

**Society of Canadian Ornithologists – Société des Ornithologistes du Canada Annual General Meeting /
Assemblée Générale Annuelle**

Location/Emplacement:

Zoom

Date: August 14 2020

Time/Temps: 16:00 – 17:00

Council Members Attending / Présents: Colleen Barber, Greg Mitchell, Nicola Koper, Ken Otter, Theresa Burg, Darroch Whitaker, Dorothy Hill, Elizabeth MacDougall-Shackleton

Council Members Regrets / Absents: Junior Tremblay, Barbara Frei, Kevin Fraser, Jennifer Foote, Oliver Love, Colin Garroway, Andy Horn

Other Members in Attendance / Autres membres présents: Adam Smith, Beth Orson, Kathy Martin, Ross Lein, Sandra Kinsey, Brandon Edwards, Erica Nol, Evelien de Greef, Janet Ng, Jasmin Dawson, Judith Toms, Lance Laviolette, Marcel Gahbauer, Matt Reudink, Steve Van Wilgenburg, Taylor Brown, Brett Sandercock, Charles Francis, Lynn Lekisch, Christian Roy, Jocelyn Hudon, + one other.

Meeting called to order by Barber at 16:03

1. Welcome | Mot de Bienvenue (Barber): Barber welcomes everyone. Pleased to share a number of initiatives: SCO-SOC has formed an Equity Diversity and Inclusion committee. SCO-SOC has been approached by several groups for funding for EDI initiatives. SCO-SOC chose to fund one initiative. Regarding the NAOC 2020 joint meeting, Barber and Koper have been participating in the organizing committee for a year and half. Barber thinks the is running really smooth so far. The virtual format is very creative - there are even ways to socialize and meet people. Barber notes that while there is networking value at larger meetings, there is still much value for smaller standalone meetings.

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

Motion: To accept meeting Agenda (moved by MacDougall-Shackleton, seconded by Lein). No one in opposition or abstains.

3. Acceptance of 2018 minutes | Acceptation des minutes de 2018 (Barber):

Lein notices that Steward and Mary's names were spelt wrong.

Action item | élément d'action: Mitchell to fix names.

Motion: To accept meeting minutes with noted corrections (put forward by Hill, seconded by Nol). No one in opposition or abstains.

4. President's Report | Rapport du Président (Barber):

Presidents report was captured in welcome.

5. Treasurer's Report / Rapport du Trésorier (Barber on behalf of Tremblay)

Regarding the current conference, we lent out \$5000 USD for NAOC and contributed \$1500 for travel awards. Net revenue was \$18 619 in 2019, compared with \$17 950 in 2018. Net assets were \$75 115 in 2019, compared with \$65 260 in 2018. Net earnings were \$10 922 in 2019 compared with \$4 217 in 2018. Current investments (term deposits) include a \$10 000 investment maturing in 2020, a \$10 000 investment maturing in 2021, and a \$15 000 investment maturing in 2022. Barber is working with Foote to post all financial reports on the website.

Motion: To accept financial report (moved by Koper, seconded by Lein). No one in opposition or abstains.

Francis inquires about the discrepancy in income between 2019 and 2018. Otter says main difference is that in 2018 we had many more donations from a focused fund raising effort, while in 2019, we had the investment from Environment and Climate Change Canada to support a report from the Quebec city conference.

6. Membership Report / Rapport du Adhésion (Whitaker)

Our membership fiscal year aligns with the calendar year. Numbers reported are in this report pertain to those as of December 31st 2019. Membership has been relatively stable the last several years but lower than they were historically. Whitaker is not sure why this is: it is possible that folks are placing lower value on being a member. Koper thinks it is because Picoides is now available on the website and folks were historically getting memberships to access Picoides. Whitaker communicates that this past calendar year there were 258 members. In the previous year, there were 245. We created two new membership categories with reduced membership fees: one for early career researchers and one for retirees. We have had some uptake this past year with respect to these two new categories. Expecting more next year because many people already had memberships when we rolled this out. We are also offering an intersectional membership at no cost as part of our EDI efforts to increase diversity. Most of our members are from Academia followed by Environment and Climate Change Canada. We lose 50-60 members a year (transient members) – majority of these folks are people that only ever register for a membership a single time, likely to be eligible for student awards and/or reduced conference fees. We have low retention of student members. We also have a slow increase in the number of life-time members (now 40 people). Geographically, Ontario and Quebec have the most members, but relative to the population size, Ontario and Quebec are under-represented. The opposite is true for the Yukon and Atlantic Canada. Whitaker speculates that smaller provinces and territories have a disproportionate number of people working for a government or university/college. Regarding our complementary intersectional membership – 12 people had taken advantage of this opportunity. There were also 17 people participating in the early career and retiree/emeritus membership categories. Whitaker suggest that we need to have a broader discussion about how long we should offer the intersectional membership, but that decisions regarding the continuation of the complementary intersectional memberships will need to be first examined by the EDI committee. Nol inquires how the intersectional membership was advertised. Whitaker answers through our social media and

membership lists as well as word of mouth. We are hoping that more people will take us up on this offer of complementary memberships. Membership report will be published on the website.

