

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: CE027163 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1196505

Trustees' Report and
Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023
for
Neotropical Birding And Conservation

Stephenson Smart (East Anglia) Limited
10 Oak Street
Fakenham
Norfolk
NR21 9DY

Neotropical Birding And Conservation

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Neotropical Birding And Conservation

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

The members of the Council of Neotropical Birding and Conservation (hereafter 'NBC'), who are all the trustees of NBC, present their report with the financial statements of NBC for the period ended 31 December 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Objectives and activities

Objectives and aims

NBC's objectives are:

- (1) to advance the education of the public in Neotropical birds; and
- (2) to promote, organise, carry on and encourage study, research and conservation of Neotropical birds.

In furtherance of these objects NBC:

- (a) fosters an interest in the birds of the Neotropics amongst birdwatchers throughout the world;
- (b) increases awareness of the importance of support for conservation in the region;
- (c) mobilises the enthusiasm of birdwatchers active in the region to contribute to the conservation of Neotropical birds;
- (d) acts as a forum for persons interested in Neotropical birds by publishing materials concerning Neotropical birds; and
- (e) makes small grants to fund ornithological and conservation projects in the Neotropics.

Neotropical Birding And Conservation

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Objectives and activities

Summary of main activities

In the section 'Achievements and Performance' below we describe how in calendar year 2023 we have advanced education of the public in Neotropical birds and the grants for conservation of Neotropical birds.

Publications

During the year, NBC carried forward the publication's strategy introduced in 2009 and accordingly by the year end one issue of Cotinga and two issues of Neotropical Birding had been produced. The option of members receiving their publications in digital format (first introduced in 2018) was continued and by the end of the year, 72 members had chosen this option, with another 76 members having chosen digital and print.

Issues 32 and 33 of Neotropical Birding continued the trend set by previous issues with articles concerning endangered birds (e.g. Magellanic Plover of Argentina & Chile and Yellow-naped Parrot of Honduras), Birding Sites (e.g. Costa Rica's Osa Peninsula and Ecuador's Playa Tarqui), Birding at the Cutting Edge (e.g. the hope of finding Kinglet Calyptura in Brazil), recent taxonomic Splits, Lumps and Shuffles and Book Reviews (e.g. Field Guide to the birds of the Dominican Republic and Haiti). The issues also included many colour images of rarely seen or photographed species including the recently discovered Blue-throated Hillstar of Ecuador.

Issue 35 of Cotinga comprised a range of science-based content with eight main papers including topics such as, an annotated bird checklist of two trails in the Yungas of Bolivia, aggressive interaction between Black-headed Trogon & Slaty-tailed Trogon in Belize and an update on distribution of Stygian Owl in Peru. There were also 11 short communications on a variety of topics including first records for Wing-banded Wren in Colombia & Yellow-billed Titi-Tyrant in Uruguay and new information on the breeding biology of Grey Elaenia in Brazil.

We also sent out an e-newsletter in March and November, keeping members up to date with NBC's activities including conservation awards made in 2023 and reporting on some recent 'firsts' for Ecuador.

Conservation Awards

2023 was another highly successful year with a total of 8 awards being made (7 in 2022). The grants totalled \$24,500 during the year (\$22,964 in 2022), which means that over the last 23 years around £250,000 has been provided to support Neotropical bird conservation projects.

Projects approved in 2023 were as follows:

- \$5,000 for a project to execute an action plan to save the Blue-eyed Ground-Dove of Brazil;
- \$3,000 for a project to search for the very rare Boa Nova Tapaculo in Brazil;
- \$3,000 for a project to reduce human disturbance Magellanic Plover at nesting sites in Argentina and Chile;
- \$3,000 for a project to collect data on the endangered Black Rail near Santiago, Chile;
- \$3,000 for a project to research into the population density of the recently rediscovered Antioquia Brush-Finch in Colombia;
- \$3,000 for a project to define priority areas for conservation of Santa Marta Parakeet in Colombia;
- \$3,000 for a project to evaluate the effects of urbanisation on conserving the threatened Niceforo's Wren of Colombia; &
- \$1,500 for a project to raise awareness among children and young people to protect Military Macaw in the famous Madidi reserve of Bolivia.

Attendance at Bird fairs

NBC attended the Global Birdfair at Oakham, UK in July 2023. This provided an opportunity to meet members of the general public and our own members in order to explain the need to conserve threatened Neotropical birds and the work NBC has accomplished in this field.

David Fisher Memorial Lecture

At our first AGM we screened a lecture by Dr. Alexander Lees entitled 'Bird migration in the Neotropics.' This is available on YouTube. The lecture was in honour of our former Chair, David Fisher, who is much missed.

