Planet Birdsong Foundation

Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts

From the term of 1 January 2025 through 31 December 2025

Reference and administrative details

Trustees:	Peter Cowdrey
	Isak Herman
	Hilary MacBean
	Peter Threipland

Registered Office:	14 Ashwood Place, Ashwood Road, Woking, GU22 7JR

Bankers:	Lloyds Bank, Victoria Branch, London (309950)

Trustees' Report for the period through 31 December 2025

The trustees are pleased to present their annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the period from 1 January 2025, through 31 December 2025.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 of the accounts and comply with the Charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (revised 2019).

Structure, Governance and Management

Legal Status
Planet Birdsong Foundation is a registered charity in England and Wales and gained charitable status on 6 July 2022.

Governing Document
The Planet Birdsong Foundation is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Organisational Structure
The directors of the charitable company are its trustees for the purpose of charity law and the members of the company limited by guarantee. Throughout this report they are collectively referred to as the trustees.

The following individuals served as trustees during the period:

Peter Cowdrey
Isak Herman

Hilary MacBean
Peter Threipland

Peter Cowdrey and Isak Herman served for the full year., Hilary MacBean renewed her trusteeship for a period of 3 years from 1 July 2025, minuted in a meeting of 9 May 2025. Peter Threipland joined as trustee on 1 August 2025 for a period of 3 years.

The Board meets as required to oversee the strategic direction of the charity and to monitor progress in achieving its performance and quality objectives. Day to day implementation of the strategy is managed by the Trustees supported by volunteers and, when funds allow, freelance staff.

Objectives and principal activities

The Planet Birdsong Foundation exists with the following objects:

[1] To advance the education of the public in the subject of birdsong and biophony through music, technology, and creative activities;
[2] To advance education and training of the public, including conservation biology students, in birdsong, and bird sound, and biophonic recording, with field work and tutoring in sound processing;
[3] The advancement of science by promoting study and research into birdsong and biophony, alongside other organisations, and working with those other organisations to publish the useful results of such research

In furtherance of its charitable objectives, the charity carries out a range of activities which are summarised below.

Activities and Achievements

During 2025 Planet Birdsong Foundation's main UK activity was creating and contributing recordings to a large-scale permanent installation at Raby Castle in Teesdale, which raised welcome funds for the charity and has been visited by thousands of people. We also led a series of birdsong events at venues in Oxfordshire, and continued to refine our birdsong studio and mobile games towards our goal of automatising them in mobile apps for widespread use in citizen science. In July we had a stand at Global Birdfair, where we co-hosted a citizen science recording event with Cornell Lab of Ornithology, which has led to plans for more collaboration in the future.

In 2025 the Planet Birdsong Rwanda bird sound recording project continued to develop, governed and supported by the MOU with the Centre of Excellence in Biodiversity and Natural Resource Management at University of Rwanda.

One Trustee visited Rwanda in 2024 and continued to train young citizen scientists at 6 hubs in the skills of sound recording. Five facilitated Planet Birdsong Recordists were established and at least 20 competent and regular recordists were mentored and encouraged with Certification, materials and training.

In July 2024, the Planet Birdsong project in Rwanda was awarded the African Bird Club Conservation Award 2024 - 2025, to promote audio data collection and locational reach, as well as to test the value of citizen science methodology in an African setting.

The project ran from September 2024 to end August 2025. During 2025, the project continued and significantly increased data output. The bird sound data samples collected in 2023 were 234 and, in 2024, prior to the commencement of the project in September 2024, amounted to 284.

The data numbers rose to 808 during the project year starting in September 2024 to August 2025, amounting to 88% of the total audio records submitted to eBird during the project period.

A further visit to Rwanda by Trustee Hilary MacBean, in February 2025 added to significant progress on applying citizen science. Local recordists were increasingly active in training other students and some benefitted from enhanced skills in achieving productive employment or advanced student places.

Compilation of numeric and people-based results in late 2025 demonstrated that citizen science works as a sustainable model in an African setting, but with a number of clear management provisions to ensure continued participation on a sustained basis. The project provided a clear step up in the success of the methodology, leading to confidence amongst international providers such as eBird at Cornell University.

