

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

advancing ornithology



2012

Annual Report & Accounts

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

PO Box 417, PETERBOROUGH PE7 3FX, UK

TEL/FAX + 44 (0) 1 733 844 820

BOU@BOU.ORG.UK

WWW.BOU.ORG.UK | WWW.IBIS.AC.UK

REGISTERED CHARITY No. 249877

FOUNDED 1858



PRESIDENT

Dr Jennifer Gill

“ During 2012, there have seen a series of notable achievements and developments within the BOU ”

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President’s Statement

During 2012, there have been a series of notable achievements and developments within the BOU. A major achievement during the year concerned our journal, *Ibis*, which was awarded the rank of top journal in ornithology by the Institute of Scientific Information (ISI), the body responsible for citation statistics and metrics. This improved ranking results from the hard work of all our editors and staff, and should ensure that *Ibis* continues to attract very high quality submissions and to be read even more widely. Journal publishing is facing a somewhat uncertain future at present, as the UK government is in the process of implementing plans to increase the amount of published scientific information that is available to view through Open Access. The consequences of such developments for journal funding structures are not yet clear, and Council are therefore monitoring this situation closely, and submitting evidence to ongoing enquiries into the issue.

The BOU has also continued to develop mechanisms for improving engagement with early career ornithological researchers. As part of the Strategic Review process which began in 2011, this group was identified as one for which we could potentially improve involvement and engagement quite substantially. During 2012, Council have used the information derived from the workshop that was held in York in 2011, together with input from our student representatives, to develop a series of initiatives. These have included a new membership package for early career researchers, reduced costs of conference attendance, the ongoing development of an online community of ornithological researchers providing and sharing relevant information through social media, and the invited attendance at BOU committee meetings of early career researchers. At each of the annual *Ibis* meeting and the spring Meetings Committee meeting, two early career researchers who had expressed an interest were invited to attend and contribute, in order to learn about the way in which the BOU operates, and the community-based design and delivery of BOU work. This was a highly successful initiative, with all four invitees enjoying the meetings and providing valuable input and feedback. Council is now considering how to develop this initiative further.

The 2012 annual conference on *Ecosystem services: do we need birds?* was a great success, and the excellent speakers and wide-ranging discussions provided an extremely stimulating and

“ The BOU has also continued to develop mechanisms for improving engagement with early career ornithological researchers ”

President’s Statement *cont. . . .*

thought-provoking atmosphere. The conference addressed the challenging issues of how biodiversity conservation can be achieved in a world dominated by global-scale environmental degradation, a burgeoning human population and continuing over-exploitation of the Earth’s resources by humans. This is undoubtedly a topic that will be revisited at future BOU conferences, as the science and implementation of these approaches continues to develop. At this conference we also held our second dedicated student event, which consisted of round-table discussions between students and established researchers and conservationists. We are extremely grateful to all who took part this event, especially Ian Bainbridge (SNH), Richard Bradbury (RSPB), Simon Butler (UEA), Helen Baker (JNCC), Andy Clements (BTO), John Fanshawe (Birdlife International) and David Stroud (JNCC); the enthusiastic and lively discussions that took place throughout this hour, and continued throughout the evening, were testament to the value of such events.

The autumn meeting on *Marine Renewables and Birds* was a similarly well-attended and well-received meeting. The potential impact of the rapid development of the marine renewable sector on seabird ecology and conservation was explored in detail, with excellent presentations reporting studies from around Europe. The discussions that took place around these presentations will hopefully aid the future development of this important research area.

The finances of the BOU remain sound, and our new Treasurer and the BOU Office are working hard to manage our finances in the continuing difficulties of the current economic climate.

Claire Spottiswoode, Gavin Siriwardena and Tom Pizzari step down from BOU Council this year, and we would like to extend our sincere thanks for their hard work and contribution to Council and BOU development.

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/Fax: +44 (0) 1 733 844 820

Email: bou@bou.org.uk

Web: www.bou.org.uk

BOU Staff at 31 December 2012

Senior Administrator

Mr S.P. Dudley

Journal & Office Manager

Mrs A.F. Langford

Council Officers at 31 December 2012

President Dr J. Gill

Vice Presidents Prof G. Martin

Honorary Secretary Dr K. Smith

Honorary Treasurer Mrs J. Evans

Ordinary Members of Council

at 31 December 2012

Dr N. Burton (Chairman Meetings Committee), Dr. S. Butchart, Dr J.M. Collinson (Chairman Records Committee), Dr P. Dolman (Chairman Grants Committee), Dr K. Hamer (Chairman *Ibis* Committee), Dr T. Pizzari, Dr G. Siriwardena, Dr C. Spottiswoode and Dr H. Wright.

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 community. 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.



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:

N. Burton, S. Butchart, J.M. Collinson,
P. Dolman, J. Evans, J. Gill, K. Hamer,
G. Martin, T. Pizzari, G. Siriwardena,
K. Smith, C. Spottiswoode and H. Wright.

The following individuals also served as Trustees of the charity during the course of the year covered by this annual report and accounts: P.F. Donald, I.R. Hartley and S. Wanless.

BOU editorial positions

at 31 December 2012

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 2012

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.

