



MOS Strategy 2023

Strateysh yn Sheshaght Eean-oaylleaght Vannin

The Constitution of the Manx Ornithological Society (MOS) describes the Society's aim as being:

To promote the knowledge, study, conservation and welfare of wild birds in and around the Isle of Man.

Noting also the *Biosphere Isle of Man Strategy* and *Biodiversity Strategy 2015-25* (BioStr), which are supported by the Society's activities, the MOS will:

Knowledge

- **Provide a programme of activities promoting an interest in, and care for, Manx birds and their conservation.**
 - We will provide a programme of outdoor events in the summer, including boat trips, and indoor talks/social events in the winter.
 - We will encourage interest from across the community, and include specific activities in our programme which target families and young people.
 - We will collaborate with Manx BirdLife in providing awareness, education and identification sessions on Manx birds. This supports BioStr Actions 11 and 14 and Biosphere Enjoyment and Environment.
- **Maintain the Manx List of wild birds.**
 - The MOS appoints a National Bird Recorder to maintain the official Manx List of wild birds and run the Manx Bird Records Committee to check important records. This relies on a strong working relationship with Manx BirdLife, which holds the Manx Ornithological Database, providing records for the creation of the Manx Bird Report and enabling informed management decisions. MOS has supported the development of the Manx Ornithological Database. MOS actively encourages anyone making bird records to report these to Manx BirdLife in order to maintain this database.

- **Publish the journal *Peregrine*, inherited from the Manx Field Club, and within it, an annual bird report, summarising records.**
 - The MOS is keen to receive general natural history articles of local interest as well as ornithological articles for publication in *Peregrine*. We will continue to provide a searchable database of published articles, online. It receives a grant from Manx National Heritage to support the production of a *Manx Bird Report* due to its history with the former Manx Field Club. This supports BioStr Action 9 and Biosphere Enjoyment.

Study

- **Participate in surveys that put Manx bird statuses into a wider perspective.**
 - The MOS liaises with a BTO rep, who encourages Members to take part in the BTO surveys. This provides opportunities for members, increases our knowledge of Manx birds and, importantly, puts them into the context of wider survey results. The BTO designation of a youth rep provides extra potential to collaborate in engaging with young people which the MOS is keen to explore. This supports BioStr Actions 10 and 12 and Biosphere Enjoyment, Environment and Engagement.
- **Support/promote research.**
 - The MOS funds the provision of rings for the Manx Ringing Group, and organises public events about bird research, jointly with Manx BirdLife (MBL). This supports BioStr Action 10 and Biosphere Enjoyment, Environment and Engagement.

Conservation

- **Contribute to bird conservation, working with other organisations, including representation on the Manx Nature Conservation Forum.**
 - The MOS will continue to collaborate with other organisations and individuals to implement biodiversity action plans that benefit Manx birds and leads on the work on swifts. It has contributed to the MBL Point of Ayre National Reserve development, and liaises closely with Manx BirdLife, the Manx Ringing Group and other conservation organisations. We will continue to provide representation to the Manx Nature Conservation Forum, to engage in discussions with other organisations and the government. This supports BioStr Action 25 and Biosphere Engagement and Environment.
- **Comment on proposals that may pose a risk to Manx bird populations**
 - The MOS will comment on development and policy proposals on occasions where these may cause a significant risk to the conservation of bird populations on the Isle of Man, though not monitoring application lists on a regular basis, and we will liaise with DEFA on important issues. This supports Biosphere Environment and Engagement.

Welfare

- **Liaise with welfare organisations and the Manx Government on welfare issues relating to wild birds (in captivity and in the wild).**

- The MOS notes and supports Birds and the Law - A Code for Birdwatchers and Photographers, published by the IoM DEFA. This supports BioStr Action 40 and Biosphere Environment, Engagement and Education. <https://www.gov.im/media/1052558/bird-code-may-2021-amended.pdf>.

Appendix 1 - Biodiversity Strategy 2015-25

MOS activities help contribute to the following BioStr Actions:

9. By 2016 develop a biological recording system which is maintained, evolved and accessible to users, working with partners to achieve this.
10. Continue to identify, and by 2018 prioritise and improve biodiversity knowledge through research and survey, especially the status and abundance of key species and priority habitats (as part of the development of Biodiversity Action Plans).
11. Continue to improve training in ecological research and survey covering identification, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and engaging the wider community where possible.
12. Continue to identify areas for co-operation in research and survey with other parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, especially islands, other UK Crown Dependencies, Overseas Territories, the UK and the Republic of Ireland.
14. By 2016 develop and improve communication, education and public awareness of biodiversity, how it supports us (ecosystem services), how our lives and actions affect biodiversity, here and outside our territory and what we can do to conserve it.
25. Continue to target conservation action on key species and priority habitats through Biodiversity Action Plans.
40. By 2020 promote best practice and voluntary codes to minimise impacts on the environment for all relevant land, freshwater and marine activities.

Appendix 2 - Biosphere IoM Strategy

MOS activities help contribute to four of the five Es of Economy, Enjoyment, Environment, Engagement and Education, but in particular on Environment and Enjoyment. The MOS can engage people with nature, provide learning opportunities and promote social cohesion and sustainable actions. Biosphere Strategy actions of interest include:

Enjoyment

- Celebrate and promote all that is special about the Isle of Man and its surrounding seas
- Encourage people to access and appreciate our nature, culture, heritage and community
- Encourage enjoyment and participation to foster health and wellbeing
- Celebrate, promote and help people access our heritage and culture, past and present

- Celebrate and contribute to our 'sense of place'

Environment

- Connect people with nature and their surroundings
- Help people to understand the importance of, and the challenges facing, the environment
- Contribute to preserving and enhancing our land and seascapes and biodiversity
- Recognise and value the environmental, social and economic benefits we gain from our natural systems
- Inspire people to volunteer and take action in their environment

Engagement

- Enable people to more easily connect with nature, culture, heritage and community life
- Engage our population on issues and challenges relating to conservation and sustainability
- Encourage organisations to collaborate with each other to benefit our Biosphere

Education

- Foster understanding of how the way we live, and the decisions we take, affect our sustainability
- Encourage learning about, and adoption of, more sustainable ways of living