

American Ornithological Society Officers and Elective Councilors

Classes of 2020, 2021, and 2022

Executive Committee

Officers

Kathy Martin, President (2018-2020)

Thomas Sherry, President-Elect (2018-2020)

Andrew W. Jones, Secretary (2014-)

Rebecca T. Kimball, Treasurer (2015-)

Executive Director

Melinda Pruett-Jones



KATHY MARTIN

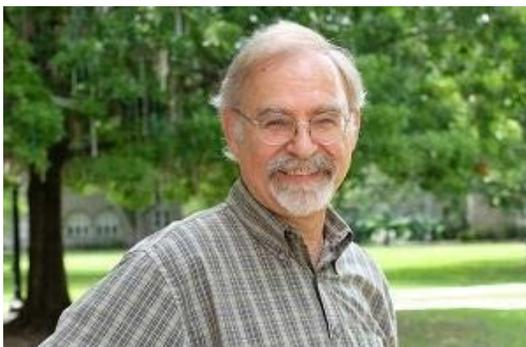
Title: Professor, Department of Forest and Conservation Sciences, Univ of British Columbia

BIO: Professor, Department of Forest and Conservation Sciences, University of British Columbia, and Senior Research Scientist, Science and Technology Branch, Environment and Climate Change Canada, Vancouver, Canada (1993-current). PhD, 1985, Queen's University, Ontario. Assistant Professor, University of Toronto, 1990-1992. Published in *The Auk*, *The Condor*, *Studies in Avian Biology*, *Ecology*, *Ecological Applications*, *Frontiers in Ecology and*

the Environment, *Biological Conservation*, *Biological Reviews*, *Science*, *PLoS ONE*, *J. Avian Biology*, *Forest Ecology and Management*, *Oecologia*. AOU Elective Member, 1991; AOU Fellow, 2001; Conference Chair, NAOC V in Vancouver, 2012. AOU SERVICE: Council, 2002 to 2006. Nominating committee, 2002; Membership committee, 1999-2002; Research Awards Committee, 1997- 2000. Associate Editor roles: *The Auk*, 1995-1999; *The Condor*, 2013-present; *Studies in Avian Biology*, 2008-2011; *Avian Conservation and Ecology*, 2005-present, *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*, 2011-2014. I have served as President of the Society of Canadian Ornithologists (SCO-SOC, 2000-2002), on the executive (1997-2004), and organized the SCO-SOC annual meeting in 1998. As a federal research scientist seconded to the University of British Columbia since 1993, most of my time is dedicated to developing basic and applied research programs in forest and alpine ecosystems in relation to local and larger scale disturbance events.

STATEMENT: The AOU was the first scientific society I joined, and I vividly remember my first AOU meeting in 1973 as a friendly and scientifically exciting meeting (Yikes, was it that long ago? I joined so young!). I have benefitted in so many ways from my membership in the AOU starting

as a graduate student where I made many valuable friends and colleagues at annual meetings. From my service on AOU Council and committees, and most recently as the Chair of NAOC V, I gained strong understanding of the functioning of the AOU. I look forward to getting deeply involved in the important new developments in the AOS and ornithological community, as we coordinate and collaborate on common goals with other North American and international societies. As a university professor and federal research scientist, I encourage my students and colleagues to become active in the AOS, join committees and councils, and attend annual meetings. I mentor my students and colleagues to contribute presentations, convene symposia, and to publish and review articles in our journals. Our annual conferences, one of the AOS's signature activities, are the life-blood of the society with strong appeal to all ornithologists. With my considerable experience in organizing meetings, I will strive to make our annual meetings even more successful and more relevant to a wider range of ornithologists outside academia, particularly to ornithological practitioners in government and non-governmental groups. I have worked on government-university liaisons for most of my professional career, and believe that the nexus of academics and conservation practitioners are more critical than ever to achieve our goals of promoting a rigorous scientific basis for avian conservation. This will include working to increase funding for young professionals to attend meetings and to developing program components to improve the profile of our research contributions. I strongly support the AOS mission to advance the scientific understanding of birds, enrich ornithology as a profession, and to promote a rigorous scientific basis for the conservation of birds. My vision of how we should manage avian populations and communities is guided by the fact that almost 80% of our birds breeding in Canada spend the majority of their life cycle in another country. We have so much to gain by forging critical partnerships with ornithological societies in Central and South America to ensure we maintain our capacity to provide for the full life cycle of migratory birds and to increase our knowledge of the full ornithological assemblages in the Americas. I maintain active research programs from northern Canada to Southern Chile and have been facilitating international ornithological research and management programs in the Americas. I will work to ensure that the AOS continues to promote ornithological science and conservation across the Americas, and to create and forge connections within the vibrant community of ornithologists throughout the Americas. To assist in this mission, the AOS could provide further leadership in the many exciting developments in Citizen Science and e-bird initiatives.



