



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	01	01	2024		31	12	2024

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

Durham Bird Club

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any) 1176232

Charity's principal address

Rose Cottage,

Old Quarrington

Durham

Postcode

DH6 5NN

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Neil Parker	Chair (27 Aug to 31 Dec)		
2	Mark Harper	Treasurer		
3	David Sowerbutts			
4	Peter Bell			
5	Jackie Hamer			
6	Richard Cowen	Secretary		
7	Veronica Howard		11 Sept to 31 Dec	
8	Andrew Kinghorn	Chair	1 Jan to 16 July	
9	Tom Middleton		1 Jan to 27 Aug	
10	Michael Murphy		1 Jan to 27 Aug	
11				
12				
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17				
18				
19				
20				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document
(eg. trust deed, constitution)

Constitution

How the charity is constituted
(eg. trust, association, company)

CIO

Trustee selection methods
(eg. appointed by, elected by)

Elected at AGM by members
Veronica Howard was co-opted by the Trustees on 11 September 2024

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

The Grants Policy mentioned in our 2023 Report was adopted

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

- (i) To advance the study of ornithology and public education in ornithology and related matters, in particular, working within the geographic area covered by Durham Bird Club, that is primarily the area of the historic county of Durham, bounded by the Rivers Tees and Tyne, together with the former Startforth Rural District of the North Riding of Yorkshire.
- (ii) In furtherance of this, to
- initiate research on the birds of the area and to publish the results of such research, to hold meetings for the readings of papers,

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

<p>showing of films, discussion of records and similar matters and to co-operate in national ornithological enquiries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - educate members of the Club and of the public about birds by means of talks, outings, fieldwork and similar activities and to encourage public participation in the study of birds. - promote the conservation of birds and their habitats. - work with other organisations sharing similar aims.
<p>During 2024, the Trustees have, in accordance with the statutory declaration, had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit and</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Three issues of <i>The Lek</i> were published and circulated to members. <i>The Lek</i> is also available for non-members, who are asked to make a donation. 2) Continued support was given to the Castle Lake Conservation Group to carry out conservation works at that site 3) Wrote letters where appropriate in respect of Planning issues 4) Maintained records for its area and produced the Annual Ornithological Report 5) Where possible, conducted surveys, mainly but not exclusively in conjunction with the British Trust for Ornithology 6) made active use of X/Twitter to disseminate information. It also has maintained two well-used WhatsApp groups and a Facebook Group, open, subject to approval, to non-members of the Club on application. The Club's website also provides a route for members of the public to seek and receive information. 7) Particularly through the Facebook Group, has engaged in a number of activities to enhance habitats and nesting facilities for many species of birds. 8) Led walks in conjunction with other organisations, in particular a Dawn Chorus walk with Natural England 9) Taken steps to erect an Osprey Platform which it is anticipated will be erected on a suitable site during 2025 10) Taken steps to celebrate its 50th anniversary during 2025

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

The Trustees are grateful to the efforts of Susan Grey in producing *The Lek* and to Peter Bell and Neil Parker for producing the Annual Ornithological Report and to members who contributed articles or reports for both publications.

In addition, the Trustees are grateful to John Olley for continuing to carry out Conservation work particularly at Castle Lake and finding a suitable site for an Osprey platform. The Club is also grateful to members who have contributed to Social Media accounts.

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

The Charity has achieved a high standard with its publications of *The Lek* and the Annual Ornithological Report.

Its work to seek to protect habitats, particularly in relation to planning issues, has continued to be recognised by RSPB.

Section E Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The Trustees remain concerned that, while the Club's reserves are currently healthy, expenditure exceeds income. In order to help save costs, the number of issues of *The Lek* per year has stayed at 3 and members are encouraged to accept electronic versions. However, at this stage the matter is being kept under review and no further reductions in benefits are proposed.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Section F Other optional information

Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	<i>R Cowen</i>	
Full name(s)	Richard Saywood Cowen	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Secretary	
Date	6 October 2025	

Treasurer Annual Report 2024

The Club recorded a surplus in 2024 of £443 on total income of £5,667. This compares to a deficit of £87 in 2023.

The annual income from membership subscriptions decreased by £71 to £4,261. Although gift aid on membership fees and donations increased by £22 to £302.

Income from the sale of the Birds of Durham increased from £20 to £210, principally due 20 copies being sold to Durham Wildlife Trust. The income from sale of other publications was £165 less than in 2023, which was higher than normal due to a sale of second-hand books.

Donations of £298 were received in the year, which was £298 lower than in 2023 when an individual donation of £500 was received.

Interest on bank savings increased by £297 to £506 as a result of improved interest rates on the savings account. Other sources of income were broadly comparable with 2023.

Total expenditure for the year was £5,224 which was £641 less than in 2023. The main reason for this difference was administration costs, which were £752 less in 2024, this was a result of the 2023 accounts including postage for both the 2021 and 2022 Annual Reports, whereas the 2023 report was not posted out until 2025.

Maintenance costs of £146 were incurred at Castle Lake during 2024, there was no equivalent cost for 2023.

The majority of other expenditure was broadly in line with 2023.