SLATE OF CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION

Proposed for the General Meeting of the EOU during 12th Congress of the EOU, in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, on Friday, 30 August 2019

Compiled by Nominating Committee for Council Members consisting of Verena Keller (Switzerland), Goetz Eichhorn (Germany / Netherlands) and Jiří Reif (Czech Republic), and chaired by Barbara Helm, Past-President of the EOU

Candidates for election to fill all present vacancies:

Treasurer:
Oliver Conz (Germany), present Treasurer, stands for re-election

Ordinary Council members:
Alexander Mischenko (Russia)
Andreas Nord (Sweden)
Arseny Tsvey (Russia)
Jordi Figuerola (Spain)
Nayden Chakarov (Bulgaria)
Suvi Ruuskanen (Finland)
Valentyn Serebryakov (Ukraine)
Zoltán Németh (Hungary)

INFORMATION GIVEN BY THE NEW CANDIDATES

Alexander Mischenko (Russia)

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What motivates you to apply?
My cooperation with European colleagues in the sphere of bird study and protection began in mid 1990s. We spent several successful projects on Corncake, ducks and waders and obtained new interesting results. I always tried to involve Russian ornithologists from different region in our activities, and inform them about new European conferences, important publications, potential projects etc. An access to foreign achievements is not too easy for some Russian colleagues, so I try to help them. In the same time, European ornithologists often have no information about new important bird studies in Russia, because they are published in Russian only. I hope my membership in the EOU council can give me more chances for cooperation in the European and Russian development of ornithology, and I'll be able to disseminate information more successfully and involve colleagues in new joint researches, publications and conferences more productively.

What ideas will you bring for the EOU?

It is a difficult question, because results of all new modern directions of ornithology are submitted on the EOU conferences. I'd like to attract more attention on studies of ecology, population trends and changes in breeding ranges and their driving factors (including climate changes) for birds in farmlands, in comparison West Europe and East Europe, with different farming methods and differences in social and economy conditions.

Andreas Nord (Sweden)

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Brief CV

I studied ecology, animal physiology, and statistics at Lund University and the University of Auckland 2002-2006, and defended my M.Sc. thesis at Lund University in 2007. I studied for a Ph. D. in animal ecology a Lund University, under supervision from Jan-Åke Nilsson and Lars Råberg, and defended my dissertation "Effects of temperature on avian physiology, behavior and development" in 2013. This was followed by post-doctoral work at Lund University (2013; with Caroline Isaksson), the University of Glasgow (2013; with Barbara Helm), the University of Tromsø – the Arctic University of Norway (2014-2017; with Lars Folkow), and the University of Glasgow (2018-2019; with Neil Metcalfe, Pat Monaghan, Dominic McCafferty). Since March 2019, I work as a researcher at the Department of Biology, Lund University, Sweden, and am affiliate staff member at the University of Glasgow. I regularly engage in public outreach activities, such as popular lectures at NGOs, interviews in national media, and serve as a guide on natural history walks with the general public.

Research profile

I am a broadly interested in the thermal biology or birds, particularly seasonal adaptations to deal with heat and cold in Arctic and temperate species. This works ranges from ecological studies in the wild to laboratory measurements of thermal and metabolic responses to cold/heat, measurement of thermal properties of plumage and feathers, and biophysical modelling of heat exchange, and various combinations thereof. I work mostly on small passerine birds (tits, flycatchers) and several species of ptarmigan. Current research is largely split between understanding seasonal variation in energy expenditure, thermoregulation, and immune function in high Arctic ptarmigan, and measuring functional variation in winter acclimatization (heat production, heat retention, cold tolerance) at sub-cellular-, organ-, and whole-animal levels in several species of sympatric, and ecologically similar, small birds. An increasing amount of time is also devoted to investigating how the risk of overheating constrains reproductive investment in breeding birds, and to studying energy expenditure during avian incubation in relation to the trade-off between parental investment and the success of eggs, embryos, and nestlings.

Vision for my work as a Council member

The EOU meetings have always been close to my heart in bringing together a wide range of European ornithology scholars from different disciplines in a friendly, interactive and highly qualitative environment. I have actively contributed to the EOU meetings as a symposium organizer and keynote speaker on every conference since that in Badajoz 2015. As a member

of the EOU Council, I foresee I shall remain an active organizer of conference symposia, but would like to substantially further this work by taking part in developing the overall scientific direction of the EOU meetings. I am also interested in promoting the work of the EOU to a wider audience amongst the general public and, in particular, to work closely with the EOU Fledglings to actively involve doctoral students and junior postdocs in the Union.

