

## Preface

Ornis Fennica has remained among the top dedicated ornithological journals since 1924. Initially, it was published by the Ornithological Society of Finland, but the society was disbanded in the end of 2005. Since then, the publisher has been BirdLife Finland. Over eighty years, the journal has witnessed some dramatic changes, including several editors and referees, but most importantly it maintains the support of hundreds of readers and authors representing both amateur and professional ornithology. Their efforts have led Ornis Fennica to the rank position of sixth among the ornithological journals, based on journal impact factors. Now a new editorial team is ready to face the many challenges of journal editing and, together with BirdLife Finland, would like to thank Dr. Jon Brommer for successfully editing the journal for several years.

Ornis Fennica has remained a respected publishing forum for North European ornithologists for decades. However, the improvement of the quality of scientific research world-wide, and the plethora of journals as alternative publishing routes, present real challenges for editors, though they also tend to improve the quality of submissions. But perhaps the most difficult challenge from an editor's perspective is to maintain and improve the journal relevance.

Compared to relevance, impact factors may appear unimportant when selecting a journal for submission or as a source for information. Competition, for the precious time of subscribers or authors, with the top ecological journals may be hard, unless the journal has a characteristic and appealing profile. Ornis Fennica strongly encourages submissions from Fennoscandia to western Russia, areas that are relevant for North European readers.

Another way to raise the profile of a journal is to include an open access policy, where anybody interested in recent papers can access their content through the internet for free. Open access and improvements in journal indexing increase the availability of papers published prior to the appearance



The new Editor-in-Chief Dr. Matti Koivula.  
Photo Simon Slater.

of computers, to nearly everyone's desk. I am happy to announce that BirdLife Finland is committed to improving all of these. The editors, in turn, are committed to concentrating on scientific quality and relevance. These include the active encouragement of students, amateurs and institutions or government researchers to submit their research to Ornis Fennica. We also invite research papers, summaries of published research, and congress proceedings to be published in our journal.

The new editorial team has a great opportunity to succeed, thanks to the work of previous editors and a wide range of expertise among the current editors. Their experience includes conservation and population biology, community, behavioral, landscape and human-impact ecology, genetics, physiology, avian migration and the impact of climate change, to name but a few. We are ready to serve you, please submit your manuscripts to Ornis Fennica!

**Matti Koivula**  
Editor-in-chief