



**BRITISH  
ORNITHOLOGISTS'  
UNION**

Founded 1858

**ANNUAL REPORT  
2010**

*Promoting ornithology for over 150 years*

**BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION**

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Registered Charity No. 249877



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ORNITHOLOGISTS'  
UNION**

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REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 249877

## **Reference and Administrative Details**

### **Address**

PO Box 417, Peterborough PE7 3FX, UK  
Tel: +44 (0) 1 733 844 820. Email: bou@bou.org.uk

### **BOU Staff at 31 December 2010**

<i>Senior Administrator</i>	Mr S.P. Dudley
<i>Journal &amp; Office Manager</i>	Mrs A.F. Langford

### **Trustees**

The following individuals served as Trustees of the charity at the time of Council approving this annual report and accounts: T. Birkhead, R. Bradbury, J.M. Collinson, A. Dawson, P.F. Donald, R.J. Fuller, J. Gill, I.R. Hartley, G. Martin, P.J. Oliver, T. Pizzari, G. Siriwardena, K. Smith, C. Spottiswoode and S. Wanless.

The following individuals also served as Trustees of the charity during the course of the year covered by this annual report and accounts: R.Y. McGowan, H. Sitters.

### **Council Officers at 31 December 2010**

<i>President</i>	Dr A. Dawson
<i>Vice Presidents</i>	Prof R.J. Fuller, Dr J. Gill
<i>Honorary Secretary</i>	Dr K. Smith
<i>Honorary Treasurer</i>	Mr P.J. Oliver FCA

### **Ordinary Members of Council at 31 December 2010**

Prof T. Birkhead, Dr R. Bradbury (Chairman Meetings Committee), Dr J.M. Collinson (Chairman Records Committee), Dr P. Donald (Chairman Grants Committee; Editor in Chief of *Ibis*), Dr I.R. Hartley (Chairman *Ibis* Committee), Rev. T.W. Gladwin (Chairman BOU / BOC Joint Publications Committee – ex officio), Prof. G. Martin, Dr T. Pizzari, Dr G. Siriwardena, Dr C. Spottiswoode and Prof S. Wanless.

**BOU editorial positions** at 31 December 2010

*Ibis* - Editor in Chief            Dr P.F. Donald  
*Ibis* - Editors                        Dr R. Bowie, Dr D. Chamberlain,  
    Dr. R. Nager, Prof. J. Wilson  
*Checklist Series* – Editor        Dr. D.A. Wells

**BOU Investment Trustees** at 31 December 2010

The following individuals served as Investment Trustees for the Union during the period of this report and accounts: N.J. Crocker, R. Price and S.J. Rumsey.

**Bankers**

The Union holds accounts with the following banks:

Natwest Bank plc, PO Box 6037, Brompton Road, London SW13 1XJ

CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ

Douglas County Bank, 9th & Kentucky, PO Box 429, Lawrence, KS 66044, USA

**Solicitor**

The Union's solicitors are:

Laytons, Tempus Court, Onslow Street, Guildford, Surrey GU1 4SS

**Accountant**

The Union's accountants are:

Chappell Cole & Co, Heritage House, North Cray Road Bexley, Kent DA5 3LZ

**Auditor**

The Union's auditors are:

Alliotts, Friary Court, 13-21 High Street, Guildford, Surrey GU1 3DL

**Structure, Governance and Management**

The British Ornithologists' Union is an unincorporated charity, no. 249877. Its object is the promotion of the science of ornithology. Its governing document is the Rules adopted at the Annual General Meeting in 2010. Under the rules, the governing body, the Council of the Union, is responsible for the running of the Union's business, supported by its staff. Council may delegate functions to standing or ad hoc committees that report to Council. The Union's Council retains overall responsibility for matters so delegated.

The BOU has four standing committees: the *Ibis* Management Committee, the Meetings Committee, the Grants Committee and the Records Committee. In addition, it has a joint committee with the British Ornithologists' Club to oversee all non-journal publications: the BOU/BOC Joint Publications Committee.

Elected members of Council are Trustees of the charity. Members are recruited from within the ornithological and birdwatching communities. Where possible, members will have served on one or more of the BOU's standing committees prior to nomination for election to Council. Those standing for election to BOU Council as an incoming chairman of a standing committee will have served for at least two years on the respective committee. On election, new Council members are provided with relevant Union documents to help familiarise them with current Union activities and to provide information on the duties and responsibilities of being a Trustee of the Union.

Council has reviewed the risks to which the Union is exposed and is satisfied that, as far as is practicable, it has taken appropriate steps to mitigate those risks.

## **Objectives and Activities**

### **BOU Mission Statement**

The British Ornithologists' Union will promote understanding and conservation of the world's birds, advance ornithology within the scientific community and promote scientific ornithology to the wider birdwatching public. The BOU mission will be achieved by the following means:

- 1) Publishing *Ibis* as a leading international journal of ornithological science.
- 2) Publishing the BOU Checklist series, together with other publications.
- 3) Organizing a programme of meetings and conferences.
- 4) Awarding grants for ornithological research.
- 5) Encouraging liaison between those actively engaged in ornithological research.
- 6) Providing a representative body of the scientific community able to provide ornithological information and advice to government and other policy makers.
- 7) Maintaining and publishing the official list of birds recorded in Britain – The British List.

### **Council Activities**

Council met three times during the year with other business conducted by email.

