

# 2 0 2 4 ANNUAL REPORT

# Sharing Science, Supporting Scientists, Strengthening Community

About the photos: Tatjana M. Washington (*left*), photo courtesy of Tatjana M. Washington; Lauryn Benedict (*top*), photo courtesy of University of Northern Colorado; Chris Sayers (*right*), photo by Morgan Tingley

www.americanornithology.org

# Letters from AOS Leaders

Today, our ornithological community is facing unprecedented challenges in our efforts to advance the understanding and conservation of birds. At a time when birds need our help more than ever, critical research funding is being diminished, scientific careers are being upended, and measures to protect and conserve our birds and the habitats upon which they depend are under attack. Now, perhaps more than ever before, it is important that members of the American Ornithological Society (AOS) stand together in strong support of our science and scientists. Communicating our science and strengthening our community are two crucial ways in which we can accomplish this.



In this annual report, we are proud to highlight several key successful efforts in these realms during 2024. Our highly respected journals, which are vital for communicating our science globally, continue to be the top-rated ornithological journals in the world. Our annual meeting, held this year in stunning montane habitats of Colorado, hosted the highest number of attendees ever recorded at a stand-alone conference for our society, with more than 1,100 ornithologists from 21 different countries. This vibrant meeting provided incredible opportunities for our members to share our state-of-the-art science, attend workshops and symposia of critical interest, and build strong networks with each other. Our generous research grants program directly supported the important work of 57 students and early-career scientists. Two other key undertakings initiated this past year—the Flocks Project and a member forum on English common bird names pilot—will help strengthen our ornithological community and improve our engagement with the broader public in the understanding and conservation of birds. Together we can remain a strong, engaged community that supports ornithologists in a wide range of careers and across all stages of their careers, supports the advancement of bird-conservation efforts, and promotes access to ornithological science.

### SARA MORRIS President & COLLEEN HANDEL Past President

So often when I speak with AOS volunteers, I hear these dedicated members talk about the AOS as their "home society"—a place of community and support that helps sustain them, and that they, in turn, help sustain through their leadership and service. The AOS strives to create a home for every one of our members, and in 2024, we worked to bring AOS members together to build unity and create community within ornithology.

The AOS's new strategic plan, approved in October 2023, served as our guiding document, helping our organization focus our efforts to advance the AOS's mission. Our 2024 Annual Meeting brought together 1,100 AOS members, volunteers, partners, and colleagues in Estes Park, CO, to share science, build community, listen to bugling elk, and forge bonds over our mutual experiences with cafeteria food. At this conference,



more than 300 of our members participated in an English common bird names pilot project forum to harness the wisdom and creativity of the AOS community to provide guidance on a pilot project to change eponymous English common bird names. Finally, our collaboration with two other ornithological societies to create "Flocks" communities within our field that will better support ornithologists from a range of interests, backgrounds, identities, and career stages—will help ensure that everyone can find a place and a community within ornithology.

With expanded support for research and travel grants, two top-ranked ornithological journals, and in-person and virtual scientific programming and workshops, the AOS offers something for everyone within the ornithological community and we hope you will find your home here. Whether you are a first-time or a long-term AOS member, we are glad you are part of the AOS.

# AOS Strategic Plan: Year One

In October 2023, the AOS Council approved a new strategic plan, a guiding document that will help us meet the needs of our community, now and into the future. Our 2024 Annual Report reflects how we've addressed these goals throughout our programming this year. We remain steadfast to our **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

A broad and engaged ornithological community that advances the understanding and conservation of birds.

# Advancing our Strategic Goals: 2024 Highlights

Broadening and strengthening professional development and career support



Our 2024 Annual Meeting in Estes Park broke attendance records and provided many opportunities for members to share their science, access workshops and training, and attend roundtable sessions featuring experts in the field of ornithology and science communications.

### Supporting impactful ornithological science



Our expanding research grants program supports impactful ornithological science. About the photo: Andre Moncrieff, Ph.D., received a 2024 Kessel Fellowship to study river rearrangements and their impact on Amazonian biodiversity. Photo courtesy of Andre Moncrieff.

