

British Ornithologists' Union

advancing ornithology



Annual Report & Accounts

birds | people | science



BOU.ORG.UK

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IBISJOURNAL



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英国鸟类学会会刊



2017

“The BOU once again had a very productive year in 2017”



Prof Pat Monghan (Godman Salvin Prize, above) and Prof Jenny Gill (Union Medal) were worthy recipients of the BOU's two highest honours presented at our annual conference.



Images © Steve Dudley/BOU

“IBIS continues to be at the forefront of ornithological publishing”

President's statement

Professor Keith Hamer

The BOU once again had a very productive year in 2017, continuing to publish the highest quality ornithological research in IBIS and delivering the first global general ornithology Twitter conference as well as another excellent spring annual conference. In addition, our Records Committee published the 9th edition of the British List, our Grants Committee was able to support a series of exciting research and bursary projects including the first BOU John & Pat Warham PhD scholarship, we now have over 12,000 followers on Twitter and our series of blogs on the BOU website goes from strength to strength.

IBIS continues to be at the forefront of ornithological publishing, thanks in large part to the exceptional skill and hard work of our Editors, Associate Editors and many reviewers. The large increase this year in the number and diversity of Associate Editors is extremely welcome and I particularly wish to thank Dr Paul Donald, who stood down this year after 11 years of sterling work as Editor in Chief, and to offer a very warm welcome to his successor, Dr Dominic McCafferty.

Our annual spring conference, *From Avian Tracking to Population Processes*, attracted researchers from around the world and delivered an excellent series of presentations. The BOU was delighted once again to be able to support the attendance of many early-career researchers (ECRs) in addition to providing our now regular ECR evening event and a new ECR workshop. The continued efforts of the Meetings Committee and conference organisers in delivering events that so successfully highlight current research and facilitate discussion and development in the field are greatly appreciated. This year also saw the BOU run the first global general ornithology Twitter conference, which was likewise a tremendous success, further consolidating our position as a world leader in the online delivery of ornithological information via social media. I am very grateful to the organisers and the participants in both events for helping to make them each so successful.

There are now more than 12,000 followers of the BOU Twitter account (@IBIS_JOURNAL), making us by far the largest ornithological society and journal on Twitter, in addition to a rapidly-growing following on Facebook and Instagram. Our new Weibo account is an exciting addition to this portfolio and will hopefully help substantially to increase our presence and outreach within China, while the BOU's international profile and penetration in North America were again enhanced by the wide range of activities conducted and led by BOU staff in 2017, this year at the joint North American Ornithological Society and Canadian Ornithological Society Conference (AOSSCO2017) in Michigan. The further growth in the use of the BOU



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blog by our community over the past year has been very encouraging, while the addition of a monthly 'IBIS new articles' newsletter to our growing stable of e-newsletters was most welcome. I'm extremely grateful to all concerned in delivering these successes, particularly our conference, web, social media and blog Support Officers, Dr Cat Horswill, Dr Leila Walker, Dr Nina O'Hanlon and Dr Christina Ieronymidou.

A review of the BOU's finances confirmed that the underlying position is strong but that there was a need to increase income, in order to maintain activities. The sustained strong uptake of ECR membership continues to provide encouragement that we are able to attract and retain this next generation of the BOU community. The establishment of a working group on inclusiveness, equality and diversity is likewise a very welcome step towards achieving our aim of making all our activities equally open to anyone with an interest in the science of ornithology.

We were delighted to welcome Dr Juliet Vickery (Vice President), Graham Appleton (Treasurer), Dr Hugh Wright and Dr Will Cresswell to BOU Council this year, and I sincerely thank Steve Dudley (Chief Operations Officer – who celebrated 20 years working for the BOU this year) and Angela Langford (Journal and Office Manager) for the excellent service that they once again provided throughout the year in the running of the BOU.



ADMINISTRATION DETAILS

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

Founded 1858

Registered as a Charity:

England and Wales, no. 249877

Scotland, no. SCO44850

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

As at 31 December 2017

BOU Staff

Chief Operations Officer

Mr Steve P. Dudley

Journal & Office Manager

Mrs Angela F. Langford

Council Officers

President Prof Keith Hamer

Vice Presidents Mr Neil J. Bucknell

Dr Juliet Vickery

Honorary Secretary Dr Helen Baker

Honorary Treasurer Mr Graham F. Appleton

Ordinary Members of Council

Dr Phil Atkinson (Chair, Grants Committee),

Dr Graeme Buchanan, Dr Will Cresswell,

Dr Darren M. Evans (Chair, Meetings

Committee), Dr Tom Finch, Mr Andrew H.J

Harrop (Chair, Records Committee),

Dr Barbara Helm, Dr Jennifer Smart (Chair,

IBIS Management Committee) and

Dr Hugh Wright (Chair, Engagement

Committee).

Structure, Governance & Management

The British Ornithologists' Union is an unincorporated charity, no. 249877 (England & Wales) and SCO44850 (Scotland).

The object of the BOU 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 chair 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:

Mr Graham F. Appleton, Dr Phil Atkinson, Dr Helen Baker, Mr Neil J. Bucknell, Dr Graeme Buchanan, Dr Darren M. Evans, Dr Tom Finch, Prof Keith Hamer, Dr Barbara Helm, Dr Jennifer Smart, Dr Juliet Vickery and Dr Hugh Wright.

The following individuals also served as Trustees of the charity for part of the year covered by these annual report and accounts: Mrs Julianne Evans, Dr Karl Evans, Dr Shelley Hinsley.

Editorial positions

At 31 December 2017 the following IBIS editorial positions were held:

Editor in Chief	Dr Dominic McCafferty
Editors	Dr Rauri Bowie
	Dr Dan Chamberlain
	Prof Rebecca Kimball
	Dr Ruedi Nager
	Prof Jeremy Wilson

Investment Trustees

At 31 December 2017 the following individuals served as Investment Trustees for the Union during the period of this report and accounts:

Mr Nigel J. Crocker, Mr Richard Price and Mr Stephen 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 March, Dr Juliet Vickery was elected as Vice President replacing Dr Shelley Hinsley; Mr Graham Appleton was elected as Honorary Treasurer replacing Mrs Julianne Evans; Dr Hugh Wright was elected as an Ordinary member of Council to Chair the Engagement Committee and Dr Will Cresswell was elected as an Ordinary member of Council to replace Dr Karl Evans.

At the annual conference we were delighted to recognise two eminent ornithologists - Prof Pat Monaghan was awarded the Godman Salvin Prize for her outstanding contribution to ornithology, and former BOU President, Prof Jenny Gill, was presented with the Union Medal in recognition of her excellent service to the BOU. Citations for both recipients have been published in IBIS.

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 is an unincorporated charity registered in Scotland (SC044850). As well as having members in Scotland, two of our Trustees, Dr Barbara Helm and Dr Graeme Buchanan, and three of our journal editors, Dr Dominic McCafferty, Dr Rudolf Nager and Prof Jeremy Wilson, also reside there.



ADMINISTRATION DETAILS

cont/...

Bankers

The Union holds accounts with the following banks:

CAF Bank Ltd

25 Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ

Natwest Bank plc

PO Box 6037, Brompton Road, London
SW13 1XJ

Scottish Widows

67 Morrison Street, Edinburgh EH3 8YJ

Solicitor

The Union's solicitors are:

Laytons

Ranger House, Walnut Tree Close, Guildford,
Surrey GU1 4UL

Accountant & Auditors

The Union's accountants and auditors are:

Baldwins Audit Services Limited

Ruthlyn House, 90 Lincoln Road,
Peterborough PE1 2SP

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 (Chief Operations Officer) and Angela Langford (Journal & Office Manager).

Office duties

The BOU Office is responsible for the effective running of the BOU, managed by the Chief Operations Officer and overseen by Council and the Union's standing committees.

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 non-editorial, business and marketing of the Union's journal, IBIS;
- working with the Meetings Committee, organise BOU conferences and meetings;
- working with the Engagement Committee, develop and deliver engagement initiatives;
- working with the Grants Committee, manage the Union's Small Grants and Career Development Bursary schemes;
- working with the Records Committee, manage the British List and associated areas;
- working with the Honorary Treasurer, maintain accounts and budgets and 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;
- to service the BOU membership;
- to manage the BOU's web content including WWW.BOU.ORG.UK, WWW.IBIS.AC.UK, WWW.BOUPROC.NET and WWW.BIRDGRANTS.NET;
- to manage the BOU's social media activity;
- to undertake routine administration;
- to manage BOU sales, stock and storage facility;
- to handle general enquiries, press and publicity.

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

Conferences

bou.org.uk/bou-conferences/

BOU conferences

Running conferences is a core function of the BOU Office and we ran two very different events this year - our annual residential spring conference, the first we've held at the University of Warwick, and our first ever Twitter conference (#BTcon17 - see the Meetings and Engagement Committee sections below for more details). Our first visit to the University of Warwick was excellent, but the conference site is too large and the venue too costly to run smaller events, so a further search identified the University of Nottingham as a venue for us to trial in 2018. We continue to look for other venues with a view to increasing the range of venues we can use for BOU events.

