

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

advancing ornithology



2013

Annual Report & Accounts

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

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REGISTERED CHARITY No. 249877

FOUNDED 1858



PRESIDENT

Dr Jennifer Gill

“ The BOU’s involvement in the EOU conference in August was key to its success ”

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President’s Statement

The BOU had a highly productive year in 2013, delivering an excellent annual spring conference, helping to organise the European Ornithologists’ Union conference in August, and continuing to publish top quality ornithological research in *Ibis*. In addition, our Records Committee published the 8th edition of the British List, our Grants Committee were able to support a series of exciting research and bursary projects, we are now close to 3,000 followers of the BOU twitter-feed (@IBIS_journal) and have continued to publish a series of blogs on the BOU website.

The spring conference on *From Populations to Policy Impact: Avian Demography in a Changing World* attracted researchers from around the world. The quality of the presentations was excellent and demonstrated both the substantial scientific developments in this field and the excellent collaborative work that has allowed many of these studies to be translated into policy actions and strategies. Our third dedicated student event was also held at this meeting and was very well attended and well received. We are extremely grateful to all who took part in this event, especially Jen Smart (RSPB), Steve Redpath (University of Aberdeen), Jerry Wilson (RSPB), Richard Phillips (BAS), Helen Baker (JNCC), Rhys Green (RSPB) and Tony Fox (Aarhus University).

The BOU’s involvement in the EOU conference in August was key to its success, and the BOU was delighted to be able to support the attendance of many early-career researchers. The careful planning and budgeting of the conference resulted in a financial surplus which will be used to support the attendance of early-career researcher at future EOU conferences.

Facilitating communication among ornithologists has always been a major focus of BOU activities, and supporting attendance at conferences and delivering events that encourage communication and collaboration have been key actions arising from our strategic review process. Our numbers have been substantially boosted this year by early-career researchers as a consequence of these developments and the introduction of the early-career subscription package; our challenge will now be to ensure that the BOU continues to encourage this development within our ornithological community. To that end, Council is now in the process of creating a committee focused on engagement activities.



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

President’s Statement *cont.* . . .

This year Council also took the difficult decision to cease our involvement with the publication of checklists. For several years we have enjoyed an excellent collaboration with the British Ornithologists’ Club in publishing checklists, but the increased range of tasks now undertaken by the BOU Office preclude our continued contribution to this process. We continue to have an excellent working relationship with the BOC and we wish them well with their future publishing plans.

Ibis continues to be at the forefront of ornithological publishing, and we continue to be indebted to our editors, associate editors and reviewers for delivering such a high quality journal. Open Access publishing is now becoming established for research funded by the UK Government, and we remain vigilant for downstream consequences of this for *Ibis*. The uncertainty that these developments have inevitably created in journal publishing makes predictions of future conditions extremely difficult, but the finances of the BOU remain sound, and our Treasurer and the BOU Office are working hard to continue to manage our finances well.

We were delighted to welcome Shelley Hinsley (Vice-President), Helen Baker and Karl Evans to BOU Council this year, and, I would like to express my sincere thanks to Steve Dudley (Senior Administrator) and Angela Langford (Journal and Office Manager) for the excellent service that they always provide in the running of the BOU.



REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

British Ornithologists' Union

Founded 1858

Registered as a Charity in England and Wales, no. 249877

Address

PO Box 417, Peterborough PE7 3FX, UK

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

Email: bou@bou.org.uk

Web: www.bou.org.uk

BOU Staff at 31 December 2013

Senior Administrator

Mr S.P. Dudley

Journal & Office Manager

Mrs A.F. Langford

Council Officers at 31 December 2013

President Dr J. Gill

Vice Presidents Prof G. Martin

Dr S Hinsley

Honorary Secretary Dr K. Smith

Honorary Treasurer Mrs J. Evans

Ordinary Members of Council

at 31 December 2013

Dr N. Burton (Chairman Meetings Committee), Dr H. Baker, Dr. S. Butchart, Dr J.M. Collinson (Chairman Records Committee), Dr P. Dolman (Chairman Grants Committee), Dr K. Evans, Prof K. Hamer (Chairman *Ibis* Committee) and Dr H. Wright.

Structure, Governance & Management

The British Ornithologists' Union is an unincorporated charity, no. 249877. Its object is the promotion of the science of ornithology. Its governing document is the Rules adopted at the Annual General Meeting in 2010. Under the rules, the governing body, the Council of the Union, is responsible for the running of the Union's business, supported by its staff. Council may delegate functions to standing or ad hoc committees that report to Council. The Union's Council retains overall responsibility for matters so delegated.

The BOU has four standing committees: the *Ibis* Management Committee, the Meetings Committee, the Grants Committee and the Records Committee.

Elected members of Council are Trustees of the charity. Members are recruited from within the ornithological community. Where possible, members will have served on one or more of the BOU's standing committees prior to nomination for election to Council. Those standing for election to BOU Council as an incoming chairman of a standing committee will have served for at least two years on the respective committee. On election, new Council members are provided with relevant Union documents to help familiarise them with current Union activities and to provide information on the duties and responsibilities of being a Trustee of the Union.

Council has reviewed the risks to which the Union is exposed and is satisfied that, as far as is practicable, it has taken appropriate steps to mitigate those risks.



REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Cont . . .

Trustees

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

H. Baker, N. Burton, S. Butchart,
J.M. Collinson, P. Dolman, K. Evans, J. Evans,
J. Gill, K. Hamer, S. Hinsley, G. Martin,
K. Smith and H. Wright.

The following individuals also served as Trustees of the charity during the course of the year covered by this annual report and accounts: T. Pizzari, G. Siriwardena and C. Spottiswoode.

BOU editorial positions

at 31 December 2013

Ibis - Editor in Chief Dr P.F. Donald

Ibis - Editors Dr R. Bowie,
Dr D. Chamberlain,
Prof R. Kimball
Dr R. Nager
Prof J. Wilson

BOU Investment Trustees

at 31 December 2013

The following individuals served as Investment Trustees for the Union during the period of this report and accounts:

N.J. Crocker, R. Price and S.J. Rumsey.

Objectives & Activities

Mission Statement

The British Ornithologists' Union will promote understanding and conservation of the world's birds, advance ornithology within the scientific community and promote scientific ornithology to the wider birdwatching public. The BOU mission will be achieved by the following means:

- Publishing *Ibis* as a leading international journal of ornithological science.
- Organising a programme of meetings and conferences.
- Awarding grants for ornithological research.
- Encouraging liaison between those actively engaged in ornithological research.
- Providing a representative body of the scientific community able to provide ornithological information and advice to government and other policy makers.
- Maintaining and publishing the official list of birds recorded in Britain – The British List.



REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Cont . . .

Bankers

The Union holds accounts with the following banks:

Natwest Bank plc, PO Box 6037, Brompton Road, London SW13 1XJ

CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ

Douglas County Bank, 9th & Kentucky, PO Box 429, Lawrence, KS 66044, USA

Solicitor

The Union's solicitors are:

Laytons, Tempus Court, Onslow Street, Guildford, Surrey GU1 4SS

Accountant

The Union's accountants are:

Chappell Cole & Co, 34 Heritage House, North Cray Road Bexley, Kent DA5 3LZ

Auditor

The Union's auditors are:

Alliotts, Friary Court, 13-21 High Street, Guildford, Surrey GU1 3DL

Objectives & Activities *cont.* . . .

