

# LIPU-UK

England & Wales · Charity number 1081826

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Other

**Registered** 2000-08-02

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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Doddington Rd  
Whisby  
Lincolnshire  
LN6 9BX

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**Website** [www.lipu-uk.org](http://www.lipu-uk.org)

## Activities

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**Objects:** TO FURTHER THE CHARITABLE WORKS OF LEGA ITALIANA PROTEZIONE UCCELLI (LIPU) BY MAKING GRANTS OR PROVIDING SUCH OTHER ASSISTANCE AS THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SHALL FROM TIME TO TIME DETERMINE

**Activities:** LIPU-UK exists to support the work of LIPU - the BirdLife International partner in Italy. LIPU-UK works to raise both funds and awareness of the challenges faced by LIPU in its work for the protection and conservation of birds.

## Classification

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- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Animals, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies

## Geography

- Area of benefit: ITALY
- Italy

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-06-30	£68,617	£80,172	-	-
2024-06-30	£90,904	£81,753	-	-
2023-06-30	£85,502	£490,049	-	-
2022-06-30	£233,577	£85,533	-	-
2021-06-30	£107,202	£70,909	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>Matthew Paul Hines</b>	Chair	2018-01-23
DAVID LINGARD		2000-08-09
Lesley Tompkins		2018-01-23
PATRICIA IRENE DUGARD		2013-02-26
SHIRLEY ANN LINGARD		2000-08-09

**LIPU-UK**

England & Wales - Charity number 1081826

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# Accounts

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**LIPU UK**  
**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2025**

Registered Charity Number 1081826

*NG Community Accounting Services*  
*Jubilee House, Doddington*  
*Lincoln*  
*LN6 4RS*

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## Trustees and Other Information

### Information

LIPU-UK, c/o Fernwood, Doddington Road, Whisby, Lincs, LN6 9BX is registered with the Charity Commission (No 1081826) and is constituted by a Deed of Trust.

### Trustees

The charity is administered by trustees who form an Executive Committee. Committee members during this financial year were:

Matthew Hines	Chair Person
David Lingard	Secretary/Treasurer
Patricia Dugard	Member
Shirley Lingard	Member
Lesley Tompkins	Member

### Independent Examiner

Nicole Gray (MAAT)  
NG Community Accounting  
Jubilee House  
Lincoln Road  
Doddington  
LN6 4RS

## **Trustees Report**

### **for the Year Ended 30th June 2025**

The Trustees present their Report together with the Financial Statements of the Charity for the year from 1st July 2024 to 30th June 2025.

#### **Objective and Aims**

LIPU was founded in Italy in 1965 and, in 1989, a British section, LIPU-UK, was formed and based initially in Chelmsford. In 2000, LIPU-UK was registered in England as a charity. Its objectives remain unchanged and consist of providing financial support and any other assistance which will further the aims of LIPU in its work of bird protection and conservation. Each year, the British section agrees with LIPU directors in Parma a set of projects for which it commits to raise funds and those funds are transferred to Italy in June at the end of the financial year.

#### **Public Benefit**

Italy has a poor record of compliance with European Directives regarding protection of wildlife, habitat and biodiversity and any improvement will bring a clear benefit to the citizens of Europe, both within and outside of, the European Community. LIPU-UK has complied with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 in having due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

#### **Your Trustees**

There has been no change in personnel or offices since last year's Annual Report.

Trustees are appointed by the Executive Committee usually, but not exclusively, from the membership of LIPU-UK and are offered induction training by the Secretary and/or other trustees prior to their first attendance at a trustees' meeting.

#### **Project progress in 2024/25**

This year's report on achievements is based on information provided by Claudio Celada, LIPU Nature Conservation Director, notably reports to the LIPU-UK Trustees' meetings.

#### **1) Bird Hospitals**

LIPU-UK has, for many years, helped various bird hospitals, or Recovery Centres, with the provision of consumable items; in some years more substantial funding has been provided to selected centres, depending on what funding is (or is not) available from other sources such as local government. In 2022/23, LIPU-UK funds (€7,000), were again provided to support this important work. No further commitment was necessary for 2024/25 or 2025/26, because, for the time being at least, the Bird Hospitals are being fully funded from public funds. LIPU will continue to monitor the situation and LIPU-UK stand prepared to renew funding should it prove necessary.

## **2) Protecting Bonelli's Eagle and Lanner Falcon nesting sites, Sicily.**

Over the past year, LIPU has continued to monitor the nests of the two species in a number of Sicilian provinces. In 2024/25, LIPU-UK funds (€7,000), were again provided to support this important work.

The study area for Bonelli's Eagle in central-eastern Sicily extends between the provinces of Catania, Enna, Caltanissetta and Messina and includes the entire plain of Catania and the hilly areas bordering it. In 2024, 9 additional pairs were monitored compared to 2023. In total 18 breeding pairs fledged a total of 12 chicks; a reproductive success rate of 0.67.

Lanner Falcon monitoring in Sicily was reported for 2024. In South-eastern Sicily, the 2024 data indicate a clear and alarming confirmation of the extremely critical conservation status of this species: none of the sites monitored were active, and in 13 out of 18 the Peregrine Falcon is currently established. In Central-eastern Sicily, LIPU report a disastrous situation : of the 50 or so historical sites monitored, only 7 were occupied. Of the 7 pairs monitored, two did not breed and 5 fledged 13 young. Despite surveillance at the nests and the application of photo-traps to reduce/block the theft of eggs and nestlings, the population of this now extremely rare *feldeggii* subspecies seems to be increasingly at risk of extinction.

Between March and May 2025, monitoring was carried out at the breeding sites of the Bonelli's Eagle and Lanner Falcon in eastern Sicily with the ultimate objective of safeguarding the nests. The final report from LIPU's volunteers is awaited.

In 2025/26 LIPU UK have allocated €7,000 for nest monitoring by volunteers to protect both species in Sicily and Lanner Falcon in Apulia.

## **3) Anti-Poaching activities**

LIPU-UK has supported LIPU's anti-poaching activities for many years, including €10,000 in 2024/25.

In 2024, LIPU continued a range of measures. In May 2024, at the technical round table on the wild Turtle Dove management plan LIPU strongly supported an European Commission call for the suspension of Turtle Dove hunting for 2024. Eight press releases were issued, 4 on anti-poaching activities (Delta Po, Strait of Messina, South Sardinia, Seizure of Thrushes), 3 on sustainable hunting and 1 on violation of the Birds Directive. In Calabria in April, an event over two days promoted birdwatching during raptor migration, included the use of places that were once used for poaching. In Sardinia, a two-week surveillance camp in April-May, was organised in cooperation with the Carabinieri Forestali.

During the camp, information was provided on the flow of migratory passages, any gunshots heard and other useful information to prevent acts of poaching (presence of cars in suspicious areas, strangers under observation, etc.). Activities also took place in coordination with other associations in the area. During the camp, 12,082 migrating birds of prey were observed, 8 volunteers took part in the activities.

In June, LIPU volunteers took part in a large operation by the Carabinieri Forestali aimed at combating the illegal trade in live decoys. A total of 763 live and 164 dead birds (including Song Thrushes and Blackbirds) were seized along with 2,400 counterfeit rings, 48 nets and 6 electronic decoys. 14 persons were reported to the police.

In late August LIPU volunteers supported the forest police for 6 days in activities against illegal bird trapping. In the course of the operation, 4 poachers were reported, 104 traps were confiscated, 200 dead birds (Pied Flycatcher, Chaffinch, Robin, Siskin, Tree Pipit) and 30 live birds (Song Thrush, Blackbird, Fieldfare, Tree Pipit) were also seized.

LIPU-UK have agreed to allocate €10,000 in 2025/26 to support LIPU rangers and co-finance anti-poaching activities at poaching blackspots (Brescia Pre Alps and Po Delta).

#### **4) Monitoring raptor migration: Messina Strait**

LIPU-UK has funded monitoring of the raptor spring migration across the Messina strait for many years. LIPU-UK provided €10,000 in 2024/25 and made a further commitment of €10,000 for 2025/26.

Spring monitoring of migrating birds was conducted by two experienced observers on the Calabrian side of Messina Strait, in cooperation with the Ornithologica and Medraptors associations. Between 15th March and 31st May 2025 over 38,000 raptors were recorded. The bulk of this number were made up of Honey Buzzards, Marsh Harriers and Black Kites. In addition, over 17,000 Bee-eater and about 800 storks were observed.

Only 1064 individuals are observed simultaneously at the two sites, showing that it is crucial to monitor both sites at the same time (one along the coast and one further inland) in order to get an overall idea of raptor migration. The Strait of Messina is confirmed as the most important Italian bottle-neck for raptor migration (at least 50,000 raptors migrating in spring).

#### **5) Red-footed Falcon in Parma province**

LIPU-UK continue our long-term support (€6,000 in 2024/25) of Red-footed Falcon conservation around Parma, which holds the most important breeding population in Italy. The 2023 breeding survey identified a total of 109 pairs, fledging 317 chicks. 4 GPS-GSM units were purchased, to be fitted in 2024.

In 2024, 134 pairs were monitored, of which 90 were in nest boxes (11 more than 2023) and 44 (14 more than in 2023) in natural nests. 365 chicks fledged. 40 new artificial nests were installed.

LIPU-UK has committed €6,000 for 2025/26 to continue monitoring of breeding success and to track movements of 4 individuals.

## **6) Kentish Plover in Sardinia**

Since 2019/20, LIPU-UK has funded survey work (€5,000 in 2024/25) to understand better the breeding population of Kentish Plover in Sardinia, the key Italian region for the species. Human disturbance is thought to be major factor in the decline of this beach-nesting species but data were limited. A very detailed report on survey results was provided to the Trustees in 2023.

During 2024, LIPU volunteers traversed 60km of beaches to check for the presence of the Kentish Plover and apply safety measures to the nests. Monitoring was completed in 35 areas on the Tyrrhenian and Ionian coasts. The research effort was high, lasting from February to August, involving 615 hours worked and 170 visits. A total of 17 nests were found at 8 different sites. Significant threats were encountered in many locations including mechanical beach cleaning; transit of motor vehicles; presence of wastes, especially plastic and fishing lines; presence of fishermen, sportsmen, bathers; loose dogs; sporting events and beach concerts.

During 2025 a national census of the species was carried out by the CNCF (National Conservation Committee Kentish Plover). Monitoring of the species was carried out by LIPU in Calabria (coastal habitats) and Sardinia (beaches and coastal wetlands).

LIPU UK have allocated €10,000 to support continuing survey work in 2025/26.

## **7) Continuation of Monitoring of Important Bird Areas, Local Conservation Groups and Key Biodiversity Areas.**

This project has been funded for a number of years including a commitment of €18,000 for 2024/25.

A huge milestone was reached on 1 October 2024, as LIPU handed over the IBA update to BirdLife International. In 2002 there were 172 IBAs occupying 6,909,900 hectares (covering 16.3% of the Italian land area and 3.7% of the pelagic area). In 2023/24, an enormous amount of work was done to upgrade the Italian IBAs, which resulted in both updated perimeters and ornithological data associated with the IBAs themselves. This has increased from 172 IBAs in 2002 to 249 IBAs with a total extension of 9,396,410 hectares (plus 2,486,510 marine hectares). In total, in 2024, IBAs cover 23.0% of the Italian land area and 4.7% of the pelagic area.

LIPU are now proceeding to:

- Issue the Final report of the updated IBAs, including GIS digitisation and production of cartographic images; profiling of current and future climate predictions (2040) using IPCC protocols; and a list of present bird biodiversity;

- Complete initial preparatory scientific work on national IBAs, such as: i) changes in avifauna over the period 2002-2024; ii) ranking of IBAs using a set of cost/benefit indicators;
- In collaboration with the University of Rome assess the merits of the KBAs project, participating in the development of a methodology and the creation and integration of IBA maps, sensitivity mapping together with other working groups (botanists, herpetologists, etc.) for the entire Italian territory.

LIPU UK have allocated €20,000 to support the programme in 2025/26. Additional field work will be carried out during the 2025 breeding season, in targeted candidate sites, in order to fill in the gaps in knowledge. In addition, LIPU intend to start work on the KBAs (Key Biodiversity Areas) and produce scientific articles on the results of the 2024 update. Policy work seeking to obtain the protection of some target IBAs will also be funded.

### **8) Collared Pratincole**

The Piana di Gela agricultural plain in Sicily holds the largest Italian population of Collared Pratincole (included on the Italian Red List). As truly natural habitats have declined, their ground nesting colonies are found increasingly on agricultural land. When LIPU started to monitor the colony on the Piana di Gela they found that late spring ploughing was causing numerous breeding failures. As a delay of only 10-15 days would permit successful fledging, local farmers were approached through a door-to-door information and awareness campaign. In 2018 the first direct actions saved part of the colony and in spring 2019, all of the landowners agreed to postpone ploughing, saving the entire colony. In 2019 55-60 breeding pairs were detected and in 2020, about 73 females laid eggs and hatching was verified in at least 40 nests. In April 2021, LIPU volunteers found 35-40 breeding pairs in two discrete areas; agreement was reached with landowners not to disturb these areas until the young had fledged. 2023, was a difficult year; torrential rains in May and June limited nesting with only two small colonies identified of 15-20 and 25 pairs, fledging only 14 young. The adult census was 90-110 individuals, suggesting at least 20 pairs whose nesting site was not discovered, and a total of 60-65 pairs in the Gela Plain in 2023.

LIPU continue to monitor the size of the breeding population, breeding location and reproductive success, liaising with land owners to protect nests where possible. In 2023/24 and 2024/25, LIPU-UK provided €3,000 to support this effort.

The Gelo Wetlands are an important foraging area and the farmers of the Agricultural Society La Cicogna Bio, agreed to leave some ploughed plots free in 2024 to favour the presence of the species. Another small foraging area has also been located near an artificial pond near the SP10.

2024 survey work identified two breeding sites. At the first, occupied by 8 pairs, prompt engagement with the landowner prevented disturbance and at least four chicks fledged. At the other site, 10 pairs managed to fledge only 3 young. There were no failures, damage or disturbances by farmers. The total estimate for the entire Gela plain is now 22 pairs.

LIPU-UK have made a further commitment of €3,000 for 2025/26.

## **9) Montagu's Harrier in Marche region**

The Montagu's Harrier is a little-studied species in Italy. Its population is mainly concentrated in central Italy and its stronghold is mainly located between the Marche and Tuscany. The species nests on the ground in wheat fields or hay meadows. This often results in the loss of eggs or chicks if mowing is carried out before the young are hatched. For this reason, the Pesaro and Viterbo delegations of Lipu (the latter for at least 22 years) instigated a protocol for identifying nests at risk in order to protect them. In Pesaro province, the field work was coordinated with the University of Urbino. In 2023/24, LIPU-UK contributed €10,000 to this programme. A further commitment of €13,000 was made in 2024/25.

LIPU UK have agreed to allocate a provisional budget of €15,000 for 2025/26. This will fund €5,000 for nest protection in Viterbo province, €2000 for Foggia province and €8,000 for GPS-GSM systems to study the movements of the two populations. However, these goals may be met by LIPU participation in a conservation project through the French Ecotone Foundation, in collaboration with two other BirdLife partners: Nabu and LPO. In this case, the support offered by LIPU-UK will not be necessary.

## **Local Conservation Groups**

In 2016, LIPU launched the Local Conservation Groups project. Its goal was to create a network of volunteers that can contribute to the long-term monitoring and surveillance of Natura 2000 sites and the dissemination of knowledge on the Natura 2000 network among local communities. The Local Conservation Groups (LCG) use standardized methods to collect data that are useful to assess the conservation status of bird species of Community interest, i.e. those listed under Annex I of the Birds Directive and migratory birds that make regular stopovers at the site. These data are made available to the managing authorities of the Natura 2000 sites and to ISPRA (Istituto superiore per la protezione e la ricerca ambientale), the Italian institute for environmental protection and research. LIPU-UK provided €5,000 to help fund these groups in 2023/24 and 2024/25, No further funding was requested for 2025/26.

