Nominations for EOU Council 2023

Adam Z. Lendvai, Hungary

I am an evolutionary biologist interested in the mechanisms governing life histories. By training, I am a behavioural ecologist, but most of my current research focuses on physiology to understand how birds cope with environmental challenges. I am particularly interested in hormonal regulation of behaviour, including the hormonal response to stress and the role of the evolutionarily conserved hormone, insulin-like growth factor 1 (IGF-1), in mediating life history decisions. I follow an integrated approach where I combine proximate and ultimate questions of biology.

I have studied birds in various environments, from the Arctic to the tropical rainforest, although I spent a great deal of time in parking lots and horse barns as well to study house sparrows. During my master's thesis, I studied Kentish plovers in Southern Turkey, and then I spent five months as a research fellow at the University of Bath, UK. I did my PhD on the social behaviour and physiology of house sparrows in Hungary and in France, then I was a post-doc at the Centre d'Etudes Biologique de Chizé in France. I held my first academic position at the Institute of Biology, College or Nyíregyháza, Hungary as a lecturer. Then I spent two years at the Dept. of Biological Sciences, Virginia Tech, USA as a research scientist while doing fieldwork at the Biological Station of Queen's University in Ontario, Canada. I was also a research scientist at Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania, for two years. Currently, I am an associate professor at the Department of Evolutionary Zoology and Human Biology at the University of Debrecen, where I am working on a common, yet elusive passerine species in the wetlands of Hungary, the bearded reedling, that served as a model species to study how IGF-1 is related to growth, development of feather ornaments, energy metabolism and other hormones.

I served as an associate editor in the ornithological journal, The Auk, in BMC Zoology and Természetvédelmi Közlemények, a Hungarian journal of conservation biology. I organized an international workshop on the evolution of physiological mechanisms shaping ageing and life histories. I co-founded and organized the ongoing series of the Hungarian Conservation Biological Conferences (HCBC), the largest regularly held conference in conservation biology in Hungary.

As an EOU council member, I plan to bring naturalists, ringers and amateur bird enthusiasts closer to professional ornithology and, in turn, to bring avian science closer to the general public. I also believe that we need to enhance the prestige and esteem of research on basic avian natural history and behaviour because these are the foundations of our understanding of the fascinating world of birds. I think the EOU meetings provide an excellent opportunity to achieve these goals.

Alexey Opaev, Russia

I was born in 1982. In 2005, I graduated from Moscow State University. From 2006 onwards, I work in A.N. Severtsov Institute of Ecology and Evolution of Russian Academy of Sciences (Moscow, Russian Federation). Now, I'm senior researcher in this Institute, and lead a group of three PhD-students. The main research interests lie in bird bioacoustics, mainly – birdsong. From 2004, I studied song structure and vocal behavior of different species such as leaf-warblers *Phylloscopus* (Opaev 2016; Samotskaya et al. 2016; Opaev and Shishkina 2021), babblers *Garrulax* s.l. (Opaev et al. 2017), reed-

warblers *Acrocephalus* (Opaev and Ivanitskii 2010), shrikes *Lanius* (Opaev 2014, 2020), buntings *Emberiza* (Rubtsov and Opaev 2012), and stonechats *Saxicola* (Opaev et al. 2018).

Then, from 2016 onwards, playback experiments were intensively used to study the communicative value of complex singing in passerine birds. This research was conducted in Russian Far East (from 2017 onwards), China (2014, 2016) and in Vietnam (from 2018 onwards) with several leaf-warblers and babblers from the Pellorneidae family as model species (Opaev et al. 2019; Kolesnikova et al. 2019; Opaev 2022; Opaev et al. *in press*). Main findings of these studies were reviewed in Opaev (2022).

Now, the main area of my research interests lies in the study of causes and consequences of individuals differences in territorial behavior (leaf-warblers, babblers, and bunting species), and in animal personality. It is well known that territorial behavior plays an important role in birds' breeding success and affect their lifespan. In current study, I aim to relate the males' individual quality and health status to their territorial and acoustic behavior observed during playback-simulated territorial intrusion. First, I use telomere length that has been suggested to be a promising molecular tool to evaluate individual quality as well as health status. Secondly, the prevalence and diversity of haemosporidian parasites, immune and hormonal status are analyzed. Thirdly, the body condition is taken into account. Performing this project, I plan to get new insights into the relationships between acoustic traits, health status and behavior of an individual. Having done so, we will understand better of how quality of an individual relates to its social relationships and breeding success.
The additional growing research area of my group is the diversity of avian haemosporidian parasites in Russian Far East and Vietnam.

