

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

advancing ornithology



2015

Annual Report & Accounts

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

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REGISTERED CHARITY

249877 (ENGLAND & WALES) | SCO44850 (SCOTLAND)

FOUNDED 1858



PRESIDENT

Prof Keith Hamer

“ This year saw Professor Jenny Gill step down as President after four years in office that were nothing short of transformational ”

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President's Statement

This year saw Professor Jenny Gill step down as President after four years in office that were nothing short of transformational. The strategic review of our activities that Jenny instigated has now largely been completed and continues to bear fruit, not least through the continued enthusiasm and commitment of our Engagement Committee, reflecting Jenny's recognition and our whole-hearted endorsement of the need for the BOU to explicitly consider and develop the community-engagement aspects of all our activities. We are very grateful to Jenny for her unstinting commitment, enthusiasm and tenacity in bringing about these changes, and for her sterling work on behalf of the BOU. We are also very grateful for the efforts of all members of Council and its Committees in helping to deliver another highly successful year of activities.

The annual conference was not only very well-received but was also the BOU's largest ever conference. We are very grateful to the organisers and the participants for helping to make this such a success. The continued efforts of the Meetings Committee and conference organisers in delivering events that highlight current research and facilitate discussion and development in the field are greatly appreciated. We continue to innovate at our conferences, this year with the introduction of the new talking poster format, which was a tremendous success and will be repeated at future annual conferences. Our now annual early-career researcher event at the annual conference was likewise very popular and productive.

This year also saw further exciting developments in social media, with the BOU firmly consolidating its position as a world leader in the online delivery of ornithological information via Twitter and Facebook. The exceptional social media coverage of our annual conference, the excellent response to our joint BOU-RSPB round-table at the EOU2015 conference in Spain and the very encouraging results of our IBIS community survey are all testaments to the continuing efforts of our Senior Administrator, Steve Dudley, which remain the key to these outstanding achievements, as well as the commitment and enthusiasm of members of our Engagement Committee. The further growth in the use of the BOU blog by our

“ This year also saw further exciting developments in social media, with the BOU firmly consolidating its position as a world leader in the online delivery of ornithological information ”

President's Statement *cont.* . . .

community over the past year has also been most welcome, and continues to offer excellent opportunities for increased awareness and discussion of IBIS papers, conferences and current hot topics in ornithology.

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 sustained strong uptake of early-career researcher membership continues to provide us with a platform to identify membership packages to encourage retention of this next generation of the BOU community. In addition, we are very honoured to have received a most generous bequest from the estate of the late John and Pat Warham to support research on Sphenisciform and Procellariiform seabirds, and Council will consider how best to use these funds around the conditions of the bequest during the coming year.



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: +44 (0) 1 733 844 820

Email: bou@bou.org.uk

Web: www.bou.org.uk

BOU Staff at 31 December 2015

Senior Administrator

Mr S.P. Dudley

Journal & Office Manager

Mrs A.F. Langford

Council Officers at 31 December 2015

President Prof K. Hamer

Vice Presidents Dr S. Hinsley

Mr N.J. Bucknell

Honorary Secretary Dr H. Baker

Honorary Treasurer Mrs J. Evans

Ordinary Members of Council

at 31 December 2015

Dr G. Buchanan, Dr J.M. Collinson (Chair, Records Committee), Dr P. Dolman (Chair, Grants Committee), Dr D. Evans (Chair, Meetings Committee), Dr K. Evans, Dr B. Helm, Dr J. Smart (Chair, Engagement Committee) 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 of Council are recruited from within the ornithological community. Where possible, Council 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, Mr N.J. Bucknell, Dr G. Buchanan, Dr P. Dolman, Dr D. Evans, Dr K. Evans, Mrs J. Evans, Prof K. Hamer, Dr B. Helm, Dr S. Hinsley, Dr J. Smart 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: Dr. N. Burton, Dr S. Butchart and Prof G. Martin.

BOU editorial positions

at 31 December 2015

IBIS	<i>Editor in Chief</i>	Dr P.F. Donald
	<i>Editors</i>	Dr R. Bowie
		Dr D. Chamberlain
		Prof R. Kimball
		Dr R. Nager
		Prof J. Wilson

BOU Investment Trustees

at 31 December 2015

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.

Council Activities

At the AGM in April, Prof Keith Hamer was elected as President replacing Prof Jenny Gill; Mr Neil Bucknell was elected as Vice President replacing Prof Graham Martin; Dr Darren Evans was elected as an Ordinary Member of Council to replace Dr Niall Burton as Chair of the Meetings Committee; Dr Jennifer Smart was elected as an Ordinary Member of Council as Chair of the Engagement Committee; and Dr Graeme Buchanan was elected as an Ordinary Member of Council to replace Dr Stuart Butchart.



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

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 *cont.* . . .

At the annual conference we were delighted to recognise two outstanding ornithologists – Prof Sarah Wanless was awarded the Godman Salvin Prize for her outstanding contribution to ornithology, and former BOU President Prof John Croxall was presented with the Union Medal in recognition of his excellent service to the BOU. Citations for both recipients can be found in IBIS.

The Strategic Review undertaken in recent years nears completion. The final committee item addressed resulted in the disbanding of the Taxonomic Sub-committee as outlined in the Records Committee section. The final part of the process, to review staff-related items such as updating job description and contracts, is now underway.

For a number of years we have been contracted by the British Ornithologists' Club to deliver many of their activities. Their own review of their future activities has resulted in them deciding to make fundamental changes to their society structure and activities and at the end of the year they served formal notice that 2016 would be the final year of our existing arrangement. We will be assisting the BOC during 2016 with their restructuring.

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.

Activities in Scotland

The BOU has members in Scotland, two of our Trustees, Barbara Helm and Graham Buchanan, and two of our journal editors, Rudolf Nager and Jeremy Wilson, also reside there. Pierre Bize, University of Aberdeen, was awarded a small research grant (see page 20).



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 Foodwebs* conference was added during 2015.

WWW.BIRDGRANTS.NET

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 managed by 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, specifically;
 - 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 Small Grants and Career Development Bursary schemes;
 - working with the Records Committee, to manage the British List and associated areas;
 - working with the Honorary Treasurer, maintain monthly accounts and budgets and assist in the preparation of annual accounts;
- 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 on Facebook

Facebook.com/ibisjournal



BRANTA

BOU Register of Avian Thesis Abstracts
[HTTP://WWW.BOU.ORG.UK/STUDENT-POST-DOCS-
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 2015

- **Red Kites are back in town**
Mel Orros
- **Twitter #masterclass series**
Steve Dudley
- **Of drones and birds**
Elisabeth Vas
- **The secret lives of nightjars**
Katrina Sharps
- **Birdfields**
Almut Schlaich
- **The European Red List of birds**
Christina Ieronymido
- **Bycatch in gillnet fisheries**
Rory Crawford
- **Migratory connectivity in Rollers**
Tom Finch
- **Using seabird tracking data for marine conservation**
Maria Das
- **Tracking Pied Flycatchers**
Malcolm Burgess

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.NET](http://www.birdgrants.net);
- to manage the BOU's social media;
- 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).

Having now established ourselves as a world leader in social media within ornithology, we continued to grow our presence and performance during 2015, in particular on our primary platform, Twitter.

@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 have built an engaged online and mobile community that helps us to spread BOU, IBIS and other ornithological news far wider than we could previously.

“Good content always has an objective; it’s created with intent. It therefore carries triggers to action.”

