



# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

## Our Resilient Flock: Responsiveness, Perseverance, and the Strength of Community



Valentina Gómez-Bahamón,  
AOS 2025 James G. Cooper  
Early Professional Award  
winner with *Vanellus  
chilensis* (Southern Lapwing).  
Photo by Jake Socha



Megan Miller, an AOS  
2024 Student Research  
Grant winner delivered a  
seminar in our 2025 Student  
Research Grant Seminar Series.  
Photo courtesy of the Ramos Lab at  
Colorado State University Pueblo



# Reflections from AOS Leaders

The American Ornithological Society (AOS) has always been focused on supporting both the study and conservation of birds and those who study them. We can't talk about 2025 without addressing the challenges that we, as ornithologists, have felt. The assaults on science, the environment, higher education, actions toward truly inclusive communities, and funding sources that support our work were felt widely and deeply by members of the AOS. We are proud of the AOS community and how we addressed and adapted to the challenges that we faced both individually and collectively this year. Many of us think of the AOS as our home society, a place that both supports us in our vocation and that brings us together as a scholarly community whose work helps further the understanding and protection of birds.



Over the year, it was extremely heartening to see the number of members who reached out to share concerns about actions affecting different segments of our members, provided ideas about how the AOS could help or engage, supported the Flocks Project that lost U.S. federal funding, and stepped up to work on either standing or ad hoc committees to ensure that the AOS could provide support and community for ornithologists. Our annual meeting provided many members with opportunities to share their science, learn from others, build or strengthen connections with others, and spend time focused solely on birds. Our expanded virtual programming provided opportunities to engage outside of the annual meeting. The AOS Council approved several programs and provided substantial additional funding for initiatives that were designed to ensure that our resources were being used to support the ornithological community. Despite the challenges of 2025, we, as a community, were able to rise to the challenge and to ensure that we were able to continue to engage in the study and conservation of birds, communicate our science, and support our members to grow as professionals. While there are likely to be challenges into the future, the AOS is strong and resilient because of the community that we have created and nurtured for more than a hundred and forty years.

## **SARA MORRIS** President

2025 was a difficult year, to put it mildly. Many of the AOS's members were impacted by federal funding cuts, job uncertainty, attacks on efforts to promote diversity and inclusion, and concerns both personally and professionally about economic, social, political, physical, and emotional security and support.

During such tumultuous times, I have been especially proud of the AOS and our incredible community as we worked hard to maintain a culture that reflects our long-held values, and to provide meaningful tangible and intangible support to our members to help our community "weather the storm." In 2025, in response to our members' feedback and needs, we expanded both our research and travel grants

programs to better support a broader range of AOS members, and we increased our opportunities for virtual scientific presentation and engagement through our Student Research Grant Seminar Series. In partnership with two other ornithological societies, in 2025 we successfully launched six Flocks, affinity groups designed to provide supportive communities at a time when we need that most. We continue to work on better and more transparent back and forth communication with our members through leadership messages, improved web resources, member surveys, and a community forum at our Annual Meeting. Responding to your suggestions, in 2025 the AOS committed \$400,000 towards a new Bridge/Completion Grants program,

launched in April 2026, to support members who have lost federal funding. We are here for you and with you. Thank you for being a part of the AOS community and for helping us grow and evolve into the strong, supportive, inclusive organization we are today.

## **JUDITH SCARL** Executive Director & CEO



# AOS Strategic Plan: Year Two

Our 2025 Annual Report reflects how we've supported the goals in year two of our Strategic Plan throughout the year, and remained resilient and steadfast to our mission through many unexpected challenges. We continue 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: 2025 Highlights

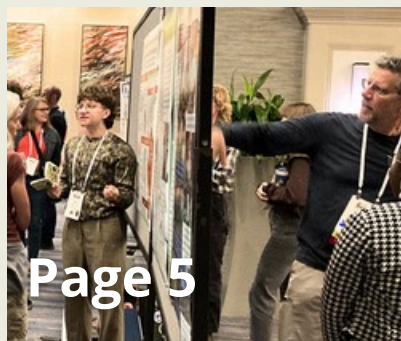
### Supporting science and fostering community



Page 4

The AOS focused on increasing funding, community support, and communication in 2025 in response to changes in U.S. federal policies.