At the AGM in April, Dr Ken Smith was elected to replace Dr Humphrey Sitters as Honorary Secretary, and Dr Martin Collinson was elected to serve as an Ordinary Member of Council and to replace Mr Bob McGowan as Chairman of the Records Committee.

Members of Council, as Trustees of the charity, confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing objectives and activities

## **Achievements and Performance**

### **BOU staff**

During the year, the BOU employed two full-time, home-based staff members within the BOU Office: Steve Dudley (Senior Administrator) and Mrs Angela Langford (Journal & Office Manager).

### **The BOU Office**

The work of the BOU Office is overseen by Council, the Union's standing committees and the Senior Administrator.

The BOU Office is responsible for the effective running of the BOU. Its key responsibilities are -

- to support BOU Council and its Committees and implementing much of the work arising from them, and specifically
- working with the Honorary Treasurer, maintain monthly accounts and budgets and assist in the preparation of annual accounts
- working with the *Ibis* Management Committee, manage the non-editorial aspects of the Union's journal, *Ibis*
- working with the Meetings Committee, organize BOU conferences and meetings
- working with the Joint Publications Committee, manage the publication and sales of BOU and BOC publications
- working with the Grants Committee, manage the Union's grant award scheme
- working with Council, manage the Career Development Bursary scheme
- working with the Records Committee, to manage the British List and associated work areas
- working with the *Ibis* Editorial Team to oversee and manage the manuscript process and flow for the Union's journal, *Ibis*
- to service the BOU membership
- undertake routine administration (bookkeeping, reports, etc)
- to manage BOU sales
- to manage the BOU storage facility
- to handle general enquiries
- to manage press and publicity
- to manage BOU web content on its various websites including [www.bou.org.uk](http://www.bou.org.uk), [www.ibis.ac.uk](http://www.ibis.ac.uk), [www.bouproc.net](http://www.bouproc.net) and [www.birdgrants.org](http://www.birdgrants.org).
- to manage BOC activities contracted to the BOU including administration, membership, journal management, publication sales and contributing to the BOC website.

In addition to working with the Union's various committees (see committee reports below) the BOU Office undertook the following activities.

### British Ornithologists' Club administration

The BOU Office continues to run various aspects of the BOC's administration including the management, production and sales of BOC publications, the management of institutional subscribers to the BOC's *Bulletin*, the BOC's membership and preparing items for the BOC website.

The agreement with the BOC for the above services was reviewed during the year and a new agreement becomes effective from 1 January 2011.

#### BOU websites

The BOU's use of the internet continues to evolve. After review, it was decided for the time being that much of the Union's web content will be managed via Blogger, a free online web service which allows for simple and intuitive website production and management by both our staff members. In addition, these sites can be accessed from any computer without the need for any specialist software or the need of HTML coding knowledge. The Blogger platform is a flexible way of providing expanding and changing web content at no cost other than staff time. The intuitive online platform Blogger provides also negates any need for training as the continually evolving resource is very easy to use and additional web tools are continually added by Blogger.

Linked to our main website we have developed a series of complimentary sites to offer greater flexibility and increased speed in delivering items online. These satellite sites now cover all areas of the Union's activities.

During the year our web content was reviewed and a standard design applied to all of the interlinked Blogger content.

The Union's three primary sites remain –

[www.bou.org.uk](http://www.bou.org.uk) This is the Union's primary website and managed by BOU staff and Eng-Li Green (Alcedo Publishing). The website promotes the Union to a wide audience and is important for recruiting new members, disseminating information about the work of the Union, taking online bookings for conferences and for selling BOU publications. We can continue to use a secure, free online ordering system for sales and membership applications/renewals and conference bookings.

[www.ibis.ac.uk](http://www.ibis.ac.uk) During the year we continued to develop the site to manage access to the journal and provide improved connectivity with the Union's other online content.

[www.BOUPROC.net](http://www.BOUPROC.net) This site provides a one-stop web portal for the Union's published output from our conferences. With three more proceedings added to the site we have a growing body of content which is beginning to receive more traffic now that all this content has been consolidated on to the one site.

#### Other online services

The BOU Register of Avian Thesis Abstracts (BRANTA) provides access to theses abstracts. The BOU e-group, BOU BirdTalk, has over 300 members who use the group to exchange news, views and make

announcements, etc. The BOU is becoming increasingly dependant on e-groups such as BOU BirdTalk to publicise events and publications.

#### Press and media

We continue to receive coverage of BOU Records Committee announcements in the national birdwatching press and online bird services, as well as regional birdwatching reports and e-groups. In addition, the Senior Administrator gave interviews for several national and regional newspapers and appeared on a number of regional radio programmes covering various ornithological issues. This year this included one of the most bizarre mentions of the BOU – in New Musical Express (NME) as part of the discussion on pigeons defecating on members of the rock band Kings of Leon during a concert.

#### General administrative items

General correspondence, particularly emails, continues to increase and take up a significant amount of Office time.

The BOU maintains a storage facility in Peterborough, which it shares with the BOC, for the storage of publications, journal stocks, sales goods and archive items.

