



**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Society of
Canadian Ornithologists (SCO/SOC) Intercontinental Hotel, New
Orleans,
Saturday, September 28th 2002, 1200 – 1430h**

In attendance: 33 persons and 8 proxies

- 1) **Introduction (Kathy Martin):** Kathy Martin thanked the outgoing councillors (David Bird, Leah deForest, Fred Cooke and Erica Nol) for their dedicated work for the SCO.
- 2) **President Report (Kathy Martin) -** handout: Two new awards were created: the Fred Cooke Student award and a student SCO-AOU joint-membership award. *Picoides* has been redesigned under the new editor. We have a new Vice-president and Recording Secretary.
- 3) **Minutes of the 2001 AGM meeting (Kathy Martin):** **Motion** to accept previous minutes by David Bird, **seconded** by Charles Francis, and **carried**.
- 4) **Membership Secretary's Report (Kathy Martin for Nancy Flood)-** handout: There was a slight decrease in the membership, especially in Ontario and British Columbia. Renewal by the web site is increasing. **Motion** to accept report by Charles Francis, **seconded** by André Desrochers, and **carried**.
- 5) **Treasurer Report (Kathy Martin for Tom Dickinson)-** handout: The finances of the Society are healthy. Fund raising is needed for the Fred Cooke Student Award. This award is administered by BSC and the candidates are selected by SCO. **Motion** to accept report by David Bird, **seconded** by Pierre Mineau, and **carried**. Larry Peat was nominated as auditor for 2003. Nomination **moved** by Charles Francis, **seconded** by Marty Leonard, and **carried**.
- 6) **Picoides Editor's Report (Tranquilla Mc Farlane for Dorothy McFarlane):** Input is needed for *Picoides* (book reviews; articles; opinions; editorials etc.). She would like to have volunteers survey journals for papers written by Canadian ornithologists so that they can be listed. Someone is needed to write an obituary for Earl Godfrey. Francis Cook was suggested by Stuart Houston as a possibility. It was proposed that a series of editorials on the future of ornithology in Canada be solicited for *Picoides*. Possible writers include: Fred Cooke, Hugh Boyd and Jean Bédard. Action by Editor to approach possible contributors. **Motion** to accept report by Charles Francis, **seconded** by Pierre Mineau and **carried**. Bob Currie mentioned that he will gladly add items to the SCO web site. If anyone wants to add items to the web site, please send material to Jean-Pierre L. Savard who will circulate them through council to ensure adequacy for SCO.

7) Committees Reports

Student presentation awards (Kathy Martin for Greg Robertson): Fifteen applications were received for the Baillie and the Taverner awards. The Baillie award was won by Ryan Norris from Queen's University, and the Taverner awards by Scott Lovell from the University of Calgary and Daniel Mazerolle from the University of Saskatchewan. Two student presentation awards were given to SCO students at the 2002 NAOC meeting in Louisiana: Marylene Boulet from McMaster University (*Where do Yellow Warblers go? An application of genetic markers as a tool to assess migratory connectivity among breeding and wintering grounds*) and Stephane M. Doucet from Queen's University (*Parasites, plumage and sexual selection in Satin Bowerbirds*)

Doris Huestis Speirs Award (Kathy Martin for Marc-André Villard): The committee (Marc-André Villard, Gilles Seutin, Erica Dunn, Susan Hannon) selected Mr. Normand David as recipient of the award for 2002.

Fred Cooke Student Award (Kathy Martin): this is a joint award between BSC and SCO. Terms of agreement between SCO and BSC have been signed. The award is in place and will be operated much like the Baillie and Taverner awards. BSC will cover the costs of the first few awards to allow enough time for fund-raising for award to be sustainable. **Action by Jean-Pierre Savard:** to produce a brochure announcing the award and to initiate fund-raising. The objective is to try to raise enough funds to make the award operable within a year. If anyone wishes to serve on the award committee, please contact either Jean-Pierre Savard or Kevin Teather.

Ornithological Council (Lesley Evans-Ogden): OC has commissioned fact sheets on 1) overlapping telemetry signals between Canada and the U. S.; 2) the risks posed by the West Nile Virus to researchers; 3) revised guidelines on the use of wild birds in research. It was suggested that if we need a new list server Evans Cooch at Cornell could possibly do it. OC is looking into taking responsibility for research priorities by creating a research working group.

Bird Studies Canada (Jean-Pierre L. Savard): We need to suggest to BSC a new SCO representative on their National Council to replace Tony Diamond whose second term has expired. BSC indicated their preference for someone from the University community. Four possible candidates were identified.

