

London Natural History Society
(Charity Registration Number 206228)

**Balance Sheet and
Statement of Financial Activities**

For The Year Ended 30th June 2008

Meyer Williams
Chartered Accountants

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2007/08

At the end of the financial year on 30 June 2008, the total net assets of the Society were £339,334 compared with £332,663 the previous year.

The accounts for the year show a surplus of £6,671 compared with a loss of £14,353 in 2006/2007. Income for the year totalled £40,670, compared with £37,253 in the previous year. Subscription income (including Gift Aid tax recovered) increased from £19,639 in the previous year to £20,445 in 2007/2008. Sales of the Society's various publications generated £912, compared with £909 in the previous year. The Society's investment in the COIF Charities Deposit Fund generated interest of £18,094 (2006/2007: £15,706) (at an average rate of just over 5.6%, (2006/2007: 4.9%)).

Overall expenditure during the year was £33,999 compared with £51,606 in the previous year when there were one off costs associated with the removal of the Society's Library from Imperial College, and writing of London Bird Report 2002-2003 in an attempt to reduce the backlog in production of this journal.

Reserves Policy

The Society's unrestricted general funds can be regarded as expendable endowment since they are invested to provide a regular source of income as well as capital growth, over time.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the 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 are required to:

- 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 departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue to operate.

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud or other irregularities.

**LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
(Charity Registered Number – 206228)**

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S UNQUALIFIED REPORT

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
London Natural History Society**

I report on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30 June 2008 as set out on pages 3 to 9.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 43 Charities Act 1993 (as amended). Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's members as a body, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of financial statements. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for the year (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act)(as amended)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the financial statements (under section 43(3)(a) of the 1993 Act);
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act); and
- to state where particular matters have come to my attention.

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeks explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 41 of the 1993 Act; and
 - to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act have not been met; or
- (b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable proper understanding of the Financial Statements to be reached.

J. L. Meyer
Queen Alexandra House,
2 Bluecoats Avenue,
Hertford,
Herts,
SG14 1PB

Date:
13/10/08

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ended 30th June 2008

	Notes	Unrestricted General Funds	
		2008 £	2007 £
Incoming resources			
Incoming resources from generated funds:			
<i>Voluntary income:</i>			
Subscriptions received from members	6	20,445	19,639
Donations and Other income	7	562	526
<i>Investment income:</i>			
Interest receivable	8	18,751	16,179
<i>Incoming resources from charitable activities:</i>			
Publications / journals income	9	912	909
Total incoming resources		40,670	37,253
Resources expended			
<i>Charitable activities:</i>			
Publication and other costs	10	27,520	46,131
Grants payable	11	1,000	-
<i>Governance costs:</i>			
Management and Administration expenses	12	5,479	5,475
Total resources expended		33,999	51,606
Net movement in Funds		6,671	(14,353)
Fund balance brought forward at 1st July		332,663	347,016
Fund balance carried forward at 30th June		£339,334	£332,663
Comprising:			
Unrealised funds		£339,334	£332,663

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year. All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 5 to 9 form an integral part of these financial statements

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30th June 2008

1. Accounting policies

a) Basis of Accounting

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2005) issued March 2005 and applicable UK accounting Standards and the Charities Act 1993.

b) Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. In particular, Subscriptions, which are collected on a calendar year basis, continue to be brought in as received. Donations received under Gift Aid are brought in on a receipts basis, as is the tax reclaimed thereon.

c) Current asset investments

Current asset investments are stated at cost. Investment income is stated on a receivable basis.

d) Resources expended

Liabilities are recognised as resources expended as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs relating to the category. Irrecoverable VAT is charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as incurred.

Governance costs are considered to comprise of management and administrative expenses incurred for the running of the charity itself as an organisation.

e) Fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £250 or more are capitalised at cost.

Depreciation is provided annually on fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset over its expected useful life as follows:

Computer Equipment	- 33 1/3% pa.
Other Assets	- 20% pa.