Dr. Andrey Mukhin, Russia

Biological Station Rybachy of the Zoological Institute RAS.

While my main duty now is managing the Rybachy Biological Station as the branch of Zoological Institute of RAS, I still try to be up to date with two of my main interests in bird migration - circadian control of the bird's life stages and haemosporidians' spreading with traveling birds. In this difficult time for Russian scientists to cooperate with their colleagues all over the Europe I hope to do my best to save what can yet be saved and keep international connections regardless of the current political situation.

WORK:

- 2019 – present Director of Biological Station Rybachy (Branch of the Zoological Institute, RAS);
- 2007 — 2019 – research scientist of the Zoological Institute, RAS;
- 2004—2007 — Post-doc in Max-Planck Institute for Ornithology (Andechs, Germany);
- 1999—2004 — research fellow at the Zoological Institute, RAS;
- 1997—2001: research assistant at the Biological Station Rybachy;

Andriy Bokotey, Ukraine

I am connected to ornithology all my professional life. The main part of my scientific interests is focused on the urban avifauna and nature conservation. Especially I am interested avifauna that associated with endangered habitats. I am the head of the long-term project of monitoring and protection of the Black Stork in Ukraine; I am an author of the National Action Plan for the Protection of the Black Stork in Ukraine. Also, my interests are centered around the wetland avifauna. I have participated as a researcher or as manager in many projects are focused on the study and protection of wetland birds.

At the same time, it's clear for me, that nature protection needs the combined efforts of many people, not only professional researchers, but also amateurs, nature lovers and all citizens. The best tool for uniting people around birds is ornithological societies. That is why, in 1986, I was one of the founders of the West-Ukrainian Ornithological Society. Today, WUOS unites almost 150 professional ornithologists and amateurs, publishes own journal and continues to develop rapidly.

Nowadays, during Russia's large-scale military aggression against Ukraine, Ukraine's natural environment is undergoing large-scale destruction. Ukrainian scientific institutions and scientific archives are being destroyed as a result of rocket attacks. Even after the end of war, we will not be able to get to a significant part of the territories of our research for a very long time. 30% of the territory of Ukraine is mined by the Russian army. As an EOU Council member I want to present interests of Ukrainian ornithologists, to promote their integration into the European ornithology community. It is extremely important for the professional networking, representing of the results Ukrainian research and ensuring open access to biodiversity data about birds in Ukraine.

Arianna Passarotto, Sweden/Spain

I completed my PhD in Integrated Biology in 2020 at EEZA (Experimental Station of Arid Zones - CSIC, Almería, Spain) where I studied the role of ecology in the evolution of coloration in owls combining comparative phylogenetic analyses and field observations. In particular, I studied how different activity rhythms shape inter- and intraspecific colour variation in different traits in owls. After my PhD, in 2021-2022, I worked as a postdoctoral researcher at Novia University of Applied Sciences (Finland) investigating eco-evolutionary dynamics in a population of colour polymorphic tawny owls (Strix aluco). Specifically, I studied fitness consequences of morph specific variation in dispersal, life-history and population dynamics. Currently, I am based at Lund University (Sweden) and also affiliated with University of Seville (Spain). In my current project, I study the effects of human-induced environmental changes on owl activity rhythm, hunting behaviour and functional morphology. Overall, my main research interest lies in behavioural and evolutionary ecology of birds in a wide context. My research addresses different evolutionary aspects of inter- and intraspecific phenotypic variation using phylogenetic comparative analyses, long-term dataset and behavioural experiments, which I use to identify factors driving morphological and behavioural diversification. My goal is to provide new insight on the relationship between morphology, behaviour and fitness under human-induced environmental changes. I have been working with birds in many different scientific and academic contexts. On the one hand, I participated in different local projects in Italy and Spain, aiming to bring the general public closer to the protection of birds and their habitats. On the other hand, I have studied the ecology and evolutionary dynamics of a variety of bird taxa, and presented my work at several international symposia, including the EOU meetings. Therefore, as an active member of the academic community and for my interest in communication with a lay audience,

being a member of the EOU council would be a great opportunity to share my experience and enthusiasm to promote both the transmission of scientific contents within the ornithological community, through the organization of EOU meetings, and the outreach to a wider audience.

