

SPURN BIRD OBSERVATORY TRUST LIMITED

England & Wales · Charity number 1141408

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	07474287
Registered	2011-04-13
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Kew Villa Kilnsea Road Kilnsea Hull HU12 0UB
Phone	01964 650479
Email	info@spurnbirdobservatory.co.uk
Website	www.spurnbirdobservatory.co.uk

Activities

Objects: 4 THE CHARITY'S OBJECTS ("OBJECTS") ARE SPECIFICALLY RESTRICTED TO THE FOLLOWING:4.1 THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC BY: I) THE LONG TERM MONITORING OF BIRD POPULATIONS THEIR DISTRIBUTION AND MIGRATION: ANDII) THE STUDY AND RECORDING OF OBJECTS OF ORNITHOLOGICAL BOTANICAL ENTOMOLOGICAL ZOOLOGICAL GEOLOGICAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL HISTORICAL OR SCIENTIFIC INTEREST IN THE AREA OF BENEFIT (AS HEREIN AFTER DEFINED) OR OTHER SURROUNDING AREAS AS MAY FROM TIME TO TIME BE CONSIDERED REASONABLE AND APPROPRIATE: ANDIII) DISSEMINATING THE USEFUL RESULTS FROM SUCH RESEARCH4.2 FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE COMMUNITY BYI) THE CONSERVATION OF WILDLIFE: AND II) THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE BREEDING OF WILD BIRDS ANIMALS AND INSECTS IN THE AREA OF BENEFIT AND ITS ENVIRONS (THE AREA OF BENEFIT IS THE COUNTY OF EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE)

Activities: The long term monitoring of bird populations, their distribution and migration. The conservation of wildlife and the encouragement of the breeding of wild birds, animals and insects on and around the Spurn Peninsula in East Yorkshire. The provision of hostel type accommodation for visiting naturalists.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- East Riding Of Yorkshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£172,887	£159,407	-	-
2023-12-31	£186,041	£149,929	-	-
2022-12-31	£176,229	£106,697	-	-
2021-12-31	£201,220	£104,685	-	-
2020-12-31	£107,263	£61,901	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Sarah Harris	Chair	2022-11-27
Peter Short		2025-08-02
ROB ADAMS		2013-08-14

SPURN BIRD OBSERVATORY TRUST LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1141408

Accounts



SPURN BIRD OBSERVATORY TRUST LTD
Charity Registration No. 1141408

Annual Report 2024

This is the 14th annual report of the Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Ltd ('the bird observatory') for 2024.

The bird observatory draws on a history of operation at Spurn since 1945 when it was the third such bird observatory in the UK and the first on the UK mainland. We acknowledge the inspiring, foundational work of two pioneering birders in the 1940s, our co-founders Ralph Chislett and George H. Ainsworth. The Trust registered as a charitable company with Companies House and as a charity with the Charities Commission in December 2010. The bird observatory is an accredited member of the Bird Observatories Council as it meets specified criteria relating to activities and facilities for the long-term monitoring of bird populations and migration.

The first annual report by Spurn bird observatory of its bird and natural history records was produced for 1964. Since 1992, we have produced an annual report 'Spurn Wildlife'. A full summary of our most recent records and activities can be found in our publication: '*Spurn Wildlife 2024*'.

In order to share information more widely, all of our historical records from the 1940s onwards are stored at the East Yorkshire Archives at the Treasure House in Beverley. The catalogued information includes all the annual written bird logs and ringing and recovery data from 1945, together with notebooks, photographs and a range of typical administrative material. The focus is on birds, but there is also a wealth of additional material on butterflies and moths. The information is stored there under proper climatic care and security, to national standards. The catalogue is linked to the National Archives at Kew, London.

Aims and objectives of the Trust

For the advancement of the education of the public by:

the long-term monitoring of bird populations their distribution and migration; the study and recording of objects of ornithological, botanical, entomological, zoological, geological, archaeological, historical or scientific interest in the Area of Benefit and other surrounding areas as may from time to time be considered reasonable and appropriate; and disseminating the useful results from such research for the benefit of the community by the conservation of wildlife and the encouragement of the breeding of wild birds, animals and insects in the Area of Benefit and its environs.

The **Area of Benefit** is the area of the Spurn Peninsula, including Kilnsea and Easington, in the East Riding in the county of Yorkshire.

Structure, governance and management

The bird observatory is administered by a board of trustees (whom we term 'directors') who are volunteers and take no pay nor remuneration. They are assisted by a voluntary, co-opted management committee. The directors and management committee met four times during the year. The trust wishes to record thanks to the warden Paul Collins and observatory manager Rob Hunton for their work to ensure the smooth working of the bird observatory during 2024 in pursuit of its charitable aims. A small bungalow owned by the Trust provides residential accommodation for the warden and observatory manager. The building includes solar panels and battery storage and its energy performance certificate is A-rated. It was replaced the previous year thanks to financial support from Friends of Spurn, as well as a small grant from East Riding Council.

Seasonal staff: The bird observatory acknowledges the important work of seasonal wardens in helping as with habitat management, birds and natural history recording, the Little Tern protection scheme, visitor liaison and the operation of annual bird migration festival 'MigFest'.

Volunteers: Volunteers at Spurn contributed many hours to our work in 2024, which is an incredible contribution and a powerful resource. Volunteers, including local people, play a big voluntary role in the operation of the bird observatory, including: Pat Degnan, Steve & Pam Exley, Ian Smith, Jacob Spinks, Pat & Rich Swales, Andrew & Sue Wells of Westmere Farm, Andrea Vaughan and Paul & Thomas Willoughby. The bird observatory appreciates the support from many other volunteers during the year, including: Matt Binding, Richard Boon, Benjamin Dudding, Tate Lloyd, Matthew Livsey, Zach Pannifer, Emma Rigate, Colin Teal, and Jake Wood. Our social media presence has been enhanced thanks to Eva Finney and Emma Rigate. Adam Hutt regularly updated the website bird news. There were approximately 100 volunteers who contributed their time, to make our September bird migration festival 'MigFest' a great success. Food for the migration festival was coordinated by volunteers Pat Degnan and Andrea Vaughan.

Review of the year

2024 was another successful year for the charity. In planning our work, the committee and directors kept in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

How our activities deliver public benefit

1. Advancement of education

Birders come to Spurn to witness bird migration, as well as to observe and sometimes ring scarce and rare birds. In support of this and scientific research, bird observatory staff and volunteers conducted a daily census of resident and migrating birds, an annual breeding bird survey and bird ringing.

The bird observatory noted 263 avian species during the year. Highlights included Black-winged Pratincole, Collared Flycatcher, Gull-billed Tern, Iberian Chiffchaff, Least Sandpiper, Purple Heron and Stilt Sandpiper. It was once again a positive year for sightings of Woodlark, Hen Harrier and Red-backed Shrike.

Using the guidelines of the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) for the breeding bird census, we confirmed that a total of 60 bird species bred in the recording area in 2024. Due to our protection programme, 59 pairs of Little Tern bred this year, fledging 85 chicks. The bird observatory ringed 7067 birds of 94 species in 2024. A total of 26 species of butterfly were recorded and highlights included the first record of White-letter Hairstreak and our second-ever record of Dark Green Fritillary. Of the 18 species of dragonflies recorded in 2024, the biggest highlight included a Norfolk Hawker. A total of 32 species of mammal were recorded in 2024, the stars being adult and juvenile Humpback Whales that lingered offshore in July. The first record of Common Dolphin was also made this year.

Sharing news on bird sightings: To enable public benefit, we actively share bird news via our registered two-way radio system (119 users), frequently update the bird observatory's social media feeds on BlueSky (2401 followers), Instagram (1130 followers) and x (17,335 followers), WhatsApp groups (271 members), update a sightings screen at the bird observatory hub, post a daily summary of bird sightings on our webpage and publish a seasonal summary by newsletter. During the year, the website had approximately 12 million hits and over 78,000 unique visitors.

Bird ringing: As part of our contribution to scientific research and to public engagement, bird ringing remains an integral part of the bird observatory's work. It is undertaken under the national scheme co-ordinated by the BTO, licensed under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Data this year on recoveries of ringed species added further to our knowledge of bird migration. For example, a male Whinchat ringed at Spurn on 12 May 2024 was seen on 31 May in Aberdeenshire. The ring was impressively read in the field there. The sighting came 19 days after being ringed at Spurn, with a distance of 412km between the sites.

The observatory continues to contribute to colour-ringing and tagging projects. Twite were ringed with unique combinations of colour rings for The Twite Network. Work with the Humber Wader Study Group continued, to colour-ring Redshank, Bar-tailed Godwit and Curlew. The observatory also contributed to a project colour-ringing Short-eared Owls.

The study of breeding Little Terns included pulli fitted with a uniquely coded larger plastic ring (a darvic ring), along with the standard BTO ring. Two ringed individuals that fledged from here in previous seasons were found elsewhere this year. One that fledged in 2013 was recaptured in Senegal on 4 April 2024. A second, which fledged in 2022, was re-sighted at Seaton Carew on 7 June 2024.

Natural history recording: After birds, our second most important area of study is Lepidoptera (butterflies and moths). Three mercury vapour traps were operated by the observatory this year. Traps in Church Field and Kew Villa were in use from March to November, with one in the bird observatory garden run sporadically throughout the season.

Publication of our records for public benefit: We have again published a detailed annual report setting out our records of birds and natural history and our year of charitable activities. The 'Spurn Wildlife 2023' report was published in September 2024. This year, we conducted a confidential peer review of this publication, garnering useful feedback for improvement from external experts, as well as insight that the report is widely considered to be of a high standard.

Engagement with regular visitors: The interest in and support for our work was evident by the approximately 1,100 Friends of Spurn who engaged with our activities in different ways throughout the year. The annual Friends of Spurn barbecue in August was an important way for the bird observatory to engage with over 70 of its supporters.

Wider public engagement: The bird observatory again provided a programme of regular walks (led by staff and volunteers) for visitors during the spring and autumn. These events coincided with public bird ringing demonstrations when weather conditions were suitable. Once again, the walks were well attended and appreciated by beginners and experienced naturalists alike.

When attending the Global Bird Fair in Rutland in July 2024, we reached some of the 100s of international attendees to explain our work.

Through the MigFest event hosted at Spurn in September, the bird observatory engaged with approx. 350 people. Birders, friends and families came to watch birds, talk and learn together. One of the birding highlights that weekend was a beautiful female Pallid Harrier which was seen. The bird observatory organised opportunities and inspiring seminars and lectures, guided walks and bird ringing demonstrations. The main events were an inspirational talk by TV personality Nigel Marven and a lecture by world-famous ornithologist Lars Svensson. Visitors also had opportunities to purchase books, magazines and artwork from visiting stall holders. We are very grateful to the owners of Sandy Beaches caravan park for providing an excellent venue for this event.

Youth engagement: At MigFest, we again conducted our annual Martin Garner Young Birder of the Year competition in partnership with the BTO. This national competition enables the bird observatory to encourage, support and recognise the emerging talents of young birders. All youth participants were presented with an award to recognise their achievement, along with membership packages, such as from sponsors Rare Bird Alert, British Birds and the Oriental Bird Club.

International engagement: The international links between Spurn Bird Observatory, Cape May Bird Observatory, Long Point Bird Observatory and Falsterbo Bird Observatory continued in 2024 to update one another on our work. No youth exchange was possible this year.

Contribution to science and research: The observatory science and research sub-committee continued its work to enhance standardised counts in the recording area through seawatching, wildfowl counts and visual migration watches. The sub-committee continued to advise on arrangements and projects for bird ringing. The work on bird ringing enables the bird observatory to contribute to important research on avian flu, and ticks in birds.

The bird observatory continues to participate in an international research network that uses coordinated automated radio telemetry to facilitate research and education on the ecology and conservation of migratory birds. We continue to operate a Motus receiver at Spurn. Using the Motus receiver, it is possible to get 'hits' (records) of birds with tags in the area, tagged elsewhere. Mostly this acts as a receiver of information from birds tagged on the continent where tagging is carried out more frequently than here in the UK.

Enabling access to the area for the public: The bird observatory operates self-catering residential accommodation in a converted four-bedroom property in the village of Kilnsea. The premises can accommodate up to 13 visitors, available at a modest charge to any visiting naturalist or other individual who is prepared to support the aims of the Trust. Grants are made available to researchers, academic or otherwise, to apply for funding from the bird observatory to support research costs as well as travel, accommodation and food.

The observatory owns a certificated caravan site, sited next door to the warden's premises. This provides pitches for up to five touring caravans. The pitches are available for rent to anyone who wishes to experience and enjoy the local area. Four permanent caravan pitches are available for long-term let at the rear of the bird observatory building. A further five pitches for long-term let by volunteers are located on our land at Sykes Field.

Building partnerships: We acknowledge the contributions of many sponsors and supporters of the bird observatory in 2024. These include: British Birds Charitable Trust, East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Opticron, Rare Bird Alert, Swarovski Optic, Sheffield Bird Study Group, The John Lewis Foundation, The Phil Ridsdale Young Birder's Memorial Bursary and Yorkshire Coast Nature. The support of these organisations has, for example, enabled the charity to increase its engagement with young people to support and develop their interest in birds and natural history this year.

The bird observatory leads 'The Easington Little Tern Protection Scheme'. It does so through partnership with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), the Environment Agency, Natural England, the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust (YWT) and South Holderness Countryside Society.

2. Conservation of wildlife

Recording bird population and migration information: All bird records are provided to the BTO and the YWT as well as being made available to any bona fide researcher. The daily bird log, which continues to be enhanced by our systematic counts along Spurn Point, is inputted into an excel spreadsheet and fed directly into the BTO BirdTrack database. The bird observatory considers it is essential to contribute to the circa 2.2 million records entered nationally into this database each year. A daily list of individual species counts from Spurn is also entered on the international bird migration Trektellen website. This data helps with international efforts to monitor bird populations, trends and distribution.

Protecting rare breeding birds: The Easington Little Tern Protection Scheme at Beacon Ponds was managed by the Trust for the 24th consecutive year. A warden was employed thanks to external funding and they were assisted by several volunteers in order to give 24-hour coverage. The bird observatory is grateful to Richard Boon for coordinating this work. Richard's independently written 2024 book 'Clinging to the Edge' captures some of this work over many years and the ecology and conservation of this species.

Documenting rare and scarce migrant birds: Records of 15 national rare bird species in 2024 were passed to the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC) for review. Approximately 30 records of scarce local bird species were shared with the Yorkshire Naturalist's Union (YNU) records committee for review.

Contributing to national databases: Our bird ringing data is passed to the BTO and contributes towards the conservation policies of bodies such as Natural England. The bird observatory also records important field sightings of birds that have been ringed elsewhere. This adds to species conservation. A Sandwich Tern that was ringed at the nest, in Cumbria in 2019, was seen in South Africa over 10,000km away in 2022 and then was seen at Northumberland and Lothian in 2024 and by us on 10 August 2024. A juvenile Osprey ringed in Scotland this year that was subsequently photographed flying south past Spurn.

Monthly counts of birds using the Humber estuary were carried out under the auspices of the Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS), a national initiative supported by the major conservation and research bodies in the United Kingdom: the BTO, Wildfowl and Wetland Trust, RSPB and Natural England.

Developing local wildlife habitat: The management of our land at Church Field, Corner Field, Sykes Field continued. We have also developed two hay meadows known as Schippers Field to include scrub and a wildflower meadow. Our land has been enhanced further for breeding and migrant birds, bees, flora, insects, dragonflies, moths and butterflies.

The wardens and volunteers continue to liaise with the other land owners as Spurn, in particular the YWT, Westmere Farm and Sandy Beaches caravan park in pursuit of our aims and objectives. We are grateful to both organisations for access to their land.

Directors

Rob Adams BEM
Sarah Harris (chair)
Tim Jones

Management Committee

Marcus Brew
Paul Collins (warden)
Rob Hunton (observatory manager)
Gareth Picton (treasurer)(until June 2024)
Kieran Lawrence
Ollie Metcalf
Pete Short
Graham Speight
Tim Vaughan (secretary)
Nick Whitehouse

Science and research sub-committee

Daniel Wade
Richard Boon
Marcus Brew
Paul Collins (warden)
Rob Hunton (observatory manager)
Sarah Harris
Kieran Lawrence
Tim Jones
Ollie Metcalf

Staff

Observatory Warden: Paul Collins

Observatory Manager: Rob Hunton

Seasonal assistant warden in 2024: Jacob Spinks

Seasonal Little Tern wardens in 2024: Joe Griffin, Bethan Clyne, Harry Coghill

Ambassador

Mark Cocker (resigned during 2024)

Publications

Jones, T. (ed): Spurn Wildlife 2024

Roadhouse A (2006) The Birds of Spurn ISBN 978-0-9565571-7-9

Bankers

HSBC Bank plc, 33 St Nicholas Street, Scarborough, YO11 2HN

Solicitors

Burstalls, PO Box 31, Ocean Chambers, 54 Lowgate, Hull, HU 1 1JF

Hamers, 5 Earls Court, Priory Park East, Hull. HU4 7DY

Independent Examiners

Hepworth Griffiths, 47/49 Grove Street, Retford, Notts. DN22 6LA

Insurers

Zurich Insurance plc, The Zurich Centre, 3000 Parkway, Whiteley, Fareham, Hants, PO15 7JZ.

The Caravan Club, East Grinstead House, East Grinstead, RH19 1UA

Investments

Charities Aid Foundation, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4TA

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Ltd is a registered charity No. 1141408.

Registered Office: Kew Villa, Seaside Road, Kilnsea, Hull HU12 0UB

The directors declare that they have approved the Trust's report above at the Annual General Meeting of 2 August 2025.

Signed on behalf of the charity.

