

**Minutes**  
**Society of Canadian Ornithologists**  
**/ Société des ornithologistes du Canada**  
**Annual General Meeting, Winnipeg, MB.**  
**1125h, August 14, 2013**

**University of Manitoba**

1. Welcome | Mot de Bienvenue:

Chaired by Vice President Greg Robertson, acting on behalf of President Joe Nocera

Meeting called to order 11:25

35 Members present, including 5 councillors (Greg Robertson, Ken Abraham, Alex Bond, Brenda Dale, Erica Nol)

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

Added the student award presentation to Other Business.

3. Acceptance of 2012 minutes /Acceptation des minutes de 2012.

MOTION: To accept minutes of 2012 AGM. Moved Erica Nol, seconded by Sandra Kinsey. Passed.

4. 2013 SCO meeting update/ Mise à jour du de la réunion de 2013

Nicola Koper. Lessons learned. Members need to be prepared to pay more at the next stand-alone meeting. Costs were high enough that a rise of \$50-100 for registration is warranted. The positive state of finances was mainly because of significant contribution from U of M's Clayton Riddell Faculty of Environment, Earth and Resources this year. Also, timing issues need to be considered in setting date. Use of residences requires summer meeting if at a university, although few used residence and the cheaper rooms are offset by many hidden charges for meeting rooms on campus; also profs are not teaching in summer so that plus end of field season makes it a good time to meet for many. However, some people are still in the field (e.g., those who do work on habitat selection, or who work on seabirds) and some people don't want to take time off in the summer to come to a meeting. So there should be consideration of September meetings in the future. She recommends continuation of afternoon field trips. Formal registration was ca. 75 people including 4 complementary registrations plus a couple of walk-ups. Discussion from floor: Should try to avoid overlapping with AOU. Problem with announcing meeting on website (and other technical issues) beyond our control. MOTION: To thank Nicola Koper for her hard work to organize this meeting. Moved by Greg Robertson, seconded by Brenda Dale. Passed.

NAOC Vancouver report by Kathy Martin. Second largest ornithological meeting ever held in North America; attended by 1500 people with ca. 400 Canadians.

GST rebate for international conference yielded extra \$35,000 profit. Overall NAOC made \$185,526 profit (v. large amount relative to previous conferences). Only made profit because of fund raising from societies and agencies. SCO made a \$5000 loan, and BSC made a \$10,000 loan. Each recovered its investment and that much again. There was a clear *a priori* direction on the distribution of the profits (if any): 30% of profits of NAOC are meant to go to Latin American student and professional travel to conferences (fund is now \$55,658). Some going to meetings in South America (e.g. Colombia), but most going to next NAOC, which is in Washington, DC, organized by Peter Marra for late August or September in 2016.

5. President's Report /Rapport du Président

Look for Joe's report in next *Picoides*.

6. Treasurer's Report/Rapport du Trésorier

Presentation prepared by Treasurer, Matt Reudink, presented by GR  
Financial position is good. Ca. \$43,000 assets. Invested mostly in 3 year GICs with one investment maturing each year on a 3-year cycle. Investment returns larger than normal in 2012. NAOC income will be received in 2013. Noted that Taverner awards are not endowed and that we need to fund it annually, so far we are doing that without problem. Report will be posted on Web Site. Discussion from floor: Question about membership revenues and how multi-year or life memberships are received and shown and the response was that they appear in revenues in the year they are paid. Urging for members to become Life Members.

MOTION: To accept Treasurer's report. Moved by Erica Nol, seconded by Kathy Martin. Passed.

MOTION: To continue using Deborah Loughnan as auditor of SCO-SOC finances.

Moved by Greg Robertson, seconded Erica Nol. Passed

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

Presented by Greg Robertson on behalf of Lance Laviolette. Will be posted on Web Site. Students are a large proportion of members but retention is an issue and numbers are highly variable. Membership reflects representation across country, including the first member from Nunavut. Noted that there are now 24 Life Members. Online application for membership now being used well.

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

*Picoides* released 3 issues last year. Marcel Gabhauer is stepping down after 3 years as co-editor (technical). Marcel provided a very thorough document about how to produce an issue, etc. for use by the next co-editor. Someone has expressed interest in taking over the role but anyone with interest is invited to step forward.

MOTION: To thank Marcel Gabhauer for his significant contribution in bringing Picoides to a high standard. Moved by Greg Robertson, seconded by Brenda Dale. Passed.

