

# The EOU: General Meeting

Friday 30 August 2019 at 16:45 in Cluj-Napoca, Romania

## Minutes

### 1) Welcome by the President Jan-Åke Nilsson

The President Jan-Åke Nilsson took chair and opened the general meeting. He welcomed the delegates to the 12<sup>th</sup> EOU meeting.

### 2) Attendance

132 delegates attended the General Meeting.

### 3) Minutes of the General Meeting of 22 August 2017 in Turku, Finland

The minutes of the 11<sup>th</sup> General Meeting have been posted to members on 15 July 2019. Members are asked to raise any matters arising from the minutes that do not appear elsewhere on the agenda of the current meeting. The delegates approved these minutes unanimously.

### 4) Election of new Officers and Council members, headed by Barbara Helm

Information on retrials and candidates for election was sent to our members, and has been posted on 15 July, 2019.

On behalf of the nomination committee (Verena Keller, Switzerland, Goetz Eichhorn, Germany/Netherlands, Jiři Reif, Czech Republic) Barbara Helm (chair) thanked the retiring council members cordially for their dedication and support. In particular, she thanked Toni Laaksonen for generously hosting us in Turku in 2017 and Zoltán Barta for his great achievements as the 2017 Scientific Programme Chair.

The retiring members are Tamer Albayrak (Turkey), Elena Arriero (Spain), Zoltán Barta (Hungary), Andrey Bushuev (Russia), Jan Engler (Germany), Arne Hegemann (Sweden), Toni Laaksonen (Finland), Marko Mägi (Estonia), James Reynolds (UK), Judy Shamoun-Baranes (The Netherlands), Madeleine Scriba (Switzerland), Matthias Weissensteiner (Austria).

The members who will continue are Blandine Doligez (France), Mateo Griggio (Italy), Wieland Heim (Germany), András Liker (Hungary), Sara Lupi (Italy), Mark Mainwaring (UK), Erik Matthysen (Belgium), Grzegorz Neubauer (Poland), Peter László Pap (Romania), Alexandre Roulin (Switzerland), Petra Sumasgutner (Austria). Co-opted Council members are Erik Matthysen (Belgium, Scientific Programme Chair) and Peter László Pap (Romania, Local Organizer).

The officers, who will continue are Jan-Åke Nilsson (Sweden, President), Alfonso Marzal (Spain, President-Elect), Barbara Helm (UK/Netherlands, Past-President) and Susi Jenni-Eiermann (Switzerland, Secretary).

Candidates, who were nominated to fill in all present vacancies, are:

Officer: Oliver Conz (Germany) for re-election as Treasurer.

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

The nominated delegates shortly introduced themselves to the general assembly (not present: Alexander Mischenko (excused), Valentyn Serebryakov (absent)).

The General Meeting re-elected Oliver Conz (Germany) to continue his excellent work as Treasurer of the EOU. The General Meeting also elected the new members of Council. Barbara Helm welcomed the elected officer and councils.

#### 5) Treasurer's report by Oliver Conz

Oliver Conz presented the treasurer's report on behalf of council. The EOU had a total income of 3'730 €. The main expenses (6'204 €) were pertained to the website (re-design, conference website, maintenance, hosting), the abstract management tool and the sponsoring for the EBBA2 (European Breeding Bird Atlas, 2).

The treasurer's report was controlled and approved by the auditors Reto Spaar, Switzerland, and Johannes Kamp, Germany. The General Meeting approved the report.

Delegates were asked to identify independent volunteers as auditors. Reto Spaar was willing to continue and Jelmer Samplonius (The Netherlands) volunteered. The General Meeting elected both as auditors.

#### 6) Change of Statutes

Detailed information about a change of Statutes related to election procedures (Article 5.2) has been sent to our members and posted on 15 July, 2019. Barbara Helm explained that the procedures for elections at the EOU were not fully clear. Therefore, the Council proposes to change 5.2 of the EOU Statutes to specify that elections will require paper ballot and relative majority.

Below, the passage of the article being changed is in italics. Proposed deletions are marked by strike-through, proposed insertions are underlined.

Proposed change:

"5.2 At the General Meeting every member has one vote. Votes are open if not more than one third of the members present ask for a secret ballot. Decisions are taken with simple majority of the voting members. *For elections ~~to~~ of President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer and Ordinary Council Members, secret votes are held by paper ballot, and an ~~absolute~~ relative majority of voting members is required ~~in the first ballot; a relative majority is required in any second ballot.~~"*

The General Meeting is asked to approve the changes which will take effect in 2021. The General Meeting approved the changes without nays.

