



President's Report – Fall 2018

Ken A. Otter

(version française)

When I assumed the Presidency in 2016, the society's membership numbers were some of the lowest in our history; with just under 200 members we were significantly down from peaks of close to 400 in the mid-2000s. Membership numbers ebb and flow normally throughout a year, as people get around to renewing, or sign up for eligibility to apply for grants or attend meetings, but this slow overall decline in memberships over time is a fate that is befalling many professional societies. In the past, society membership was typically tied to receiving mail outs of journals or bulletins. In an age where most of us have access to literature through the internet, particularly with the profusion of open-access journals and society bulletins being posted online, membership is no longer a necessity for keeping on top of current trends in the field. This has resulted in fewer people seeing the advantages of society memberships, particularly when they don't see the immediate gains to themselves of this association. Among the highest turnover in membership is in the Student Membership class, where memberships are initially taken to ensure eligibility for research or travel awards. Upon graduation, students often don't see the advantage in sustaining those memberships, and this is something that we as senior members of the society need to encourage.

Membership – regular and sustaining – is a means by which we can support the continued aims of the society; to support and encourage avian research and dissemination of this research within Canada. Much of the funding necessary to provide student research awards, support travel awards to conferences, recognize early-career researchers and host conferences is derived from membership fees. Continuing our memberships and encouraging others to support the society is a tangible way of supporting all these aims of the society – even if we don't receive the awards ourselves, we all benefit from having the capacity to create exciting meetings. I am encouraged to see our numbers starting to grow again – currently about 260 active members – but this is far from where we could be. I ask that we do not grow complacent. It is all of our collective responsibility, whether you have been involved for years or are new to the society, to take pride in what the SCO-SOC has accomplished and encourage membership to the society.

As I write this, we are just about to embark on one of those accomplishments with the co-hosting of the International Ornithological Congress in Aug 2018. Council and reps from the society have been working for more than two years to plan and organize this meeting, in particular the Canada Evening Gala event that SCO-SOC have been organizing with Bird Studies Canada (BSC). Being part of this organization team has reinforced my opinions of the generosity of people towards the society's aims, as we had response to our fund raising drives for both the gala evening itself (\$30,000 in sponsorship) and the support of students to attend the congress (\$10,000 raised collectively by SCO-SOC and BSC). The SCO-SOC has never been able to support as many students travel awards, over 50, as it has for this congress and this is due to generosity and dedication of our membership.

While the society has definitely had a large number of accomplishments, one area that we need to continue to strive towards is ensuring communication and representation in both our national languages. While much of the society's business and interaction with other societies is conducted in English, we have been trying to ensure that our official faces (websites, newsletters and postings), are bilingual. This is a challenge for persons like myself who are not fluent French speakers, and so the society relies heavily on volunteers to help translate material in a timely fashion. If you are gifted in this area, please formally sign up to help us maintain a bilingual society – whether this be in translating English submissions in to French, or providing English-grammar checking to French-speaking members for student research award applications or submissions to *Picoides*. Together, we can work to ensure that everyone feels part of the SCO-SOC.

We are also pleased to be returning to hosting our own stand-alone meeting in Québec City in 27-30 Aug 2019. This will be hosted at the Hôtel Château Laurier Québec in one of the most beautiful cities in Canada. Not only will this be an opportunity to see the newest work of your friends and colleagues, but Québec City is home to some of the most interesting sites and history of Canada. The Château Laurier venue sits beside the Plains of Abraham, the Citadel of Quebec, and the amazing shops and restaurants of the old city. The venue is also less than 50km from the boreal forest, so bring your binos for birding opportunities. The organizing committee of Junior Tremblay and Bruno Drolet have managed to get extremely good rates at the Château Laurier for congress participants (double occupancy of \$90/night each and as low as \$55/night each if you squish four to a room!) and I encourage you to take advantage of this in booking for the three-day congress. Brush up on your French, and we hope to see you all at Québec2019.



Rapport de Président – Automne 2018

Ken A. Otter

(English version)

Lorsque j'ai assumé la présidence en 2016, le nombre de membres de la société était l'un des plus bas de notre histoire; avec un peu moins de 200 membres, nous étions en forte baisse par rapport à près de 400 au milieu des années 2000. Le nombre de membres fluctue normalement tout au long de l'année, au fur et à mesure que les gens renouvellent leur abonnement ou s'inscrivent. Dans le passé, les membres de la société étaient généralement liés à la réception de revues scientifiques ou des bulletins de la société. À une époque où la plupart d'entre nous ont accès à la littérature via Internet, en particulier avec la profusion de revues et de bulletins en ligne à libre accès, l'adhésion n'est plus une nécessité pour rester au fait des tendances actuelles. Cela a eu comme conséquence que moins de personnes voient les avantages des adhésions à des sociétés professionnelles, en particulier quand elles ne voient pas les avantages immédiats de cette association. Le taux de rotation le plus élevé parmi les membres est dans la classe des membres étudiants, où les adhésions sont initialement prises pour assurer l'admissibilité aux bourses de recherche ou de voyage. À la fin de leurs études, les étudiants ne voient souvent pas l'avantage de maintenir ces adhésions, et nous, en tant que membres sénior de la société, devons les encourager.

L'adhésion - régulière et de soutien - est un moyen par lequel nous pouvons: soutenir les objectifs continus de la société; soutenir et encourager la recherche aviaire; et soutenir la diffusion de cette recherche au Canada. Une grande partie du financement nécessaire pour fournir des bourses de recherche aux étudiants, soutenir des bourses de voyage pour des conférences, de reconnaissance des chercheurs en début de carrière et l'organisation des conférences est dérivé des frais d'adhésion. Poursuivre notre adhésion et encourager les autres à soutenir la société est un moyen concret de soutenir tous ces objectifs de la société - même si nous ne recevons pas les prix nous-mêmes, nous avons tous la capacité de créer des réunions passionnantes ! Je suis encouragé de voir nos chiffres recommencer à croître - actuellement environ 260 membres actifs - mais nous sommes loin d'être où nous pourrions être. Je demande que nous ne devenions pas complaisants. Il est de notre responsabilité collective, que vous soyez impliqué depuis des années ou que vous soyez nouveau dans la société, d'être fier de ce que le SCO-SOC a accompli et d'encourager l'adhésion.