### Excellence in governance & operations



The AOS remained in a strong financial position throughout 2024, creating a firm foundation to continue our work in 2025. We welcomed Sara Morris as our new president and Morgan Tingley as president-elect. *About the photo: AOS 2023, 2024, and 2025 Council members and staff at AOS 2024 in Estes Park, Colorado.* 

# Communicating and providing access to ornithological science



AOS's top-ranked journals communicate and provide access to ornithological science. *About the photo*: Ramphastos dicolorus (*Redbreasted Toucan*) *nesting in a nonexcavated cavity on a farm in Tobuna, Argentina. Photo by Kristina Cockle from our "Ecology and Conservation of Cavity Nesters in the Neotropics" Special Feature.* 

### Fostering an inclusive ornithological community



The Flocks Project, a joint effort by three North American ornithological societies designed to better understand the experiences of ornithologists in these societies, began its preliminary work to co-create affinity groups or communities in ornithology that are built around common identities, topics, or interests.

# Annual Meeting 2024: Summit for the Birds

AOS annual meetings provide an exceptional opportunity to flock together and share our science. Returning to Estes Park a decade after our tremendously successful 2014 meeting, **1,100 attendees** trekked to the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, Colorado, for our 2024 "Summit for the Birds"—our highest meeting attendance ever for an AOS-only meeting!

Individuals from **21 countries** joined us, with an estimated **one-third** of participants being first-time attendees. The scenic venue provided a welcoming, camp-like atmosphere to gather and discuss topics ranging from an "Optimisymposium" to celebrate and build on conservation successes, to an engaging, productive, and well-attended English Common Bird Names Pilot Project member forum.

Our keynote speaker, **Christian Cooper**, a renowned science writer, TV host, and best-selling author, addressed the value of changing eponymous English common bird names and challenged us to embrace an inclusive ornithological community. Cooper emphasized how a broader, more diverse population of scientists and birders will result in stronger support for bird conservation and research.

Riveting senior and early professional plenary talks echoed the conference theme and inspired us with messages of hope, calls to action, and discussions on avian conservation, evolutionary processes, social behaviors, and more.





AOS member Murry Burgess (*left*) with AOS 2024 Keynote Speaker Christian Cooper (*right*)

# 65

Christian Cooper's talk was one of, if not the best, [keynote] talks I've ever seen. I'm so proud to be a part of a society that honors people who are quality mentors and leaders as well as scientists.

-2024 meeting survey respondent



Special thanks to our AOS 2024 meeting sponsors, who helped keep registration costs low to support broad participation, and provided opportunities for partnership, collaboration, employment, and professional development.

# AOS 2024 Programming

Over the course of our five-day meeting, participants chose from more than 580 scientific presentations, 200 posters, nine round table discussions, and 17 symposia on a variety of topics. Our early birds enjoyed morning yoga, bird walks, and social gatherings. Neither the altitude nor the early morning hour deterred the 193 participants in the Ptarmigan Ptrot 5K Fun Walk/Run! This year's route was designed for broad participation by members of all abilities and provided opportunities for spectacular views, but, oh, that altitude was a true challenge! Our programming offered something for everyone at every career stage, from a Golden Auks Luncheon for our retired and emeritus members, to the Student and Early-Career Professional Meet-up, to the student-run Silent Auction fundraiser.

In the evenings, we hosted events to build fellowship and provide opportunities for networking and professional development, including fireside gatherings, jazz music, roller skating, the ever-popular **Student Quiz Bowl**, and the movie "**Picture a Scientist**." For our closing session, a talented pool of ornitho-musicians put on a festive **Bird Band Jam** for attendees, who were more than happy to flood the dance floor, despite being completely knackered from the week's activities. **More than 90 percent of attendees** expressed satisfaction with the meeting; many were particularly excited about the networking opportunities, great science, and welcoming culture of the AOS.





The diversity of content covered in talks and round tables was excellent and I really appreciated the extra focus on management/ conservation.

> —2024 meeting survey respondent

How does the AOS select our annual meeting locations?

### **READ MORE**

**Pat Heglund** & **Lauryn Benedict** AOS 2024 Meeting Co-chairs

The AOS's travel grants program is instrumental in creating an accessible and inclusive AOS and providing networking and professional development opportunities for students, post-docs, and others who might otherwise struggle to attend our meetings. In 2024, **19%** of conference attendees received travel support from the AOS.

### AOS 2024 Travel & Caregiver Grants

The AOS works hard to ensure that our student members are able to participate in our meetings. Any AOS student or post-doctoral member is eligible for our general travel grants, with additional funding to support groups that may face other barriers to participation.

- Travel Grants: \$108,520 to 173 individuals
- Diversity and Inclusion Travel Grants: \$36,598 to 31 individuals
- Caregiver Grants: \$7,486 to eight individuals.
- Latin American and Caribbean Travel Grants: \$3,100 to three individuals

Offering more tailored support ensures that our meetings are accessible to the full range of our community members and strengthens the experience of all meeting participants.

