

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

advancing ornithology



2011

# Annual Report & Accounts

**BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION**

PO Box 417, Peterborough PE7 3FX, UK

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Registered Charity No. 249877

Founded 1858



## PRESIDENT

Dr Jenny Gill

*“ This has been an exciting year for the BOU ”*

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## President's Statement

This has been an exciting year for the BOU, as we began the process of a strategic review of Union activities. The BOU, along with many other similar organisations, has experienced a steady decline in membership in recent years, and the time is therefore ripe to explore potential routes for improving engagement with all aspects of the ornithological community.

One specific area of interest is encouraging greater involvement of young ornithological researchers, both students and those at an early-career stage. Many of us began our involvement with the BOU at this early stage, and consequently benefitted greatly from reading *Ibis* and other BOU publications and attending BOU conferences. However, the general trend away from taxon-specific approaches to scientific research may have meant that early-career researchers are less attracted to taxon-specific organisations such as the BOU. In order to address these issues, we organised a workshop in September 2011, to which we invited students and early-career researchers from a wide range of universities and organisations. The workshop was held in York, and 23 participants from locations ranging from Aberdeen to Oxford accepted our invitation to attend. The workshop began with a wonderful presentation from Tim Birkhead on *The History of Ornithology*, which set the scene perfectly for discussions of the activities of the BOU. The participants contributed with great enthusiasm and interest, and the discussions allowed us to formulate a series of issues to discuss within BOU committees and Council.

Despite most workshop participants not describing themselves as ornithologists, there was clear enthusiasm to be involved with organisations like the BOU, and especially to feel part of a community. The highly informative and engaging discussions of BOU activities were very rewarding, and have provided us with a very solid foundation for developing the Strategic Review process. One immediate action that we have undertaken is to invite workshop participants to attend BOU committees, in order to become more involved in the community-based design and delivery of BOU activities and outputs.

*Ibis* continues to thrive in an increasingly competitive world of scientific publishing. The exceptional skill and hard work of our editorial teams, including the Editor-in-Chief, Editors and Associate

*“ The finances of the BOU remain sound despite the ongoing difficulties of the economic climate ”*

Editors, has meant that the journal has gone from strength to strength. The very high quality of papers published in *Ibis* is reflected in the increased Impact Factor, which should help to continue to attract high quality submissions.

The 2011 annual conference on *Migratory Birds* was a great success, with a wide range of speakers addressing important issues and very good attendance. The Conference Declaration that was produced through the combined efforts of Nicola Crockford (RSPB), Helen Baker (JNCC), Danaë Sheehan (RSPB) and others was used very effectively at the subsequent 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Migratory Species, and we are very pleased to have been able to contribute to the successful adoption of the CMS resolution on the Conservation of Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region.

The annual conference also saw the first of our dedicated conference activities for early-career researchers, with a Question & Answer session at which Prof Hanna Kokko, Prof Pete Marra, Dr Juliet Vickery and Dr Dan Chamberlain kindly agreed to be grilled by the large group of students and early-career researchers present. This event was a huge success, with a series of thought-provoking questions being expertly, and entertainingly, addressed by the panel. We aim to hold similar events in the future, to facilitate and encourage discussion of relevant and important topics in ornithology.

The finances of the BOU remain sound despite the ongoing difficulties of the economic climate. Over the last five years, BOU finances have been very skilfully managed by our Honorary Treasurer, Peter Oliver. Peter steps down from this position in 2012, and we would like to thank him most sincerely for his efforts and contributions. His wise counsel will be missed. Dr Paul Donald, Dr Ian Hartley and Prof Sarah Wanless also step down from BOU Council this year, and we are also very grateful for their hard work and contribution to committees and Council.

Finally, I would like to express my thanks to Steve Dudley (Senior Administrator) and Angela Langford (Journal and Office Manager) for the continuing excellent service that they provide to the BOU, and I look forward to our continued development of BOU activities.



## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

### British Ornithologists' Union

Founded 1858

Registered as a Charity in England and Wales, no. 249877

### Address

PO Box 417, Peterborough PE7 3FX, UK

Tel: +44 (0) 1 733 844 820

Email: [bou@bou.org.uk](mailto:bou@bou.org.uk)

Web: [www.bou.org.uk](http://www.bou.org.uk)

### BOU Staff at 31 December 2011

#### Senior Administrator

Mr S.P. Dudley

#### Journal & Office Manager

Mrs A.F. Langford

### Council Officers at 31 December 2011

*President* Dr J. Gill

*Vice President* Prof G. Martin

*Honorary Secretary* Dr K. Smith

*Honorary Treasurer* Mr P.J. Oliver FCA

### Ordinary Members of Council

at 31 December 2011

Dr N. Burton (Chairman Meetings Committee), Dr S. Butchart,

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),

Dr T. Pizzari, Dr G. Siriwardena,

Dr C. Spottiswoode and Prof S. Wanless.

## Structure, Governance & 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.



## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Cont . . .

### Trustees

The following individuals served as Trustees of the charity at the time of Council approving this annual report and accounts:

Dr N. Burton, Dr S. Butchart, Dr J.M. Collinson, Dr P.F. Donald, Dr J.A. Gill, Dr I.R. Hartley, Prof G. Martin, Mr P.J. Oliver, Dr T. Pizzari, Dr G. Siriwardena, Dr K. Smith, Dr C. Spottiswoode and Prof. 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: Prof. T. Birkhead, Dr R. Bradbury, Dr A. Dawson and Prof. R.J. Fuller.