Neotropical Birding And Conservation

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Membership of NBC

Membership of NBC stood at 539 by the year end.

Public benefit

In setting our objectives and planning our activities NBC's Council is always mindful of its responsibilities under the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. In line with this:

- NBC offers reduced rate digital subscriptions for Neotropical nationals who cannot afford the full subscription rate and also operates a sponsored membership scheme allowing nominated individuals to receive NBC's publications for no cost;
- previous papers from older issues of NBC's journal, Cotinga, are available for free download from the Website; and
- NBC's conservation awards programme prioritises projects run by Neotropical nationals who might not otherwise have ready access to funding.

Achievement and performance

Review of NBC's financial activities

The total income for the charity was £53,504. The significant components of this income can be found in notes 2-4 on page 10 of these financial statements.

Total expenditure on charitable activities was £54,153. The main items of expenditure were grants to individuals and institutions totalling £23,591

From a financial perspective, 2023 was a satisfactory year for the charity, although there was a drop in income from donations. Whilst membership subscriptions are the main source of unrestricted income, NBC's Council would like to thank the organisations and individuals who despite the ongoing economic effect of the worldwide pandemic, nevertheless, continued to support NBC during the year, especially the March Conservation Fund whose ongoing support makes a huge difference to the number and size of conservation awards which can be funded.

The £18,863 spent on producing and distributing journals was the most significant expenditure which NBC incurred. This number includes expenditure for Neotropical Birding 32 and 33 and Cotinga 45.

Financial review

Investment policy and objectives

The majority of NBC's funds are held in Natwest Bank. In the judgement of the NBC's Council, this is currently the most appropriate form of investment for these monies although with interest rates rising NBC's Council will review holding some money in accounts with a better interest rate than Natwest presently provide.

Reserves policy

NBC's Council has adopted a policy of maintaining NBC's unrestricted funds at a level equivalent to at least one year's normal unrestricted expenditure. NBC's Council believes this provides appropriate and sufficient funds to continue the current activities of the charity in the event of a significant drop in funding or increase in expenditure. It would obviously be necessary to consider how the funding would be replaced or activities changed accordingly should such an event occur.

Grant-making policy

Grants are made to fund ornithological and conservation projects in the Neotropics and are made both to locally based institutions (typically non-governmental organisations) and to individuals undertaking relevant research on threatened species or habitats. Preference is given to projects undertaken by Neotropical nationals and where NBC's contribution pays for a significant percentage of the work. In return for providing funding, NBC requests recipients to provide a paper for possible publication in Cotinga or Neotropical Birding detailing the results of the project.

Neotropical Birding And Conservation

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Future plans

NBC's Council met in December 2022 to agree a new five-year strategic plan (2023-2027). This sets out, in high-level terms, our goals for the next five years. A synopsis of the Strategy appears on our website under the tab 'Our Mission'.

Structure, governance and management

Governing document

The charity is constituted as a CIO with voting members. Its trustees and its governing document is based on the CIO association model constitution published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Charity constitution

The charitable incorporated organisation was established on 10 November 2021 and registered by the Charity Commission for England and Wales with the number 1196505. It was established in order to acquire the undertaking of the Neotropical Bird Club (an unincorporated association formed under a trust deed and registered as a charity on 16 August 1994 with the number 1040130-hereafter referred to as 'the predecessor'). NBC acquired that undertaking with effect from 1 April 2022 and accordingly commenced activities on that date.

Decision making

The charity is managed on a voluntary basis by the trustees, known collectively as NBC's Council.

The first trustees were appointed with effect from registration of the CIO and thereafter the remaining trustees were co-opted by the first trustees. Each appointment terminates on the first AGM of the CIO. Thereafter trustees will be elected by the members at that AGM to serve until the next AGM. NBC's Council may co-opt trustees until the next AGM.

The trustees are responsible for the day-to-day running of the charity and typically meet three times per annum with telephone conference calls between meetings where and when this is deemed appropriate. Areas of activity which generally are discussed at each meeting include updates from the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, as well as individual trustees with specific areas of responsibility. Individual trustees have day-to-day decision-making authority within their dedicated area of responsibility and within the policies and constraints specified at meetings of trustees.

The only sub-committee operated by NBC during the year was the Conservation Awards Committee which considers all conservation award applications and puts recommendations to NBC's Council for approval.

Risk management

NBC's Council is satisfied that it has sought to identify the major risks faced by the charity and believe appropriate measures have been taken to mitigate these risks. This is kept under regular review and discussed at NBC's Council meetings as and when necessary.

