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Female Pine Grosbeak / durbec des sapins femelle. Photo by/par Martin Jalkotzy.

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Editors' Message

Rob Warnock and Barbara Bleho

Welcome to the third and final issue of *Picoides* of 2016!

In this issue, there is the call for nominations for the 2017 Jamie Smith Mentoring Award and the 2017 Doris Huestis Speirs Award. Please do not forget to make nominations for both the Doris Huestis Speirs and the Jamie Smith Mentoring Awards. Deadlines are as follows: March 20, 2017 for the Jamie Smith Mentoring Award and April 15, 2017 for the Doris Huestis Speirs Award. We congratulate Erica Nol and Vicki Friesen for receiving the 2015 and 2016 Doris Huestis Speirs Awards, respectively. We also congratulate Raleigh Robertson for receiving the 2016 Jamie Smith Mentoring Award. Thank you Erica, Vicki and Raleigh for your significant contributions to Canadian ornithology.

We encourage all eligible graduate students to apply for the Society's Student Research Awards (Taverner, Baillie and Fred Cooke) and send their applications to the Student Awards Committee Chair, Colleen Barber, by February 15, 2017.

In the 2016 president's report, departing president Greg Robertson discusses the great success of NAOC 2016 and other recent joint meetings, the impending merger of AOU with the Cooper Ornithological Society in the US, improved citation rates and publicity for our journal *Avian Conservation and Ecology*, declining membership numbers, and concludes with a thank-you to all councillors who served during Greg's presidency.

In his first president's message, incoming president Ken Otter also discusses the success of NAOC 2016, as well as evolving online communication with members, and the struggle to maintain and expand the SCO-SOC membership base. He concludes his message with six goals of SCO-SOC. These goals have been reviewed at length by all Council members. We believe these six goals reflect the Society's vision very well. Ken and the Council welcome feedback from the membership on these goals.

This issue concludes with a review of the book, *The Extraordinary Beauty of Birds*. Check it out!

We are once again disappointed with the low number of submissions that we received for this issue. Surprisingly, we again received no thesis abstracts or research reports. Without submissions, there is no *Picoides*. Please, please let's make the next issue a really big one! The next *Picoides* submission deadline is February 15, 2017. Please keep the submissions coming. Also, we welcome feedback from our readership as it is your publication. Have a safe and wonderful holiday season!



Follow SCO on Twitter! Follow us @SCO_SOC for news, exciting research, updates from members, and more!

Suivez SOC sur Twitter! Suivez-nous @SCO_SOC pour les nouvelles, la recherche passionnant, mises à jour des membres, et plus encore!

Student contributions wanted for *Picoides*!

SCO-SOC encourages students to submit material for *Picoides*. In particular, we would like each issue to feature abstracts of at least one or two recently published theses. They must be from students at a Canadian university, but need not necessarily focus on Canadian birds. Abstracts should be 250-400 words long, preferably accompanied by one or two relevant photos.

We also welcome articles describing aspects of student research in greater detail; these should focus on a subject relevant to Canadian ornithology, require references, and may be up to 1,000 words long, again preferably accompanied by one or two photos. See page 15 for submission details.

President's Message

Ken Otter

First, I would like to convey thanks, on behalf of the society, to Joe Nocera, who recently stepped down as Past-President, and Greg Robertson, Past-President now that his term as President has ended. Not only have they both provided huge service to the society, but have provided (and continue to provide) guidance and mentoring for council. I would like to personally extend my thanks for their advice during the two years I served as VP. I will strive to provide similar leadership for the new council, as I know will our new VP/President-Elect, Colleen Barber.

With that, I would also like to thank Alex Bond, the other member of council whose term ended this August. I would also like to welcome the new and returning members of council and thank them for investing in our society.



Before getting into council's goals for the coming year, I would like to extend the society's thanks to the NAOC Organizing team, led by Peter Marra. There is always an enormous amount of work done behind the scenes to make sure meetings run smoothly, and this included a lot of commitment from our society's various reps. This effort culminated in a historic meeting, not only for the record number of participants (over 2,000) and appearance of astronauts (Jessica Meir) and resident movie stars ('cast' of *The Messenger*), but also for the final vote to merge the COS and AOU into the new American Ornithological Society (AOS). This means next year's meeting in East Lansing, Michigan, which was originally scheduled as a joint AOU/COS/SCO-SOC meeting, is now the inaugural meeting of AOS and 35th of SCO-SOC; so for the first time we will be the older participating society! This looks to be a fantastic meeting and an excellent lineup of plenaries are already committed, so I encourage as many SCO-SOC members as possible to come out to this meeting. As incentive, SCO-SOC will repeat an experiment tried at the recent NAOC, where we had society t-shirts printed up and available for purchase at the meeting to members (see photo). Unfortunately, we hadn't anticipated the high demand and all 50 that Matt Reudink had printed up went like hotcakes; we will strive to have more shirts and more sizes available!

Since the AGM in August, the council has been quite active in discussions and planning for upcoming initiatives. There are two areas that were identified at the council meeting and AGM as being our areas of top priority over the coming year: online communication with members, and membership numbers.

The online communication with members centers on our webpage, social media posts and online membership applications/renewals. Technical difficulties we had with online membership applications/renewals appear to have been resolved, but please send notification to the membership secretaries (Lance Laviolette or Darroch Whitaker) if you encounter issues when you go to renew. I am also pleased to announce that new councillor, Jennifer Foote, has volunteered to assume the role of webmaster and will be Chairing a new standing committee to coordinate our online presence. We will be working on a new and improved webpage for the society and hope to announce its launch in the New Year. Major thanks to Joe Nocera (outgoing webmaster) and Alex Bond (outgoing social media coordinator) for all the work they have done for the society, as well as agreeing to be on the committee during the transition to the new site.

Societies in general are facing issues of declining memberships (see Mason et al. 2016), and SCO-SOC is no different. Memberships have declined dramatically over recent years. Traditionally, society membership was often associated with journal subscription, but with increasing institutional subscriptions and open-access journals, larger numbers of people are questioning the rationale for society memberships. This has made it more imperative for societies to reflect on their reasons for existence, and what they offer to their members. Many of these tangibles exist for SCO-SOC, including supporting excellent publications (*Picoides* and *Avian Conservation and Ecology*) and awards to students and career professionals. At the AGM in 2016, the council was given a mandate to develop a new Early Career Researcher Award, proposed by Kyle Elliot, to address a perceived demographic gap the society was not serving, and we will be

moving forward to formalize that award. But, our society has to do more than just provide awards and support publication – we have a stewardship responsibility to Canada's bird populations. A large proportion of North America's migratory species breed largely or solely in Canada, including the arctic and boreal ecosystems, yet are threatened by anthropogenic influences such as urbanization, climate change and forest degradation (Rosenberg et al. 2016). As such, our society has to look outwards to what we do to support research and conservation, as well as public understanding of bird populations within our jurisdictional reach. Over the years SCO-SOC has also worked behind the scenes to promote research and services to ornithological research, such as being one of the member societies supporting the Ornithological Council. To further develop our intended purpose, council has undertaken a review of the society's goal statements in our by-laws, and refining these to define the vision of the society (below). These are the goals that you support by maintaining your membership in the society, and will serve as our mandate as we embark over the next year on a membership campaign in support of achieving these goals. I ask for your support in volunteering with the society, putting your name forward to serve on council or committees who are striving to meet these goals and in encouraging colleagues and students to support the society through continued and new membership.