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

At the AGM in April, Julianne Evans was elected as Honorary Treasurer to replace Peter Oliver; Dr Paul Dolman was elected as an Ordinary Member to replace Dr Paul Donald as Chairman of the Grants Committee; Dr Keith Hamar was elected as an Ordinary Member to replace Dr Ian Hartley as Chairman of the *Ibis* Management Committee; and Dr Hugh Wright was elected as an Ordinary Member to replace Prof Sarah Wanless.

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

The Strategic Review process that began in 2011 was developed throughout this year with a series of initiatives relating primarily to the first target of the review process – improving engagement with early career ornithological researchers. These initiatives, and the review process as a whole, will continue to be developed by Council in the coming years.



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.

During the year the website was relaunched and all the content reviewed, revamped or replaced.

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 wide range of participating organisations.

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 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, organise 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 and Council, manage the Union's Grants and Career Development Bursary schemes;
- 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*;

Find us on Twitter @IBIS_journal
and at Facebook.com / ibisjournal



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 . . .*

- 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, WWW.IBIS.AC.UK, WWW.BOUPROC.NET and 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 website – WWW.BOU.ORG.UK

Our new website was delivered in April to a hugely positive reception from users. Despite increased running costs over the free Blogger service we used previously, the new bespoke site gives us much more flexibility and control over content and appearance.



Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

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.

@IBIS_JOURNAL

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

FACEBOOK.COM/IBISJOURNAL

For BOU, IBIS and other ornithological news.

“social media technologies are changing the very nature of the ecosystem of business ”

GAUTAM GOSH, BRAVENEWORLD, 2012

BOU Office *cont . . .*

We continue to develop the site and have added new sections during the year including an ‘opportunities’ section which details jobs, PhD, Masters and voluntary opportunities.

With our increased use of social media, the new website is also fully integrated with all major social media platforms.

Social media

Social media continues to play an increased role in our overall online and mobile presence. The two main platforms we use are Twitter (@IBIS_JOURNAL) and Facebook (FACEBOOK.COM/IBISJOURNAL). Twitter remains our number one medium and by the end of 2012 we had 1290 followers.

@IBIS_journal acts as a one-stop news service for ornithologists using Twitter. We tweet about anything ornithological – papers from the main journals, conferences, meetings, news items, job opportunities and more. We are building a very engaged online and mobile community which helps us to spread BOU, *Ibis* and other ornithological news far wider than we could reach on our own.

It’s also clear that these social media platforms are playing an increasing role in driving membership recruitment and conference attendance.

Other online services

During the year the BOU Office developed a new monthly e-newsletter aimed at promoting *Ibis* and BOU conferences. We reach over 6,000 researchers with each e-mailing and results indicate this is already proving to be an effective way of reaching our target audience.

In June we launched the BOU Blog as part of our new website. Blog posts aim to cover topical ornithological issues and increase engagement with the online ornithological research community. Monthly posts have already provided a diverse list of topics and are receiving an increased readership.

90% of environmental scientists use social media as a research tool

SOCIAL MEDIA AND RESEARCH WORKFLOW.

I. ROWLANDS, D. NICHOLAS, B. RUSSELL, N. CANTY & A. WATKINSON. *LEARNED PUBLISHING* 24: 183–195.



THE BOU BLOG

WWW.BOU.ORG.UK/BLOG/

Some of the blog posts from 2012:

- Where eagles 'once' dared
- Blinking eye colour
- Building an online ornithological community
- Open Access publishing and the Finch Report: implications for society journals
- Bewicks' Swans reveal where they get disturbed
- How useful are species?

Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

BOU Office *cont . . .*

The BOU Register of Avian Thesis Abstracts (BRANTA) continues to provide access to theses abstracts. The service was originally developed and managed by Rob Robinson, to whom we are extremely grateful. With the development of the new website, the BRANTA content has now been revamped and moved to our new website and will now be managed by the BOU Office.

The BOU e-group, BOU BirdTalk, still has over 400 members who use the group to exchange news, views and make announcements, etc.

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.

General administrative items

General correspondence, particularly emails and contact forms received via the new website, 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. During the year both BOU and BOC reduced our journal stock (following digitization) and moving in to a significantly smaller unit at reduced cost.

Strategic Review

The BOU Office is responsible for driving the review and will also be responsible for implementing much of the output, and is fully engaged with all committees and Council during the review process.

During the year all the BOU's online and mobile content was reviewed and where necessary revamped, updated or replaced. This includes the delivery of the new website, continued development of social media content and the introduction of our new monthly e-newsletters.

IBIS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

CHAIRMAN

Dr Keith Hamer (University of Leeds)

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

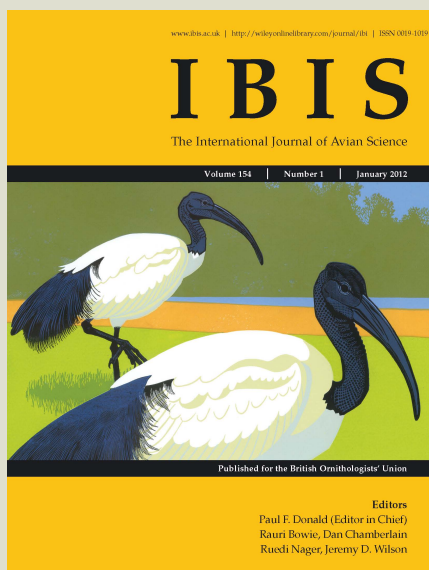
Julianne Evans, BOU Honorary Treasurer

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

Angela Langford, Journal Manager

Dr Ruedi Nager, Editor (University of
Glasgow)

Prof Jeremy Wilson, Editor (RSPB)



IBIS
INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL
OF AVIAN SCIENCE

Achievements & Performance *cont* . . .

