

**Society of Canadian Ornithologists
2008 Annual General Meeting
Hilton Hotel, Portland, Oregon, USA
AOU/COS/SCO 2008 Meeting
6 August 2008, 12:00-13:00**

MINUTES

Present – 31 members including council
Recording Secretary: Andrea Pomeroy

1. Acceptance of minutes from 2007 meeting **Pomeroy**
(Hannon)

Motion: D. Bird moved to accept meeting minutes, seconded by D. Mennill, PASSED

2. President's report
Hannon

(see PowerPoint report for more details)

The state of the SCO is very good. Our membership is healthy, finances are good, the website is doing well, and all committees are active, including our new conservation committee. Furthermore, we have excellent winners of our student and professional awards.

Actions at Council Meeting

- Will not have Honourary or Emeritus membership category
- "real bylaws" discussed and edited, S Hannon will finish this, to be voted on by council, circulated to members for a vote at next meeting
- Role of Conservation committee discussed

3. Treasurer's Report **Lamothe**
(Hannon)

(see powerpoint for details)

- By Pierre Lamothe
- Audited by Francine Nadeau – chartered accountant

2007 revenue came from memberships, donations (gifts), SCO share of profits from the NAOC, and interest. Expenditures were roughly similar to 2007. Thus we recognized a net earnings of \$10 221.

Expenditures were roughly the same in both years – increase was in gifts, sponsorships, etc.

The society is in good financial shape, with total assets of \$47 992

Motion: By N Koper to accept financial report, seconded by Cooke, PASSED.

Hannon would like to thank to Pierre for the hard work he has been contributing to the society.

4. Membership Secretary's Report (Bird)

Beaudet

The membership report follows the fiscal year from January 1 to December 31. At the end of 2007 the society had 410 members, an increase from 393 in 2006. This includes 57 new members and 13 who rejoined out of 84 that were archived (did not pay in 2006). Generally, there is an increase in local membership after a conference, however these members are difficult to retain. It is also difficult to retain students, many of whom join to apply for awards. Memberships from academia and private consultants increased, but members from the federal government decreased.

Multi-year renewals (46% in 2006) are excellent: increases retention; saves on banking and postal costs, and makes it easier for treasurer/membership secretary.

There are 20 sustaining members. Student membership are steadily increasing (16 free ones given out as awards), there are 4 lifetime members at \$500 (\$250 tax receipt).

SCO is well-represented geographically (local increases after conferences); 36 members abroad. The website with downloadable registration form is useful, and we have email addresses for 394 out of 410 members.

Thanks to Pierre Lamothe, Dorothy McFarlane Diamond, Ken Otter, Rob Warnock and Joe Nocera for their help.

Motion: By Dan Mennill to accept the report, seconded by Erica Dunn, Passed

Hannon would like to thank to Therèse for the hard work she has been contributing to the society.

5. Other Committee Reports

Picoides

Since our last meeting, 3 issues have been produced by Rob Warnock. Each issue ~ 36 pages in length (which we aim to shorten). All completed issues are on the SCO/SOC website. Hard copies back issues will be recycled in December 2008. Members will be given one more notice asking if they would like the hard copies.

The editor thanks Ken Otter Joe Nocera Andrea Pomeroy, Dorothy Diamond, Tony Diamond, Laura Tranquilla and Therèse Beaudet and members of SCO/SOC Council for their help and especially the *Picoides* contributors.

Hannon thanks Rob Warnock for continuing to do a great job

Motion: By Mark Drever to remove password from current issues

Discussion – the password is only relevant for current issues, once the next issue is available *Picoides* is free. This is a great newsletter that showcases our society. Open access would be more likely to attract new members, rather than resulting in losing members. Very few people are members of the society because they have early access to *Picoides*.

Moved by Mark Drever, Seconded by Erica Nol, PASSED

6. Awards

Hannon/Dawson

Speirs Award

Awarded to Kathy Martin.

Congratulations to Dr. Martin on this award and thank the awards committee (Marty Leonard, Bob Clark, Mark Brigham and Greg Robertson) for their effort.

Jamie Smith Mentoring Award

Awarded to Tom Nudds.

Congratulations to Dr. Nudds on this award and thank the awards committee (Ken Otter, Kathy Martin, and Dick Cannings) for their effort.

The citation for these awards will appear in *Picoides*.

Student awards

There were 26 applicants for the student awards. All applicants were high quality.

Congratulations to the award winners:

Celia Chui of the Department of Biological Sciences, University of Guelph, won a **Percy A. Taverner Award** for research on "Carotenoids, diet, and geography: a multi-scale analysis of crown coloration in golden-crowned kinglets."

Lori Parker of the Department of Biology, Queen's University, was awarded a **Percy A. Taverner Award** for research on "The evolution of female ornamentation and maternal investment in the American robin."

Robert DeCaire of the Department of Biology, University of Western Ontario, won the **James L. Baillie Award** for research on "Do brood parasites alter host offspring sex ratios due to their larger size?"

Roslyn Dakin of the Department of Biology, Queen's University, won the **Fred Cooke Award** for research on "The signal content of the peacock's train: testing the role of nanostructure."

Andrea Norris of the Centre for Applied Conservation Research at University of British Columbia won the **Junco Technologies Award** for research on "The long-term perspectives on resource pulses: How are cavity-nester populations regulated following a mountain pine beetle outbreak?"

Special thanks to the committee (Russ Dawson, Joël Bêty, Ian Warkentin and Colleen Barbar).