The goals of the Society of Canadian Ornithologists are as follows:

- 1) Research: to encourage and support research that aims to understand and conserve Canadian birds.
- 2) Community: to serve as a professional society for Canadian ornithologists.
- 3) Conservation: to work with professional ornithological societies in North America and worldwide to promote Canadian interests and the global conservation of birds.
- 4) Communication: to disseminate knowledge of Canadian birds through a newsletter and a scientific journal.
- 5) Excellence: to recognize excellence in pure and applied research, conservation and mentorship within the Canadian ornithological community.
- 6) Responsibility: to speak for the Canadian ornithological community on public issues.

FRANÇAIS— *Message du président— Ken Otter*

Au nom de la société, j'aimerais d'abord remercier Joe Nocera, qui a récemment terminé son mandat en tant que Président sortant, ainsi que Greg Robertson, maintenant Président sortant, suivant X années de service en tant que Président. Ils ont grandement contribué à la société, non seulement par leur engagement, mais aussi par les sages conseils qu'ils continuent d'offrir en tant que mentors. J'aimerais les remercier personnellement pour leurs conseils pendant mes deux années de service en tant que VP. Je m'efforcerai de diriger le nouveau conseil avec autant de générosité et de support, et je suis certain que notre nouvelle VP/Présidente élue, Colleen Barber, en fera de même.

J'aimerais également remercier Alex Bond, un autre membre du conseil pour qui le mandat s'est terminé en août. J'aimerais aussi accueillir les nouveaux membres du conseil ainsi que ceux qui reviennent et les remercier pour leur investissement dans notre société.

Avant d'en venir aux objectifs pour l'année à venir, j'aimerais offrir des remerciements, au nom de la société, à l'équipe d'organisation de NAOC, menée par Peter Marra. Une quantité incommensurable de travail et d'efforts en arrière-plan est nécessaire au succès de toute conférence. La conférence a connu un grand succès, en partie grâce au dévouement de plusieurs de nos membres. Cette conférence fût mémorable, non seulement par le nombre record de participants (plus de 2000), la présence d'une astronaute et d'acteurs locaux (distribution du film *The Messenger*), mais aussi par le fait que nous avons tenu le vote final unissant la COS à la AOU pour former la toute nouvelle American Ornithological Society (AOS). Ceci dit, la conférence de l'année prochaine à East Landing, Michigan, qui devait initialement être une conférence conjointe pour les AOU/COS/SCO-SOC, sera maintenant la rencontre inaugurale de l'AOS et la 35^{ème} de la SCO-SOC; pour la première fois, nous serons la plus vieille société à participer à cette réunion conjointe! Cette réunion sera sans doute fantastique et nous avons déjà reçu confirmation pour d'excellentes plénières et je vous invite donc à participer à cette conférence en grand nombre. En tant qu'incitatif, la SCO-SOC reproduira une expérience récemment tentée pour la première fois à NAOC, pour laquelle nous avons produit et vendu des chandails de la SCO-SOC (voir la photo ci-haut). Malheureusement, nous n'avions pas anticipé une telle demande et les 50 chandails préparés par Matt Reudink se sont envolés comme des petits pains chauds; nous nous assurerons d'avoir un plus grand nombre de chandails et de tailles la prochaine fois!

Depuis l'AGA en août, le conseil s'est affairé à discuter et planifier les prochaines initiatives. À la réunion du conseil et à l'AGA, nous avons identifié deux principales sphères qui méritent la plus haute priorité : la communication en ligne et le nombre d'adhésions. La communication en ligne avec nos membres est concentrée sur notre site web, les médias sociaux et les applications et renouvellement en ligne des membres. Les difficultés techniques éprouvées avec les applications et renouvellements d'adhésions semblent avoir été résolues, mais nous vous prions de communiquer tout problème auprès de nos secrétaires responsables de l'adhésion (Lance Laviollette et Darroch Whitaker). Il me fait plaisir d'annoncer que la nouvelle conseillère, Jennifer Foote, assumera maintenant le rôle bénévole de webmestre et de chaire pour le nouveau comité de coordination de présence en ligne. Nous développerons un nouveau site web pour la société et espérons annoncer son lancement début 2017. Un grand merci à Joe Nocera (webmestre sortant) et Alex Bond (coordinateur des médias sociaux sortant) pour toute leur contributions à la société, ainsi que pour avoir accepté de participer au nouveau comité pendant la transition vers le nouveau site web.

En général, les sociétés font face à des problèmes de recrutement (voir Mason et al. 2016), et la SCO-SOC n'est pas à l'abri de ce défi. Le nombre de membres a subi un déclin substantiel au cours des dernières années. Historiquement, devenir membre d'une société était attirant car l'adhésion donnait accès à d'excellentes publications, telles que *Picoides* et *Écologie et conservation des oiseaux*, ainsi qu'à des bourses étudiantes et professionnelles. Suite à la suggestion de Kyle Elliot et l'AGA de 2016, le conseil a reçu le mandat de développer une nouvelle bourse (Early Career Researcher Award) dans le but de rejoindre une population qui semblait être oubliée par la société. Nous travaillerons à créer et formaliser cette bourse. Malgré tout, notre société se doit de faire plus que d'offrir des bourses et du support pour la publication à nos membres – nous avons la responsabilité de veiller au bien-être des populations aviaires du Canada. Les aires de reproductions d'une majorité des oiseaux migrateurs de l'Amérique du Nord se trouvent partiellement ou uniquement au Canada, incluant l'Arctique et la forêt boréale, et plusieurs des espèces sont menacées par des influences anthropogéniques telles que l'urbanisation, les changements climatiques et la dégradation forestière (Rosenberg et al. 2016). De ce fait, notre société doit élargir ses horizons pour mieux supporter la recherche et la conservation, ainsi que la sensibilisation du public dans ses juridictions. Au fil du temps, SCO-SOC a travaillé dans les coulisses pour la promotion de la recherche et des services à la recherche en ornithologie. Entre autres, nous sommes une des sociétés qui supporte l'Ornithological Council. Afin de définir d'avantage notre objectif et notre vision en tant que société, le conseil a entamé une évaluation et un raffinement de notre mission, telle que présentée dans les règlements. Ce sont ces objectifs que vous supportez en tant que membre de la SCO-SOC et qui serviront de balises au cours de notre campagne de recrutement pendant l'année à venir.

