



Putting rings on wild Barn Owlets

Treasurer's Report

The charity made a deficit of £15,419 during the year (2008 £2,847 deficit).

Income year on year has increased to £231,339 (2008 £221,067) mainly as a result of the generous donations from members and non members alike primarily in response to our "Save an Owl for £1" campaign. The increase in donations has more than offset the anticipated reduction in Muncaster Visitor Management subsidy, foreshadowed at the AGM in September 2008. Our membership income has this year held firm. For your generous and unwavering support can I thank you all on behalf of the Trust.

Expenditure year on year has increased to £246,758 (2008 £223,914) mainly as a result of increased Conservation and Owl Centre activities.

In the current economic climate we have, like so many, had to be vigilant as regards our spending activities. We have continued to undertake direct conservation activity and support the funding requests made of us wherever practicably possible. Habitat and nest site loss, sadly, does not slow when our economy slows; it continues apace. Our expenditure on Conservation and Owl Centre activities increased year on year to £148,239 (2008 £133,123).

The charity has a satisfactory financial position with net assets of £172,042 at 31 March 2009 of which £126,168 has been currently designated for future projects both in the UK and Overseas.

A full set of the statutory accounts is available from the website or by post on request to the World Owl Trust office.

Statement of Financial Activities - Year Ended 31 March 2009

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2009	Total Funds 2008
	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Incoming resources from generating funds:				
Voluntary income	102,491	-	102,491	91,806
Activities for generating funds	17,032	-	17,032	15,683
Investment income	5,018	-	5,018	8,980
Incoming resources from charitable activities	99,727	-	99,727	99,351
Other incoming resources	7,071	-	7,071	5,247
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	231,339	-	231,339	221,067
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Costs of generating funds:				
Costs of generating voluntary income	(9,906)	-	(9,906)	(6,039)
Charitable activities	(233,758)	-	(233,758)	(214,213)
Governance costs	(3,094)	-	(3,094)	(3,662)
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	(246,758)	-	(246,758)	(223,914)
NET (OUTGOING)/ INCOMING RESOURCES BEFORE TRANSFERS				
	(15,419)	-	(15,419)	(2,847)
Transfer between funds				
	-	-	-	-
NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME FOR THE YEAR	(15,419)	-	(15,419)	(2,847)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Total funds brought forward	187,461	-	187,461	190,308
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	172,042	-	172,042	187,461

Balance Sheet - 31 March 2009

	2009	2008
	£	£
FIXED ASSETS		
Intangible assets	10,000	10,000
Tangible assets	7,971	8,973
	17,971	18,973
CURRENT ASSETS		
Stocks	7,583	3,742
Debtors	10,196	10,151
Cash at bank	144,050	159,980
	161,829	173,873
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	(7,758)	(5,385)
NET CURRENT ASSETS	154,071	168,488
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	172,042	187,461
NET ASSETS		
	172,042	187,461
FUNDS		
Unrestricted income funds	172,042	187,461
TOTAL FUNDS	172,042	187,461

WORLD OWL TRUST Annual Report 2008 - 09

Patrons
 Lord Forteviot
 Prof David Bellamy OBE
 Bill Oddie OBE
 Terry Nutkins
 Linda Wain

Honorary President: Tony Warburton

Council
 Chair: Jenny Thurston
 Vice Chair and Company Secretary: Clive Mojonier
 Treasurer: Paddy Linighan
 Council Members: Susan Williams, Mick Marshall, Barry Surtees, Grahame Smith (co-opted)

Ethical Review Committee
 Ian Hunter B.V.Sc., M.R.C.V.S.
 Olive Copson

Owl Centre Staff
 Chief Executive: Barbara Powell
 Collection Manager: David Armitage
 Head Keeper: Raedwulf Ingham
 Senior Keeper: Michelle Denwood
 Keepers: Trystan Williams, Vicky Lane

Conservation Officer: Hilary Lange
Office Supervisor/ Education Officer: Jennifer Fishpool
Book-keeper: Anne Marie Moffatt
Admin. Assistant: Margaret Stubbs