ANN HANDLEY, MARKETINGPROFS.COM



@IBIS_JOURNAL

OUR YEAR ON TWITTER

Tweets	7,840
Retweets	19,687
Potential impressions	76,742,970
Followers at 31 Dec 15	7,235
Increase in followers on 2014	51%

OUR TOP TWEETS OF 2015

Stomach contents of Short-tailed #Albatross in eastern N Pacific <http://ow.ly/TI1WI>
#ornithology #seabirds #WSC2
Reached a potential audience of 512,934

The bird that's more valuable than ivory
<http://ow.ly/TkS3Y> via @BBCNewsMagazine
@BirdLife_News #ornithology
Reached a potential audience of 302,300

Why Birds Can Sleep on Branches and Not Fall Off
http://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2013/12/why-birds-can-sleep-on-branches-and-not-fall-off/281969/?utm_source=btn-facebook-ctrl1
#ornithology
Reached a potential audience of 218,818

OUR TOP FOLLOWERS OF 2015

Those retweeting and promoting @IBIS_journal.
@miguelmcminn @ballinabirdo @__birdRS__
@muttonbird_boy @arjundevamar
@naturerocksEH @cisnerosheredia
@CondorJournal @colinandjo1
@TomCadwallender @PhilJ_Rose
@AdamTheQuirky @RuediNager
@teamswiftparrot @jones_1985 @PBOprof
@AmOrnith @AukJournal @Nina_OHanlon

From Twitter

Using twitter to promote and engage with #ornithology research. Great stats on increasing use and value from @stevedudley_ at #EOU2015.
@JENGILL3

Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

BOU Office *cont . . .*

Our growth on Twitter remains excellent with (cf. to 2014) our output up 23%, engagement up 130%, potential reach up 178% and follower growth up 51%.

During the year we took advantage of the IBIS community survey to ask our journal community about their social media use. The survey results indicated that our existing output was reaching the vast majority of those using social media and we do not need to extend our activities to cover other platforms.

Jointly with the RSPB Centre for Conservation Science, we ran a round table at EOU2015 conference in Spain on 'the role of social media in ornithology'. This turned out to be the best-attended round table of the conference. The five presentations covering social media use in ornithology, Altmetrics and using social media for citizen science projects can all be found on the BOU website.

In 2016 we will publish a Viewpoint article in IBIS summarising the increasing role of social media in ornithology.

We continue to educate our community about the role and benefits of social media in ornithology, on social media itself, and in the form of our ongoing blog series.

The aim of social media is to drive people to our online content – to the BOU website for conferences, blogs, membership and more, and to the IBIS website for journal content. We continue to see a modest increase annually in the number of visitors to our website, with social media playing an increasing role for both BOU and IBIS websites and it is now, after Google searches and direct to site visits, the most important source of visitors to our online content. In this respect it is also key in driving membership recruitment as can be seen by the increase in members during 2015.

BOU website – WWW.BOU.ORG.UK

We again focussed on developing the BOU blog (#theBOUblog) during 2015 and grew the number of blogs posted to 43 (32 in 2014) of which 19 (44%) were linked to IBIS papers. The blog



FACEBOOK

FACEBOOK.COM/IBISJOURNAL

OUR YEAR ON FACEBOOK

Posts	3,550
Potential impressions	1,733,393

OUR TOP FACEBOOK POSTS

Ecological Modelling of the Distribution of the Lanner Falcon in Sicily at Two Spatial Scales
<http://www.bioone.org/doi/abs/10.13157/arla.62.1.2015.81>

Reached a potential audience of 29,176

Oldest known #seabird back at Midway Atoll nr #Hawaii <http://ow.ly/V63ds>

Reached a potential audience of 24,900

How birds got their beaks

<http://www.sciencemag.org/content/348/6236/744.short>

Reached a potential audience of 14,285

WWW.BOU.ORG.UK

WHAT WAS VIEWED ON THE BOU WEBSITE

(% OF TOTAL PAGE VIEWS)

The British List	30%
Blog	16.5%
Conferences	12%
IBIS	8.5%
About the BOU pages	7.5%
Early-career Researcher pages	5%
Grants & Bursaries	4.5%
BOUPROC.net	2%
Publications	1.5%
Other content	12.5%

TOP COUNTRIES VIEWING THE BOU WEBSITE

UK, USA, Spain, Germany and the Netherlands.

Achievements & Performance *cont* . . .

BOU Office *cont* . . .

section is also the top arrival point on the BOU website, from where visitors then explore other areas of the site.

During the year we began to redevelop the website and in 2016 will deliver a new website with an integrated member area.

Other online services

We again used our monthly e-newsletters aimed at promoting IBIS, BOU conferences and other ornithological events. Twenty-three e-newsletters were sent out during the year, reaching on average around 8,000 researchers per newsletter in order to promote IBIS, conferences, the BOU blog and other activities.

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. 2016 will be the last year of this arrangement, with the BOC restructuring for 2017.

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.

ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

CHAIRMAN

Dr Jennifer Smart (RSPB Centre for
Conservation Science)

MEMBERS

Dr Lianne Concannon, Conference Support
Officer (Durrell Wildlife Conservation
Trust) [to 31 October 2015]

Mr Steve Dudley, BOU Senior Administrator

Dr Darren Evans (University of Newcastle)

Dr Cat Horswill, Conference Support Officer
(BTO) [from 1 November 2015]

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

Now in its second year, the Committee is responsible for overseeing engagement with members and the wider ornithological community. We do this by continually striving to improve existing engagement opportunities, specifically face-to-face contact at conferences and using online tools such as social media and the website. Online tools and social media are rapidly changing platforms for engaging with people and the Committee will do its best to ensure the BOU remains at the cutting edge of modern engagement tools.

The Committee met twice during the year with other business being conducted regularly by email.

Honoraria positions

We continue to have three Support Officer roles filled by early-career researchers (ECRs) who assist each other and BOU staff with conference, web and social media activities. Lianne Concannon undertook the role of Conference Support Officer from 2014 but has had to step back from the Committee so she is thanked for her input and enthusiasm. We welcomed Cat Horswill as her replacement.

Activities

Conference support – Dr Lianne Concannon

- Our now annual ECR event at the annual conference was attended by over 60 ECRs (a record attendance) and provided much positive feedback.
- Talking Posters, a new initiative introduced and well received at the annual conference.
- The BOU had a strong presence at the EOU conference in Spain, supporting 23 ECRs to attend this conference and running an ECR event attended by 60 participants.
- For the first time, BOU attended the 'Who's Who' event at the Student Conservation Conference in Cambridge and engaged with lots of ECRs, recruiting six new members.
- We designed, distributed and analysed 99 responses to a feedback questionnaire from attendees of the BOU annual conference to help us provide improved future conference engagement for ordinary and ECR members.

From Twitter

Great feedback from our early career researcher session @ #BOU2015 on 'demystifying the publishing process'. Free bar, fab Q&As & Freebies too!
@LIANNECONCANNON

As Chair, I am excited for the future and how we can make the BOU relevant to more ornithologists while retaining the support and interest of our existing members. The ideas, hard work and enthusiasm of all Committee members and staff make this committee a pleasure to chair and I thank them all for their contributions.

JENNIFER SMART,
CHAIR,
BOU ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

Engagement Committee *cont . . .*

Web support – Dr Leila Walker

- 15 BOU Council and committee member profiles added to the website to give an online presence to the people behind the BOU.
- Continued development of Branta and Branta Gosling (to be launched in 2016), our online database of ornithology theses.
- Development of the BOU website to include a new member area (to be launched in 2016)
- Development of a searchable global database of ornithology institutes and organisations to sit in the members only section of the website (to be launched in 2016).
- Developing the opportunities sections of the website as a one stop shop for ornithological jobs and post graduate opportunities

Social media support – Dr Christina Ieronymidou

- The BOU blog (#theBOUblog) goes from strength to strength with 43 blogs published in 2015.
- Social media coverage at the annual conference was exceptional. BOU coverage was the best it has ever been, with our widest ever engagement and a Storify summarising the excitement of the event through tweets and images.
- The BOU ran a “use of social media in ornithology” round table discussion at the EOU2015 conference in Spain attended by 75 participants.
- The BOU was the most active Twitter account at EOU2015.
- Maintaining the BOU ECR Facebook page.
- An online calendar of ornithological events in development.

