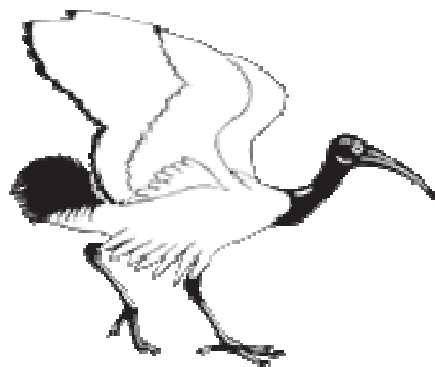


BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB

Registered Charity No. 279583



REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

31st December 2014

Porrill Rainey
Chartered Accountants

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB

Registered Charity No. 279583

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BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB

Founded 5 October 1892

Registered Charity No. 279583

CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW FOR 2014

In the past year the Club enjoyed three stimulating and entertaining evening talks at the Barley Mow, Westminster, and an outstanding joint Conference with the Oriental Bird Club at the Natural History Museum in November. For all these events we are much in Robert Prÿs-Jones's debt, not only for his skill in finding outstanding speakers, but also for ensuring their success and particularly that of the Conference series which goes from strength to strength. We look forward to the proposed joint Conference with the Ornithological Society of the Middle East (OSME) in autumn 2015.

The Club has had to address the continuing challenge of ensuring that resources are used to best advantage and in support of our aims and objectives. We have had useful discussions and a joint meeting with the BOU on these matters; we continue to seek ways to broaden awareness of the Club, attract new members and keep our costs under review.

In all this I am very grateful to all the Committee members for their continued help and support. In particular David Montier has been outstanding in his diligence and wise counsel; however he has decided that it is time to retire and hand on the Hon. Treasurer role to someone else and at a Special General Meeting on 23rd September 2014 Richard Malin was elected Hon. Treasurer in David's place. I am delighted that Richard joins the Committee in this key role.

The website is ably looked after by Eng-Li Green. Helen Baker has very kindly agreed to help David Fisher and myself in maintaining and developing the site.

Thanks also to Guy Kirwan who has edited a succession of outstanding Bulletins.

Steve Dudley as our Administrative Manager has continued to help the Club in many ways and I am grateful to him and the BOU for their support and advice.

Chris Storey

Chris Storey - Chairman

Date: 19th May 2015

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB

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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2014

LIST OF TRUSTEES - COMMITTEE

C. W. R. STOREY Chairman (2013)
D. J. FISHER *Vice-Chairman* (2011)
Dr. R. P. PRŶS-JONES *Hon. Secretary* (2011)
R. D. V. W. MALIN *Hon. Treasurer* (2014)
K. F. BETTON (2012)
R. R. LANGLEY (2011)
N. J. REDMAN (2013)

Correspondence and enquiries to the Hon. Secretary -

Dr. R. P. Prŷs-Jones, Bird Group, Department of Life Sciences, Natural History
Museum, Akeman Street, Tring, HP23 6AP, UK

Hon. Editor - G. M. Kirwan

Independent Examiners - Porritt Rainey, 9 Pembroke Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1XR

Bankers - Barclays Bank plc, Leicester, LE87 2BB, UK

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

Trustees of the Herbert Stevens Trust Fund –Mr N.J. Crocker, Mr R.C. Price and Mr S.J.R. Rumsey.

OBJECTIVES

Objects of the Charity

The objects are to promote scientific discussion between members and others interested in ornithology, and to facilitate the dissemination of scientific information concerned with ornithology. The Club shall maintain its special interest in avian systematics, taxonomy and distribution.

These objects are pursued primarily through the Club's Bulletin and other publications which aim to expand ornithological knowledge and to be of benefit to those, either professional or amateur, involved with the future of avian species and their habitats. The Bulletin, in particular, published four times a year, contains papers on subjects relating to the broad themes of taxonomy, including the description of new bird species, and distribution. Also, meetings are arranged covering a variety of ornithological topics and are open to both members and non-members free of charge. The trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Commission.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Constitution and Committee

The British Ornithologists' Club was founded in October 1892. It currently operates under Rules and Bye-laws adopted at a Special General Meeting of the Club held on 12th June 2012.