Overseas Representatives
 Australia: Michelle Manhaul
 Brazil: John Beaumont
 Netherlands: Johan de Jong
 Israel: Motti Charter
 Kenya: Darcy Ogada
 Malaysia: Chong Leong Puan
 Nepal: Raju Acharya Sharma
 South Africa: Jill Mortimer
 Southern India: Arvind Ambudoss, MsC.(Agri)
 Ukraine: Dr Andriy-Taras Bashta

USA: David Johnson, Global Owl Project

Voluntary Staff
Assistants to Keepers: John Stevens, Terry Evison, Nikki Hartley, Ian Ferguson, Shirley Taylor, Kirsten Oliver-Lewis, Margaret Browbank

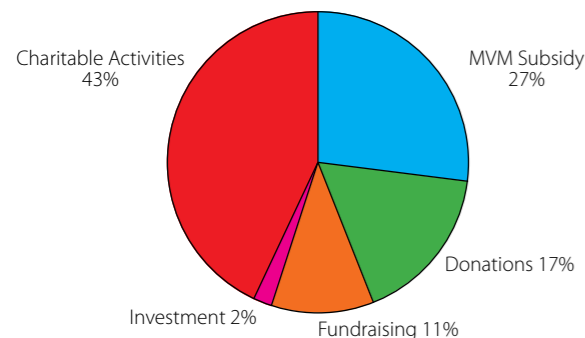
Fundraising: Jill Mojonier, Clive Mojonier, Grahame Smith & Students of Ulverston School, Karla Gudgeon

Nest Boxes: Fred Johnson

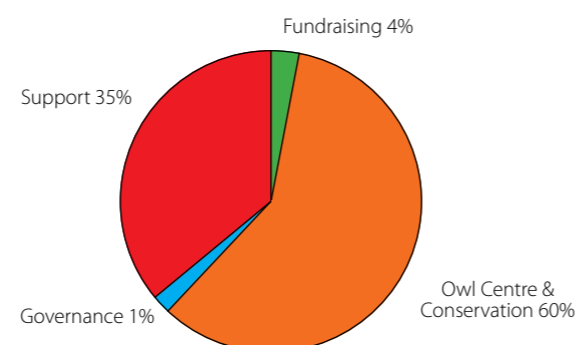
Wildlife Watch Club: Jim Ford

Web Site Administration: Shaun Sloan, Dave Sloan

Income 2008 / 2009



Expenditure 2008 / 2009



www.owls.org

Chairman’s Report for the year ended 31st March 2009

One of the biggest initiatives for the Trust in the last year was the ‘Save an Owl for £1’ (SAO) campaign which was launched at the Centre at the beginning of June. This campaign had been more than a year in the making with much thought going in to how it would be run effectively. To date, SAO is progressing at a steady rate with links being formed with other conservation organisations, tree planting taking place at various sites, wildflower meadows created, nest box building and erection and many schools becoming involved in the race to save owls. Various landowners have contacted the WOT for site surveys and advice. All in all this has been a successful campaign to date.

A key player in SAO is the Stirk House Hotel and our thanks go to Paul and Anne Caddy for their enthusiasm and support and the wonderful wildlife habitat they are creating. As a result of this liaison, the WOT AGM will be held at Stirk House this September rather than at the Centre. This is a new venture for us and we hope the more central location will make it easier for members to attend. One of our Patrons, Professor David Bellamy, OBE will be the after dinner speaker at an ‘open to all’ Gala Dinner in the hotel ballroom. There will be discounted accommodation for members able to stay overnight.

More strides forward were made when the Trust set up a new ecommerce website: www.worldowltrust.org, making it possible for people to donate online as well as being able to link easily to our information site at www.owls.org.

Apart from all our owl work in the UK, there has been an increase in the number of overseas projects the Trust has been able to support. In particular in Israel and Nepal alongside our hugely successful project in the Philippines. Much of our information comes via our overseas representatives to whom we are extremely grateful.

We were sorry to lose our Conservation Officer, Sue Thurley when she left to take up a post nearer her home. Sue had done sterling work for the Trust during her time with us. Soon we were joined by new Conservation Officer Hilary Lange who seems to have found her feet very quickly. As part of SAO, Hilary has picked up the

Conservation

2008 saw a change in staff of the Conservation Officer, causing a period of inactivity from late July up until October 08. This halted Barn Owl monitoring somewhat which subsequently ceased by 17th July.