### BOU editorial positions at 31 December 2011

*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 2011

The following individuals served as Investment Trustees for the Union during the period of this report and accounts:

Mr N.J. Crocker, Mr R. Price and Mr S.J. Rumsey.

# Objectives & Activities

## 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:

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



## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Cont . . .

### 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, 34 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

## Objectives & Activities *cont.* . . .

### Council Activities

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

At the AGM in April, Dr Jenny Gill was elected to replace Dr Alistair Dawson as President, Prof Graham Martin was elected as Vice President to replace Prof Rob Fuller, Dr Niall Burton was elected to serve as an Ordinary Member of Council to replace Dr Richard Bradbury as Chairman of the Meetings Committee and Dr Stuart Butchart was elected to replace Prof Tim Birkhead as an Ordinary Member of Council.

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.

### Strategic Review

During the year, Council embarked on the first root and branch review of all BOU activities for ten years.

The review is not only long overdue but in the current changing and unsettled financial climate is necessary to ensure that the BOU remains capable of meeting its objectives in a rapidly changing research community.

The review will also look at the needs of our existing and future members and the first actions are already being delivered and will continue throughout 2012.

**re-view** /ri'vyō/

Noun: a formal assessment or examination



### WWW.BOU.ORG.UK

The Union's primary website promotes the BOU 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.

### WWW.IBIS.ORG.UK

The primary gateway to *Ibis* – the international journal of avian science.

### WWW.BOUPROC.NET

A one-stop web portal for the Union's published output from BOU conferences. The proceedings of the *Migratory Birds* conference was added during 2011.

### WWW.BIRDGRANTS.ORG

Provides details of funding for ornithological and bird conservation projects from a number of participating organisations.

### @IBIS\_JOURNAL

Follow the BOU on Twitter for BOU, IBIS and other ornithological news.

## Achievements & Performance

### THE BOU OFFICE

#### Staff

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

#### Office duties

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 implement much of the work arising from them, and specifically,
- to work with the Honorary Treasurer, maintain monthly accounts and budgets and assist in the preparation of annual accounts
- to work with the *Ibis* Management Committee, manage the non-editorial aspects of the Union's journal, *Ibis*
- to work with the Meetings Committee, organise BOU conferences and meetings
- to work with the Joint Publications Committee, manage the publication and sales of BOU and BOC publications
- to work with the Grants Committee and Council, manage the Union's Grants and Career Development Bursary schemes
- to work with the Records Committee, to manage the British List and associated work areas
- to work 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)

*Look out for us on other social media  
platforms in 2012*



## SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media provides the researcher with new tools with which to engage with other researchers, help with some of their research tasks, communicate their research to the wider research community and to collaborate with other researchers.

*“ There is no single ‘right way’ for researchers to use social media.*

*How you use them will depend on you, your discipline, those around you and the research you are doing. ”*

Social Media: a guide for researchers.

Research Information Network. February 2011.

*Biologists are among the top user groups in their use of social media as a research tool.*

Source: Social media and research workflow. UCL. December 2010.

## Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

### BOU Office *cont . . .*

- 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 the BOU's increasing social media output
- 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.

### **BOU websites and social media**

During the year work began on researching our social media needs and the setting up of a Twitter account (@IBIS\_journal) that was fully functioning and attracting many new followers by the years end. Research has shown that very few people want to receive or access information on all platforms with most individuals choosing only one or two platforms to suit their needs. This means that we need to be present across all popular social media, email and web-based platforms in order to reach the majority of our audience, advertise the work of the BOU, attract delegates to conferences and recruit new members.





## BRANTA

BOU Register of Avian Thesis Abstracts

## BOU BirdTalk

The BOU's own e-group for news and discussion.

## Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

### BOU Office *cont . . .*

Towards the end of the year work began on a new website which will better integrate social media content and connectivity as we continue to increase our delivery across more platforms.

### **Other online services**

The BOU Register of Avian Thesis Abstracts (BRANTA) continues to provide access to theses abstracts. The BOU e-group, BOU BirdTalk, has over 400 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. Towards the end of the year the Senior Administrator was interviewed by Talking Naturally for their regular Conference Calls podcast series which was broadcast on 2 December (<http://www.talking-naturally.co.uk/tn73-conference-calls-02-dec-11/>). The podcast was a special feature on the British List and resulted in lots of positive discussion on various online birding sites.

### **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  
MEMBERSHIP**

**CHAIRMAN**

Dr Ian Hartley (University of Lancaster)

**MEMBERS**

Dr Mark Bolton (RSPB)

Dr Raurie Bowie, Editor (University of  
California – Berkeley)

Dr Dan Chamberlain, Editor (University of  
Turin)

Dr Paul Donald, Editor in Chief (RSPB)

Steve Dudley, BOU Senior Administrator

Dr Jenny Gill, BOU President (University of  
East Anglia)

Angela Langford, Journal Manager

Dr Andrew McColl (University of  
Nottingham)

Dr Ruedi Nager, Editor (University of  
Glasgow)

Peter Oliver, BOU Honorary Treasurer

Prof. Jeremy Wilson, Editor (RSPB)

**IBIS ONLINE –  
OVER 150 YEARS OF  
ORNITHOLOGY**

Members choosing to add the online version of *Ibis* to their membership receive access to everything ever published in *Ibis* – back to 1858!

**Achievements & Performance *cont* . . .**

**IBIS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

The *Ibis* Management Committee acts as an advisory group to provide support and advice in the management of the journal, and to act as the BOU's connection to the publisher.