# **AOS** Journals

The AOS's long-standing flagship publications, *Ornithological Applications* and *Ornithology*, remain at the top of our field; these journals were ranked first and second, respectively, within the ornithological category in 2024.\*

### Special Features and Insights

2024 saw the publication of two Special Features—collections of articles on a topic of interest that may be published in either journal and are collated in a virtual issue on the journals' website through our publishing partner, Oxford University Press. New Special Features included *Ecology and conservation of cavity nesters in the Neotropics* and *Ethno-ornithology and conservation*, with several more underway. We welcome proposals from authors interested in serving as Guest Editors and coordinating new Special Features! In 2024, we also saw increased submissions to our new article type, Insights, which are invited short papers featuring unusual natural history observations that inspire new areas of ornithological research. One such example is Bridge et al. (*Ornithology*, 2024) "Social behavior among nocturnally migrating birds revealed by automated moonwatching."

### Notable Papers

Papers of special interest published in *Ornithology* in 2024 included the first report of colonial nesting aggregations in a hummingbird, which was profiled in *The New York Times* (Cañas-Valle and Bouzat, "Ecological drivers of coloniality in *Oreotrochilus chimborazo chimborazo* (Chimborazo Hillstar), a hummingbird endemic to the high Andes of Ecuador"); and Nihei et al., "Wildfire smoke impacts the body condition and capture rates of birds in California." Notable papers published in *Ornithological Applications* included Stevens et al., "Species-specific ecological traits, phylogeny, and geography underpin vulnerability to population declines for North American birds;" and Albert and Siegel, "Improving the language of migratory bird science in North America," which was discussed on the podcast "This Month in Birding."



Christie Riehl, Editor-in-Chief,
Ornithology (left)
Judit Szabo, Editor-in-Chief,
Ornithological Applications (right)



Catherine Lindell, former Editor-in-Chief of Ornithological Applications

After more than five years as Editor-in-Chief of *Ornithological Applications* **Catherine Lindell** handed off her editor's pen to **Judit Szabo.** Thank you for your service, Catherine!

### Ornithology

### Ornithological Applications





<u>Ornithological Applications</u> **226** submissions; **55** published Submission to first decision (*average*): **42 days** Submission to acceptance (*average*): **154 days** 

<u>Ornithology</u> **194** submissions; **36** published Submission to first decision (*average*): **35 days** Submission to acceptance (*average*): **131 days** 

Acceptance to online publication for both journals (*average*): **27 days** 

\*Source: Journal Citation Reports (Clarivate, 2024): © Clarivate Analytics

# **AOS Achievement Awards**

The AOS is proud to celebrate and recognize contributions to the field of ornithology, service to the AOS, and outstanding student presentations at the AOS Annual Meeting.

### 2024 Awardees

### SENIOR PROFESSIONAL AWARDS

### Elliott Coues Award

**Rebecca T. Kimball**, Department of Biology, University of Florida

#### William Brewster Memorial Awards

**Juan Carlos Reboreda**, Facultad de Ciencias Exactas y Naturales, Universidad de Buenos Aires

**Renée Duckworth**, University of Arizona, Tucson

### **CONSERVATION AWARDS**

### Ralph W. Schreiber Conservation Award

#### Jordan Karubian, Tulane University

### **Conservation Practitioner Awards**

**Nestor Fariña**, Reserva Natural Rincón de Santa María, Ministerio de Turismo de Corrientes, Argentina, and **Olga Esther Villalba**, Ministerio de turismo de la provincia de Corrientes, Argentina

### **SERVICE AWARDS**

### Marion Jenkinson Service Award

**Viviana Ruiz-Gutierrez**, Center for Avian Population Studies, Cornell University

#### Peter R. Stettenheim Service Awards

Jen Owen, Michigan State University

**Reed Bowman**, formerly at Archbold Biological Station (*posthumous honorary award*)

### EARLY PROFESSIONAL AWARDS

#### James G. Cooper Early Professional Awards

**Sheela P. Turbek**, Bird Genoscape Project at Colorado State University

**Jessie L. Williamson**, Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Museum of Vertebrates, and Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Cornell University

### Ned K. Johnson Early Investigator Award

**Gavin M. Jones**, USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station

### **PUBLICATION AWARDS**

#### <u>Katma Award</u>

**Emily DuVal**, Florida State University. Inferred Attractiveness: A generalized mechanism for sexual selection that can maintain variation in traits and preferences over time.

