

Newsletter 2011/2



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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 last met at the Engure Field Station, Latvia, 31 August – 1 September 2011. Minutes will be posted on the EBCC website.

The next EBCC conference will be held in Cluj, Romania, organised by the Societatea Ornitologica Romana (BirdLife in Romania). The conference days are 17–20 September 2013, with suggested arrival on Monday 16th and departure on Saturday 21st September. The venue will be a new University building, with room and accommodation for about 250 people.

The Pan-European Common Bird Monitoring Scheme (PECBMS) has published new European indices for 145 species, including data up to 2009. The trends are published on the EBCC homepage and in leaflets (sent out to all data providers). Collation of data for up to 2010 has just started, with plans to include some new countries and species. See more at <http://www.ebcc.info/pecbm.html>. Please also note the upcoming PECBMS workshop in Mikulov, Czech Republic. Meeting days, including an excursion, are 6–8 February 2012. Contact: Petr Voříšek (EuroMonitoring@birdlife.cz) or Jana Škorpilová (skorpilova@birdlife.cz). The workshop may be followed (on 9-10

The European Bird Census Council (EBCC) is an association of like-minded expert ornithologists co-operating 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.

February) by a kick-off meeting for *Birds in Europe 3* (see below).

The planning for a new European Breeding Bird Atlas (EBBA) proceeds, with the aim of having it published by 2020. An Atlas Steering Committee has been set up, which will soon contact EBCC delegates for their input. The priority of the EBCC Board is to secure funding to get the project started. Meanwhile, many of those responsible for online platforms for collecting bird observations recently met at SOVON in the Netherlands, taking the first steps towards a data sharing agreement. Further information should shortly be posted on the EBCC website. The atlas work is also likely to have links to *Birds in Europe 3* and the new reporting obligation under the Birds Directive (see below). The EBCC can play an important role in both, and the work will also be beneficial for the atlas project. EBCC Atlas Steering Committee contact: verena.keller@vogelwarte.ch.

Plans for *Birds in Europe 3* are advancing. In June, a funding bid from BirdLife, EBCC and others was submitted to the European Commission. The outcome is expected by October. Contact: ian.burfield@birdlife.org.

Field work for an Atlas of Breeding Birds of European Russia has started! As part of a pilot study, data from 110 (of 1800) 50x50 km squares were collected in 2011, from Franz Joseph Land in the far north to the Orenburg region in the southeast. Getting good coverage of European Russia will be a critical key to the success of the new European Atlas. Contact: Mikhail Kalyakin kalyakin@zmmu.msu.ru.

The Board's Development Officers have assessed the situation in countries without common bird monitoring schemes, or where schemes started only very recently. It was decided to put priority into supporting the new schemes. In the other countries, EBCC can play an important role in capacity building during the upcoming European atlas work.

The next issue of EBCC's own journal Bird Census News (24/1), due for October 2011, contain articles about how to interpret census data, and the new breeding bird atlas of Wallonia. Remember that BCN is there for the EBCC Delegates to share experiences in their atlasing and monitoring work. The volume 23/1-2 with the Proceeding of the 2010 Cáceres EBCC Conference was mailed in June.

Wetlands International (WI) and other stakeholders met on 20-21 June 2011 to discuss the future of the International Waterbird Census (IWC). A new body to steer the IWC has been set up, in which EBCC will be represented. A representative of WI will in turn be invited to EBCC Board meetings, strengthening the relationship between bird monitoring

organisations in Europe. EBCC/IWC liaison: verena.keller@vogelwarte.ch.



from the bird census world

- An 'Atlas of Duck Populations in Eastern Europe' was published in 2010. Contact: Janis Viksne (ed.) at ornlab@latnet.lv.
- The 8th European Ornithologist's Union Conference, the biggest ever, was held in Riga, Latvia, in August 2011. Petr Voříšek gave a presentation about PECBMS.



This is a new section where we ask delegates and associates to contribute to the work of EBCC. We look forward to your contribution!

- **Description of your national monitoring and atlas schemes in the country reports** on the EBCC website have probably not been updated in a long time. Please look at ebcc.info/country.html and send an update for your country to: david.noble@bto.org.
- **Which National Atlases are in the pipeline?** We would like to know which national bird atlases are being produced or planned between now and 2020. Contact: ian.burfield@birdlife.org.
- **For the coming update of the EBCC website** (www.ebcc.info) we would like to hear the Delegates' views on *what else you would like to see there!* Contact: david.noble@bto.org.

The next EBCC Board Meeting and Annual General Meeting of EBCC will take place in Sempach, Switzerland, 15–16 March 2012. If you have any issues to be addressed by the Board or to be raised at the AGM, please contact: ruud.foppen@sovon.nl.



EBCC is an Association under Dutch law

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