



BirdWatchIreland
birdwatchireland.ie
protecting birds and biodiversity

Annual Report 2016



Welcome

From the **Chairperson**



Chairperson's Report

I was honoured to take on the four-year term as Chairperson of BirdWatch Ireland and I would like to again thank those who supported my nomination. I would also like to express thanks to outgoing Chairperson, Kieran O'Byrne, who led the organisation through a difficult and challenging period, and to outgoing Board member, Seamus Bridgeman, who I am sure will continue his work as a dedicated volunteer. At the 2016 AGM we welcomed Tony Culley, John Lynch and Stephen Wilson to the Board and together they bring a strong mix of management, insurance, accounting and environmental skills.

The Board met on twelve occasions since the AGM and our priorities included continuing to stabilise the finances, appointment of a CEO to lead the organisation and implementation of the *Governance Code for the Voluntary and Charitable Organisations*. I am indebted to the members of the Board for their dedication which, in addition to regular Board meetings, includes work on our Governance and Audit and Risk Committees. I have set out below the schedule of Board meetings for the term.

In March 2016 we welcomed Declan O'Sullivan on board as Interim CEO. Declan, who is a Chartered Certified Accountant (FCCA) and also holds an MBA, has worked in a wide variety of senior roles in both the commercial and not-for-profit sectors, including a term as CEO of the Irish Red Cross. Declan also has extensive experience as an Executive Mentoring Coach with clients including Deloitte and KPMG.

During the year the Board finalised the BirdWatch Ireland *Governance Handbook*, which defines how we set out to meet the requirements of the *Governance Code*. The *Handbook* is now published on our website and provides an invaluable governance roadmap for members and the Board. Another important step in our governance journey was the adoption at the EGM in September 2016 of our updated *Memorandum & Articles of Association (M&A)*. This brought our M&A in line with the Companies Act 2014 and the best-practice recommendations of the Charities Regulator.

2016 saw a number of long-serving staff members move on from the organisation. Chief Operations Officer, Oran O'Sullivan, retired and Head of Policy, Communications & People Engagement, Siobhán Egan, took on a new role in the Environmental Protection Agency. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Oran and Siobhán for

their many years of devoted service to BirdWatch Ireland and to wish them both well for the future.

One of our key strengths as an organisation is the dedication of our members and volunteers and I was delighted at the attendance and feedback at our recent Branch Workshops. This support was also very much in evidence in your generous support for our *Wild Islands Appeal*. Another remarkable and inspiring example was the bequest of the Kilcolman Reserve by the late Margaret Ridgeway; ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam.

In addition to our many volunteers, delivering on our mission to protect birds and biodiversity is overseen by the professionalism, expertise and dedication of our staff at BirdWatch Ireland. I would like to express sincere thanks from the members and Board to our staff who, day in and day out, carry out such excellent work on our behalf.

Thank you again for your support.

Gerry Lyons, Chairperson, BirdWatch Ireland

Attendance at BirdWatch Ireland Board meetings during the latest term.

	26 th July 2016	1 st Sept 2016	21 st Sept 2016	2 nd Nov 2016	21 st Nov 2016	14 th Dec 2016	8 th Feb 2017	27 th Feb 2017	29 th Mar 2017	27 th Apr 2017	29 th May 2017
Tony Culley	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x
Jim Dowdall	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
David Fay	x	x	x		x	x	x	x			
Brian Lavery		x			x	x	x		x	x	x
John Lynch		x		x	x	x	x	x	x		x
Gerry Lyons	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Stephen Wilson	x	x		x	x	x	x		x	x	

BirdWatch Ireland Directors in 2016

Kieran O'Byrne (Chairperson until resignation from the board on 25 June 2016)

Gerard Lyons (Secretary until 25 June 2016, when appointed Chairperson)

James Francis Dowdall (appointed Secretary on 25 June 2016)

Brian Francis Lavery

Seamus Bridgeman (resigned on 25 June 2016)

David Fay

John Lynch

Stephen Wilson (appointed on 20 April 2016)

Anthony Culley (appointed on 25 June 2016)

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COVER PHOTOGRAPH:
Female Hen Harrier
by Mike Brown



BirdWatchIreland
protecting birds and biodiversity



BirdWatch Ireland is the BirdLife International
partner in the Republic of Ireland

Surveys & Monitoring

Our popular **Garden Bird Survey** saw some interesting trends in a mild and stormy 2015/16 winter season. After years of falling numbers, Greenfinch made it back into the top 10. The stand-out predator of the survey was Sparrowhawk, showing up in over 40% of gardens.