Au moment où j'écris ces lignes, nous sommes sur le point d'achever l'une de ces réalisations avec l'organisation conjointe du Congrès ornithologique international en août 2018. Le conseil et les représentants de la société travaillent depuis plus de deux ans pour planifier et organiser cette réunion; en particulier le Gala de la soirée du Canada organisé par SCO-SOC avec Études d'Oiseaux Canada (EOC). Faire partie de cette équipe organisationnelle a renforcé mes opinions sur la générosité des gens envers les objectifs de la SCO-SOC, car vous avez répondu à nos collectes de fonds pour la soirée de gala (30 000 \$ de parrainage) et le soutien pour des bourses de voyage d'étudiants pour la congrès (10 000 \$ collectivement par SCO-SOC et BSC-EOC). La SCO-SOC n'a jamais été en mesure de soutenir autant de bourses de voyage d'étudiants, plus de 50, comme elle le fait pour ce congrès, grâce à la générosité et au dévouement de nos membres.

Bien que la société ait certainement réalisé un grand nombre de choses, l'un des domaines sur lesquels nous devons continuer de nous efforcer est d'assurer la communication et la représentation dans nos deux langues officielles. Bien que la plupart des affaires de la société et ses interactions avec d'autres sociétés professionnelles se déroulent en anglais, nous avons essayé de faire en sorte que nos visages officiels (sites Web, bulletins et affichages) soient bilingues. C'est un défi pour des personnes comme moi, qui ne parlent pas couramment le français et la société compte beaucoup sur les volontaires pour traduire les documents en temps opportun. Si vous êtes doué dans ce domaine, veuillez-vous inscrire officiellement pour nous aider à maintenir une société bilingue - que ce soit en traduisant des soumissions en anglais vers le français ou en fournissant des vérifications de grammaire anglaise aux membres francophones pour bourses de recherche pour étudiants ou les soumissions à Picoides. Ensemble, nous pouvons travailler pour que tout le monde à part entière de la SCO-SOC.

Nous sommes heureux de pouvoir organiser notre propre réunion autonome à Québec du 27 au 30 août 2019. Celle-ci aura lieu à l'Hôtel Château Laurier Québec dans l'une des plus belles villes du Canada. Ce sera non seulement l'occasion de voir le travail le plus récent de vos amis et collègues, mais la ville de Québec abrite certains des sites historiques les plus intéressants du Canada. Le Château Laurier se trouve à côté des plaines d'Abraham, de la citadelle de Québec et des incroyables boutiques et restaurants de la vieille ville. Québec est également situé à moins de 50 km de la forêt boréale. Le comité organisateur de Junior Tremblay et Bruno Drolet a réussi à obtenir des prix

**SOCIETY OF CANADIAN ORNITHOLOGISTS/
SOCIÉTÉ DES ORNITHOLOGISTES DU CANADA**

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**For the Year Ended
December 31, 2017**

**SOCIETY OF CANADIAN ORNITHOLOGISTS/
SOCIÉTÉ DES ORNITHOLOGISTES DU CANADA**

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(UNAUDITED - SEE NOTICE TO READER)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017

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NOTICE TO READER

On the basis of information provided by the Treasurer, I have compiled the balance sheet of Society of Canadian Ornithologists/Societe des Ornithologistes du Canada as at December 31, 2017 and the statements of net earnings, cash flow, and changes in net assets for the year then ended.

I have not performed an audit on these financial statements and, accordingly, I express no assurance of accuracy thereon.

Readers are cautioned that these statements may not be appropriate for their purposes.

Halifax, NS

June 17, 2018



Deborah Loughnan

Accountant
DAL Small Business Solutions

**SOCIETY OF CANADIAN ORNITHOLOGISTS/
SOCIÉTÉ DES ORNITHOLOGISTES DU CANADA**

BALANCE SHEET
As at December 31, 2017

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 8,503	\$ 15,184
Accounts Receivable (Note 4)	\$ 40,104	\$ 26,735
Term Deposits (Note 3)	<u>25,000</u>	<u>35,015</u>
	<u>\$ 73,607</u>	<u>\$ 76,934</u>
 LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable (Note 5)	\$ 575	\$ 960
 NET ASSETS		
Net Assets	67,121	69,469
Assignment of Net Assets	<u>5,911</u>	<u>6,505</u>
	<u>73,032</u>	<u>75,974</u>
	<u>\$ 73,607</u>	<u>\$ 76,934</u>

APPROVED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:

_____	Director
_____	Director

**SOCIETY OF CANADIAN ORNITHOLOGISTS/
SOCIÉTÉ DES ORNITHOLOGISTES DU CANADA**

STATEMENT OF NET EARNINGS

For the Year Ended December 31, 2017

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Revenue		
Memberships	\$ 5,115	\$ 6,470
SCO Wolfville 2015	-	6,343
SCO Winnipeg 2013	-	2,921
T-Shirt Sales	-	464
Term Investment Maturity	10,015	-
Gifts	2,459	2,375
Interest Income	58	1,650
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total Revenue	\$ 17,647	\$ 20,222
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Expenditures		
IOC Congress 2018	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
NABC AGM	500	500
Ornithological Council Dues	1,000	1,000
Newsletter Picoides	157	-
Bank Charges	315	372
Web Site	217	-
Spiers Award Plaques	117	191
Taverner Award	6,000	3,860
Early Career Award	792	-
Student Conference Activities - T-Shirts	-	714
Conference Awards - Travel & Presentation	4,260	3,030
Audit Fees	575	575
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total Expenditures	\$ 23,933	\$ 20,242
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Net Earnings	<u>(6,286)</u>	<u>(20)</u>