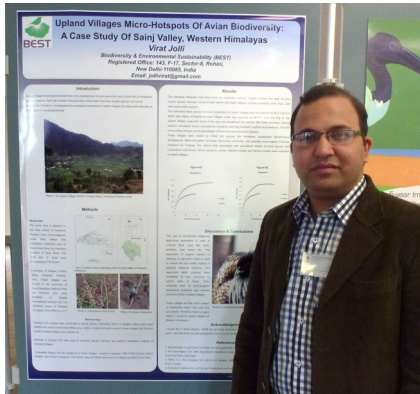
Third-party conferences

BOU staff also attend other events to represent and promote the BOU. This year our focus was again in North America and the American Ornithological Society annual conference held jointly with the Canadian Ornithological Society in Michigan in August (AOSSCO2017). Steve Dudley attended as an invited speaker for #TheTweetingBird symposium, as well as presenting two posters: *Altmetrics: what are they good for?* continuing his work on educating our community on the benefits of using social media to promote your research, and the link between Altmetrics (which measures the online attention of research articles) and citations in ornithology articles; and a second poster promoting our travel awards for BOU Early-Career Researcher (ECR) members to attend the 2018 International Ornithological Congress in Vancouver, Canada. No specific virtual issue of IBIS was produced for AOSSCO2017, so we used the event to promote our journal more widely, highlighting our large amount of content from the Americas.

We have already begun work on BOU activities at and around the International Ornithological Congress in Vancouver, Canada in August 2018 when we will host our own one-day meeting on grassland birds.

As Twitter conferences begin to gain traction within our community, and with our own planned for the autumn, Steve Dudley took the opportunity to present some of his social media work at the Biotweeps Twitter Conference (#BTcon17) in June.

At the year-end, Steve Dudley ran a social media workshop at the RSPB Centre for Conservation annual science meeting with over 70 RSPB research staff taking part.



Indian ornithologist Virat Jolli presenting his work on citizen science projects in the Himalayas.

BOU conferences provide a forum for members and other researchers to showcase their work, exchange views and debate key topics of the day.

Image © Steve Dudley/BOU



The BOU's Steve Dudley presenting his ongoing work on the use of social media in ornithology.

Steve has represented the BOU at North American ornithological conferences in 2016 and 2017 and will be involved in delivering social media activities for IOCongress2018 as part of the BOU's support of the Congress.

Image © Jordan Rutter



TWITTER

@IBIS_JOURNAL

Twitter remains our primary social media tool reaching a very active ornithological community we've helped to grow since 2011.

We are unique within our community as we continue to deliver content from across all publications, societies, and from around the world.



FACEBOOK

/IBISJOURNAL

Facebook has a distinct and active community to whom we play a key role in delivering ornithological content.



INSTAGRAM

/IBIS_JOURNAL

This platform remains the fastest growing platform for science content. We continue to enjoy modest growth delivering BOU and IBIS content.



WEIBO

英国鸟类学会会刊

An exciting move in October was the launch of BOU/IBIS on Weibo, China's largest social media platform.

Our outreach to China coincides with a maturing ornithological community in the Far East, and during the last two years we've also accepted the first IBIS paper to be (first) authored by a Chinese researcher, and the appointment of two Chinese IBIS Associate Editors.

Social media

bou.org.uk/social-media/

The BOU is recognised as a leader in social media science communication within ornithology. This was further enhanced with the publication of 'Tweeting birds: online mentions predict future citations in ornithology' in *Royal Society Open Science* (Finch, O'Hanlon & Dudley, 2017). Whilst the three authors come from three different institutes (RSPB, Environmental Research Institute and the BOU) it was the BOU that brought them together – one a member of Council, one our Social Media Support Officer, one our Chief Operations Officer, and all members of our Engagement Committee. The paper provides evidence that increased online mentions of ornithological research articles, as measured by an article's Altmetric Attention Score, contributes to citations. Twitter in particular drives this, contributing 75% of all altmetric scoring to papers published in ornithology journals.

Twitter (@IBIS_JOURNAL), contributing so highly to our community altmetrics, rightly remains our key platform for promoting ornithology on social media. At the end of the year we were followed by over 12,000 other Twitter accounts, making @IBIS_JOURNAL by far the largest ornithology society/journal on Twitter.

@IBIS_JOURNAL on Twitter is an active news service for ornithologists and the clear go-to account for ornithology content promoting newly published papers from a wide selection of journals, conferences, meetings, news items, job opportunities and more. We have an engaged online and mobile community that helps us to spread BOU, IBIS and other ornithological news far wider than we could previously.

Our growth on Twitter remains high with (cf. to 2016) our follower growth up 24% and, although our output shrunk very slightly (down 3% on 2016), our overall engagements were up 20% and potential reach up 5%. This is a more modest growth than in recent years which is only to be expected as we begin to reach saturation point within the existing ornithological community on Twitter.

Facebook (FACEBOOK.COM/IBISJOURNAL) remains our secondary platform and we have an established and growing community here. Our follower growth increased by 30%, and with a 10% increase in output we achieved a 43% increase in impressions reaching on average over 2,750 people a day.

Our first year on Instagram (IBIS_JOURNAL) has been steady. Our output is significantly lower than on Twitter or Facebook with an output of only several key BOU or IBIS related posts per week which over the year attracted nearly 7,000 likes. As the ornithology community matures on this platform we hope this will continue to increase.



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 BOU, taking online bookings for conferences and for selling BOU publications.

IBIS.AC.UK

The primary gateway to IBIS – the BOU's international journal of avian science.

BOUPROC.NET

A one-stop web portal for the Union's published output from BOU conferences.

BIRDGRANTS.NET

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



Our twice monthly e-newsletters are sent to over 12,000 researchers, and others interested in ornithology, around the world.

An exciting and significant move for us in October was to launch ourselves on Weibo – China's largest social media platform. Run by two volunteers Lei Zhu and Yachang Cheng, in just three months our arrival on Weibo had attracted over 2,200 followers and our 68 posts had received over 2.5 million 'reads'. Since much of the West's academic journals are accessible from within China (unlike most of the West's online content) we are able to promote research articles in IBIS and other journals just as we do on other platforms.

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

Social media continue to play a significant and increasing role in directing people to both the BOU and IBIS websites and, after search engine searches and direct to site visits, social media is the third most important source of visitors to our websites.

#theBOUblog

bou.org.uk/blog/

Our blog remains a key arrival point for visitors to the BOU website. During the year our Blog Support Officer, Christina Ieronymidou, increased our output with 77 blog posts featured in 2017 (56 in 2016), of which 66 were science posts (44/78% in 2016) with 17 promoting IBIS papers.

The number and geographical spread of authors from third-party journals writing for #theBOUblog remains high, with 42 posts covering papers from 13 journals (23 from 11 in 2016).

The remaining 11 posts were community-based, including a new series written by staff, committee members and members, to promote the BOU and our many and varied activities.

BOU website – WWW.BOU.ORG.UK

Although the look and feel of the site remains the same to the visitor we continue to develop the functionality and delivery of the site. In 2017 this included integrating new payment options for member subscriptions and the introduction of Direct Debit and recurring card payment ahead of 2018 membership subs falling due.

E-newsletters

bou.org.uk/e-newsletters/

With an extensive mailing list our e-newsletters remain a key source of BOU and IBIS news and information for many, and they continue to deliver visitors to the BOU website.



EQUALITY | DIVERSITY | INCLUSIVENESS

The BOU is committed to diversity in ornithology. We aim to help overcome barriers preventing equality for ornithologists and all our activities are open to anyone interested in ornithology regardless of, but not limited to, nationality, gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality and socio-economic status.

ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Chair

Dr Hugh Wright (JNCC)

Members

Dr Sarah Burthe (CEH Edinburgh)

Mr Steve Dudley, BOU COO

Dr Darren Evans (Newcastle University)

Dr Tom Finch (RSPB)

Dr Cat Horswill, Conference Support Officer
(University of Glasgow)

Dr Christina Ieronymidou, Blog Support
Officer (BirdLife Cyprus)

Dr Nina O'Hanlon, Social Media Support
Officer (Environment Research Institute)

Dr Rebecca Thomas (Royal Holloway)

Dr Leila Walker, Web Support Officer
(Taylor & Francis Group)

We increased the number of newsletters in 2017 adding a monthly 'IBIS new articles' newsletter to complement the existing quarterly 'IBIS new issue' newsletters. Other newsletters continue to focus on key BOU activities such as conferences, research grants and the BOU blog.

Press and media

Working with our journal publishing partner, Wiley-Blackwell, we continue to see increased coverage of IBIS papers, particularly within online news media.

We continue to receive coverage of BOU Records Committee announcements in the national birding press and online birding 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. We maintain a storage facility in Peterborough for the storage of publications, journal stocks, sales goods and archive items, but this will be reduced during 2018 in light of the removal of BOC stock and reducing our own holdings.

Sponsorship

At the end of the year we were very pleased to announce that Leica (UK) were renewing their association with the BOU from 2018. As previous sponsors of the British List, they return to again sponsor this important activity, as well as to support our other core activities within the ornithological community.