Council Activities

At the AGM in April, Dr Shelley Hinsley was elected as Vice President and Ms Helen Baker and Dr Karl Evans were elected as Ordinary Members replacing Dr Tom Pizzari, Dr Gavin Siriwardena and Dr Claire Spottiswoode.

Members of Council, as Trustees of the charity, confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing objectives and activities.

Strategic Review

This continued to develop throughout the year. The review of the Union's Standing Committees was completed, with changes implemented across many committee functions and activities. Two major changes to our committee structure were agreed by Council during the year. First, the Joint Publications Committee was disbanded, and our agreement to publish checklists and other standalone books jointly with the British Ornithologists' Club ended. The review concluded that non-journal publishing no longer fitted within our activities or our target audience. The BOC have indicated that non-journal publishing still fits with their aims and objectives and in spring 2014 they will be announcing their plans for continuing as sole publisher. Secondly, Council approved a new committee to oversee engagement and membership, and this will be developed during 2014. Other initiatives, and the review process as a whole, will continue to be developed by Council in the coming years.

Awards

At the annual conference, Prof Rob Fuller was awarded the Godman-Salvin Prize for his outstanding contribution to ornithology and the BOU (*Ibis* 155: 679-680), and Neil Bucknell was awarded the Union Medal for his outstanding service to the BOU (*Ibis* 155: 677-678).



WWW.BOU.ORG.UK

The Union's primary website promotes the BOU to a wide audience and is important for recruiting new members, disseminating information about the work of the Union, taking online bookings for conferences and for selling BOU publications.

WWW.IBIS.ORG.UK

The primary gateway to *Ibis* – the international journal of avian science.

WWW.BOUPROC.NET

A one-stop web portal for the Union's published output from BOU conferences. The proceedings of the *Marine Renewables and Birds* conference was added during 2013.

WWW.BIRDGRANTS.ORG

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

Achievements & Performance

THE BOU OFFICE

Staff

During the year, the BOU employed two full-time, home-based staff members within the BOU Office: Steve Dudley (Senior Administrator) and Angela Langford (Journal & Office Manager).

Office duties

The work of the BOU Office is overseen by Council, the Union's standing committees and the Senior Administrator.

The BOU Office is responsible for the effective running of the BOU. Its key responsibilities are:

- to support BOU Council and its Committees and implementing much of the work arising from them, and specifically;
 - working with the Honorary Treasurer, maintain monthly accounts and budgets and assist in the preparation of annual accounts;
 - working with the *Ibis* Management Committee, manage the non-editorial aspects of the Union's journal, *Ibis*;
 - working with the Meetings Committee, organise BOU conferences and meetings;
 - working with the Joint Publications Committee, manage the publication and sales of BOU and BOC publications;
 - working with the Grants Committee and Council, manage the Union's Grants and Career Development Bursary schemes;
 - working with the Records Committee, to manage the British List and associated work areas;
- working with the *Ibis* Editorial Team to oversee and manage the manuscript process and flow for the Union's journal, *Ibis*;

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



BRANTA

BOU Register of Avian Thesis Abstracts

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

Over 100 theses abstracts now online.

BOU BirdTalk

[HTTPS://UK.GROUPS.YAHOO.COM/NEO/GROUPS/BOU_BIRDTALK/INFO](https://uk.groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/BOU_BIRDTALK/INFO)

The BOU's e-group for news and discussion.

THE BOU BLOG

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

Some of the blog posts from 2013:

- Dynamic Soaring
- Lost and found – the storm-petrel back from extinction
- Marine Renewables and Birds
- Yellowhammer dialects
- EU Common Agricultural Policy Reform
- What do we know about the effect of disease on Turtle Doves?
- What have conservation scientists ever done for birds?
- Ornithological Twitterati, Tweetie-pies and #birdieluv

Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

BOU Office *cont . . .*

- to service the BOU membership
- to manage the BOU online and mobile content, specifically:
 - BOU web content on its various websites including [WWW.BOU.ORG.UK](http://www.bou.org.uk), [WWW.IBIS.AC.UK](http://www.ibis.ac.uk), [WWW.BOUPROC.NET](http://www.bouproc.net) and [WWW.BIRDGRANTS.ORG](http://www.birdgrants.org)
 - to manage the BOU's increasing social media output
- to undertake routine administration (bookkeeping, reports, etc)
- to manage BOU sales, stock and storage facility
- to handle general enquiries, press and publicity
- to manage BOC activities contracted to the BOU including administration, membership, journal management, publication sales and contributing to the BOC website.

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

European Ornithologists' Union conference – EOU2013UK

The EOU brought their conference to the UK for the first time in 2013. The BOU was primary local organisers and hosts, and as well as being heavily involved in all conference planning, the BOU Office was specifically responsible for non-delegate income (exhibitors and advertisers), marketing and promotion, preparing conference material (delegate packs, book of abstracts, etc), handling the booking and registration process, budget management and, with UEA, running the event over the actual five-day conference period.

The conference generated a surplus of £19,000 which the local organising committee donated to the BOU to support early-career researcher attendance at the next two EOU conferences.



@IBIS_JOURNAL

OUR YEAR ON TWITTER

Tweets	4,241
Retweets	5,173
Potential impressions	22,963,960
Followers at 1 Jan 13	1,290
Followers at 31 Dec 13	2,879
Increase in followers	123%

OUR TOP TWEETS

Just too cool! MT @hannahmrowland:
 Australian Purple-crowned Fairy-wren get
 amazing purple crowns in breeding season
<http://twitter.com/Mudfooted/status/394749924786843648/photo/1>
Retweeted 297 times reaching a potential audience of 828,203

Archeopteryx didn't learn to fly; theory
 suggests it forgot how to @NatureNews
<http://owl.li/qQG8h>
Reached a potential audience of 628,961

@guardianscience: Cockatoos are smarter
 than human toddlers | @GrrlScientist
<http://gu.com/p/3hy4m/tf>
Reached a potential audience of 439,385

OUR TOP FOLLOWERS

@inkednaturalist @_BTO @sciam
 @NatureNews @guardianscience
 @BirdLife_News @alanmcbride
 @Natures_Voice @PLOSONE @AliceGroom2
 @alexanderksp @ja_tracey @miguelmcminn
 @nmbirder14 @Iteration23 @BioJLinnSoc
 @dcaballero13

Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

BOU Office *cont . . .*

Social media

2013 saw another leap forward in our presence on social media with us engaging with an increasing number of people and building an online ornithological community.

The two main platforms we use are Twitter (@IBIS_JOURNAL) and Facebook (FACEBOOK.COM/IBISJOURNAL). Twitter remains our number one medium and by the end of 2013 we had 2879 followers.

@IBIS_JOURNAL acts as an active news service for ornithologists using Twitter. We tweet about anything ornithological – papers from a wide selection of journals, conferences, meetings, news items, job opportunities and more. We are building a very engaged online and mobile community which helps us to spread BOU, *Ibis* and other ornithological news far wider than we could reach previously.

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

BOU website – WWW.BOU.ORG.UK

Our new website was very positively received in 2012 and during 2013 we continued to develop the look, feel and content of the site.

We posted 12 blogs on the website. Blog posts aim to cover topical ornithological issues and increase engagement with the online ornithological research community. Monthly posts continue to provide a diverse mix of topics and are receiving an increased readership and attracted over 10,000 page views in 2013.

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

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

“Today’s businesses can’t just use social media; they have to become social businesses, inside and out and from top to bottom. Ultimately . . . to become the most highly recommended organization in your industry/category/niche.”