### Florence Merriam Bailey Award

**Devin de Zwaan**, Environment and Climate Change Canada. <u>Mass gain and</u> <u>stopover dynamics among migrating</u> <u>songbirds are linked to seasonal,</u> <u>environmental, and life-history effects</u>.

### Brina Kessel Award

Andrew J. Laughlin, University of North Carolina Asheville. <u>Winter range shifts</u> and their associations with species traits are heterogeneous in eastern North American birds. We thank the **123 students** and **119 judges** who participated in our AOS 2024 Student Presentation Awards competition.

# AOS 2024 STUDENT PRESENTATION AWARDS

<u>A. Brazier Howell Award</u> Maria Castaño

#### AOS Council Awards

Jason Gregg Samuel Lapp Frank Muzio Yasmeen Erritouni

*Frances F. Roberts Award* Pairsa Belamaric

<u>Mark E. Hauber Awards</u> Heather Kenny-Duddela Rin Pell

<u>Nellie Johnson Baroody Award</u> Eva Moylan

<u>Robert B. Berry Student Award</u> Emily Shertzer

### Honorable Mentions

Ryan Brodie Andrew Dreelin Jacob Drucker Facundo Fernandez-Duque Fengyi Guo Tharindu Kalukapuge Diane Klement Max Laubstein Abhimanyu Lele James Longo Michelle Moyer Shauna Rasband











A sampling of 2024 AOS Award Winners *(left to right)*: Juan Carlos Reboreda, Jessie L. Williamson, Devin de Zwaan, Olga Esther Villalba, Viviana Ruiz-Gutierrez

# AOS Research Grants and Fellowships

The AOS's growing student, post-doctoral, and early-career research grants program provides critical funding to launch and sustain student and post-doctoral research throughout the field of ornithology. In total, the AOS provided **\$184,778** in research grant funding in 2024, supporting the research of **57** AOS members. Part of our focus in the coming years is to establish a program to support ornithological capacity-building projects, with an initial focus in Latin America. In both 2023 and 2024, AOS awarded **two \$5,000** Latin American and Caribbean Conservation Research Grants, a first step in establishing an important capacity-building initiative. In addition, our student and post-doctoral research grants program invested **\$114,779** to support **51 students and post-docs** from **eight countries**. Our Kessel Fellowships for Ornithological Research, established from a generous donation by long-time member Brina Kessel, help to support early-career professionals as they launch their ornithological careers; we awarded **four \$15,000 fellowships** in 2024.

# 2024 Grantees

**KESSEL FELLOWSHIPS** 

Anne Ausems, Trent University Glaucia (Glau) Del-Rio, University of Florida Felicity L. Newell, Louisiana State University Andre Moncrieff, Louisiana State University



*Clockwise from top left*: Anne Ausems, Glaucia (Glau) Del-Rio, Felicity L. Newell, Andre Moncrieff

### LATIN AMERICA/CARIBBEAN CONSERVATION RESEARCH GRANTS

Melanie Browne, Laboratorio de Biología de la Conservación, Centro de Ecología Aplicada del Litoral (CECOAL-CONICET) Nicolas Lois, Universidad de Buenos Aires

### **STUDENT & POST-DOC RESEARCH GRANTS**

### <u>Alexander Wetmore Memorial</u> <u>Research Grants</u>

Arcata Leavitt Abhimanyu Lele Asch McDonnell Sarah Mueller Michael Ocasio Cameron Piper Olivia Pletcher Ari Rice Atalanta Ritter

#### AOS Postdoctoral Research Grants

Laura Cespedes Arias Samantha Gartner Charo López Lorences Renata Pereira Beco Juan Rojas Ripari Ryan Shannon

#### <u>Betty and Herbert Carnes</u> <u>Research Grant</u>

Michelle Ross

#### Donald L. Bleitz Research Grants

Paige Brewer Tara Empson Millicent Gaston

#### Joseph Grinnell Research Grants

Mary Badger Ritobroto Chanda

#### Josselyn Van Tyne Memorial Research Grants

Haley Gee Jessica Karr Skadi Kylander

### <u>Werner and Hildegard Hesse</u> <u>Research Grants</u>

Emilia Roberts Faye Romero Anna Rose David Tan David Tattoni

#### <u>Margaret Morse Nice Research</u> <u>Grants</u>

Natalie Leake-Jara Audrey Miller Alyssa Sargent

#### Mewaldt-King Research Grants

Alexander Allison Shelby Green Shae Turner

#### Penny Ficken Research Grants

Johanna Beam Soumyadeep Chatterjee

#### AOS Student Research Grants

Jonathan Dain Jonah Dominguez Lauren Gingerella Matthew Hack Carissa Leung Megan Miller Lorraine Pérez-Beauchamp Laura Robayo Noguera Isaac Rush Jenna Turpin Vicens Vila-Coury Alyssa Wells Emily Williams Alex Wright