#### ***Ibis* Management Committee**

*Members* Dr I.R. Hartley (Chairman), Dr M. Bolton (from July), Dr R. Bowie (Editor), Dr D. Chamberlain (Editor), Dr P.F. Donald (Editor in Chief), Mr S.P. Dudley (Senior Administrator), Mrs A.F. Langford (Journal Manager), Dr R. Nager (Editor), Dr S.J. Reynolds (to July), Dr A. MacColl, Prof. J. Wilson (Editor).

The Committee acts as an advisory group to help determine the direction of the journal, and to provide support and advice in the management of the journal. During the year, Dr Jim Reynolds retired from the Committee and we thank him for his contribution over the past few years. He was replaced by Dr Mark Bolton, whom we welcome to the Committee.

The Committee held two meetings in 2010, with other business conducted by email. The first meeting was our now annual 'Ibis day' hosted by our publisher, Wiley-Blackwell, where we received their annual report on production, marketing and accounts and we reviewed both the editorial and business sides of the journal. The second meeting was for strategic journal planning to look at the development of the journal, which was also attended by Wiley-Blackwell staff.

This was Paul Donald's first full-year as Editor-in-Chief (EiC) whilst Rauri Bowie, Dan Chamberlain, Ruedi Nager and Jeremy Wilson continued in their roles as Editors. Angela Langford continued in her role as Journal Manager, which takes up about 40% of her time as a BOU staff member. Steve Dudley continues to manage the business side of *Ibis* with our publisher, Wiley-Blackwell. *Ibis* continues to flourish under this excellent team.

This year saw the retirement of Claire Spottiswoode, Michael Sorenson and Keith Hamer from the Associate Editor board. We thank them for their valuable contribution. Joining the board in 2010 were Niall Burton, Arjun Amar, Jerome Fuchs, Stuart Marsden, Francis Daunt, Gary Voelker, Keith Tarvin, Lorien Pichegru, Alekski Lehtikainen, Rob Clark and Morten Frederiksen.

The impact of journals is compared using data compiled by the Institute of Scientific Information (ISI). In 2010, the impact factor ranking of *Ibis* amongst other ornithological journals rose from 5th out of 19 in 2009, to 2nd place. This is largely due to an increase in publication speed and the increasing quality of published papers. The challenge will be to maintain the position, but we have already seen some of the effects of this rise, with an increase in submissions during 2010, and proportionately more of these from the USA.

*Ibis* continues to be published on behalf of the Union by Wiley-Blackwell Publishing, from whom we receive excellent service, support and advice. In 2010, Wiley-Blackwell staff continued to develop the quality, production and marketing of *Ibis* and their help was greatly appreciated.

#### **Meetings Committee**

*Members* Dr R.B. Bradbury (Chairman), Dr N. Burton, Dr H. Baker, Mr S.P. Dudley (Senior Administrator, *ex officio*), Dr D. Evans, Dr K. Evans, Mrs A.F. Langford (Journal & Office Manager, *ex officio*), Dr M.J. Whittingham, Mr H. Wright (Student representative).

The Meetings Committee is responsible for maintaining the ongoing programme of BOU conferences and meetings and to provide advice and support to the BOU Office and others responsible for organising and running BOU events, and to oversee the publication of output from any conference via [www.BOUPROC.net](http://www.BOUPROC.net).

The Committee met once during the year and also conducted business by email.

#### Annual Spring Conference 2010

The BOU held its annual conference, on *Climate Change and Birds*, at the University of Leicester in April. The programme organising committee, led by Dr Rowena Langston (RSPB), consisted of Dr James Pearce-Higgins (RSPB), Dr Dan Chamberlain (BTO), Mr Allan Drewitt (Natural England), Dr Steve Willis (University of Durham) and Dr Richard Bradbury (RSPB). The programme organising committee put together an excellent programme of talks and posters. In conjunction with the BOU Senior Administrator, the organising committee also helped to secure external funding for the conference. The Union is grateful for financial assistance from Department of Energy and Climate Change, Natural England, RSPB and Scottish Natural Heritage.

Most talks were invited, though some slots were made available for offered talks, the majority being filled by student contributions. Following discussions at Council, financial assistance was made available to enable overseas speakers and students to attend and present. In all, 130 delegates attended. The University of Leicester continues to prove an excellent venue and the conference was



considered by all to be a great success. However, because of lower than expected attendance this conference incurred a loss of £3,000 before taking account of direct funding. The reduced attendance may have been caused by several factors including the timing (immediately after Easter weekend), the economic climate and the programme perhaps being too broad. With direct funding in decline due to the economic climate, ensuring we cover costs from delegate income alone will become more acute.

At least three papers have been submitted to *Ibis* and 15 extended abstracts have been published on BOUProc.net.

#### Autumn Conference 2010

There was no autumn meeting in 2010. It had been hoped to run a one-day conference on species recovery, led by Dr Andy Evans (RSPB). However, the decision was made to delay this conference until autumn 2011, given the low likelihood, in the current financial climate, of being able to attract external financial support.

#### Future Events

In April 2011, the BOU's annual conference will again be held at the University of Leicester. An excellent programme on *Migratory Birds* has been lead-organised by Dr Helen Baker (JNCC). Other members of the conference organising team are Jacquie Clark (BTO), Phil Atkinson (BTO), Karl Evans (Sheffield University) and Peter Jones (Edinburgh University).

For 2012 we are planning to run the annual conference on *Birds and Ecosystem Services*. Dr Darren Evans (University of Hull) is heading up the programme organising team.

