

# SOCIETY OF CANADIAN ORNITHOLOGISTS REPORT ON MEMBERSHIP – AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2010

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Membership Secretary, SCO-SOC**

This report gives the picture of SCO membership as of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010. 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 2009 and 31 December 2010.

At the end of 2010, the **number of members reached 336** (Table 1); the number of members from the universities went back to the 2008 level, down to 193 due to a decrease in student members who went from 138 in 2009 to 115 in Dec 2010. Most of the other categories had a small decrease. The number of members working for **Environment Canada/CWS is now 48, after a high of 87 at the end of 2005**. The 336 members include **37 new members and 12 members** who rejoined the society after being previously archived.

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

Affiliation (Category)	Member Dec 2008	%	Member Dec 2009	%	Member Dec 2010	%
<b>None (0)</b>	20	5,6	18	4,7	<b>11</b>	<b>3,3%</b>
<b>University (1)</b>	195	54,6	<b>220</b>	<b>57,7</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>57,4%</b>
<b>Environment Canada/CWS (2)</b>	50	14,0	52	13,6	<b>48</b>	<b>14,3%</b>
<b>Other Fed. Gov. Agencies (3)</b>	7	2,0	<b>8</b>	<b>2,1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0,9%</b>
<b>Museum (4)</b>	5	1,4	5	1,3	<b>4</b>	<b>1,2%</b>
<b>Non Gov. Agencies (e.g. DU) (5)</b>	17	4,8	19	5,0	<b>16</b>	<b>4,8%</b>
<b>Prov. Gov. and Agencies (6)</b>	17	4,8	19	5,0	<b>18</b>	<b>5,4%</b>
<b>Clubs, Societies (7)</b>	7	2,0	5	1,3	<b>7</b>	<b>2,1%</b>
<b>Private Consultants (8)</b>	32	9,0	27	7,1	<b>27</b>	<b>8,0%</b>
<b>Libraries (9)</b>	7	2,0	8	2,1	<b>9</b>	<b>2,7%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	357	100	381	100	<b>336</b>	<b>100%</b>

As is true for every year, the 2010 list includes those who have paid dues for 2011 and beyond, as well as those who have not yet renewed for 2010, but have paid for 2009 (Table 2). At the end of December 2010 there were 65 members who had not paid for 2010. The number of non-renewals always goes down in the first weeks of the year, after final notices are sent. For students in general the trend seems similar to past years: a lot of them join or renew in order to be eligible for awards. Most of them remain members when students, but usually do not renew after graduation if they do not work in ornithology. In April 2010, the names of members who did not pay for 2009 have been archived. The total number of names archived reaches now (July 2011) 498, including deceased. **From year to year there is no clear pattern in the number of names which had to be archived, as shown in Table 3.**

**Table 2. Renewal Status of members**

<b>Paid through</b>	<b>Members Dec 2008</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Members Dec 2009</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Members Dec 2010</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>2007</b>	39	10,9				
<b>2008</b>	168	47,1	98	25,7		
<b>2009</b>	88	24,6	111	29,1	<b>65</b>	<b>19,3</b>
<b>2010</b>	36	10,1	110	28,9	<b>128</b>	<b>38,1</b>
<b>2011</b>	13	3,6	36	9,4	<b>82</b>	<b>8,0</b>
<b>2012</b>	2	0,6	4	1,0	<b>27</b>	<b>8,0</b>
<b>2013</b>	1	0,3	7	1,8	<b>10</b>	<b>3,0</b>
<b>2014</b>	0	0	0	0	<b>2</b>	<b>0,6</b>
<b>2015</b>	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	<b>0,0</b>
<b>2016</b>	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>	<b>0,3</b>
<b>LIFE</b>	7	2,0	12	3,1	<b>18</b>	<b>5,4</b>
<b>Complimentary</b>	3	0,8	3	0,8	<b>3</b>	<b>0,9</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	357	100	381	100,0	<b>336</b>	<b>100,0</b>

**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>	<b>29</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>71</b>

Table 4 shows that only 29,8% of the current members joined before 2000, but the retention rate is high for those members; 20,5% joined from 2000 to 2004, and 47,9% joined after 2004.

**Table 4. Year when members joined**

<b>Year joined</b>	<b>Members Dec 2009</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Members Dec 2010</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>founders</b>	15	3,9	<b>14</b>	<b>4,2</b>
<b>1983-1989</b>	50	13,1	<b>47</b>	<b>14,0</b>
<b>1990-1994</b>	21	5,5	<b>20</b>	<b>6,0</b>
<b>1995-1999</b>	25	6,6	<b>19</b>	<b>5,7</b>
<b>2000-2004</b>	82	21,5	<b>69</b>	<b>20,5</b>
<b>2005-2009</b>	182	47,8	<b>124</b>	<b>36,9</b>
<b>2010</b>			<b>37</b>	<b>11,0</b>
<b>Unknown/complimentary</b>	6	1,6	<b>6</b>	<b>1,8</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	381	100	<b>336</b>	<b>100,0</b>

Allowing people to renew for more than one year increases retention. As Table 5 shows, at the end of 2010, 61% of the regular members renewed for more than one year, and about 46% of the students did so (that % does not take into account the students who received a free membership).

