

MINUTES

**Society of Canadian Ornithologists/ Société des ornithologistes du Canada**

**Council Meeting, San Diego, California, 2010**

**Date:** Sunday, February 7, 2010

**Time:** 12:30 – 14:30

**Present:** D. Bird, E. Nol, N. Koper, D. Baszinski, S. Hannon

**Regrets:** M. Avey, R. Norris, M-A. Villard, S. Jamieson, J. Nocera, M. Leonard, A. Pomeroy, P. Martin, J. Chardine, T. Nudds, R. Warnock

1. Review of Agenda (Bird)

No new items were added to the agenda

2. Acceptance of minutes from 2009 meeting (Bird for Pomeroy)

Motion: Bird moved to accept minutes, seconded by Nol, PASSED unanimously.

3. President's Report (Bird)

(see report for more details)

SCO is doing well, i.e. financially solvent, stable membership, website excellent, award amounts increased, good publications, 2 new initiatives (ad hoc committees to investigate bequests to SCO and writing obituaries for prominent Canadian ornithologists).

4. Revisions of Bylaws (Bird/Hannon)

Revised bylaws were sent in to Corporations Canada, but one detail remains to be clarified about changing of our society's goals.

**ACTION:** Bird will clarify this and finalize acceptance of our new bylaws

5. Treasurer's Report (Bird for Lamothe)

(see report for more details)

Presented was a budget for 2009 (not audited yet) . For 2009 total revenues \$18,252, expenditures \$8,321.00= \$ 9 931 balance. Net assets \$47085.00

Motion: to accept the budget report moved by Koper, seconded by Nol, PASSED unanimously.

We thanked Pierre Lamothe for his continued excellence as treasurer.

6. Membership Secretary's Report (Bird for Beaudet)  
(see report for more details)

Total members in 2009 381, an increase from the 357 members in 2008.

Discussion: we reiterated the need to have an online function for people to more easily become members and at our next meeting to have a two-tiered registration rate, i.e. cheaper for members.

ACTION: Badzinski will approach BSC to see if we can use their online facility to do our memberships.

We thanked Therese Beaudet for her exemplary role as membership secretary.

Motion: to accept Secretary's report, moved by Bird, seconded Badzinski, PASSED unanimously

7. Picoides Editor's Report (Bird for Warnock)

(see report for more details)

3 issues in 2009, 36 pages each, on web and a few paper copies. We are grateful to Rob Warnock for his hard work as editor.

8. Committee Reports

- Bird Studies Canada (Savard)

No report

- Nominating Committee/Elections (Nol)

(see report for more details)

8 candidates stood for council, 2 for Vice-President; 78 votes cast. Joe Nocera elected as Vice-President/President-Elect, and the following as councilors: Debbie Badzinski, Russ Dawson, Paul Martin, Erin Bayne, Ian Warkentin, Marcel Gabhauer,

Brenda Dale. These will all serve to the end of 2012 meeting.

We need a new recording secretary as Andrea Pomeroy is no longer a Councilor. Nol will recruit someone from council. We thank Andrea for her work as recording secretary.

- ACE/ECO Journal Committee/Editors report (Francis)

No report

AOU has suggested “adopting” ACE/ECO as a North American Bird Conservation Journal- under discussion at this meeting with journal committee. It would be in English, French and Spanish.

Ryan Norris will replace Eric Nol on Journal Committee

- Speirs Award ( Leonard)

TBA at meeting

Thanks to Marty Leonard (chair), Mark Brigham, Robert Clark and Greg Robertson who were on the committee. Marty will now go off the committee and will have to be replaced. Nol will find a new member for the committee.

- Jamie Smith Mentoring Award (Bird for Otter)

No award this year because the meeting was too early to allow for the lengthy nomination process. Ryan Norris will take over from Ken Otter as chair of the committee and Nicola Koper will join the committee. We thank Ken Otter for his exemplary work chairing this committee.

- Student Research/Travel Awards (Dawson)

Awards not made yet because the meeting was too early this year.

- Student Presentation Awards (Nol)

All students will be judged by a panel with members from all societies. The SCO will award a best student oral paper (\$300), a runner up oral (\$50) and a best poster award (\$150).

Motion: to approve the above amounts made by Nol, seconded by Hannon, PASSED unanimously.