## **Reducing Mediterranean bycatch of vulnerable marine bird species**

The impact of bycatch by fishery is a constant and important threat to marine birds in the Mediterranean. Shearwaters, Cormorants, and Gulls are among the most impacted species. LIPU-UK funds have enabled LIPU to co-finance the project, partially funded by a private foundation (MAVA). The project is intended to devise and test practical measures which fishing boats can use at sea to reduce bycatch. The monitoring involved two separate methodologies to evaluate bycatch in terms of type of gear and seabird species: on-board observations and interviews with fishermen.

Building on funded work in the previous years, LIPU-UK provided € 10,000 in 2024/25 to co-finance continued data collection in Linosa and Lampedusa (the most important Scopoli's Shearwater Mediterranean colony) and for policy work at the EU and national level.

In 2024, 13 fishing trips employing various techniques were monitored. Seabird bycatch was reported only for drifting longlines (20 birds of two species: Scopoli's Shearwater and Yellow-legged Gull). In 2024, 51 interviews took place with professional and recreational fishermen operating OTB, LLD, LLS or LHP. All interviews were carried out in person following a standardized questionnaire and a list of photos of the most common seabird species. Captains were asked to report an average incidence of seabird bycatch per fishing trip. In addition, questions were also related to fisheries dynamics.

In various events, LIPU has raised awareness on the issue of seabird bycatch with drifting longline and which species can be unintentionally captured. This has included promotion of the best technical measures known to mitigate seabird bycatch during drifting longline operations. Building on previous events, in September 2024, the final workshop of the "Monitoring Seabird Bycatch in the Pelagic Archipelago" project was jointly organized by LIPU and the Shipowners' Association.

For 2025/26: LIPU-UK have agreed to allocate €10,000 for continuation of data collection in Linosa and Lampedusa and to support policy work at the EU and national level.

### **10) Little Bustard in Sardinia**

Monitoring the threatened and relict population of the Little Bustard in Sardinia was funded with €10,000 in each of 2023/24 and 2024/25. The Little Bustard (*Tetrax tetrax*) is a steppe bird adapted to agro-pastoral ecosystems in Western Europe, and is one of those many farmland species declining due to changes in agricultural production systems. In Italy, the species has now disappeared from the mainland and is present (and declining) only in Sardinia, with about 12 identified subpopulations, two of which are estimated to hold about 2/3 of the total numbers in Sardinia. Information on the status and trends of the entire population of the species in Sardinia is lacking, hindering the implementation of any evidence-based conservation schemes. The aims of the proposed project are to estimate current numbers of the 12 sub-populations of Little Bustard in Sardinia, derive population trends and set up a regular monitoring scheme for the species.

In the survey work in 2023 a total of 218 singing males were identified. In 2024, LIPU launched a groundbreaking GPS tracking project on male Little Bustards in Sardinia. The field campaign in April 2024, was a major success, thanks in part to the expertise of Spanish colleagues from IMEDEA-CSIC, who provided invaluable guidance on capturing and GPS tagging Little Bustards, fostering international collaboration and enhancing the local team's skills.

Tagging of two males in the core area of Abbasanta Plain SPA has yielded fascinating insights into their breeding and post-breeding behaviours; novel information for Sardinia. LIPU are able to track movements weekly and are collecting critical data on group composition, including sex and age, which will contribute to understanding of population dynamics and breeding success. In 2025, LIPU continued to apply GPS to breeding males in 3 different areas in the central-northern part of Sardinia. During the field campaign from April to May 6 GPSs were applied and 1 replaced. It is anticipated that the first results of the 2025 post-breeding movements of the tagged specimens will be reported on in October 2025.

Further monitoring is proposed to understand better spatial distribution of the population over the annual cycle, in order to understand associated threats. In 2025/26, LIPU-UK have agreed to provide a further €10,000 to this important project.

### **11) Climate Change Education / Green Future Citizens**

The Trustees recognise that education has a key role to play in conservation. Accordingly, in 2020/21 LIPU-UK agreed to fund the cost of 2 educators dedicated to this project (one in Lombardy and one in Tuscany). The funding was continued in 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24 (€5,000) with a commitment to the same funding in 2024/25. No further request was made for 2025/26.

## Financial Review

### a) Income

At the end of the financial year we had received £68,666 (2023/2024: £90,904; 2022/23: £85,231; 2021/22: £233,665; 2020/21 £107,200; 2019/20: £114,066). A substantial portion of this total were from Trusts, Funds and Foundations (including AISPA, the Duncan Louis Stewart Foundation and the Peter Smith Charitable Fund for Nature) totalling £18,500, for which the Trustees express their sincere gratitude. We have never actively solicited legacies but we do record, with thanks, legacies from the Davey, Wrapson and Hinds estates. As ever, LIPU-UK's membership responded to the annual appeal with great generosity. Other valuable contributions were the Annual Draw and Gift Aid.

### b) Expenditure

This was £6,839 (2023/24: £6,783; 2022/23: £5,826; 2021/22: £4,621; 2020/21: £6,381), representing 10% (2023/24: 7.5% 2022/23: 7%; 2021/22: 2%; 2020/21: 6%) of income. LIPU-UK has an informal, desirable target of 10%. LIPU-UK continues consistently to meet this target. Once inflation is factored in, real spending actually decreased slightly compared to 2023/24. Such limited expenditure is only made possible by the entirely voluntary efforts of the Trustees, notably the Treasurer/Secretary.

### c) LIPU Project Funding

In June 2025, the Trustees approved the allocation of €115,000 (including membership dues) to LIPU to progress project funding in 2025/26. This was partially met through a transfer of £73,332.76 in July 2025; the balance to be drawn from the Conservation Fund held by LIPU which had been provided by LIPU-UK. The 2025/26 project list represents continuation of projects previously funded.

- Bycatch of marine birds
- Bonelli's Eagle
- Antipoaching (Messina, Sardinia, rangers)
- Monitoring of raptor migration (Messina Strait, Calabria)
- Red-footed Falcon in Parma Province
- Kentish Plover (Sardinia and Calabria)
- IBA
- Collared Pratincole (Gela, Sicily)
- Montagu's Harrier (Marche and Viterbo)
- Little Bustard (Sardinia)

### **Financial Reserves**

At the year end, the charity had total reserves of £14,842 (2022/23: £17,132; 2021/22: £415,061; 2020/21: £270,024), represented by £14,842 of unrestricted funds and £nil of restricted funds.

The net funds of LIPU-UK are allocated into three different categories: Restricted Funds, Unrestricted Funds and Designated Funds.

- Restricted Funds consist of money which has been given to LIPU-UK to be used for a specific purpose.
- Unrestricted Funds are funds which can be spent on anything which furthers the objectives of LIPU-UK.
- Designated Funds/Reserves are funds which have been earmarked for use in a particular way and these can include funds which are Restricted or Unrestricted.

LIPU-UK maintains two Designated Funds:

- A Business Reserve — that is the Trustees' estimation of the prudent level of funds needed to guard against any potential liquidity problem that might arise if income unexpectedly dried up and financial commitments had to be met. Its level is set after an annual review and currently it amounts to £10,000. The Business Reserve is made up solely of Unrestricted Funds.
- The Project Reserve — a fund created to hold any surplus funds which may accrue. This fund may be spent on any project which has the approval of the LIPU-UK trustees after discussion with the Conservation Director of LIPU. The Project Reserve consists solely of Unrestricted Funds.

As noted in a previous report, the Trustees approved transfer of the substantial Project Reserve holding (£382,068 / €430,000) to LIPU. LIPU hold this as a Conservation Fund. Monitoring of the allocation of these funds to conservation projects will continue through contact with LIPU's Conservation Director.

## **Risks to the Charity**

### **a) Trustees**

For many years, the Trustees have reflected that they cannot continue in office indefinitely. This has been reflected as a risk in successive Chairman's Reports. Recent appeals for new trustees have not as yet borne fruit and discussions around the options for succession planning are ongoing. This risk has now come to be realised. In July 2025, the Treasurer informed the trustees of his reluctant wish to retire at the end of the 2025-26 financial year. With no other alternative available, the board has agreed to this course of action.

### **b) Financial**

We continue to feel that the complication of several deposit accounts is a necessary safeguard for LIPU-UK funds. Balances, wherever possible, are maintained below the £85,000 limit guaranteed by the FSCS scheme.

### **c) Membership**

A continued slow decline ending the year with 516 members, down from 561 in 2023/24 ((584 in 2022/23; 615 in 2021/22; 654 in 2020/21).

## **Acknowledgements**

We continue to believe that the work of LIPU-UK has a very positive effect in Italy, where conservationists work in a difficult environment. The bulk of this UK work is still largely down to David Lingard, our Secretary/Treasurer, and his wife Shirley (fellow trustee). As always, I am sure that all LIPU supporters are hugely grateful to them for their many hours of dedication.

As ever, we are grateful to the team of translators, who continue to deliver the good news from Italy.

This year is LIPU's 59th— and sadly, we are still needed.

## **Summary**

Ours is a small charity, but we make a significant contribution to LIPU, which by membership is less than 5% the size of the RSPB. Thanks to you, our LIPU-UK supporters, we continue to make a real impact. Thank you for again making that difference.

Matt Hines, Chairman — LIPU-UK

Date: 15th September 2025

## Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of LIPU UK for the year ended 30th June 2025, which are set out on pages 13-15.

### Responsibilities and basis of the 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. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters.

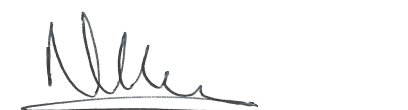
### Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- a) accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- b) 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.

Signed:



Nicole Gray  
NG Community Accounting Services  
Jubilee House  
Lincoln Road  
Doddington  
Lincoln  
LN6 4RS

19th September 2024

**LIPU-UK**  
**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT**  
for the year ended June 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted & Endowment Funds	<b>Total 24/25</b>	Total 23/24
<b>Receipts</b>					
Legacies		7,581	-	<b>7,581</b>	42,274
Subscriptions & Donations		17,845	32,844	<b>50,689</b>	37,161
Annual Draw		2,470	-	<b>2,470</b>	3,083
Gift Aid		6,183	-	<b>6,183</b>	7,342
Deposit Account Interest		1,743	-	<b>1,743</b>	1,030
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<u>35,822</u>	<u>32,844</u>	<b>68,666</b>	<u>90,891</u>
<b>Payments</b>					
Project Funding		40,489	32,844	<b>73,333</b>	74,970
Newsletter Costs		1,667	-	<b>1,667</b>	1,742
Travel Costs		24	-	<b>24</b>	26
Postage		1,906	-	<b>1,906</b>	1,662
Printing		408	-	<b>408</b>	397
Advertising, Website & Promotion		212	-	<b>212</b>	177
Annual Draw Costs		887	-	<b>887</b>	762
Independent Examiner		400	-	<b>400</b>	380
Stationery		84	-	<b>84</b>	100
Recruiting Campaign		915	-	<b>915</b>	450
Miscellaneous Admin Costs		323	-	<b>323</b>	982
Bank Charges		13	-	<b>13</b>	27
<b>Total Payments</b>		<u>47,327</u>	<u>32,844</u>	<b>80,171</b>	<u>81,675</u>
<b>Net Cash Inflow / Outflow</b>	-	11,506	-	<b>11,506</b>	<b>9,216</b>
<b>Balance brought forward</b>		26,348	-	<b>26,348</b>	17,132
<b>Balance carried forward</b>		<u>14,842</u>	<u>-</u>	<b>14,842</b>	<u>26,348</u>

**LIPU-UK**  
**Statement of Assets and Liabilities**  
for the Year Ended 30th June 2025

	Unrestricted	Restricted	24/25 Total	23/24 Total
<b>Assets</b>				
Cash in Hand	53	-	<b>83</b>	53
Cooperative Bank Account	4,946	-	<b>9,376</b>	4,946
Other Cash at Bank	52	-	<b>37</b>	52
Cash on Deposit	21,297	-	<b>5,346</b>	21,297
	<hr/> 26,348	<hr/> -	<hr/> <b>14,842</b>	<hr/> 26,348
<b>Fixed Assets</b>				
Laptop	120	-	<b>120</b>	120
	<hr/> 120	<hr/> -	<hr/> <b>120</b>	<hr/> 120
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Accrual - Independent Examiner's Fee	400	-	<b>400</b>	400
	<hr/> 400		<hr/> <b>400</b>	<hr/> 400

**LIPU-UK**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**

**1. Accounting Policies**

This year and for future years the Trustees have decided to adopt the Receipts & Payments method in preparing the Financial Statements. Therefore "Expenditure" does not include the accrual for the Independent Examiner's fee for the year.

The Trustees consider that this is appropriate for an organisation the size of LIPU-UK and ensures that the financial statements are easily understood by the members and other users.

All figures refer to the period 1st July 2024 to 30th June 2025.

**2. Related Party Disclosures**

There are no related party disclosures. No payments were made to any Trustee or related party in 2024/2025 (2023/24: £nil)

**3. Movement in Funds**

	At 01.07.24 £		Net Movement in Funds £	Transfer Between Funds £	At 01.07.25 £
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>					
Business Reserve	10,000		-	-	10,000
Project Reserve	16,348	-	11,506	-	4,842
	<u>26,348</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,506</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,842</u>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>					
Restricted Funds	-		-	-	-
	<u>-</u>		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total Monetary Funds</b>	<u><u>26,348</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>11,506</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>14,842</u></u>
	Incoming Resources £		Resources Expended £	Gains and Losses £	Movement in Funds £
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>					
Business Reserve	-		-	-	-
Project Reserve	35,822	-	47,327	-	- 11,505
	<u>35,822</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>47,327</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>- 11,505</u>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>	32,844	-	32,844	-	-
<b>Total Funds</b>	<u><u>68,666</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>80,171</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>- 11,505</u></u>

**LIPU-UK**

England & Wales - Charity number 1081826

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# Accounts

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**LIPU UK**  
**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2024**

Registered Charity Number 1081826

NG Community Accounting Services  
Jubilee House, Doddington  
Lincoln  
LN6 4RS

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## Trustees and Other Information

### Information

LIPU-UK, c/o Fernwood, Doddington Road, Whisby, Lincs, LN6 9BX is registered with the Charity Commission (No 1081826) and is constituted by a Deed of Trust.

### Trustees

The charity is administered by trustees who form an Executive Committee. Committee members during this financial year were:

Matthew Hines	Chair Person
David Lingard	Secretary/Treasurer
Patricia Dugard	Member
Shirley Lingard	Member
Lesley Tompkins	Member

### Independent Examiner

Nicole Gray (MAAT)  
NG Community Accounting  
Jubilee House  
Lincoln Road  
Doddington  
LN6 4RS

## **Trustees Report**

### **for the Year Ended 30th June 2024**

The Trustees present their Report together with the Financial Statements of the Charity for the year from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

#### **Objective and Aims**

The object of the Charity is to further the charitable works of Lega Italiana Protezione Uccelli (LIPU) by making grants or providing such other assistance as the executive committee shall from time to time determine.

LIPU was founded in Italy in 1965 and, in 1989, a British section, LIPU-UK, was formed and based initially in Chelmsford. In 2000, LIPU-UK was registered in England as a charity. Its objectives remain unchanged and consist of providing financial support and any other assistance which will further the aims of LIPU in its work of bird protection and conservation. Each year, the British section agrees with LIPU directors in Parma a set of projects for which it commits to raise funds and those funds are transferred to Italy in June at the end of the financial year.

#### **Public Benefit**

Italy has a poor record of compliance with European Directives regarding protection of wildlife, habitat and biodiversity and any improvement will bring a clear benefit to the citizens of Europe, both within and outside of the European Community. LIPU-UK has complied with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 in having due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

#### **Your Trustees**

There has been no change in personnel or offices since last year's Annual Report.

Trustees are appointed by the Executive Committee usually, but not exclusively, from the membership of LIPU-UK and are offered induction training by the Secretary and/or other trustees prior to their first attendance at a trustees' meeting.

#### **Project progress in 2023/24**

This year's report on achievements is based on information provided by Claudio Celada, LIPU Nature Conservation Director, notably reports to the LIPU-UK Trustees' meetings.

#### **1) Bird Hospitals**

LIPU-UK has, for many years, helped various bird hospitals, or Recovery Centres, with the provision of consumable items; in some years more substantial funding has been provided to selected centres, depending on what funding is (or is not) available from other sources such as local government. In 2023/24, LIPU-UK funds (**€7,000**), were again provided to support this important work. No further commitment was necessary for 2024/25, because, for the time being at least, the Bird Hospitals are being fully funded

from public funds. LIPU will continue to monitor the situation and LIPU-UK stand prepared to renew funding should it prove necessary.

