**Perthshire Society of Natural Science**

**Uniting Botanical and Ornithological Sections**

**Aims:** To simplify the section structure of the PSNS

To move to a single entity representing a broader depth and range of interests while continuing to meet the needs of members with a particular interest in botany or birds.

**Background:** Neither of the 2 sections have had a large number of members in recent years, and recruitment of new members has been slow. Though, interestingly, the simultaneous move to paying a single subscription to PSNS with access to all section talks and the need to hold talks on zoom, has led to an increased number of people signifying an interest in both of the sections. Low recruitment has meant a linked low recruitment to the committees so that it is becoming difficult to run the sections.

Low numbers of members likely to come to a talk restricts the speakers that we can ask, and justify asking them to travel to Perth as well as, possibly, leading to an excess of costs over income.

On-going discussions have focussed on linking the sections together with the aim of alleviating these difficulties by having a larger membership base, fewer committee members and to broaden the appeal of the section by moving away from the presumption in the names that the sections may be for dedicated botanists or ornithologists.

**Action:**  Combine the Botanical and Ornithological Sections to create a new group.

To be known as the “Nature Section,” “Perthshire Nature,” “Natural history Group,” *or any other suggestion*

**Assets:** The only assets are the monies in the bank accounts, and a set of cups and a number of books owned by the Botanical section, (most of the books in the PSNS library belong to the library).

Although the new group will be starting afresh and with a new name, there should be no difficulty in simply transferring these assets to the group.

However, it may be the case that such transfer could be viewed differently so confirmation needs to come from the Council of PSNS, possibly with a view to how it may be perceived by OSCR.

**Foundation:** The new group to be primed by nomination of a new committee. This is probably best tackled by discussion between the 2 existing committees, after consultation with the memberships. To be ratified once the new group established

**Activities:** A programme of activities, indoor meetings and outings to be arranged as part of a regular programme.

To consider undertaking a wide- ranging project to establish the group as an entity and to publicise its creation.

To consider a “big launch” at the first meeting to publicise its creation.

**Funding:** Council of PSNS to establish *initial funding (if necessary ,see above)* and method of permanently funding the group.