THOMAS W. SHERRY

Title: New Day III Professor & Siegel Professor of Social Entrepreneurship, Phyllis M. Taylor Cntr. for Social Entrepreneurship & Design Thinking, and Dept. Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Tulane University

BIO: Professor, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA; New Day Professor III and Siegel Professor in Social

Entrepreneurship. PhD, UCLA (1982). Post-doc and Visiting Assistant Professor Dartmouth

College (1982-88). Tulane Assistant Professor (1989); Associate Professor 1994; Professor 1999-current. George H. Lowery Award Louisiana Ornithological Society (2016). Publication outlets include *Auk*, *Biological Conservation*, *Biotropica*, *Birds of North America* (American Redstart), *Condor*, *Conservation Biology*, *Conservation Genetics*, *Ecology*, *Ecological Monographs*, *Journal of Animal Ecology*, *Journal of Avian Biology*, *Journal of Ornithology*, *Journal of Raptor Research*, *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, *Science*, and *Wilson Bulletin*; and many book chapters including *Cornell Lab of Ornithology Handbook of Bird Biology*, 3rd edition. Supervised 15 Ph.D. students. Elective Member AOU (1986); Elective Fellow (1999). Co-chair (and local chair) New Orleans North American Ornithological Conference (2002). AOU Council 2004-2009. AOU Committees: Student Awards (2003-04); International Affairs 2004-2005 (Co-Chair), 2006-2010 (Chair), 2011-2012; Nominations-Officers & Councilors 2005-2007; Service Awards (2017-current). International Ornithological Committee elected member and treasurer (2006-2014). Organization for Tropical Studies Assembly of Delegates (1989-2011). At Tulane I mainly teach (e.g., Ecology, Evolution, Conservation Biology) train students, provide service (including acting department chair), and conduct and supervise research. My research includes factors controlling migratory bird populations, especially wintering in the Caribbean (1986-current); the impacts of global change phenomena, including climate change and tropical forest fragmentation impacts on resident tropical birds; and avian diets, foraging, breeding adaptations, and communities.

STATEMENT: Ornithology has an illustrious past, and I will be thrilled to help AOS maintain its mission of outstanding publications and meetings, support of the most impactful research, and professional development. However, we have little future without birds. My awareness of dire threats to birds—and to science generally—leads me to struggle personally with balancing scholarship and activism. Both Ornithology and specifically AOS benefit from the best science, but our care about birds and their environments increasingly call for action. I am convinced that the AOS can up our bird conservation game, part of our mission, without jeopardizing scholarship or scientific credibility; and we arguably risk credibility otherwise! Strengthening cooperation with conservation organizations and government scientists will help. Birds enjoy extraordinary public support, which gives us both important opportunities and responsibilities—to scholarship, communication, and conservation. All aspects of Ornithology fascinate people, all the more with rapid expansion of technologies and paradigms. Because of my work in a range of latitudes and environments throughout the Americas I am increasingly aware of the interconnectedness of bird populations, communities, and even adaptive radiations throughout the hemisphere and beyond; thus, a personal goal is to broaden dialog, communication, scholarship, and conservation among Western Hemisphere ornithologists. The diversity of bird enthusiasts is one of our greatest assets, enriching both Ornithology and the AOS. However, diversity doesn't just happen; inclusiveness requires nurturing and support. If elected, I pledge my utmost energy and experience to advancing AOS, Ornithology, and cooperation among all who care to understand birds and their fates.



ANDREW W. JONES

Title: Director of Conservation, and Curator and William A. and Nancy R. Klamm Endowed Chair of Ornithology, Cleveland Museum of Natural History

BIO: William A. and Nancy R. Klamm Endowed Chair of Ornithology and Curator of Ornithology, Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Also Director of Science, Cleveland Museum of Natural History, and Adjunct Faculty, Cleveland State University. Ph.D. 2006, University of Minnesota, Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior. Published

in *Auk*, *Condor*, *Biological Journal of the Linnean Society*, *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution*, *BioScience*, *Cotinga*. AOU Member 1997, Elective Member 2009. My research concerns geographic variation in birds, primarily using molecular markers for comparative phylogeography and resolving evolutionary relationships among species in diverse genera.

STATEMENT: I first volunteered as Recording Secretary for the AOU in 2009, and served in that role for five years. I was then elected to the AOU Secretary position in 2014. As Secretary, I play an active role in the governance of AOS, working with the elected officers and councilors as well as our Executive Director. I manage communication among these groups as well as with the general membership. With ongoing efforts such as professionalizing the society and expanding our society's online communications, it is an exciting time for AOS, and I am honored to serve in this position.



REBECCA T. KIMBALL

Title: Professor, University of Florida

BIO: Professor of Biology, University of Florida, Gainesville FL; affiliate positions with Florida Museum of Natural History; School of Natural Resources and the Environment; UF Genetics Institute; UF/FSU Center for Smell and Taste. Ph.D. 1995, University of New Mexico. AOU Council Member (2013-2015); Chair, AOU Student Travel and Awards Committee (2009-2013; served as committee member previously). Also editor for *Ibis* (2013-present), SSE

Education Committee Member (2008-present), SSB Council Member (2008-2010). Published over 70 papers, including in *Auk*, *Wilson Bulletin*, *Ibis*, *Journal of Avian Biology*, as well as *PNAS* and *Science*. My research includes phylogenetics, population genetics, and the evolution of behaviors and traits (particularly plumage and secondary sexual traits) in birds.

STATEMENT: This is an important time for AOS. There have been many changes undertaken recently in the administration to strengthen the society and improve its ability to serve the membership. As Treasurer and former AOU Council member, I have worked to help to ensure the AOS continues to advance the scientific understanding of birds while maintaining itself as a strong society that serves the needs of current and future ornithologists. To do this requires continued improvement and new initiatives to keep pace with the changing needs of professionals. I will work towards keeping AOS fiscally sound while also ensuring that AOS invests in long-range planning activities that will ensure its long-term success.



