

Annual report 2021 – Migrant Landbird Study Group

The MLSG – Migratory Landbird Study Group – is a network to connect people working on migrant landbirds, to facilitate basic research and conservation. Collaboration and communication make a difference – particularly when the solution to understanding and conserving migrants must involve all researchers along the flyways working together.

The organization is funded through donations or conference and event activities, where a registration fee may be charged, or occasionally MLSG branded merchandise such as t-shirts are sold. Money raised is used to maintain and develop the website and its facility to promote networking, to organize conferences, networking events and webinars, and to provide travel grants for early career researchers to international ornithological conferences.

The Migrant Landbird Study Group core activities are:

1. Maintaining a website that works as a networking portal by which researchers studying migrant landbirds can network, get in contact and collaborate with other researchers and discover information that will help them to achieve their research objectives;
2. Organize online and offline events such as conferences, networking events, webinars and workshops on the topic of bird migration and conservation, to promote exchange of information on migrant landbirds and their biology;
3. Provide travel grants for participation to international conferences to early career researchers, to promote scientific capacity building throughout the flyway.

COVID drastically impacted the approach of the Migrant Landbird Study Group to achieve its objectives and carry out activities. Due to the impossibility to carry out activities off line, the focus for 2021 was on online events. In total five 2-hr webinars with 17 speakers (7 women, 10 men) were organised, with presentations carried out by speakers from 12 different countries from 4 continents. Webinars were advertised on online media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, own website) and attracted ca. 50-100 attendees per webinar from all over the world, and promoted knowledge transfer, provided lively discussions and networking opportunities. The website has been largely restructured to allow a more accessible networking platform with open access, free-of-charge membership structure, with the aim of further extending active membership subscriptions during 2022 (in connection to conferences and webinars). Reorganising of finances meant that PayPal accounting could be stopped and online payment services are no longer needed, but transfers can be directly arranged via the treasurer. The simplicity of website and finance allows the Migrant Landbird Study Group board and Executive Committee to focus on the core aim of facilitating scientific networking for migrant bird research.





FINANCIAL REPORT 2021

2021 was the sixth year for the MLSG. MLSG activities were greatly curtailed by COVID and this year again represents consolidation with no conferences or meetings able to be organized face to face. No real income was anticipated and received. Expenses were close to budget estimates and related to redesigning the website for a non-subscription model where members create active profiles as the only requirement to qualify for membership. Other expenses refer to Triodos bank charges during the process of transition to the new account.

Balance current account 1 January 2021	£ 4,597.98
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Revenue 2021	£
Refund from Triodos Bank - from final money moved to close account to pay final bank charges	10.74
<i>Total Revenue 2021</i>	<i>10.74</i>
Expenses 2021	£
Transaction and Administration costs Triodos bank account because not fully closed until Nov 2021	71.54
Website development phase 4	882.00
Website development profile facility creation	1,386.00
<i>Total Expenses 2021</i>	<i>2,339.54</i>
Net Income 2021	-2,328.8

Balance current account 31 December 2021	£ 2,269.18
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Initial budget planned 2021	
Revenue	
Account 1-1-'21	£ 4,597.98
Donations	£ 0
TOTAL REVENUE	£ 4,597.98
Expenses	
Website reorganisation	£ 2,000
Finance reorganisation	£ 100
TOTAL EXPENSES	£ 2,100
Net Income	£ -2,100