The year started with cold wet conditions causing grassland habitat to become waterlogged, affecting the vole populations at a critical time in the breeding season. Eggs were initially laid early in the year, but with the appearance of chicks at the beginning of May this indicated that early attempts had failed. Only 24 sites out of the 68 checked raised 49 owlets by mid July.

Overall it was a disappointing year for the SW Cumbria Barn Owl population which was mirrored in part by some other counties in Britain. However reports varied greatly with some counties reporting a good year, inevitably due to the variance in weather around the country.

A number of Barn Owl surveys for planning and mitigation purposes were carried out with advice concerning suitable provision during development work.

The Carlisle project has taken off with local school children getting involved by

Education

After a couple of years of exciting new projects and initiatives 2008/9 has seen us consolidating the Education provision here at the Trust. This has given us the opportunity to improve on what we have already learned to ensure that we are providing a quality experience for all our visitors.

Our now established programme of Education Activities is still proving popular with visiting school groups of all ages. Overall 312 primary age children and 53 people of other ages took part in structured learning on site which is excellent for a Centre of our size. The activities which they take part in range from learning how to draw an owl to the ever popular ‘Pellet Dissection’ workshops which are gruesome but lots of fun!

Of course education does not just involve organised school groups. One of the ways we reach people who might never visit the Centre is through our Adopt an

‘Owls in the Community’ campaign based at Carlisle which was started by Sue.

Another new and very welcome arrival has been Paddy Linighan, co-opted as WOT Treasurer and formally accepted at our last AGM in September. Paddy has a knack of explaining the WOT’s finances in an easy and accessible way. Thank you!

More thanks are due to Office Supervisor/Education Officer, Jennifer Lewin, who was married during the year to fiancé, Mark, and is now Jennifer Fishpool. Somehow she managed to find time to put together the excellent WOT Owl Guidebook which has been literally flying off the shelves. Thanks too to Ann Marie Moffat who joined us as book keeper when Hazel left and Margaret Stubbs who took on the job of Admin Assistant after Dawn left. As I said in my report last year, the WOT is constantly evolving; new people bring new ideas.

However, it is also good to have stability and we still have Collection Manager, David Armitage and the same amazing team of Keepers. I say amazing because they do amazing things to raise money for the Trust, like throwing themselves out of a plane - Trystan and Vicky complete with parachutes. Then there was that hairy walk along Striding Edge, Helvellyn with Wulf and Co. Thank you all.

Also a big thank you goes to our Chief Executive, Barbara Powell, who somehow manages to hold everything together and works incredibly hard.

One last mention is lovely ‘Georgie’ Barn Owl, Tony’s favourite bird, now sadly deceased. However, in March he was posthumously awarded the ‘Lady Gray’ Award for owls ‘considered to have made a difference’ and now joins Tony in the ‘Owl Hall of Fame’. There’s always something happening at the World Owl Trust and I don’t think that will ever change.

Finally thank you everyone out there who supports us, we can’t exist without you.

Jenny Thurston

meeting an owl in their classroom and making some Barn Owl boxes which will be put up by the City Council around the parks and greenspaces of Carlisle.

The Rusland Valley Project is continuing with the partnership between WOT and the Forestry Commission. The monitoring of Barn Owls in the area is jointly carried out between the two organisations. A number of new boxes have been erected and we are currently looking for new sites to erect further boxes in the future.

The Tourism and Conservation Partnership have continued to support our conservation efforts with local businesses contributing over £600 to the Rusland Valley Project.

As always we have had a number of wild juvenile and injured owls brought into the wildlife hospital. The majority of which have been successfully released back to the areas they were found. We were also able to rehabilitate and release a kestrel.

Environmental education has continued with the return of the Wildlife Watch Club in November. So far the children had a natural Christmas with decorations made from willow, sprung to life with the amphibians of spring and taken part in a national soil and earthworm survey. Local school children have also enjoyed visits by one of our owls in the classroom and spent many hours discovering what owls eat by looking at pellets.

Owl Scheme. Adopters receive an information sheet about their chosen species but these have remained the same for many years. They have now recently been completely redesigned making them easier to read as well as giving the adopter more information.

The new Centre signage which came into place last year has proved successful. It is now much easier to change than the old style signage and as a result the signs are now always up to date and look smart and fresh.