The Committee also spent some time looking forward to how we can optimise our engagement at non-BOU conferences in future, retention of ECR members, increasing benefits of BOU membership and the development of promotional items.

The Committee made a great start in 2014 with changes and new initiatives implemented during 2015.

IBIS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

CHAIRMAN

Prof Keith Hamer (University of Leeds)

MEMBERS

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 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 March 2015, with other business being conducted by email. The meeting in March was hosted by Wiley-Blackwell in Oxford, where we received their annual report on production, marketing and accounts, followed by a meeting of the Committee.

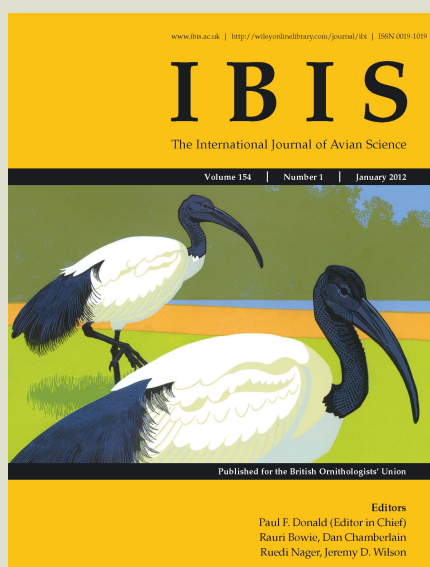
During the year we undertook a community survey seeking feedback about IBIS in an attempt to probe our journal's strengths and weaknesses. We had an excellent response and the results from the survey will be taken to our annual journal management meeting in spring 2016.

Editors and management

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

The journal's impact factor (the number of papers published in the previous two years that are cited in other papers) has increased slightly since last year (from 1.861 to 1.921) to second in Ornithology, and its 5-year impact factor (2.217) places it first in Ornithology.

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. 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. Joining us as an Associate Editor in 2015 was Dr Staffan Roos (RSPB), whilst Dr Rob Clark, Dr Anita Gamauf, Dr Ian Hartley and Dr Stephan Schoech retired from the board during the year and whom we thank warmly for their time with us.





IBIS

Google Scholar ranking (birds)

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

ISI 2014 rankings (ornithology)

5-year Impact Factor	2.217
5-year rank in Ornithology	1/21
2014 Impact Factor	1.921
2014 Rank in Ornithology	2/21

Altmetric

IBIS is the top scoring journal in ornithology.

IBIS, VOLUME 157 (2015)

Pages	920
Review papers	2
Original papers	57
Short communications	20
Viewpoints	2

COUNTRIES SUBMITTING TO IBIS

Papers were received from 48 different countries. The top five countries (excluding UK) were USA, Spain, Brazil, Australia and Poland.

MOST CITED IBIS PAPER IN 2015

The decline of Afro-Palaearctic migrants and an assessment of potential causes

Juliet A. Vickery, Steven R. Ewing, Ken W. Smith, Deborah J. Pain, Franz Bairlein, Jana Skorpilova & Richard D. Gregory.

DOI: 10.1111/IBI.12118

[HTTP://ONLINELIBRARY.WILEY.COM/DOI/10.1111/IBI.12118/ABSTRACT](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/IBI.12118/ABSTRACT)

HIGHEST ALTMETRIC SCORING PAPER IN IBIS IN 2015

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 . . .*

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 2015 were greatly appreciated.

We continue with initiatives to increase IBIS readership through social media developments, readership campaigns and presence at international conferences which all help to maintain the current position of IBIS at the forefront of ornithological journal publishing.

Article level metrics

Introduced in mid-2014, this was the first full year of the journal being with Altmetric (www.altmetric.com) who track the online attention of scholarly articles.

We continued to promote the benefits of Altmetric and educate our author community on how they can use social media to contribute to their own paper's score. This has seen an increase in authors joining social media and writing blogs about their research (see below).

With a large back content, over 1,000 IBIS articles have so far received online attention since mid-2014. We are the overall top-scoring journal in ornithology and three of our papers are in the all time top ten ornithology papers scored by Altmetric.

Social media

Social media continues to play an important role for both the BOU and IBIS, and in relation to the latter, particularly to the Altmetric scores of the papers we publish.

We continue to promote all IBIS papers on Twitter and Facebook and this social media activity is key to driving our own papers' scores and our contribution in this respect is far greater than any other journal in our sector.



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ORNITHOLOGY

WWW.IBIS.AC.UK

Members choosing to receive IBIS online
have access to everything ever published in
IBIS – back to 1859!

Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

IBIS Management Committee *cont . . .*

We also encourage IBIS authors to promote their papers and research in the BOU blog (and on other blogs), and of the 32 science blogs we published during the year, 19 of these were from IBIS authors. As with Twitter and Facebook activity, our hosting and promotion of blogs linked to our papers is another key contributor to our papers' Altmetric scores, and again we are significantly ahead of all other journals in our sector in this respect.

All this social media activity helps to drive the individual article and author metrics for IBIS papers and our authors.

IBIS – number one in ornithology



MEETINGS COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

CHAIRMAN

Dr Darren Evans (University of Newcastle)

MEMBERS

Dr David Douglas (RSPB)

Mr Steve Dudley, BOU Senior Administrator

Dr David Edwards (University of Sheffield)

Dr Francis Daunt (CEH)

Dr Aldina Franco (University of East Anglia)

Dr Cat Horswill, Conference Support Officer
(BTO)

Dr Mel Kershaw (Natural England)

Mrs Angela Langford, Journal & Office
Manager

Dr Rob Robinson (BTO)

- *The BOU annual conference is a must for early career ornithologists. It's friendly, welcoming and offers so much for people starting out in their career.*
- *I had no idea how brilliant, friendly and exciting a BOU conference could be. Very impressed.*
- *A fantastic couple of days, learning lots and meeting great people.*
- *Awesome BOU conference as always, old and new faces, old and new research - fantastic.*

COMMENTS FROM THE #BOU2015

ANNUAL CONFERENCE QUESTIONNAIRES

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.

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

Dr Niall Burton came to the end of his term as Chairman of the Committee, with Dr Darren Evans (University of Newcastle) elected to Council at the 2015 AGM as Chair of the Committee. Dr Graeme Buchanan retired from the Committee. Two new members joined the committee – Dr Rob Robinson (BTO) and Dr David Douglas (RSPB). Dr Cat Horswill replaced Dr Lianne Concannon as the Conference Support Officer at the end of the year.

Annual spring conference 2015 – BOU2015

The theme for the BOU annual conference was *Birds in Time and Space: avian tracking and remote sensing* and was held at the University of Leicester between 31 March – 2 April. The programme organising committee were Keith Hamer (University of Leeds), Aldino Franco (University of East Anglia), Chris Hewson (BTO) and Mark Bolton (RSPB Centre for Conservation Science).

BOU2015 was our largest annual conference ever with 202 delegates and was considered by both the Committee and delegates as an overwhelming success. The conference theme encompassed seabirds and passerines across a wide range of habitats and meant delegates were attracted from diverse fields. This was the first BOU conference with a price differential between members and non-members. The income generated from those joining the BOU to obtain the greatly reduced member rate offset the loss of Gift Aid income. The BOU funded 40 early-career researcher (ECR) places, with a further 20 ECRs paying the full price. The conference made an operating surplus of c. £9,000 (excludes staff and management costs).