**SOCIETY OF CANADIAN ORNITHOLOGISTS/
SOCIÉTÉ DES ORNITHOLOGISTES DU CANADA**

CHANGES IN NET ASSETS
For the Year Ended December 31, 2017

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Net Assets - Beginning of Year	\$ 69,469	\$ 42,760
Increase		
Jamie Smith	-	145
Fred Cooke	-	30
Doris Heustis Speirs	-	10
Early Career	(792)	-
Taverner	(3,935)	-
Loan to NAOC 2014	-	16,735
Loan to IOC 2017	-	10,000
Term Investment Maturity	10,015	-
Net Earnings	(6,286)	(20)
	<u>(998)</u>	<u>26,900</u>
Decrease		
Duplicate award payments	1,350	-
Doris Heustis Speirs	<u>-</u>	<u>191</u>
Total Decrease	<u>1,350</u>	<u>191</u>
Net Assets - End of Year	<u><u>\$ 67,121</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 69,469</u></u>

**SOCIETY OF CANADIAN ORNITHOLOGISTS/
SOCIÉTÉ DES ORNITHOLOGISTES DU CANADA**

**ASSIGNMENT OF NET ASSETS
For the Year Ended December 31, 2017**

	Fred Cooke	Doris Huestis Speirs	Early Career	Taverner	Jamie Smith	2017	2016
ASSIGNMENT OF NET ASSETS							
Net Assets - Beginning of Year	\$ 670	\$ 3,348	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,487	\$ 6,505	\$ 6,511
Accumulation of Capital							
Gifts	100	-	-	65	123	288	325
Accretion							
Transfer of Assets	-	-	792	3,935	-	4,727	3,860
Total Increase of Net Assets	100	-	792	4,000	123	5,015	4,185
Decrease							
Award	700	117	792	4,000	-	5,609	4,191
Net Assets - End of Year	\$ 70	\$ 3,231	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,610	\$ 5,911	\$ 6,505

**SOCIETY OF CANADIAN ORNITHOLOGISTS/
SOCIÉTÉ DES ORNITHOLOGISTES DU CANADA**

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW
For the Year Ended December 31, 2017

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Cash Provided By Operating Activities		
Net Earnings	\$ (6,286)	\$ (20)
Term Deposit Maturity	58	1,650
Doris Heustis Speirs	(117)	10
Taverner	(5,935)	(3,860)
Jamie Smith	123	145
Fred Cooke	(600)	30
Student Activities	(4,260)	(250)
	<u>(17,017)</u>	<u>(2,295)</u>
 Change in Non-Cash Working Capital (Note 5)	 <u>321</u>	 <u>2,648</u>
Accretion in Cash and Cash Equivalents	(16,696)	353
Cash and Cash Equivalents - Beginning of Year	<u>50,199</u>	<u>49,846</u>
 Cash and Cash Equivalents - End of Year	 <u><u>33,503</u></u>	 <u><u>50,199</u></u>
 Cash at End of Year:		
Cash	8,503	15,184
Term Deposits	<u>25,000</u>	<u>35,015</u>
	<u><u>33,503</u></u>	<u><u>50,199</u></u>

**SOCIETY OF CANADIAN ORNITHOLOGISTS/
SOCIÉTÉ DES ORNITHOLOGISTES DU CANADA**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Year Ended December 31, 2017

1. Status and Nature of Activities

Society of Canadian Ornithologists/Société des Ornithologistes du Canada is incorporated under the Canada Business Corporations Act as a registered charity to promote the public understanding and conservation of birds of Canada.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles and include the following significant accounting policies:

Fund Accounting

Revenues and expenses accruing to service delivery and to management are presented in net assets.

Revenues and expenses accruing to Jamie Smith, Doris Huestis Speirs, and Taverner are presented in the assignment of net assets.

Revenues Recognition

The Corporation uses the amount brought forward method in revenues accounting. The allocated revenues are recognized as revenue for the financial period to which related expenses were incurred. Non-allocated revenues are recognized as revenue when they are received or to be received if the receivable amount may reasonably be estimated and that its receivability is reasonably ensured. Non-allocated incomes are recognized as revenues when they are earned.

Translation of Foreign Currency

The Corporation's self-sustaining foreign operations are translated using the current rate method. Transactions denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the exchange rate on the transaction date. Foreign currency denominated monetary and non-monetary assets and liabilities are translated at exchange rates in effect on the balance sheet date.

Financial Instruments

The following methods and hypothesis are used to determine the fair value of each asset and liability:

Cash, Receivables, and Liabilities

The book value of each item in this category is comparable to the fair value because of the coming deadline of these financial statements.

Term Deposits

Term deposits are carried at cost. The fair value of term deposits is determined based on the current value.

**SOCIETY OF CANADIAN ORNITHOLOGISTS/
SOCIÉTÉ DES ORNITHOLOGISTES DU CANADA**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Year Ended December 31, 2017

	2017	2016
3. Term Deposits		
Term deposit, maturity Jan 11, 2017	\$ -	\$ 10,015
Term deposit, maturity June 24, 2018	10,000	10,000
Term deposit, maturity June 24, 2019	15,000	15,000
	<u>\$ 25,000</u>	<u>\$ 35,015</u>
4. Accounts Receivable		
Loan - NAOC	\$ 16,735	\$ 16,735
Loan - IOC	20,000	10,000
Duplicate payments - repaid in 2018	3,369	-
	<u>\$ 40,104</u>	<u>\$ 26,735</u>
4. Accounts Payable		
Accounts Payable		\$ 385
Accrued Liability	575	575
	<u>\$ 575</u>	<u>\$ 960</u>
5. Changes in Non-Cash Working Capital		
Receivables	\$ 321	\$ 2,648
Payables	\$ -	\$ -
	<u>\$ 321</u>	<u>\$ 2,648</u>

6. Financial Risk Management

Credit Risk

In the ordinary course of business, the Organization rarely gives credit to its members.