Our **monitoring workshops** in February and March 2016 were very well attended, with many satisfied potential observers heading away with a **Countryside Bird Survey** square to census and/or an **Irish Wetland Bird Survey (I-WeBS)** site to count. Meanwhile, **BirdTrack** continues to grow as the standalone scheme for gathering other bird records, and during 2016 a total of 240 recorders submitted an impressive 63,755 BirdTrack records in Ireland.

The fortunes of the **breeding tern colonies** along the east coast in 2016 was mixed. While the numbers returning to breed this year at all colonies, with the exception of Baltray, were very healthy, all of the colonies were highly unproductive, with below-normal fledging rates. Reasons are unclear, but were probably related to poor food availability.

Coverage of **I-WeBS sites** during a very wet 2015/16 and a very dry 2016/17 has continued to be excellent, thanks to our dedicated counter network. The start of 2016 saw the successful conclusion of the third **Non-Estuarine Waterbird Survey (NEWS)**. A fantastic effort from 140 counters saw almost 500 coastal sectors surveyed – all the more impressive given the appalling weather conditions!

In September 2016, BirdWatch Ireland, together with the EPA, Marine Institute, Fáilte Ireland, Limosa Environmental and the Cork Convention Bureau, supported Ireland's hosting of the **22nd International Wader Study Group Conference** at Trabolgan, Co. Cork, attended by a total of 135 delegates.

The **Dublin City Urban Birds Project**, in collaboration with Dublin City Council, has continued, with a range of citizen science surveys and outreach initiatives being delivered during the year. There was a focus on Swifts, urban gulls, waterbirds, terns and Brent Geese in the city. Events included a presence at the annual Rose Festival in St. Anne's Park and at "Battle for the Bay" on Dollymount Strand, where project information was available and people were encouraged to submit their bird sightings through a range of online portals. Our ongoing **work on Swifts** continued across Ireland, thanks to support from the Heritage Council, Dublin City Council, the Office of Public Works and the Tipperary Heritage Office. The interest in work on Swifts continues to spread, with some fine examples of community-led projects taking off across the country, particularly in collaboration with local Tidy Towns groups.

We initiated an ambitious study through Transport Infrastructure Ireland to assess the extent of **Barn Owl road mortality** and factors which influence it,

SHAY CONNOLLY



Purple Sandpiper: counted by the Non-Estuarine Waterbird Survey (NEWS).



NEIL O'REILLY

Merlin: BirdWatch Ireland carried out much work on this species in 2016.

in order to identify the requirements for mitigation. We used GPS tags on Barn Owls for the first time in Ireland, and ours was one of the first research studies to do so internationally, which has provided fascinating insights on Barn Owl ecology and their use of major roads.

Dublin Zoo has supported our **raptor monitoring and conservation work** on an ongoing basis. In 2016, we monitored breeding success at 113 Barn Owl nest sites and ringed 154 young from 62 broods in what was a productive nesting season. We also continued long-term monitoring of Kestrels, Merlins and Long-eared Owls in Galway, Kerry and other areas, in collaboration with the National Parks and Wildlife Service as well as with local branches and a wide range of volunteers. We initiated survey work on Merlins in Duhallow, through the **IRD Duhallow's RaptorLIFE Project**, to gain an insight into the status of this under-studied species in upland areas of north Cork and east Kerry. Based on our previous work with University College Cork (UCC) on the **Avian Diversity and Afforestation Planning Tools Project** funded through the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, we also produced a scientific paper on Merlin habitat selection, which identifies the risks associated with nesting in conifer plantations.

Thanks to support from the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) and the Dublin Port Company, we initiated a programme of **tagging and tracking seabirds and waterbirds** in 2016 to observe in finer detail their movements on the Irish east coast. We fitted tags to a range of breeding gulls and wintering waterbirds. The study highlighted the value of new emerging technology in delivering information on bird movements that is essential for future planning within our marine environment.

2016 brought an end to the first phase of the **Dublin Bay Birds Project**, which set out in 2013 to deliver on the finer-scale movements of birds within Dublin Bay. This phase of the project produced several new and interesting findings, and among the many highlights was the proven importance of Dublin Bay for wading birds throughout the year, not just in winter as demonstrated through I-WeBS. Meanwhile, as the terns gathered again in their post-breeding roost on Sandymount Strand, an exceptional peak in excess of 17,000 birds was recorded one night in August. For further details on this project see www.dublinbaybirds.blogspot.ie.