DIARY DATES

5 – 7 APRIL 2016

2016 Annual Conference | #BOU2016

Urban birds: pressures, processes and consequences

12 OCTOBER 2016

2016 Autumn Scientific Meeting | #BOUsci16

Advances in avian tracking and remote sensing: methods and applications

From Twitter – #BOU2015

Talking posters: great innovation from @IBIS_journal at #BOU2015.

Powerpoint slides and 4 min commentary turn attendees into contributors.

@GRAHAMFAPLLETON

So much exciting science going on. Inspiring! #BOU2015

@V_WARWICKEVANS

#BOU2015 was ace. Excellent science, excellent people

@PCOLLINS_89

Loved my first BOU conference
#BOU2015 – amazing presentations and an inspiring group of people.
Looking forward to next year!

@IBIS_journal

@CATHERINEJPAYNE

#BOU2015.... Quite possibly the best conference I ever participated in. Thank you all for 2 fantastic and inspiring days.

@WMGVs

Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

Meetings Committee *cont . . .*

New innovations delivered at BOU2015 included:

- Talking Posters – unmanned, narrated, automated presentations shown back to back on a loop in a dedicated screening room throughout the conference.
- Traditional posters increased from 16 to 28.
- Conference delegate questionnaires (organised via the Engagement Committee).
- Delegate voting for the best ECR oral and traditional poster presentations.

Separate questionnaires were undertaken for ordinary delegates and ECRs and were anonymous. Although the main purpose of the questionnaires was to find ways of improving future conferences, the Committee was extremely pleased that the overwhelming responses from delegates were very positive. The main aspects of the questionnaires were:

- 85% of ordinary delegates and 75% of ECRs rated the pre-conference information as good or excellent.
- 80% of both ordinary delegates and ECRs rated the conference booking process as good or excellent.
- 80% of ordinary delegates and 90% of ECRs rated the oral presentations as good or excellent.
- 90% of ordinary delegates and 100% of ECRs rated the traditional poster presentations as good or excellent.
- 75% of ordinary delegates and 70% of ECRs rated the Talking Poster presentations as good or excellent.
- 82% of ordinary delegates and 100% of ECRs rated the conference as good or excellent value for money.
- 100% of ECRs rated the ECR event as excellent.

WWW.BOUPROC.NET

Proceedings were added during the year from the *Birds in the entangled bank: advances in Food Webs theory and practice* conference (held in autumn 2014).

Proceedings of the 2015 *Avian Tracking and Remote Sensing* conference will be added in early 2016.

From Twitter – #EOU2015

I'll be following #EOUsocialmedia on 27th Aug - this session sounds really interesting! @IBIS_journal.

@KIRSTYJEAN

Nice presentation about use of social media and #ornithology from #eou2015 @IBIS_journal could tweeting help studying bird ?

@AVESBE

@IBIS_journal Thanks for the great coverage of the #EOU2015 - Happy weekend!!

@MIGUELMCMINN

.@IBIS_journal Thank you for posting the #EOU2015 #socialmedia in #ornithology presentations. Ppl (*me) that couldn't make it appreciate it!

@JERUTTER

Achievements & Performance *cont* . . .

Meetings Committee *cont* . . .

- 100% of ordinary delegates and ECRs would recommend a BOU conference to others.

The conference also provided us with our best ever social media coverage and engagement for a BOU event including a very well received Storify summary by Tom Evans (Lund University) and an ECR's perspective by Katherine Booth Jones (Institute of Zoology, London) as a BOU blog post.

It is clear that the community is very interested in technological advances relevant to ornithology. These topics and the successful features of #BOU2015 will be carried forward for future conferences/workshops.

European Ornithologist' Union 2015 conference – #EOU2015

The EOU conference was held in Badajoz, Spain from 24 – 28 August. The BOU provided support to the organisers and was represented at the conference by our Senior Administrator, Steve Dudley, Engagement Committee members Jennifer Smart and Leila Walker, and IBIS editor Dan Chamberlain. In addition to BOU and IBIS displays at the conference venue, an IBIS promotional postcard was placed in the delegate packs.

The BOU supported 23 ERCs (from eight countries) to attend. We had budgeted to support 17 more but the BOU support for ECRs was not included on any of the EOU websites, which probably explains why not all places were filled. We also provided an ECR delegate 'goody bag' at our dedicated ECR event that was attended by 60 students and post-docs. Dan Chamberlain represented IBIS at the 'Meet the Editors' event.

Jointly with the RSPB Centre for Conservation, Steve Dudley and Jennifer Smart ran the best attended round table of the conference on 'the role of social media in ornithology' (#EOUsocialmedia), which we plan to summarise as a Viewpoint article in IBIS in 2016. The presentations from the round table can be found on the BOU website.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

2017 will see us move to a new venue. The University of Leicester can no longer accommodate residential events at Easter from 2017, and so after holding 14 annual conferences with them, we will be bidding them farewell in 2016. We thank them for providing an excellent venue and for all their support over the many years we have used their facilities.

Our new home from 2017 will be at the University of Warwick which will provide us with an outstanding venue and facilities. The venue is a little larger than our current capacity that will allow us to grow this key annual event.

Preparation of our 2017 annual conference (#BOU2017) is already underway and is provisionally themed 'Pattern and process in avian dispersal'. The organisers will be led by Prof Jenny Gill (University of East Anglia) and Dr Jose Alves (University of Aveiro, Portugal) and will focus on how advances in avian tracking and remote sensing can help to better understand individuals and populations.

Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

Meetings Committee *cont . . .*

Future events

The 2016 Annual conference, #BOU2016 – *Urban Birds: pressures, processes and consequences*, will be held at the University of Leicester on the 5–7 April 2016. The scientific programme committee comprises Dr Karl Evans (Chairman: Sheffield University), Prof Jon Sadler (University of Birmingham), Dr Kate Plummer (BTO) and Dr Niall Burton (BTO). The conference will examine the impact of urban development on biodiversity and how birds cope with, and adapt to, extreme and often novel selection pressures including habitat loss and fragmentation, pollution (noise, heat, light and chemical), altered biotic interactions (with pathogens, predators and prey) and interactions with people.

Building on the success of #BOU2015, the organisers adopted the system of inviting keynote speakers with the remaining places filled by an open call for papers, which again worked very well. The conference plenary will be given by Prof John Marzluff (University of Washington) on avian ecology and evolution in an urbanising world and there is an excellent range of international speakers. Unsuccessful speakers were offered traditional poster places and/or a 'talking poster' with many accepting the offer. There will again be 28 traditional poster places and six talking posters.

The 2016 BOU Autumn Scientific Meeting, #BOUsci16 – *Advances in avian tracking and remote sensing: methods and applications*, will be held in Peterborough on 12 October. The scientific programme is being organised by Chris Hewson (BTO) and Malcolm Burgess (RSPB Centre for Conservation Science). This one-day conference will specifically focus on new avenues for ornithological research opened by the latest technologies and developments and consider the consequent prospects for research and conservation.

BOU conferences – showcasing ornithology

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 email correspondence.

Small Ornithological Research Grant scheme

The Committee received 84 research grant applications (compared to an exceptional number of 125 in 2014). Of these, seven applications were rejected for not complying with our application guidelines or being incomplete, a further eight applications were excluded from consideration due to the low percentage of overall costs requested and one application was excluded as the species involved did not occur in the region the applicant intended to study. The remaining 68 applications were considered for funding.

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

The large number of applications received did not, as in 2014, 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 £10,183, with each of these eight applicants awarded the full amount requested.