MELINDA PRUETT-JONES

Title: Executive Director, American Ornithological Society

BIO: Executive Director, American Ornithological Society. MS. 1981, Brigham Young University, Department of Zoology. Published in *The Auk*, *Evolution*, *Animal Behavior*, *Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology*, *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*. While my current area of inquiry involves organizational life cycles and network governance, my research background is in social behavior, ecology, and population biology of birds and mammals. I currently

serve or have served on several boards, including Audubon Chicago Region; Network for Large Landscape Conservation; Urban Advisory Committee, National Park Service; Loyola University Institute for Environmental Sustainability; and the University of Illinois at Chicago Institute for Environmental Science and Policy.

STATEMENT: I joined the AOU as its first executive director in 2014 and oversaw the merger process of the AOU and COS to launch the new AOS. I bring to the society executive and fundraising experience, over 30 years of organizational leadership, and an essential understanding of the relevance of ornithology in a rapidly changing world. My role in AOS is to advance its bold vision, professionalize the organization, provide strategic direction, cultivate and guide cooperative partnerships, and secure funding to help sustain and grow the Society. Having lead organizations through periods of substantial growth and change, I am focusing on fostering an organizational culture that drives excellence and innovation to best position the AOS to adapt and lead.

Councilors – Terms ending 2022

Sara Kaiser

Erica Nol

Lauryn Benedict

Kristen Ruegg



SARA KAISER

Title: Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute's Center for Conservation Genomics

BIO: Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Center for Conservation Genomics, Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute. Ph.D. 2013, Cornell University. M.S. 2004, Michigan State University. Published in *Animal Behaviour*, *Animal Conservation*, *Behavioral Ecology*, *BMC Research Notes*, *Condor*, *General and Comparative Endocrinology*, *Journal of Evolutionary Biology*, *Journal of Wildlife Management*, *Molecular Ecology Resources*, *PLoS ONE*,

Proceedings of the Royal Society of London, *The American Naturalist*, *The Auk: Ornithological Advances*, *The Birds of North America*, *Wilson Journal of Ornithology*. AOS Member, 2001-present; AOS Elective Member, 2017. Chair, Early Professionals Committee, 2017-present; Early Professionals Committee, 2013-present; Meetings Coordination Committee, 2018-present; Membership Committee, 2016-2017; Early Professionals Mini-talk Symposium, 2013-present; Diversity in Ornithology Symposium, 2017; Presentation Judge, 2014-2017. My research focuses on an integrative understanding of how the environment shapes the evolution of complex social behavior, especially reproductive strategies and cooperation. I am particularly interested in the role of social behavior in population and evolutionary dynamics involving sexual selection, population differentiation, and adaptation to environmental change. My research has included behavioral and demographic studies of warbler, sparrow, babbler, and thrush populations in North America, the Caribbean Islands, and Borneo, and comparisons of life histories and reproductive strategies of temperate and tropical birds. I have a strong record of mentorship and promotion of diversity in research. I have trained and supervised 90 undergraduates and recent graduates in the field and lab and have served as a research mentor for 17 undergraduates. I am committed to encouraging and expanding opportunities and participation in research for undergraduates from underrepresented backgrounds and to support their development as scholars.

STATEMENT: AOS is my home society. I attended my first meeting in 2001 to present my undergraduate research. The experience was transformational. Even at that early stage, I was welcomed into the community and immediately felt a sense of belonging. AOS continued to

support me as a graduate student through travel, research, and presentation awards and as a professional working in multiple sectors — NGO, government, and academic. AOS meetings have become reunions bringing together colleagues from different chapters of my life — a chance to catch up with friends and their science — and I rarely miss a meeting. My service to the society has focused on identifying the challenges and concerns facing early professionals and on working towards solutions to meet the emerging needs of their membership. As an AOS council member, I will 1) support professional development programs that are inclusive of diverse career paths, 2) provide service and leadership opportunities to support a diverse and inclusive ornithological community, 3) promote engagement of undergraduate members, 4) support membership incentives that provide access to meeting workshops to members unable to attend and to professional development programs throughout the year, and 5) support travel, research, and presentation awards for members from Latin America. My service to the society as Chair of the Early Professionals Committee, member of the Membership and Meetings Coordination Committee, and co-organizer of events with the Student Affairs Committee and Diversity and Inclusion Committee demonstrate my commitment to these goals.



ERICA NOL

Title: Professor of Biology, Trent University

BIO: Professor of Biology, Department of Biology, Trent University, Peterborough, Ontario, Canada. Ph.D. University of Toronto, M.Sc. University of Guelph. Published in *Auk*, *Condor*, *Wilson J. of Ornithology*, *J. Field Ornithology*, *Ibis*, *J. Avian Biology*, *Waterbirds*, as well as *Nature*, *Movement Ecology*, *Landscape Ecology*, and many others. AOU/AOS Elective Member 1991 and Fellow 2001. Past member of the Council of the American Ornithologists Union, past councilor and President of both the Society of Canadian Ornithologists (SCO-SOC) and the Waterbird Society, as well as subject editor of several journals, including *The Condor*. Current

member of the Equity and Diversity group of the Waterbird Society. Founding member of the American Oystercatcher Working Group. I have served on many society committees over the years. I have supervised over 50 graduate students in their studies on avian ecology and conservation. Effective mentorship of students, regardless of their level of study or their academic ambitions, is a goal that I hope I've achieved. I conducted my Ph.D. research on the ecology of oystercatchers. Since then I have, with my graduate students, conducted research on breeding, migrating and wintering populations of Semipalmated Plovers, and the ecology of many other species, including songbirds and woodpeckers in southern Ontario. I have authored over 130 scientific publications on behavior, conservation and ecology of birds, and am the co-author on two *Birds of North America* accounts.

