

British Ornithologists' Union

advancing ornithology



Annual Report & Accounts

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2025

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President's statement

Dr Graeme Buchanan



While 2025 was a turbulent year internationally, I'm relieved to say that it has been a stable one for BOU. In the last year BOU has continued to publish IBIS, deliver conferences, fund ornithological research, and help develop the careers of scientists.

Communications remain a key part of BOU activities, and this is even more important now given that the working practices of many have changed. More of us are working remotely or going to central workplaces less regularly. While there are undoubted advantages to many, for me keeping up to date is no longer as easy as it was and there are fewer opportunities to discuss science and share ideas. These face-to-face conversations are often the ones that lead to new ideas being explored or analyses improved or refined. For me online and in person conferences are another way to maintain contact. It is now possible to have global seminars at the click of a button and online platforms enable attendance without having to travel, which benefits the environment and those who have other commitments. BOU continues to mix online and in person attendance at conferences, and this year's spring meeting will be the first spring conference offering hybrid attendance.

One of the benefits of being BOU President is being able to attend conferences and undertake various duties. Last year I had the pleasure of attending both the spring conference on *Frontiers in ornithology* and the autumn conference *A day at the museum*. The spring conference consisted of a wide range of talks and while there was a focus on new technologies, it was nonetheless a diverse programme. Later in this annual report Catriona Morrison, Chair of the Meetings Committee, gives more details of the event and she highlights the events that took place in addition to talks, specifically workshops and events for ECRs, whom I hope felt welcome. The conference also gave BOU a chance to recognise the contribution that Robert Furness has made to ornithology through the awarding of the Godman Salvin Prize. But it also gave delegates, myself included, the chance to find out about new applications of techniques to ornithology, and how we or those we work with could be using some of the methods.

The autumn conference was a hybrid event, with attendees online and in person in the Natural History Museum in London. This conference was hosted by Ken Norris and the museum and it highlighted the importance of museum collections and the uses that specimens can be put to in ornithology. They are a valuable resource. One of the things I took from that conference is that collections are receiving fewer specimens of common species, resulting in a potential gap in the chronosequences. Would I ever think to donate a chaffinch to a museum? Perhaps not, but it would appear that in a time of increased use of tracking and other technologies in ornithology we should not lose sight of the value of museum specimens.



ADMINISTRATION DETAILS

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

Founded 1858

Registered as a Charity:

England and Wales, no. 249877

Scotland, no. SC044850

Address

PO Box 79, Pembroke SA72 9AX, UK

Tel: +44 (0) 7485 385451

Email: bou@bou.org.uk

Web: bou.org.uk

As at 31 December 2025

BOU Staff

Chief Operations Officer

Dr Leila K. Walker

Journal & Office Manager

Mrs Angela F. Langford

Council Officers

President Dr Graeme Buchanan

Vice Presidents Prof Emma Cunningham
Dr Hugh Wright

Honorary Secretary Dr Mark Eaton

Honorary Treasurer Dr Mark Eddowes

Ordinary Members of Council

Dr Arjun Amar (Chair, IBIS Management Committee), Dr Tom Bradfer-Lawrence (Chair, Grants Committee), Dr Lynda Donaldson (Chair, Awards Nominations Committee), Ms Ros Green, Dr Cat Horswill, Dr Alex Lees (Chair, Records Committee), Dr Catriona Morrison (Chair, Meetings Committee), Dr Stuart Sharp and Dr Natalia Zielonka (Chair, Engagement Committee).

Beyond conferences, BOU continued to promote the world of ornithology through other means in 2025. IBIS continued to be a leading ornithological journal thanks to the team of excellent editors (page 12). As described briefly by Arjun Amar, BOU is reviewing the publishing model for IBIS. Whether we as individuals agree with it or not, academic publishing is changing, with a growing expectation from funders that papers should be open access. While this democratises readership, open access can be an obstacle for those unable to fund publishing fees. This is why BOU need to look at this topic, and do what is right for IBIS and BOU. IBIS remains the top journal for social media profile (page 7). BOU was an early adopter of social media for promoting ornithology and using the now famous #ornithology on Twitter as was. However, changes in social media meant that early in 2026 BOU, along with many other organisations, left X, making its account private and deleting all previous messages. We did this after serious concerns over abuse and safeguarding on the platform. While @Ibis_journal no longer works on X, BOU now has an expanding presence on Bluesky (@bou.org.uk), where we have been since 2024. We remain on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn too, so please do contribute.

Finally, I'd like to draw attention to the great work of the Grants Committee, led by Tom Bradfer-Lawrence. This committee is dealing with an increased number of applications to BOU for funding, with Engagement and Meetings Committees also seeing increased numbers of applications to support conference attendance and summer placements for undergraduates. This year, we were able to award more than before for these grants, hopefully making a substantial contribution to the development of ornithologists and ornithological science. Much of this is possible thanks to generous donations from BOU supporters, and we are grateful to all those who support BOU to support ornithology. Thank you.

Structure, Governance & Management

The British Ornithologists' Union is an unincorporated charity, no. 249877 (England & Wales) and SC044850 (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, and last updated by Council in July 2020. 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 six standing committees: the Awards Nominations Committee, the Engagement Committee, the Grants Committee, the IBIS Management Committee, the Meetings Committee and the Records Committee.

ADMINISTRATION DETAILS

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Trustees

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

Dr Arjun Amar, Dr Tom Bradfer-Lawrence, Dr Graeme Buchanan, Prof Emma Cunningham, Dr Lynda Donaldson, Dr Mark Eaton, Dr Mark Eddowes, Ms Ros Green, Dr Cat Horswill, Dr Alex Lees, Dr Catriona Morrison, Dr Stuart Sharp, Dr Hugh Wright and Dr Natalia Zielonka.

The following individuals also served as Trustees of the charity for part of the year covered by this annual report and accounts: Mr Graham F. Appleton, Dr Richard Bradbury, Dr Tom Finch, Dr Rosemarie Kentie.

Editorial positions

At 31 December 2025 the following editorial positions were held:

IBIS Editor in Chief	Prof Jennifer Gill
IBIS Editors	Dr Rauri Bowie
	Dr Richard Fuller
	Prof Rebecca Kimball
	Dr Ruedi Nager
	Prof Jeremy Wilson

Blog Editor	Ms Heather Fortune
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Investment Trustees

The following individuals served as Investment Trustees for the Union during the period of this report and accounts: Mr Neil J. Bucknell, Mr Andrew D. Callender and Mr Ben J.N. Turner.

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 continually reviews the risks to which the Union is exposed and is satisfied that, as far as is practicable, it has taken appropriate steps to mitigate any risk.

The Union employs two full-time staff who work from their respective home offices. Staff salaries are reviewed annually, as part of our staff appraisal process, conducted by the President and Honorary Secretary. Pay is normally adjusted in line with inflation (CPIH) and there is an option to award an unconsolidated performance-based bonus, in exceptional circumstances.

Objectives & Activities

Mission statement

The British Ornithologists' Union will promote ornithological science across the international scientific community, support the individuals who contribute to that science, and grow understanding of that science among a wider community. 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 our AGM in April, held during BOU2025 at the University of Nottingham, Dr Hugh Wright was elected as Vice President to replace Dr Richard Bradbury, Dr Mark Eddowes was elected as Honorary Treasurer to replace Mr Graham F. Appleton, Dr Arjun Amar was elected as Chair of IBIS Management Committee to replace Dr Rosemarie Kentie, Dr Lynda Donaldson was elected as Chair of Awards Nominations Committee to fill a vacant position, and Dr Natalia Zielonka was elected as Chair of Engagement Committee to replace Dr Tom Finch.

ADMINISTRATION DETAILS

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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

Solicitor

The Union's solicitors are:

Laytons

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

Accountant & Auditor

The Union's accountant and auditor are:

Azets Audit Services

Westpoint, Lynch Wood, Peterborough,
Cambridgeshire, PE2 6FZ

EARLY PROFESSIONAL AWARD



Oliver Padget (right) receiving the 2025 Early Professional Award from Mark Eddowes (BOU Honorary Treasurer) at the 2025 European Ornithologists' Union Conference in Bangor, Wales.

Read the full citation in IBIS:

<https://doi.org/10.1111/ibi.13433>

We were delighted that Judy Shamoun-Baranes (University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands) accepted our invitation to deliver the 12th Alfred Newton Lecture at BOU2025 (page 6). We were equally delighted to present the 2025 Godman Salvin Prize to Bob Furness (University of Glasgow & MacArthur Green Ecological Consultancy, UK) at BOU2025 (page 6), and to present the 2025 Early Professional Award to Oliver Padget (University of Liverpool, UK) at the European Ornithologists' Union Conference in Bangor, Wales (page 5).

Elected 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, at the time of this report four of our Trustees (Dr Tom Bradfer-Lawrence, Dr Graeme Buchanan, Prof Emma Cunningham and Dr Catriona Morrison) and three of our journal editors (Prof Jennifer Gill, Dr Rudolf Nager and Prof Jeremy Wilson) also resided there.

Achievements & Performance

Reports on our activities from the BOU Office and Standing Committees

The BOU Office

Staff

During the year, the BOU employed two home-based staff members within the BOU Office: Angela Langford (Journal & Office Manager) and Leila Walker (Chief Operations Officer).

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.

The BOU Office's key responsibilities are:

- to undertake the day to day running of the BOU;
- to support BOU Council and its committees, implementing much of the work arising from them, specifically:
 - working with the Awards Nominations Committee, develop and deliver changes to our nominations processes and awards criteria, and select nominations to put forward to Council;

ALFRED NEWTON LECTURE



Judy Shamoun-Baranes delivering the 12th Alfred Newton Lecture at BOU2025 in Nottingham in April.

Read a summary of Judy's Alfred Newton Lecture, entitled *Synergies between ornithology, technology and movement ecology*, on Bluesky: <https://bsky.app/profile/bou.org.uk/post/3llrmwb52ds2z>

GODMAN SALVIN PRIZE



Bob Furness (left) receiving the 2025 Godman Salvin Prize from BOU President Graeme Buchanan at BOU2025.

Read the full citation in IBIS: <https://doi.org/10.1111/ibi.13396>

- working with the Engagement Committee, develop and deliver engagement initiatives, including equality and diversity items, and manage the Union's Summer Placement Scheme;
- working with the Grants Committee, manage the Union's Small Research Grants and Career Development Bursary schemes, the John & Pat Warham Studentships and the Brenda & Tony Gibbs Awards;
- 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 Meetings and Engagement Committees, manage the Union's Conference Attendance Grants;
- working with the Records Committee, manage the British List and associated areas;
- working with the Honorary Treasurer, to maintain accounts and budgets and the preparation of annual accounts and annual forecasts;
- working with the IBIS Editorial Team, to oversee and manage the manuscript process and flow for IBIS, and to oversee marketing of the journal;
- to oversee the business and contractual sides of IBIS;
- to service the BOU membership;
- to develop and manage the BOU's web content;
- to develop and manage the BOU's social media activity;
- to undertake routine administration;
- to manage the BOU storage facility;
- to handle general enquiries, press and publicity.

