate and engage fully as equal and supported members of a community.

Closing Statement

We want to welcome you to the American Ornithological Society! We know there are many ways to participate in the science of ornithology, whether it's fostering diversity and inclusion within the ornithological community, promoting avian conservation, or increasing access to and supporting ornithological research. We hope this packet is a useful resource for finding your place in your Society. We're excited to have you join us!