

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

advancing ornithology



2014

# Annual Report & Accounts

**BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION**

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REGISTERED CHARITY

249877 (ENGLAND & WALES) | SCO44850 (SCOTLAND)

FOUNDED 1858



## PRESIDENT

Prof Jennifer Gill

*“ This year also saw more exciting developments in social media, with the BOU now firmly established as a world leader in the online delivery of ornithological information ”*

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## President's Statement

Over the past four years, the BOU has undertaken a full strategic review of all of our activities, and this was the year in which many of the resulting developments came to fruition. The review process has focused to a large extent on identifying routes for increasing community-wide engagement and delivery of our core aim of furthering ornithology. The creation of a new Engagement Committee, including three Support Officer roles, reflects our recognition of the need for the BOU to explicitly consider the community-engagement aspects of all of our activities, and how these can be developed and improved. We are delighted that this committee is now up and running and that the Support Officers have approached their roles with such enthusiasm and commitment. Through cross-committee membership and continued developments of our website and social media, we also aim to facilitate greater links and communication among all those involved in delivering key BOU activities. We are grateful for the efforts of all members of Council and its Committees in helping to delivering another highly successful year of activities.

This year also saw more exciting developments in social media, with the BOU now firmly established as a world leader in the online delivery of ornithological information through Twitter and Facebook. The efforts of our Senior Administrator, Steve Dudley, have been key to these outstanding developments, and the statistics reported on pages 9 and 10 of this report clearly show the huge potential for social media to facilitate growth of our community. The recent rapid growth in the use of the BOU Blog by our community has also been most welcome, as this offers excellent opportunities for increased awareness and discussion of *Ibis* papers, conferences and current hot topics in ornithology.

The two BOU conferences in 2014 were very well-received, and we are very grateful to the organisers of both events. The continued efforts of Meetings Committee and conference organisers to design events that capture current research, and facilitate discussion and development of the field, are greatly appreciated. Recent innovations in poster presentation, through quick-fire poster descriptions and talking posters (for 2015), are excellent developments that we fully expect to see being copied by others in the near future.



*“Ibis continues to be a world-leader in ornithological publishing”*

## President’s Statement *cont.* . . .

*Ibis* continues to be a world-leader in ornithological publishing, and we are extremely grateful to our Editors, Associate Editors and reviewers for all they do to make this such a successful journal. Council continues to monitor developments in Open Access publishing closely, and to fully consider any implications for *Ibis* now and in the future. The system that we currently employ, in which authors can choose to pay for Open Access, is the one that continues to be most appropriate for *Ibis*, and we do not foresee any changes to this model at present.

The finances of the BOU continue to be healthy, and the strong uptake of Early-Career Researcher membership provides us with a platform to identify membership packages to encourage retention of this next generation of the BOU community.

This is my last Statement for the Annual Report, as my term of office ends in April 2015. It has been a real pleasure to work with Council, our Committees and, especially, Steve Dudley and Angela Langford, and to learn so much about the contribution of the BOU to the development and delivery of ornithological science. All organisations rely on strong and efficient administration to achieve their aims, and the quality of administrative work achieved by our staff is truly outstanding. In particular, I would like to express my sincere thanks to Steve for all of his work in driving and implementing the Strategic Review process. The rapid growth of the BOU in online presence, social media and engagement with ECRs is largely a result of Steve’s boundless energy and enthusiasm. I shall greatly miss working with BOU staff, Council and Committees, and I look forward to seeing BOU continue to develop, thrive and prosper.



## ADMINISTRATION DETAILS

### British Ornithologists' Union

Founded 1858

Registered as a Charity:

England and Wales, no. 249877

Scotland, no. SC044850

#### 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 2014

*Senior Administrator*

Mr S.P. Dudley

*Journal & Office Manager*

Mrs A.F. Langford

#### Council Officers at 31 December 2014

*President* Prof J. Gill

*Vice Presidents* Prof G. Martin

Dr S. Hinsley

*Honorary Secretary* Dr H. Baker

*Honorary Treasurer* Mrs J. Evans

#### Ordinary Members of Council

at 31 December 2014

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

Dr J.M. Collinson (Chairman Records Committee), Dr P. Dolman (Chairman

Grants Committee), Dr K. Evans,

Prof K. Hamer (Chairman *Ibis* Committee)

Dr B Helm and Dr H. Wright.

## Structure, Governance & Management

The British Ornithologists' Union is an unincorporated charity, no. 249877 (England & Wales) and SC044850 (Scotland). 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 five standing committees: the Engagement Committee, the Grants Committee, the *Ibis* Management Committee, the Meetings Committee and the Records 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.



## ADMINISTRATION DETAILS

Cont . . .

### Trustees

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

Dr H. Baker, Dr N. Burton, Dr S. Butchart,  
Dr P. Dolman, Dr K. Evans, Mrs J. Evans,  
Prof J. Gill, Dr K. Hamer, Dr B. Helm,  
Dr S. Hinsley, Prof G. Martin and Dr 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: Prof J.M. Collinson, Dr K. Smith.

### BOU editorial positions

at 31 December 2014

*Ibis* - Editor in Chief Dr P.F. Donald

*Ibis* - Editors Dr R. Bowie

Dr D. Chamberlain

Prof R. Kimball

Dr R. Nager

Prof J. Wilson

### BOU Investment Trustees

at 31 December 2014

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.
- Organising a programme of meetings and conferences.
- Awarding grants and bursaries 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.



## ADMINISTRATION 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

Scottish Widows, 67 Morrison Street, Edinburgh EH3 8YJ

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, Dr Helen Baker was elected as Honorary Secretary and Dr Barbara Helm was elected as an Ordinary Member replacing Dr Ken Smith (Honorary Secretary) and Dr Helen Baker (as an Ordinary Member).

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 that the BOU has undertaken over the last four years is now nearing completion. Changes have been implemented to Committee structure, with the closure of the Joint Publications Committee and the creation of a new Engagement Committee, and a large programme of activities to attract and retain Early-career Researchers has been devised and implemented, as reported previously. To facilitate ongoing communication with the British Ornithologists' Club, with whom we have a contractual arrangement to deliver activities including membership administration, journal management and publication sales, an annual meeting has been established as part of our programme of BOU Management meetings. All of our standing committees have addressed the strategic review process and have adopted changes to committee structure and activity, where appropriate. The final tasks of updating Officer roles and staff job descriptions are now underway, and will be completed in the near future. We are very grateful to everyone who has contributed to these deliberations and developments.



## 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 *Avian Demography* and *Upland Birds* conferences were added during 2014.

## WWW.BIRDGRANTS.ORG

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

Find us on Twitter @IBIS\_journal  
and at Facebook.com/ibisjournal

# 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;
  - 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 Engagement Committee, develop and deliver new engagement initiatives;
  - 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*;



## BRANTA

BOU Register of Avian Thesis Abstracts

[HTTP://WWW.BOU.ORG.UK/STUDENT-POST-DOCS-](http://www.bou.org.uk/student-post-docs-early-career-researchers/branta/)

[EARLY-CAREER-RESEARCHERS/BRANTA/](http://www.bou.org.uk/student-post-docs-early-career-researchers/branta/)

Over 100 theses abstracts now online.

