

37th OBC AGM -September 24th, 2022

The AGM was held at Cley Village Hall Norfolk with live streaming on YouTube.

Attending Council Members

Chris Gooddie- Chairman
John Gregory -Treasurer
Russell Childs -Secretary
Promotions -Richard Web
Social Media – Drew Lyness
Sales – Billy Rodger

Apologies

Tim Loseby – Photographic editor
Richard Thomas –I/T Web support
Conservation Officer – Paul Inusa Cao

Overseas Apologies

Di Ling -Asian Conservation officer
Vivian Fu – Campaigns
Jess Borer – Membership
Sayam Chowdhury -Conservation.

1/ Introduction

Chairman **Chris Gooddie** introduced the OBC council members. The following were introduced and thanked as supporting non council members.

- The conservation officers representing each country.
- The country representatives for each country including two new representatives. Mardy Sam (Cambodia) and Lim Jay (Thailand)
- Support from Birdfair Renee and Giles Braithwaite & Tempe Mansfield.
- Independent examiner – Ian Barber from M&A partners. Norwich.
- Membership Development – Susan Myers and Anusha Kundargi.
- Publications – Alex Berryman, Frank Rheindt , Peter Creed.
- Conservation Team – Duncan McNiven, Graham Hirons and Paul Thompson.

2/ Approval of AGM minutes 2021

The AGM minutes 2021 are available on the OBC website and paper copies were distributed at the meeting. The minutes were approved.

Proposer – Steve Rowland
Secunder – Mike Edgecombe

3/ Presentation of the 2021 Accounts – John Gregory Treasurer

3.1. Income & Assets –

These were down slightly compared with 2020 but subscriptions were up despite a fall off total membership. This was helped by a full year of previous subscription increase flowing through. Donations and legacies were down year on year. We had a good sales performance in the year. Taking everything in total we had net income of £26,936 (2020- £21,661). This number does fluctuate depending on legacies and donations. The real measure of the health of the club is whether we are making surpluses on the operating costs. Our aim is to try to ensure that costs of running the club (publications, meetings / raffle costs and postage etc are covered by income from subscriptions, sales, advertising, and fund-raising. 2020 there was a surplus of £1,141. In 2021 it was £9,288 driven largely by an increase in sales and subscriptions We ended the year with assets of £304k (2020 - £291k). Of this cash was £246k (2020 - £286k). Liabilities were £44k (2020 - £58k)

Net Assets totalled £260k split £128k into restricted and £132k into unrestricted funds.

3.2 Approval of Accounts 2021

Proposer – Steve Rowland, Secunder- Dave Showler

3.3 Independent examiner

Frances Clarke has retired from the role. OBC wished to thank Frances for the long-standing service to the club. Council nominates the election Ian Barber of M&A partners as the new Independent Examiner.

3.4 Approval of the Independent examiner.

Proposer – Mike Edgecombe, Secunder Drew Lyness

4.0 Chairman's Presentation – Chris Gooddie

4.1 Mailing of Periodicals

Changes to international mailings from the UK mean that we have had to evolve a new delivery strategy via our distributor IMX to avoid VAT duty and fees being charges. Members will need to renew their membership before April 2023.

BA37: Bangladesh, Myanmar & Hong Kong deliveries hit problems- these have now been resolved and were re-sent mid-Sept.

4.2 Publications

Alex Berryman is on board to lead the publications team. Alex is also the editor of Birding ASIA. Professor Frank Rheindt from the Department of Biology at the University of Singapore as managing editor for Forktail. Frank has built an impressive and strong editorial team to support him.

The great news is that as a result of the efforts of Frank, Alex and their teams our publications are now on time for the first time in a number of years.

We've changed the name of Forktail to the Journal of Asian Ornithology. 'Forktail' was not seen by academics as a 'first port of call' for important papers on Asian Ornithology and had resulted in a lack of high-quality papers coming our way. The new name helps communicate journal content, conveying that the journal contains the most recent Asian studies on ornithological matters ranging from ecology to conservation. The new name is also aimed to help our journal establish itself as the major outlet for Asian ornithological research, and the name change we believe will make it a more attractive choice for young and aspiring ornithologists to publish their research with us.

4.3 Recyclable Packaging

We are now finally fully non-plastic. All our publications now go out in recyclable paper-based packaging.

5.0 Webinars

OBC have successfully run several webinars which have well attended.

