

Annual report 2023 – 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.

The MLSG was present at the European Ornithologists' Union (EOU) conference in Lund (Sweden) between 21-25 August 2023. Continuing its tradition, the MLSG organized a one-day pre-conference symposium which included two plenary talks, 82 speed talks and two workshops (the first on turning research into policy, the second on the MOTUS network in Europe). MLSG sponsored 2 early-career researchers to attend the conference. Online activities were merged with the Friday4Birds initiative of the Swiss Ornithological Institute, where MLSG acted as supporting institution.

In 2023, the MLSG was successful in obtaining European funding with the COST Action EUFLYNET. The Action started on November 1st, 2023 and will be funded for four years with an amount of approximately 750,000 € (please note that this amount is not awarded to MLSG directly, thus is not included in the budget). This funding will allow increasing the number of activities (meetings, training schools), extending the network (the Action already has more than 200 members), and providing short-term scientific mission and conference grants to its participants. Details about EUFLYNET can be seen on www.euflynet.eu.



FINANCIAL REPORT 2023

MLSG activities in 2023 were mostly related to online ExCo meetings and to the EOU conference in Lund (Sweden). Income was obtained through profit on conference fees, a donation from VBN (BirdLife Netherlands) and from selling merchandise at EOU. Expenses were made for sponsoring researchers to attend the EOU and annual website maintenance.

Balance current account 1 January 2022	£ 1065.47
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Revenue 2023	£
VBN Birdlife Netherlands donation	2476.88
T-shirt sales	244.52
Conference charge profit EOU	1563.46
Total Revenue 2023	4284.86

Expenses 2023	£
Thaddeus Pev airtickets, travel bursary to EOU	1512.21
Samuel Boakye Yiadom, bursary to EOU	741.45
Garganey Consulting website maintenance	180.00
Total Expenses 2023	2433.66

Balance current account 31 December 2023	£ 2,916.67
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