STATEMENT: The American Ornithological Society can make a significant contribution to the study and conservation of birds by fostering communications between scientists worldwide who are struggling to maintain natural habitats while continuing to conduct ornithological research. AOS can accomplish this through effective communication, its scientific journals, strategically-located annual meetings, continued excellent support for student and young professional travel awards and ongoing outreach to our international partners. I believe in promoting and nurturing diversity in our society and hope that we can use our finances effectively to engage and assist scientists around the world in their work. I will be happy to serve the AOS as a councilor for the next three years.



LAURYN BENEDICT

Title: Associate Professor in the School of Biological Sciences, University of Northern Colorado

BIO: Associate Professor, School of Biological Sciences, University of Northern Colorado. Ph.D. 2007, University of California, Berkeley. Published in *Animal Behaviour*, *The Auk: Ornithological Advances*, *Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology*, *Biology Letters*, *The Condor*, *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution*, *Ibis*, *Journal of Avian Biology*, *Journal of Zoology*, *PLOS One*, and more. AOU Elective Member 2014. Associate Editor for *The Auk: Ornithological Advances*, 2013-present - Editorial Board Member *Studies in Avian Biology*, 2015-2018 - AOU/COS Meeting Local Host Committee 2014 - Student Presentation awards judge 2014, 2016, 2018 - Meetings

Symposium and Roundtable Organizer 2016, 2018- AOS Meetings Scientific Program Committees 2018, 2019. My primary research interests are in avian communication and behavior. I study a range of avian vocalizations, with an emphasis on the ecological and evolutionary forces that shape signal form and function among male and female birds. I teach courses in the areas of General Biology, Ornithology, and Animal Behavior, and I curate the University of Northern Colorado's Zoology Museum. I have supervised six M.S. students, two Ph.D. students, and more than 60 Undergraduate students in research, museum curation, and student teaching. I conduct outreach to general audiences through public talks, educational programs in my community, and national outlets including *Birding Magazine*, and the *Science Journal for Kids*.

STATEMENT: I have been a member of AOS (then the AOU and the COS) since 2001, when I was a beginning graduate student. The Society has offered me valuable resources and an active professional network; I welcome the opportunity to further improve its offerings and culture. I believe that the ornithological community is strengthened by the participation of diverse stakeholders with a range of research interests, goals, and perspectives. I am committed to AOS's mission to advance ornithology as a science, to improve avian conservation efforts, and to promote the professional success of its members. We can best achieve this mission by welcoming

researchers at all career stages, by establishing connections across the Americas, by supporting excellent science, by translating that science into actionable initiatives, and by making all of these outcomes widely visible. To further these goals, I have served as an editor for two AOS publications. I support the Society's move towards open access publishing and would work to help our journals publish high quality, widely accessible research. I believe that creating a welcoming community for students will build a stronger society, and I am invested in supporting early career scientists. I have helped to plan multiple meetings, including organizing Undergraduate Symposia that foster student involvement. In an effort to retain early career researchers within the field, I worked with the AOS Diversity and Inclusion and Executive committees in 2018 to draft a best-practices document for creating family-friendly policies at annual meetings. This resulted in caregiver grants implemented for 2019 and expanded accommodations for conference attendees. I look forward to growing and improving these resources and others in the years to come.



KRISTEN RUEGG

Title: Assistant Professor, Department of Biology, Colorado State University

BIO: Assistant Professor, Department of Biology, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO. Ph.D. 2007, University of California, Berkeley. Published in Ecology Letters, Science, Nature Ecology and Evolution, IBIS, Proceedings of the Royal Society B, Methods in Ecology Evolution, Molecular Ecology, Evolution, Ornithological Monographs, Journal of Parasitology, Journal of Biogeography, Ecological Applications, Zeledonia: Boletín de la Asociación

Ornithologica de Costa Rica, and Conservation Genetics. AOS Elective member, 2017, Associate Editor at The Auk: Ornithological Advances 2015 – present, Editorial Board Member at Ecology Letters, 2015 – present, AOS Student Presentation awards judge 2014. My research is focused on conservation and evolutionary genetics of migratory birds. I co-direct the Bird Genoscape Project, which brings together hundreds of volunteers from NGOs, government agencies, and academic institutions in an effort to map the population specific migratory flyways for North American Birds. I have also focused on the role of migration in the process of avian diversification and spent my early career developing the Swainson's thrush as a model system. I teach courses in General Biology and Conservation Genomics at Colorado State University and teach a short course in the Ecology of Animal Migration as part of the CanMove graduate workshop at Lund University in Sweden. I have supervised 1 M.S. student, 3 Ph.D. students, 3 Post-doctoral Researchers, and over 20 undergraduate researchers in avian research. I am a National Geographic Research Explorer and regularly give presentations to general audiences in my community as well as at the National Audubon Society and as part of the National Geographic Explorer Classroom webcast series.