Arseny Tsvey (Russia)

Senior researcher
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I was interested in biology and in natural sciences since my childhood and spent a lot of time observing habits of various animals. My general interest switched to birds when I was presented by the male greenfinch to keep it in captivity when I was in high school. Later I was educated as a teacher of biology and chemistry. Every summer during my education I severed as a volunteer at the famous ornithological institute – Biological Station Rybachy of the Zoological Institute of Russian Academy of Sciences (former Vogelwarte Rossitten). In 2008 I was awarded a Ph.D. for a thesis on 'Migration strategy of Robins (Erithacus rubecula) in Eastern Baltic' from the Zoological Institute RAS, St. Petersburg, Russia. Since then I've been working at the Biological Station Rybachy as a researcher. My scientific interests cover rather broad fields from stopover ecology through physiology of migration to migratory strategies of birds and impact of climate change on bird migration. My current research interests are related to hormonal regulation of migration in passerines. Specifically I study the role of corticosterone in the control of migratory physiology and behavior. I believe that knowledge on regulatory mechanisms of migratory behavior will help in assessing the limits of adaptability to the global changes we are observing now on the Earth.

Reasons to be a member of EOU Council

For the first time I attended EOU conference in 2001 in Groningen and I was fascinated by its atmosphere and scientific level. Currently I consider EOU conferences as an excellent place for exchanging ideas and for personal contacts between people from different countries. Moreover during every EOU conference I know a new direction of ornithological research that I had not known before. Therefore I think that EOU conferences are especially important for young and early-career researchers, who form their scientific scope. One of my aims is sharing information about EOU activities and EOU conferences among Russian audience and especially among students and encouraging them to participate in it. Also I see that Russia has many excellent field ornithologists; Europe traditionally is strong in theoretical and evolutionary approaches. I believe that the most prominent achievements in ornithology are possible in true collaboration among scientists with various experiences. As a member of EOU council I'll try to connect as many researchers from Russia and Europe as possible.

Jordi Figuerola (Spain)

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I am researcher at Estación Biologica de Doñana in south Spain. My work has focussed on different groups of birds, from waders and other waterbirds to passerines. My research focus on the interplay between behavioral, evolutionary and population ecology. I have studied the role of waterbirds on long distance dispersal of plants and invertebrates and the population dynamics and dispersal of a recently stablished glossy ibis population. My current projects focus on host-parasite-vector interactions and pathogen circulation and diversity may be affected by bird movements and bird community composition. I am Deputy director of Estación Biologica de Doñana, Chief Editor of the section Behavioral and Evolutionary Ecology in Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution.

The reasons to present my candidature to the council are:
Birds have fascinated me since childhood and working with them is a everyday satisfaction. My motivation to join the Council would be my interest in stimulating collaboration and research in ornithology across Europe. EOU activities may be important to support early career researchers and increase ornithological research and interaction with researchers across Europe.

Nayden Chakarov (Bulgaria)

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Nayden was born and raised in Bulgaria, and retains close ties to his home country including for avian research. He studied Biology at Jena University, Germany, and obtained his PhD at Bielefeld University, Germany. After spending time as a Marie-Curie-Fellow, Lund University, Sweden, he returned to Bielefeld, where he is now Assistant professor.

Motivation for candidature to the council
I have been captivated by bird behavior since in my early childhood. Ever since, I've been on a rather straightforward journey to understanding what makes them tick. During my school and undergraduate years, I have become increasingly focused on the interplay between birds and their diverse parasites. After a strong initiation period in the ornithological community of Bulgaria, I moved to Germany for my undergraduate and PhD studies, and continued for a postdoc stay in Sweden. Now, I am back to Germany while maintaining strong collaborations with the communities at all my stops. Both my thinking and research are strongly based on trans-European networking and collaboration.
As an undergraduate, I had the opportunity to be a helper in the local organisation team at the EOU conference in Chemnitz, 2003. This was my first big international meeting and left a lasting impression, influencing my scientific growth since. The conference in Turku convinced me that the EOU covers both the community and the topics where I feel native. Currently, my main research topics are polymorphism maintenance, population genetics, all aspects of host-vector-parasite coevolution. I consider myself a field biologist and address these topics through extensive field surveys and sampling, but also increasingly with lab experiments, genomic, and comparative approaches.

Before starting my PhD studies I, along with activists of the local environmental community, invested two years in founding and the growth of the Greens as a political party in Bulgaria. As a member of the national council of the party, I was confronted with diverse environmental malpractices and crimes. This reinforced my strong belief that scientists are never allowed to stay silent on the sidelines. Especially ornithologists, working with some of the most charismatic organisms, are predestined to be prominent voices for the preservation of unique biodiversity heritage. I believe there is more work to be done and the EOU can be a driving force in this direction.
I therefore apply to be member of the EOU council and would be delighted to contribute more to the organization and development of the European ornithological community in the future.