Council accepted the Committee's recommendation to fund the following projects:

Karen Aghababyan | Awarded £1,980

CEO, Towards Sustainable Ecosystems (TSE), Armenia

Habitat requirements of the Semicollared Flycatcher *Ficedula semitorquata* in Armenia

RESEARCH PROJECTS REPORTS

Reports received during the year are hosted on the BOU website – see

WWW.BOU.ORG.UK/GRANTS-AND-BURSARIES/REPORTS/

We now encourage our award recipients to write a blog about their research. The following two blogs were published in 2015.

MARTIN SULLIVAN

University of Leeds, UK

Do non-native birds compete or coexist with native species?

[HTTP://WWW.BOU.ORG.UK/SULLIVAN-NON-NATIVES/](http://WWW.BOU.ORG.UK/SULLIVAN-NON-NATIVES/)

Martin was awarded £917 in 2012 for his project: Assessing the impacts of non-native Black-headed Weavers *Ploceus melanocephalus* on native reedbed nesting warblers.

JOHANNES KAMP

Institute of Landscape Ecology, University of Münster, Germany

Nesting in the muck

[HTTP://WWW.BOU.ORG.UK/NESTING-IN-THE-MUCK/](http://WWW.BOU.ORG.UK/NESTING-IN-THE-MUCK/)

Johannes was awarded £1,936 in 2013 for his project: Why do birds use animal dung in and around nests?

Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

Grants Committee *cont . . .*

Pierre Bize | Awarded £1,200

Senior Lecturer, University of Aberdeen, UK

Effects of genetics and environment on among-individual variation in mitochondrial density and functioning in a natural bird population.

Charlotte Brassey | Awarded £987

Post-doc research assistant, Natural History Museum, UK

The anatomy and functional mechanics of cranial ornamentation in the Southern Cassowary *Casuarius casuarius* and helmeted guinea fowl *Numida meleagris*.

Stephen Ferguson | Awarded £714

PhD student, University of Memphis, US

Nestling behavioural and physiological responses to parental territory defence.

Victoria Franks | Awarded £1,765

PhD student, University of Cambridge, UK

Importance of social connections for winter survival of juvenile Hiji *Notiomystis cincta* in New Zealand.

Rebecca Harris | Awarded £1,500

Graduate student, University of Washington, US

Investigating the genomic structure in Yellow Wagtail.

Begona Martinez-Cruz | Awarded £1,052

Post-doc researcher, Astacian Biologica de Donana (CISC), Spain
Maternal evolutionary history of Imperial Eagles *Aquila heliaca* and *A. adalberti*.

Katarzyna Wojczulanis-Jakubas | Awarded £985

Post-doc researcher, Gdansk University, Poland

Associations between cognitive abilities and behaviour profiles in the Long-billed Hermit.

Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

Grants Committee *cont . . .*

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.

Career Development Bursary 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 large numbers of grant applications, assessment of the bursaries were again carried out by Council members, Shelley Hinsley, Graham Martin and former Council member Ken Smith.

Of 12 applications, five awards were made totaling £12,400

Pedro Liguél Mendes Araújo | Awarded £2,500

PhD student, University of Coimbra, Portugal

Unravelling the strength of carry-over effects in a migratory shorebird: Icelandic Black-tailed Godwit.

Project location: University of Iceland

Project supervisor: José Alves (University of Aveiro, Portugal & University of Iceland)

Esperanza Socorro Ferrer | Awarded £2,400

PhD student, University of Castilla-La-Mancha, Spain

Phenology plasticity or urban speciation for a life with noise: the case of the Great Tit.

Project location: National Museum of Natural Sciences-CSIC, Spain

Project supervisor: Diego Gil Perez (National Museum of Natural Sciences-CSIC, Spain)

Brittney Marie Graham | Awarded £2,500

PhD student, National Oceanography Centre, Southampton, UK

Is King Rail *Rallus elegans* breeding distribution and density related to crayfish abundance?

Project location: East Carolina University, US

Project supervisor: Susan McRae (East Carolina University, US)

Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

Grants Committee *cont . . .*

Rhiannon Meier | Awarded £2,500

Research assistant, Universidad de los Andes, Colombia

Preliminary assessment of seabird conservation priorities in the Cayman Islands.

Project location: Dept. of Environment, Cayman Islands, writing up UK

Project supervisor: Jonathan Green (University of Liverpool, UK)
To be undertaken in 2016.

Ghislaine Cárdenas Posada | Awarded £2,500

Research assistant, Universidad de los Andes, Colombia

Identification of cryptic, endangered Cinnamon Teal subspecies in Colombia using next-generation sequencing.

Project location: University of Miami, US

Project supervisor: Kevin G. McCracken (University of Miami, US)
Funds returned as the project was not undertaken due to matched funding not being secured.

Annual Review

The Committee reviews annually scheme guidelines for applicants, admissibility of applicants and the format of the application forms. In 2015, BOU Council accepted the Committee's recommendation that being a BOU member should be a condition when applying for a BOU small grant, and that successful applicants must also be a BOU member for the duration of their award, with the caveat that this condition would be waived for applicants who were citizens of a developing country, working in a developing country. This also brings small grants in line with our bursary scheme for which applicants must be a BOU member.

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)

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/

45th BOURC Report

Ibis 158: 202–205 (January 2016)

11th Taxonomic Report

Taxonomic recommendations for Western Palearctic birds: eleventh report:

Ibis 158: 206–212 (January 2016)

THE BRITISH LIST

At 31 Dec 2015 the List comprised of 599 species – 581 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.

Richard Millington retired from the Committee. We thank him for his contributions during his time on BOURC. A new member will be appointed before the 2016 annual summer meeting of the Committee.

Changes to the British List

The Committee's 45th Report, covering the period January to September 2015, was published in January 2016 (*Ibis* 158: 202–205).

Northern Harrier *Circus hudsonius* added to Category A.

Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis* – subspecies *atricapillus* removed from the List.

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides* – subspecies *thayeri* added to the List.

Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus* – subspecies *isabellinus* added to the List.

The changes to the British List published in the Committee's 45th report means that the List at 31 Dec 2015 comprises 599 species.

Taxonomic Sub-committee (TSC)

The Committee's 11th and final report was published in January 2016 (*Ibis* 158: 206–212).

During the year BOU Council disbanded this sub-committee. For many years Council has been seeking to establish a unified European-wide taxonomic model. However, despite the best efforts of our own taxonomic group, little progress has been made, with five separate national taxonomic groups (including our own) not being able to reach a consensus via the Association of European Records and Rarities Committees (AERC). With no resolution in sight, BOU Council felt that the continued existence of national groups, each understandably feeling an obligation to retain control of the taxonomy used for their own national lists, is not in the best interests

Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

Records Committee *cont . . .*

of ornithology and is a barrier preventing the establishment of a unified European taxonomy.

BOU Council and the Committee will undertake a review of the available global taxonomies at the end of 2016 with a view to adopting one system for all BOU activities, including The British List.

This decision does not imply any criticism of the excellent work carried out by the BOU's Taxonomic Sub-committee over the years, but is a reflection of the importance that BOU Council places on establishing a unified European avian taxonomy.

We thank all members of TSC, past and present, for their work on the BOU's behalf.

Links with other groups

The BOURC maintains close links with the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC). During the year Paul French replaced Adam Rowlands as BBRC Chairman, and so takes up this *ex officio* position of the BOURC. We thank Adam for his significant contribution to the Committee during his time as BBRC Chairman. Additionally, the BOURC Secretary continues to work closely with BBRC's Secretariat.