IBIS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The *Ibis* Committee acts as an advisory group to provide support and advice on the management of the journal, including interactions with the journal publisher, Wiley-Blackwell. During the year, Andrew MacColl retired from the Committee and we would like to extend our thanks to Dr MacColl for his work on behalf of the Union. The Committee met once in March 2012, with other business being conducted by email. The meeting was hosted by Wiley-Blackwell in Oxford, where we received their annual report on production, marketing and accounts, followed by a meeting of the *Ibis* Committee.

The Journal

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

A notable and welcome achievement this year was the continued increase in the impact factor (the number of papers published in the previous two years that are cited in other papers) of *Ibis*, which resulted in *Ibis* now being ranked as the top journal in ornithology by the Institute of Scientific Information (ISI). This important achievement is the result of a great deal of work by the *Ibis* editorial and management team, and should help the journal to continue to attract high quality papers.

The *Ibis* Associate Editor board play a key role in the delivery of the journal, and we are very fortunate to have an excellent range of top-class researchers on the Board. This year saw the retirement from the *Ibis* Associate Editor board of Alistair Dawson, Farah Ishtiaq, Aleksii Lehikoinen, Andrew MacColl and Pamela Rasmussen, who we thank for their valuable contribution. Joining the board in 2012 were Colleen Downs, Robert Fletcher, James Pearce-Higgins, Jeroen Rennerkeens, Eivind Røskoft, Christian Rutz, Robert Robinson, Jennifer Smart and Javier Perez-Tris.

*IBIS*

Impact Factor	2.43
Rank in Ornithology	1
SOURCE: ISI 2011	

IBIS, VOLUME 154 (2012)

Pages	940
Review papers	1
Original papers	65
Short communications	15

Papers were received from 51 different countries. Top five countries (excluding UK): USA, Spain, France, Canada and China.

BLOG POST

Open Access publishing and the Finch Report: implications for society journals
WWW.BOU.ORG.UK/OPEN-ACCESS-PUBLISHING/

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 1859!

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

Journal publishing

Ibis is published on behalf of the BOU by Wiley-Blackwell Publishing, from whom we continue to receive excellent service, support and advice. The efforts of Wiley-Blackwell staff to develop the quality, production and marketing of *Ibis* during 2012 were greatly appreciated, and initiatives to increase *Ibis* readership through social media developments, readership campaigns and presence at international conferences have all helped to maintain the current position of *Ibis* at the forefront of ornithological journal publishing.

During 2012, the UK government commissioned the Finch report on *Accessibility, sustainability, excellence: how to expand access to research publications*, and adopted recommendations from the report aimed at encouraging the transition to Open Access publishing. These recommendations could have important repercussions for societies involved in scientific publishing (see blog post item left). For most journals, the costs of scientific publication are met through journal sales to libraries and, in the case of journals published by learned societies, to members who gain access through society subscriptions. In the Open Access model, publication costs would be met through Article Publishing Charges (APCs) paid by authors. This model therefore relies on funding bodies providing additional resources to cover APCs. The Committee will continue to track these developments closely.

Overall, *Ibis* is in excellent health, and continues to attract a large number of very high quality submissions. The dedication and hard work of the Editorial team, Angela Langford and Steve Dudley in achieving and maintaining this status are warmly acknowledged.

IBIS – the number one journal in Ornithology



MEETINGS COMMITTEE

MEMBERSHIP

CHAIRMAN

Dr Niall Burton (BTO)

MEMBERS

Dr Graeme Buchanan (RSPB)

Rachel Davies, Student Rep (University of Leeds)

Steve Dudley, BOU Senior Administrator

Dr Darren Evans (University of Hull)

Dr Karl Evans (University of Sheffield)

Dr Mel Kershaw (Defra)

Angela Langford, Journal & Office Manager

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.

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

Three members retired from the committee during 2012 – Dr M.J. Whittingham, Dr H. Baker and Dr H. Wright (student representative), the latter two replaced respectively by Dr Mel Kershaw and Miss Rachel Davies.

Two conferences were held in 2012.

Annual spring conference 2012

The BOU held its annual conference, on *Ecosystem Services: do we need birds?*, at the University of Leicester in April. The programme organising committee was led by Darren Evans (University of Hull) and included Mark Whittingham (University of Newcastle) and Karl Evans (University of Sheffield), with input from Helen Baker (JNCC) and Niall Burton (BTO).

The conference was attended by 110 delegates, of which 42 were students (having catered for 120 delegates). This represents a fall from the previous year and, in part, no doubt reflects the current financial climate. There was no external funding for the conference, though the delegate income meant that the conference produced a small operating surplus (excluding BOU staff time).

