

# SOCIETY OF CANADIAN ORNITHOLOGISTS REPORT ON MEMBERSHIP – AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2011

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**Membership Secretary, SCO-SOC**

This report gives the picture of SCO membership as of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011. Following recommendation by the Auditor, the Membership Report now follows SCO's fiscal year, January 1<sup>st</sup> - December 31<sup>st</sup>. In this report, we will compare the situation between 31 December 2010 and 31 December 2011.

At the end of 2011, the number of members reached 346 (Table 1); the number of members from the universities has increased to 214 due to an increase in the number of student members.

The number of 2011 members working for Environment Canada/CWS was 38, continuing the decrease from the high of 87 at the end of 2005.

The other membership categories had only small changes.

The 346 paid up members include 100 new members and members who rejoined the society after being previously archived.

**Table 1. Affiliation of SCO paid members (Those working for Environment Canada/CWS and in a University are listed as Environment Canada/CWS in Category 2)**

<b>Affiliation (Category)</b>	<b>Members Dec 2009</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Members Dec 2010</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Members Dec 2011</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>None (0)</b>	18	4.7%	11	3.3%	<b>9</b>	<b>2.6%</b>
<b>University (1)</b>	220	57.7%	193	57.4%	<b>214</b>	<b>61.8%</b>
<b>Environment Canada/CWS (2)</b>	52	13.6%	48	14.3%	<b>38</b>	<b>11.0%</b>
<b>Other Fed. Gov. Agencies (3)</b>	8	2.1%	3	0.9%	<b>5</b>	<b>1.4%</b>
<b>Museum (4)</b>	5	1.3%	4	1.2%	<b>5</b>	<b>1.4%</b>
<b>Non Gov. Agencies (e.g. DU) (5)</b>	19	5.0%	16	4.8%	<b>21</b>	<b>6.1%</b>
<b>Prov. Gov. and Agencies (6)</b>	19	5.0%	18	5.4%	<b>14</b>	<b>4.0%</b>
<b>Clubs, Societies (7)</b>	5	1.3%	7	2.1%	<b>7</b>	<b>2.0%</b>
<b>Private Consultants (8)</b>	27	7.1%	27	8.0%	<b>25</b>	<b>7.2%</b>
<b>Libraries (9)</b>	8	2.1%	9	2.7%	<b>8</b>	<b>2.3%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>100%</b>

At the end of December 2011 there were 54 members who had not yet paid for 2011 (Table 2). The number of non-renewals always goes down in the first weeks of the year, after final notices are sent.

**Table 2. Renewal Status of members**

<b>Paid through</b>	<b>Members Dec 2009</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Members Dec 2010</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Members Dec 2011</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>2008</b>	98	25.7%				
<b>2009</b>	111	29.1%	65	19.3%		
<b>2010</b>	110	28.9%	128	38.1%	<b>54</b>	<b>13.5%</b>
<b>2011</b>	36	9.4%	82	24.4%	<b>108</b>	<b>27.0%</b>
<b>2012</b>	4	1.0%	27	8.0%	<b>160</b>	<b>40.0%</b>
<b>2013</b>	7	1.8%	10	3.0%	<b>36</b>	<b>9.0%</b>
<b>2014</b>	0	0.0%	2	0.6%	<b>11</b>	<b>2.8%</b>
<b>2015</b>	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	<b>5</b>	<b>1.3%</b>
<b>2016</b>	0	0.0%	1	0.3%	<b>1</b>	<b>0.3%</b>
<b>LIFE</b>	12	3.1%	18	5.4%	<b>22</b>	<b>5.5%</b>
<b>Complimentary</b>	3	0.8%	3	0.9%	<b>3</b>	<b>0.8%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	381	100.0%	336	100.0%	<b>400</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

In April 2011, the names of members who did not pay for 2010 were archived. A pattern is emerging which shows that there is a decrease in the number of renewals every second year (Table 3).

**Table 3. Number of names archived.**

	<b>Regular members</b>	<b>Sustaining members</b>	<b>Student members</b>	<b>Total archived</b>
<b>April 2006</b>	26	1	17	<b>44</b>
<b>April 2007</b>	24	1	13	<b>38</b>
<b>March 2008</b>	47	2	35	<b>84</b>
<b>April 2009</b>	13	2	12	<b>27</b>
<b>April 2010</b>	29	0	42	<b>71</b>
<b>April 2011</b>	20	0	19	<b>39</b>

Table 4 shows that 25.1% of the current members joined before 2000. This group has a very high retention rate. 13.9% joined from 2000 to 2004, and 59% joined after 2004.

**Table 4. Year when members joined**

<b>Year joined</b>	<b>Members Dec 2010</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Members Dec 2011</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Retention %</b>
<b>founders</b>	14	4.2%	<b>12</b>	<b>3.5%</b>	<b>85.7%</b>
<b>1983-1989</b>	47	14.0%	<b>40</b>	<b>11.6%</b>	<b>85.1%</b>
<b>1990-1994</b>	20	6.0%	<b>19</b>	<b>5.5%</b>	<b>95.0%</b>

<b>1995-1999</b>	19	5.7%	<b>16</b>	<b>4.6%</b>	<b>84.2%</b>
<b>2000-2004</b>	69	20.5%	<b>48</b>	<b>13.9%</b>	<b>69.6%</b>
<b>2005-2010</b>	161	47.9%	<b>104</b>	<b>30.1%</b>	<b>64.6%</b>
<b>2011</b>		0.0%	<b>100</b>	<b>28.9%</b>	
<b>Unknown/complimentary</b>	6	1.8%	<b>7</b>	<b>2.0%</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	336	100.0%	<b>346</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	

The renewal pattern of members has remained fairly consistent with about half of them preferring to renew every year (Table 5). 61% of the regular members renewed for more than one year while about 44% of the students did so.