HARNESSING THE POWER OF WORD OF MOUTH AND SOCIAL MEDIA TO BUILD YOUR BRAND AND YOUR BUSINESS. PAUL M. RAND



FACEBOOK.COM/IBISJOURNAL

OUR YEAR ON FACEBOOK

Posts	2,317
Potential impressions	436,119

OUR TOP FACEBOOK POSTS

A meta-analysis of the effects of geolocator application on birds | *Current Zoology* | http://www.currentzoology.org/site_media/onlinefirst/downloadable_file/2013/08/01/6David_Costantini.pdf

Reached a potential audience of 6,187

Effect of pre-breeding moult on arrival condition of yearling male Narcissus Flycatchers | *Bird Study* | <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/00063657.2012.733339>

Reached a potential audience of 5,199

Experimental evidence of local variation in bower colour decoration preferences of Great Bowerbirds | *EMU* | <http://www.publish.csiro.au/nid/96/paper/MU13006.htm>

Reached a potential audience of 4,555

WWW.BOU.ORG.UK

WHAT WAS VIEWED ON THE BOU WEBSITE

(% OF TOTAL PAGE VIEWS)

The British List	30%
Conferences	17%
IBIS	10%
Grants & Bursaries	7.5%
Early-career Researcher pages	7%
Blog	5%
About the BOU pages	3.5%
BOUPROC.net	2.5%
Publications	0.5%
Other content	17%

Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

BOU Office *cont . . .*

Other online services

We continued to develop our monthly e-newsletters aimed at promoting *Ibis*, BOU conferences and other ornithological events. Twelve e-newsletters were sent out in 2013, each reaching over 6,000 researchers around the world.

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

British Ornithologists' Club administration

The BOU Office continues to run various aspects of the BOC's administration including the sales of BOC publications, the management of institutional subscribers to the BOC's *Bulletin*, the BOC's membership and preparing items for the BOC website.

Press and media

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

General administrative items

General correspondence, particularly emails and contact forms received via the website, continues to increase and take up a significant amount of Office time.

The BOU maintains a storage facility in Peterborough, which it shares with the BOC, for the storage of publications, journal stocks, sales goods and archive items.

Strategic Review

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

IBIS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

CHAIRMAN

Prof Keith Hamer (University of Leeds)

MEMBERS

Dr Mark Bolton (RSPB)

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

Dr Dan Chamberlain, Editor (University of
Turin)

Dr Paul Donald, Editor in Chief (RSPB)

Steve Dudley, BOU Senior Administrator

Julianne Evans, BOU Honorary Treasurer

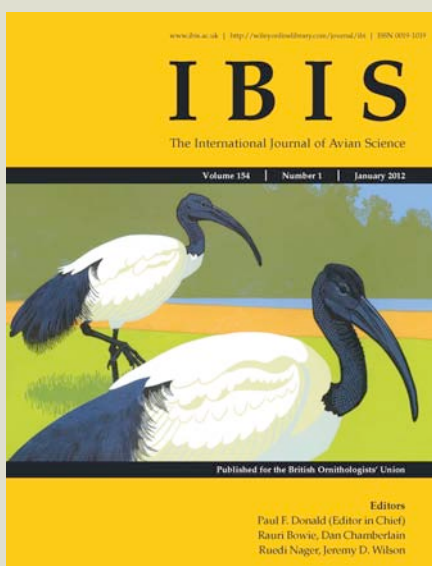
Dr Jenny Gill, BOU President (University of
East Anglia)

Dr Rebecca Kimball, Editor (University of
Florida)

Angela Langford, Journal Manager

Dr Ruedi Nager, Editor (University of
Glasgow)

Prof Jeremy Wilson, Editor (RSPB)



Achievements & Performance *cont* . . .

IBIS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The *Ibis* Committee acts as an advisory group to provide support and advice on the management of the journal, including interactions with the journal publisher, Wiley-Blackwell.

The Committee met once in February 2013, with other business being conducted by email. The meeting was hosted by Wiley-Blackwell in Oxford, where we received their annual report on production, marketing and accounts, followed by a meeting of the *Ibis* Committee.

The Journal

The journal continues to thrive under the leadership of Paul Donald, and with the support of the other editors: Raurie Bowie, Dan Chamberlain, Ruedi Nager, Jeremy Wilson and Rebecca Kimball. Angela Langford is the Journal Manager; our proofreader is Patrick Smith; and Steve Dudley manages the business with Wiley-Blackwell. We were delighted to welcome Rebecca this year as the latest addition to the editorial team.

The journal maintained a similar 2-year impact factor (the number of papers published in the previous two years that are cited in other papers) to last year (2.361), and is ranked as the top journal in ornithology by the Institute of Scientific Information (ISI) in terms of its 5-year impact factor (2.488). These important achievements are the result of a great deal of work by the journal's editorial and management team, and should help the journal to continue to attract high quality papers. The *Ibis* Associate Editor board plays a key role in the delivery of the journal, and we are very fortunate to have an excellent range of top-class researchers on the Board. This year saw Mike Lawes and Farah Ishtiaq leave our board, and we thank them for their valuable contributions. Joining the board in 2013 were Silke Bauer and Sarah Burthe.

Journal publishing

Ibis is published on behalf of the BOU by Wiley-Blackwell Publishing, from whom we continue to receive excellent service, support and



IBIS

5-year Impact Factor	2.488
5-year rank in Ornithology	1/20
2012 Impact Factor	2.361
2012 Rank in Ornithology	2/20

SOURCE: ISI 2012

IBIS, VOLUME 155 (2013)

Pages	938
Review papers	1
Original papers	55
Short communications	16
Commentaries	4
Viewpoints	3
Conference reports	1
BOU-funded project reports	2
The British List (8 th ed)	1

Papers were received from 49 different countries. Top five countries (excluding UK): USA, Spain, Germany, France and Poland.

IBIS ONLINE – OVER 150 YEARS OF ORNITHOLOGY

Members choosing to add the online version of *Ibis* to their membership receive access to everything ever published in *Ibis* – back to 1859!

Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

Ibis Management Committee *cont . . .*

advice. The efforts of Wiley-Blackwell staff to develop the quality, production and marketing of *Ibis* during 2013 were greatly appreciated. Continuing initiatives to increase *Ibis* readership through social media developments, readership campaigns and presence at international conferences have all helped to maintain the current position of *Ibis* at the forefront of ornithological journal publishing.

The Committee is continuing to track developments in open access publishing closely, following the publication in 2012 of the Finch report on *Accessibility, sustainability, excellence: how to expand access to research publications*.

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

IBIS – the number one journal in Ornithology



MEETINGS COMMITTEE

MEMBERSHIP

CHAIRMAN

Dr Niall Burton (BTO)

MEMBERS

Dr Graeme Buchanan (RSPB)

Rachel Davies, Student Rep (University of Leeds)

Steve Dudley, BOU Senior Administrator

Dr Francis Daunt (CEH)

Dr Aldina Franco (University of East Anglia)

Dr Mel Kershaw (Defra)

Angela Langford, Journal & Office Manager

Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

MEETINGS COMMITTEE

The Meetings Committee is responsible for maintaining the on-going programme of BOU conferences and meetings, 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.

During the year, Darren Evans (University of Hull) and Karl Evans (University of Sheffield) retired from the Committee and were replaced by Francis Daunt (CEH) and Aldina Franco (University of East Anglia).

