

# Newsletter 2012/1



WWW.EBCC.INFO

## 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 in Sempach, Switzerland 15–16 March 2012. Minutes will be posted on the EBCC website. For the first time an Observer from Wetlands International (Szabolcs Nagy) was present. Observers are already present from PECBMS, BirdLife, RSPB and SCALES (a European project involving EBCC).

**The Annual General Meeting of EBCC 2012** was held on 16 March in connection with the EBCC Board Meeting. A short presentation from the Chairman and a financial report was presented (to be published on our website). EBCC activities and finances are in good order, although in the long term new sources of income need to be identified (to augment declining income from data charges for the first European Bird Atlas). Two **new EBCC delegates** were ratified by the AGM: Sven Trautmann (Germany) and Viesturs Kerus (Latvia).

**The Pan-European Common Bird Monitoring Scheme (PECBMS)**, the EBCC project producing European species trends and indicators, held a workshop in Mikulov, Czech Republic, 6–8 February 2012. It was attended by about 80 persons from 40 European countries, and very well received by the attendees. Workshop presentations are available on

**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.

[http://bigfiles.birdlife.cz/ebcc/PECBMS\\_workshop2012/PECBMS/](http://bigfiles.birdlife.cz/ebcc/PECBMS_workshop2012/PECBMS/). Contact: Petr Voříšek ([EuroMonitoring@birdlife.cz](mailto:EuroMonitoring@birdlife.cz)) or Jana Škorpilová ([skorpilova@birdlife.cz](mailto:skorpilova@birdlife.cz)).

**A kick-off meeting for Birds in Europe 3 (BiE3)**, linking the production of a new European Red List for birds with reporting under the EU Birds Directive, was held after the PECBMS workshop on 8–10 Feb. Around 100 persons from 40 countries participated. For details of attendees and presentations, see: [http://bigfiles.birdlife.cz/ebcc/PECBMS\\_workshop2012/BiE3/](http://bigfiles.birdlife.cz/ebcc/PECBMS_workshop2012/BiE3/)  
Contact: [ian.burfield@birdlife.org](mailto:ian.burfield@birdlife.org).

**The second European Breeding Bird Atlas (EBBA2)** will become the next landmark in the work of the EBCC. The Atlas Steering Committee (ASC) thanks all delegates and others for their response to the questionnaire sent out in October 2011. We received answers from 42 out of 46 countries. Many countries want to start national atlases next year, but some need external support, in terms of finances, logistics or help from foreign birdwatchers. If you see possibilities for bilateral collaboration, the ASC can put you in contact with the national coordinators. An overview of the questionnaire results was

presented at the BiE3 meeting, and can be downloaded from the EBCC website, where a new section on EBBA2 has been inserted: <http://www.ebcc.info/new-atlas.html>

Setting up the atlas project requires more working time than the members of the ASC are able to invest. RSPB has already offered some staff time to support fund raising. In addition to this, an atlas coordinator is needed as soon as possible. The ASC is looking for an organisation that could host an atlas coordinator, initially for one year. Additionally, funding is required, and is being sought, to cover the costs of this coordinator for a one-year contract. See the EBCC website for further details.

Some national atlas coordinators have asked for guidance for their planned atlases. Basic principles (guidelines) for data collection and storage have been drafted and this 'working document' will be on the EBCC website soon. However, there are already many good examples of "modern" national atlases. We encourage national coordinators to present their currently running or planned atlases in a new section in Bird Census News, giving a short summary of the methods used. The EBCC Contact for EBBA2 is: [verena.keller@vogelwarte.ch](mailto:verena.keller@vogelwarte.ch).

**A new mission and vision document for EBCC** is being discussed by the Board, and the plan is to send out a first draft for the Delegates to discuss and react to, by spring 2013.

**The planning for the next EBCC conference** in Cluj, Romania on 16–21 September 2013 (main days 17–20) continues. The first official invitation will be sent out in late spring 2012.

**The editor of Bird Census News**, the EBCC's own journal, has canvassed the opinion of EBCC Delegates on the form and contents of the journal. It was decided that BCN will keep its present scientific level of the contents and be available mainly in digital format (PDF). Contact: [anny.anselin@inbo.be](mailto:anny.anselin@inbo.be).



### from the bird census world

- **Wetlands International** has restructured its website on the International Waterbird Census and added a lot of useful information on waterbird monitoring including a dedicated section for the African-Eurasian Waterbird Census [www.wetlands.org/AfricanEurasianWaterbirdCensus/tabid/2788/Default.aspx](http://www.wetlands.org/AfricanEurasianWaterbirdCensus/tabid/2788/Default.aspx). Here you can find background information on the census, lists of national coordinators and contributors, census results and news from the waterbird monitoring scene.
- **The Swedish BBS** has since 2010 included counts of mammals, and expects to produce population trends for moose, roe deer, field hare, red fox and a few more species.



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

- **Please consider if your organisation** could host an atlas coordinator initially for one year. Contact: [verena.keller@vogelwarte.ch](mailto:verena.keller@vogelwarte.ch).

**The next EBCC Board Meeting** will take place in Cluj, Romania, in early October 2012. If you have any issues to be addressed by the Board, please contact: [ruud.foppen@sovon.nl](mailto:ruud.foppen@sovon.nl).



EBCC is an Association under Dutch law

**Chairman:** Ruud Foppen, SOVON, The Netherlands. [ruud.foppen@sovon.nl](mailto:ruud.foppen@sovon.nl)

**Newsletter editor:** Åke Lindström, Lund University, Sweden. [ake.lindstrom@biol.lu.se](mailto:ake.lindstrom@biol.lu.se)