Je vous prie de supporter la SCO-SOC : en tant que bénévole, conseiller ou membre d'un de nos comités, ou encore en encourageant vos collègues et étudiants à supporter la société en renouvelant leur adhésion ou en devenant membre.

Les objectifs de la Société des ornithologistes du Canada sont les suivants:

- 1) Recherche: encourager et appuyer la recherche visant à mieux comprendre et protéger les oiseaux canadiens.
- 2) Communauté: agir à titre de société professionnelle pour les ornithologistes Canadiens.
- 3) Conservation: travailler de concert avec les sociétés professionnelles d'ornithologie d'Amérique du Nord et du monde entier afin de promouvoir les intérêts canadiens et la conservation des oiseaux à l'échelle du globe.
- 4) Communication: disséminer les connaissances sur les oiseaux Canadiens via une feuille de contact et une revue scientifique.
- 5) Excellence: reconnaître l'excellence en recherche pure et appliquée, conservation et mentorat dans la communauté ornithologique canadienne.
- 6) Responsabilité: parler au nom de la communauté ornithologique canadienne au sujet de dossiers ou enjeux publics.

References/références:

- Mason, N.A., M.W. Butler, and J.C. Owen. 2016. Membership trends in the American Ornithologists' Union and the evolving role of professional ornithological societies. *Auk*, 133: 806–811
- Rosenberg, K. V., J. A. Kennedy, R. Dettmers, R. P. Ford, D. Reynolds, J.D. Alexander, C. J. Beardmore, P. J. Blancher, R. E. Bogart, G. S. Butcher, A. F. Camfield, A. Couturier, D. W. Demarest, W. E. Easton, J.J. Giocomo, R.H. Keller, A. E. Mini, A. O. Panjabi, D. N. Pashley, T. D. Rich, J. M. Ruth, H. Stabins, J. Stanton, and T. Will. 2016. Partners in Flight Landbird Conservation Plan: 2016 Revision for Canada and Continental United States. Partners in Flight Science Committee.

SCO-SOC President's Report – 2016

Greg Robertson

And so another Presidency ends and a new one begins for the SCO-SOC.

In terms of successes, I am particularly pleased with our emerging stature in joint meetings. Looking forward, I foresee that joint meetings will be the norm for the SCO-SOC. For the NAOC 2016 and the IOC 2018, I am proud that we are full partners in both of these important and likely record-breaking meetings. Our resources are orders of magnitude smaller than some ornithological societies, but we are holding our own with national and international partners.

Speaking of meetings, the two held during my Presidency went extremely well from my perspective. The joint AFO/SCO/WOS meeting held in Wolfville, NS in 2015 was a new partnership for us, but I felt our working relation with the AFO and WOS was great, and led to a highly productive and enjoyable meeting. As it turns out, the meeting actually returned a modest surplus, so further kudos to Dave Shutler and his local committee for running a relatively inexpensive meeting and also not burdening the SCO with additional expenses to hold our AGM.

The 2016 NAOC is on track to exceed 2000 participants, the largest ornithology conference to ever be held in North America. The efforts of Pete Marra and his numerous committees are the reason for this impressive turnout, and will surely lead to a memorable conference. I would like to thank SCO members for their role in making this meeting happen; Bob Clark – scientific program committee, Greg Mitchell – student presentation awards, Dan Mennill – student travel awards, Scott Wilson - Student Activities & Affairs Committee and Stefanie LaZerte – Social Media Committee.

The budding emergence of the American Ornithological Society (AOS), a merger of the AOU and the COS, will be interesting to watch from this side of the border. At this point it's hard to predict what influence, if any, the AOS will have on Canadian ornithology and the SCO-SOC. Currently we enjoy excellent relations with other North American ornithological societies, and I see no reason why this solid relationship should not continue. But as the AOS becomes larger and increasingly professionalized with more and more hired staff, the place of the smaller societies without full-time staff will need careful consideration.

ACE appears to be nicely on track, with improving citation rates. I would like to thank our excellent co-editors Ryan Norris and Keith Hobson for their work on ACE and their efforts to improve and grow the journal. Similarly, the joint BSC-SCO journal committee have been active in developing material to promote the journal, and their efforts are much appreciated.

Membership is a continuing struggle for all scientific societies, as the benefits of society membership are less clear in the age of electronic media. If you are reading this message and are not currently a member, I urge you to renew your membership. There are a number of tangible benefits of membership, especially for young members. But for the those of you like me, who are lucky enough to have a full-time position and a steady pay cheque, I ask you not to think so much about the benefits of membership, but consider this a time to invest in future ornithologists – maybe you won an SCO-SOC travel award or a research award as student – those funds came from the membership at the time you were a student.

Membership in any society should have benefits, and a clear service we can provide the membership is a timely and modern web and social media presence. The council has had numerous discussions on this important issue on how to modernize our electronic media and a path forward is starting to emerge. I see this as probably the single biggest challenge facing our future executive, and an area where our younger members can likely make significant contributions.

My final words are too sincerely thank the council that served with me during my Presidency, and wish continuing councillors the best of luck as we continue to move ornithology to new heights in Canada and into our second century of bird conservation on the continent.



Dunlin. Photo by Laura Koloski.

FRANÇAIS— *SCO-SOC Rapport du président— 2016 par Greg Robertson*

Et une autre présidence se termine et une nouvelle commence pour le SCO-SOC.

En termes de succès, je suis particulièrement heureux de notre statut émergent dans les rencontres conjointes. À l'avenir, je prévois que les rencontres conjointes seront la norme pour le SCO-SOC. Pour la NAOC 2016 et l'IOC 2018, je suis fier que nous sommes partenaires à part entière de ces deux rencontres importantes. Nos ressources sont plus modestes que certaines sociétés ornithologiques mais nous prenons notre place avec des partenaires nationaux et internationaux.

Parlant de rencontres, les deux qui ont eu lieu durant ma présidence ont très bien été à mon point de vue. La réunion conjointe AFO / SCO / WOS tenue à Wolfville (N.-É.) en 2015 était un nouveau partenariat pour nous, mais nous avons eu une bonne relation de travail avec l'AFO et WOS laquelle nous a mené à une rencontre très productive et agréable. Comme il se trouve, la rencontre a produit un excédent modeste, alors d'autres félicitations à Dave Shutler et son comité local pour la réalisation d'une rencontre relativement peu coûteux et aussi pour ne pas avoir chargé la SCO-SOC avec des dépenses supplémentaires pour tenir notre AGA.