Interest Rate Risk Management

The Organization's interest rate risk is limited. A one percent variation in the interest rate would not have important implications on the results of the Organization's financial position.

extrêmement raisonnable au Château Laurier pour les participants au congrès (occupation double de 90 \$ / nuit chacun et 55 \$ / nuit chacun si vous tassez quatre personnes dans une chambre !). J'encourage vous à en profiter pour réserver les trois journées de la réunion. Rafraîchissez votre français et nous espérons tous vous voir à Québec2019.

Picoides Report August 2018

Rob Warnock, Co-Editor, Picoides

In the 12 months, Rob Warnock and Barbara Bleho produced 3 issues of the Picoides newsletter

Erin Bayne's lab at the University of Alberta piloted 1 page summary report of student research in the July 2018 issue of Picoides. We would like more of those type of articles in Picoides

Overall, the processes to generate issues works well most of time and we are usually able complete and distribute issues in a reasonable time period. Delays occur when people are away and are we are waiting for materials or translations.

We strive to generate the best issues possible. Rob does feel bad about the poor quality of French translations in the last issue of Picoides.

Key Issues

1. French translation

The most pressing issue for us is to improve the French translations and getting additional help with translations. Rob received strongly negative feedback from Jean Sebastien Guenette shortly after the July 2018 issue was released to the SCO-SOC membership. Marc-Andre Villard responded to him on Rob's behalf. Thank you, Marc-Andre.

We should not almost exclusively rely on Junior Tremblay and Marc Andre Villard for translations as they are extremely busy people. As we found out, computer generated translations are of poor quality. We need help with translations

We hope that we are able to use Jean Sebastien's feedback positively to improve Picoides. Rob and Barbara both appreciate his very honest feedback.

2. Content

Getting good quality relevant content is an ongoing issue or struggle although we have received enough material for 18 to 25 page issues in the last year.

We need to continually encourage students and bird labs across Canada to submit material to Picoides in both official languages. Material that we would like to get more of includes the following:

- Bird related articles and photos
- Feature or Commentary articles
- Student Award reports
- Society news items
- Society Awards
- News from Canadian bird labs
- Canadian thesis abstracts
- Announcements/Advertisements
- Event notices
- Book reviews
- Letters to the editor
- Bird related poetry
- Bird related artwork

SCO – website report 2017/2018

No major changes were made to the website in 2017. This year, we used Canada Helps to raise funds for student travel awards for the IOC and linked to this page from our homepage. However, it may be valuable to include a new donations tab that lists the categories for donations with direct links to whichever mechanism we decide to use for donations in the future. Currently most calls for donations are embedded in various award pages. This tab would make the donations site more visible and perhaps increase donations from both members and non-members. We should consider any changes we would like to make to the site's organization, which I can then work on implementing. Suggestions and comments are encouraged.

Our Google Analytics report shows that we have had 3345 visits from 2500 users (Aug 1, 2017-July 31, 2018). Compared to Jan-August of last year, we had 400 more visits. Like last year, visits showed a major peak in February (student awards) and smaller peaks in December (renewal) and March (IOC abstracts). This is similar to the trend observed last year. The website is virtually without visits April through May. Visits to the website are primarily by Canadians (66%) and Americans (11%). Pages with the highest traffic are the homepage and student awards (>1400 visits), followed by membership, awards, current issue of Picoides, and about SCO (300-500 visits). The meetings, students, Picoides, and publications pages also received more than 200 visits. These trends are similar to last year. Our links page is rarely visited (107 visits in 12 months) and we may wish to consider replacing this page with a new Donations tab.

Thanks to Amélie Roberto-Charron who did an excellent job posting relevant items on social media mirrored in both Facebook and Twitter. We need a new member to take over social media for the coming year.

Jenn Foote
Webmaster

SCO - rapport du site 2016/2017

Aucun changement majeur n'a été apporté au site Web en 2017. Cette année, nous avons utilisé Canada Helps pour amasser des fonds pour des bourses de voyage destinées aux étudiants du IOC et liées à cette page à partir de notre page d'accueil. Cependant, il peut être utile d'inclure un nouvel onglet de dons qui répertorie les catégories de dons avec des liens directs vers le mécanisme que nous décidons d'utiliser pour les dons futurs. Actuellement, la plupart des appels de dons sont intégrés dans différentes pages de récompenses. Cet onglet rendrait le site des dons plus visible et augmenterait peut-être les dons des membres et des non-membres. Nous devrions envisager tous les changements que nous souhaiterions apporter à l'organisation du site, sur lesquels je pourrai ensuite travailler. Les suggestions et commentaires sont encouragés.

Notre rapport Google Analytics montre que nous avons eu 3345 visites de 2500 utilisateurs (1er août 2017 - 31 juillet 2018). Par rapport à janvier-août de l'année dernière, nous avons eu 400 visites de plus. Comme l'année dernière, les visites ont connu un pic important en février (bourses aux étudiants) et des pics moins importants en décembre (renouvellement) et mars (résumés du CIO). Ceci est similaire à la tendance observée l'année dernière. Le site Web est pratiquement sans visite d'avril à mai. Les visites sur le site Web sont principalement effectuées par des Canadiens (66%) et des Américains (11%). Les pages les plus fréquentées sont la page d'accueil et la bourses de recherche pour étudiants (> 1400 visites), suivies de l'adhésion, des prix, numéro courant de Picoides et de SCO (300-500 visites). Les réunions, les étudiants, les pages Picoides et les publications ont également reçu plus de 200 visites. Ces tendances sont similaires à l'an dernier. Notre page de liens est rarement visitée (107 visites dans 12 mois) et nous pourrions envisager de remplacer cette page par un nouvel onglet Dons.