## THE BOU BLOG

[WWW.BOU.ORG.UK/BLOG/](http://www.bou.org.uk/blog/)

Our top #10 read blogs in 2014

- Hen Harriers: going, going . . .
- Yellowhammer dialects
- African Penguin population plummets
- What is Altmetric?
- Dynamic Soaring
- Barred Long-tailed Cuckoo complex
- The benefits of blogging about your research
- A tale of two kites
- Woodland birds and climate change
- A Jabber of Jays

## Achievements & Performance *cont* . . .

### BOU Office *cont* . . .

- to service the BOU membership;
- to manage the BOU online and mobile content, specifically:
  - 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 undertake routine administration (book-keeping, reports, etc);
- to manage BOU sales, stock and storage facility;
- to handle general enquiries, press and publicity;
- 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.

### Social media

The two main platforms we continue to use are Twitter (@IBIS\_JOURNAL) and Facebook (FACEBOOK.COM/IBISJOURNAL).

We continued to grow our presence and performance on social media during 2014, particular on Twitter where we are widely recognised as the number one ornithology account.

@IBIS\_JOURNAL on Twitter acts as an active news service for ornithologists. We tweet about anything ornithological – papers from a wide selection of 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 previously.





## @IBIS\_JOURNAL

### OUR YEAR ON TWITTER

Tweets	6,340
Retweets	8,520
Potential impressions	33,693,246
Followers at 31 Dec 14	4,767
Increase in followers on 2013	65%

### OUR TOP TWEETS

Software can decode bird songs  
[HTTP://OW.LY/ZPEC3](http://ow.ly/zPEC3) @BBCNature  
 @BBCNews #ornithology  
 Reached a potential audience of 424,854

Congratulations @RSPBScience on the launch of the new and exciting Centre for Conservation Science [HTTP://OWL.LI/U0ZVJ](http://owl.li/u0zvj)  
 Reached a potential audience of 318,969

Our own #tweetoftheweek How do birds manage without external ears?  
[HTTP://OW.LY/FMBP6](http://ow.ly/FMBP6) @physorg\_biology  
[HTTP://TWITTER.COM/IBIS\\_JOURNAL/STATUS/543353320010575872/PHOTO/1](http://twitter.com/IBIS_JOURNAL/status/543353320010575872/photo/1)  
 Reached a potential audience of 108,717

### OUR TOP FOLLOWERS DURING 2014

Those retweeting and promoting @IBIS\_journal.  
 @TomCadwallender @miguelmcminn  
 @kathrinasouth @\_birdRS\_ @inkednaturalist  
 @arjundevamar @\_BTO @NorfolkBea  
 @jazzy\_jeff44 @\_robsheldon @alanmcbride  
 @RSPBScience @faceyrj @RollieNI @PhilJ\_Rose  
 @muttonbird\_boy @jones\_1985 @jorge\_seo  
 @BioJLinnSoc @JERutter @Iteration23  
 @sjportugal1979

## Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

### BOU Office *cont . . .*

Social media is increasingly important in driving membership recruitment and conference attendance, as well as increasing the number of people to the BOU website.

During the year we introduced the #ornithology hashtag for anyone tweeting about avian science. By the end of the year there were over 260 active users using the hashtag and over 29,000 accounts reading #ornithology tagged tweets.

### BOU website – [WWW.BOU.ORG.UK](http://www.bou.org.uk)

Our main focus of development for 2014 was the BOU blog (#theBOUblog). By targeting the ornithological journal author community we increased the number of blogs posted to 32 (from 12 in 2013) and we hope to continue to grow this further in 2015.

Blog posts cover topical ornithological issues and research community items, and increase engagement with the online ornithological research community. The latter included the start of a Twitter master class series educating our community about how best to use Twitter and how to get more from it for their research.

With the increased number of blogs posted we trebled the number of page views they received and brought in significant numbers of new people to the BOU website.

The increase in blog posts can be directly attributed to the introduction of individual article metrics. We promoted this new metric heavily during the year and authors were very quick to realise the benefits of blogging and promoting their research (see Altmetric section in the *Ibis* Management Committee below).

The BOU Register of Avian Thesis Abstracts (BRANTA) continues to provide access to these abstracts.

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

*“Social media is not just a spoke on the wheel of marketing. It's becoming the way entire bicycles are built.”*

RYAN LILLY. *WRITE LIKE NO ONE IS READING*



## FACEBOOK

FACEBOOK.COM/IBISJOURNAL

### OUR YEAR ON FACEBOOK

Posts	5,805
Potential impressions	945,482

### OUR TOP FACEBOOK POSTS

A review of the impact of corvids on bird abundance and productivity #ornithology #avian #birds #science #OA

[HTTP://ONLINELIBRARY.WILEY.COM/ENHANCED/DOI/10.1111/IBI.12223/](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/enhanced/doi/10.1111/ibi.12223/)

Reached a potential audience of 22,953

A meta-analysis of the effects of geolocator application on birds. Current Zoology.

[WWW.CURRENTZOOLOGY.ORG/SITE\\_MEDIA/ONLINEFIRST/DOWNLOADABLE\\_FILE/2013/08/01/6DAVID\\_COSTANTINI.PDF](http://www.currentzoology.org/site_media/onlinefirst/downloadable_file/2013/08/01/6DAVID_COSTANTINI.PDF)

Reached a potential audience of 6,187

Will the 'hookpod' stop seabird bycatch? Rare Bird Alert article

[WWW.RAREBIRDALERT.CO.UK/V2/CONTENT/HOOKPOD\\_READY\\_TO\\_SAVE\\_THE\\_ALBATROSS.ASPX?S\\_ID=380351010](http://www.rarebirdalert.co.uk/v2/content/hookpod_ready_to_save_the_albatross.aspx?s_id=380351010) Hookpod website

[WWW.HOOKPOD.COM](http://www.hookpod.com)

Reached a potential audience of 5,691

## WWW.BOU.ORG.UK

### WHAT WAS VIEWED ON THE BOU WEBSITE

(% OF TOTAL PAGE VIEWS)

The British List	31%
Conferences	15%
Blog	12%
IBIS	9.5%
Grants & Bursaries	7.5%
Early-career Researcher pages	5%
About the BOU pages	3%
BOUPROC.net	3%
Publications	1.5%
Other content	12.5%

### TOP COUNTRIES VIEWING THE BOU WEBSITE

UK, US, India, Spain and Germany.

## Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

### BOU Office *cont . . .*

#### Other online services

We continued to develop our monthly e-newsletters aimed at promoting *Ibis*, BOU conferences and other ornithological events. Twenty-seven e-newsletters were sent out during the year (12 in 2013), each reaching over 6,500 researchers around the world and contributing to significant traffic to our website.

At the end of the year we closed our inactive e-group, BOU BirdTalk, as social media has replaced this style of group.

#### British Ornithologists' Club administration

The BOU Office continues to run various aspects of the BOC's administration including the 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.