Species & Habitats

Conservation of breeding Curlews continued to be a major focus of our species and habitats work in 2016. Under contract to the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), BirdWatch Ireland completed the survey work for the **National Curlew Survey**. The total population was found to be 124 pairs, representing a catastrophic decline in range and population in the last 40 years. BirdWatch Ireland advocated strongly for a Government-led working group to bring stakeholders together to tackle the decline. The Curlew Walk undertaken by UK broadcaster Mary Colwell, which greatly raised awareness of the issue, was followed by a very successful workshop in Co. Westmeath in November, organised by Mary Colwell, BirdWatch Ireland and University College Dublin (UCD). This led to increased calls on the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Heather Humphreys TD, to establish a **Curlew Task Force**. This was subsequently set up in February 2017, with some BirdWatch Ireland staff nominated – a great honour.

The **Results-based Agri-environment Pilot Scheme (RBAPS)**, of which BirdWatch Ireland is a partner, ran its first year of farmer contracts in 2016. This European Commission-funded project, running from 2015 to 2018 in Ireland and Spain, is trialling the development and implementation of novel measures for the conservation of biodiversity on farmland. Under these measures, farmers that produce better biodiversity results are rewarded with higher payment rates. The participation and response from farmers to date has been very positive and constructive. The preliminary results and feedback suggest that these results-based agri-environment measures, whilst not a panacea, can be a very effective tool for the conservation of biodiversity in certain circumstances.

BirdWatch Ireland, under contract to the **NPWS Corncrake Conservation Project**, undertook Corncrake fieldwork in Co. Donegal in 2016. The national census recorded 168 calling males in the two remaining core areas of Donegal and west Connacht. Donegal continued to be the species' stronghold, with 108 calling birds, 64% of the national total. Whilst this figure represents overall stability since 1993 when 164 calling males were confirmed, it is an 8% decline on 2015, and 2016 was the second consecutive year in which the population had decreased. No birds were heard in the



RICHARD MILLS

Curlew continued to be a major focus of our conservation work.

Shannon Callows for the second year running. Conservation measures undertaken included habitat management and the administration of the Corncrake Grant Scheme to farmers for delayed mowing and Corncrake-friendly mowing methods.

Considerable work was undertaken with the RSPB to establish the **Cooperating Across Borders for Biodiversity (CABB) Project**, a €4m cross-border initiative, spanning a number of years, which will target work in the border counties for breeding waders, machair waders, and Curlew sites in particular. The project was approved for funding in early 2017.

Optimising nesting conditions for Roseate, Common and Arctic Terns will be the focus of our early-season work on Rockabill, Co. Dublin, in 2017 as part of the **Roseate Tern LIFE Project**. We are also steadily increasing the number of nest boxes on the island, and terracing steep ground to create more space for breeding terns.

A high-profile "Tern Watch" was run at Dalkey Island, Co. Dublin, during the nesting season, to showcase the terns at this site, which can be observed from the mainland. We are trying to understand the causes of tern nest failure, which occurs here regularly. Both rats and people movement on the island will be monitored closely during 2017.

We hosted reserve management staff from our partners in the RSPB and the North Wales Wildlife Trust on Rockabill, and visited their colonies on Anglesey. These visits proved excellent for exchanging ideas and seeing novel management actions on the ground.

Our Reserves

Our reserves portfolio lists some nineteen reserves, from offshore rocky islands important for breeding seabirds to grasslands that require continued management for a suite of species. At our **East Coast Nature Reserve** in Newcastle, Co. Wicklow, our part-time summer warden was ably assisted by a Tús placement worker and volunteer work-party groups, who together ensured a safe environment for reserve visitors to enjoy. The reserve continues to attract impressive numbers of wintering waterbirds, while Reed Warblers, a relatively new breeding colonist, are starting to consolidate – four territories were recorded here in 2016. To guide our management of this significant reserve, a new ten-year **Conservation Management Plan** was drawn up, which received funding support from the **Heritage Council**. Meanwhile, breeding Lapwing numbers stabilised at the marsh and they enjoyed a successful breeding season, as did the breeding Lapwings around our Rogerstown estuary reserve in north Co. Dublin.

