

Minutes
Society of Canadian Ornithologists / Société des ornithologistes du Canada
Annual General Meeting, Estes Park, CO
1200h, September 26, 2014

1. Welcome | Mot de Bienvenue:

Chaired by President Joe Nocera

Meeting called to order at 1210

16 Members present, including 4 councillors (Marcel Gahbauer, Joe Nocera, Greg Robertson, Junior Tremblay)

2. Review of Agenda | Révision de l'agenda:

No additions.

3. Acceptance of 2013 minutes | Acceptation des minutes de 2013:

MOTION: To accept minutes of the 2013 AGM (moved by Nicola Koper, seconded by Barbara Frei; all in favour)

4. 2014 SCO-SOC meeting update | Mise à jour du de la réunion de 2014:

Attendance at the joint AOU/COS/SCO-SOC meeting is 917, including 92 Canadians. SCO-SOC was not involved in all stages of 2014 joint conference planning. The AOU-COS partnership has perhaps made that joint group larger and more dominant; having meetings in conjunction with the other smaller societies may offer SCO-SOC more balance and input into events.

5. President's Report | Rapport du Président

To appear in the next issue of *Picoïdes*.

6. Treasurer's Report | Rapport du Trésorier

Presented by Joe Nocera on behalf of Matt Reudink. Profit was received in 2013 from the 2012 NAOC as well as the 2013 Winnipeg meeting. Whereas net earnings in 2012 were mostly from investments, in 2013 they were mostly conference proceeds, and resulted in an increase in net assets. Four investments are maturing between August 2014 and May 2016. The \$15,000 investment that matured in September 2014 has been given to NAOC 2016, with expectation of a profit on return as a full partner in the event. Of the \$16,000 that matured in August 2014, approximately half has been spent on 2014 meeting; the remainder will be reinvested. The \$13,000 investment maturing in June 2015 will be used to support the 2015 meeting as required, with the remainder to be reinvested thereafter.

MOTION: To accept the Treasurer's report in principle, pending confirmation of a clerical detail in one table (moved by Erica Dunn, seconded by Tony Diamond; all in favour)

7. Membership Secretary's Report | Rapport du secrétariat au sujet des adhésions

Presented by Joe Nocera on behalf of Lance Laviolette. Over half of SCO-SOC membership is with universities, followed by Environment Canada and private consultants. Overall, membership dropped from 343 in 2013 to 255 in 2012. The university category declined most sharply, from 216 to 142. This largely reflects the drop in student membership from 145 to 76. Enforcement of membership for conference attendance has been sporadic; it may be worth adding this to the by-laws. The biggest declines in 2013 were in Atlantic Canada and Quebec (perhaps members tapering off two years after Moncton meeting); membership in British Columbia remains large and stable. The number of names archived (i.e. not renewed) in 2013 was higher than in any previous year. Long-term members (who joined in 2004 or earlier) have a high (>85%) renewal rate, but those who joined in 2011-2012 have a 36% retention rate – retention of newer members is a key challenge.

MOTION: To accept the Membership Secretary's report (moved by Tony Diamond, seconded by Judith Toms; all in favour)

8. *Picoides* Editor's Report | Rapport de l'Éditeur de *Picoides*

Joe Nocera reported on behalf of co-editors Barbara Bleho and Rob Warnock. Barbara has completed three issues of *Picoides* since taking over from Marcel Gahbauer, and has largely adopted the existing format. There remains concern over the shortage of contributions from members. To help address this, a list of contacts for bird research labs across Canada will be compiled, in part to facilitate the co-editors soliciting new material.

9. Committee Reports | Rapport des comités

- **Nominating Committee/Elections (Greg Robertson)**

The 2014 election is currently underway (ballots sent to the membership via e-mail last week, and due October 3. There is good interest in serving on Council, with eight strong candidates for six councilor positions, and two candidates for vice-president.

MOTION: To thank Brenda Dale and Ken Abraham for their service on Council and contributions as alternating recording secretaries, as well as Alex Bond, Erin Bayne, Marcel Gahbauer, and Ian Warkentin for their contributions to Council, and Joe Nocera for his efforts as president (moved by Greg Robertson, seconded by Erica Dunn; all in favour).