## **2) Protecting Bonelli's Eagle and Lanner Falcon nesting sites, Sicily.**

Over the past year, LIPU has continued to monitor the nests of the two species in a number of Sicilian provinces. In 2023/24, LIPU-UK funds (€5,000), were again provided to support this important work.

In 2023, monitoring continued of Bonelli's Eagle and Lanner Falcon breeding sites in eastern Sicily and in a sector of western Sicily, with the ultimate objective of safeguarding the nests. On the mainland, in Apulia, monitoring was carried out to identify active Lanner nests.

A further commitment of €7,000 has been made for 2024/25.

## **3) Anti-Poaching activities**

LIPU-UK provided €10,000 to support anti-poaching activities in Southern Sardinia and Messina. A further commitment of €10,000 has been made for 2024/25. A new pan-Mediterranean project on illegal killing of birds started in January 2023 to boost cooperation between LIPU and other Mediterranean BirdLife partners. In last year's report, a very detailed account of activity was given, reproduced from a report by LIPU's Conservation Director. Similar efforts were reported to have continued last year.

## **4) Monitoring raptor migration: Messina Strait**

Raptor spring migration across the Messina strait was again funded. LIPU-UK provided €10,000 with a further commitment of €10,000 for 2024/25 to fund two experienced observers on the Calabrian side of Messina Strait, in cooperation with Ornis Italica. LIPU provided the results of monitoring of the spring migration (15th March to 31st May) at the two sites along the Messina Strait (Calabrian side) in collaboration with Ornis Italica and Medraptors Associations.

The number of raptors observed at the two sites was 30,872. The bulk of this number were made up of honey buzzards, marsh harriers and black kites. Only a thousand individuals were observed simultaneously at the two sites, showing that it is crucial to monitor both sites at the same time (one along the coast and one further inland) in order to get an overall idea of the migration of raptors during the pre-nuptial migration.

## **5) Red-footed Falcon in Parma province**

LIPU-UK continue our long-term funding (€5,000 in 2023/24;) towards Red-footed Falcon conservation around Parma, which holds the most important breeding population in Italy. The 2023 breeding survey identified a total of 109 pairs, of which 79 in nest boxes and 30 in natural sites (corvid nests). 256 chicks fledged in nest boxes and the average reproductive success was 2.47 chicks/pair. 61 chicks fledged in natural sites and the average reproductive success was 2.03 chicks/pair. In 2023, 4 GPS-GSM were purchased, to be fitted in 2024. Ringing of young was completed in July.

LIPU-UK has committed €6,000 for 2024/25 to continue monitoring of breeding success and to track movements of individuals.

### **6) Kentish Plover in Sardinia**

In 2019/20, LIPU-UK agreed to fund survey work to better understand the breeding population of Kentish Plover in Sardinia, the key Italian region for the species. Human disturbance is thought to be major factor in the decline of this beach-nesting species and a dramatic decline was indicated by data from the only years available at the inception of the project (2010 (580-645 pairs) versus 2018 (175-188)). Further survey work has taken place in the following years. During 2023, monitoring of the species was carried out by LIPU in two regions, as planned: in Calabria (several tens of coastal kilometres) and Sardinia (the majority of coastal areas). A very detailed report on survey results was provided to the Trustees.

**€10,000** was provided in 2023/24, with a further commitment of €5,000 in 2024/25, in order to carry out monitoring of the species in Sardinia (€ 6,000) and Ionian and Tyrrhenian coast of Calabria (€ 4,000).

### **7) Continuation of Monitoring of Important Bird Areas, Local Conservation Groups and Key Biodiversity Areas.**

This project has been funded for a number of years. Regional data collected in previous years continue to be analysed in order to produce an updated IBA inventory. No extra funding was requested or provided in 2023/24 as residual funds allocated to the project in previous years were available. LIPU-UK have made a renewed commitment of €18,000 for 2024/25. Detailed mapping of the IBAs is proceeding and in 2023 was completed for three regions (Val d'Aosta, Liguria and Sardinia). New IBAs will be proposed for Sardinia, where the main target species to protected is the Little Bustard.

### **8) Collared Pratincole**

The Piana di Gela agricultural plain in Sicily holds the largest Italian population of Collared Pratincole (included on the Italian Red List). As truly natural habitats have declined, their ground nesting colonies are found increasingly on agricultural land. When LIPU started to monitor the colony on the Piana di Gela they found that late spring ploughing was causing numerous breeding failures. As a delay of only 10-15 days would permit successful breeding, local farmers were approached through a door-to-door information and awareness campaign. In 2018 the first direct actions saved part of the colony and in spring 2019, all of the landowners agreed to postpone ploughing, saving the entire colony. In 2019 55-60 breeding pairs were detected and in 2020, about 73 females laid eggs and hatching was verified in at least 40 nests. In April 2021, six LIPU volunteers searched the Gela plain for nesting sites, finding 35-40 breeding pairs in two discrete areas. Agreement was reached with two landowners not to disturb these areas until the young had fledged.

In 2022 and 2023, LIPU continued to monitor the size of the breeding population, breeding location and reproductive success, liaising with land owners to protect nests where possible. In 2023/24, LIPU-UK provided **€3,000** to support this effort and made a further commitment of €3,000 for 2024/25.

Between April and July 2023, the Gela Plain and coastal areas around the Biviere di Gela were surveyed. It proved the most difficult year to locate breeding pairs. The torrential rains in May and June limited nesting within the very few uncultivated lands present, as much of the Gela Plain was cultivated with wheat, the only crop able to sustain itself without irrigation water, which is completely absent in these territories.

Only two small colonies were identified, one in the C.da Torricella locality with 15-20 pairs, which began to occupy a piece of land awaiting cultivation, which the farmer agreed to postpone. This group fledged only five young. The second group was at the Spinasanta marshes, re-occupied after more than 10 years absence. Twenty-five pairs fledged a total of nine young.

The Gelo Wetlands are an important foraging area and the farmers of the Agricultural Society La Cicogna Bio, agreed to leave some ploughed plots free in 2024 to favour the presence of the species. Another small foraging area has also been located near an artificial pond near the SP10. The adult census was 90-110 individuals, which suggests the presence of at least 20 pairs whose nesting site was not discovered, and a total of 60-65 pairs in the Gela Plain in 2023.

### **9) Montagu's Harrier in Marche region**

The Montagu's Harrier is a little-studied species in Italy. Its population is mainly concentrated in central Italy and its stronghold is mainly located between the Marche and Tuscany. The species nests on the ground in wheat fields or hay meadows. This often results in the loss of eggs or chicks if mowing is carried out before the young are hatched. For this reason, the Pesaro and Viterbo delegations of LIPU (the latter for at least 22 years) instigated a protocol for identifying nests at risk in order to protect them. In Pesaro province, the field work was coordinated with the University of Urbino.

In 2023/24, LIPU-UK contributed €10,000 to this programme (€4,000 for nest protection in Viterbo, € 6,000 to extending the monitoring to the Macerata and Ancona provinces in the Marche region).

In Viterbo province, from 2003 to 2023, a total of 203 young birds have been recorded, 189 (93.1%) of which were linked to sites with active nest protection. The overall reproductive success was 0.76 young fledged/nest (out of a total 236 observed nestlings), while in 2023 (similarly to 2022), it was lower than 2020-2021. In 2023, 30 breeding pairs were identified, 20 nests found and 22 young fledged.

In Pesaro province, the 2023 focus was mainly on confirming pairs and doubtful sites that had not been confirmed in previous years. Research activity concentrated on the April - May courtship period. Six new pairs were confirmed compared to previous years, giving a total estimate of at least 15 pairs in the Foglia river valley, while two sites remain unconfirmed. All pairs nested in gully environments. In the 2023 breeding season, no data on breeding success were collected due to a variety of problems. The few attempts made on a sample basis found little or no breeding success as early as mid-season, due to the heavy and abundant rainfall in April and May throughout the province.

A further commitment of €13,000 is made for 2024/25 (€6,000 for nest protection in Viterbo and Pesaro province - greater knowledge of the species population in the Metauro Valley), and €7,000 to purchase GPS-GSM and verify the different movements of the two populations. A broader ambition remains to shape a dedicated programme on nest protection covering species such as Bonelli's, Lanner, Collared pratincole, Montagu's harrier, possibly also Corncrake and Little bustard.

### **10) Local Conservation Groups**

In July 2016, LIPU launched the Local Conservation Groups project. Its goal was to create a network of volunteers that can contribute to the long-term monitoring and surveillance of Natura 2000 sites and the dissemination of knowledge on the Natura 2000 network among local communities.

The Local Conservation Groups (LCG) use standardized methods to collect data that are useful to assess the conservation status of bird species of Community interest, i.e. those listed under Annex I of the Birds Directive and migratory birds that make regular stopovers at the site. These data are made available to the managing authorities of the Natura 2000 sites and to ISPRA (Istituto superiore per la protezione e la ricerca ambientale), the Italian institute for environmental protection and research.

120 volunteers in 18 groups were involved throughout Italy, from Valle d'Aosta to Sicily. Volunteers come from all age groups, from students to retirees, and have varying levels of experience in the environmental field, so that experts can assist other volunteers in learning about issues related to biodiversity and its conservation.

Currently (2022 figures) there are 20 Local Conservations Groups with around 150 volunteers distributed in 13 regions and involved in the monitoring of 31 target species in 28 sites belonging to the Natura 2000 network, including Lesser Grey Shrike, Black Woodpecker, Purple Heron and Collared Ppratincole. LIPU-UK provided **€5,000** to help fund these groups in 2023/24, with a commitment to the same funding in 2024/25.

### **11) Reducing Mediterranean bycatch of vulnerable marine bird species**

The impact of bycatch by fishery is a constant and important threat to marine birds in the Mediterranean. Shearwaters, Cormorants, and gulls are among the most impacted species. LIPU-UK funds have enabled LIPU to co-finance the project, partially funded by a private foundation (MAVA). The project is intended to devise and test practical measures which fishing boats can use at sea to reduce bycatch.

Building on funded work in the previous year, LIPU-UK provided € 10,000 in 2023/24 for continued data collection in Linosa and Lampedusa (the most important Scopoli's Shearwater Mediterranean colony) and policy work at the EU and national level.

Various activities were completed in 2023. For example, between April and September 2023, 3 fishing trips (2 drifting longline and 1 line) were monitored by a trained fisheries observer following an accepted protocol. Interviews with fishermen were carried out in person or by phone between May and September 2023.

In August 2023, LIPU met with fishermen including the President of the Fishermen's Association of Lampedusa. 8 of the 10 captains currently operating with drifting longline attended the meeting. During the event, LIPU raised awareness on the issue of seabird bycatch with drifting longline and which species can be unintentionally captured. Moreover, LIPU showed which are the best technical measures known to mitigate seabird bycatch during drifting longline operations. Active engagement with fishermen continued in the remainder of 2023.

In 2024/25, LIPU-UK have agreed to cofinance year 2 of the project by providing € 10,000.

## **12) Little Bustard in Sardinia**

Monitoring the threatened and relict population of the Little Bustard in Sardinia was a new project for 2023/24, for which **€10,000** was provided. The Little Bustard (*Tetrax tetrax*) is a steppe bird adapted to agro-pastoral ecosystems in Western Europe, and is one of those many farmland species declining due to changes in agricultural production systems. In Italy, the species has now disappeared from the mainland and is present (and declining) only in Sardinia, with about 12 identified subpopulations, two of which are estimated to hold about 2/3 of the total numbers in Sardinia. Information on the status and trends of the entire population of the species in Sardinia is lacking, hindering the implementation of any evidence-based conservation schemes. The aims of the proposed project are to estimate current numbers of the 12 sub-populations of Little Bustard in Sardinia, derive population trends and set up a regular monitoring scheme for the species.

The survey work in 2023 was carried out between the end of April and mid-May. A total of 218 singing males were identified. Thanks to the work carried out in 2010 by a number of collaborators also employed in this survey, estimation of population trend will be possible. The results will be formally published in the course of 2024. It is anticipated that 5-6 new IBAs will be proposed to protect this species, whose Italian distribution is limited to Sardinia.

Further monitoring is proposed to better understand spatial distribution of the population over the annual cycle, in order to understand associated threats. In 2024/25, LIPU-UK have agreed to provide a further €10,000 to this important project.

## **13) Climate Change Education / Green Future Citizens**

The Trustees recognise that education has a key role to play in conservation. Accordingly, in 2020/21 LIPU-UK agreed to fund the cost of 2 educators dedicated to this project (one in Lombardy and one in Tuscany). The funding was continued in 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24 (**€5,000**) with a commitment to the same funding in 2024/25. The project started 5 years ago with the benefit of a grant and worked with more than 30 schools in Rome, Tuscany and Lombardy. By the end of the 2021/22 school year, the project had delivered 75 sessions to 26 classes comprising 677 high school students. The schools have requested a further programme with new students and LIPU-UK's continued funding will enable LIPU to continue offering the program for free.

## **14) Ortolan Bunting**

The Ortolan Bunting is a species that has suffered a serious decline throughout Europe. In Italy it is abundant, stable or even in a favourable state only in the Marche region. The study, which in 2021 aimed to investigate the reasons for the favourable status of this species in the area in question, focused in the 2022 and 2023 breeding season on other interesting aspects concerning this species. The aim of the study in 2023 was to collect data on the song activity of the species by time bands and to investigate any interesting aspects concerning the species in the study area, located in the province of Pesaro Urbino in the northern part of the Marche region. LIPU-UK supported this project with funding of **€3,000** in 2023/24.

With the data collected in 2022, a paper was accepted by *Bird Study*, entitled *Traditional landscape elements are key to the threatened Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana* in its Italian stronghold*. Its headline conclusion was that maintaining or restoring tamarisk rows, and conserving marginal habitats, are key measures to support Ortolan Bunting, together with crop heterogeneity. This project is complete since it has provided the necessary information to activate conservation measures for the Ortolan Bunting, and no funding for 2024/25 has been requested.

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

### **a) Income**

At the end of the financial year we had received £90,891 (2022/23: £85,231; 2021/22: £233,665; 2020/21 £107,200; 2019/20: £114,066). A substantial portion of this total were legacies totalling £42,274, for which the Trustees express their sincere gratitude. We have never actively solicited legacies but we do record, with thanks, donations left by Jill Kendrick of Notts, Gary Rose and Audrey Arkell. As ever, LIPU-UK's membership responded to the annual appeal with great generosity. Other valuable contributions were the Annual Draw and Gift Aid.

### **b) Expenditure (excluding transfers to LIPU)**

This was £6,705 (2022/23: £5,826; 2021/22: £4,621; 2020/21: £6,381), representing 7.5% (2022/23: 7%; 2021/22: 2%; 2020/21: 6%) of income. LIPU-UK has an informal, desirable target of 10%. LIPU-UK continue to consistently (and comfortably) meet this target. Such limited expenditure is only made possible by the entirely voluntary efforts of the Trustees, notably the Treasurer/Secretary.

### **c) LIPU Project Funding**

In June 2024, the Trustees approved transfer of €88,000 (including membership dues) to LIPU to progress project funding in 2024/25. The Trustees also agreed the use of €40,000 from the Conservation Fund held by LIPU which had been provided by LIPU-UK. With the exception of Sardinian Purple Swamphen monitoring the 2024/25 project list represents continuation of projects previously funded.

- Bycatch of marine birds
- Bonelli's eagle
- Antipoaching (Messina, Sardinia, rangers)
- Monitoring of raptor migration (Messina Strait, Calabria)
- Red footed falcon in Parma Province
- Kentish plover (Sardinia and Calabria)
- Climate refugia and threats
- Local Conservation Groups
- IBA
- Collared pratincole (Gela, Sicily)
- Montagu's harrier (Marche and Viterbo)
- Green future citizens (Education)
- Little bustard (Sardinia)
- Purple Swamphen (Sardinia)

Monitoring the Purple Swamphen in Sardinia is a new project, not funded in 2023/24 but allocated an initial budget of €6,000 in 2024/25. During 2022, LIPU monitored the breeding population of Purple Swamphen in Sicily, where it was reintroduced in the early 2000s. However, the largest Italian population resides in Sardinia much of which within IBA or SPA areas. Here, there has been no reliable data collected on the size of the population for more than 20 years. In 2024, LIPU intend to assess the species in most Sardinian wetlands by carrying out two censuses; the first in spring-summer and the second in autumn, in the knowledge that the species is active during the breeding season in late autumn.