One of the biggest success stories for BirdWatch Ireland in 2015 was reinforced in 2016 when Red-necked Phalaropes again bred at Annagh Marsh in Co. Mayo. Meanwhile, Corncrakes maintained their presence at the neighbouring Termoncarragh Meadows, with two calling birds recorded in and adjacent to this reserve. Our work on pollinators, such as bees, includes monitoring their populations at some of our reserves, and the nationally rare Great Yellow Bumblebee continues to thrive at both of these Mayo reserves.

The value of partnerships was amply demonstrated at our **Cuskinny Marsh Reserve**, which is run by the **Cork Branch** and volunteers. Here, the **Cobh Tidy Towns group** helped fund the new information boards, whilst **Cobh Community College** designed and made new metal railings for the swan feeding area. Several aspects of the work on our reserves are only possible with help from our branch members and volunteers, as well as support from the Heritage Council, to all of whom we are very grateful.

Building & Supporting Our Networks: Branches, Members & The Public

National and Branch Events

Our members and our volunteer branch network are the foundation upon which BirdWatch Ireland is built, and getting out and about at local and national events is hugely important for everyone involved. Our branches and our staff together hosted over 450 free events during 2016, with activities taking place in every county.

Our showcase event in 2016 was **Bloom**, Ireland's largest garden and food event, which attracts around 120,000 people over five days. Other important events include the Seabird Festival at the Cliffs of Moher; the Rose Festival in St. Anne's Park, Dublin; Ideal Homes; and family events on Cape Clear.

We also held a number of bird and biodiversity events for the **OPW**. These events are great opportunities to raise awareness about Ireland's birds, answer queries from the public and also recruit members to the organisation.

2016 also saw a renewed focus on **Branch development** and capacity building, beginning with the designation of a dedicated staff contact for branch matters and the running of a very successful and well-attended workshop for national branch representatives in Mullingar, Co. Westmeath, in December.

Other branch activities during 2016 included our Clare Branch's Yellowhammer survey; county surveys of Whinchat, Dipper and Curlew by our Kildare Branch; the hosting by our Sligo Branch of visits by our Cavan, Tolka and South Dublin Branches; and our Laois Branch's Local Agenda 21-funded school nestbox scheme, which involved the installation of boxes in more than thirty schools across the county.

Our **membership base** continues to provide much-needed financial support for the organisation. By the end of 2016, this consisted of approximately 6,500 membership subscriptions. Members support our branch network, our events and our reserves, and they constitute an important volunteer base for our survey and monitoring work, as well as acting as advocates for nature and biodiversity in relation to our policy and campaign work.

SUSAN O'DONOHUE



Clare Branch members on a dawn chorus walk at Lough Gealán, beside Mullaghmore in the Burren, Co. Clare, in May 2016.

There has been a renewed focus within BirdWatch Ireland on increasing our supporter base and unrestricted funding. As part of this, we are looking at ways actively to encourage recently-lapsed members to rejoin the organisation, and to understand more about the needs and expectations of our membership to ensure a higher membership retention rate.

In November 2016, we launched the successful **Wild Islands Appeal**, which was followed by a direct appeal mailing, sent to the BirdWatch Ireland membership just before Christmas.

We also saw an increase in the number of Irish businesses signing up as **BirdWatch Ireland Business Supporters**. Our business patrons for 2016 were: **The Cliffs of Moher, Jade Insurance Management Ltd, CJ Wildlife and Doolin Ferry Company**. Our business associates were: **Cuckoos Garden, Greenbuild, Beechfield Nursing Home Group and Springmount Garden Centre**. We greatly appreciate their support.

Other collaborations during 2016 included the delivery of a team-building event for **Eason** on the East Coast Nature Reserve, Newcastle, Co. Wicklow; a jointly-branded bird pin-badge scheme with the **Cliffs of Moher**; and volunteering weekends on Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork, for a Cork-based multinational company.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our members for their contributions through their subscriptions, donations and shop purchases and for their ongoing support for our work.

We were delighted to appoint a new Cape Clear Wildlife Officer in 2016 and to re-open the doors of the BirdWatch Ireland Bird Observatory on the island. It was a very successful season in the "Obs," with some excellent sea-watching, record-breaking numbers of birds ringed on the island, a good autumn for migrants and a busy period for overnight visitors.

