

July 14, 2016

Martin G. Raphael
President, Cooper Ornithological Society
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Dear COS Members,

As explained in the email or letter you received in late June, the Plan of Merger for the Cooper Ornithological Society and American Ornithologists' Union to form the American Ornithological Society (AOS) has been approved by the COS Board of Directors and Officers and the AOU Council and Officers. COS members now have the opportunity to vote to approve or disapprove the principal terms of the proposed merger, which are

1. COS shall be merged into American Ornithologists' Union ("AOU"), a District of Columbia nonprofit corporation.
2. The memberships of COS shall be converted into memberships of AOU.
3. AOU shall change its name to American Ornithological Society.

The message explaining the decision to merge and the full text of the Plan of Merger are available for viewing at [AOU and COS Merger Status \(http://americanornithology.org/content/aou-and-cos-merger-status\)](http://americanornithology.org/content/aou-and-cos-merger-status). There, you will also find a link to FAQs that may help to answer questions that you have.

In order for COS to take any further action on the proposed merger, at least 258 ballots must be received from members. If at least 258 ballots are received, then for the principal terms of the merger to be approved, at least a majority (over 50%) of the ballots received and voted must be voted in favor of the principal terms. If a majority of members vote in opposition to this merger, then the COS will not pursue the merger and will maintain the status quo.

To go to the electronic ballot, click to [here](#) (link was provided to members).

All ballots must be cast in the electronic balloting system by Tuesday 2 August, 2016.

If you have any questions about the proposed merger or would like to discuss this important decision, please feel free to contact me or any other COS officer. Our contact information is below.

Thank you for casting your vote on this important decision facing the Cooper Ornithological Society. It is important for COS members to make your voice heard, whether you support or oppose the merger.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Martin G. Raphael'.

Martin G. Raphael
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COS Officers and their contact information:
Anna Chalfoun, President-elect: achalfou@uwyo.edu
Abby Powell, Secretary: abbypowell@ufl.edu
Barbara Kus, Treasurer: treasurercooper@gmail.com