

SOCIETY OF CANADIAN ORNITHOLOGISTS REPORT ON MEMBERSHIP – AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2009

**by Thérèse Beaudet
Membership Secretary, SCO**

This report gives the picture of SCO membership as of December 31st, 2009. Following recommendation by the Auditor, the Membership Report now follows SCO's fiscal year, January 1st - December 31st. In this report, we will compare the situation between 31 December 2008 and 31 December 2009.

At the end of 2009, the number of members reached 381 (Table 1); the number of members from the universities went back to the 2007 level, reaching 220, and the other categories remained more or less the same. The number of members working for the CWS is now 52, after a high of 87 at the end of 2005. The 381 members include 48 new members and 19 members who rejoined the society after being archived in the previous years.

**Table 1. Affiliation of SCO members
(Those working for the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS)
and in a University are listed as CWS, in Category #2)**

Affiliation (Category)	Members Dec 2007	%	Member Dec 2008	%	Member Dec 2009	%
None (0)	22	5,4	20	5,6	18	4,7
University (1)	222	54,1	195	54,6	220	57,7
Canadian Wildlife Service (2)	71	17,3	50	14,0	52	13,6
Other Fed. Gov. Agencies (3)	10	2,4	7	2,0	8	2,1
Museum (4)	6	1,5	5	1,4	5	1,3
Non Gov. Agencies (e.g. DU) (5)	18	4,4	17	4,8	19	5,0
Prov. Gov., Hydro-Québec (6)	16	3,9	17	4,8	19	5,0
Clubs, Societies (7)	8	2,0	7	2,0	5	1,3
Private Consultants (8)	29	7,1	32	9,0	27	7,1
Libraries (9)	8	2,0	7	2,0	8	2,1
TOTAL	410	100	357	100	381	100

As is true for every year, the 2009 list includes those who have paid dues for 2010 and beyond, as well as those who have not yet renewed for 2009, but have paid for 2008 (Table 2). At the end of December 2009 there were 98 members who had not paid for 2009. The number of non-renewers will likely go down in the coming weeks, after final notices to be sent to non-renewers. In March, I will archive the names of members who did not pay for 2008. At the end of December 2009, the total number of names archived reaches 378, including deceased. Dr J. Allen Keast, founding member, passed away at the beginning of 2009.

Table 2. Renewal Status of members

Paid through	Members Dec 2007	%	Members Dec 2008	%	Members Dec 2009	%
2006	103	25,1				
2007	86	21,0	39	10,9		
2008	162	39,5	168	47,1	98	25,7
2009	38	9,3	88	24,6	111	29,1
2010	11	2,7	36	10,1	110	28,9
2011	2	0,5	13	3,6	36	9,4
2012	0	0,0	2	0,6	4	1,0
2013	1	0,2	1	0,3	7	1,8
LIFE	4	1,0	7	2,0	12	3,1
Complimentary	3	0,7	3	0,8	3	0,8
TOTAL	410	100	357	100	381	100,0

A total of 18 new members from Western Canada joined at the Edmonton meeting, or shortly after. We can expect that most of them will renew in the years to come; the SCO membership was not obligatory when registering for the meeting as it was the case in other meetings. In those cases, in the years following the meeting, we observed that it is hard to retain new members who joined specifically for the meeting. For students in general, the trend seems similar to past years; they remain members when students, but usually do not renew after graduation if they do not work in ornithology.

Table 3 shows that only 29,1% of the current members joined before 2000, but the retention rate is high for those members; 21,5% joined from 2000 to 2004, and 47,8% joined after 2004.

Table 3. Year when members joined

Year joined	Members Dec 2007	%	Members Dec 2008	%	Members Dec 2009	%
founders	16	3,9	16	4,5	15	3,9
1983-1989	56	13,7	52	14,6	50	13,1
1990-1994	22	5,4	22	6,2	21	5,5
1995-1999	27	6,6	27	7,6	25	6,6
2000-2004	106	25,9	85	23,8	82	21,5
2005-2008	177	43,2	149	41,8	134	35,2
2009					48	12,6
Unknown/complimentary	6	1,5	6	1,7	6	1,6
TOTAL	410	100	357	100	381	100

Allowing people to renew for more than one year increases retention; it reduces bank and postage costs and makes it easier for the Treasurer and the Membership Secretary. As Table 4 shows, at the end of 2009, 45,7% of the members had renewed for more than one year, slightly more than last

year. About two thirds of the regular members renewed for more than one year, whereas about only one third of the students did so.