## **Financial Reserves**

At the year end, the charity had total reserves of £26,348 (2022/23: £17,132; 2021/22: £415,061; 2020/21: £270,024), represented by £26,348 of unrestricted funds and £nil of restricted funds.

The net funds of LIPU-UK are allocated into three different categories: Restricted Funds, Unrestricted Funds and Designated Funds.

- Restricted Funds consist of money which has been given to LIPU-UK to be used for a specific purpose.
- Unrestricted Funds are funds which can be spent on anything which furthers the objectives of LIPU-UK.
- Designated Funds/Reserves are funds which have been earmarked for use in a particular way and these can include funds which are Restricted or Unrestricted.

LIPU-UK maintains two Designated Funds:

- A Business Reserve — that is the Trustees' estimation of the prudent level of funds needed to guard against any potential liquidity problem that might arise if income unexpectedly dried up and financial commitments had to be met. Its level is set after an annual review and currently it amounts to £10,000. The Business Reserve is made up solely of Unrestricted Funds.
- The Project Reserve — a fund created to hold any surplus funds which may accrue. This fund may be spent on any project which has the approval of the LIPU-UK trustees after discussion with the Conservation Director of LIPU. The Project Reserve consists solely of Unrestricted Funds.

As noted in last year's report, the Trustees approved transfer of the substantial Project Reserve holding (£382,068 / €430,000) to LIPU. LIPU hold this as a Conservation Fund. Monitoring of the allocation of these funds to conservation projects will continue through contact with LIPU's Conservation Director. As noted in the Project Funding section, €40,000 of the Conservation Fund was used in 2023/24.

### **Risks to the Charity**

#### a) Trustees

For many years, the Trustees have reflected that they cannot continue in office indefinitely. This has been reflected as a risk in successive Chairman's Reports. Recent appeals for new trustees have not as yet borne fruit and discussions around the options for succession planning are ongoing.

#### b) Financial

We continue to feel that the complication of several deposit accounts is a necessary safeguard for LIPU-UK funds. Balances, wherever possible, are maintained below the £85,000 limit guaranteed by the FSCS scheme.

#### c) Membership

A continued slow decline ending the year with 561 members, down from 584 in 2022/23 ((615 in 2021/22; 654 in 2020/21) and helped by 7 from the recruiting campaign with a further 9 people sending donations which almost covered that campaign costs. The difficulty of recruiting for support of "foreign" birds has always been clear.

### **Acknowledgements**


We continue to believe that the work of LIPU-UK has a very positive effect in Italy, where conservationists work in a difficult environment. The bulk of this UK work is still largely down to David Lingard, our Secretary/Treasurer, and his wife Shirley (fellow trustee). As always, I am sure that all LIPU supporters are hugely grateful to them for their many hours of dedication.

As ever, we are grateful to the team of translators, who continue to deliver the good news from Italy.

This year is LIPU's 58th— and sadly, we are still needed. If anyone out there feels they can spare some time to join LIPU-UK's Trustees and maintain LIPU-UK's contribution, do let us know. You may well find the experience enjoyable and rewarding.

**Summary**

Ours is a small charity, but we make a significant contribution to LIPU, which by membership is less than 0.05% the size of the RSPB. Thanks to you, our LIPU-UK supporters, we continue to make a real impact. Thank you for again making that difference.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Hines', written in a cursive style.

Matt Hines, Chairman — LIPU-UK

Date: 19th September 2024

## Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of LIPU UK for the year ended 30th June 2024, which are set out on pages 13-15.

### Responsibilities and basis of the 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. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters.


### Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- a) accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- b) 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.

Signed:



Nicole Gray  
NG Community Accounting Services  
Jubilee House  
Lincoln Road  
Doddington  
Lincoln  
LN6 4RS

22nd September 2024

**LIPU-UK**  
**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT**  
for the year ended June 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted & Endowment Funds	<b>Total 23/24</b>	Total 22/23
<b>Receipts</b>					
Legacies		42,274	-	<b>42,274</b>	<b>30,567</b>
Subscriptions & Donations		15,228	21,933	<b>37,161</b>	<b>39,389</b>
Annual Draw		3,083	-	<b>3,083</b>	<b>3,011</b>
Gift Aid		7,342	-	<b>7,342</b>	<b>7,122</b>
Deposit Account Interest		1,030	-	<b>1,030</b>	<b>5,412</b>
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>68,957</b>	<b>21,933</b>	<b>90,891</b>	<b>85,502</b>
<b>Payments</b>					
Project Funding		53,037	21,933	<b>74,970</b>	484,222
Newsletter Costs		1,742		<b>1,742</b>	1,848
Travel Costs		26		<b>26</b>	32
Postage		1,662		<b>1,662</b>	989
Printing		397		<b>397</b>	370
Advertising, Website & Promotion		177		<b>177</b>	197
Annual Draw Costs		762		<b>762</b>	885
Trustees Meetings				-	-
Independent Examiner		380		<b>380</b>	400
Stationery		100		<b>100</b>	119
Recruiting Campaign		450		<b>450</b>	750
Miscellaneous Admin Costs		982		<b>982</b>	178
Bank Charges		27		<b>27</b>	58
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>59,742</b>	<b>21,933</b>	<b>81,675</b>	<b>490,049</b>
<b>Net Cash Inflow / Outflow</b>		<b>9,216</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9,216</b>	<b>- 404,547</b>
<b>Balance brought forward</b>		<b>17,132</b>		<b>17,132</b>	<b>421,679</b>
<b>Balance carried forward</b>		<b>26,348</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>26,348</b>	<b>17,132</b>

**LIPU-UK**  
**Statement of Assets and Liabilities**  
**for the Year Ended 30th June 2024**

	Unrestricted	Restricted	23/24 Total	22/23 Total
<b>Assets</b>				
Cash in Hand	53	-	53	62
Cooperative Bank Account	4,946	-	4,946	6,771
Other Cash at Bank	52	-	52	89
Cash on Deposit	21,297	-	21,297	10,210
	26,348	-	26,348	<b>17,132</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>				
Laptop	120	-	120	120
	120	-	120	120
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Accrual - Independent Examiner's Fee	400	-	400	380
	400		400	380

**LIPU-UK**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**

**1. Accounting Policies**

This year and for future years the Trustees have decided to adopt the Receipts & Payments method in preparing the Financial Statements. Therefore "Expenditure" does not include the accrual for the Independent Examiner's fee for the year.

The Trustees consider that this is appropriate for an organisation the size of LIPU-UK and ensures that the financial statements are easily understood by the members and other users.

All figures refer to the period 1st July 2023 to 30th June 2024.

**2. Related Party Disclosures**

During the year, Matthew Hines, a trustee of the charity was reimbursed nil (2023: £nil) for travel expenses. David Lingard, a trustee of the Charity, was reimbursed £nil (2023: £32) for travel expenses. Pat Dugard, a trustee of the Charity was reimbursed nil (2023: £nil) for travel expenses. Lesley Tompkins, a trustee of the Charity was reimbursed nil (2023: £nil) for travel expenses.

**3. Movement in Funds**

	At 01.07.23 £	Net Movement in Funds £	Transfer Between Funds £	At 01.07.24 £
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>				
Business Reserve	10,000	-	-	10,000
Project Reserve	7,132	9,216	-	16,348
	<u>17,132</u>	<u>9,216</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>26,348</u>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>				
Restricted Funds	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total Monetary Funds</b>	<u><u>17,132</u></u>	<u><u>9,216</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>26,348</u></u>
	<b>Incoming Resources £</b>	<b>Resources Expended £</b>	<b>Gains and Losses £</b>	<b>Movement in Funds £</b>
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>				
Business Reserve	-	-	-	-
Project Reserve	68,958	59,742	-	9,216
	<u>68,958</u>	<u>59,742</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,216</u>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>	21,933	21,933	-	-
<b>Total Funds</b>	<u><u>90,891</u></u>	<u><u>81,675</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>9,216</u></u>

**LIPU-UK**

England & Wales - Charity number 1081826

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# Accounts

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**LIPU UK**  
**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2023**

Registered Charity Number 1081826

NG Community Accounting Services  
Jubilee House, Doddington  
Lincoln  
LN6 4RS

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## Trustees and Other Information

### Information

LIPU-UK, c/o Fernwood, Doddington Road, Whisby, Lincs, LN6 9BX is registered with the Charity Commission (No 1081826) and is constituted by a Deed of Trust.

### Trustees

The charity is administered by trustees who form an Executive Committee. Committee members during this financial year were:

Matthew Hines	Chair Person
David Lingard	Secretary/Treasurer
Patricia Dugard	Member
Shirley Lingard	Member
Lesley Tompkins	Member

### Independent Examiner

Nicole Gray (MAAT)  
NG Community Accounting  
Jubilee House  
Lincoln Road  
Doddington  
LN6 4RS

## **Trustees Report**

### **for the Year Ended 30th June 2023**

The Trustees present their Report together with the Financial Statements of the Charity for the year from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023.

#### **Objective and Aims**

The object of the Charity is to further the charitable works of Lega Italiana Protezione Uccelli (LIPU) by making grants or providing such other assistance as the executive committee shall from time to time determine.

LIPU was founded in Italy in 1965 and, in 1989, a British section, LIPU-UK, was formed and based initially in Chelmsford. In 2000, LIPU-UK was registered in England as a charity. Its objectives remain unchanged and consist of providing financial support and any other assistance which will further the aims of LIPU in its work of bird protection and conservation. Each year, the British section agrees with LIPU directors in Parma a set of projects for which it commits to raise funds and those funds are transferred to Italy in June at the end of the financial year.

#### **Public Benefit**

Italy has a poor record of compliance with European Directives regarding protection of wildlife, habitat and biodiversity and any improvement will bring a clear benefit to the citizens of Europe, both within and outside of the European Community. LIPU-UK has complied with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 in having due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

#### **Your Trustees**

There has been no change in personnel or offices since last year's Annual Report.

Trustees are appointed by the Executive Committee usually, but not exclusively, from the membership of LIPU-UK and are offered induction training by the Secretary and/or other trustees prior to their first attendance at a trustees' meeting.

#### **Project progress in 2022/23**

This year's report on achievements is based on information provided by Claudio Celada, LIPU Nature Conservation Director, notably reports to the LIPU-UK Trustees' meetings.

#### **1) Bird Hospitals**

LIPU-UK has, for many years, helped various bird hospitals, or Recovery Centres, with the provision of consumable items; in some years more substantial funding has been provided to selected centres, depending on what funding is (or is not) available from other sources such as local government. In 2022/23, LIPU-UK funds (**€7,000**), were again provided to support this important work. A further commitment of €7,000 has been made for 2023/24.

## **2) Protecting Bonelli's Eagle and Lanner Falcon nesting sites, Sicily.**

Over the past year, LIPU has continued to monitor the nests of the two species in a number of Sicilian provinces. In 2022/23, LIPU-UK funds (**€2,000**), were again provided to support this important work. A further commitment of €5,000 has been made for 2023/24.

## **3) Anti-Poaching activities**

LIPU-UK provided **€7,000** to support anti-poaching activities in Southern Sardinia and Messina. A further commitment of €10,000 has been made for 2023/24. A new pan-Mediterranean project on illegal killing of birds started in January 2023 and will boost cooperation between LIPU and other Mediterranean BirdLife partners. LIPU's Conservation Director gave a detailed report on recent efforts to the February Trustees' meeting which is reproduced here in its entirety:

### Southern Sardinia

*A surveillance and support camp for the Carabinieri Forestali was organised in December 2022, in which three LIPU volunteers took part. The main activity was to monitor and control the starling roost, which is regularly targeted by poachers. Thanks to this activity and the investigation activity of the Carabinieri Forestali, three bird poachers were reported and 135 dead Starlings were seized; in the subsequent investigation activity, 6 tortoises were found and seized in violation of CITES regulations.*

*Volunteers also explored areas of the Mediterranean maquis to find possible bird-trapping sites in preparation of the anti-poaching activities to be conducted in February 2023.*

### Po Delta

*The Po Delta is one of the largest and most important wetlands in Europe. The area is particularly important for nesting, spring and autumn migration, and wintering of numerous aquatic bird species. The main problem in the Po Delta is hunting with electronic decoys and the killing of protected species in winter. Since 2020 LIPU has been cooperating with the Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA) to combat these crimes.*

*Two services were organised in December and January. The first one with the Rovigo Provincial Police resulted in 4 people being charged for hunting with prohibited means (electronic decoys). Four rifles and two electronic decoys were seized.*

*The second service was held in January in cooperation with the Carabinieri Forestali, 6 people were reported for hunting with prohibited means (electronic decoys) and mistreatment of animals (they also used live ducks with clipped wings as decoys). Five rifles, three electronic decoys, 40 live and dead ducks (Teal and Mallard) were confiscated.*

### Lombardy-Veneto Pre-Alps

*The Lombardy-Veneto Pre-Alps are a very large and important area for the passage of migrants, especially passerines, in autumn. Here, the small birds concentrate in the valleys in almost obligatory passages. It is precisely during this period, which also coincides with the hunting season, that poachers use traps and nets to capture passerines, especially Robin, for gastronomic use in this black spot. Electronic lures, which are strictly prohibited, are also widely used during hunting, in addition, the use of manipulated and falsified bird rings as live decoys is also widespread. Since 2020, LIPU has been cooperating with the LEAs to combat these crimes.*

*Two types of intervention were organised this year. The first one was held in early September, on this occasion our volunteers supported the forest police for 6 days in activities against illegal bird trapping. In the course of the operation, 7 persons were reported, 200 traps and 5 rifles were confiscated, 200 dead birds (Pied Flycatcher, Chaffinch, Robin, Siskin) and 70 live birds (Song Thrush, Blackbird, Fieldfare, Tree Pipit) were also seized.*

*From 3 October to 7 November, Operation Robin was conducted by the Carabinieri Forestali. Our volunteers supported the patrols of the Carabinieri Foresters on a daily basis; checks were carried out on bird trapping sites and at hunting posts to control live decoys. A total of 144 people were reported, 105 rifles, 8500 rounds of ammunition, 1600 traps, 179 nets, 45 electronic decoys, 1436 live birds (Song Thrush, Redwing, Fieldfare, Blackbird, Brambling, Chaffinch, Dunnock, Robin), 1900 dead birds (all passerines) were seized.*

*In both operations the volunteers supported the Carabinieri Forestali with the recognition of bird species, the measurement of recognition rings in order to discover tampered ones, with technical instrumentation (drone and camera traps).*

*In addition to this activity, support was provided to the Forestry Carabinieri in the control of 3 farms, where 500 birds were seized (Song Thrush, Redwing and Fieldfare) and 4 people were reported. A control was also carried out at the Reggio Emilia bird fair where 4 Goldfinches and 2 Bullfinches were seized and 4 persons reported.*

*In addition, support was given to the Varese Provincial Police for a control at a trapping site which led to the seizure of 5 nets, 35 live birds (Chaffinch, Siskin, Crested Tit, Nightingale, Blackbird) and the prosecution of a person.*

### Campania Coast

*The coasts of Campania, between Naples and Caserta, are characterised by the presence of many artificial lakes used for hunting, but also used extensively for poaching. Many migrating waterfowl are concentrated here in the winter period, the use of electronic lures and the killing of protected species are the most frequent offences. The capture of goldfinches and the hunting of thrushes and larks with electronic decoys is also widespread. Thanks to LIPU's work, a large area of artificial lakes has been saved from poachers and is now part of a regional nature reserve. Both in Naples and Caserta there is a team of LIPU voluntary wardens who are very active in the fight against poaching.*

*LIPU voluntary guards will organise at least 15 of surveillance services in close collaboration with the Carabinieri Forestali, in real joint patrols. The services will be organised to repress some of the most common crimes in the area (use of electronic lures, traffic of goldfinches).*

*The aim is to consolidate cooperation with the Carabinieri, and to create a working method that can be repeated over the years in order to improve and rationalise efforts on the control of poaching.*

#### Rome Province

*In the province of Rome there are about 22,000 hunters, one of the most widespread illegal practices is the use of electronic lures to hunt thrushes and larks. Since 2016, LIPU voluntary wardens, together with LEAs, have been conducting a campaign (called Recall) of controls aimed at combating these acts of poaching. In the last 6 years, 112 poachers have been reported to the judicial authorities.*

*Operation 'Recall' aims at fighting the use of electronic call and recorders which are prohibited but unfortunately very commonly used while hunting of larks and thrushes. The Operation Recall was started by the LIPU volunteer guards and involves the provincial command of the CUFA (the special Branch of Carabinieri dealing with wildlife crimes).*

*Each field visit is performed by at least two LIPU guards who can be joined by a trainee. Only in exceptional cases a LIPU guard operates alone. The team works with a staff of CUFA.*

*The province is divided in 4 sections according to the distribution of CUFA's commands and the areas where hunting is allowed (i.e. outside protected areas). The aim is to cover evenly all sectors spreading the field visits accordingly.*

*The guards then approach the hunters, identify themselves and start the check. Administrative or penal relevant infractions are dealt by the CUFA staff.*

#### **4) Monitoring raptor migration: Messina Strait**

Raptor spring migration across the Messina strait was again funded. LIPU-UK provided **€10,000** with a further commitment of €10,000 for 2023/24 to fund two experienced observers on the Calabrian side of Messina Strait, in cooperation with Ornis Italica. LIPU provided the results of monitoring of the autumn migration (15th August to 30th September) at the Aspromonte site, conducted in collaboration with Ornis Italica and Medraptors Associations.

