



## Banbury Ornithological Society

Trustees' Annual Report 15<sup>th</sup> November 2019 to 14<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

Registered Charity number 1001397

c/o Bankside Cottage, The Square, Epwell, Banbury. OX15 6LA

### **Trustees**

Nicolas Carter  
Doreen Knight  
Roger Stein  
Michael Lewis

Trustees are recruited from long standing members, who have contributed to the Society.

### **Structure & Management**

The Banbury Ornithological Society is a membership association managed by a Committee which is elected at the Annual General Meeting in accordance with the Constitution. The Committee meets on a monthly basis at its meeting room in 6 Cranleigh Close, Banbury. As well as co-ordinating and planning Society activities and the annual programme the committee also looks to safeguard the assets, 7 Nature Reserves, 4 owned by BOS and 3 managed, 6 Cranleigh Close and deposited funds.

This year, due to Covid 19 regulations, several meetings were "virtual". In February, the Committee held a Special Strategy Meeting to consider aims for the next five years and how best to use resources to advance achievement.

### **Activities and Objectives**

The Society exists to encourage and co-ordinate the scientific study of birds in the BOS area and to ensure the welfare of birds within the framework of economic necessity.

- 1) The conservation of birdlife, principally through the maintenance of 7 Nature Reserves.
- 2) Scientific research into birdlife by partaking in national bird surveys, and also organising and undertaking local surveys through a programme of fieldwork, and publishing the results.
- 3) Educating the public about birdlife by organising a programme of speakers.

### **Achievements and Performance**

The BOS continues to work with and receive support from many organisations. Wildlife has benefitted this year because of The Society's interaction with :- RSPB, The Local Wildlife Trust, Cherwell District Council, Thames Water, The Environment Agency, BTO,

The Neal Trust, Banbury Town Council, Happy Valley Farmers, Oxfordshire County Council and Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre.

**Fieldwork**- which could be regarded as the core activity of the Society. During 2020 the BOS has continued to provide opportunities through its regular surveys: -

Monthly record collection.

Winter Random Squares.

Summer Random Squares. -- Not Possible with Covid 19 restrictions.\*

Short Day Count.

Long Day Count. -- Not possible with Covid 19 restrictions but a one off Autumn Count in September was well supported.

\*It is worthy of note that the Summer Random Square was cancelled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time only since its inception in 1991. (2001 due to Foot and Mouth disease.)

The number of members and the level of monthly records submitted continued as normal despite Covid 19 restrictions.

Members have contributed to various BTO surveys where it was considered safe to do so.

## **Reserves & Conservation**

### **Reserves.**

This year it was not possible to arrange a meeting of Reserve Wardens. However Wardens prepared plans and budgets for 2020/2021 for Committee approval. The Committee and partner organisations consider the Nature Reserves are all well managed and are improving.

The Committee commissioned a Tree Safety Survey of its owned Reserves. Recommendations for Pauline Flick Reserve have been carried out. There is outstanding work at Glyn Davies Wood and Balscote Quarry Reserve.

Bicester Wetland Reserve.

Thames Water funded five days dredging to improve the wader scrapes

Bicester Gateway Project.

This is a Biodiversity Plan, for improvements to Bicester Wetland Reserve prepared by the Society after wide consultation and approved by Cherwell District Council. The Planning Application has been submitted. This is in preparation for a £30,000 project funded by a nearby hotel development.

Balscote Quarry Reserve.

Sand Martins returned after some years' absence to breed in the tower.

Improvements were made to the public seating and viewing area.

Grassland management has moved forward with the employment of a specialist contractor.

Glyn Davies Wood.

HS2 took ownership of part of the wood from 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019.

The Nature Reserves continue to provide space for breeding, feeding and sanctuary for passing birds and other wildlife as well as excellent opportunities for members and others to watch and study birds. Maintaining these reserves would not be possible without

regular, well considered, hard work done by Reserve Wardens and the volunteer teams that they lead. The Committee are pleased to have substantial funding available to support this activity.

### **Ringling**

Members continue ringing at several of our Nature Reserves.

### **Conservation/Planning.**

The Society continues to make comments on local planning schemes.

### **Cherwell Swifts Project.**

Project observers continue to discover and report “new” colonies. More artificial nests, both wooden & brick are being fitted and there is more evidence of successful usage.

### **Curlew Conservation Project.**

Covid 19 impaired interaction with landowners but this spring there was some limited surveying. The Committee agreed to contribute £50 towards the production of a Field Workers Tool Kit.

### **Tree Sparrow Conservation Project.**

The Committee agreed funding up to £500. Nest boxes were made and put in place along with Perdix feeders at Balscote Quarry Reserve and at the Natural Burial Ground where successful breeding was recorded in one box.

### **Happy Valley Farmers.**

The Society continued to encourage this BBOWT led Farmers Group by attending meetings to provide advice and training.

### **Encouraging young birdwatchers.**

In January members assisted with the RSPB Big School Bird Watch at Bloxham Primary School.

## **Recording and Communication**

The new arrangement, allowing access to BTO Bird Track records for the BOS area, enables their inclusion into the BOS Monthly Newsletter. This is a major advance, giving members an alternative method of submitting records via PC, tablet or mobile phone. Now about 20% of records are submitted this way.