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

Website

BOU.ORG.UK

In 2025, the BOU website received 105,931 page views, representing 60,140 active users. Table 1 details the number of page views received by key areas of the website, mapping closely onto core BOU activities.

Table 1: Most-viewed areas of the BOU website by number of page views (2025).

1. #theBOUblog* /blog/	36,170	5. IBIS /ibis/	7,894
2. Conferences & meetings† /conferences-and-meetings/	11,658	6. About the BOU /about-the-bou/	6,072
3. Funding /funding/	10,338	7. The British List /the-british-list/	3,478
4. Home page /bou.org.uk/	10,169	8. Member login /login/	2,477

*Includes individual blogs; †Includes individual event pages; Data from Google Analytics.



OUR SOCIAL YEAR



@BOU.ORG.UK

Audience at 31 Dec 25	4,977	+36%
Posts	2,243	+69%
Engagements	28,080	+135%



@IBISJOURNAL

Audience at 31 Dec 25	18,116	+27%
Posts	2,018	-10%
Impressions	1.7m	+137%
Engagements	108,792	+225%



@IBIS_JOURNAL

Audience at 31 Dec 25	2,542	+19%
Posts	299	+74%
Impressions	60,941	+85%
Engagements	1,693	+10%



@IBIS_JOURNAL

Audience at 31 Dec 25	21,441	-3.6%
Posts	2,435	-46%
Impressions	1.04m	-60%
Engagements	23,058	-20%



@BRITISHORNITHOLOGISTS'UNION

Audience at 31 Dec 25	243	NA
Posts	24	NA
Impressions	4841	NA
Engagements	349	NA

Percentage change on 2024.

The majority of users arrived to the website direct-to-site (62%), with remaining users arriving via organic search (31%), by referrals from other websites (4%) or via Social Media (3%).

Social media

X (formally Twitter) continued to decline in importance for BOU during 2025. We continued to post BOU and #ornithology content on the platform, although engagement with these posts has shown sustained decline, and we ceased to deliver conferences on X at the start of 2025.

In its place, Bluesky has grown in importance for us, mirroring an increasing take-up among scientists, academics, and research organisations. During the year, all content that was posted on X also appeared on Bluesky, and we additionally delivered our three events – BOU2025, BOUasm25 and BOUatEOU – on Bluesky.

Metrics for our Facebook and Instagram accounts show encouraging increases – potentially a reflection of users finding alternatives to X – and we began to post more on our LinkedIn account, with plans to further develop this in 2026.

Social media continues to be a significant contributor to the online attention that scientific articles receive, as measured by the Altmetric Attention Score. During 2025, IBIS articles received more online mentions than any other ornithology journal (Table 2), with Bluesky – included as an Altmetric attention source since 2024 – accounting for over half of IBIS mentions.

Table 2: Online mentions in 2025 for top-ranking ornithology journals (by total mentions)

	# outputs	Mentions						
		Total	News	Blog	X	Facebook	Wiki	Bsky
IBIS	640	3,486	189	74	605	260	488	1,796
change 2024 v 2025	-13%	-26%	-73%	-41%	-120%	-27%	-4%	+92%
J Ornithology	350	1,646	104	20	315	90	247	853
change 2024 v 2025	+7%	+2%	-5%	+58%	-108%	-35%	+7%	+166
Ornithology	633	1,634	143	29	338	54	707	122
change 2024 v 2025	+0.3%	-17%	-25%	-32%	-68%	-5%	-17%	+92%
Bird Study	160	1,500	185	17	249	25	64	954
change 2024 v 2025	+4%	+64%	+151%	+158%	-51%	-39%	-6%	+131%
Orn Applications	458	1,310	132	28	274	69	368	411
change 2024 v 2025	+11%	+6%	-45%	-25%	-53%	+14%	+6%	+132%

Data from Altmetric Explorer (altmetric.com/explorer) downloaded 20 January 2026.

#theBOUblog

BOU.ORG.UK/BLOG/

Our blog continues to be the most-read section of our website, accounting for 34% of all page views in 2025 (36,170 views, including views of individual blog posts). During the year we published 70 blog posts (77 in 2024).

AWARDS NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Chair

Dr Lynda Donaldson (RSPB) (from April 2025)

Members

Dr Marta Acácio (Tel Aviv University)

Dr Adham Ashton-Butt (BTO)

Dr Martin Beal (University of Lisbon)

Dr Annette Fayet (Norwegian Institute for
Nature Research)

Dr Natasha Gillies (University of Liverpool)

Dr Robert Hawkes (RSPB)

Dr Kate Rogerson (Natural England)

Dr Martyna Syposz (University of Gdansk)

Dr Leila Walker, BOU COO

E-newsletters

[BOU.ORG.UK/E-NEWSLETTERS/](https://bou.org.uk/e-newsletters/)

We published 43 e-newsletters during the year, covering IBIS content (15), conference announcements (14), funding calls (7), BOU opportunities (6) and a contribution from Leica, sponsor of our best IBIS ECR paper award.

Sponsorship

We are very grateful to Leica Camera (UK) for providing the prize for the best paper in IBIS by an Early Career Researcher (ECR) as lead author. See page 11 for the recipient of the Best IBIS ECR Paper 2024 (voted for and awarded in 2025).

General administrative items

We continue to maintain a storage facility in Peterborough.

Awards Nominations Committee

[BOU.ORG.UK/MEDALS-AND-AWARDS/](https://bou.org.uk/medals-and-awards/)

The Awards Nominations Committee was set up in 2020 to oversee the criteria and nominations process for each of the BOU's awards: the Godman Salvin Prize, the Janet Kear Union Medal, the Alfred Newton Lecture, and, as of 2023, the Early Professional Award.

Two meetings were held during 2025 with further business conducted by email. In April, Lynda Donaldson was elected to the Chair role after Lucy Wright stepped down in 2024. Two new members of the committee are being sought for 2026, after Adham Ashton-Butt stepped down in the latter half of 2025, and the term of Marta Acácio comes to an end in July 2026.

The 2025 recipients of the Godman Salvin Prize, Alfred Newton Lecture (for the 2026 *Birds and people* conference) and the Early Professional Award, were announced during the course of the year (see side panels on pages 5 and 6). No nominations were received for the Janet Kear Union Medal, so the medal was not awarded in 2025.

Members of the Awards Nominations Committee updated the webpages for the current BOU awards on the BOU website in 2025; clarifying the criteria used for each award and providing additional information on the nominations process. Open calls for nominations were run, from June to September 2025, for the Godman Salvin Prize, the Janet Kear Union Medal, the Alfred Newton Lecture (for the BOU2027 *Avian disease ecology* conference), and the Early Professional Award. Twelve nominations were received for the Godman Salvin Prize, five nominations for the Janet Kear Union Medal, ten nominations for the Alfred Newton Lecture, and 13 nominations for the Early Professional Award, including the 2nd and 3rd ranked nominees that were rolled over from the previous year. Nominations for all awards were independently ranked following previously agreed procedures. The top ranked

ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Chair

Dr Tom Finch (RSPB) (to April 2025)

Dr Natalia Zielonka (University of Kent) (from April 2025)

Members

Mr Sam Barrett (University of Salford) (from July 2025)

Mr Ondřej Belfin, Conference Support Officer (Czechia) (to October 2025)

Mr Josh Coupar-Evans, Conference Support Officer (Leicestershire) (from October 2025)

Dr Aonghais Cook (BTO) (to July 2025)

Ms Clarissa de Oliveira Santos, Equality & Diversity Support Officer (University of São Paulo, Brazil) (from June 2025)

Dr Jamie Dunning (University of Leeds)

Ms Heather Fortune, Blog Editor (Imperial College London) (from October 2025)

Dr Danielle Hinchcliffe (Liverpool John Moores University)

Dr Katharine Keogan (HiDef Ariel Surveys)

Dr Nicola Largey (University of Highlands and Islands)

Dr Ashleigh Marshall, Journal Support Officer (Royal Society)

Dr Veronica Mendez (University of Iceland) (to July 2025)

Dr Alex Nicol-Harper (Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, UK) (from July 2025)

Mr Charlie Russell, Blog Editor (University of East Anglia) (to September 2025)

Dr Elwyn Sharps (Natural Resources Wales)

M River Stewart (University of Portsmouth) (from July 2025)

Dr Leila Walker, BOU COO

Ms Karolina Zalewska (University of East Anglia)

nominees for each award were presented to Council, for approval, at their November meeting, and the top-ranked nominee for each award has accepted their invitation.

The Alfred Newton Lecture at the BOU2027 *Avian disease ecology* conference will be delivered by Professor Dana Hawley from Virginia Tech, USA. The recipients of the Godman Salvin Prize, Janet Kear Union Medal and Early Professional Award will be announced during the course of 2026.

Engagement Committee

The Engagement Committee oversees engagement between different parts of the BOU, our members and the wider ornithological community. This is primarily achieved through conferences, social media activity, blog and journal promotion, and equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) initiatives. The Committee's role is to increase awareness of the BOU's activities, facilitate communication and collaboration within the community, and champion inclusive participation across the ornithological community.

The Committee met three times in 2025, saying goodbye to four valued members over the course of the year (Ondřej Belfin, Aonghais Cook, Veronica Mendez and Charlie Russell), and welcoming six new members (Sam Barrett, Josh Coupar-Evans, Clarissa de Oliveira Santos, Heather Fortune, Alex Nicol-Harper and River Stewart). Tom Finch also retired as Chair in April, and Natalia Zielonka was elected as the new Chair. The Committee thanks all its outgoing members, and especially Tom Finch, for their substantial contributions.

Membership

For the second year, the Member Conference Attendance Grants scheme had two application rounds in the year, continuing the focus on funding low-carbon travel and supporting members from low- and middle- income countries. This encouraged more applications to the scheme (a total of 45 applications received) and supported attendance at a wider range of events (European Ornithologists' Union Conference 2025, Australian Ornithological Congress 2025 and BOU2025 *Frontiers in ornithology*).

In an effort to make this scheme more accessible and to better support our members, the Committee proposed that applications would be invited from BOU members attending any ornithological conference, including regional, national and international events. Applicants would still be required to present during the event, and the focus would need to be strictly ornithological. This change was approved by Council in November 2025 and implemented for the application round running over winter 2025/2026.