# AOS Council 2024–2025

The AOS Council, elected by our members, is the central decision-making body of the AOS. Council focuses on strategic direction, policy, budget, and high-level organizational planning. Councilors ensure that the AOS focuses on key priorities and remains in a strong position financially, legally, ethically, and culturally to support current and future generations of ornithologists.

### Executive Committee 2024–2025



Sara Morris President



**Morgan Tingley** President-Elect



Sushma Reddy Secretary



**Matthew Carling** Treasurer



**Judith Scarl** ex officio Executive Director & CEO

### **Elective Councilors**

### Terms ended in 2024

- **Emily Cohen** Juan Francisco Ornelas Dai Shizuka Jen Walsh
- Terms ending in 2025 Christopher Balakrishnan Sahas S. Barve Nancy Chen Dan Mennill Allison Shultz

### Terms ending in 2026

Kristen M. Covino Camila Gómez Cristina Yumi Miyaki

### Terms ending in 2027

Iosé Maria Cardoso da Silva Anna Chalfoun lennifer Owen Luis Sandoval

### **Elective Student Councilors**

Olivia Wang (term ended 2024) Jacob Drucker (term ending in 2025) Faiza Hafeez (term ending in 2026)

### **Ex Officio Representatives**

Judit Szabo, Editor-in-Chief, Ornithological Applications Catherine Lindell, Editor-in-Chief (2024), Ornithological **Applications** 

Christie Riehl, Editor-in-Chief, Ornithology Jennifer Owen, Chair, Investing Trustees

# Past Presidents

Voting Colleen Handel Michael Webster Kathy Martin

### Honorary (non-voting)

**Steve Beissinger** Bonnie Bowen John Fitzpatrick Susan Haig James Kushlan Scott Lanyon Frank Moore

**Dennis Power** C. John Ralph Martin Raphael **Terry Rich** J. Michael Scott **Kimberly Sullivan** 

# Major Initiatives

### The Flocks Project



The AOS recognizes that changes in the sciences over the past few decades have highlighted the need to ensure ornithologists of all backgrounds and circumstances are supported in ways that are equitable, inclusive, and

promote a sense of belonging within the field. <u>The</u> <u>Flocks Project</u>, an effort led by the AOS, the Wilson Ornithological Society, and the Association of Field Ornithologists, is creating *Flocks*—groups within ornithology that are focused on building communities around common identities, topics, or interests—which will launch in 2025.

<u>The Flocks Project</u> team attended the AOS 2024 Annual Meeting in Estes Park and led a panel discussion that provided more information about this project, offering a space for discussion, feedback, and planning the pathway forward.

The Flocks Team has been working with co-creators —a diverse group of members who have been engaged in discussions about the details of the Flocks design process. We are committed to working through these efforts through a model of co-creation, where input from Flock organizers, our team, and the societies come together to strengthen our program and approach.

# English Common Bird Names

After the AOS's 2023 announcement to change eponymous English common bird names, in 2024 we focused on gathering feedback to inform a pilot project, an initiative that will guide the process of changing bird names. In May, we introduced the six focal species for the pilot. We used an online form to allow members and non-members to provide suggestions to guide the pilot and express interest in helping with these efforts. In October, the AOS hosted an English Common Bird Names Pilot Project forum at our 2024 Annual Meeting in Estes Park. More than 300 attendees gathered to learn more about the pilot and to provide suggestions on how to meaningfully engage a broad constituency, use the pilot to build support for conservation, and measure the success of the pilot.

Pictured top to bottom at right: Inca Dove (Columbina inca); Townsend's Solitaire (Myadestes townsendi); Maui Parrotbill (Pseudonestor xanthophrys) photo by Zach Pezzillo, Maui Forest Bird Recovery Project; Bachman's Sparrow (Peucaea aestivalis); Scott's Oriole (Icterus parisorum); Townsend's Warbler (Setophaga townsendi)



AOS President Colleen Handel (*right*) and President-Elect Sara Morris (*left*) invited feedback at our English Common Bird Names Pilot Project AOS member forum in October 2024. More than 300 members convened to provide suggestions on how to ensure a successful pilot project.

