

**ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF THE MIDDLE EAST
THE CAUCASUS & CENTRAL ASIA**



**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**



We continued to support fundamental tracking research into the migration of the globally threatened Egyptian Vulture, *Neophron percnopterus* during 2024

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Reference and Administrative details

Name of Charity:	Ornithological Society of the Middle East, the Caucasus & Central Asia (OSME)
Charity Number:	282938
Principal Address:	The Society does not have a principal office address as all activities and Council meetings are undertaken at the private addresses of Council members or other equivalent locations. The mail forwarding address: OSME, c/o The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire, SG19 2DL is used for general correspondence.
Email:	info@osme.org
Website:	www.osme.org
Bankers:	Lloyds Bank plc 35 High Street Biggleswade Bedfordshire SG18 0JD

Independent Examiner:

The OSME Council Members in 2024:

Trustees:

Marko Halonen (Secretary)
Murray Brown
Dr Paul Donald (*Sandgrouse* Editor)
Tomas Haraldsson (Youth Officer)
Ian Harrison
Chris Hughes (Joint Treasurer)
Dr. Robert Sheldon (Chair)
Simon Awad
Su Gough
Dr. Simon Tull

Co-opted:

AbdulRahman Al-Sirhan (Webmaster)
John Warr (Joint Treasurer)
Effie Warr (Membership)
Mike Blair (OSME Regional List)

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Structure, Governance and Management

The Ornithological Society of the Middle East, the Caucasus and Central Asia, also known as OSME, is registered with the English Charity Commission (No. 282938) and governed under a constitution adopted 17 June 1981 and amended 10 June 2010. A Council of trustees elected by the members manages the affairs of the Society. There are no restrictions on membership of the Society subject to payment of the appropriate subscription.

The elected Council members serve for a period of five years. New Council members are nominated by paid-up members and are elected to office at the Annual General Meeting which was held online this year on Saturday 26th of November. Council has the power to co-opt additional members at any time where a specific need is identified and where the appropriate commitment cannot be found from amongst its numbers.

The elected Council is supported by two specialist sub-committees, the Editorial Board and the Conservation Fund Committee. The Editorial Board assists the Editor of *Sandgrouse* in compiling the content of each issue and the content of any supplementary publications according to a budget set by Council at the start of the year. The Conservation Fund Committee receives and reviews all grant applications made through a formal application procedure and makes recommendations to Council. All decisions on the allocation of funds to conservation projects are made by, and are the responsibility of, the elected Council.

The Society has no employees and owns no property or fixed assets; all the functions of an active and fully-compliant charity are performed by Council members working voluntarily with their own resources and from their own premises. This voluntary and low administrative cost approach enables the Charity to maximise the amounts expended on charitable activities and the Society recognises this very significant contribution with gratitude.

To assist them in understanding their responsibilities, all trustees are directed towards regular reference to the Charity Commission website. Council met formally three times during the year. Before each meeting, officers' reports were circulated to all Council members for information on the subjects under discussion and for the benefit of those not attending.

The Minutes of each formal meeting were circulated to all trustees and co-opted Council members soon after the meeting. Interaction between Council members in between formal meetings was by email through an email group. Most of these exchanges were seen by all trustee Council members and all co-opted Council members regardless of their involvement with the matter in hand.

A Risk Register is maintained so that Council members can identify the risks in their designated area of responsibility. No reportable incidents occurred during the year. However, Council remains aware of the need for continuous vigilance and review of all risk management procedures in place.

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This year, Council has continued to address issues of governance and the provision of replacement in the event of incapacity of key trustees or co-opted Council members. Council recognises the general need to spread the administrative workload of the Society more evenly, and the need to reduce the concentration of key functions in a single incumbent working without deputy or understudy.

The Society acknowledges that it lacks the administrative and financial resources to embark on major projects and restricts itself to providing financial assistance to others, rather than organising and directing projects itself. It does not get involved with project details, except in an advisory role at the application stage, and is particularly careful to limit second-stage payments and commitments which carry forward to future years. In all its deliberations, the Society pays due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit in deciding the activities it should undertake.

