LONDON BIRD CLUB

A section of the London Natural History Society

AGM, Thu, 17 Nov 2022, 6.30pm, Zoom

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Agenda for the Annual General Meeting of the London Bird Club
Thursday 17 November 2022 at 6.30pm, Zoom

1) Welcome and apologies for absence

2) Minutes of the last AGM

3) Reports from Officers

i.	Chairman's Report	Gehan de Silva
ii.	Talks	Gehan de Silva
iii.	LBC Accounts	Nirma de Silva
iv.	Field Meetings	Amy Muyi Liu
v.	London Bird Report	Derek Coleman
vi.	Library Committee	John Boorman
vii.	Rarities Committee	Bob Watts
viii.	Reading Circle	Angela Linnell
ix.	Twitter	Donna Zimmer
x.	Instagram Editor	Pippa Jacks
xi.	Council Rep	Liz Andrew

4) Election of Committee Officers for 2022

5) Any Other Business

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Chairperson's Report

Gehan de Silva Wijeyeratne

Welcome

Thank you to all the LBC and LNHS post holders, and everyone who contributed in some way or participated in events during the year.

Resumption of Field Meetings: The programme of field meetings (a.k.a. LBC Walks) are now a strong feature of the LBC activities. My thanks to Amy Muyi Liu and the walks leaders.

Cross Marketing: The LBC, MBS and RSPC CLLG continue to cross market each others activities.

Building the LNHS Brand: The LBC continue to support the LNHC Council to build the brand and improve the membership offering. Examples include:

- More contributions to the LNHS Newsletter
- More postings on social media.
- LNHS Bird Checklist Bookmark
- Developing LNHS Flyer & Poster

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Chairperson's Report cont …

Change of Personnel
Cecilia Derrick took on the role of Secretary.

The committee is asked to confirm her appointment.

Volunteering
I am happy to hear from anyone who would like to get involved with LBC activities.

Talks Organiser's Report

Acting: Gehan de Silva Wijeyeratne

- As of yet, there are no firm plans to resume the LBC Indoor Talks programme at Burgh House.

- The main issue is that the hybrid working model means many people are no longer coming into Central London five days a week. Therefore, in-person attendance at an LBC Talk could be very poor.

Treasurer's Report

Nirma de Silva Wijeyeratne

- The accounts cover the twelve month period to 30th June 2022 and relate to the same period of the Society's financial year.
- Income included a grant from LNHS Central Funds for £400, same as in the previous year.
- Total expenses were £471.26 which included Reading Circle Journal Subscription expenses.
- Bank charges were introduced in January 2022 and have since been incurred every month.
- The balance carried forward as at 30th June 2022 was £334.86.
- To update to the present position, as at 30th September 2022 the bank balance is £567.13. This is after a cheque for £10.80 was issued in respect of printing expenses, bank charges incurred of £15.80, a cheque for £41.13 issued for Reading Circle postage and a LNHS grant of £300 was paid in.

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Treasurer's Report … cont.

Nirma de Silva Wijeyeratne

London Bird Club Accounts

For the year ended 30th June 2022

	2021/22	2020/21
	£	£
Opening balance	308.12	213.75
INCOME		
From Central LNHS Funds	400.00	400.00
Reading Circle receipts	98.00	127.50
Total Income	**498.00**	**527.50**
EXPENSES		
Lecturer's fees and expenses	-	-
Reading Circle Subscriptions Payments	354.00	357.50
Reading Circle postage	80.46	75.63
Bank charges	36.80	-
Total Expenses	**471.26**	**433.13**
Balance carried forward at 30 June 2022	**334.86**	**308.12**

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Field Meetings Organiser's Report

Amy Muyi Liu

Number of LBC Walks

No.	Period
• 9	Sept 2021 to Feb 2022 (field meetings resumed in September 2021).
• 18	Mar 2022 to Aug 2022.
• 11	Sept 2022 to Feb 2022.