During the year, there were no additions or retirements from the Committee.

The Committee met once in 2011, and other business was conducted by email. The meeting, in March, was hosted by Wiley-Blackwell in Oxford, where we received their annual report on production, marketing and accounts and we presented our editorial report. This was followed by a meeting of the Committee only.

The journal continues to thrive under the leadership of Paul Donald, and with the support of the other editors: Rauri Bowie, Dan Chamberlain, Ruedi Nager and Jeremy Wilson; Angela Langford as Journal Manager; and Steve Dudley who manages the business with our publisher, Wiley-Blackwell.

This year saw the retirement of Suhel Quader, John Quinn and Robert Simmons from the Associate Editor board: we thank them for their valuable contribution. Joining the board in 2011 were Ian Stewart, Ross Wanless and Jose Antonio Sanchez Zapata.

The impact of journals is compared using data compiled by the Institute of Scientific Information (ISI). Among the various statistics that are produced, the impact factor is perhaps the most commonly used when comparing performance with other journals. It is based on the number of papers published in the previous two years that are cited in other papers; the idea is that an important paper will be cited frequently and have immediate effect. In 2011, *Ibis* maintained its position in 2nd place in the impact factor ranking compared to 19 other ornithological journals, with a very healthy factor of 2.295. This is only a fraction below first place. In research fields such as ecology, and many areas of ornithology, published papers often have a much longer lasting impact than two years, but we also have an eye on the immediate impact of our papers. *Ibis* continues to score well on both long-term and short-term impact.

*IBIS*, VOLUME 153 (2011)

Pages	936
Review papers	1
Original papers	59
Short communications	22

Papers were received from 59 different countries. Top five countries (excluding UK): Spain, United States, Brazil, Australia and France.

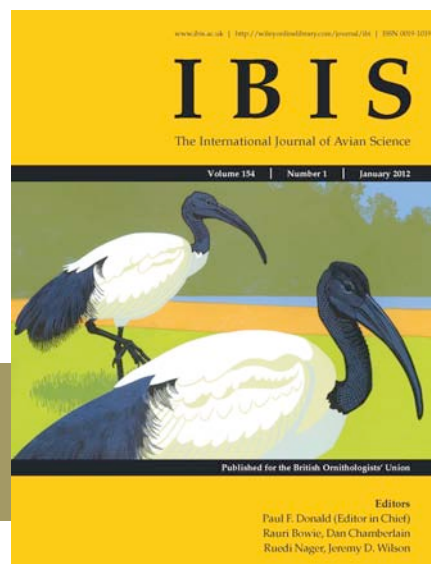
Achievements & Performance *cont . . .**Ibis* Management Committee *cont . . .*

*Ibis* is published on behalf of the BOU by Wiley-Blackwell Publishing, from whom we continue to receive excellent service, support and advice. In 2011, Wiley-Blackwell staff continued to develop the quality, production and marketing of *Ibis* and their help was greatly appreciated, especially in areas where the committee have little experience, such as social media websites. Such advice has helped when it comes to press releases and the spread of news after publication. This year saw several stories generated from *Ibis* that made an impressive impact within the media, notably from papers on ancient nest sites of Gyr Falcons, and the redness of Robins' breasts.

Overall, *Ibis* is a thriving journal which provides a valuable service to researchers and puts the BOU at the front of international avian science. The challenge for the next few years will be to maintain the high quality and impact that the journal currently enjoys.

IBIS

the international journal of avian science





## MEETINGS COMMITTEE

### MEMBERSHIP

#### CHAIRMAN

Dr Niall Burton (BTO)

#### MEMBERS

Dr Helen Baker (JNCC)

Dr Graeme Buchanan (RSPB)

Steve Dudley, BOU Senior Administrator

Dr Darren Evans (University of Hull)

Dr Karl Evans (University of Sheffield)

Angela Langford, Journal & Office Manager

Dr Mark Whittingham (University of  
Newcastle)

Hugh Wright, Student Rep (University of  
East Anglia)

## Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

### MEETINGS COMMITTEE

The Meetings Committee is responsible for maintaining the on-going 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 twice during the year and also conducted business by email.

#### Annual Spring Conference 2011

The BOU held its annual conference, on *Migratory Birds: their ecology and conservation*, at the University of Leicester in April. The programme organising committee was led by Helen Baker (JNCC) and included Danaë Sheehan (RSPB), Jacque Clark (BTO), Phil Atkinson (BTO), Karl Evans (Sheffield University) and Peter Jones (Edinburgh University).

The programme was well received, with some excellent speakers, and was attended by 140 delegates, which compares very favourably to recent years, with ca. 25% of attendees being students. There was no external funding for the conference, though the delegate income meant that the conference produced a small surplus per delegate. Steve Dudley was absent from the conference and the running of the conference fell to Angela Langford aided by the organising committee and Graham Appleton (BTO). The conference venue was also changed at late notice to Digby Hall at Leicester, which had been used for a previous BOU conference. A meeting report was published in the October 2011 issue of *Ibis*, and articles (extended abstracts) from the oral presentations from the conference, and articles and abstracts from posters, were published on BOUProc.net in December 2011.

A resolution from the conference formed part of BirdLife International's presentation (Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region) to the 17th meeting of the Scientific Council of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), Bergen, Norway, 17–18 November 2011.