Attila Fülöp, Romania

I studied ecology and biology at Babeş-Bolyai University (Cluj-Napoca, Romania), then I continued my doctoral studies at the University of Debrecen (Debrecen, Hungary). Currently, I work as a full-time researcher at the Babeş-Bolyai University, being also affiliated at the University of Debrecen. Besides, since 2003 I am a member of Milvus Group Association, an NGO based in Targu-Mures, Romania, working on bird and nature conservation. At Milvus Group, I started as an enthusiastic volunteer keen to learn birds, then over the years I worked as an employee, while currently I serve as a board member. Overall, although I work in the academia, which I enjoy, I'm always trying to remain involved in the "practical" side of the ornithology as well, being engaged in the activities carried out by this organization, either as a field ornithologist, researcher, or board member.

As a researcher, I consider myself a behavioural ecologist. I study primarily the different aspects of the social behaviour of birds, including various types of interactions between individuals, social organization patterns of groups, and group functioning. Beside these topics, my research interests include(d) avian ecophysiology, plumage signals, ecological role of plumage microorganisms, and migration of soaring birds over Black Sea coastline. I am also and avid R user, permanently looking to develop my statistical and programming skills.

As an EOU council member I plan to contribute to the growth of the ornithologist community in Eastern Europe (primarily in Romania and Hungary), and I plan to work on reducing the gap between academia and the non-academic sector (e.g. NGOs) working on bird conservation, and not only, by a constant exchange of experiences and knowledge.

Personal webpage:
https://avianimmunoecology.wordpress.com/attila-fulop/

Emanuel Ștefan Baltag, Romania

I made the first steps in ornithology when I was a child, in 1997. Since then, birdwatching has become a way of living. In 2008 I graduated from the Biology Faculty at "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iasi and after that I started to work in ornithology and nature conservation.

Since then, I was involved in many research and conservation projects, mostly focused on birds, but also on habitats and ecology.

In 2018 I was elected as director of Marine Research Station of Agigea, part of Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași. In the same year we established at Agigea the first and the only permanent Ringing Station from Romania – Agigea Bird Observatory.

I am interested in bird migration, habitat selectivity, climate influence, ecotoxicology and especially bird conservation. My vision as a candidate for EOU is to support and encourage conservation studies

in order to cope with current pressures on nature and to attract more people from the conservation field to share their knowledge and practical studies.

Josué Martinez de la Puente, Spain

I was born in Spain. I obtained the degree in Biology at the Complutense University of Madrid. I did my thesis focus on the interactions between cavity nesting birds and parasites at the National Museum of Natural Sciences (CSIC). I won different competitive postdoctoral contracts to join the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria and the Doñana Biological Station (CSIC). I developed research stays at national and international centers, such as the IRTA-CReSA Animal Health Research Center, Lund University and the Natural History Museum in London. Currently, I am a professor at the Department of Parasitology of the University of Granada at the department of Parasitology and a member of a group of the CIBER of Epidemiology and Public Health. In addition, I have carried out scientific expeditions to study the interactions between wild birds, pathogens and vectors in Morocco, Chile, Peru and French Guiana.

My research line focuses on the field of Disease Ecology, with special attention to the ecological factors that determine pathogen-vector-bird interactions, using as study models parasites such as avian Plasmodium and other pathogens, including those that are zoonotic, such as West Nile virus. I have used a wide range of approaches that combine monitoring of natural populations of wild birds and experimental procedures under natural and laboratory conditions. I have identified the factors that determine the contact rates between vectors, including native and invasive species, and their bird hosts, thus identifying the risk of pathogen transmission. In addition, I have studied the eco-evolutionary processes that determine the development of pathogens in vectors and bird hosts and the consequences of parasitic infection for avian hosts. Finally, I have investigated the impact of human-driven changes of landscape and biodiversity on the pathogen amplification affecting birds under a global change scenario. Based on my expertise on the study of wild birds and the impact of parasite infections in bird populations, I apply to be member of the EOU council in order to contribute to the development of the ornithology research area and the wildlife conservation in the future.