The LNHS programme is now designed by Nigel Partridge and I am now also the Programme Coordinator for the LNHS.

Attendance

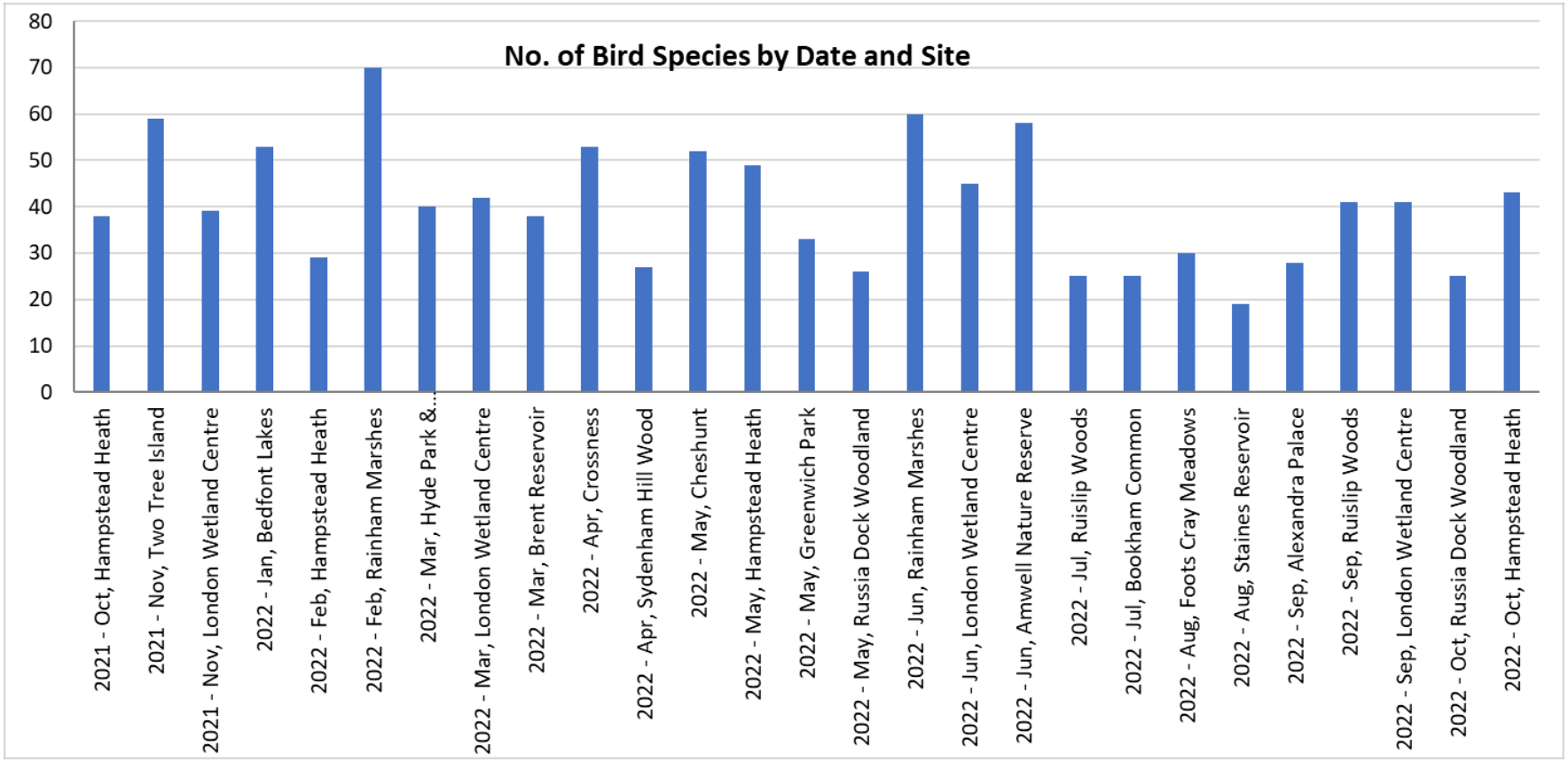
Average attendance is 9. But attendance is gradually increasing**.**

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Field Meetings Organiser's Report … cont.