9. Committee Reports/ Rapport des comités - for information (most do not require vote)

-Nominating Committee/Elections

Two outgoing councillors. Will need 2 new candidates. Replacement will be conducted by electronic nomination and election within next 2 months. Anyone interested please self-identify to Greg Robertson.

MOTION: To thank Sarah Jamieson and Marc Avey for their work over their terms on the Council. Moved by Greg Robertson, seconded by Erica Nol. Passed.

- ACE Journal Committee/Editors report

No formal report. 12 published articles in 2012. Stable, but would like more submissions. One issue out in 2013 so far. Big issue is imminent on bird mortality with 9 papers from symposium in Moncton in 2011. Nicola Koper mentioned benefit of ACE is that it is open access and it reaches audience outside NA and government/institutional libraries, etc., to those who do not have funds to subscribe to journals. Cost of publication is reasonable compared to other open access journals. Greg Robertson also mentioned that colour figures were at no additional cost.

- Speirs Award

No nominations for Speirs Award in the past 2 years. It is given for lifetime achievement in ornithology. Greg Robertson asked members for nominations for 2013. Gilles Seutin (past chair of Speirs Award committee) indicated that it is a special award because it is not limited to academic ornithology, etc., but rather is very open to any type of contributor to ornithology in Canada. When a nomination is prepared, consider it as a multi-year process, needing updating each year for nominees; not receiving it has more to do with the fact that only one can be chosen per year. Discussion from floor and suggestion that there is still time to stimulate nominations for an award in 2013.

- Jamie Smith Mentoring Award

Greg Robertson read the text of the purpose of the award and the announcement of Dr. Tony Gaston as the 2013 award recipient. Dr. Gaston was not present to accept the award.

- Student Research/Travel Awards

Recipients were listed in June 2013 Picoides

- Ornithological Council

Brenda Dale gave report. Our dues are small (\$250/year) which is a good bargain. Much of OC work is US focused, but any Canadian issues can/should be brought

to Brenda as SOC rep and to Ellen Paul who will work on it for us. Doing relevant work on behalf of North American ornithology on animal care and research protocols. Most relevant current issue is a summary of Canadian permitting which will be finished soon. Erica Nol said this is a monumental task as it requires collating information on every federal and provincial permitting requirement for banding and conducting research on birds.

#### 10. Website/Site

Not currently functional. Will get rectified as it is critical for SCO functioning. Erica Nol mentioned Ornithology Exchange as a useful web tool for SCO-SOC members to use, and Alex Bond mentioned that SCO meeting details were on the Exchange. Alex Bond also noted that SCO-SOC has a Twitter account @SCO\_SOC with about 90 followers.

#### 11. Future meetings / Futures réunions

2014 – Joint with AOU. 24-27 Sept. Estes Park, Colorado.

2015 – Joint with WOS Acadia / Wolfville, NS. May 2015. This is a departure from our normal timing. Discussion: Nicola Koper: May is really bad for many Canadian field researchers. Comments that WOS has been wanting to meet with SCO-SOC for some time, and Council had agreed to go with the usual WOS timing with the idea that some SCO members who normally can't attend summer meetings may be able to come. Early May is preferred over late May by attendees at this meeting (straw poll).

2016 – NAOC: Washington, DC

#### 12. Other business/Autres affaires.

Student presentation awards. Alex Bond chaired committee and presented on behalf of Ryan Germaine. Judges Brenda Dale, Erica Nol, Kathy Martin, Alex Bond. Alex thanked judges. Summary: 41% of talks were by students. 43% of posters were by students and this reflected membership proportions well. Award for **best** poster by a student went to Rakesh Mistry: Hematozoon infection does not affect migratory habits of White-throated Sparrows. Award for **second place** for oral presentations by a student went to Alana Westwood: A preliminary assessment of Rusty Blackbird, Olive-sided Flycatcher and Canada Warbler habitat on managed and protected landscapes in the southwest Nova Scotia Biosphere Reserve. Award for **first place** for oral presentation by a student went to Stephanie LaZerte: Improving urban acoustics: Urban noise is more detrimental than urban habitat to transmission of chickadee vocalizations.

#### 13. Adjournment/Ajournement.

Meeting adjourned: 12:23

MOTION: Moved Greg Robertson, seconded Ross Lien. Passed.