The World Owl Centre Guidebook has now been available for almost a year. This has proved to be a best seller at the Centre and is a valuable tool for making more information available to visitors than would be possible to display in the Centre.

The Kids Zone on the web-site has had a complete overhaul and is now bigger and better than ever.

Overseas Projects

The World Owl Trust is the acknowledged leader in the field of global owl conservation and is currently represented by Overseas Representatives in 11 different countries – Australia, Brazil, The Netherlands, Israel, Kenya, Malaysia, Nepal, Southern India, South Africa, Ukraine and the USA.

Since 1995 the Trust has made the Philippines its main focus abroad, since this country of over 7000 islands (13 of them major islands with their own endemic fauna and flora) has suffered perhaps the most rapid and severe loss of lowland rainforest in history. With this deforestation has come a devastating loss of biodiversity coupled with human disasters caused by typhoon damage and erosion of the vital watersheds.

In May 1998 the WOT signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Philippine Government to manage the Philippine Owl Conservation Programme by carrying out field surveys to assess species status and distribution along with a review of last remaining habitat quality. A second, vitally important aspect was to try and safeguard endangered species by means of ‘in-situ’ conservation-breeding programmes.

To facilitate these programmes the Trust agreed to sponsor the work of the Negros Forests & Ecological Foundation – Biodiversity Conservation Centre (NFEFI-BCC) and in 2003 we helped to set up a breeding programme at BCC for the captive breeding of the largest owl in the Philippines – the highly

Owl Centre

2008 proved to be the most successful breeding year ever at the World Owl Centre with no fewer than fifty-eight owlets of nineteen taxa safely raised by their parents. Highlights included a nest of four Great Grey Owls, a nest of seven Northern Hawk Owls and nine Little Owls from two nests. Two Buzzards, which had arrived as wing-injured patients of our wildlife hospital, although unfit for release, surprised us by nesting on the ground and raising two healthy youngsters.

The World Owl Trust does not buy or sell owls and so

Administration

Staff and volunteers have been busy this year with fund-raising events at Muncaster: a Treasure Hunt during Fools’ week and a sponsored walk in the grounds by Karla Gudgeon, in medieval dress. We have also attended events and shows around the country with our new Gazebo which has our logo and name printed on the roof. The Trust’s owls and staff have been well received at these events and as well as raising much needed funds for our Save an Owl for £1 appeal, we have been able to tell more people about the need to help owls and also made good contacts with like minded organisations and groups.

The Trust is currently holding a raffle with a Border Fine Art Sculpture of Tythe the Barn Owl as the main prize, this will be drawn at Easter. The online shop is now running smoothly and is producing a regular income stream, particularly in the months running up to Christmas. We are constantly adding to the products available.

The Trust always promotes membership of the Trust as the best way to keep up to date with our work and owl

endangered Philippine Eagle Owl *Bubo philippensis* which is totally dependent upon lowland rainforest. To date we have managed to create a founder stock of four unrelated pairs, and in 2005 achieved the first ever captive breeding of this owl.

In the following years three more owlets have been raised to independence and as the breeding pairs mature we hope to enlarge this population to the point where some individuals can be transferred to the UK for breeding and education purposes, with other captive-bred birds being released into suitable habitats to reinforce the remaining wild populations on Luzon and other areas of their natural range.

In Nepal the Trust has funded a survey managed by Raju Aycharya our Nepalese representative along with Friends of Nature Nepal (FONNEPAL) to assess the status, threats and ethno-ornithological relationship between the local people and owls. The Preliminary Report has been received and published in WOT Newsletter 41 (available on-line). We await the Final Report in the coming months. This work has led to a further report on the ‘Hunting & Trade of Eurasian Eagle Owls in Nepal’ which we intend to follow up.

One of the most exciting projects ever funded by the WOT has been the installation of a webcam on an Israeli Barn Owl nest set up by Rep. Motti Charter. This will beam live pictures to researchers and interested individuals all over the world.

This year’s fieldwork for the Mackinder’s Eagle Owl *Bubo capensis mackinderi* Project in Kenya was mostly carried out by Darcy Ogada’s assistant Paul Murithi

the majority of our young birds were donated to other public and private collections to make up new breeding pairs. Three species, Turkmenian Eagle Owl, Indian Eagle Owl and Spotted Owllet returned to the Centre after an absence of several years and one species entirely new to the Centre, the South American Mottled Owl, was received.

