



LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FOR
AUTHOR: REVIEW OF THE YEAR



LONDON NATURAL
HISTORY SOCIETY

**LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
(LNHS)**

is a Registered Charity.

POSTED 1ST FEBRUARY 2025

We are seeking applications for the position of
AUTHOR OF 'REVIEW OF THE YEAR' FOR THE
LONDON BIRD REPORT (LBR) 2023 ONWARDS
to take over from our previous Author
who has retired.

NOTES:

This is a VOLUNTARY POSITION
as are all other positions in the LNHS.

We consider that the successful applicant should have a keen interest in birds and a good knowledge of the birds of the London Area, and be able to summarise a large quantity of data into concise, readable form.

The deadline for receipt of applications for LBR 2024
is 15th January 2026.

For further information, please see the following pages.

AUTHOR OF LBR 'REVIEW OF THE YEAR'

A CONTINUOUS POSITION IN THE LNHS

Job description and reference material

The Review of the Year was written for the LBR by Nick Rutter every year from LBR 2009 to LBR 2021. He and his successor have now stepped down from this role, and we are looking for someone to take over.

The Review of the Year is a six-page section of each issue of the London Bird Report (about 3,500 words in length). The usual format to date has been to have three sections: a short introductory section covering the main highlights of the year; a section covering the seasonal highlights; and then, the longest section, a month-by-month summary of highlights. This information must be produced using the Birds of London section of the LBR, once that is completed.

References

Nick Rutter has kindly outlined his procedure, overleaf.

The text of the 2021 Review of the Year is appended after page 6.

For a PDF file of the LBR 2021 Birds of the London Area section (3MB), please email Mike Trier: LBRdesign@lnhs.org.uk

Timing

The writing of the Review is quite time constrained, as it can only be started once the draft copy of the Birds of London section of the LBR is ready. This is usually about the third week of January. The review will then need revising once the final version of the Birds of London section is ready (about the third week of March).

So, we are looking for someone who could work on this during the period from about 26th January 2025 to late March 2025 - and annually thereafter.

To apply for this position, please email the LBR Secretary, Annie Wilson:

secretary@lnhs.org.uk

LBR REVIEW OF THE YEAR - PROCEDURE

NICK RUTTER

Writing the review of the year for the LBR starts with the near-final draft text of the species reports which is issued fairly early in the New Year. I would go through this text, making notes under the following headings:

1. Notable sightings for the year (particularly species where there are few sightings for the London area, or species are nationally scarce or London specialities);
2. Interesting records for each month, including year highs for each species; and
3. Overviews of each season (divided into first Winter, Spring, Breeding, Autumn and second Winter). Many of the reports of breeding species in particular are hampered by under-recording, so I tended only to include those of scarcer species or ones where I felt the data appeared robust.

My guiding principles were no more sophisticated than judging whether I would be interested in the record, and whether it would be helpful in deciding where to go in any given month.

Having made these notes, I would then write them up into a draft report, adding information on the weather where relevant from the Met Office annual summary. I would typically start with the monthly summaries, and finish by writing the year highlights and seasonal reviews, though I put these at the start of the report. As many of the sites are recorded repeatedly in the report, I would typically use abbreviations (for example, RaMa for Rainham Marshes) to reduce the amount of typing and then use find and replace when I've finished the draft.

I would also include a total of the species recorded in the London area, just by totting up the numbers from the draft report. As some of the records in the draft text of the species reports are still under review, I would put the text relating to these in square brackets to facilitate finding these if they needed amendment.

I would then send the draft to the Editor, who would review, and raise a number of comments, questions and corrections. In addition, the draft report is highly likely to need updating as the text of the main body of the report is updated to reflect, in particular, rejected records.

Preparing the first draft would typically take about 4 weeks from start to finish, working for an hour or so most days. The comments and updates then take a few more days' work in March.

ABOUT THE LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1858

The London Natural History Society (or LNHS as it is commonly known) is a local natural history society within the UK concerned with recording the wildlife of London within a circular area of 20-miles radius from St. Paul's Cathedral. The Society's aims are to foster the appreciation and study of London's wildlife and natural environment, and to assist in the conservation of wildlife in the London area by helping to record London's wildlife.

The LNHS consists of a number of active sections. This results in a highly varied programme of talks, organised nature walks and other activities. The variety and number of events for members make the LNHS one of the most active nature societies in the world which is run entirely by volunteers. Whether it is purely for recreation, or to develop field skills for a career in conservation, the LNHS offers a wide range of indoor and outdoor activities. Beginners are welcome at every event and gain access to the knowledge of some very skilled naturalists.

On top of its varied public engagement, the LNHS also has a raft of publications free to members. The London Naturalist is its annual journal, with scientific papers as well as lighter material such as book reviews. The annual London Bird Report is an important compilation of bird records during a year. Furthermore, there is a quarterly newsletter, which carries many field trip reports and useful announcements, and a six-monthly illustrated Programme of events and information.

The LNHS maintains its annual membership at a modest level, representing fantastic value for money.

FIND OUT MORE

Website: www.lnhs.org.uk

Bluesky: London Natural History Society @lnhs.bsky.social

Instagram: London Natural History Society @thelondonnaturalhistorysociety

Facebook: London Natural History Society Forum and London Natural History Society page

YouTube: London Natural History Society channel

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCx8DQybWBQYxbEdLNA3kfCg>

Email: secretary@lnhs.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 206228



LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

HONORARY VICE-PRESIDENTS

Helen Baker MBOU, A. J. Barratt, D. Bevan FLS,
J. A. Edgington PhD, FLS, J. F. Hewlett PhD,
Colin W. Plant BSc, FRES, R. John Swindells, Mike West

OFFICERS FOR 2025

PRESIDENT

Vacant

VICE-PRESIDENTS

Mark Burgess, Maria Roberts, Edward Tuddenham MD,
Michael Wilsdon MBOU

SECRETARY

Annie Wilson

TREASURER

James Lovely

ASSISTANT TREASURER

Robin Blades

SECTIONS

BOOKHAM COMMONS SURVEY

BOTANY

ECOLOGY & ENTOMOLOGY

HAMPSTEAD HEATH SURVEY

LONDON BIRD CLUB