Merci à Amélie Roberto-Charron qui a fait un excellent travail en affichant des articles pertinents sur les médias sociaux reflétée dans Facebook et Twitter. Nous avons besoin d'un nouveau membre pour prendre en charge les médias sociaux pour l'année prochaine.

Jenn Foote
Webmaster



Journal Management Committee Report

August 2018

By Doug Tozer, Chair

Summary.—This report describes the current status of ACE and activities undertaken by the journal management committee and editors-in-chief to promote ACE. The journal continues to attract high-quality submissions, finishing 2017 with a record-high 38 articles published, 20 above the average over the past 10 years. The journal’s impact factor remains high (1.43), sitting 7th out of 25 ornithology journals. A recent analysis revealed that ACE articles have been hit a grand total of ~1.5 million times and downloaded ~484,000 times, solid testimony to the journal’s reach and success. There is also some evidence that the amount of interest per article is increasing for articles published in more recent years, perhaps indicating that ACE is gaining in popularity and associated use. Overall ACE is performing well and continues to provide an important service to the scientific community.

Current Status of ACE

By the end of 2017, ACE had published 234 articles in 25 issues since it began in 2006. Most of the articles were research papers (79%), followed by editorials (9%), essays (4%), methodology (3%), forums (2%), letters (1%), and short communications (1%). In 2017 there was a record-high 38 articles published, 20 above the average over the past 10 years (Fig. 1). Twenty-eight of the articles in 2017 were research papers, along with 9 papers in the newly-launched methodology section and one short communications (Fig. 1).

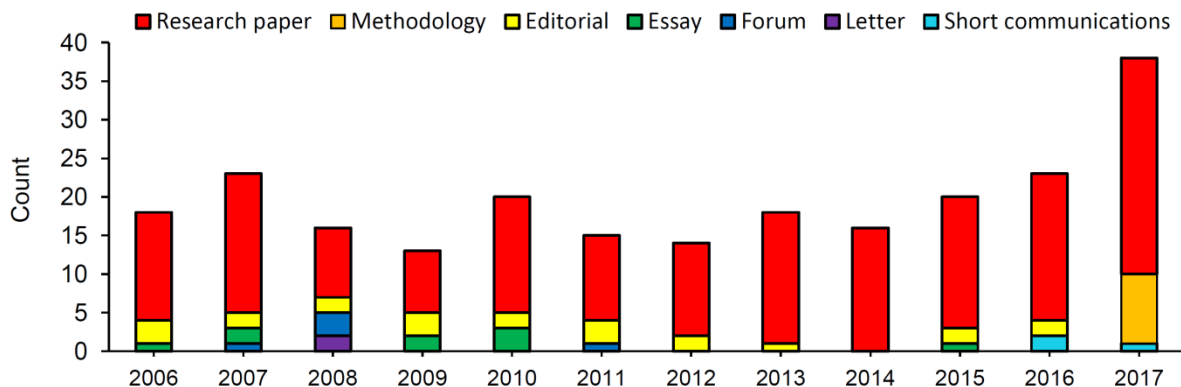


Fig. 1. Number of articles (count) by type as a function of year published in ACE between 2006 and 2017.

ACE's impact factor dropped between 2011 and 2013, but increased dramatically in 2014 and 2015 (Fig. 2). The journal's impact factor dropped slightly in 2016, but increased again to near record high in 2017 (Fig. 2). ACE is currently ranked 7th highest of 25 ornithology journals based on impact factors (Thompson Reuters InCites Journal Citation Reports).

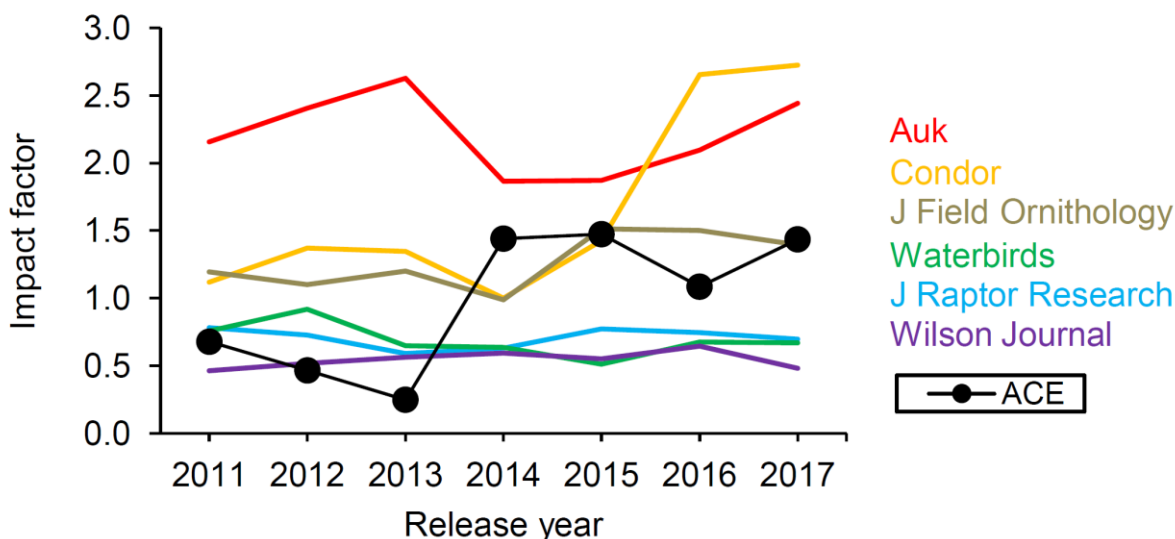


Fig. 2. Impact factor of selected ornithology journals as a function of impact factor release year. Data from Thomson Reuters InCites Journal Citation Reports.