Amy Muyi Liu

- The average number of species seen on a LBC walk is 40.



LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

London Bird Report

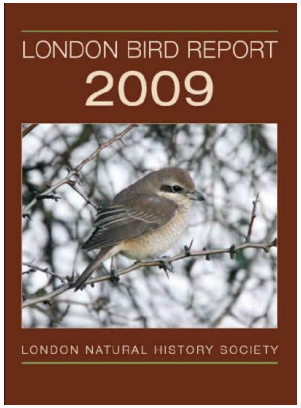
Derek Coleman for the LBR Editorial Board

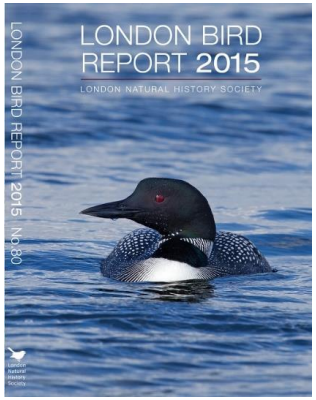
- LBR 2020 was published on target at the end of May 2022.
- Thank you to everyone, in particular Roger Payne, whose workload increases each year.
- Packaging is now sturdier, and we've received no more complaints.
- Aim to publish LBR 2021 by the end of May 2023.
- Over half a million records — ideas on how to reduce, without losing info, are welcome.
- Seeking a Chair of the Editorial Board (Pete Lambert's duties are now spread).
- Records for 1988 to 1994 are missing from the GiGL database (investigations ongoing).
- More material available on LNHS website under 'Recording Birds' & 'Special Publications'.
- Always looking for people to help in production. If interested, please email **edlonbirdrep@lnhs.org.uk**.

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

London Bird Report: Call for Writers

- The London Bird Report Editorial Board (LBREB) is looking to expand the number of writers.
- A chance to sharpen your skills as a birder and writer and have a citable piece of work.
- More details on the LNHS website.
- Or use the Contact Us page on www.lnhs.org.uk





LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Representative on Library Committee Report

John Boorman

- John attended two Library Committee meetings on Zoom during the last reporting year, which ended 30 June 2022. At the first, on 28 September 2021, one book relevant to the LBC was considered and agreed for purchase:
  - *Swifts and Us* by Sarah Gibson.

- The second meeting was on 2 March 2022, when there were no books proposed that were relevant to the LBC.

- Following the reporting year, a further meeting was held at the Angela Marmont Centre (Natural History Museum) on 15 October 2022, during which three books relevant to the LBC were proposed:

  - *The Hen Harrier's Year* by Ian Carter — under consideration.
  - *The Peregrine Falcon* by Richard Sale & Steve Watson — confirmed for purchase.
  - *London in the Wild* by London Wildlife Trust — confirmed for purchase, but the possibility of a free copy from LWT is being looked into.

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Rarities Committee

Bob Watts

- The rarities committee compromising six members continues to function well in adjudicating description species for the London Recording Area.
- We usually match decisions with committees in the various counties that straddle the metropolis.
- We have recently decided to drop Cattle Egret as a description species, due to its increasingly common status.
- There is one species recorded only in 1958 within the Hertfordshire sector that we have asked the BBRC to review, namely the Broad-billed Sandpiper. As this is still on the Herts list, we thought this a diplomatic way to potentially remove. Committee members universally agree that this is not a Broad-billed Sandpiper.
- Bob is currently completing the 2021 rarities spreadsheet; it is nearly completed.

Reading Circle Report

Angela Linnell

- We now have eleven members compared with fourteen in 2021-22. We take the following journals Ardea, Birdlife, British Birds, Dutch Birding, Ibis, Scottish Birds.
- We would welcome more members.