The programme had a good mix of subject areas, and overseas speakers. There was also a successful student event with round table question and answer sessions between invited scientists and small groups (6–7) of students. Feedback from the conference was that *Ecosystem Services* should be revisited as a conference theme in the future, when the research base had built up in the UK.



DIARY DATES

26 – 28 MARCH 2013

BOU 2013 Annual Conference

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

27 – 30 AUGUST 2013

EOU2013UK

European Ornithologists' Union conference. The BOU will co-host this event with the BTO, EGI, RSPB and University of East Anglia.

1 – 3 APRIL 2014

BOU 2014 Annual Conference

The ecology and conservation of birds in alpine and upland habitats

Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

Meetings Committee *cont . . .*

With the *Ecosystem Services* conference, we were the first to use new Gilbert Murray Conference Suite at the University of Leicester. While the new facilities are excellent, and a vast improvement on the previous suite, there were some teething problems, notably in the quality of the audio equipment and acoustics which the BOU Office have worked closely with the university to resolve.

Articles and abstracts from posters were published on BOUPROC.net.

Autumn 2012 conference

A one-day conference on *Marine Renewables and Birds* was held in Peterborough in November 2012. The programme organising committee was led by Niall Burton (BTO) and included Sophy Allen (JNCC), Francis Daunt (CEH), Rowena Langston (RSPB), Chris Thaxter (BTO and the Seabird Group), Stephen Votier (Plymouth University) and Andy Webb (HiDef Aerial Surveying Ltd and the Seabird Group).

Following on from the BOU's *Wind, fire and water: renewable energy and birds* conference in 2005, the conference explored the potential impacts that renewable developments may have on birds in the marine environment, e.g. from effects including displacement, barrier effects, collision, and changes in habitat or prey availability. The conference reviewed these effects, presented case studies and highlighted the importance of being able to understand the population-level consequences of impacts. In addition to the programme of talks, the conference also included a successful poster session.

The conference was fully booked, with 130 delegates (and the poster session was also oversubscribed), attracting academics (from the UK and abroad), conservation organisations, industry, statutory government agencies and those engaged in policy, advocacy and conservation management.

Funding of £6000 was also secured from the UK Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) to support this meeting.



WWW.BOUPROC.NET

The Meetings Committee is responsible for overseeing the published output from BOU conferences. For each conference the BOU Office 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 *Ecosystem Services: do we need birds?* conference this year (within eight months of the conference being held).

Marine Renewables and Birds will be hosted during 2013.

Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

Meetings Committee *cont . . .*

Future events

In April 2013, the BOU's annual conference will again be held at the University of Leicester. An excellent programme, with a wide international input, on *From populations to policy impact: avian demography in a changing world* has been put together by an organising team being led by Rob Robinson (BTO) and Karl Evans (University of Sheffield) and also including Jane Reid (University of Aberdeen) and Melanie Kershaw (Defra).

There will be no BOU conference in autumn 2013, when the BOU will be co-hosting and heavily involved in the running of the European Ornithologists' Union conference at the University of East Anglia in August.

In April 2014, the BOU's annual conference will again be held at the University of Leicester, and will address the *Ecology and conservation of birds in alpine and upland habitats*. The organising team is being led by Graeme Buchanan (RSPB), and includes Dan Chamberlain (University of Turin), James Pearce-Higgins (BTO) and Des Thompson (SNH).

Strategic Review

Leading on from the strategic review discussions, a number of initiatives have been put in place for the recent and forthcoming conferences, with the particular aim to engender greater engagement between students and established researchers, so focussing on the community building aspect of these events. These initiatives have included the student events within the annual conferences, the open calls for papers within the annual conferences (typically for one paper per session, with a preference for student presentations), the instigation of a poster session within the autumn one-day conference and the associated short oral presentations from those showing posters. Greater student support for the conferences has also been approved.



GRANTS COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

CHAIRMAN

Dr Paul Dolman (University of East Anglia)

MEMBERS

Dr Phil Atkinson (BTO)

Steve Dudley (BOU Senior Administrator)

Dr Phil Shaw (University of St Andrews)

Dr Danaë Sheehan (RSPB)

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.

During the year Dr Paul Dolman replaced Dr Paul Donald as Chairman, Dr Jos Barlow retired from the Committee and Dr Phil Shaw and Dr Danaë Sheehan joined our ranks.

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

Small Ornithological Research Grant scheme

The Committee received 18 research grant applications, significantly fewer than the previous year, but just below the average number of applicants of previous years, and recommended award of grants totaling £8,817.

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

Jenny Dunn & Danaë Sheehan (UK)

Could disease be contributing to the population decline of European Turtle Doves *Streptopelia turtur*?: *Trichomonas gallinae* infection in European Turtle Doves in Nigeria and potential for transmission among co-occurring African columbiformes.

Award: £2000

Richard Hillard (UK)

Non-breeding habitat requirements and conservation threats to the Bengal Florican *Houbaropsis bengalensis* in Cambodia.

Award: £2000

Jean Paul Ntungane (Rwanda)

How do Eucalyptus plantations affect forest and farmland-beneficial birds in Rwanda?

Award: £1200



RESEARCH PROJECTS REPORTS

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

Sayam Uddin Chowdhury (Bangladesh).
Action research and conservation of the critically endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper *Eurynorhynchus pygmeus* in Bangladesh.
Awarded £1900. (*Ibis* 154: 210-211).