CORK BRANCH



The 2016 Champions of the 'Know Your Nature' Primary Schools Quiz in north-east Cork pictured with Paul Moore (Cork Branch) at the Corrin Event Centre, Fermoy. The team, from St Martin's National School in Kilworth, are (left to right) Ronan O'Kane, Colm Lane, Ben O'Keeffe and Fiona Dunne. The branch intends to expand the quiz in the years ahead to encompass all parts of the county.

Media, Social Media And Publications

BirdWatch Ireland's media profile on both radio and television continued to grow during 2016, with frequent coverage, in particular on *Mooney Goes Wild* on RTÉ Radio 1, the *Today* show on RTÉ 1 television and *The Morning Show* on TV3. In total, the organisation was featured in print and broadcast media on 330 separate occasions during the year.

We also played a prominent role in RTÉ's week-long series of *Big Week on the Farm* live television broadcasts in April, as well as in the subsequent Christmas special with a viewership of 350,000.

BirdWatch Ireland also had a major role in RTÉ Radio 1's inaugural *International Dawn Chorus* programme in May. This programme was subsequently awarded both the European Broadcasting Union's **Rose d'Or Award** for Radio Event of the Year and the **PPI Innovation Award**.

Subscriptions to our free e-zine *eWings* continue to grow, with 23,500 subscribers each month now receiving updates on our work. Our social media presence also increased, with a total of 18,944 page 'likes' on **Facebook**, up 2,545 since 2015, and 11,562 followers on **Twitter**, an increase of exactly 3,000 on the preceding year.

We also run seven active **Project Blogs**, and more than half of our branches now host their own website and/or Facebook page.

Our extensive range of publications includes *Wings*, *Bird*



Derek Mooney (centre) and Dr Richard Collins (left) of RTÉ Radio 1, and Niall Hatch of BirdWatch Ireland receiving the Rose d'Or Award in Berlin.

Detectives, *Irish Birds*, *eWings*, *I-WeBS News* and *CBS News*. We also publish a sales catalogue and a calendar, while a number of key reports and papers are published in scientific journals.

Education and Raising Awareness

BirdWatch Ireland's educational initiatives have expanded in the last year, with involvement at both national and international level.

2016 saw the continuation of our **Lifelong Learning through Nature** project, funded by the European Commission through its Erasmus+ funding stream and operated in collaboration with BirdLife Malta, OTOP (BirdLife in Poland), RSPB (BirdLife in the UK) and the Maltese Ministry of Education and Employment. The aim of the project is to develop materials and training programmes for teachers and youth leaders, with a view to promoting the benefits both of outdoor learning and of connections with nature. As part of this, we organised a special training session for sixty teachers in Dublin Zoo in July.

In August we began a new twenty-five month education project, also funded under the Erasmus+ scheme, again together with several of our BirdLife International partners. **Empowering Teachers and Pupils for a Better Life through Nature** aims to produce educational materials which teachers can use in the classroom to highlight environmental concerns and threats to flora and fauna, with a particular emphasis both on birds and on international cooperation along migratory flyways.

Over 8,000 records of migratory birds were submitted to **Spring Alive**, making it the largest citizen science project in Ireland. Our Dublin Bay Birds team also visited several schools around the capital and initiated a **Brent Goose Ambassador** scheme for pupils, in conjunction with Dublin City Council.

Our raptor conservation team carried out a series of school visits aimed at informing children about birds of prey and threats to their conservation. In 2016, we worked with **Galway, Clare and Tipperary County Councils** and, with funding from the **Heritage Council**, we produced **raptor workbooks** for primary

schools. We also carried out environmental education initiatives in primary schools in Galway, to teach children about local raptor populations and other wildlife in their area, and produced a series of videos with **St. Feichin's National School** to bring this work to a wider audience. This excellent work was subsequently showcased at the **Green Schools Expo** in early 2016.

Staff also gave a wide range of talks about BirdWatch Ireland's work and conservation issues to schools and local groups, including active retirement associations, golf clubs, garden centre patrons and Probus clubs for retired or semi-retired business professionals.



BirdWatch Ireland's Ricky Whelan training some young Brent Goose Ambassadors in Dublin.

Influencing Policies That Impact On Nature

Our advocacy work continued to achieve positive results in 2016. We were active in specific advocacy on threatened species, including the **Hen Harrier** and the **Curlew**. Our repeated calls for action on Curlews finally paid dividends with the announcement by the Government of the establishment of a **Curlew Task Force** to prevent the extinction of the species in Ireland.