#### Press and media

We continue to receive coverage of BOU Records Committee announcements in the national birding press and online bird services, as well as regional birding reports and e-groups.

#### General administrative items

General correspondence, particularly emails and contact forms received via the 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.

#### Strategic Review

The BOU Office remained fully engaged with all committees and Council in driving the BOU review and implementing much of the output.



## ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

### CHAIRMAN

Dr Jennifer Smart (RSPB Centre for Conservation Science)

### MEMBERS

Dr Lianne Concannon, Conference Support Officer (Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust)

Mr Steve Dudley, BOU Senior Administrator

Dr Darren Evans (University of Hull)

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

Dr Christina Ieronymidou, Social Media Support Officer (BirdLife)

Dr Leila Walker, Web Support Officer (RSPB Centre for Conservation Science)

Dr Hugh Wright (JNCC)

## Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

### ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

This new committee was formed with the overarching aim of overseeing engagement with members and the wider ornithological community. The Committee will achieve this aim through further development and enhancement of existing engagement opportunities, specifically face-to-face contact at conferences and using online tools such as social media and the website. In future, we will seek opportunities to use emerging tools to ensure that we find new ways to engage with even more people.

The Committee held its inaugural meeting on 9 July 2014 with a second meeting soon after on 28 October in order to gather momentum in Committee activities, with much other business being conducted regularly by email.

#### Honoraria positions

Three Support Officer posts have been created within the Committee to support conference, web and social media activities. These roles have been filled by Early-career Researchers (ECRs) who will work closely with each other, and with BOU staff, in order to develop and deliver new initiatives around these core engagement areas.

#### Activities

The Support Officers have already been very active on a diverse range of activities (outlined below).

#### Conference support – Dr Lianne Concannon

- Developing a conference feedback questionnaire.
- Planning a welcome event for those attending a BOU conference for the first time.
- Planning the ECR event.
- Involving conference attendees more e.g. voting on ECR posters.
- Developing new ways of presenting at conferences e.g. talking posters.
- Organising BOU attendance at other ornithological events. BOU will be present for the first time at the Student Conservation Conference, Who's Who event.



*The Engagement Committee oversees engagement with BOU members and the wider ornithological community*

## Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

### Engagement Committee *cont . . .*

#### **Web support - Dr Leila Walker**

- Developing a members only section of the website.
- People profiles to give an online presence to the people who make up the BOU.
- Developing BRANTA Gosling, an extension of BRANTA that will allow the addition of MSc theses and PhDs in progress.
- Developing the opportunities section of the website as a one stop shop for ornithological jobs and post graduate opportunities.
- Testimonials from recipients of grants and conference attendees to promote the great benefits of involvement with the BOU.
- Developing online questionnaires.

#### **Social media support - Dr Christina Ieronymidou**

- Developing, promoting and populating the BOU blog.
- Setting up a calendar of ornithological events.
- Investigating other potentially useful social media platforms.
- Develop social media workshops at conferences.
- Organising social media content and coverage for conferences.

More generally, the Committee continues to spend time thinking about what sort of benefits could be offered to ordinary members in the future, how we can improve retention of ECR members and developing a range of promotional gifts.

The Committee has made a great start to its role and the enthusiasm, fantastic ideas and hard work of members, particularly Dr Lianne Concannon, Dr Christina Ieronymidou, Dr Leila Walker and Steve Dudley, are warmly acknowledged.



**IBIS MANAGEMENT  
COMMITTEE  
MEMBERSHIP**

**CHAIRMAN**

Prof Keith Hamer (University of Leeds)

**MEMBERS**

Dr Mark Bolton (RSPB)

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

Dr Dan Chamberlain, Editor (University of  
Turin)

Dr Paul Donald, Editor in Chief (RSPB)

Mr Steve Dudley, BOU Senior Administrator

Mrs Julianne Evans, BOU Honorary Treasurer

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

Dr Rebecca Kimball, Editor (University of  
Florida)

Mrs Angela Langford, Journal Manager

Dr Ruedi Nager, Editor (University of Glasgow)

Prof Jeremy Wilson, Editor (RSPB)

**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.

The Committee met in February 2014 as part of our annual journal day hosted by Wiley-Blackwell in Oxford, where we received their annual publisher’s report on production, marketing and accounts. In addition, the Committee held a Strategy Day in June 2014 aimed at looking at the wider role and scope of the journal and future development. Other business was conducted by email during the year.

**Editors and management**

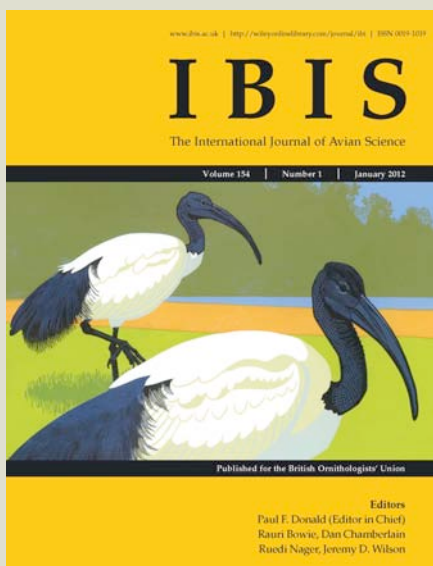
The journal continues to thrive under the leadership of Dr Paul Donald, and with the support of the other editors: Dr Rauri Bowie, Dr Dan Chamberlain, Dr Ruedi Nager, Prof Jeremy Wilson and Prof Rebecca Kimball; Patrick Smith (proof-reader and production); Angela Langford as Journal Manager; and Steve Dudley, who manages the business with Wiley-Blackwell.

The *Ibis* Associate Editor board plays 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 seven Associate Editors – Dr Stephen Browne, Dr Rob Fletcher, Dr Jerome Fuchs, Dr Ryan Norris, Dr Fabrizio Sergio, Dr Ian Stewart and Dr Keith Tarvin – retire, and we thank them for their valuable contributions. Joining the board in 2014 were Dr Anita Gamauf, Jeffrey Kelly and Jesus Martinez Padilla.

The dedication and hard work of the Editorial team and BOU staff in achieving and maintaining this status are warmly acknowledged.

**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 2014 were greatly





## *IBIS*

### Google Scholar ranking (birds)

h-index	1/20
h5-median	1/20

### ISI 2014 rankings (ornithology)

5-year Impact Factor	2.172
5-year rank in Ornithology	3/20
2014 Impact Factor	1.861
2012 Rank in Ornithology	4/20

## *IBIS*, VOLUME 157 (2015)

Pages	926
Review papers	4
Original papers	53
Short communications	17
Conference reports	1
BOU-funded project reports	1

### TOP COUNTRIES SUBMITTING TO *IBIS*

Papers were received from 50 different countries. The top five countries (excluding UK) were USA, Spain, Canada, South Africa and Australia.

### TOP ALTMETRIC SCORING PAPER IN *IBIS*

A review of the impacts of corvids on bird productivity and abundance

*Christine F. Madden, Beatriz Arroyo & Arjun Amar*

[HTTP://ONLINELIBRARY.WILEY.COM/DOI/10.1111/IBI.12223/ABSTRACT](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/ibi.12223/abstract)

## Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

### *Ibis* Management Committee *cont . . .*

appreciated, and continuing 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.