Reference and administrative details

Registered Company number

CE027163 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1196505

Registered office

9 Pound Close
Long Ditton
Surbiton
London
KT6 5JW

Neotropical Birding And Conservation

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Trustees

Mr C P Collins Treasurer
Mr R J Jeffers Chairman
Mr C S Balchin Secretary
Mr R P Clay
Mr J M Thirtle
Mr C J G Wilkins
Mr M V Sanchez Nivicela
Mr C R Downing
Mr M D Dawson
Ms R Goodall
Mr R S Williams
Mr J M Clark (resigned 8.4.2024)

Independent Examiner

Michael Rowles FCCA
Stephenson Smart (East Anglia) Limited
10 Oak Street
Fakenham
Norfolk
NR21 9DY

Approved by order of the board of trustees on and signed on its behalf by:

Mr R J Jeffers - Chairman

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
Neotropical Birding And Conservation
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Neotropical Birding And Conservation Charitable Incorporated Organisation ('the CIO')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the financial statements of the CIO for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and related notes.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for my work, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the CIO you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the CIO's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

An independent examination does not involve gathering all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently does not cover all the matters that an auditor considers in giving their opinion on the financial statements. The planning and conduct of an audit goes beyond the limited assurance that an independent examination can provide. Consequently I express no opinion as to whether the financial statements present a 'true and fair' view and my report is limited to those specific matters set out in the independent examiner's statement

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the CIO as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of financial statements set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the financial statements give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination;

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

Michael Rowles FCCA

Stephenson Smart (East Anglia) Limited
10 Oak Street
Fakenham
Norfolk
NR21 9DY

Date:

Neotropical Birding And Conservation

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

				Year ended 31.12.23 Total funds £	Period 10.11.21 to 31.12.22 Total funds £
	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £		
Income and endowments from					
Donations and legacies	2	21,343	31,478	52,821	131,465
Other trading activities	3	648	-	648	213
Investment income	4	<u>35</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>6</u>
Total		<u>22,026</u>	<u>31,478</u>	<u>53,504</u>	<u>131,684</u>
Expenditure on					
Raising funds		287	-	287	544
Charitable activities					
Charitable		<u>29,558</u>	<u>24,308</u>	<u>53,866</u>	<u>37,555</u>
Total		<u>29,845</u>	<u>24,308</u>	<u>54,153</u>	<u>38,099</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(7,819)	7,170	(649)	93,585
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		66,741	26,844	93,585	-
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total funds carried forward		<u>58,922</u>	<u>34,014</u>	<u>92,936</u>	<u>93,585</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

Neotropical Birding And Conservation

Balance Sheet 31 December 2023

		Unrestricted fund	Restricted fund	31.12.23 Total funds	31.12.22 Total funds
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Current assets					
Stocks	7	-	-	-	47
Debtors	8	-	-	-	3,155
Cash at bank		<u>74,409</u>	<u>34,014</u>	<u>108,423</u>	<u>106,820</u>
		74,409	34,014	108,423	110,022
Creditors					
Amounts falling due within one year	9	(15,487)	-	(15,487)	(16,437)
		<u>58,922</u>	<u>34,014</u>	<u>92,936</u>	<u>93,585</u>
Net current assets		<u>58,922</u>	<u>34,014</u>	<u>92,936</u>	<u>93,585</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>58,922</u>	<u>34,014</u>	<u>92,936</u>	<u>93,585</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>58,922</u>	<u>34,014</u>	<u>92,936</u>	<u>93,585</u>
Funds	10				
Unrestricted funds				58,922	66,741
Restricted funds				<u>34,014</u>	<u>26,844</u>
Total funds				<u>92,936</u>	<u>93,585</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on
and were signed on its behalf by:

.....
Mr R J Jeffers - Chairman

The notes form part of these financial statements

Neotropical Birding And Conservation

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

1. Accounting policies

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end date are noted as a commitment but not accrued as expenditure.

Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Foreign currencies

Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of transaction. Exchange differences are taken into account in arriving at the operating result.

Neotropical Birding And Conservation

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

2. Donations and legacies

	Year ended 31.12.23 £	Period 10.11.21 to 31.12.22 £
Donations	33,259	115,207
Gift aid	-	(933)
Subscriptions	18,966	17,191
Raffle	<u>596</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>52,821</u>	<u>131,465</u>

3. Other trading activities

	Year ended 31.12.23 £	Period 10.11.21 to 31.12.22 £
Sale of merchandise	<u>648</u>	<u>213</u>

4. Investment income

	Year ended 31.12.23 £	Period 10.11.21 to 31.12.22 £
Deposit account interest	<u>35</u>	<u>6</u>

5. Trustees' remuneration and benefits

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 December 2023 nor for the period ended 31 December 2022.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 December 2023 nor for the period ended 31 December 2022.

