



**Minutes of the annual general meeting of the Society of
Canadian Ornithologists (SCO/SOC) Delta Bessborough,
Saskatoon,
Friday October 17th 2003, 1545 – 1700h**

31 in attendance

Opening comments, President thanks Nancy Flood, Tom Dickinson, Karen Wiebe and Marty Leonard for past contributions to the society.

Presentation by André Desrochers on upcoming meeting in 2004 in Quebec.

- 1) Review of agenda – no change.
- 2) Minutes of 2002. **Moved** by Hannon. Seconded – Diamond. **Carried.**
- 3) President's report. Summarized President's report (see attached)
- 5) Treasurer's report. **Moved** by Kinsey, seconded – Cyndi Smith. **Carried.**
- 6) Membership Secretaries report. 317 members as of 2003. Moved by Diamond, seconded Lamothe. **Carried.**
- 7) Picoides Editor's report. 2 issues published in 2003.
- 8) Committee reports.

Research/student travel awards – winners announced. Savard highlights that student application rates have gone down. Plea for your students to apply.

Speirs award– winner is Dr. Raleigh Robertson, Queen's award. List of his achievements will be read tonight at the banquet.

Fred Cooke award. SCO responsible for advertising and selecting candidate. BSC reviews candidate.

OC – Tony Diamond and Lesley Evans Ogden are members.

BSC – SCO reps Jamie Smith and Savard.

Results of councillor election

Gauthier – second term

Lianna Zanette – new councillor

Alan Baker – new councillor

Next meetings

Québec 2004

Maritimes 2005 – hopefully in Halifax, needs to be confirmed

2006 – NAOC – Vera Cruz in early October

NABC – Brenda Dale to step down.

Free student membership drive. AOU still offering, so are we.

Fund raising committee – Martin.

Important for:

- 1) Monetary supplement to get students to meetings.
- 2) Awards generate other awards.

Fred Cooke award needs more base funding. Would like a \$1000 award. Only \$14 000 or 70% on the money has been raised. Looking for donations. Tax deductible. Each councillor will target 10+ people to contact personally. Any volunteers in the room? No. Savard – announced his \$500 contribution. Fred will match donations to a certain level.

Introduction of Pierre Lamothe as new Treasurer. Membership Secretary, Thérèse Beaudet, works with IUCN.

Two goals for next year

- 1) More members
- 2) More use of Picoides

SCO/BSC journal initiative.

Francis makes short presentation.

Committee membership

Francis, Nol, Savard (SCO)

Bradstreet, Elliot and Duncan (BSC)

CWS bird ctees supported in principle.

Presented in Feb/March to CWS Exec, supported in principle. They need more information and demonstration of need.

Journal Format. Proposing free-access electronic only

Advantages: accessibility, increase impact factor, greater flexibility, reduce costs

Financial issues

Need to consider managing editor, copy-editing, etc...

Financial support – page charges, donations

- Government (CWS)

- Corporate and/or foundation
Volunteers needed for fund raising

The following are highlights of the ensuing discussion.

Diamond – prefers a hardcopy. Issues of permanent archive. Suggest e-version free, and pay for print version.

Francis - \$20 000 for 500 copies. Expensive for paper copy.

Bradstreet – high membership numbers are needed to sustain paper journal. Not so for free e-only journal.

Desrochers – free-access is philosophically in tune with dissemination of information to all.

Hannon – titles listed Picoides.

Lamothe – CD issued for permanent record.

Houston – at AOU in 2002. Subscription rates declining, young people do not want paper journals. Libraries running out money, may not buy our general. Timing is strange right now, and this issue is facing all other societies.

Smith - .pdf option has to be there.

Elliot – Likely increase readership, especially outside Canada.

Alternate publications models made available through e-publication, like dataset and models.

Dunn – why CE partnership, benefit to them? A. Managing editor at Conservation Ecology not full-time busy.

How many papers are expected to be submitted?

Desrochers – do not need a whole volume. Francis – AOU and others not taking decent papers

Desrochers – pre-print option, needs to be investigated.

Composition of each issue. Not worked out yet.

Motion: Desrochers, seconded Nol. That SCO membership support a free and electronic-only journal for the society. **Carried.** 27 yeahs, 0 nays.

Erskine biography of Canadian Ornithologists. Request by Savard for help. 500 names. Tony needs to get this material on the web and needs some technical help. Graduate student or some others. Also needs some help with checking some of the information.

Other business. None.

Motion: That the SCO-SOC thank Cheri Gratto-Trevor for her hard work organizing this conference. **Moved** by Savard, Robertson seconded. **Carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 1652h