Action item | élément d'action: Whitaker to send out another email to membership asking them to help promote the complementary intersectional memberships.

Hill inquires about what constitutes an early career researcher. Whitaker responds that our working definition is five years since completing training or starting in the workforce. Nol thanks SCO-SOC for the EDI initiatives including the intersectional membership and hopes that more indigenous people join. Whitaker says that there are currently three members who have identified as indigenous and that the Cambridge Bay community is a member.

Motion: To accept membership secretary report (moved by Otter, seconded by Koper). No one in opposition or abstains.

Barber inquires if we have to put forward a motion for all of the reports. Otter says that it is just the main ones and not the committee reports.

7. *Picoides* Editor's Report / Rapport de l'Éditeur de *Picoides* (Barber on behalf of Warnock)

Editors are doing a great job. Next issue is October 15th 2020. Warnock is requesting membership to contribute content and help with translation. There has been a boost in content with respect to abstracts from ACE-ECO and notes from the field by Katherine Dale. Thanks extended to those volunteers already helping with French translation - they are doing a great job. Brown suggests we maybe pursue underrepresented groups to contribute content. Brown offers to put out a call for those submissions through social media.

Action item | élément d'action: Koper to pass on idea from Brown to EDI committee.

Barber thanks to Brown for all the work she does with Social Media. Martin suggests someone should write an opinion piece on how the first virtual NAOC conference went. The person who writes it could possibly elicit feedback from multiple people.

8. Committee Reports / Rapport du Comité:

Elections / Élections (Barber on behalf of Koper): Koper and Foote did a great job organizing the election. Four new council members were voted in – Amélie Roberto-Charron, Steve Van Wilgenburg, Sam Haché, and Danielle Ethier. Barber thanks outgoing council members Jill Jankowski, Jon McCracken, and Jenn Foote. Matt Reudink elected as new VP. Koper says we were originally targeting three new council members but had a tie in votes.

Professional awards / Prix professionnels (Otter, Barber, Hill): Otter communicates that the Doris Huestis Speirs Award for lifetime contributions to Canadian Ornithology was awarded to David Sherry from Western University. The selection committee was comprised of Bringham, Koper, and Otter. Otter thanks the selection committee for their hard work. David received 17 letters of support – including a supporting letter from John Krebs (a British Lord). His field is neuro-ecology, cognitive behavioral research – hippocampus volume and memory in birds and cognition of birds in

general. MacDougall-Shackleton organized an in-person presentation one week ago, where David was given a plaque that had a picture of a chickadee on it (photo by Brock Fenton). MacDougall-Shackleton communicates that Sherry was very appreciative and honored to be in company of the previous recipients of the award.

Barber (on behalf of Elliott) communicates that the Jamie Smith Memorial Mentoring Award in Ornithology went to Bill Montevecchi. Montevecchi was the only nomination and was very deserving. Barber says that Montevecchi was very honored, that this award is the best thing to happen in a long time, and that he considers it the crowning achievement of his career. Barber thanks the committee for their hard work.

Hill communicates that the Early Career Research Award started in 2017. The committee was herself, Horn, and Elliott. Hill communicates that the Early Career Research Award was awarded to Barbara Frei. She was very deserving. Frei has many great peer reviewed publications and has written several status reports. She also does a large amount of outreach and scientific communication. She is the former director of McGill bird observatory. Frei would like to delay her plenary to next year so that she can put the proper time into her plenary talk. Barber states that we will have another winner next year and so two award plenaries will be given.

Student awards / Prix étudiant (Koper): With respect to student awards, Koper communicates that we had 13 applicants this year compared with 18 the previous year. Applications were due prior to many of the Covid shutdowns. The selection committee was comprised of Horn, MacDougall-Shackleton, and Hill. Koper thanks the selection committee. This year's winner of our two currently un-named student awards were Sereena Moore (McGill) who was studying neurogenesis leading up to fall migration with respect to contaminant exposure and Hayley Wilson (Guelph) who is studying the relationship between early-life events and stress on the long-term fitness of Savannah sparrows. The Fred Cooke award was given to Alyssa Eby (Windsor) for her work on inter-colony comparisons of foraging flexibility in seabirds with respect to sea ice. The James Baillie Award went to Matthew Furst (Guelph) who is studying the fitness effects of delayed dispersal in Canada Jays.

Barber asks members to think about nominations for senior awards as well as student awards.

Website Report / Rapport de Site Web (Foote): Website up and running smoothly with very few changes. Foote communicates her two terms are up, but that she is willing to stay on in a service capacity. Koper and Barber communicate their thanks to her.