#### BOUPROC.net – [www.bouproc.net](http://www.bouproc.net)

The Committee now has responsibility for overseeing the published output from its conferences. For each conference, either the principal programme organiser or an appointed editor oversees submitted items for publication on BOUProc.net. All items are externally copy-edited to BOU house style by Paddy Smith who also works as part of our *Ibis* team. This helps to ensure some consistency across publications. The Senior Administrator is responsible for project managing each conference proceedings to publication.

It appears, now that BOUProc.net requires only extended abstracts, that both the number of items submitted and the speed of submission, have both significantly increased.

During the year three proceedings were added to BOUPROC.net – *The Impacts of Non-native species*, *Lowland Farmland Birds III* and *Climate Change and Birds* – the latter within six months of the conference being held.

### **BOU/BOC Joint Publications Committee**

*Members* Revd. T.W. Gladwin (BOC appointed Chairman), Dr. J. Cooper, Mr S.P. Dudley (Publications Manager), Mrs A.F. Langford (Journal & Office Manager), Mr D.J. Montier, Dr R. Prys-Jones, Dr D.R. Wells (Commissioning Editor BOU and BOC non-journal titles),

#### The Committee

This joint committee (JPC), which is responsible for the BOU's and British Ornithological Club's (BOC) non-journal publications, met once in 2010 with much of its business being otherwise conducted by email. The Chairman of the Committee is alternately appointed by the BOC and the BOU. Nominated by the BOC in 2009, Tom Gladwin continues to chair the Committee until April 2011 when he is due to retire. There is also a vacancy for a BOU representative following the retirement of Chris Perrins which we hope to fill in early 2011. Robert Prys-Jones succeeded Tony Statham as one of the BOC's representatives. We thank both Chris and Tony for their service.

#### Publications

No new titles were published during the year. Michael Walters' manuscript, *The Birds of Linnaeus 1758*, has been received and is currently being reviewed.

The Committee is reviewing its policy to ensure the avifaunal integrity of the areas covered by titles recommended for publication.

The Committee continues to maintain contact with authors of other potential titles, and evaluate new proposals.

### **Grants Committee**

*Members* Dr P. Donald (Chairman), Dr P. Atkinson, Dr J. Barlow, Dr P. Dolman, Mr S.P. Dudley (Senior Administrator, *ex officio*), Mr A. Symes. Mrs A. F. Langford attends meetings.

This Committee advises Council on selection of research grant applications that the BOU should support.

The Committee met once during the year to consider the research grant applications and conducted the rest of its business by correspondence.

#### Research grants

The Committee received 21 research grant applications. The Committee continues to look at further ways of increasing the number, quality and geographical coverage of applications for future years, for example through direct contacts and wider publicity.

Council accepted the Committee's recommendation that the following projects be funded:

Action research and conservation of the critically endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper *Eurynorhynchus pygmeus* in Bangladesh, Sayam Uddin Chowdhury (Bangladesh), £1900.

Developing a molecular phylogeny of Asian hornbills to test biogeographic hypotheses and clarify conservation priorities, Juan Carlos Gonzalez (Philippines/UK), £800.

Determinants of variation in productivity, adult survival and recruitment in Whinchats *Saxicola rubetra* on Salisbury Plain, Ian Henderson (UK), £1600.

A Survey of the Critically Endangered Archer's Lark *Heteromira fra archeri* of Somaliland, Claire Spottiswoode (UK), £2000.

Contribution to updating the population status of globally threatened Grey-necked Picathartes *Picathartes oreas* in Cameroon, Taku Awa II (Cameroon), £900.

Climatic impacts on productivity of Arctic Terns *Sterna paradisaea* in Iceland, Freydis Vigfusdottir (Iceland/UK), £800.

Researching the effectiveness of White-shouldered Ibis *Pseudibis davisoni* nest protection, Hugh Wright (UK), £2000.

#### Research project reports

During the year we received and published the following reports from projects previously supported by the Union:

Wright, H (UK). Establishing a national monitoring programme for White-shouldered Ibis in Cambodia. Awarded £1995 in 2009. (*Ibis* 152: 206-208).

Wooton, S (UK). Threatened species surveys in the Gola Forest Reserves, Sierra Leone. Awarded £400 in 2006. (*Ibis* 152: 205-206).

#### [www.BIRDGRANTS.org](http://www.BIRDGRANTS.org)

The BOU set up this one-stop grant website in 2009. The aim is to provide a one-stop shop for information on grants and awards available for bird conservation and ornithological projects. Take up by other bodies has been slow, but interest is slowly building and we currently have six participating organisations with others due to join in 2011.

## **Records Committee**

*Members* Mr R. Y. McGowan (Chairman, until April), Dr J. M. Collinson (Chairman, from April), Mr A. H. J. Harrop (Secretary), Dr A. Brown, Mr S. P. Dudley (Senior Administrator, *ex officio*), Dr J. Gilroy (from July), Mr. C. Kehoe, Mr P. A. Lassey, Mr R. Millington, Mr A. Rowlands (Chairman BBRC, *ex officio*), Mr J. Steele, Dr S. Votier.

The Records Committee is responsible for maintaining the British List, the official list of birds recorded in Britain.

The Committee met once during the year with most of its business conducted by post and email.

The Committee's 39th Report, covering the period October 2009 to September 2010 was published in January 2011 (*Ibis* 153: 227-232).