IOC Committee Canadian members-2002 (Fred Cooke): Five new Canadian members were appointed: Ross Lein; Susan Hannon who is also the Program Chair for the next meeting in Germany in 2006; Gilles Gauthier; Tony Diamond; and Kathy Martin.

Nominating Committee (Jean-Pierre L. Savard): Elections were held on March 31st 2002. Dr. Susan Hannon was elected as Vice-President (President Elect); two councillors were re-elected for a second term: Dr. Cheri Gratto-Trevor and Dr. Kevin Teather; and five new councillors were elected for a first term: Dr. Rob Butler, Dr. Bob Clark, Dr. Charles Francis, Dr. Roger Titman, and Dr. Marc-André Villard. In 2003, there will be at least two positions to be filled on the council.

North American Bird Banding Council (Heidi E. den Haan for Brenda Dale): (see report 2002 I filed with the executive minutes). Five training manuals are available in English (Bander Study Guide; Trainer Study Guide; Landbirds; Hummingbirds; Raptors). French and Spanish translations are being prepared. The Shorebird Manual should be ready within a year. The Education Committee has placed material on the NABC web site (www.nabanding.net). An ad-hoc committee was formed to deal with the issue of banding in extralimital areas.

Publication Committee (Erica Nol): A journal feasibility committee was formed in the fall of 2001. It produced a comprehensive analysis of the feasibility of producing a Canadian ornithological journal and on possible partnerships. The report is not yet finalized and needs some reworking in light of unofficial contacts with potential partners. A new implementation committee will be formed replacing the journal feasibility committee. Erica Nol has agreed to chair the committee. The committee will include Jim Duncan and Richard Elliot representing BSC, Erica Nol and Charles Francis representing SCO and Michael Bradstreet and Jean-Pierre L. Savard as ex officio members. The role of the committee will be to initiate fund-raising for the journal and to refine the focus, layout and look of the journal. Also it will seek to clarify and strengthen the level of collaboration of the three major Canadian organisations concerned with the conservation of birds (BSC, CWS and SCO). It will also initiate some tentative solicitation of manuscripts from well known North American ornithologists. At this stage SCO favours a joint production of a bird journal by BSC and SCO. It is hoped that CWS will also support the journal, but the nature of this support is yet to be determined. The production of a journal published on paper and electronically, with three issues per year, would cost

approximately \$45,000. The goal of the fund-raising efforts is \$120,000 to ensure that funds are available until income from subscriptions covers production costs. Three names for the journal were examined and ranked in order of preference by the membership: 1) Most preferred: Bird Conservation and Ecology; 2) Canadian Journal of Ornithology; 3) North American Bird Study. **Motion** to accept this ranking by Stuart Houston **seconded** by David Bird, and **carried**. Spencer Sealy has been invited to be the Editor of the journal and has accepted. The membership acknowledged the fact that the SCO fees will be increased if the journal becomes a reality. Stuart Houston mentioned that a journal usually needs about 1,000 subscriptions to be economically self-sustainable. There was some discussion about publishing only an electronic version. Most felt that this was not a good option now but realised that in a few decades if not sooner, most journals may be only electronic. We would follow the trend when it happens.

2003-2006 meeting locations (Kathy Martin): In 2003 the meeting of the Society will be in Saskatoon, probably during the week following Thanksgiving. Cheri Gratto-Trevor is heading the organising committee. The CWS songbird and shorebirds committees may meet there at this time. The final theme is not decided yet but it may include species at risk and population dynamics. The length of the meeting will be approximately 2 days. In 2004, the Society will meet jointly with the AOU in August in Quebec city. In 2005, the SCO may meet in Halifax, Nova Scotia with Marty Leonard possibly heading the organising committee. Ontario was mentioned as a possible meeting location for 2006, but there will also be an NAOC meeting that year and SCO may wish to participate in a joint meeting with other societies.

SCO Student Membership Recruitment incentives (Kathy Martin): The joint student membership drive was established to complement the AOU initiative. This opportunity needs to be better publicised. This year 6 free SCO student memberships were given. We have funds for approximately 40 more.

Jean-Pierre L. Savard assumed Presidential duties about 45 minutes before the end of the meeting as Kathy Martin had to leave the annual meeting to give her NAOC Symposium talk.

Other Business: Policy on Resolutions. After much debate it was decided that the Society will not adopt resolutions on conservation issues until it has developed a policy on this topic.

Motion to close the meeting by Marty Leonard **seconded** by Heidi E. den Haan, and **carried**.

Jean-Pierre L. Savard
Recording Secretary (acting)