La NAOC 2016 est en voie de dépasser 2000 participants, la plus grande conférence ornithologique à jamais être tenu en Amérique du Nord. Les efforts de Pete Marra et ses nombreux comités sont les raisons de cette participation impressionnante et mèneront sûrement à une rencontre mémorable. Je voudrais remercier des membres de la SCO-SOC pour leur rôle dans la préparation de cette rencontre : Bob Clark - comité du programme scientifique, Greg Mitchell - prix de présentation de l'étudiant, Dan Mennill - bourses de voyage des étudiants, Scott Wilson - comité des activités et affaires étudiantes et Stefanie LaZerte - Comité des médias sociaux.

L'émergence de la Société américaine d'ornithologie (American Ornithological Society - AOS), une fusion de l'AOU et COS, sera intéressante à observer de ce côté-ci de la frontière. À ce stade, il est difficile de prédire quelle influence, le cas échéant, l'AOS aura sur l'ornithologie canadienne et la SCO-SOC. Actuellement, nous entretenons d'excellentes relations avec les autres sociétés ornithologiques d'Amérique du Nord et je ne vois aucune raison pour laquelle cette relation solide ne se poursuivrait pas. Mais comme l'AOS devient de plus en plus grande et professionnalisée avec de plus en plus de personnels engagés, la place des petites sociétés sans personnel à temps plein devra être examinée attentivement.

ACE semble être bien sur la bonne voie, avec l'amélioration des taux de citation. Je tiens à remercier nos excellents coéditeurs Ryan Norris et Keith Hobson pour leur travail sur ACE et leurs efforts pour améliorer et développer la revue. De même, le comité de la revue conjointe BSC/SCO-SOC a été actif en développant du matériel pour la promotion de la revue et leurs efforts sont très appréciés.

L'adhésion est une lutte continue pour toutes les sociétés scientifiques, les avantages de l'adhésion de la société sont moins évidents dans l'ère des médias électroniques. Si vous lisez ce message et n'êtes pas actuellement membre, je vous invite à renouveler votre adhésion. Il y a un certain nombre d'avantages tangibles de l'adhésion, en particulier pour les jeunes membres. Mais pour ceux d'entre vous, tout comme moi, qui sont assez chanceux pour avoir un poste à temps plein et un chèque de paie régulier, je vous demande de ne pas vous arrêter trop longtemps sur les avantages de l'adhésion, mais de considérer cette opportunité d'investir dans les futures ornithologistes - peut-être avez-vous gagné une bourse de voyage de la SCO-SOC ou une bourse de recherche en tant qu'étudiant - ces fonds provenaient de membres au moment où vous étiez étudiant.

L'adhésion à toute société doit avoir des avantages et un service évident que nous pouvons fournir aux membres est une présence opportune et moderne sur le web et les médias sociaux. Le conseil a eu de nombreuses discussions sur l'importante question de comment moderniser nos médias électroniques et la solution commence à émerger. Je vois cela comme probablement le plus grand défi de notre avenir exécutif et un sujet où nos jeunes membres peuvent probablement contribuer de façon significative.

Mes derniers mots sont pour remercier sincèrement le conseil qui a servi avec moi au cours de ma présidence et je souhaite aux conseillers qui poursuivent la meilleure des chances afin que nous continuions à mener l'ornithologie au Canada vers de nouveaux sommets et vers notre deuxième siècle de conservation des oiseaux sur le continent.

Doris Huestis Speirs Award

The Doris Huestis Speirs Award is the most prestigious award given by the SCO-SOC. The award is presented annually to an individual who has made outstanding lifetime contributions in Canadian ornithology. The 2015/2016 Speirs Award selection committee: Mark Bringham, Nicky Koper, Ken Otter, Bob Clark (Chair).

2015 – Dr. Erica Nol

Dr. Erica Nol has made important research and service contributions to ornithology in Canada, the Americas and internationally. In addition to this, Erica is a popular ornithology professor at Trent University where she has been strongly devoted to mentoring undergraduate and graduate students, building a new generation of highly qualified young scientists in avian ecology and conservation.



Erica's research interests focus on two primary areas. First, she is passionate about the biology and conservation of shorebirds. With students, Erica has worked on plovers and other shorebirds including Whimbrel, Dunlin and Red-necked Phalaropes, in many regions of Canada, in Cuba, Brazil and Venezuela. She has pursued questions about the impacts of a warming climate on the habitats and life histories of arctic and sub-arctic breeding shorebirds. Arctic and coastal areas are at risk of habitat loss and change and arctic birds living in low coastal marshes with rising water levels and tidal surges will experience changes in foraging and nesting habitats – Erica's research seeks to clarify how some species respond to increased threats, while for others habitat quality and quantity may improve.

Erica's second core research interest is in the conservation of songbirds, particularly those associated with habitats

impacted by anthropogenic factors such as forest fragmentation, forestry practices and urbanization. Plus, her current research on grassland birds focuses on the impacts of agricultural practices on Bobolinks and Eastern Meadowlarks. Erica's work aims to understand, broadly, how birds and humans can co-exist in settled landscapes.

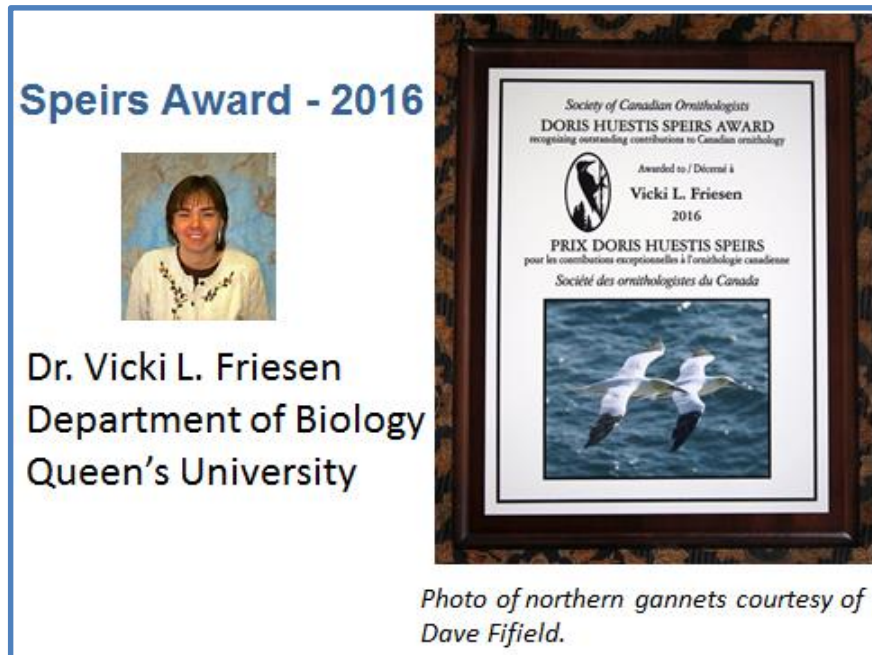
Dr. Nol also is heavily engaged in international and national professional service. She is President of the Waterbird Society and Past-President of the Society of Canadian Ornithologists, and she has been active with major international Ornithological societies, serving on several executive councils such as the American Ornithologist's Union and the Waterbird Society. Erica served on the committee that was instrumental in developing Canada's ornithological journal - Avian Conservation and Ecology. Currently, Erica is serving on the Scientific Program Committee of the International Ornithological Congress to be held in Vancouver in 2018.

