Bird Aid Trustees' Annual Report 2025

Chair's Introduction

2025 has been a year of continued commitment, resilience and progress for Bird Aid. Throughout the year, the charity remained dedicated to its dual charitable objectives: the rescue, rehabilitation and lifelong care of gulls and other wild birds, and the provision of meaningful supported volunteering opportunities for people with learning disabilities and additional support needs.

Despite ongoing financial and operational challenges facing wildlife charities, Bird Aid has continued to provide a safe sanctuary for vulnerable birds while maintaining a welcoming and supportive environment for volunteers.

Our Objectives

Bird Aid exists to:

- Rescue, rehabilitate and, where possible, release injured, orphaned and sick wild birds.
- Provide lifelong sanctuary for permanently disabled birds that cannot be returned to the wild.
- Create supported volunteering opportunities that promote confidence, wellbeing, skills development and social inclusion.

Activities and Achievements During 2025

During the year, Bird Aid continued to care for approximately 400 birds, many of whom were injured, orphaned or permanently disabled and unable to survive in the wild. Bird Aid remained one of the few specialist centres providing long-term care for disabled gulls in the South East of England. [theargus.co.uk], [sussexlocal.net]

Key achievements included:

- Continuing the rescue and rehabilitation of Gulls throughout the breeding and fledging season.
- Maintaining safe accommodation and daily care for resident disabled gulls.
- Supporting volunteers through meaningful conservation and animal welfare activities.
- Strengthening predator protection measures within the sanctuary through the construction of new secure enclosures and upgrades to existing aviaries. These works were undertaken following the discovery that several older structures required substantial repair or replacement. External support and donations helped advance this important project. [theargus.co.uk], [sussexlocal.net], Especially from Edna Smile Memorial Fund
- Secured the services of a local veterinary surgeon to work with our existing vet.

Volunteers

Bird Aid's work would not be possible without the dedication of its volunteers. Trustees wish to express their sincere thanks to all those who donated their time and expertise during 2025. Volunteers contributed to animal care, enclosure construction, maintenance, fundraising and administration, helping ensure the continued success of the charity's activities. [theargus.co.uk], [sussexlocal.net]

Financial Support and Fundraising

The charity remained dependent upon donations, fundraising activity and public support. Trustees are grateful to all donors, supporters and partner organisations whose contributions assisted with the care of resident birds, rehabilitation work and essential infrastructure improvements during the year. [theargus.co.uk], [sussexlocal.net]

Looking Ahead to 2026

The trustees' priorities for the coming year are to:

- Continue providing high standards of bird welfare and rehabilitation.
- Complete further aviary improvements and predator-proofing works.
- Expand opportunities for supported volunteering.
- Strengthen financial sustainability through fundraising and community engagement.
- Continue raising public awareness of seabird conservation and wildlife welfare.

Trustee Statement

The trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when exercising their powers and duties.

Bird Aid remains committed to providing a safe refuge for vulnerable birds and meaningful opportunities for people who benefit from supported volunteering. The trustees thank all supporters, volunteers and staff for their continued commitment during 2025.