Annual spring conference 2013

The BOU held its annual conference, on *From Populations to Policy Impact: Avian Demography in a Changing World*, at the University of Leicester in late March. The programme organising committee was led by Rob Robinson (BTO) and Karl Evans (University of Sheffield) and also included Jane Reid (University of Aberdeen) and Melanie Kershaw (Defra). The conference was attended by 120 delegates, of which 42 were BOU early-career researchers. This represents a small increase from the previous year's *Ecosystems Services* conference, and maintains our average attendance over the last 15 years of 121 delegates. There was no external funding for the conference and, on delegate income alone, the conference made an operating loss of around £3,000 (excluding BOU staff time).

The programme saw a total of 32 speakers presenting their work including several slots filled through a call for papers, a high proportion of international speakers and a BOU first; a live webcast from an overseas speaker. The conference also included the now traditional student evening session, a poster session and a successful 20-minute session of quick-fire oral presentations from those presenting posters, as well as a 'best student presentation' award. There was very positive feedback during and after the conference, although the audience was a little lower than hoped, perhaps



Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

Meetings Committee *cont . . .*

reflecting the current financial climate. Papers and abstracts from the conference talks and posters will be published on BOUPROC.net during 2014.

European Ornithologists' Union conference

In addition to the 2013 annual spring conference, the BOU was a co-organiser of the 9th European Ornithologists' Union conference held in Norwich in August 2013. The conference was overseen by a local organising committee comprising Rob Fuller (chair) and Nicki Read (secretary) (both BTO), Jenny Gill (University of East Anglia), David Gibbons (RSPB), Andy Gosler (EGI) and Steve Dudley (BOU).

As well as being heavily involved in all conference planning, the BOU was specifically responsible for non-delegate income (exhibitors and advertisers), marketing and promotion, preparing conference material (delegate packs, book of abstracts, etc), handling the booking and registration process, budget management and, with UEA, running the event over the actual five-day conference period.

Within the conference programme, the BOU, with the BTO, ran a journal-publishing workshop aimed at early-career researchers.

In total, 355 delegates attended from over 30 countries and the conference was considered a huge success and extremely beneficial for the BOU.

A surplus of approximately £19,000 was generated and, as previously agreed by the local organising committee, this would come to the BOU to support early-career researcher attendance at the next two EOU conferences. The BOU will also aim to fund additional BOU representatives to attend future EOU conferences to manage BOU input, presence and promotion.

Future events

The 2014 annual spring conference will be on the *Ecology and conservation of birds in alpine and upland habitats*, and will be held at the University of Leicester, UK. The conference aims to present the

" . . . the British Ornithologist's Union . . . brought considerable conference organising skills to this key event "

Graham Martin in *British Birds*

See – <http://tinyurl.com/pucne75>



DIARY DATES

1 – 3 APRIL 2014

BOU 2014 Annual Conference

The ecology and conservation of birds in alpine and upland habitats

19 NOVEMBER 2014

BOU 2014 Autumn Scientific Meeting

Birds in the entangled bank: advances in foodweb theory and practice

31 MARCH – 2 APRIL 2015

BOU 2015 Annual Conference

Avian Telemetry

WWW.BOUPROC.NET

The Meetings Committee is responsible for overseeing the published output from BOU conferences. For each conference the BOU Office oversees submitted items for publication on BOUPROC.net. All items are externally copy-edited to BOU house style by Patrick Smith who also works as part of our *Ibis* team. This helps to ensure consistency across publications. The Senior Administrator is responsible for project-managing each conference proceedings to publication. It appears, now that BOUPROC.net requires only extended abstracts, that both the number of items submitted and the speed of submission, have both increased.

Proceedings were added to BOUPROC.net from the *Ecosystem Services: do we need birds?* and the *Marine Renewables and Birds* conference this year.

Proceedings from the *Avian Demography* conference (held in spring 2013) will be hosted during 2014.

Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

Meetings Committee *cont . . .*

state of the art knowledge on alpine and upland bird ecology and populations, and how these vary between species and across Europe, highlight major pressures on upland bird populations and their habitats, and consider what the future may hold for upland birds, and what conservationists and land managers can do to maintain populations. Welcome financial support for the conference has been provided by Scottish Natural Heritage. The conference organising team is being led by Graeme Buchanan (RSPB), and also includes Dan Chamberlain (University of Turin), James Pearce-Higgins (BTO) and Des Thompson (SNH).

A one-day conference on *Birds in the entangled bank: advances in foodweb theory and practice* will be held at the Great Northern Hotel, Peterborough in November 2014. The organising committee for this meeting comprises Darren Evans (University of Hull), Rob Robinson (BTO) and Dr Ruben Heleno (Universidade de Coimbra, Portugal).

The 2015 annual spring conference will be on *Avian telemetry* and will again be held at the University of Leicester in late March/early April. The conference organising team is being led by Keith Hamer (University of Leeds), and also includes Mark Bolton (RSPB), Aldina Franco (University of East Anglia) and Chris Hewson (BTO).

BOUPROC.net

During 2013, proceedings have been published for both the 2012 *Ecosystems Services* and *Marine Renewables and Birds* conferences. The proceedings from the 2013 *Avian Demography* conference will be published in 2014.



GRANTS COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

CHAIRMAN

Dr Paul Dolman (University of East Anglia)

MEMBERS

Dr Phil Atkinson (BTO)

Steve Dudley (BOU Senior Administrator)

Dr Phil Shaw (University of St Andrews)

Dr Danaë Sheehan (RSPB)

Andy Symes (BirdLife)

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

Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

GRANTS COMMITTEE

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

There were no changes to Committee membership during the year.

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

Small Ornithological Research Grant scheme

The Committee received 52 research grant applications, a 125% increase on an average year. Of these, 22 applications were rejected for not complying with BOU application guidelines or being incomplete, with the remaining 30 applications being considered for funding.

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

Despite the increase in the number of applications received, the overall quality was lower with only six projects awarded funding and only a small amount of the discretionary fund being used. The total spend for the year was £10,113.

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

Bruktawit Abdu Mahamued | Awarded £1930

PhD student, Manchester Metropolitan University, UK

Factors influencing survival of artificial lark nests in severely modified grasslands, Liben Plain, Ethiopia: an experimental approach using a novel biological control measure and fenced enclosures

Johannes Kamp | Awarded £1936

Postdoc, University of Munster, Germany

Why do birds use animal dung in and around nests?



RESEARCH PROJECTS REPORTS

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

Anna Barashkova (Siberian Environmental Center, Russia). Birds of prey of the Kazakh Upland – indicators of steppe well-being. Awarded £1000. (*Ibis* 155: 426-427).

Phil Shaw (University of St Andrews, UK). Detecting change in the status and habitat of Hinde's Babbler: 2000 to 2011. Awarded £845. (*Ibis* 155: 428-429).

WWW.BIRDGRANTS.ORG

Over 20 organisations are featured on the site. The number of page views remain high, with around 800 views a month.

Achievements & Performance *cont* . . .

Grants Committee *cont* . . .

Eduardo Garcias-del-Rey | Awarded £1140

Director, Macaronesian Institute of Field Ornithology, Canary Islands
Migratory movements of the Macaronesian endemic Plain Swift *Apus unicolor*

Fernando Iván Ramírez Paredes | Awarded £1727

BirdLife Marine Coordinator, Portugal
At sea ecology of the endemic Bugio's petrel *Pterodroma deserta*. Using geolocators to understand their breeding and non-breeding behaviour

Aimy Cáceres Pinedo | Awarded £1980

PhD student, University of Porto, Portugal
Conserving the endemic birds of the Angolan Scarp Forest

Laure Cauchard | Awarded £1400

PhD student, University of Montreal, Canada
The role of cognitive abilities in the use of social information for breeding site selection: an empirical approach in passerine populations

Career Development Bursary scheme

This was the third year of this new scheme. The bursaries aim to support young or early-career ornithologists undertaking a short-term research project (up to ten weeks) during or between a first and higher degree programme or immediately after completion of a higher degree. Another aim is to encourage young researchers to undertake research away from the comfort of their usual research institute and working with a new supervisor. Successful proposals are expected to combine the development of skills useful for a future career in ornithology with a sound scientific research proposal. Awards up to £2500 are available.

