

2026 Joint Meeting *of the*  
**Association of Field Ornithologists**  
*and the* **Wilson Ornithological Society**

Salve Regina University, Newport, RI



Sponsorship  
Opportunities

# Join us in 2026 for a joint meeting of the Association of Field Ornithologists and the Wilson Ornithological Society!



I would like to invite you to join us for the 2026 joint meeting of the Association of Field Ornithologists, and the Wilson Ornithological Society. The two societies are working together to plan a dynamic scientific program to share the latest scientific work around ornithology and avian conservation at Salve Regina University in Newport Rhode is from July 7-10, 2026.

This joint meeting will bring together professionals, students, and amateurs in ornithology and avian conservation from across the Western Hemisphere and beyond. We hope you will join us for an exciting meeting, including great talks, workshops, and plenaries.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James F Chace".

Jim Chace, PhD  
Local Host  
Past President, Wilson Ornithological Society

# Association of Field Ornithologists

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Founded in 1922 as the New England Bird Banding Association, The Association of Field Ornithologists (AFO) is one of the world's major societies of professional and avocational ornithologists dedicated to the scientific study and dissemination of information about birds in their natural habitats. AFO encourages the participation of avocational research and emphasizes the conservation biology of birds. For more information, visit: <https://afonet.org/>

## Matthew B. Shumar

AFO President  
Program Coordinator,  
Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative  
The Ohio State University

## Rebecka Brasso, PhD

AFO Vice President  
Associate Professor,  
Weber State University

## L. Scott Johnson, PhD

AFO Secretary/Past AFO President  
Professor Emeritus,  
Towson University

## Sarah Sargent, PhD

AFO Treasurer  
Executive Director,  
Erie Bird Observatory

## Julie Jedlicka, PhD

AFO Past President  
Associate Professor,  
Missouri Western State University

# Wilson Ornithological Society

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The Wilson Ornithological Society (WOS) is an international scientific society comprising community members who share a curiosity about birds. The WOS produces the *Wilson Journal of Ornithology* as the latest iteration of scientific journal publication from the Society since 1888. The WOS is committed to providing mentorship to both professional and amateur ornithologists through the sponsorship of research, teaching, and conservation. For more information, visit: <https://wilsonsoociety.org/>

## Auriel Fournier, PhD

WOS President  
Director, Forbes Biological Station  
Illinois Natural History Survey  
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

## Letitia "Letty" Reichart, PhD

WOS First Vice President  
Professor,  
University of Nebraska at Kearney

## Kristen Covino, PhD

WOS Second Vice President  
Associate Professor,  
Loyola Marymount University

## Joe Ralston, PhD

WOS Secretary  
Associate Professor,  
Saint Mary's College

## Medhavi Ambardar, PhD

WOS Treasurer  
Chief Scientist,  
Lake Michigan Bird Observatory

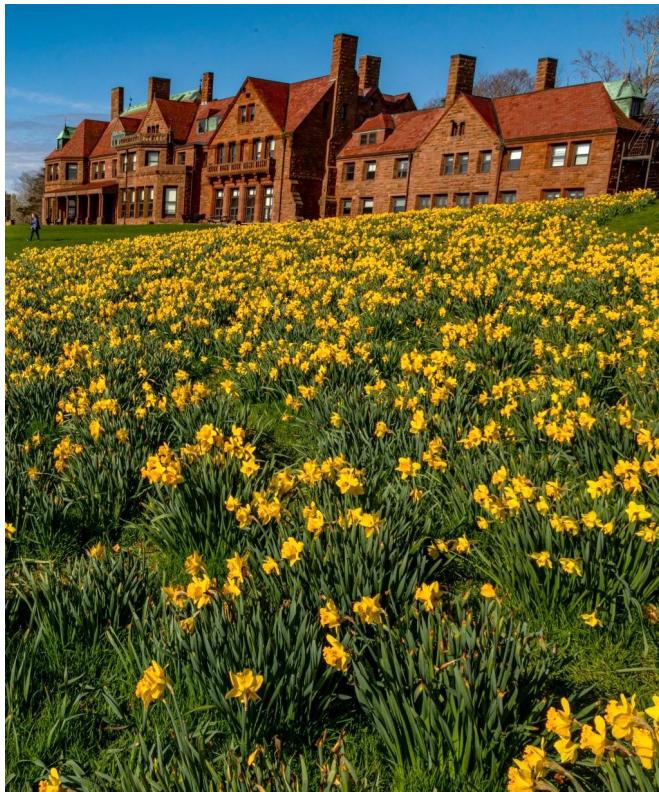
## Daniel Klem, PhD

WOS Past President  
Professor,  
Muhlenberg College

# About the conference

The 2026 conference is a joint meeting of two professional societies, the [Association of Field Ornithologists](#), and the [Wilson Ornithological Society](#). The conference will offer a series of workshops, plenary talks by world experts in ornithology and avian conservation, oral and poster sessions by researchers, students and practitioners, as well as several symposia on ornithology and avian conservation. We will also offer training and career advancement events for students and early professionals.