The Committee is continuing to track developments in open access publishing closely. Overall, *Ibis* is in excellent health, and continues to attract a large number of very high quality submissions.

### Journal bibliometrics

The journal's impact factor (the number of papers published in the previous two years that are cited in other papers) has dropped slightly since last year (from 2.361 to 1.861), but its Google Scholar rankings (H-index 25, H5-median 36) place it first in their Birds category. These important achievements are 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.

### Article level metrics

These were introduced in June 2014 and as a Wiley journal, *Ibis* is now signed up with Altmetric ([www.altmetric.com](http://www.altmetric.com)) who track the online attention of scholarly articles. Any online coverage of an article via a news outlet, a blog or social media will contribute to that article's score.

We were quick to pick up on this and the potential to further promote *Ibis* content whilst delivering a real benefit to *Ibis* authors. Having a recognised and well-read blog, coupled with being the number one ornithology presence on social media, we were able to take immediate advantage.

Over 450 *Ibis* articles received online attention between June and December and began to build their individual article metric score. By



## *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 . . .*

the end of the year, *Ibis* had more papers scoring more individual article metric points than any other ornithology journal.

### Social media

Social media plays an increasing role in the promotion of journals and this is true for *Ibis*. On social media the BOU uses the *Ibis* name – @IBIS\_journal on Twitter and IBIS Journal on Facebook. The decision for the BOU to place *Ibis* at the forefront of our social media presence was deliberate since the journal remains our most important activity.

Via social media we promote *Ibis* papers heavily to an increasing audience. Tied in with this is the promotion of *Ibis* papers on the BOU blog. Thanks to individual article metrics (above) authors have been quick to realise the value of blogging about their work and linking blogs to their recent publications in order to improve their individual article metric score of their articles and their individual overall score as an author.



## MEETINGS COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

### CHAIRMAN

Dr Niall Burton (BTO)

### MEMBERS

Dr Graeme Buchanan (RSPB)

Dr Lianne Concannon, Conference Support  
Officer (Durrell Wildlife Conservation  
Trust)

Mr Steve Dudley, BOU Senior Administrator

Dr David Edwards (University of Sheffield)

Dr Francis Daunt (CEH)

Dr Aldina Franco (University of East Anglia)

Dr Mel Kershaw (Natural England)

Mrs 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, providing advice and support to the BOU Office and others responsible for organising and running BOU events, and overseeing the publication of output from any conference via [WWW.BOUPROC.NET](http://WWW.BOUPROC.NET).

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

Two new members joined the committee – Dr David Edwards (University of Sheffield) and Dr Lianne Concannon as the newly appointed Conference Support Officer (*ex-officio* from Engagement Committee), replacing Dr Rachel Davies.

### Annual spring conference 2014

The BOU held its annual conference, on the *Ecology and conservation of birds in upland and alpine habitats*, at the University of Leicester in early April. The programme organising committee was led by Dr Graeme Buchanan (RSPB), and included Dr Dan Chamberlain (University of Turin), Dr James Pearce-Higgins (BTO) and Prof Des Thompson (SNH). The conference was attended by 123 delegates, of which 24 were early-career researchers. This represents a similar overall attendance number to the previous year's *Avian Demography* conference, but a reduction in ECR numbers on recent years. Funding of £3,000 was gratefully received for the conference from Scottish Natural Heritage. The conference made a small operating loss (excluding BOU staff time and excluding support for overseas speakers and ECRs).

After an opening evening plenary from Prof Kathy Martin, the programme consisted of seven sessions on *The state of upland bird communities, Upland bird ecology, The state of upland bird populations, Upland birds and climate change, Upland birds and land use change, Responses through management, Responses through policy*, encompassing 30 presentations including 10 from overseas speakers. The conference also included the now traditional early-career researcher evening session (focused on non-academic careers in





## DIARY DATES

### 31 MARCH – 2 APRIL 2015

*BOU 2015 Annual Conference*

Birds in time and space: avian tracking and remote sensing

### 5 – 7 APRIL 2016

*BOU 2016 Annual Conference*

Urban birds: pressures, processes and consequences

## Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

### Meetings Committee *cont . . .*

NGOs, agencies, etc), a poster session and a successful 20-minute session of quick-fire oral presentations from those presenting posters, as well as well as 'best early-career awards' for best ECR poster and best ECR oral presentations. There was very positive feedback during and after the conference.

Annual conference audiences continue to remain a little lower than hoped, reflecting the ongoing financial climate.

A report on the conference by Davide Scridel (RSPB) appeared in *Ibis*.

### Autumn one-day conference

The BOU held an autumn one-day conference, on '*Birds in the entangled bank: advances in food web theory and practice*', at the Great Northern Hotel, Peterborough in November. The programme organising committee included Dr Darren Evans (University of Hull), Dr Rob Robinson (BTO) and Dr Ruben Heleno (Universidade de Coimbra, Portugal). The programme for the conference included 11 talks, including three overseas speakers.

The conference was attended by 51 delegates, of which 15 were early-career researchers. The rather disappointing delegate numbers – which probably reflect both the current financial climate and the theme, which was of a more pure ecological nature than most recent conferences – meant that the conference made a moderate loss.

### Future events

The 2015 Annual Spring Conference will be on the '*Birds in time and space: avian tracking and remote sensing*' and will be held at the University of Leicester in late March / early April. The conference will highlight the role of telemetry in understanding the ecology and behaviour of free-living wild birds and aims to showcase the most recent advances in remote-sensing of movements, activity and physiology; to highlight the advantages of integrated and multifaceted approaches in both theoretical and applied contexts; and to consider



## WWW.BOUPROC.NET

Proceedings were added during the year from the *From populations to policy impacts: avian demography in a changing world* (held in 2013) and the *Ecology and conservation of Birds in Upland and Alpine Habitats* (held in 2014) conferences.

Proceedings from the *Birds in the entangled bank: advances in Food Webs theory and practice* conference (held in autumn 2014) will be hosted during 2015.

## Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

### Meetings Committee *cont . . .*

new developments and opportunities in the gathering, analysis and sharing of telemetric data. Following the securing of keynote speakers, the programme has largely been filled through a call for papers (in total, 45 abstracts were received through the call, much the largest response received for a BOU conference, reflecting the theme's topicality). The conference will also include a poster session and several 'talking poster' presentations. The programme organising committee is being led by Prof Keith Hamer (University of Leeds), and also includes Dr Mark Bolton (RSPB), Dr Aldina Franco (University of East Anglia) and Dr Chris Hewson (BTO).

There will be no conference in autumn 2015, and the Meetings Committee have agreed that a schedule of autumn conferences every two years alternating with the EOU may be an appropriate model for the future.

The 2016 Annual Spring Conference will be on '*Urban birds*' and will again be held at the University of Leicester. The programme organising committee is being led by Dr Karl Evans (University of Sheffield), and also includes Prof Jon Sadler (University of Birmingham) and Dr Kate Plummer (BTO). Details of the conference and a call for papers were provided online in January 2015.



