

**Society of Canadian Ornithologists
2007 Annual General Meeting,
Chaffey's Locks Community Hall, Lake Opinicon
29 September 2007, 16:30 – 18:10**

MINUTES

Present: 57 Members including council
Recording Secretary: Charles M. Francis

1. **Acceptance of 2006 minutes.** Moved Andrea Pomeroy, Second David Bird. PASSED

2. **President's Report:**
 - a. Motion of thanks to Joe Nocera, Andrea Pomeroy, Greg Robertson and local volunteers for organizing 2007 meeting and planning program. Carried with applause
 - b. Picoides: Thanks to Rob for doing such a good job with newsletter.
 - c. Updating Working Documents for society ("bylaws")
 - i. Create (recreate) an institutional memory
 - ii. Will seek out a copy of constitution to ensure working documents are consistent (ACTION ITEM- Francis will look in "the box")
 - d. Website – doing an excellent job
 - i. Thanks to Ken Otter for doing such an excellent job as web master.
 - ii. Thanks to Joe Nocera for offering to take this over
 - e. Honorary members – discussion
 - i. Generally favour idea
 - ii. Suggestion Honorary members would NOT receive a paper copy of Picoides (to avoid costs)
 - iii. Discussion as to whether or not it is a Canadian or outside of Canada
 - iv. Need to develop a policy and criteria.
 - v. To be investigated further by Hannon (ACTION ITEM)
 - f. Policy on awards:
 - i. Protect capital
 - ii. All donations go into capital
 - iii. Interest used to fund awards, supplemented with income from general revenue
 - iv. All award monies are managed in one account, but tracked separately
 - v. Council voted to increase value of Taverner Awards from \$750 to \$1000

- vi. Students who win presentation awards will receive a one year complementary membership
- vii. Question as to whether we should increase number of awards?
 - 1. Resolution to discuss next year, after we are sure about the financial situation of ACE-ECO
 - 2. If excess funds, two alternatives presented instead of increasing number of awards:
 - a. Invest more into capital fund to ensure develop some interest to keep awards self-sustaining
 - b. consider providing some “awards” to subsidize page charges in ACE-ECO
- g. Council voted not to join OSNA (would cost \$10 per member, which would not be worth the benefits)

3. Elections (report by D. Bird)

- a. 2 councillors up for renewal. Agreed to stay on. No other nominations, so no election.
- b. Call for volunteers for council positions and vice-president for next year.

4. President’s report continued:

- a. Need to do some targeted fund raising for awards
- b. Finish revisions of bylaws, constitution and creating an institutional memory

5. Suggestions from floor:

- a. Erica Nol proposes we have a press secretary to ensure that key items are appropriately announced to press (including winners of society awards, etc.)
- b. Tony Diamond - check constitution/letters patent – may indicate that our role should include some advocacy in support of bird science
- c. Suggestion that any advocacy on which we are a lead, should be focussed on the issues and practice of ornithology
- d. Reminder that press releases need not be all negative advocacy
- e. Society should not necessarily hold back on commenting on issues that affect conservation. E.g., issues that may or may not be addressed by Ornithological Council
 - i. Could be done with a committee
 - ii. There was a conservation committee at one time. Perhaps we should resurrect the conservation committee that could serve this role and deal with some policy issues?
 - iii. Counter considerations, if going to go to the trouble to prepare white papers on particular issues it would be better to ensure they can be published in a scientific venue (such as society’s journal) so they are accessible.

- iv. Caution that effectiveness will be a function of the people who prepare them. Last conservation committee was disbanded because ineffective
- v. Need to recall that there are a lot of resources required to prepare scientifically sound position papers. The OC was established on behalf of all societies (including SCO) to carry out such activities when required.
- vi. On a less formal basis, there are a lot of opportunities for commenting on things (e.g., management plans on SARA website, downlisting of Peregrine *anatum* race based on genetic listing). SCO can/should play a greater role in this type of consultation.
- vii. Lot of scope for application of our science
- viii. Note that any committee reports would have to be vetted through council if they are to be released as society documents.
- ix. Prepare reports for *Picoides*

6. Congratulations to Allan Baker for winning William Brewster Memorial Award for 2007 and Keith Hobson for winning the Elliott Coues Award for 2007.