#### 7) Report of Local Organising Committee

Péter László Pap presented a report on behalf of the Local Organising Committee. The aim was to organise a sustainable conference. This goal was achieved by minimizing the use of plastic, offering local food and an ecologically justifiable lunch, and by arranging a

mini-market with locally produced souvenirs. As venue the old university was chosen in order to have the local flavor and to stay in the town center.

During the conference 7 plenaries, 157 orals and 150 posters were presented. 372 participants of 37 countries and 6 continents took part.

Peter Pap warmly thanked his team for their tremendous work and engagement, Gabor Bóné for preparing the webpage, his partner organisations the Milvus Group and the Romanian Ornithological Society, Erik Matthysen for preparing the scientific program, and the sponsors Ecotone, Lotek and Star:Oddi.

## **8) Report of the Fledgelings**

Wieland Heim gave his report from the Fledgling group.

In 2018 the Fledgling Conference was held in Turin, Italy. The Fledglings would like to thank the organisers Dan Chamberlain, Enrico Caprio and Susanne Jähmig. 50 participants from 11 European countries took part.

In 2018 a Fledglings event took place at the IOC in Vancouver, Canada. Robyn Womack and the Am. Ornithological Union (AOU) organized a “question & answer” session with 120 participants and a pub evening.

In 2019 at the Cluj Napoca conference the EOU Fledglings evening took place, organized by Jan Engler, Susanne Jähmig and Wieland Heim.

In-between conferences the Fledglings group with 396 members is connected via Facebook.

Future events: For 2020 Croatia will prepare a proposal for the next Fledglings Conference

Fledglings are asked to join the group and to take over responsibility.

## **9) Report of Council**

Jan-Åke Nilsson presented a report of EOU activities over the last two years on behalf of Council.

In 2018, at the IOC in Vancouver, Canada, a Pre-Symposium and round table discussions, organized by the European Ornithologist Union, have taken place about “Applied aspects of avian urban ecology – an international initiative”. Co-conveners were Juan Diego Ibáñez-Álamo, Mark Mainwaring, James Reynolds and Petra Sumasgutner. During the conference the EOU had a booth with the possibility to register as member. Since a substantial part of the Council was attending the IOC, an unofficial council meeting took place.

Discussions among the Council about the organization of symposia at the EOU2019, changes of statutes etc. were held by e-mail conversations.

In 2019 in Cluj-Napoca, 3 pre-symposia were held: One by the Migrant Landbird Study Group, a telemetry workshop by Ecotone and a workshop about biological data base and storing management.

The general Meeting approved the report.

## **10) Arrangements for future conferences**

Oliver Conz and Petra Quillfeldt have agreed to host in co-work with the Hessian Society for Ornithology and Nature Protection (HGON), the 2021 conference in Giessen, Germany. On behalf of the hosts, Oli Conz presented the proposal. The venue will take place in the University of Giessen 6-10 September 2021. Giessen is easy to access by car, train and plane (70km north of Frankfurt) and the surroundings offer interesting possibilities for excursions (e.g. Messel Pit, a UNESCO World Heritage, known for fossils). The general meeting accepted the offer.

The council will collect suggestions for conferences in 2023 and beyond. Members were invited to raise ideas for events and arrangements for future conferences.

## **11) Special Interest Groups**

Jim Reynolds and Mark Mainwaring presented on behalf of the founding group (initiated by Juan Diego Ibáñez-Álamo, and also containing Barbara Helm, Petra Sumasgutner and Davide Dominoni) the new "URBICON" (Urban Bird Consortium) group. URBICON is an international initiative which was started at the IOC in Vancouver with a pre-symposium. The group addresses applied aspects of avian, urban ecology.

## **12) Any other business**

Members were invited to address additional points.

Jelmer Samplonius proposed to organize future conferences with a minimum impact on the environment. His suggestions are: offering only vegetarian food of local source.

Answer by Oli Conz: The hosts of the EOU2021 will consider his suggestions and try to organize a sustainable conference and to offer locally produced food.

Nayden Chakarov proposed to spread a message concerning nature protection and conservation, e.g. by social media. Answer: Nayden will prepare a draft, Oli Conz will assist; Susanne Jähnig will help with Twitter messages.

## **13) Closing Ceremony**

Jan-Åke Nilsson thanked the local organisers, all volunteers during the conference and the excursions for their immense work which they performed in such a discrete and friendly way. They made this conference to be a great success and an unforgettable experience.

Peter Pap thanked the delegate for their contributions, the local team, especially the company Events Design, the web designer Gabor Bóné and the Scientific Chair Erik Matthysen together with his SPC for their great help and presented them gifts. He also presented Lila Lovasz a price for the best poster and Andrea Ferretti a price for the best talk.

Jan-Åke Nilsson closed the ceremony with a last thank you (and some presents) to Peter Pap and Erik Matthysen.

Sempach, 16 September 2019

Susi Jenni-Eiermann

EOU Secretary