Nine applications were received (125% increase on 2012) and assessed by the same sub-group of Council members as last year.

Four bursaries were awarded:



Career Development Bursaries aim to support short-term research positions for young (or early career) ornithologists, between a first and higher degree programme or immediately after completion of a higher degree. Successful proposals will combine the applicant's development of skills that will be useful for their future career in ornithology with sound science.

Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

Grants Committee *cont . . .*

Gabriel Adam Jamie | Awarded £2500

Lab technician, Cambridge University, UK

The molecular basis of convergent evolution in an avian host-parasite system

Supervisor: Michael Sorenson, Boston University, USA

Lorraine Chivers | Awarded £2500

Graduated 2010 with a PhD in seabird ecology from Queen's University, Belfast, UK

Is aged-related reproductive success of Black-legged Kittiwakes mediated through foraging performance?

Supervisor: Richard Holland, Queen's University, Belfast

Vincente Garcia-Navas | Awarded £2500

Unaffiliated; PhD 2012 from University of Castilla-La-Mancha, Spain

Nest as extended phenotype in the Rock Sparrow *Petronia petronia*. What signals presence of ornamental feathers: male quality or territorial occupancy?

Supervisor: Francisco Valera Hernandez, Estacion Experiment de Zonas Aridas (CISC), Spain

Sama Zefania | Awarded £2500

PhD 2012 from University of Antananarivo Madagascar

Parental care and adult sex ratio in three species of plovers *Charadrius* spp. in southwest Madagascar

Supervisor: Tamás Székely, University of Bath

Strategic Review

The Committee reviews annually scheme guidelines for applicants, admissibility of applicants and the format of the application forms. With the Union seeking to increase its spending on charitable objectives, the Committee have been asked to look at additional ways to increase spending (from 2015) at their 2014 annual meeting.



BOU / BOC

JOINT PUBLICATIONS

COMMITTEE

MEMBERSHIP

CHAIRMAN

Steve Dudley, BOU Senior Administrator

MEMBERS

Dr Jo Cooper (Natural History Museum)

Angela Langford (BOU Journal & Office
Manager)

David Montier (BOC Honorary Treasurer)

Dr Robert Prys-Jones, BOC Vice-Chairman
(Natural History Museum)

Marianne Taylor (freelance journalist)

Dr David Wells (Editor)

Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

BOU / BOC JOINT PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

No new titles were published and the Committee did not meet during 2013.

In the early part of the year, a questionnaire was run to canvass users and non-users of the BOU Checklist Series about their perceptions of the series, future content and delivery. The BOU used the response from this questionnaire as part of a detailed review of our publishing activities within a wider full strategic review of all BOU activities.

In November, Council agreed to cease publishing non-journal titles as they no longer fit within our activities or our target audience. After discussing this with the British Ornithologists' Club it was agreed to disband this joint committee.

The BOC see the publication of these titles as clearly falling within their own objectives and they are now examining the practicalities of continuing as a sole publisher.

We would like to thank all those members who have served on this joint committee since 2002 and thank the BOC for their support during our time as publishing partners.



RECORDS COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

CHAIRMAN

Prof Martin Collinson (University of Aberdeen)

SECRETARY

Dr Chris McInerney (University of Glasgow)

MEMBERS

Dr Andy Brown

Steve Dudley (BOU Senior Administrator)

Dr James Gilroy

Chris Kehoe

Richard Millington

Dr Andy Musgrove

Adam Rowlands (BBRC Chairman)

Dr Jimmy Steele

SPECIES ADDED TO THE BRITISH LIST

The following species were added to Category A of the List in 2013:

White-winged Scoter *Melanitta deglandi*.

BRITISH LIST TOTALS

at 31 December 2013

The changes to the British List published in the most recent Committee report means that the List comprises 596 species (578 Category A, 8 Category in B and 10 solely in Category C).

Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

RECORDS COMMITTEE

The Records Committee is responsible for maintaining the British List, the official list of birds recorded in Britain. The Committee met once during the year with most of its business conducted by email and post.

During the year, Andrew Harrop retired from the Committee. We thank him for his invaluable work as Secretary to the Committee and his contributions and advice during his time as a serving member of BOURC. Dr Christopher McInerney succeeds Andrew as Secretary. Dr Andy Musgrove joined the Committee towards the end of the year.

Changes to the British List

The Committee's 42nd Report, covering the period October 2012 to September 2013, was published in January 2014 (*Ibis* 156: 236-242).

White-winged Scoter *Melanitta deglandi* was added to Category A of the British List following the acceptance of the second year male at Blackdog and Murcar, north-east Scotland, 11-23 June 2011.

Slender-billed Curlew *Numenius tenuirostris* was removed from the British List after the record of the second year bird from Druridge Bay, Northumberland, 4-7 May 1998 was reviewed and the identification was no longer regarded as secure.

Subspecies changes

'Asian' Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica* of the subspecies *daurica* or *japonica* and 'Moltoni's' Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans moltonii* were added to the British List. Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus* of the subspecies *europaeus* was deleted from the List.

Other significant records

A record of House Finch *Haemorhous mexicanus* from Cornwall and Devon, 4 May - 22 October 2010, was placed in Category E and not admitted to the British List.

LINKS WITH OTHER GROUPS

The BOURC maintains its close links with the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC).

BBRC Chairman, Mr Adam Rowlands, remains an *ex officio* member of the BOURC while the BOURC Secretary continues to work closely with BBRC's Secretariat.

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

BOURC ONLINE INTRANET

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

Achievements & Performance *cont* . . .

Records Committee *cont* . . .

Review of Category D species

A review of species in this category continues. For details of changes see the report referred to above.

Category F Subcommittee

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

Taxonomic Subcommittee

The Taxonomic Subcommittee adopted a Western Palaearctic remit and published its ninth recommendations in October 2013 (*Ibis* 155: 898-907). Recommendations in this report fall into six categories: (1) changes of the sequence of higher taxa (Falconiformes, Psittaciformes, Upupidae, Meropidae, Coraciidae, Alcedinidae); (2) recognition of higher taxa not recognized by Voous (Bucerotiformes, Malaconotidae, Scotocercidae); (3) changes in genus limits (Dwarf Bittern *Ardeirallus sturmii*, Demoiselle Crane *Anthropoides virgo*, Parakeet Auklet *Cyclorrhynchus psittacula*, Brown Fish Owl *Ketupa zeylonensis*, Streak-throated Swallow *Hirundo fluvicola*, Banded Martin *Riparia cincta*, Blackstart *Cercomela melanura*, rosefinches and Cardueline finches (*Carpodacus*, *Uragus* and *Carduelis*); (4) changes in the taxonomic sequence of species (Wheatears *Oenanthe* and finches Fringillidae); (5) changes in species limits (Black-browed Albatross *Thalassarche melanophris*, Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*, Lesser Spotted Eagle *Aquila pomarina*, Eagle Owl *Bubo bubo*, Desert Sparrow *Passer simplex*, and House Bunting *Emberiza striolata*); and (6) changes in nomenclature (Striated Heron *Butorides striatus*, Marabou Stork *Leptoptilos cruminiferus*, Purple Gallinule *Porphyrio martinica*, Small Buttonquail *Turnix sylvatica*, African Collared Dove *Streptopelia roseogrisea*, Black-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra senegala*, Azure-winged Magpie *Cyanopica cyana*, Bar-tailed Desert Lark *Ammomanes cincturus*, Common Babbler *Turdoides caudatus*, Fulvous Babbler *Turdoides fulvus*, Gldenstdt's Redstart *Phoenicurus erythrogaster*,