## DIARY DATES

### 26 NOVEMBER 2012

Autumn One-day Conference  
Marine Renewables and Birds

### 26 – 28 MARCH 2013

2013 Annual Conference  
From populations to policy impact: avian  
demography in a changing world

## Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

### Meetings Committee *cont . . .*

#### Autumn 2011 Conference

The autumn 2011 conference on *Avian Recovery Programmes*, due to be held in Peterborough, was cancelled due to limited bookings. The programme of 14 talks had been put together by an organising committee led by Andy Evans (RSPB) and including Geoff Hilton (WWT) and Phil Grice (NE). It seems likely that the limited bookings for this conference were an unfortunate consequence of the current difficult economic climate, which, at the time of organising the conference, could not have been foreseen.

#### Future events

In April 2012, the BOU's annual conference will again be held at the University of Leicester. An excellent programme, with a wide international input, on *Ecosystem Services: do we need birds?* has been put together by an organising committee led by Darren Evans (University of Hull) and including Mark Whittingham (Newcastle University), Karl Evans (University of Sheffield), Helen Baker (JNCC) and Niall Burton (BTO).

In November 2012, a one-day conference will be held in Peterborough on *Marine Renewables and Birds*, and is being put together by an organising committee led by Niall Burton (BTO), and including Sophy Allen (JNCC), Rowena Langston (RSPB), Francis Daunt (CEH), Steve Votier (Plymouth University), Chris Thaxter (BTO/Seabird Group) and Andy Webb (representing the Seabird Group).

The annual conference for 2013 will be on the theme of *Population Dynamics*, and is being put together by an organising committee led by Rob Robinson (BTO) and including Karl Evans (University of Sheffield).

There will be no BOU conference in autumn 2013 due to the BOU's involvement with the European Ornithologists' Union's conference that is to be held then at the University of East Anglia.

## WWW.BOUPROC.NET

The Meetings Committee is responsible for overseeing the published output from BOU 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 Patrick Smith who also works as part of our *Ibis* team. This helps to ensure 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 increased. Proceedings were added to BOUPROC.net from the *Migratory Birds: their ecology and conservation* conference this year (within eight months of the conference being held).

## Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

### Meetings Committee *cont . . .*

A topic of *Advances in Ornithological Techniques* for the 2014 annual conference was agreed by the Meetings Committee at their meeting in December, with Graeme Buchanan (RSPB) taking the lead.

A provisional topic of the *Evolution and Ecology of Island Birds* was proposed by the Meetings Committee for the 2015 annual conference.

### Strategic Review

The findings from the young researcher workshop held in York (September 2011) were discussed by the Committee in December. Participants had completed pre- and post-workshop questionnaires to help us gather information about their knowledge of the BOU and what they wanted from us in the future. The main finding was that this group wanted to feel part of a community and wanted face-to-face contact with not only other young researchers but also with established researchers. This was where the BOU could deliver, and conferences could play an important role. The preference was for a themed conference but with un-themed slots, which would hopefully attract students back year on year, and continue to attract them after they move into full time work.

The timing of the annual conference was discussed and it was agreed that it would be extremely difficult to move from our Easter slot due to an already crowded conference calendar and the need to avoid a clash with other events, and venue costs. Student support was also discussed.

The Committee agreed to concentrate on the community building aspect at the spring conference, because of the social aspects of having it over two days.

In recent years the autumn conferences had been policy driven which had been successful in attracting funding, but in the light of the continued lack of funding in the next few years, it would be possible to be more experimental with the autumn conferences.



## GRANTS COMMITTEE

### MEMBERSHIP

#### CHAIRMAN

Dr Paul Donald (RSPB)

#### MEMBERS

Dr Phil Atkinson (BTO)

Dr Jos Barlow (University of Lancaster)

Dr Paul Dolman (University of East Anglia)

Steve Dudley, BOU Senior Administrator

Andy Symes (BirdLife)

*Research grants provide awards of up to £2000 per project aimed at supporting small projects outright or to part-fund medium-sized research programmes.*

## Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

### GRANTS COMMITTEE

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.

#### Strategic Review

The Committee reviews annually scheme guidelines for applicants, admissibility of applicants and the format of the application forms. As part of the wider ongoing review, the Committee will look at the funding the BOU provides both in terms of overall spend and the size of individual awards. Any recommendations to changes to existing funding or guidelines for both schemes will be made to Council during 2012.

#### Research Grants

The Committee received 84 research grant applications – a 300% increase on expected applications levels.

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

Ian Henderson (UK)

Determinants of variation in productivity, adult survival and recruitment in Whinchats *Saxicola rubetra* on Salisbury Plain.  
Award: £1600.

András Báldi (Hungary)

Wintering farmland bird assemblages in west Hungary.  
Award: £1010.

Malcolm Burgess (UK)

Migration behaviour and winter distribution of a declining long-distance migrant: the Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*.  
Award: £1000.



## RESEARCH PROJECTS REPORTS

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

### **Magdelana Remisiewicz** (South Africa)

Status of migrant and resident waders, and moult strategies of migrant waders using African inland wetland habitats, at Barberspan Bird Sanctuary in South Africa. Awarded £1200 in 2009.

*Ibis* 153: 433–435.

### **Nickson E. Otieno** (Kenya)

Effect of habitat alteration on density and distribution of Turner's Eremomela *Eremomela turneri* in south Nandi forest, Kenya. Awarded £1000 in 2009.

*Ibis* 153: 436–435.

## WWW.BIRDGRANTS.ORG

The number of participating organisations is beginning to increase and we now have seven organisations featured on the site.

