



BIRDS OF MANY FEATHERS FLOCK TOGETHER

Conference

Attendees:	1,270
Speakers:	622
Sessions:	727
Simulive Videos:	421
Live Virtual:	111
Concurrent Sessions:	9

Challenge

How do you handle a virtual event with limited staff and multiple concurrent sessions?

Solution

Mix live webinars with Simulive via the [EventPilot® meeting platform for scientific meetings](#).

Virtual Scientific Events Reinvented

In August 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic forced the American Ornithological Society (AOS) once again to hold its annual global conference online. But this time, they chose a different virtual approach for their 2021 event-themed “Birds of many feathers flock together.” AOS switched to EventPilot simulive, which brought unforeseen benefits and resulted in a remarkable scientific meeting experience for the more than 1,000 attendees joining over 700 sessions over five days.

In 2020, the virtual conference exceeded expectations. One hundred seventy-five live virtual sessions were automatically set up and integrated within the EventPilot meeting platform. While the meeting was a success, the actual presentations were tarnished with the typical “Can everyone hear me?,” frozen screens, or confusion about how to share the slides. And there was a constant concern about internet bandwidth for speakers or Zoom hosts. “We have so many concurrent sessions,” explained Chris Mulvaney, Membership & Data Operations Manager, “Using primarily volunteers, staffing all the live sessions, and assisting speakers was time-consuming.”

How was it possible for AOS in 2021 to ease the production and event management process AND also dramatically raise the presentation quality while maintaining a live meeting experience?

The answer was EventPilot simulive.

Boost Scientific Presentation Quality

AOS had been using the EventPilot meeting platform for their onsite events. Unlike other solutions reviewed, the EventPilot platform made it easy for attendees to build their personal schedules from AOS' intricate scientific meeting program with hundreds of presentations. In 2020, the EventPilot platform enabled AOS to pivot rapidly to virtual with integrated virtual sessions and recordings that automatically became available minutes after the live presentations.

In 2021, AOS reinvented its virtual approach and took full advantage of EventPilot simulative. The simulative concept was developed initially for hybrid meetings to save on onsite audio/visual (A/V) costs, but it is also suitable for entirely virtual events.



Simulative

Simulative stands for "Simulated Live." In essence, this is a set of pre-recorded videos that [simulate a live session](#). The video playback is synchronized with your event program. Remote attendees see the recorded presentation at the same time as the live presentation is happening onsite.

After a session, videos are on-demand instantly to watch again immediately.

“The EventPilot meeting platform exceeded our expectation for a virtual meeting.”

*Allison Shultz
Meeting Coordination Committee Member
American Ornithological Society*

With EventPilot simulive, AOS fully automated their nine concurrent scientific sessions containing over 400 research presentations and was able to effortlessly:

- send upload requests to presenters
- collect pre-recorded presentation videos
- ensure video length stayed within the allotted time
- play the correct videos at the correct time based on the meeting program
- limit access to only registered attendees
- generate live Q&A events
- facilitate virtual poster upload (ePoster PDF + 3 minute audio summary)

Instant Quality Improvements

AOS realized immediate benefits that dramatically improved the quality of the scientific sessions and thereby the transfer of knowledge. Instead of spending time on technical aspects, attendees focused on the science presented in the sessions. Furthermore, both attendees and staff could rely on presentations starting and ending on time, making it easy to join different talks in different sessions.