The British List

the official list of wild birds recorded in Britain



REPORTS

42nd BOURC Report

British Ornithologists' Union Records
Committee: 42nd Report (October 2013):
Ibis 156: 236 – 242 (January 2014)

9th Taxonomic Report

Taxonomic recommendations for Western
Palearctic birds: ninth report:
Ibis 155: 898 – 907

All BOURC and Taxonomic reports can be
found on the BOU website at:
<http://www.bou.org.uk/british-list/bourc-reports-and-papers/>

Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

Records Committee *cont . . .*

Hume's Wheatear *Oenanthe alboniger*, Crimson-winged Finch
Rhodopechys sanguinea). Details of these changes are included in
the report.

Taxonomic changes relating to the British List were adopted in the
Committee's 42nd report (*Ibis* 156: 236-242).

The British List: 8th Edition

The 8th Edition of the British List was published in July 2013 (*Ibis*
155: 635–676).

The British List

8th Edition: *Ibis* 155: 635 – 676 (July 2013)



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Union would like to extend their thanks and gratitude to the following individuals who have assisted on the many BOU activities throughout the year: Raurie Bowie, Dan Chamberlain, Paul Donald, Rebecca Kimball, Jeremy Wilson, Patrick Smith, all Associate Editors (listed in each issue of *Ibis*) and the hundreds of reviewers (listed annually in *Ibis*) for their continued hard work on *Ibis*; Debbie Wright, Sudarshini J, Nick Whitworth, Felicity Clark and Lynne Miller and everyone else at Wiley-Blackwell Publishing for their help in delivering our high quality journal; Rob Robinson (BTO) and Karl Evans (University of Sheffield) for their work preparing the programme for the annual conference; Jen Smart (RSPB), Steve Redpath (University of Aberdeen), Jerry Wilson (RSPB), Richard Phillips (BAS), Helen Baker (JNCC), Rhys Green (RSPB) and Tony Fox (Aarhus University) for supporting the spring conference student event; Patrick Smith (copy-editor for BOUPROC.net); Joy Enston (Subbuteo Natural History Books) for supporting the BOU annual conference and for assisting with storage of our publications stock; Kim Thompson and staff at Peterborough Eco Innovation Centre and Jackie Newman and staff at Peterborough Cathedral (venues for BOU meetings); Emma Rathbone and the conference staff at the University of Leicester (BOU annual conferences); Mark Adams, Iain Barr, Martin Cade, Andrea Corso, Martin Garner, James Ferguson-Lees, Meritxell Genovart, Julien Gernigon, Mark Grantham, Marcell Haas, Martin Irestedt, Frederic Jiguet, Peter de Knijff, Bob McGowan, Andy Musgrove, Dick Newell, Jean-Marc Pons, Markus Ritz, Lars Svensson, Steve Votier, Russell Wynn and Bernie Zonfrillo; and we apologise to anyone we have inadvertently omitted.

Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

MEMBERSHIP

With the advent of our new Early-career Researcher (ECR) scheme, some adjustments have been made to our membership separating full members from those reduced rate subscribers (ECRS and those from developing countries). Comparable figures have been provided for the new groups for 2012.

At the end of the year we had 912 full members (944 at 31 Dec 2013) and 205 reduced rate subscribers (48 at 31 Dec 13) made up of 189 ECRs and 16 in developing countries.

The following members were elected (or re-elected having lapsed their membership for one or more years) during 2013: Mr Giuseppe Ascione, Mr Remy Baradez, Mr Peter Beckenham, Mr Travis Booms, Mr Paul Brown, Ms Patricia Burri, Stavros Christodoulides, Mr Christopher Clarke, Ms Elizabeth Copper, Mr Keith Cowieson, Mr Stuart Crutchfield, Mr Yuichi Currie, Mr Jamie Dunning, Mrs Julianne Evans, Mr Richard Evans, Ms Marcos Otero Filgueiras, Mr Bernard Fleming, Ms Lucy Garrett, Mr Simon Ginnaw, Mr Michael Grace, Ms Melissa Hamilton, Dr R J Harris, Ms Barbara Helm, Mr Richard Holland, Mr St John Hughes, Ms Jackie Hunt, Mr Ian Iles, Dr Ronald Javitch, Mr Johannes Kamp, Mr David Kimball, Mr Thomas Knight, Mr Jack Lavin, Mr David Lewis, Mr Mark Maddox, Mr Claes Martenson, Mr Jeff Martin, Ms Mary Megalli, Mr Stephen Menzie, Mr Thorsten Obracay, Mr Ade Parker, Mr William Pegram, Ms Claire Powell, Mr Tony Powell, Ms Mariya Rakhcheeva, Mr Nick Robinson, Mr Paul Robinson, Mr Richard Roe, Ms Hannah Rowland, Ms Dilek Sahin, Mr Peter Scheers, Mr Neil Stratton, Ms Anita Studer, Mr Roberto Valle, Mr René Van Gompel, Mr Martijn Versluijs, Mr Brook Whyllie, Mr Patrick Woods, Dr Tim Wright, Mr Wayne Zabala .

In addition, we welcomed the following who joined the BOU's Early-Career Subscriber Scheme: Ms Marta Acacio, Mr Daniel Alder,