Two staff members participated in the Government-led **Hen Harrier Threat Response Plan** group, the aim of which is to conserve the species. We have worked hard on advocating for a positive outcome for the Hen Harrier and we await the Government's plan.

BirdWatch Ireland staff gave a presentation to members of the European Parliament on concerns surrounding the European Commission's 2016 Effort Sharing Decision on **climate change** and on the impacts of **afforestation** on birds and other biodiversity. Our advocacy work to end **overfishing** within the EU continued in 2016, and BirdWatch Ireland also launched one of its most important reports of recent years, *Life on the Edge: Seabirds and Fisheries in Irish Waters*, which outlines why the seas around Ireland's coast and out beyond the continental shelf edge are so important for seabirds and their survival.

We continued our work to ensure that Ireland's **agriculture** lives up to its green and sustainable image. This included giving advice to the Department of Agriculture on technical aspects of the GLAS agri-environment scheme, particularly in relation to priority farmland birds like Corncrake, Curlew, Twite and breeding waders, and approaches to commonage management.

With funding from the **Irish Environmental Network**, we undertook a detailed analysis of opportunities for biodiversity within the **Rural Development Programme**. At EU level, we worked with BirdLife Europe on an initiative to simplify the **Common Agricultural Policy** and we represented BirdLife Europe at the European Conference on Rural Development in Cork.

Defending our Birds and Other Biodiversity

Sadly in 2016 we had to spend a significant amount of time defending the basic legal protections for birds, their habitats and other biodiversity against pressure to weaken these laws both nationally and at EU level.



We campaigned for nature protection in partnership with other organisations.

A defining moment in 2016 was the final decision in December by the European Commission that the **Birds Directive** and the **Habitats Directive** were indeed fit for purpose, requiring improved implementation as opposed to weakening. After two years of solid campaigning alongside our BirdLife partners, this represented an epic result for defenders of these hugely important laws.

We also collaborated with other non-governmental organisations to campaign and advocate against Section 8 of the Heritage Bill, which would weaken the **Wildlife Act** and protections for breeding birds. This Bill continues to progress through the Oireachtas, but campaigning by our staff, branches, members and partners has resulted in a weakening of the worst impacts of the Bill on hedgerows and significantly heightened awareness among the public and politicians about the implications of the proposed legal changes. We will continue to work on this. Our **planning-related casework** and responses to **consultation calls** involved many submissions during the course of the year. Many of our planning cases related to wind energy and solar energy development, along with port developments, roads and flood defence works.

Working In Partnerships To Resolve Conflicts With Nature

BirdWatch Ireland is a member of the **Irish Environmental Network (IEN)** and its advocacy arm, the Environmental Pillar of Social Partnership. With support from the IEN, we produced awareness-raising materials and reports on the Hen Harrier, including an **educational video** as well as an online **factfile**.

With funding from the IEN, we also hosted a training session for Environmental Pillar members on Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive.

BirdWatch Ireland also participated in the Climate Smart Agriculture Advisory Group of the **Institute of International and European Affairs**, which resulted in the raising of awareness about the implications of agricultural policy for birds and other biodiversity.

As a member of **Stop Climate Chaos**, we actively participated in advocacy on a variety of climate change-related initiatives. Staff also represented the Environmental Pillar on various national committees, including the **Designated Areas Appeals Board**, the **Partnership Agreement Monitoring Committee**, the **Biodiversity Forum** and more.

Following on from the successful completion of the Bird Wind Sensitivity Mapping Tool, we completed a scoping exercise to undertake similar work in relation to **marine renewables**. Marine renewables, as part of a sustainable energy mix, can help to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and so reduce our climate impact.

Summary of Accounts 2016

Financial Statements

The 2016 financial year delivered a surplus of €353,733, which is 85% more than 2015's result. This excellent performance was mainly due to the very generous bequest of the National Nature Reserve at Kilcolman, County Cork, valued at €340,000. Income during the year was derived from donations, conservation work (projects, grants and tendered contracts), funding from our work with businesses and Membership subscriptions. Our campaign for the Wild Islands Appeal generated donations of €19,190 during the two last months of the year 2016, with this positive trend continuing into 2017. Thanks to all our donors for their kind generosity and their support of BirdWatch Ireland.