BOURC online intranet

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

The British List – the official list of birds recorded in Britain

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Union would like to extend its 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; Hana Bellova, David Hewes, Anita Sye, Mathangi Ramesh, Tom Wordsworth and everyone else at Wiley-Blackwell Publishing for their help in delivering our high quality journal; Nigel Crocker, Richard Price and Stephen Rumsey for their excellent management of the Union's investment portfolio; 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 annual conference (avian tracking); Karl Evans (University of Sheffield), 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, Many Connon and Lynda Vosper at Peterborough Cathedral (venue for BOU meetings); Richard Lambe and the conference staff at the University of Leicester (BOU annual conferences); BOURC consultants Bob McGowan (National Museums of Scotland), Tim Melling (RSPB), Keith Naylor, Roger Wilkinson; Alan Dean, Martin Garner, Stephen Menzie and all Bird Observatory staff and volunteers who have assisted BOURC; and we apologise to anyone we have inadvertently omitted.

Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

MEMBERSHIP

At the end of the year our total membership stood at 1,194 (1,075 at 31 Dec 2014) comprising 907 full members (882 at 31 Dec 2014) and 287 reduced rate subscribers (193 at 31 Dec 14) made up of 261 ECRs and 36 from developing countries.

2015 saw a welcome increase in membership which represents our increased attempts at raising the BOU's profile online, via social media and at conferences.

The following members were elected (or re-elected having lapsed their membership for one or more years) during 2015: Mr Andrew Asque, Dr Phil Atkinson, Ms Anne Aulsebrook, Mr Ian Beggs, Ms Elizabeth Bell, Mr Allert Bijleveld, Ms Maria Bogdanova, Mr Alex Bond, Ms Karen Bourgeois, Mr Bernard Bracken, Mr Jacob Briggs, Dr Gary Brodin, Mr Mike Brooke, Mr David Browning, Dr Edmund Bryant, Mr Graeme Buchanan, Mr David Buckingham, Mr William Arthur Leonard Bunch, Mr Javier Bustamante, Mr Simon Butler, Mr Rowan Calder, Ms Joanna Carter, Mr Carlo Catoni, Mr Thomas Churchyard, Dr Jackie Clark, Ms Eleanor Cole, Mr Simon Colenutt, Mr Mark Collier, Mr Graeme Cook, Mr Giacomo Dellomo, Ms Lorna Deppe, Ms Maria Dias, Ms Gabriele Droege, Prof Mark Fellowes, Mr Charles Francis, Mr Fulvio Fraticelli, Mr Tim Frayling, Mr Toby Galligan, Mr Graeme Garner, Dr Louise Gentle, Mr John Goodchild, Mr James Grecian, Mr Jonathan Green, Mr Nigel Green, Dr Tim Guilford, Prof Keith Charles Hamer, Mr Matthew Hazleton, Mr Alexander Hellquist, Mr Ian Henderson, Mr John Hepworth, Dr Chris Hewson, Ms Amy Hinks, Ms Anouschka Hof, Ms Petra Horch, Mr Michael Hutchinson, Mr Juan Diego Ibáñez-Álamo, Mr Ian Igglesden, Mr Markus Jais, Mr Mark Jessopp, Prof Carl Jones, Mr John Jordan, Ms Allison Kew, Mr Tamaki Kitagawa, Ms Ulrike Kubetzki, Ms Rowen Langston, Ms Silke Laucht, Mr David Le Mesurier, Mr Richard Lee, Ms Sarah Levett, Mr John Mallord, Mr Shai Markman,

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 . . .*

Ms Lucy Mason, Mr Kevin McCracken, Ms Susan B McRae, Mr Michael Moulton, Ms Martina Muller, Mr Malcolm Nicoll, Mr Johan Nilsson, Mr Steffen Oppel, Mr Chris Orsman, Mr Mehdi Ouni, Ms Samantha Patrick, Ms Tara Proud, Dr Lutfor Rahman, Mr John Ralph, Ms Angela M Ribeiro, Dr Staffan Roos, Mr Tim Ross, Dr Viola Ross-Smith, Dr Philipp Schwemmer, Ms Emily Scragg, Ms Rosemary Setchfield, Ms Emily Shepard, Mr Alein Shreeve, Dr Innes Sim, Mr Jeremy Smith, Mr David Still, Dr Chris Thaxter, Dr Rebecca Thomas, Mr Kasper Thorup, Ms Kathleen Tjørve, Mr Matthijs Van Der Geest, Mr Emiel Van Loon, Mr Robin Ward, Mr Philipp Wevers, Mr David W Winkler, Dr Kevin A Wood, Dr Matthew J Wood, Ms Lisa Yntema.

In addition, we welcomed the following who joined the BOU's Early-Career Member Scheme: Ms Zainab Oiza Adelza, Ms Bedur Faleh Albalawi, Dr Beate Apfelbeck, Mr Pedro Miguel Mendes Araujo, Ms Gail Austen-Price, Mr Glen Bain, Mr Alexander Ball, Mr Andrew Bladon, Ms Annalise Bokenkamp, Ms Claire Branston, Mr Evan Buechley, Mr Ryan Antony Burrell, Ms Letizia Campioni, Ms Ana P.B. Carneiro, Ms Laure Cauchard, Ms Gemma Charles, Mr Marianna Chimienti, Mr Chi Yeung Choi, Ms Bethany Clark, Mr Thomas Clay, Ms Harriet Clewlow, Mr Julien Collet, Mr Adam Collison, Ms Anna-Marie Corman, Ms Cindy Cosset, Mr George William Day, Mr Matthias De Beenhouwer, Mr Hernani F.M.De Oliveira, Ms Joana Sofia Dos Santos Costa, Ms Molly E Doubleday, Mr Jaanus Elts, Mr Javier Bueno Enciso, Ms Leonie Enners, Mr Tom Evans, Mr Ruben Evens, Ms Claire Feniuk, Mr Rafael Fernández-Silva, Ms Esperanza Socorro Ferrer, Ms Andrea Flack, Miss Victoria Franks, Ms Kiyoko Gotanda, Ms Brittny Marie Graham, Ms Elizabeth Green, Ms Kirsten Grond, Mr Guillermo Fandos Guzmán, Ms Thalassa McMurdo Hamilton, Mr Hugh Hanmer, Mr Roi Harel, Mr Robert Hawkes, Mr Wieland Heim, Mr Simon Helfer, Mr Jesús Hernández-Pliego, Ms Josie Hewitt, Ms Jessica Hodgson, Mr Paul Huxley, Mr David López Idiáquez, Mr Tuomo Jaakkonen, Ms Josephine D'urban Jackson, Dr Manoj Ashokrao Kale, Ms Ewa Karaszewska, Ms Marwa Kavelaars, Ms Rosalind Kennerley, Ms Esther Kettel, Mr Carlos Esteban Lara, Mr Pablo Capilla Lasheras, Mr Paul Leatherland, Ms Jannie Linnebjerg, Ms Bibiana Carolina

Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

Membership *cont . . .*

Montoya Loaiza, Ms Hannah Lockwood, Ms Kirsty MacLeod, Ms Gwendolyn Maggs, Mr Riho Marja, Ms Marta Maziarz, Ms Rhiannon Meier, Ms Julie Miller, Mr David Millican, Ms Mariana Rodrigues Morgado, Ms Elizabeth Morgan, Ms Kim Geraldine Mortega, Ms Elham Nourani, Mr Chima Josiah Nwaogu, Ms Chioma Okafor, Ms Krista Oswald, Ms Arianna Passarotto, Ms Catherine Payne, Mr Yoav Perlman, Ms Verena Peschko, Ms Emily Phillips, Ms Aimy Caceres Pinedo, Ms Chislaine Cardenas Posada, Mr Thibaut Powolny, Mr Aloïs Robert, Ms Sarah Roberts, Ms Katharine F Rogerson, Ms Inês Margarida Ferreira Roque, Mr Pablo Salmon, Mr Jelmer Menno Samplonius, Mr Nuvraj Simon Sanghera, Ms Martina Scacco, Mr Spencer Christian Schubert, Mr Hendrik Schultz, Ms Kathryn Scobie, Ms Helen Seaby, Mr Mitchell Serota, Dr Kate Lyn Sheehan, Mr Dario Chamorro Sierra, Mr Richard K Simpson III, Ms Minerva Singh, Ms Sissel Sjöberg, Ms Louise Soanes, Mr Alejandro Sotillo, Mr Robert Spencer, Ms Gemma Taylor, Ms Rebecca Thomas, Ms Barbara Mizumo Tomotani, Ms Olga Tzortzakaki, Mr James Vafidis, Mr Konstantinos Vlachopoulos, Mr Rob Van Bemmelen, Ms Jacintha Van Dijk, Mr Wouter Vansteelant, Ms Alejandra Alej Toledo Vazquez, Mr Bram H F Verheijen, Ms Bianca Vieira, Mr Konstantinos Vlachopoulos, Mr Biao Wang, Ms Eleanor Warren-Thomas, Ms Victoria Warwick-Evans, Dr Hannah Watson, Ms Elizabeth White, Mr Greg Wills, Ms Robyn Womack, Mr David Tan Jian Xiong.

We also welcome a number of new members from developing countries benefiting from a lower subscription rate: Dr Salwan Ali Abed, Mr Nyambayar Batbayar, Mr Bharat Bhushan, Mr Frederik Brammer, Mr Sriman Delip Kumar Das, Mr Benedictus Freeman, Mr Dominic Garcia-Hall, Mr Nishant Kumar, Mr Alan Lee, Ms Elena Patcev, Ms Basma M Sheta.

17 resignations were accepted during the year, and Council noted, with sadness, the following deaths: Mr D Chatfield, Mr A E Goodall, Dr F D Kings, Mrs E Lack, Mr E G Rowland, Mr G Smith, Dr B Stonehouse and Mr J Watts.

Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

Membership *cont . . .*

The Future

Whilst we have been able to retain the basic annual subscription at £35.00 for some years, due to increasing costs in some areas we can no longer keep this price for all members. In common with many other societies, one such area is maintaining a print version of our journal. This is increasingly uneconomic due to the ongoing rising costs of print and, in particular, distribution, and it is only fair that those members wishing to retain a print subscription cover these costs. So from 2016 those members wishing to retain a print subscription to IBIS will pay more than those taking the online journal.

In 2016 we will also introduce an updated website which will contain a members' area. Here members will be able to take advantage of member benefits, such as reduced rate conference bookings and discounted books, and access their membership details to update and renew their membership.

We are also hoping to introduce new member benefits from 2016.



Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

HONORARY TREASURER

Julianne Evans

FINANCIAL REVIEW

In 2015, the Union was fortunate to receive a legacy of £390,466 from the estates of the late John and Pat Warham, which has substantially inflated the annual income figure. There are conditions attached to how the Union uses this money, so in comparing our financial performance with that in 2014, it has been disregarded.

Income rose by over £23,000 largely as a result of an increase in conference income. The latter was boosted by increased attendance at the annual conference, making it our best attended conference ever, owing to a popular theme. The introduction of a favourable member rate for the conference also encouraged those who wanted to attend to join the Union, which contributed to the increase in membership income of £1,600. IBIS continues to perform well: overall, income was on a par with last year although this was attributable to a reduction in costs to Wiley-Blackwell rather than a rise in income from institutional subscriptions. Other publication income is a minor and reducing source of funds.

Despite the success of the annual conference, the concurrent rise in delivery costs, including staff time, meant it made a loss of £10,000. The other significant increase in spending was in management costs, which rose by £14,000 largely owing to increased investment in gaining and maintaining members, development of the website and the activities of the Engagement Committee. Thus, excluding the Warham legacy, the Union made a loss of £23,000. This is not an immediate cause for concern but it is a reason to maintain a risk averse approach to our finances. Although the signs are good that the recent investments in recruiting and retaining members are paying off, the dependence on income from IBIS is still a cause for concern. Addressing this will be a priority for the coming year.

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 the cost of living.

The Union's financial resources continue to remain substantial. The value of investments increased to over £330,000 and market conditions were similar to last year. The policy of maintaining cash

Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

Financial Review *cont . . .*

resources in short-term cash deposits has also been continued and at the end of the year these amounted to £390,000, which is a drop of £15,000 on last year. Therefore, even taking into account a possible drop in income, the Union will be able to maintain its current scale of charitable activities.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEES

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales, and in Scotland, requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the Trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by the Council on 16 March 2016 and signed on their behalf by:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Kath Hamer', with a stylized flourish at the end.

K. Hamer, President

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowed Funds £	Total Funds 2015 £	Total Funds 2014 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS						
Donations and legacies	2	32,667	390,466	–	432,133	31,342
Income from Charitable Activities	3	133,871	–	–	133,871	112,309
Investment income	4	12,790	–	5,273	18,063	17,486
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		179,328	390,466	5,273	575,067	161,137
EXPENDITURE						
Expenditure on Charitable Activities	5	-190,361	-5,273	–	-195,634	-176,983
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		-190,361	-5,273	–	-195,634	-176,983
NET INCOMING /(OUTGOING) RESOURCES BEFORE TRANSFERS						
	6	-11,033	385,193	5,273	379,433	-15,846
Transfer between funds	7	–	5,273	-5,273	–	–
NET INCOMING /(OUTGOING) RESOURCES BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS		-11,033	390,466	–	379,433	-15,846
OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES						
Losses on investment assets		-3,040	–	–	-3,040	–
Unrealised loss/gain on investments		1,236	–	463	1,699	4,844
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		-12,837	390,466	463	378,092	-11,002
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS						
Total funds brought forward		549,343	–	178,547	727,890	738,892
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		536,506	390,466	179,010	1,105,982	727,890

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 35 to 43 form part of these financial statements



BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

BALANCE SHEET YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

	Note	2015 £	2014 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Investments	9	330,437	329,329
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stocks	10	853	1,470
Debtors	11	32,846	35,502
Cash at bank and in hand		780,342	399,495
		814,041	436,467
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	12	-38,496	-37,906
NET CURRENT ASSETS		775,545	398,561
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		1,105,982	727,890
NET ASSETS		1,105,982	727,890
FUNDS			
Endowment funds	13	179,010	329,329
Restricted income funds	14	390,466	–
Unrestricted income funds	15	536,506	549,343
TOTAL FUNDS		1,105,982	727,890

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015).

These financial statements were approved by the members of Council and authorised for issue on the 16 March 2016 and are signed on their behalf by:

K. Hamer, President

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

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 the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities published on 16 July 2014, the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (FRSSE), and the Charities Act 2011, Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2015.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a “true and fair” view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a “true and fair view”.

This departure has involved following the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities published on 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

Donations

Donation income is accounted for when received.

Research activities

Research grants and bursaries are accounted for when paid.

Stocks

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

Liabilities

Liabilities payable within one year are recorded at the transaction price.

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.

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (cont)

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%	10%	20%
Management & administrations	30%	35%	55%
IBIS publication costs	30%	40%	15%
Other publication costs	5%	5%	–
BOC costs	15%	10%	5%
Research costs	5%	–	5%
	100%	100%	100%

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.

Debtors

Debtors receivable within one year are recorded at the transaction price.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred and is recorded inclusive of VAT.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2015 £	Total Funds 2014 £
Donations				
Income from investments	688	–	688	1,096
Warham Legacy	–	390,466	390,466	15,208
Other income				
Other income	148	–	148	–
Subscriptions	31,831	–	31,831	30,246
	32,667	390,466	423,133	31,342

Income from donations was £688 (2014: £1,096). This represents amounts donated by individuals to the charity.