Your sponsorship is especially important to a scientific conference such as ours. Academics, students, and professional ornithologists often have limited travel support for conference attendance. Your contribution will help keep registration costs affordable for many people who might not otherwise be able to participate in our conference. THANK YOU!



# Our attendees

About half of our attendees hold advanced degrees and the vast majority are involved in bird-related research at universities, natural history museums, bird-banding stations, non-profit organizations and state and federal agencies, with interests in conservation and the biology of wild birds. Our meetings also strongly support the attendance of students and amateur ornithologists, who account for approximately the other half of the attendees. We expect 150 people to register at this meeting; most of them from the US and Canada, although we frequently have attendees from Mexico, Central and South America.

# Location

Our 2026 meeting will be held at Salve Regina University in Newport, Rhode Island. Located in historic Newport, along the gilded age Bellevue Avenue, and perched along the 3.5-mile national scenic Cliff Walk, the campus and city is an exciting and beautiful venue to talk about recent advances in ornithology. Local field trips are being arranged with our partners at the Audubon Society of Rhode Island.

# Venue & Accommodations

The conference is at the Salve Regina University and on campus housing will be available, with lodging in local hotels also available. For more details see the conference website: [AFOWOS2026.org](http://AFOWOS2026.org)



# Sponsorship opportunities

## Premium Sponsorships

Sponsorship level	Gold (\$5,000)	Silver (\$2,500)	Bronze (\$1,000)
Complimentary registration	3	2	2
Exhibition table	1 table, double length, premium location	1 table, double length, premium location	1 table, standard length, premium location
Logo featured on conference t-shirt, or tote bag	*		
Logo on registration banner	*	*	*
Logo featured before all plenary sessions	*	*	*
Logo featured before all regular sessions	*	*	*
Website presence	Logo + short ad	Logo + short ad	Logo + short ad
Brochure/swag in conference bag	*	*	*



# Sponsorship opportunities

## Other Sponsorships

Sponsorship opportunities	Poster reception (\$1,500)	Coffee break (\$750)	General sponsor (\$500)	Local sponsor (\$50 - \$500)
Complimentary registration	1	1	<i>Please note: complimentary registration is not included, but sponsors will be given a name badge &amp; access to the sponsors room throughout the conference</i>	
Exhibition table	1 table, standard length	1 table, standard length	1 table, standard length	Shared large table with other small sponsors
Logo on vertical banner	*	*		
Logo featured before all regular sessions	*	*	*	*
Website presence	*	*	*	(logo only)
Brochure/swag in conference bag	*	*	*	*

If your organization or business is interested in assisting with any of these categories, or for tailored sponsorship opportunities, please contact Auriel Fournier ([auriel@illinois.edu](mailto:auriel@illinois.edu)), or visit our sponsorship portal:

**VISIT THE SPONSORSHIP PORTAL**



# Sponsorship opportunities

## Coffee break & poster sessions

Science runs on snacks and coffee. Therefore, we will offer all day beverage (coffee, tea, soda, water) service and two “snack breaks” per day during the two days of the scientific program. Each sponsorship covers a half day of refreshment service. We can accommodate up to four (4) coffee break sponsors.

Similarly, we will hold a poster session on Wednesday, July 8<sup>th</sup>. This evening of professional networking and science communication will be full of enriching conversations and direct interaction between researchers, faculty, and students. To help facilitate vibrant conversations, this session will include refreshments. We can accommodate a single sponsor for this important event

## General & local sponsors

Funds will be allocated where needed as determined by the steering committee.

*Please note that complimentary registration is not included in this category, but sponsors will be given a sponsor's name badge and the opportunity to be in the sponsors hall throughout the conference.*



## Other ways to help: Item donations for student awards / silent auction

At the end of the conference, both societies present awards for best student presentations. Donations such as binoculars, field gear, books, or art have been paired with awards in the past. We also plan to have a silent auction that will run during the conference. Many attendees will be traveling to Rhode Island by plane; therefore, we would appreciate any small items to include in our auction. All proceeds will go to student travel awards, sponsored memberships, and/or publication waivers.



[afowos2026.org](http://afowos2026.org)