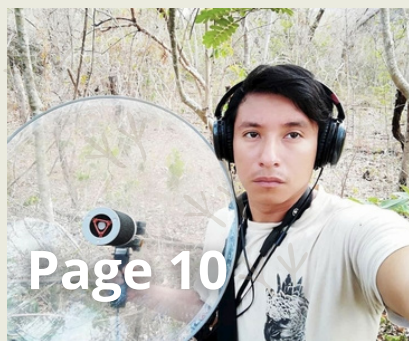
### Communicating and providing access to ornithological science



Page 5

Our Annual Meeting, this year in St. Louis, Missouri, provided opportunities for connection and the sharing of the science that unites us. *About the photo: AOS 2025 Poster Session*

### Supporting impactful ornithological science



Page 10

The AOS expanded our 2025 research grants program and added virtual programming to showcase student science to engage more of our community. *About the photo: William Ku Peralta, Ph.D. candidate, National Polytechnic Institute (CIIDIR-OAXACA) presented a seminar on Neotropical songbirds in our 2025 Student Research Grant Seminar Series.*

### Excellence in governance & operations



Page 12

The AOS remained in a strong financial position throughout 2025, and we added a staff position to allow us to better support our programs, volunteers, members, and operations. *About the photo: AOS Council members at AOS 2025 in St. Louis, Missouri.*

### Fostering an inclusive ornithological community



Page 11

Our community remained strong and connected, despite the many challenges we faced as a scientific society in 2025. *About the photo: AOS 2025 attendee group photo in St. Louis, Missouri.*





# Weathering the Storm: Stories of Resilience

## Weathering the Storm: Member Resources & Support

Federal funding cuts, job losses, attacks on initiatives that support diversity and inclusion, a decrease in support for and trust in science, and the rapidly changing political landscape in the U.S. impacted our members in tangible and intangible ways in 2025.

The AOS focused on expanding our member resources and bolstering our community in 2025. In particular, we:

- Significantly increased funding for student, early-career professional, and Latin American/Caribbean research grants at a time when research funding is an increasingly critical need,
- Increased our budget for student travel grants to ensure as many students as possible could attend the AOS Annual Meeting,
- Focused on back-and-forth communication with members to share important information and to understand our members' evolving needs and challenges. This included a community forum at the August 2025 Annual Meeting to guide the AOS's support of members, expanded communications from AOS leadership, and a new web resources hub to help members navigate the rapidly changing political landscape, and
- Strengthened community support through "Flocks" affinity groups.

## The Flocks Project



Experiencing a sense of belonging, community, and support helps people continue in their chosen field. Finding that community and support became increasingly

critical in 2025, as many ornithologists faced challenges to continuing their research or advancing in their careers.

In partnership with the Wilson Ornithological Society (WOS) and the Association of Field Ornithologists, in 2025, the AOS planned to launch six "Flocks," affinity groups throughout the ornithological community designed to better support ornithologists throughout their careers.

After the National Science Foundation grant in support of Flocks was cancelled in April of 2025, jeopardizing the future of the Flocks Project, ornithologists and birders banded together to support a crowdfunding campaign spearheaded by Flocks co-PI Ashley Dayer. With contributions from members of the AOS community and additional funds contributed by AOS and WOS, the Flocks were able to launch in June 2025.

Currently, Flocks focus on topics ranging from personal identity and background, to career transitions and networking. We want everyone to feel a sense of community within ornithology—please consider joining an existing Flock or starting a new one!

## Bridge/Completion Grants: 2026 Sneak Peek

In November 2025, the AOS committed **\$400,000** to launch a new, short-term Bridge/Completion Grants funding program aimed at supporting members who are nearing completion of a degree or project and who lost funding as a result of changing federal policies. This program officially launched in April of 2026.