During the year, Dr James Gilroy was appointed as a replacement for Dr Martin Collinson, a serving member of the Committee, who was elected a member of Council to replace Mr Bob McGowan as Chairman of the Committee. We would like to thank Bob for his outstanding contribution during his time on the Committee, and we are pleased he has agreed to remain associated with the Committee as its museums specialist.

### Changes to the British List

The following species were added to Category A: Greater Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*, Amur Falcon *Falco amurensis*, Tufted Puffin *Lunda cirrhata*, Eastern Crowned Warbler *Phylloscopus coronatus* and Citril Finch *Carduelis citrinella*. The following subspecies was added to Category A: Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca sibirica*.

Other changes: Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus*, acceptance of a new first record. White-throated Sparrow *Zonotrichia albicollis*, acceptance of a new first record.

The changes to the British List published in the most recent Committee report means that the List comprises 592 species (574 Category A, 9 Category B and 9 solely in Category C).

### Review of Category D species

A review of species in this category continues. For details of changes see the report referred to above.

### Category F Sub-committee

The sub-committee met in August 2010 and made progress towards establishing a database of repositories of ancient avian specimen material and producing a draft Category F list.

### BOURC archive project

During the year Council agreed to fund the digital archiving of the Committee's large archive of species files. This is a laborious task which involves the cataloguing of each file we hold prior to scanning to PDF. This first phase of the project is expected to be completed during 2011.

### Committee online intranet site

The Committee operates an online intranet site which is used for the storage of images and documents to assist with its work.

### Forward planning

We will continue with the digitization of the Committee's archives. Press releases, when appropriate, will continue to be used as a vehicle to ensure the Committee's work is kept in the public eye and to publicise decisions promptly.

### Formal links

The BOURC maintains its close links with the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC). That Committee's Chairman, Mr Adam Rowlands, remains an *ex officio* member of the BOURC while the BOURC Secretary continues to work closely with BBRC's Secretariat.

### **Membership**

After a couple of years of stability, the Union's membership underwent another slight decline with 1001 members as at 31 December 2010 (1087 end of 2009). The decline is directly attributed to the current recession with those resigning indicating they were doing so in order to reduce their outgoings.

The following members were elected (or re-elected having lapsed their membership for one or more years) during 2010: Mr Luiz Dos Anjos, Dr Keith J Benjusan, Mr John Best, Mr Julian Bielewicz, Mr Nicolas Boileau, Mr Joeri Bruyninckx, Mr Malcolm Burgess, Mr Mark Simon Burgess, Dr Niall Burton, Mr Fabio Casale, Dr Dan Chamberlain, Mr Marcell Claasan, Mr David Clark, Mr Howard Colmer, Mr Raymond Croke, Mr Andrew Dixon, Dr Paul Dolman, Knut Eiserman, Mr Norbert Frenz, Mr Robert Heathcote, Mr Philipp Herrman, Mr David Howey, Mr Assen Ignatov, Ms Annette Jarrett-Knock, Mr Les Jessop, Ms Georgina Kelly, Mr David Charles Lathbury, Ms Kirsty Lees, Ms Hila Levy, Mr Sergio M Pedrosa Marques, Mr Jeffrey Martin, Prof Bernd Meyburg, Mr Roger Murfitt, Mr Alec Napier, Mr John Norrey, Michiel Nys, Dr James Pearce-Higgins, Mr C J Perry, Mr David Pollard, Ms Marta Franco Popovics, Mr Ivor Roberts, Mr Chris Routh, Dr Eleanor Rowley, Mr Kabelo Senyatso, Dr Gavin Siriwardena, Ms Hilary Margaret Swain, Mr Ben Swallow, Ms Anna Tamas, Johan Traff, Dr Rolf Uhlig, Mr Rene Vos, Mr James Waggit, Mr Ken White, Mr James Wilson, Mr Hugh Wright, Ms Allison Yellowley.

Twenty-two resignations were accepted during the year and Council noted with regret the following deaths: Mr J E Bottom, Mrs D Bradley, Mr P Britton, Dr J Haffer, Dr M Myres, Prof S Piper, Dr I Rowley, Mr D J Slin, Mr R B Trevealen, Mr C Walker and Prof J Warham.

## **Financial Review**

*Honorary Treasurer Mr P.J. Oliver*

As anticipated, the surplus revealed by the accounts before changes in the valuation of investments fell sharply, from £62,000 to £32,000. There were two main reasons for this. 2009 was the first full year to reflect the initial surge in sales of *Ibis* back issues following their availability electronically. Such sales were at a lower level in 2010 with the result that total *Ibis* income fell from £93,000 to £84,000. Secondly, conference income fell from £51,000 to £42,000. This was thought to be attributable to tighter institutional budgets restricting the number of attendees at the spring conference. Accordingly, Council decided not to offer an autumn conference. Other publication income also fell as a result of no new volume becoming available in the BOU Checklist Series. In the context of the general financial climate, interest and investment income held up reasonably well.

Costs were generally contained. In the case of conferences it is not possible to restrict them proportionately to falling income as the extent of the latter is not apparent until a number of the costs have been incurred. The accounts also include in those costs a subsidy of £7,700 to students and overseas speakers. There were modest increases in *Ibis* editorial costs and other publication costs include, for the first time, the costs (£2,000) of PROC.net. The accounts do not reveal the total overhead expenditure (broadly all indirect expenditure other than staff costs) since, under charity accounting rules, these are mostly required to be allocated across each charitable activity. In total they amounted to £30,500 in the year compared with £35,500 in 2009. Some £3,000 of this reduction was attributable to non-recurring computer expenditure incurred in 2009. Excluding that, overhead expenditure fell by 5% in the year.