#### **5) Red-footed Falcon in Parma province**

LIPU-UK continue our long-term funding (**€7,000**; €5,000 committed for 2023/24) towards Red-footed Falcon conservation around Parma, which holds the most important breeding population in Italy.

The collaboration with the Universities of Bologna and Varese, noted last year, has now been reported as a paper in The European Zoological Journal.

### **6) Kentish Plover in Sardinia**

In 2019/20, LIPU-UK agreed to fund survey work to better understand the breeding population of Kentish Plover in Sardinia, the key Italian region for the species. Human disturbance is thought to be a major factor in the decline of this beach-nesting species and a dramatic decline was indicated by data from the only years available at the inception of the project (2010 (580-645 pairs) versus 2018 (175-188)). Survey work took place in 2021. In 2022 further survey was carried out by LIPU in two regions, as planned: in Calabria (several tens of coastal kilometres) and Sardinia (the majority of coastal areas). Analysis ongoing at the time of writing of last year's report can now be reported.

In Calabria, the work carried out by 32 volunteers covered 32 areas, divided between the Tyrrhenian and Ionian seas, for a total of 642 hours worked and 183 completed visits. Four nests were found, as well as three pairs, a few single individuals and a group of 12 kentish plovers at Catanzaro lido. In Sardinia LIPU volunteers monitored 61 sites (data from Oristano province outstanding) for an overall total between the number of possible, probable and certain pairs of 85 pairs, the lowest number since 2018.

**€10,000** was provided in 2022/23, with a further commitment of €10,000 in 2023/24, in order to carry out monitoring of the species in Sardinia (€ 6,000) and Ionian and Tyrrhenian coast of Calabria (€ 4,000).

### **7) Continuation of Monitoring of Important Bird Areas, Local Conservation Groups and Key Biodiversity Areas.**

This project has been funded for a number of years. Regional data collected in previous years continue to be analysed in order to produce an updated IBA inventory. No extra budget was requested for 2023/24 as residual funds allocated to the project in previous years were available.

### **8) Collared Pratincole**

The Piana di Gela agricultural plain in Sicily holds the largest Italian population of Collared pratincole (included on the Italian Red List). As truly natural habitats have declined, their ground nesting colonies are found increasingly on agricultural land. When LIPU started to monitor the colony on the Piana di Gela they found that late spring ploughing was causing numerous breeding failures. As a delay of only 10-15 days would permit successful breeding, local farmers were approached through a door-to-door information and awareness campaign. In 2018 the first direct actions saved part of the colony and in spring 2019, all of the landowners agreed to postpone ploughing, saving the entire colony. In 2019 55-60 breeding pairs were detected and in 2020, about 73 females layed eggs and hatching was verified in at least 40 nests.

In April 2021, six LIPU volunteers searched the Gela plain for nesting sites, finding 35-40 breeding pairs in two discrete areas. Agreement was reached with two landowners not to disturb these areas until the young had fledged.

In 2022 and 2023, LIPU continued to monitor the size of the breeding population, breeding location and reproductive success, liaising with land owners to protect nests where possible. In 2022/23, LIPU-UK provided **€3,000** to support this effort and made a further commitment of €3,000 for 2023/24.

### **9) Montagu's Harrier in Marche region**

The Montagu's Harrier is a little-studied species in Italy. Its population is mainly concentrated in central Italy and its stronghold is mainly located between the Marche and Tuscany. The species nests on the ground in wheat fields or hay meadows. This often results in the loss of eggs or chicks if mowing is carried out before the young are hatched. For this reason, the Pesaro and Viterbo delegations of LIPU (the latter for at least 22 years) instigated a protocol for identifying nests at risk in order to protect them. In Pesaro province, the field work was coordinated with the University of Urbino.

There are two phases to the survey: i) car tours to identify potential sites with a breeding pair present; ii) after identifying a pair, a thorough survey to discover the nest site. At present, LIPU continue to assess the size of the breeding population, breeding location and reproductive success. A detailed report was made to the Trustees by LIPU's Conservation Director in October 2022.

In the last report I noted the ambition gradually to increase the study area. In 2022/23, LIPU-UK contributed **€9,000** to this programme and have made a further commitment of €10,000 for 2023/24 (€4,000 for nest protection in Viterbo, € 6,000 to extending the monitoring to the Macerata and Ancona provinces in the Marche region). A broader ambition is to shape a dedicated programme on nest protection covering species such as Bonelli's, Lanner, Collared Pratincole, Montagu's Harrier, possibly also Corncrake and Little Bustard.

### **10) Local Conservation Groups**

In July 2016, LIPU launched the Local Conservation Groups project. Its goal was to create a network of volunteers that can contribute to the long-term monitoring and surveillance of Natura 2000 sites and the dissemination of knowledge on the Natura 2000 network among local communities.

The Local Conservation Groups (LCG) use standardized methods to collect data that are useful to assess the conservation status of bird species of Community interest, i.e. those listed under Annex I of the Birds Directive and migratory birds that make regular stopovers at the site. These data are made available to the managing authorities of the Natura 2000 sites and to ISPRA (Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale), the Italian institute for environmental protection and research.

120 volunteers in 18 groups were involved throughout Italy, from Valle d'Aosta to Sicily. Volunteers come from all age groups, from students to retirees, and have varying levels of experience in the environmental field, so that experts can assist other volunteers in learning about issues related to biodiversity and its conservation.

Currently (2022 figures) there are 20 Local Conservation Groups with around 150 volunteers distributed in 13 regions and involved in the monitoring of 31 target species in 28 sites belonging to the Natura 2000 network, including Lesser Grey Shrike, Black Woodpecker, Purple Heron and Collared Ppratincole. LIPU-UK provided **€5,000** to help fund these groups, with a commitment to the same funding in 2023/24.

### **11) Reducing Mediterranean bycatch of vulnerable marine bird species**

The impact of bycatch by fishery is a constant and important threat to marine birds in the Mediterranean. Shearwaters, Cormorants, and gulls are among the most impacted species. LIPU-UK funds have enabled LIPU to co-finance the project, partially funded by a private foundation (MAVA). The project is intended to devise and test practical measures which fishing boats can use at sea to reduce bycatch.

Last year I reported on progress with the project and related advocacy carried out by LIPU. LIPU-UK provided **€ 10,000** in 2022/23 and a final project report was noted. For 2023/24 we agreed to allocate a further €10,000 for continued data collection in Linosa and Lampedusa (the most important Scopoli's Shearwater Mediterranean colony) and policy work at the EU and national level.

### **12) Climate Change Education / Green Future Citizens**

The Trustees recognise that education has a key role to play in conservation. Accordingly, in 2020/21 LIPU-UK agreed to fund the cost of 2 educators dedicated to this project (one in Lombardy and one in Tuscany). The funding was continued in 2021/22 and 2022/23 (**€5,000**) with a commitment to the same funding in 2023/24. The project started 5 years ago with the benefit of a grant and worked with more than 30 schools in Rome, Tuscany and Lombardy. By the end of the 2021/22 school year, the project had delivered 75 sessions to 26 classes comprising 677 high school students. The schools have requested a further programme with new students and LIPU-UK's continued funding will enable LIPU to continue offering the programme for free.

## FINANCIAL REVIEW

### a) Income

At the end of the financial year we had received £85,231 (2021/22: £233,665; 2020/21 £107,200; 2019/20: £114,066). A substantial portion of this total were legacies totalling £30,567, for which the Trustees express their sincere gratitude. We have never actively solicited legacies but we do record, with thanks, donations left by Brian Hinds, Ann Jenkins, Gary Rose and Peter Squelch . As ever, LIPU-UK's membership responded to the annual appeal with great generosity, over £22,000 having been raised. Other valuable contributions were the Annual Draw and Gift Aid.

### b) Expenditure

This was £5,826 (2021/22: £4,621; 2020/21: £6,381; 2019/20: £9,298), representing 7% (2021/22: 2%; 2020/21: 6%) of income. LIPU-UK has an informal, desirable target of 10%. LIPU-UK continue to consistently (and comfortably) meet this target. Such limited expenditure is only made possible by the entirely voluntary efforts of the Trustees, notably the Treasurer/Secretary.

### c) LIPU Project Funding

In June 2023, the Trustees approved transfer of €118,000 (£102,129, including membership dues) to LIPU to progress project funding in 2023/24. With the exception of Sardinian Little Bustard monitoring the 2023/24 project list represents continuation of projects previously funded.

- Raptor centre (Cruma)
- Bycatch of marine birds (cofinancing of project, year 2)
- Bonelli's Eagle
- Antipoaching (Messina, Sardinia, rangers)
- Monitoring of raptor migration (Messina Strait, Calabria)
- Red-footed Falcon in Parma Province (habitat use)
- Kentish Plover (Sardinia and Calabria)
- Climate refugia and threats
- Local Conservation Groups
- IBA
- Collared Pratincole (Gela, Sicily)
- Montagu's harrier (Marche and Viterbo)
- Ortolan Bunting (Marche)
- Green future citizens (Education)
- Little Bustard monitoring in Sardinia

Monitoring the threatened and relict population of the Little Bustard in Sardinia is a new project, not funded in 2022/23 but allocated a provisional budget of €10,000 in 2023/24. The Little Bustard (*Tetrax tetrax*) is a steppe bird adapted to agro-pastoral

ecosystems in Western Europe, and is one of those many farmland species declining due to changes in agricultural production systems. In Italy, the species has now disappeared from the mainland and is present (and declining) only in Sardinia, with about 12 identified subpopulations, two of which are estimated to hold about 2/3 of the total numbers in Sardinia. Information on the status and trends of the entire population of the species in Sardinia is lacking, hindering the implementation of any evidence-based conservation schemes. The aims of the proposed project are to estimate current numbers of the 12 subpopulations of Little Bustard in Sardinia, derive population trends and set up a regular monitoring scheme for the species.

## **Financial Reserves**

At the year end, the charity had total reserves of £17,132 (2021/22: £415,061; 2020/21: £270,024), represented by £17,132 of unrestricted funds and £nil of restricted funds.

The net funds of LIPU-UK are allocated into three different categories: Restricted Funds, Unrestricted Funds and Designated Funds.

- Restricted Funds consist of money which has been given to LIPU-UK to be used for a specific purpose.
- Unrestricted Funds are funds which can be spent on anything which furthers the objectives of LIPU-UK.
- Designated Funds/Reserves are funds which have been earmarked for use in a particular way and these can include funds which are Restricted or Unrestricted.

LIPU-UK maintains two Designated Funds:

- A Business Reserve — that is the Trustees' estimation of the prudent level of funds needed to guard against any potential liquidity problem that might arise if income unexpectedly dried up and financial commitments had to be met. Its level is set after an annual review and currently it amounts to £10,000. The Business Reserve is made up solely of Unrestricted Funds.
- The Project Reserve — a fund created to hold any surplus funds which may accrue. This fund may be spent on any project which has the approval of the LIPU-UK trustees after discussion with the Conservation Director of LIPU. The Project Reserve consists solely of Unrestricted Funds.

As can be seen from successive chairman's reports, the Project Reserve had grown substantially, despite continued attempts to identify a major project worthy of funding. After consideration, the Trustees approved a recommendation by the Treasurer to transfer this substantial holding to LIPU. £382,068 (€430,000) was duly transferred to LIPU's bank in Milan. Monitoring of the allocation of these funds to conservation projects will continue through contact with LIPU's Conservation Director.

## **Risks to the Charity**

### **a) Trustees**

For many years, the Trustees have reflected that they cannot continue in office indefinitely. This has been reflected as a risk in successive Chairman's Reports. Recent appeals for new trustees have not as yet borne fruit and discussions around the options for succession planning are ongoing.

### **b) Financial**

We continue to feel that the complication of several deposit accounts is a necessary safeguard for LIPU-UK funds. Balances, wherever possible, are maintained below the £85,000 limit guaranteed by the FSCS scheme.

### **c) Membership**

There has been a slow decline in numbers over many years, linked to the ageing profile of the membership. Despite 11 new members from our annual campaign, this decline has continued to 584 members in 2022/23 (615 in 2021/22; 654 in 2020/21).

## **Acknowledgements**

We continue to believe that the work of LIPU-UK has a very positive effect in Italy, where conservationists work in a difficult environment. The bulk of this UK work is still largely down to David Lingard, our Secretary/Treasurer, and his wife Shirley (fellow trustee). As always, I am sure that all LIPU supporters are hugely grateful to them for their many hours of dedication.

As ever, we are grateful to the team of translators, who continue to deliver the good news from Italy.

This year is LIPU's 57th— and sadly, we are still needed. If anyone out there feels they can spare some time to join LIPU-UK's Trustees and maintain LIPU-UK's contribution, do let us know. You may well find the experience enjoyable and rewarding.

## **Summary**

Ours is a small charity, but we make a significant contribution to LIPU, which by membership is less than 5% the size of the RSPB. Thanks to you, our LIPU-UK supporters, we continue to make a real impact. Thank you for again making that difference.

Matt Hines, Chairman — LIPU-UK

Date: 19th September 2023

## Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of LIPU UK for the year ended 30th June 2023, which are set out on pages 11-13.

### Responsibilities and basis of the 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. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters.


### Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- a) accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- b) 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.