Engagement Committee

The Committee oversees engagement between the Union, its members and the wider ornithological community. Our overarching aims are to advance avian science by facilitating contact and communication within the ornithological community. We also aim to increase awareness of the BOU's activities, champion equality and diversity in the BOU's work, and strive towards a stable membership base. We do this by continually improving our opportunities to engage with more people, primarily through our conference and social media activities. We seek the latest tools and techniques to engage with our audience, ensuring that the BOU maintains its reputation as an engagement pioneer within the scientific community. The Committee also reviews the benefits that the Union provides to its members.



@IBIS_JOURNAL

OUR YEAR ON TWITTER

Tweets	5,934	-3%
Retweets	23,130	+9%
Engagements	149,131	+20%
Organic impressions	9,238,954	+5%
Followers at 31 Dec 17	12,038	+23%
Link clicks	42,342	+19%

SOME OF OUR TOP TWEETS FROM 2017

EVENT | Next Tuesday, 10 Jan, we're celebrating #flight and will be tweeting all day about aspects of bird flight. Join in! #ornithology
Reached a potential audience of 348,672

#FocusOnFlight Features of #owl wings that promote silent flight <https://t.co/VcuzVmfbBt> #ornithology @RSocPublishing
Reached a potential audience of 221,438

COMING SOON | #BOU17TC | The BOU's first #ornithology Twitter Conference. Look out for tweets with more details in coming weeks <https://t.co/McfyaxG5Bn>
Reached a potential audience of 153,307

Two undescribed bird species discovered in South Kalimantan, Borneo
<https://t.co/cqEUaMley> #ornithology @orientbirdclub @BirdGuides
<https://t.co/cXdEe7tqHK>
Reached a potential audience of 104,489

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

The Committee addressed some important issues in 2017, particularly the BOU's position on inclusiveness, equality and diversity. We developed a formal statement (page 10) explaining that the BOU is committed to inclusiveness and diversity in ornithology and seeks to overcome barriers preventing equality for ornithologists. This statement was approved by Council and the Engagement Committee were tasked with overseeing this commitment. To ensure that BOU activities reflect it, we have established a working group comprising Engagement Committee members Steve Dudley, Dr Leila Walker and Dr Hugh Wright, and Chaired by Vice President, Dr Juliet Vickery. The working group will report to Council with recommendations for further action on this item during 2018.

Through the activities of our Chief Operations Officer, Steve Dudley, we continue our representation at North American conferences. In 2017, Steve attended the American Ornithological Society annual conference (held jointly with the Canadian Ornithological Society) as an invited speaker of #TheTweetingBird symposium, and presented two posters: one advertising the BOU ECR travel awards to the International Ornithological Congress in 2018, and the other presented Steve's continuing work on the benefits of social media to promote ornithology and the link between tweet activity and citations of ornithological papers.

Honorary positions

The Committee's four Support Officers continue to assist the BOU office with conference, web, social media and blog activities. Their achievements in 2017 are outlined below.

Social media – supported by Dr Nina O'Hanlon

- The BOU ran the first global ornithology Twitter conference (#BOU17TC) in November.
 - A 26-hour, continuous online event with 66 presenters from 16 countries across 18 time zones around the world.
 - Directly engaged with over 1,100 people who submitted questions and/or retweeted.
 - Reached an overall audience of more than 3,000 people.
 - Achieved a potential Twitter reach of 2.3 million.
 - Further enhanced our standing, especially within the Twitter community, as the most active society/journal in ornithology.
 - A tremendous success!
- The BOU's Twitter account (@IBIS_JOURNAL) had over 12,000 followers by the year-end.



IBISJOURNAL

OUR YEAR ON FACEBOOK

Posts	3,785	+10%
Page likes	23,130	+9%
Engagements	37,267	-3%
Impressions/reach	4,361,183	+42%
Link clicks	45,484	+13%

SOME OF OUR TOP POSTS FROM 2017

#FocusOnFlight Features of #owl wings that promote silent flight <http://ow.ly/dRwx30946>
From Royal Society Publishing's themed issue 'Coevolving advances in animal flight and aerial robotics'
Reached 27,758 people

A surprisingly simple explanation for the shape of birds' eggs ow.ly/X0vM30cOH0x
Reached 7,422 people

#FocusOnFlight Using field photography to study avian moult <http://ow.ly/GXiL3094aaO>
Reached 8,320 people

Explosive radiation and spatial expansion across cold environments of the Old World in an avian family <http://ow.ly/Klhn30dV9Me>
Reached 5,949 people

OUR TOP COUNTRIES ON FACEBOOK

USA, UK, Italy, India and Spain.



WEIBO

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OUR TIME ON WEIBO

(three months to 31/12/17)

Posts	43
Reposts	1,794
Reads	2,045,748

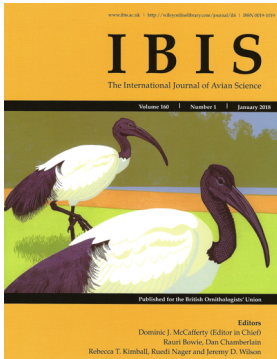
- @IBIS_JOURNAL remains the most active ornithological society/journal account on Twitter, delivering ornithology from around the world regardless of origin.
- The BOU Instagram account @IBIS_JOURNAL continues to grow with over 560 followers by the end of 2017. The content is driven solely by BOU and IBIS journal material.
- The BOU opened an account on Weibo, China's largest social media platform.
 - Our Weibo account is run by two volunteers, Lei Zhu and Yachang Cheng, who post content from IBIS and on general ornithology.
 - Over 2,300 followers from its launch in October to the end of 2017.
- All research papers from the 2017 issues of IBIS were referenced on Wikipedia.
 - Improving overall coverage of ornithology on Wikipedia.
 - Contributing to papers' Altmetric Attention Score, and so providing us with another way to support those authors publishing in IBIS.

Conferences – supported by Dr Cat Horswill

- Introduced a workshop for ECRs on the opening day of the annual conference.
 - This year it covered skills around three themes: face-to-face networking; presenting at conferences; and online and social media presence.
 - The 50 attendees received advice from five experienced ornithologists, including two of our Support Officers and Steve Dudley (Chief Operations Officer).
 - Following the success of this new event, plans are underway to deliver a similar workshop at the 2018 conference, covering skills needed in international policy, communication and identifying research questions.
- 56 people attended our ECR evening event at the annual conference, in which 11 ornithology experts provided tips for a successful career in ornithology, provoking plenty of discussions during and after the session.

Website – supported by Dr Leila Walker

- 15 new member profiles added to the website.
 - Includes IBIS Associate Editors and BOU Council and committee members.
- Prepared the BOU global database of ornithology institutes for its forthcoming delivery on the website.
 - To be delivered in 2018.
- Prepared the online submission form for BRANTA 'Gosling'.
 - A forthcoming extension to the existing BRANTA service for registering thesis abstracts.
 - Giving MSc and PhD students the chance to advertise their forthcoming research projects to foster collaboration with others.
 - To be delivered in 2018



IBIS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Chair

Dr Jen Smart (RSPB)

Members

Mr Graham Appleton, BOU Honorary

Treasurer [from 28/3/17]

Dr Rauri Bowie, Editor (University of California

– Berkeley)

Dr Dan Chamberlain, Editor (University of

Turin)

Dr Paul Donald, Editor in Chief (BirdLife)

[to 31/9/17]

Mr Steve Dudley, BOU COO

Mrs Julianne Evans, BOU Honorary Treasurer

[to 28/3/17]

Dr Rebecca Kimball, Editor (University of

Florida)

Mrs Angela Langford, Journal Manager

Dr Dominic McCafferty, Editor in Chief

(University of Glasgow) [from 1/9/17]

Dr Ruedi Nager, Editor (University of Glasgow)

Prof Jeremy Wilson, Editor (RSPB)

Blog – supported by Dr Christina Ieronymidou

- Posted more than one blog most weeks on the BOU website in 2017.
 - 77 blogs posted from a range of authors and journals.
 - Including 20 posts on IBIS papers.
- Launched a series raising awareness of the work of the BOU and the value that the Union adds to ornithology as a whole.
 - A series of 10 blog posts written by BOU staff, committee chairs and several BOU members.
 - Promoted the BOU's key work areas and achievements to members and the wider community.
 - These posts are now being used to promote the BOU elsewhere, including through e-newsletters.
- The BOU blog continues to reach a global audience and remains the second most visited section of the BOU website.

The Committee looks forward to extending its efforts to ensure equality and diversity in BOU activities and improving engagement with a broader spectrum of the ornithological community. We hope to meet more members of the BOU and wider ornithology community at our events in 2018.

IBIS Management Committee

ibis.ac.uk

The IBIS Management Committee provides support and advice on the management of the journal, including interactions with our publisher, Wiley-Blackwell.

The Committee met in March 2017 at our annual journal publishing meeting with Wiley-Blackwell, where annual reports covering editorial, production, marketing and accounts were presented. Other business during the year was conducted by email.

Editorial team

There were two major changes to the editorial team in 2017: a change in our Editor in Chief and a significant increase in the number of Associate Editors.