Polished Presentations

Well prepared and executed



Always On Time

Dependable transitions without disruptions



Low Pressure

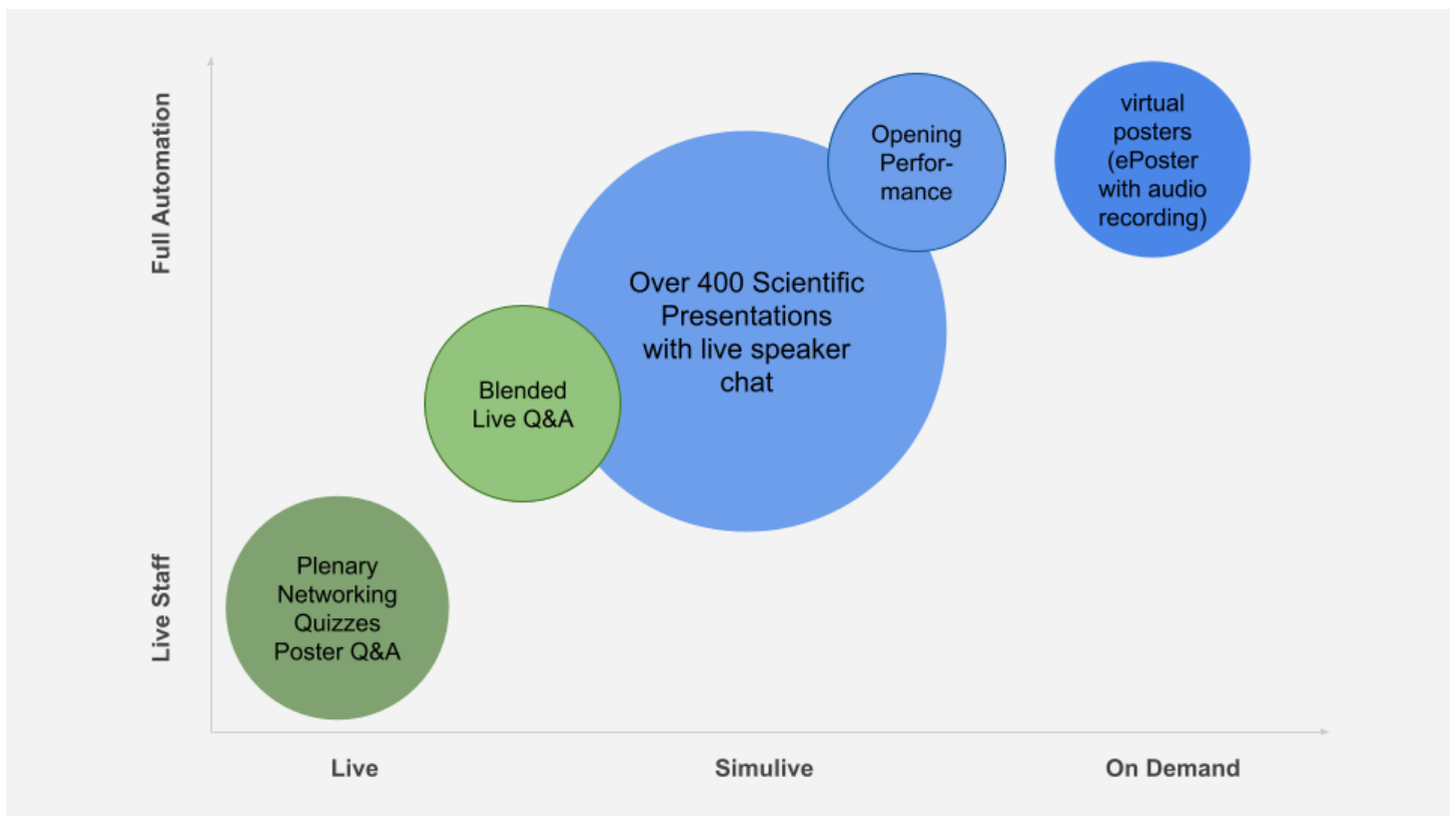
Stress-free environment, especially for first-timers

Maintain the Live Experience

With EventPilot simulive, the timed recordings automatically synchronize with the planned event program to create the live feeling. Rather than videos playing on-demand, simulive videos start playing at the slotted speaker's time. The videos remain in sync, so attendees joining late are brought to the exact moment all other attendees of that presentation are currently watching.

During the simulive presentations, speakers can answer questions in a live discussion chat: any questions posted while the video is playing can be answered immediately. Additionally, AOS successfully blended simulive videos with automatically generated live Q&A sessions fully integrated within the EventPilot meeting platform for a smooth attendee experience. Any missed presentation could be immediately watched after the concluded session. Fully live social and entertainment events, including Quiz shows added networking value.

A Reinvented Virtual Meeting using a Blended Approach



Enjoy and Relax: Maximize Automation

The EventPilot simulive platform helps organizations with limited staff produce complex scientific meetings for remote attendees. At AOS, most volunteers have a full-time job with few paid staff members to assist in meeting planning. "The time savings via the EventPilot meeting platform are of incredible value to us," said Allison Shultz, Meeting Coordination Committee Member. "My job was way easier this year compared to a fully live virtual event. This year I got to enjoy the conference."

Automation and self-running synced videos removed the "headaches for staff," as AOS put it, for a live virtual event.

Planning Ahead

EventPilot simulive is the enabling key to pivot an entire meeting to a virtual event in minutes. It is a perfect solution for either hybrid or virtual events.

"We are trying to go hybrid next year," said Lauren Gates, Event Coordinator at AOS. "Then we don't need to set up a tripod in the room and save on A/V staff and costly equipment."

With A/V costs for smaller conference rooms starting at about \$4,000 per room per day, this can be a tremendous cost saving for hybrid events. Not to mention the reduction in stress on staff, less headache worrying about internet bandwidth to stream the video live as well as the improvement in delivering high-quality scientific sessions to remote attendees.

Staff Benefits

Control Quality

Preview any uploaded videos

Minimize Risk

Reliable playback independent of your speaker's internet connection speeds

Save Time

No need to plan webinars, train speakers, schedule hosts, etc.

Let Speakers Upload Themselves

User-friendly technology ensures speakers upload the right file below the max length

Organization Benefits

Preserve Value

Limited to registered logged in users

Save Money

Reduce the number of staff for simulive sessions or eliminate the high A/V cost to stream at onsite events

Maintain a Video Library

Simulive includes integration with your Vimeo account so you have access to all videos after the event

Become a Technology Leader

Better events with automation, robustness, scalability, modern UI, and rich features

About ATIV Software

ATIV Software supplies the leading mobile conference app and integrated virtual events platform for scientific and medical meetings. Solutions include the EventPilot® meeting platform with both an app and desktop platform for onsite, hybrid, or virtual meetings; ScanHunt® game, a scavenger hunt for attendee engagement; and RouteInside® wayfinder for indoor and outdoor navigation. ATIV Software develops solutions specifically for scientific conferences from as small as 200 people to over 40,000 attendees. Learn more at <https://www.ativsoftware.com>.

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