7. Nominating Committee/Elections

Bird

Bird thanked John Chardine, Nicola Koper, Joe Nocera, Andrea Pomeroy, and Ryan Norris who all agreed to serve a second term.

There were 3 vacancies for councilors and VP/President Elect in 2008.

81 ballots were received. Congratulations to Erica Nol who was elected as VP/president-elect and to Debbie Badzinski, Russ Dawson, and Paul Martin who were elected as councilors.

Bird also thanked Thérèse Beaudet for her help.

In 2009 Erica Nol (incoming Vice President) will form a nominating committee of 3 to seek nominations for council.

Hannon thanked David Bird for his work.

8. ACE-ECO Journal Committee/Editors Report

Francis

(see PowerPoint presentation for details)

Francis presented the journal statistics (5 issues published, of 46 articles, 54% rejection rate, 72 day average turnaround time).

A new publication agreement was reached with resilience alliance, who has agreed to accept financial liability. They agreed to limit increases in page charges for the next 5 years. BSC and SCO retain content control (E.g. select editors etc.).

In the last year there has been discussion around focus and scope and niche. The journal committee discussed the issue with editors and have clarified and refined the focus and scope, clarified uncertainties around journal policy, resulting in a clearly defined niche.

Thanks to the Journal Committee:

SCO members – C Francis (co-chair), N Koper, E Nol

BSC members – K Martin (co-chair), K Hobson, J McCracken

Thanks to Marc-André Villard and Tom Nudds, editors and associate editors.

A question was asked of who is indexing journal.

Francis replied that getting the journal indexed is slow (usually 3-4 years) but that progress moving forward, and that resilience alliance is working toward that.

Thanks to Charles for report.

9. Final revisions to bylaws

Hannon

The “official bylaws” (as opposed to the working documents) were discussed and edited at the council meeting. Hannon will finalize revisions, circulate them to be voted on by council, and circulate them to members for a vote at next meeting.

10. Future meetings

Bird

2009 – To be determined!

2010 – with AOU (San Diego)

2011 – Association of Field ornithologists – in Canada

2012 – NAOC in Vancouver – Martin organizer, Bird is SCO rep

Erin Bayne is considering hosting in Alberta however we need to consider the timing and critical mass. We might consider hosting a workshop to invite specific folks to increase attendance.

11. Website

Nocera

Joe Nocera replaced Ken Otter as the website coordinator in January.

Nocera decided to consider a facelift for the website, and so tracked usage over 2 months and presented the statistics (see website report)

The majority of users view the webpage in English/US, however, French users comprised a significant number of visitors (10-15%). Most visitors use Internet Explorer or Firefox (with windows), and there were surprisingly few Mac users. A few users still access the site with dial up.

Thus, changes to the website need to optimize for dial up and internet explorer.

Of the 331 visits tracked, most people used 1.5 pages and stayed less than 10 sec – many people used it to get ACE-ECO. One goal of the redesign will be to get people to stay on the site and explore while allowing people to access the specific pages they are looking for quickly.

The back issues of *Picoides* were scanned for the webpage, however the scanned versions are high resolution. Nocera will reduce the file sizes to speed up download time.

Thanks to Ken Otter for his work and to Joe Nocera for taking on the position.

12. Conservation Committee, Advocacy, Cat Resolution Nocera/Nol

The conservation committee was struck after the 2007 meeeting. The committee includes: Tony Gaston, Erica Nol, and Joe Nocera.

This year they received 2 tasks:

- comments on incidental take regulations through OC
- request from an SCO member want to take an issue on the cat/bird issue

Options for the role of the Conservation Committee:

Generate resolutions

Produce position statements (white paper)

Write letters of support
Inform other groups of relevant issues (e.g. OC)

Upcoming:
action on above
further refine role
update on activities in *Picooides*

The issue of resolutions sparked discussion among the committee, council, and discussion at the AGM included below:

Generally, members were opposed to making resolutions and taking on an advocacy role.

Resolutions could be a conflict for government workers to comment on government regulations and policies.

The AOU, given its small size has opted to stay out of advocacy– rather to provide science to advocacy groups – e.g. national Audubon, WWF, TNC, have more clout, financial resources, and more members than AOU. Advocacy is partly the role of the Ornithological Council, through which as a member, we have a lot of potential through the OC and as individuals.

The role of the SCO is not of advocacy, but of science.
On issues related to advocacy it was recommended that we:
Redirect individuals to an advocacy group.
Provide sound scientific information to advocacy groups/individuals.

The role of the conservation committee might be:
To encourage science in Canada on Canadian bird issues. For example, the committee might highlight conservation issues that are under-researched through articles in *Picooides*, to present articles on particular issues, and/or to point out to members uncertainties and gaps in science on conservation issues. Furthermore, the committee could bring national issues that might impact birds in Canada to the attention of the membership. Finally the committee was urged to be as proactive as possible, and not limit themselves to being reactive to issues arising.

ACTION: The conservation committee will compose a mandate, circulate it to the membership and add it to the working documents.

ACTION: The conservation committee will speak to the member about the cat issue and will report the outcome to the membership.

13. Other Business

Thanks to Charles Francis, outgoing past president.

Thanks to outgoing councilors Jean-François Giroux, Ken Otter and Ian Warkentin. Thanks to outgoing Smith award committee members Kathy Martin and Dick Cannings.

Thanks to Sue Hannon as outgoing present to incoming past-president.

Motion: Bird moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Nocera,
PASSED