These conclusions will be fully reported in 2026.k

We attended Global Birdfair 2025 and promoted our activities with a view to raising funds. Valuable international connections were made and our on-going collaboration with Time and Space Learning UK made good progress, including sales of Parachirp parabolic audio reflectors.

Public Benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty under Section 17 (1) of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The Planet Birdsong Foundation carries out a range of activities in furtherance of its charitable objectives, as detailed under Activities and Achievements, which the trustees believe provide benefit to the general public worldwide.

Risk Management

The Trustees have reviewed the risks the charity faces and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate their exposure to the major risks.

The major risk facing the charity during 2025 was the need to raise funding to allow the Charity to continue to operate at this level in future years.

Future Plans

In 2026 Planet Birdsong will continue its work in Rwanda, helped by the impact of the African Bird Club Conservation Award, a grant received from a private US funder (USD2000) to support the work of trainee guides in Kinunu, and a grant from Cornell

University's Macaulay Library/eBird (USD1500) to support the bird sound data collection work of the Kitabi Bird Club at Kitabi College. A push for scarcer bird records, increased numbers of audio records and locations explored will continue and skills continue to grow both in existing and new recordists. The citizen science method is proven to work.

In the UK we will have a stand at Global Birdfair in July, which enables us to make contact with a number of potential partners in Africa and elsewhere. We will continue to develop low cost *Parachirp* parabolic reflectors with Time and Space Learning. These can be flat packed and used with any mobile phone,

We will run our Birdsong Studio as part of the Migration Festival at Carey's Secret Garden in Dorset. We will make a short film as part of an ongoing community project at Broughton Sanctuary in Yorkshire. We plan to appoint new trustees to enable us to broaden the scope of our activities and enhance our fundraising capabilities.

Statement of Financial Activities

for the period 1 January 2025 through 31st December 2025

	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds (£)
Brought Forward	2334.74	3192.00	5526.74
Income			
Donations	783	1167	
Charitable Activities	570	188	
Other Income	0	0	
Total Income	1353.20	1356	2709.20
Total			
Expenditure			
Charitable Activities	1181.55	4093	

Other Expenditure	0	0	
Total Expenditure	1111..55	4864	5975.55
Net Income	241.65	(2395)	(2153.35)

Reconciliation of Funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total
Brought Forward	2334.74	3192.00	5526.74
Carried Forward	2576.39	797	3373.39

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities.

There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above.
The notes on page 7 form part of these financial statements.

Balance Sheet

as at 31 December, 2025

	Note 2025 Value (£)
Fixed Assets	NONE
Tangible Assets	0
Cash at bank and in hand	3373.39
Total Assets	3373.39
Creditors	NONE
Amounts falling due within one year	0
Net Assets	3373.39

For the financial year in question the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and no members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006. The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying

with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 14 October 2026 and were signed on its behalf by:

_____Peter Cowdrey__



___14/10/2026_____

Peter Cowdrey, Chair

Notes to the accounts for the period ending 31st December, 2025

1. Principal accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below.

(a) Basis of accounting

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' effective January 2019 (the Charities SORP (FRS 102)), UK accounting standards, including 'Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The Planet Birdsong Foundation meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated.

(b) Fund accounting

(i) Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

(ii) Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions imposed by the donor as to how they may be used.

(c) Income

Income is recognised and included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income.

(i) Donations are received by way of grants, donations and gifts and the income is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Grants receivable are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.

(ii) Donated services and facilities (gifts in kind) are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified.

(iii) The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included as income in these accounts. (iv) Income from charitable activities includes income earned both from the supply of services under contractual arrangements and from performance-related grants. Grants receivable are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.

(v) Investment income is included when receivable.

(vi) Income is deferred when it is received in one financial period but relates to a future period. This may happen for example when a contract includes a mobilisation advance or upfront payment for a period that straddles the year end.

(d) Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred, and includes any VAT which cannot be recovered. (i) Expenditure on charitable activities comprises expenditure related to the direct furtherance of the charity's objectives. Where costs cannot be directly attributed, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

(ii) Support costs relate to those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, personnel and governance costs. These costs have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

(iii) The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included as expenditure in these accounts.

(e) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing over £500 (including any incidental expenses of acquisition) are capitalized.

2. Trustee remuneration and expenses

None of the Trustees received any remuneration for their services as trustees during the year.

3. Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.