The Trustees of the Club (the Committee) are listed above with the year of their appointment to their respective roles.

The Trustees are responsible for the general control and management of the Club. There are four officers, namely a Chairman and Vice-Chairman, an Honorary Secretary and an Honorary Treasurer and, under the 2012 Rules, not less than three and not more than five other Trustees. All are elected for a term of four years and only the Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer are immediately eligible for re-election to the same office or position.

Continued...

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB

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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2014

Management

The Committee met formally three times during the year; additional business was conducted by e-mail and smaller *ad hoc* meetings. There was just one change to the Committee during the year: David Montier retired as Hon. Treasurer and Richard Malin was elected Hon. Treasurer in his place at a Special General Meeting held on 23rd September.

Under the terms of a Memorandum of Agreement between the Club and the British Ornithologists' Union (BOU), certain administrative matters are undertaken on behalf of the Club by the BOU Administrative Office. Under this arrangement, Steve Dudley, the BOU Senior Administrator, continued his *ex officio* roles as Membership Secretary and advisor on publication matters, including management of BOC publications (publishing, sales and warehousing), subscription management of BOC Institutional Subscribers to the Bulletin and other Bulletin-related matters.

Membership

Individual members in 2014 totalled 319 (339 at close of 2013), comprising 170 in the UK and 149 overseas, spread over 37 countries.

The Club welcomed 10 new members, but sadly mourned the death of three particularly long-standing members - Mr M. D. Gallagher (joined 1959), Mr P. A. D. Hollom (joined 1933) and Dr J. F. Monk (joined 1946) - and also those of Mr J. P. Davies, Mr D. A. Elkins, Mr A. E. Goodall, Mr J. A. Little, Mr G. F. Mees, Dr T. J. Roberts and Dr J. M. Penhallurick.

Institutions

Subscriptions from Institutional Subscribers during 2014 totalled 79 (88 at close of 2013), with 16 in the UK and 63 overseas in 19 countries.

BOC - BOU Joint Publications Committee.

Following the BOU's decision to cease non-journal publications at the end of 2013 the BOC Committee has set up a Publications Sub-Committee under the Chairmanship of Robert Prÿs-Jones. This Sub-Committee will be responsible for overseeing and managing the continued publication of Checklists with the BOC as sole publisher. David Wells has very kindly agreed to continue as Commissioning Editor.

ACTIVITIES

Meetings

Four club meetings were held during the year: three Tuesday evening dinner talks at the usual Barley Mow venue, plus a Saturday one-day joint conference in November in the Natural History Museum (NHM) Flett Theatre in South Kensington. As well as the NHM, the third partner in this latter meeting was the Oriental Bird Club, the third of the four main regional bird clubs with which the BOC has co-organised one-day conferences in recent years. Attendances at the evening meetings averaged around 30, a welcome return to more traditional levels of turnout compared to the rather dismal numbers of 2013, and the one-day conference was a major success, attracting in the order of 140 attendees.

The year got off to a riveting start with Richard Porter's talk in February on "*Birds of Socotra: populations and distribution*". Based on major personal involvement, he revealed that this isolated and ecologically fascinating island has now been subject to detailed avian surveys, documenting the distribution of all breeding species and providing population estimates for most, including each of the endemics. Building on this, Richard discussed both recent taxonomic research on Socotra's birds and the active conservation and education programme that is now in place to try to ensure their future. Following on from this, Guy Kirwan spoke at May's AGM on "*Cuban birds at home and abroad, in the field and museum*".

Continued...

