

SOCIETY OF CANADIAN ORNITHOLOGISTS REPORT ON MEMBERSHIP – AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2012

by Lance Laviolette
Membership Secretary, SCO-SOC

This report gives the picture of SCO membership as of December 31, 2012. Following the recommendation by the Auditor, the Membership Report now follows SCO's fiscal year, January 1 - December 31. In this report, we will compare the situation between 31 December 2011 and 31 December 2012.

The membership levels at the end of 2012 are fairly consistent with those of the previous year. The number of members was 343 and there has been very little change in the distribution over the membership categories (Table 1).

Of the 343 paid up members, include 56 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)

Affiliation (Category)	Members Dec 2010	%	Members Dec 2011	%	Members Dec 2012	%
None (0)	11	3.3%	9	2.6%	6	1.7%
University (1)	193	57.4%	214	61.8%	216	63.0%
Environment Canada/CWS (2)	48	14.3%	38	11.0%	40	11.7%
Other Fed. Gov. Agencies (3)	3	0.9%	5	1.4%	3	0.9%
Museum (4)	4	1.2%	5	1.4%	6	1.7%
Non Gov. Agencies (e.g. DU) (5)	16	4.8%	21	6.1%	21	6.1%
Prov. Gov. and Agencies (6)	18	5.4%	14	4.0%	14	4.1%
Clubs, Societies (7)	7	2.1%	7	2.0%	8	2.3%
Private Consultants (8)	27	8.0%	25	7.2%	26	7.6%
Libraries (9)	9	2.7%	8	2.3%	3	0.9%
TOTAL	336	100.0%	346	100%	343	100.0%

At the end of December 2012 there were 70 members who had not yet paid for 2012 (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

Paid through	Members Dec 2010	%	Members Dec 2011	%	Members Dec 2012	%
2009	65	19.3%				
2010	128	38.1%	54	13.5%		
2011	82	24.4%	108	27.0%	70	16.9%
2012	27	8.0%	160	40.0%	166	40.2%
2013	10	3.0%	36	9.0%	102	24.7%
2014	2	0.6%	11	2.8%	36	8.7%
2015	0	0.0%	5	1.3%	8	1.9%
2016	1	0.3%	1	0.3%	5	1.2%
2017	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
LIFE	18	5.4%	22	5.5%	24	5.8%
Complimentary	3	0.9%	3	0.8%	3	0.7%
TOTAL	336	100.0%	400	100.0%	413	100.0%

In April 2012, the names of members who did not pay for 2011 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.

	Regular members	Sustaining members	Student members	Total archived
April 2007	24	1	13	38
March 2008	47	2	35	84
April 2009	13	2	12	27
April 2010	29	0	42	71
April 2011	20	0	19	39
April 2012	37	1	30	68

Table 4 shows that 32.7% of the current members joined before 2005. The overall retention rate of the SCO-SOC is a very respectable 81.8%.

Table 4. Year when members joined

Year joined	Members Dec 2011	%	Members Dec 2012	%	Retention %
founders	12	3.5%	10	2.9%	83.3%
1983-1989	40	11.6%	35	10.2%	87.5%
1990-1994	19	5.5%	13	4.0%	68.4%
1995-1999	16	4.6%	14	4.1%	87.5%

2000-2004	48	13.9%	40	11.7%	83.3%
2005-2011	204	59.0%	167	48.7%	81.9%
2012	0	0.0%	60	17.5%	N/A
Unknown/complimentary	7	2.0%	4	1.2%	57.1%
TOTAL	346	100.0%	343	100.0%	

The renewal pattern of members has remained fairly consistent with half of them preferring to renew every year (Table 5). 45.4% of the regular members renewed for more than one year while about 65.8% of the students did so.

Table 5. Renewal pattern of members

Number of years paid	Members Dec 2010	%	Members Dec 2011	%	Members Dec 2012	%
1	162	48.2%	176	50.9%	175	51.0%
2	98	29.2%	95	27.5%	95	27.7%
3	29	8.6%	30	8.7%	28	8.2%
4	15	4.5%	14	4.0%	15	4.4%
5	10	3.0%	5	1.4%	5	1.5%
6	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
7	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
8	1	0.3%	1	0.3%	1	0.3%
LIFE	18	5.4%	22	6.4%	24	7.0%
Complimentary	3	0.9%	3	0.9%	0	0.0%
TOTAL	336	100.0%	346	100.0%	343	100.0%

A breakdown of the membership by category is shown in Table 6. The number of Sustaining memberships is now 9 from a high of 18 in 2007. The SCO gives a charity receipt of \$25 for Sustaining memberships and of \$250 for Life membership. **Two** people became Life members in 2012, bringing the number of Life members to 24.

Table 6. Breakdown of SCO membership by categories

Membership Category	Members Dec 2010	%	Members Dec 2011	%	Members Dec 2012	%
Regular (\$25/year)	188	56.0%	179	51.7%	164	47.8%
Sustaining (\$50/year)	12	3.6%	7	2.0%	9	2.6%
Student (\$10/year)	103	30.7%	132	38.2%	145	42.3%
Free - Student Award	12	3.6%	3	0.9%	1	0.3%
Life (\$500)	18	5.4%	22	6.4%	24	7.0%
Complimentary	3	0.9%	3	0.9%	0	0.0%
TOTAL	336	100.0%	346	100.0%	343	100.0%

The geographical breakdown of SCO-SOC membership is shown in Table 7. With the addition of our first member from Nunavut, the SCO-SOC now has a member in every province and territory. Overall, the membership distribution across Canada has remained the same as last year. Membership abroad (most of these members are expat Canadians) has dropped substantially from that of recent years.

Table 7. Geographical breakdown of SCO membership

Geographical area	Members Dec 2010	%	Members Dec 2011	%	Members Dec 2012	%
Newfoundland	9	2.7%	7	2.0%	6	1.7%
Nova Scotia	12	3.6%	19	5.5%	16	4.7%
New Brunswick	16	4.8%	24	6.9%	25	7.3%
Prince Edward Island	0	0.0%	3	0.9%	1	0.3%
Québec	40	11.9%	45	13.0%	42	12.2%
Ontario	95	28.3%	97	28.0%	99	28.9%
Manitoba	15	4.5%	13	3.8%	10	2.9%
Saskatchewan	28	8.3%	27	7.8%	27	7.9%
Alberta	34	10.1%	25	7.2%	34	9.9%

British Columbia	58	17.3%	53	15.3%	56	16.3%
Yukon	1	0.3%	2	0.6%	2	0.6%
North West Territories	3	0.9%	3	0.9%	3	0.9%
Nunavut	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.3%
Unites States	18	5.4%	19	5.5%	14	4.1%
Mexico	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Australia and New Zealand	2	0.6%	3	0.9%	2	0.6%
Europe	5	1.5%	6	1.7%	5	1.5%
TOTAL	336	100.0%	346	100.0%	343	100.0%

Most members and prospective members are now taking advantage of the online membership application that is available on the SCO-SOC webpage. Earlier this year, some long standing problems with the application were fixed by our provider and it now appears that if problems are encounter they originate with the user rather than the application.

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

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.

Lance Laviolette
SCO Membership Secretary/Secrétaire aux membres de la SOC
5 August 2013