Tim Vaughan
Secretary

Registration number: 07474287

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Unaudited Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

Hepworth Griffiths
Chartered Accountants
47/49 Grove Street
Retford
Nottinghamshire
DN22 6LA

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

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Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

Company Information

Directors	R Adams T Jones S J Harris
Registered office	Kew Villa Kilnsea East Yorkshire HU12 0UB
Solicitors	Burstalls Solicitors PO Box 31 Ocean Chambers 54 Lowgate Hull HU1 1JF
Bankers	HSBC Bank plc 33 St Nicholas Street Scarborough North Yorkshire YO11 2HN
Accountants	Hepworth Griffiths Chartered Accountants 47/49 Grove Street Retford Nottinghamshire DN22 6LA

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

Directors' Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

The directors present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Directors of the company

The directors who held office during the year were as follows:

R Adams

T Jones

S J Harris

Principal activity

The principal activity of the company is the advancement of the education of the public and the benefit of the community by

- a) the long term monitoring of bird populations their distribution and migration;
- b) the study and recording of objects of ornithological, botanical, entomological, zoological, geological, archaeological, historical or scientific interest in the Area of Benefit and other surrounding areas as may from time to time be considered reasonable and appropriate and disseminating the useful results from such research;
- c) the conservation of wildlife and by the encouragement of the breeding of wild birds, animals and insects in the Area of Benefit and its environs.

The Area of Benefit being the area of the Spurn Peninsula in the County of the East Riding of Yorkshire

Small companies provision statement

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to companies subject to the small companies regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

Approved by the Board on 2 August 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
R Adams
Director

.....
T Jones
Director

.....
S J Harris
Director

**Chartered Accountants' Report to the Board of Directors on the Preparation of the
Unaudited Statutory Accounts of
Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

In order to assist you to fulfil your duties under the Companies Act 2006, we have prepared for your approval the accounts of Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited for the year ended 31 December 2024 as set out on pages 4 to 13 from the company's accounting records and from information and explanations you have given us.

As a practising member firm of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), we are subject to its ethical and other professional requirements which are detailed at <http://www.icaew.com/regulation>.

This report is made solely to the Board of Directors of Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited, as a body, in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken solely to prepare for your approval the accounts of Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited and state those matters that we have agreed to state to the Board of Directors of Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited, as a body, in this report in accordance with ICAEW Technical Release 07/16 AAF. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited and its Board of Directors as a body for our work or for this report.

It is your duty to ensure that Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited has kept adequate accounting records and to prepare statutory accounts that give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit of Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited. You consider that Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited is exempt from the statutory audit requirement for the year.

We have not been instructed to carry out an audit or a review of the accounts of Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited. For this reason, we have not verified the accuracy or completeness of the accounting records or information and explanations you have given to us and we do not, therefore, express any opinion on the statutory accounts.

.....

Hepworth Griffiths
Chartered Accountants
47/49 Grove Street
Retford
Nottinghamshire
DN22 6LA
2 August 2025

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

Profit and Loss Account for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Turnover		172,396	183,947
Cost of sales		<u>(3,888)</u>	<u>(3,139)</u>
Gross surplus		168,508	180,808
Administrative expenses		<u>(148,700)</u>	<u>(139,909)</u>
Operating surplus		<u>19,808</u>	<u>40,899</u>
Other interest receivable and similar income		491	2,094
Interest payable and similar expenses		<u>(6,819)</u>	<u>(6,881)</u>
		<u>(6,328)</u>	<u>(4,787)</u>
Surplus before tax		<u>13,480</u>	<u>36,112</u>
Surplus for the financial year		<u><u>13,480</u></u>	<u><u>36,112</u></u>

The above results were derived from continuing operations.

The company has no recognised gains or losses for the year other than the results above.

The notes on pages 9 to 13 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

Statement of Comprehensive Income for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
Surplus for the year	<u>13,480</u>	<u>36,112</u>
Total comprehensive income for the year	<u><u>13,480</u></u>	<u><u>36,112</u></u>

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

(Registration number: 07474287)

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	4	580,559	437,159
Other financial assets	5	<u>6,203</u>	<u>6,203</u>
		<u>586,762</u>	<u>443,362</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	6	1,200	46,297
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>76,727</u>	<u>150,141</u>
		77,927	196,438
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	7	<u>(38,554)</u>	<u>(30,780)</u>
Net current assets		<u>39,373</u>	<u>165,658</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		626,135	609,020
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	7	<u>(89,020)</u>	<u>(100,385)</u>
Net assets		<u>537,115</u>	<u>508,635</u>
Reserves			
Other reserves		15,000	-
Retained earnings		<u>522,115</u>	<u>508,635</u>
Surplus		<u>537,115</u>	<u>508,635</u>

The notes on pages 9 to 13 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

(Registration number: 07474287)

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2024

For the financial year ending 31 December 2024 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476; and
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to companies subject to the small companies regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

Approved and authorised by the Board on 2 August 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
R Adams
Director

.....
T Jones
Director

.....
S J Harris
Director

The notes on pages 9 to 13 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

Statement of Changes in Equity for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

	Other reserves	Retained	Total
	£	earnings	£
At 1 January 2024	-	508,635	508,635
Surplus for the year	-	13,480	13,480
Transfers	15,000	-	15,000
At 31 December 2024	<u>15,000</u>	<u>522,115</u>	<u>537,115</u>
	Other reserves	Retained	Total
	£	earnings	£
At 1 January 2023	21,963	472,523	494,486
Surplus for the year	-	36,112	36,112
Transfers	(21,963)	-	(21,963)
At 31 December 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>508,635</u>	<u>508,635</u>

The notes on pages 9 to 13 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

Notes to the Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

1 General information

The company is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated in England, and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the members is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £Nil towards the assets of the company in the event of liquidation.

The address of its registered office is:

Kew Villa
Kilnsea
East Yorkshire
HU12 0UB

These financial statements were authorised for issue by the Board on 2 August 2025.

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 Section 1A smaller entities - 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006 (as applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime).

Basis of preparation

These financial statements have been prepared using the historical cost convention except that as disclosed in the accounting policies certain items are shown at fair value.

Revenue recognition

Turnover comprises the fair value of the consideration received or receivable for the sale of goods and provision of services in the ordinary course of the company's activities. Turnover is shown net of sales/value added tax, returns, rebates and discounts.

The company recognises revenue when:

The amount of revenue can be reliably measured;
it is probable that future economic benefits will flow to the entity;
and specific criteria have been met for each of the company's activities.

Tangible assets

Tangible assets are stated in the balance sheet at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

The cost of tangible assets includes directly attributable incremental costs incurred in their acquisition and installation.

Depreciation

Depreciation is charged so as to write off the cost of assets, other than land and properties under construction over their estimated useful lives, as follows:

Asset class

Land and building

Depreciation method and rate

No depreciation charged

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

Notes to the Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the company will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Trade creditors

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the company does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade creditors are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Borrowings

Interest-bearing borrowings are initially recorded at fair value, net of transaction costs. Interest-bearing borrowings are subsequently carried at amortised cost, with the difference between the proceeds, net of transaction costs, and the amount due on redemption being recognised as a charge to the profit and loss account over the period of the relevant borrowing.

Interest expense is recognised on the basis of the effective interest method and is included in interest payable and similar charges.

Borrowings are classified as current liabilities unless the company has an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least twelve months after the reporting date.

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

Notes to the Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

3 Staff numbers

The average number of persons employed by the company (including directors) during the year, was 7 (2023 - 7).

4 Tangible assets

	Land and buildings £	Total £
Cost or valuation		
At 1 January 2024	437,159	437,159
Additions	143,400	143,400
At 31 December 2024	580,559	580,559
Depreciation		
Carrying amount		
At 31 December 2024	580,559	580,559
At 31 December 2023	437,159	437,159

Included within the net book value of land and buildings above is £580,559 (2023 - £437,159) in respect of freehold land and buildings.

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

Notes to the Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

5 Other financial assets (current and non-current)

	Financial assets at cost less impairment £	Total £
Non-current financial assets		
Cost or valuation		
At 1 January 2024	6,203	6,203
At 31 December 2024	6,203	6,203
Impairment		
Carrying amount		
At 31 December 2024	6,203	6,203

6 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Current		
Amounts owed by related parties	-	46,297
Other debtors	1,200	-
	1,200	46,297

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

Notes to the Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

7 Creditors

Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Due within one year		
Accruals and deferred income	38,554	30,780

Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Due after one year			
Loans and borrowings	8	89,020	100,385

8 Loans and borrowings

Non-current loans and borrowings

	2024 £	2023 £
Bank borrowings	89,020	100,385

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

Detailed Profit and Loss Account for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
Turnover (analysed below)	172,396	183,947
Cost of sales (analysed below)	<u>(3,888)</u>	<u>(3,139)</u>
Gross surplus	<u>168,508</u>	<u>180,808</u>
Gross surplus (%)	97.74%	98.29%
Administrative expenses		
Employment costs (analysed below)	(90,087)	(65,854)
Establishment costs (analysed below)	(22,060)	(35,612)
General administrative expenses (analysed below)	(36,366)	(38,295)
Finance charges (analysed below)	<u>(187)</u>	<u>(148)</u>
	<u>(148,700)</u>	<u>(139,909)</u>
Operating surplus	<u>19,808</u>	<u>40,899</u>
Other interest receivable and similar income (analysed below)	491	2,094
Interest payable and similar charges (analysed below)	<u>(6,819)</u>	<u>(6,881)</u>
	<u>(6,328)</u>	<u>(4,787)</u>
Surplus before tax	<u><u>13,480</u></u>	<u><u>36,112</u></u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements.

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

Detailed Profit and Loss Account for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
Turnover		
Caravan pitches	18,197	23,946
Accommodation fees	25,515	25,214
Donation's received	76,602	83,442
Friends of Spurn subscriptions	27,655	26,775
Radio donation and rent	1,932	1,855
Tax refunds	8,868	6,498
Spurn science income	276	3,114
Spurn shop income, reports/books	7,024	5,424
Rent from Warden	4,000	5,100
Other income	2,327	2,579
	<u>172,396</u>	<u>183,947</u>
Cost of sales		
Purchases - Spurn shop	(3,888)	(3,139)
Employment costs		
Wages and salaries	(88,985)	(65,854)
Staff training	(1,102)	-
	<u>(90,087)</u>	<u>(65,854)</u>
Establishment costs		
Rates	(1,703)	(1,398)
Light, heat and power	(7,661)	(15,540)
Insurance	(1,348)	(1,343)
Repairs and maintenance	(1,266)	(7,670)
Site maintenance	(10,082)	(9,661)
	<u>(22,060)</u>	<u>(35,612)</u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements.

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

Detailed Profit and Loss Account for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
General administrative expenses		
Telephone and fax	(877)	(1,005)
Domestic supplies and services	(239)	(311)
Guided walks and events	(11,231)	(8,884)
Fundraising expenses BBQ	(295)	(461)
Rings and ringing equipment	(1,197)	(4,490)
Bird food	-	(748)
Printing, postage and stationery	(17,235)	(16,595)
Trade subscriptions	(263)	(249)
Sundry expenses	(4,842)	(4,518)
Motor expenses	(187)	(1,034)
	<u>(36,366)</u>	<u>(38,295)</u>
Finance charges		
Bank charges	<u>(187)</u>	<u>(148)</u>
Other interest receivable and similar income		
Bank interest receivable	<u>491</u>	<u>2,094</u>
Interest payable and similar expenses		
Loan interest	<u>(6,819)</u>	<u>(6,881)</u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements.

SPURN BIRD OBSERVATORY TRUST LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1141408

Accounts

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Unaudited Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Hepworth Griffiths
Chartered Accountants
47/49 Grove Street
Retford
Nottinghamshire
DN22 6LA

Chartered Accountants' Independent examination report to the Board of Directors of Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 4 to 12.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

examine the accounts under section 145 to the 2011 Act;

follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and

state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and

to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

John A Hepworth ACA
Hepworth Griffiths
Chartered Accountants
47/49 Grove Street
Retford
Nottinghamshire
DN22 6LA

03 August 2024

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited
(Registration number: 07474287)
Balance Sheet at 31 December 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
Fixed assets		
Tangible fixed assets	437,159	437,159
Other financial assets	6,203	6,203
	<u>443,362</u>	<u>443,362</u>
Current assets		
Debtors	46,297	-
Cash at bank and in hand	150,141	178,623
	196,438	178,623
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	<u>(30,780)</u>	<u>(16,196)</u>
Net current assets	<u>165,658</u>	<u>162,427</u>
Total assets less current liabilities	609,020	605,789
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	<u>(100,385)</u>	<u>(111,303)</u>
Net assets	<u><u>508,635</u></u>	<u><u>494,486</u></u>
 Capital and reserves		
Other reserves	-	21,963
Profit and loss account	508,635	472,523
Total equity	<u><u>508,635</u></u>	<u><u>494,486</u></u>

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited
Profit and Loss Account
For the Year Ended 31 December 2023

	2023		2022	
	£	£	£	£
Turnover (analysed below)		183,947		176,229
Cost of sales - Spurn shop		<u>(3,139)</u>		<u>(3,257)</u>
Gross profit		<u>180,808</u>		<u>172,972</u>
Gross profit (%)		98.29%		98.15%
Administrative expenses				
Employment costs (analysed below)	(65,854)		(59,591)	
Establishment costs (analysed below)	(35,612)		(18,480)	
Administrative expenses (analysed below)	(38,295)		(28,428)	
Finance charges	<u>(148)</u>		<u>(198)</u>	
		(139,909)		(106,697)
Income from fixed assets investments (CAF)		-		-
Bank interest receivable		2,094		232
Loan interest		(6,881)		(4,608)
Profit before taxation		<u><u>36,112</u></u>		<u><u>61,899</u></u>

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited
Profit and Loss Account
For the Year Ended 31 December 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
Turnover		
Caravan pitches	23,946	23,200
Accommodation fees	25,214	22,808
Donation's recived	83,442	66,180
Friends of Spurn subscriptions	26,775	28,370
Radio donation and rent	1,855	2,057
Tax refunds	6,498	7,253
Spurn science income	3,114	9,167
Spurn shop income, reports/books	5,424	5,872
Rent from Warden	5,100	4,550
Other income	2,579	1,438
Grants and subsidies receivable	-	5,334
	<u>183,947</u>	<u>176,229</u>
 Employment costs		
Wages and salaries	<u>65,854</u>	<u>59,591</u>
 Establishment costs		
Rates	1,398	1,409
Light,heat and power	15,540	9,493
Insurance	1,343	1,448
Repairs and maintenance	7,670	3,334
Site maintenance	9,661	2,796
	<u>35,612</u>	<u>18,480</u>
 Administrative expenses		
Telephone and fax	1,005	1,069
Domestic supplies and services	311	245
Guided walks and events	8,884	4,885
Fundraising expenses BBQ	461	464
Rings and ringing equipment	4,490	2,104
Bird food	748	381
Printing, postage and stationery	16,595	15,697
Trade subscriptions	249	249
Sundry expenses	4,518	2,324
Motor expenses	1,034	710
Legal and professional fees	-	300
	<u>38,295</u>	<u>28,428</u>



SPURN BIRD OBSERVATORY TRUST LTD
Charity Registration No. 1141408

Annual Report 2023

This is the twelfth annual report of the Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Ltd ('the bird observatory').

The bird observatory draws on a history of operation at Spurn since 1945 when it was the third in the UK and the first on the UK mainland.

We acknowledge the inspiring, foundational work of two pioneering birders in the 1940s, our co-founders Ralph Chislett and George H. Ainsworth. The Trust registered as a charitable company with Companies House and as a charity with the Charities Commission on 20 December 2010. The bird observatory is an accredited member of the Bird Observatories Council as it meets specified criteria relating to activities and facilities for the long-term monitoring of bird populations and migration.

Aims and objectives of the Trust

For the advancement of the education of the public by:

the long-term monitoring of bird populations their distribution and migration; the study and recording of objects of ornithological, botanical, entomological, zoological, geological, archaeological, historical or scientific interest in the Area of Benefit and other surrounding areas as may from time to time be considered reasonable and appropriate; and disseminating the useful results from such research for the benefit of the community by the conservation of wildlife and the encouragement of the breeding of wild birds, animals and insects in the Area of Benefit and its environs.

The **Area of Benefit** is the area of the Spurn Peninsula, including Kilnsea and Easington, in the East Riding in the county of Yorkshire.

Administration

The bird observatory is administered by a board of directors who are assisted by a voluntary, co-opted management committee of nine further individuals. The directors and management committee met three times during the year. Copies of the minutes of the meetings are displayed in the common room of the bird observatory building for reference by any interested party. Key items from the minutes are included in the bird observatory monthly newsletter as appropriate. The Trust employs a full-time warden and full-time operations manager to carry out and oversee the daily activities of the charity in pursuit of its aims. In 2023, three seasonal wardens were also employed to conduct the Little Tern protection scheme and were assisted by a team of volunteers.

We remain grateful for the support of our ambassador, the multi award winning author and naturalist, Mark Cocker.

The bird observatory operates self-catering residential accommodation in a converted four-bedroom property in the village of Kilnsea. The premises can accommodate up to 13 visitors, available at a modest charge to any visiting naturalist or other individual who is prepared to support the aims of the Trust.

A small bungalow owned by the Trust that provides residential accommodation for the warden and observatory manager, was replaced in 2023. A new, better-insulated and more energy-efficient building replaced the bungalow on the same footprint. This has reduced our overall environmental impact. Thanks to financial support from members, as well as a grant from East Riding Council, the building includes solar panels and battery storage. The new energy performance certificate is A-rated, which is exceptionally rare for a new building.

The observatory owns a certificated caravan site, sited next door to the warden's premises. This provides pitches for up to five touring caravans. The pitches are available for rent to anyone who wishes to experience and enjoy the local area. Three permanent caravan pitches are available for long-term let at the rear of the bird observatory building. A further five pitches for long-term let are located at Sykes Field.

Review of the year

2023 was another successful year for the charity. Within our defined recording area of Spurn, we recorded 267 bird species. The highlights included Dartford Warbler, Upland Sandpiper and Black-throated Thrush as new species for the recording area. Other notable rarities included the second American Wigeon, the third Ring-necked Duck, the fourth Red-eyed Vireo, trapped and ringed at the Warren, a showy late spring Great Snipe, three Red-flanked Bluetail, one or two Pacific Golden Plover, American Golden Plover, Kentish Plover, three Alpine Swifts, two Coue's Arctic Redpolls and a Pallid Harrier.