Dr Paul Donald stepped down as Editor in Chief after 11 years with IBIS, during which time the journal has gone from strength to strength. We cannot thank Paul enough for his contribution to the IBIS and we hope he is enjoying some well-deserved free weekends. Our new Editor in Chief, Dr Dominic McCafferty, took over the reins in September and continues to be supported by the other Editors: Dr Rauri Bowie, Dr Dan Chamberlain, Prof Rebecca Kimball, Dr Ruedi Nager and



TOP CITED PAPERS

High juvenile mortality during migration in a declining population of a long-distance migratory raptor / Steffen Oppel, Vladimir Dobrev, Volen Arkumarev, Victoria Saravia, Anastasios Bounas, Elzbieta Kret, Metodija Veleviski, Stoycho Stoychev, Stoyan C. Nikolov / DOI: 10.1111/ibi.12258

Abundance and abundance change in the world's parrots / Stuart J. Marsden, Kay Royle / DOI: 10.1111/ibi.12236

A review of survival estimates for raptors and owls / Ian Newton, Michael J. McGrady, Madan K. Oli DOI: 10.1111/ibi.12355



TOP ALTMETRIC PAPERS

Food availability and breeding season as predictors of geophagy in Amazonian parrots / Donald J. Brightsmith, Elizabeth A. Hobson, Gustavo Martinez / DOI: 10.1111/ibi.12515

Fighting talk: complex song elicits more aggressive responses in a vocally complex songbird / Samuel D. Hill, Dianne H. Brunton, Michael G. Anderson, Weihong Ji DOI: 10.1111/ibi.12542

Tracking day and night provides insights into the relative importance of different wader chick predators / Lucy R. Mason, Jennifer Smart, Allan L. Drewitt / DOI: 10.1111/ibi.12523

Prof Jeremy Wilson. Angela Langford continues to act as the Journal Manager and Steve Dudley manages the business and marketing areas of the journal.

The IBIS Associate Editor board plays a vital role in the management of the journal, and we are very fortunate to have an excellent group of quality researchers with expertise and knowledge across the breadth of subject areas that IBIS papers cover. During the year we undertook a targeted campaign to boost the size of the Associate Editor board and joining us in 2017 were Dr José Alves, Dr Alex Banks, Dr Laura Cardador, Dr Ines Catry, Dr Andrew Farnsworth, Dr Auriel Fournier, Dr Cat Horswill, Dr Riddhika Kalle, Dr Yang Liu, Dr Zhijun Ma, Dr Cat Morrison, Dr Taryn Morris, Dr Stuart Sharp, Dr Petra Sumasgutner, Dr Wouter Vansteelant and Dr Sandi Willows-Munro. Notably, many of our new recruits are early-career researchers, and our first (two) Chinese AEs. Dr Lluís Brotons retired from the board during the year, and whom we thank warmly for his time with us.

Journal publishing and management

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 2017 are appreciated. We are constantly striving to improve IBIS and to stay at the forefront of ornithology. More specifically, we want to improve editorial, author and reviewer experience and to continue to build the IBIS community into the future, where we want the journal to continue to attract the highest quality papers and to excel within the ornithology sector. During 2017, we continued to implement actions arising from the strategy day we held with colleagues from Wiley-Blackwell, designed to improve how we manage manuscripts and how we promote and manage the journal.

Journal impact factors and article level metrics

The journals 2016 2-year and 5-year Impact Factor (the number of papers published in the previous two or five years that are cited in other papers) were 2.279 and 2.169 respectively, ranking us second out of the 24 Ornithology journals listed by Thomson Reuters ISI. Impact factors derived from citation rates are important for maintaining the academic authority of the journal but there is now also very clear evidence that the online attention ornithology papers receive has a measurable impact on future citation rates (Finch, O'Hanlon & Dudley 2017). The BOU and IBIS has been leading the field in the use of social media platforms such as Twitter and using the BOU Blog to promote ornithology papers. It is clear that we need to continue with these efforts and seek opportunities to promote IBIS in order to remain at the top of the ornithology journal rankings. Steve Dudley's efforts in this arena, and the work of the Engagement Committee, are greatly appreciated.

REFERENCE

Finch, T., O'Hanlon, N., & Dudley, S. P. 2017.
Tweeting birds: online mentions predict future
citations in ornithology. *Royal Society Open
Science*, 4. DOI: 10.1098/rsos.171371

This year we also took the opportunity to educate our community about the work of the IBIS Management Committee with a BOU blog post entitled “What does it take to run the #1 journal in Ornithology?” aimed to illustrate the publication process as a series of steps between manuscript submission and the author receiving the first decision, the people involved at each of those steps and the time allowed for each step. We hope that by communicating this to our authors, reviewers and editors, and the wider ornithological community, that they will have a better understanding of the whole process and the importance of timely completion of each step to ensure that everyone involved has a positive experience with the journal.

In the year ahead, we will continue to identify and implement improvements to journal management that should improve the experience that everyone has with IBIS and to increase the quality and quantity of papers submitted to and published in IBIS. In my role as Chair of the IBIS Management Committee, I am always keen to hear from members of our community with feedback or ideas that could help us to achieve a better journal for everyone. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributes papers or their time to review papers and to thank the IBIS editorial and management team for their commitment and hard work over the last year.

MEETINGS COMMITTEE

Chair

Dr Darren Evans (Newcastle University)

Members

Dr José Alves (University of Aveiro, Portugal
and University of Iceland) [from 1/7/17]

Dr Maria Bogdanova (CEH) [from 1/7/17]

Dr David Douglas (RSPB)

Mr Steve Dudley, BOU COO

Dr Francis Daunt (CEH) [until 30/6/17]

Dr Aldina Franco (University of East Anglia)
[until 30/6/17]

Mr Danny Heptinstall (RSPB) [from 1/7/17]

Dr Cat Horswill, Conference Support Officer
(University of Glasgow)

Dr Mel Orros (Reading, UK)

Mrs Angela Langford, Journal & Office
Manager

Dr Rob Robinson (BTO)

Meetings Committee

bou.org.uk/bou-conferences/

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 twice during the year and also conducted business by email and telephone.

We wish to thank Dr Francis Daunt and Dr Aldina Franco who retired from the Committee during the year, and who were replaced by Dr José Alves (University of Aveiro and University of Iceland) and Dr Maria Bogdanova (Centre for Ecology & Hydrology). Mr Danny Heptinstall (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds) also joined us, bringing a depth of science and policy understanding to the Committee.

CODE OF CONDUCT

We welcome everyone to BOU events, be these in person at our conferences, meetings and workshops, or online events such as Twitter conferences.

We work hard to engender and promote a welcoming environment that is collaborative, supportive and engaging for everyone involved. Our events provide opportunities to share, develop and broaden viewpoints in a safe and inclusive environment.

We celebrate diversity in all its forms and expect that all our participants are respectful and considerate of each other, that they provide supportive critique, and embrace the multitude of opinions that are on offer.

If you have any concerns, or feel that any participant of an event has breached this code, or have suggestions for how we can make our events more inclusive and productive, please contact any member of the BOU staff, BOU's Meetings Committee or event organisers (named contacts are listed in all event programmes). During an event, please report any incident as soon as you feel able, to allow us to act upon your concerns.

Code of Conduct

We have always taken it for granted that BOU events are safe for all participants, but in light of difficulties experienced by other societies, we have drawn up a simple 'code of conduct' for all BOU events (see left).

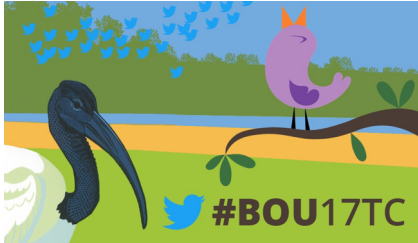
Annual spring conference 2017 – BOU2017

The theme for the BOU annual conference (#BOU2017) was *From avian tracking to population processes* and was held at the University of Warwick between 28 - 30 March. The programme organising committee were Prof Jenny Gill (University of East Anglia), Dr José Alves (University of Aveiro, Portugal), Dr Tómas Gunnarsson (University of Iceland), Dr Aldina Franco (University of East Anglia) and Dr Francis Daunt (Centre for Ecology & Hydrology).

The conference focused on local-scale foraging and dispersal to continent-scale migration, and how the movement and settlement decisions made by birds can have far-reaching consequences for individual fitness and population processes. Building on the successful 2015 Annual Conference (*Avian Tracking* #BOU2015) that demonstrated how recent technological advances to track individuals is changing our understanding of migration, this conference discussed how the new data generated is revealing variation in individual movement, migration and settlement decisions and the consequences for a suite of population processes. This year the conference was held in a new venue, the University of Warwick, with 182 delegates and broke even on a costs basis (excluding staff costs).

Once again, BOU supported 60 Early Career Researchers (ECRs). In addition to the regular evening ECR event, an ECR workshop was provided on 'promoting yourself and your research' and split into three separate sessions covering 'face-to-face communication' (Dr David Douglas, Committee member/RSPB and Dr Cat Horswill, Committee member/University of Glasgow), 'conference presentations' (Dr Francis Daunt, Committee/CEH) and 'online and social media' (Steve Dudley, BOU and Dr Nina O'Hanlon, Engagement Committee member/University of the Highlands and Islands). Feedback was very positive for both events and we plan to run the new Tuesday afternoon workshop at future events. In the coming year, working with the Engagement Committee, we will be considering ways of attracting older delegates to conferences and to the BOU in general.