In summary, Erica Nol is a dedicated avian ecologist who conducts rigorous, internationally important research on factors influencing shorebird populations in northern coastal breeding areas and southern wintering areas, and on songbirds inhabiting forests and agricultural areas. Erica and her collaborators have produced over 100 papers in peer-reviewed journals, on a diverse assemblage of species. Erica is a highly motivated, hard-working ornithologist, an effective team player, and dedicated teacher. She has also contributed enormous service to several national and international ornithological organizations. Finally, Erica dedicates generous amounts of her time to communicating the importance of ecological and conservation science to a broad range of public groups in Canada and the Americas.

In view of all of her wonderful contributions and accomplishments, the Society of Canadian Ornithologists is most pleased – and very proud - to present the 2015 Doris Speirs award to Dr. Erica Nol.

2016 – Dr. Vicki L. Friesen

For the past 25 years, Dr. Vicki Friesen's research group at Queen's University has conducted ground-breaking work on the mechanisms of population differentiation in birds, especially seabirds. Of particular importance has been her work on the mechanisms of population differentiation and speciation, conservation genetics and molecular evolution. Her reviews and meta-analyses of the field have been widely cited and generated entire sub-disciplines based on key patterns and new hypotheses developed by Vicki and her group. For



instance, a recent review pointed out that several factors other than physical barriers to dispersal (the main form of allopatric speciation in land birds) disrupt gene flow in seabirds. Vicki's work on the systematics of seabirds has not only contributed to delineating cryptic species and distinct populations for conservation, but has provided the comprehensive phylogenetic background essential for complete studies of ecology, behaviour and evolution in those groups. More recently, Vicki has adopted a whole-genome approach to examine physiological adaptation and molecular evolution.

Vicki is a world-class ornithologist with a conscience. Not only is she one of the world's pre-eminent avian geneticists, having published over 100 papers, but much of her research is focused on clear conservation questions. For instance, Vicki's research on *Xanthus's* Murrelets led to the splitting of the species into the Scripps's and Guadalupe Murrelets, which has generated additional protection for both species. Her

work on the avifauna of Haida Gwaii was partially directed towards using genetic data to address the conservation significance of the unique bird subspecies that live there. In addition to her academic work on Conservation Biology, Vicki has undertaken many reviews and reports relating to conservation concerns and was, for several years, a leading source of genetics expertise for the birds sub-committee of COSEWIC – the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Vicki provided expert advice, and input freely and incisively about conservation issues.

While Vicki's more recent programs have focused on genetics, she is also an accomplished ecologist and physiologist. For instance, Vicki was the first person to directly document the existence of a region of prey depletion around seabird colonies, as postulated by Ashmole, a region she memorably coined as "Ashmole's halo". Vicki's work on activity-specific metabolic rates in gannets provided some of the first data on the cost of flight at sea. Her wealth of knowledge in multiple fields has propelled many of Vicki's accomplishments in ornithology. And, along the way, Vicki has been a superb mentor, conducting rigorous and well-informed science while fostering collaborations and inspiring others including her many graduate students and post-docs.

To conclude, Vicki Friesen is a compassionate, rigorous, and productive member of the Canadian ornithological community whose influence extends beyond Canada's borders and whose research informs an array of disciplines ranging from evolutionary biology, molecular ecology, and conservation research and policy. For her long-lasting commitment to conservation, and contributions to the understanding of ecology and evolution of birds, the Society of Canadian Ornithologists is delighted to present the 2016 Doris Speirs award to Vicki Friesen.

French translators needed for *Picoides*

SCO-SOC is seeking volunteers to translate newsletter content from English to French and French to English for future issues as part of an effort to make *Picoides* a truly bilingual newsletter. Interested volunteers are asked to please contact Ken Otter (Ken.Otter@unbc.ca) or Colleen Barber (Colleen.Barber@smu.ca) for more details.

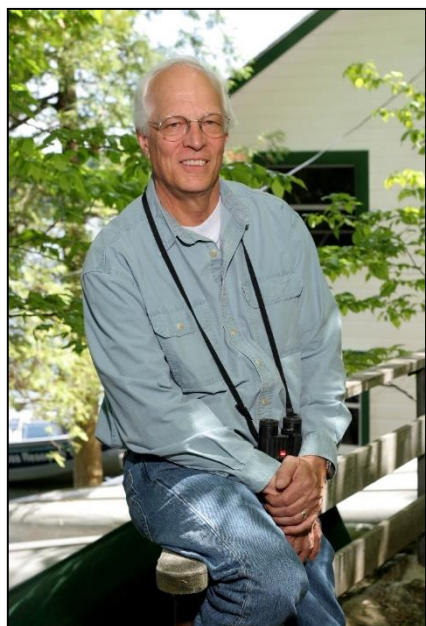
2016 Jamie Smith Memorial Award for Mentoring

Raleigh Robertson

The Jamie Smith Memorial Award for Mentoring is one of the top honours bestowed by SCO-SOC. It is awarded to individuals who are committed to the training and development of the next generation of Canadian ornithologists. I am pleased to announce that this year's award was presented to Raleigh Robertson.

Dr. Robertson is especially deserving of this award because he shares so many of the values and passions held by Jamie Smith: a sincere love for scientific discovery, the natural world, and birds. Like Jamie, Raleigh has had an immense scientific impact on avian ecology, both in Canada and worldwide, through his impressive publication record, his conservation achievements, and his record in training new generations of ornithologists.

Over his 39-year career at Queen's University, Raleigh mentored and inspired hundreds of trainees including undergraduate thesis students, M.Sc. students, Ph.D. students, and post-doctoral fellows. From the letters we received in support of Dr. Robertson's nomination it is clear that Raleigh has had a long-lasting effect on the individuals that he mentored. He is described as someone who genuinely cares about the well-being and success of his students, both in their academic pursuits, and in their lives. His interest is in his students' progression, not only as scientists, but as people.