Undergraduate Summer Placement Scheme

This scheme launched in 2025 to support undergraduates undertaking summer research projects. The scheme particularly seeks applications from individuals belonging to groups that are currently under-represented within ornithology. The



TOP ALTMETRIC PAPERS

IBIS papers published in 2025

Late Pleistocene Great Bustards *Otis tarda* from the Maghreb, eastern Morocco / Joanne H. Cooper, Nigel J. Collar, Abdeljalil Bouzouggar, Nick Barton, Louise Humphrey / DOI: 10.1111/ibi.13404

A focus on females can improve science and conservation / Joanna X. Wu, Martha A. Harbison, Stephanie Beilke, Purbita Saha, Brooke L. Bateman / DOI: 10.1111/ibi.13386

Exposure to traffic noise weakens territory defence in the Southern Emu-wren (*Stipiturus malachurus*) / Julian Behrens, Diane Colombelli-Négrel, Sonia Kleindorfer / DOI: 10.1111/ibi.13445

A new species of jewelbabbler (Cinclosomatidae: *Ptilorrhoea*) from the Southern Fold Mountains of Papua New Guinea / Iain A. Woxvold, Banak G. Gamui, Leo Legra, Samson Yama, Bonny Koane, Salape Tulai / DOI: 10.1111/ibi.70016

first round received six applications, all of which were deemed of high quality; three of these were funded. In 2025, the applications opened mid-January and closed at the end of March, and the Committee agreed to change this timeline to give applicants longer to refine their ideas, which could encourage more applications. Following this, the second round accepted applications from October 2025 to January 2026.

Social media

This year has seen strategic shifts away from using X (Twitter) and towards growing BOU's presence on Bluesky and LinkedIn. Our visibility and engagement on X has been declining, mirroring the behaviour of our members, who have continued to leave the platform. This decline may not be reflected in our follower numbers (which still stands at >21k), but it's likely that many of these follower accounts are dormant. In light of this, we have moved to Bluesky for conference activity, with all 2025 conferences delivered in parallel on Bluesky.

Our following and engagement on Bluesky has been increasing (up to 4.9k followers; 36% increase from last year). The platform is continuing to grow rapidly and now hosts tens of millions of users, with particularly strong uptake among scientists, academics, and research organisations. It is important to note that due to differences in how Bluesky operates, the reach, visibility and engagement with BOU's content on Bluesky is not as directly linked to the follower number (as was the case with X) and we are observing continual high engagement through reposts and quote reposts, which are of higher quality than likes.

The BOU continues its posting activity on Instagram, Facebook and has over the past year started to use LinkedIn. There will be stronger emphasis on growing our engagement across these platforms, especially LinkedIn, in the coming year.

Conferences

The Committee continues to support the delivery of key BOU events, which in 2025 were BOU2025 *Frontiers in ornithology*, BOU at EOU *Woodland birds*, and BOUasm25 *A day at the museum*.

BOU2025 *Frontiers in ornithology* was our first conference with Bluesky as the only parallel social media platform, and all presenters were encouraged to produce a summary thread for Bluesky. Around half of the presenters agreed to do so, which filled us with confidence, and was very positively received online, as evidenced by high levels of engagement. Post-conference feedback further supported the use of Bluesky as a platform for conference engagement. When asked to rate their experience of BOU2025 on Bluesky (on a scale of 1–5, where 5 is the highest rating), attendees reported a mean score of 4.3 (n = 30 respondents), while presenters reported a mean score of 4.7 (n = 11). When asked whether Bluesky is a suitable platform for hosting scientific conferences, all 31 respondents answered

BEST IBIS ECR PAPER 2024



Selin Ersoy's paper was voted the best ECR paper published in IBIS in 2024.

When slow explorers are fast: Personality-related differences in timing of migration in Red Knots (*Calidris canutus*)

Selin Ersoy, Ton G. G. Groothuis, Theunis Piersma, Allert I. Bijleveld

<https://doi.org/10.1111/ibi.13308>

“yes”. Qualitative feedback on the advantages and disadvantages of using Bluesky was overwhelmingly positive, with increased accessibility cited most frequently. This reassured us of the suitability of Bluesky as our chosen parallel conference platform.

Equality and diversity

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) work formed a substantial part of the Committee's activity in 2025. During the year, the Equality and Diversity Working Group (EDWG) met twice, welcoming new member Alex Nicol-Harper, and we appointed an Equality & Diversity Support Officer, Clarissa de Oliveira Santos, who also sits on the EDWG.

The group reviewed EDI terminology and agreed to retain “Equality and Diversity” within the group's name, for consistency, while remaining attentive to evolving best practice and inclusive language (as captured in the [‘What's in a name?’](#) Diversity Blog by Danielle Hinchliffe).

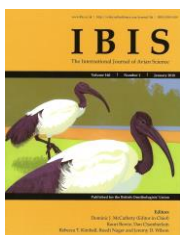
Our new Support Officer, Clarissa, has been working to establish baselines for monitoring membership diversity, reviewing accessibility at conferences, and supporting EDI initiatives across committees. Clarissa began by analysing gender balance on committees, and it was encouraging to see a 50:50 male-to-female ratio overall on BOU Council and committees, although the imbalance seen in some committees will be important to address.

The EDWG also examined how equity can be better accounted for in the assessment of grants and awards, including reviewing external models, supporting applicants without strong institutional backing, and exploring pre-application guidance and feedback mechanisms. Working with Grants Committee, Awards Nominations Committee, and the assessment panels that review Conference Attendance Grants and Summer Placement Scheme applications, will be central to increasing equity across BOU activities.

The Committee, along with the Blog Editor and Equality & Diversity Support Officer, have been actively seeking contributions to the #BOUdiversityblog, and we had four contributions in 2025. These covered important diversity issues in ornithology, including [why gender equity matters](#) by the BTO's Ellie Leech, a personal account from [Jamie Dunning about neurodivergence](#), and Emily Piccinini-Edelsten sharing her experiences [of being a female bird ringer](#). We are proud to provide this platform that gives a voice to members of our community and we are incredibly grateful for all of these contributions.

Support Officers

The BOU's Support Officers drive a large part of our work around conference delivery, journal publicity, social media activities, the BOU blog and supporting EDI across the BOU. In 2025, we saw many changes among our Support Officers – our Conference Support Officer, Ondřej Belfin, finished his term and we welcomed Josh Coupar-Evans as his replacement; our Blog Editor, Charlie Russell also completed his term, and we were pleased to offer the position to Heather Fortune; our Social



IBIS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Chair

Dr Rosemarie Kentie (IBED, University of Amsterdam) (to April 2025)

Dr Arjun Amar (University of Cape Town, South Africa) (from April 2025)

Members

Mr Graham Appleton, BOU Hon. Treasurer (to April 2025)

Dr Beatriz Arroyo Lopez (Instituto de Investigacion en Recursos Cinegeticos (IREC) (CSIC-UCLM-JCCM) (to July 2025)

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

Dr Claire Branston (University of Glasgow & Edinburgh Napier University) (from July 2025)

Dr Simon Butler (University of East Anglia)

Dr Anthony Caravaggi (University of South Wales) (from July 2025)

Dr Mark Eddowes, BOU Hon. Treasurer (from April 2025)

Dr Richard Fuller, Editor (University of Queensland)

Prof Jenny Gill, Editor in Chief (University of East Anglia)

Dr Rebecca Kimball, Editor (University of Florida)

Mrs Angela Langford, Journal Manager

Dr Ruedi Nager, Editor (University of Glasgow)

Dr Andrea Soriano Redondo (University of Helsinki)

Dr Leila Walker, BOU COO

Prof Jeremy Wilson, Editor (RSPB)

Media Support Officer, Natalia Zielonka, completed her second term, and we welcomed River Stewart in this role. As noted above, we were also pleased to recruit Clarissa de Oliveira Santos as our new Equality & Diversity Support Officer. We are incredibly grateful to our outgoing officers and give a warm welcome to our incoming officers.

Our Blog Editor, Heather Fortune, settled into her role very smoothly. In 2025, 70 blogs were published, including BOU Diversity Blogs (see above), posts from our Journal Support Officer (see below), contributions from authors of ornithology papers (published in IBIS and other journals) and reports from grant recipients. We are also thankful to Bob Montgomerie (Queen's University, Canada) for continuing his regular contributions to the blog, covering the historical background of recently published IBIS papers (e.g. [How many bird species?](#)).

Our Journal Support Officer, Ashleigh Marshall, wrote [10 articles](#) for the BOU blog in 2025, summarising a variety of papers published in IBIS. Ashleigh's role is key to increasing the visibility of IBIS publications, with her blog posts increasing a paper's Altmetric score, particularly in cases when the initial score is low.

Our Conference Support Officers enabled the delivery of two successful events during the year: BOU2025, supported by Ondřej Belfín, and BOUasm25, supported by Josh Coupar-Evans. Both Ondřej and Josh were integral to conference organisation and smooth delivery on-the-day.

Finally, our Social Media Support Officer, River Stewart, has been supporting BOU's social media activities, including the transition to Bluesky, our growing engagement on LinkedIn (see above), and the delivery of the Bluesky element of BOUasm25. River has been advising how engagement with our posts could be further maximised and has been trialling weekly *Spotlight* threads containing five ornithological papers (rather than posting them individually).

The Committee thanks its outgoing and incoming members and Support Officers for their contributions, support and enthusiasm.

IBIS Management Committee

BOU.ORG.UK/IBIS/

Committee membership and business

IBIS Management Committee offers strategic guidance, support, and advice to editors and staff, particularly regarding the management of the journal and including with our publisher, Wiley. The Committee consists of the Editor in Chief, all Editors, the Chief Operations Officer, the Honorary Treasurer, the Journal Manager and up to four regular members operating at Associate Editor level for IBIS or similar journals.

In April, the Committee welcomed Arjun Amar to the Chair role and Mark Eddowes as BOU Honorary Treasurer, thanking Rosemarie Kentie and Graham Appleton for all



TOP CITED PAPERS

From most recent Impact Factor period
(published 2022-2023)

BirdNET: applications, performance, pitfalls and future opportunities / Cristian Pérez-Granados / DOI: 10.1111/ibi.13193

High pathogenicity avian influenza (H5N1) in Northern Gannets (*Morus bassanus*): Global spread, clinical signs and demographic consequences / Jude V. Lane et al / DOI: 10.1111/ibi.13275

Thermal effects of plumage coloration / Svana Rogalla, Matthew D. Shawkey, Liliana D'Alba / DOI: 10.1111/ibi.13100



MOST VIEWED PAPERS

IBIS papers published in 2025

A new species of jewelbabbler (Cinclosomatidae: *Ptilorrhoa*) from the Southern Fold Mountains of Papua New Guinea / Iain A. Woxvold, Banak G. Gamui, Leo Legra, Samson Yama, Bonny Koane, Salape Tulai / DOI: 10.1111/ibi.70016

A focus on females can improve science and conservation / Joanna X. Wu, Martha A. Harbison, Stephanie Beilke, Purbita Saha, Brooke L. Bateman / DOI: 10.1111/ibi.13386

Past research and future directions in understanding how birds use their sense of smell / Darcy Creece, Rafael Freire, Melanie Massaro / DOI: 10.1111/ibi.13398

their contributions during their terms as Chair and Hon. Treasurer, respectively. In July, the Committee further welcomed Claire Branston and Anthony Caravaggi as new members, thanking Beatriz Arroyo Lopez on her retirement from the Committee.