Objectives and Activities

The object of the Charity is to promote a greater public understanding of Middle Eastern, Caucasian and Central Asian ornithology and thereby to encourage and facilitate conservation of the region's birds. This is achieved by the twice-yearly publication of a scientific journal, *Sandgrouse*, the holding of meetings, presence at events, the maintenance of a website, an active presence on social media, and the funding of fieldwork and other projects. Grants are awarded to approved projects from the funds of the Society and applicants are encouraged to submit their findings for publication in *Sandgrouse*.

The Constitution recognises four main categories of charitable activity:

1. Collect, collate, publish and disseminate ornithological data on countries in the Middle East, the Caucasus and Central Asia.
2. Publish a biannual journal of research and conservation results – *Sandgrouse*.
3. Encourage interest in birds in the area.
4. Work with other individuals and organisations with similar objectives and pursuing charitable activities concerned with ornithology in the Middle East, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

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Chairman's Review of the Year

It is pleasing to reflect on what has been another successful year for OSME despite ongoing and emerging challenges. Thanks to the amazing support of OSME members and donors we have continued to maintain our increased expenditure through our small grant's programmes, supporting a wide range of projects across the Middle East, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

Funding conservation

During 2024 we funded six projects through our Conservation Fund with a total expenditure of £32,811 which continues the run of record-breaking years since 2014. The Little Bustard project in Azerbaijan was partly funded by a Rufford Foundation grant to Zulfu Farajli, administered by OSME, plus further contributions from Birding Ecotours and British Birds.

In March 2024, in partnership with BirdLife Finland, we launched a call for proposals for projects that addressed illegal bird killing (including the taking and trade of wild birds where it contravenes national law and/or international agreements). We received many high-quality applications, and a single grant was awarded to the Lebanese Association for Migratory Birds (LAMB).

The six projects funded in 2024 were:

- Wintering Little Bustard survey at the main sites of Azerbaijan (co-funded with the Rufford Foundation)
- Tagging Egyptian vultures at important congregation sites along the Central Asian Flyway (follow up grant)
- Study of the Red-Footed Falcon (*Falco vespertinus*) breeding group's status in Ereimentau, Northern Kazakhstan
- Sociable Lapwing surveys in central Asia (year two of a multi-year project) (Figure 1)
- Researching Oman's Endangered Vulture Population
- Tackling Illegal Bird Killing, Night Poaching and Illegal Trades in Lebanon (co-funded with BirdLife Finland)

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Figure 1 Central Asia is hugely important for the Critically Endangered Sociable Lapwing with large flocks at key stop-over sites such as Talimerzhan © Oleg Kashkarov/UzSPB

In 2024 we didn't award a Trevor Poyser Species Conservation Fund grant although we have sufficient funds for one more year's grant. OSME Council are looking at ways we can continue this fund in the future.

Applications to the Conservation Fund are thoroughly reviewed by an independent committee that makes recommendations to OSME Council. During 2024 the committee was chaired by Dr Maxim Koshkin with expert input from Dr Nabegh Ghazal Asswad, Dr Alyona Koshkina, Hana Raza, Maïa Sarrouf Willson and Ibrahim Al Hasani. On behalf of OSME Council, I thank the Committee for their hard work and expertise in reviewing applications and providing clear guidance on which projects should be supported.

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Supporting the conservationists of tomorrow

Our Youth Development Fund continues to go from strength to strength under the watchful eye of Tomas Haraldsson, OSME's Youth Development Officer. A key strength of our youth development work is that we look to provide continuity for projects so that they can develop over time. This may involve financial support over several years but also helping with awareness raising and promotion of projects, as well as offering advice. See *Sandgrouse* 46 (2) for an overview of the first five years of OSME's Youth Development Fund.

We continued our support of the Simurg Bird Sanctuary and their Avian Ecology School and the Eymir Ringing Camp. Both of these projects in Türkiye continue to provide high quality training to emerging birdwatchers and conservationists.

A follow up grant was made to Nature Conservation Egypt and their Galala Raptor Count training programme which has now provided training opportunities for 40 Egyptian participants to date. Importantly, the Galala Bird Observatory was chosen as the project to be supported by the UK Global Birdfair in 2024 and has subsequently received \$125,000 to develop a new observatory and continue the crucial monitoring programme. OSME will continue to support the youth development work of Galala in the future.

With our long-term partners, the Batumi Raptor Count, we launched the Flyways Monitoring Internship. The aim is to award two young trainees from the OSME region a four-week internship, with their costs covered by a bursary from the Youth Development Fund. The internship provides training in raptor identification, standardised monitoring protocols, data management and first-hand experience of working with like-minded conservationists and birdwatchers. In 2024, the first two participants in the Flyways Monitoring Internship were Alyona Kaptyonkina (Kazakhstan) and Mitra Daneshvar (Iran) (Figure 2).



Figure 2. The first recipients of the BRC/OSME Flyways Monitoring Internship, Alyona Kaptyonkina (left) and Mitra Daneshvar (right) © BRC

In 2024, we supported a youth project in Kyrgyzstan for the first time, that will focus on the establishment of a number of bird clubs to engage young people in birdwatching activities. The OSME Youth Development Fund has now supported projects in seven countries across the OSME region.

An OSME Youth Development Fund Travel Bursary was awarded to Zulfi Farajli (Azerbaijan) to support his participation in a 10-month internship with the BirdLife International partner in Croatia.

Overall, an amazing £22,550 supporting eight projects/initiatives was spent through our Youth Development Fund in 2024 and it is especially pleasing to see many donations being made specifically to support this area of our work. A special mention to OSME supporter Ed Stubbings for running the Petra marathon in Jordan and raising more than £1300 for the Youth Development Fund (Figure 3). OSME Council remains committed to the Youth Development Fund and is keen to see the work expand to new countries and initiatives. Whilst funding is always a major constraint another limiting factor is staff time. OSME's Youth Development Officer Tomas Haraldsson, works as a volunteer to develop, nurture and monitor projects, but if our work is to grow in the future, we need more people with the right skills to get involved. If you think you can help with funding, time or skills then please get in touch (youthdevelopment@osme.org, chairman@osme.org).

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Figure 3. Ed Stubbings finished third in the Petra Marathon raising more than £1300 for the Youth Development Fund © Ed Stubbings

When our small grants programmes are combined, during 2024 OSME funded projects across our region to the value of £55,360, another record-breaking year. Huge thanks to the March Conservation Fund for their ongoing financial support, which has enabled us to grow both our Conservation and Youth Development Funds in recent years. It will be a significant challenge to maintain this overall level of expenditure in the coming years, but OSME Council will continue to look for future funding opportunities.

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Working in partnership

OSME have been working with BirdLife International for many years. Back in August 2015 we signed our first Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to formalise our approach, and our joint work and mutual support has continued to grow. To strengthen our collaboration, we reviewed and updated the MoU in September 2023 and formally signed this at the Global Birdfair in July 2024 (Figure 4). Key areas of collaboration include supporting cross-border campaigns of mutual interest, such as the conservation of the East African-Eurasian and Central Asian Flyways; work together on emerging casework issues; exchange ideas to develop the next generation of birdwatchers and conservationists through our respective youth development activities; and specifically collaborate on developing conservation capacity in Azerbaijan.



Figure 4. Martin Harper, BirdLife International CEO, and Rob Sheldon, OSME Chairman, signing the updated MoU at the Global Birdfair in July 2024. © BirdLife International

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Sandgrouse – showcasing ornithology in the OSME region

Volume 46 of our well-respected journal *Sandgrouse* incorporated papers from all corners of the OSME region, including ones supported by OSME small grants (coprophagy in captive vultures and Great Bustards in Türkiye (Issue 1)). More members than ever are now opting to receive the journal in digital format which helps OSME make a significant savings on postage costs. This is greatly appreciated as the cost of postage is rising sharply. Members wishing to switch to digital format can email sandgrousedigital@osme.org.