- a. These are the top two research awards of the AOU and are considered co-equal according to AOU web page

7. Greg Robertson – outgoing recording secretary since 2000

- a. Thanks to Greg
- b. To be replaced by Andrea Pomeroy (for 2008 meeting onwards)

8. Bob Clark, outgoing chair Student Awards committee (2 years)

- a. Need a replacement

9. David Bird, outgoing chair Speirs Committee

- a. Need replacement

10. Reaction to budget reductions in CWS

- a. 35 cancellations for this meeting due to budget reductions
- b. Budget limitations also impede effectiveness and work of bird conservation by CWS, etc.
- c. SH is preparing a letter to be reviewed by Council and also circulated to newspapers.
- d. Suggestion that letter to newspaper might need to be somewhat different than a letter to the minister

11. Speirs and Smith Awards to be announced at banquet

12. Smith Award – call for nominations:

- a. Ken Otter (Chair), Kathy Martin, Dick Cannings committees
- b. Key words are mentoring and ornithology
- c. Need not be just academics

13. Next Meeting:

- a. jointly in Portland with 125th anniversary of AOU 6-9 August 2008
- b. Andrea Pomeroy is SCO rep on local committee
- c. Hotel will be Hilton Portland & Executive Tower (“green”)

- d. SPECIAL room rate will make it the most affordable hotel in the area. Close to downtown. Also have dorm rooms nearby.
- e. Website: <http://www.pdxbirds08.org/>
- f. Symposium deadline: 1 February 2008
- g. Abstract and registration deadlines: 15 March 2008

14. Other upcoming meetings of potential interest to SCO:

- a. Canadian Society of Ecology and Evolution
 - i. May 11-14 2008
 - ii. Four plenaries, symposia on special topics, lots of posters
 - iii. Brief discussion about conflict with field work
 - iv. Website <http://www.ecoevo.ca/en/ubc2008.htm>
- b. Xlth International Grouse Symposium
 - i. 11-16 Sept 2008, Whitehorse, Yukon
 - ii. www.forestry.ubc.ca/alpine/IGS2008
- c. 5th North American Ornithological Conference
 - i. Vancouver (UBC), Aug 14-18 2012 (probable dates)

15. Need volunteers to host 2009 meeting

- a. We would tentatively plan to hold a stand-alone meeting in Canada. Interested people should submit a proposal to David Bird. Too early to predict whether it would be wise to plan this in conjunction with Environment Canada/CWS bird committee meetings

16. Student Awards:

This year's winners: Megan Sellick (Taverner) Justin Rasmussen (Taverner), Nicole Barker (Cooke), Heather Major (Baillie)

Full details will be posted on website and in *Picoides*

2008 will have an additional award (Junco Technologies)

17. ACE-ÉCO Report presented by Marc-André Villard

DISCUSSION:

Q: Is some of this work being framed to hit "Conservation" by overstressing its conclusions? (suggestion that at least one paper stretched its conclusions to get a conservation implication).

A: no system is perfect, but the concept seems to be a good idea

Q: Should we be publishing toxicological studies?

A: If not scientifically rigorous will not fit, but could be designed around an appropriate question.

Q: Is this being indexed by Web of Science?

A: Not yet, but working on this. It takes a few years before they pick this up.

Q: Is there an active campaign to seek out alternative indexing, such as by Scopus?

A: We will investigate whether Scopus has been approached. Please send suggestions for any indexing services to the Editors or to the chair of the journal committee (Charles Francis)

Q: Did we have a target size for the journal regarding number of articles, number of pages, etc. per year and, if so, how are we doing at reaching it?

A: We did not have a specific target. We would like the number of articles per issue to continue to grow, but did not want to jeopardize quality for quantity.

Q: some concern about what is the definition of “theory” in the wording that defines the scope of the journal. Concern that this may be viewed as very limiting or may be getting misconstrued. Perhaps need to change choice of word of theory.

A: Editors will review the wording

18. Membership Report (Beaudet)

- a. See Powerpoint presentation for details

19. Financial Report (Lamothe)

- a. Approval of 2006 Financial Report.
 - i. Moved Hannon, Second Bird. PASSED
- b. Interim report of 2007 Financial Report (1 Jan – 31 Aug)
 - i. Provided as an information item

20. Auditor

- a. Move to accept Francine Nadeau as Auditor (Lamothe), Second (Warkentin). PASSED.

21. Society address

- a. Move to change society’s permanent address to always be the address of the Membership Secretary (moved by Hannon, second Martin) PASSED

22. Move to adjourn (Titman). PASSED