IBIS is published on behalf of the BOU by Wiley Publishing, from whom we continue to receive fantastic service, support and advice. During 2025, we worked closely with Andreas Petersen, our society contact in the Partner Publishing team, and Melissa Clasper, our editorial contact in the Publishing Development team. The efforts of Wiley staff during the year were greatly appreciated, and we continue to enjoy working closely with all the Wiley team. From the Journal Marketing team we appreciated the guidance and support provided by Jo Wood, Laura Erhart and Chloe Hellyer. We have an excellent relationship with Wiley and maintain constant communication throughout the year, with both parties striving to improve IBIS, to ensure the journal remains at the forefront of ornithology.

Our annual meeting with Wiley was held on Zoom in March. At the meeting, annual reports covering editorial, production, marketing and finance were presented and discussed. Our close working relationship comes to the fore during these meetings with both sides able to talk openly about our joint management of the journal. The current publishing agreement with Wiley runs until the end of 2027. Negotiations for a new four-year agreement (covering 2028–2031) will begin in 2026 between Wiley and the BOU. With these negotiations in mind a sub-committee of the IBIS Management Committee convened a meeting in November 2025, and is currently preparing a briefing document for Council to consider before entering into these negotiations, specifically centred around the implications for the BOU of moving toward being a fully open access journal.

Editorial team

The journal is managed by our Editor in Chief Jennifer Gill, five Editors, Journal Manager Angela Langford, and our globally representative Associate Editor Board. All play a vital role in the management of IBIS and we thank each and every one of them for their time and dedication to the journal. Nine Associate Editors retired from the board after many years and handling many manuscripts, and we want to thank them for their excellent work: Chima Nwaogu, Cat Horswill, Maggie MacPherson, Laura Cardador, Martin Stervander, Stuart Marsden, Francis Daunt, Morten Frederiksen, and Simon Butler. We currently have 40 Associate Editors. In the coming year, we will need to recruit Associate Editors by advertising positions in certain areas. Look out for developments on this in 2026 and associated calls in our eNewsletters and on social media!

Special issues

One special issue was published in 2025, linked to the 2022 online conference – BOUasm22 *Citizen science and birds*. The special issue, Citizen Science, was published in Volume 167 (Issue 1), and included seven articles on topics ranging from species distributions to methodology. IBIS is also loosely involved with a multi-journal themed collection *Waking up on Climate Change: Measuring Impact, Focusing*

MEETINGS COMMITTEE

Chair

Dr Catriona Morrison (Biomathematics and
Statistics Scotland)

Members

Dr Katherine Booth Jones (Scottish
Government) (to July 2025)
Dr Vojtěch Brlík (Czech Academy of Sciences
& Charles University, Czechia)

Dr Jennifer Coomes (Scottish Government)
(from July 2025)

Dr Joshua Copping (RSPB) (from July 2025)

Dr Daria Dadam (Natural England)

Dr Christine Howard (Durham University) (to
July 2025)

Dr Joeline Hughes (RSPB)

Dr Nishant Kumar (University of Delhi &
University of Oxford) (from July 2025)

Mrs Angela Langford, Journal & Office
Manager

Dr Barry McMahon (University College Dublin)

Dr Alice Risely (Salford University)

Dr Emily Simmonds (Norwegian University of
Science and Technology & University of
Edinburgh)

Dr Megan Thompson (University of
Edinburgh) (from July 2025)

Dr Leila Walker, BOU COO

Dr Kevin Wood (Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust)
(to July 2025)

Efforts and Building Futures. The submission deadline for this collection has been extended to 30 April 2026.

At the end of 2025, we opened a call for papers for a Special Issue titled Collections-Based Ornithological Research in a Changing World, linked to the November BOUasm25 *A day at the museum* conference. The submission deadline for this is 30 June 2026.

We also published a Woodland Birds virtual issue in celebration of the BOU *Woodland birds* symposium that took place at the 2025 European Ornithologists' Union conference in Bangor, UK in August. The virtual issue presented a collation of studies of woodland birds published in IBIS in recent years.

Journal metrics

The Wiley IBIS website displays a range of journal and article metrics, including Journal Impact Factor (2.1 in 2024), CiteScore (4.6 in 2024), Journal Citation Indicator (1.4 in 2024), full text views (380,814 in 2024), acceptance rate (26% in 2024), submission to first decision (18 days in 2024) and submission to acceptance (215 days in 2024).

Best ECR paper

We annually award a best IBIS Early Career Researcher (ECR) paper, where the first or corresponding author was an ECR. In 2024, 38 papers qualified, of which four were nominated for the award by our Associate Editors. These nominated papers went to a public vote in 2025, with Selin Ersoy's paper on the Personality-related differences in timing of migration in Red Knots being voted the winner (see side panel on page 11 and <https://doi.org/10.1111/ibi.13308>).

Marketing

IBIS is actively promoted through eNewsletters, social media and BOU blogs, which helps to maximise article views and online attention, as measured by Altmetric Attention Scores. In addition to the monthly new article eNewsletters and quarterly new issue highlights eNewsletters, we also circulated an eNewsletter in June calling for review papers and highlighting recently published reviews.

Throughout 2025, we worked closely with Jo Wood, Laura Erhart and Chloe Hellyer at Wiley, who continue to create promotional banners for the Wiley IBIS website and involve IBIS in several Wiley marketing campaigns.

Meetings Committee

[BOU.ORG.UK/CONFERENCES-AND-MEETINGS/](https://bou.org.uk/conferences-and-meetings/)

The Meetings Committee is responsible for maintaining the ongoing programme of BOU conferences and providing advice and support to the BOU Office and others responsible for organising and running BOU events. The Committee met remotely via Zoom twice during the year and also conducted business by email.

2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE



FRONTIERS IN ORNITHOLOGY

1-3 Apr 2025 | Nottingham | #BOU2025

Image: Imran Shah CC BY-SA 2.0 Wikimedia Commons

Christine Howard, Kevin Wood and Katherine Booth-Jones left the Committee this year and we would like to thank them for their great work. Jennifer Coomes, Joshua Copping, Nishant Kumar and Megan Thompson joined, and we welcome and look forward to working with them.

The Committee would like to thank our 2025 conference delivery team of Ondřej Belfin, Josh Coupar-Evans, Angela Langford, Alice Risely, River Stuart, Hannah Teague, Zach Williams, Karolina Zalewska and Natalia Zielonka for all their hard work.

2025 annual conference

BOU2025 *Frontiers in ornithology: conceptual and methodological innovations in avian research* – 1–3 April 2025

This conference aimed to cover a broad range of topics, including the more niche and specialised topics not often covered by BOU meetings. It focused on the use of emerging technologies and methods providing novel and exciting insights into bird populations and behaviour, with conference sessions spanning movement and migration, bioacoustics monitoring, socio-ecology, conservation, disease and pollution, genetics and behaviour. We had 92 delegates in attendance.

The Alfred Newton Lecture was given by Judy Shamoun-Baranes from the University of Amsterdam and was titled 'Synergies between ornithology, technology and movement ecology'. The keynote speakers were Benjamin Van Doren (University of Illinois, USA), Simon Gillings (BTO, UK), Nishant Kumar (Ambedkar University, Delhi, National Centre for Biological Sciences (TIFR), Bengaluru, India and University of Oxford, UK), Viviana Ruiz Gutierrez (Cornell Lab of Ornithology, USA), Becki Lawson (Institute of Zoology, London, UK), Andreanna Welch (Durham University, UK) and Lucy Aplin (University of Zurich, Switzerland and Austrian National University). A further 24 speakers presented their research via shorter talks, and nine posters were presented.

BOU2025 was the first conference at which we moved fully from using X (formally Twitter) to Bluesky as our parallel social media conference platform. All presenters were invited to deliver a presentation on Bluesky alongside their talk or poster, which could be followed for free by anyone. In total, 25 Bluesky presentations were delivered, from a mixture of speakers, poster presenters and Bluesky-only presenters.

Two Early Career Researcher (ECR) events also took place at the conference. The first was a series of workshops on Tuesday afternoon: 'Q&A with IBIS Editor in Chief' led by Jenny Gill (University of East Anglia, UK), 'Fundamentals of Radio Tracking' led by Sarah Deans (LoteK UK), and 'Careers in Ecology and Ornithology' led by Oliver Metcalf (Lancaster University, UK) and Graham Buchanan (RSPB, UK). The second was a roundtable event on Wednesday evening, where ECRs got to grill the keynote speakers on subjects ranging from careers tips to their favourite

2025 AUTUMN CONFERENCES



WOODLAND BIRDS

18 Aug 2025 | Bangor | #BOUatEOU

Image: caroline legg CC BY 2.0 Wikimedia Commons



A DAY AT THE MUSEUM

18 Nov 2025 | Natural History Museum, London | #BOUasm25

Image: © Trustees of the Natural History Museum, London

fieldwork experiences over a drink or two served by our President Graham Buchanan. Thanks to all involved.

We thank the Scientific Programme Committee (SPC) – Christine Howard (University of Durham, UK; SPC Chair), Ailidh Barnes (BTO, UK), Claire Buchan (University of East Anglia, UK), Oliver Leedham (UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology) and Marius Somveille (University of East Anglia, UK) – for their hard work in putting together an excellent programme of speakers.

2025 autumn conferences

BOUatEOU *Woodland birds* symposium – 18 August 2025

This event was held as a one-day symposium on registration day of the 15th European Ornithologists' Union conference at Bangor University, Wales. The event was free to attend for EOU delegates, with 105 people pre-registering for the symposium. The conference sessions spanned species declines, breeding success and biogeography and anthropogenic impact. The keynote speakers were Marta Maziarz (Museum and Institute of Zoology PAS, Poland) and Gilbetro Pasinelli (Swiss Ornithological Institute, Switzerland). A further eight speakers presented their research via shorter talks.

As at BOU2025, all presenters were invited to deliver a presentation in parallel on Bluesky; six out of 10 speakers opted to do so.

We thank the SPC – Stuart Sharp (Lancaster University, UK; SPC Chair), Malcolm Burgess (RSPB, UK), Daria Dadam (Natural England, UK) and Sue Anne Zollinger (Manchester Metropolitan University, UK) – for putting together an excellent event.