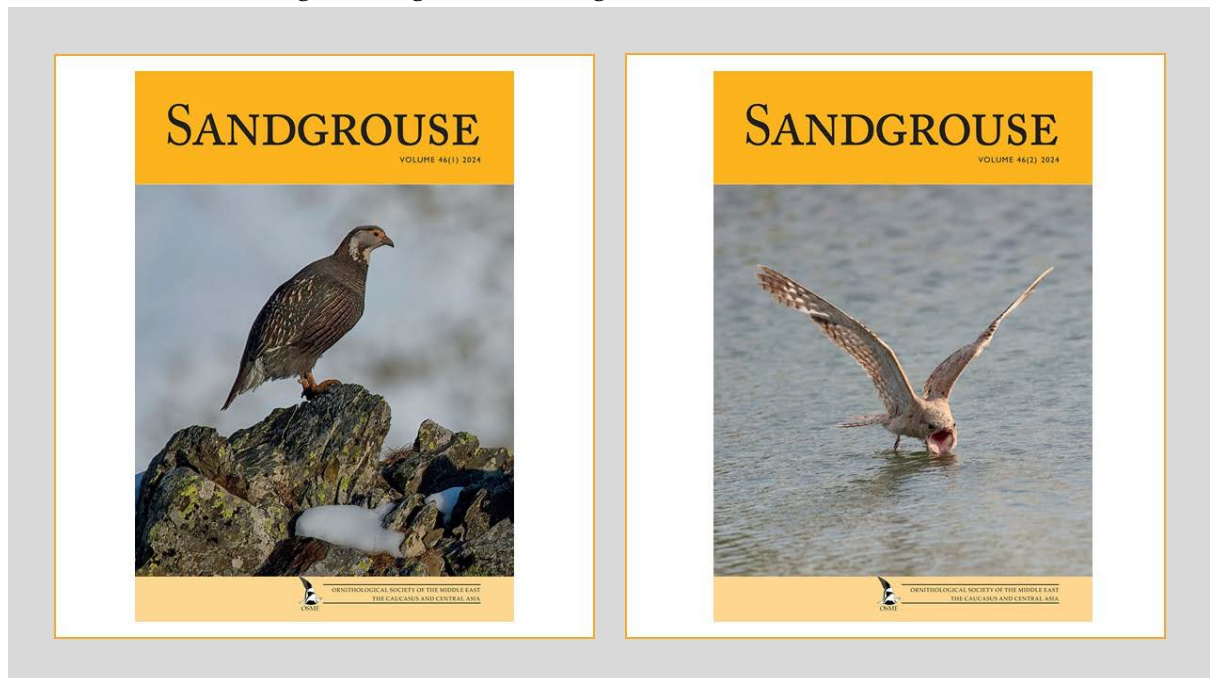


Figure 5. Stunning front covers of *Sandgrouse* Volume 46. Caucasian Snowcock © Nika Melikishvili & Egyptian Nightjar © Abdullah AlKaabi

Communicating with members and supporters

OSME were again present at the Global Birdfair at the Rutland Showground, Leicestershire, UK, and it is now one of the few events where we can meet many of our members and supporters face-to-face. The Birdfair is a significant investment in terms of both money and time, but Council remains committed to attend this annual event in the coming years.

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In September, OSME participated in a new joint event at the prestigious Natural History Museum (NHM) in South Kensington. The Avian Odyssey event organised by the NHM and the British Ornithologist's Club (BOC) consisted of a series of inspiring talks by the regional bird clubs, RSPB, BTO and BirdLife International. It is hoped that this will become an annual series of talks that will be held at the NHM and also live-streamed so supporters of OSME and the other regional bird clubs can participate.

Our main social media channel continues to be Facebook page which remains popular with visitors from across the OSME region. More content than ever is being published in local languages, Turkish, Azeri, Georgian and Arabic, thanks to in-country OSME members volunteering as guest editors. Engagement in other social media channels has been minimal due to a lack of capacity within OSME Council. Can you help with OSME's social media channels? If so, please contact me at chairman@osme.org.