Signed:



Nicole Gray  
NG Community Accounting Services  
Jubilee House  
Lincoln Road  
Doddington  
Lincoln  
LN6 4RS

23rd September 2023

**LIPU-UK**  
**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT**  
**for the year ended June 2023**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted & Endowment Funds	<b>Total 22/23</b>	Total 21/22
<b>Receipts</b>					
Legacies		30,567		<b>30,567</b>	<b>174,148</b>
Subscriptions & Donations		16,625	22,764	<b>39,389</b>	<b>47,197</b>
Annual Draw		3,011		<b>3,011</b>	<b>3,048</b>
Gift Aid		7,122		<b>7,122</b>	<b>6,726</b>
Deposit Account Interest		5,412		<b>5,412</b>	<b>2,458</b>
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<u>62,737</u>	<u>22,764</u>	<b>85,502</b>	<u>233,577</u>
<b>Payments</b>					
Project Funding		461,458	22,764	<b>484,222</b>	80,912
Newsletter Costs		1,848	-	<b>1,848</b>	1,481
Travel Costs		32	-	<b>32</b>	-
Postage		989	-	<b>989</b>	1,007
Printing		370	-	<b>370</b>	-
Advertising, Website & Promotion		197	-	<b>197</b>	102
Annual Draw Costs		885	-	<b>885</b>	893
Trustees Meetings		-	-	-	381
Independent Examiner		400	-	<b>400</b>	714
Stationary		119	-	<b>119</b>	31
Recruiting Campaign		750	-	<b>750</b>	-
Miscellaneous Admin Costs		178	-	<b>178</b>	-
Bank Charges		58	-	<b>58</b>	12
<b>Total Payments</b>		<u>467,284</u>	<u>22,764</u>	<b>490,049</b>	<u>85,533</u>
<b>Net Cash Inflow / Outflow</b>	-	404,547	- -	<b>404,547</b>	<b>148,044</b>
<b>Balance brought forward</b>		421,679		<b>421,679</b>	237,515
<b>Balance carried forward</b>		<u>17,132</u>	<u>-</u>	<b>17,132</b>	<u>385,559</u>

**LIPU-UK**  
**Statement of Assets and Liabilities**  
**for the Year Ended 30th June 2023**

	Unrestricted	Restricted	22/23 Total	21/22 Total
<b>Assets</b>				
Cash in Hand	62	-	62	42
Cooperative Bank Account	6,771	-	6,771	6,511
Other Cash at Bank	89	-	89	64
Cash on Deposit	10,210	-	10,210	415,062
	<hr/> 17,132	<hr/> -	<hr/> 17,132	<hr/> <b>421,679</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>				
Laptop	120	-	120	167
	<hr/> 120	<hr/> -	<hr/> 120	<hr/> 167
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Accrual - Independent	380	-	380	400
Examiner's Fee	<hr/> 380		<hr/> 380	<hr/> 400

**LIPU-UK**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**

**1. Accounting Policies**

This year and for future years the Trustees have decided to adopt the Receipts & Payments method in preparing the Financial Statements. Therefore "Expenditure" does not include the accrual for the Independent Examiner's fee for the year.

The Trustees consider that this is appropriate for an organisation the size of LIPU-UK and ensures that the financial statements are easily understood by the members and other users.

All figures refer to the period 1st July 2022 to 30th June 2023.

**2. Related Party Disclosures**

During the year, Matthew Hines, a trustee of the charity was reimbursed nil (2022: £96.60) for travel expenses. David Lingard, a trustee of the Charity, was reimbursed £32 (2022: £45.30) for travel expenses. Pat Dugard, a trustee of the Charity was reimbursed nil (2022: £112.20) for travel expenses. Lesley Tompkins, a trustee of the Charity was reimbursed nil (2022: £73.20) for travel

**3. Movement in Funds**

	At 01.07.22 £	Net Movement in Funds £	Transfer Between Funds £	At 01.07.23 £
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>				
Business Reserve	10,000	-	-	10,000
Project Reserve	411,679	-	-	7,132
	<u>421,679</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>17,132</u>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>				
Restricted Funds	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total Monetary Funds</b>	<u><u>421,679</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>17,132</u></u>
	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Gains and Losses £	Movement in Funds £
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>				
Business Reserve	-	-	-	-
Project Reserve	62,737	-	-	404,547
	<u>62,737</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>404,547</u>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>	22,764	-	-	-
	<u>22,764</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<u><u>85,501</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>404,547</u></u>

**LIPU-UK**

England & Wales - Charity number 1081826

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# Accounts

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**LIPU UK**  
**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2022**

Registered Charity Number 1081826

NG Community Accounting Services  
Jubilee House, Doddington  
Lincoln  
LN6 4RS

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## Trustees and Other Information

### Information

LIPU-UK, c/o Fernwood, Doddington Road, Whisby, Lincs, LN6 9BX is registered with the Charity Commission (No 1081826) and is constituted by a Deed of Trust.

### Trustees

The charity is administered by trustees who form an Executive Committee. Committee members during this financial year were:

Matthew Hines	Chair Person
David Lingard	Secretary/Treasurer
Patricia Dugard	Member
Shirley Lingard	Member
Lesley Tompkins	Member

### Independent Examiner

Nicole Gray (MAAT)  
NG Community Accounting  
Jubilee House  
Lincoln Road  
Doddington  
Lincoln Road  
LN6 4RS

## **Trustees Report**

The Trustees present their Report together with the Financial Statements of the Charity for the year from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.

### **Objective and Aims**

The object of the Charity is to further the charitable works of Lega Italiana Protezione Uccelli (LIPU) by making grants or providing such other assistance as the executive committee shall from time to time determine.

LIPU was founded in Italy in 1965 and, in 1989, a British section, LIPU-UK, was formed and based initially in Chelmsford. In 2000, LIPU-UK was registered in England as a charity. Its objectives remain unchanged and consist of providing financial support and any other assistance which will further the aims of LIPU in its work of bird protection and conservation. Each year, the British section agrees with LIPU directors in Parma a set of projects for which it commits to raise funds and those funds are transferred to Italy in June at the end of the financial year.

### **Public Benefit**

Italy has a poor record of compliance with European Directives regarding protection of wildlife, habitat and biodiversity and any improvement will bring a clear benefit to the citizens of Europe, both within and outside of the European Community. LIPU-UK has complied with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 in having due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

### **Your Trustees**

There has been no change in personnel or offices since last year's Annual Report.

Trustees are appointed by the Executive Committee usually, but not exclusively, from the membership of LIPU-UK and are offered induction training by the Secretary and/or other trustees prior to their first attendance at a trustees' meeting.

### **Project progress in 2021/22**

This year's report on achievements is based on information provided by Claudio Celada, LIPU Nature Conservation Director, notably reports to the October 2021 and June 2022 Trustees' meetings.

#### **1) Bird Hospitals**

LIPU-UK has, for many years, helped various bird hospitals, or Recovery Centres, with the provision of consumable items; in some years more substantial funding has been provided to selected centres, depending on what funding is (or is not) available from other sources such as local government. In 2021/22, LIPU-UK funds (**€7,000**), were again provided to support this important work. A further commitment of €7,000 has been made for 2022/23.

## **2) Protecting Bonelli's Eagle and Lanner Falcon nesting sites, Sicily.**

For 2022, LIPU established two working groups: one group monitored the nests of the two species in the provinces of Catania and Syracuse; a second group monitored the nests of the two species in the province of Caltanissetta.

Catania and Syracuse provinces, Lanner: Out of about 13 sites checked, breeding pairs were observed in only 4. Seven juveniles were ready to fly or already fledged. Sadly, one site occupied at the beginning of the breeding season was abandoned for unknown cause.

Catania and Syracuse provinces, Bonelli's Eagle: LIPU monitored 10 occupied sites. At 6 sites there were 10 juveniles. At one site the two chicks fell from the nest and were recovered alive and transferred to Messina for treatment. In the other 3 sites the hatching was not completed.

Caltanissetta province: Two pairs of Bonelli's Eagles bred, but no Lanner breeding was recorded. Each pair of Bonelli's successfully produced two fledglings. LIPU-UK funds (**€5,000**), were again provided to support this important work. A further commitment of €2,000 has been made for 2022/23.

## **3) Anti-Poaching activities**

LIPU-UK provided **€7,000** to support anti-poaching activities in Southern Sardinia and Messina. A further commitment of €7,000 has been made for 2022/23.

### Messina Strait camp

The antipoaching camp took place between April 23rd and May 7th 2022. Due to Covid regulations, participation was restricted to three volunteers this year and it was not possible to organize awareness raising events in the area. Passage of migratory birds was fairly constant over the period. Due to the prevailing wind direction, the raptors migrated over the Messina Strait at high altitude, which prevented them from being shot. Only a single poaching event was observed (on April 27th near Sanbatello) and this was duly reported to the relevant Law Enforcement Agency. In March, shortly before the camp started, a coordination meeting took place with SOARDA (the main LEA) and from April 23rd, SOARDA and a local LEA patrolled the study area. Throughout, the camp was marked by frequent and effective exchange of information between LIPU's volunteers, ornithologists and with other NGOs located in Sicily (Legambiente, MAN).

## **4) Monitoring raptor migration: Messina Strait**

Raptor spring migration across the Messina strait was again funded (LIPU-UK provided **€5,000** with a further commitment of €10,000 for 2022/23). The work was undertaken by two experienced observers between 15th March and 31st May 2022, at two locations (Piciò and Solano) on the Calabrian side of the strait. The largest raptor count was at the Solano station with a total of 28,684 birds observed, of which 27,434 were raptors, the balance being bee-eaters and storks. Honey Buzzards dominated the raptor count (24,125 at Solano) but a total of 25 raptor species were recorded across the two locations.

### **5) Red-footed Falcon in Parma province**

LIPU-UK continue our long-term funding (**€7,000**; €7,000 committed for 2022/23) towards Red-footed Falcon conservation around Parma, which holds the most important breeding population in Italy. During the first phase of the 2022 breeding season (April-May), LIPU surveyed breeding pairs nesting in natural sites (corvid nests) and artificial nests. Sixty-five nest boxes out of a total of about 150 were occupied. During the breeding season we were able to read about 10 coloured rings applied in previous years. At the end of June, it was intended to apply GPS devices to Red-footed Falcons in two locations in the province of Parma. In July, a ringing campaign targeting the chicks was planned.

As reported last year, LIPU continue to work with the University of Bologna and a PhD student from the University of Varese to collect data on terrestrial invertebrates and vertebrates (which are the prey of the Red-footed Falcon, Lesser Kestrel and Kestrel) and to study the diet at various locations in the eastern Po Valley.

### **6) Kentish Plover in Sardinia**

In 2019/20, LIPU-UK agreed to fund survey work to understand the breeding population of Kentish Plover in Sardinia better, the key Italian region for the species. Human disturbance is thought to be a major factor in the decline of this beach-nesting species. A dramatic population decline is indicated by data from the only years available (2010 (580-645 pairs) versus 2018 (175-188)). However, a suitable plan of action is not possible with insufficient data. The project was cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions and LIPU-UK re-committed € 7,000 last year; the field work finally taking place in May 2021, in Apulia (Foggia province only), Calabria, and Sardinia.

In 2022 further survey was carried out by LIPU in two regions, as planned: in Calabria (several tens of coastal kilometres and Sardinia (the majority of coastal areas)). Data collection and analysis remains ongoing at the time of writing. **€7,000** was provided this year, with a further commitment of €10,000 in 2022/23.

### **7) Continuation of Monitoring of Important Bird Areas, Local Conservation Groups and Key Biodiversity Areas.**

Regional data collected in previous years are being analysed in order to produce an updated IBA inventory. LIPU-UK provided **€15,000** to support the project in this year.

### **8) Collared Pratincole**

The Piana di Gela agricultural plain in Sicily holds the largest Italian population of Collared Pratincole (included on the Italian Red List). As truly natural habitats have declined, their ground nesting colonies are found increasingly on agricultural land. When LIPU started to monitor the colony on the Piana di Gela they found that late spring ploughing was causing numerous breeding failures. As a delay of only 10-15 days would permit successful breeding, local farmers were approached through a door-to-door information and awareness campaign. In 2018 the first direct actions saved part of the colony and in spring 2019, all of the landowners agreed to postpone ploughing, saving the entire colony. In 2019 55-60 breeding pairs were detected and in 2020, about 73 females laid eggs and hatching was verified in at least 40 nests. In April 2021, six LIPU volunteers searched the Gela plain for nesting sites,

finding 35-40 breeding pairs in two discrete areas. Agreement was reached with two landowners not to disturb these areas until the young had fledged.

In 2022, LIPU continued to monitor the size of the breeding population, breeding location and reproductive success. LIPU-UK provided **€3,000** to support this effort and made a further commitment of €3,000 for 2022/23.

### **9) Montagu's Harrier in Marche region**

The Montagu's harrier is a little-studied species in Italy. Its population is mainly concentrated in central Italy and its stronghold is mainly located between the Marche and Tuscany. The species nests on the ground in wheat fields or hay meadows. This often results in the loss of eggs or chicks if mowing is carried out before the young are hatched. For this reason, the Pesaro and Viterbo delegations of LIPU (the latter for at least 22 years) instigated a protocol for identifying nests at risk in order to protect them. In Pesaro province, the field work was coordinated with the University of Urbino. LIPU-UK contributed **€3,000** to this programme and have made a further commitment of €9,000 for 2022/23.

There are two phases to the survey: i) car tours to identify potential sites with a breeding pair present; ii) after identifying a pair, a thorough survey to discover the nest site. At present, LIPU continue to assess the size of the breeding population, breeding location and reproductive success.

The ambition is to transform this into an annual commitment and gradually to increase the study area. A broader ambition is to shape a dedicated programme on nest protection covering species such as Bonelli's Eagle, Lanner, Collared Pratincole, Montagu's Harrier, possibly also Corncrake and Little Bustard.

### **10) Local Conservation Groups**

In July 2016, LIPU launched the Local Conservation Groups project. Its goal was to create a network of volunteers that can contribute to the long-term monitoring and surveillance of Natura 2000 sites and the dissemination of knowledge on the Natura 2000 network among local communities.

The Local Conservation Groups (LCG) use standardized methods to collect data that are useful to assess the conservation status of bird species of Community interest, i.e. those listed under Annex I of the Birds Directive and migratory birds that make regular stopovers at the site. These data are made available to the managing authorities of the Natura 2000 sites and to ISPRA (Istituto superiore per la protezione e la ricerca ambientale), the Italian institute for environmental protection and research.

120 volunteers in 18 groups were involved throughout Italy, from Valle d'Aosta to Sicily. Volunteers come from all age groups, from students to retirees, and have varying levels of experience in the environmental field, so that experts can assist other volunteers in learning about issues related to biodiversity and its conservation.

Currently there are 20 Local Conservations Groups with around 150 volunteers distributed in 13 regions and involved in the monitoring of 31 target species in 28 sites belonging to the Natura 2000 network, including Lesser Grey Shrike, Black Woodpecker, Purple Heron and Collared Pratincole. LIPU-UK provided **€5,000** to help fund these groups, with a commitment to the same funding in 2022/23.

### **11) Reducing Mediterranean bycatch of vulnerable marine bird species**

The impact of bycatch by fishery is a constant and important threat to marine birds in the Mediterranean. Shearwaters, Cormorants, and Gulls are among the most affected species. The Trustees agreed to re-allocate €10,000 from unspent 2019/20 funds to enable the co-financing of this project, partially funded by a private foundation (MAVA). In 2020/21, a further **€10,000** was provided. LIPU-UK have committed to providing the same funding for 2022/23. The project is intended to devise and test practical measures which fishing boats can use at sea to reduce bycatch.

LIPU, with BirdLife, embarked on a pilot bycatch data collection project focused on the fishing fleet operating in Lampedusa (Pelagie archipelago, Sicily Channel, GSA 16). The Pelagie archipelago hosts the second most important colony of Scopoli's Shearwater in the Mediterranean basin. The study demonstrated that bycatch of marine birds does occur near Linosa, Sicily, where the largest Scopoli's Shearwater colony is situated. Data collection continued in 2022.

A National Plan of Action (NPoA) to tackle seabird bycatch in Italy has been drafted and a variety of advocacy has been undertaken, including an Italian Senate hearing, a meeting with the European Commission (DG MARE), under the framework of the BirdLife Marine Task Force (BL MTF); a joint letter with other NGOs to the Italian Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies, calling for Italian government support to revision of the EU Fisheries Control Regulation; various other awareness raising exercises through social media (including launch of the #stopbycatch campaign in April 2022), webinars, newsletters and Ali articles.

### **12) Climate Change Education / Green Future Citizens**

The Trustees recognise that education has a key role to play in conservation. Accordingly, last year LIPU-UK agreed to fund the cost of 2 educators dedicated to this project (one in Lombardy and one in Tuscany). The funding was continued in 2021/22 (**€5,000**) with a commitment to the same funding in 2022/23. The project started 4 years ago with the benefit of a grant and worked with more than 30 schools in Rome, Tuscany and Lombardy. By the end of the 2021/22 school year, the project had delivered 75 sessions to 26 classes comprising 677 high school students. The schools have requested a further programme with new students and LIPU-UK's continued funding will enable LIPU to continue offering the program for free.

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

### **a) Income**

At the end of the financial year we had received an exceptional £233,665 (2020/21 £107,200; 2019/20: £114,066). A substantial portion of this total were legacies totalling £174,148, for which the Trustees express their sincere gratitude. We have never actively solicited legacies but we do record, with thanks, donations left by Brian Hinds (a founder trustee of LIPU-UK); Audrey Tunbridge; Sheila Thompson; Ailsa Chamberlain; Pauline Davey; J Canvin and P Squelch. As ever, LIPU-UK's membership responded to the annual appeal with great generosity; with over £30,000 raised. Other valuable contributions were the Annual Draw (£3,048) and Gift Aid (£6,725). Given the historically low membership numbers and very low interest rates, this has to be seen as an exceptional result.