Kristaps Sokolovskis, Finland

On the 31st of March 2023 I will graduate as a Dr. in biology at Lund University (Sweden) where for the past 5 years I indulged in studies on genetics of bird migration. Immediately after this I will start a postdoc at Turku University (Finland) studying dispersal mechanisms and life histories of pied flycatchers.

First time I picked a pair of binoculars to look at birds was while doing a minor high school science project in 2008, I have never left the house without binoculars since! My core passion lays in field work and studies of life histories of small songbirds, willow warblers in particular. Beginning of my MSc thesis and the following PhD project coincided with rapid development of tiny tracking devices. The new technology paired with great supervision by Staffan Bensch solidified my determination to stay in this line of business.

Throughout my journey in science I have been more than lucky to have many wonderful mentors that taught and inspired me. By becoming a council member, I hope to get one step closer of repaying that debt and to encouraging young researchers and enthusiasts to continue studying birds!

Ülo Väli, Estonia

I completed my PhD in 2004 at the University of Tartu in Estonia with a doctoral thesis on speciation, hybridization and ecology of greater and lesser spotted eagles. I continued my research as a Marie-Curie post-doctoral fellow at Uppsala University in Sweden, where I explored the applicability of various genetic markers in the conservation genetics of avian and mammalian predators. Since 2009 I am a senior research fellow at the Estonian University of Life Sciences. Spotted eagles are still the preferred model system in my research, but I consider myself a raptor biologist in the broadest sense. I have studied a variety of raptor species in a diverse range of research fields, such as breeding biology, foraging ecology, movement ecology, demography, population genetics and evolution. Usually, the ultimate goal has been the conservation of species and habitats. This path has led me to general issues of biodiversity conservation, especially in agricultural landscapes, and the applicability of raptors as bioindicators of farmland biodiversity and heterogeneity. For three decades, I have been involved in raptor monitoring and since 2013 I have been coordinating raptor monitoring in Estonia.

Vidya Padmakumar, Canada

I have been associated with the EOU as a member since 2022. I am a professional biologist and a keen birdwatcher based in Montreal, Canada, working in the fields of biodiversity and toxicology. My research focuses include biodiversity, avifauna, herpetofauna, arachnids, algal diversity, ecotoxicology, marine, and freshwater ecosystem monitoring, and studies on wetland and estuarine ecosystems with more than 16 paper publications, 76 presentations in national and international conferences, chaired more than 18 international conferences and won 3 international accolades for research. Honorary member of the IUCN, The Royal Society of biology- London, and many other international organizations working towards biodiversity and conservation. Peer reviewer in 5 international journals and the Editor-in-chief of The Flutter- the newsletter of the International Ornithologists' Union, USA.

Visit https://vidyapkumar3.wixsite.com/vidyapadmakumar to know more.

I had always wanted to be a part of the global community that has veterans in ornithology. As a council member, I would like to encourage individuals in my communities to go to conferences and submit abstracts. In various sectors, I would like to stand in for diversity and alternative methods like academic research and citizen science. I would adore the opportunity to volunteer at all of our conferences, take part in intellectual discussions, and actively promote ornithology and my home region.

Zsofía Toth, Hungary/Sweden

I have been studying how the ISS pathway influences the life-history decisions of Bearded tits (Panurus biarmicus) during my Ph.D. at the University of Debrecen. Since, within the confine of ÉLVONAL Shorebird Science Project project, I investigated the effect of sperm competition on breeding success and parental care and the underlying mechanisms of this process. Recently, I am studying the possible mechanism behind hatching failure (eg. pollution-driven DNA damage in gamates) in passerines at University of Lund, Sweden.

During the last few years, I was committed to strengthening the community of the Fledglings. I was organizing the Fledglings Meeting in Hungary in 2022, furthermore, I am actively looking for post-doc, Ph.D., field assistant, etc... positions to share in social media groups dedicated to Fledglings to help their future careers. During the past years of talking to fellow early career researchers, I gained information about their needs, doubts, and basic questions about science, and other possibilities regarding future jobs. I would dedicate my time as an EOU council member to helping to find answers to those questions by organizing seminars, round tables, and occasionally workshops.