As previously reported, Council has approved expenditure of a proportion of past year's surpluses as additional charitable expenditure. This year, apart from the conference subsidy referred to above, an additional £3,000 was spent on digitising the BOURC archives. Further expenditure was authorised but not committed in the year and this will fall to be accounted for in the year in which it is incurred.

The Union's balance sheet remains robust. Cash generation continues to be strong, the *Ibis* results being an important element of this. At the year-end there were cash and deposit balances of over £400,000. Part of this represents long-term investments. The investment trustees have considered regularly during the year whether it would be appropriate to invest further in equity-based funds, but have concluded that, in the prevailing climate, that would be inappropriate. In the meantime, such sums are retained on fixed term deposits. During the year the improvement in asset prices resulted in the Union's existing equity-based investments increasing in value by £9,000 to £212,000. While the next year or two are likely to see continuing pressure on all the Union's sources of income, combined with continuing cost inflation, it continues to be well placed to support its charitable activities.

## **President's statement**

Dr A. Dawson

The BOU continued to make positive progress during 2010. Our management team, Steve Dudley as Senior Administrator and Angela Langford as Office and Journal Manager, continue to work very efficiently in their respective roles and my sincere thanks go to both of them.

The financial position of the BOU remains sound, although cuts in the budgets of the conservation agencies are likely to impinge upon our future conference budgets. The current position has enabled the Union to start a new scheme – Career Development Bursaries. These are designed to enable researchers early in their career (pre- or immediate post-doctoral) to gain experience by working with established ornithological research groups.

Another highlight this year is the continuing improvement of *Ibis*, under its Editor in Chief, Dr Paul Donald. The citation impact factor has increased so that the ranking of *Ibis* increased from 5th to 2nd amongst ornithological journals. My thanks go to everyone involved in the production of *Ibis*: the Editors, Associate Editors and Journal Manager.

As usual, there are many other people I would like to thank (these are listed in full below), but there are specific ones I would like to mention here. The Rev. Tom Gladwin retires as chairman of the Joint Publications Committee. He has been chairman since this committee's inception in April 2002. Professor Rob Fuller retires as Vice President, Dr Richard Bradbury retires from chairing the Meetings Committee and Professor Tim Birkhead retires from Council. I am indebted to all of them.

This is my last statement as President. During the last four years there have been significant changes and improvements within the BOU. In particular, four years ago we had an office in Oxford, a part time Journal Assistant based in Oxford and a part time Administrative Assistant, also based in Oxford, assisting Steve Dudley who worked from home near Peterborough. Now we have two full time staff, Steve Dudley as Senior Administrator and Angela Langford as Office and Journal Manager, both working from home, but near to each other. This has proved to be a very effective arrangement. Another innovative advance has been the development of *BOUProc.net*, the mechanism through which we now produce conference proceedings. Finally, we have digitized the complete back catalogue of *Ibis*. This was planned initially as a philanthropic gesture by the Union to celebrate our 150th anniversary. However, not only has this provided a hugely valuable resource for ornithologists, it also turned out to be financially lucrative to the Union. I take little credit for these developments – they are largely a result of the effort and foresight of Steve Dudley, supported by Council.

I am delighted the Dr Jenny Gill has agreed to stand for election as President from April 2011. I am sure that she will provide the Union with wise and enthusiastic leadership and that the Union will continue to thrive under her Presidency.

## **Responsibilities of the Trustees**

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements

in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). The financial statements are required by law to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the surplus or deficit of the charity for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

### **Acknowledgements**

The Union would like to extend their thanks and gratitude to the following individuals who have assisted on various BOU activities throughout the year: Raurie Bowie, Dan Chamberlain, Paul Donald, Jeremy Wilson, Patrick Smith and all Associate Editors for their continued hard work on *Ibis*; Debbie Wright, Graeme Henderson, Paul Eddowes, Davina Quarterman, Jack Yuille and Jo Cipolla and everyone else at Wiley-Blackwell Publishing for their help in delivering our high quality journal; Dr Rowena Langston (RSPB), Dr James Pearce-Higgins (RSPB), Dr Dan Chamberlain (BTO), Mr Allan Drewitt (Natural England), Dr Steve Willis (University of Durham) and Dr Richard Bradbury (RSPB) for their work preparing the programme for the annual conference; David Wells (Commissioning editor for all BOU and BOC non-journal titles); Patrick Smith (copy-editor for BOUPROC.net); Eng-Li Green (BOU website); Rob Robinson (BRANTA and BOU BirdTalk); Joy Enston (Subbuteo Natural History Books) for supporting the annual BOU conference and for assisting with storage of our publications stock; Kim Thompson and Andy McGurk and staff at Peterborough Eco Innovation Centre (venue for BOU meetings); Emma Rathbone and Jo Taylor and the conference staff at the University of Leicester (BOU annual conferences); Mark Adams, and Robert Prys-Jones (Natural History Museum, Tring), Clare Brown (Leeds Museum), Pierre-André Crochet, Marc Förschler, Meritxell Genovart, Steve Howell, Dr A G Knox, Peter Pyle, Roger Riddington, Peter Robinson, Roger Wilkinson (Chester Zoo), Russell Wynn and Tony Walentowicz (for assisting with the work of the Records Committee); and we apologise to anyone we have inadvertently omitted.