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB

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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2014

This wide-ranging, well-illustrated talk, given by one of the co-authors of a planned future BOC checklist to Cuban birds, led from the history of the island's ornithology, and the many challenges faced by the early ornithologists, through to the birds themselves and the key habitats they occupy, with special emphasis focused on the endemics. Finally, the third evening talk, in September, was given by Andy Gosler, well-known to the BOC from previous appearances, and had the intriguing title "*From Ornithology to Ethno-ornithology*". He started by overviewing how he became interested in birds, leading to a career studying them, before turning to wider issues of the relationship between humans and birds. He is founder and now director of the Ethno-ornithology World Archive - <http://www.zoo.ox.ac.uk/egi/research-at-the-egi/ethno-ornithology-world-archive-ewa/> - which seeks to collate folk knowledge of birds globally. Andy's talk triggered extensive and lively discussion.

The one-day meeting in November repaid its large audience with a set of diverse and stimulating talks on the theme of "*Asian Birds*". In fact it is no exaggeration to describe the morning set of three talks as a tour de force both visually and verbally. They led off with a review of new species and recent rediscoveries of Asian birds, progressed through a truly splendid demonstration of what is being achieved through international co-operation focussed on saving that charismatic and desperately threatened species, the Spoon-billed Sandpiper *Eurynorhynchus pygmeus*, and finished with detailed insight into the stunning birdlife of the Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park in Sumatra. The afternoon session then maintained a high standard with contributions on the role of protected areas in conserving frugivorous birds, in particular in the Philippines, on the extraordinary contribution to South Asian ornithology made by Allan Octavian Hume, and ending with a fascinating unravelling of the sometimes unexpected relationships of cryptic larks and warblers based on recent genetic studies.

More detailed summaries of the evening talks and a report on the joint meeting are published in the Club Announcements section of the Bulletin.

The Bulletin

Vol. 134 comprised 336 pages and 35 papers of broad geographical scope, although contributions on Neotropical birds remain particularly well represented. Taxonomy and nomenclature are Bulletin mainstays, and taxonomic papers on the genus *Pitohui*, Three-striped Warbler *Basileuterus tristriatus*, Cuban Bullfinch *Melopyrrha nigra*, Blackish Antbird *Cercomacra nigrescens*, Grey-headed Bristlebill *Bleda canicapillus*, Scaled Ground Cuckoo *Neomorphus squamiger* and McConnell's Flycatcher *Mionectes macconnelli* were published during the course of the year. For the first time since 2004, no new taxa were proposed in the Bulletin's pages this year.

For papers published in 2014, the interval between receipt and publication was 4–23 months, with a mean of *c.*11.4 months. The Bulletin received a total of 37 new manuscripts in 2014. Of these, six have been rejected to date and the rest have been accepted or are still being refereed for potential publication.

Grateful thanks are due, as ever, to referees who have given freely of their time and expertise; members of the Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature (SCON), especially Edward Dickinson, Richard Schodde and the Bulletin's Associate Editor, Frank Steinheimer; to Eng-Li Green, of Alcedo Publishing, for her constant dedication to Bulletin duties, including production of the index and updating the website in tandem with David Fisher; and The Charlesworth Press (printers) for their efficiency. Chris Storey and Robert Prÿs-Jones helped prepare the cover information and Club Announcements, whilst staff at The Natural History Museum, Tring, continue to offer much-needed assistance in all manner of ways.

Continued..

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB

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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2014

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial results for the year show a surplus of £1,040, being the net result of a surplus on Unrestricted Funds of £1,149 less a shortfall of £109 Restricted Funds. This is a considerable improvement compared with the overall deficit in 2013 of £6,153. The main reason for this is the reduction of some £3,000 in the cost of producing and distributing the Bulletin following the change of printers at the beginning of the year. Furthermore, the £1,000 incurred in 2013 in redesigning the website did not recur and there were no grants made during the current year.

There was a further slight drop in the total of subscriptions and donations, but an increase of £2,845 in investment income. Distributions from the Herbert Stevens Trust Fund investments were up by about £1,600 and interest received increased by just over £1,200, mainly due to maturing cash deposits that were fixed when rates were higher than is currently the case. Sales of publications during the year totalled £551, of which £334 represents the Club's share of the sales of joint BOC/BOU Checklists, £143 from sales of the Club's own publications and £74 from sales of Bulletin back numbers.