# Annual Meeting 2025: Avian Gateways

The 2025 Annual Meeting was held from 11–15 August in St. Louis, Missouri. This year's meeting managed to exceed expectations, despite challenges related to changes in U.S. federal policies and other factors. We hosted **637 participants** from **15 countries**, **337** of whom were students and **30 percent** of whom were first-time meeting attendees. Our robust scientific program boasted **167** poster presentations, **258** contributed papers and **60** presentations across **seven** themed symposia, **four** roundtable discussions, and **eight** pre-conference workshops.



*Thanks to Jenni Fuller for designing our AOS 2025 logo*



*AOS 2025 Poster Session*



*Thanks to Emily Griffith for designing our Arch March 5K logo*

The **15** volunteer chairs of the meeting's **10** organizing subcommittees designed a comprehensive scientific and social program for diverse interests, including networking opportunities for a variety of career stages, mentor meetups, field trips and daily bird walks to explore the regional avifauna, a fully accessible **Arch March 5K** fun/walk/ride with **86** participants, and an AOS member forum to discuss the implications of recent changes in U.S. federal policies and their specific impact both on the ornithological community and the broader scientific community. Our attendees also shared much-needed messages of success: For the past few years, the AOS Conservation Committee has organized what has become a popular (and much-lauded) **'Optimisymposium'** to celebrate successes in avian conservation, and our keynote speaker **elin kelsey** delivered a message of optimism and hope.



*AOS 2025 Meeting Coordination Committee*



I am so so grateful for the focus on hope and optimism. I felt very emotional this meeting considering the state of our country and I am so honored to be colleagues with so many wonderful, focused, and optimistic people who remind me why our work matters.

*—2025 meeting survey respondent*



# AOS 2025 Programming



AOS 2025 Silent Auction

The ever-popular Student Quiz Bowl did not disappoint! We had **83 teams**—including **62 student teams**—participate in this annual competition on bird and bird-adjacent trivia knowledge!

At our closing ceremony held at the St. Louis Zoo, attendees had opportunities to tour the zoo's bird house and other attractions, celebrated **nine** outstanding student presenters in our Student Presentation Award ceremony, and enjoyed a catered banquet dinner and good conversation before the closing gavel dropped.



Podargus strigoides (Tawny Frogmouth) at St. Louis Zoo. Photo by Chris Anne Handel



AOS 2025 attendees worked throughout the week to complete a puzzle featuring the AOS 2025 logo

We extend our deepest gratitude to our AOS 2025 meeting sponsors, who helped keep registration costs low to support broad participation, and provided opportunities for partnership, collaboration, employment, and professional development.



**Jameson Chace & Sarah Saunders**  
AOS 2025 Meeting Co-Chairs



Our volunteer coordinator, Zachery Holmes, recruited 40 volunteers who donated more than 407 cumulative hours to aid in the success of the meeting.

“ The plenaries were especially excellent this year. Very engaging speakers and presentations! And the closed captioning definitely helped me stay focused.  
—2025 meeting survey respondent

The Student Travel and Presentation Grants committee, including the D&I Travel Grants and Latin American Travel Grants, continues to experience high demand for financial support to attend our annual meetings.

## AOS 2025 Travel & Caregiver Grants

The AOS expanded our student Travel Grant budget for 2025 to **\$180,000**, an **increase of 40 percent** from last year, looking to support as many students as possible to participate in the AOS Annual Meeting in St. Louis.

The AOS supported **146** meeting participants with Travel Grants, including general student and postdoc grants; diversity and inclusion (D&I) travel grants for students; grants for Latin American and Caribbean students; and Caregiver Grants. With increased funding flexibility for 2025, a greater percentage of funding went to D&I travel grants, which covered a wider range of expenses, ensuring that a broader range of students were able to participate in 2025.



# AOS Journals

The two AOS journals continue to publish field-defining research: In 2025, *Ornithological Applications* and *Ornithology* were ranked #1 and #4, respectively, out of 29 ornithological journals globally.\*

## Notable Papers in AOS Journals

For *Ornithology*, 2025 saw the publication of Bryce W. Robinson et al.'s paper [Plumage Polymorphisms in Raptors](#), winner of the AOS Wesley Lanyon Award for the best review paper authored by an early-career researcher in the past two years. We also announced a call for papers for this award for calendar years 2026 and 2027.

