

Newsletter 2011/1



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The latest news about monitoring and atlas work in Europe

This newsletter is sent to all EBCC delegates and made available on the EBCC homepage. Please contribute by sending news items to the Newsletter editor.

The EBCC Board met in Solsona, Spain, 31 March –1 April 2011. Full minutes, including discussions about a second European Breeding Bird Atlas, will soon be posted on the EBCC website.

The Annual General Meeting of EBCC was held on 31 March in connection with the EBCC Board Meeting. During the AGM there was a short presentation from the Chairman and a financial report. EBCC activities and finances are in good order. The minutes of this AGM will be published on our website. The following **new EBCC delegates** were ratified by the AGM: Thanos Kastritis (Greece) and Sureyya Isfendiyaroglu (Turkey).

The proceedings from the last two EBCC conferences are out. The Chiavenna (2007) proceedings were published in spring 2011 in *Avocetta* (vol. 33, issue 2, 2009), and contains 30 papers. Eleven papers from the Cáceres conference were published in 2011 in *Ardeola* (vol. 57, 2010). Huge thanks are due to conference organisers Lorenzo Fornasari, Juan Carlos del Moral, and their dedicated teams! An additional 16 conference papers are due for *Bird Census News*, volume 23 n°1–2, to be published in May 2011 and mailed in June, thanks to Anny Anselin.

The European Bird Census Council (EBCC) is an association of like-minded expert ornithologists cooperating in a range of ways to improve bird monitoring and atlas work and thereby inform and improve the management and conservation of bird populations in Europe. Each European country can be represented by two delegates.

Preliminary dates for the next EBCC conference, to be held in Cluj, Romania, are 15–20 September 2013. It will be organised by the Societatea Ornitologica Romana (SOR, BirdLife in Romania).

The Pan-European Common Bird Monitoring Scheme (PECBMS) has delivered all national indices to Statistics Netherlands and the new European indices will be published soon. Improvements planned for this year include: data from three new countries (Cyprus, Greece and Slovenia), improvements in datasets for Norway and Spain, and adding new species to the list. The website has been updated with a section on Questions & Answers and the methodology behind this work, see <http://www.ebcc.info/pecbm.html>. Note also the dates for the next PECBMS workshop (6–9 February 2012) - details to follow. Contact: Petr Voříšek (EuroMonitoring@birdlife.cz) or Jana Škorpilová (skorpilova@birdlife.cz).

There is now a fully functional version of TRIMmaps. It has so far been used to make distribution maps from the Dutch and Romanian breeding bird monitoring schemes. At the moment, basic R knowledge is required to run the programme, but a manual

is being produced to explain the options built into the programme. Contact: henk.sierdsema@sovon.nl.

The Common Bird Monitoring scheme in Latvia has lacked governmental support since 2010. The scheme was kept alive with financial support from *Vogelwarte Sempach*, Switzerland in 2010 and from *the Swedish Ornithological Society* in 2011. However, emergency support is not a substitute for proper funding and the EBCC Board has expressed its concerns in a letter to the Latvian Government. Despite some promising signals, new elections in Latvia in August mean that the situation needs to be closely monitored.

The launch of a project to produce a new European Breeding Bird Atlas was the main topic of discussions by the Board in Solsona and will also be an important issue during a two-day workshop in Nijmegen (NL) on 23-24 June. One of the main aims of this workshop is to discuss joining up efforts in the use of online reporting systems, and their potential to deliver atlas data. Contact: ruud.foppen@sovon.nl.

EBCC has been involved in discussions with Wetlands International (WI) and other stakeholders on the future of the International Waterbird Census (IWC), which has been going through a difficult period. At the WI members' meeting in Edinburgh, it was decided to set up new steering structures. EBCC will participate in setting this up within the Palearctic/African Flyway, because the IWC is an important part of bird monitoring within Europe. EBCC Board member Verena Keller, who has a long-term involvement in IWC, will act as our 'liaison officer'.



from the bird census world

- The third Finnish breeding bird atlas has just been published on the web: <http://atlas3.lintuatlas.fi>. English summaries will be added soon. Contact: jari.valkama@helsinki.fi.
- The Swiss Ornithological Institute has compiled a Swiss bird atlas for the 1950s, based on observations from publications, notebooks, archives and interviews with ornithologists. The book compares the distribution of 100 species with the maps from the two atlases from the 1970s and 1990s. Bilingual, in German and French, it includes English and Italian chapter summaries and is due to be published at the end of June 2011. See www.vogelwarte.ch/Atlas1950
- The Portuguese Atlas of Migrant and Wintering Birds is a new project that will be carried out jointly by several NGOs and GOs. Field work will be conducted in 2011 and 2012 and the Atlas is scheduled for publication in October 2013. Contact: domingos.leitao@spea.pt.
- The Catalan Winter Bird Atlas 2006-2009 has just been published. See www.ornitologia.org/monitoratge/atleshiverna.htm and www.lynxeds.com/product/atles-dels-ocells-catalunya-lhivern-2006-2009.
- Just published: Atlas des oiseaux nicheurs de Wallonie (Wallonian breeding bird atlas). www.aves.be/atlas

On the EBCC homepage www.ebcc.info you can find lots of useful information about EBCC and all its activities. *Please let us know what else would like to see on the website!* Contact: david.noble@bto.org.

The next EBCC Board Meeting will take place at the Engure Field Station in Latvia on 31 August and 1 September 2011.



EBCC is an Association under Dutch law

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