

Society of Canadian Ornithologists – Société des Ornithologistes du Canada Annual General Meeting / Assemblée Générale Annuelle

Location/Emplacement:

RBC Place, London, Ontario, Canada

Date: August 9th 2023.

Meeting called to order/ Convocation de la réunion: 14:06

Council Members Attending / Présents: Greg Mitchell, Junior Tremblay, Elizabeth MacDougall-Shackleton, Danielle Ethier, Leanne Grieves, Maggie McPherson, Matt Reudink, Lionel Leston, Sarah Gutowsky, Ann McKellar, Kara Lefevre, Steve Van Wilgenburg

40 people in total attended the meeting.

Council Members Regrets / Absents: Sam Haché, Theresa Burg

1. Review of Agenda | Révision de l'agenda (Reudink): No changes

Motion: To accept meeting Agenda (moved by Gutowsky, seconded MacDougall-Shackleton). No one in opposition or abstains.

2. President's Report | Rapport du Président (Reudink): Reudink pleased with SCO-SOC's efforts to support students and ECRs through student awards, ECR awards, and the student mentorship program. SCO-SOC supported the Field Research in Ecology and Evolution Diversified (FREED) program. Grieves describes how this program racialized students learn field skills through a field research program at Algonquin Provincial Park. Reudink describes how SCO-SOC has been focused on fund raising projects to support EDI committee initiatives. Reudink thanks SCO-SOC council members and general members for all of their support, efforts, and contributions.

3. Treasurer's Report / Rapport du Trésorier (Tremblay): Tremblay raises the question of whether we want to post treasurer reports on the website. SCO-SOC has a new accountant. Mentions that most incoming funding is still from memberships. Notably, lower expenditures in 2021 we didn't participate in an in-person conference, so no outgoing funding for travel awards or to support ECR travel to the conference. For 2022, SOC-SOC had a net earnings of ~\$5200 to support new EDI initiatives.

4. Membership Report / Rapport du Adhésion (MacDougall-Shackleton): Annual memberships have increased since 2020, owing to introduction of complimentary memberships for EDI deserving/seeking groups. Most membership are from students and most members are from academia. Substantial membership from the US. Prairie and Atlantic provinces have high per capita memberships. Per capita memberships in Quebec still low. Relative number of members paying membership fees stable relative to years past.

- 5. Other business / Autres affaires (Reudink):** Seeking two new council positions: Treasurer and Recording secretary.
- 6. Student awards / Prix étudiant (Ethier):** Committee comprised of Ethier (chair), Gutowsky, Love, and Garroway. Had 25 applications this year (double the previous year). Award winners included Sarah Mueller (Taverner Award), Taylor Brown (Taverner Award), Rebecca Jardine (Student Discovery Award), Karen Ong (Fred R. Cooke Award), Alyssa Eby (James L. Baillie Award)
- 7. Professional awards / Prix professionnels (Lefevre, Grieves, Ethier):** **Lefevre:** Dr. Geoff Holroyd received Jamie Smith Memorial Mentoring Award in Ornithology based on his mentorship, the success of his students, and passion for the discipline of ornithology. Mentions how Holroyd made impacts across fields of research. The committee was also impressed with Holroyd providing training for students and naturalists of all ages at Beaverhill Bird Observatory. **Grieves:** Dr. Jim Quinn received The Doris Huestis Speirs Award. Grieves wrote the nomination letter, but also received seven supporting letters from students going back seven years. Quinn worked on toxicology involving steel plants in Hamilton Harbor and has three research programs in three countries. He also does research on terns focused on both behavior and germ lines. Quinn is usually found in field environments and is involved in advocacy for the environment and fighting climate change, including protests. **Ethier:** The Early Career Research Award committee was comprised of Ethier (Chair), Gaston, Van Wilgenburg, and Lefevre. The award is about honoring up and coming ornithologists. Usually only one person receives the award. This year the committee couldn't decide on the winner because there were two equally deserving winners. The winners were Dr. Leanne Grieves and Dr. Emily Choy.
- 8. ACE-ECO (Tozer):** Journal is performing very well. Alex Bond and Judit Szabo have been excellent Editors-in-Chiefs. The journal also has an awesome group of subject editors. Number of articles has increased dramatically. Publishing 4 times as many papers as we were in 2006. Impact factor has dropped a little, but the journal is becoming popular. The Journal is published by the Resilience Alliance, which is a non-profit environmental organization. The Wilson Journal of Ornithology has now started using them based on the ACE-ECO model.
- 9. Fundraising | Collecte de Fonds (Reudink):** Fundraising was from side of the desk. Dropped off a little bit this year. Theresa Burg and Matt brainstorming ways to conduct fundraising going forward. Considering a t-shirt fund raising effort. Erik Prytula (former student of Reudink) could develop a Haida Gwaii logo for SCO-SOC as a winter fund raiser. SCO-SOC would need to pay for that work to compensate him as an indigenous artist. Would be good for our EDI initiatives. SCO-SOC could also support his brother who does the screen printing. Reudink and Burg have formed a fundraising committee and are looking for new members.
- 10. Mentor – Mentee Program | Programme Mentor-Mentee (Ethier):** Chaired by César Estevo. Ethier and Reudink participated. First year of a 6-month semi-structured program and there

were 12 mentor-mentee pairs and 3 formal learning sessions. 2nd iteration of the program starts in September 2023. Gutowsky and Reudink did special workshop on work-life balance. Reudink has received lots of positive feedback and it appears that a lot of ECRs and students are looking for that support.

11. *Picoides* Editor's Report / Rapport de l'Éditeur de *Picoides* (Reudink on behalf of Warnock):

2nd issue published in July. Next report is due in October. Encouraged everyone to submit. If there are no submissions, there cannot be a publication.

12. EDI Committee / Comité EDI (Grieves and McKellar): Membership survey determined that there was desire for affinity group meetings. Continued offering networking and social engagement opportunities for equity deserving groups. Continued to support external programs enhancing skills, access and connections for equity deserving groups. Encouraged participation and engagement from members, e.g., the Student Discovery Award name came from a social media campaign to leverage a diversity of voices. Updated language on website and student awards to be more inclusive. Provided outreach and education for nature-based organizations (more planned for 2023/24). Upcoming: 2023 membership survey to continue tracking member demographics and progress towards equity, diversity, and inclusion. Reudink offered his thanks to the committee for their amazing work.

13. Workshops | Ateliers (Van Wilgenburg): Leston and Van Wilgenburg comprise the workshop committee. Over the last year, a series of webinars and workshops were run online to provide opportunities for people to learn. These workshops were coordinated with the EDI committee. Four anglophone workshops and one francophone workshop were provided. Hoping to have similar numbers this coming year. Two workshops were specific to applying for jobs in academia and government, and there was a workshop on R.

Commented [GM1]: I don't have the details on what other workshops were run.

14. Future Meetings | Réunions futures (Reudink): Next year's meeting is going to be a joint AFO-SCO-WOS 2024 meeting from July 29-August 1st 2024 in Preoria, Illinois. It will be a more intimate meeting and will be easy to get around. Formal agreement was just made between the societies. Hoping to have a standalone meeting in Yellowknife, perhaps the following year.

15. Adjournment / Ajournement:

Motion: To adjourn meeting at 14:52 (moved by Mitchell, seconded by Ethier).