Other notable papers published in *Ornithology* include Johnson et al. [Seeing in the Dark: Using Thermal Imaging to Directly Observe Nocturnal Migration](#) (profiled by *Science*, and by the [Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology](#)). Published research also revealed alarming costs of global climate change across species (Latta et al. [Decline in capture rates of birds in the High Andes of Ecuador suggests broad-scale anthropogenic impacts to protected areas](#)) and within species (Barve et al. [Warm winters lead to increased reproductive effort, but lower reproductive success: Hidden costs of climate warming in a threatened bird](#)). *Ornithology* continues to publish cutting-edge research on avian phylogenetics and taxonomy, including new papers on the systematics of Neotropical tyrannulets (Lima and Vaz, [Divergence in vocalizations indicates cryptic speciation in \*Camptostoma tyrannulets\*](#)) and hybridization in North American rails (Elizondo et al., [Genomic data support interspecific divergence but reveal limited population structure and cryptic hybridization in \*Rallus elegans\* \(King Rail\) and \*R. crepitans\* \(Clapper Rail\)](#)).



An incubating *Aegithalos concinnus* (Black-throated Tit) in Dongzhai National Nature Reserve, China, April 2018. Photo by Peng Zhang



A Mexican endemic *Melanerpes chrysogenys* (Golden-cheeked Woodpecker) at its nest-cavity in a coconut palm in Chamela, Jalisco, in June 2018. Photo by Enrique Ramirez Garcia

## Journal Submission & Acceptance Rates

### *Ornithological Applications*

222 submissions; 61 published  
Submission to first decision (average): 42 days  
Submission to acceptance (average): 86 days

### *Ornithology*

195 submissions; 51 published  
Submission to first decision (average): 40 days  
Submission to acceptance (average): 53 days

\*Source: Journal Citation Reports (Clarivate, 2025): © Clarivate Analytics



Highly cited papers in *Ornithological Applications* include: Osterhaus et al. [\*Evaluation of methods to estimate nocturnal bird migration activity: A comparison of radar and nocturnal flight call monitoring in the American West\*](#); Lebeuf-Taylor et al., [\*Improving bird abundance estimates in harvested forests with retention by limiting detection radius through sound truncation\*](#), Maya-Elizarrarás et al. [\*A tropical paradise for all? Nest-site selection shifts by an endemic Neotropical woodpecker associated with human settlements\*](#); and Morales-Rozo's [\*A multiscale analysis of factors influencing \*Setophaga striata\* \(Blackpoll Warbler\) occupancy and abundance during the nonbreeding season in eastern Colombia\*](#).

Other notable publications include Goodman et al. [\*Humans outperform Merlin Sound ID in field-based point-count surveys\*](#) and Smith et al.'s [\*Abundance and distribution of birds from comprehensive surveys of the Canadian Arctic, 1994–2018\*](#). The publication by Mastro et al., [\*Citizen science generates reliable migration chronologies to supplement professional surveys for waterfowl habitat management\*](#), was selected as part of the "Our Power, Our Planet" collection by [BioOne](#), which brings together research that harnesses the collective strength of participatory science and citizen science.



Photos from our cavity nesters special feature: *Melanerpes chrysogenys* (Golden-cheeked Woodpecker). Photos by Enrique Ramírez García

## Special Features

In 2025, the AOS journals completed a special feature, [\*Ecology and Conservation for Cavity Nesters in the Neotropics\*](#) (edited by Kathryn Huyvaert), and saw the launch of a new Special Feature: *Behavior, Physiology, and Ecology of Overlooked Female Birds* (guest edited by Joanna Wu, Lauryn Benedict, and Sara Lipshutz), with several papers already published and more forthcoming in 2026. Stay tuned for another new Special Feature, *Full Annual Life Cycle Research on the Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo*, in 2026. Papers are published in both journals and are linked in an online collection after publication. We welcome new proposals from guest editors interested in organizing their own Special Feature!