The vast majority of delegates rated all aspects of the conference as good or excellent, which was pleasing given the issues of moving to a new venue. The conference was covered very well on social media using the #BOU2017 hashtag, with a far-reaching international audience.



With a total of 68 presenters (seven invited keynotes plus 61 presentations selected from the 65 submissions received) our first Twitter conference ran over 26 hours, starting and finishing at lunchtime in the UK, and following the time zones westwards around the world. This provided an opportunity for researchers to present to their local audience in their local time zone/region – and those from other time zones following on by getting up early or staying up late!

The event was a huge success attracting an audience of just over 3,000 people, over 1,100 of whom interacted (tweets, retweets and comments).

Twitter conference – #BOU17TC

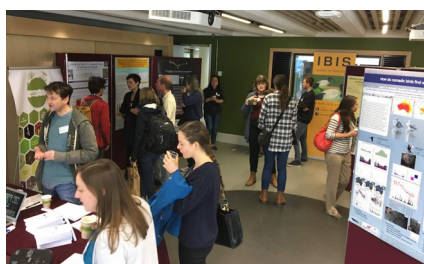
The BOU ran the first ever general ornithology Twitter conference (#BOU17TC, 28 - 29 November), led by Steve Dudley (Chief Operations Officer) and Dr Nina O'Hanlon (Engagement Committee/University of the Highlands and Islands) with support from Jez Smith (Cardiff University).

Online events such as this help to break down many of the barriers preventing people from attending a physical event: participants take part from wherever they are at the time (one person tweeted he was following our conference online on his way to a physical event); it's free to take part – no expensive travel or attendance costs; it's inclusive – a global online event allows researchers from all over the world to take part allowing for a more diverse make-up of presenters and presentations. For #BOU17TC presenters came from institutes based in 16 countries, 60% of presenters were female and 57% were under 35 years old.

Feedback from events is vital for future planning, and 98% of presenters and 91% of audience respondents rated the event good or very good, and they provided a firm steer in that our Twitter community want an annual autumn event. Feedback also provided additional information on how we can improve our delivery of Twitter conferences and we are also looking at ways of making these events even more inclusive and as diverse as possible.

Future events

The 2018 Annual conference (#BOU2018) is *21st century ornithology: challenges, opportunities and decisions* and will be held between 27 and 29 March. The conference moves to a new venue at the University of Nottingham and the programme organisers are Prof Bill Sutherland (University of Cambridge), Dr Helen Baker (JNCC), Dr Aldina Franco (University of East Anglia) and Dr Darren Evans (Newcastle University). The conference will provide a unique opportunity to showcase examples of the ornithological research and science needed to address the future challenges by looking several decades ahead. It will explore a range of challenges, such as the terrestrial, coastal and marine responses to climate change, consequences of a different predator community, the impacts of invasive species, possible developments in agriculture and potential new approaches for carrying out science. The conference plenary and keynote speakers include: Alfred Newton Lecturer Prof Hugh Possingham (Chief Scientist, The Nature Conservancy & University of Queensland, Australia), Prof Jenny Gill (University of East Anglia); Prof Martin Wikelski (Max Planck Institute for Ornithology, Germany), Dr Beth Scott (University of Aberdeen), Prof. Des Thompson (Scottish Natural Heritage), Dr Malcolm Ausden (RSPB Centre for Conservation Science), Prof Tim Blackburn (Institute of Zoology, Zoological Society of London) and Dr Juliet Vickery



BOU conferences are great social occasions and a platform for exhibitors to showcase their products and services.

Images © Steve Dudley/BOU

(RSPB Centre for Conservation Science). The usual two ECR events are planned, with the workshops focusing on the skills required by ornithologists, centred around three topics: 1) effective international policy; 2) effective communication skills and 3) identifying good research questions. The second workshop will focus on Altmetrics and the use of social media for promoting and communicating research.

The BOU is holding an open one-day meeting on the registration day, 20 August 2018, of the International Ornithological Congress (IOC) in Vancouver, Canada. Titled *Ecology and conservation of the world's grassland birds* we have four excellent keynote speakers: Prof Jenny Gill (University of East Anglia), Dr Brett Sandercock (Norwegian Institute for Nature Research, Norway), Prof. Jane Reid (University of Aberdeen) and Dr Jill A. Shaffer (US Geological Survey, USA). The remainder of the programme will be made up of offered papers.

We are also very pleased to be providing travel awards for BOU ECR members to attend the International Ornithological Congress. We envisage our £10,000 fund to be taken up by up to 24 ECRs.

Our 2018 Autumn Meeting will revisit the fast moving area of 'marine renewables'. It will be held in Peterborough with the organising team led by Dr Beth Scott (University of Aberdeen).

Our second Twitter conference, #BOU18TC, will be held in November and will again be run by Steve Dudley and Nina O'Hanlon.

The 2019 BOU Annual conference will focus on 'tracking migration' and will be held at the University of Warwick between 26 and 28 March 2019. The organisers will be led by Dr Verónica Méndez (University of East Anglia) with support from Dr Wouter Vansteelant (University of Amsterdam, Netherlands) and Dr José Alves (Meetings Committee/University of Aveiro, Portugal and University of Iceland).

The 2019 Autumn Meeting is provisionally called 'More from moors' to include issues surrounding grouse moor management, afforestation and other impacts. It will be held at Newcastle University with the organising team led by Dr Darren Evans (Meetings Committee/Newcastle University).



Grants Committee

bou.org.uk/grants-and-bursaries/

GRANTS COMMITTEE

Chair

Prof Phil Atkinson (BTO)

Members

Dr Sonya Clegg (University of Oxford)

[from 1/12/17]

Mr Steve Dudley, BOU COO

Dr Ilya Maclean (University of Exeter)

Dr Phil Shaw (University of St Andrews)

Dr Danaë Sheehan (RSPB)

Mr Andy Symes (BirdLife) [until 30/6/17]

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

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

A welcome addition to the Committee's workload was the assessment of the first BOU John & Pat Warham Studentship. These are funded by a bequest left to the BOU by the late John and Pat Warham for the study of Sphenisciform (penguins) and Procellariiform (tubenoses) seabirds.

Mr Andy Symes retired from the Committee at the end of the meeting and we would like to thank him for his input to the grants and bursary assessment process during his time with us. At the end of the year we welcomed Dr Sonya Clegg (University of Oxford) in time to work with us on the 2018 round of applications.

Small Ornithological Research Grant scheme

The Committee received 69 grant applications (59 were assessed in 2016) and, of these, nine were excluded from consideration due to the low percentage of overall costs requested or because they did not comply with our application guidelines. A further 12 applications were filtered by the Chair as being low scoring. Committee members were able to view all these and request any individual application be considered in full. A total of 47 applications were scored by the Committee and the top scoring 23 applications were discussed at the Committee's annual meeting.

The requirement for applicants needing to be either a BOU member or from, and working in, a developing country has continued to ensure that the number of applications remains manageable for the Committee to handle and does not completely dwarf the amount of money available. The Committee noted a continuing trend of an increase in the quality of applications.

With a total available spend of £10,000 at the Committee's discretion, Council approved seven awards totaling £9,987:



The BOU's small ornithological research grants provide funding for BOU members and those in developing countries to undertake small to medium scale research projects around the world.

Image © Daniel Cox

Amanda Bourne | Awarded £1,532 (amount requested)

PhD candidate, Percy FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology, South Africa

How do physiological, behavioural, and fitness consequences of heat stress differ between males and females in Southern Pied Babblers?

William Feeney | Awarded £1,400 (amount requested)

Research Fellow, University of Queensland, Australia

Cross parasitism is the norm, rather than the exception, in an area where multiple cuckoos and multiple hosts co-occur.

Angela Ribeiro | Awarded £1,155 (amount requested)

Postdoc researcher (Marie Curie Fellow), Natural History Museum of Denmark

Shivering in deserts: the role of mitochondria networks as efficient fuel suppliers.

Hugo Robles | Awarded £1,400 (£2,000 requested)

Associate Researcher, Antwerp University, Belgium

Assessing bioacoustics of middle spotted woodpeckers for non-invasive assessments of population structure and habitat quality in fragmented habitats.

Alexandra McCubbin | Awarded £1,500 (£1,600 requested)

PhD candidate, Cardiff University, UK

Interaction of Genetic Isolation and Mate Choice in a Recently Evolved Species Pair of Atlantic Storm-Petrels.

Laura Wemer | Awarded £1,500 (£2,210 requested)

MSc student, University of Vienna, Austria

Kestrels as city slickers? Unravelling physiological mechanisms of how avian top predators cope with urban life.

Stephen Willis | Awarded £1,500 (amount requested)

Reader in Ecology, Durham University, UK

Using DNA metabarcoding to understand the diet of avian insectivores in different woodland habitats.

Career Development Bursary scheme

These 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 £2,500 are available.