BOUasm25 *A day at the museum: collections-based ornithological research in a changing world* – 18 November 2025

This hybrid conference was held at the Natural History Museum in London and online on Microsoft Teams. It aimed to bring together researchers to showcase the range of work that can be carried out with museum collections and shine a light on the future possibilities. The conference sessions spanned phenology, palaeoecology, evolution, genomics and community building. We had 111 delegates in attendance, of which 33 were online. ECR places were subsidised thanks to a kind donation from the estate of Gwen Bishop (Bonham).

The keynote speakers were Alex Bond (Natural History Museum, UK), Mary Caswell Stoddard (Princeton University, USA), JC Buckner (University of Texas at Arlington, USA), John McCormack (Occidental College, USA) and Claire Spottiswoode (University of Cape Town, South Africa). A further 10 speakers presented their research via shorter talks and 12 presentations were delivered on Bluesky, from a mixture of speakers and Bluesky-only presenters.

We thank the SPC – Ken Norris (Natural History Museum, UK; SPC Chair), Alex Bond (Natural History Museum, UK), Shane Dubay (University of Texas), Catriona

Morrison (BioSS, UK), Gavin Thomas (University of Sheffield, UK) and Andreanna Welch (University of Durham, UK) – for putting together an excellent programme.

FUTURE CONFERENCES



BIRDS AND PEOPLE

31 Mar - 2 Apr 2026 | Nottingham | #BOU2026

Image: Jens Bludau CC BY-SA 3.0 Wikimedia Commons



AVIAN FUTURES

29 Sept 2026 | York | #BOUasm26

Image: Mike Baird CC BY 2.0 Wikimedia Commons



AVIAN DISEASE ECOLOGY

6-8 Apr 2027 | Nottingham | #BOU2027

Image: Randusr836 CC BY-SA 4.0 Wikimedia Commons

Future conferences

We have a diverse selection of topics covered by our upcoming conference program. These are:

BOU2026 *Birds and people: challenges and opportunities of coexistence*

31 March – 2 April 2026 – University of Nottingham, UK & Zoom & Bluesky

This conference aims to draw on international research to provide insights into the relationships between birds and people and provide solutions to how we can coexist in the future. It will cover conservation, conflicts, inclusivity and equality in ornithology, cultural and social importance of birds and the benefits of birds to people. This will be a hybrid conference held in-person at the University of Nottingham and online on Zoom.

BOUasm26 *Avian Futures: predicting and preparing for the future of avian biodiversity*

29 September 2026 – York, UK & Zoom & Bluesky

This is an exciting conference that aims to bring together different strands of avian research, conservation, and management to look to the future together and work out how we can best anticipate what is next. The conference will cover pressures and forces that shape bird populations, predicting shifts (range, abundance, phenology) or organism adaptations, monitoring technologies and advances and adaptation to a changing world. It will also include a workshop on the future of avian research, conservation, and management. This hybrid conference will be held in-person at Novotel York Centre and online on Zoom.

BOU2027 *Avian disease ecology: combining avian ecology and OneHealth to understand and mitigate disease*

6 – 8 April 2027 – University of Nottingham, UK & Zoom & Bluesky

This conference will showcase the state of knowledge across diverse avian host-pathogen systems and aims to bring together researchers and practitioners across fields to promote the interdisciplinary collaborations required to further advance our understanding of disease ecology in birds and provide the knowledge and tools to mitigate the impacts of disease. Research on non-infectious disease in wild birds, such as disease related to plastic and chemical pollution, are also within its scope. This will be a hybrid conference held in-person at the University of Nottingham and online on Zoom.

GRANTS COMMITTEE

Chair

Dr Tom Bradfer-Lawrence (RSPB)

Members

Dr Davide Dominoni (University of Glasgow)

Ms Ros Green (University of Liverpool & BTO)
(role-sharing to July 2025; full member
from July 2025)

Dr Stephanie Harris (University of Liverpool)
(from July 2025)

Dr Claudia Martin (University of Edinburgh) (to
September 2025)

Dr Nina O'Hanlon (British Trust for
Ornithology) (from November 2025)

Dr Sam Patrick (University of Liverpool) (role-
sharing) (to July 2025)

Dr Martin Sullivan (Manchester Metropolitan
University)

Dr Leila Walker, BOU COO

Grants Committee

[BOU.ORG.UK/FUNDING/](https://bou.org.uk/funding/)

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

The Committee considers applications for:

- small research grants.
- career development bursaries;
 - open to BOU members and non-members in low- and middle-income countries.
- John & Pat Warham Studentships;
 - 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.
- Brenda and Tony Gibbs Awards;
 - funded by a bequest left to the BOU by the late Brenda and Tony Gibbs for research on tracking and migration studies including the use of new technologies.

The Committee met three times via Zoom in 2025. The meeting to consider research grant and career development bursary applications was held in early February, and the meeting to consider applications for the Brenda and Tony Gibbs Award was held in June. A third meeting was also held in late February to discuss potential ways to disburse increased levels of funding, and improvements to the grant scoring process leading to a refined rubric for use in 2026. The remainder of the Committee's business was conducted by email.

Sam Patrick reached the end of her tenure on the Committee during 2025. The BOU are enormously grateful for her time and expertise. Sam had a role-sharing arrangement with Ros Green, and Ros kindly agreed to become a full-time member of the Committee. Claudia Martin joined the committee in 2024 but had to step down midway through 2025 due to competing work commitments. We are very grateful to Claudia for her time on the Committee and hope she may be able to return to the BOU, should timings allow in the future. Recent years have seen an increase in the number of grant applications, leading to a higher workload for the Committee. We therefore sought approval from Council to expand the membership by an additional person. Stephanie Harris and Nina O'Hanlon both joined the committee in time for the 2026 assessments.

Small Ornithological Research Grant scheme

The Committee received 64 grant applications in 2025 (48 in 2024, 31 in 2023, 45 in 2022). One application was rejected due to breaches in submission criteria, leaving 63 to be assessed ahead of the annual meeting held on 5 February 2025. Each application was scored by two committee members and based on these scores, the associated comments and on-the-day discussions, the committee determined which

projects to support. Seven applications qualified for funding consideration under the Brenda and Tony Gibbs bequest, but none of these were sufficiently competitive.

Council approved twelve awards, totalling £22,232, to be made in 2025:

FUNDING ORNITHOLOGY



Iberá Seedeater *Sporophila iberensis* (top) and Eleonora's Falcon *Falco eleonorae* (bottom) are the subject of two research projects funded by the BOU in 2025.

Photo credit: David F. Belmonte CC BY 4.0 Wikimedia Commons (top) & Charles J. Sharp CC BY-SA 4.0 Wikimedia Commons (bottom)

Applicant	Kimberly Parno
Nationality	Canadian
Position	MSc student, Queen's University, Canada
Project	Evolutionary Origins of Haida Gwaii Distinctive Avifauna
Award	£2,000
Applicant	Joshua Wright
Nationality	British
Position	PhD Student, Manchester Metropolitan University, UK
Project	Using paleogenomic analysis of extinct mergansers from the New Zealand region to resolve the evolution of the Mergini subfamily
Award	£2,000
Applicant	Emma Arulanatham
Nationality	USA
Position	DPhil student, University of Oxford, UK
Project	Testing vocal responsivity, discrimination, and prezygotic isolation between subspecies of an island coloniser (<i>Zosterops lateralis</i>)
Award	£840
Applicant	Simón Kraemer
Nationality	Argentinian
Position	PhD Student, Centro de Ecología Aplicada del Litoral (CONICET-UNNE), Argentina
Project	How does variation in song and pigmentation patterns affect reproductive success in <i>Sporophila</i> Seedeaters?
Award	£2,000
Applicant	Zsófia Tóth*
Nationality	Hungarian
Position	Postdoctoral Researcher, Lund University, Sweden
Project	Ecological Impacts of Urbanisation: Unraveling the Mechanisms of Hatching Failure in Birds
Award	£2,000
Applicant	Jennifer Darby
Nationality	British
Position	PhD student, Manchester Metropolitan University, UK

FUNDING ORNITHOLOGY



Southern House Wren *Troglodytes musculus* (top) and Austral Flamingo *Phoenicopterus chilensis* (bottom) are the subject of a further two research projects funded by the BOU in 2025.

Photo credit: Charles J. Sharp CC BY-SA 4.0 Wikimedia Commons (top) & Cláudio Dias Timm CC BY-SA 2.0 Wikimedia Commons (bottom)

Project	Impact of individual loads of endocrine disrupting chemicals on reproductive fitness and breeding success on sand martins (<i>Riparia riparia</i>)
Award	£1,516
Applicant	Pablo Andrés Fracas
Nationality	Argentinian
Position	PhD student, Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales "Bernardino Rivadavia" – CONICET, Argentina
Project	Studying song variation and recognition in a contact zone of divergent lineages of the Southern House Wren <i>Troglodytes musculus</i> .
Award	£2,000
Applicant	Michiel Lathouwers*
Nationality	Belgian
Position	Voluntary Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Antwerp, Belgium
Project	Afro-tropical nightjar activity and occurrence across a gradient of skyglow exposure
Award	£1,996
Applicant	Fabian Przepióra
Nationality	Polish
Position	PhD student & Research Assistant (part-time), University of Agriculture in Krakow, Poland
Project	Distribution and activity of Eurasian Woodcock <i>Scolopax rusticola</i> in mountain coniferous woodlands shaped by natural disturbances
Award	£1,950
Applicant	Paul Dufour
Nationality	French
Position	Postdoctoral Researcher, Centre d'Ecologie Fonctionnelle et Evolutive, France
Project	Investigating Recent Island Colonization by a Partial Migratory Species
Award	£1,950
Applicant	Abril Marcolongo
Nationality	Argentinian
Position	PhD student, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina
Project	Conservation genomics of the austral flamingo (<i>Phoenicopterus chilensis</i>)
Award	£2,000

Applicant	Evanthia Thanou
Nationality	Greek
Position	Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Patras, Greece
Project	Chicken-wings all year round? The diet of Eleonora's Falcon may largely rely on bird-prey both during the breeding and the pre-breeding period
Award	£1,980

* Awards funded from £10,000 donation received in 2022 (small grants fund).

The small grants fund was replenished in 2025 by a further generous donation of £12,500.

Career Development Bursary scheme

The Committee received three applications to this scheme in 2025 (0 in 2024, 2 in 2023, 6 in 2022). Unfortunately, two were ineligible for consideration. Council approved one award totalling £2,500:

Applicant	Leone Akhmeteli
Nationality	Georgian
Position	Master's student, Ludwig-Maximilian University Munich, Germany
Project	Flying with the wind: how seasonal wind conditions affect migratory decisions, flight costs and flight range of Eurasian Spoonbills
Project host	BirdEyes Center for Global Ecological Change, University of Groningen, Netherlands
Supervisor	Wouter Vansteelant

Overall, the Committee feel that the Bursaries scheme is worthwhile but that it requires better promotion. To this end, various measures were implemented in 2024 and 2025 to encourage more applications, including improved signposting, more information and previous-recipient testimonials on the BOU website. While 2025 applications were an improvement on 2024, this is still low in contrast to historic numbers (10 applications in 2017).