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

## Peer Editing Program: Volunteer Editors, Global Impact

In late 2025, the AOS journals launched their new **Peer Editing Program**, a free service to provide English-language editing to authors whose primary language is not English. The program pairs authors with volunteer ornithologists to provide suggestions on grammar, phrasing, and sentence structure (all 100% AI-free!). Our goal is to help disseminate ornithological research by reducing barriers to English-language publication, and to foster collaboration among AOS members worldwide. The program has already received manuscripts from three continents in the first few months of its pilot year. Authors do not need to submit their manuscripts to AOS journals to be eligible for this service, and the average turnaround time is **14 days**. We welcome new volunteer Peer Editors as well as new manuscripts in search of editors!

# 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.

## 2025 Awardees

### SENIOR PROFESSIONAL AWARDS

#### Elliott Coues Award

**Robb Brumfield**, Louisiana State University

**Ben Hatchwell**, University of Sheffield, UK

#### William Brewster Memorial Award

**Kristen Ruegg**, Colorado State University

**Hugh Drummond**, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM)

#### Loye and Alden Miller Research Award

**Scott K. Robinson**, Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida

### CONSERVATION AWARDS

#### Ralph W. Schreiber Conservation Award

**David Wilcove**, Princeton University

#### Conservation Practitioner Award

**Felicia Sanders**, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

### SERVICE AWARDS

#### Marion Jenkinson Service Award

**Jennifer Walsh**, Cornell Lab of Ornithology

**Evan Adams**, Quantitative Wildlife Ecology Research Lab, Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI)

#### Peter R. Stettenheim Service Awards

**Sharon Gill**, Western Michigan University

**Brian D. Peer**, Western Illinois University

### EARLY PROFESSIONAL AWARDS

#### James G. Cooper Early Professional Awards

**Teresa Pegan**, Harvard University and University of Massachusetts Amherst

**Valentina Gómez-Bahamón**, Virginia Tech

#### Ned K. Johnson Early Investigator Award

**Maria Stager**, University of Massachusetts Amherst

### PUBLICATION AWARDS

#### Harry R. Painton Award

**Eric M. Wood**, Cal State Los Angeles with co-authors Sevan Esaian, Christian Benitez, Philip J. Ethington, Travis Longcore, and Lars Y. Pomara. (2023). [Historical racial redlining and contemporary patterns of income inequality negatively affect birds, their habitat, and people in Los Angeles, California.](#) *Ornithological Applications*.

#### Florence Merriam Bailey Award

**Henry C. Stevens**, Georgetown University with co-authors Adam C. Smith, Evan R. Buechley, Çağan H. Şekercioğlu, Vaughn Shirey, Kenneth V. Rosenberg, Frank A. La Sorte, Douglas Tallamy, and Peter P. Marra. (2023). [Species-specific ecological traits, phylogeny, and geography underpin vulnerability to population declines for North American birds.](#) *Ornithological Applications*.

#### Wesley Lanyon Award

**Bryce W. Robinson**, Birds of the World, Cornell Lab of Ornithology with co-authors Irby J. Lovette, and Jennifer Walsh. (2024). [Plumage polymorphism in raptors.](#) *Ornithology*.

### STUDENT PRESENTATION AWARDS

#### A. Brazier Howell Award

Miguel Costas-Sabatier

#### AOS Council Awards

Taylor Verrett

Anna James

Maria Mendiwello

Will DeMott

#### Frances F. Roberts Award

Cameron Piper

#### Mark E. Hauber Award

Facundo Duque

#### Nellie Johnson Baroody Award

Ashwin Sivakumar

#### Robert B. Berry Student Award

Franco Gigliotti

#### Honorable Mentions

Joshua Angell

Mac Chamberlain

Katherine Eufemia

Aidan Healey

Isabel Jorgensen

Abhimanyu Lele

Richard Lyon

Jon Merwin

Keeta Moore

Ben Wiens

We thank the **86 students** and **64 judges** who participated in our AOS 2025 Student Presentation Awards competition.