#### **b) Expenditure**

This was £4,621 (2020/21 £6,381; 2019/20 £9,298), representing 2% (2020/21 6%) of income. LIPU-UK has an informal, desirable target of 10%. The substantially lower ratio this year is pleasing and represents a further reduction on 2020/21. As was the case in the previous two years, the low ratio should be seen in the context of an income inflated by sizeable legacies. Such limited expenditure is only made possible by the entirely voluntary efforts of the Trustees, notably the Treasurer/Secretary.

#### **c) LIPU Project Funding**

In June 2022, the Trustees approved transfer of €93,000 to LIPU to progress project funding in 2022/23.

#### **Financial Reserves**

At the year end, the charity had total reserves of £415,061 (2020/21: £270,024), represented by £415,061 of unrestricted funds and £nil of restricted funds.

The net funds of LIPU-UK are allocated into three different categories: Restricted Funds, Unrestricted Funds and Designated Funds.

- Restricted Funds consist of money which has been given to LIPU-UK to be used for a specific purpose.
- Unrestricted Funds are funds which can be spent on anything which furthers the objectives of LIPU-UK.
- Designated Funds/Reserves are funds which have been earmarked for use in a particular way and these can include funds which are Restricted or Unrestricted.

LIPU-UK maintains two Designated Funds:

- A Business Reserve — that is the Trustees' estimation of the prudent level of funds needed to guard against any potential liquidity problem that might arise if income unexpectedly dried up and financial commitments had to be met. Its level is set after an annual review and currently it amounts to £10,000. The Business Reserve is made up solely of Unrestricted Funds.

- The Project Reserve — a fund created to hold any surplus funds which may accrue. This fund may be spent on any project which has the approval of the LIPU-UK trustees after discussion with the Conservation Director of LIPU. The Project Reserve consists solely of Unrestricted Funds.

## **Risks to the Charity**

### **a) Trustees**

For many years, the Trustees have reflected that they cannot continue in office indefinitely. This has been reflected as a risk in successive Chairman's Reports. Recent appeals for new trustees have not as yet borne fruit and discussions around the options for succession planning are ongoing.

### **b) Financial**

We continue to feel that the complication of several deposit accounts is a necessary safeguard for LIPU-UK funds. Balances, wherever possible, are maintained below the £85,000 limit guaranteed by the FSCS scheme.

### **c) Membership**

There has been a slow decline in numbers over many years, linked to the ageing profile of the membership. A modest increase in numbers during 2020/21 (from 646 in 2019/20 to 654) has reversed over the past 12 months, with membership dropping to 615 in June 2022.

## **Acknowledgements**

We continue to believe that the work of LIPU-UK has a very positive effect in Italy, where conservationists work in a difficult environment. The bulk of this UK work is still largely down to David Lingard, our Secretary/Treasurer, and his wife Shirley (fellow trustee). As always, I am sure that all LIPU supporters are hugely grateful to them for their many hours of dedication. This year has been particularly difficult as the Trustees have explored options to keep LIPU-UK operational in the future.

As ever, we are grateful to the team of translators, who continue to deliver the good news from Italy.

This year is LIPU's 56th and sadly, we are still needed. If anyone out there feels they can spare some time to join LIPU-UK's Trustees and maintain LIPU-UK's contribution, do let us know. You may well find the experience enjoyable and rewarding.

## **Summary**

This report reflects a year of highs and lows for LIPU-UK. The membership is at a historic low;

income, courtesy of sizeable legacies, at a historic high. We have again funded some fantastic projects which are making a real difference in Italy.

Ours is a small charity, but we make a significant contribution to LIPU, which by membership is less than 5% the size of the RSPB. Thanks to you, our LIPU-UK supporters, we continue to make a real impact. Thank you for again making that difference.

Matt Hines, Chairman — LIPU-UK

Date: 27th September 2022

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Hines', is centered on the page.

## Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of LIPU UK for the year ended 30th June 2022, which are set out on pages 11-13.

### Responsibilities and basis of the 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. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters.

### Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- a) accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- b) 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.

Signed:



Nicole Gray  
NG Community Accounting Services  
Jubilee House  
Lincoln Road  
Doddington  
Lincoln  
LN6 4RS

30th September 2022

**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT**  
for the year ended June 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted & Endowment Funds	<b>Total 21/22</b>	Total 20/21
<b>Receipts</b>					
Legacies		174,148		<b>174,148</b>	33,929
Subscriptions & Donations		16,281	30,916	<b>47,197</b>	58,990
Annual Draw		3,048	-	<b>3,048</b>	2,520
Gift Aid		6,726	-	<b>6,726</b>	8,876
Deposit Account Interest		2,458		<b>2,458</b>	2,887
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>202,661</b>	<b>30,916</b>	<b>233,577</b>	<b>107,202</b>
<b>Payments</b>					
Project Funding		49,996	30,916	<b>80,912</b>	64,527
Newsletter Costs		1,481		<b>1,481</b>	2,077
Travel Costs		-		<b>-</b>	36
Postage		1,007		<b>1,007</b>	1,646
Printing		-		<b>-</b>	45
Advertising, Website & Promotion		102		<b>102</b>	732
Annual Draw Costs		893		<b>893</b>	896
Trustees Meetings		381		<b>381</b>	171
Independent Examiner		714		<b>714</b>	678
Stationary		31		<b>31</b>	147
Miscellaneous Admin Costs		-		<b>-</b>	107
Bank Charges		12		<b>12</b>	20
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>54,617</b>	<b>30,916</b>	<b>85,533</b>	<b>71,082</b>
<b>Net Cash Inflow / Outflow</b>		<b>148,044</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>148,044</b>	<b>36,120</b>
<b>Balance brought forward</b>		<b>273,635</b>		<b>273,635</b>	<b>237,515</b>
<b>Balance carried forward</b>		<b>421,679</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>421,679</b>	<b>273,635</b>

## Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	21/22 Total	20/21 Total
<b>Assets</b>				
Cash in Hand	42	-	42	57
Cooperative Bank Account	6,511	-	6,511	3,520
Other Cash at Bank	64	-	64	34
Cash on Deposit	415,062	-	415,062	270,024
	421,679	-	421,679	<b>273,635</b>
 <b>Fixed Assets</b>				
Franking Machine	-	-	-	95
Laptop	167	-	167	234
	167	-	167	329
 <b>Liabilities</b>				
Accrual - Independent Examiner's Fee	400	-	400	714
	400		400	714

## Notes to the Financial Statements

### 1. Accounting Policies

This year and for future years the Trustees have decided to adopt the Receipts & Payments method in preparing the Financial Statements. Therefore "Expenditure" does not include the accrual for the Independent Examiner's fee for the year.

The Trustees consider that this is appropriate for an organisation the size of LIPU-UK and ensures that the financial statements are easily understood by the members and other users.

All figures refer to the period 1st July 2021 to 30th June 2022.

### 2. Related Party Disclosures

During the year, Matthew Hines, a trustee of the charity was reimbursed £96.60 (2021: Nil) for travel expenses. David Lingard, a trustee of the Charity, was reimbursed £45.30 (2021: £36.00) for travel expenses. Pat Dugard, a trustee of the Charity was reimbursed £112.20 (2021: £Nil) for travel expenses. Lesley Tompkins, a trustee of the Charity was reimbursed £73.20 (2021: £29.60) for travel expenses.

### 3. Movement in Funds

	At 01.07.21 £	Net Movement in Funds £	Transfer Between Funds £	At 01.07.22 £
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>				
Business Reserve	10,000		-	10,000
Project Reserve	263,635	148,044	-	411,679
	<u>273,635</u>	<u>148,044</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>421,679</u>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>				
Restricted Funds	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total Monetary Funds</b>	<u><u>273,635</u></u>	<u><u>148,044</u></u>	<u>-</u>	<u><u>421,679</u></u>
	<b>Incoming Resources £</b>	<b>Resources Expended £</b>	<b>Gains and Losses £</b>	<b>Movement in Funds £</b>
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>				
Business Reserve	-	-	-	-
Project Reserve	202,661	54,617	-	257,278
	<u>202,661</u>	<u>54,617</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>257,278</u>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>	30,916	30,916	-	-
<b>Total Funds</b>	<u><u>233,577</u></u>	<u><u>85,533</u></u>	<u>-</u>	<u><u>148,044</u></u>

**LIPU-UK**

England & Wales - Charity number 1081826

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# Accounts

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**Registered Charity Number: 1081826**

**LIPU - UK  
Trustees' Report and Accounts  
for the year ended  
30 June 2021**

Wright Vigar Ltd  
Chartered Accountants  
And Business Advisers  
15 Newland  
Lincoln  
LN1 1XG

**LIPU - UK**

**Trustees' Report and Accounts for the  
Year ended 30 June 2021**

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**Trustees Annual Report for the  
Year ended 30 June 2021**

The Trustees present their Report together with the Financial Statements of the Charity for the year from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020 to 30 June 2021.

LIPU-UK, c/o Fernwood, Doddington Road, Whisby, Lincs, LN6 9BX is registered with the Charity Commission (No 1081826) and is constituted by a Deed of Trust.

The charity is administered by trustees who form an Executive Committee. Committee members during this financial year were:

Chairman: Mr Matthew Hines  
Secretary/Treasurer: Mr David Lingard  
Members: Miss Patricia Dugard  
Mrs Shirley Lingard  
Mrs Lesley Tompkins  
Independent Examiner: Jack O'Hern FCA  
Wright Vigar Ltd  
Chartered Accountants and Business Advisors  
15 Newland  
Lincoln  
LN1 1XG

**Aims and objectives**

The object of the Charity is to further the charitable works of Lega Italiana Protezione Uccelli (LIPU) by making grants or providing such other assistance as the executive committee shall from time to time determine.

LIPU was founded in Italy in 1965 and, in 1989, a British section, LIPU-UK, was formed and based initially in Chelmsford. In 2000, LIPU-UK was registered in England as a charity. Its objectives remain unchanged and consist of providing financial support and any other assistance which will further the aims of LIPU in its work of bird protection and conservation. Each year, the British section agrees with LIPU directors in Parma a set of projects for which it commits to raise funds and those funds are transferred to Italy in June at the end of the financial year.

**Public Benefit**

Italy has a poor record of compliance with European Directives regarding protection of wildlife, habitat and biodiversity and any improvement will bring a clear benefit to the citizens of Europe. LIPU-UK has complied with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 in having due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

**Your Trustees**

There has been no change in personnel or officers since last year's Annual Report.

Trustees are appointed by the Executive Committee usually, but not exclusively, from the membership of LIPU-UK and are offered induction training by the Secretary and/or other trustees prior to their first attendance at a trustees' meeting. We welcome enquiries from anyone who feels he/she might want to join us — it won't take up much of your time.

**Project progress in 2020/21**

2019/2020 was an unusual year in that COVID-19 restrictions impacted on the delivery of some projects and funds allocated were not spent. The impact was less than initially appeared likely and has lessened in 2020/21. LIPU reported this sum to be €25,418; the Trustees agreed in October 2020 to reallocate €15,000 to cover four projects suggested by LIPU's Conservation Director and confirmed that the remainder was to be held as a Contingency Fund to cater for any changes which might occur in the year due to Covid. With the addition of €10,000 Membership contribution a total of €74,000 was agreed to support projects in 2021.

## Trustees Annual Report for the Year ended 30 June 2021

This year's report on achievements is based on information provided by Claudio Celada, LIPU Nature Conservation Director, notably a report to the June 2021 Trustees' meeting.

### 1) Bird Hospitals

LIPU-UK has, for many years, helped various bird hospitals, or Recovery Centres, with the provision of consumable items; in some years more substantial funding has been provided to selected centres, depending on what funding is (or is not) available from other sources such as local government. In 2020/21, LIPU-UK funds (€7,000) were again provided to support this important work.

### 2) Protecting Bonelli's Eagle nesting sites, Sicily.

Nest monitoring started in January 2021, when Covid-19 limitations on movements were still in place, both between Sicilian provinces and from other regions. Covid-19 limitations prevented the usual 24hr camps and led to an adapted monitoring scheme, including the installation of 9 remote monitoring cameras. In Catania province, seven volunteers were able to monitor seven nests (of which three were unknown from previous years). Each nest was monitored three times per week. Five nests produced a fledgling and one nest produced two. One of these was taken to Sardinia where a LIFE project is attempting to reintroduce the species. One nest was abandoned at the beginning of the breeding season for reasons unknown.

The traditional camp in Niscemi (Gela) proceeded to cover the two nest sites. A nest that was illegally depredated in April 2018 produced a fledgling, and the second nest was also successful. The year's project activities (in support of which LIPU-UK provided €2,000) drew to a close on May 30th, 2021.

### 3) Anti-Poaching activities

LIPU-UK provided €7,000 to support anti-poaching activities.

#### Southern Sardinia

The winter anti-poaching camp went ahead as planned, in co-operation with the Forest Carabinieri, the Regional Forestry Corps and the staff of the WWF Monte Arcosu Oasis. Preparatory surveys of likely thrush capture sites was undertaken in December 2020, allowing surveillance activities in February 2021. This led to 6 people being reported for illegal bird trapping and capture of mammals, along with the seizure of 250 snap traps, 45 bird traps and 20 nets. Surveillance of Starling wintering sites within the Molentargius Park led to identification of a poacher trying to catch starlings seizure of a large net and the discovery of about 15 Starlings, frozen and ready for sale, at his home.

#### Messina Strait camp

Last year I reported that the 2019 spring camp was cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions. It is therefore satisfactory to report that the 2020 camp went ahead on the Calabrian side between April 24th and May 8<sup>th</sup>, albeit limited by Covid-19 restrictions to a single volunteer and the camp coordinator. Eleven areas were monitored, all of them are important for the migration. Weather conditions this year made the passage rather less predictable than in many years. Good communication links with others including the observers involved in the migration monitoring project (which runs simultaneously – see below), aided the effectiveness of the anti-poaching effort.

LIPU detected two instances of poaching near Calanna and were informed about several other poaching events (near Villa San Giovanni, Passo del Falco, Archi, Catona and Solano). In some cases these involved birds being shot. Information was passed to the Carabinieri. Poachers may have felt more free to act this year, due to Covid-19 restrictions, but the scale of activity did not approach the lamentable levels of poaching from 20 years ago. Since this year showed some signs of sliding back to the past situation (when rampant poaching occurred), LIPU-UK intend to continue to support this project in the coming years.

**Trustees Annual Report for the  
Year ended 30 June 2021****4) Monitoring raptor migration and Messina strait camp.**

In 2020 the LIPU spring camp was cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions and monitoring of migrating raptors was delivered by a partner organisation (Ornis italica). Again, it is pleasing to report that the 2021 LIPU spring camp (15<sup>th</sup> March – 31<sup>st</sup> May) was able to proceed. The count of nearly 29,000 raptors between the two monitoring stations underlines the importance of this migration route and LIPU's mission to safeguard it. Limited funding was required (€5,000) due to the availability of unspent funds from the previous year's Covid-impacted activities.

**5) Red-footed falcon in Parma province**

LIPU-UK continue our long-term funding (€7,000) towards Red-footed Falcon conservation around Parma, which holds the most important breeding population in Italy. Population monitoring and the success of a nest box scheme continue, together with research into the land use of this species using GPS trackers. The project continues to be largely unaffected by COVID-19 restrictions. GPS devices have been applied to an adult male and an adult female and data collection (use of habitat) is underway. LIPU is working with a PhD fellow from the University of Varese to collect data on terrestrial invertebrates and vertebrates (which are the prey of the Red-footed Falcon, Lesser Kestrel and Kestrel) and to study diet at various locations in the eastern Po Valley.

**6) Kentish plover in Sardinia**

Last year, LIPU-UK agreed to provide €7,000 for survey work to better understand the breeding population of Kentish Plover in Sardinia, the key Italian region for the species. Human disturbance is thought to be a major factor in the decline of this beach-nesting species. A dramatic population decline is indicated by data from the only years available (2010 (580-645 pairs) versus 2018 (175-188)). However, a suitable plan of action is not possible with insufficient data. Unfortunately, the project had to be cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions.