WARHAM STUDENT



Warham Student, **John Lamaris**, Monash University, Australia.

John and Pat Warham Studentships

The first three Warham students have all completed their PhDs. Here, John Lamaris, the fourth and final Warham Student, provides a project update.

John Lamaris, Monash University, Australia (commenced 2023)

Recovering the critically endangered Beck's Petrel

Principal supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Rohan Clarke

RECOVERING THE CRITICALLY ENDANGERED BECK'S PETREL



Image of wild pig captured during camera trapping to monitor potential threats to Beck's Petrel (photo: John Lamarinis).

In my previous update, I outlined the key components of my research, focusing on inland searches for a breeding colony of the enigmatic Beck's Petrel. This work relies heavily on the boat-based seabird capture and tagging experience I have been gaining through our research lab's tagging programs, with the ultimate goal of deploying GPS tags with satellite connectivity on Beck's Petrels captured off New Ireland. This has included a relatively large number of days at sea with our team, catching both albatross and petrels and deploying satellite tags on these birds. Our work this year has not only ensured invaluable training and experience in at-sea seabird identification, safe capture, handling, measuring, banding, and fitting biologgers for myself, but has also informed our team's catching techniques – we now have at our disposal a range of tools to catch seabirds at sea including hand nets, hoop nets, net guns, and mist-nets deployed on vessels. We have also refined our techniques to attract seabirds to the rear of the vessel for capture and can do this very effectively for a range of tube nosed seabirds. When deployed at the appropriate time of year – guided by our monthly onshore surveys and existing knowledge – these tags will help locate one or more breeding colonies.

Although the planned tagging for the first quarter of 2025 was deferred to early 2026, I successfully conducted a trial inland search for potential breeding grounds. This field trip achieved its objectives: we strengthened engagement with local communities and secured consent from landowners to continue research and conduct monthly population counts at the Tadang River mouth. During this trip, we also visited other communities along the west coast of southern New Ireland to seek permission for trekking inland to the Hans Meyer Range, a possible breeding site for Beck's Petrel.

An exciting highlight of the inland search was the sighting of the Bismarck Kingfisher (*Ceyx websteri*), a bird not seen for over a decade. A [short blog](#) was written about this discovery, which was shared on our Research Ecology Conservation webpage. The sighting was also featured by the Lost Birds Organisation and in the final edition of BirdLife International's magazine for 2025.



Image of a dog captured during camera trapping to monitor potential threats to Beck's Petrel. (Photo: Rohan Clarke).

On this trip, I started doing camera trapping to check for presence of any potential threats to Beck's Petrel such as pigs, cats, wild dogs and invasive rodents. Camera traps were able to capture images of wild pigs and possibly a wild dog (see images in side panel, this page).

In addition, I attended the Oceania Seabirds 2025 Symposium (OSS) in Auckland, where I presented a review titled "Traditional and Cultural Knowledge of Seabirds in Oceania". This review, prepared for the South Pacific Regional Environment Program Secretariat (SPREP), aims to advance knowledge and efforts for better seabird protection in Oceania. It will also form a chapter of my PhD thesis, for which I am currently working on the manuscript for publication.

More recently I have been heavily involved in the planning for a major expedition that is scheduled to commence in late February 2026. As a part of this we have



RECORDS COMMITTEE

Chair

Dr Alexander Lees (Manchester Metropolitan University)

Secretary

Mr Chris Batty (Lancashire)

Members

Mr Ross Ahmed (Northumberland)

Dr Pierre-Andre Crochet (French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS))

Mr Mark Golley (Norfolk, UK)

Mr Andrew Holden (North Yorkshire: BBRC Chair)

Mr Mark Thomas (RSPB)

Dr Jane Turner (Cheshire)

Dr Leila Walker, BOU COO

BOURC CATEGORY F SUB-COMMITTEE (BOURC CFSC)

Dr Umberto Albarella

Dr Joanne Cooper

Prof John R. Stewart

Dr Dale Serjeantson

BOURC consultants

Steve Dudley (Category C)

Bob McGowan (Museums) (to August 2025)

Martin Stervander (Museums) (from September 2025)

Keith Naylor (Historical Records)

renewed the Beck's Petrel project annual research permit to conduct research in Papua New Guinea, and managed to secure the support of a liveaboard vessel at very heavily discounted rates (we are effectively only paying for food during a ~10 day charter) that will be used as the platform to capture Beck's Petrels. Considerable logistical planning for this has included voyage planning, equipment purchase and freight (including the purchase of additional satellite tags), team engagement, visas and travel planning. At this stage we are on track with key personal, equipment, berley and travel to undertake this voyage as planned, commencing late February 2026.

I am learning a great deal from the team and gaining confidence in handling seabirds – skills that will be critical for my PhD research. There is still much to learn, and I look forward to continuing this training throughout my program.

Brenda and Tony Gibbs bequest

We received and assessed 22 applications in 2025 (23 in 2024, 33 in 2023, 20 in 2022, 37 in 2021). The combined scores and comments from Committee members were used as the basis of on-the-day discussions at a meeting on 23 June 2025.

Council approved two awards totalling £39,970, with the c. £4,000 shortfall from the Gibbs restricted fund, required for a sixth Gibbs Award, being covered from BOU restricted research funds:

Applicant	Stephanie Harris
Position	Research Fellow
Institute	University of Liverpool, UK
Project	Tracking the emergence of foraging culture in a newly forming seabird colony
Award	£20,000
Applicant	Juan Gómez
Position	Assistant Professor
Institute	Universidad del Norte, Colombia
Project	Impact of rapid habitat transformation on the resource selection and habitat use in a critically endangered species endemic to the northern Andes in Colombia
Award	£19,970

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 twice (remotely) during the year with other business conducted by email.

ADDITIONS TO THE BRITISH LIST



Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus percnopterus*, admitted to the British List in 2025.

Image © Scott Reid, from record file



Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus*, admitted to the British List in 2025.

Image © James Eaton, from record file

In August, Bob McGowan stepped down from his role as Museums Consultant, and BOURC wishes to thank him for the assistance he has given the Committee over many years. We warmly welcome Martin Stervander (National Museums Scotland) into the role.

Changes to the British List

The BOURC's 58th Report was published in January 2026 and covers the period October 2024 to September 2025 (*IBIS* 168: 395–410). This announced two new additions to Category A of the British List:

- Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus percnopterus* moved from Category B to Category AE
- Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus* moved from Category D to Category AE

There was also a new historic first record for Pechora Pipit *Anthus gustavi gustavi* whilst a first record of Great-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus mexicanus* was added to Category E.

Following a review and consultation by BOURC, the BOU adopted the taxonomy of the International Ornithological Congress (IOC) World Bird List from 1 January 2018, including for the British List (*IBIS* 159: 928). The initial decision to follow IOC was based significantly on the emerging collaboration between IOC World Bird List and eBird/Clements to harmonize global avian taxonomies. Seven years later and a unified global avian taxonomy – AviList – was published in June 2025 and the IOC World Bird List will be discontinuing its independent taxonomic efforts. The BOU now follows AviList taxonomy and this change resulted in various implications for the British List mostly involving changes in linear sequence of several bird families but also five taxonomic downgrades 'lumps' as follows:

- Green-winged Teal *Anas carolinensis* is lumped with Teal (Eurasian Teal) *Anas crecca* to form one species Teal (Green-winged Teal) *Anas crecca*.
- Cabot's Tern *Thalasseus acuflavidus* is lumped with Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis* to form one species Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*.
- Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus* is lumped with Yelkouan Shearwater *Puffinus yelkouan* to form one species Mediterranean Shearwater *Puffinus yelkouan*.
- Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix* is lumped with Carrion Crow *Corvus corone* to form one species Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*.
- Amur Stonechat *Saxicola stejnegeri* is lumped with Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maurus* to form one species Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maurus*.

In total, these changes to the British List, together with taxonomic changes in line

Acknowledgements

The Union would like to extend its thanks and gratitude to the following who have assisted with the many BOU activities throughout the year:

All those members of Council and our committees as listed throughout the report who give up their time willingly to develop, oversee and deliver our wide range of activities;

Raurie Bowie, Richard Fuller, Jenny Gill, Rebecca Kimball, Ruedi Nager, Jeremy Wilson, Patrick Smith, all Associate Editors (listed in each issue of IBIS) and the hundreds of reviewers (listed annually in IBIS) for their invaluable work for IBIS;

Richard Sale and Daniel Villar (on behalf of the Alexander Library, Oxford University) for their editing of the IBIS book reviews;

Prof Christopher Perrins and Neil Bucknell for arranging the obituaries published in IBIS;

Graham Allen, Farhath Jabeen, Andreas Petersen, Melissa Clasper, Janany Sudarshan, Jo Wood, Laura Erhart, Chloe Hellyer and colleagues at Wiley, for their help in delivering our high quality journal;

Andrew Hopwood, Adrian Morris and colleagues at Henry Ling Ltd for providing member print copies of IBIS;

Leica (UK) for their support of our IBIS early career researcher award;

Investment trustees Neil Bucknell, Andrew Callender and Ben Turner for their excellent management of the Union's investment portfolio;

Christine Howard (University of Durham; Chair), Ailidh Barnes (BTO), Claire Buchan (University of East Anglia), Oliver Leedham (UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology) and Marius Somveille (University of East Anglia) for their work preparing the programme for the annual conference (*Frontiers in ornithology*);

Stuart Sharp (Lancaster University; Chair), Malcolm Burgess (RSPB), Daria Dadam (Natural England) and Sue Anne Zollinger (Manchester Metropolitan University) for the planning and delivery of the BOUatEOU *Woodland birds* symposium;

Cont/.

with IOC taxonomy sees the total for the British List decreasing to 636 species.

Committee recruitment

New Committee members continue to be recruited via public calls for nominations. The latest call, for one vacancy on BOURC, opened in November 2025 and closes in February 2026. For the first time, we are in parallel running a call for nominations for the BOU Committee Shadowing Scheme, whereby individuals wishing to gain more experience of sitting on a committee, without being a full member, can be nominated to shadow a committee. The outcomes of both calls will be announced in 2026.

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 other European committees, and close links are maintained with Association of European Records Committees (AERC).

Membership

At the end of the year our total membership stood at 1,181 (1,082 at 31 Dec 2024) comprising 804 full members (784 at 31 Dec 2024) and 377 reduced rate subscribers (298 at 31 Dec 2024), made up of 320 early career researchers (ECRs) and 57 from/living in low-and-middle-income countries.

47 members sent their formal resignation during the year (46 in 2024), and Council noted, with sadness, the following deaths: Mr Fred Errington and Prof Bob Oades.

As ever, we remain extremely grateful for the continued support of our members.

