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Bird Census News reports developments in census and atlas work in Europe, from the local to the continental scale, and provides a forum for discussion on methodological issues.

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Bird Census News
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Preface

The last few months some important events have taken place at the front of the Pan European Common Bird Monitoring Scheme (PECBMS). On December 2nd, the updated European Wild Bird Indicators have been released. The indicators cover the period 1980-2006 and have been recognised as a vital barometer on the state of the biodiversity and the environment in general by the EU's sustainable development strategy. The trends show that many of Europe's formerly "common" farmland birds continue to suffer from the effects of agricultural intensification. Another important event was the publication of the "Best Practice Guide", a book that summarises recommendations on establishing, running and improving national wild bird monitoring schemes.

Other good news is that the Conference Proceedings from the 2004 EBCC meeting in Kayseri, Turkey, will be published in the *Catalan Journal of Ornithology*. This process is now led by Luís Brotons and the plan is to publish them in early 2009. Also the proceedings of the Conference in Chiavenna, Italy are making good progress and will be published in the journal *Avocetta* in spring 2009. Do not forget that the EBCC Conference 2010 will be held on 23-26 March in Cáceres, Extremadura, Spain. The banner is "Bird Numbers 2010: monitoring, indicators and targets". Organisers are SEO, the Spanish Ornithological Society. Do mark this key event in your agenda already now. For more information, have a look at the website of SEO: www.seo.org/?EBCC2010.

In this issue Henk Sierdsema of the Spatial Modelling Group of EBCC (SMOG) tells us more about the GIS version of the EBBC Atlas of European Breeding Birds. Esra Per presents a breeding bird study in the Inozu Important Bird Area in central Turkey. Hans Oelke gives the results of a transect count carried out in the framework of the German ADEBAR new national breeding bird atlas project, a study he presented at the Chiavenna conference. You will also find the full text of the indicators release and summaries of some interesting new publications.
Enjoy BCN!

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The GIS-version of the EBCC Atlas of European Breeding Birds

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Introduction

In 1997 the EBCC Atlas of European Breeding Birds, also referred to as European Ornithological Atlas or 'EOA', was published (Hagemeijer and Blair, 1997). This voluminous book was the result of more than 25 years of fieldwork, cooperation, data gathering, data processing, writing and editing. Next to a beautiful book the data in the maps provide countless possibilities fur further studies on the distribution of the European breeding birds. The EBCC therefore receives regularly requests for data. The results can be found back in many publications like studies on climate change (Huntley *et al.*, 2007).

The use of the EOA-data requires in most cases that the data is so-called geo-referenced. In other words, the data has to be joined to Latitude and Longitude or X- and Y-coordinates, also referred to as or Eastings and Northings, in order to process them in a Geographic Information System. For many purposes not only the location of each EOA-square, but also its boundaries have to be known. This is for example the case in studies relating land use with the distribution of bird species (Brotons *et al.*, 2007, Brotons *et al.*, 2006, Bustamante and Seoane, 2004, Guisan and Zimmermann, 2000).

For the EOA a grid of 50×50 km has been used. However, series of squares have trapezium-like shapes because the radians on the globe get closer together towards the North Pole. Until recently the second version of the UTM50 or 'CGRS-grid' of the Flora Europeae (http://www.fmnh.helsinki.fi/english/botany/afe/) was used to join the names of the EOA-grids with the squares and spatial locations in a GIS. For the EOA however, an adjusted version of the first version of the Flora Europeae-grid has been used. For the EOA grids were merged, split, moved and renamed. Therefore there was not a 100 % concurrence between the

EOA-data and either version of the CGRS-grids. This resulted in maps with either blank squares scattered all over Europe or a complete lack of coverage in some areas of the high Arctic (Figure 1).

Therefore a small study was set up to determine the magnitude of the aberrations and to correct these where possible

Methods

First an inventory was made of EOA-grid names that did not occur in the in the second edition of the CGRS-file. The bird data of these squares cannot be joined with any georeference at all and were therefore seldom used in analyses with the EOA-data. In order to identify these squares a join was made between the names of the EOA-squares with bird data and the names of the grids in the CGRS-file. Then the time-consuming effort started to manually join the corresponding name in the CGRS-grid with each of these squares.