Approved by the Council on 15 March 2011

And signed on its behalf by

A. Dawson, President .....



## BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2010

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowed Funds £	Total Funds 2010 £	Total funds 2009 £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>						
Incoming resources from generated funds:						
Voluntary income	2	3,829	–	–	3,829	3,473
Activities for generating funds	3	156,496	18,000	–	174,496	205,497
Investment income	4	10,186	5,188	–	15,374	16,357
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<b>170,511</b>	<b>23,188</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>193,699</b>	<b>225,327</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>						
Costs of generating funds:						
Costs of generating voluntary income						(146,784)
	5	(115,211)	(28,000)	–	(143,211)	)
Governance costs	6	(18,610)	–	–	(18,610)	(16,644)
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>		<b>(133,821)</b>	<b>(28,000)</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>(161,821)</b>	<b>(163,428)</b>
<b>NET INCOMING RESOURCES BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>36,690</b>	<b>(4,812)</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>31,878</b>	<b>61,899</b>
Losses on investment assets		–	–	–	–	(1,894)
Unrealized gain on investments		6,027	–	2,991	9,018	20,205
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		<b>42,717</b>	<b>(4,812)</b>	<b>2,991</b>	<b>40,896</b>	<b>80,210</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>						
Total funds brought forward		449,443	18,344	148,221	616,008	535,798
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<b>492,160</b>	<b>13,532</b>	<b>151,212</b>	<b>656,904</b>	<b>616,008</b>

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a statement of total recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.

All of the above amounts relate to continuing.

**The notes on pages 18 to 23 form part of these financial statements**

# BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

## BALANCE SHEET

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2010

	Note	2009	2008
		£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Investments	9	212,404	203,386
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Stocks	10	7,338	10,205
Debtors	11	56,095	74,204
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>416,643</u>	<u>360,838</u>
		480,076	445,247
<b>CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year</b>	12	<u>(35,576)</u>	<u>(32,625)</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		444,500	412,622
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>656,904</u>	<u>616,008</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>656,904</u>	<u>616,008</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>			
Endowment funds	13	151,212	148,221
Restricted income funds	14	13,532	18,344
Unrestricted income funds	15	492,160	449,443
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>		<u>656,904</u>	<u>616,008</u>

Approved by the Council on the 15 March 2011  
And are signed on their behalf by:

A. Dawson, President .....

The notes on pages 19 to 23 form part of these financial statements

# BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2010

## 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

### Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, except for investments which are included at market value, and in accordance with applicable United Kingdom accounting standards, the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" issued in March 2005 (SORP 2005) and the Charities Act 1993.

### Fixed assets

All fixed assets are initially recorded at cost.

### Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

### Life Membership

Life membership subscriptions are accounted for when received. No further releases have been made from Life Members fund since 31st December 2006.

### Legacies

Legacy income is accounted for when received.

### Investments

Investments are recorded in the balance sheet at market value.

## 2. VOLUNTARY INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2010 £	Total Funds 2009 £
<b>Donations</b>			
Donations	180	180	202
<b>Other income</b>			
Other income	3,649	3,649	3,271
	<b>3,829</b>	<b>3,829</b>	3,473

The notes on pages 19 to 23 form part of these financial statements

## BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2010

### 3. INCOMING RESOURCES FROM ACTIVITIES FOR GENERATING FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2010	Total Funds 2009
	£	£	£	£
Publication income - Ibis	85,598	–	85,598	93,643
Other publication income	15,618	–	15,618	25,872
Conference income	23,661	18,000	41,661	51,398
Subscriptions	31,619	–	31,619	34,584
	<b>156,496</b>	<b>18,000</b>	<b>174,496</b>	<b>205,497</b>

### 4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2010	Total Funds 2009
	£	£	£	£
Income from investments	6,103	5,188	11,291	11,299
Bank interest receivable	4,083	–	4,083	5,058
	<b>10,186</b>	<b>5,188</b>	<b>15,374</b>	<b>16,357</b>

### 5. COSTS OF GENERATING VOLUNTARY INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2010	Total Funds 2009
	£	£	£	£
Conference Costs	23,908	18,000	41,908	45,929
Publication costs - Ibis	41,492	–	41,492	46,466
Other publication costs	20,527	–	20,527	23,061
Research costs	2,115	10,000	12,115	11,091
Management costs	27,169	–	27,169	20,237
	<b>115,211</b>	<b>28,000</b>	<b>143,211</b>	<b>146,784</b>

The notes on pages 19 to 23 form part of these financial statements

## BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2010

#### 6. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2010	Total Funds 2009
	£	£	£
Accountancy fees	7,265	7,265	4,538
Audit fees	4,376	4,376	4,413
Costs of trustees' and committee meetings	6,969	6,969	7,693
	<b>18,610</b>	<b>18,610</b>	16,644

#### 7. NET INCOMING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR

This is stated after charging:

	2010	2009
	£	£
Staff pension contributions	6,294	2,133
Auditors' remuneration: - audit of the financial statements	<b>4,376</b>	4,413

#### 8. STAFF COSTS AND EMOLUMENTS

Total staff costs were as follows:

	2010	2009
	£	£
Wages and salaries	57,435	56,587
Social security costs	2,139	5,798
Other pension costs	6,294	2,133
	<b>65,868</b>	64,518

##### Particulars of employees:

The average number of employees during the year, calculated on the basis of full-time equivalents, was as follows:

	2010	2009
	No	No
Number of administrative staff	<b>2</b>	2

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year (2009 - Nil).