In the true spirit of Jamie Smith, Dr. Robertson encouraged his own graduate students to become mentors themselves. A great mentor is a role model that students and colleagues can emulate, and so it is no surprise that one of his former students stated that "every day I try to apply the lessons I learned from Raleigh, to my mentoring of my own graduate students."

In addition to the significant scientific advances Dr. Robertson has made in ornithology through student mentoring and publications, Raleigh's legacy includes invaluable contributions through his 33-year role as Director of the Queen's University Biological Station. There, he developed an extremely high quality field station and fostered a creative academic atmosphere where students and scholars interact in field work and scientific discussions. The station has become a hotspot for training field biologists. Consequently,

Raleigh's contributions to the longevity and functioning of the Station have created a legacy of training and mentorship that will continue far beyond the people he mentored directly.

Dr. Robertson truly embodies the spirit of the Jamie Smith Mentoring Award in Ornithology, both as a mentor and in creating a lasting legacy of mentorship.

On behalf of the award committee, I would like to congratulate Raleigh on his achievements and encourage others to consider nominating their mentor for next year's award.

Andrea MacLeod, Chair of the Award Committee.

Announcements



Society of Canadian Ornithologists Société des ornithologistes du Canada

Seeking Nominations for Councillors and Elected Officers

The SCO-SOC is seeking candidates to allow their names to stand for three positions as **COUNCILLOR**. Those wishing to stand for election should email the VP/President-Elect – Colleen Barber (Colleen.Barber@smu.ca) by 10 January 2017.

À la recherche de Candidat(e)s aux postes de Conseiller(ère)s et d'Officier(ère)s élu(e)s

La SCO-SOC est à la recherche de candidat(e)s désirant soumettre leur candidature pour combler trois postes de **CONSEILLER(ÈRE)**. Ceux qui souhaitent se présenter aux élections doivent contacter la VP/Présidente élue par courriel d'ici le 10 Janvier 2017 – Colleen Barber (Colleen.Barber@smu.ca).

SCO-SOC Seeking Nominations for the Doris Huestis Speirs Award

Background: The Doris Huestis Speirs Award is the most prestigious award given by the SCO-SOC. The award is presented annually to an individual who has made outstanding lifetime contributions in Canadian ornithology. Past awardees include professionals who work at museums, government agencies, private companies and universities, as well as amateur ornithologists and people who have contributed to ornithological infrastructure of Canada.

Doris Huestis Speirs was born on 27 October 1894 in Toronto, Ontario, and passed away in Ajax, Ontario, on 24 October 1989. Doris was highly prominent in art, literary, and ornithological circles. She founded the Margaret Morse Nice Ornithological Club, which was the only such group specifically for women, and she was also a founding member of the Pickering Naturalists' Club. In her lifetime, Doris made several prominent contributions to the ornithological literature on Evening Grosbeaks and Lincoln's Sparrows (the latter with her husband, J. Murray Speirs).

Process: Nominations should clearly articulate the nominee's cumulative, significant contributions to ornithology in Canada. Nomination packages containing attestations from more than one individual about the scope and impact of the nominee's contributions are particularly welcomed. To nominate a candidate for the Speirs award, preferably with supporting detailed information, contact the Chair of the award committee: The Speirs award selection committee (2016-2017) is composed of Ken Otter (Chair), Mark Bringham (Univ. Regina), and Nicky Koper (Univ. Manitoba).

Ken Otter
Ecosystem Science and Management Program
University of Northern British Columbia
3333 University Way, Prince George, BC V2N 4Z9
Tel: 250-960-5019
Email: Ken.Otter@unbc.ca

Deadline for receipt of nominations is 15 April 2017.



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Student Research Awards

TAVERNER AWARDS

Taverner Awards are offered by the SCO-SOC to honour Percy A. Taverner and to further his accomplishments in increasing the knowledge of Canadian birds through research, conservation, and public education. The awards are aimed at people with limited or no access to major funding, regardless of professional status, who are undertaking ornithological work in Canada.

Two awards of up to \$2,000 each are made annually.

JAMES L. BAILLIE AWARD

The James L. Baillie Student Research Award is open to any student at a Canadian university. It honours the memory of James L. Baillie and is to support research, monitoring, education and conservation projects that involve any wild bird species occurring in Canada. More specifically, studies eligible for the award will involve a high proportion of field work or will have direct conservation benefits. The Baillie Student Research Award is funded by Bird Studies Canada from proceeds of the Great Canadian Birdathon.

One award of up to \$1,000 is made annually.

FRED COOKE AWARD

The Fred Cooke Student Award is offered jointly by the SCO-SOC and Bird Studies Canada to honour the contributions of Professor Fred Cooke to Canadian ornithology. It supports ornithological conference travel or research activities by a student. The award shall be open to any student conducting ornithological research at a Canadian university, except that previous recipients of the award shall not be eligible. The award shall be for travel to ornithological conferences at which the student will make an oral or poster presentation, or research in any aspect of ornithology anywhere in the world.

One award of up to \$1,000 is made annually

FULL DESCRIPTIONS/APPLICATION FORM AT:

<http://www.sco-soc.ca/studentawards.htm>

- Applicants must be **members** of the SCO-SOC to be eligible (\$10/year for students)
- **A single application** can be made to apply for all three types of awards.

For further information, or to submit an application (**e-mail only**), contact:

Colleen Barber, Chair, SCO-SOC Student Awards Committee, St. Mary's University, Halifax, NS

Email: Colleen.Barber@smu.ca

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 15 FEBRUARY 2017



Society of Canadian Ornithologists
Société des ornithologistes du Canada

Bourses de recherche pour étudiants

BOURSE TAVERNER

La bourse Taverner est offerte par la SCO-SOC afin d'honorer Percy A. Taverner et de faire progresser ses accomplissements en améliorant les connaissances sur les oiseaux canadiens par la recherche, la conservation et l'éducation du public. Les bourses sont destinées aux gens qui n'ont aucun accès ou un accès limité aux subventions majeures, peu importe leur statut professionnel, et qui entreprennent des travaux ornithologiques au Canada.

Deux bourses d'une valeur atteignant 2000 \$ chacune sont décernées annuellement.

BOURSE JAMES L. BAILLIE

La bourse de recherche pour étudiant(e)s James L. Baillie est ouverte à tout(e) étudiant(e) qui entreprend une recherche ornithologique à une université canadienne. La bourse est en honneur de James L. Baillie et subventionne la recherche qui correspond aux objectifs du fond James L. Baillie. Ces objectifs sont de supporter financièrement les études d'oiseaux canadiens dans leurs milieux naturels, les projets contribuant à la sauvegarde d'oiseaux et les projets visant à propager le savoir ornithologique. La bourse de recherche étudiante James L. Baillie est subventionnée par le d'Études d'oiseaux Canada par les revenus du Great Canadian Birdathon et est administrée par la Société des ornithologues canadien(ne)s.