**Table 5. Renewal pattern of members**

<b>Number of years paid</b>	<b>Members Dec 2009</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Members Dec 2010</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Members Dec 2011</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>1</b>	207	54.3%	162	48.2%	<b>176</b>	<b>50.9%</b>
<b>2</b>	98	25.7%	98	29.2%	<b>95</b>	<b>27.5%</b>
<b>3</b>	27	7.1%	29	8.6%	<b>30</b>	<b>8.7%</b>
<b>4</b>	20	5.2%	15	4.5%	<b>14</b>	<b>4.0%</b>
<b>5</b>	12	3.1%	10	3.0%	<b>5</b>	<b>1.4%</b>
<b>6</b>	1	0.3%	0	0.0%	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>7</b>	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>8</b>	1	0.3%	1	0.3%	<b>1</b>	<b>0.3%</b>
<b>LIFE</b>	12	3.1%	18	5.4%	<b>22</b>	<b>6.4%</b>
<b>Complimentary</b>	3	0.8%	3	0.9%	<b>3</b>	<b>0.9%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	381	100.0%	336	100.0%	<b>346</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

A breakdown of the membership by category is shown in Table 6. The number of Sustaining memberships decreased to 7 from a high of 18 in 2007. Some of this reduction is as a result of the conversion of sustaining memberships to Life memberships. The SCO gives a charity receipt of \$25 for Sustaining memberships and of \$250 for Life membership. Four people became Life members in 2010, taking the number of Life members to 22.

**Table 6. Breakdown of SCO membership by categories**

<b>Membership Category</b>	<b>Members Dec 2009</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Members Dec 2010</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Members Dec 2011</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Regular (\$25/year)</b>	216	56.7%	188	56.0%	<b>179</b>	<b>51.7%</b>
<b>Sustaining (\$50/year)</b>	12	3.1%	12	3.6%	<b>7</b>	<b>2.0%</b>
<b>Student (\$10/year)</b>	114	29.9%	103	30.7%	<b>132</b>	<b>38.2%</b>
<b>Free - Student Award</b>	24	6.3%	12	3.6%	<b>3</b>	<b>0.9%</b>
<b>Life (\$500)</b>	12	3.1%	18	5.4%	<b>22</b>	<b>6.4%</b>
<b>Complimentary</b>	3	0.8%	3	0.9%	<b>3</b>	<b>0.9%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

The geographical breakdown of SCO-SOC membership is shown in Table 7. The SCO is truly a national entity, represented in every province and territory except for Nunavut. The provincial and territorial representation has shifted slightly as membership from western Canada declined and that of eastern Canada increased. Membership from abroad (most of these members are expat Canadians) has stabilized over the last few years between 25-30 members.

**Table 7. Geographical breakdown of SCO membership**

<b>Geographical area</b>	<b>Members Dec 2009</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Members Dec 2010</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Members Dec 2011</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Newfoundland</b>	12	3.1%	9	2.7%	<b>7</b>	<b>2.0%</b>
<b>Nova Scotia</b>	12	3.1%	12	3.6%	<b>19</b>	<b>5.5%</b>
<b>New Brunswick</b>	17	4.5%	16	4.8%	<b>24</b>	<b>6.9%</b>
<b>Prince Edward Island</b>	1	0.3%	0	0.0%	<b>3</b>	<b>0.9%</b>
<b>Québec</b>	49	12.9%	40	11.9%	<b>45</b>	<b>13.0%</b>
<b>Ontario</b>	113	29.7%	95	28.3%	<b>97</b>	<b>28.0%</b>
<b>Manitoba</b>	19	5.0%	15	4.5%	<b>13</b>	<b>3.8%</b>
<b>Saskatchewan</b>	26	6.8%	28	8.3%	<b>27</b>	<b>7.8%</b>

<b>Alberta</b>	37	9.7%	34	10.1%	<b>25</b>	<b>7.2%</b>
<b>British Columbia</b>	60	15.7%	58	17.3%	<b>53</b>	<b>15.3%</b>
<b>Yukon</b>	1	0.3%	1	0.3%	<b>2</b>	<b>0.6%</b>
<b>North West Territories</b>	3	0.8%	3	0.9%	<b>3</b>	<b>0.9%</b>
<b>Nunavut</b>	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>Unites States</b>	24	6.3%	18	5.4%	<b>19</b>	<b>5.5%</b>
<b>Mexico</b>	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>Australia and New Zealand</b>	2	0.5%	2	0.6%	<b>3</b>	<b>0.9%</b>
<b>Europe</b>	5	1.3%	5	1.5%	<b>6</b>	<b>1.7%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Many members and prospective members are taking advantage of the online membership application that is available on the SCO-SOC webpage. Some problems have been encountered with it however and these are being looked into to improve the service.

I want to emphasize that it is important to send any change of email address or other contact information to me so that I can ensure that there is no interruption in the receipt of the various information, competition and meeting notices that are regularly provided to members.

As this is my first year as Membership Secretary I have to say it has been an interesting learning experience. I'd like to thank Dorothy Diamond, who is sending paper copies of *Picoides* to about a dozen members and libraries, *Picoides* Editors Rob Warnock and Marcel Gahbauer, and Andrea Pomeroy, Greg Robertson and Ian Warkentin for awards. I'd also like to thank Erica Nol, Joe Nocera and all the members who provided me with the information and electronic material I needed as Membership Secretary.

I would especially like to thank the former Membership Secretary Thérèse Beudet who spent many hours of her time bringing me up to speed and without whom I would still be struggling with the responsibilities of this position.

Lance Laviolette  
SCO Membership Secretary/Secrétaire aux membres de la SOC  
5 August 2012