Membership recruitment remains a concern for OSME, as it does for most similar-sized charities and organisations. Overall, we saw a continued slight decline in membership again during 2024, which has a significant impact on our unrestricted funds. Whilst OSME currently remains in good financial health and we are seeing record levels of income and expenditure, a significant proportion of this is restricted to our small grants programmes. The day-to-day running of OSME, including the publication and distribution of *Sandgrouse*, requires unrestricted funds for which membership subscriptions have been the main source. This is an issue that OSME Council will be looking at in detail in the coming year.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all OSME Council members for their hard work and dedication over the course of the last 12 months. Finally, thanks to all OSME members, supporters and donors for their help during 2024, we wouldn't have been able to achieve so much without your continued support.

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Treasurer's Report

I must start this report with a dedication to our long-standing and brilliant Treasurer John Warr who tragically died in 2024 after a long illness. His dedication to OSME and assiduous management of our accounts is the foundation on which we have so successfully grown our Society into the organisation having the impact it does today across the region. Finance was never dull to John whose attention to detail and unswerving accuracy gave us the confidence we needed in making our spending decisions.

He is still so sorely missed by many.

The Society's year ended once again well-funded, a reflection of the real and positive impact we are having across the region with our supporters, partners and members.

Income was at our usual level of £64,362. Conservation expenditure of just over £55,000 was a new record. We carried forward nearly £143,000 in unrestricted funds and over £38,000 in restricted and committed funds into 2025, meaning we will have no problem in continuing and even enhancing our activity at the current pace.

Income

We were delighted to once again receive \$25,000 from the March Conservation Fund, our activities clearly tying in with their aims and objectives.

We would like to acknowledge significant other donations this year from BirdLife Finland, Birding Ecotours, British Birds, Chris Spooner, Colin Johnson, Gary Brown, Michael McGrady and Edward Stubbins.

Many members also took the opportunity to make smaller donations with their subscription renewals.

We really appreciated the continued support of our Corporate Members: Birdfinders, Birdtour Asia, Greentours, Oriole Birding, Rockjumper, Bird Brain UK, Turnstone Ecology, Arabian Birds, Opticron, Bloomsbury/Helm and Skua Nature.

We ended the year with our membership falling very slightly over that in 2023 a reflection of a drop of memberships for organisations generally, a trend that seems to be accelerating.

The supported membership scheme, where a member pays an additional membership subscription on behalf of an OSME region national, saw a significant increase, with members backing this important opportunity for young birders and conservationists. We now have over 55 supported members and are looking to increase this number, especially with the availability of *Sandgrouse* digitally which has particular appeal to younger people.

Some 22 institutions (universities, libraries etc) subscribed to receive copies of *Sandgrouse* for which they paid an average of £40. A further 15 institutions, clubs and associates received