Une bourse atteignant 1000 \$ est présentée annuellement.

BOURSE FRED COOKE

La bourse de recherche pour étudiant(e)s Fred Cooke est offerte conjointement par la SCO-SOC et Études d'oiseaux Canada afin d'honorer les contributions à l'ornithologie canadienne par le professeur Fred Cooke. Cette bourse vise à subventionner les coûts de voyage vers une conférence ornithologique ou la recherche d'un(e) étudiant(e) d'université canadienne. La bourse est ouverte à n'importe quel(le) ornithologue poursuivant sa recherche dans une université canadienne, sauf les gagnant(e)s précédent(e)s de la bourse. La bourse doit être utilisée pour le voyage aux conférences ornithologiques auxquelles l'étudiant(e) donne une présentation orale ou une affiche (poster), ou pour la recherche ornithologique n'importe où à travers le monde.

Une seule bourse atteignant 1000 \$ est présentée annuellement.

DESCRIPTIONS COMPLÈTES/FORMULAIRE D'APPLICATION À :

http://www.sco-soc.ca/studentawards_fr.htm

- Les candidats doivent être **membres** de la SCO-SOC pour être éligible (10 \$ par année pour les étudiants)
- **Une seule demande par candidat** pour les trois types de bourses.

Pour de plus amples renseignements ou pour soumettre une candidature (**courriel seulement**), veuillez communiquer avec:
Colleen Barber, Présidente des bourses étudiantes, St. Mary's University, Halifax, NS
Courriel: Colleen.Barber@smu.ca

DATE LIMITE D'INSCRIPTION: 15 FEBRUARY 2017

The Jamie Smith Memorial Award for Mentoring/ Prix Memorial de Jamie Smith pour le mentorat

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS/ APPEL DE NOMINATIONS - 2017

In recognition of Jamie Smith's contribution to fostering ornithological research, the Society of Canadian Ornithologists has created The Jamie Smith Memorial Award for Mentoring in Ornithology.

This award honours established ornithologists - either in academia, industry, non-government or government agencies - nominated by students, colleagues and/or peers to have displayed excellence in mentoring a new generation of professional or amateur biologists. The award will be presented to the recipient at the Society's annual meeting.

Nomination: Details concerning nominations can be found online at www.sco-soc.ca/jamie_smith/jsma_nominations.htm. A cover letter (max 1,000 words) outlining why the nominee should receive the distinction should accompany the nomination. The nomination must be accompanied by at least two additional letters of support (max 500 words) that indicate they have seen and support the nomination letter. They may then add their own comments on the nominee.

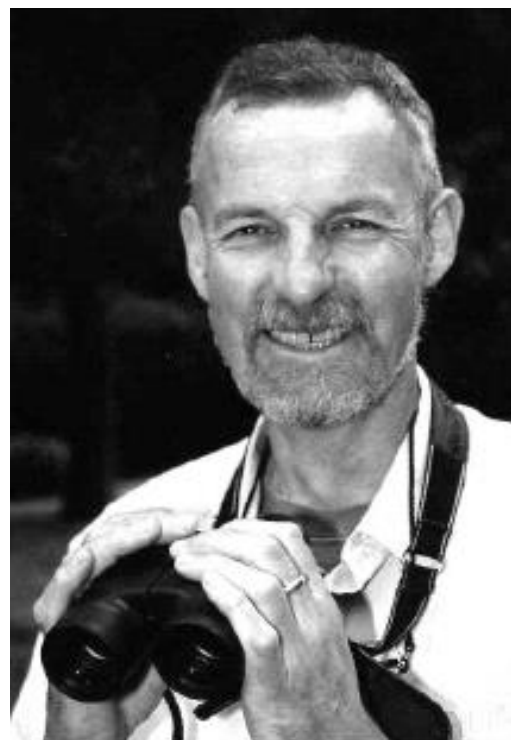
Deadline for submission of nominations is **20 March 2017**.

Nominations should be sent, by email, to:

Kyle Elliott

Chair - Jamie Smith Memorial Mentoring Award Committee

Email: kyle.elliott@mcgill.ca



En reconnaissance pour la contribution de Jamie Smith à la recherche en ornithologie au Canada, la Société des ornithologistes du Canada a créé le Prix Memorial de Jamie Smith pour le mentorat en ornithologie.

Le prix est remis à un ornithologiste établie, soit dans le domaine académique, industriel, gouvernemental ou ONG, nommé par des étudiants ou collègues pour avoir exceller dans le mentorat d'une nouvelle génération de biologistes amateurs ou professionnels. Le prix sera présenté au récipiendaire à la réunion annuelle de la Société.

Nomination: Les détails concernant les nominations peuvent être trouvés au site de la SCO-SOC (www.sco-soc.ca/jamie_smith/jsma_nominations.htm). Une lettre (max 1,000 mots) expliquant pourquoi la personne nominée devrait recevoir ce prix doit accompagner la nomination. La nomination devrait aussi inclure au moins deux autres lettres de support (max 500 mots) dans lesquelles il est indiqué que ces personnes ont lu la lettre de nomination et qu'ils la supportent. Ils peuvent également ajouter leur propres commentaires sur le nominé.

Date limite pour la remise des nominations est le **20 mars 2017**.

Les nominations devraient être envoyé, par courriel, à:

Kyle Elliott

Comité pour le Prix Memorial de Jamie Smith pour le mentorat

Courriel: kyle.elliott@mcgill.ca



Society of Canadian Ornithologists
Société des ornithologistes du Canada

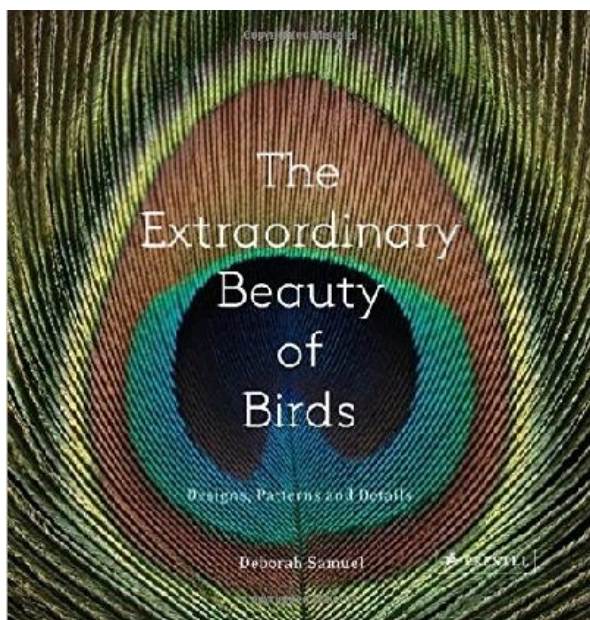
Book Review

The Extraordinary Beauty of Birds

By Deborah Samuel

Published in 2016 by Prestel Publishing, Munich. 287 pages.