Financial review

Mark Eddowes, Honorary Treasurer

I start with thanks to Graham Appleton, the outgoing Treasurer. Thanks are due not only for his eight years of service in that role, but also for the wider responsibilities he took on at an important period of transition for the BOU. He has served us well which is fully recognised.

The BOU's financial position remains strong and stable. Overall, the performance in terms of planned income and expenditure in 2025 was very close to budget. On paper we made a small loss of £8,018. Given the complexities of BOU finances, with expenditure including research funding from bequests with limited lifetimes and the bottom line supported by capital growth in investments, that figure may not be representative of day-to-day operations. However, in 2025 the two very nearly



Acknowledgements

CONT/.

Ken Norris (Natural History Museum; Chair), Alex Bond (Natural History Museum), Shane Dubay (University of Texas), Catriona Morrison (BioSS), Gavin Thomas (University of Sheffield) and Andreanna Welch (University of Durham) for the planning and delivery of our *Avian conservation translocations* autumn conference;

Ondřej Belfín, Josh Coupar-Evans, Angela Langford, Alice Risely, River Stuart, Hannah Teague, Zach Williams, Karolina Zalewska and Natalia Zielonka for supporting the delivery of our conferences;

Sophie Detchon and Charlie Douglass at Douglass Digital for maintenance and development of the BOU website;

Maria Rogers and the conference staff at the University of Nottingham Conferences for helping to deliver our annual conference;

Mark Mainwaring and the EOU2025 team for helping with organisation of the BOUatEOU *Woodland birds* symposium;

Edis Juscius and the AV team at the Natural History Museum, London for helping to deliver our autumn *A day at the museum* conference;

Andy Musgrove for continued help with maintaining the electronic versions of the British List;

British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC) and bird records committees across Europe under the auspices of the Association of European Records Committees (AERC) who have assisted BOURC during the year;

Karen Kragesand Thomsen at Kovsted & Skovgård;

and Caroline Gillis, Tracey Richardson, Carly Eames and colleagues at Azets (accountants and auditors).

We apologise to anyone we have inadvertently omitted.

balanced one another out, giving a slightly more modest loss of around £7k on what might be considered normal operations when investment income and spending from bequests is excluded. This deficit is consistent with the reserves policy to reduce the amount of savings we hold by spending to support the charitable objectives of the Union, as set out in the 2024 Annual report. That reserves policy continues and we have again set a negative budget for the current year. In general, income and expenditure streams for 2025 matched those for 2024 and the same applies to the 2026 budget. I pick out a few main summary points below.

IBIS Income

Income from IBIS remains strong and substantially above its publication costs. At £113,161, income in 2025 was very similar to that in 2024 (£112,801). As explained in the 2024 Annual report, under the recently introduced contract, with a later Wiley year-end, the last payment relating to the BOU accounting year is not received until after the accounts are due to be completed, requiring that an estimate is made in that respect. Accordingly, the final outcome may differ slightly. Given its significance and the perceived uncertainties in it, the management of IBIS is given close attention. There are uncertainties in the publishing market associated with the general move towards Open Access which may affect the future financial performance of IBIS and the benefits the BOU can offer to its members through IBIS. Negotiations for a new publishing agreement with Wiley are expected to commence later this year and, with that in mind, we have begun a proactive review so as to be well-prepared for what may be to come.

Investments

Investments again performed well in 2025, with an increase in capital value of £59.1k, in line with market benchmarks and further dividend income of £18.6k. With the appointment of new Investment Trustees, 2025 was the time for Council to undertake a review of investments to ensure that they are achieving optimum returns in a responsible manner consistent with the values of our membership. Several key decisions were made in consultation with the Investment Trustees. BOU investments are currently heavily biased towards the UK market and the Investment Trustees have recommended a more globally diversified portfolio. Also, the current UK bias carries with it an oil and gas bias that would be reduced by the proposed diversification, improving the green credentials of the portfolio. BOU currently has substantial savings in the form of cash which exceed short and medium term needs. With the stock market generally providing better returns than cash, the decision has been made to move some funds out of cash and into the portfolio managed by the Investment Trustees. In addition, we are looking at ways to improve returns on savings held as cash.

Research Grants

The accounts show a total expenditure of £95k on research grants of one sort or another, an important element of the BOU's charitable activities. Around two thirds of that amount is associated with the Warham and Gibbs legacies and a smaller member's donation which Council overseas, with the remainder funded by the BOU, supported by income from long-standing endowment funds. This expenditure is up

somewhat on 2024 with the decision to fund a second Gibbs Award with the residual amount in the fund, requiring BOU to contribute some of its own funds to make up a small deficit on the amount required. Having funded four PhDs, the Warham legacy is now also close to being used. After the last student completes studies in 2026, around £40k will remain which is insufficient to fund a further PhD. Council is looking at how best to use this residual for the bequest purposes of funding *“certain postgraduate and postdoctoral research scholarships for citizens of Commonwealth countries...involving penguins and/or tubenosed seabirds.”*

Other Income and Expenditure

With again no increase in subscriptions for another year and membership holding fairly steady, subscription income has remained at around £37k. There have been minor inflationary increases in the cost of running the BOU which can be absorbed without any increase in subscriptions, given the healthy profit made by IBIS and the reserves policy of reducing unrestricted funds. Interest income is down slightly, reflecting generally lower interest rates in 2025. Conference income was lower in 2025 than in 2024 (£26.8k compared to £34.7k), but broadly in line with budget and proportionate to two income-generating conferences in 2025 compared to three conferences in 2024.

Responsibilities of the Trustees

The Members of Council are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Members of Council to prepare financial statements 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 financial statements, 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 financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements 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 financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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 Council on 4 March 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Graeme Buchanan', is positioned above the printed name.

Dr Graeme Buchanan President

Independent auditor's report to the members of the British Ornithologists' Union for the year ended 31 December 2025

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of British Ornithologists' Union (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 December 2025 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet and the notes to the financial statements, 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 financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2025 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 Charities Act 2011.

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 financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements 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

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Members of Council with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Members of Council are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of 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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the Trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements 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 financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Members of Council determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, 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

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements 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 financial statements.

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

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above and on the Financial Reporting Council's website, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

We obtain and update our understanding of the entity, its activities, its control environment, and likely future developments, including in relation to the legal and regulatory framework applicable and how the entity is complying with that framework. Based on this understanding, we identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. This includes consideration of the risk of acts by the entity that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud, we designed procedures which included:

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims as well as actual, suspected and alleged fraud;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Assessing the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations considered to have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the entity through enquiry and inspection;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management bias and override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for indicators of potential bias.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

Other matters

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared financial statements 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)" (as amended) 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 financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with current Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Use of our report

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. 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tracey Richardson'.

6 March 2026

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

Azets Audit Services

Westpoint, Lynch Wood, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, United Kingdom, PE2 6FZ

Chartered Accountants

Statutory Auditor

Azets Audit Services is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Current financial year		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
	Notes					
Income from:						
Donations and legacies	3	37,053	12,500	–	49,553	37,493
Charitable activities	4	140,011	–	–	140,011	147,530
Investments	5	23,915	4,231	1,797	29,943	33,091
Total income and endowments		200,979	16,731	1,797	219,507	218,114
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	6	57,342	–	–	57,342	55,143
Charitable activities	7	129,656	94,985	–	224,641	209,722
Total expenditure		186,998	94,985	–	281,983	264,865
Net gains/(losses) on investments	12	29,908	–	24,550	54,458	17,844
Net income/(expenditure)		43,889	(78,254)	26,347	(8,018)	(28,907)
Transfers between funds		5,171	(5,171)	–	–	–
Net movement in funds		49,060	(83,425)	26,347	(8,018)	(28,907)
Reconciliation of funds:						
Fund balances at 1 January 2025		673,863	201,739	166,283	1,041,885	1,070,792
Fund balances at 31 December 2025		722,923	118,314	192,630	1,033,867	1,041,885

All income and expenditure is derived from continuing activities.

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Prior financial year (2024)		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total 2024 £
	Notes				
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	37,493	–	–	37,493
Charitable activities	4	147,530	–	–	147,530
Investments	5	26,737	4,687	1,667	33,091
Total income and endowments		211,760	4,687	1,667	218,114
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	6	55,143	–	–	55,143
Charitable activities	7	142,049	67,673	–	209,722
Total expenditure		197,192	67,673	–	264,865
Net gains/(losses) on investments	12	10,467	–	7,377	17,844
Net income/(expenditure)		25,035	(62,986)	9,044	(28,907)
Transfers between funds		6,466	(6,466)	–	–
Net movement in funds		31,501	(69,452)	9,044	(28,907)
Fund balances at 1 January 2024		642,362	271,191	157,239	1,070,792
Fund balances at 31 December 2024		673,863	201,739	166,283	1,041,885

**BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

		2025	2024
		£	£
Fixed assets	Notes		
Investments	14	488,940	429,833
Current assets			
Debtors	16	43,277	40,059
Cash at bank and in hand		543,426	609,205
		586,703	649,264
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	17	(41,776)	(37,212)
Net current assets		544,927	612,052
Total assets less current liabilities		1,033,867	1,041,885
The funds of the charity			
Endowment funds	20	192,630	166,283
Restricted income funds	19	118,314	201,739
Unrestricted funds		722,923	673,863
		1,033,867	1,041,885

The financial statements were approved by the Members of Council on 4 March 2026.

Dr Graeme Buchanan
President

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

The British Ornithologists' Union is a registered charity in England and Wales (249877) and Scotland (SC044850) and is unincorporated.

The charity is a public benefit company.

The charity's place of business is:

PO Box 79, Pembroke, SA72 9AX, 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 charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements 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 withdrawn.

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

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of 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 financial statements, 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 financial statements.

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 2025

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.

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 trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.
- Other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

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 2025

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Overheads

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

	Office costs	A F Langford remuneration	L Walker remuneration
Conference costs	15%	7.5%	22.5%
Management and administration	45%	47.5%	60%
IBIS publishing costs	37.5%	45%	15%
Research costs	2.5%	–	2.5%
	100%	100%	100%

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 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.

1.8 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.

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

1 Accounting policies (continued)

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 derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.9 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.