Then all squares that were split up and merged with their neighbouring squares had to be located. For this purpose a map was made depicting all squares with bird data. This map was compared with the maps in the atlas. This comparison revealed squares with apparently no bird data surrounded by squares with bird data.

Finally squares that were merged with neighbouring scares were located. These were in general squares with a small amount of land. For practical purposes also squares that were moved were merged with the relevant neighbouring cells.

Results

A total of 247 squares in the new CGRS-grid appeared to have no bird data. This is 6.3 % of the 3950 squares of the EOA-atlas. A further 15 squares differed in size between de CGRS-grid and the EOA-grid (Figure 2).

EOA-squares without corresponding CGRS-square.
A total of 60 EOA-squares were found that had no corresponding CGRS-name. This comprises 1.5 % of the total number of EOA-squares with bird data. Most of these squares, however, are located in the boreal and arctic region (fig. 1). Within this region approximately 4 % of the squares did not have a corresponding CGRS-name.

Squares split up and merged with neighbouring cells
A total of 62 squares of the CGRS-grid appeared to have no bird data, but were in reality split up and merged with neighbouring squares. These squares are located within three bands from west to east from the high arctic to central Europe region and in southern Spain.

Squares merged with neighbouring squares or moved. A total of 115 squares (2.9 %) of the CGRS-grid appeared to have no bird data, but were in reality merged with neighbouring squares. The majority of these squares are located along the British coast, southern Scandinavia, the high Arctic and a number of islands in the Atlantic.

All these errors were corrected resulting in GIS-file with correct boundaries for the investigated squares and correct square names.

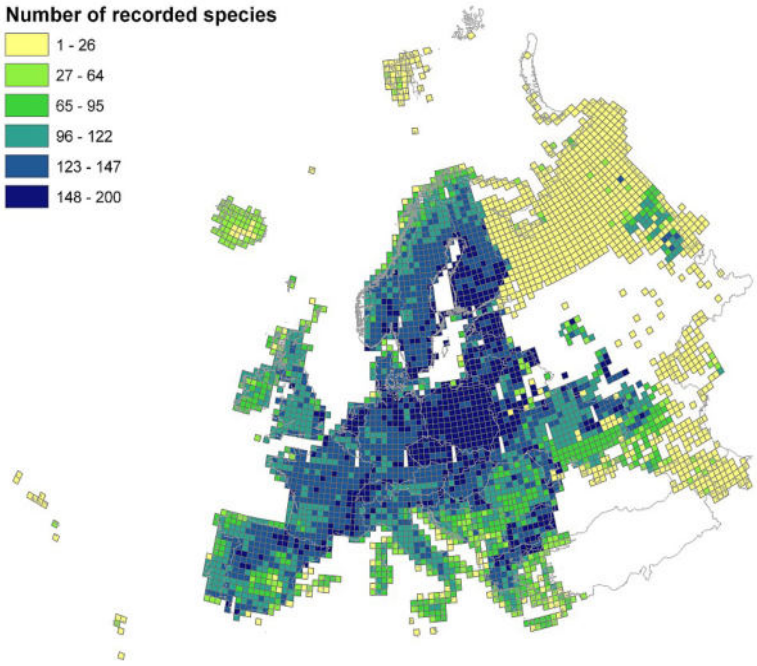

Fig. 1: Number of recorded species per square based on the join with the original version of UTM50-grid of Flora Europea II ('CGRS'). Note the apparent lack of data on Fransz Joseph-land, the south-western coast of Norway, groups of squares along several bands across Europe and the coast of Great Britain.