### **Monthly Newsletter.**

This regular communication was even more welcome during “Lockdowns” and continues to inform and stimulate members.

### **Monthly Meetings.**

Members have again enjoyed a wide range of subject matter in our meetings. Four monthly indoor and four “virtual”. Unfortunately three outdoor meetings and two indoor meetings were lost along with the valuable opportunity for members to get together.

### **Website**

The Society Website is regularly refreshed and continues to attract new members and is a good “shop window” for the Society.

## **Social Media**

The Society has provided a Facebook page for sharing news amongst the local birdwatching community.

## **Annual Report**

2018 Annual Report was published in March and distributed to members free of charge.

## **Archives Review & Management**

All Annual Reports from 1956 have been transferred into digital format and made available to anyone via our Website.

## **Financial Review**

### **Items worthy of special comment.**

#### **Receipts**

#### **Bicester Gateway project £7,053.00**

Cherwell District Council released the agreed Biodiversity Plan funding of £5,000 along with a further £2,053. for the Planning Application

#### **Glyn Davies Wood £9,004.83**

Receipt on account of Compulsory Purchase of 1.3 hectares. All legal and professional costs have been funded by HS2.

#### **Payments**

#### **Maintenance, 6 Cranleigh Close £3534.00**

Emergency central heating boiler replacement.

#### **Bicester Gateway Project £5196.79**

Costs of meetings and preparation of the Biodiversity Plan and submitting Planning Application. Includes £846.00 for a gate and fencing for cattle handling.

#### **Legal fees £921.00**

Fees incurred re-registering assets following a change in the Trustees.

The Committee considers that the Society's finances are sound. Anticipated income from increasing memberships, rent and interest will continue to fund plans for the future.

The Society has no outstanding debts but there may be unknown expenses in future as a result of Ash Die-back on our Nature Reserves.

All assets are held in the names of the Trustees.

Included in funds is £814.90 held on behalf of The Cherwell Swifts Project.

The Trustees acknowledge the hard work and commitment of the Committee and the many other members without whom The Society would not achieve so much.

November 2020



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name <b>Banbury Ornithological Society</b>	No (if any) 1001397
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## Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 15/11/2019	To	Period end date 14/11/2020
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### Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Members subscriptions	2,380	-	-	2,380	2,021
Gift aid	452	-	-	452	467
Grants	7,053	-	-	7,053	-
Donations	799	-	-	799	905
Bank interest	902	-	-	902	902
Rent, bungalow	6,300	-	-	6,300	6,250
Miscellaneous	117	-	-	117	62
HS2	-	-	-	-	180
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>18,003</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>18,003</b>	<b>10,787</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
Sale 1.3ha land to HS2	9,005	-	-	9,005	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>9,005</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9,005</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>27,008</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>27,008</b>	<b>10,787</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Meetings	402	-	-	402	1,950
Speakers	235	-	-	235	636
Newsletters, website, annual report	1,549	-	-	1,549	1,394
Wildlife projects	6,858	-	-	6,858	522
Maintenance nature reserves	4,669	-	-	4,669	4,195
Insurance	667	-	-	667	667
Bank charges	60	-	-	60	60
Legal fees	921	-	-	921	-
Maintenance bungalow	3,534	-	-	3,534	924
Postage, stationery	99	-	-	99	91
Subscriptions	35	-	-	35	15
Miscellaneous	117	-	-	117	249
HS2	-	-	-	-	70
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>19,146</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>19,146</b>	<b>10,773</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>19,146</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>19,146</b>	<b>10,773</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>7,862</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,862</b>	<b>13</b>
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	109,792	-	-	109,792	109,779
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>117,654</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>117,654</b>	<b>109,792</b>

# Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Cash	46	-	-
	CAF Cash Account	1,727	-	-
	CAF Gold Act	44,334		
	60 day notice Shawbrook	25,000		
	1 yr fixed deposit Shawbrook	50,000	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>		<b>117,653</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	Agreement Error	OK	OK

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>			-	-
			-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

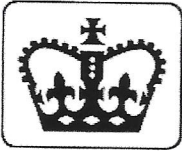
Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>	Bungalow	Unrestricted	-	350,000
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	4 nature reserves total 17.4 ha	unrestricted	-	98,500
	Equipment: laptop, projector, microphones	unrestricted	-	546
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>	Cherwell swift project managed by society volunteer	unrestricted	815	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature 	Print Name MJ LEWIS	Date of approval 20/01/21



**Section A**

**Independent Examiner's Report**

**Report to the trustees/  
members of**

Banbury Ornithological Society

**On accounts for the year  
ended**

14<sup>th</sup> November 2020

**Charity no  
(if any)**

1001397

**Set out on pages**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 14/11/2020.

**Responsibilities and  
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent  
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

**Signed:**

*Owen Kyffin*

**Date:**

24/11/20

**Name:**

OWEN KYFFIN

**Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body  
(if any):**

CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF TAXATION

**Address:**

25 WEST ST, BANBURY, OXON,  
OX16 3HA

**Section B**

**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).