Prof. Tim Birkhead (University of Sheffield).
Alfred Newton's contribution to ornithology: a conservative quest for facts rather than grand theories.
Awarded £2500 to support the research carried out by Peter Gallivan (3-yr BSc student at University of Sheffield) as part of a wider project to research the archives of the BOU's founder. (*Ibis* 154: 887-905).

WWW.BIRDGRANTS.ORG

The number of participating organisations is beginning to increase and we now have 20 organisations featured on the site. The number of page views remain high, with over 11,000 views (80% 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 . . .*

Sepand Riyahi (Spain)

Investigating the differences in personality of Great Tits in urban area and woodland using *Drd4* gene polymorphism and behavioural observation in captivity.

Award: £1700

Melissa Rowe (Denmark)

Impact of bacteria on sperm quality in a wild passerine, the House Sparrow.

Award: £1000

Martin Sullivan (UK)

Assessing the impacts of non-native Black-headed Weavers on native reedbed nesting warblers.

Award: £917

Career Development Bursary scheme

This was the second year of this new scheme. The aim of the bursaries is to support short-term research projects (up to ten weeks) for young or early-career ornithologists, between a first and higher degree programme or immediately after completion of a higher degree. Successful proposals are expected to combine the development of skills useful for a future career in ornithology with a sound scientific research proposal. Awards up to £2500 are available.

Four applications were received which were assessed by the same sub-group of Council members as last year.

Four bursaries were awarded:

Jennifer Mandeville (Researcher, Conservation International, USA), supervised by Bruce Beehler (Conservation International, USA).
Monitoring Change: Resampling the Mount Missim Elevational Transect, Papua New Guinea.
Award: £2500



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 . . .*

Renata Jorge Medeiros Mirra (self-funded Post-doctoral Researcher, Cardiff University), supervised by Rob Thomas (Cardiff University, UK).

Evaluating and comparing the diet and population dynamics of two sympatric species of storm petrels in the Azores.

Award: £2500

Gregorio M. Toral (unaffiliated, currently a volunteer at Estación Biológica de Doñana, CSIC, Seville, Spain), supervised by José Hernán Sarasola (Universidad Nacional de La Pampa, Argentina).

The black mask in Birds: an advantage for hunting?

Centre for the Study and Conservation of Raptors in Argentina (CECARA), Argentina.

Award: £2500

Yang Liu (Assistant Post-doctoral Researcher – independent), supervised by Michael Griesser (University of Bern).

Understanding Grouping Choice in House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*).

Award: £2500

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, in 2012 the Committee reviewed the funding the BOU provides for grants, both in terms of overall spend and the size of individual awards. It was concluded that the current maximum award of £2000 was sufficient. The total available for awards of £10,000 per annum was considered adequate in a normal year, but Council's offer of a discretionary fund of an additional £5,000 was accepted.



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 (freelance journalist)

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 once during the year with much of its business being otherwise conducted by email.

There were no changes to the Committee during 2012.

Publications

No new titles were published during the year but work continued on several titles.

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 2013.

Strategic Review

As part of this review a questionnaire was developed at the end of the year to canvas users and non-users alike about perceptions of the BOU Checklist Series and their future content and delivery. This questionnaire will be run during early 2013.



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

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 2012:

Scopoli's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea* (split from Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris borealis*).

BRITISH LIST TOTALS

at 31 December 2012

The changes to the British List published in the most recent Committee report means that the List comprises 596 species (578 Category A, 8 Category in B and 10 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 once during the year with most of its business conducted by email and post.

During the year, Mr Andrew Lassey retired from the Committee. We thank him for his work and guidance during his time as a serving member of BOURC. In line with policy agreed at the June meeting of BOURC to reduce the number of members of the Committee, Mr Lassey was not replaced.

Changes to the British List

The Committee's 41st Report, covering the period October 2011 to September 2012 was published in January 2013 (*Ibis* 155: 194–197).

Scopoli's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea* was added to Category A of the British List following its split from Cory's Shearwater *C. borealis* (see Taxonomic Subcommittee below). Madeiran Storm Petrel *Oceanodroma castro* was removed from the British List.

Other changes: the eastern subspecies of Yellow Wagtail, *Motacilla flava simillima*, and 'Iceland' Redpoll *Carduelis flammea islandicus* were removed from the British List. Capercaillie *Tetrao urogallus* was removed from Category B. Criteria for acceptance of potentially ship-assisted transatlantic vagrants were reviewed and remain unchanged.

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 Subcommittee

The preliminary Category F list has been drafted and is being prepared for publication.



LINKS WITH OTHER GROUPS

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.

The Taxonomic Subcommittee continues to input to the Association of European Records and Rarities Committees (AERC) Taxonomic Advisory Committee and contributed to authorship of its 2012 recommendations – WWW.AERC.EU/TAC.HTML.