## GRANTS COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

### CHAIRMAN

Dr Paul Dolman (University of East Anglia)

### MEMBERS

Dr Phil Atkinson (BTO)

Mr Steve Dudley, BOU Senior Administrator

Dr Phil Shaw (University of St Andrews)

Dr Danaë Sheehan (RSPB)

Mr Andy Symes (BirdLife)

*Small ornithological research grants are aimed at supporting small to medium-sized research projects.*

## Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

### GRANTS COMMITTEE

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

There were no changes to Committee membership during the year.

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 125 research grant applications, a 500% increase on an average year. Of these, 15 applications were rejected for not complying with BOU application guidelines or being incomplete and a further 15 applications were excluded from consideration due to the low percentage of overall costs requested. The remaining 95 applications were considered for funding.

The total available for awards is £10,000 per annum with an additional discretionary fund of £5,000 available.

Despite the considerable increase in the number of applications received, this did not result in an increase in application quality with only eight projects awarded funding and only a small amount of the discretionary fund used. The total spend for the year was £10,983.

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

#### **Andrew Bladon** | Awarded £1240

*PhD student, University of Cambridge, UK*

Direct and indirect influences of climate on species' range limits – how does geographic temperature variation affect the breeding success of the Ethiopian Bush-crow *Zavattariornis stresemanni*, and the White-tailed Swallow *Hirundo megaensis*?



## RESEARCH PROJECTS REPORTS

During the year we received and published the following reports from projects previously supported by the BOU – see

[WWW.BOU.ORG.UK/GRANTS-AND-BURSARIES/REPORTS/](http://WWW.BOU.ORG.UK/GRANTS-AND-BURSARIES/REPORTS/)

### **Nancy Bunbury & Jen Stockdale**

*Seychelles Islands Foundation*

Distribution, seasonality and habitat preferences of the endangered Madagascar Pond Heron *Ardeola idae* on Aldabra Atoll: 2009–2012.

Jen Stockdale awarded £685 in 2009.

### **Michael Mills, Callan Cohen and Claire Spottiswoode**

*University of Cambridge, UK*

A survey for the Critically Endangered Liben Lark *Heteromirafra archeri* in Somaliland, north-western Somalia.

Claire Spottiswoode awarded £2,000 in 2010.

### **Aimy Caceres Pinedo**

*PhD student, University of Porto, Portugal*

Conserving the endemic birds of the Angolan Scarp Forest

Awarded £1,980 in 2013.

### **Jenny Dunn & Danae Sheehan**

*RSPB*

*Trichomonas gallinae* infection in European Turtle Doves *Streptopelia turtur* in Africa and potential for transmission among co-occurring African columbiformes.

Awarded £2,000 in 2012.

### **Melissah Rowe**

*UiO, Naturhistorisk Museum, Oslo, Norway*

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

Awarded £1,000 in 2012.

## Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

### Grants Committee *cont . . .*

#### **Joanna Dziarska-Pałac** | Awarded £950

*PhD student, Warsaw University, Poland*

Factors limiting reproductive success of the globally threatened Aquatic Warbler in south-east Poland.

#### **Nathalie Gilbert** | Awarded £1,000

*PhD student, University of East Anglia, UK*

Is the White Stork *Ciconia ciconia* addicted to ‘junk food’?

Implications of recent landfill closures on breeding season habitat use and fledging success in Iberia.

#### **Kateryna Konovalenko** | Awarded £2,000

*PhD student, Albert Ludwig's University, Freiburg, Germany*

Indirect status reassessment for Siberian grouse in the Russian far east.

#### **Ilya MacLean** | Awarded £1,000

*Lecturer, University of Exeter, UK*

Conservation and ecology of papyrus endemic bird species.

#### **Diego Ricardo Mendez** | Awarded £1,793

*Researcher, Armonia, Bolivia*

Designing a standardised photographic mark–recapture method for estimating population densities of Andean Condor using feeding stations.

#### **Kristian Szabo** | Awarded £1,000

*Research Fellow, Szent Istvan University, Hungary*

Natal dispersal of Eastern Imperial Eagle *Aquila heliaca* in the Carpathian Basin.

#### **Wenfei Tong** | Awarded £2,000

*Post-doc Research Associate, University of Cambridge, UK*

On duty at the nest: investigating frontline defences in Black-collared Barbets against brood parasitism by Lesser Honeyguide.

The award made to Wenfei Tong was subsequently returned in full, as the applicant had subsequently been unable to undertake the project.



*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 . . .*

#### Career Development Bursary scheme

This was the fourth year of this scheme. The bursaries aim to support young or early-career ornithologists undertaking a short-term research project (up to ten weeks) 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.

Due to the huge increase in grant applications, assessment of the bursaries were again carried out by Council members, this year by Dr Shelley Hinsley, Prof Graham Martin and Dr Ken Smith.

Eight awards were made totaling £18,300.

#### **Oriol Lapiedra** | Awarded £2,500

*Postdoc researcher, Centre for Ecological Research and Applied Forestries, Spain*

Integrating the role of biogeography, ecology and behaviour into the study of the adaptive diversification of Columbiformes: implications for their conservation.

Project Supervisor: Trevor Price, University of Chicago, US.

#### **Evanthia Thanou** | Awarded £2,500

*Self-funded researcher, University of Patras, Greece*

Completing the phylogeography of the Shag: do species stand the test?

Project Supervisors: Stephen Cavers, Francis Daunt, CEH Edinburgh, UK.

#### **Alice Risley** | Awarded £800

*Advisor, Natural England, UK*

Does territory quality and body condition influence timing of spring departure from African wintering grounds in a long-distance migrant, the Whinchat?

Project Supervisor: Will Cresswell, University of St Andrews, UK.



## Achievements & Performance *cont* . . .

### Grants Committee *cont* . . .

**Aida Abdennadher** | Awarded £2,500

*Researcher, National Institute of Agronomy, Tunisia*

Pollution by heavy metals in an important Brown Booby breeding area in Mexico.

Project Supervisor: Carolina Sanpera Trigueros, University of Barcelona, Spain.

**Justyna Kubacka** | Awarded £2,500

*Volunteer with OTOP, Poland*

Gene flow and genetic diversity in Polish populations of the endangered Aquatic Warbler.

Project Supervisor: Judith Korb, University of Freiburg, Germany.

**Jesse Conklin** | Awarded £2,500

*Guest Researcher, University of Groningen, the Netherlands*

Seasonal survival of long-distance migratory shorebirds in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Project.

Project Supervisor: Theunis Piersma, University of Groningen, the Netherlands.

**Batbayar Galtbalt** | Awarded £2,500

*Artificial Nest Manager, Wildlife Science and Conservation Center of Mongolia*

The potential of using moulted feathers in an analysis of breeding behaviour.

Project Supervisor: Xiangjiang Zhan, University of Cardiff, UK.

**Jaime Resano Mayor** | Awarded £2,500

*PhD candidate, University of Barcelona*

Integrating genetic and stable isotope analyses to infer the population structure of the Snowfinch in Western Europe.