The BOU's career development bursaries allow early-career members, who are either between degrees or who have recently completed a degree, the opportunity to undertake discreet, short-term research projects with another lab or institute.

Image © Mick Mackay

A total of 10 applications were received (6 in 2016). Of these, two failed to comply with submission guidelines and were not considered, so a total of eight applications were assessed by the Committee.

Council approved three awards totaling £7,300.

Xavier Meyer | Awarded £2,400

Unattached. PhD, 2015, University of Strasbourg, 2016

Foraging behaviour of pelagic seabirds: new insights from fractal analysis

Project location: British Antarctic Survey, UK

Supervisor: Richard Phillips

Natalia Garcia | Awarded £2,500

Postdoc Fellow, Natural History Museum of Buenos Aires, Argentina. PhD, University of Buenos Aires, Argentina, 2016.

Evolution of plumage patterns in a continental radiation of passerines: the *Setophaga* warblers

Project location: Princeton University, US

Supervisor: Mary Caswell Stoddard

Wieland Heim | Awarded £2,400

MSc student, University of Potsdam, Germany

Population trends of East Asian migratory land birds

Project location: University of Muenster, Germany

Supervisor: Johannes Kamp

John & Pat Warham Studentships

Out of a total of eight applications, the Committee awarded the first BOU John & Pat Warham Studentship to Professor Jennifer Gill at the University of East Anglia in partnership with Professor Ken Norris and Dr Malcolm Nicoll at the Zoological Society of London.

'Round Island petrel' is a *Pterodroma* petrel breeding only on Round Island in the Indian Ocean. They have been the subject of a study by the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) since 2009. These petrels breed at a single colony (Round Island), 23 km off Mauritius, and ZSL studies have shown that this is a three-way hybrid complex consisting of one species from the Atlantic (*Pterodroma arminjoniana*) and at least two from the Pacific (*P. heraldica* and *P. neglecta*).

The migratory routes of over 500 individual Round Island petrels have been tracked with geolocators, and this BOU-funded studentship will use these data to explore the factors influencing the extraordinary levels of individual variation in ocean movements



The first BOU John & Pat Warham Studentship, commencing in 2018, will study the 'Round Island petrel'.

Image © Malcolm Nicoll

of these birds and the implications for the demography and conservation of the species.

Annual review

The Committee reviews the schemes annually. Council agreed to the Committee's request that the amounts of money available for small grants and bursaries be amalgamated into one pot of money so that they could use their discretion in awarding the total amount across both schemes.

RECORDS COMMITTEE

Chair

Mr Andrew Harrop (Rutland and Shetland)

Secretary

Dr Chris McInerny (University of Glasgow)

Members

Ms Dawn Balmer (BTO)

Mr Steve Dudley, BOU COO

Mr Paul French (BBRC Chairman)

Dr James Gilroy (University of East Anglia)

Dr Alex Lees (Manchester Metro University)

[from 1/7/17]

Dr Andy Musgrove (BTO)

Mr Andrew Stoddart (Norfolk, UK)

Prof Jimmy Steele (Newcastle University, UK)

[to 30/6/17]

Records Committee

bou.org.uk/british-list/

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, in December, with other business conducted by email.

Dr Andy Brown retired from the Committee in December 2016 and Prof Jimmy Steele retired from the Committee in June 2017, with Dr Alexander Lees joining the Committee during the year. Andrew Owen has replaced Roger Wilkinson as the Committee's consultant on captives and the bird trade.

During the year we sadly learned of the deaths of two recent members of the Committee, Eric Meek and Jimmy Steele.

Changes to the British List

The 47th and 48th Reports, covering the period from October 2016 to September 2017, were published in 2017 (*Ibis* 159: 925–929 and *Ibis* 160: 241–248). The changes in these reports were included in the 9th Edition of the British List (*Ibis* 160: 190–240) published in December.

The changes to the British List published in the Committee's 47th and 48th Reports, together with taxonomic changes following the adoption of IOC taxonomy, bring the British List total at 31 December 2017 to 614 species. The main additions to the List were as follows (for all changes see *Ibis* 159: 925–929, *Ibis* 160: 241–248, *Ibis* 160: 190–240):

Acadian Flycatcher *Empidonax virescens* - admitted to Category A

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* - subspecies *fuscus* added

Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans* - subspecies *cantillans* added



Purple Swamphen was one of seven species admitted to the British List in 2017.

Image © Jim Arnold

Siberian Accentor *Prunella montanella* - admitted to Category A
Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava* - subspecies *iberiae* added
Chestnut Bunting *Emberiza rutila* - admitted to Category A
Red-footed Booby *Sula sula* - admitted to Category A
Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio* - admitted to Category A
Eastern Kingbird *Tyrannus tyrannus* - admitted to Category A
Pale-legged Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus tenellipes* - admitted to Category A

Taxonomy

The 9th edition of the British List, which follows IOC taxonomy, has been published and will be adopted by *British Birds* and counties as well as by IBIS. We look forward to the proposed round table discussions about global taxonomy at the International Ornithological Congress in Vancouver in August 2018.

Links with other groups

The Committee maintains close links with the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC). The BOURC Secretary continues to work closely with BBRC's Secretariat, and informal links are maintained with AERC).

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.

Membership



At the end of the year our total membership stood at 1,108 (1,149 at 31 Dec 2016) comprising 812 full members (866 at 31 Dec 2015) and 296 reduced rate subscribers (283 at 31 Dec 16) made up of 275 ECRs and 21 from developing countries.

We enjoyed another good recruiting year for new members, totaling 147 (a little down on the 160 recruited in 2016) made up of 69 Ordinary, 72 Early-career Researcher and six Developing Country members. 61 of these were recruited for the annual conference, with new joiners benefiting from the heavily discounted member delegate rates.

Again, the new member recruitment was tempered by resignations and non-renewals, so we saw a very small overall loss come the year-end. The over-riding reason for the increase in resignations (where we are told) remain the increase in the membership fee for those wishing to retain a print subscription to IBIS (as outlined in previous reports) and financial (usually associated with retirement from active ornithology).

Acknowledgements

The Union would like to extend its thanks and gratitude to the following individuals who have assisted with the many BOU activities throughout the year: Raurie Bowie, Dan Chamberlain, Paul Donald, Rebecca Kimball, Dominic McCafferty, 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; Mike Wilson (Alexander Library, Zoology Department, Oxford University) for his editing of the IBIS book reviews; Mathangi Ramesh, Justinia Wood, Shannen Bennet, Anita Sye and colleagues 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; Jenny Gill (University of East Anglia), José Alves (University of Aveiro, Portugal), Aldina Franco (University of East Anglia), Francis Daunt (CEH) for their work preparing the programme for the annual conference (from avian tracking to population processes); Biotrack, NHBS, Pathtrack and Wildlife Acoustics for supporting our annual conference; Jackie Newman, Mandy Connon and Lynda Vosper at Peterborough Cathedral, and Amy Buckingham at City College Peterborough (venues for BOU meetings); Jane Gray and the conference staff at the University of Warwick (BOU annual conferences); John Sharpe, Michelle Bembrose and colleagues at Chappell Cole & Co (accountants); and Tracey Richardson, Caroline Gillis and colleagues at Rawlinsons (auditors). BOURC would like to thank consultants Bob McGowan (National Museums of Scotland), Tim Melling (RSPB), Keith Naylor, Roger Wilkinson, plus Ian Andrews (SOC), Martin Collinson (University of Aberdeen), Ron Forrester (SBRC), Jodie Henshaw (Mansfield Museum), Chas Holt (BBRC Secretary, from 2017), Sue Hostick (Grosvenor Museum,

cont./

18 resignations were accepted during the year, and Council noted, with sadness, the following deaths: Dr M Hounsome, Prof C Huntington, Mr T Kittle, Mr E Meek, Mr D Pearson, Dr G R Potts, Mr T Poyser, Prof W Sladen, Dr J Stanfield and Sir Denys Wilkinson.

The future

With increasing costs across many of our activities Council took the hard decision to increase membership subscription rates from 2018. The increase will be less for those choosing to pay by new, more cost-effective subscription collection in the form of Direct Debit (for many members' holding UK and some European bank accounts) and annual recurring card payment. However, as with any year when subscription rates increase, we do expect an increase in non-renewals so we will be working hard to mitigate losses with increased recruitment in the year.

Financial review

Graham Appleton, Honorary Treasurer

I am grateful to Julianne Evans, the outgoing Treasurer, who stewarded the Union's finances for the previous five years. She also provided support for a full review of the Union's finances that took place over the course of 2017, as outlined in the 2016 report. The Union still has strong reserves but the rate of expenditure of these funds was faster than planned and some adjustments needed to be made, as you will read below.

There were a number of changes to the Union's income between 2016 and 2017, the most significant being the loss of income from the BOC, with the end of the contract to provide administrative services. IBIS income increased by £11,676, as a result of strong sales and a weak pound, and subscription income dropped by 7.7%, due to a decrease in the number of full members. Conference income was up but this was more than cancelled out by increased expenditure at a new venue.