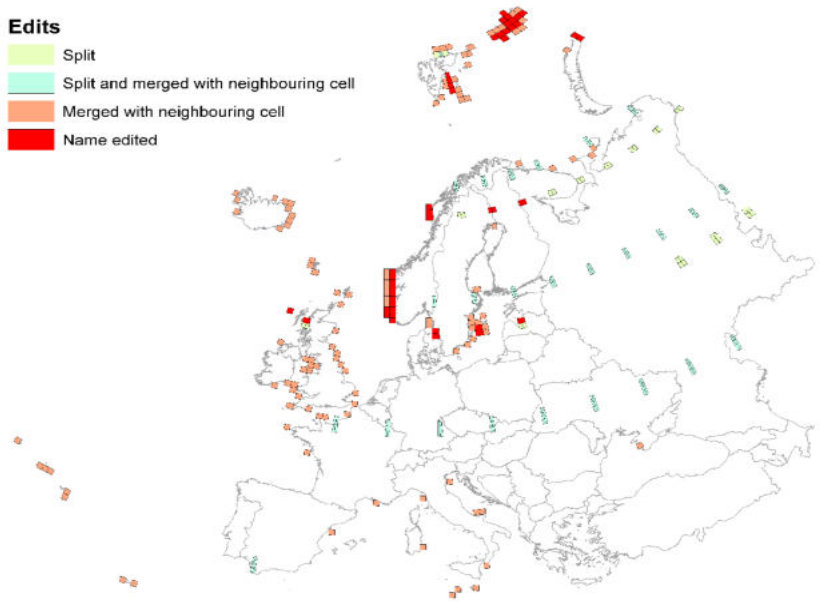

Fig. 2: Location of edited squares. EOA-squares without corresponding CGRS-name are shown in the two darkest colours.

Discussion

The most important result of this exercise is that we are now able to reproduce the maps of the EOA correctly in a GIS. Until recently more than 6 % of the squares of the EOA-atlas with bird data were not represented correctly or not represented at all, in a GIS-environment. The general influence of the improved map on scientific research, although not negligible, will in general be small. There are however, exceptions to this general statement. Most of the corrections are located in the northern regions. Therefore the influence on an arctic bird species, for example, will be larger than on a Mediterranean one. This is even more the case for coastal species of the British Isles and southern Scandinavia. Many of the corrected squares and their land surface area as used in the EOA are in reality bigger than suggested by the corresponding CGRS-squares. And knowing that the size of a square is of main influence on the probability of occurrence, decreasing or increasing size should influence studies on the probability of species. Also correlations with land use will be influenced in some cases: imagine for example that the corresponding habitat of the species within a square is found in the neighbouring square with whom it should have been be merged. Coastal species are more likely to be influenced more by this phenomenon

than inland species.

An example of the new possibilities of the GIS-based version of the EOA can be found on the website of the EBBC (www.ebcc.info). Here an interactive page has been placed where users can reproduce the distribution maps in the atlas on the background of Google Earth (Figure 3)