No Council member received any remuneration in the year.

Expenses were paid to Council members of £2,570 (2009 - £2,815)

The notes on pages 19 to 23 form part of these financial statements

# BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2010

### 9. INVESTMENTS

#### Movement in market value

	2010	2009
	£	£
Market value at 1 January 2010	203,386	228,318
Acquisitions at cost	-	-
Disposals at opening book value	-	(45,137)
Net gain/(loss) on revaluations in the year	9,018	20,205
Market value at 31 December 2010	<u>212,404</u>	<u>203,386</u>
Historical cost at 31 December 2010	<u>118,005</u>	<u>139,890</u>

#### Analysis of investments at 31 December 2010 between funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowed Funds	Total Funds 2010	Total Funds 2009
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Listed investments</b>					
Treasury Stock	-	-	14,755	14,755	15,452
UK Quoted Shares	120,941	-	74,201	195,142	185,427
	<u>120,941</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>88,956</u>	<u>209,897</u>	<u>200,879</u>
<b>Other investments</b>					
UK Cash	-	-	2,507	2,507	2,507
	<u>120,941</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>91,463</u>	<u>212,404</u>	<u>203,386</u>

### 10. STOCKS

	2010	2009
	£	£
Stock	<u>7,338</u>	<u>10,205</u>

The notes on pages 19 to 23 form part of these financial statements

## BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2010

#### 11. DEBTORS

	2010	2009
	£	£
Trade debtors	54,319	70,890
Other debtors	1,776	3,314
	<u>56,095</u>	<u>74,204</u>

#### 12. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	2010	2009
	£	£
Subs in advance	1,762	–
Other creditors	19,753	17,907
Accruals	14,061	14,718
	<u>35,576</u>	<u>32,625</u>

#### 13. ENDOWMENT FUNDS

	Balance at 1 Jan 2010	Investment Gains/(losses)	Balance at 31 Dec 2010
	£	£	£
<b>Permanent endowments</b>			
L & MT Research Fund	81,135	3,224	84,359
Research Fund	42,848	464	43,312
Hutt Legacy	24,238	-697	23,541
	<u>148,221</u>	<u>2,991</u>	<u>151,212</u>

The Landsborough and Mary Thomson Research Fund and the Hutt Legacy represent funds set up by individual donors. The purpose of the L&MT Research Fund was to fund research while the Hutt Legacy is intended for the general purposes of the Union. The income arising from the capital held in investments is credited to the Restricted Research Fund. The Endowed Research Fund represents permanent capital, the income from which is transferred to the fund of the same name in Restricted Funds.

The notes on pages 19 to 23 form part of these financial statements

## BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2010

#### 14. RESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS

	Balance at 1 Jan 2010	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Balance at 31 Dec 2010
	£	£	£	£
The Research Fund	18,344	5,188	-10,000	13,532
Conference Sponsorship	-	18,000	-18,000	-
	<u>18,344</u>	<u>23,188</u>	<u>-28,000</u>	<u>13,532</u>

The Research Fund represents the income arising from The Landsborough and Mary Thomson Research Fund, The Hutt Legacy and The Research Fund endowed funds. Its purpose is to fund research in accordance with the objects of the Union.

#### 16. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Investments	Net current assets	Total
	£	£	£
Restricted Funds:	-	13,532	13,532
Endowment Funds:	91,463	59,749	151,212
Unrestricted Income Funds:	120,941	371,219	492,160
Total Funds	<u>212,404</u>	<u>444,500</u>	<u>656,904</u>

#### 17. POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

The rules of the Union adopted at the Annual General Meeting in 2010 have been amended. These amendments have been accepted by the Charity Commission.



**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION  
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2010**

We have audited the financial statements of British Ornithologists' Union for the year ended 31 December 2010 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and the related notes. These financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out therein.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 43 of the Charities Act 1993 and regulations made under section 44 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

**RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEES AND AUDITOR**

The trustees' responsibilities for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and for being satisfied that the charity's financial statements give a true and fair view are set out in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities.

We have been appointed as auditors under section 43 of the Charities Act 1993 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 44 of that Act. Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and are properly prepared in accordance with the relevant financial reporting framework and are prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 1993.

In addition we report to you if, in our opinion, the charity has not kept sufficient accounting records, or if the statement of accounts does not accord with those records or if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

We read the Trustees Annual Report, and consider whether it is inconsistent with the audited financial statements. We consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the financial statements.

**BASIS OF AUDIT OPINION**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to

the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the trustees in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charity's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

## **OPINION**

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view, in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2010 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended; and
- the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 1993.

Friary Court  
13 – 21 High Street  
Guildford  
Surrey  
GU1 3DL

ALLIOTTS  
Chartered Accountants &  
Registered Auditors.

15 March 2011

Annual Report and Accounts for 2010 approved by BOU Annual General Meeting, University of Leicester, 6 April 2011