- Ornithological Council (Bird/Zanette)

No report. Discussion on role of SCO on this committee (see last year's minutes). We need to find one or two new reps, preferably at least one from the Canadian federal government and give them direction to our rep on how to represent us.

**ACTION:** Koper and Badzinski will attend the next OC meeting, if possible, to determine whether being on this committee serves SCO interests and they will report back to Bird and Nol.

- Conservation Committee (Nol for Nocera)

The committee wrote a report summarizing a workshop on declining aerial insectivores and published it in *Picoides*. They also recommended support by the SCO to sign onto a letter from WWF Canada regarding our concerns about climate change and which was published to coincide with the Copenhagen meeting on climate change.

Thanks for Erica and Joe for their work on this committee. Koper will join this committee.

9. Website update (Bird for Nocera)

(see report for more details)

Minor correction in report required (change "Philadelphia" to "Edmonton"). Our Web page gets a lot of hits and the student page is quite popular. Joe has had many complaints about incorrect French grammar.

**ACTION:** Bird will ask our new councilor, Marcel Gahbauer, to see if he is willing to help improve this.

10. Future meetings (Bird)

2011 - Moncton (Villard) - in association with AFO or Wilson Ornithological Society?

**ACTION:** Nol and Bird will investigate to see if these societies want to join us in Moncton.

2012 - NAOC in Vancouver (Martin) – to be reported at the AGM

2013 - Winnipeg (Koper)

NAOC will occur Aug 14-18, 2012 in Vancouver with 8 societies participating.

ACTION: Nol will serve on serving committee or find someone else to do it.

MOTION: Moved to loan NAOC \$5,000.00 for the conference and to share in the profits and risk. This is subject to availability of funds. Moved by Hannon, seconded by Bird. PASSED unanimously.

ACTION: Nol will check with Lamothe to ensure availability of funds and then report to Kathy Martin, organizer of NAOC.

## 11. Other business

- a. Report on Developing a Risk Management Framework for Incidental Take of Migratory Birds (Badzinski)

Badzinski mentioned that a workshop will occur in Feb in Ottawa.

ACTION: Badzinski will see if there is an SCO member who can go to the meeting to represent us.

- b. Publishing Obituaries for Deceased SCO members (Bird)

Paul Martin is chairing a committee to look into this. We need to find a couple of councilors to serve on the committee.

ACTION: Nol will find some more councilors to serve on this committee. Bird will forward all emails on this topic to Paul Martin.

- c. Raising money for SCO through bequests (Bird)

Pierre Lamothe chairing this committee, with Paul Martin, Mark Avey and David Bird on the committee.

DISCUSSION: We need a report from this committee. We suggest that they modify documents produced by AOU and BSC.

- d. Merger initiative with other OSNA organizations (Bird/Nol)  
(see report for more details)

Bird and Jean-Pierre Savard attended a meeting on Saturday, Feb. 6. This is no longer being discussed as a merger for now, but instead a new federation of North American Ornithological organizations.

Phase one of this effort involves formation of :

1. A Steering Committee that will develop models of how a Federation might function and the steps required to form one; the Steering Committee will also develop a plan for Phase II of the effort and oversee the activities of committees.
2. A committee to explore issues of cooperation among the societies with regard to aspects of journal and other publications (Publications Committee);
3. A committee to explore means of cooperating and coordinating aspects of annual meetings of Societies.

We discussed this and were initially not sure of the benefits to the SCO, but felt that we should be part of the initial discussions to keep our options open. There will be a financial donation from all member societies based upon a formula of OSNA or some equivalent (amount to be ascertained).

MOTION: SCO agrees to join the steering committee to discuss formation of a Federation of North American Ornithological Societies, including participating in committees regarding publications and meetings. Moved by Bird, seconded by Nol, PASSED unanimously.

ACTION: Nol and Nocera will serve on the Steering Committee. Bird will ask Charles Francis if he will represent SCO publications on the steering committee.

e) Lapel pins (Bird)

Bird cited a letter from an SCO member asking if the SCO had lapel pins. Bird suggested that we design a lapel pin based upon our logo and sell them for profit. Discussion followed with some feeling neutral about it and others considering it a waste of resources.

ACTION: Bird will investigate how much it would cost and how we could sell them and report back.

Meeting adjourned.