Project Supervisor: Raphael Arlettaz, University of Bern, Switzerland.

### Strategic Review

The Committee reviews annually scheme guidelines for applicants, admissibility of applicants and the format of the application forms.



## RECORDS COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

### CHAIRMAN

Prof Martin Collinson (University of Aberdeen)

### SECRETARY

Dr Chris McInerney (University of Glasgow)

### MEMBERS

Dr Andy Brown (Natural England)

Mr Steve Dudley, BOU Senior Administrator

Dr James Gilroy (Norwegian University of Life Sciences)

Mr Richard Millington

Dr Andy Musgrove (BTO)

Mr Adam Rowlands (BBRC Chairman)

Prof Jimmy Steele (University of Newcastle)

## REPORTS

All BOURC and Taxonomic reports can be found on the BOU website at:

[WWW.BOU.ORG.UK/BRITISH-LIST/BOURC-REPORTS-AND-PAPERS/](http://WWW.BOU.ORG.UK/BRITISH-LIST/BOURC-REPORTS-AND-PAPERS/)

### 43<sup>rd</sup> BOURC Report

*Ibis* 157: 186–192 (January 2015)

### 10<sup>th</sup> Taxonomic Report

Taxonomic recommendations for Western Palearctic birds: tenth report:

*Ibis* 157: 193–200 (January 2015)

## THE BRITISH LIST

At 31 Dec 2014 the List comprised of 597 species – 579 species in Category A, 8 in Category 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 other business conducted by email.

Chris Kehoe retired from the Committee. We thank him for his invaluable work, contributions and advice during his time on with BOURC. Dr Andy Musgrove succeeded him as a Committee Member.

### Changes to the British List

The Committee's 43rd Report, covering the period October 2013 to September 2014, was published in January 2015 (*Ibis* 157: 186–192).

Alder Flycatcher *Empidonax alnorum* was added to Category A. First subspecies records of 'Eastern' Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia straminea* or *mongolica*, 'Eastern' Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros phoenicuroides*, *rufiventris* or *xerophilus*, and 'Stejneger's' Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maurus stejnegeri* were also accepted.

The changes to the British List published in the Committee's 43rd report means that the List comprises 597 species.

### Taxonomic Sub-committee (TSC)

No report was published during the year but the TSC's 10th report appeared in the January issue of *Ibis*.

### Links with other groups

The BOURC maintains 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 TSC continues to input to the Association of European Records and Rarities Committees (AERC) – [WWW.AERC.EU/TAC.HTML](http://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.

## 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, Rebecca Kimball, Ruedi Nager, 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*; David Hewes, Zoe Halbert, Anita Sye, Mathangi Ramesh and everyone else at Wiley-Blackwell Publishing for their help in delivering our high quality journal; Graeme Buchanan (RSPB Centre for Conservation Science), Des Thompson (SNH), Dan Chamberlain (University of Turin) and James-Pearce Higgins (BTO) for their work preparing the programme for the annual conference (upland birds); Darren Evans (University of Hull, UK), Ruben Heleno (University of Coimbra) and Rob Robinson (BTO) for their work preparing the programme for the autumn 'avian food webs' one-day conference; Karl Evans (University of Sheffield); Keith Hamer (University of Leeds), Mark Bolton (RSPB), Aldina Franco (University of East Anglia) and Chris Hewson (BTO) for their work preparing the programme for the 2015 annual conference (avian tracking); Jon Sadler (University of Birmingham) and Kate Plummer (BTO) for their work preparing the programme for the 2016 annual conference (urban birds); Patrick Smith (copy-editor for BOUPROC.net); Joy Enston (Subbuteo Natural History Books) for supporting the BOU annual conference and for assisting with storage of our publications stock; Jackie Newman and staff at Peterborough Cathedral (venue for BOU meetings); Emma Rathbone and Richard Lambe and the conference staff at the University of Leicester (BOU annual conferences); staff at the Great Northern Hotel (venue for autumn one-day meetings); Nicola Baccetti, Martin Cade, Andrea Corso, Edward Dickinson, Martin Garner, Tony Irwin, Sven Kullander, Stephen Menzie, Peter Pyle, Roger Riddington, Lars Svensson, Hein van Grouw and Russell Wynn for assistance with BOURC; and we apologise to anyone we have inadvertently omitted.

## Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

### MEMBERSHIP

At the end of the year we had 882 full members (912 at 31 Dec 2013) and 193 reduced rate subscribers (205 at 31 Dec 13) made up of 171 ECRs and 21 from developing countries.

The following members were elected (or re-elected having lapsed their membership for one or more years) during 2014:

Mr Peter Alfrey, Mr Barrie Armitt, Mr David Baines, Mr Alexander Banks, Dr Catherine Barlow, Mr Richard Beard, Mr Walter Belis, Mr Alex Berryman, Mr David Bradford, Mr Tim Chamberlain, Mr Ken Chapman, Ms Perla Copernik, Mr George Day, Ms Anita Donaghy, Mr Robert Evans, Ms Stacey Fairhurst, Mr Wouter Faveyts, Dr Kathy Fletcher, Mr Derren Fox, Mr Iain Gibson, Mr Bart Gras, Mr Robert Gyurik, Mr Michael Harding, Ms Martina Hillbrand, Mr Robert Ince, Mr James Allen Johnston, Ms Christine Kelley, Mr Duncan Lang, Mr Joseph Leverich, Ms Giselle Murison, Mr Andy Musgrove, Mr Carlton John Parry, Mr Travis Rosenberry, Mr Maurizio Saroli, Mr Matt Schofield, Mr John R Sherratt, Dr Jennifer Smart, Mr Michael John Sumner, Mr Katsumi Tamada, Mr Paul Ward, Mr James Ward, Ms Hannah Ward, Mr Mark Welch and Mr Ryan Wilson-Parr.

In addition, we welcomed the following who joined the BOU's Early-Career Subscriber Scheme:

Mr Alistair Baxter, Ms Sophie Bennett, Mr David Bennett, Mr Nikolas Bertholdt, Mr Darren Bonner, Mr Jeferson Bugoni, Ms Jessica Burnett, Mr Ashley Thomas Cook, Ms Heather Crump, Mr Richard Dale, Mr Stephane Derocles, Mr Davide Dominoni, Mr Jonathon Charles Dunn, Ms Charlotte Dutton, Dr Katrina Sharps, Mr Richard Francksen, Ms Angela Medina Garcia, Ms Lucy Garrett, Mr Jose Manuel De Los Reyes Gonzalez, Mr David Grant, Mr Newton Harper, Ms Rebecca Harris, Mr Christopher Harrison, Ms Olivia Hicks, Ms Leanne Hubbard, Dr Jana W E Jeglinski, Ms Lilja Johannesdottir,

Thank you for your support





*The Early-Career Researcher scheme is aimed at students and researchers three years post-degree or doctorate.*

## Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

### Membership *cont . . .*

Mr Virat Jolli, Mr Tim Kasoar, Ms Erin Margaret Kennedy, Ms Nichola Kirby, Mr James Kitson, Ms J Lane, Mr Oriol Lapiedra, Ms Clare Lawrence, Mr Callum J Macgregor, Ms Lisa Malm, Mr Iain Malzer, Ms Giulia Masoero, Mr Pietro Mendonca, Ms Claire Louise Metcalf, Mr Davide Nespoli, Mr Guilherme Tavares Nunes, Mr Peter Orrell, Mr Paul Preston, Ms Sophia Helene Röhl, Ms Emma Sheard, Mr Jack Shutt, Mr Jonathan Siberry, Ms Rosemary Sigger, Mr Jesper Sonne, Ms Jennifer Stockdale, Mr Pierpaolo Storino, Mr Luke Sutton, Mr Joseph Taylor, Ms Heidi Thomsen, Ms Wenfei Tong, Mr Konstantinos Vlachopoulos, Ms Rachel Louise White, Mr Michael Willett, Mr Richard Williams, Mr David Michael Zonana, and Ms Sara Zonneveld.