The Owl Centre was enhanced by planting many attractive trees, shrubs and vines in and around the aviaries and a new gravelled pathway was created in the Owl Garden giving visitors better access to the Red Kite aviary, the Pat Hoard aviaries and the Owl Shop. The substrate of all

information from around the world with three newsletters being sent out each year. We receive many letters and emails from our members and supporters relating to owl encounters or responding to our appeals or articles.

We receive many donated items such as paper, envelopes, towels, newspapers and bin liners from members and visitors. These resources are greatly appreciated.

Adoptions of the Centre’s Owls is also very popular and new owls available for adoption are the Turkmenian Eagle Owls and Mottled Owls.

Another popular income stream is our Keeper for the Day experiences when individuals are treated as VIP visitors to the Centre, taking part in flying the birds at the display.

Generous donations have been received and we value the support given to the Trust from all our members and partnership organisations. The World Owl Trust is one of two conservation charities chosen for support by Drayton Manor Park, Staffordshire and Beale Park Wildlife Park and Gardens, Berkshire has supported our Save an Owl for £1 Appeal.

since Darcy needed to be at home with her 15 month-old son. Many of the 16 study pairs bred successfully, but due to the internequine strife which occurred in Kenya in 2008 the research got off to a slow start and a report on the season’s results is still awaited.

In Southern India our representative Arvind Ambudoss resumed his study of the Indian (Rock) Eagle Owl *Bubo bengalensis* after a severe bout of illness. The Trust is currently looking at the possibility of funding an extension to his study area so that Arvind can hopefully locate new pairs of breeding owls and talk to local communities about their conservation.

In Brazil we supplied books to assist Rep. John Beaumont (a British-born conservation biologist) in setting up the Pantanal Institute which aims to improve the welfare and conservation of owls in central-western Brazil and educate the local people by encouraging their active participation in the work of the Institute. By doing so John hopes that positive results will accrue in the shape of enhanced conservation measures for owls both in captivity and on the rainforest/agricultural front.

For the past five years John has funded the project personally from his own pocket by setting up a separate business (an English school and science-writing company), but now urgently needs financial help to enable this excellent initiative to develop in the way he envisages. We will therefore be looking at ways in which the Trust can help this worthy cause in a country which still has a wealth of wildlife despite severe deforestation – including many forest-dependent owl species.

the aviaries, on and off display, was replaced with a thick, new layer of woodchip and nest boxes were renovated or replaced. The Brookes–Edwards Aviary was altered to create secure, all year round, indoor and outdoor accommodation for European Scops Owls.

The video screens installed last year have proved to be a great success. The nest of four Great Grey Owls proving to be the star attraction. Work was started on the installation of more cameras to cover the nest sites of African Spotted Eagle Owls, Burrowing Owls and Snowy Owls.

Sponsors

Border Fine Art, Child-Beale Trust, Cumbria Tourism, Cumbria Waste Management Environment Trust, Drayton Manor Park, Hadfield Trust, Keswick to Barrow Walk, Knoll Country House, Kirkleatham Owl Centre, MAKAND Ltd, NFU Mutual, Tittlesworth Nature Reserve, Tourism and Conservation Partnership

Supporters

All our members and adopters, Dave Bellis, Dr Katherine Atwill, Calne Flower Arrangers, Durham District Nurses, Edmundson Electrical Ltd, Margaret Elias, Lord Forteviot, Karla Gudgeon, Eva Johnston, L Holden, Inner Wheel Club of Morecambe and Heysham, Pamela Lewis, Paddy Linighan, Ian McGuire, Patrick Gordon Duff Pennington, Paul and Ann Caddy of Stirk House Hotel, Joan and Colin Tomlinson, Linda and Kevin Wain, Students of Ulverston High School, Ann Wallwork

Partnership Organisations

Carlisle City Council, Cumbria Wildlife Trust (Watch Club), Forestry Commission, Friends of Nature Nepal (FONNEPAL), Natural England, Negros Forests & Ecological Foundation – Biodiversity Conservation Centre (NFEFI-BCC)