STATEMENT: My career has followed a non-linear path for a variety of personal and professional reasons, but the one thing that has always remained constant is the support I have felt from the American Ornithological Society. As a graduate student, I felt this support through travel grants, research awards, and the opportunity to participate in student-mentor lunches. As a postdoctoral researcher, I felt this support through the leadership and encouragement of several senior members of the society who offered sage advice during uncertain times in my career. As a mid-career scientist, I have enjoyed the opportunity to give back to the society and develop my leadership skills as an Associate Editor at *The Auk: Ornithological Advances* and a committee member for a variety of meeting related events. As an Elective Councilor for the American Ornithological Society, I welcome the opportunity to participate in the long-range planning for the society going forward. In particular, I welcome the chance to offer my expertise in fundraising to help secure financial support for ornithological research and my experience in networking with scientists from across the Americas (as part of my work with the Bird Genoscape Project) to help foster the Society's diverse and vibrant community of researchers. As someone who did not have a direct path through academia, I also believe I would be particularly well suited to help continue to develop programs that foster professional development for scientist in early and transitional career stages. Overall, as an Elective Councilor it will be my pleasure to work with other Society members to continue to build an inclusive, supportive community grounded in integrity, collaboration, and the desire to produce high-quality research.

Councilors – Terms ending 2021

Peter O. Dunn
Sharon A. Gill
Sara R. Morris
Christopher C. Witt



PETER O. DUNN

Title: Distinguished Professor, Dept. of Biological Sciences, University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee

BIO: Distinguished Professor, Dept. of Biological Sciences, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM, 2016-present). PhD. 1989, University of Alberta. Post-Doctoral Fellow Queen's University 1990-92, Australian National University 1992-94, Louisiana State University 1994-96. External Scientific Fellow, Univ. of Lodz, Poland 2017-2019. My research focuses on avian ecology and evolution, especially reproductive behavior and sexual selection. I also conduct applied work on the conservation genetics of greater prairie-chickens and the effects of climate change on birds (e.g., I am co-editing a second edition of the book *Effects of Climate Change on Birds*, Oxford Univ. Press). My papers (>110) have appeared in journals such as *Auk*, *Condor*, *Animal Behaviour*, *Ecology*, *Evolution*, *Molecular Ecology* and *PNAS*. AOU/AOS member since 1982. AOU Elective Member 1998, AOU Fellow 2006. Member of AOU Student Awards Committee 2000-03. Speaker at student grant writing workshops at NAOC, Veracruz 2006 and AOU, Chicago 2013. I have served as an Associate Editor for *Evolution* (2001-03) and *Animal Behaviour* (2008-11) and am co-organizing the 2018 Animal Behavior Society meeting at UWM. I also serve on the Conservation Cmte of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology (2015-present).

STATEMENT: I have been an active member of the AOU/AOS my entire professional career, and I welcome the opportunity to serve at a higher level on the AOS Council. My service on the AOU Student Awards Committee and participation in grant-writing workshops reflects my interest in promoting the careers of young ornithologists. In today's highly-competitive environment one of the main goals of the AOS should be to support students and post-docs with financial support for their research, travel to meetings and professional development, such as the highly successful student-professional mixers and workshops that help to develop new skills (e.g., using R or genomics) and collaborations. To be successful, AOS needs to provide the best available opportunities for ornithologists at all career stages to present their work and develop professional connections and skills. We do this at meetings, but I think it would also be beneficial to expand our online communications with more frequent email newsletters and social media, as some other professional societies are doing. Greater electronic communication will also make our research more accessible to scientists and the general public throughout the Americas. I believe the new AOS can provide a stronger voice for ornithology and conservation, and I would work toward this goal on the council.



SHARON A. GILL

Title: Associate Professor, Biological Science, Western Michigan University

BIO: Associate Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, Western Michigan University. Ph.D. 2003, York University. Published in *The Auk*, *Behavioral Ecology*, *Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology*, *Ethology*, *Hormones and Behavior*, *Journal of Avian Biology*, *Journal of Research in Science Teaching*, *PLoS ONE*, *Proceedings of the Royal Society of London*, *Science of the Total*

Environment. AOU Elective Member, 2014; AOS Fellow, 2017. Associate Editor with *The Auk: Ornithological Advances*, 2012-present; AOU/AOS Graduate Student Research Award Committee, 2013-present; Scientific Program Chair, AOS-SCO joint meeting, 2017; *The Auk* Best Paper Award Committee, 2018. My research examines the behavioral responses of birds to environmental change, focusing on the influences of artificial light and anthropogenic noise on communication by birds and the overall sound environment more broadly. I have also studied alarm calls and dueting, and hormones and behavior in temperate and tropical birds. I have supervised 6 M.S. and 3 Ph.D. students, and more than 30 undergraduates and high school students. I'm interested in public engagement with science, and give talks to local nature organizations and lead sound walks at nature preserves. I also have an ongoing collaboration with a landscape and portrait photographer and we've held two exhibits exploring the declines of grassland bird species in North America.