We also welcome a number of new members from developing countries benefiting from a lower subscription rate: Mr Ismael Franz, Ms Joyce Ogisi, Mr Ibrahim Kaan Ozgencil, Mr Paulo Pulgarin, and Ms Margareta Rahayuningsih.

Sadly we continue to see a slow decline in ordinary members at a relatively constant rate of attrition over recent years. The decline in the number of reduced rate subscribers is due to some ECRs who joined in order to obtain cheaper conference places not renewing. We have adjusted the ECR scheme from 2015 to ensure that benefits such as BOU-funded ECR conference places go to existing BOU ECR members first.

The reason for most member losses is unknown (members do not renew without notifying us), but 17 resignations were accepted during the year (higher than in previous years), and Council noted, with sadness, the following deaths:

Mr J Davies, Mr D Elkins, Prof I Goodbody, Mr P Hollom, Mr J A Little, Dr J Monk, Dr T J Roberts, Mr M Skilleter and Mr R Vaughan.

### The Future

The Early-Career Researcher (ECR) Scheme was quick to take off but we have seen a small decline during the year. The bulk of those not renewing for 2014 were individuals who joined at the time of taking



*From 2015 we will be offering more benefits to all members.*

## Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

### Membership *cont . . .*

advantage of a BOU-subsidised conference place for the BOU 2013 annual conference or 2013 EOU conference. From 2015 the limited number of reduced-rate conference places will be offered to existing ECR members before offering any remaining places to new joiners at a slightly higher rate, and so benefiting those ECRs who remain members of the BOU.

Another change from 2015 is the increased benefits we will be offering to ordinary members. We have withdrawn from the Gift Aid scheme and will no longer be reclaiming the tax paid on subscriptions and donations by UK tax payers. Members will now benefit from reduced prices at BOU conferences and discounts on BOU and Wiley books. We hope to add other benefits in due course.

For existing full members, Council have purposely maintained the existing low £35 member rate since 2006, and whilst we enjoy modest financial reserves, Council intends to maintain this policy.



## Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

### HONORARY TREASURER

Julianne Evans

### FINANCIAL REVIEW

Although annual income fluctuates from year to year, overall it has been declining by an average of 5.5% per annum over the past five years. There was a slight decline of 1.5% in 2014, not as large as forecast owing to a slight uplift in membership income, which rose by £1700, and in investment income, which rose by £2000, along with the continuing strong performance of *Ibis*. The Joint Publications Committee was disbanded in 2014 with BOC taking on sole responsibility for the publication of future checklists. The administration agreement with BOC has continued and is now shown as a separate item, whereas formerly these two items were combined. Comparing like with like, the loss of £2000 on other publication income was half that experienced in 2013.

A concurrent increase in annual costs, however, has resulted in a loss of £11,000. This is not an immediate cause for concern. The Union continues to maintain a considerable surplus owing to several years' under-spend and, in accordance with charity rules, Council has committed to spending further sums to support additional charitable activities. This year these included an extra £10,000 towards research grants and bursaries, and a further £2400 towards honoraria for members of the new Engagement Committee.

Despite the slight increase in membership income in 2014, numbers of both members and conference delegates show an overall decline year on year. Conferences sustained a loss of £9000 this year, in main due to lower than forecast delegates attending the two conferences held, in particular the autumn Food Webs meeting, although this was a much better financial performance than in 2013. The Union's dependence on *Ibis* for such a large proportion of its income (57%) is a cause for concern. The formation of the Engagement Committee and associated costs should be seen as an investment to address this imbalance by working to maintain or increase other income streams. As required by charity accounting rules, indirect costs (staff costs and overheads) are allocated across multiple headings in the accounts but in total have risen in line with cost of living increases.



## Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

### Financial Review *cont . . .*

The Union's financial resources continue to remain substantial. The value of investments increased to £309,495 and market conditions continued to improve, increasing investment income by £2,000. The policy of maintaining cash resources in short-term cash deposits has also been continued and at the end of the year these amounted to £405,500, on a par with 2013. Therefore, even taking into account a predicted drop in income, the Union will be able maintain its current scale of charitable activities.



## 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 11 March 2015  
and signed on their behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. A. Gill', written over a light-colored background.

J. A. Gill, President



## BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2014

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowed Funds £	Total Funds 2014 £	Total Funds 2013 £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>						
Incoming resources from generated funds:						
Voluntary income	2	31,342	–	–	31,342	30,993
Activities for generating funds	3	112,309	–	–	112,309	116,991
Investment income	4	12,575	–	4,911	17,486	15,600
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<b>156,226</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>4,911</b>	<b>161,137</b>	<b>163,584</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>						
Costs of generating funds:						
Costs of generating voluntary income	5	-129,944	–	–	-129,944	-122,387
Charitable activities	6/7	-25,126	-4,911	–	-30,037	-22,410
Governance costs	8	-17,002	–	–	-17,002	-13,215
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>		<b>-172,072</b>	<b>-4,911</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>-176,983</b>	<b>-158,012</b>
<b>NET OUTGOING/INCOMING RESOURCES BEFORE TRANSFERS</b>						
Transfer between funds	9 10	-15,846 –	-4,911 4,911	4,911 -4,911	-15,846 –	5,572 –
<b>NET OUTGOING/INCOMING RESOURCES BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS</b>						
		<b>-15,846</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>-15,846</b>	<b>5,572</b>
<b>OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES</b>						
Losses on investment assets		–	–	–	–	–
Unrealised loss/gain on investments		2,857	–	1,987	4,844	40,092
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		<b>-12,989</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>1,987</b>	<b>-11,002</b>	<b>45,664</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>						
Total funds brought forward		<b>562,332</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>176,560</b>	<b>738,892</b>	<b>693,228</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<b>549,343</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>178,547</b>	<b>727,890</b>	<b>738,892</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 32 to 37 form part of these financial statements



## BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

### BALANCE SHEET YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2014

	Note		2014		2013
			£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Investments	12			329,329	322,067
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Stocks	13		1,470		2,227
Debtors	14		35,502		36,266
Cash at bank and in hand			399,495		404,982
			436,467		443,475
<b>CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year</b>	15		-37,906		-26,650
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>				398,561	416,825
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>				727,890	738,892
<b>NET ASSETS</b>				727,890	738,892
<b>FUNDS</b>					
Endowment funds	16			178,547	176,560
Unrestricted income funds	17			549,343	562,332
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>				727,890	738,892

Approved by the Council on 11 March 2015

And are signed on their behalf by:

J. A. Gill, President

The notes on pages 32 to 37 form part of these financial statements



## BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2014

### 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.

#### Overheads

Overhead costs are allocated to the relevant costs centres in the following proportions:

	Office costs	A F Langford remuneration	S P Dudley remuneration
Conference costs	15%	15%	25%
Management & administrations	30%	35%	35%
Ibis publication costs	30%	35%	25%
Other publication costs	5%	5%	2.5%
BOC costs	15%	10%	7.5%
Research costs	5%	—	5%
	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

These proportions were decided upon by the Senior Administrator, Steve Dudley, and the Honorary Treasurer, Julianne Evans, who believe that they represent a fair reflection of the resources expended by the charity on each activity.