Thank you for your support

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

Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

Membership *cont . . .*

Mr Giacomo Assandri, Mr Jean-Nicolas Audet, Ms Joanna Beaver, Ms Laura Biondi, Ms Caitlin Black, Mr Nick Bolton, Ms Katherine Booth Jones, Ms Katharine Bowgen, Mr Matthew Bruce, Ms Kaat Brulez, Mr Michal Budka, Mr Robert Burnside, Mr Liam Burton, Mr Carles Carboneras, Mr Scott Castle, Dr Motti Charter, Ms Lorraine Chivers, Mr Hung Chung-Hang, Mr Philip Collins, Ms Catherine Collop, Ms Lianne Concannon, Mr Jesse Conklin, Mr Greg Conway, Mr Joseph Cooper, Mr Daniel Cox, Mr Sebastian Cruz, Ms Laura Daniells, Mr Judhajit Dasgupta, Ms Rosanna Di Maggio, Mr Andrew Digby, Ms Teresa Donohue, Mr Fernando Dos Santos, Mr Rob Dunn, Ms Judy Edmonds, Ms Ute Eggers, Mr Harry Ewing, Mr Damien Farine, Ms Anna Ferraroni, Ms Anna Field, Mr Yoan Fourcade, Ms Samantha Franks, Mr Evan Fricke, Ms Hannah Froy, Mr Sergio Garcia, Ms Marie Gatt, Mr Matthew Geary, Ms Nathalie Gilbert, Ms Hanna Granroth-Wilding, Ms Alison Greggor, Mr Jack Grigg, Ms Hannah Grist, Mr Paul Guerrero, Ms Philippa Gullett, Mr Mohamed Habib, Mr Thomas Hadjikyriakou, Mr Anthony Hallam, Mr Arne Hegemann, Mr Danny Heptinstall, Ms Amparo Herrera, Ms Sally Hofmeyr, Mr Nigel Hopper, Ms Karen Hornigold, Ms Catharine Horswill, Ms Christine Howard, Mr Dan Hunt, Ms Jessica Isden, Ms María Isunza, Ms Hazel Jackson, Mr Jan Jedlikowski, Mr Edward Jenkins, Ms Allison Johnson, Mr Virat Jolli, Mr Samuel Jones, Ms Elena Kappers, Ms Rosemarie Kentie, Ms Charlotte Kidd, Ms Joanne Kingsbury, Ms Ewelina Klimczuk, Ms Esther Koch, Mr Mikkel Kristensen, Mr Vojtech Kubelka, Ms Anne Kwak, Ms Kathleen Labarbera, Ms Eliza Leat, Mr Mark Lovell, Ms Sara Lupi, Mr Raff Mares, Mr Rowan Martin, Ms Elizabeth Masden, Ms Marta Maziarz, Ms Catherine McEwan, Ms Niamh McHugh, Ms Beatriz Miranzo, Mr Liam Murphy, Ms Caroline Nash, Mr Luke Nelson, Mr Joshua Nightingale, Mr David Ochanda, Ms Katerina Ondrusova, Ms Janne Ouwehand, Mr Sándor Papp, Ms Deborah Pardo, Mr Sungjin Park, Mr James Phillips, Mr William Phipps, Mr Javier Pineda, Mr Pavel Pipek, Ms Ivett Pipoly, Ms Kate Plummer, Ms Judith Priam, Mr Johny Prochera, Ms Charlotte Recapet, Ms Sophie Reichert, Mr Alex Rhodes, Ms Alice Risely, Ms Beth Roberts, Ms Eimear Rooney, Ms Angelina Rowell, Mr Alexander Royan, Ms Lucy Ryan, Mr Pablo Salmon, Mr Philip Saunders, Ms Kathrin Schidelko, Mr Thomas



Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

Membership *cont . . .*

Shannon, Mr Richard Sherley, Ms Rosemary Sigger, Mr Richard Smedley, Ms Jennifer Smith, Ms Marjorie Sorensen, Mr Stephen Sprules-Wright, Ms Ute Stenkewitz, Ms Debbie Stevens, Mr Darius Stiels, Mr Antoine Stier, Ms Rachel Stroud, Ms Zulima Tablado-Almela, Mr Tomas Telensky, Ms Evanthia Thanou, Ms Jenny Thomas, Mr Andrew Tongue, Ms Sylvie Vandenabeele, Mr William Velmala, Ms Yvonne Verkuil, Ms Alizée Vernouillet, Ms Freydis Vigfusdottir, Ms Leila Walker, Ms Jessica Walkup, Ms Aleksandra Wasinska, Mr Robin Whytock, Ms Megan Williams, Mr Gregory Wills

The reason for most member losses is un-known (members do not renew without notifying us), but 16 resignations were accepted during the year (higher than in previous years), and Council noted, with sadness, the following deaths: Mr R W Crowe, Mr J Firmin, Dr J A Gibson, Dr P Hockey, Mr D Lees-Smith, Prof G Matthews, Dr G Mees, Mr O Merne, Dr E Williams and Dr D Yalden.

The Future

The new Early-Career Researcher (ECR) Scheme has so far been successful in bringing in new, largely younger, people to the BOU fold. We have also been very pleased with the extremely positive feedback from members about this initiative.

As explained in last year's report, the BOU is aware that it is using financial reserves to offer benefits to ECRs in order to attract them to the Union. The hope is that, after they have enjoyed their reduced rate period with us, the BOU will have instilled goodwill and loyalty and it will be possible to retain them as full members in the future.

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



HONORARY TREASURER

Julianne Evans

“The Union’s financial resources continue to remain substantial”

Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The net income for the year before taking into account any changes in the value of investments was £5,500, a drop of £10,000 since last year. This largely reflects a drop in membership, conference and *Ibis* income. Gross income from *Ibis* was still strong however, with the drop due solely to the reduction in legacy income. Institutional subscription revenue rose by 2% owing to a proportional increase in sales of Online License access to the journal and there was a reduction in costs as the print run has declined. In the case of conference income, including £3,000 received from Scottish Natural Heritage for the 2014 spring conference, there was a surplus of £8,300 after direct costs, which resulted in a deficit of £17,700 after taking into account subsidies to overseas speakers and students and attributed overhead expenditure. The loss on conferences was considerably more than last year largely as a result of an £8,700 reduction in delegate income. The loss of £4,000 on other publications was £2,000 less than last year, while interest and investment income dropped by £1,000. As required by charity accounting rules, indirect costs (staff costs and overheads) are allocated across multiple headings in the accounts but in total have risen in line with cost of living increases.

The Union’s financial resources continue to remain substantial and an ongoing annual under spend has allowed a further £70,000 to be invested for the longer term. The considerable increase to £322,067 in the value of longer-term investments reflects the addition of this amount but also there has also been an improvement in market conditions. The policy of maintaining cash resources in short-term cash deposits has also been continued and at the end of the year these amounted to £405,000. The Union thus remains in a strong position to support further charitable activities. *Ibis* represents 43% of BOU income and therefore remains key to BOU’s ability to maintain its current scale of activities. Future developments regarding Open Access could have significant financial implications for the Union and these will be discussed and planned for by Council in the coming year.



Achievements & Performance *cont . . .*

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEES

The charity's trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). The financial statements are required by law to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the surplus or deficit of the charity for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Council on the 12 March 2014
and signed on their behalf by:

J. A. Gill, President



BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2013

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowed Funds £	Total Funds 2013 £	Total Funds 2012 £
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Incoming resources from generated funds:						
Voluntary income	2	30,993	–	–	30,993	33,730
Activities for generating funds	3	116,991	–	–	116,991	121,529
Investment income	4	10,880	–	4,720	15,600	16,603
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		158,864	–	4,720	163,584	171,862
RESOURCES EXPENDED						
Costs of generating funds:						
Costs of generating voluntary income	5	-122,387	–	–	-122,387	-124,110
Charitable activities	6/7	-17,690	-4,720	–	-22,410	-18,605
Governance costs	8	-13,215	–	–	-13,215	-13,892
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		-153,292	-4,720	–	-158,012	-156,607
NET INCOMING RESOURCES BEFORE TRANSFERS	9	5,572	-4,720	4,720	5,572	15,255
Transfer between funds	10	–	4,720	-4,720	–	–
NET INCOMING RESOURCES BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS		5,572	–	–	5,572	15,255
OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES						
Losses on investment assets		–	–	–	–	-63
Unrealised loss/gain on investments		22,900	–	17,192	40,092	16,763
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		28,472	–	17,192	45,664	31,955
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS						
Total funds brought forward		533,860	–	159,368	693,228	661,272
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		562,332	–	176,560	738,892	693,227

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a statement of total recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.

All of the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

The notes on pages 30 to 35 form part of these financial statements



BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

BALANCE SHEET

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2013

	Note	2013			2012
		£	£		£
FIXED ASSETS					
Investments	12		322,067		211,111
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stocks	13	2,227			3,299
Debtors	14	36,266			43,250
Cash at bank and in hand		404,982			466,849
		443,475			513,398
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	15		-26,650		-31,282
			416,825		482,116
NET CURRENT ASSETS			416,825		482,116
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			738,892		693,227
NET ASSETS			738,892		693,227
FUNDS					
Endowment funds	16		176,560		159,368
Restricted income funds	17		-		-
Unrestricted income funds	18		562,332		533,859
			738,892		693,227
TOTAL FUNDS			738,892		693,227

Approved by the Council on 12 March 2014

And are signed on their behalf by:

J. A. Gill, President

The notes on pages 30 to 35 form part of these financial statements



BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2013

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, except for investments which are included at market value and the revaluation of certain fixed assets, and in accordance with applicable United Kingdom accounting standards, the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" issued in March 2005 (SORP 2005) and the Charities Act 2011.