**Table 5. Renewal pattern of members**

Number of years paid	Members Dec 08	%	Members Dec 09	%	Members Dec 10	%
1	187	52,4	207	54,3	162	48,2
2	95	26,6	98	25,7	98	29,2
3	28	7,8	27	7,1	29	8,6
4	21	5,9	20	5,2	15	4,5
5	14	3,9	12	3,1	10	3,0
6	1	0,3	1	0,3	0	0,0
7	0	0,0	0	0,0	0	0,0
8	1	0,3	1	0,3	1	0,3
LIFE	7	2,0	12	3,1	18	5,4
Complimentary	3	0,8	3	0,8	3	0,9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>100,0</b>

A breakdown of the membership by category is shown in Table 6. The number of sustaining members decreased to 12 (was 18 in 2007 and 15 in 2008), and goes down when some of them join as Life members or do not renew their membership. As an incentive, the SCO gives a charity receipt of \$25 for Sustaining memberships and of \$250 for Life membership. Six people became Life members in 2010, taking the number of Life members to 18. Twelve free memberships were given to students who received awards or were runner-ups.

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

Membership Category	Members Dec 2008	%	Members Dec 2009	%	Members Dec 2010	%
Regular (\$25/year)	216	60,5	216	56,7	188	56,0
Sustaining (\$50/year)	15	4,2	12	3,1	12	3,6
Student (\$10/year)	95	26,6	114	29,9	103	30,7
Free - Student Award	21	5,9	24	6,3	12	3,6
Life (\$500)	7	2,0	12	3,1	18	5,4
Complimentary	3	0,8	3	0,8	3	0,9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>100,0</b>

As usual, SCO membership has been broken down geographically (Table 7). The SCO is truly a national entity, represented in every province and territory, except in PEI and the Nunavut. The provincial and territorial representation is slightly different from previous years, since there has been an increase in membership in Western Canada following the 2009 meeting in Edmonton. Membership from abroad (many of these are, of course, actually Canadians living elsewhere, mainly in the U.S.) seemed more or less stable from year to year (36 in 2005, 2006 and 2007) but has been decreasing in the last 3 years (32 in 2008, 31 in 2009 and 25 in 2010).

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

<b>Geographical area</b>	<b>Members Dec 2008</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Members Dec 2009</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Members Dec 2010</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Newfoundland</b>	10	2,8	12	3,1	<b>9</b>	<b>2,7</b>
<b>Nova Scotia</b>	12	3,4	12	3,1	<b>12</b>	<b>3,6</b>
<b>New Brunswick</b>	17	4,8	17	4,5	<b>16</b>	<b>4,8</b>
<b>Prince Edward Island</b>	1	0,3	1	0,3	<b>0</b>	<b>0,0</b>
<b>Québec</b>	48	13,4	49	12,9	<b>40</b>	<b>11,9</b>
<b>Ontario</b>	116	32,5	113	29,7	<b>95</b>	<b>28,3</b>
<b>Manitoba</b>	14	3,9	19	5,0	<b>15</b>	<b>4,5</b>
<b>Saskatchewan</b>	25	7,0	26	6,8	<b>28</b>	<b>8,3</b>
<b>Alberta</b>	26	7,3	37	9,7	<b>34</b>	<b>10,1</b>
<b>British Columbia</b>	53	14,8	60	15,7	<b>58</b>	<b>17,3</b>
<b>Yukon</b>	1	0,3	1	0,3	<b>1</b>	<b>0,3</b>
<b>North West Territories</b>	3	0,8	3	0,8	<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>	26	7,3	24	6,3	<b>18</b>	<b>5,4</b>
<b>Mexico</b>	0	0,0	0	0,0	<b>0</b>	<b>0,0</b>
<b>Australia and New Zealand</b>	0	0,0	2	0,5	<b>2</b>	<b>0,6</b>
<b>Europe</b>	5	1,4	5	1,3	<b>5</b>	<b>1,5</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>100,0</b>

The existence of the SCO webpage, and the fact that a membership application form can be downloaded from the webpage or from *Picoides*, has proven useful. This year again, individuals undoubtedly discovered the existence of the SCO from the web.

Finally, I have to mention that I sent several collective electronic messages, most of them bilingual, to SCO members in 2010, many of them in relation to *Picoides* (announcing new issues, sending calls for papers) as well as notices to members who had to renew their membership, announcements of new issues of *Avian Conservation and Ecology - Ecologie et Conservation des Oiseaux (ACE-ECO)*, varied announcements for awards and meetings, fundraising for awards, etc. Out of the 336 members, I had e-mail addresses for all except 6 of them: 5 do not have e-mail addresses, and 1 student did not let me know his new e-mail address. Only 4 members with internet access requested paper copies of *Picoides*, which are also sent to member libraries and to Library and Archives Canada.

It has been my pleasure to serve as Membership Secretary for the past 8 years. I have to thank the Treasurer, Pierre Lamothe, with whom I worked closely on the membership file, Dorothy McFarlane Diamond, who is sending paper copies of *Picoides* to about 20 members and libraries, Editor Rob Warnock, Ken Otter, Bob Clark, Russ Dawson and Ian Warkentin for awards, Erica Nol, Joe Nocera, former presidents and all the other members who provided me with information and electronic material I needed as Membership Secretary.

Thanks to all.

Thérèse Beaudet  
 SCO Membership Secretary/Secrétaire aux membres de la SOC  
 27 July 2011