STATEMENT: AOS has been the scientific society to which I feel the strongest connection and the one which has provided me with strong support. I felt this way from my graduate student days when I received research awards from the society and support to travel to and present at conferences; the early sense of belonging framed my sense of this society. I'd like to work with AOS to see it continue to be a society that is welcoming, diverse and inclusive, and one that supports early-career researchers in career paths both within and outside of academia. AOS can emerge as a leader among scientific societies both in terms of the science it supports through grants and high-quality journals and publications, as well as as an organization that supports all its members. My service reflects those interests as I currently serve on the AOS student research grants committee, as AE for *The Auk*, and on the Diversity and Inclusion Committee for the College of Arts and Sciences at Western Michigan University. I'd like to expand my service to these goals by working with existing AOS committees (for example, Student Affairs, Diversity and Inclusion) to promote diversity and inclusion in our society and to develop workshops at conferences and webinars aimed at early-career researchers. One of the most meaningful compliments I received as Scientific Chair about the 2017 AOS-SCO joint meeting was that it was welcoming and supportive. I would like to work to maintain that feeling going forward, which will involve understanding the needs and concerns of all members



SARA R. MORRIS

Title: Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs & Professor, Biology Dept, Canisius College

BIO: Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, Canisius College. Ph.D. 1996, Cornell University. Assistant Professor of Biology, Canisius College, 1996-2002. Associate Professor of Biology, Canisius College, 2002-2006. Professor of Biology, Canisius College, 2006-present. Co-Chair, Biology Department, Canisius College, 2011-2015. Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, Canisius College, 2015-present.

Published in *Auk*, *Animal Behaviour*, *Wilson Journal of Ornithology*, *Condor*, *Journal of Field Ornithology*, *Hormones and Behavior*, *Frontiers in Zoology*, and *Vector-borne and Zoonotic Diseases*. AOU/AOS Elective Member 2004; AOU/AOS Fellow 2010; AOU Secretary 2006-2014, AOU/AOS Bylaws Committee 2014-present, Wilson Ornithological Society President 2015-2017, North American Ornithological Conference VI Steering Committee Member, North American Ornithological Conference V and VI Scientific Program Committee. My research interests focus on a passerine migration, particularly related to stopover ecology and behavior. My initial work focused on a single site, Appledore Island, Maine, and then expanded to other geographic areas and to comparative studies across migratory paths. In addition to stopover behaviors, my team has been studying the role of birds in the movement of zoonotic diseases including Lyme disease and eastern equine encephalitis. My recent work has been in the area of migrant warbler flight calling behaviors.

STATEMENT: As ornithologists, we face a variety of issues affecting our profession: environmental changes, an assault on science and scientific pursuits, and a devaluation of institutions of higher education. These issues lead me to worry about the future of ornithology, ornithologists, and birds over both the short-term and long-term. As a scientific society, we need to ensure that there are a variety of forms of mentoring at all stages of careers, opportunities and funding for basic scientific research, and quality outlets for our research results. As the AOS has been changing over the last decade, it is well positioned to ensure that these opportunities are available for ornithologists and to leverage the interests of the general public for birds to help support the science of ornithology. I believe that my background with the AOU (as secretary, on the early professionals committee, and the bylaws committee), with the Wilson Ornithological Society (as a member of Council and of the executive committee), with the North American Ornithological Conferences (as a member of two scientific committees and a steering committee), and as a college academic administrator (dealing with changes to higher education, accreditation, financial aid, specific regulations, and grant funding) will help me be an effective member of the AOS Council to help the society identify and respond to the challenges that will be affecting academia. I also bring my long-standing commitment research and in mentoring to help ensure that our focus continues to be on the science of ornithology and the training and support for ornithologists.



CHRISTOPHER C. WITT

Title: Director and Curator of Birds, Museum of Southwestern Biology, Associate Professor of Biology, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque

BIO: Director and Curator of Birds, Museum of Southwestern Biology, Associate Professor of Biology, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque. Ph.D. 2004, Louisiana State University; UC-Berkeley postdoc, 2005–2006. Published 65 peer-reviewed articles (listed here:

<https://tinyurl.com/ybocrcls>). AOU/AOS member since age 17 (1992);

AOU/AOS Elective Member 2009; AOU/AOS Fellow 2016; AOU Student Travel & Awards Committee member 2009–2013. I conduct specimen-based studies of avian biogeography and evolution, particularly in the Andes and New Mexico, using a range of approaches that include genetics, evolutionary comparative analyses, physiology, and parasitology. I am a strong advocate of natural history museums and collections-based science, and I interact with AOS members on social media, via @MSBbirds and @UNMornithology.

STATEMENT: I joined AOU/AOS at 17, and I have attended 16 meetings. AOS is my preferred scientific society because I am passionate about birds and I want to be part of a rigorous and vibrant community of ornithologists. Student support, meetings, and publications are current strengths of AOS that should be redoubled. I think that the most impactful investments that AOS can make are in young investigators via awards, grants, and collaborative opportunities to help them persist and thrive in ornithological careers. The AOS meeting venues and organization have generally been outstanding and the quality of science improves every year. Affordability should be a top consideration in planning future meetings, for several reasons. The new committee on Diversity and Inclusion is a welcomed step toward a progressive AOS that will forge connections across long-standing barriers. From my perspective as a museum director and curator, supporting collections infrastructure and the policy and lobbying functions of the Ornithological Council are critically important functions of AOS. The recent successful merger and the improved online presence of AOS are evidence of good leadership and a healthy, adaptable society. Amidst a rapidly changing world for scientists and birds alike, AOS' mission is only becoming more important and I am optimistic that the society will find new ways to serve its members and keep ornithology on the cutting edge.