March 2021 –The Spoon Billed Sandpiper

June 2021 -Taiwan

September 2021 – Songbird trade

January 2022 – Black Browed Babbler

May 2022 -Nigel Collar and UFO's

July 2022 – Songbird Conservation projects

September 2022 – The live streaming of the OBC AGM on YouTube

Forthcoming – The masked Finfoot in the Sundarbans

6.0 Conservation

Conservation for 2021 has been a real success story for the Club and largely driven by our head of the Conservation Committee – Paul Insua- Cao and his team.

We have a group of volunteers forming our conservation committee. The final decision on awarding conservation grants lies with the OBC council. We have a Conservation Sub Committee which meets monthly to make strategic decisions and to make decisions on behalf of the council.

Graham Hirons and Duncan McNiven receive applications work and with proposers, presenting to the Conservation sub-committee. They are indispensable in managing the process. Country Conservation officers liaise with Paul, Graham, and Duncan.

6.1 Conservation email address

conservation@orientalbirdclub.org

6.2 Migratory Shorebirds

Last year we received a generous donation and set up a group to promote the conservation of migratory shorebirds. Within this group a Sayam Choudry group was set-up as a result from the Spoon-billed Sandpiper Task Force, Vivian Fu from the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership and Ding Li from BirdLife Asia.

6.3 Songbird Group

A couple of months ago we set-up a songbird trade group to give OBC a bit more direction and coordination in this priority area for the region. We don't have a dedicated fund for this and are working out how it operates. It comprises Chris Gooddie, OBC Chair, James Eaton, Yanthi from Burung Indonesia and Jess Borer from OBC Council.

6.4 Conservation Officers – The following are in post.

Country	Conservation officers	
Pakistan	Francis Buner	
India	Francis Buner	Abhisheka Gopal
Nepal	Dave Showler	
Bhutan	Will Duckworth	Ian Barber
Bangladesh	Sayam Chowdhury	
Myanmar, Cambodia	Simon Wotton	
Thailand	Phil Round	
China	Jacqui Weir	
Indonesia	Nick Brickle	Ria Saryanthi

6.5 Projects funded

Over the last five years up to 2021 OBC has funded conservation projects in 17 countries.

For 2021 Last year we funded 17 projects totalling over £45k. Our expenditure was slightly lower than expected as we were planning to support a large grant for Gurney's pitta in Myanmar which was impossible due to the current situation.

By country Indonesia received the most grants followed by the Philippines and India.

Project type	No. of projects	Total funding
Large	1	£19,198
ASAP	1	£8,328
Migratory Shorebirds	3	7,681
Small	9	£ 19,620

Seed	2	£700
Total	17	£45,781

OBC is expecting we can stay at this level of funding for the next 4 or 5 years with current reserves and we are currently giving serious thought to fundraising. We are grateful to the **March Conservation Fund** which continues to provide \$20,000 a year to the OBC for our conservation projects.

6.6 Bird species

OBC funded projects approved in 2021 should directly benefit 17 globally threatened species. Egyptian Vulture, Yellow-breasted Bunting, Spoon-billed Sandpiper, Great Knot, Black-bellied Tern, (Northern) Philippine Hawk-eagle, Flame-templed Babbler, Streak-breasted Bulbul, Negros Striped Babbler, Sangkar White-eye, Ruby-throated Bulbul, Brown-cheeked Bulbul, Silvery Pigeon, Nias Hill Myna, Black-browed babbler, Javan Blue-banded Kingfisher, Black-winged Myna.

6.7 Extent of projects funded by OBC in 2021 across 14 countries



- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1/Training on Galliformes research | 10 / Waterbirds survey |
| 2//Black-bellied Tern surveys | 11/Philippine Hawk- eagle research |
| 3/Community conservation of wetlands | 13/Cebu Flowerpecker |
| 4/Community conservation at Gadi-Siraichuli Forest Area | 14/Sulu Hornbill |
| 5/Hornbill research | 15/Pak Thale Nature reserve |
| 6/Yellow-breasted Bunting survey | 16/ Acoustic monitoring of Hornbills |
| 7/White-bellied Heron research (2 projects) | |
| 8/Vulture surveys (2 projects) | |
| 9/Promoting use of bird hides | |

6.8 A sample of OBC-funded Indonesian projects in 2021



- 1/ Community conservation. 2/Protection of Bangkaru Island. 3/Support to Cikananga Breeding Centre .4/ Javan Green Magpie Surveys.5. Javan Blue- banded Kingfisher

surveys.6/ Bali Starling 7. Surveys on Black-browed babbler.8. Banggai Crow research and conservation. 9 Christmas Frigatebird.

6.9 Partnerships

OBC co-funded projects with ASAP (Asian species action partnership) By co-funding projects the number of projects can be broadened. Examples are the co -funding of the survey of the Javan Blue -banded Kingfisher and a project for the Black-winged Myna on Java.

