



Society of Canadian Ornithologists

Soci t  des ornithologistes du Canada

REPORT ON MEMBERSHIP – 2016 and 2017 with interim data up to April 21 2018

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This report summarises SCO membership from December 2016 (shortly after I took over from Lance Laviolette as membership secretary) through April 21, 2018 and serves as the membership reports for 2016 and 2017, which I neglected to prepare previously. Following an earlier recommendation by the Auditor, Membership is summarised on December 31 each year to reflect the SCO's fiscal year (January 1 - December 31). I have also included the most recent updated numbers (April 21, 2018) as an indicator of where we are right now. That update followed a spike in registration during March leading up to the submission deadline for the International 2018 Ornithological Congress in Vancouver.

Memberships expire at midnight on December 31, so note that there is a big drop on January 1 of each year. To mitigate this, I have been distributing renewal reminders to members whose membership is about to lapse. These are sent on November 15 and December 15 each year, and then, for those who still let their membership lapse, again on January 15. I also distribute the first of these reminders to individuals who let their membership the year before.

Table 1. Summary of SCO membership in 2016, 2017 and through April 21 2018 by affiliation.

Affiliation (Category)	Members		Members		Members	
	Dec 31 2016	%	Dec 31 2017	%	April 21 2018	%
None (0)	6	2.3%	9	3.4%	6	2.5%
University (1)	168	64.4%	158	59.4%	146	60.3%
Environment Canada/CWS (2)	30	11.5%	31	11.7%	31	12.8%
Other Fed. Gov. Agencies (3)	4	1.5%	5	1.9%	5	2.1%
Museum (4)	3	1.1%	4	1.5%	4	1.7%
Non Gov. Agencies (e.g. DU) (5)	17	6.5%	21	7.9%	16	6.6%
Prov. Gov. and Agencies (6)	7	2.7%	7	2.6%	6	2.5%
Clubs, Societies (7)	4	1.5%	4	1.5%	6	2.5%
Private Consultants (8)	20	7.7%	26	9.8%	21	8.7%
Libraries (9)	2	0.8%	1	0.4%	1	0.4%
TOTAL	261	100%	266	100%	242	100%

Membership levels at the end of 2017 included 265 individuals and one library, which was similar to the previous year (259 individuals and 2 libraries). It is encouraging that we are already almost back to this level of membership in April of 2018 (Table 1). However, comparing these numbers to historical membership reports reveals a large decline in membership since ~2010 (Table 2).

Table 2. Total SCO membership, 2006-2017.

Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Members	393	410	357	381	336	346	343	255	?	?	261	266

The SOC attracted 63 new members in 2016, 67 new members in 2017, and 42 so far in 2018. Since membership is relatively stable this suggests that ~60 members are not returning each year (Table 3). Of the 116 individuals who let their membership lapse at the end of either 2016 or 2017, 87 (75%) were student members, which is approximately twice the proportion that would be expected based on the representation of students in overall membership. Also, of the individuals who let their membership lapse, 58 (50%) had only been members for one year, while 21 (18%) had been members for two years, indicating relatively low retention of new members. Of these “transient” members, 77% were students, again reflecting low retention of students. While this may reflect failure of some students to continue in the field of ornithology, it may also indicate that many students are joining for “reasons of convenience”, such as reduced conference fees or eligibility for student awards or travel grants, and are not subsequently returning.

Table 3. Renewal Status of members

Paid through	Members		Members	
	Dec 31 2017	%	Apr 21 2018	%
2016	<i>55</i>	<i>expired</i>	<i>51</i>	<i>expired</i>
2017	112	42.1%	<i>65</i>	<i>expired</i>
2018	73	27.4%	126	52.1%
2019	27	10.2%	54	22.3%
2020	10	3.8%	15	6.2%
2021	5	1.9%	6	2.5%
2022	2	0.8%	2	0.8%
2023	1	0.4%	1	0.4%
2024	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
2025	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
2026	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
2027	1	0.4%	1	0.4%
LIFE	35	13.2%	37	15.3%
TOTAL	266	100%	242	100%

A breakdown of membership by category is shown in Table 4. The four complimentary memberships include two for individuals who have volunteered their time to help with translation of SCO correspondence to French (Gabrielle Robineau-Charette and Melanie Guigueno) and two for individuals who helped organise the 2017 SCO meeting in Michigan meeting (Sharon Gill and Jennifer Owen; because those were granted late in 2017 they will continue through 2018). Seven individuals signed on as new life members during 2016, two in 2017, and two have also joined as life members so far in 2018.

Table 6. Breakdown of SCO membership by categories

Membership Category	Members Dec 31 2016	%	Members Dec 31 2017	%	Members April 21 2018	%
Regular (\$25/year)	104	39.8	126	47.4%	118	48.8%
Sustaining (\$50/year)	12	4.6	8	3.0%	6	2.5%
Student (\$10/year)	112	42.9%	93	35.0%	77	31.8%
Life (\$500)	33	12.6	35	13.2%	37	15.3%
Complimentary	0	0%	4	1.5%	4	1.7%
TOTAL	261	100%	266	100.0%	242	100.0%

The geographical breakdown of SCO-SOC membership is shown in Table 4. Note that some international students at Canadian universities are registered with Canadian addresses, so international membership is somewhat under-represented.

Table 7. Geographic distribution of SCO membership

Geographical area*	Members Dec 31 2016	%	Members Dec 31 2017	%	Members April 21 2018	%
Newfoundland	6	2.3	11	4.1%	8	3.3%
Nova Scotia	8	3.1	6	2.3%	6	2.5%
New Brunswick	8	3.1	9	3.4%	8	3.3%
Prince Edward Island	0	0.0	0	0.0%	1	0.4%
Québec	25	9.6	27	10.2%	27	11.2%
Ontario	82	31.4	85	32.0%	68	28.1%
Manitoba	10	3.8	13	4.9%	12	5.0%
Saskatchewan	16	6.1	17	6.4%	17	7.0%
Alberta	34	13.0	31	11.7%	35	14.5%
British Columbia	52	19.9	47	17.7%	43	17.8%
Yukon	4	1.5	5	1.9%	4	1.7%
Northwest Territories	0	0.0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Nunavut	0	0.0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
United States	13	5.0	13	4.9%	12	5.0%
Mexico	0	0.0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Australia and New Zealand	0	0.0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Europe	3	1.1	2	0.8%	1	0.4%
TOTAL	261	100%	266	100%	242	100%