Stocks

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

Life Membership

Life membership subscriptions are accounted for when received. No further releases have been made from Life Members fund since 31 December 2006.

Legacies

Legacy income is accounted for when received.

Investments

Investments are recorded in the balance sheet at market value.

Overheads

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

	Office costs	A F Langford remuneration	S P Dudley remuneration
Conference costs	18%	11%	25%
Management & administrations	30%	40%	20%
Ibis publication costs	35%	44%	25%
Other publication costs	15%	5%	25%
Research costs	2%	–	5%
	100%	100%	100%

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

2. VOLUNTARY INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2013 £	Total Funds 2012 £
Donations			
Donations	88	88	95
Other income			
Other income	2,315	2,315	538
Subscriptions	28,590	28,590	33,097
	30,993	30,993	33,730

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2013

3. INCOMING RESOURCES FROM ACTIVITIES FOR GENERATING FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2013 £	Total Funds 2012 £
Publication income - Ibis	72,996	72,996	75,516
Other publication income	12,165	12,165	12,765
Conference income	31,380	31,380	33,248
	116,991	116,991	121,529

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2013 £	Total Funds 2012 £
Income from investments	7,513	4,720	12,233	10,186
Bank interest receivable	3,367	–	3,367	6,417
	10,880	4,720	15,600	16,603

5. COSTS OF GENERATING VOLUNTARY INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2013 £	Total Funds 2012 £
Conference Costs	37,405	37,405	38,489
Publication costs - Ibis	43,637	43,637	41,375
Other publication costs	16,925	16,925	18,881
Management costs	24,420	24,420	25,365
	122,387	122,387	124,110

6. COSTS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES BY FUND TYPE

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2013 £	Total Funds 2012 £
Research costs	17,690	4,720	22,410	18,605

7. COSTS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES BY FUND TYPE

	Research Costs £	Total Funds 2013 £	Total Funds 2012 £
Research costs	22,410	22,410	18,605



BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION
 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2013

8. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2013 £	Total Funds 2012 £
Accountancy fees	3,917	3,917	4,011
Audit fees	4,200	4,200	4,080
Strategic review	–	–	299
Costs of trustees' and committee meetings	4,515	4,515	5,502
Interest and commission	583	583	–
	13,215	13,215	13,892

9. NET INCOMING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR

This is stated after charging:

	2013 £	2012 £
Staff pension contributions	5,275	5,274
Auditors' remuneration: - audit of the financial statements	4,200	4,080

10. FUND TRANSFERS

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

11. STAFF COSTS AND EMOLUMENTS

Total staff costs were as follows:

	2013 £	2012 £
Wages and salaries	60,917	59,313
Social security costs	6,296	6,145
Other pension costs	5,275	5,274
	72,488	70,732



BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2013

11. STAFF COSTS AND EMOLUMENTS (CONT)

Particulars of employees:

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

	2013 No	2012 No
Number of administrative staff	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

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

No Council member received any remuneration in the year.

During the year, a total of 12 Council members were reimbursed expenses totaling £1,435 (2012: £2,300). These expenses represent travelling costs incurred by Council members in the performance year.

12. INVESTMENTS

Movement in market value

	2013 £	2012 £
Market value at 1 January 2013	211,111	205,499
Acquisitions at cost	70,864	2,666
Disposal at opening book value	-	-13,817
Net gain/(loss) on revaluations in the year	40,092	16,763
Market value at 31 December 2013	<u>322,067</u>	<u>211,111</u>
Historical cost at 31 December 2013	<u>174,692</u>	<u>103,829</u>

Analysis of investments at 31 December 2013 between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowed Funds £	Total Funds 2013 £	Total Funds 2012 £
Listed investments					
UK Quoted Shares	301,466	-	18,094	319,560	208,604
Other investments					
UK Cash	2,507	-	-	2,507	2,507
	<u>303,973</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>18,094</u>	<u>322,067</u>	<u>211,111</u>



BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION
 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2013

12. INVESTMENTS (CONT)

Investment held	Value at 31 Dec 13	% of total investments
M & G Charifund		
L & MT Fund	54,041	16.78%
General Fund	77,614	24.10%
Hutt Legacy	20,911	6.50%
Mellon Global Growth		
Herbert Stevens Trust	33,922	10.53%
Designated Funds	53,711	16.68%
Nationwide Building Society PIB	68,970	21.41%
Others	12,898	4.00%
	322,067	100%

13. STOCKS

	2013 £	2012 £
Stock	2,227	3,299

14. DEBTORS

	2013 £	2012 £
Trade debtors	35,795	42,052
Other debtors	471	1,198
	36,266	43,250

15. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	2013 £	2012 £
Taxation and social security	1,835	1,804
Subs in advance	15,040	16,025
Accruals	9,775	13,453
	26,650	31,282



BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2013

16. ENDOWMENT FUNDS

	Balance at 1 Jan 2013	Incoming resources	Transfers	Gains and Losses	Balance at 31 Dec 2013
	£	£	£	£	£
Permanent endowments					
L & MT Research Fund	87,543	3,337	-4,720	11,986	98,146
Research Fund	46,162	459	-	1,728	48,349
Hutt Legacy	25,663	924	-	3,478	30,065
	153,368	4,720	-4,720	17,192	176,560

The Landsborough and Mary Thomson Research Fund and the Hutt Legacy represent funds set up by individual donors. The purpose of the L&MT Research Fund was to fund research while the Hutt Legacy is intended for the general purposes of the Union. The income arising from the capital held in investments is credited to the Restricted Research Fund. The Endowed Research Fund represents permanent capital, the income from which is transferred to the fund of the same name in Restricted Funds.

17. RESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS

Balance at 31 Dec 2013
£
-

The Research Fund represents the income arising from The Landsborough and Mary Thomson Research Fund, The Hutt Legacy and The Research Fund endowed funds. Its purpose is to fund research in accordance with the objects of the Union.

18. UNRESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS

	Balance at 1 Jan 2013	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Gains and losses	Balance at 31 Dec 2013
	£	£	£	£	£
General Funds	533,860	158,864	-153,292	22,900	562,332

19. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Investments	Net current assets	Total
	£	£	£
Endowment Funds	111,380	65,180	176,560
Unrestricted Income Funds	210,684	351,648	562,332
Total Funds	322,064	416,828	738,892



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2013

We have audited the financial statements of the British Ornithologists' Union for the year ended 31 December 2013 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet and related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEES AND AUDITOR

The responsibilities of the trustees for preparing the Trustees Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) are set out in the Statement of Responsibilities of the Trustees. We have been appointed auditors under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

SCOPE OF THE AUDIT

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charity's circumstances, and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed, the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the trustees, and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Annual Report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatement or inconsistencies, we consider the implications for our report.



OPINION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

In our opinion:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2013, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011.

MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION OPINION

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

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

Friary Court
13 - 21 High Street
Guildford
Surrey
GU1 3DL

ALLIOTTS
Chartered Accountants &
Registered Auditors.

12 March 2014

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