

## **Membership Committee of the Waterbird Society**

### **2014 Annual Report**

#### **Membership:**

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#### **2013-2014 Committee Activities:**

Sent out emails to 182 lapsed members, those who were members in 2013 but not in spring 2014. These emails served two purposes: 1) To remind those who may simply have forgotten to renew. 2) To get helpful feedback on why individuals don't renew. Typical responses to the letters were answers like: I forgot to renew/plan on renewing soon, or decided not to renew because of money. Many individuals did renew after the letters went out. The letters also helped us catch a few errors in the OSNA database.

Data on membership trends were collected from OSNA and compared to previous years (see below)

Provided information on membership status/contact information to Dave Shealer, chair of the Nominations Committee; Chip Weseloh, chair of the Future Meetings Committee; and Mike Erwin, chair of the International Awards Committee.

Coordinated with Patty Szczys to make sure the Waterbird Society webpage accurately reflected the creation of the new Emeritus membership category and properly linked to the OSNA membership site and forms.

## Society Membership Numbers and Trends

### **Total members, 2014: 598**

Membership data is available from OSNA going back to 2006. Although this number represents an increase from 582 members in 2013, the 2014 total is the second lowest in this time period (see Figure 1).

Note: All of the numbers presented here are based on the membership list as of 28 July, 2014. By 22 September the total number of members had increased a bit, to 611. The July date is closer to the time when previous years' data were collected, and thus the 598 members represent a better point of comparison.

After a dip to 20% in 2013, the percentage of our members from outside the U.S. and Canada is now back up to 27%, similar to earlier years. The number of members from Germany and the rest of continental Europe increased after the Wilhelmshaven meeting, and hopefully the new members can be retained. This year's meeting in Mexico should also help internationalize the society.

### Membership in different countries/regions:

United States	382 (down from 410 in 2013)
Canada	55
Germany	24 (up from 7)
Continental Europe, minus Germany	66 (up from 47)
East Asia	21
U.K. + Ireland	15
Australia + New Zealand	8
Mexico + Central America	8
South America	5
South Africa	4
All others	10

This is the first year that the new emeritus membership category was available. We have 8 emeritus members. The various membership and journal access categories are summarized below:

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Print</u>	<u>Electronic</u>	<u>Both</u>
Emeritus	8	N/A	8	N/A
Family (+Fam 2 <sup>nd</sup> mem.)	11	1	3	0
Life	71	N/A	N/A	71
Regular	428	97	190	141
Student	80	6	70	4
Total	598	104	271	216

**Figure 1:** Membership numbers since 2007. The peak in 2008 represents the increase in membership with the Barcelona meeting (fall 2007).