As required by charity accounting rules, indirect costs (staff costs and overheads) are allocated across multiple headings in the accounts. The relative amounts allocated to these headings reflect changing activities. For instance, with the end of the BOC contract, more time was spent on activities to promote the BOU, particularly through the use of social media and e-newsletters, and increased activities in North America.

The value of the Union's investments increased by 8.3% to £381,246, as a result of strong global growth and shrewd stewardship by the BOU's investment trustees; Nigel

Acknowledgements

cont./

Chester), Nigel Hudson (BBRC Secretary, to 2017), Sarah King (York Museums Trust), Amanda Martin (Isles of Scilly Museum), Luanne Meehitiya (Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery), Allen Moore (Manx Ornithological Society), Elizabeth Montgomery (Grosvenor Museum, Chester), Holly Morgenroth (Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter), Neil Morris (Manx BirdLife), Lynda Pearce (Dover Museum), Janet Thompson (Manx Ornithological Society) and Hein Van Grouw (Natural History Museum, Tring); British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC) who work closely with BOURC; Bird Observatory staff and volunteers who have assisted BOURC.

We apologise to anyone we have inadvertently omitted.

Crocker, Richard Price and Stephen Rumsey. The investments yielded income of £16,048, much of which was used to fund research grants. The high level of cash (£743,891 at bank and in hand) reflects the inclusion of the John & Pat Warham legacy. Now that there is a plan in place to fund PhD studentships over a period of up to six years, a substantial part of this fund will be handed over to the investment trustees for medium-term investment.

During the course of 2017, the Union experienced an increase of £14,957 in unrestricted funds, despite a continuing policy to spend reserves on activities to support ornithology, especially through subsidies and grant aid for early career researchers. Unrestricted funds stood at £546,232 at the end of the year.

For some years there has been a strategy of spending accumulated funds in ways that align with the charity's objectives. Having seen projections for the next three years, Council concluded that we needed to increase income in order to reduce the rate of decline of these reserves. To this end, subscriptions were increase for the first time since 2005. At this point, it looked likely that Council would also have to reduce expenditure in areas such as grants and awards and plans to do this were discussed. However, as the year came to a close, Steve Dudley negotiated a sponsorship deal with Leica that will support the Union's activities through to 2020. This timely intervention enabled Council to continue to support the full range of the Union's existing activities, whilst deciding not to allocate spending to new areas. Council will continue to look at ways to diversify income, thereby reducing reliance on IBIS, which contributed over three times as much as membership subscriptions in 2017.

Responsibilities of the Trustees

The Members of Council are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the accounts 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 Members of Council to prepare accounts for each financial 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 year.

In preparing these accounts, the Members of Council are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the 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 accounts; and
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Members of Council are responsible for keeping sufficient accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and the provisions of the trust deed. They 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 7 March 2018 and signed on their behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Keith Hamer', is positioned above the name of the President.

Prof Keith Hamer President

Independent auditor's report to the members of the British Ornithologists' Union for the year ended 31 December 2017

Opinion

We have audited the accounts of British Ornithologists' Union (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 December 2017 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, and the notes to the accounts, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the accounts:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2017 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the accounts in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you were:

- the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the accounts is not appropriate; or
- the Members of Council have not disclosed in the accounts any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the accounts are authorised for issue.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the accounts and our auditor's report thereon. The Members of Council are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the accounts does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. In connection with our audit of the accounts, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the accounts or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the accounts or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Directors' Report included within the Trustees' Report. We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

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

Responsibilities of Members of Council

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the Members of Council are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the accounts, the Members of Council are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Members of Council either intend to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the accounts as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these accounts.



A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the accounts is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Other matters which we are required to address

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared accounts in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn.

This has been done in order for the accounts to provide a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and regulation 10 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. 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 auditors' 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.

.....

Tracey Richardson BSc (Hons) FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of Baldwins Audit Services Limited

Statutory Auditor

Ruthlyn House
90 Lincoln Road
Peterborough
Cambridgeshire
PE1 2SP

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total 2017	Total 2016
	Notes	£	£	£	£	£
Income from:						
Donations and legacies	3	33,068	-	-	33,068	36,518
Charitable activities	4	155,394	-	-	155,394	130,713
Other trading activities	5	672	-	-	672	11,715
Investments	6	10,321	4,433	1,294	16,048	17,355
Total income and endowments		199,455	4,433	1,294	205,182	196,301
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	7	45,172	-	-	45,172	52,425
Charitable activities	8	154,407	-	-	154,407	151,897
Total expenditure		199,579	-	-	199,579	204,322
Net gains on investments	13	15,081	-	10,744	25,825	18,369
Net incoming resources before transfers		14,957	4,433	12,038	31,428	10,348
Gross transfers between funds		-	53,943	(53,943)	-	-
Net movement in funds		14,957	58,376	(41,905)	31,428	10,348
Fund balances at 1 January 2017		531,275	395,943	189,112	1,116,330	1,105,982
Fund balances at 31 December 2017		546,232	454,319	147,207	1,147,758	1,116,330

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.



BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2017

		2017	2016
	Notes	£	£
Fixed assets			
Investments	14	381,246	352,078
Current assets			
Stocks	16	-	527
Debtors	17	69,677	43,140
Cash at bank and in hand		743,891	764,704
		813,568	808,371
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	18	(47,056)	(44,119)
Net current assets		766,512	764,252
Total assets less current liabilities		1,147,758	1,116,330
Capital funds			
<u>Endowment funds - general</u>			
General endowment funds	21	147,207	189,112
Income funds			
Restricted funds	22	454,319	395,943
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>			
Designated funds	23	-	56,135
General unrestricted funds		546,232	475,140
		546,232	531,275
		1,147,758	1,116,330

The accounts were approved by the Members of Council on 7 March 2018

Prof Keith Hamer President



BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

The British Ornithologists' Union is a registered charity in England and Wales (249877) and Scotland (SCO44850) and is unincorporated.

The charity is a public benefit company.

The charity's place of business is:

PO Box 417, Peterborough, PE7 3FX, United Kingdom.

1.1 Accounting convention

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The accounts 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 Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been

The accounts are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the accounts, the Members of Council have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Members of Council continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Members of Council in furtherance of their charitable objectives unless the funds have been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular future project or commitment.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor or through the terms of an appeal, and fall into one of two sub-classes: restricted income funds or endowment funds.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

1 Accounting policies (continued)

1.4 Income

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity; it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably.
- legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable and entitlement is established.
- income from donated goods is measured at the fair value of the goods unless this is impractical to measure reliably, in which case the value is derived from the cost to the donor or the estimated resale value. Donated facilities and services are recognised in the accounts when received if the value can be reliably measured. No amounts are included for the contribution of general volunteers.
- income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

Life membership subscriptions are accounted for when received. As no releases have been made from the Life Members Fund since 31 December 2006, and given that Council agreed to undesignate the fund in 2007, this fund has now been closed, with the balance transferred to the General Fund. The Life Members Fund has been invested as part of the General Fund since 2007, so this is effectively a simplification of the accounts, rather than a change.

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates:

- expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable
- expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities
- other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.



BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Overheads

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

	Office costs	A F Langford remuneration	S P Dudley remuneration
Conference costs	15%	7.5%	17.5%
Management and administration	40%	45%	62.5%
IBIS publishing costs	37.5%	45%	17.5%
Other publishing costs	5%	2.5%	-
Research costs	2.5%	-	2.5%
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

These proportions were decided upon by the trustees, who believe that they represent a fair reflection of the resources expended by the charity on each activity.

1.6 Fixed asset investments

Unlisted equity investments are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently measured at fair value. If fair value cannot be reliably measured, assets are measured at cost less impairment.

Listed investments are measured at fair value with changes in fair value being recognised in income or expenditure.

1.7 Stocks

Stocks are measured at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost includes all costs of purchase, costs of conversion and other costs incurred in bringing the stock to its present location and condition.

Net realisable value is the estimated selling price less all estimated costs of completion and costs to be incurred in marketing, selling and distribution.

