

# *British Birds* (magazine)

***British Birds*** is a monthly [ornithology magazine](#) that was established in 1907. It is now published by BB 2000 Ltd, which is wholly owned by **The British Birds Charitable Trust** (registered charity number 1089422),<sup>[1][2]</sup> established for the benefit of [British](#) ornithology. Its circulation in 2000 was 5,250 copies; its circulation peaked at 11,000 in the late 1980s.<sup>[3]</sup> The current editor is Stephen Menzie.

*British Birds* is aimed at serious [birdwatchers](#) and ornithologists, rather than the more casual birdwatchers catered for by some other magazines on the subject. It publishes the findings of the [British Birds Rarities Committee](#).

Its mascot, and later logo, the [red grouse](#), was chosen because at the time it was then considered an [endemic](#) British species; though subsequently long considered a subspecies of the [willow grouse](#), further study resulted in it being returned to separate species status in 2024.<sup>[4]</sup>

In 1916, *British Birds* magazine absorbed *The Zoologist*, due to the latter's shortage of subscribers.<sup>[5]</sup>

## Editors

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The current editor of *British Birds* is Stephen Menzie.

Former editors:

- starting with volume 1 (1907): [H.F. Witherby](#), assisted by [W.P. Pycraft](#) (until vol. 3)
- from volume 3 (1909), Witherby was further assisted by the [Rev. F.C.R. Jourdain](#) and [Norman F. Ticehurst](#)
- in volume 12 (1918), for one year, Jourdain was the editor, assisted by Ticehurst
- from volume 13 (1919) Witherby was back as the editor; this situation continued until volume 33 (1939), when Jourdain died.

- from volume 34 (1940) [Bernard W. Tucker](#) became assistant-editor

## Numbering

Before 1946, all volumes ran from June to May. [Harry Witherby](#) produced Vol.1 No.1 in June 1907 and produced 12 monthly issues per volume. It was finally decided to change with Volume 38, which ran from June 1944 to December 1945. [Wartime](#) paper restrictions meant that those issues were all pretty thin so it was possible to bind 19 into one volume.

## The digital era

In 2007 a DVD-ROM disk containing the first 100 years' worth of content (volumes 1–100) was released in conjunction with BirdGuides Ltd. Subsequent volumes are available as paid-for updates.

In 2010, the magazine launched a [blog](#), [Facebook group](#) and a [Twitter](#) account.

From October 2011, the magazine's first 100 years' of back issues are available on-line, free. More recent issues are available to subscribers to the print edition.<sup>[6]</sup>

<b>British Birds</b>	
	
<b>Editor</b>	Stephen Menzie
<b>Categories</b>	<a href="#">Ornithology</a>
<b>Frequency</b>	Monthly
<b>Publisher</b>	BB 2000 Ltd.
<b>Founded</b>	1907
<b>Country</b>	<a href="#">United Kingdom</a>
<b>Language</b>	<a href="#">English</a>
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://britishbirds.co.uk">britishbirds.co.uk</a> ( <a href="http://britishbirds.co.uk">http://britishbirds.co.uk</a> ) <a href="#">↗</a>
<b>ISSN</b>	0007-0335 ( <a href="https://www.worldcat.org/search?fq=x0:jrnl&amp;q=n2:0007-0335">https://www.worldcat.org/search?fq=x0:jrnl&amp;q=n2:0007-0335</a> ) <a href="#">↗</a>

## See also

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- [List of ornithology journals](#)

## References

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1. Ogilvie, Malcolm; Ferguson-Lees, James; Chandler, Richard (2007). "A history of British Birds" (<https://britishbirds.co.uk/article/a-history-of-british-birds/>) ↗. *British Birds*. **100**: 3–15.
2. Charity Commission register entry (<http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/registeredcharities/showcharity.asp?regno=1089422&submit=Run+Search>) ↗
3. Wallace, D. Ian M. (2004). *Beguiled by Birds*. Christopher Helm. p. 137. ISBN 0-7136-6535-1.
4. Gill, Frank; Donsker, David; Rasmussen, Pamela, eds. (August 2024). "Pheasants, partridges, francolins" (<https://www.worldbirdnames.org/new/bow/pheasants/>) ↗. *IOC World Bird List Version 14.2*. International Ornithologists' Union. Retrieved 29 August 2024.
5. Bourne, W.R.P. "In memory of 'The Zoologist' ". *British Birds*. **88**: 1–4.
6. Pitches, Adrian. "The *British Birds* archive goes online". *British Birds*. **104** (10): 556. ISSN 0007-0335 (<https://search.worldcat.org/issn/0007-0335>) ↗.

## External links

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- [Official website \(http://www.britishbirds.co.uk/\)](http://www.britishbirds.co.uk/) ↗
- [Issues from 1907–1923 \(https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/bibliography/8872\)](https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/bibliography/8872) ↗ on the Biodiversity Heritage Library

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See [tips for writing articles about academic journals](#). Further suggestions might be found on the article's [talk page](#).