Whilst this is still small, the number of page views is high, with over 10,000 views (90% of which were viewing the BOU pages) indicating that those seeking funding are aware of the website. This will be used to promote the site to other funders over the coming year.

## Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

### Grants Committee *cont . . .*

#### Jerome Fuchs (USA)

Phylogeography of the Black Harrier *Circus maurus*.

Award: £500.

#### Anna Gsell (New Zealand)

Is the strong smell of Kakapo *Strigops habroptila* an honest signal for mate choice?

Award: £2000.

#### Katrin Ludynia (South Africa).

Winter migration of Cape Gannets *Morus capensis* from Namibia.

Award: £1100.

#### Vitor Hugo Rodrigues Paiva (Portugal)

Feeding ecology and at-sea movements of Macaronesian Shearwaters *Puffinus baroli* in the North Atlantic.

Award: £2000.

#### Juan Rodriguez Ruiz (Spain)

Migratory routes and wintering areas of the European Roller *Coracias garrulous*.

Award: £1477.

#### Phil Shaw (UK)

Detecting change in the habitat and status of Hinde's Babbler *Turdoides hindei*: 2001 to 2011.

Award: £845.

The Committee has been working to increase the number of applications, but this sudden increase took us by surprise. Steps have been put in place to ensure the effective assessment of such a high volume in the future to ensure that the workload is manageable for both Committee members and the BOU Office.

### Career Development Bursary Scheme



*Career Development Bursaries aim to support short-term research positions for young (or early career) ornithologists, between a first and higher degree programme or immediately after completion of a higher degree. Successful proposals will combine the applicant's development of skills that will be useful for their future career in ornithology with sound science.*

## Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

### Grants Committee *cont . . .*

This year saw the introduction of this new scheme. Twelve applications were received. Because of the increase in applications for research grants and the increased workload this had already placed upon the Committee, applications were assessed by a sub-group of Council members.

Four bursaries were awarded, but only three were taken up and carried out during the year:

Jonathan Kennedy (unaffiliated, recently completed MSc at Imperial College)

Analysis of ecological diversification among Himalayan birds.

Supervisor: Trevor Price, University of Chicago.

Award: £2500.

Rocío Moreno Carrillo (PhD student, University of Barcelona)

Diet flexibility and likely vulnerability of Antarctic seabirds to long-term krill decline.

Supervisor: Richard Philips, British Antarctic Survey.

Award: £2500.

Reinder Radersma (PhD student, Groningen University)

Sex allocation and sibling interactions in birds.

Supervisor: Ben Sheldon, University of Oxford.

Award: £2500.



BOU / BOC

JOINT PUBLICATIONS

COMMITTEE

MEMBERSHIP

**CHAIRMAN**

Steve Dudley, BOU Senior Administrator

**MEMBERS**

Dr Jo Cooper (Natural History Museum)

Angela Langford, BOU Journal & Office

Manager

David Montier, BOC Honorary Treasurer

Dr Robert Prys-Jones, BOC Vice-Chairman

(Natural History Museum)

Marianne Taylor

Dr David Wells, Editor

Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

**BOU / BOC JOINT PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE**

*The Committee*

This joint committee (JPC), which is responsible for the BOU's and British Ornithologists' Club's (BOC) non-journal publications, met twice during the year with much of its business being otherwise conducted by email.

The Chairman of the Committee is alternately appointed by the BOC and the BOU. Since its inception in 2002, Tom Gladwin has chaired this committee for both the BOU and BOC, but in April 2011 Tom retired all formal duties for both the BOU and BOC (as announced in last years report). Tom was presented with a framed Robert Gillmor 'Sacred ibis' limited edition print at his last Council meeting in March in recognition of his long-standing commitment to the Committee and to the BOU. Nominated by the BOU, Steve Dudley took over as Chairman until April 2013. There were no other changes to the Committee during the year.

*Publications*

No new titles were published during the year. Work continued on several titles including first sight of several sections of Robin Woods' Falkland Islands checklist. The proposed checklist for Crete has now been dropped from our list of future publications.

The Committee continues to maintain contact with authors of other potential titles, and evaluate new proposals. No manuscripts are expected to be submitted for publication during 2012.

*Strategic Review*

The Committee regularly reviews its title list and how each title is produced. In order to reduce the overall costs on publishing these titles, the Committee approved a range of changes to the editorial and production process that aim to deliver a 30% reduction in costs and staff resources from the publication of the next title. The Committee is also looking at digital delivery of existing and future titles.



## RECORDS COMMITTEE

### MEMBERSHIP

#### CHAIRMAN

Dr Martin Collinson (University of Aberdeen)

#### SECRETARY

Andrew Harrop

#### MEMBERS

Dr Andy Brown

Steve Dudley, BOU Senior Administrator

Dr James Gilroy

Chris Kehoe

Andrew Lassey

Dr Chris McInerney

Richard Millington

Adam Rowlands, BBRC Chairman

Dr Jimmy Steele

### SPECIES ADDED TO THE BRITISH LIST

The following species were added to  
Category A of the List in 2011:

Madeiran Storm Petrel *Oceanodroma castro*

Hudsonian Whimbrel *Numenius hudsonicus*

Cabot's Tern *Sterna acuflavida*

Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maurus*.

### BRITISH LIST TOTALS

#### at 31 December 2011

The changes to the British List published in  
the most recent Committee report means  
that the List comprises 596 species (578  
Category A, 9 Category B and 9 solely in  
Category C).

## Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

### RECORDS COMMITTEE

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

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

The Committee's 40th Report, covering the period October 2009 to September 2010 was published in January 2012 (*Ibis* 154: 212-215).