A sampling of 2025 AOS Award winners (left to right): Kristen Ruegg, David Wilcove, Jennifer Walsh, Maria Stager, and Henry C. Stevens



# AOS Research Grants and Fellowships

In 2025, the AOS significantly expanded our research grants program to launch and sustain student, postdoc, and early-career professional research throughout the field of ornithology. The AOS provided **\$148,800** in smaller student and post-doctoral grants in 2025 to support **43** student and post-doc research projects. In addition, in 2025, the AOS increased its maximum student/postdoc research grant amount from **\$2,500** to **\$4,000** to balance supporting as many students as possible with providing meaningful and impactful support. 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 **one \$30,000** arctic research fellowship and **five \$15,000** fellowships in 2025. The AOS also awarded **seven \$5,000** Latin American and Caribbean Conservation Research Grants representing **nine countries**, a big step in furthering this critical capacity-building initiative. In total, we allocated **\$288,800** toward research grants in 2025.

## Student Research Grant Seminars

In addition to the AOS providing funding to support student research in 2025, AOS member Robert Driver developed and hosted the AOS's new Student Research Grant Seminar Series, a virtual weekly series that allows past recipients of AOS student research grants to present their research findings to the ornithological community. In 2025, **30 students** showcased their research during this weekly series, with nearly **1,200 attendees** joining virtually across the spring and fall series. These weekly seminars—which are free for AOS members—help expand the impact of the AOS student research grants by providing additional professional development and networking opportunities for grantees and expanding virtual opportunities to communicate science throughout the year.

## 2025 Grantees

### KESSEL FELLOWSHIPS

**Teresa Pegan**, Harvard University and University of Massachusetts Amherst

**Vitek Jirinec**, Integral Ecology Research Center

**Leilton Luna**, Duke University

**Alix E. Matthews**, The University at Buffalo (SUNY)

**Jenna McCullough**, University of Kentucky

**Morgan Ziegenhorn**, Universite de Moncton

### LATIN AMERICA/CARIBBEAN CONSERVATION RESEARCH GRANTS

**Ron A. Fernández-Gómez**, SECIHTI (Secretaría de Ciencia, Humanidades, Tecnología e Innovación)

**María Teresa Reinoso Pérez**, Cornell Lab of Ornithology

**Natalia G. Rosciano**, Instituto de Investigaciones en Biodiversidad y Medio Ambiente – INIBIOMA-UNCo-CONICET

**Juan Manuel Fernández**, Laboratorio de Biología de la Conservación, Centro de Ecología Aplicada del Litoral (CONICET- UNNE)

**Maria Florencia Pucheta**, Aves Argentinas

**Olga Magalí Olmedo Masat**, CENPAT — Puerto Madryn (Chubut), Argentina

**Yabriel Pagán-Benítez**, Red Caribena de Varamientos

### STUDENT & POST-DOC RESEARCH GRANTS

#### Alexander Wetmore Memorial Research Grants

Facundo Fernandez-Duque  
Josephina Fornara  
Pranav Gokhale  
Rhiannon Henderson  
Vicky Ooi  
Shelby Palmer  
Christina Petalas

#### Latin American Student Research Grants

M. Lucía Bocelli  
Simón Kraemer  
Gustavo Martins  
Lorena Patrício  
Juan Rios Orjuela  
Aline Souza de Menezes Medeiros  
Danny Zapata

#### Betty and Herbert Carnes Research Grant

Abdullah Baiyinah

#### Donald L. Bleitz Research Grant

Sara Isgate

#### Joseph Grinnell Research Grants

Nicole Amedee  
Lyn Brown

#### Josselyn Van Tyne Memorial Research Grants

Bridget Tweedie  
Trey Ursillo

#### Werner and Hildegard Hesse Research Grants

Mark Kerstens  
Samantha Kruczek  
Shu-Yueh Liao  
Chelsi Marolf  
Jon Merwin

#### Margaret Morse Nice Research Grants

Jyotil Dave  
Lauren Dawson-Scully

#### Mewaldt-King Research Grant

Colin Dobson

#### Penny Ficken Research Grant

Linda Hutchinson

#### AOS Student Research Grants

Yangkang Chen  
Sage Dale  
Rin Pell  
Keelee Pullum  
Eden Ravecca  
Erik Schoenborn  
Sarah Scott  
Nicole St. Jacques  
Serina Suzuki  
Brian Tsuru  
Ashely Webster  
Lauren Whitenack  
Max Witynski



