

Newsletter 2012/2



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 met recently (11–13 October 2012) in Romania, where the next EBCC Conference will be held. The two major issues discussed were the planning of the conference, and the 2nd European Breeding Bird Atlas (EBBA2). The minutes from the Board Meeting will be posted on the EBCC website.

The 19th EBCC Conference will take place on 16–21 September 2013 (main days 17–20) in Cluj, Romania. The first official invitation will be sent out very soon, and the official website will be launched www.EBCC2013.ro, with the possibility to send in abstracts and register from 1 November onwards. Contacts: Zoltán Szabó szabodz@gmail.com (organisation) and Verena Keller verena.keller@vogelwarte.ch (scientific programme).

The Pan-European Common Bird Monitoring Scheme (PECBMS) has produced an update of European population indices and trends of 148 common bird species. The indicators were delivered to relevant policy institutions, especially to the European Commission and Eurostat. The outputs are available at <http://www.ebcc.info/pecbm.html>. The support from the European Commission has finished in June 2012 and no further

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.

funding support has been available since then. The PECBMS team has worked hard to find a solution to keep the programme running.

The 2nd European Breeding Bird Atlas (EBBA2) is making progress. Enthusiasm is high, but there are many tasks to address. The work is led by the EBCC Atlas Steering Committee (ASC). Following a call in spring, three organisations expressed their interest to host an atlas coordinator. However, the financial possibilities were too insecure to employ a coordinator at this stage. The ASC therefore decided to share the tasks between different people and organisations. Sergi Herrando from the Catalan Ornithological Institute will focus on methodological issues, and Petr Vorisek from the Czech Ornithological Society will act as contact for national coordinators on a part-time basis. In many countries, plans are well under way to produce national atlases, while in others discussions are beginning.

We plan to hold a workshop in Barcelona 20–22 March 2013 for coordinators from countries that indicated a need for support.

Basic guidelines for data gathering are available on the EBCC website and more information, in particular a European species list and information on atlas codes, will be posted soon.

We will now focus on fundraising for the overall project and data collection at national level. We encourage you to make use of the EBCC network to collaborate across country borders, learn from each other, support partner organisations where possible, and publicise the European and your national atlases widely. The EBCC Contact and ASC chair is: verena.keller@vogelwarte.ch.

Bird Census News, the EBCC's own journal, has changed format! Starting with issue 25/1 (October 2012), it is now in A4 size, with graphs and pictures in colour, and available only in a digital version (PDF). With its new layout, BCN will continue to report on developments in census and atlas work in Europe, from the local to the continental scale, and provide a forum for discussion on methodological issues. You can find all issues of BCN on: <http://www.ebcc.info/index.php?ID=41>
Editor: anny.anselin@inbo.be

A new EBCC Board will be elected at the EBCC General Meeting during the conference in Cluj in 2013. EBCC Delegates are invited to suggest suitable names. Proposals for a Board member should be accompanied by a letter of support from two EBCC Delegates, as well as a letter confirming his/her willingness to act as a Board member. In the proposal, please also indicate interest in any Board roles, such as Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, or coordinator roles for e.g. delegates, website, data requests, BCN, conferences, policy and profile raising. Please also consider whether you would be interested in organising the EBCC Conference in 2016. Send your suggestions by the end of March 2013 to Ruud Foppen: ruud.foppen@sovon.nl



from the bird census world

- **The Latvian common bird monitoring scheme** has been granted government funding through the Ministry of Agriculture, initially for 2012 and 2013. The EBCC and Latvian Ornithological Society (LOB) welcome this wise decision and thank the European bird community for its support during the process.
- **The state of the UK's birds 2012** report, giving an overview of all bird monitoring in the UK, from common bird trends, indicators and new national population estimates, will be published in November 2012. See www.rspb.org.uk or contact mark.eaton@rspb.org.uk.
- **An example of an urban bird indicator** has been published by Sergi Herrando et al. (2012, Anim. Biodiv. Cons. 35:141–150).



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

- **Please check the EBCC website** for important information on EBBA2, such as general atlas instructions, species lists, etc.
- **How could the EBCC Newsletter be more** valuable for you? Please drop the Editor a line with your ideas! ake.lindstrom@biol.lu.se
- **The next EBCC Board Meeting** will take place in Barcelona 19–20 March 2013. If you have any issues to be addressed by the Board, please contact: ruud.foppen@sovon.nl



EBCC is an Association under Dutch law

Chairman: Ruud Foppen, SOVON, The Netherlands. ruud.foppen@sovon.nl

Newsletter editor: Åke Lindström, Lund University, Sweden. ake.lindstrom@biol.lu.se