It was yet again a productive year for scarce birds. For example, with sightings of Woodlark, Nightjar, Hen Harrier and Red-backed Shrike. Good numbers of Waxwings were seen in the last two months of the year. There were record counts of Bee-eater (12 in May), Glossy Ibis (three in October) and Cetti's Warbler (eight in September); with the increase of these three southerly species seemingly indicative of a warming UK climate.

The Friendship Agreement between Spurn Bird Observatory, Cape May Bird Observatory (USA), Falsterbo Bird Observatory (Sweden) and Long Point Bird Observatory (Canada) entered its eighth year in 2023. The partnership continued, including regular Skype meetings were held throughout the year involving the heads of each observatory to share experiences and insights.

The Easington Little Tern Protection Scheme ran for the 23rd consecutive year. The local project, led by the Trust, is a joint partnership with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), the Environment Agency, Natural England, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust (YWT) and South Holderness Countryside Society. See below for further details.

The annual Friends of Spurn barbecue in August and our annual bird migration festival (MigFest) in early September enabled the bird observatory to continue to engage with birders from around the UK. We are very grateful to Friends of Spurn for their ongoing support through their voluntary work and financial support through membership fees. We promoted Spurn Bird Observatory at the Leeds Bird Fair in May 2023. When attending the Global Bird Fair in Rutland in July, we reached some of the 11,500 attendees to explain our work.

Our tenth annual bird migration festival (MigFest) took place on the weekend of 8-10 September 2023. Through this event, the bird observatory engaged with approx. 500 people. Birders, friends and families came to watch birds, talk and learn together. The bird observatory organised opportunities or inspiring seminars and lectures, guided walks and bird ringing demonstrations. Visitors also had opportunities to purchase books, magazines and artwork from visiting stall holders. At MigFest, we also conducted our annual Martin Garner Young Birder of the Year competition in partnership with the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO).

We are very grateful to the owners of Sandy Beaches caravan park for providing an excellent venue for MigFest event. The festival included a series of fantastic lectures, such as keynote talks from Stephen Menzie about bird moult and from Sacha Dench about flying with Bewick's Swans on migration. There were approximately 100 volunteers who contributed their time, helping to again make MigFest a great success. Paul Willoughby oversaw the organisation and operation of MigFest 2023. The arrangements for food at MigFest again benefited from the efforts of Pat Degnan and Andrea Vaughan and their coordination of the work of many others.

The directors and committee of the Trust wish to record thanks to the warden Paul Collins and operations manager Rob Hunton, for their work to ensure the smooth working of the bird observatory during 2023. The ten seasonal and many other volunteers have also made many helpful contributions to our charitable work throughout the year, for example assisting with habitat management, bird recording, visitor liaison and the operation of MigFest. The directors and committee of the Trust are particularly grateful for many voluntary contributions to the work of the bird observatory during the year from local residents. These include Richard Boon, Steve & Pam Exley, Ian & Sharon Smith, Jacob Spinks and Paul J & Thomas Willoughby.

This directors and committee of the Trust wish also to acknowledge the contributions of many sponsors and supporters of the bird observatory in 2023, including British Birds Charitable Trust, East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Opticron, Rare Bird Alert, Swarovski Optic, The Phil Ridsdale Sheffield Bird Study Group Young Birder's Memorial Bursary and Yorkshire Coast Nature. The support of these organisations has, for example, enabled the charity to increase engagement with young people to support and develop their interest in birds and natural history.

A summary of how our activities have fulfilled our aim of providing public benefit now follows.

Benefit to the Public

1. Advancement of education:

The bird observatory provides inexpensive self-catering accommodation for rental by individuals, or groups, in support of their own research or so they can participate in the long-term studies of the Trust.

Staff and volunteers conduct a daily census of resident and migrating birds. All records are provided to the BTO and YWT as well as being made available to any bona fide researcher. The daily bird log, which continues to be enhanced by our systematic counts along Spurn Point, is inputted into an excel spreadsheet and fed directly into the BTO BirdTrack database. A daily list of individual species counts is also entered on the international bird migration Trektellen website. Monthly counts of birds using the Humber estuary were also carried out under the auspices of the Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS), a national initiative supported by the major conservation and research bodies in the United Kingdom: the BTO, Wildfowl and Wetland Trust, RSPB and Natural England. Counts are conducted at both high and low tide in order to increase our understanding of the way in which the Humber estuary is used by wading birds and wildfowl. The Trust again assisted the Humber Wader Ringing Group in its long-term study of wading birds on the Humber estuary. Target species are Redshank, Curlew and Bar-tailed Godwit which are being colour-ringed with the aim of monitoring their movements within the estuary.

An annual breeding bird survey was again conducted, using the BTO's guidelines for their breeding bird census. For the fifth consecutive year the breeding bird survey included the whole recording area, rather than the 'old observatory' area. This allows us to establish the true status of breeding birds in our area and feeds into our conservation work. A total of 59 species were confirmed as breeding in the recording area in 2023.

Birders come to Spurn to witness bird migration, as well as to observe scarce and rare birds. In support of this activity in 2023, staff and volunteers continued to actively share bird news via our registered two-way radio system, frequently update the bird observatory's social media feed on x (approx. 425 followers) and WhatsApp groups, update a sightings screen at the bird observatory hub and post a daily summary of bird sightings on our webpage.

All of our historical records from the 1940s onwards are stored at the East Yorkshire Archives at the Treasure House in Beverley. The catalogued information includes all the annual written bird logs and ringing and recovery data from 1945, together with notebooks, photographs and a range of typical administrative material. The focus is on birds, but there is also a wealth of additional material on lepidoptera. The information is stored there under proper climatic care and security, to national standards. The catalogue being linked to the National Archives at Kew.

Due to the protection programme, 58 pairs of Little Tern bred this year, fledging 107 chicks – a record year. The first successful breeding of Little Ringed Plover occurred, with a pair fledging at least two young.

The bird observatory ringed 6,563 birds of 99 species in 2023. This activity remains an integral part of our work as a bird observatory, undertaken within the national scheme which is licensed under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and co-ordinated by the BTO. Our work provides data that contributes towards the conservation policies of such bodies as Natural England. Data on recoveries of ringed species added further to our knowledge of bird migration.

The bird observatory again provided a programme of regular walks (led by employees and volunteers) for visitors during the spring and autumn. These events coincided with public bird ringing demonstrations when weather conditions were

suitable. Once again, the walks were well attended and appreciated by beginners and experienced naturalists alike.

After birds, our second most important area of study is *Lepidoptera* (butterflies and moths). Three mercury vapour traps were operated by the observatory this year. Traps in Church Field and Kew Villa were in use from March to November, with one in the bird observatory garden run sporadically throughout the season. A total of 24 species of butterfly were recorded at Spurn in 2023. Highlights included excellent numbers of Meadow Brown, Comma and Speckled Wood, whilst Peacock also made somewhat of a recovery following a number of poor years. There were 21 new moth species for the area this year.

Dragonflies recorded in 2023 included the third records of both Norfolk Hawker and Lesser Emperor, as well as the first Red-veined Darter for two years. It was a record year for sightings of Broad-bodied Chaser.

A total of 19 species of mammal were recorded in 2023. The highlight being the discovery of a Pine Marten hunting rabbit at the Point, followed by a series of further sightings of this fabulous mammal across the recording area in April and May.

The observatory science and research sub-committee continued its work to continue standardised counts in the recording area. Bird ringing continues as does the collating of data from seawatching, wildfowl counts and visual migration watches. The observatory continues to contribute to colour-ringing and tagging projects: four Twite were ringed with unique combinations of colour rings for *The Twite Network*. The study of breeding Little Terns included pulli fitted with a uniquely coded larger plastic ring (a darvic ring), along with the standard BTO ring. The sub-committee continues to oversee discounted researcher rates for staying in the observatory. Grants are made available to researchers, academic or otherwise, to apply for funding from the bird observatory to support research costs as well as travel, accommodation and food.

The bird observatory continues to participate in an international research network that uses coordinated automated radio telemetry to facilitate research and education on the ecology and conservation of migratory birds. We continue to operate a Motus receiver at Spurn. Using the Motus receiver, it is possible to get 'hits' (records) of birds with tags in the area, tagged elsewhere. Mostly this acts as a receiver of information from birds tagged on the continent where tagging is carried out more frequently than here in the UK.

The International Young Persons Exchange between Spurn Bird Observatory, Cape May Bird Observatory, Long Point Bird Observatory and Falsterbo Bird Observatory in 2023 continued. Two birders from Spurn visited Long Point. The programme allows young people to: (i) develop new skills and experience the work of overseas observatories (ii) contribute to the work of the host observatory (iii) increase awareness of key international bird migration and conservation studies.

2. Conservation of wildlife:

The Easington Little Tern Protection Scheme at Beacon Ponds was managed by the Trust for the 23rd consecutive year. A warden was employed thanks to external funding and they were assisted by several volunteers in order to give 24-hour coverage. The bird observatory is grateful to Richard Boon for coordinating this work.

Management of our land at Church Field, Corner Field and Sykes Field continued and was enhanced further for birds, bees and insects, dragonflies, moths and butterflies. The previous acquisition by the bird observatory of two hay meadows named as Schipper's Field resulted in carefully planned habitat management work, such as the planting of 300 trees by a volunteer work party.

The wardens and volunteers continue to liaise with the other land owners as Spurn, in particular the YWT, Westmere Farm and Sandy Beaches caravan park in pursuit of our aims and objectives. We are grateful to both organisations for access to their land.

In 2023, the bird observatory signed a long-term lease agreement with South Holderness Countryside Society (SHCS) for the land that SHCS owns at Beacon Lagoons Nature Reserve. This will make running the Little Tern project a little easier for the bird observatory in its liaison with Natural England and Environment Agency when consents are required, but nothing else is planned to change, with access still being restricted.

Also see the 'Advancement of Education', section re the conservation work being carried out by the Science and Research Sub-committee.

A full summary of our records and activities can be found in our annual publication: *Spurn Wildlife 2023*

Directors

Rob Adams

Tim Jones

Tony Hull (until 21 December 2023)

Sarah Harris

Directors of the Trust are recruited by the charity from keen birders who contribute to the voluntary work of the bird observatory. They have specific expertise to help guide the ongoing work of the charity in pursuit of its stated aims and objectives.

Management Committee

Marcus Brew

Paul Collins (warden)

Rob Hunton (observatory manager)

Gareth Picton (treasurer)

Kieran Lawrence

Ollie Metcalfe

Pete Short

Graham J Speight

Tim Vaughan (secretary)

Nick P Whitehouse

Science and research sub-committee

Daniel Wade

Richard Boon

Adam Hutt

Marcus Brew

Paul Collins (warden)

Rob Hunton (observatory manager)

Sarah Harris
Kieran Lawrence
Tim Jones
Ollie Metcalfe

Staff

Observatory Warden: Paul Collins
Observatory Manager: Rob Hunton
Seasonal Little Tern Wardens: Jacob Spinks, Tom Wright, Harry Coghill.

Publications

Jones, T. (ed): Spurn Wildlife 2023
Roadhouse A (2006) The Birds of Spurn ISBN 978-0-9565571-7-9

Bankers

HSBC Bank plc, 33 St Nicholas Street, Scarborough, YO11 2HN

Solicitors

Burstalls, PO Box 31, Ocean Chambers, 54 Lowgate, Hull, HU 1 1JF
Hamers, 5 Earls Court, Priory Park East, Hull. HU4 7DY

Independent Examiners

Hepworth Griffiths, 47/49 Grove Street, Retford, Notts. DN22 6LA

Insurers

Zurich Insurance plc, The Zurich Centre, 3000 Parkway, Whiteley, Fareham, Hants, PO15 7JZ.
The Caravan Club, East Grinstead House, East Grinstead, RH19 1UA

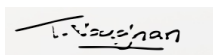
Investments

Charities Aid Foundation, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4TA

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Ltd is a registered charity No. 1141408.
Registered Office: Kew Villa, Seaside Road, Kilnsea, Hull HU12 0UB

The directors declare that they have approved the Trust's report above at the Annual General Meeting of 3 August 2024.

Signed on behalf of the charity.



Tim Vaughan
Secretary

SPURN BIRD OBSERVATORY TRUST LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1141408

Accounts



Member of the
Bird Observatories Council

SPURN BIRD OBSERVATORY TRUST LTD

Charity Registration No. 1141408

Annual Report 2022

This is the **ninth** annual report of the Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Ltd ('the bird observatory').

The bird observatory draws on a history of operation at Spurn since 1945 when it was the third in the UK and the first on the UK mainland. We acknowledge the inspiring foundational work of the co-founders Ralph Chislett and George H. Ainsworth. The Trust registered as a charitable company with Companies House and as a charity with the Charities Commission on 20 December 2010. The bird observatory is an accredited member of the Bird Observatories Council as it meets specified criteria relating to activities and facilities for the long-term monitoring of bird populations and migration.

Aims and objectives of the Trust

For the advancement of the education of the public by:

the long-term monitoring of bird populations their distribution and migration; the study and recording of objects of ornithological, botanical, entomological, zoological, geological, archaeological, historical or scientific interest in the Area of Benefit and other surrounding areas as may from time to time be considered reasonable and appropriate; and disseminating the useful results from such research for the benefit of the community by the conservation of wildlife and the encouragement of the breeding of wild birds, animals and insects in the Area of Benefit and its environs.

The **Area of Benefit** is the area of the Spurn Peninsula in the East Riding in the county of Yorkshire.

Administration

The bird observatory is administered by a board of directors who are assisted by a voluntary, co-opted management committee of nine further individuals. The directors and management committee met three times during the year. Copies of the minutes of the meetings are displayed in the common room of the bird observatory building for reference by any interested party. Key items from the minutes were included in the bird observatory monthly newsletter as appropriate. The Trust employs a full-time warden and full-time operations manager to carry out and oversee the daily activities of the charity in pursuit of its aims. Three seasonal wardens were also employed to conduct the Little Tern protection scheme and were assisted by a team of volunteers.

The bird observatory operates self-catering residential accommodation in a converted four-bedroom property in the village of Kilnsea. The premises can accommodate up to 13 visitors, available at a modest charge to any visiting naturalist or other individual who is prepared to support the aims of the Trust.

A small bungalow is owned by the Trust which provides residential accommodation for the warden and observatory manager. A certificated caravan site is sited next door to the bungalow and provides pitches for up to five touring caravans. The pitches are available for rent to anyone who wishes to experience and enjoy the local area. Three permanent pitches are also available for long-term let at the rear of the bird observatory building. A further five pitches for long-term let are located at Sykes Field.

Review of the year

2022 was another successful year for the charity. Within our defined recording area of Spurn, we recorded 251 bird species. The birding highlight of the year came in late October with our first-ever Eastern Yellow Wagtail present for a few days at Kilnsea Wetlands. Sightings of a stunning Masked Wagtail and a Spanish Wagtail were our first records of these rare subspecies. We noted our second-ever Brown Shrike - a smart adult type in the spring. The fifth-ever Pallid Harrier, a female, graced one day of the MigFest. Our ninth and tenth Citrine Wagtails were seen together by the Riverside Hotel also during Migfest. During a national influx we recorded our ninth-12th Pallid Swifts typically late in the year. Sightings of the 11-12th Cattle Egrets came at each end of the year. Our 13-14th Blyth's Reed Warblers involved a singing bird in spring and a typical autumn record. The 16th Arctic Warbler obliged one day in canal hedge, the 16-17th Red-flanked Bluetails delighted, while our 17-20th White-rumped Sandpipers graced the area with the first multiple sighting when two were off the Warren. A Bonelli's Warbler spp on Beacon Lane was not identified to species level because it did not call but was rewarding to see nonetheless. A female Western Subalpine Warbler was also a notable rarity.

Locally-rare bird species that we recorded this year included the 15th-ever Black Guillemot, two Green Woodpeckers and a Willow Tit.

It was yet again a productive year for scarce birds. For example, we recorded at least 12 Red-rumped Swallows passing through, six Cory's Shearwaters, (including a late bird in November), 20 Spoonbills, five Honey Buzzards (spring and autumn), a Rough-legged Buzzard, two Black Kites, three Temminck's Stint with a long staying juvenile in September, three Red-necked Phalaropes together on Beacon ponds, three sightings of Grey Phalaropes, a showy Stone Curlew, four Quails, four Nightjars, five Bee-eaters, just a single Golden Oriole, four Turtle Doves, two Hoopoe, six Woodlark, three Shore Larks, an Olive-backed Pipit, just two Barred Warblers including one long stayer, three Icterine Warbler, one Dusky Warbler, four Pallas's Warblers, a return of decent numbers of Yellow-browed Warblers, two Red-breasted Flycatcher, three Red-backed Shrikes, a Great Grey Shrike, six Wrynecks, two Serin and three Little Bunting.

We are thrilled to now have a new patron, the multi award winning author and naturalist Mark Cocker.

The Friendship Agreement between Spurn Bird Observatory, Cape May Bird Observatory (USA), Falsterbo Bird Observatory (Sweden) and Long Point Bird Observatory (Canada) entered its seventh year in 2022. The partnership continued to strengthen despite COVID-19 restrictions on international travel for the second consecutive year. Regular Skype meetings were held throughout the year involving the heads of each observatory to share experiences and insights.

The Easington Little Tern Protection Scheme ran for the 22nd consecutive year. The local project, led by the Trust, is a joint partnership with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), Environment Agency, Natural England, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust (YWT) and South Holderness Countryside Society. See below for further details.

The annual Friends of Spurn barbecue in August and our annual bird migration festival (MigFest) in early September enabled the bird observatory to continue to engage with birders from around the UK. We are very grateful to Friends of Spurn for their ongoing support through their voluntary work and financial support through membership fees. We promoted Spurn Bird Observatory at the Leeds Bird Fair in May 2022. When attending the Global Bird Fair in Rutland in July, we reached some of the 11,600 attendees to explain our work. At that event, the bird observatory gave a talk on the effects of climate change on migrants at Spurn and presented Spurn as a low-carbon alternative to foreign travel.