Journal impact factors are only one of many ways to measure the worth of a journal, and include many shortcomings. They are based on the total number of citations during the release year to articles published in ACE during the preceding two years, divided by the total number of citable articles published in ACE during the preceding two years. However, it is reassuring (or perhaps only merely entertaining!) to note that the ACE impact factor and ACE's relative position among ornithology journals based on impact factors have both been consistently strong since 2014 and will presumably remain similarly competitive in the future. This is a testament to the journal's excellent growth and maturation due almost certainly to the hard work of the editors-in-chief and the ACE management committee.

As a measure of ACE's reach and ultimate impact, and to provide new material for promoting the journal, I analyzed the number of website hits and article downloads (i.e., .pdf downloads) for each year of publication between 2006 and 2017. I omitted 2005 and 2018, so that each year of publication had 2 full issues. I also analyzed the distribution of hits and downloads across all articles, and produced a list of the all-time most popular articles based on hits or downloads.

As of mid-July 2018, ACE articles have been hit / looked at on the web a grand total of 1,496,462 times, and downloaded 484,466 times. The raw number of hits and downloads had similar patterns, including an obvious uptake for articles published in 2013, no doubt due to the popular human-related avian mortality special feature that year; although, the raw number of hits declined with more recent articles, whereas the raw number of downloads was relatively similar across different years of publication (left panel, Fig. 3). The raw number of hits and downloads, however, are biased by the number of articles published in each year, and by the number of years

that have elapsed since articles were published (i.e., years of exposure). By correcting for these factors, we find that the number of hits and downloads per article per years of exposure is higher for articles published in more recent years (right panel, Fig. 3). If they are representative of actual interest and uptake, these adjusted data may indicate that ACE articles published in more recent years are gaining in popularity and associated use. Alternatively, there could be various confounding factors that better explain the patterns.

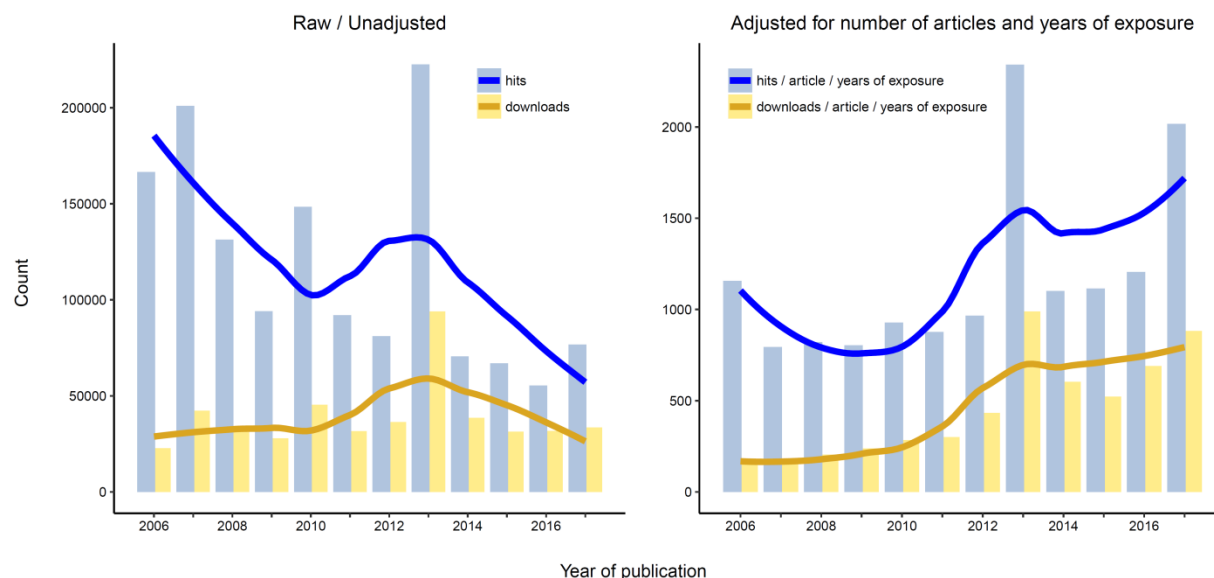


Fig. 3. Number of website hits and .pdf downloads for ACE articles as a function of year of publication. Data are shown as unadjusted counts (left) and as counts adjusted for the number of articles in each publication year as well as the number of years of exposure for each year of publication (right). Loess lines of best fit are included to help illustrate general patterns.

The distribution of hits and downloads across articles was quite skewed (Fig. 4). Most articles received about the same amount of interest, with a very small number of articles claiming a disproportionately large amount of hits and downloads (Fig. 4). For instance, based on hits, the most popular 13 articles, representing only 5% of the total number of articles, attracted 20% of the hits. Similarly, based on downloads, the most popular 15 articles, representing only 6% of the articles, attracted 20% of downloads.

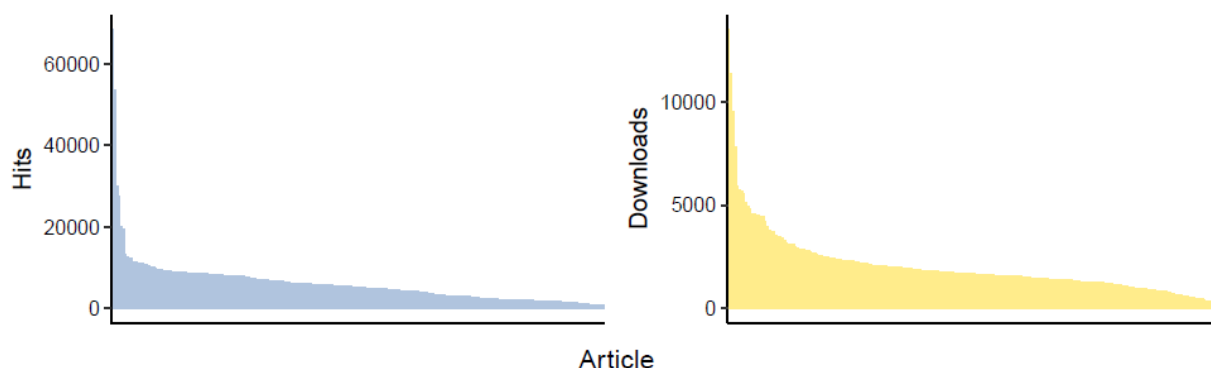


Fig. 4. Distribution of hits (left) and downloads (right) for each of 229 ACE articles published between 2006 and 2017.