Social Media / Médias Sociaux (Barber on behalf of Brown): Barber says that in addition to being the social media coordinator for SCO-SOC, Brown is serving as part of communication committee for NAOC 2020. She has been doing an excellent job on our facebook, twitter, and Instagram. Barber extends a big thanks to her.

ACE-ECO (Barber on behalf of Tozer): Record high 40 papers published last year. Over 300 articles since 2006. Impact factor of 2.54 – second highest among ornithological journals. Barber sent a thank you to the management committee and editors in an email. Nol says this is a great accomplishment and that the journals success could even be part of the reason for name change for the Condor and Auk. Big congratulations to editors in Chief. Francis agrees and also thinks a big part of success is because it is open access. Martin also agrees and says that given that this has

been accomplished without help from the AOS, ACE-ECOs performance is stunning. Martin credits much of the success to the work the Editors-in-Chief and subject editors and their work with authors. Martin says we were ahead of our time when we picked the name and again reiterates that being open access has likely played a big role. Nol mentions that there were five people on the original committee, including Francis. ACE was destined for number one. She says it is incredible that it is ahead of the Journal of Avian Biology.

Ornithological Council / Conseil Ornithologique (Barber): Barber reminds members that the SCO-SOC is a member of the Ornithological Council. They run BridNet, they are a liaison between the ornithological community and decision makers, they provide information to decision makers on birds to make scientifically informed decisions, they inform ornithologists on decisions / policies that affect birds or the study of birds, and they act as a scientific voice for ornithologists regarding issues in the public sphere. Nol mentions that they now have a part-time lawyer who can help with cross-border permit issues. Nol mentions that she has used this lawyer's services and they were great. Martin mentions that there will be a meeting of society presidents of North America shortly and that one topic that will be discussed is the continued involvement with the Council and monetary support. There isn't a date at the moment for this meeting. It was supposed to take place during NAOC, but it proved too challenging to organize. Francis asks if AOS has already removed their support. Martin says yes, they have withdrawn their support given the lack of information exchange. Martin says it is a pause and will be revisited. Otter mentions that SCO-SOC donates \$1000 a year. Koper mentions that this donation is currently not on our financial books for this year.

Future meetings / Réunions futures (Barber): A local organizing committee is currently being set up for next joint AOS/SCO-SOC meeting in London Ontario. We currently don't know if it is going to be virtual or in person. Hopefully in person. MacDougall-Shackleton says committee has a meeting scheduled for a little later on in August. Martin suggest there is a > 50% chance it will be virtual. Almost certainly, folks outside the US and Canada will unlikely be able to attend given travel restrictions. Koper suggest that ultimately a hybrid meeting will be best. More thought should be given to a hybrid meeting, where some talks are virtual and others are in person. Francis suggests a hybrid would be quite easy to set up but we need to make sure that people attending remotely have a good user experience. It might be challenging to pull-off economically. Martin says the planning committee will meet as soon as NAOC wraps up and that planning for London is fairly far along in terms of venues. There will be lots of lessons to learn from the current NAOC meeting. Maybe it is possible to have a nodal approach with smaller in-person groups at separate universities, but admits at this stage that it is challenging to guess what will be possible. Martin suggests that if NAOC keeps going forward, that maybe all NAOC meetings will be virtual. Right now, we don't have a choice – but there could be a hybrid system – with smaller chapters. Martin notes that virtual posters are working out really well. Francis suggests that a hybrid model where folks are meeting locally might not be that attractive from a networking standpoint. Martin also mentions that there is supposed to be a meeting in Puerto Rico in 2022, but given the current COVID situation, she can't see how this meeting can happen. AOS had to commit to the 2022 meeting in order to recover \$75 000. Barber does mention that her virtual student mentor lunch went better than any in person mentorship lunches she has participated in.

Koper indicates that SCO-SOC is still pursuing a stand-alone meeting in 2022 – hopefully in Yellowknife. Sam Haché is currently inquiring into this possibility.

Student presentation award committee / Comité des prix de présentation des étudiants (Hill):

SCO-SOC is providing five awards for student presentations at NAOC. Two for best oral presentation, two for best poster, and one for best undergraduate presentation, each valued at \$300 CAD. Francis notes that lightening talks and e-posters are becoming similar online and we might need to consider grouping lightening talks and posters.

9. Other business / Autres affaires (Barber)

Barber thanks outgoing council members: Past-president Ken Otter has been a great resource and wonderful mentor. Koper is transitioning from VP to President, who will do an excellent job. Jill Jankowski, Jon McCracken, and Jenn Foote have completed their terms and have done an amazing job. A big thank you is extended for all of their service. Koper extends a big thanks to Colleen for moving from present to past-president. Koper emphasizes that Barber has done such a great job under very trying conditions (i.e., a global pandemic).

Otter highlights a question in the chat from Lekisch. She is wondering if there are mentorship opportunities for junior biologist in rural areas. Koper suggests not right now, but something we should consider.

10. Adjournment / Ajournement

Motion: To adjourn meeting at 17:24 (moved by Mitchell, seconded by everyone present).