Councilors – Terms ending 2020

Anna D. Chalfoun

Abby N. Powell

Andrea K. Townsend

Michael S. Webster



ANNA D. CHALFOUN

Title: Associate Professor and Assistant Unit Leader, USGS Wyoming Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Department of Zoology & Physiology, University of Wyoming

BIO: Associate Professor and Assistant Unit Leader, U.S. Geological Survey Wyoming Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Department of Zoology & Physiology, University of Wyoming. Ph.D., 2006, University of Montana. Published in *Animal Behaviour*, *The Auk*, *Biological Conservation*, *The Condor*, *Conservation Biology*, *Ecology and Evolution*, *Ecological Applications*, *Evolution*, *Journal of Animal Ecology*, *Journal of Applied Ecology*, *Journal of Ornithology*, *Journal of Wildlife Management*, *Oecologia*, *Wilson Journal of Ornithology*, and others. AOS Transition Advisory Team, 2016–present; AOU Elective Member, 2013; COS President-Elect. 2015–2017; COS Nominations Committee, 2015; COS Board Member and Student Awards Chair, 2011–2014; COS Miller Award Committee, 2010–2011; Scientific Program Committee for 2016 NAOC, 2014–2016. As a Coop Unit scientist and Associate Professor at the University of Wyoming, my primary role is to address important research needs related to non-game wildlife species within the state and beyond, and to train graduate students. My research interests include habitat selection and its consequences, mechanisms underlying the effects of human-induced habitat change on wildlife, nest predation dynamics, and avian parental care. My main focal study system has been sagebrush passerines.

STATEMENT: I have been a member of the AOU and COS, and now AOS, since I was a graduate student, and the societies have played a critical role in my professional development. But more than that, they have provided a sense of community. I do not only study birds, but it is the ornithological meetings that I have attended almost every year for the last eighteen, because of their quality, and the friendships and collaborations I have developed. Indeed, one of the main long-range planning goals for AOS is to pursue excellence in organizing and hosting annual conferences, and I feel strongly about continuing to ensure that meetings are well attended, enjoyable, and relevant to the contemporary challenges we face as ornithologists. Recently I served on the scientific program committee for the NAOC in Washington D.C., which provided valuable insight on many of the challenges associated with successfully putting together a large scientific meeting. I also feel very strongly that AOS continue to provide valuable services to our early-career members. For three years, I served as the student awards chair for the COS, and

while in that role developed a student presentation feedback program, that has continued and been appreciated by our student members. Given the very competitive current job and research grant market, moreover, I think another important contribution that AOS could provide would be more support for post-doctoral researchers and early faculty in the form of competitive scholarships and grants. I am also keenly interested in continuing to explore how the society can provide effective conservation-related services and outreach. The merger between the AOU and the COS was an historic event, and though some have been skeptical about the decision, I would like to do all I can to ensure that the new society continues to thrive and evolve in positive directions.



ABBY N. POWELL

Title: Unit Leader and Courtesy Professor, Florida Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, University of Florida, Gainesville

BIO: Unit Leader and Courtesy Professor, Florida Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, University of Florida, Gainesville; Assistant Unit Leader and Professor, Alaska Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, University of Alaska 2001-2015; USGS Research Wildlife Biologist and Associate Professor, University of Arkansas (1999-2001); USGS Research Wildlife Biologists and Assistant Professor, San Diego State University (1992-1999). Ph.D.

1992, University of Minnesota. Published in *The Auk*, *The Condor*, *Ibis*, *Journal of Animal Ecology*, *Journal of Avian Biology*, *Journal of Wildlife Management*, *Oecologia*, *Waterbirds*. COS Secretary, 2008-2015; COS Board of Directors, 2002-2005; COS Honorary Member, 2014; AOU-COS Joint Meetings Task Force, 2012-2013; AOU Elective Member, 1999; AOU Fellow, 2012; AOS Bylaws Committee, 2016-present. As a research wildlife biologist for USGS for the past 25 years, I have been involved in conducting research on avian ecology, particularly issues pertaining to conservation. I am also responsible for training and mentoring graduate students and teaching graduate-level courses.

STATEMENT: I am a long-term member of both the AOU and the COS and actively participated in the transition of the merger of the two societies into AOS. I chaired the Joint Meetings Task Force a few years before the two societies merged to identify redundancies, increase efficiency, and better serve the two societies as a whole in years when they had joint conferences. AOS continues to pursue the goal of excellence in the opportunities and experiences offered through annual conferences. One of the most rewarding aspects of my career has been mentoring students through graduate school and then on their journeys as professional scientists. I believe that fostering their interest and participation in ornithological societies is a crucial aspect of mentoring. In addition, I have had the opportunity to listen to and interact with our younger members through serving as a judge for student paper awards, interacting with the chairs of student activities committees and the COS Young Professional Awards recipients, and finding avenues for their participation in society leadership in my various roles in both societies over the

years. These upcoming ornithologists, like many of the more established career scientists, envisioned the creation of a new society that reflects the strengths of both the former AOU and COS. I am devoted to the development and evolution of our new premier ornithological society through fostering professional development of all members, regardless of their career stage, and to increasing the diversity of both the membership and leadership of AOS. I applaud the recent addition of AOS awards to facilitate recruitment of underrepresented groups to our membership, and am committed to exploring more efforts to increase diversity in all levels of our society. I am excited about the opportunity to serve the AOS in a leadership role and furthering both diversity and mentorship of our members and leaders.



