



**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Society of Canadian
Ornithologists (SCO/SOC)
University of Washington, Seattle
17 August 2001**

In attendance : 21 persons

1. **Introductions.**
SCO President Kathy Martin introduced members of the SCO executive and Council.
2. **Minutes of 2000 Annual General Meeting.**
Two spelling errors corrected "Peatt" and "Lesley Evans Ogden".
MOTION: for adoption of minutes ; **Moved** by Allen Keast, **Seconded** by Fred Cooke. **Carried.**
3. **Membership report - handout.**
Tom Dickinson summarised the report on behalf of Nancy Flood : as of July 18, 2001 there are 312 members listed. This is an increase of 8% (23) since last year. Most members originate from Universities (140) or the Canadian Wildlife Service (53). Roughly 50% of the membership renew for more than one year at a time. The membership is as follows : 228 regular, 15 sustaining, 66 students and 3 complimentary. The regional representation of SCO is good with members in every provinces or territories. **MOTION** : Acceptance of the report **Moved** by Tom Dickinson, **Seconded** by Keith Hobson. **Carried.**
4. **Treasurer report - handout**
Tom Dickinson reviewed the financial statement. We received 2,500.00 from the surplus associated with the AOU meeting on Newfoundland. The closing balance as of June 30th, 2001 was 27,701.58 (cash 100.00; savings 1,669.05; Chequing 6,4114.96 and investments 19,517.57). Dave Hussel remarked that the funds associated with the Speirs Donation should be clearly identified so that they can be easily tracked. Tom responded that they corresponded roughly to the investments but that he will properly identify them in next year report.
Motion for acceptance: **Moved** by Tom Dickinson, **Seconded** by Ross Lein. **Carried.**
5. **Picoides Editor Report - handout**
Presented by Kathy Martin. Dorothy McFarlane is the incoming editor of Picoides and has taken over from Tony Erskine. She wants to change the format to make it more attractive and informative. This initiative was supported by the council. There was a discussion as to whether the tone of Picoides should be that of a scientific journal or more user friendly. After discussion, all agreed to a user

friendly tone which could occasionally be more scientific i.e. a middle road approach.

Motion: The approbation of that suggestion was **Moved** by Lesley Evans-Ogden and **Seconded** by Allen Keast. **Carried.**

A) There was a suggestion to reduce the length of *Picoides* and to add one issue for 3 issues per year. Most felt that this would be a more efficient news vehicle. This was left to Dorothy to suggest to the executive appropriate course of action.

6. **Research and Student Presentation awards.**

Greg Robertson reported that this year there were 23 students that applied for Student Presentation awards (15 oral; 8 posters). The awards will be announced at the banquet.

Addendum : Two Student awards were given, 1) PHILIPPA (Pippa) SHEPHERD of Simon Fraser University and 2) JOËL BÉTY of the Université Laval.

The Baillie award was given to Mary Stapleton of Queens University. Two Taverner awards were given : 1) Dan Strickland and 2) Michael Kasumovic. There was a proposal by David Bird (handout) to convert the Taverner research award into a travel grant for students. It was pointed out by Ricky Dunn that Mrs Speirs had given these funds for a research award. Ricky proposed to ask Dr. Murray Speirs whether it would support such a change. It was also pointed that these research awards although not substantial still provided experience for students in writing a grant proposal. Two persons voted to adopt a mixed strategy of research award and travel grants and 18 persons voted to keep the award as a research award. It was proposed that SCO seek funds to increase the amount of these awards. **Action : Greg Robertson will examine** these suggestions and report to council.

7. **Doris Huestis Speirs award.**

Erica Nol Chair of this committee appointed Marc André Villard and Sue Hannon to determine a recipient for 2001. The award will be given in 2001 to **Erica Dunn and Dave Hussell** for their outstanding contributions to Canadian ornithology.

8. **Ornithological council.**

Lesley Evans Ogden proposed to set up a list server to request opinions from members on a variety of ornithological issues. It is now possible to make such server completely secure. It will be up to members to subscribe to the list server. She will publish instructions on how to do so in *Picoides*.

9. **Bird Studies Canada.**

Fred Cooke indicated that the terms of the two SCO representative on the National board were coming to an end. André Cyr this year and Tony Diamond next year. Fred Cooke suggested Jean-Pierre Savard as a replacement for André Cyr. Jean-Pierre Savard accepted. Fred indicated that suggestions were welcome to replace Tony Diamond next year.

10. **I.O.C. Nominations for Canadian Ornithologists.**
Fred Cooke indicated that 8-9 names of Canadian ornithologists have been suggested as nominations to the I.O.C. committee. Decisions will be voted on by the IOC at the 2002 meeting in Beijing, China.
11. **SCO/BSC Journal Publication Committee.**
Fred Cooke indicated that he had approached Bird Studies Canada to determine their interest in publishing a joint journal with SCO. They were very positive but wanted to proceed slowly. A committee was struck to explore the feasibility of such a project. The committee will be composed of two BSC representatives : André Desrochers; Tony Diamond, one CWS representative Tony Gaston and two or three SCO representatives, Tom Dickinson and Nancy Flood; one other to be determined and a chairman to be determined. **Action by Kathy Martin.** The committee to report to BSC and SCO by next spring (2002). **Addendum :** On August 21, at the SFU East meets West conference, Kathy Martin appointed Erica Nol as chair of that committee and she accepted. Dr. Nol will determine whether additional members are needed.
12. **Nominating committee.**
Three councillor have completed their term in August 2001. The election produced 3 new councillor: Gilles Gauthier; Karen Wiebe and Marty Leonard who assumed office at the August 2001 AGM.
13. **Recording secretary.**
Kathy Martin indicated that Peter Blanchard had resigned as recording secretary and that Jean-Pierre Savard had accepted to act in this role for the present meeting. Greg Robertson will take over at the 2002 AGM in this role.
14. **Resignation.**
David Bird does not feel that he can continue as Vice President. **Kathy Martin to look for replacement.** This is urgent as the Vice President is to become President in 2002 AGM in New Orleans in September 2002. The council is looking for suggestions. **Addendum :** After the SFU SCO council meeting, Kathy Martin requested that Jean-Pierre Savard assume the role of Vice President-Elect immediately and Dr. Savard has accepted. This decision will be ratified with a full council executive vote.
15. **North American Banding Council report - handout**
Kathy Martin presented the report on behalf of Brenda Dale.
16. **Meeting locations.**
2002 in New Orleans September 24-28th in conjunction with the other Societies including the AOU. Sue Hannon will be on the Scientific program, Greg Robertson on the student award committee and Fred Cooke on the Diversity International committee.

2003 in Saskatoon, SCO only or with smaller societies. Cheri Gratto-Trevor to organise the meeting.

2004 In Quebec City in conjunction with the AOU.

17. **SCO Student Membership recruitment.**

SCO has decided to match the AOU student membership awards by providing 3 years of free memberships in the SCO to any student that receives an AOU award and requests an SCO award by writing. **Action** : A committee was struck to be chaired by **Nancy Flood to examine** the exact wording and conditions of this membership award as to avoid confusion (Who is eligible etc.)

18. **Other Business.**

Tom Dickinson suggested Larry Peat as the Auditor for 2002. The **Motion** : **Moved** by Tom Dickinson **Seconded** by Fred Cooke. **Carried.**

Motion: Closure of the meeting **Moved** by Fred Cooke and **Seconded** by Andrea Bismanis. **Carried.**

Jean-Pierre L. Savard
Recording Secretary
August 17, 2001