Our ninth annual bird migration festival (MigFest) took place on the weekend of 9-11 September 2022. Through this event the bird observatory engaged with approx. 400 people. Birders, friends and families came to watch birds, talk and learn together. The bird observatory organised opportunities or inspiring seminars and lectures, guided walks and bird ringing demonstrations. Visitors also had opportunities to purchase books, magazines and artwork from visiting stall holders. It was the seventh year that we conducted our Young Birder of the Year competition in partnership with the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO). Josiah Evans, aged 13, and Ben Rumsby, aged 15, won top prizes in the junior and senior categories respectively. The assessors were blown away by the skill and knowledge of all six finalists, aged between 10- and 15-years-old. Our huge thanks go to the owners of Sandy Beaches caravan park for providing an excellent venue for MigFest for the second year. The MigFest included a series of fantastic lectures including the keynote speeches from international experts Martin Collinson and Alex Lees.

The directors and committee of the Trust wish to record thanks to the warden Paul Collins, estate worker Jonnie Fisk and operations manager Tim Jones then subsequently Rob Hunton, for their work to ensure the smooth working of the bird observatory during 2022. The seasonal and other volunteers have also made many helpful contributions to our charitable work throughout the year, for example assisting with habitat management, bird recording, visitor liaison and the operation of MigFest. The directors and committee of the Trust are particularly grateful for many voluntary contributions to the work of the bird observatory during the year

from local residents including Steve Exley, Ian and Sharon Smith and Paul J & Thomas Willoughby.

This directors and committee of the Trust wish also to acknowledge the contributions of many sponsors and supporters of the bird observatory in 2022, including British Birds Charitable Trust, East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Opticron, Rare Bird Alert, Swarovski Optic and Yorkshire Coast Nature. The support of these organisations has, for example, enabled the charity to increase engagement with young people to support and develop their interest in birds and natural history.

A summary of how our activities have fulfilled our aim of providing public benefit now follows.

Benefit to the Public

1. Advancement of education:

The bird observatory provides inexpensive self-catering accommodation for rental by individuals, or groups, in support of their own research or so they can participate in the long-term studies of the Trust.

Staff and volunteers conduct a daily census of resident and migrating birds. All records are provided to the BTO and YWT as well as being made available to any bona fide researcher. The daily bird log, which continues to be enhanced by our systematic counts along Spurn Point is inputted into an excel spreadsheet and fed directly into the BTO BirdTrack database. A daily list of individual species counts is also entered on the international bird migration Trektellen website. Monthly counts of birds using the Humber estuary were also carried out under the auspices of the Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS), a national initiative supported by the major conservation and research bodies in the United Kingdom: the BTO, Wildfowl and Wetland Trust, RSPB and Natural England. Counts are conducted at both high and low tide in order to increase our understanding of the way in which the Humber estuary is used by wading birds and wildfowl. The Trust again assisted the Humber Wader Ringing Group in its long-term study of wading birds on the Humber estuary. Target species are Redshank, Curlew and Bar-tailed Godwit which are being colour-ringed with the aim of monitoring their movements within the estuary.

An annual breeding bird survey was again conducted. Data was gathered using the BTO's guidelines for their breeding bird census. For the fifth consecutive year the breeding bird survey included the whole recording area rather than the 'old observatory' area. This allows us to establish the true status of breeding birds in our area and feeds into our conservation work. A total of 55 species were confirmed as breeding in the recording area in 2022.

Birders come to Spurn to witness bird migration, as well as to observe scarce and rare birds. In support of this activity in 2022, staff and volunteers continued to actively share bird news via our registered two-way radio system, frequently update the bird observatory's Twitter feed

(approx. 425 followers) and WhatsApp groups and post a daily summary of bird sightings on our webpage.

All of our historical records from the 1940s onwards are now stored at the East Yorkshire Archives at the Treasure House in Beverley. The last tranche of historical records were passed to the archive during 2022. The catalogued information includes all the annual written bird logs and ringing and recovery data from 1945, together with notebooks, photographs and a range of typical administrative material. The focus is on birds, but there is also a wealth of additional material on lepidoptera. The information is stored there under proper climatic care and security, to national standards. The catalogue being linked to the National Archives at Kew.

Due to the protection programme 39 pairs of Little Tern bred this year. Other notable breeding bird successes included five pairs of Avocet at Kilnsea Wetlands/Beacon Ponds successfully fledged some young for the first time in three years. Unfortunately, there were no breeding Marsh Warbler at Spurn this year.

The bird observatory ringed 7,627 birds of 92 species in 2023. This activity remains an integral part of our work as a bird observatory, undertaken within the national scheme which is licensed under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and co-ordinated by the BTO. Our work provides data that contributes towards the conservation policies of such bodies as Natural England. In 2022, data on 37 recoveries of 20 ringed species added further to our knowledge of bird migration.

The winter 2021/2022 period saw some devastating wave action and erosion to the boulder clay cliffs in our recording area. The coastline from Godwin Battery (Sandy Beaches caravan park) and the Warren in particular was affected, with a few metres of cliff succumbing to the sea. Storms and swollen seas resulted in late January in the Warren heligoland bird trap being destroyed. The trap having been first suggested by Ronald Garnett of the bird observatory in 1937 and established there by the bird observatory in November 1945. Our work to build a new heligoland trap was completed by the end of October 2022 and a Robin was the first bird captured in the new trap for ringing. Bird ringers who enhanced our trapping work during the year include Ken Pearson and his nets at Sykes Field and Pete Smith and Simon Davies operating at the Warren.

Significant storm erosion in January 2022 made the location of the Warren seawatching hide precarious. A team of volunteers coordinated by Steve Exley and Graham Speight moved the hide several feet away from the cliff edge. This effort has enabled birders to continue to enjoy shelter while watching seabirds passing Spurn this year.

The bird observatory again provided a programme of regular walks (led by employees and volunteers) for visitors during the spring and autumn. These events coincided with public bird ringing demonstrations when weather conditions were suitable. Once again, the walks were well attended and appreciated by beginners and experienced naturalists alike.

After birds, our second most important area of study is *Lepidoptera* (butterflies and moths). Three mercury vapour traps were operated by the observatory this year. Traps in Church Field and Kew Villa were in use from March to November, with one in the bird observatory garden run sporadically throughout the season.

A total of 26 species of butterfly were recorded at Spurn in 2022, which is one more than 2021. Highlights included an excellent year for Orange Tip, Gatekeeper and Speckled Wood, while Wall also made a small recovery following two poor years. Purple Hairstreak was an excellent, if anticipated, addition to the Spurn list with two records in the first half of August. Unfortunately, all three species of skipper, Large and Small Whites, Small Tortoiseshell and Common Blue had an extremely poor year.

Dragonflies recorded 2022 included the first Yellow-winged Darter seen here for 16 years and first Lesser Emperor recorded for 22 years. Observations, including from the most species-rich water bodies in the Triangle, as well as Clubley's Scrape, ponds in Kilnsea and the ditches around Long Bank, resulted in 20 species being noted. The abundance of some species was at record levels and much appreciated by visiting naturalists.

A total of 20 species of mammal were recorded in 2022, which included a single sighting of an Otter.

The observatory science and research sub-committee continued its work to continue standardised counts along Spurn Point bird ringing, and collate the data from seawatching, wildfowl counts and visual migration watches. The observatory continues to contribute to colour-ringing and tagging projects: four Twite were ringed with unique combinations of colour rings in 2022 for *The Twite Network*. The study of breeding Little Terns included two pulli fitted with a uniquely coded larger plastic ring (a darvic ring), along with the standard BTO ring. This Little Tern project has already produced results with a bird ringed in 2020, spotted subsequently in the Netherlands. The sub-committee continues to oversee discounted researcher rates for staying in the observatory. Grants are made available to researchers, academic or otherwise, to apply for funding from the bird observatory to support research costs as well as travel, accommodation and food.

On 2 July 2022 the bird observatory provided a publicly-accessible research day. This relaxed, casual way of presenting scientific research enabled us to share examples of work that has been carried out at Spurn or that the bird observatory has been involved with.

The bird observatory continues to participate in an international research network that uses coordinated automated radio telemetry to facilitate research and education on the ecology and conservation of migratory birds. We continue to operate a Motus receiver at Spurn. Using the Motus receiver, it is possible to get 'hits' (records) of birds with tags in the area, tagged elsewhere. Mostly this acts as a receiver of information from birds tagged on the continent where tagging is carried out more frequently than here in the UK. For example, a Goldcrest tagged on the Dutch island of Vlieland on 20 October 2022 was detected at Spurn less than eight hours

later, meaning at an average speed of 27 mph travelled as the bird migrated.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic once again put a stop to the International Young Persons Exchange between Spurn Bird Observatory, Cape May Bird Observatory, Long Point Bird Observatory and Falsterbo Bird Observatory in 2022. When it is possible to operate, the programme allows young people to: (i) develop new skills and experience the work of overseas observatories (ii) contribute to the work of the host observatory (iii) increase awareness of key international bird migration and conservation studies.

2. Conservation of wildlife:

The Easington Little Tern Protection Scheme at Beacon Ponds was managed by the Trust for the 22nd consecutive year. Three wardens were employed thanks to additional funding being made available, and they were assisted by several volunteers in order to give 24-hour coverage. The Trust is grateful to Richard Boon for coordinating this work.

Management of our land at Church Field and Corner Field continued and was enhanced further for birds, bees and insects, dragonflies, moths and butterflies. Further work was also undertaken to improve the habitat in the relatively newly acquired Sykes Field site, which continues to prove extremely attractive to a wide variety of birds, dragonflies and butterflies. The previous acquisition by the bird observatory of two hay meadows named as Schipper's Field resulted in carefully planned habitat management work starting in 2022.

The wardens and volunteers continue to liaise with the other land owners as Spurn, in particular the YWT and Sandy Beaches caravan park in pursuit of our aims and objectives. We are grateful to both organisations for access to their land.

Also see the 'Advancement of Education', section re the conservation work being carried out by the Science and Research Sub-committee.

A full summary of our records and activities can be found in our annual publication: *Spurn Wildlife 2022*

Directors

Mr R Adams

Mr T Jones

Mr A Hull

Miss S Harris (from November 2022)

Directors of the Trust are recruited by the charity from keen birders who contribute to the voluntary work of the bird observatory. They have specific expertise to help guide the ongoing work of the charity in pursuit of the stated aims and objectives.

Company Secretary

Mr T Vaughan (member from April 2022 and secretary from November 2022)

Management Committee

Mr G Picton
Mr N P Whitehouse
Mr G J Speight
Mr K Lawrence
Mr M Brew
Mr R Hunton (from November 2022)
Mr O Metcalfe (from April 2022)
Mr M Coverdale (until April 2022)
Mr P Short (from April 2022)

Staff

Observatory Warden: Mr P Collins
Estate Worker: Mr J Fisk (until March 2022)
Operations Manager: Mr R Hunton (from November 2022)
Little Tern Wardens: Mr J Wilson, Mr R Hunton

Publications

Jones, T. (ed): Spurn Wildlife 2022
Roadhouse A (2006) The Birds of Spurn ISBN 978-0-9565571-7-9

Bankers

HSBC Bank plc, 33 St Nicholas Street, Scarborough, YO11 2HN

Solicitors

Burstalls, PO Box 31, Ocean Chambers, 54 Lowgate, Hull, HU 1 1JF
Hamers, 5 Earls Court, Priory Park East, Hull. HU4 7DY

Independent Examiners

Hepworth Griffiths, 47/49 Grove Street, Retford, Notts. DN22 6LA

Insurers

Zurich Insurance plc, The Zurich Centre, 3000 Parkway, Whiteley, Fareham, Hants, PO15 7JZ.
The Caravan Club, East Grinstead House, East Grinstead, RH19 1UA

Investments

Charities Aid Foundation, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4TA

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Ltd is a registered charity No. 1141408.
Registered Office: Kew Villa, Seaside Road, Kilnsea, Hull HU12 0UB

The directors declare that they have approved the Trust's report above at the annual general meeting of DATE.

Signed on behalf of the charity.

T Vaughan

Secretary

Registration number: 07474287

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Unaudited Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

Hepworth Griffiths
Chartered Accountants
47/49 Grove Street
Retford
Nottinghamshire
DN22 6LA

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

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Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

Company Information

Directors	R Adams T Jones AD Hull S J Harris
Registered office	Kew Villa Kilnsea East Yorkshire HU12 0UB
Solicitors	Burstalls Solicitors PO Box 31 Ocean Chambers 54 Lowgate Hull HU1 1JF
Bankers	HSBC Bank plc 33 St Nicholas Street Scarborough North Yorkshire YO11 2HN
Accountants	Hepworth Griffiths Chartered Accountants 47/49 Grove Street Retford Nottinghamshire DN22 6LA

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

Directors' Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

The directors present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Directors of the company

The directors who held office during the year were as follows:

R Adams

T Jones

AD Hull

S J Harris (appointed 8 November 2022)

Principal activity

The principal activity of the company is the advancement of the education of the public and the benefit of the community by

- a) the long term monitoring of bird populations their distribution and migration;
- b) the study and recording of objects of ornithological, botanical, entomological, zoological, geological, archaeological, historical or scientific interest in the Area of Benefit and other surrounding areas as may from time to time be considered reasonable and appropriate and disseminating the useful results from such research;
- c) the conservation of wildlife and by the encouragement of the breeding of wild birds, animals and insects in the Area of Benefit and its environs.

The Area of Benefit being the area of the Spurn Peninsula in the County of the East Riding of Yorkshire

Small companies provision statement

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to companies subject to the small companies regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

Approved by the Board on 29 July 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
R Adams
Director

.....
T Jones
Director

.....
AD Hull
Director

.....
S J Harris
Director

**Chartered Accountants' Report to the Board of Directors on the Preparation of the
Unaudited Statutory Accounts of
Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited
for the Year Ended 31 December 2022**

In order to assist you to fulfil your duties under the Companies Act 2006, we have prepared for your approval the accounts of Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited for the year ended 31 December 2022 as set out on pages 4 to 12 from the company's accounting records and from information and explanations you have given us.

As a practising member firm of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), we are subject to its ethical and other professional requirements which are detailed at <http://www.icaew.com/regulation>.

This report is made solely to the Board of Directors of Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited, as a body, in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken solely to prepare for your approval the accounts of Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited and state those matters that we have agreed to state to the Board of Directors of Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited, as a body, in this report in accordance with ICAEW Technical Release 07/16 AAF. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited and its Board of Directors as a body for our work or for this report.

It is your duty to ensure that Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited has kept adequate accounting records and to prepare statutory accounts that give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit of Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited. You consider that Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited is exempt from the statutory audit requirement for the year.

We have not been instructed to carry out an audit or a review of the accounts of Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited. For this reason, we have not verified the accuracy or completeness of the accounting records or information and explanations you have given to us and we do not, therefore, express any opinion on the statutory accounts.

.....

Hepworth Griffiths
Chartered Accountants
47/49 Grove Street
Retford
Nottinghamshire
DN22 6LA
29 July 2023

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

Profit and Loss Account for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Turnover		176,229	201,220
Cost of sales		<u>(3,257)</u>	<u>(3,158)</u>
Gross surplus		172,972	198,062
Administrative expenses		<u>(106,697)</u>	<u>(104,685)</u>
Operating surplus		<u>66,275</u>	<u>93,377</u>
Other interest receivable and similar income		232	15
Interest payable and similar expenses		<u>(4,608)</u>	<u>(3,367)</u>
		<u>(4,376)</u>	<u>(3,352)</u>
Surplus before tax		<u>61,899</u>	<u>90,025</u>
Surplus for the financial year		<u><u>61,899</u></u>	<u><u>90,025</u></u>

The above results were derived from continuing operations.

The company has no recognised gains or losses for the year other than the results above.

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

Statement of Comprehensive Income for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

	2022	2021
	£	£
Surplus for the year	<u>61,899</u>	<u>90,025</u>
Total comprehensive income for the year	<u><u>61,899</u></u>	<u><u>90,025</u></u>

The notes on pages 9 to 12 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

(Registration number: 07474287)

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	4	437,159	433,365
Other financial assets	5	<u>6,203</u>	<u>6,203</u>
		<u>443,362</u>	<u>439,568</u>
Current assets			
Cash at bank and in hand		178,623	170,666
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	6	<u>(16,196)</u>	<u>(28,097)</u>
Net current assets		<u>162,427</u>	<u>142,569</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		605,789	582,137
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	6	<u>(111,303)</u>	<u>(127,587)</u>
Net assets		<u>494,486</u>	<u>454,550</u>
Reserves			
Other reserves		21,963	43,926
Retained earnings		<u>472,523</u>	<u>410,624</u>
Surplus		<u>494,486</u>	<u>454,550</u>

The notes on pages 9 to 12 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

(Registration number: 07474287)

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2022

For the financial year ending 31 December 2022 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476; and
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to companies subject to the small companies regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

Approved and authorised by the Board on 29 July 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
R Adams
Director

.....
T Jones
Director

.....
AD Hull
Director

.....
S J Harris
Director

The notes on pages 9 to 12 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

Statement of Changes in Equity for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

	Other reserves	Retained earnings	Total
	£	£	£
At 1 January 2022	43,926	410,624	454,550
Surplus for the year	-	61,899	61,899
Transfers	(21,963)	-	(21,963)
At 31 December 2022	21,963	472,523	494,486
	Other reserves	Retained earnings	Total
	£	£	£
At 1 January 2021	43,926	320,599	364,525
Surplus for the year	-	90,025	90,025
At 31 December 2021	43,926	410,624	454,550

The notes on pages 9 to 12 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

Notes to the Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

1 General information

The company is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated in England, and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the members is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £Nil towards the assets of the company in the event of liquidation.

The address of its registered office is:

Kew Villa
Kilnsea
East Yorkshire
HU12 0UB

These financial statements were authorised for issue by the Board on 29 July 2023.

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 Section 1A smaller entities - 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006 (as applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime).

Basis of preparation

These financial statements have been prepared using the historical cost convention except that as disclosed in the accounting policies certain items are shown at fair value.

Revenue recognition

Turnover comprises the fair value of the consideration received or receivable for the sale of goods and provision of services in the ordinary course of the company's activities. Turnover is shown net of sales/value added tax, returns, rebates and discounts.