This coffee table book examines the beauty of birds through close-up photography of selected study skins, nests and eggs in the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) ornithological collection. Eighty-two bird species from five continents were examined and they ranged from the common American Crow to Wilson's Bird-of-paradise and Yellow-billed Cuckoo.



The book begins with three short introductory chapters on 'Why Birds Matter,' 'Extraordinary Beauty of Birds' and 'The Art and Science of a Museum Collection.' I agree fully with the authors of these chapters about how important birds are to people and how beautiful and inspirational birds truly are. The last chapter brought back memories of ornithology class using Royal Saskatchewan Museum's excellent ornithological collection.

Ms. Samuel's 135 photographs are outstanding and capture the extrinsic beauty of as well as the amazing natural engineering of birds represented by each photo subject. These subjects include whole birds, structure of feathers, nests and eggs. These photos do provide a new and often fresh perspective for readers. Each photo is accompanied by a short caption written by Mark Peck of ROM. The captions are well written and dovetail very nicely with the photos. For example, photo captions for the Great Gray Owl and the Great Horned Owl simply and accurately explain in a few words on how owls can fly silently.

The book concludes with an unusual species index. Each index page had information on two species. Each page contained close-up photos of the two

species, pages where the species photos can be found in the book, and basic information on the species. The species information includes scientific name, family, global or continental distribution, habitat (e.g., forest), migration (yes, no), size (inches and centimetres), and global conservation risk. For size, I assumed it was head to tail.

The book concludes with a handy 15 ornithological term glossary, author biographies and acknowledgements.

This book provided me with a new viewpoint on and deeper appreciation of birds and thus I would highly recommend this book to anyone interested in the beauty of birds.

Reviewed by Rob Warnock, e-mail: warnockr@accesscomm.ca

Do You Have a Book Review You Would Like to Share?

If so, we would love to hear from you! Some recent and upcoming releases in ornithological literature include *Listening to a Continent Sing: Birdsong by Bicycle from the Atlantic to the Pacific* by Donald Kroodsma, *Lost Among the Birds: Accidentally Finding Myself in One Very Big Year* by Neil Hayward, and *One Wild Bird at a Time: Portraits of Individual Lives* by Bernd Heinrich. Reviews of bird guides that have come out in 2016, such as *Waterfowl of North America, Europe and Asia: An Identification Guide* by Sébastien Reeber, and *Sibley Birds East* and *Sibley Birds West* by David Allen Sibley are especially welcome.

SCO – SOC Information

Name	Title	Phone	E-mail
Officers for 2016/2017:			
Dr. Ken Otter	President	250-960-5019	ken.otter@unbc.ca
Dr. Colleen Barber	Vice-President/President-elect	902-496-8126	colleen.barber@smu.ca
Dr. Greg Robertson	Past President	709-772-2778	greg.robertson@canada.ca
Dr. Matt Reudink	Treasurer (<i>Outgoing</i>)	250-828-5428	mreudink@tru.ca
Dr. Junior Tremblay	Treasurer (<i>Incoming</i>)	418-649-6260	junior.tremblay@canada.ca
Mr. Lance Laviolette	Membership Secretary (<i>Outgoing</i>)	613-874-2449	lance.laviolette@gmail.com
Dr. Darroch Whitaker	Membership Secretary (<i>Incoming</i>)	709-458-3464	darroch.whitaker@pc.gc.ca
Dr. Greg Mitchell	Recording Secretary	613-998-7311	greg.mitchell@canada.ca
Mr. Rob Warnock	Co-editor, <i>Picoides</i>	306-586-2492	warnockr@myaccess.ca
Ms. Barbara Bleho	Co-editor, <i>Picoides</i>	416-705-0092	bleho.barbara@gmail.com
Voting Members of Council: (*second term)			
Dr. Kyle Elliott	Member of Council *	514-398-7907	kyle.elliott@mcgill.ca
Dr. Barbara Frei	Member of Council*	514-667-4261	barbara.frei@mail.mcgill.ca
Dr. Jennifer Foote	Member of Council	705-949-2301 ext 4368	jennifer.foote@algomau.ca
Dr. David Green	Member of Council*	778-782-3981	davidg@sfu.ca
Dr. Laura McKinnon	Member of Council*	705-930-4125	laura.mckinnon@utoronto.ca
Dr. Dan Mennill	Member of Council*	519-253-3000 ext 4726	dmennill@uwindsor.ca
Dr. Laura McFarlane Tranquilla	Member of Council*	709-770-6923	ltranquilla@bsc-eoc.org
Dr. Marc-André Villard	Member of Council	418-723-1986 poste 1540	Marc-Andre_Villard@uqar.ca

(Non-voting) Past Presidents:

Ross Lein	1983-1986	Henri Ouellet	1994-1996	Charles Francis	2004-2006
Spencer Sealy	1986-1988	David Nettleship	1996-1998	Susan Hannon	2006-2008
Erica Dunn	1988-1990	Tony Diamond	1998-2000	David Bird	2008-2010
Jon Barlow	1990-1992	Kathy Martin	2000-2002	Erica Nol	2010-2012
Bruce Falls	1992-1994	Jean-Pierre Savard	2002-2004	Joe Nocera	2013-2014

Membership Information

www.sco-soc.ca/membership.html

SCO-SOC membership forms can be found at the link above.
Current membership rates are as follows:

Student	\$10.00/year
Regular	\$25.00/year (\$35.00/year international)
Sustaining	\$50.00/year
Life	\$500.00

SCO-SOC Website

www.sco-soc.ca/index.html

The SCO-SOC website includes sections on membership, meetings, news, publications, awards, information for students, an overview of SCO-SOC, and links of interest to members and other visitors.

To suggest any additions or edits for the website, contact Jennifer Foote at jennifer.foote@algomau.ca.

Submissions to *Picoides*:

Articles and photos relevant to Canadian ornithology are welcomed by the editors. If submitting photos, please save them in tiff or jpeg format with descriptive file names, and supply captions including common names of species, location, date, photographer, and any other notes of interest. Deadlines for submission are February 15, May 15, and October 15; issues are typically published 4-6 weeks later. Please send all submissions to Rob Warnock at warnockr@myaccess.ca.

Disclaimer:

Picoides is not a peer-reviewed journal; the publication of an article in *Picoides* does not imply endorsement by SCO-SOC.