Twitter Master Report

Donna Zimmer

- London Bird Club Twitter has 6,711 followers.
- The #londonbirds hashtag is now established and being used by followers to share observations and news.
- I also run the LNHS Twitter account, where I am promoting wildlife observations (other than birds) using #LondonWildlife

Representative on LNHS Council

Liz Andrew

- Activities
  - Fortnightly 'virtual' talks are very popular.
  - Field meetings, suspended due to Covid, resumed in September 2021. Regular monthly meetings at Bookham Commons resumed in March 2022.
- Journals and other Publications
  - London Naturalist 100 (ed. Nick Rutter) was distributed in December 2021, London Bird Report 85 in May 2022 and the Newsletter (ed. Mark Burgess) four times a year. Members are encouraged to submit items for publication.
  - Publications in preparation: updates of The Butterflies of the London Area (Leslie Williams); Larger Moths of the London Area (Colin Plant and Les Evans-Hill) and Flora of the London Area (Mark Spencer).
- Membership – 177 new members, total membership 1020 (on 30 September 2022).
- Recording and research – LNHS awarded a 30-month grant from City of London Corporation for a pilot study to map key flora, fungi and lichens on Hampstead Heath led by Liz Andrew (Chair of the Hampstead Heath Survey Section).
- Library reopened on Wednesdays in November 2021, and monthly every third Saturday.
- GiGL and LNHS are working in partnership to produce high quality validated records.

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Election of Officers for 2022

Position	Nominees
Chairperson	Gehan de Silva Wijeyeratne
Secretary	Cecilia Derrick
Treasurer	Nirma de Silva Wijeyeratne
Talks Organiser	**Vacant**
Field Meetings Organiser	Amy Muyi Liu
Chair of London Bird Report Editorial Board	**Vacant**
Representative on Library Committee	John Boorman
Chair of Rarities Committee	Bob Watts
Reading Circle Secretary	Angela Linnell
Twitter Master	Donna Zimmer
Instagram Editor	Pippa Jacks
Representative on LNHS Council	Liz Andrew
Ordinary Committee Members	Sally Middleton

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

AGM TALK THE PEREGRINE: ECOLOGY AND BIOLOGY

Richard Sale: Richard has co-authored several books on raptors including the Poyser 'The Gyrfalcon' and 'The Snowy Owl'. He has also co-authored self-published books on 'Steller's Sea Eagle', and 'The Eurasian Hobby'. He also wrote the New Naturalist title 'Falcons' and authored the self-published 'The Common Kestrel' and 'The Merlin'. He was awarded the 'US Wildlife Society Book of the Year' in 2006, 2019 and 2021.

Steve Watson: Steve has conducted a 40-year study into the Peregrine Falcons at Symonds Yat and is a Trustee of the Gloucestershire Raptor Monitoring Group CIO, Raptor Aid CIO and a committee member of South West Peregrines. He produces and fronts presentations on Peregrines and Goshawks for RSPB groups and Wildlife organisations throughout the UK.

Thursday 17 November 2022, 7pm

Talks starts at 7pm after the London Bird Club AGM which starts at 6.30pm.

Zoom Talk. Free and Open to All. **Please register on Eventbrite.**

Search for **London Natural History Society** on www.eventbrite.co.uk

Richard Sale and Steve Watson are the authors of the forthcoming monograph on the Peregrine to be published by Snowfinch Publishing. The talk will draw on elements from the book including a detailed discussion on Peregrines' visual acuity, flight data and analysis, the UK and world population including London's population growth since 2000, worldwide prey spectra analysis and other new scientific findings. The talk will be delivered by both of the authors and will include video footage.