The company recognises revenue when:

The amount of revenue can be reliably measured;
it is probable that future economic benefits will flow to the entity;
and specific criteria have been met for each of the company's activities.

Tangible assets

Tangible assets are stated in the balance sheet at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

The cost of tangible assets includes directly attributable incremental costs incurred in their acquisition and installation.

Depreciation

Depreciation is charged so as to write off the cost of assets, other than land and properties under construction over their estimated useful lives, as follows:

Asset class

Land and building

Depreciation method and rate

No depreciation charged

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

Notes to the Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Trade creditors

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the company does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade creditors are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Borrowings

Interest-bearing borrowings are initially recorded at fair value, net of transaction costs. Interest-bearing borrowings are subsequently carried at amortised cost, with the difference between the proceeds, net of transaction costs, and the amount due on redemption being recognised as a charge to the profit and loss account over the period of the relevant borrowing.

Interest expense is recognised on the basis of the effective interest method and is included in interest payable and similar charges.

Borrowings are classified as current liabilities unless the company has an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least twelve months after the reporting date.

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

Notes to the Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

3 Staff numbers

The average number of persons employed by the company (including directors) during the year, was 7 (2021 - 7).

4 Tangible assets

	Land and buildings £	Total £
Cost or valuation		
At 1 January 2022	433,365	433,365
Additions	3,794	3,794
At 31 December 2022	437,159	437,159
Depreciation		
Carrying amount		
At 31 December 2022	437,159	437,159
At 31 December 2021	433,365	433,365

Included within the net book value of land and buildings above is £437,159 (2021 - £433,365) in respect of freehold land and buildings.

5 Other financial assets (current and non-current)

	Financial assets at cost less impairment £	Total £
Non-current financial assets		
Cost or valuation		
At 1 January 2022	6,203	6,203
At 31 December 2022	6,203	6,203
Impairment		
Carrying amount		
At 31 December 2022	6,203	6,203

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

Notes to the Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

6 Creditors

Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Due within one year		
Accruals and deferred income	<u>16,196</u>	<u>28,097</u>

Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

		2022	2021
	Note	£	£
Due after one year			
Loans and borrowings	7	<u>111,303</u>	<u>127,587</u>

7 Loans and borrowings

	2022	2021
	£	£
Non-current loans and borrowings		
Bank borrowings	<u>111,303</u>	<u>127,587</u>

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

Detailed Profit and Loss Account for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

	2022 £	2021 £
Turnover (analysed below)	176,229	201,220
Cost of sales (analysed below)	<u>(3,257)</u>	<u>(3,158)</u>
Gross surplus	<u>172,972</u>	<u>198,062</u>
Gross surplus (%)	98.15%	98.43%
Administrative expenses		
Employment costs (analysed below)	(59,591)	(57,940)
Establishment costs (analysed below)	(18,480)	(21,624)
General administrative expenses (analysed below)	(28,428)	(25,109)
Finance charges (analysed below)	<u>(198)</u>	<u>(12)</u>
	<u>(106,697)</u>	<u>(104,685)</u>
Operating surplus	<u>66,275</u>	<u>93,377</u>
Other interest receivable and similar income (analysed below)	232	15
Interest payable and similar charges (analysed below)	<u>(4,608)</u>	<u>(3,367)</u>
	<u>(4,376)</u>	<u>(3,352)</u>
Surplus before tax	<u><u>61,899</u></u>	<u><u>90,025</u></u>

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

Detailed Profit and Loss Account for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

	2022 £	2021 £
Turnover		
Caravan pitches	23,200	21,276
Accommodation fees	22,808	16,465
Donation's received	66,180	55,787
Friends of Spurn subscriptions	28,370	29,160
Sales of reports/books	-	2,438
Sales of Advertising	-	2,847
Radio donation and rent	2,057	2,369
Tax refunds	7,253	11,356
Spurn science income	9,167	10,000
Ringling income	-	55
Spurn shop income, reports/books	5,872	5,327
Rent from Warden	4,550	4,950
Other income	1,438	744
Grants and subsidies receivable	5,334	38,446
	<u>176,229</u>	<u>201,220</u>
Cost of sales		
Purchases - Spurn shop	(3,257)	(3,158)
Employment costs		
Wages and salaries	<u>(59,591)</u>	<u>(57,940)</u>
Establishment costs		
Rates	(1,409)	(1,308)
Light, heat and power	(9,493)	(4,628)
Insurance	(1,448)	(1,292)
Repairs and maintenance	(3,334)	(6,750)
Site maintenance	<u>(2,796)</u>	<u>(7,646)</u>
	<u>(18,480)</u>	<u>(21,624)</u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements.

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

Detailed Profit and Loss Account for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

	2022 £	2021 £
General administrative expenses		
Telephone and fax	(1,069)	(732)
Domestic supplies and services	(245)	(1,792)
Guided walks and events	(4,885)	-
Fundraising expenses BBQ	(464)	(284)
Rings and ringing equipment	(2,104)	(3,535)
Bird food	(381)	(217)
Printing, postage and stationery	(15,697)	(14,844)
Website cost	-	(539)
Spurn science expenses	-	(45)
Trade subscriptions	(249)	(340)
Sundry expenses	(2,324)	(1,853)
Motor expenses	(710)	(614)
Travel and subsistence	-	(314)
Legal and professional fees	(300)	-
	<u>(28,428)</u>	<u>(25,109)</u>
Finance charges		
Bank charges	<u>(198)</u>	<u>(12)</u>
Other interest receivable and similar income		
Bank interest receivable	<u>232</u>	<u>15</u>
Interest payable and similar expenses		
Loan interest	<u>(4,608)</u>	<u>(3,367)</u>

Registration number: 07474287

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Unaudited Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

Hepworth Griffiths
Chartered Accountants
47/49 Grove Street
Retford
Nottinghamshire
DN22 6LA

Chartered Accountants' Independent examination report to the Board of Directors of Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages 4 to 12.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

examine the accounts under section 145 to the 2011 Act;

follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and

state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and

to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

John A Hepworth ACA
Hepworth Griffiths
Chartered Accountants
47/49 Grove Street
Retford
Nottinghamshire
DN22 6LA

29 July 2023

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited
(Registration number: 07474287)
Balance Sheet at 31 December 2022

	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed assets		
Tangible fixed assets	437,159	433,365
Other financial assets	<u>6,203</u>	<u>6,203</u>
	<u>443,362</u>	<u>439,568</u>
Current assets		
Debtors	-	-
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>178,623</u>	<u>170,666</u>
	178,623	170,666
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	<u>(16,196)</u>	<u>(28,097)</u>
Net current assets	<u>162,427</u>	<u>142,569</u>
Total assets less current liabilities	605,789	582,137
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	<u>(111,303)</u>	<u>(127,587)</u>
Net assets	<u><u>494,486</u></u>	<u><u>454,550</u></u>
Capital and reserves		
Other reserves	21,963	43,926
Profit and loss account	<u>472,523</u>	<u>410,624</u>
Total equity	<u><u>494,486</u></u>	<u><u>454,550</u></u>

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited
Profit and Loss Account
For the Year Ended 31 December 2022

	2022		2021	
	£	£	£	£
Turnover (analysed below)		176,229		201,220
Cost of sales - Spurn shop		<u>(3,257)</u>		<u>(3,158)</u>
Gross profit		<u>172,972</u>		<u>198,062</u>
Gross profit (%)		98.15%		98.43%
Administrative expenses				
Employment costs (analysed below)	(59,591)		(57,940)	
Establishment costs (analysed below)	(18,480)		(21,624)	
Administrative expenses (analysed below)	(28,428)		(25,109)	
Finance charges	<u>(198)</u>		<u>(12)</u>	
		(106,697)		(104,685)
Income from fixed assets investments (CAF)		-		-
Bank interest receivable		232		15
Loan interest		(4,608)		(3,367)
Profit before taxation		<u>61,899</u>		<u>90,025</u>

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited
Profit and Loss Account
For the Year Ended 31 December 2022

	2022	2021
	£	£
Turnover		
Caravan pitches	23,200	21,276
Accommodation fees	22,808	16,465
Donation's recived	66,180	55,787
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Sale of Advertising	-	2,847
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Other income	1,438	744
Grants and subsidies receivable	5,334	38,446
	<u>176,229</u>	<u>201,220</u>
 Employment costs		
Wages and salaries	<u>59,591</u>	<u>57,940</u>
 Establishment costs		
Rates	1,409	1,308
Light,heat and power	9,493	4,628
Insurance	1,448	1,292
Repairs and maintenance	3,334	6,750
Site maintenance	2,796	7,646
	<u>18,480</u>	<u>21,624</u>
 Administrative expenses		
Telephone and fax	1,069	732
Domestic supplies and services	245	1,792
Guided walks and events	4,885	-
Fundraising expenses BBQ	464	284
Rings and ringing equipment	2,104	3,535
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Website cost	-	539
Spurn science expenses	-	45
Trade subscriptions	249	340
Sundry expenses	2,324	1,853
Motor expenses	710	614
Travel and subsistence	-	314
Legal and professional fees	300	-
	<u>28,428</u>	<u>25,109</u>

SPURN BIRD OBSERVATORY TRUST LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1141408

Accounts



SPURN BIRD OBSERVATORY TRUST LTD

Charity Registration No. 1141408

Annual Report 2021

This is the ninth annual report of the Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Ltd.

Aims and objectives of the Trust

For the advancement of the education of the public by:

the long term monitoring of bird populations their distribution and migration;

the study and recording of objects of ornithological, botanical, entomological, zoological, geological, archaeological, historical or scientific interest in the Area of Benefit and other surrounding areas as may from time to time be considered reasonable and appropriate; and disseminating the useful results from such research.

For the benefit of the community by the conservation of wildlife and by the encouragement of the breeding of wild birds, animals and insects in the Area of Benefit and its environs.

The **Area of Benefit** being the area of the Spurn Peninsula in the County of the East Riding of Yorkshire.

Administration

The Trust is administered by a board of directors who are assisted by a co-opted management committee of nine further individuals. The directors and management committee met four times during the year and copies of the minutes of the meetings are displayed in the Common Room for reference by any interested party, whilst a summary of the minutes is also included in the SBOT monthly newsletter as appropriate. A full-time Warden, Estate Worker and part-time Operations Manager (were employed to carry out and oversee the daily activities of the charity in pursuit of its aims. Three seasonal wardens were also employed to conduct the Little Tern protection scheme and were assisted by a team of volunteers.

Self-catering residential accommodation is provided in a converted four bedroom property in the village of Kilnsea which can accommodate up to 13 visitors. This is available at a modest charge to any visiting naturalist or other individual who is prepared to support the aims of the Trust. However, it should be noted that the Observatory was either closed or ran at limited capacity for the first half of 2021 due to Covid-19 restrictions. A small bungalow is owned by the Trust which provides

residential accommodation for the warden and estate worker. A certificated caravan site is attached to the bungalow which provides pitches for up to five touring caravans. These are available to anybody who simply wishes to experience and enjoy the local area. Note that this caravan site was also impacted by Covid-19 in a similar way to the observatory in the early part of the year. Three permanent pitches are also available for long term let at the rear of the observatory and a further five on Sykes Field.

Review of the year

Whilst the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic was not as keenly felt as in 2020, continued significant restrictions on travel and social interaction rightly imposed by the Government once again meant that the Observatory and caravan sites were negatively impacted during the first half of the year. A number of events and activities were again cancelled particularly in the spring season. However, as we moved into the summer, there began to be a shift towards something resembling normality which meant that both the annual Friends of Spurn Barbecue and the autumn Migration Festival took place. This was a real positive following the cancellation of both of these events in 2020.

Despite their being unfavourable weather conditions at key times of the year and somewhat reduced observer coverage during the spring due to Covid-19, the birding year of 2021 was yet again a fantastic one. A total of 258 species were recorded, which was eight lower than in 2020. There were good numbers of several scarce migrants including, 10 Common Rosefinch, 20 Bee-eaters, 13 Rose-coloured Starlings, and seven Sabine's Gulls. There was also a good range of rarities, including the Spurn area's 400th species in the form of a fabulous Two-barred Greenish Warbler in October, Spurn's second Oriental Turtle Dove in July, the third Purple Heron in May, an Isabelline Wheatear, a Black Stork, two Alpine Swifts, a Western Bonelli's Warbler, an Arctic Warbler, a Thrush Nightingale, and a Rustic Bunting. Other species which had notable years included Caspian Gull, Cetti's Warbler, Short-eared Owl, Pintail, Tufted Duck, and Hobby which all had their best ever years. Whilst Woodcock (highest ever winter count), Siskin (best ever autumn), Gadwall (second best year), Woodlark (joint best year), and Long-tailed Skua all put in an excellent showing. Thanks go to all regular and visiting observers for submitting their records.

The Friendship Agreement between Spurn Bird Observatory and the bird observatories of Cape May (USA), Falsterbo (Sweden) and Long Point (Canada) entered its sixth year in 2021 and the partnership continued to strengthen despite restrictions on international travel for the second consecutive year. Regular Skype meetings were held throughout the year involving the heads of each observatory and it was pleasing to see the rapport between the partners grow stronger and the cross fertilisation of ideas and mutual learning be dynamically embraced.

The Easington Little Tern Protection Scheme ran for the twenty first consecutive year. The local project, led by the Trust, is a joint partnership with the Royal Society

for the Protection of Birds, Environment Agency, Natural England, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and South Holderness Countryside Society. See below for further details.

It is a pleasure to report that our annual autumn Migration Festival and the Friends of Spurn Barbecue were both back on the calendar in 2021 having both fallen victim to the pandemic in 2020. The Barbecue was well attended and it was a pleasure to see many friends and supporters for the first time in over twelve months. Our eighth Migration Festival attracted an ever increasing audience. It was also the sixth year that we had run our Young Birder of the Year competition in partnership with the British Trust for Ornithology. Huge thanks go to the owners of Sandy Beaches for providing our new venue and hosting a series of fantastic lectures including the key note speech from Killian Mullarney.

This summary would not of course be complete without extending our grateful appreciation to our many sponsors and supporters. The number of organisations sponsoring our work continues to grow and our thanks go to them for their support. In particular, thanks to our warden Paul Collins and estate worker Jonnie Fisk, and Operation Manager, Tim Jones together with our four seasonal volunteers and everyone who has helped during the course of the year.

A summary of how our activities have fulfilled our aim of providing public benefit now follows.

Benefit to the Public

1. Advancement of education:

Inexpensive self-catering accommodation is provided to individuals or groups who either wish to undertake their own research or participate in the long term studies of the Trust.

A census of resident and migrating birds was conducted on a daily basis with all records being forwarded to the British Trust for Ornithology, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and being made available to any bona fide researcher. The daily bird log, which continues to be enhanced by our points counts system is inputted into an excel spreadsheet and is fed directly into the BTO Birdtrack database. Monthly counts of birds using the Humber estuary were also carried out under the auspices of the Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS). This is a national initiative supported by the major conservation and research bodies in the United Kingdom: British Trust for Ornithology, Wildfowl and Wetland Trust, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and Natural England. Counts are conducted at both high and low tide in order to increase our understanding of the way in which the Humber estuary is utilized by wading birds and wildfowl. The Trust again assisted the Humber Wader Ringing Group in its long term study of wading birds on the Humber estuary. Target species are Redshank, Curlew and Bar-tailed Godwit which are being colour ringed with the aim of monitoring their movements within the estuary.

An annual breeding bird survey was again conducted. Data was gathered using the British Trust for Ornithology's guidelines for their Breeding Bird Census. For the fifth consecutive year the breeding bird survey included the whole recording area rather than the 'old observatory' area. This allows us to establish what is going on with breeding birds in our area and feeds into our conservation work. A total of 56 species were confirmed as breeding in the recording area in 2021. Little Terns had a far more challenging year than 2020, but 17 chicks still successfully fledged (more details below). Other notable successes included healthy numbers of Whitethroat, Reed Warbler, and Sedge Warbler, whilst a pair of Short-eared Owls also bred. Unfortunately, no Marsh Warblers returned to breed in 2021 and no Avocets bred in the Kilnsea Wetland/Beacon Ponds area for the second consecutive year.

The ringing total for the Observatory in 2021 was 5887 birds ringed of 96 species, – the lowest since 2002. This poor total of birds ringed reflects the numbers recorded across Britain in 2021 thanks to a very poor breeding season resulting in low numbers over the second half of the year, with no large autumn fall days and a rather poor passage overall. That aside, there was one addition to the Spurn ringing list; a Shoveler caught on Kilnsea Wetlands whilst trapping for the University of Hull's Avian Influenza project. Other highlights of 2021 were the second and third ringing records of Buzzards (one being a pullus just off site), the third Puffin, fourth Sandwich Tern and fourth Rustic Bunting for the Observatory. Short-eared Owls were ringed in record numbers (nine) due to a new targeted trapping technique being tried out. Reed Warblers (85) and Yellow Wagtails (45) were also ringed in record numbers, showing the continued spread of reed *Phragmites* around our ringing site and the excellent effort of Ken Pearson and his nets in Sykes Field. Goldfinches had their second highest ringing total (676) probably due to their slightly later nesting behaviour compared to other species. Species recorded in extremely low numbers were Goldcrests, Firecrests, chats and Meadow Pipit – with only 64 of the latter being ringed. No Cuckoos, shrikes, Ring Ouzels, Skylarks or Hawfinches were trapped at all this year.

Our second most important area of study is *Lepidoptera* (Butterflies and Moths). Three mercury vapour traps were run by the Observatory this year – traps in Church Field and Kew Villa were run from March to November with one in the Observatory garden run sporadically throughout the season. There were nine new species of moth added to the 'Spurn list', all of which were micro moths with the exception of an Indian Meal Moth that was trapped at the Observatory on 5th September. Other notable records included a Death's Head Hawkmoth, Striped Hawkmoth (the second for Spurn and twelfth for Yorkshire), and two Bedstraw Hawkmoths.