The organisation has continued to diversify its funding sources whilst also delivering conservation action for our most threatened birds. During the course of the year, partnerships with organisations such as the Cliffs of Moher, Dublin City Council and the OPW were developed to grow our events work in a funded manner.

Income increased overall across all categories by 30%. Shop revenue and costs are now dealt separately in BWI Retail & Services Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of BirdWatch Ireland, which contributed a small profit to overall results. Expenditure increased by 22%, and reorganisation is expected to be completed during 2017. The total funds carried forward to 2017 were €1,775,619.

The details given below are a summary of accounts for BirdWatch Ireland in 2016. A full set of accounts for the year ended 31st December 2016 is available from BirdWatch Ireland on request.

	2016 €	2015 €
Incoming resources		
Membership subscriptions	237,691	222,357
Donations & bequests	399,926	137,480
Grants	57,827	41,493
Developments & events	1,410	2,173
Other income	87,477	58,504
Advertising income	8,623	8,464
Shop sales	-	57,546
Conservation projects	1,197,121	998,889
Investment income	111	142
Total incoming resources	1,990,186	1,527,048

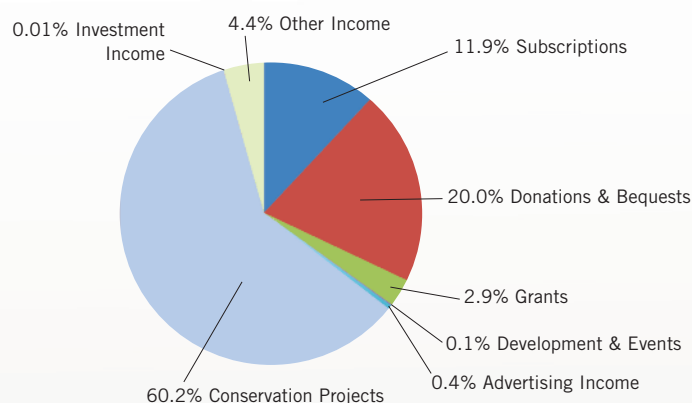
Resources expended		
Shop – cost of sales	-	(34,386)
Conservation project costs	(1,067,447)	(899,278)
Administration expenses	(569,006)	(402,463)
Total resources expended	(1,636,453)	(1,336,127)
Net incoming resources for year	353,733	190,921

Total funds brought forward	1,786,946	1,596,025
Total funds carried forward	2,140,679	1,786,946
Revaluation reserve	(365,060)	(365,060)
	1,775,619	1,421,886

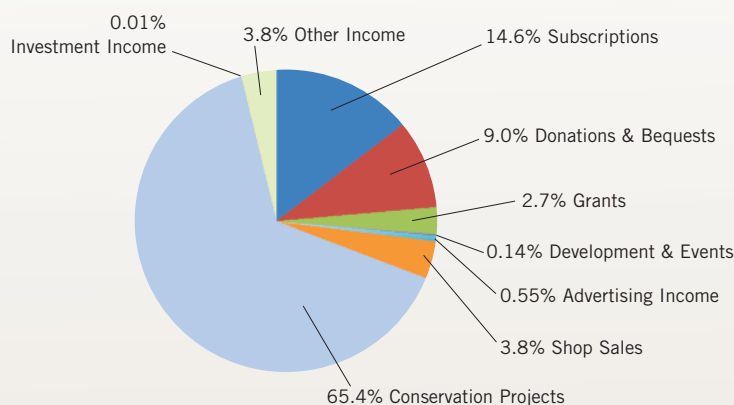
Represented by:	2016	2015
Fixed assets	2,691,015	2,350,286
Net current assets/(liabilities)	18,677	36,818
Other creditors	(934,073)	(965,218)

Total	1,775,619	1,421,886
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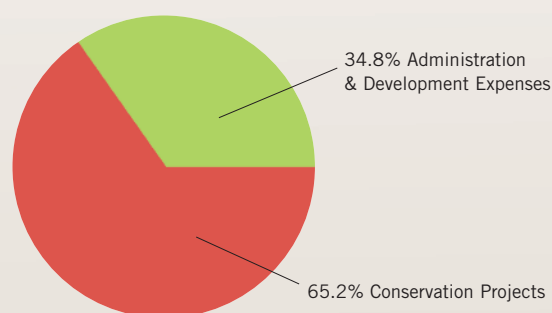
INCOME 2016



INCOME 2015



EXPENDITURE 2016



EXPENDITURE 2015