Table 4. Renewal pattern of members

Number of years paid	Members Dec 07	%	Members Dec 08	%	Members Dec 09	%
1	242	59	187	52,4	207	54,3
2	102	24,9	95	26,6	98	25,7
3	25	6,1	28	7,8	27	7,1
4	18	4,4	21	5,9	20	5,2
5	14	3,4	14	3,9	12	3,1
6	1	0,2	1	0,3	1	0,3
7	0	0	0	0,0	0	0,0
8	1	0,2	1	0,3	1	0,3
LIFE	4	1	7	2,0	12	3,1
Complimentary	3	0,7	3	0,8	3	0,8
TOTAL	410	100	357	100	381	100

A breakdown of the membership by category is shown in Table 5. The number of sustaining members decreased to 12 (was 18 in 2007 and 15 in 2008), and seems to go down when some of them join as Life members. The SCO gives a charity receipt of \$25 for sustaining memberships and of \$250 for Life membership. Five members became Life Members in 2009, taking the number of Life members to 12. Ten free memberships were given to students who received awards or were runner-ups.

Table 5. Breakdown of SCO membership by categories

Membership Category	Members Dec 2007	%	Members Dec 2008	%	Members Dec 2009	%
Regular (\$25/year)	251	61,2	216	60,5	216	56,7
Sustaining (\$50/year)	18	4,4	15	4,2	12	3,1
Student (\$10/year)	118	28,8	95	26,6	114	29,9
Free to Student Award	16	3,9	21	5,9	24	6,3
Life (\$500)	4	1	7	2,0	12	3,1
Complimentary	3	0,7	3	0,8	3	0,8
TOTAL	410	100	357	100,0	381	100,0

As usual, SCO membership has been broken down geographically (Table 6). The SCO is truly a national entity, represented in every province and territory, except in 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.) seems more or less stable from year to year (36 in 2005, 2006 and 2007) but decreased to 32 in 2008 and to 31 in 2009

Table 6. Geographical breakdown of SCO membership

Geographical area	Members Dec 2007	%	Members Dec 2008	%	Members Dec 2009	%
Newfoundland	8	2	10	2,8	12	3,1
Nova Scotia	29	7,1	12	3,4	12	3,1
New Brunswick	23	5,6	17	4,8	17	4,5
Prince Edward Island	2	0,5	1	0,3	1	0,3
Québec	57	13,9	48	13,4	49	12,9
Ontario	122	29,8	116	32,5	113	29,7
Manitoba	18	4,4	14	3,9	19	5,0
Saskatchewan	29	7,1	25	7,0	26	6,8
Alberta	26	6,3	26	7,3	37	9,7
British Columbia	57	13,9	53	14,8	60	15,7
Yukon	3	0,7	1	0,3	1	0,3
North West Territories	4	1	3	0,8	3	0,8
Nunavut	0	0	0	0,0	0	0,0
Unites States	25	6,1	26	7,3	24	6,3
Mexico	1	0,2	0	0,0	0	0,0
Australia and New Zealand	1	0,2	0	0,0	2	0,5
Europe	5	1,2	5	1,4	5	1,3
TOTAL	410	100	357	100	381	100

The existence of the SCO webpage, and the fact that a membership application form can be downloaded from the webpage or from *Picoïdes*, has proven useful. This year again a few 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 2009, many of them in relation to *Picoïdes* (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 the Jamie Smith Award, etc. Out of the 381 members, I had e-mail addresses for all except 9 of them: 6 do not have e-mail addresses, 2 students and 1 regular member did not let me know their new e-mail addresses. Only 5 members with internet access requested paper copies of *Picoïdes*, which are also sent to libraries and to Library and Archives Canada.

It has been my pleasure to serve as Membership Secretary for the seventh year. 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 *Picoïdes* to about 20 members and libraries, Russ Dawson and Ian Warkentin for student awards, Rob Warnock and David Bird, and all the others who provided me with the electronic material I sent to the members.

Thanks to all.

Thérèse Beaudet
 SCO Membership Secretary/Secrétaire aux membres de la SOC
 15 jan 2010