Unfortunately, 2021 was a disappointing and rather worrying year for the vast majority of butterfly species at Spurn. The remarkably cold spring clearly had a negative impact upon many of our 'commoner' species. The date which many species emerged was notably later than 2020 and significantly later than is 2019 (e.g. Small Skipper, Gatekeeper and Green Hairstreak). Numbers of migrant butterflies were once again very low, with Red Admiral seemingly being on a trend of steady

decline. Twenty five species were recorded in 2021, two more than 2020 and one more than both 2018 and 2019. Highlights included another strong year for Green Hairstreak (with a further significant increase in records north of the Point), Gatekeeper and Essex Skipper, whilst the 'standout rarity' was a Swallowtail seen on three dates in June. Unfortunately however, Green-veined White, Holly Blue, Wall Brown, Large Skipper and Small Copper all had their worst year for some time.

With twenty different species of Odonata recorded 2021 ranks as the joint most diverse year ever alongside 2018. There were no new additions to the Spurn Odonata list in 2021, so the wait for the 30th species will pass on into 2022. However, there were still a number of highlights for several species which made 2021 exceptional, including an influx of Banded Demoiselle that graced the Spurn area during early July, only the second time such an event has occurred. It was also an excellent year for Willow Emerald Damselfly, building upon first appearance in the Spurn area during 2020. There were also reappearances to the Spurn year-list for both Red-veined Darter and Southern Migrant Hawker. During the summer attempts were made to survey as much of the area as possible for Odonata, including totals from the most species-rich water bodies in the Triangle, as well as Clubley's Scrape, ponds in Kilnsea and the ditches around Long Bank. These counts help to determine species that may be going under recorded, or having their abundance underestimated, by the casual observer and help give a better perception of the health of populations of different Odonata species in our recording area.

Twenty seven species of mammal were recorded in 2021, which included an otter on 8th August, and a Minke Whale on 13th September. Badgers once again performed well at the Warren on warm summer evenings.

Unfortunately the pandemic once again put a stop to the International Young Persons Exchange between SBOT, Cape May, Long Point and Falsterbo in 2021. When possible to run the programme allows young people to:

- i) Develop new skills and experience the work of overseas observatories
- ii) Contribute to the work of the host observatory
- iii) Increase awareness of key international bird migration and conservation studies.

Similarly guided walks were not possible during the spring, however, a programme of regular walks (led by employees and volunteers) for visitors took place during the autumn, which coincided with public bird ringing demonstrations when weather conditions were suitable. The walks were once again well attended and appreciated by beginners and experienced naturalists alike.

The Science and Research sub-committee continued its work on evolving monitoring, digitising historical records and facilitating and collaborating with scientific research in the Spurn area. 2021 saw continued efforts to share the availability of SBOT data by making contact with various universities, with five data requests being provided for researchers and academics during the year. A masters student from the

University of Leeds, stayed at the Observatory in July to study the Little Tern colony and focused on the spatial patterns of nest sites in relation to one another and the vegetation nearby. With succession of the sand dune system resulting in expanding areas of Marram/Lyme grasses, this could prove an important insight for the preservation and creation of Little Tern colonies at Spurn. Regular point counts continued in 2021 and we now have three years of data to analyse from this initiative.

Another new project for SBOT was the trapping of adult Little Terns, which kick-started in 2021 with one adult caught on the nest and fitted with a darvic ring (colour rings with unique codes on, visible at a distance). Not only was this a great start to the project, but the Little Tern caught already carried a metal BTO ring. After submitting the ringing record, it was revealed that this individual was originally ringed as a chick in 2013 at Winterton, Norfolk, and now breeds at Beacon Ponds. Without catching the bird, we would likely not have discovered this and it further illustrates the value of standard metal ringing as well as darvic ringing in specific projects such as the one starting at Spurn. We look forward to increasing the number of adult Little Terns trapped and darvic ringed in 2022.

Continuing with the tagging theme, the first Blackcap to be tagged as part of the Motus Project at Spurn occurred in 2021. Using the Motus receiver, it is possible to get 'hits' (records) of birds with tags in the area. Mostly this acts as a receiver of information from birds tagged on the continent where tagging is carried out more frequently than here in the UK, but the Blackcap tagging shows the first steps in Motus tagging here in the UK. This particular Blackcap showed localised movements before providing a departure date and direction. The Spurn receiver has had two 'hits' in 2021: one from a Song Thrush tagged on Helgoland, Germany and the other a Starling tagged in the Netherlands. It is just the beginning for Motus in the UK and already it is showing some fascinating insights into bird migration.

A total of seven Twite were colour-ringed in 2021, contributing to a UK-wide Twite study looking into many aspects of Twite breeding ecology and, more relevant to Spurn, movements. It is a privilege to be able to contribute to the work of The Twite Network, who work tirelessly to gather as much information as possible about this declining and often overlooked species.

2. Conservation of wildlife:

The Easington Little Tern Protection Scheme at Beacon Ponds was managed by the Trust for the twenty first consecutive year. For the first time three wardens were employed thanks to additional funding being made available, and they were assisted by several volunteers in order to give 24 hour coverage. In a national context, and indeed for Beacon Lagoons, 2021 was an unusual year for breeding Little Terns. A cold April and wet May was felt along the east coast, resulting in several colonies, including ours at Beacon Ponds, experiencing setbacks to their seasons. Colonies on the west coast of Britain were much less affected by comparison. The first incubating bird was noted on the 4th June and numbers rose to a peak of 38 active nests on the

29th. In anticipation of the first chicks appearing, night monitoring started on the 21st June. The first two tern chicks of 2021 appeared on the 3rd July. Unfortunately, throughout July it became apparent that fewer chicks were appearing around the colony than expected. Furthermore, unusually high numbers of dead adults seemed to be the responsibility of a local pair of Little Owls which visited the colony on multiple occasions throughout the summer months. Direct evidence of predation came in the form of an adult Ringed Plover found in the owls' nest box (the plover was ringed as an adult on its nest at the colony only a couple of weeks earlier) and a yellow Darvik ring from a Little Tern chick found in a Little Owl pellet along Beacon Lane. The owl was only seen a handful of times by night shift wardens at the colony, but as a small, nocturnal species, it was very difficult to detect. Despite the intense predation pressure, some Little Tern chicks did fledge successfully, the last bird taking flight and departing as late as the 24th August! Overall in 2021 17 chicks fledged from a maximum of 38 nests, producing a season productivity of 0.45 chicks per breeding pair. This was the highest number of active nests since 2017 but the lowest productivity figure since 2018. As ever our thanks go to all our staff – in particular wardens Toby Phelps, Mick Turton and Lucy Mortlock – and volunteers, including those behind the scenes, who worked so hard to protect and monitor the colony.

Management of our Church Field, Corner Field and Sykes Field sites continued and was enhanced further. The maturing plants and trees in Church Field are providing fantastic habitat, not just for birds but for bees, dragonflies, butterflies and moths. Further work was also done to improve the habitat in the relatively newly acquired Sykes Field site, which continues to prove extremely attractive to a wide variety of birds, dragonflies and butterflies. The Observatory was also successful in the acquisition of two hay meadows which are adjacent to Cliff Farm thanks to the support of our members and the general public. Habitat management work will begin in earnest on this site in 2022.

Also see the 'Advancement of Education, section re the conservation work being carried out by the Science and Research Sub-committee.

A full summary of our records and activities can be found in our annual publication: *Spurn Wildlife 2021*

Directors

Mr R Adams

Mr T Jones

Mr A Hull

Company Secretary

Mr A Hull

Management Committee

Mr A A Hutt

Mr G Picton

Mr M Coverdale
Mr P French
Miss S Harris
Mr N P Whitehouse
Mr G J Speight
Mr K Lawrence
Mr M Brew

Staff

Observatory Warden: Mr P Collins
Estate Worker: Mr J Fisk
Operations Manager: Mr T Jones
Little Tern Wardens: Mr T Phelps, Mr J M Turton and Miss L Mortlock

Publications.

Jones and Fisk (eds): Spurn Wildlife 2021
Roadhouse A: The Birds of Spurn ISBN 978-0-9565571-7-9

Bankers

HSBC Bank plc, 33 St Nicholas Street, Scarborough, YO11 2HN

Solicitors

Burstalls, PO Box 31, Ocean Chambers, 54 Lowgate, Hull, HU 1 1JF
Hamers, 5 Earls Court, Priory Park East, Hull. HU4 7DY

Independent Examiners

Hepworth Griffiths, 47/49 Grove Street, Retford, Notts. DN22 6LA

Insurers

Zurich Insurance plc, The Zurich Centre, 3000 Parkway, Whiteley, Fareham, Hants,
PO15 7JZ.
The Caravan Club, East Grinstead House, East Grinstead, RH19 1UA

Investments

Charities Aid Foundation, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4TA

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Ltd is a registered charity No. 1141408.
Registered Office: Kew Villa, Seaside Road, Kilnsea, Hull HU12 0UB

Signed on behalf of the charity.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Hall', written in a cursive style.

AD Hull
Secretary

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Unaudited Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

Hepworth Griffiths
Chartered Accountants
47/49 Grove Street
Retford
Nottinghamshire
DN22 6LA

Chartered Accountants' Independent examination report to the Board of Directors of Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 December 2021, which are set out on pages 4 to 12.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

examine the accounts under section 145 to the 2011 Act;

follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and

state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and

to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

John A Hepworth ACA
Hepworth Griffiths
Chartered Accountants
47/49 Grove Street
Retford
Nottinghamshire
DN22 6LA

13 August 2021

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited
(Registration number: 07474287)
Balance Sheet at 31 December 2021

	2021	2020
	£	£
Fixed assets		
Tangible fixed assets	433,365	377,890
Other financial assets	6,203	6,203
	<u>439,568</u>	<u>384,093</u>
Current assets		
Debtors	-	-
Cash at bank and in hand	170,666	171,909
	170,666	171,909
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	<u>(28,097)</u>	<u>(39,652)</u>
Net current assets	<u>142,569</u>	<u>132,257</u>
Total assets less current liabilities	582,137	516,350
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	<u>(127,587)</u>	<u>(151,825)</u>
Net assets	<u><u>454,550</u></u>	<u><u>364,525</u></u>
 Capital and reserves		
Other reserves	43,926	43,926
Profit and loss account	410,624	320,599
Total equity	<u><u>454,550</u></u>	<u><u>364,525</u></u>

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited
Profit and Loss Account
For the Year Ended 31 December 2021

	2021		2020	
	£	£	£	£
Turnover (analysed below)		201,220		125,866
Cost of sales - Spurn shop		<u>(3,158)</u>		<u>(3,364)</u>
Gross profit		<u>198,062</u>		<u>122,502</u>
Gross profit (%)		98.43%		97.33%
Administrative expenses				
Employment costs (analysed below)	(57,940)		(44,119)	
Establishment costs (analysed below)	(21,624)		(11,422)	
Administrative expenses (analysed below)	(25,109)		(18,382)	
Finance charges	<u>(12)</u>		<u>0</u>	
		(104,685)		(73,923)
Income from fixed assets investments (CAF)		-		142
Bank interest receivable		15		63
Loan interest		(3,367)		(3,422)
Profit before taxation		<u>90,025</u>		<u>45,362</u>

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited
Profit and Loss Account
For the Year Ended 31 December 2021

	2021	2020
Turnover	£	£
Caravan pitches	21,276	18,839
Accommodation fees	16,465	9,265
Donation's recived	55,787	18,711
Friends of Spurn subscriptions	29,160	26,308
Sales of reports/books	2,438	2,218
Sale of Advertising	2,847	1,600
Radio donation and rent	2,369	2,360
Tax refunds	11,356	7,573
Spurn science income	10,000	5,795
Ringing income	55	1,461
Spurn shop income	5,327	7,783
Rent from Warden	4,950	5,350
Other income	744	-
Grants and subsidies receivable	38,446	18,603
	<u>201,220</u>	<u>125,866</u>
 Employment costs		
Wages and salaries	<u>57,940</u>	<u>44,119</u>
 Establishment costs		
Rates	1,308	1,540
Light,heat and power	4,628	4,058
Insurance	1,292	2,440
Repairs and maintenance	6,750	2,460
Site maintenance	7,646	924
	<u>21,624</u>	<u>11,422</u>
 Administrative expenses		
Telephone and fax	732	1,250
Domestic supplies and services	1,792	1,179
Fundraising expenses BBQ	284	-
Rings and ringing equipment	3,535	2,474
Bird food	217	272
Printing, postage and stationery	14,844	11,311
Website cost	539	472
Spurn science expenses	45	-
Trade subscriptions	340	148
Sundry expenses	1,853	919
Motor expenses	614	300
Travel and subsistence	314	57
	<u>25,109</u>	<u>18,382</u>

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

(A company limited by guarantee)

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SPURN BIRD OBSERVATORY TRUST LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1141408

Accounts



SPURN BIRD OBSERVATORY TRUST LTD

Charity Registration No. 1141408

Annual Report 2020

This is the eighth annual report of the Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Ltd.

Aims and objectives of the Trust

For the advancement of the education of the public by:

the long term monitoring of bird populations their distribution and migration;

the study and recording of objects of ornithological, botanical, entomological, zoological, geological, archaeological, historical or scientific interest in the Area of Benefit and other surrounding areas as may from time to time be considered reasonable and appropriate; and disseminating the useful results from such research.

For the benefit of the community by the conservation of wildlife and by the encouragement of the breeding of wild birds, animals and insects in the Area of Benefit and its environs.

The **Area of Benefit** being the area of the Spurn Peninsula in the County of the East Riding of Yorkshire.

Administration

The Trust is administered by a board of directors who are assisted by a co-opted management committee of nine further individuals. The directors and management committee met four times during the year and copies of the minutes of the meetings are displayed in the Common Room for reference by any interested party. A full-time Warden, Estate Worker and part-time Operations Manager (from July onwards) were employed to carry out and oversee the daily activities of the charity in pursuit of its aims. Two seasonal wardens were also employed to conduct the Little Tern protection scheme and were assisted by a team of volunteers.

Self-catering residential accommodation is provided in a converted four bedroom property in the village of Kilnsea which can accommodate up to 13 visitors. This is available at a modest charge to any visiting naturalist or other individual who is prepared to support the aims of the Trust. However, it should be noted that the Observatory was either closed or ran at limited capacity for much of 2020 due to Covid-19 restrictions. A small bungalow is owned by the Trust which provides residential accommodation for the warden and estate worker. A certificated caravan

site is attached to the bungalow which provides pitches for up to five touring caravans. These are available to anybody who simply wishes to experience and enjoy the local area. Note that this caravan site was also impacted by Covid-19 in a similar way to the observatory for a significant proportion of the year. Three permanent pitches are also available for long term let at the rear of the observatory and a further five on Sykes Field.

Review of the year

As was the case for the entire planet, 2020 was a year like no other for SBOT as we were gripped firmly in the clutches of the Covid-19 pandemic. The national lockdowns and other significant restrictions on travel and social interaction rightly imposed by the Government meant that the Observatory and caravan sites were closed for large parts of the year, numerous events and activities were cancelled and the number of visitors to the area was much reduced, particularly in the spring season. However, out of this adversity came many significant triumphs as our members and friends provided unprecedented support for our fundraising events throughout the year, which has meant that we have been able to remain in a solid financial position and have managed to acquire the funding to purchase a new piece of land which should come to fruition in 2021. The generosity showed by so many people when things were challenging for all on a personal level was simply staggering and the words 'thank you' will never be enough to express the gratitude of the directors and management committee.

Despite their being reduced observer coverage for significant parts of the year due to Covid-19, the birding year of 2020 was yet again a fantastic one. A total of 266 species were recorded, which is the third best total ever. There were good numbers of several scarce migrants including a fantastic eight Greenish Warblers, four Blyth's Reed Warblers, 16 Icterine Warblers (the highest total since 2008), 18 Red-backed Shrike records (the highest since 2013), 16 Barred Warblers and five Pectoral Sandpipers (the second highest annual total). There was a good range of rarities including Roller, Eastern Subalpine Warbler, Black Kite, two Red-throated Pipits, three Red-flanked Bluetails and a presumed Siberian Stonechat. Unfortunately, there were no new species recorded in 2020 which means that the 'Spurn list' continues to stand at 399 species. Will 2021 see Spurn's 400th bird species? Other species which had notable years included Cattle Egret, Caspian Gull, Long-tailed Skua and Grey Wagtail, which all had their best ever years. Whilst Spoonbill, Great White Egret and Crossbill all put in an excellent showing. Thanks go to all regular and visiting observers for submitting their records.

The Friendship Agreement between Spurn Bird Observatory and the bird observatories of Cape May (USA), Falsterbo (Sweden) and Long Point (Canada) entered its fifth year in 2020 and moved from strength to strength despite the restrictions on international travel. Regular Skype meetings were held throughout the year involving the heads of each observatory and it was pleasing to see the rapport between the partners grow stronger and the cross fertilisation of ideas and mutual learning be dynamically embraced.

Despite the challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic, the Easington Little Tern Protection Scheme ran for the twentieth consecutive year. The local project, led by the Trust, is a joint partnership with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Environment Agency, Natural England, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and South Holderness Countryside Society. See below for further details.

Our annual autumn Migration Festival and the Friends of Spurn Barbecue were both victims of the pandemic, and it is our aim to get these events back on the calendar in 2021 if at all possible. However, in conjunction with our overseas partners a 'transatlantic bird race' was organised and took place on 12th September. Five teams represented SBOT competing with teams from Falsterbo (Sweden), Cape May (USA) and Long Point (Canada). Remarkably all four observatories recorded a total of 129 species, but perhaps more importantly a total of £1,040 was raised to support the work of the Observatory and future youth exchanges. Thank you to all involved, those who made donations, with particular thanks to Kieran Lawrence who organised the event at Spurn.

This summary would not of course be complete without extending our grateful appreciation to our many sponsors as already referenced above. The number of organisations sponsoring our work continues to grow and our thanks go to them for their support. In particular, thanks to our warden Paul Collins and estate worker Jonnie Fisk, together with our three seasonal volunteers and everyone who has helped during the course of the year.

A summary of how our activities have fulfilled our aim of providing public benefit now follows.