OBC is a member of IUCN/SSC Asian Songbird Trade Specialist Group, and we work closely with BirdLife International.

7.0 OBC Conservation focus

OBC has a tighter focus on conservation projects to include

- **Critically endangered and endangered species**
- **Migratory shorebirds**
- **Birds threatened by trade especially songbirds**
- **To better understand the status, threats and conservation needs of poorly known threatened species**
- **Identify the causes of bird declines and conservation actions**
- **Direct in-situ bird conservation on the ground**
- **Support recognised species conservation action plans**
- **Public engagement in appreciating wild birds and nature**
- **Involve NGO's or individuals from the country where possible**

8.0 Shorebird Conservation Group

At the beginning of 2021 thanks to the contribution of a single generous donor we established a Migratory Shorebirds Fund and a dedicated group of Council members all working in shorebird conservation in Asia to steer this fund and develop the OBC's work. This builds on the work we are already doing at Pak Thale.

First was a webinar on the Spoon-billed Sandpiper and migratory shorebirds of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. This was OBC's first webinar and was born out of interest from last year's AGM. Over 200 participants attended and raised over £1,500 for the Migratory Shorebirds Fund. This webinar can be viewed on our YouTube channel.

9.0 Macaulay Library

The OBC database of bird images is now hosted by the Cornell Lab of ornithology, Macaulay Library.

<https://search.macaulaylibrary.org>

<https://ebird.org>

10.0 Donors and Legacies

OBC Donors and Legacies

OBC received a significant legacy in July 2020 from the estate of Terence Michael Corkett for which we are extremely grateful. In January of this year a kind donor gave us £30,000 to be spent on Shorebird Conservation in our region. We have now expanded our Spoon-billed Sandpiper fund to cover Migratory Shorebirds across the region. In May this year we received an unrestricted legacy from the estate of Thomas Smith of £10,213.

Legacies make a significant difference to our ability to respond to fund conservation projects for birds in the region.

Information on leaving a legacy can be found on our website

<https://www.orientalbirdclub.org/donate>

11.0 Corporate Sponsors

Once again thanks to all our Business Supporting Members for being part of our Sponsorship Program and thanks to Richard Webb – our new Council member responsible for sponsorship -for doing a great job on keeping them on board and indeed recruiting more.

OBC SPONSORS –

- ROCKJUMPER
- CLEY SPY
- STRIX EDITIONS
- BIRD TOUR ASIA
- YORKSHIRE COAST NATURE
- SWAROVSKI OPTIK
- INDUS EXPERIENCES
- THE WHALE AND DOLPHIN COMPANY
- WILD SOUNDS AND BOOKS
- JB
- AEC – Ecology Biodiversity Landscape
- THE BAGH – BHARATPUR
- NATURE SAFARI – Conservation through tourism

12.0 Rockjumper

Rockjumper, a longstanding corporate sponsor of the OBC, are running a tour to India in May 2023 raising funds for the OBC Conservation Fund.

Full details of the tour are now up on the Rockjumper website.

13.0 Cley Spey

Cley Spy to help channel 'old' optical equipment to our members across our region. The company of the OBC Chairman company has been shipping out optics to Singapore for onward distribution.

14.0 Volunteers

OBC are always looking for people to help us to move the club forwards and in turn help Conservation efforts in our region. We are particularly interested in people who have finance or conservation skills. If you are interested in taking on an OBC Council or Supporting Role or would like to help at our meetings or in any other way, please drop us an email to

mail@orientalbirdclub.org.

15.0 Appointment of Council Officers

Paul Insua Cao, Chris Gooddie, John Gregory, Tim Loseby, Richard Thomas. Ding Li Yong, Russell Childs, Sayam Chowdhury, Billy Rodger, Vivian Fu, Richard Webb

The following Council members are standing down from Council - **Drew Lyness**. Council wished to thank Drew for his contribution and work in promoting OBC through social media. Vivian Fu will be taking over with the role.

Approval of Council Officers -

Proposer – Dave Showler

Secunder – Nick Gleason

16.0 Appointment of Executive Council Officers

Proposer -Steve Rowland

Secunder – Drew Lyness

17.0 Speakers

Council thanked the speakers for the 2022 AGM

- **Rosa Gleave** – Building a conservation evidence base for the Blue Crowned Laughing Thrush
- **Anna Reuleau**- Survival and extinction in populations of two critically endangered Indonesia Cockatoos
- **Greg Baker** – Birding in the land of the Thunder Dragon
- **Per Alstrom** – Cryptic species in a colourful genus. Integrative taxonomy of the Bush Robin