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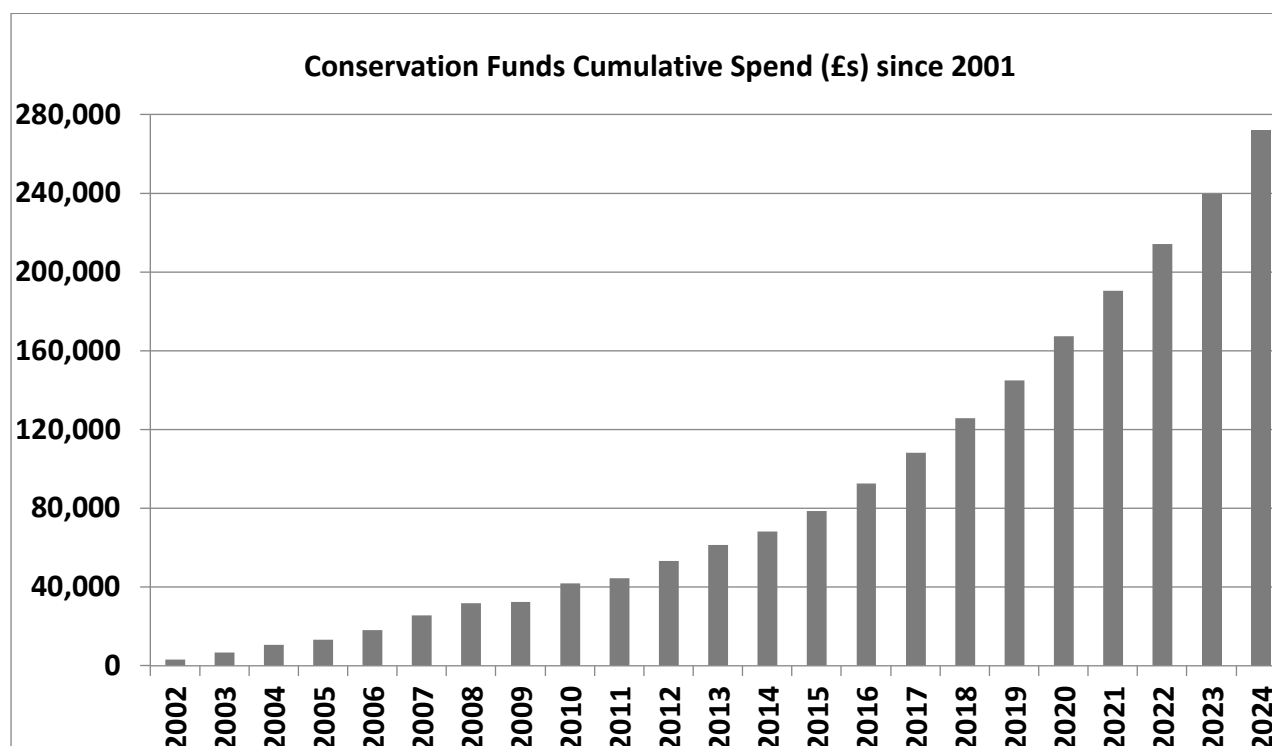
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complimentary copies. Our corporate members received copies as part of their membership and six copies were provided to the legal deposit libraries.

Our following on Facebook continues to rise with over 5,500 followers on this key Social Media site. Converting these to memberships is a priority for us going forward.

Conservation Funds

The graph shows the cumulative growth in Conservation Fund spending since 2001 and illustrates the rapid growth in our conservation activity with our spend more than doubling over the past seven years!



Since the year 2000, OSME has made conservation and research grants £272,000 to projects across our region, and we are delighted that once again we have increased our year-on-year spend.

Grant distribution to date: Middle East 42%, Central Asia 34%, Caucasus 23%, Whole Region 2%

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Youth Development Funds

We exceeded our record spend in 2023 with over £22,000 in grants in this one of our key areas of activity'

Since 2016 we have awarded £96,000 to projects involving young birders in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cyprus, Egypt, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Northern Cyprus and Turkey . We certainly wish to build on in coming years as we expand the 'Youth' projects into further countries across the OSME Region which will include Kazakhstan in 2025.

The total spend from our Conservation and Youth funds exceeded £55,000 a record for all members to be proud of.

Expenditure

Our increased investment in *Sandgrouse* continued to maintain its quality with significantly larger editions. This was somewhat compensated by the increasing take-up of the digital edition which has helped reduce spiralling postage costs.

As ever, administration costs were well controlled and we will always strive to keep these to a minimum.

Reserves Policy

The trustees have a reserves policy which is to conduct the business of the Society to complete the year with unrestricted funds on the balance sheet of more than £12,000. The trustees consider this would enable an orderly closure of the Charity if, due to unforeseen circumstances, that unfortunately became necessary. At the end of 2023, with unrestricted funds on the balance sheet of £165,923, the reserves policy was considered fulfilled.

Future Financial Policy

The Society proposes to continue producing two new issues of *Sandgrouse* per year and maintain and enhance the digital edition and produce a quarterly newsletter to all members.

We will continue to enhance our presence at the UK Birdfair and other events and further develop our Corporate Sponsorships. We will aim to maintain our Conservation Fund grants at the 2020 level of at least £20,000 a year. We will also continue the development of the Youth Development Fund and the Trevor Poyser Species Conservation Fund. The reserve fund target will remain at £12,000.