LIPU-UK re-committed €7,000 and the field work finally took place in May 2021, in Apulia (Foggia province only), Calabria, and Sardinia. Data collection and analysis is ongoing at the time of writing.

**7) Adaptation of alpine species to climate change**

Mountain birds are among the animal groups most threatened by climate and environmental changes. There is an urgent need to develop conservation strategies integrating broad-scale policies and local-scale, fine-tuned management protocols to allow alpine birds and biodiversity in general to survive in warming mountains. The aim of this project is thus to develop and test management protocols and other conservation strategies in the Alps, to preserve suitable conditions for bird species tied to high-elevation habitats. LIPU-UK previously agreed to fund a consultant, project coordination and field work-related expenses, to produce adaptive guidelines and preliminary testing of some of them in a protected alpine area. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, field work could not be undertaken, and a wholesale review of the project was carried out, resulting in significant change of scope. The main output was changed to a predicted range distribution of the target species under climate change conditions for a range of different scenarios. This could be used to support LIPU's advocacy work to stop habitat destruction in the Alps.

A scientific paper was completed in summer 2021. This piece of work made it possible to identify alpine areas that will remain suitable for some target bird species under future climatic scenarios. A first concrete result is that these areas will be considered for inclusion in a future ecological network in the Valle d'Aosta region.

**Trustees Annual Report for the  
Year ended 30 June 2021****8) Lanner nest sites protection**

LIPU-UK provided €3,000 to fund the protection of Lanner falcon nests in Tuscany by LIPU volunteers, in an effort to prevent their local extinction. The Lanner in Italy is of the subspecies F. B. Feldeggi; of which there are c430-840 pairs worldwide. Recent research has shown a dramatic decline and currently, there are only a few pairs in peninsular Italy and c60 in Sicily. In 2019, I reported that four fledglings had left two Tuscan nests protected by LIPU volunteers. Sad to report that in 2020 only one breeding pair was located. LIPU put in place an intensive monitoring and protection system including automated security cameras on approach routes, supported by rapid response from a team of volunteers, with the aid of the police. Thanks to these efforts, three juveniles fledged from this nest. LIPU volunteers continue to search the region for other lanner breeding sites.

**9) Continuation of Monitoring of Important Bird Areas, Local Conservation Groups and Key Biodiversity Areas (residual funds from 2019).**

Regional data collected in previous years are being analysed in order to produce an updated IBA inventory. LIPU-UK has provided €15,000 to facilitate this process.

**10) Collared Pratincole**

The Piana di Gela agricultural plain in Sicily holds the largest Italian population of Collared Pratincole (included on the Italian Red List). As truly natural habitats have declined, their ground nesting colonies are found increasingly on agricultural land. When LIPU started to monitor the colony on the Piana di Gela they found that late spring ploughing was causing numerous breeding failures. As a delay of only 10-15 days would permit successful breeding, local farmers were approached through a door-to-door information and awareness campaign. In 2018 the first direct actions saved part of the colony and in spring 2019, all of the landowners agreed to postpone ploughing, saving the entire colony. In 2019 55-60 breeding pairs were detected and in 2020, about 73 females laid eggs and hatching was verified in at least 40 nests.

In April 2021, six LIPU volunteers searched the Gela plain for nesting sites, finding 35-40 breeding pairs in two discrete areas. Agreement was reached with two landowners not to disturb these areas until the young had fledged. LIPU-UK provided €3,000 to support this effort.

Since the plain was almost entirely cultivated with wheat, nest detection was more challenging compared to 2019 and 2020. This land use leaves little space and colonies may become fragmented and more exposed to predation. Looking forward, a possible conservation strategy may be to rent some small farmland areas and manage them for the species.

**11) Montagu's Harrier in Marche region**

The Montagu's Harrier is a little-studied species in Italy. Its population is mainly concentrated in central Italy and its stronghold is located between the Marche and Tuscany. The species nests on the ground in wheat fields or hay meadows. This often results in the loss of eggs or chicks if mowing is carried out before the young are hatched. For this reason, the Pesaro and Viterbo delegations of LIPU (the latter for at least the last 15 years) instigated a protocol for identifying nests at risk in order to protect them. In Pesaro province, the field work was coordinated with the University of Urbino. LIPU-UK have fully funded (€3,000 and €1,000 from unspent 2019/20 funds) the growth of this programme.

There were two phases: i) car tours to identify potential sites with a breeding pair present; ii) after identifying a pair, a thorough survey to discover the nest site. About 9-10 pairs have been identified and only one could be located in a site at risk of being disturbed (farmland). Fortunately, most of the nests in Marche are found in gully areas; a remarkable difference from the Viterbo area.

**Trustees Annual Report for the  
Year ended 30 June 2021**

The ambition is to transform this into an annual commitment and to gradually increase the study area. A broader ambition is to shape a dedicated programme on nest protection covering species such as Bonelli's Eagle, Lanner, Collared Pratincole, Montagu's Harrier, possibly also Corncrake and Little Bustard.

**12) Local Conservation Groups**

In July 2016, LIPU launched the Local Conservation Groups project. Its goal was to create a network of volunteers that can contribute to the long-term monitoring and surveillance of Natura 2000 sites and the dissemination of knowledge on the Natura 2000 network among local communities.

The Local Conservation Groups (LCG) use standardized methods to collect data that are useful to assess the conservation status of bird species of Community interest, i.e. those listed under Annex I of the Birds Directive and migratory birds that make regular stopovers at the site. These data are made available to the managing authorities of the Natura 2000 sites and to ISPRA (Istituto superiore per la protezione e la ricerca ambientale), the Italian institute for environmental protection and research.

120 volunteers in 18 groups were involved throughout Italy, from Valle d'Aosta to Sicily. Volunteers come from all age groups, from students to retirees, and have varying levels of experience in the environmental field, so that experts can assist other volunteers in learning about issues related to biodiversity and its conservation.

Currently there are 20 Local Conservations Groups with around 150 volunteers distributed in 13 regions and involved in the monitoring of 31 target species in 28 sites belonging to the Natura 2000 network, including Lesser Grey Shrike, Black Woodpecker, Purple Heron and Collared Pratincole. LIPU-UK agreed to commit **€5,000** to help fund these groups.

**13) Reducing Mediterranean bycatch of vulnerable marine bird species**

The impact of bycatch by fishery is a constant and important threat to marine birds in the Mediterranean. Shearwaters, Cormorants, and Gulls are among the most impacted species. The Trustees agreed to re-allocate € 10,000 from unspent 2019/20 funds to enable the co-financing of this project, partially funded by a private foundation (MAVA). The project is intended to devise and test practical measures which fishing boats can use at sea to reduce bycatch.

**14) Climate Change Education**

The Trustees recognise that education has a key role to play in conservation. Accordingly, LIPU-UK has agreed to fund the cost of 2 educators dedicated to this project (one in Lombardy and one in Tuscany) from unspent 2019/20 funds (€ 3,000). This project started 3 years ago with the benefit of a grant and worked with more than 30 schools in Rome, Tuscany and Lombardy. The schools have requested a further programme with new students and LIPU-UK's funding will now enable LIPU to continue offering the program for free.

**Financial Review****a) Income**

At the end of the financial year, we had received £107,202 (2019/20: £114,213). A substantial portion of this total were legacies totalling £33,929, for which the Trustees express their gratitude. We have never actively solicited legacies but we do record, with thanks, donations left by Jill Kendrick and Charmian Woodfield. LIPU-UK's membership responded to the annual appeal with great generosity; the over £40,000 raised represents the highest total ever for the annual appeal. Another valuable contribution was Gift Aid, which amounted to over £8,876. Given the historically low membership numbers and very low interest rates, this has to be seen as an excellent result.

## Trustees Annual Report for the Year ended 30 June 2021

### b) Expenditure

This was £6,939 (2019/20 £9,298), representing 6.47% (2019/20 8.15%) of income. LIPU-UK has an informal, desirable aim of keeping costs below 10%. The substantially lower ratio this year is pleasing; the further reduction on 2019/20 being due to reduced advertising and newsletter costs and a welcome absence of legal fees. As was the case in 2019/20, the low ratio should be seen in the context of an income inflated by sizeable legacies. Such limited expenditure is only made possible by the entirely voluntary efforts of the Trustees, notably the Treasurer/Secretary.

### c) LIPU Project Funding

In June 2021, the Trustees approved transfer of €74,000, (£64,527) to LIPU to progress project funding in 21/22.

### **Financial Reserves**

At the year end the charity had total reserves of £273,634 (2020: £237,515), represented by £273,634 of unrestricted funds and £nil of restricted funds.

The net funds of LIPU-UK are allocated into three different categories: Restricted Funds, Unrestricted Funds and Designated Funds.

- Restricted Funds consist of money which has been given to LIPU-UK to be used for a specific purpose.
- Unrestricted Funds are funds which can be spent on anything which furthers the objectives of LIPU-UK.
- Designated Funds/Reserves are funds which have been earmarked for use in a particular way and these can include funds which are Restricted or Unrestricted.

LIPU-UK maintains two Designated Funds:

- A Business Reserve — that is the Trustees' estimation of the prudent level of funds needed to guard against any potential liquidity problem that might arise if income unexpectedly dried up and financial commitments had to be met. Its level is set after an annual review and currently it amounts to £10,000. The Business Reserve is made up solely of Unrestricted Funds.
- The Project Reserve — a fund created to hold any surplus funds which may accrue. This fund may be spent on any project which has the approval of the LIPU-UK trustees after discussion with the Conservation Director of LIPU. The Project Reserve consists solely of Unrestricted Funds.

### **Risks to the Charity**

#### a) Financial.

We continue to feel that the complication of several deposit accounts is a necessary safeguard for LIPU-UK funds. Balances, wherever possible, are maintained below the £85,000 limit guaranteed by the FSCS scheme. The search for safe accounts offering generous rates of interest continues.

#### b) Membership.

There has been a slow decline in numbers over many years, linked to the ageing profile of the membership. However, I am delighted to report a modest increase in numbers this year, thanks to the success of the recruiting campaign through Birdwatch magazine. As a result, the current membership of 654 represents a net gain of 8 from the 646 reported last year.

**Trustees Annual Report for the  
Year ended 30 June 2021**

## c) Trustees.

The current Trustees acknowledge that with the march of time, they cannot continue in office indefinitely. Recent appeals for new trustees have not as yet borne fruit and discussions around the options for succession planning are ongoing.

**Acknowledgements**

We continue to believe that the work of LIPU-UK has a very positive effect in Italy, where conservationists work in a difficult environment. The bulk of this UK work is still largely down to David Lingard, our Secretary/Treasurer, and his wife Shirley (fellow trustee). As always, I am sure that all LIPU supporters are hugely grateful to them for their many hours of dedication. David's efforts are not only on the administration but also the talks which are our main outreach, although these have been discontinued during the Covid pandemic.

We are also grateful to the team of translators, who continue to deliver the good news from Italy.

This year is LIPU's 54<sup>th</sup>— and sadly, we are still needed. If anyone out there feels they can spare some time to join LIPU-UK's Trustees and maintain LIPU-UK's contribution, do let us know. You may well find the experience enjoyable and rewarding.

**Summary**

2021 has also been affected by the pandemic, with all its continuing impacts on health, society and economy. No family or organisation has been left untouched in some way; this follows for LIPU (and to a lesser extent LIPU-UK). LIPU staff and volunteers have set aside often difficult personal circumstances and battled to deliver their conservation programme despite ongoing restrictions. What has been achieved this year is again a testament to their dedication. This year, the Trustees wish to particularly acknowledge the continued invaluable support of Claudio Celada, LIPU Nature Conservation Director during extremely testing personal circumstances.

Ours is a small charity, but we make a significant contribution to LIPU, which by membership is less than 5% the size of the RSPB. Thanks to you, our LIPU-UK supporters, we continue to make a real impact. Thank you for again making that difference.



Matt Hines, Chairman — LIPU-UK

**Receipts and Payments Account  
for the Year ended 30 June 2021**

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
<b>Receipts</b>				
Legacies	33,929	-	33,929	49,000
Subscriptions and donations	18,935	40,055	58,990	51,762
Annual draw	2,520	-	2,520	2,922
Gift aid	<u>8,876</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,876</u>	<u>7,382</u>
	64,260	40,055	104,315	111,066
Deposit account interest	<u>2,887</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,887</u>	<u>3,147</u>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<u>67,147</u>	<u>40,055</u>	<u>107,202</u>	<u>114,213</u>
<b>Payments</b>				
Project funding	24,472	40,055	64,527	87,993
Bank charges	20	-	20	13
Newsletter production	2,077	-	2,077	2,529
Travel	36	-	36	424
Postage	1,646	-	1,646	1,682
Printing	45	-	45	372
Annual Draw	896	-	896	893
Trustees meetings	171	-	171	-
Independent Examination	678	-	678	660
Stationery	147	-	147	55
Advertising, website & promotion	732	-	732	1,430
Miscellaneous admin costs	107	-	107	424
Insurance	-	-	-	-
Legal fees	-	-	-	816
<b>Total payments</b>	<u>(31,027)</u>	<u>(40,055)</u>	<u>(71,082)</u>	<u>(97,291)</u>
Net cash inflow / (outflow)	36,120	-	36,120	16,922
Balance at beginning of year	<u>237,515</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>237,515</u>	<u>220,593</u>
Balance at end of year	<u>273,635</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>273,635</u>	<u>237,515</u>

**Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 30 June 2021**

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
<b>Monetary Assets</b>				
Cash in hand	57	-	57	38
Cooperative Bank Account	3,520	-	3,520	2,230
Other cash at bank	34	-	34	99
Cash on Deposit	<u>270,024</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>270,024</u>	<u>235,148</u>
	273,634	-	273,634	237,515
<b>Fixed Assets</b>				
Franking machine – Net book value	95	-	95	191
Laptop computer	<u>234</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>234</u>	<u>366</u>
	329	-	329	557
<b>Other Assets</b>				
Gift Aid debtor	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,223</u>
	-	-	-	3,223
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Accruals – independent examination	<u>714</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>714</u>	<u>678</u>
	714	-	714	678

The financial statements on pages 8 and 9 were approved by the trustees on 8 November 2021



Matt Hines  
Chairman

**Notes to the financial statements****1. Accounting convention**

This year and for future years the Trustees have decided to adopt the Receipts & Payments method in preparing the Financial Statements. Therefore "Income" on the previous page does not include the Gift Aid debtor shown as an asset above, and "Expenditure" does not include the accrual for the Independent Examiner's fee for the year.

The Trustees consider that this is appropriate for an organisation the size of LIPU-UK and ensures that the financial statements are easily understood by the members and other users.

**2. Related party disclosures**

During the year, David Lingard, a trustee of the Charity, was reimbursed £36.00 (2020: £15.60) for travel expenses. Pat Dugard, a trustee of the Charity was reimbursed £Nil (2020: £Nil) for travel expenses. Lesley Tompkins, a trustee of the Charity was reimbursed £29.60 (2020: £Nil) for travel expenses.

**3. Movement in funds**

	At 1.7.20 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 30.6.21 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
Business reserve	10,000	-	-	10,000
Project reserve	<u>227,515</u>	<u>36,119</u>	-	<u>263,634</u>
	237,515	36,119	-	273,634
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Restricted funds	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Monetary funds</b>	<u>237,515</u>	<u>36,119</u>	-	<u>273,634</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
Business reserve	-	-	-	-
Project reserve	<u>67,147</u>	<u>(31,411)</u>	-	<u>36,119</u>
	67,147	(31,411)	-	36,119
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Restricted funds	<u>40,055</u>	<u>(40,055)</u>	-	-
	<u>40,055</u>	<u>(40,055)</u>	-	-
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>107,202</u>	<u>(71,466)</u>	-	<u>36,119</u>

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of LIPU - UK**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 30 June 2021 which are set out on pages 9 to 10.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's trustees 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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all 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 in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



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J O'Hern FCA  
Wright Vigar Limited  
Statutory Auditors and Business Advisors  
15 Newland  
Lincoln  
LN1 1XG

20 September 2021