During the year a bequest of £390,466 was received from the estate of John and Pat Warham. "The John and Pat Warham Scholarship Fund" is to support research on Sphenisciform and Procellariiform seabirds.

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2015	Total Funds 2014
	£	£	£
Publication income – IBIS	74,167	74,167	74,673
Other publication income	1,077	1,077	1,312
Conference income	49,640	49,640	23,210
BOC income	8,987	8,987	13,114
	133,871	133,871	112,309

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2015	Total Funds 2014
	£	£	£	£
Income from investments	10,022	5,273	15,225	15,208
Bank interest receivable	2,768	–	2,768	2,278
	12,790	5,273	18,063	17,486

5. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2015	Total Funds 2014
	£	£	£	£
Conference Costs	60,349	–	60,349	42,159
Publication costs – IBIS	43,191	–	43,191	42,012
Other publication costs	3,599	–	3,599	4,005
Management costs	43,339	–	43,339	29,240
BOC costs	6,707	–	6,707	12,528
Accountancy fees	3,074	–	3,074	2,954
Audit fees	4,470	–	4,470	4,800
Bad debts	935	–	935	–
Cost of Trustees' and committee meetings	8,940	–	8,940	9,248
Research costs	15,487	5,273	20,760	30,037
	12,790	5,273	18,063	17,486

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

5. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES (cont)

Research costs are composed of:

Grants and bursaries made	£17,674
Administration expenses	£3,086
Total research costs	£20,760

Analysis of grants and bursaries made to individuals:

Pedro Liguél Araujo (PhD student, University of Coimbra, Portugal)	£2,500
Esperanza Ferrer (PhD student, University of Castilla-La-Mancha, Spain)	£2,400
Brittney Graham (PhD student, N.O.C., Southampton)	£2,500
Karen Aghababayan (TSE, Armenia)	£1,980
Pierre Bize (University of Aberdeen, UK)	£1,200
Charlotte Brassey (Natural History Museum, UK)	£987
Stephen Ferguson (PhD student, University of Memphis, US)	£714
Victoria Franks (PhD student, University of Cambridge, UK)	£1,765
Rebecca Harris (University of Washington, US)	£1,500
Begona Martinez-Cruz (CISC., Spain)	£1,052
Katarzyna Wojczulanis-Jakubas (University of Gdansk, Poland)	£985
Sundry	£91
Total grants and bursaries paid	£17,674

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2015 £	Total Funds 2014 £
Accountancy fees	3,074	3,074	2,954
Audit fees	4,740	4,740	4,800
Bad debts	935	935	–
Costs of trustees' and committee meetings	8,940	8,940	9,248
	17,689	17,689	17,002

6. NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR

This is stated after charging:

	2015 £	2014 £
Staff pension contributions	6,004	5,274
Auditors' remuneration:		
- audit of the financial statements	4,740	4,800

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

7. FUND TRANSFERS

During the year, £5,273 in funds were transferred into the Restricted Fund from the Endowment Fund. These funds were used to help finance the cost of bursary research grants.

8. STAFF COSTS AND EMOLUMENTS

Total staff costs were as follows:

	2015 £	2014 £
Wages and salaries	64,875	62,561
Social security costs	4,724	4,458
Other pension costs	6,004	5,274
	75,603	72,293

Particulars of employees:

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

	2015 No	2014 No
Number of administrative staff	2	2

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year (2014 - Nil).

No Council member received any remuneration in the year.

During the year, a total of 11 Council members were reimbursed expenses totaling £1,686 (2014: £1,171). These expenses represent travelling costs incurred by Council members in the performance year.

9. INVESTMENTS

Movement in market value

	2015 £	2014 £
Market value at 1 January 2015	329,329	322,067
Acquisitions at cost	68,049	2,418
Disposals at opening book value	-68,640	-
Net gain/(loss) on revaluations in the year	1,699	4,844
Market value at 31 December 2015	330,437	329,329
Historical cost at 31 December 2015	176,354	177,110



BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

9. INVESTMENTS (cont)

Analysis of investments at 31 December 2015 between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowed Funds £	Total Funds 2015 £	Total Funds 2014 £
Listed investments					
UK Quoted Shares	204,129	–	123,801	327,930	326,822
Other investments					
UK Cash	2,507	–	–	2,507	2,507
	206,636	–	123,801	330,437	329,329

Investment held	Value at 31 Dec 15		% of total investments
	Endowed Fund	General Fund	
M & G Charifund			
L & MT Fund	53,842		16.30%
General Fund		77,329	23.40%
Hutt Legacy	20,835		6.30%
R & SP Fund	10,353		3.13%
Mellon Global Growth			
L & MT Fund	38,771		11.73%
General Fund		61,388	18.58%
Nationwide Building Society PIB		65,412	19.80%
Others		2,507	0.76%
	123,801	206,636	100%

10. STOCKS

	2015 £	2014 £
Stock	853	1,470

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

11. DEBTORS

	2015	2014
	£	£
Trade debtors	32,461	35,025
Other debtors	385	477
	32,846	35,502

12. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	2015	2014
	£	£
Amounts owed to group undertakings	662	–
Taxation and social security	1,923	1,879
Subs in advance	19,013	15,827
Accruals	11,068	10,475
Deferred income	5,830	9,725
	38,496	37,906

Deferred income represents conference income received in advance for the "Urban Birds Conference".

Urban Birds Conference:

Amount received/accrued up to December 2015	£5,830
Amount deferred to 2016	-£5,830
Amount to be included in income for 2015	nil

13. ENDOWMENT FUNDS

	Balance at 1 Jan 2015	Incoming resources	Transfers	Gains and Losses	Balance at 31 Dec 2015
	£	£	£	£	£
Permanent endowments					
L & MT Research Fund	98,707	3,772	-3,772	463	99,170
Research Fund	48,822	498	-498	–	48,822
Hutt Legacy	31,018	1,003	-1,003	–	31,018
	178,547	5,273	-5,273	463	179,010

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

13. ENDOWMENT FUNDS (cont)

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.

14. RESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS

	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	Balance at 31 Dec 2015
	£	£	£	£
Research Fund	–	-5,273	5,273	–
Warham Legacy	390,466	–	–	390,466
	390,466	-5,273	5,273	390,466

The Restricted Fund represents income which has restrictions on its use. The fund includes the "The John and Pat Warham Scholarship Fund" to be used for research on Sphenisciformes and Procellariiformes and the income arising from investments held in the Endowment Fund to be used for research.

15. UNRESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS

	Balance at 1 Jan 2015	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Gains and losses	Balance at 31 Dec 2015
	£	£	£	£	£
General Funds	549,343	179,330	-190,363	-1,804	536,506

The Unrestricted Fund represents income arising from donations, subscriptions, conference income, publication income and investment income. There are no restrictions placed upon the usage of these funds.



BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

16. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Investments	Net current assets	Total
	£	£	£
Restricted Income Funds – Research Fund	–	390,466	390,466
Endowment Funds – L&MT Fund	123,801	55,209	179,010
Unrestricted Income Funds	206,636	329,870	536,506
Total Funds	330,437	775,545	1,105,982

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

We have audited the financial statements of the British Ornithologists' Union for the year ended 31 December 2015 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, section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). 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 under section 46 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of Charities Act 2011 and section 46 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005. 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 and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us during the course of performing the audit. 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 2015, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, 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 requirements of the Charities Act 2011, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and Regulations 6 and 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

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 and Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) require 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 do not comply with Regulation 8;
- 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.

16 March 2016

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