

Everything depends on members and it's great to see the steady growth in membership that we have experienced over the last seven years continuing.

Probably several reasons for it: a big publicity effort from 2005/6; the change to BOC in 2007 and access to QMR for Club members only from 2009.

Membership has doubled since 2003/4, when we last formally sought the views and ideas of club members through a questionnaire and we thought it time to do so again seven years on. You gave a good response - thanks - and Mike Turton will give you some feedback in a few minutes.

Programme 2010/11

13 indoor meetings

Field excursions

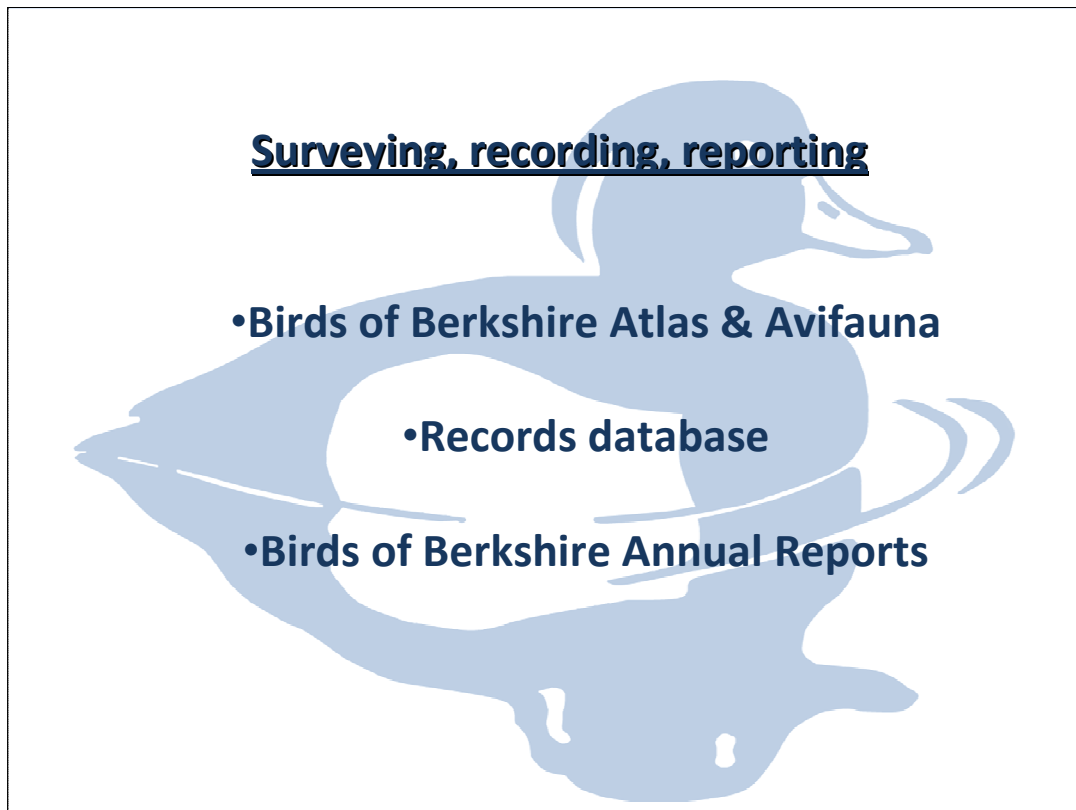
- **12 one day visits**
- **9 mid-week walks**
- **2 weekend trips**
- **2 overseas trips**
- **2 ringing demonstrations**

**Christmas Social, Christmas Lunch,
Summer Garden Party**

We have had a very full programme and very varied programme thanks to

- Ray Reedman for the indoor meeting planning;
- Bill Nicoll and all the trip leaders, especial thanks to Ken White for starting the very popular visits to Spain.
- Tim ball for the ringing demos
- Dot, John Roberts and all those who have set up the social events.

This year we have a similarly full programme planned which we hope you will enjoy. It still concerns me that attendance at meetings is the same now as it was 7 years ago, despite the doubling in membership. The questionnaire analysis may help us understand this.



The field work for the new Berkshire bird atlas, involving some 400 observers, is now complete and work has started on analysing the data and preparing the Atlas and Avifauna for publication, anticipated in 2013.

We have a pretty good and largely up to date county records database thanks to many people and specially the work of the Berkshire Bird Bulletin team and to Marek Walford, who manages the database and provides the input from his berkbirds website.

I wish I could say we were up to date with publishing the reports. For a variety of reasons we are not. The last report, for 2005, was published three years ago. The good news is that 2006, 7 and 8 are now almost complete and will be published this BOC year in two volumes. The editorial team is just starting work on 2009 and 2010.

Conservation

Grants for nest boxes at Basildon Park and telescope for Greenham Common wardens

Henley Road Gravel Pits – management and access

Field Farm - management for ground-nesting birds

Fobney Island – creation of wetland reserve

John Lerpiniere represents the BOC at several conservation forums in the county and makes sure the BOC voice is heard.

In addition, we have made grants to install nest boxes at the NT's Basildon Park and provided the Greenham Common wardens with a telescope to help them monitor ground-nesting birds like LRPs, RPs, Woodlark, Skylark and engage the public.

Through Hugh Netley the BOC is working with the landowner to manage Henley Road GPs where there is now public access.

Ken Moore and Adrian Lawson are working with Hadleys and Hansons on a private site at Field Farm, which has become important for some vulnerable ground-nesting species.

And, after many years of debate and planning, work has started on the restructuring of Fobney Island to create a wetland reserve area. This is a £500,000 project between the Reading Borough Council, the Environment Agency, Thames Water and the Thames Valley Rivers Restoration Trust . The BOC has been heavily involved in its planning and anticipates taking a key role in the Friends of Fobney group that the RBC will be setting up to assist in future management.

It is good to see the Club getting more heavily involved in conservation and we expect more conservation opportunities will flow from the Atlas studies.



To orient you ,...



So, there is a lot happening – thanks to many people on the Committee and helping with reports, surveys and a thousand and one other things and to Mike Turton, our Secretary. Having done it, I know how much work it is and from this role I appreciate how valuable it is – thanks Mike.

I want particularly to thank the outgoing Committee members Ken Moore, Hugh Netley and Debby Reynolds, who I know will continue to help the Club. In fact Ken Moore can't get away as he remains chair of the Editorial Board!

Lastly special thanks to two people who have worked tirelessly for the Club for many years and this year asked to step down.

Ruth Angus who has been our publicity officer for six years and instrumental in the membership growth we have been seeing. Dot Lincoln, for many, many years our Membership Secretary. A key role in welcoming new members and a tough, demanding job when it comes to renewal time.