# AOS Membership Overview

## Fostering a Supportive Ornithological Community

At a time when science and scientists are under attack, a supportive community is more important than ever. We hear from so many of you that AOS is your “home society,” a place that provides a strong community, a sense of belonging, and a desire to give back. AOS members reflect the full range of ornithologists: from students to professionals and retirees, from academics to non-profit and government employees, from individuals conducting basic research across multiple disciplines, to those using science to inform on-the-ground conservation. Our new affinity groups, called “Flocks,” help ensure that ornithologists across multiple scientific societies develop a strong community with meaningful support. The efforts of hundreds of volunteers enable us to provide a wide range of programs and content while keeping costs low for our members, so that as many ornithologists as possible can access AOS resources and community. Thank you to our members, our volunteers, and everyone whose contributions ensure that the AOS is a wonderful “home!”

## The Faces of AOS

Our “**Faces of AOS**” member spotlight series highlights the work and interests of individual AOS members, provides opportunities for recognition and connection, and personalizes the field of ornithology. [Read more on our website](#) about the AOS members we featured in 2025 and why they chose to be a part of the AOS.



**Zachery Holmes**  
Ph.D. Student,  
University of Wyoming

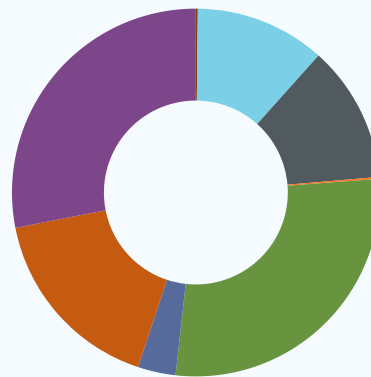


**Faiza Hafeez**  
Ph.D. Candidate,  
University of  
Nebraska-Lincoln



**Akshit Suthar**  
Ph.D. Student, James C.  
Kennedy Waterfowl  
and Wetlands  
Conservation Center,  
Clemson University

## 2025 AOS Membership



**5** Contributing Members  
**341** Early Professionals  
**358** Emeritus/Retired  
**5** Family Members  
**99** Honorary Fellows  
**501** Life Members  
**836** Regular Members  
**832** Students  
**Total 2,977**

AOS members reside in **60** different countries; **145** individuals residing in qualifying special countries received a 75% discount on their membership.

## 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
- Eligibility for prestigious awards and research grants and access to a range of professional development opportunities
- Discounted registration for our annual meeting
- Free access to Birds of the World, the most comprehensive and authoritative resource available on the biology of the world’s birds
- Free access to virtual scientific programming, including the Student Research Grant Seminar Series
- 25% discount on Oxford University Press books
- Generous discount from ZEISS



# Excellence in Governance & Operations

## AOS Council 2025–2026

The AOS Council, elected by our members, serves as the AOS Board of Directors and 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 2025–2026



**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 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

### ***Terms ending in 2028***

Elizabeth Gow  
Catherine Lindell  
Bette A. Loiselle  
Nicholas A. Mason

## Elective Student Councilors

Jacob Drucker (term ended in 2025)  
Faiza Hafeez (term ending in 2026)  
Zachery Holmes (term ending in 2027)

## Ex Officio Representatives

Judit Szabo, Editor-in-Chief, *Ornithological Applications*  
Christie Riehl, Editor-in-Chief, *Ornithology*

## Past Presidents

### ***Voting***

Colleen Handel  
Michael Webster  
Kathy Martin

### ***Honorary (non-voting)***

Steve Beissinger	Frank Moore
Bonnie Bowen	Dennis Power
Erica Dunn	C. John Ralph
John Fitzpatrick	Martin Raphael
Susan Haig	Terry Rich
James Kushlan	J. Michael Scott
Scott Lanyon	Kimberly Sullivan



AOS Council members at AOS 2025  
in St. Louis, Missouri.