The contents of the Society's Library and Archives were substantially acquired in past accounting periods and are not capitalised as the practicalities involved in the reconstruction or analysis of past accounting records to obtain an accurate cost or meaningful valuation is disproportionate to the benefit derived by users of the accounts in assessing the trustee's stewardship of the assets. To ensure sufficient cover for the Library a valuation for insurance purposes only, of £123,500, was obtained in August 2006.

f) Taxation

The London Natural History Society is registered as a charity (registration number 206228) and as such tax exemptions apply to the income arising from and expended on its charitable activities.

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended 30th June 2008

1. Accounting policies - continued

g) Reserves Policy

The Society's unrestricted general funds can be regarded as expendable endowment since they are invested to provide a regular source of income as well as capital growth to the Society, over time.

2. Tangible fixed assets for use by the charity

Cost	Computer Equipment £	Other Fixed Assets £	Total £
Balance at 1st July 2007	11,769	5,560	17,329
Disposals	(10,261)	(245)	(10,506)
Balance at 30th June 2008	<u>1,508</u>	<u>5,315</u>	<u>6,823</u>
Depreciation			
Balance at 1st July 2007	11,500	4,196	15,696
Charge for the year	269	1,039	1,308
Eliminated on disposal	(10,261)	(245)	(10,506)
Balance at 30th June 2008	<u>1,508</u>	<u>4,990</u>	<u>6,498</u>
Net book value			
At 30th June 2008	<u>-</u>	<u>325</u>	<u>325</u>
At 30th June 2007	<u>269</u>	<u>1,364</u>	<u>1,633</u>
3. Debtors		2008	2007
		£	£
Trade debtors		-	120
Payments in advance and other debtors		5,572	5,822
Tax recoverable		4,028	3,643
Stationery stocks		10	15
		<u>£9,610</u>	<u>£9,600</u>
4. Current Asset Investments			
Other UK Investments:			
At 1 st July		320,000	320,000
Additions at cost		-	-
At 30 th June		<u>£320,000</u>	<u>£320,000</u>

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended 30th June 2008

5.	Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	2008	2007
		£	£
	Trade creditors	102	1,718
	General Liabilities and Accrued Expenditure	3,373	2,515
		<u>£3,475</u>	<u>£4,233</u>
		<u><u> </u></u>	<u><u> </u></u>
6.	Subscriptions		
	Subscriptions received	16,417	15,996
	Tax recovered on subscriptions and members donations under Gift Aid	4,028	3,643
		<u>£20,445</u>	<u>£19,639</u>
		<u><u> </u></u>	<u><u> </u></u>
7.	Donations and Other income	2008	2007
		£	£
	Donations	562	526
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
		<u>£562</u>	<u>£526</u>
		<u><u> </u></u>	<u><u> </u></u>
8.	Interest receivable		
	Bank Deposit Account	410	307
	Charities Deposit Fund Account	18,094	15,706
	Interest on Tax recovered on subscriptions and donations under Gift Aid	247	166
		<u>£18,751</u>	<u>£16,179</u>
		<u><u> </u></u>	<u><u> </u></u>

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 30th June 2008

9.	Publications / Journals income		2008	2007
			£	£
	Journals		607	609
	“Butterflies of the London Area”		51	47
	“Larger Moths of the London Area”		60	56
	“Breeding birds of the London Area”		173	189
	Other publications		21	8
			<u>£912</u>	<u>£909</u>
			<u><u>£912</u></u>	<u><u>£909</u></u>
10.	Publication and other costs	2008		2007
		£	£	£
	Publications printing and other expenses:			
	London Naturalist No. 85	-		6,153
	London Naturalist No. 86	5,353		-
	London Bird Report 2002-2003	-		16,481
	London Bird Report 2004	4,000		-
		<u> </u>	9,353	<u> </u>
				22,634
	Programme	549		569
	Bulletin and Newsletters	5,035		5,396
	Mailing	6,708		5,437
	Digitising film “London’s Birds”	729		-
		<u> </u>	13,021	<u> </u>
				11,402
	Publications / Journal Sales Expenditure	90		143
	Library	1,136		7,580
		<u> </u>	1,226	<u> </u>
				7,723
	Meeting Costs, Sectional & General Expenditure:			
	Hire of Halls and Rooms	1,476		1,456
	Lecturers' Fees and Expenses, Sectional Expenses etc.	931		656
	Honorarium and Expense Allowances	204		458
	Sundries	1		303
	Depreciation	1,308		1,307
	Disposal of Fixed Assets	-		192
		<u> </u>	3,920	<u> </u>
				4,372
			<u>£27,520</u>	<u>£46,131</u>
			<u><u>£27,520</u></u>	<u><u>£46,131</u></u>