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Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the London Bird Club

Thursday 25 November 2021 at 6.30pm, Zoom

Chairperson: Gehan de Silva Wijeyeratne

Committee Secretary: Douglas Bilton

1) Welcome and apologies for absence

Sally Middleton stood in as Acting Secretary for Douglas Bilton (Secretary). The Acting Secretary welcomed those participating in the meeting. Apologies for absence had been received from Roy Woodward, Annie Wilson and Douglas Bilton.

2) Minutes of the last AGM

The Minutes of the last AGM (10 November 2020) were approved *nem con.*
Approval of previous minutes: In favour 31. Against 0.

3) Reports from Officers

(The Chairperson's report and the Talks Organiser's report were given by the Chairperson; the remaining reports were read by the Acting Secretary)

Chairperson's Report
(Gehan de Silva Wijeyeratne)

The chair welcomed everyone and thanked all of the LBC and LNHs post holders, and everyone who contributed in some way or participated in events during the year.

Key Matters

Resumption of Field Meetings

The LBC were able to put on a programme of field meetings (a.k.a. LBC Walks) at very short notice. The Chairperson thanked Shalmali Rao Paterson for her efforts.

LNHS Virtual Talks Programme (LNHS VTP)

Keiron Brown, Maria Roberts, Anke Marsh and David Howdon have put together a very good virtual programme, including this AGM. The Chair thanked them.

Change of Personnel

Nirma de Silva has taken on the role of Treasurer from George Kalli and Amy Muyi Liu took on the role of Field Meetings Secretary from Shalmali Rao Paterson. The Chair welcomed the new post holders and thanked the outgoing post holders.

Volunteering

The Chair noted he was happy to hear from anyone who can contribute to LBC activities. Examples of ways to get involved include being a Species Account Writer in the London Bird Report. See later slide.

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LBC Accounts
(Nirma de Silva Wijeyeratne)
The Treasurer noted the accounts for the year from 1st July 2020 to 30th June 2021 had been prepared by George Kalli.

The year began with an opening balance of £213.75. Income included a grant from LNHS Central Funds for £400 which was low compared to the grant in the previous year of £900 reflecting the Covid 19 situation and the inability to hold lectures.

There were no lecturer's fees and expenses during this year. Total expenses were £433.13 which included Reading Circle Journal Subscription expenses.

The balance carried forward as at 30th June 2021 was £308.12.

To update to the present position, as at 31st October 2021 the bank balance is £257.64 after a cheque for £50.48 was issued in respect of Reading Circle expenses.

For approval
Further to a letter received from HSBC on 5 November 2021, the committee of the London Bird Club was asked to grant the Treasurer approval for the use of HSBC's Telephone Banking service and that it accepts the Primary User will have access to the accounts and make payments solely.

The London Bird Club committee voted unanimously in favour of the proposal for the Treasurer to use HSBC's Telephone Banking service. Furthermore, it accepted the Primary User will have access to the accounts and make payments solely.

Field meetings
(Amy Mui Liu)

The Field Meeting Organiser noted that during the reporting period no field meetings could take place due to Covid. However, an update on the present situation was provided as follows:

- Field meetings resumed from September 2021, with nine meetings planned for the period covering September 2021 to February 2022. At the time of the report, five meetings have been carried out.
- Shaimali Paterson has relocated to India and won't be able to continue with the Field Meeting Organiser role. Amy Muyi Liu has been appointed to replace the position.
- From September 2021, LBC has introduced updated Risk Assessment documents for walk leaders to confirm prior to their field meetings
- The field meeting programme covering the period March 2022-April 2022 is work in progress. Some new locations have been confirmed, including Bookham Common, Cheshunt and Sydenham Hill Wood.

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London Bird Report
(Derek Coleman for the Editorial Board)

London Bird Report 2019 (LBR 2019) was published on target at the end of May 2019. He said he would like to thank everyone involved in the collection of records, the writing up of accounts and papers, and the production team, in particular our data manager, Roger Payne whose workload increases each year. He commented that the LBR Editorial Board (LBR EB) have had some very positive feedback but there were a number of complaints that the packaging was insufficient and copies were received damaged. The LBR EB is investigating the issue but it could have serious cost implications if the postage is in a higher bracket.