The prices of the unit trusts in the Herbert Stevens Trust Fund showed a further increase during the year of £7,004 and that accounts for most of the increase in the Club's total funds which stood at £422,724 at the year end.

Reserves

As indicated above, the Club maintains a satisfactory level of liquidity to meet its commitments, particularly to any further publications. That may be especially relevant as the Club has assumed full responsibility for future Checklist volumes. In addition, the Clancey bequest, totalling £64,427 at the year-end, is available as backing for new developments for the Bulletin.

Risks

The Committee is satisfied that the Club has sufficient resources to cover any foreseeable commitments particularly with regard to its main objective of maintaining the Bulletin as an important ornithological publication. It also has adequate funds to cover its costs and that of any future non-Bulletin publications. Thanks are due to the three Trustees of the Herbert Steven Trust Fund, Nigel Crocker, Richard Price and Stephen Rumsey for their continuing oversight of the fund.

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB

Founded 5 October 1892

Registered Charity No. 279583

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2014

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

Under the Charities Act 2011, the trustees are required to prepare a statement of accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity at the end of the financial year and of the incoming resources and application of resources in the year. In preparing the statement the trustees are required to :

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the statement of accounts;
- prepare the financial accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue its operations.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that any statement of accounts prepared by them complies with the regulations under section 130 of the Charities Act 2011. 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.

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

Approved and signed on behalf of the Trustees

Chris Storey

C. W. R. Storey
Chairman

Date: 19th May 2015

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB

Registered Charity No. 279583

BALANCE SHEET

31st December 2014

		2014			2013
	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
		£	£	£	£
INVESTMENTS					
At market value	2	<u>265,471</u>	<u>49,000</u>	<u>314,471</u>	<u>306,743</u>
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stock of publications		100	-	100	100
Cash at bank and in hand		7,015	-	7,015	3,762
Cash on deposit		89,674	18,574	108,248	108,615
Other debtors		<u>225</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>225</u>	<u>129</u>
		97,014	18,574	115,588	112,606
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Subscriptions in advance		(1,034)	-	(1,034)	(3,988)
Creditors falling due within one year		<u>(6,301)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(6,301)</u>	<u>(681)</u>
Net Current Assets		89,679	18,574	108,253	107,937
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>355,150</u>	<u>67,574</u>	<u>422,724</u>	<u>414,680</u>
FUNDS					
Unrestricted					
Designated	3			15,562	15,562
Other	4			<u>339,588</u>	<u>331,435</u>
				355,150	346,997
Restricted					
	5			<u>67,574</u>	<u>67,683</u>
				422,724	414,680

Approved and Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Chris Storey

C. W. R. Storey
Chairman

Date: 19th May 2015

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB

Registered charity No. 279583

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

31st December 2014

	Notes	2014		2013 Total £	
		Unrestricted £	Restricted £		Total £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
SUBSCRIPTIONS and DONATIONS					
Members		8,100	-	8,100	8,270
Institutional subscribers		3,750		3,750	3,800
Donations		87		87	286
Gift aid tax recovered		645		645	638
		<u>12,582</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,582</u>	<u>12,994</u>
INVESTMENT INCOME					
Herbert Stevens Trust Fund		10,323	-	10,323	8,717
Interest received		1,188	904	2,092	853
		<u>11,511</u>	<u>904</u>	<u>12,415</u>	<u>9,570</u>
SALES OF PUBLICATIONS					
		551	-	551	1,230
OTHER INCOME					
		65	-	65	200
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		<u>24,709</u>	<u>904</u>	<u>25,613</u>	<u>23,994</u>
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
<i>CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE</i>					
BOC BULLETIN & PUBLICATIONS		11,989	1,013	13,002	16,111
GRANTS		-	-	-	500
MEETINGS		858	-	858	676
ADMINISTRATION	6	10,713	-	10,713	12,860
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		<u>23,560</u>	<u>1,013</u>	<u>24,573</u>	<u>30,147</u>
NET INCOMING RESOURCES		1,149	(109)	1,040	(6,153)
Increase in value of investments	4	7,004	-	7,004	32,328
		<u>8,153</u>	<u>(109)</u>	<u>8,044</u>	<u>26,175</u>
TOTAL FUNDS brought forward at 1st January 2014		<u>346,997</u>	<u>67,683</u>	<u>414,680</u>	388,505
TOTAL FUNDS at 31st December 2014		<u>355,150</u>	<u>67,574</u>	<u>422,724</u>	<u>414,680</u>

