

SOCIETY OF CANADIAN ORNITHOLOGISTS REPORT ON MEMBERSHIP – AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2007

**by Thérèse Beaudet
Membership Secretary, SCO**

This report gives the picture of SCO membership as of December 31st, 2007. Following recommendation by the Auditor, the Membership Report now follows the fiscal year, which is January 1st to December 31st. In this report, we will compare the situation between 1st January 2007 and 31 December 2007.

At the end of 2006, SCO members had reached 393 (Table 1); at the end of 2007, the membership reached 410, including 57 new members and 13 members who rejoined the society after being archived. The number of members from universities increased, whereas the number of members working for the CWS diminished. The number of members from private consultants increased from 22 to 29.

**Table 1. Affiliation of SCO members
(Those working for the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS)
and in a University are listed as CWS, in Category #2)**

Affiliation (Category)	Members in Dec 2006	%	Members in Dec 2007	%
None (0)	24	6,1	22	5,4
University (1)	199	50,6	222	54,1
Canadian Wildlife Service (2)	80	20,4	71	17,3
Other Fed. Gov. Agencies (3)	8	2,0	10	2,4
Museum (4)	6	1,5	6	1,5
Non Gov. Agencies (e.g. DU) (5)	19	4,8	18	4,4
Prov. Gov., Hydro-Québec (6)	18	4,6	16	3,9
Clubs, Societies (7)	9	2,3	8	2,0
Private Consultants (8)	22	5,6	29	7,1
Libraries (9)	8	2,0	8	2,0
TOTAL	393	100	410	100,0

As is true for every year, the 2007 list includes those who have paid dues for 2008 and beyond, as well as those who have not yet renewed for 2007 (but have paid for 2006) (Table 2). At the end of December 2007 there were 103 members who had not paid for 2007, and the number was down to 84 in the following weeks, after final notices were sent to the non-renewers. I thus had to archive a record of 84 members who did not pay for 2006 (13 of them rejoined later as written above); out of the 84 archived names, 47 were regular members, 2 were sustaining members and the remaining 35 were student members. The total number of names archived reaches now 355, including deceased.

Table 2. Renewal Status of members

Paid through	Members in Dec 2006	%	Members in Dec 2007	%
2005	59	15,01		
2006	231	58,8	103	25,1
2007	58	14,8	86	21,0
2008	21	5,3	162	39,5
2009	14	3,6	38	9,3
2010	6	1,5	11	2,7
2011	0	0,0	2	0,5
2012	0	0,0	1	0,2
2013	1	0,3	4	1,0
Complimentary	3	0,8	3	0,7
TOTAL	393	100	410	100

We observed in the years following the meetings in Saskatoon and in Halifax, where you automatically joined when registering, that it is hard to retain new members who joined when registering specifically for such a meeting. A total of 40 regular members and 18 students joined in 2005 for the Halifax meeting; 26 regular members and 14 students did not renew their memberships. For students in general, the trend seems similar to what is usually observed: they seem to be harder to hold on than those who have been around for awhile. This is despite reminders and final notices sent by e-mail or letters to members who had not paid dues for 2006. The students typically move and do not send new addresses. However something new happened: in 2007, 22 members working for CWS did not renew their memberships.

Table 3 shows that only 29,6% of the current members joined before 2000; 25,9% joined from 2000 to 2004, and 29,3% joined in 2005 and 2006.

Table 3. Year when members joined

Year joined	Members in Dec 2006	%	Members in Dec 2007	%	Non-renewers
founders	18	4,6	16	3,9	0
1983-1989	63	16,0	56	13,7	4
1990-1994	25	6,4	22	5,4	0
1995-1999	31	7,9	27	6,6	1
2000-2004	123	31,3	106	25,9	21
2005-2006	127	32,1	120	29,3	58
2007			57	13,9	
Unknown or complimentary	6	1,5	6	1,5	
TOTAL	393	100,0	410	100	84

Allowing people to renew for more than one year probably increases retention; it makes it easier for the Treasurer and the Membership Secretary, and reduces bank and postage costs. As Table 4 shows, at the end of 2006, 46,3% of the members have renewed for more than one year, slightly more than for 2007, when 41% of the members had done so.