Benefit to the Public

1. Advancement of education:

Inexpensive self-catering accommodation is provided to individuals or groups who either wish to undertake their own research or participate in the long term studies of the Trust.

A census of resident and migrating birds was conducted on a daily basis with all records being forwarded to the British Trust for Ornithology, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and being made available to any bona fide researcher. The daily bird log, which is now enhanced by our points counts system (see below) is now inputted into an excel spreadsheet and is fed directly into the BTO Birdtrack database. Monthly counts of birds using the Humber estuary were also carried out under the auspices of the Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS). This is a national initiative supported by the major conservation and research bodies in the United Kingdom: British Trust for Ornithology, Wildfowl and Wetland Trust, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and Natural England. Counts are conducted at both high and low tide in order to

increase our understanding of the way in which the Humber estuary is utilized by wading birds and wildfowl. The Trust again assisted the Humber Wader Ringing Group in its long term study of wading birds on the Humber estuary. Target species are Redshank, Curlew and Bar-tailed Godwit which are being colour ringed with the aim of monitoring their movements within the estuary.

An annual breeding bird survey was again conducted. Data was gathered using the British Trust for Ornithology's guidelines for their Breeding Bird Census. For the fourth consecutive year the breeding bird survey included the whole recording area rather than the 'old observatory' area. This allows us to establish what is going on with breeding birds in our area and feeds into our conservation work. Despite issues with poor weather at key times in the season some species once again did very well. Little Terns enjoyed another successful year with 27 pairs successfully fledging 42 young, which compares well to 2019. Other notable success included at least 35 pairs of Whitethroat, 11 pairs of Reed Warbler and breeding Water Rail for the third consecutive year. Unfortunately, no Marsh Warblers returned to breed in 2020 and no Avocets bred in the Kilnsea Wetland/Beacon Ponds area.

The ringing total for the Observatory in 2020 was 8688 birds ringed of 103 species, which continues the slow upward trend from the previous year and features a much-improved species list. The higher total was down to a good spring passage of warblers, especially Blackcaps. Sadly, the breeding season was seemingly average on the whole. Autumn proved excellent for Lesser Redpolls, with 1556 new birds trapped, giving us plenty of controls and some nice recoveries. It was a record year for ringing Sedge Warblers (69) and Reed Warblers (70) mainly due to more ringing efforts in Corner Field – a more suitable habitat for these species. Other highlights for this year's ringing included four Marsh Harriers, two Cuckoos, two Red-flanked Bluetails and two Blyth's Reed Warblers, and singles of Bar-tailed Godwit, Merlin, Pallas's Warbler, Greenish Warbler, Radde's Warbler and Eastern Subalpine Warbler. Marsh Warbler and Black Redstart were notable absentees from the 2020 ringing list. Sadly, it was a poor year for both sparrow species and Long-tailed Tits and Blue Tits were well below their 2019 totals, reflecting how critical the timing of hatching is within our ever-changing climate – three or four days of poor weather can spell disaster for broods, as we saw in 2020.

Our second most important area of study is *Lepidoptera* (Butterflies and Moths). Three mercury vapour traps were run by the Observatory this year – traps in Church Field and Kew Villa were run from March to November with one in the Observatory garden run sporadically throughout the season. In addition, there were also traps run by several Kilnsea and Easington residents intermittently throughout the year. Over 9700 moths of 284 species were logged in the Observatory traps during 2020, with additional records included here from an increasing number of local moth trappers. As usual, the 2020 year threw up a varied collection of rare and notable records, most bizarrely the repeated capture of a completely green Vine's Rustic at Yew Cottage.

Coverage of the recording area was understandably significantly lower than normal in 2020, particularly in the spring period, which undoubtedly led to many species of butterfly being under recorded. The remarkably warm and dry spring, followed by a rather wet summer, also seemed to have a negative impact upon some of our 'commoner' species. Numbers of migrant butterflies were rather low, most notably Painted Lady following the record-breaking year in 2019. A total of 23 species were recorded in 2020 – one fewer than both 2018 and 2019 due to the absence of Clouded Yellow. Highlights included another strong year for Green Hairstreak with a further increase in records north of the Point, a healthy increase in the number of Essex Skippers, and an extremely good summer period for Common Blue. Unfortunately, Green-veined White, Ringlet, Wall, Small Skipper and Painted Lady all had their worst year for some time.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, Odonata recording at Spurn persisted regardless. With many observers visiting less frequently this year it was possible that these stunning insects could go under recorded, but thankfully that does not appear to be the case and once again Spurn has had a fantastic year full of dragonflies and damselflies. Standout records from the year were headed by Spurn's first Willow Emerald Damselfly, quickly followed by its second, bringing the total number of Odonata species recorded in the area to 29. With a number of species expanding their ranges across Britain it seems it will be only a matter of time before we reach the landmark of 30. Another significant sighting was Spurn's second record of Norfolk Hawker, which was enjoyed by many people, there being a gap 17 years since the last.

Notable mammal records included an excellent run of Otter sightings at Beacon Ponds over the summer period, a Risso's Dolphin slowly moving north on 8th November, and a good year for badgers.

Unfortunately the pandemic put a stop to the International Young Persons Exchange between SBOT, Cape May, Long Point and Falsterbo in 2020. When possible to run the programme allows young people to:

- i) Develop new skills and experience the work of overseas observatories
- ii) Contribute to the work of the host observatory
- iii) Increase awareness of key international bird migration and conservation studies.

Similarly guided walks were not possible during the spring, however, a programme of regular walks (led by employees and volunteers) for visitors took place during the autumn, which coincided with public bird ringing demonstrations when weather conditions were suitable. The walks were once again well attended and appreciated by beginners and experienced naturalists alike.

The Science and Research sub-committee continued its work on evolving monitoring, digitising historical records and facilitating and collaborating with scientific research in the Spurn area. As previously referenced 2020 was a difficult year for many but work behind the scenes continued to take these core aims forward and build on the existing work, in what is already a fantastic place to study wildlife and continue long-term monitoring. Much of the work of the sub-committee is ongoing, but there are always exciting ideas and projects forming with each passing year. Mike Archer and volunteer colleagues continue to work on the digitalisation of bird log data and the inputting of these data into BirdTrack ensuring their safe storage into the future. We extend a big thank you to Mike and team for their unwavering dedication to Spurn and other UK bird observatories in facilitating this important work.

The science team also continue to engage with universities and invite collaborations, share the facilities available at Spurn for potential researchers and form connections with those who could potentially benefit from the invaluable dataset collected by Spurn Bird Observatory over the years. In return, the Observatory stands to see great science coming out of the historically collated records and help facilitate new research in the area. The potential importance of having historic data available for university projects during a time when fieldwork and travel could be potentially difficult could make the Observatory's historic data all the more attractive for research use.

Lucy Mitchell, a postdoctoral researcher from Hull University, continues to work tirelessly on the exciting UK Motus Project. Lucy is facilitating the rollout of UK Motus VHF receivers, ideally nationwide, but starting with clusters locally. Motus is a collaborative, open-source way of tracking a variety of aerial species. It is based around a network of passive VHF receivers that can detect uniquely-coded miniature VHF tags within 5-10km. At less than 1g, the tags are small enough to be deployed onto birds and bats. SBOT erected a Motus receiver in September 2019 in the Observatory garden and since then has awaited its first 'hit' from a tag, with the potential for birds and bats on the Continent being detected as they pass Spurn. Back in the office, Lucy has been working with licencing bodies to gain permission to use the same frequency as is used on the Continent to tag birds in the UK, and submitting applications to the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) to be licenced to tag passerines. The project hopes to start by tagging continental Blackcaps at Spurn and other east coast observatories in order to build our knowledge base regarding changes in migration strategies and how this might be playing a part in population change and the Blackcaps' annual cycle. At the time of writing, tagging permissions have been granted and tagging is about to commence. An exciting year awaits the UK Motus project.

Trial Point Counts that started in autumn 2019 continued to ensure standardised and structured monitoring of grounded migrants through spring and autumn. These counts occur at the same location each morning across two sites: six points around the Triangle and six along the Peninsula. Whilst the Triangle surveys have continued uninterrupted, there have been breaks in the Peninsula recording due to COVID-19 and restricted movements. These data are now being collated from the previous two years and work on analysing these data to check for proof of concept will start imminently – look out for news on this on the Spurn

Bird Observatory website. This monitoring is only possible thanks to the Observatory's residential volunteer scheme and coverage by our Estate Worker Jonnie Fisk on the rest days for volunteers.

2. Conservation of wildlife:

The Easington Little Tern Protection Scheme at Beacon Ponds was managed by the Trust for the twentieth consecutive year. Two wardens were again employed and were assisted by several volunteers in order to give 24 hour coverage. It is a pleasure to report that we had a productive season. A total of 27 pairs fledged 42 chicks; the fledging rate of 1.56 chicks per breeding pair matched last year as the highest since 1984 and the number of chicks fledged is the highest since 2014. That productivity rate was the second highest in the British Isles, though ours of course is a small and relatively easily-managed colony, and we have to remember that the number of our breeding pairs remains low (well below the Site of Special Scientific Interest citation of 53 pairs) and that we continue to face a long-term decline in the colony. Despite that, the season must be seen as a success. Contributing factors include the reasonably good weather, a reliable food supply, failure by predators significantly to impact on the colony (other than in one instance) and a low level of human interference. As ever our thanks go to all our staff – in particular wardens Jacob Spinks and Mick Turton – and volunteers, including those behind the scenes, who worked so hard to protect and monitor the colony.

Management of our Church Field, Corner Field and Sykes Field sites continued and was enhanced further. The maturing plants and trees in Church Field are providing fantastic habitat, not just for birds but for bees, dragonflies, butterflies and moths. Further work was done to improve the habitat in the observatory garden, North Field (where a crop strip has been sowed) and most notably the newly acquired Sykes Field site, which continues to prove extremely attractive to a wide variety of birds, dragonflies and butterflies.

Nest boxes had another good take-up this year, particularly with respect to Starlings, Blue Tits, Great Tits, and perhaps most importantly Tree Sparrows.

Also see the 'Advancement of Education, section re the conservation work being carried out by the Science and Research Sub-committee.

A full summary of our records and activities can be found in our annual publication: *Spurn Wildlife 2020*

Directors

Mr R Adams

Mr T Jones

Mr A Hull

Company Secretary

Mr A Hull

Management Committee

Mr A A Hutt
Mr M Coverdale
Mr T Cowley
Mr P French
Miss S Harris
Mr N P Whitehouse
Mr G J Speight
Mr K Lawrence
Mr M Brew

Staff

Observatory Warden: Mr P Collins
Estate Worker: Mr J Fisk
Operations Manager: Mr T Jones
Little Tern Wardens: Mr J Spink and Mr J M Turton

Publications.

Jones and Fisk (eds): Spurn Wildlife 2020
Roadhouse A: The Birds of Spurn ISBN 978-0-9565571-7-9

Bankers

HSBC Bank plc, 33 St Nicholas Street, Scarborough, YO11 2HN

Solicitors

Burstalls, PO Box 31, Ocean Chambers, 54 Lowgate, Hull, HU 1 1JF
Hamers, 5 Earls Court, Priory Park East, Hull. HU4 7DY

Independent Examiners

Hepworth Griffiths, 47/49 Grove Street, Retford, Notts. DN22 6LA

Insurers

Zurich Insurance plc, The Zurich Centre, 3000 Parkway, Whiteley, Fareham, Hants, PO15 7JZ.

Investments

Charities Aid Foundation, Kings Hill, West Mallings, Kent, ME19 4TA

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Ltd is a registered charity No. 1141408.
Registered Office: Kew Villa, Seaside Road, Kilnsea, Hull HU12 0UB

Signed on behalf of the charity.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AD Hull', with a stylized flourish at the end.

AD Hull
Secretary

Registration number: 07474287

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

Annual Report and Unaudited Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

Hepworth Griffiths
Chartered Accountants
47/49 Grove Street
Retford
Nottinghamshire
DN22 6LA

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

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Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

Company Information

Directors	R Adams T Jones AD Hull
Registered office	Kew Villa Kilnsea East Yorkshire HU12 0UB
Solicitors	Burstalls Solicitors PO Box 31 Ocean Chambers 54 Lowgate Hull HU1 1JF
Bankers	HSBC Bank plc 33 St Nicholas Street Scarborough North Yorkshire YO11 2HN
Accountants	Hepworth Griffiths Chartered Accountants 47/49 Grove Street Retford Nottinghamshire DN22 6LA

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

Directors' Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

The directors present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020.

Directors of the company

The directors who held office during the year were as follows:

R Adams

T Jones

AD Hull

Principal activity

The principal activity of the company is the advancement of the education of the public and the benefit of the community by

- a) the long term monitoring of bird populations their distribution and migration;
- b) the study and recording of objects of ornithological, botanical, entomological, zoological, geological, archaeological, historical or scientific interest in the Area of Benefit and other surrounding areas as may from time to time be considered reasonable and appropriate and disseminating the useful results from such research;
- c) the conservation of wildlife and by the encouragement of the breeding of wild birds, animals and insects in the Area of Benefit and its environs.

The Area of Benefit being the area of the Spurn Peninsula in the County of the East Riding of Yorkshire

Small companies provision statement

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to companies subject to the small companies regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

Approved by the Board on 7 August 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
R Adams
Director

.....
T Jones
Director

.....
AD Hull
Director

**Chartered Accountants' Report to the Board of Directors on the Preparation of the
Unaudited Statutory Accounts of
Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited
for the Year Ended 31 December 2020**

In order to assist you to fulfil your duties under the Companies Act 2006, we have prepared for your approval the accounts of Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited for the year ended 31 December 2020 as set out on pages 4 to 12 from the company's accounting records and from information and explanations you have given us.

As a practising member firm of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), we are subject to its ethical and other professional requirements which are detailed at <http://www.icaew.com/en/members/regulations-standards-and-guidance/>.

This report is made solely to the Board of Directors of Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited, as a body, in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken solely to prepare for your approval the accounts of Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited and state those matters that we have agreed to state to the Board of Directors of Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited, as a body, in this report in accordance with ICAEW Technical Release 07/16 AAF. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited and its Board of Directors as a body for our work or for this report.

It is your duty to ensure that Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited has kept adequate accounting records and to prepare statutory accounts that give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit of Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited. You consider that Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited is exempt from the statutory audit requirement for the year.

We have not been instructed to carry out an audit or a review of the accounts of Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited. For this reason, we have not verified the accuracy or completeness of the accounting records or information and explanations you have given to us and we do not, therefore, express any opinion on the statutory accounts.

.....

Hepworth Griffiths
Chartered Accountants
47/49 Grove Street
Retford
Nottinghamshire
DN22 6LA
7 August 2021

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

Profit and Loss Account for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

	Note	Total 31 December 2020 £	Total 31 December 2019 £
Turnover		107,263	154,260
Cost of sales		<u>(3,364)</u>	<u>(4,729)</u>
Gross surplus		103,899	149,531
Administrative expenses		(73,923)	(117,307)
Other operating income		<u>18,603</u>	<u>-</u>
Operating surplus		<u>48,579</u>	<u>32,224</u>
Income from other fixed asset investments		142	132
Other interest receivable and similar income		63	82
Interest payable and similar expenses		<u>(3,422)</u>	<u>(4,100)</u>
		<u>(3,217)</u>	<u>(3,886)</u>
Surplus before tax		<u>45,362</u>	<u>28,338</u>
Surplus for the financial year		<u><u>45,362</u></u>	<u><u>28,338</u></u>

The above results were derived from continuing operations.

The company has no recognised gains or losses for the year other than the results above.

The notes on pages 9 to 12 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

Statement of Comprehensive Income for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
Surplus for the year		<u>45,362</u>	<u>28,338</u>
Total comprehensive income for the year		<u><u>45,362</u></u>	<u><u>28,338</u></u>

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

(Registration number: 07474287)

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2020

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	4	377,890	377,890
Other financial assets	5	<u>6,203</u>	<u>6,203</u>
		<u>384,093</u>	<u>384,093</u>
Current assets			
Cash at bank and in hand		171,909	76,459
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	6	<u>(39,652)</u>	<u>(39,534)</u>
Net current assets		<u>132,257</u>	<u>36,925</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		516,350	421,018
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	6	<u>(151,825)</u>	<u>(125,620)</u>
Net assets		<u><u>364,525</u></u>	<u><u>295,398</u></u>
Capital and reserves			
Other reserves		43,926	20,161
Profit and loss account		<u>320,599</u>	<u>275,237</u>
Total equity		<u><u>364,525</u></u>	<u><u>295,398</u></u>

The notes on pages 9 to 12 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

(Registration number: 07474287)

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2020

For the financial year ending 31 December 2020 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476; and
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to companies subject to the small companies regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

Approved and authorised by the Board on 7 August 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
R Adams
Director

.....
T Jones
Director

.....
AD Hull
Director

The notes on pages 9 to 12 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

Statement of Changes in Equity for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

	Other reserves £	Profit and loss account £	Total £
At 1 January 2020	20,161	275,237	295,398
Surplus for the year	-	45,362	45,362
Total comprehensive income	-	45,362	45,362
Transfers	23,765	-	23,765
At 31 December 2020	<u>43,926</u>	<u>320,599</u>	<u>364,525</u>
	Other reserves £	Profit and loss account £	Total £
At 1 January 2019	20,161	246,899	267,060
Surplus for the year	-	28,338	28,338
Total comprehensive income	-	28,338	28,338
At 31 December 2019	<u>20,161</u>	<u>275,237</u>	<u>295,398</u>

The notes on pages 9 to 12 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

1 General information

The company is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in England.

The address of its registered office is:

Kew Villa
Kilnsea
East Yorkshire
HU12 0UB

These financial statements were authorised for issue by the Board on 7 August 2021.

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 Section 1A - 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of preparation

These financial statements have been prepared using the historical cost convention except that as disclosed in the accounting policies certain items are shown at fair value.

Revenue recognition

Turnover comprises the fair value of the consideration received or receivable for the sale of goods and provision of services in the ordinary course of the company's activities. Turnover is shown net of sales/value added tax, returns, rebates and discounts.