# Operations & Finances

## Supporting a Growing Society

The AOS has grown tremendously in the decade since we were formed by a merger of the American Ornithologists' Union and the Cooper Ornithological Society. In 2025, the AOS has more than tripled the funding we provide our members in research grants, travel grants, and achievement awards compared with 2017, the AOS's first full year in operation. Thanks primarily to a new AI training licensing agreement through our publisher, Oxford University Press, the AOS also doubled our income from publications in 2025, compared with 2024.

The AOS also significantly subsidizes our annual meeting to keep costs to our members as low as possible despite rising costs for food and beverage, audiovisual equipment and support, and space.

The AOS is extremely fortunate to have a substantial endowment, grown through the generosity of our members, that allows us to significantly expand our support while minimizing cost to members to participate in AOS activities. Much of our recent program expansion is buttressed by a 2017 bequest from former AOU president Brina Kessel, which enables the AOS to support research, student travel, and special projects. The AOS is so grateful to our members and volunteers who support the AOS in so many ways, including with financial contributions; Brina's substantial gift shows the incredible impact a single individual can have on ornithology.

With such tremendous programmatic and financial growth, it is critical to ensure that the AOS continues to have the support it needs to run both its programs and its behind-the-scenes operations.

While we rely primarily on our volunteers to oversee our programs, professional staff are critical both for program support and general administration.

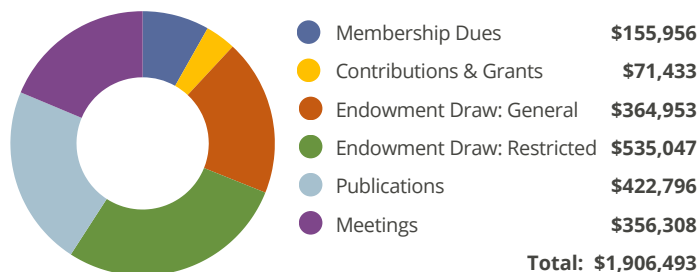


AOS Support Staff

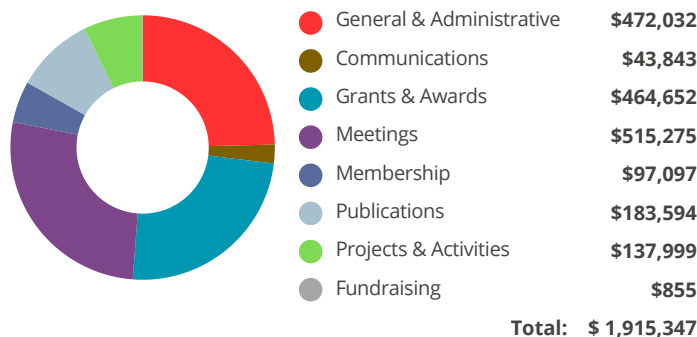
*Pictured in front row, left to right: Mark Penrose, Ramona Fletcher, Chris Anne Handel. Middle row: Kari Pantol, Crystal Ruiz, Judith Scarl. Back row, Mint Jang, Chris Mulvaney.*

In July 2025, the AOS created a new administrative manager position, filled by Kari Pantol, to address essential AOS operational needs while providing valuable support to the committees that oversee the AOS's achievement awards and elections, among others. Come say hi to Kari, and to the full AOS staff team, at our next Annual Meeting!

### 2025 Revenue



### 2025 Expenses



**Net Loss:** (8,854)\*  
**Total Assets:** \$39,109,464



*\*Note that figures on this page represent preliminary, unaudited numbers as of 31 December 2025. 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.*

312-883-3651

info@americanornithology.org

americanornithology.org

meeting.americanornithology.org

