

AOU Public Affairs Priorities - 2007

April 2006: Council passed a motion to concentrate our public policy attention in the following four areas:

- Federal permitting of scientific research in ornithology;
- Support of natural history collections;
- Increase funding for ornithological research; and
- Developing process for AOU to assume leadership in providing recognized professional input on public affairs issues critical to ornithology.

Detailed policy issues identified earlier as important to AOU can be roughly divided among these four areas, as shown below:

- Federal permitting of scientific research in ornithology (mainly through the Ornithological Council):
 - Institute consistent nationwide permit policies for conducting ornithological research on national wildlife refuges.
 - Institute consistent nationwide standards and procedures for scientific collecting permits for birds.
 - Develop regulations easing import/export of ornithological specimens for scientific purposes.
 - Increase ease of use of refuges, parks and other national lands for ornithological research.
- Support of natural history collections (especially through Natural Science Collections Alliance)
 - Facilitate the preservation of homeless bird specimen collections
 - Increase funding for bird collections
 - Resolve ownership issues for bird specimens collected in US National Parks
- Increase funding for ornithological research (especially through AIBS)
 - Increase competitive research funding available to ornithologists through national science foundations.
 - Increase competitive grants available to ornithologists from national agencies.
- Develop process for AOU to assume leadership in providing recognized professional input on public affairs issues critical to ornithology.
 - Through the North American Banding Council:
 - Determine specific needs and make recommendations for increasing support of ornithological research, conservation and education by the US Bird Banding Laboratory
 - Work with US Bird Banding Laboratory and the Canadian Banding Office on acceptance of North American Banding Council recommendations on bander training and certification
 - Through the Ornithological Council:

- Assess extent of problems, if any, ornithologists have in gaining acceptance of bird research protocols through Institutional Animal Care Committees and, if needed, develop recommendations for improvement (mainly Ornithological Council, but possibly an AIBS issue as well).
- Update and maintain “The Use of Wild Birds in Research” publication