Table 4. Renewal pattern of members

Number of years paid when renewing/joining	Members in Dec 06	%	Members in Dec 07	%	RM/SM/STM
1	211	53,7	242	59,0	146/8/88
2	104	26,5	102	24,9	60/8/34
3	40	10,2	25	6,1	15/1/9
4	13	3,3	18	4,4	15/0/3
5	19	4,8	14	3,4	13/1/0
6	2	0,5	1	0,2	1/0/0
7	0	0,0	0	0,0	
8	1	0,3	1	0,2	1/0/0
LIFE			4	1,0	
Complimentary	3	0,8	3	0,7	
TOTAL	393	100	410	100,0	

A breakdown of the membership by category is shown in Table 5. The number of sustaining members increased to 18, and seems to be returning to around 20 members, the level it was a few years ago. The SCO gives a charity receipt of \$25 for sustaining memberships. The number of student members is increasing steadily, likely because of the obligation to be a member in order to apply for awards. Only 4 members became Life Members, despite the charity receipt of \$250 given to life members. A total of 16 free memberships were given to students who received awards or were runner-ups.

Table 5. Breakdown of SCO membership by categories

Membership Category	Members in Dec 2006	%	Members in Dec 2007	%
Regular (\$25/year)	265	67,4	251	61,2
Sustaining (\$50/year)	13	3,3	18	4,4
Student (\$10/year)	111	28,2	118	28,8
Free to Student Award	1	0,3	16	3,9
Life (\$500)			4	1,0
Complimentary	3	0,8	3	0,7
TOTAL	393	100,0	410	100,0

As usual, SCO membership has been broken down geographically (Table 6). The SCO is truly a national body, represented in every province and territory. The provincial and territorial representation is slightly different from previous years, since there has been an increase in membership in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick following the 2005 meeting in Halifax. Typically, membership increases in a province following a meeting in that province or region. Memberships from abroad (many of these are, of course, actually Canadians living elsewhere, mainly in the U.S.) seems more or less stable from year to year (36 in 2005, 2006 and 2007).

The existence of the SCO webpage, and the fact that a membership application form can be downloaded from the webpage or from *Picoides*, has proven useful. This year again a few individuals have joined using the form, at least some of whom undoubtedly discovered the existence of the SCO from the web.

Table 6. Geographical breakdown of SCO membership

Geographical area	Members in Dec 2006	%	Members in Dec 2007	%
Newfoundland	7	1,8	8	2,0
Nova Scotia	31	7,9	29	7,1
New Brunswick	21	5,3	23	5,6
Prince Edward Island	3	0,8	2	0,5
Québec	60	15,3	57	13,9
Ontario	98	24,9	122	29,8
Manitoba	12	3,1	18	4,4
Saskatchewan	33	8,4	29	7,1
Alberta	29	7,4	26	6,3
British Columbia	54	13,7	57	13,9
Yukon	4	1,0	3	0,7
North West Territories	4	1,0	4	1,0
Nunavut	1	0,3	0	0,0
Unites States	28	7,1	25	6,1
Mexico	1	0,3	1	0,2
Australia and New Zealand	2	0,5	1	0,2
Europe	5	1,3	5	1,2
TOTAL	393	100,0	410	100,0

Finally, I have to mention that I sent several collective electronic messages, most of them bilingual, to SCO members in 2007, many of them in relation to *Picoides* (announcing new issues, sending calls for papers) as well as notices to members who had to renew their memberships, announcements of new issues of ACE-ECO, varied announcements for meetings, fundraising for Jamie Smith Award, etc. Out of the 410 members, I had e-mail addresses for all except 16 of them, who do not have e-mail access, do not want to communicate electronically with the SCO, or who were students and changed universities without letting us know their new e-mail addresses. Only 6 members with e-mail addresses requested paper copies of *Picoides*.

It has been my pleasure to serve as Membership Secretary for the fifth year. I have to thank the Treasurer, Pierre Lamothe, with whom I worked closely on the membership file, Dorothy McFarlane Diamond, with whom I am still exchanging e-mails every time she is sending paper issues of *Picoides* to about 25 members and libraries, and also Ken Otter, Rob Warnock and now Joe Nocera, who provide me with most of the electronic material I regularly have to send the members.

Thanks to all members.

Thérèse Beaudet
 SCO Membership Secretary/Secrétaire aux membres de la SOC
 28 July 2008