Interestingly, the most popular ACE articles based on hits were not necessarily the most popular ones based on downloads; only 6 articles were common to each list (Table 1). The all-time most popular articles were dominated by contributions to the human-related avian mortality special feature and articles dealing with Ivory-billed Woodpeckers.

Table 1. All-time most popular ACE articles based on attracting greater than 20% of website hits (top) or great than 20% of article downloads (bottom). Also shown for each article is the number of hits or downloads (count) as well as the number of hits or downloads as a percent of the total number of hits or downloads for all articles (%).

No.	Hits	Count	%
1	Estimated number of birds killed by house cats (<i>Felis catus</i>) in Canada	68,562	4.6
2	Evidence suggesting that Ivory-billed Woodpeckers (<i>Campephilus principalis</i>) exist in Florida	53,708	3.6
3	A synthesis of human-related avian mortality in Canada	30,188	2.0
4	Declines of aerial insectivores in North America follow a geographic gradient	27,639	1.8
5	Land cover sampling biases associated with roadside bird surveys	19,968	1.3
6	Canadian estimate of bird mortality due to collisions and direct habitat loss associated with wind turbine developments	19,369	1.3
7	Rediscovering the king of woodpeckers: exploring the implications	14,903	1.0
8	Basic science, applied science, and the radical middle ground	13,497	0.9
9	Evaluating the small population paradigm for rare large-bodied woodpeckers, with implications for the Ivory-billed Woodpecker	13,411	0.9
10	Population assessment of an endangered shorebird: the Piping Plover (<i>Charadrius melodus melodus</i>) in eastern Canada	12,754	0.9
11	On evidence of absence	12,388	0.8
12	Lesser Scaup population dynamics: what can be learned from available data?	12,313	0.8
13	Stable isotope analysis reveals that agricultural habitat provides an important dietary component for nonbreeding dunlin	11,646	0.8
No.	Downloads	Count	%
1	A synthesis of human-related avian mortality in Canada	13,538	2.8
2	Canadian estimate of bird mortality due to collisions and direct habitat loss associated with wind turbine developments	11,394	2.4
3	Avian mortalities due to transmission line collisions: a review of current estimates and field methods with an emphasis on applications to the Canadian electric network	9,547	2.0
4	Estimated number of birds killed by house cats (<i>Felis catus</i>) in Canada	7,841	1.6
5	An estimate of nest loss in Canada due to industrial forestry operations	5,947	1.2
6	Forest policy scenario analysis: sensitivity of songbird community to changes in forest cover amount and configuration	5,763	1.2
7	Declines of aerial insectivores in North America follow a geographic gradient	5,705	1.2
8	Evidence suggesting that Ivory-billed Woodpeckers (<i>Campephilus principalis</i>) exist in Florida	5,569	1.2
9	Evaluating the small population paradigm for rare large-bodied woodpeckers, with implications for the Ivory-billed Woodpecker	5,158	1.1
10	Requiem for a field station: the loss of a Canadian ornithological treasure	4,983	1.0
11	Experimentally derived detection distances from audio recordings and human observers enable integrated analysis of point count data	4,854	1.0
12	Extensive rangewide mitochondrial introgression indicates substantial cryptic hybridization in the Golden-winged Warbler (<i>Vermivora chrysoptera</i>)	4,601	1.0
13	On avian mortality associated with human activities	4,570	0.9
14	An assessment of factors affecting population growth of the Mountain Plover	4,524	0.9
15	Threshold detection: matching statistical methodology to ecological questions and conservation planning objectives	4,507	0.9

Activities to promote ACE

The ACE management committee in consultation with the editors-in-chief undertake various actions to help promote ACE and raise its profile. Below are summaries of the principal activities undertaken to promote ACE in 2017, as well as other information relevant to the promotion of ACE. *Action items for SCO or BSC executive or the ACE management committee are shown in red italics.*

Social media.—Each new article and issue of ACE is tweeted via ACE’s twitter account and subsequently re-tweeted by SCO and BSC. This was completed throughout 2017.

BSC electronic news.—Each new ACE issue is promoted in BSC’s monthly electronic news, received by over ~60,000 followers. This was completed throughout 2017.

Promotional materials.—At 1-2 international conferences per year, ACE promotional posters are displayed and ACE “business cards” are handed out to potential authors by ACE management committee members and editors-in-chief. Posters and cards were displayed and distributed in 2017 at AOS/SCO in East Lansing, MI. *Assistance from SCO council and BSC board members with posters or business cards at conferences, especially at those unattended by ACE management committee members or editors-in-chief, would be extremely beneficial for the journal.*

Soliciting special features.—ACE management committee members and editors-in-chief continually scout and try to recruit symposia and workshops on relevant topics for publication in ACE special features, which are cited at higher rates than regular articles. *Ideas for potential special features are welcome from SCO council and BSC board members, as well as ACE management committee members, and should be directed to the editors-in-chief for consideration.*

Internal support.—ACE management committee members and the editors-in-chief support the journal by submitting high-quality articles to ACE as much as possible, and by soliciting high-quality submissions from colleagues, students, and other scientists as frequently as possible. ACE management committee members also often serve as reviewers of articles. *It would be extremely beneficial if all SCO council, BSC board, and ACE management committee members would submit and solicit high-quality papers to ACE whenever possible, and continue to serve as reviewers as much as possible.*

Closing remarks

The ACE management committee and the editors-in-chief are pleased with the overall performance of ACE. The journal continues to be an excellent and affordable open-access peer-reviewed platform for publishing important ornithological research. ACE is also remaining competitive among other North American ornithology journals. We look forward to advancing the journal even further prior to our next report.