1.8 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

1 Accounting policies (continued)

1.9 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognized when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.10 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the Members of Council are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Donations and legacies	2017	2016
	£	£
Donations and gifts	709	1,400
Subscriptions	32,359	35,057
Other	-	61
	33,068	36,518

4 Charitable activities	2017	2016
	£	£
Publication income - IBIS	102,226	90,550
Other publication income	2,387	2,238
Conference income	50,781	37,925
	155,394	130,713

5 Other trading activities	2017	2016
	£	£
BOC income	672	11,715

6 Investments	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds general	Total 2017	Total 2016
	£	£	£	£	£
Income from listed investments	9,686	4,433	-	14,119	14,917
Income from unlisted investments	-	-	1,294	1,294	-
Interest receivable	635	-	-	635	2,438
	10,321	4,433	1,294	16,048	17,355
For the year ended 31 December 2016	11,878	5,477	-		17,355



BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

6	Investments (continued)	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds general	Total 2017	Total 2016
		£	£	£	£	£
	Income from listed investments	9,686	4,433	–	14,119	14,917
	Income from unlisted investments	–	–	1,294	1,294	–
	Interest receivable	635	–	–	635	2,438
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		10,321	4,433	1,294	16,048	17,355
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	For the year ended 31 December 2016	11,878	5,477	–		17,355
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>		<hr/>
7	Raising funds				2017	2016
	<u>Fundraising and publicity</u>				£	£
	Management costs - purchases				3,498	5,550
	Management costs - wages and salaries				35,817	34,036
	Management costs - employer's NIC				2,215	1,990
	Management costs - pension costs				3,642	3,316
					<hr/>	<hr/>
	Fundraising and publicity				45,172	44,892
					<hr/>	<hr/>
	<u>Trading costs</u>					
	BOC costs				–	7,533
					<hr/>	<hr/>
					45,172	52,425
					<hr/>	<hr/>
8	Charitable activities				2017	2016
					£	£
	Research - administration costs				1,580	1,839
	Publication costs - IBIS				47,924	48,650
	Other publication costs				4,146	9,664
	Conference costs				63,640	45,187
					<hr/>	<hr/>
					117,290	105,340
					<hr/>	<hr/>
	Grant and bursary funding of activities (see note 9)				17,287	20,176
	Share of governance costs (see note 10)				19,830	26,381
					<hr/>	<hr/>
					154,407	151,897
					<hr/>	<hr/>

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

9 Grants and bursaries payable

	2017	2016
	£	£
<u>Awards payable (10 in 2017):</u>		
Kiyoko Gotunda (PhD candidate, McGill University, US)	-	1,411
Eleanor Warren-Thomas (PhD candidate, University of East Anglia, UK)	-	1,923
Katherine Rogerson (PhD candidate, University of East Anglia, UK)	-	2,000
Rhiannon Meie (PhD candidate, University of Southampton, UK)	-	2,500
Ian Henderson & Greg Conway (BTO, UK)	-	1,636
Letizia Campioni (Post-doc researcher, Instituto Universitario, Portugal)	-	1,470
Glen Bain (PhD candidate, University of Tasmania, Australia)	-	1,123
Aleksandra Niemc (PhD candidate, University of Gdansk, Poland)	-	1,500
Laure Cauchard (Unattached, Canada)	-	2,500
Jacintha van Dijk (Unattached, Canada)	-	2,500
Wieland Heim (MSc student, University of Potsdam, Germany)	2,400	1,613
William Feeney (Research Fellow, University of Queensland, Australia)	1,400	-
Alexandra McCubbin (PhD candidate, Cardiff University, UK)	1,500	-
Stephen Willis (Reader in Ecology, Durham University, UK)	1,500	-
Laura Wemer (MSc student, University of Vienna, Austria)	1,500	-
Hugo Robles (Associate Researcher, Antwerp University, Belgium)	1,400	-
Angela Ribeiro (Post-doc researcher (Marie Curie Fellow), Natural History Museum of Denmark)	1,155	-
Amanda Bourne (PhD candidate, Percy Fitzpatrick Institute of African Ornithology, South Africa)	1,532	-
Xavier Meyer (Unattached. PhD 2015, University of Strasbourg, 2016)	2,400	-
Natalia Garcia (Post-doc Fellow, Natural History Museum of Buenos Aires, Argentina. PhD 2016, University of Buenos Aires, Argentina)	2,500	-
	17,287	20,176

10 Support and governance costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	2017	2016
	£	£	£	£
Audit fees	-	4,560	4,560	4,560
Accountancy	-	3,405	3,405	4,887
Costs of trustees' and committee meetings	-	11,865	11,865	16,934
	-	19,830	19,830	26,381
Analysed between				
Charitable activities	-	19,830	19,830	26,381

Governance costs includes payments to the auditors of £4,560 (2016 - £4,560) for audit fees and £1,740 (2016 - nil) for other services.



BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

11 Members of Council

None of the Members of Council (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

During the year a total of 13 Members of Council were reimbursed expenses totaling £2,051 (2016 - 10 members reimbursed £1,803). These expenses represent travelling costs incurred by the Members of Council in the performance of their duties.

12 Employees

Number of employees	2017	2016
The average monthly number employees during the year was:	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
Employment costs	2017	2016
	£	£
Wages and salaries	67,309	65,322
Social security costs	3,802	3,769
Other pension costs	6,545	6,371
	<u>77,656</u>	<u>75,462</u>

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2016 – nil).

13 Net gains/(losses) on investments	Unrestricted funds	Endowment funds general	Total 2017	Total 2016
	£	£	£	£
Revaluation of investments	15,081	10,744	<u>25,825</u>	<u>18,369</u>
For the year ended 31 December 2016	<u>8,267</u>	<u>10,102</u>		<u>18,369</u>

14 Fixed asset investments	Listed investments
Cost or valuation	£
At 31 December 2017	352,078
Additions	3,343
Valuation changes	25,825
	<u>381,246</u>
At 31 December 2017	<u>381,246</u>
Carrying amount	
At 31 December 2017	<u>381,246</u>
At 31 December 2016	<u>352,078</u>

All investments are held at valuation.



BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

15	Financial instruments		2017	2016
	Carrying amount of financial assets		£	£
	Debtors		58,082	42,849
	Other debtors		75	291
	Bank and cash		743,891	764,704
			<hr/>	<hr/>
	Measured at cost		802,048	807,844
			<hr/>	<hr/>
	Listed investments		381,246	352,078
			<hr/>	<hr/>
	Measured at market value		381,246	352,078
			<hr/>	<hr/>
	Carrying amount of financial liabilities			
	Other taxation and social security		1,979	1,973
	Accruals		9,487	15,042
			<hr/>	<hr/>
	Measured at cost		11,466	17,015
			<hr/>	<hr/>
16	Stocks		2017	2016
			£	£
	Finished goods and goods for resale		-	527
			£	£
17	Debtors		2017	2016
	Amounts falling due within one year:		£	£
	Trade debtors		58,082	42,849
	Other debtors		75	291
	Prepayments and accrued income		11,520	-
			<hr/>	<hr/>
			69,677	43,140
			<hr/>	<hr/>
18	Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	Notes	2017	2016
			£	£
	Other taxation and social security		1,979	1,973
	Deferred income	19	35,590	26,674
	Other creditors		-	430
	Accruals		9,487	15,042
			<hr/>	<hr/>
			47,056	44,119
			<hr/>	<hr/>



BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

19	Deferred income	2017	2016
		£	£
	Other deferred income	35,590	26,674

Deferred income relates to subscriptions received in advance of £19,486 (2016 - £16,529), income received in advance for the 2018 conference of £6,104 (2016 - £10,145) and sponsorship income received in advance of £10,000 (2016 - £nil).

20 Pensions and other post-retirement benefits

Defined contribution pension plans

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided.

The charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution plans was £6,545 (2016 - £6,371).

21 Endowment funds

Endowment funds represent assets which must be held permanently by the charity. Income arising on the endowment funds can be used in accordance with the objects of the charity and is included as restricted income. Any capital gains or losses arising on the assets form part of the fund.

	Movement in funds					Balance at 31 Dec 2017
	Balance at 1 Jan 2017	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Revaluations gains and losses	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
L & MT Fund	107,063	1,294	-	(5,289)	8,411	111,479
Research Fund	49,555	-	-	(38,469)	774	11,860
Hutt Legacy	32,494	-	-	(10,185)	1,559	23,868
	<u>189,112</u>	<u>1,294</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(53,943)</u>	<u>10,744</u>	<u>147,207</u>

The Landsborough and Mary Thomson Research Fund and the Hutt Legacy represent funds set up by individual donors. The purpose of the L&MT Research Fund was to fund research. 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.

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

22 **Restricted funds**

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Balance at 1 Jan 2017	Movement in funds			Balance at 31 Dec 2017
	£	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	£
Research Fund	5,477	4,433	-	53,943	63,853
Warham Legacy	390,466	-	-	-	390,466
	<u>395,943</u>	<u>4,433</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>53,943</u>	<u>454,319</u>

The Restricted Fund includes the "The John and Pat Warham Scholarship Fund" to be used for research on Sphenisciform and Procellariiform seabirds, and the income arising from investments.

23 **Designated funds**

The income funds of the charity include the following designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes:

	Balance at 1 Jan 2017	Movement in funds			Balance at 31 Dec 2017
	£	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	£
Conference Fund	10,855	50,781	(63,640)	2,004	-
Life Members Fund	45,280	-	-	(45,280)	-
	<u>56,135</u>	<u>50,781</u>	<u>(63,640)</u>	<u>(43,276)</u>	<u>-</u>

Life membership subscriptions are accounted for when received. As no releases have been made from the Life Members Fund since 31 December 2006, and given that Council agreed to undesignate the fund in 2007, this fund has now been closed, with the balance transferred to the General Fund.

24 **Analysis of net assets between funds**

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total
	£	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 December 2017 are represented by:				
Investments	234,039	-	147,207	381,246
Current assets/(liabilities)	312,193	454,319	-	766,512
	<u>546,232</u>	<u>454,319</u>	<u>147,207</u>	<u>1,147,758</u>



BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

25 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2016- none).

Remuneration of key management personnel

The remuneration of key management personnel including employer pension contributions is as follows:

	2017	2016
	£	£
Aggregate compensation	43,789	43,400