



Banbury Ornithological Society

Registered Charity No.1001397

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

Trustees' Annual Report, 15th November 2020 to 14th November 2021

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. This year, due to Covid 19 restrictions, it was not able to use its meeting room in 6 Cranleigh Close, Banbury. All but one meeting were "virtual". In October, the Committee held a Special Meeting to consider the continuity of bird recording and IT services following the sudden death of a Committee Member. 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.

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, BTO, The Neal Trust, The Upper Thames Wader Group and Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre.

Fieldwork- which could be regarded as the core activity of the Society. During 2021 the BOS has continued to provide opportunities through its regular surveys: -
Monthly records collection.
Winter Random Squares.
Summer Random Squares.
Short Day Count.
Long Day Count. -- Not possible with Covid 19 restrictions.

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.

A meeting of Reserve Wardens was held in the hide at Bicester Wetland Reserve. Reserve Wardens prepared plans and budgets for 2021/2022 for Committee approval. The Committee and partner organisations consider the Nature Reserves are all well managed and are improving.

Bicester Wetland Reserve.

Thames Water provided £2,500 for re-profiling of the edges of Cattle Bridge Pool and further improvements to the wader scrapes.

Bicester Gateway Project.

This is a Biodiversity Plan for improvements to Bicester Wetland Reserve. The £30,000 project is funded by a nearby hotel development and administered through Cherwell District Council. Planning conditions required archaeological and amphibian surveys, which are now completed.

Thames Water provided £5,500 for planting a wild flower meadow. Preliminary ground preparation has started and the wild flower seed has been purchased.

Balscote Quarry Reserve.

Sand Martins bred in the tower for the second successive year.
The public viewing area has been improved and an additional seat was installed.
The grassland management plan is delivering bio-diversity gains.

Glyn Davies Wood.

HS2 fenced and started works on the land compulsorily purchased together with the temporary "buffer strip". However in October, HS2 notified that this area will also be compulsory purchased. This will leave 5 acres of woodland.

Pauline Flick Reserve.

Highways England felled trees in June near the old railway bridge abutment which is scheduled for removal and landscaping.

Grimsbury Woodland.

The woodland has been declared a District Wildlife Site. Thames Water carried out a tree safety inspection.

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 continued limited ringling at some of our Nature Reserves.

Conservation/Planning.

The Society continues to make comments on local planning schemes. This year the Society was consulted on 3 privately owned potential Wildlife Reserves and one, DunsTew Quarry Reserve, is now open to the public.

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. Liaison with Cherwell District Council has led to provision of artificial nest sites in new builds as a condition of Planning Permissions.

Curlew Conservation Project.

The Society joined in the formation of **The Upper Thames Wader Group** and led work for the Cherwell catchment area. Members took active roles in nest finding, fencing, monitoring and ringling. 1 Curlew was successfully fledged in our area.

Tree Sparrow Conservation Project.

Records for Tree Sparrows have been poor. However, feeding at Balscote Quarry Reserve and at the Natural Burial Ground have benefited other farmland species.

Encouraging young birdwatchers.

Due to Covid 19 restrictions it was not possible to interact with pupils at Bloxham Primary School as they did not take part in the RSPB Big School Bird Watch.

Recording and Communication

New arrangements, allowing access to BTO BirdTrack records for the BOS area, enables their inclusion into the BOS Monthly Newsletter. This major advance gives members an alternative method of submitting records via PC, tablet or mobile phone.

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 at our meetings. All 9 indoor meetings were arranged via “Zoom” and attracted a similar number as would have attended in person. Three outdoor meetings went ahead, with up to 30 members enjoying the walks. One of these, held at a member’s dairy farm, was particularly interesting and a good opportunity for members to catch up in person.

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 Facebook page is in regular use to share news amongst the local birdwatching community.

Annual Report

2019 Annual Report was published in February 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.

Cherwell District Council released the agreed Biodiversity Plan funding £27,947.00.

Thames Water grant towards the wildflower meadow £5,500.00.

Payments

Bicester Gateway Project £8,336.00

Includes:-

Archaeological fees. £3,780.

Initial ground preparation. £1,300

Wild Flower seed. £2,970.

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 £736.90 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 2021

Registered Charity No. 1001397



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name
Banbury Ornithological Society

No (if any)

CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from 15/11/2020 To 14/11/2021

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 £
A1 Receipts					
Members subscriptions	2,572	-	-	2,572	2,380
Gift aid	536	-	-	536	452
Grants	33,447	-	-	33,447	7,053
Donations	465	-	-	465	799
Bank Interest	904	-	-	904	902
Rent, 6 Cranleigh Close	6,300	-	-	6,300	6,300
Miscellaneous	64	-	-	64	117
HS2	20	-	-	20	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	44,308	-	-	44,308	18,003
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
Sale 1.3ha land to HS2	-	-	-	-	9,005
Sub total	-	-	-	-	9,005
Total receipts	44,308	-	-	44,308	27,008
A3 Payments					
Meetings	115	-	-	115	402
Speakers	410	-	-	410	235
Newsletters, website, annual reports	2,064	-	-	2,064	1,549
Wildlife projects	9,086	-	-	9,086	6,858
Maintenance, nature reserves	3,019	-	-	3,019	4,669
Insurance	634	-	-	634	667
Bank charges	102	-	-	102	60
Legal fees	-	-	-	-	921
Maintenance, 6 Cranleigh Close	876	-	-	876	3,534
Postage, stationery	18	-	-	18	99
Subscriptions	35	-	-	35	35
Miscellaneous	62	-	-	62	117
Sub total	16,421	-	-	16,421	19,146
A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	16,421	-	-	16,421	19,146
Net of receipts/(payments)	27,887	-	-	27,887	7,862
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	117,654	-	-	117,654	109,792
Cash funds this year end	145,541	-	-	145,541	117,654

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 £
B1 Cash funds	Cash	110	-	-
	CAF Cash Account	250	-	-
	CAF Gold Account	61,181	-	-
	60 day notice, Shawbrook	25,000	-	-
	1 yr fixed deposit Shawbrook	59,000	-	-
	Total cash funds		145,541	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

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

Signature 	Print Name M J ROWLS	Date of approval 1.2.22
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Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name

BANBURY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

On accounts for the year
ended

14th NOVEMBER 2021

Charity no
(if any)

1001397

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD/MM/YYYY.

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 (other than that disclosed below *) 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.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

OWEN KYFFIN

Date:

9/12/21

Name:

OWEN KYFFIN

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

CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF TAXATION

Address:

25 WEST STREET

BANBURY OX20 1 OX16 3HA