Update from the North American Banding Council

Stuart Mackenzie

(re-printed from Picoides 31(2))

Promoting sound and ethical banding principles and techniques across the Americas.

The North American Banding Council (NABC) is a non-profit group encompassing bird research organizations whose members use bird banding as a tool in ornithological research, conservation, and management. The Society of Canadian Ornithologists is one of 12 participating ornithological organizations that support NABC mission and have voting representatives on the NABC Board of Directors. The following is a brief summary of some of the recent initiatives being undertaken by NABC that may be of interest to SCO-SOC. For more information visit www.nabanding.net.

Reorganization around Taxa working groups:

Traditionally, NABC's committee structure has been organized around its different activities - certification, training, publications, etc. Over the past couple of years we have been actively re-organizing to be focused around Taxa and have working groups to ensure that we best serve all taxa. We currently have active working groups with manuals, training and cortication processes under way for Landbirds (Passerines), Raptors, Shorebirds, and Waterfowl. A Hummingbird working group is currently being established. We do not have an active working group for Waterbirds and Seabirds. If you're interested in contributing to either of these groups, please contact us.

Taxa Working Groups are responsible for the development and maintenance of resources, training and certification opportunities.

Latin American Training in partnership with the American Field Ornithologists (AFO):

NABC has a long history of facilitating training and certification of Latin Americans. In 2016, with support from AFO, NABC began providing small grants to support organizations in Latin America providing training and certification workshops. To date, \$10,000 USD has been distributed.

NABC Manuals:

NABC revised both the Shorebird and Waterfowl manuals this year. The Hummingbird manual underwent substantial review, and the final revisions are nearing completion. The Loggerhead Shrike working group has also produced a Loggerhead Shrike manual in collaboration with NABC. The Hummingbird and Shrike manuals should be published to the NABC website very soon.

The Landbird (Passerine) Manual and the Raptor Manual are just beginning the revision process. Other manuals under development are an Avian First Aid Manual, and a Guide on the use of Auxiliary Markers, which we hope will be accompanied by publicly available videos, and workshops at major ornithological meetings.

NABC does not have manuals for Waterbirds and Seabirds and is looking for contributors to help develop resources for researchers working with these taxa.

Training and Certification:

- At least 20 classes and workshops were hosted by NABC-certified trainers in 2017, reaching more than 150 students.

- Approximately 85 individuals were certified at either the assistant, bander or trainer level across three taxa (passerines, waterfowl, and shorebirds) in 2017
- In 2017, NABC conducted a banding workshop at the annual meeting of WOS in March and at the AFO in August and presented on ethical photography at the International Bird Observatory Conference in October. NABC also arranged educational tables and displays at the 2017 meetings of the Eastern and Western Bird Banding Association Meetings. A shorebird training and certification workshop was held in conjunction with the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Group meeting in Peru. Waterfowl training and certification workshops were held in Ontario and New York State.

NABC needs support for the following activities:

- Translation of all resources, primarily manuals, into French, Spanish and Portuguese.
- Development of new training manuals for Waterbirds and Seabirds, Avian First Aid & a Guide to the use of Auxiliary Markers.
- Upgrades to our website and database management systems.
- Coordination, support and development of workshops and training opportunities.



QUÉBEC CITY 2019

**SOCIETY OF CANADIAN
ORNITHOLOGISTS MEETING**

**RÉUNION DE LA SOCIÉTÉ
DES ORNITHOLOGISTES
DU CANADA**

Québec City
Hôtel Château Laurier

27-30 août / August 2019

www.soc-sco-quebec2019.org



QUÉBEC CITY 2019

Meeting / Réunion 2019
Society of Canadian Ornithologists
Société des ornithologistes du Canada
August **27-30** août, 2019



Hôtel Château Laurier

- SCO-SOC first solo meeting since Winnipeg, in 2013.
- It will be held in the comfort of the **Hôtel Château Laurier**, with room at a competitive rate:

Hôtel Château Laurier	Occupancy	Cost (/night / pers.)
	Single	\$179
	Double	\$89.50
	Triple	\$66.33
	Quadruple	\$54.75

- By choosing to hold the meeting in Québec City in August, we hope to have created the perfect opportunity for you to combine work and some late summer leisure.



Meeting / Réunion 2019
Society of Canadian Ornithologists
Société des ornithologistes du Canada
August 27-30 août, 2019

Hôtel Château Laurier

- Theme : "*Ornithology in the era of new technologies*"
- 3-days meeting:
 - 2 invited speakers
 - Presentation of the SCO-SOC Early Career Research Award recipient
 - 2 rooms with concomitant presentations
 - 2 poster sessions
 - Half-day plenary discussion on the novel research and conservation perspectives from the development of these new technological approaches



Meeting / Réunion 2019
Society of Canadian Ornithologists
Société des ornithologistes du Canada
August 27-30 août, 2019

Hôtel Château Laurier

- Québec City and the surrounding area offer a wide range of cultural, gastronomic and outdoor activities.
- For example, the Hôtel Château Laurier, situated beside the Plains of Abraham, is in easy walking distance of the historic fortifications and the Citadelle of Québec.
- You will also be less than 50 kilometers from the boreal forest, where you can observe species such as the Bicknell's Thrush and Black-backed Woodpecker, and a similar distance from the exceptional Cap Tourmente National Wildlife Area.



