

BOU 2025 Annual General Meeting

2 April 2025 | 1800 BST

University of Nottingham, UK

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes[±] of the previous Annual General Meeting on 10 April 2024 held at the University of Nottingham, UK.

[±]Minutes are available online via <https://bou.org.uk/about-the-bou/rules-annual-reports-agm-items/> or from the BOU Office on request.

3. Adoption of the Annual Report of Council and Approval of Accounts for 2024.

4. Elections to Council:

Council proposes that **Mark Eddowes** be elected as Honorary Treasurer to replace Graham Appleton; that **Hugh Wright** be elected as Vice President to replace Richard Bradbury; and that **Arjun Amar, Natalia Zielonka** and **Lynda Donaldson** be elected as Ordinary Members of Council to replace Rosemarie Kentie (as Chair of IBIS Management Committee), Tom Finch (as Chair of Engagement Committee) and to fill the post of Chair of Awards Nominations Committee.

Any other nominations must be received by the Honorary Secretary (c/o the BOU Office) by 15 February 2025 – Rule 17.2 applies*

5. Reappointment of Auditors.

6. Any other business.

Any other items should be received by the Honorary Secretary (c/o the BOU Office) by 15 February 2024 – Rule 10.4 applies*

*BOU rules are available online via <https://bou.org.uk/about-the-bou/rules-annual-reports-agm-items/> or from the BOU Office on request.

Notes to the agenda of the 2025 Annual General Meeting of the British Ornithologists' Union:

Item 3 – copies of the Annual Report of Council and Accounts for 2024 will be available on the BOU website (bou.org.uk) and from the BOU Office from 26 March 2025.

Item 4 – Council nominees for election to Council (see agenda item 4).

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Mark Eddowes

Nominated for election as Honorary Treasurer

Mark has a formal research training in physical sciences and has worked subsequently in technical consultancy from which he is now semi-retired. He has maintained his childhood interest in ornithology and natural history more widely in a voluntary capacity, primarily with his county ornithological society, the BTO and the BOU. This involvement has stimulated his current primary research interest in the linked themes of long-distance passerine migrant arrival phenology, breeding phenology and range shift in a changing climate. Mark has further interests in surveying a wider range of species, including breeding waders and Nightjar locally in the Peak District. Mark is already a member of BOU Council.



Hugh Wright

Nominated for election as Vice President

Hugh has been closely involved with the BOU since 2010. As chair of the Engagement Committee he strengthened engagement with BOU members and the wider ornithological community, and helped to improve the transparency and inclusivity of BOU's activities and decision-making. He also played a key role in establishing the Equality and Diversity Working Group, having previously served as an Ordinary Member on Council and the first Early Career Researcher Representative. Hugh works for the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) where he specialises in marine evidence, including assessing the status of protected habitats, birds and benthic species in marine protected areas. Previously Hugh completed a PhD at the University of East Anglia, studying the conservation ecology of White-shouldered Ibis in Cambodia. Hugh lives in north Cambridgeshire where he enjoys patch birding.



Arjun Amar

Nominated for election as an ordinary member to chair IBIS Management Committee

Arjun Amar is an Associate Professor at the FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology, University of Cape Town, South Africa. He was formerly a Senior Conservation Biologist with the RSPB in Scotland. Arjun's PhD, from Aberdeen University, focused on the conservation ecology of Hen Harriers on the Orkney Islands. His research primarily focuses on the conservation of raptors and addressing human-wildlife conflicts. More recently, he has been developing strategies to mitigate the impacts of renewable energy on raptors in South Africa. Arjun served as an Associate Editor of IBIS for more than 15 years and was part of the Scientific Programme Committee for the BOUasm22 *Citizen science and birds* online conference.



Lynda Donaldson

Nominated for election as an ordinary member to chair Awards Nominations Committee



Lynda is a Senior Conservation Scientist at the RSPB Centre for Conservation Science. Her research is broadly based on wetland species and habitats. She completed her PhD at the University of Exeter in Cornwall in 2017, focusing on papyrus swamp birds in East Africa. She then spent 5 years at WWT, working on species recovery science. Lynda is the Chair of the Scientific Programme Committee for the BOU Avian Conservation Translocations conference. She served on the BOU Engagement Committee from 2018 to 2022 and was previously a member of council for the African Bird Club. Lynda also completed the Homeward Bound programme in 2024; a global leadership initiative for women working in STEMM.

Natalia Zielonka

Nominated for election as an ordinary member to chair Engagement Committee



Nat will, from December 2024, be a research fellow at DICE at the University of Kent. She is interested in the interactions between people's wellbeing, nature engagement and biodiversity and her research informs the design of multifunctional landscapes. Prior to this, Nat researched the relationships between rewilding and shrubland birds as a Conservation Scientist at the RSPB, and the role of biodiversity in fruit farms in Brazil and the UK, during her PhD at the University of East Anglia. Nat has been BOU's Social Media Support Officer and a member of the Engagement Committee since 2021, and she is committed to making scientific research and ornithology widely accessible and inclusive.