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

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	198	12,500	12,698	203
Subscriptions	36,855	-	36,855	37,290
	<u>37,053</u>	<u>12,500</u>	<u>49,553</u>	<u>37,493</u>

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

4	Charitable activities				2025	2024
					£	£
	Publication income – IBIS				113,161	112,801
	Conference income				26,850	34,729
					140,011	147,530
5	Investments	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds general	Total 2025	Total 2024
		£	£	£	£	£
	Income from listed investments	12,539	4,231	1,797	18,567	17,697
	Interest receivable	11,376	–	–	11,376	15,394
		23,915	4,231	1,797	29,943	33,091
	For the year ended 31 December 2024	26,737	4,687	1,667		33,091
6	Raising funds				2025	2024
	<u>Fundraising and publicity</u>				£	£
	Management costs – purchases				7,148	6,533
	Management costs – wages and salaries				45,703	44,523
	Management costs – pension costs				4,491	4,087
	Fundraising and publicity				57,342	55,143
7	Charitable activities				2025	2024
					£	£
	Research – administration costs				1,861	1,709
	Publication costs – IBIS				62,869	59,796
	Conference costs				48,843	48,748
					113,573	110,253
	Grant and bursary funding of activities (see note 8)				94,985	82,555
	Share of governance costs (see note 9)				16,083	16,914
					224,641	209,722

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

8 Grants and bursaries payable

	2025 £	2024 £
<u>Awards payable:</u>		
Kimberly Parno (MSc student, Queen's University, Canada)	2,000	-
Joshua Wright (PhD Student, Manchester Metropolitan University, UK)	2,000	-
Emma Arulanatham (DPhil student, University of Oxford, UK)	840	-
Simón Kraemer (PhD Student, Centro de Ecología Aplicada del Litoral (CONICET-UNNE), Argentina)	2,000	-
Zsófia Tóth (Postdoctoral Researcher, Lund University, Sweden)	2,000	-
Jennifer Darby (PhD student, Manchester Metropolitan University, UK)	1,516	-
Pablo Andrés Fracas (PhD student, Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales "Bernardino Rivadavia" -CONICET, Argentina)	2,000	-
Michiel Lathouwers (Voluntary Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Antwerp, Belgium)	1,996	-
Fabian Przepióra (PhD student & Research Assistant (part-time), University of Agriculture in Krakow, Poland)	1,950	-
Paul Dufour (Postdoctoral Researcher, Centre d'Ecologie Fonctionnelle et Evolutive, France)	1,950	-
Abril Marcolongo (PhD student, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina)	2,000	-
Evanthia Thanou (Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Patras, Greece)	1,980	-
Leone Akhmeteli (Master's student, Ludwig-Maximilian University Munich, Germany)	2,500	-
Anya Shackleton-Jones (Undergraduate, University of Glasgow)	1,900	-
Gayatri Ramakrishnan (Undergraduate, University of Reading)	2,185	-
Rebecca Gillmore (Undergraduate, Bangor University)	2,400	-
Alejandro Corregidor-Castro (PhD Student, University of Padua, Italy)	-	1,166
Alice J. Edney (D.Phil Student, Oxford University, UK)	-	2,000
Simon Evans (Postdoctoral Research Fellow, University of Exeter, UK)	-	1,850
Sophie Harris (PhD Student, Newcastle University, UK)	-	1,965
Stephanie Harris (Postdoctoral Researcher, Bangor University, UK)	-	1,999
Jason Lacson (Graduate Teaching Associate (Ph.D Candidate), Arizona State University, USA)	-	1,889
Andreia Malpica-Topete (Postdoctoral Researcher, Michoacan University of Saint Nicholas of Hidalgo, Mexico)	-	2,000
Alper Yelimlieş (PhD candidate, Konrad Lorenz Research Centre for Behavior and Cognition, Austria)	-	1,970
Charlie Russell (PhD Student, University of East Anglia, UK)	-	2,000
Eugenia Andrea Bonetti (PhD Student, Marine and Coastal Research Institute, Argentina)	-	1,948
Conference attendance awards	4,757	3,059
<u>Grants to institutions:</u>		
Monash University (John & Pat Warham Studentship - Dr Rohan Clarke)	19,041	20,915
University of Liverpool (Brenda and Tony Gibbs Award - Stephanie Harris)	20,000	-
Universidad del Norte, Colombia (Brenda and Tony Gibbs Award - Juan Gómez)	19,970	-
University of Cape Town (Brenda and Tony Gibbs Award - Arjun Amar)	-	20,000
University of Oldenburg (Brenda and Tony Gibbs Award - Wieland Heim)	-	19,794
	<u>94,985</u>	<u>82,555</u>



BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

9	Support and governance costs	Support costs	Governance costs	2025	2024
		£	£	£	£
	Audit fees	-	5,820	5,820	5,760
	Accountancy	-	3,372	3,372	4,878
	Costs of trustees' and committee meetings	-	1,941	1,941	1,876
	Support Officers honoraria	-	4,950	4,950	4,400
		-	16,083	16,083	16,914
	Analysed between Charitable activities	-	16,083	16,083	16,914

Governance costs includes payments to the auditors of £5,820 (2024 - £5,760) for audit fees and £3,372 (2024 - £4,878) for other services.

10 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 five of the Members of Council were reimbursed expenses totalling £552 (2024 - four members were reimbursed expenses totalling £325). These expenses represent travelling costs incurred by the Members of Council in the performance of their duties.

11 Employees

Number of employees	2025	2024
The average monthly number employees during the year was:	2	2
Employment costs	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	83,423	81,213
Other pension costs	8,199	7,389
	91,622	88,602

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2024 - nil).

12	Gains and losses on investments	2025	2024
	Unrestricted funds	Endowment funds	Total
	£	£	£
Gains/(losses) arising on:			
Revaluation of investments	29,908	24,550	54,458
		10,467	7,377
			17,844

13 Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

14	Fixed asset investments		Listed investments
	Cost or valuation		£
	At 1 January 2025		429,833
	Additions		4,609
	Valuation changes		54,498
	At 31 December 2025		488,940
	Carrying amount		
	At 31 December 2025		488,940
	At 31 December 2024		429,833
15	Financial instruments	2025	2024
	Carrying amount of financial assets	£	£
	Trade debtors	41,317	34,485
	Other debtors	634	210
	Bank and cash	543,426	609,205
	Measured at cost	585,377	643,900
	Listed investments	488,940	429,833
	Measured at market value	488,940	429,833
	Carrying amount of financial liabilities		
	Trade creditors	2,706	2,561
	Accruals	8,819	8,375
	Measured at cost	11,525	10,936
16	Debtors	2025	2024
		£	£
	Amounts falling due within one year:		
	Trade debtors	41,317	34,485
	Other debtors	634	210
	Prepayments and accrued income	1,326	5,364
		43,277	40,059



BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

17 Creditors	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Amounts falling due within one year:			
Deferred income	18	30,251	26,276
Trade creditors		2,706	2,561
Accruals		8,819	8,375
		<u>41,776</u>	<u>37,212</u>

18 Deferred income	2025 £	2024 £
Other deferred income	30,251	26,276

Deferred income relates to subscriptions received in advance of £21,746 (2024 - £20,457) and income received in advance for conferences in future years of £8,505 (2024 - £5,819).

19 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 January 2025 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31 December 2025 £
Research Fund	93,096	4,231	(39,289)	-	58,038
John & Pat Warham Scholarship Fund	68,721	-	(19,041)	(1,904)	47,776
Brenda & Tony Gibbs Bequest	35,936	-	(32,669)	(3,267)	-
Small grants	3,986	12,500	(3,986)	-	12,500
	<u>201,739</u>	<u>16,731</u>	<u>(94,985)</u>	<u>(5,171)</u>	<u>118,314</u>
Previous year (2024)					
	At 1 January 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31 December 2024 £
Research Fund	88,409	4,687	-	-	93,096
John & Pat Warham Scholarship Fund	91,728	-	(20,915)	(2,092)	68,721
Brenda & Tony Gibbs Bequest	84,052	-	(43,742)	(4,374)	35,936
Small grants	7,002	-	(3,016)	-	3,986
	<u>271,191</u>	<u>4,687</u>	<u>(67,673)</u>	<u>(6,466)</u>	<u>201,739</u>

19 Restricted funds (continued)

Restricted funds include the Research Fund. This includes the income arising from investments held in the Endowment Fund.

The John & Pat Warham Scholarship Fund is to be used for research on Sphenisciform and Procellariiform seabirds and the income arising from investments.

The Brenda and Tony Gibbs Bequest is to be used for research on tracking and migration studies including the use of new technologies.

The transfer to the unrestricted fund represents an administration fee of 10% of the grants awarded from the John and Pat Warham Scholarship Fund and the Brenda and Tony Gibbs Bequest.

The small grants fund represents a donation that was received in 2022 that was to be used to award small grants in future years. During the year this fund was fully expended and a further donation for the same purpose was received.

20 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 (2025)					Balance at 31 Dec 2025
	Balance at 1 Jan 2025	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gains and losses	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
L & MT Fund	134,258	1,797	-	-	19,001	155,056
Research Fund	10,631	-	-	-	1,842	12,473
Hutt Legacy	21,394	-	-	-	3,707	25,101
	<u>166,283</u>	<u>1,797</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>24,550</u>	<u>192,630</u>

	Movement in funds (2024)					Balance at 31 Dec 2024
	Balance at 1 Jan 2024	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gains and losses	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
L & MT Fund	126,028	1,667	-	-	6,563	134,258
Research Fund	10,361	-	-	-	270	10,631
Hutt Legacy	20,850	-	-	-	544	21,394
	<u>157,239</u>	<u>1,667</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,377</u>	<u>166,283</u>

The Landsborough and Mary Thomson Research Fund (L & MT Fund) and the Hutt Legacy represent funds set up by individual donors. The purpose of the L&MT Fund was to fund research. Income arising from the capital held in investments within Endowment Funds is credited to the restricted 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 Unrestricted 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 2025

21 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2025	Restricted funds 2025	Endowment funds 2025	Total 2025
At 31 December 2025:	£	£	£	£
Investments	296,310	-	192,630	488,940
Current assets/(liabilities)	426,613	118,314	-	544,927
	<u>722,923</u>	<u>118,314</u>	<u>192,630</u>	<u>1,033,867</u>
	Unrestricted funds 2024	Restricted funds 2024	Endowment funds 2024	Total 2024
At 31 December 2024:	£	£	£	£
Investments	263,550	-	166,283	429,833
Current assets/(liabilities)	410,313	201,739	-	612,052
	<u>673,863</u>	<u>201,739</u>	<u>166,283</u>	<u>1,041,885</u>

22 Financial commitments, guarantees and contingent liabilities

During 2022 the charity awarded the final John and Pat Warham Studentship grant of £85,000 of which £14,297 (2024 - £33,338) is still to be paid to the recipient. This Studentship is due to run from 2023 to 2027.

23 Related party transactions

During the period to G Appleton's resignation date as Trustee of April 2025, payments of £nil (2024 - £5,035) were made to Professor J Gill, wife of G Appleton. In 2024 this was for IBIS editorial services and the transactions were on an arms length basis.

A donation of £12,500 was received in the year from a Trustee. No benefits were provided to the Trustee in respect of this donation.

Remuneration of key management personnel

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

	2025	2024
	£	£
Aggregate compensation	<u>52,530</u>	<u>50,754</u>