### 2. VOLUNTARY INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2014 £	Total Funds 2013 £
<b>Donations</b>			
Donations	1,096	1,096	88
<b>Other income</b>			
Other income	-	-	2,315
Subscriptions	30,246	30,246	28,590
	<b>31,342</b>	<b>31,342</b>	30,993



## BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2014

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

	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2014	Total Funds 2013
	£	£	£
Publication income - Ibis	74,673	74,673	72,996
Other publication income	1,312	1,312	12,165
Conference income	23,210	23,210	31,380
BOC income	13,114	13,114	
	<b>112,309</b>	<b>112,309</b>	116,991

#### 4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2014	Total Funds 2013
	£	£	£	£
Income from investments	10,297	4,911	15,208	12,233
Bank interest receivable	2,278	–	2,278	3,367
	<b>12,575</b>	<b>4,911</b>	<b>17,486</b>	15,600

#### 5. COSTS OF GENERATING VOLUNTARY INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2014	Total Funds 2013
	£	£	£
Conference Costs	42,159	42,159	37,405
Publication costs – Ibis	42,012	42,012	43,637
Other publication costs	4,005	4,005	16,925
Management costs	29,240	29,240	24,420
BOC costs	12,528	12,528	–
	<b>129,944</b>	<b>129,944</b>	122,387

#### 6. COSTS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES BY FUND TYPE

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2014	Total Funds 2013
	£	£	£	£
Research costs	25,126	4,911	30,037	22,410



## BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2014

### 7. COSTS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES BY FUND TYPE

	Research	Total Funds 2014	Total Funds 2013
Costs	£	£	£
Research costs	30,037	30,037	22,410

### 8. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2014	Total Funds 2013
	£	£	£
Accountancy fees	2,954	2,954	3,917
Audit fees	4,800	4,800	4,200
Costs of trustees' and committee meetings	9,248	9,248	4,515
Interest and commission	—	—	583
	17,002	17,002	13,215

### 9. NET INCOMING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR

This is stated after charging:

	2014	2013
	£	£
Staff pension contributions	5,274	5,275
Auditors' remuneration: - audit of the financial statements	4,800	4,200

### 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:

	2014	2013
	£	£
Wages and salaries	62,561	60,917
Social security costs	4,458	6,296
Other pension costs	5,274	5,275
	72,293	72,488



## BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2014

#### 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:

	2014	2013
	No	No
Number of administrative staff	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year (2012 - Nil).

No Council member received any remuneration in the year.

During the year, a total of 11 Council members were reimbursed expenses totaling £1,171 (2013: £1,435). These expenses represent travelling costs incurred by Council members in the performance year.

#### 12. INVESTMENTS

##### Movement in market value

	2014	2013
	£	£
Market value at 1 January 2014	322,067	211,111
Acquisitions at cost	2,418	70,864
Net gain/(loss) on revaluations in the year	4,844	40,092
Market value at 31 December 2014	<u>329,329</u>	<u>322,067</u>
Historical cost at 31 December 2014	<u>177,110</u>	<u>174,692</u>

##### Analysis of investments at 31 December 2013 between funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowed Funds	Total Funds 2014	Total Funds 2013
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Listed investments</b>					
UK Quoted Shares	204,632	-	122,190	326,822	319,560
<b>Other investments</b>					
UK Cash	2,507	-	-	2,507	2,507
	<u>207,139</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>122,190</u>	<u>329,329</u>	<u>322,067</u>



## BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2014

### 12. INVESTMENTS (CONT)

Investment held	Value at 31 Dec 14		% of total investments
	Endowed Fund	General Fund	
<b>M &amp; G Charifund</b>			
L & MT Fund	54,004		16.40%
General Fund		77,561	23.55%
Hutt Legacy	20,987		6.35%
R & SP Fund	10,386		3.15%
<b>Mellon Global Growth</b>			
L & MT Fund	36,903		11.21%
General Fund		58,431	17.74%
<b>Nationwide Building Society PIB</b>			
		68,640	20.84%
<b>Others</b>			
		2,507	0.76%
	122,190	207,139	100%

### 13. STOCKS

	2014	2013
	£	£
Stock	1,470	2,227

### 14. DEBTORS

	2014	2013
	£	£
Trade debtors	35,025	35,795
Other debtors	477	471
	35,502	36,266

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

	2014	2013
	£	£
Taxation and social security	1,879	1,835
Subs in advance	15,827	15,040
Accruals	10,475	9,775
Conference delegate fees in advance	9,725	-
	37,906	26,650



## BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2014

### 16. ENDOWMENT FUNDS

	Balance at 1 Jan 2014	Incoming resources	Transfers	Gains and Losses	Balance at 31 Dec 2014
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Permanent endowments</b>					
L & MT Research Fund	98,146	3,464	-4,911	2,008	98,707
Research Fund	48,349	480	-	-7	48,822
Hutt Legacy	30,065	967	-	-14	31,018
	<b>176,560</b>	<b>4,911</b>	<b>-4,911</b>	<b>1,987</b>	<b>178,547</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. Income arising from the capital held in investments within Endowment Funds is credited to the Research Fund. The Research Fund represents permanent capital, the income from which is transferred to the fund of the same name in Restricted Funds to be spent solely on research activities (e.g. grants and bursaries).

The Hutt Legacy is intended for the general purposes of the Union and interest arising from this item is credited to General Funds which itself represents investments and net assets which are held for the daily running and maintenance of the charity.

### 17. UNRESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS

	Balance at 1 Jan 2014	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Gains and losses	Balance at 31 Dec 2014
	£	£	£	£	£
General Funds	562,332	156,226	-172,072	2,857	549,343

### 18. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Investments	Net current assets	Total
	£	£	£
Endowment Funds	122,190	56,357	178,547
Unrestricted Income Funds	207,139	342,204	549,343
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>329,329</b>	<b>398,561</b>	<b>727,890</b>



## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2014

We have audited the financial statements of the British Ornithologists' Union for the year ended 31 December 2014 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 2014, 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

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.

11 March 2015

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