During the year, Dr Chris McInerney was appointed as a replacement for Dr Steve Votier, a serving member of the Committee. We would like to thank Steve for his valuable contribution during his time on the Committee.

#### Changes to the British List

The following species were added to Category A: Madeiran Storm Petrel *Oceanodroma castro*, Hudsonian Whimbrel *Numenius hudsonicus*, Cabot's Tern *Sterna acuflavida* and Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maurus*.

Other changes: Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*, deletion of subspecies *alpestris* and *amicorum* from the British List. Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*, deletion of subspecies *samamisticus* from the British List. A Gyr Falcon from Shetland, 1835, was accepted as the first British record.

White- or Black-bellied Storm Petrel *Fregetta grallaria/tropica*: a record of an individual off Severn beach, South Gloucestershire, November 2009, was accepted as assignable to one of these two species, but is not included in the British List.

#### Review of Category D species

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



## FORWARD PLANNING

As part of the ongoing BOU Strategic Review, the Committee has begun to look at how best to optimise its working practices in order to increase efficiency and to reduce costs where possible.

It was agreed that with increasing electronic circulation and use of the internet to assess files, it was no longer appropriate to maintain the current structure of 10 members meeting biannually. A reduction to seven voting members will be phased in from 2012, and meetings will be held annually. Extra external consultants will also be sought.

In order to expedite circulation of electronic files, the Committee will explore the use of a secure online file share system (e.g. Dropbox) and we will aim to complete the archiving project by the end of 2012.

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.

## LINKS WITH BBRC

The BOURC maintains its close links with the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC).

BBRC Chairman, Mr Adam Rowlands, remains an *ex officio* member of the BOURC while the BOURC Secretary continues to work closely with BBRC's Secretariat.

## Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

### Records Committee *cont . . .*

#### Category F Sub-committee

An outline report has been prepared of the species to be included in Category F.

#### The British List: 8th edition

This is in advanced stage of preparation and will be finalised for publication during 2012.

#### BOURC archive project

Scanning of files is complete and Chris Kehoe and Steve Dudley are actively curating the resulting PDFs.

#### 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.

## The British List

the official list of wild birds recorded in Britain



## 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 and the hundreds of reviewers (who are now listed annually in *Ibis*) 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; Helen Baker (JNCC), Danaë Sheehan (RSPB), Jacquie Clark (BTO), Karl Evans (University of Sheffield), Peter Jones (Edinburgh University) and Phil Atkinson (BTO) for their work preparing the programme for the annual conference; Tim Birkead and Keith Hamer for assistance with our autumn Young Researcher Workshop; 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 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.

## Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

### MEMBERSHIP

After the small drop in membership seen in 2010 we had expected to see a similar decline for 2011 given the economic climate. It is heartening then to see that membership increased a little ending the year at 1029 (1001 at 31 Dec 2010).

The following members were elected (or re-elected having lapsed their membership for one or more years) during 2011: Ms Helen Anderson, Mr Wayne Arendt, Ms Sharon Bigg, Mr David Browning, Mr Stuart Butchart, Mr Andrew Cole, Mr Ricardo Aleixo Henriques Correia, Mr Ross Crates, Ms Ariya Dejtardol, Mr Alan Duff, Mr Maxime Esnault, Dr Paolo Fasce, Mr Charlie Fletcher, Mr Roger Fotso, Mr George Andrew Gale, Mr Juan-Carlos Gonzalez, Mr Francisco Gordino, Mr Donald Greenhalgh, Mr Louis Hadjioannou, Mr Gunnar Thor Hallgrímsson, Mr Paul Higson, Prof Brian Huntley, Mr Samuel Ivande, Mr Philip Godfrey Jakosalem, Mr Laurence Jarvis, Mr Martin Kornan, Ms stephanie Matheson, Ms Veronica Mendez, Ms Teresa Militao, Mr James Molony, Mr Ray Morris, Ms Catriona Morrison, Mr Olafur Karl Nielsen, Mr Jorge Necedal, Dr Derik Palmer, Mr David Perry, Ms Danielle Peruffo, Mr James Phillips, Mr Dennis Plank, Ms Alex Robbins, Mr Alberto Monteagudo Rua, Mr Elwyn Sharps, Ms Carol Dorothy Smith, Dr Claire Spottiswoode, Ms Makiko Takenaka, Ms Marianne Taylor, Mr Trevor Tipler, Mr Jon Underwood, Mr Francisco Vargas-Bianchi, Ms Jenny Wallace, Mr Chris M Waltho, Ms Hannah Watson, Mr Christopher Brennan Watson, Ms Averil Wells, Mr Peter Widmann, Mr Clemens Wittenberg.

Seven resignations were accepted during the year and Council noted with regret the following deaths: Dr Dieter Burckhardt-Hofer, Mrs Dale B Hanmer, Mr Hugh M Pain, Dr J du Pont and Mr John Stafford.



## Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

### HONORARY TREASURER

Peter Oliver FCA

*“ During the year the Union increased its charitable expenditure ”*

### FINANCIAL REVIEW

During the year the Union increased its charitable expenditure by £11,400, but as a consequence of this and because of the difficult trading conditions for conferences referred to below, the net income for the year before reductions in the value of investments was £14,400 compared with £31,800 in the previous year. Gross income from *Ibis* was again very strong, reflecting the continuing attraction of the electronic version to institutions around the world. In the case of conference income, no support whatsoever was received from sponsors this year so that although there was a surplus of £8,800 after direct costs, this was converted into the loss of £14,600 revealed by the accounts, which take into account subsidies to overseas speakers and students and attributes overhead expenditure. This trend appears set to continue for the immediately foreseeable future. The increase of £11,400 in charitable expenditure arose mainly in respect of the student bursary scheme described elsewhere in this report. Council decided to allocate the remaining amount in the Research Fund (a restricted income fund) to this charitable expenditure, with the balance coming out of the General Fund. No further transfers to restricted income funds are planned and all future research expenditure will therefore come from the General Fund. The surplus for the year is also stated after costs of £5,000 relating to the strategic review being undertaken by Council, as explained by the President in her report. The loss on other publications was reduced slightly from last year to £3,000, but interest and investment income fell by almost £2,000. As required by charity accounting rules, indirect costs (staff costs and overheads) are allocated across multiple headings in the accounts, but in total were substantially unchanged from the previous year.

The Union's financial resources remain substantial, its activities continuing to generate cash. The value of longer-term investments fell by £10,000 during the year, reflecting stock market fluctuation. By the end of the year, including some re-investment of income, these were valued at £205,000. The policy of maintaining cash resources in short-term cash deposits has been continued, as recommended by the investment trustees, and at the end of the year these amounted to £427,000. The Union thus remains in a strong



## Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

*“ The Union’s financial resources remain substantial ”*

position to support further charitable activities and, provided sales of *Ibis* remain buoyant, to continue its current scale of activities. In addition, these resources would also be adequate to support any appropriate investment arising from the strategic review, should Council decide that this would be desirable.

### 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 2011. 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.

Approved by the Council on the 14 March 2012  
and are signed on their behalf by:

J. A. Gill, President .....



**BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2011**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowed Funds £	Total Funds 2011 £	Total funds 2010 £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>						
Incoming resources from generated funds:						
Voluntary income	2	4,603	–	–	4,603	3,829
Activities for generating funds	3	161,513	–	–	161,513	174,496
Investment income	4	7,568	–	5,783	13,351	15,374
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<b>173,684</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>5,783</b>	<b>179,467</b>	<b>193,699</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>						
Costs of generating funds:						
Costs of generating voluntary income	5	-133,057	-13,532	–	-146,589	-143,211
Governance costs	6	-18,439	–	–	-18,439	-18,610
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>		<b>-151,496</b>	<b>-13,532</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>-165,028</b>	<b>-161,821</b>
<b>NET INCOMING RESOURCES BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES</b>	7	<b>22,188</b>	<b>-13,532</b>	<b>5,783</b>	<b>14,439</b>	<b>31,878</b>
Losses on investment assets						
Unrealized gain on investments		-5,120	–	-4,951	-10,071	9,018
		<b>17,068</b>	<b>-13,532</b>	<b>832</b>	<b>4,368</b>	<b>40,896</b>
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>		<b>492,160</b>	<b>13,532</b>	<b>151,212</b>	<b>656,904</b>	<b>616,008</b>
Total funds brought forward						
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<b>509,228</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>152,044</b>	<b>661,272</b>	<b>656,904</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 activities.

The notes on pages 26 to 30 form part of these financial statements





**BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION**  
BALANCE SHEET  
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2011

	Note	2011	2010
		£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Investments	9	205,499	212,404
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Stocks	10	4,921	7,338
Debtors	11	58,473	56,095
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>427,580</u>	<u>416,643</u>
		490,974	480,076
<b>CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year</b>	12	<u>-35,201</u>	<u>-35,576</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		455,773	444,500
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>661,272</u>	<u>656,904</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u><u>661,272</u></u>	<u><u>656,904</u></u>
<b>FUNDS</b>			
Endowment funds	13	152,044	151,212
Restricted income funds	14	-	13,532
Unrestricted income funds	15	509,228	492,160
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>		<u>661,272</u>	<u>656,904</u>

Approved by the Council on the 14 March 2012  
and are signed on their behalf by:

J. A. Gill, President .....

The notes on pages 26 to 30 form part of these financial statements



**BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2011**

## 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 the revaluation of certain fixed assets, 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 2011.

### **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

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Total Funds 2011</b>	Total Funds 2010
	£	£	£
<b>Donations</b>			
Donations	2320	2320	180
<b>Other income</b>			
Other income	2,283	2,283	3,649
	<b>4,603</b>	<b>4,603</b>	3,829

## 3. INCOMING RESOURCES FROM ACTIVITIES FOR GENERATING FUNDS

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Total Funds 2011</b>	Total Funds 2010
	£	£	£
Publication income - Ibis	91,928	91,928	85,598
Other publication income	12,404	12,404	15,618
Conference income	24,609	24,609	41,661
Subscriptions	32,572	32,572	31,619
	<b>161,513</b>	<b>161,513</b>	174,496

**The notes on pages 26 to 30 form part of these financial statements**



**BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2011**

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2011	Total Funds 2010
	£	£	£	£
Income from investments	5,351	5,783	11,134	11,291
Bank interest receivable	2,217	-	2,217	4,083
	<b>7,568</b>	<b>5,783</b>	<b>13,351</b>	<b>15,374</b>

5. COSTS OF GENERATING VOLUNTARY INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2011	Total Funds 2010
	£	£	£	£
Conference Costs	39,195	-	39,195	41,908
Publication costs - Ibis	39,803	-	39,803	41,492
Other publication costs	15,492	-	15,492	20,527
Research costs	13,583	13,532	27,115	12,115
Management costs	24,984	-	24,984	27,169
	<b>133,057</b>	<b>13,532</b>	<b>146,589</b>	<b>143,211</b>

6. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2011	Total Funds 2010
	£	£	£
Accountancy fees	3,525	3,525	7,265
Audit fees	3,720	3,720	4,376
Strategic review	5,146	5,146	-
Costs of trustees' and committee meetings	6,048	6,048	6,969
	<b>18,439</b>	<b>18,439</b>	<b>18,610</b>

7. NET INCOMING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR

**This is stated after charging:**

	2011	2010
	£	£
Staff pension contributions	5,237	6,294
Auditors' remuneration:		
- audit of the financial statements	3,720	4,376

The notes on pages 26 to 30 form part of these financial statements



**BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2011**

## 8. STAFF COSTS AND EMOLUMENTS

**Total staff costs were as follows:**

	<b>2011</b>	2010
	£	£
Wages and salaries	<b>58,727</b>	57,435
Social security costs	<b>6,132</b>	2,139
Other pension costs	<b>5,237</b>	6,294
	<b>70,096</b>	65,868

**Particulars of employees:**

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

	<b>2011</b>	2010
	No	No
Number of administrative staff	<b>2</b>	2

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year (2010 - Nil).

No Council member received any remuneration in the year.

Expenses were paid to Council members of £2,519 (2010 - £2,570)

## 9. INVESTMENTS

**Movement in market value**

	<b>2011</b>	2010
	£	£
Market value at 1 January 2011	<b>212,404</b>	203,386
Acquisitions at cost	<b>3,166</b>	-
Net gain/(loss) on revaluations in the year	<b>-10,071</b>	9,018
Market value at 31 December 2011	<b>205,499</b>	<b>212,404</b>
Historical cost at 31 December 2011	<b>121,171</b>	<b>118,005</b>

**Analysis of investments at 31 December 2011 between funds**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowed Funds	Total Funds 2011	Total Funds 2010
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Listed investments</b>					
Treasury Stock	-	-	<b>13,817</b>	<b>13,817</b>	<b>14,755</b>
Unit Trusts	<b>114,974</b>	-	<b>74,201</b>	<b>189,175</b>	<b>195,142</b>
	<b>114,974</b>	-	<b>88,018</b>	<b>202,992</b>	<b>209,897</b>
<b>Other investments</b>					
UK Cash	-	-	<b>2,507</b>	<b>2,507</b>	<b>2,507</b>
	<b>114,974</b>	-	<b>90,525</b>	<b>205,499</b>	<b>212,404</b>

The notes on pages 26 to 30 form part of these financial statements



**BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2011**

## 10. STOCKS

	2011	2010
	£	£
Stock	<b>4,921</b>	7,338

## 11. DEBTORS

	2011	2010
	£	£
Trade debtors	<b>57,639</b>	54,319
Other debtors	<b>834</b>	1,776
	<b>58,473</b>	56,095

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

	2011	2010
	£	£
Taxation and social security	<b>1,811</b>	1,762
Subs in advance	<b>18,665</b>	19,753
Accruals	<b>14,725</b>	14,061
	<b>35,201</b>	35,576

## 13. ENDOWMENT FUNDS

	Balance at 1 Jan 2011	Incoming resources	Investment gains / losses	Balance at 31 Dec 2011
	£	£	£	£
<b>Permanent endowments</b>				
L & MT Research Fund	<b>84,359</b>	<b>3,795</b>	<b>-2,867</b>	<b>85,287</b>
Research Fund	<b>43,312</b>	<b>950</b>	<b>-996</b>	<b>43,266</b>
Hutt Legacy	<b>23,541</b>	<b>1,038</b>	<b>-1,088</b>	<b>23,491</b>
Endowed Fund	<b>151,212</b>	<b>5,783</b>	<b>-4,951</b>	<b>152,044</b>

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.



**BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION**  
 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
 YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2011

14. RESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS

	Balance at 1 Jan 2011	Outgoing resources	Balance at 31 Dec 2011
	£	£	£
The Research Fund	<b>13,532</b>	<b>-13,532</b>	-

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.

15. UNRESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS

	Balance at 1 Jan 2011	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Gains and losses	Balance at 31 Dec 2011
	£	£	£	£	£
General Funds	<b>492,160</b>	<b>173,684</b>	<b>-151,496</b>	<b>-5,120</b>	<b>509,228</b>

16. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Investments	Net current assets	Total
	£	£	£
<b>Endowment Funds:</b>	<b>90,525</b>	<b>61,519</b>	<b>152,044</b>
<b>Unrestricted Income Funds:</b>	<b>114,974</b>	<b>394,254</b>	<b>509,228</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>205,499</b>	<b>455,773</b>	<b>661,272</b>

The notes on pages 26 to 30 form part of these financial statements



## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2011

We have audited the financial statements of British Ornithologists' Union for the year ended 31 December 2011 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet and related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under 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 responsibilities of the trustees for preparing the Trustees Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) are set out in the Statement of Responsibilities of the Trustees. We have been appointed auditors under the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under that Act. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). These standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

### SCOPE OF THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charity's circumstances, and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed, the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the trustees, and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Annual Report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatement or inconsistencies, we consider the implications for our report.

### OPINION ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2011, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011.



## MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements;
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept;
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

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

**ALLIOTTS**  
Chartered Accountants &  
Registered Auditors

14 March 2012

**Report and accounts approved by members at the 2012 AGM, University of Leicester, 4 April 2012**