- **ACE Journal Committee/Editors report (Joe Nocera)**

For the third year in a row there was no formal report from either the journal editors (Ryan Norris and Keith Hobson) or the joint SCO-BSC journal committee chaired by Charles Francis. ACE has been indexed by Web of Science for the past three years, and the impact factor has declined each year, to 0.25 in 2013 (ranked 20th of 21 ornithological journals). However, the 2013 papers are being

cited more heavily in 2014, with the impact factor projected to be around 1.6 for 2014, which shows good potential for the journal. The increase is almost entirely related to the special issue on incidental take. It may be worthwhile to focus more on special issues, including proceedings of symposia. There is also a need to look for quality manuscripts, and as such, SCO-SOC council has proposed undertaking a trial membership in Peerage of Science to allow editors to look for suitable papers (would cost 200 Euros per year). Some potential contributors have expressed concerns about the focus on hypothesis-driven papers; despite agreement to soften this, it remains on the website and is being pushed by the editors. Experience of authors varies with respect to timeliness of response by editors/reviewers (may need to institute automated reminders). Of the papers published to date, only 4 have had no Canadian authors, so it may be appropriate to focus more explicitly on Canadian ornithology. It was suggested that Bird Studies Canada promote ACE more, given that it is a joint venture between SCO-SOC and BSC. More submissions need to be encouraged, to overcome the perception of low impact factor, and general lack of awareness of the journal ... potential contributors need to be given reasons to choose ACE over alternatives. Nevertheless, there is a feeling that ACE is now in an “improvement” phase rather than fighting for survival.

ACTION: for the journal committee to issue automated alerts to editors/reviewers to meet deadlines

MOTION: to endorse Council’s recommendation to register ACE as a member with Peerage of Science, pending confirmation of interest in that option by the editors (moved by Nicola Koper, seconded by Barbara Frei; all in favour)

- **Doris Huestis Speirs Award (Greg Robertson)**
The 2013 award to Tony Diamond was presented at the 2014 meeting. The 2014 award to Rodger Titman was announced at the AGM, and the award will be passed on to him by former graduate students in Montreal. Greg Robertson will be stepping down from the awards committee, with Bob Clark taking over the chair’s role, and Nicola Koper joining the committee.
- **Jamie Smith Mentoring Award (Greg Robertson)**
Not awarded this year.
- **Student Research/Travel Awards (Joe Nocera)**
\$3000 awarded (joint with AOU/COS; not differentiated).
- **Ornithological Council (Joe Nocera)**
The key effort over the past year was an effort to coordinate permitting across Canada. Brenda Dale has been the SCO-SOC’s liaison with the OC; a new volunteer will be needed.

10. Website | Site web

Following some challenges with access in 2012, the website was resurrected successfully, and continued to be managed by Joe Nocera and Hazel Wheeler. However, it will soon be passed off to Vincent Buccachio, who will update it and integrate more social media. Among Canadian visitors, French-language users were greatly under-represented. Brazil was third on the list of visitors to the website (after Canada and USA); Koper noted that this may be related to a bilateral agreement with Brazil that enables students to come to Canada, and might have encouraged some to visit the website for information on opportunities.

11. Future meetings | Futures reunions:

2015 – Joint with WOS & AFO at Acadia University in Wolfville NS, July 15-19. The timing was challenging, given that WOS and AFO usually meet in late spring, but that was not possible on campus, whereas SCO-SOC typically meets later in fall. The local host will be Dave Shutler. There will be plenty of space for posters, so submissions should be encouraged. Field trip options include a local wine tour, Cape Split, and a two-day trip to Brier Island.

2016 – NAOC in Washington DC, August 16-20.

2017 – unconfirmed, but independent meeting in Quebec being considered.

2018 – the IOC will be held in Vancouver, and SCO-SOC has been invited to be fully involved. One option is for the annual meeting to simply be absorbed into that event. Alternatively, there could be a separate meeting immediately before or after, or a stand-alone meeting somewhere in the east, for those unable to get to Vancouver for the IOC.

12. Adjournment | Ajournement:

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 1310 (moved by Joe Nocera, seconded by Barbara Frei; all in favour)

Draft minutes submitted September 29, 2014 by Marcel Gahbauer (acting Recording Secretary)