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Trustees' Responsibilities

Laws applicable to charities in England and Wales require Council, as trustees, to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the Charity's financial activities during the year, and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees should follow best practice and:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the statement of accounts
- prepare the financial accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue its operations

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the Charity, and which enable them to both ascertain the financial position of the Charity and to ensure that the financial statements comply with applicable law and Charity Commission accounting standards. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved and signed on behalf of the trustees:



Rob Sheldon
Chairman
November 23rd 2025



Chris Hughes
Treasurer

The following are our DRAFT Accounts for 2024 prepared in the Receipts and Payments format applicable to a Charity of our size within Charity Commission guidelines. Unfortunately, due to the circumstances of this particular year we have not as yet had them signed off by an approved accounts examiner. This is in the process of being done with CAPlus, Community Accounting but it will not be possible to complete the work before the new year. The Charity Commission are aware of our position.

What follows are our DRAFT ACCOUNTS once signed off they will be updated if required and all members made aware.

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**DRAFT OSME Accounts 2024, in the Receipts and Payments Charity
Commission Format**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds	Last Year 2023
Receipts					
Subscriptions	10,410	935	0	11,345	12,810
Donations	3,905	40,205	0	44,110	179,638
Gift Aid	1,667		0	1,667	4,558
Bank Interest	7,242		0	7,242	652
Sub Total Gross Income	23,223	41,140	0	64,363	197,658
Assets and Investment Sales	0	0	0	0	0
Total Receipts	23,223	41,140	0	64,363	197,658
Payments					
Sandgrouse	16,377			16,377	16,232
Conservation Fund Grants		32,810		32,810	25,236
Youth Fund Grants		22,550		22,550	20,244
Trevor Poyser Fund Grant		0		0	4,900
Administration	4,295			4,295	4,852
Events and Publicity	1,690			1,690	2,583
Sub Total Payments	22,362	55,360	0	77,722	74,046
Assets and Investment Purchases	0	0	0	0	0
Total Payments	22,362	55,360	0	77,722	74,046
Net of Receipts/(Payments)	861	(14,221)	0	(13,359)	123,612
Transfers between Funds	(18,172)	18,172	0	0	0
Cash Funds last year end	160,267	34,659	0	194,927	194,927
Cash Funds at Year End	142,957	38,610	0	181,567	194,927

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Assets and Liabilities	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Cash Funds
Cash Funds				
Lloyds Bank Treasurer's Account	8,645		0	8,645
Lloyds Bank Commercial Access Account	20,297	20,439	0	40,735
Lloyds Bank 90 Day Notice Account	132,186		0	132,186
Total Cash Funds	161,128	20,439	0	181,567
Other Monetary Assets	0	0	0	0
Investment Assets	0	0	0	0
Assets retained for the Charity	0	0	0	0
Liabilities	0	0	0	0

Signed on behalf of all the Trustees




Dr. Robert Sheldon Chair

Chris Hughes Treasurer

November 23rd, 2025

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*Draft Notes to the Financial Statements***

1.Accounting Policies

The accounts have been prepared using the Payments and Receipts option of the UK Charity Commission.

2.Conservation Grants

From Conservation Funds: £

	Amount	Country	Funder
Wintering Little Bustards	6,000	Azerbaijan	Rufford Foundation
	1,500		Birding Ecotours
	500		OSME Conservation Fund
	3,000		British Birds
Red-footed falcon status	1,990	Kazakhstan	March Conservation Fund
Tackling Illegal Bird Killing	8,299	Lebanon	Birdlife Finland
	3,747	Lebanon	OSME Conservation Fund
Oman Vulture Studies	2,407	Oman	Oman Fund
	1,093		March Conservation Fund
Sociable Lapwing Monitoring	775	Uzbekistan	OSME Conservation Fund
Egyptian Vulture Tagging	3,500	Uzbekistan	March Conservation Fund
Total	32,811		

From Youth and Community Funds £

	Amount	Country	Funder
Zulfu Farajli Travel Bursary	300	Azerbaijan	OSME Conservation Fund
Besh Barmag Migration camp	1,250	Azerbaijan	March Conservation Fund
Migration counts in Galala	5,000	Egypt	March Conservation Fund
Aswan Winter Camp	3,000	Egypt	OSME Conservation Fund
Batumi Traineeships	2,600	Georgia	March Conservation Fund
OSKG bird clubs' initiative	3,000	Kyrgyzstan	March Conservation Fund
Arzu Eymir Migration Camp	3,400	Turkey	OSME Conservation Fund
Kaan School of Avian Biology	4,000	Turkey	OSME Conservation Fund
Total	22,550		

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3. Trustees

No remuneration was paid or was payable out of OSME funds directly or indirectly to any Council member or to any person or persons known to be connected to them.