# **AOS Membership Overview**

# Fostering an inclusive ornithological community

We hear from so many of our members that they consider the AOS their "home society," a place where they actively build strong community and feel a sense of belonging. Hundreds of volunteers help to realize our shared vision of a broad and engaged ornithological community that advances the understanding and conservation of birds.

More than two dozen committees manage the AOS's core programs, oversee elements of organizational governance, and provide volunteers with opportunities to shape and guide the AOS. Volunteer efforts enable the AOS to provide a wide range of programs and content while keeping costs low for our members. Thank you to all of our dedicated volunteers!

### The Faces of AOS

Our "**Faces of AOS**" member spotlight series, which launched in 2023, highlights the work and interests of AOS members, provides opportunities for recognition and connection, and personalizes the field of ornithology. <u>Read more on our website</u> about the AOS members we featured in 2024 and why they chose to be a part of the AOS.



Tatjiana Washington University of Chicago



Lauryn Benedict University of Northern Colorado



Prashant Ghimire Kent State University

# Contributing Members Early Professionals Emeritus/Retired Family Members Honorary Fellows Life Members Regular Members Students Total 3,061

2024 AOS Membership

AOS members reside in **63** different countries; **110** individuals <u>residing in qualifying special countries</u> received a 75% discount on their membership. To grow our community, we provided **27** AOSsponsored memberships to first-time members, **14** to AOS 2024 Diversity and Inclusion Travel Grant awardees, **11** to AOS & SCO–SOC 2023 Student Presentation Awardees and Honorable Mentions, **two** to participants in Black Birders Week 2024, and **two** to attendees of the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) Conference.

### **AOS Member Benefits**

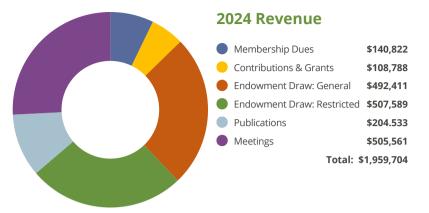
- Unlimited online access to AOS journals, *Ornithology* and *Ornithological Applications*.
- No author page charges to publish in AOS journals as a corresponding author, plus a 25% discount on optional Open Access fees.
- Access to "The Flock" AOS Member Directory.
- Eligibility for prestigious awards 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.
- Generous discount from ZEISS.
- Discounted registration for our annual meeting.

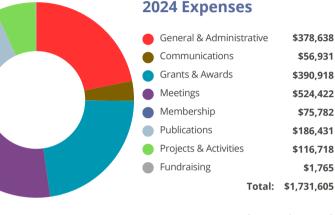
# **Operations & Finances**

### **AOS Operations**

The AOS maintained a strong financial position throughout 2024; our substantial endowment is carefully managed to support critical programs today, while ensuring sufficient resources to support ornithologists into the future. With such a tremendous Annual Meeting turnout, our 2024 Estes Park meeting exceeded our financial projections, providing us a solid cushion to support our 2025 conference in St. Louis.

The AOS runs on volunteer power: Hundreds of volunteers guide and advance the AOS through their leadership on Council, by serving on Committees, and by helping to run key AOS programs like the Annual Meeting. Behind the scenes, the AOS is also supported by a small but dedicated team of eight professional staff members who help administer all of our programs and ensure our organization is running smoothly. In 2024, we added two staff members to our team: Ramona Fletcher, the AOS Meeting Manager, who provides critical support and coordination to the many moving parts of our Annual Meeting; and Amani Edwards, our Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator, who supports the English Common Bird Names initiative and has been working across three ornithological societies to support the creation of "Flocks."





Net earnings: \$228,099\* Total Assets: \$33,696,580

Platinum Transparency 2024

Candid.

\*Note that figures on this page represent preliminary, unaudited numbers as of 31 December 2024. The AOS operates with a balanced budget, using annual operating income and annual draws from endowed funds, both restricted and unrestricted. Endowed funds are managed to continue to provide support for our programs in perpetuity.



# AOS Support Staff

Left to right: Ramona Fletcher, Meeting Manager; Crystal Ruiz, Director of Operations & Administration; Judith Scarl, Executive Director & CEO; Mark Penrose, Managing Editor; Chris Mulvaney, Membership & Data Operations Manager; Chris Anne Handel, Communications & Marketing Manager; Mint Jang, Administrative Assistant; Amani Edwards, Diversity & Inclusion Coordinator



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