Suvi Ruuskanen (Finland)

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I completed my PhD in evolutionary ecology in 2010 at the University of Turku (topics: parental effects, phenotypic plasticity, sexual conflict in passerine birds) and I am also a biology school teacher. I worked as a post-doc at the university of Turku in 2010-2012 (topics: avian evolutionary ecology, predator-prey interactions, ecophysiology), and as a project leader (2010-2017, topics: avian environmental ecology, anthropogenic pollution effects on passerines). Thereafter, I joined the Netherlands Institute of Ecology and University of Groningen as an Academy post-doc (2012-2015, topics including avian maternal effects, personality research, climate change and ecophysiology).
Since 2015 I have worked as an Academy research Fellow at the University of Turku. In my ongoing projects we study (i) novel mechanisms underlying maternal effects, especially maternal thyroid hormones: plasticity, evolution and consequences on offspring traits as well as endocrine disruption (ii) avian epigenetics and (iii) the effects of herbicide glyphosate on non-target avian taxa.
My main research combines topics from evolutionary and behavioural ecology with ecophysiology, ecological (epi)genetics, environmental ecology and ecotoxicology in birds, and thus I see myself as an integrative biologist. My research combines both fundamental and applied research topics. Birds (mainly passerines, recently also comparative studies across altricial and precocial species) have been the main study organism throughout my research (12 years). We apply various experimental approaches in the field and lab, as well as collaborative large-scale (European wide) spatial data collection and long-term monitoring. I also teach practical skills in bird research to Bcs level students every year. I am interested in proximate and ultimate mechanisms underlying variation phenotypic and behavioral traits, their plasticity, and especially how physiologically-regulated traits enable organismal adaptation to changing environmental conditions. One unifying theme over the years has been early life environment effects and transgenerational phenotypic plasticity; their various sources, underlying mechanisms and their role at various levels, ranging from individual development to a means of adaptation among populations.
I am an active participant in the academic community: Editor-in-Chief in Ornis Fennica since 2017, a subject editor in the Journal of Avian Biology since 2018, and an active reviewer. I

was one of four main organizers of EOU Turku in 2017 and one of the organizers in ESEB 2019. I have strong interest in science communication (e.g. via social media), open science and education.

What motivates you to apply?
In my view, EOU has a very important role in connecting ornithologists working on different topics and skill sets, and thus facilitating fruitful interactions and collaborations. This should be the core focus of EOU. For these purposes, the conferences are very important, and EOU should actively strive to include a whole range of research topics from molecules to population level. I would like to see EOU also to support the younger generation of ornithologists, for example via training and courses (which can also inspire collaborations), and potentially even with small grants if financially feasible. EOU could more actively share information on PhD and other work opportunities in ornithology. EOU could also take part in societal discussion in conservation issues. It could be possible to step up as a community to fight against European-wide environmental issues (e.g. concerning migratory species habitats), or even more local issues for instance on habitat loss and climate change. EOU could be the voice of a large community of researchers, and also more visible in (social) media.

Valentyn Serebryakov (Ukraine)

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Valentyn studied at the Biological Department, National Taras Shevchenko University, Kyiv, and did his postgraduate studies at the Institute of Zoology, Kyiv. He then additionally studied Environment and Policy Department at the Central European University in Budapest, Hungary. He is now retired Professor at the National Shevchenko University in Kyiv and Professor at the Vinnitsa Academy of Prolonged Education in Vinnitsa. He wants to return to council after a brief earlier term (2011-2012).

What motivates you to apply?
I understand that each ornithologist have to study, investigate and protect the birds. All these knowlage and expearance we have to safe and pass to next generations. It is my main goal. I wish tomake progress in it.

Zoltán Németh (Hungary)

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I received my PhD at the University of Southern Mississippi, and after postdoctoral research at the University of California, Davis, I returned to my alma mater in Hungary (University of Debrecen) where I am now an assistant professor. My research interests center around the adaptations to the annual cycle in birds. I am particularly interested in the regulation of

seasonal behaviours such as migration and flocking, as well as the adaptive significance of cognitive processes (e.g., social learning) when facing seasonal challenges. More recently, I became intrigued by the potential to predict organismal response to rapid environmental change based on the suite of behavioural and physiological coping mechanisms present in a population. Ultimately, in addition to study the functional significance of regulatory mechanisms, I hope to be able to contribute to the growing body of behavioural and physiological research in a way that the findings will inform conservation practice and policy. As an EOU council member I plan to work on reducing the existing gap between basic science and the public (e.g., lawmakers, conservation educators and practitioners, concerned citizens) which relies on sound scientific information but often has difficulty accessing and/or interpreting it.