BOURC ONLINE INTRANET

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

Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

Records Committee *cont . . .*

Taxonomic Subcommittee

The Taxonomic Subcommittee published its eighth recommendations in October 2012 (*Ibis* 154: 874–883). The family and generic limits of Western Palearctic Galliformes were revised. Cory's Shearwater and Madeiran Storm Petrel were each split into three species. The Mediterranean subspecies of European Storm Petrel, *Hydrobates pelagicus melitensis*, was recognised (but has not occurred in Britain). Generic limits of *Egretta* were revised. The taxonomic sequence of Charadriiformes and generic sequence of calidrine sandpipers were revised. Somali Courser *Cursorius somalensis* was split from Cream-coloured Courser *C. cursor*. Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis* was split into three species. Marmora's Warbler *Sylvia sarda* was split from Balearic Warbler *S. balearica* and Siberian Nuthatch *Sitta arctica* was split from Eurasian Nuthatch *S. europaea*.

These changes were adopted for the British List in the Committee's 41st report (*Ibis* 155: 194–197).

The British List: 8th Edition

This is in advanced stage of preparation and will be finalised for publication during 2013.

Strategic Review

In line with changes approved by Council, this year's retiring member was not replaced in order to reduce the number on the Committee, and the Committee reduced its meetings to an annual summer meeting.

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 the many BOU activities throughout the year: Raurie Bowie, Dan Chamberlain, Paul Donald, Jeremy Wilson, Patrick Smith, all Associate Editors (listed in each issue of *Ibis*) and the hundreds of reviewers (listed annually in *Ibis*) for their continued hard work on *Ibis*; Debbie Wright, Graeme Henderson, Jack Yuille, Sophie Gillanders and Lynne Miller and everyone else at Wiley-Blackwell Publishing for their help in delivering our high quality journal; Darren Evans (University of Hull), Mark Whittingham (University of Newcastle), Karl Evans (University of Sheffield), Helen Baker (JNCC) and Niall Burton (BTO) for their work preparing the programme for the annual conference; Niall Burton (BTO), Sophy Allen (JNCC), Francis Daunt (CEH), Rowena Langston (RSPB), Chris Thaxter (BTO and the Seabird Group), Stephen Votier (Plymouth University) and Andy Webb (HiDef Aerial Surveying Ltd and the Seabird Group) for their work preparing the programme for the autumn conference; Ian Bainbridge (SNH), Richard Bradbury (RSPB), Simon Butler (UEA), Helen Baker (JNCC), Andy Clements (BTO), John Fanshawe (Birdlife International) and David Stroud (JNCC) for supporting the spring conference student event; 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 the conference staff at the University of Leicester (BOU annual conferences); Andrea Corso, Meritxell Genovart, Marcell Haas, Frederic Jiguet, Bob McGowan (National Museums of Scotland), Keith Naylor, Robin Prytherch, Lars Svensson, Roger Wilkinson (Chester Zoo), Russell Wynn and Bernie Zonfrillo for assisting with the work of the Records Committee; and we apologise to anyone we have inadvertently omitted.

Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

MEMBERSHIP

As the global economic crisis continues, more and more people are affected and many societies are seeing a continuing decline in their membership. After holding steady during 2011, our own membership took another dip with an overall loss of 37 members, reducing our membership at year-end to 992 (1029 at 31 Dec 2011).

The following members were elected (or re-elected having lapsed their membership for one or more years) during 2012: Mr Jose Alves, Mr Esben Andersen, Mr James Anderson, Mr Julian Arkeell, Mr Jonathan Ayres, Mr Richard Broughton, Mr Carl Capewell, Mr Mick Carroll, Mr Fraser Carter, Mr Jose Maria Cardoso Da Silva, Ms Maria Egorova, Dr Hans-Juergen Eilts, Mr Seamus Enright, Mr Richard Facey, Mr Neil Faulkner, Mr Tom Finch, Ms Aldina Franco, Dr Dale F Gaul, Mr Scott Gooch, Mrs Ann Haycock, Mr Chris Honan, Ms Christina Ieronymidou, Ms Zoe Jones, Mr Johannes Kamp, Ms Melanie Kershaw, Ms Becky Laidlaw, Mr Mark Lane, Mr Yang Liu, Mr Ross Macleod, Mr David Mallett, Ms Jacqui Miller, Mr Volker Moritz, Mr Campbell Murn, Mr Johan Nilsson, Mr Steve Norman, Miss Nina O'Hanlon, Mr Gerald Oreel, Ms Melanie Orros, Mr John Ost, Mr Nickson Otieno, Dr Colin Prescott, Mr Simon Rolland, Mr Rafa Sandecki, Ms Helen Sanders, Mr Piers Sangan, Mr David Saunders, Mr David Seeler, Mr Thomas Stevens, Mr Martin Sullivan, Ms Petra Sumasgutner, Ms Kirsty Swinnerton, Mr David Tate, Ms Rachel Taylor, Mr Juan Verhelst, Mr Matthew Viner, Mr Rodney West, Mr Andrew Wolfenden, Mr Simon Zisman and Ms Maria Zwart.

Most member losses go un-notified to us (members simply don't renew), but 28 resignations were accepted during the year (higher than previous years), and Council noted with regret the following deaths: Mr R M G Eden, Mr K H Palmer, Dr E H Penry, Mr R Pullen and Mr P Tate.

Thank you for your support

Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

Membership *cont . . .*

The Future

BOU Council have been acutely aware of the declining membership over the years. Our community remains small. Some would argue our potential pool of members is shrinking as researchers see themselves less and less as ornithologists and more as ecologists.