The company recognises revenue when:

The amount of revenue can be reliably measured;

it is probable that future economic benefits will flow to the entity;

and specific criteria have been met for each of the company's activities.

Tangible assets

Tangible assets are stated in the statement of financial position at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

The cost of tangible assets includes directly attributable incremental costs incurred in their acquisition and installation.

Depreciation

Depreciation is charged so as to write off the cost of assets, other than land and properties under construction over their estimated useful lives, as follows:

Asset class

Land and building

Depreciation method and rate

No depreciation charged

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Trade creditors

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the company does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade creditors are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Borrowings

Interest-bearing borrowings are initially recorded at fair value, net of transaction costs. Interest-bearing borrowings are subsequently carried at amortised cost, with the difference between the proceeds, net of transaction costs, and the amount due on redemption being recognised as a charge to the Profit and Loss Account over the period of the relevant borrowing.

Interest expense is recognised on the basis of the effective interest method and is included in interest payable and similar charges.

Borrowings are classified as current liabilities unless the company has an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least twelve months after the reporting date.

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

3 Staff numbers

The average number of persons employed by the company (including directors) during the year, was 6 (2019 - 5).

4 Tangible assets

	Land and buildings £	Total £
Cost or valuation		
At 1 January 2020	<u>377,890</u>	<u>377,890</u>
At 31 December 2020	<u>377,890</u>	<u>377,890</u>
Depreciation		
Carrying amount		
At 31 December 2020	<u><u>377,890</u></u>	<u><u>377,890</u></u>
At 31 December 2019	<u><u>377,890</u></u>	<u><u>377,890</u></u>

Included within the net book value of land and buildings above is £377,890 (2019 - £377,890) in respect of freehold land and buildings.

5 Other financial assets (current and non-current)

	Financial assets at cost less impairment £	Total £
Non-current financial assets		
Cost or valuation		
At 1 January 2020	<u>6,203</u>	<u>6,203</u>
At 31 December 2020	<u>6,203</u>	<u>6,203</u>
Impairment		
Carrying amount		
At 31 December 2020	<u><u>6,203</u></u>	<u><u>6,203</u></u>

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

6 Creditors

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
Due within one year			
Other creditors		<u>39,652</u>	<u>39,534</u>
Due after one year			
Loans and borrowings	7	<u><u>151,825</u></u>	<u><u>125,620</u></u>

7 Loans and borrowings

	2020 £	2019 £
Non-current loans and borrowings		
Bank borrowings	<u><u>151,825</u></u>	<u><u>125,620</u></u>

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

Detailed Profit and Loss Account for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

	2020 £	2019 £
Turnover (analysed below)	107,263	154,260
Cost of sales (analysed below)	<u>(3,364)</u>	<u>(4,729)</u>
Gross surplus	<u>103,899</u>	<u>149,531</u>
Gross surplus (%)	96.86%	96.93%
Administrative expenses		
Employment costs (analysed below)	(44,119)	(42,156)
Establishment costs (analysed below)	(11,422)	(42,715)
General administrative expenses (analysed below)	<u>(18,382)</u>	<u>(32,436)</u>
	(73,923)	(117,307)
Other operating income (analysed below)	<u>18,603</u>	<u>-</u>
Operating surplus	<u>48,579</u>	<u>32,224</u>
Income from other fixed asset investments (analysed below)	142	132
Other interest receivable and similar income (analysed below)	63	82
Interest payable and similar charges (analysed below)	<u>(3,422)</u>	<u>(4,100)</u>
	<u>(3,217)</u>	<u>(3,886)</u>
Surplus before tax	<u><u>45,362</u></u>	<u><u>28,338</u></u>

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

Detailed Profit and Loss Account for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

	2020 £	2019 £
Turnover		
Caravan pitches	18,839	14,805
Accommodation fees	9,265	21,129
Donation's received	18,711	58,034
Friends of Spurn subscriptions	26,308	24,627
Sales of reports/books	2,218	3,127
Sales of Advertising	1,600	3,500
Radio donation and rent	2,360	2,310
Tax refunds	7,573	7,298
Spurn science income	5,795	6,320
Ringing income	1,461	1,275
Spurn shop income	7,783	6,150
Rent from Warden	5,350	5,350
Other income	-	335
	<u>107,263</u>	<u>154,260</u>
Cost of sales		
Purchases - Spurn shop	<u>3,364</u>	<u>4,729</u>
Employment costs		
Wages and salaries	<u>(44,119)</u>	<u>(42,156)</u>
Establishment costs		
Rates	(1,540)	(1,378)
Light, heat and power	(4,058)	(4,730)
Insurance	(2,440)	(1,943)
Repairs and maintenance	(2,460)	(20,102)
Site maintenance	<u>(924)</u>	<u>(14,562)</u>
	<u>(11,422)</u>	<u>(42,715)</u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements.

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

Detailed Profit and Loss Account for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

General administrative expenses

Telephone and fax	(1,250)	(606)
Domestic supplies and services	(1,179)	(1,234)
Fundraising expenses BBQ	-	(354)
Rings and ringing equipment	(2,474)	(3,905)
Bird food	(272)	(655)
Printing, postage and stationery	(11,311)	(11,821)
Website cost	(472)	(488)
Spurn science expenses	-	(6,576)
Trade subscriptions	(148)	(280)
Sundry expenses	(919)	(2,553)
Motor expenses	(300)	(505)
Travel and subsistence	(57)	(3,459)
	<u>(18,382)</u>	<u>(32,436)</u>

Other operating income

Government grants receivable	<u>18,603</u>	<u>-</u>
------------------------------	---------------	----------

Income from other fixed asset investments

Income from other investments (listed)	<u>142</u>	<u>132</u>
--	------------	------------

Other interest receivable and similar income

Bank interest receivable	<u>63</u>	<u>82</u>
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Interest payable and similar expenses

Loan interest	<u>3,422</u>	<u>4,100</u>
---------------	--------------	--------------

Registration number: 07474287

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

Annual Report and Unaudited Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

Hepworth Griffiths
Chartered Accountants
47/49 Grove Street
Retford
Nottinghamshire
DN22 6LA

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

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Accountants' Report	3
Profit and Loss Account	4
Statement of Comprehensive Income	5
Balance Sheet	6 to 7
Statement of Changes in Equity	8
Notes to the Financial Statements	9 to 12

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

Company Information

Directors	R Adams T Jones AD Hull
Registered office	Kew Villa Kilnsea East Yorkshire HU12 0UB
Solicitors	Burstalls Solicitors PO Box 31 Ocean Chambers 54 Lowgate Hull HU1 1JF
Bankers	HSBC Bank plc 33 St Nicholas Street Scarborough North Yorkshire YO11 2HN
Accountants	Hepworth Griffiths Chartered Accountants 47/49 Grove Street Retford Nottinghamshire DN22 6LA

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

Directors' Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

The directors present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020.

Directors of the company

The directors who held office during the year were as follows:

R Adams

T Jones

AD Hull

Principal activity

The principal activity of the company is the advancement of the education of the public and the benefit of the community by

- a) the long term monitoring of bird populations their distribution and migration;
- b) the study and recording of objects of ornithological, botanical, entomological, zoological, geological, archaeological, historical or scientific interest in the Area of Benefit and other surrounding areas as may from time to time be considered reasonable and appropriate and disseminating the useful results from such research;
- c) the conservation of wildlife and by the encouragement of the breeding of wild birds, animals and insects in the Area of Benefit and its environs.

The Area of Benefit being the area of the Spurn Peninsula in the County of the East Riding of Yorkshire

Small companies provision statement

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to companies subject to the small companies regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

Approved by the Board on 7 August 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
R Adams
Director

.....
T Jones
Director

.....
AD Hull
Director

**Chartered Accountants' Report to the Board of Directors on the Preparation of the
Unaudited Statutory Accounts of
Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited
for the Year Ended 31 December 2020**

In order to assist you to fulfil your duties under the Companies Act 2006, we have prepared for your approval the accounts of Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited for the year ended 31 December 2020 as set out on pages 4 to 12 from the company's accounting records and from information and explanations you have given us.

As a practising member firm of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), we are subject to its ethical and other professional requirements which are detailed at <http://www.icaew.com/en/members/regulations-standards-and-guidance/>.

This report is made solely to the Board of Directors of Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited, as a body, in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken solely to prepare for your approval the accounts of Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited and state those matters that we have agreed to state to the Board of Directors of Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited, as a body, in this report in accordance with ICAEW Technical Release 07/16 AAF. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited and its Board of Directors as a body for our work or for this report.

It is your duty to ensure that Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited has kept adequate accounting records and to prepare statutory accounts that give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit of Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited. You consider that Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited is exempt from the statutory audit requirement for the year.

We have not been instructed to carry out an audit or a review of the accounts of Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited. For this reason, we have not verified the accuracy or completeness of the accounting records or information and explanations you have given to us and we do not, therefore, express any opinion on the statutory accounts.

.....

Hepworth Griffiths
Chartered Accountants
47/49 Grove Street
Retford
Nottinghamshire
DN22 6LA
7 August 2021

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

Profit and Loss Account for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

	Note	Total 31 December 2020 £	Total 31 December 2019 £
Turnover		107,263	154,260
Cost of sales		<u>(3,364)</u>	<u>(4,729)</u>
Gross surplus		103,899	149,531
Administrative expenses		(73,923)	(117,307)
Other operating income		<u>18,603</u>	<u>-</u>
Operating surplus		<u>48,579</u>	<u>32,224</u>
Income from other fixed asset investments		142	132
Other interest receivable and similar income		63	82
Interest payable and similar expenses		<u>(3,422)</u>	<u>(4,100)</u>
		<u>(3,217)</u>	<u>(3,886)</u>
Surplus before tax		<u>45,362</u>	<u>28,338</u>
Surplus for the financial year		<u><u>45,362</u></u>	<u><u>28,338</u></u>

The above results were derived from continuing operations.

The company has no recognised gains or losses for the year other than the results above.

The notes on pages 9 to 12 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

Statement of Comprehensive Income for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
Surplus for the year		<u>45,362</u>	<u>28,338</u>
Total comprehensive income for the year		<u><u>45,362</u></u>	<u><u>28,338</u></u>

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

(Registration number: 07474287)

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2020

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	4	377,890	377,890
Other financial assets	5	<u>6,203</u>	<u>6,203</u>
		<u>384,093</u>	<u>384,093</u>
Current assets			
Cash at bank and in hand		171,909	76,459
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	6	<u>(39,652)</u>	<u>(39,534)</u>
Net current assets		<u>132,257</u>	<u>36,925</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		516,350	421,018
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	6	<u>(151,825)</u>	<u>(125,620)</u>
Net assets		<u><u>364,525</u></u>	<u><u>295,398</u></u>
Capital and reserves			
Other reserves		43,926	20,161
Profit and loss account		<u>320,599</u>	<u>275,237</u>
Total equity		<u><u>364,525</u></u>	<u><u>295,398</u></u>

The notes on pages 9 to 12 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

(Registration number: 07474287)

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2020

For the financial year ending 31 December 2020 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476; and
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to companies subject to the small companies regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

Approved and authorised by the Board on 7 August 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
R Adams
Director

.....
T Jones
Director

.....
AD Hull
Director

The notes on pages 9 to 12 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

Statement of Changes in Equity for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

	Other reserves £	Profit and loss account £	Total £
At 1 January 2020	20,161	275,237	295,398
Surplus for the year	-	45,362	45,362
Total comprehensive income	-	45,362	45,362
Transfers	23,765	-	23,765
At 31 December 2020	<u>43,926</u>	<u>320,599</u>	<u>364,525</u>
	Other reserves £	Profit and loss account £	Total £
At 1 January 2019	20,161	246,899	267,060
Surplus for the year	-	28,338	28,338
Total comprehensive income	-	28,338	28,338
At 31 December 2019	<u>20,161</u>	<u>275,237</u>	<u>295,398</u>

The notes on pages 9 to 12 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

1 General information

The company is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in England.

The address of its registered office is:

Kew Villa
Kilnsea
East Yorkshire
HU12 0UB

These financial statements were authorised for issue by the Board on 7 August 2021.

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 Section 1A - 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of preparation

These financial statements have been prepared using the historical cost convention except that as disclosed in the accounting policies certain items are shown at fair value.

Revenue recognition

Turnover comprises the fair value of the consideration received or receivable for the sale of goods and provision of services in the ordinary course of the company's activities. Turnover is shown net of sales/value added tax, returns, rebates and discounts.

The company recognises revenue when:

The amount of revenue can be reliably measured;

it is probable that future economic benefits will flow to the entity;

and specific criteria have been met for each of the company's activities.

Tangible assets

Tangible assets are stated in the statement of financial position at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

The cost of tangible assets includes directly attributable incremental costs incurred in their acquisition and installation.

Depreciation

Depreciation is charged so as to write off the cost of assets, other than land and properties under construction over their estimated useful lives, as follows:

Asset class

Land and building

Depreciation method and rate

No depreciation charged

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Trade creditors

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the company does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade creditors are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Borrowings

Interest-bearing borrowings are initially recorded at fair value, net of transaction costs. Interest-bearing borrowings are subsequently carried at amortised cost, with the difference between the proceeds, net of transaction costs, and the amount due on redemption being recognised as a charge to the Profit and Loss Account over the period of the relevant borrowing.

Interest expense is recognised on the basis of the effective interest method and is included in interest payable and similar charges.

Borrowings are classified as current liabilities unless the company has an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least twelve months after the reporting date.

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

3 Staff numbers

The average number of persons employed by the company (including directors) during the year, was 6 (2019 - 5).

4 Tangible assets

	Land and buildings £	Total £
Cost or valuation		
At 1 January 2020	<u>377,890</u>	<u>377,890</u>
At 31 December 2020	<u>377,890</u>	<u>377,890</u>
Depreciation		
Carrying amount		
At 31 December 2020	<u><u>377,890</u></u>	<u><u>377,890</u></u>
At 31 December 2019	<u><u>377,890</u></u>	<u><u>377,890</u></u>

Included within the net book value of land and buildings above is £377,890 (2019 - £377,890) in respect of freehold land and buildings.

5 Other financial assets (current and non-current)

	Financial assets at cost less impairment £	Total £
Non-current financial assets		
Cost or valuation		
At 1 January 2020	<u>6,203</u>	<u>6,203</u>
At 31 December 2020	<u>6,203</u>	<u>6,203</u>
Impairment		
Carrying amount		
At 31 December 2020	<u><u>6,203</u></u>	<u><u>6,203</u></u>

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

6 Creditors

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
Due within one year			
Other creditors		<u>39,652</u>	<u>39,534</u>
Due after one year			
Loans and borrowings	7	<u><u>151,825</u></u>	<u><u>125,620</u></u>

7 Loans and borrowings

	2020 £	2019 £
Non-current loans and borrowings		
Bank borrowings	<u><u>151,825</u></u>	<u><u>125,620</u></u>

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

Detailed Profit and Loss Account for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

	2020 £	2019 £
Turnover (analysed below)	107,263	154,260
Cost of sales (analysed below)	<u>(3,364)</u>	<u>(4,729)</u>
Gross surplus	<u>103,899</u>	<u>149,531</u>
Gross surplus (%)	96.86%	96.93%
Administrative expenses		
Employment costs (analysed below)	(44,119)	(42,156)
Establishment costs (analysed below)	(11,422)	(42,715)
General administrative expenses (analysed below)	<u>(18,382)</u>	<u>(32,436)</u>
	(73,923)	(117,307)
Other operating income (analysed below)	<u>18,603</u>	<u>-</u>
Operating surplus	<u>48,579</u>	<u>32,224</u>
Income from other fixed asset investments (analysed below)	142	132
Other interest receivable and similar income (analysed below)	63	82
Interest payable and similar charges (analysed below)	<u>(3,422)</u>	<u>(4,100)</u>
	<u>(3,217)</u>	<u>(3,886)</u>
Surplus before tax	<u><u>45,362</u></u>	<u><u>28,338</u></u>

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

Detailed Profit and Loss Account for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

	2020 £	2019 £
Turnover		
Caravan pitches	18,839	14,805
Accommodation fees	9,265	21,129
Donation's received	18,711	58,034
Friends of Spurn subscriptions	26,308	24,627
Sales of reports/books	2,218	3,127
Sales of Advertising	1,600	3,500
Radio donation and rent	2,360	2,310
Tax refunds	7,573	7,298
Spurn science income	5,795	6,320
Ringing income	1,461	1,275
Spurn shop income	7,783	6,150
Rent from Warden	5,350	5,350
Other income	-	335
	<u>107,263</u>	<u>154,260</u>
Cost of sales		
Purchases - Spurn shop	<u>3,364</u>	<u>4,729</u>
Employment costs		
Wages and salaries	<u>(44,119)</u>	<u>(42,156)</u>
Establishment costs		
Rates	(1,540)	(1,378)
Light, heat and power	(4,058)	(4,730)
Insurance	(2,440)	(1,943)
Repairs and maintenance	(2,460)	(20,102)
Site maintenance	<u>(924)</u>	<u>(14,562)</u>
	<u>(11,422)</u>	<u>(42,715)</u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements.

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Limited

Detailed Profit and Loss Account for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

General administrative expenses

Telephone and fax	(1,250)	(606)
Domestic supplies and services	(1,179)	(1,234)
Fundraising expenses BBQ	-	(354)
Rings and ringing equipment	(2,474)	(3,905)
Bird food	(272)	(655)
Printing, postage and stationery	(11,311)	(11,821)
Website cost	(472)	(488)
Spurn science expenses	-	(6,576)
Trade subscriptions	(148)	(280)
Sundry expenses	(919)	(2,553)
Motor expenses	(300)	(505)
Travel and subsistence	(57)	(3,459)
	<u>(18,382)</u>	<u>(32,436)</u>

Other operating income

Government grants receivable	<u>18,603</u>	<u>-</u>
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Income from other fixed asset investments

Income from other investments (listed)	<u>142</u>	<u>132</u>
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Other interest receivable and similar income

Bank interest receivable	<u>63</u>	<u>82</u>
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Interest payable and similar expenses

Loan interest	<u>3,422</u>	<u>4,100</u>
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