Work on producing LBR 2020 is going well and it is hoped to publish this by the end of May 2021. Despite covid, the number of records has increased to nearly half a million, which makes writing more difficult as there are so many records to sort through. The LBR EB is looking into ways of reducing the number without losing information. Any ideas would be gratefully received as would ways of improving the report.

Pete Lambert stood down as Chair of the Editorial Board at the last AGM. THE LBR EB does not have a direct replacement but are spreading his duties through the board and welcomed Annie Wilson to help with secretarial duties.

During the year, there have been problems updating the LNHS website. The files from LBR 2019 were sent in June; the 'Recording Birds' page was updated but the 'London Bird Report' has still not been updated. The LBR EB have become aware that records for the years 1988 to 1994 are missing from the GiGL database. Investigation and solutions are ongoing.

The LBR EB is planning to make more material available on the LNHS website. Plans are still at an early stage but would include the gazetteer, vice-county boundary map, first and last migration dates by year, corrections to LBRs.

The LBR EB is always looking for more people to help in producing the report. Derek asked that anyone interested to please email **edlonbirdrep@lnhs.org.uk**.

Library Committee
(John Boorman)

John reported that he has attended three zoom meetings of the LNHS Library Committee this year (including one after the reporting year in September 2021). Details of the books relevant to the LBC that have been agreed to purchase/decline or cancel were as listed below:

Purchase:
Fraigneau, Cloé. An Identification Guide to the Feathers of Western European Birds.
Gibson, Sarah. Swifts and us.

Cancel (due to ongoing delays in publication and purchase of 'Fraigneau' listed above):
Feather Research Group. Atlas of Feathers for Western Palearctic Birds (Passerines).

Rarities
(Bob Watts)
Bob noted that it was an eventful year for him as Chair of the Rarities Committee as he moved from London to Belfast. This has had no bearing on his position and he was happy to continue in post. He has kept in regular communication with all relevant parties as per the pandemic!

Cattle Egret 2020 records no longer require a description from the Rainham and Lea Valleys. Most circulated records continue to be of photos taken from the internet and the committee continue to bemoan the lack of descriptions for birds of prey many of which languish in the Appendix.

Reading Circle
(Angela Linnell)
Angela noted that the reading circle currently has 12 members, compared to 15 in July 2019-June 2020. There was a deficit of about £285, almost the same as in the previous year but the journals are circulated to members and are then sent to the LNHS Library, so the Library benefits from the Reading Circle subscriptions. She said she would welcome more members.

Twitter
(Donna Zimmer)
Dinna provided an update noting that the London Bird Club Twitter now has 6285 followers.

The #londonbirds hashtag is now established and being used by followers to share not only ornithological observations but blogs, photography as well as important conservation news in the area.

She is now also running the London Natural History Society Twitter account where she is promoting wildlife observations (other than birds) using #LondonWildlife.

4. Election of Officers for 2021

The re-election of officers was proposed by Helen Baker and seconded by Michael Wilsdon. In favour 46. Against 0.

The following were elected *nem con*.

Position	*Nominees*
Chairperson	Gehan de Silva Wijeyeratne
Secretary	Douglas Bilton
Treasurer	Nirma de Silva Wijeyeratne

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Twitter Master	Donna Zimmer
Instagram Editor	Pippa Jacks
Representative on LNHS Council	Liz Andrew
Ordinary Committee Members	Sally Middleton

5. Any other business

After the conclusion of the formal business, Gehan invited questions from the floor. Kennedy Cruickshank asked about the mechanics of operation of the Reading Circle. The Chair explained the process and both he and Maria Roberts encouraged people to sign up for the Reading Circle.

After the AGM Howard Vaughan presented his talk on Rainham Marshes which was attended by 104 participants.'