With limited resources it's difficult for small societies to effectively target potential members that are thinly distributed throughout the wider public as there is often no single means of reaching them and small charities are unable to undertake widespread advertising.

Some years ago the student and early-career researcher community was identified as key to our future. This group should be providing us with the members of the future and should also be the people coming on to BOU committees and Council to help run the organisation. This community is more easily identifiable and reachable and we have over the years run several campaigns to engage with this community.

Following on from work undertaken with this target group as part of the Union's wider Strategic Review, we have at last started to see our efforts rewarded and for 2013 we have launched a new category for students and early-career researchers offering a reduced rate and will receive benefits specifically targeted at this audience to initially attract them in to the BOU and hopefully retain them for future years.

We are sure that existing members will see the benefit of us focusing our recruitment efforts and limited resources on the student and early-career researcher community. If we fail to secure new members from this group we will fail to secure the future of the BOU.

Existing members still enjoy the key benefit of receiving *Ibis* for a very good annual fee. The surpluses built up from sales of *Ibis* to institutions and from the success of conferences before the economic downturn, enable us to keep the annual membership fee as low as possible. These same surpluses allow us to deliver incentives to the new students and early-career researchers we are now targeting. We hope that the goodwill engendered within members recruited using these incentive schemes will see a future of continued support for the BOU as our long-standing members have done over the years.



HONORARY TREASURER

Julianne Evans

“ The Union remains in a strong position to support further charitable activities ”

Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

FINANCIAL REVIEW

In spite of the difficult conditions experienced during the year, notably in respect of conferences, the net income for the year before taking into account any changes in the value of investments, at £15,000, was £1,000 more than in the previous year. Gross income from *Ibis* was again very strong, reflecting the continuing attraction of back issue sales to institutions around the world. In the case of conference income, £6,000 was received from DECC this year so that there was a surplus of £9,100 after direct costs, which resulted in a deficit of £5,200 after taking into account subsidies to overseas speakers and students and attributed overhead expenditure. The latter includes an extra £5,000 allocated by Council to student support. Although the loss on conferences was considerably less than last year, it is a trend that is likely to continue in the ongoing economic climate. The Strategic Review incurred no significant costs this year against a budget of £5,000 which will have offset the increase in student support. Last year, Council decided to allocate the remaining amount in the Research Fund (a restricted income fund) to charitable expenditure, with the balance coming out of the General Fund. No further transfers to restricted income funds were made and research expenditure therefore came from the General Fund. The loss of £6,000 on other publications was almost unchanged from last year, while interest and investment income rose by £3,000. 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 rose by £6,000 during the year, reflecting stock market fluctuation. By the end of the year, including some re-investment of income, these were valued at £211,000. 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 £467,000, although further longer term investments to the value of £70,000 have been approved by Council. The Union thus remains in a strong 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.



Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEES

The charity's trustees are responsible 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).

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 judgments 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 6 March 2013
and are signed on their behalf by:

J. A. Gill, President

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2012

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowed Funds £	Total Funds 2012 £	Total Funds 2011 £
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Incoming resources from generated funds:						
Voluntary income	2	33,730	–	–	33,730	37,175
Activities for generating funds	3	121,529	–	–	121,529	128,941
Investment income	4	11,829	–	4,774	16,603	13,351
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		167,088	–	4,774	171,862	179,467
RESOURCES EXPENDED						
Costs of generating funds:						
Costs of generating voluntary income	5	-124,110	–	–	-124,110	119,474
Charitable activities	6/7	-13,831	-4,774	–	-18,605	-27,115
Governance costs	8	-13,892	–	–	-13,892	-18,439
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		-151,833	-4,774	–	-156,607	165,028
NET INCOMING RESOURCES BEFORE TRANSFERS	9	15,255	-4,774	4,774	15,255	14,439
Transfer between funds	10	–	4,774	-4,774	–	–
NET INCOMING RESOURCES BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS		15,255	–	–	15,255	14,439
OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES						
Losses on investment assets		–	–	-63	-63	–
Unrealised loss/gain on investments		9,376	–	7,387	16,763	-10,071
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		24,631	–	7,324	31,955	4,368
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS						
Total funds brought forward		509,228	–	152,044	661,272	656,904
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		533,859	–	159,368	693,227	661,272

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 28 to 33 form part of these financial statements



BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

BALANCE SHEET

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2012

	Note	2012			2011
		£	£		£
FIXED ASSETS					
Investments	12		211,111		205,499
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stocks	13	3,299			4,921
Debtors	14	43,250			58,473
Cash at bank and in hand		466,849			427,580
		513,398			490,974
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	15		-31,282		-35,201
NET CURRENT ASSETS			482,116		455,773
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			693,227		661,272
NET ASSETTS			693,227		661,272
FUNDS					
Endowment funds	16		159,368		152,044
Restricted income funds	17		-		-
Unrestricted income funds	18		533,859		509,228
TOTAL FUNDS			693,227		661,272

Approved by the Council on 6 March 2013

And are signed on their behalf by:

J. A. Gill, President

The notes on pages 28 to 33 form part of these financial statements



BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2012

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 31 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 2012 £	Total Funds 2011 £
Donations			
Donations	95	95	2,320
Other income			
Other income	538	538	2,283
Subscriptions	33,097	33,097	32,572
	33,730	33,730	37,175

3. INCOMING RESOURCES FROM ACTIVITIES FOR GENERATING FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2012 £	Total Funds 2011 £
Publication income - Ibis	75,516	75,516	91,928
Other publication income	12,765	12,765	12,404
Conference income	33,248	33,248	24,609
	121,529	121,529	128,941

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2012

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2012	Total Funds 2011
	£	£	£	£
Income from investments	5,412	4,774	10,186	11,134
Bank interest receivable	6,417	–	6,417	2,217
	11,829	4,774	16,603	13,351

5. COSTS OF GENERATING VOLUNTARY INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2012	Total Funds 2011
	£	£	£
Conference Costs	38,489	38,489	39,195
Publication costs - Ibis	41,375	41,375	39,803
Other publication costs	18,881	18,881	15,492
Management costs	25,365	25,365	24,984
	124,110	124,110	119,474

6. COSTS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES BY FUND TYPE

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2012	Total Funds 2011
	£	£	£	£
Research costs	13,831	4,774	18,605	27,115

7. COSTS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES BY FUND TYPE

	Research Costs	Total Funds 2012	Total Funds 2011
	£	£	£
Research costs	18,605	18,605	27,115



BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2012

8. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2012 £	Total Funds 2011 £
Accountancy fees	4,011	4,011	3,525
Audit fees	4,080	4,080	3,720
Strategic review	299	299	5,146
Costs of trustees' and committee meetings	5,502	5,502	6,048
	13,892	13,892	18,439

9. NET INCOMING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR

This is stated after charging:

	2012 £	2011 £
Staff pension contributions	5,274	5,237
Auditors' remuneration: - audit of the financial statements	4,080	3,720

10. FUND TRANSFERS

During the year, funds were transferred into the Research Fund to finance the costs of bursary grants made.

11. STAFF COSTS AND EMOLUMENTS

Total staff costs were as follows:

	2012 £	2011 £
Wages and salaries	59,313	58,727
Social security costs	6,145	6,132
Other pension costs	5,274	5,237
	70,732	70,096



BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION
 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2012

11. STAFF COSTS AND EMOLUMENTS (CONT)

Particulars of employees:

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

	2012 No	2011 No
Number of administrative staff	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year (2011 - Nil).

No Council member received any remuneration in the year.

Expenses were paid to Council members of £2,300 (2011 - £2,519)

12. INVESTMENTS

Movement in market value

	2012 £	2011 £
Market value at 1 January 2012	205,499	212,404
Acquisitions at cost	2,666	3,166
Disposal at opening book value	-13,817	-
Net gain/(loss) on revaluations in the year	16,763	-10,071
Market value at 31 December 2012	<u>211,111</u>	<u>205,499</u>
Historical cost at 31 December 2012	<u>103,829</u>	<u>121,171</u>

Analysis of investments at 31 December 2012 between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowed Funds £	Total Funds 2012 £	Total Funds 2011 £
Listed investments					
Treasury Stock	-	-	-	-	13,817
Unit Trusts	118,079	-	90,525	208,604	189,175
	<u>118,079</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>90,525</u>	<u>208,604</u>	<u>202,992</u>
Other investments					
UK Cash	-	-	2,507	2,507	2,507
	<u>118,079</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>93,032</u>	<u>211,111</u>	<u>205,499</u>



BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2012

13. STOCKS

	2012	2011
	£	£
Stock	3,299	4,921

14. DEBTORS

	2012	2011
	£	£
Trade debtors	42,052	57,639
Other debtors	1,198	834
	43,250	58,473

15. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	2012	2011
	£	£
Taxation and social security	1,804	1,811
Subs in advance	16,025	18,655
Accruals	13,453	14,725
	31,282	35,201

16. ENDOWMENT FUNDS

	Balance at 1 Jan 2012	Incoming resources	Transfers	Gains and Losses	Balance at 31 Dec 2012
	£	£	£	£	£
Permanent endowments					
L & MT Research Fund	85,287	3,698	-4,774	3,332	87,543
Research Fund	43,266	499	-	2,397	46,162
Hutt Legacy	23,491	577	-	1,595	25,663
	152,044	4,774	-4,774	7,324	159,368

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 2012

17. RESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS

	Outgoing resources	Transfers	Balance at 31 Dec 2012
	£	£	£
The Research Fund	-4,774	4,774	-

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.

18. UNRESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS

	Balance at 1 Jan 2012	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Gains and losses	Balance at 31 Dec 2012
	£	£	£	£	£
General Funds	509,228	167,088	-151,833	9,376	533,859

19. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Investments	Net current assets	Total
	£	£	£
Endowment Funds	93,032	66,336	159,368
Unrestricted Income Funds	118,079	415,780	533,859
Total Funds	211,111	482,116	693,227



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2012

We have audited the financial statements of the British Ornithologists' Union for the year ended 31 December 2012 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 section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of 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). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

SCOPE OF THE AUDIT

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 OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

In our opinion:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2012, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended; and
- 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 OPINION

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.

6 March 2013

Alliotts is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006