A total of £845 was reimbursed to trustees during the year for expenses paid by them on behalf of the charity.

Neotropical Birding And Conservation

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

6. Comparatives for the statement of financial activities

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
Income and endowments from			
Donations and legacies	93,909	37,556	131,465
Other trading activities	213	-	213
Investment income	<u>6</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6</u>
Total	<u>94,128</u>	<u>37,556</u>	<u>131,684</u>
Expenditure on			
Raising funds	544	-	544
Charitable activities			
Charitable	<u>26,843</u>	<u>10,712</u>	<u>37,555</u>
Total	<u>27,387</u>	<u>10,712</u>	<u>38,099</u>
NET INCOME	<u>66,741</u>	<u>26,844</u>	<u>93,585</u>
Total funds carried forward	<u>66,741</u>	<u>26,844</u>	<u>93,585</u>

7. Stocks

	31.12.23 £	31.12.22 £
Stocks	<u>-</u>	<u>47</u>

8. Debtors: amounts falling due within one year

	31.12.23 £	31.12.22 £
Other debtors	<u>-</u>	<u>3,155</u>

Neotropical Birding And Conservation

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

9. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	31.12.23	31.12.22
	£	£
Other creditors	10,687	10,437
Accrued expenses	<u>4,800</u>	<u>6,000</u>
	<u>15,487</u>	<u>16,437</u>

10. Movement in funds

	At 1.1.23	Net movement in funds	At 31.12.23
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	66,741	(7,819)	58,922
Restricted funds			
Restricted fund	26,844	7,170	34,014
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>93,585</u>	<u>(649)</u>	<u>92,936</u>

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

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Movement in funds
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	22,026	(29,845)	(7,819)
Restricted funds			
Restricted fund	31,478	(24,308)	7,170
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>53,504</u>	<u>(54,153)</u>	<u>(649)</u>

Neotropical Birding And Conservation

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

10. Movement in funds - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.22 £
Unrestricted funds		
General fund	66,741	66,741
Restricted funds		
Restricted fund	26,844	26,844
	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>93,585</u>	<u>93,585</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	94,128	(27,387)	66,741
Restricted funds			
Restricted fund	37,556	(10,712)	26,844
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>131,684</u>	<u>(38,099)</u>	<u>93,585</u>

Restricted funds are for the Conservation Awards Program (CAP) which allocates grants to recipients for specific projects in relation to the purpose of the charity of bird conservation. Grant applications are first vetted by the CAP sub committee before they are put forward for approval by the Council.

11. Related party disclosures

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Neotropical Birding And Conservation

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

	Year ended 31.12.23 £	Period 10.11.21 to 31.12.22 £
Income and endowments		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	33,259	115,207
Gift aid	-	(933)
Subscriptions	18,966	17,191
Raffle	596	-
	<u>52,821</u>	<u>131,465</u>
Other trading activities		
Sale of merchandise	648	213
Investment income		
Deposit account interest	35	6
	<u>53,504</u>	<u>131,684</u>
Total incoming resources		
Expenditure		
Other trading activities		
Purchases	287	544
Charitable activities		
Publication costs	15,761	14,086
Postage	3,102	3,555
Grants to institutions	12,519	5,257
Grants to individuals	11,072	4,956
	<u>42,454</u>	<u>27,854</u>
Support costs		
Management		
Birdfair, meetings & raffle	2,645	2,306
Insurance	181	181
Website expenses	763	762
Stationery and sundry expenses	71	182
Admin of conservation awards	499	499
Administration of membership	600	500
Carried forward	4,759	4,430

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

Neotropical Birding And Conservation

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

	Year ended 31.12.23 £	Period 10.11.21 to 31.12.22 £
Management		
Brought forward	4,759	4,430
Foreign exchange loss/(gain)	<u>932</u>	<u>(223)</u>
	5,691	4,207
Finance		
Bank charges	359	120
World pay charges	-	574
Stripe charges	<u>562</u>	<u>-</u>
	921	694
Governance costs		
Accountancy and legal fees	<u>4,800</u>	<u>4,800</u>
Total resources expended	<u>54,153</u>	<u>38,099</u>
Net (expenditure)/income	<u>(649)</u>	<u>93,585</u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements