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended 30th June 2008

11.	Grants Payable	2008	2007
		£	£
	Grant to Hertfordshire Natural History Society for Moth Book	1,000	-
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		£1,000	£ -
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
12.	Management and Administrative Expenses	2008	2007
		£	£
	Postage and Telephone	158	191
	Stationery	107	107
	Bank Charges	69	52
	Services, Insurance, etc	2,198	2,552
	Independent examination fees	2,744	2,573
	Repairs and renewals	203	-
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		£5,479	£5,475
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

13. **Transactions with Council Members**

Members of the Council (who are *ex officio* trustees) receive reimbursement of expenditure incurred in respect of the society's activities, and may also receive partial reimbursement of additional travel expenses incurred in attending Council or other Committee meetings. No payments are made in respect of time or to compensate for loss of earnings, so no remuneration is paid to Trustees. The total amount reimbursed during the year was £1,941 (2007: £1,080) to 8 (2007: 4) Council Members.

14. **Ultimate controlling party**

The Society had no ultimate controlling party during the current or previous years.

For Management information only.

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

For the year ended 30th June 2008

	2008		2007	
	£	£	£	£
Income from Members and Supporters:				
Subscriptions		16,417		15,996
Donations and other income		562		526
Tax recovered on Subscriptions and Donations under Gift Aid		4,028		3,643
		<u>21,007</u>		<u>20,165</u>
Sales:				
Journals		607		609
“Butterflies of the London Area”		51		47
“Larger Moths of the London Area”		60		56
“Breeding Birds of the London Area”		173		189
Other publications		21		8
		<u>912</u>		<u>909</u>
Charities Deposit Fund Interest	18,094		15,706	
Bank Deposit Account Interest	410		307	
Interest on Gift Aid tax recovered	247		166	
		<u>18,751</u>		<u>16,179</u>
		<u>18,751</u>		<u>16,179</u>
Total Income		<u>40,670</u>		<u>37,253</u>
Less: Expenditure (Page 11)		<u>(33,999)</u>		<u>(51,606)</u>
Surplus/ (Deficit) for the year		<u>£6,671</u>		<u>£(14,353)</u>

For Management information only.

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT (Continued)
For the year ended 30th June 2008

EXPENDITURE

	2008		2007	
	£	£	£	£
Meeting Costs, Sectional & General Expenditure:				
Hire of Halls and Rooms	1,476		1,456	
Lecturers' Fees and Expenses, Sectional Expenses etc.	931		656	
Postage and Telephone	158		191	
Stationery	107		107	
Services (Independent Examiners' Fees, Insurance etc.)	4,942		5,125	
Equipment repairs and renewals	203		-	
Honorary and Expense Allowances	204		458	
Sundries	1		303	
Depreciation	1,308		1,307	
Disposal of Fixed Assets	-		192	
Bank Charges (net of refunds)	69		52	
		9,399		9,847
Grants Payable:				
Grant to Hertfordshire Natural History Society for Moth Book		1,000		-
Publications:				
Printing and Expenses:				
London Naturalist No. 85	-		6,153	
London Naturalist No. 86	5,353		-	
London Bird Report 2002-2003	-		16,481	
London Bird Report 2004	4,000		-	
		9,353		22,634
Programme	549		569	
Bulletin and Newsletters	5,035		5,396	
Mailing	6,708		5,437	
Digitising film "London's Birds"	729		-	
		13,021		11,402
Publications/ Journal Sales expenditure		90		143
Library		1,136		7,580
Total Expenditure for the Year		£33,999		£51,606