ANDREA K. TOWNSEND

Title: Assistant Professor of Biology, Hamilton University

BIO: Assistant Professor, Hamilton College, 2014-current. Ph.D. 2009, Cornell University. NSF Postdoctoral Fellow, Smithsonian Institution and Cornell University Lab of Ornithology, 2010-2011. Assistant Professor, University of California, Davis 2011-2014. Published in *Global Change*

Biology, Journal of Avian Biology, The Condor, Proceedings of the Royal Society B, American Naturalist, Behavioral Ecology, Applied and Environmental Microbiology, Journal of Medical Entomology, PLoS ONE, Journal of Caribbean Ornithology, Avian Diseases, Environmental Microbiology, Molecular Ecology, Conservation Genetics, Journal of Veterinary Diagnostic Investigations, Wilson Journal of Ornithology, Animal Behaviour, Ornitologia Neotropical. AOU Elective Member, 2013; Association of Field Ornithologists Council Member, 2010-2013; Assistant editor, *The Auk: Ornithological Advances*, 2014-present. My research program at Hamilton College falls at the intersection of behavioral ecology and disease ecology. I have been examining behavior, urbanization, and diseases of American Crows since 2005. My recent work emphasizes cognitive capacity of crows, with focus on its genetic basis and relationship to migration. As a professor at a Liberal Arts college, I am committed to providing ornithological research experiences for undergraduates and to supporting their professional development.

STATEMENT: I am a strong supporter of the formation of the American Ornithological Society, the impacts of which I believe will be magnified by the unification of its members and its council. I feel personally committed to and invested in the success of AOS; for this reason, I currently serve as an Assistant editor to *The Auk: Ornithological Advances*. I would be excited to increase my service to AOS as a Council member and do my part to launch it off to a strong start. I have been active in multiple societies, having served on the Council of the Association of Field Ornithologists, participated on travel awards and research awards committees, and having served as a judge at society meetings. I would draw from these experiences as a board member of AOS. I have also benefitted from multiple societies in meaningful ways that helped to advance my career. As an early professional with experience at both R1 and Liberal Arts institutions, I

would be keen to preserve and develop opportunities to support undergraduates, graduate students, postdocs, and early professionals in ornithology.



MICHAEL S. WEBSTER

Title: Robert G. Engel Professor of Ornithology, Department of Neurobiology and Behavior, Cornell University, and Director, Macaulay Library, Cornell Lab of Ornithology

BIO: Robert G. Engel Professor of Ornithology, Department of Neurobiology and Behavior, Cornell University, and Director, Macaulay Library, Cornell Lab of Ornithology. PhD 1991, Cornell University. Assistant Professor (2000-2004), Associate Professor (2004-2008) and Professor (2008-2009), School of Biological Sciences, Washington State University. Assistant Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, University at Buffalo (1995-2000). Over 90 scientific publication in journals including *American Naturalist*, *Animal Behaviour*, *The Auk*, *Behavioral Ecology*, *The Condor*, *Emu*, *Evolution*, and *Proceedings of the Royal Society*. Elective Member (2008) and Fellow (2009) of the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) and Fellow of the Animal Behavior Society (2015). Served on the editorial boards for *Animal Behaviour* (2011-2015), *Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology* (2000-2004), *Evolution* (2004-2006 and 2008-2010), and *Emu* (2007-present). Additional service to ornithological societies includes AOU Council Member (2010-2012), AOU Student Awards Committee (2005-2008; chaired 2007-2008), and COSI Student Research Award Committee (2004). Currently Vice Chair for the AOS Meetings Coordination Committee. My research and student training centers on a better understanding of the evolution of bird behavior, and in particular the evolutionary causes and consequences of variation in sexual signals (e.g., plumage and displays, song), focusing primarily on Australian fairy-wrens and North American wood warblers as study systems. As the Director of the Macaulay Library, a scientifically curated collection of "digital media specimens" (audio, video and photos) that capture the behavioral phenotype of individuals, I am dedicated to improving the breadth and depth of our collection to make it as useful as possible for research, education, and conservation of birds and other organisms.

STATEMENT: I have been a member of both the AOU and COS since the early 1980's, and became a member of AOS as soon as this new society was formed. I believe strongly in the mission of AOS, in particular in its focus on promoting ornithological research and conservation across the entire hemisphere. I believe that the greatest impact of this organization will come through promoting and coordinating research on birds both domestically and across international borders, and from supporting the training and development of ornithologists at all stages of their careers. Toward these ends, I feel that the annual AOS conferences should be developed into an event that not only serves as a venue for presentation of the latest "cutting edge" research, but also fosters collaborations, training, and professional development in meaningful ways. For this reason I recently became Vice Chair of the AOS Meetings Coordination Committee and look forward to seeing a new model for a scientific conference emerge. In addition, I will work to

ensure that AOS serves as an advocate and source of support for ornithological research, including support for those in the earliest stages of their careers.