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB

Registered Charity No. 279583

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

31st December 2014

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Basis of Accounts

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the inclusion of investments in the Herbert Stevens Trust Fund at market values. They are also prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards for Smaller Entities and follow the recommendations in Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (revised 2005).

b) Investments and Cash Deposits

The Herbert Stevens Trust Fund is invested in quoted charity unit trusts and charity cash deposits and shown as investments in the Balance Sheet with the unit trusts valued at year-end market values. Income from the Fund and from other cash deposits shown in the Balance Sheet under Current Assets is included in Incoming Resources in the Statement of Financial Activities on a receipts basis. The Clancey bequest is held on deposit which forms part of the total of investments in the Balance Sheet.

c) Subscriptions

Subscriptions for the current year and any arrears are included in Incoming Resources in the Statement of Financial Activities. Subscriptions received in advance are carried forward in the Balance Sheet as Current Liabilities.

d) Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.

e) Publications

The cost of publications is written off in the Statement of Financial Activities as incurred except for a nominal stock value of £100 carried in the Balance Sheet.

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB*Registered Charity No. 279583***NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - continued****31st December 2014****2. INVESTMENTS - at market value**

	2014	<i>2013</i>
	£	£
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS		
Herbert Stevens Trust Fund	265,471	257,743
RESTRICTED FUNDS		
Clancey Bequest	49,000	49,000
	<u>314,471</u>	<u>306,743</u>

All investments are held in the UK.

3. UNRESTRICTED DESIGNATED FUND

for future publications

	2014
	£
Balance at 1st January 2014	15,562
Movements in the year	-
Balance at 31st December 2014	<u>15,562</u>

4. OTHER UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	GENERAL FUND	HERBERT STEVENS TRUST FUND	TOTAL
	£	£	£
Balances at 1st January 2014	73,692	257,743	331,435
Increase in value of investments during year	-	7,004	7,004
Distributions reinvested	(1,154)	1,154	-
Excess of income over expenditure	1,149	-	1,149
Balances at 31st December 2014	<u>73,687</u>	<u>265,901</u>	<u>339,588</u>

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB

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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - continued

31st December 2014

5. RESTRICTED FUNDS

	CLANCEY BEQUEST	PUBLICATIONS FUND	TOTAL
	£	£	£
Balances at 1st January 2014	64,549	3,134	67,683
Contributions towards cost of Bulletin	(1,013)	-	(1,013)
Interest received	891	13	904
Balances at 31st December 2014	<u>64,427</u>	<u>3,147</u>	<u>67,574</u>

a .The Clancey bequest was donated by the late Dr P A Clancey with the request that it should be used to support and enhance the Club's Bulletin.

b .The Publications Fund is available to finance Club publications other than regular issues of the Bulletin.

6. ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES

	2014	2013
	£	£
Club's share of rental of storage unit	936	936
Audit and Independent Examination fees	900	675
BOU administration services	7,631	7,430
Re-design and maintenance of website	175	1,175
Other administration expenses	1,071	2,644
	<u>10,713</u>	<u>12,860</u>

7. REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES

Trustees do not receive any remuneration and have not been reimbursed for any costs they may incur in attending regular Trustee meetings. They are reimbursed for any other expenses incurred on behalf of the Club. The total amount reimbursed during the year was £ 126 (2013 £1,323).

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
THE BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB**

I report on the accounts of the Club for the year ended 31st December 2014, which are set out on pages 7 to 11.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioner. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and the seeking of explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met;

or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Alan R E Peal

Alan Peal ACA - Principal
Porrirt Rainey
Chartered Accountants