Council members have been reimbursed at cost for purchases made on behalf of the Society.

4. Employees

The Charity has no paid employees.

5. Taxation

OSME is a registered charity and, under current legislation, has no liability to taxation.

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6. Movement in Funds

	Brought Forward	Receipts	Payments	Net Impact	Balance	Transfers In	Transfers Out	Taken Forward
Unrestricted Funds	30,691	21,037	(22,362)	29,367	29,367	935	(18,172)	12,130
Term Deposit Interest		2,186		2,186	2,186			2,186
Agreed Strategic Reserve	12,000				12,000			12,000
Available Unrestricted Funds	18,691				17,367			130
Legacies	129,576	0			129,576		(129,576)	0
Restricted & Designated Funds								
Birds of the Middle East Fund	2,971	0	0	0	2,971			2,971
Harry James Goodhart Fund	129,576	0	0	0	0	129,576		129,576
Trevor Poyser Fund	11,034	0	0	0	11,034			11,034
Supported Membership Fund	0	935	0	935	935		(935)	0
Sub-total								143,581
Conservation Funds								
General	0	1,385	(775)	610	610	775		1,385
March Conservation	11,248	12,471	(6,583)	5,888	17,136		(4,850)	12,286
Little Bustard AZ Project	0	11,000	(11,000)	0	0	3,000		3,000
Bird Life Finland/OSME	0	8,299	(12,045)	(3,747)	(3,747)	3,747		0
OMAN Fund	2,407	0	(2,407)	(2,407)	0			0
Sub-total								16,670
Youth Funds								
General	0	50	(10,700)	(10,650)	(10,650)	10,650		0
March Conservation	7,000	7,000	(11,850)	(4,850)	2,150	4,850		7,000
Sub-total								7,000
Restricted & Designated Funds	34,659	41,140	(55,360)	(14,221)	20,439			167,251
Total Funds	194,927	64,363	(77,722)	(15,546)	181,567			181,567

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*Draft Notes to the Financial Statements***

7. Description of Funds

We set up our funds to manage our donations correctly and ensure that the donor's funds are only used for the purposes they intended. This is a core principle of Charity Finance creating Unrestricted and Restricted Funds.

Unrestricted General Fund

The General Fund is the sole unrestricted cash fund of the society which receives all income and makes all payments. There are three bank accounts, a current account and two interest-earning deposit accounts. Transfers are made to and from other funds according to controls applying to those funds.

Birds of the Middle East (Arabic) Fund (Restricted)

This fund was set up to raise funds for the publication of an App version of the BotME Book, a sole venture of the Society funded by donations and fundraising activities. It is maintained to fund future updates and improvements.

Conservation Fund – General (Restricted)

This fund was set up to provide awards to projects for conservation in the region. It is funded from the General Fund.

Conservation Fund – March Conservation Fund (Restricted)

This fund was set up to provide awards to projects funded by The March Conservation Fund.

James Goodhart Fund (Restricted)

This fund was set up to administer funds donated over several years by James Goodhart.

Supported Membership Fund (Restricted)

The Supported Membership Fund was set up to provide honorary membership for nationals in the region who are not able to pay a full subscription. It is funded by subscriptions from Supporting Members.

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Trevor Poyser Species Conservation Fund (Restricted)

Following a major legacy from Trevor Poyser, this fund was established in 2019 and specifically focusses on single-species conservation of birds on the Red and Amber lists of BirdLife International.

Youth and Community Fund – General (Restricted)

This fund was established to administer funds donated specifically for youth and community projects.