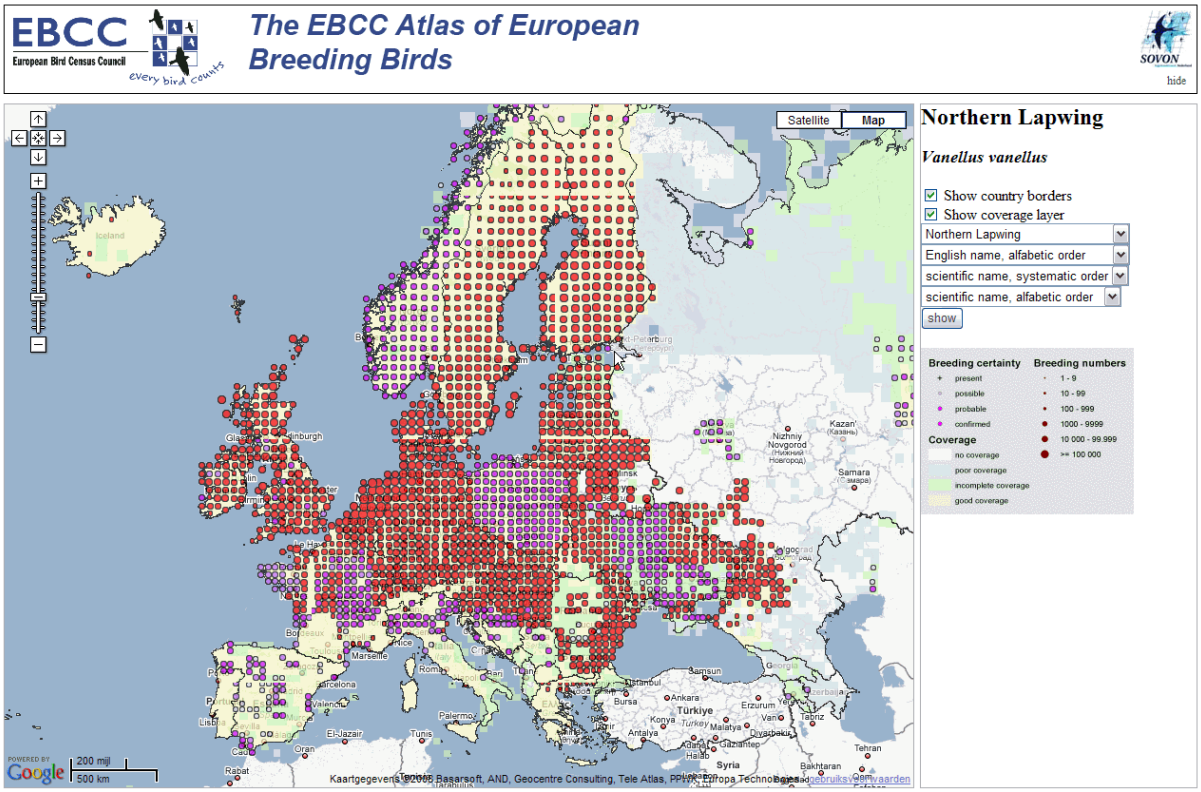

Fig. 3: Screenshot of the interactive EBCC Atlas of European breeding birds (www.ebcc.info).

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Breeding birds of the Inozu Valley in central Turkey

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Introduction

The Inozu Gorge (and valley) in Central Turkey has been proposed as Important Bird Area mainly on its importance for cliff-nesting species, in particular the Black Stork, *Ciconia nigra* (Magnin *et al*, 2000). However, the site has still no protection status. The main objectives of this study are to assess in detail the present ornithological value of the site during the breeding season. This first inventory is meant to be a base and reference for future year-round studies and monitoring in the area and for conservation management advice and actions.

Material and Method

Study site

Our study site is the Inozu Valley in the Beypazari district, about 100 km north-west of Ankara (Figure 1). The Beypazarı district is situated at an altitude of about 700 m, and is surrounded by the Seben, Kibriscik, Nallihan, Mihalliccik, Polatli, Gudul and Camlidere districts. The valley itself is located at 40° 12'N latitude, 31° 58'E longitude (Kılıç & Eken, 2004), in the square "Bolu H27 c2" of the 1/25 000 topographic map (General Commandership of Maps).

The study site is located at the transition zone of the steppe habitat characteristic of Central Anatolia and the forest habitat of the Western Black Sea region. It consists of orchards, poplar plantations, shrub habitats on cliffs and steep rocks at both sides and where the Beypazari-Kibriscik road crosses the valley. There are several caves in the the cliffs. Where the valley reaches the urban zone of the municipality of Beypazari, the eastern and

western slopes are very steep and rocky. In this part the valley floor is very narrow, widening towards the city centre. As a consequence of its location away from the sea and surrounded by mountains, the Beypazari district has an inland and half-dry climate, with hot and dry summers and cold and rainy winters. Temperature differences between day and night are high. The north side of the valley is influenced by the more humid Western Black Sea climate (Anonymous 1999).

Fig. 1: The location of the study site (Municipality of Beypazari, 2000)

Plant species which belong to the *Leguminosae, Compositae, Graminae* and *Labiatae* families are widespread and occur in different habitats in the region. Steppe vegetation of *Thymus* covers almost the whole region (Torun 2004). Along the Kirmir stream there is a gallery forest with *Salix alba* (dense vegetation at a creek zone in the stream) and *Populus nigra* (Tarikahya, 2003). A typical slope vegetation is present where inclinations reach 10° up to 70°. *Quercus pubescens* is dominant around and above elevations of 750 m. Other common species are *Prunus spinosa subsp. Dasyphylla* and *Rosa canina*. *Crataegus monogyna subsp. monogyna* grows around the caves (Tarikahya, 2003).

The study area is mainly used as pasture land, but orchards, groves and irrigated fields are also present. Inozu is considered an important site because of its natural, cultural and historical values and its close location to the city centre as a green environment.

Census method

To identify breeding and migratory species we used a point count method. The counts were carried out along a 4 km route in the valley at 20 points, 200 m apart. All points were counted during 5 minutes. Fieldwork was carried out from the beginning of April to the end of June 2006, with 8 visits per month, 24 days in total. We prepared special record forms for birds and habitats. Binoculars were used to identify the birds and a GPS was used to determine the exact location of each count point. Unidentified songs were recorded for checking. The count points were located in the valley floor, close to the road, in the vineyards and orchards and near the stream and rocky cliffs. Details of the study site are presented in Figure 2.

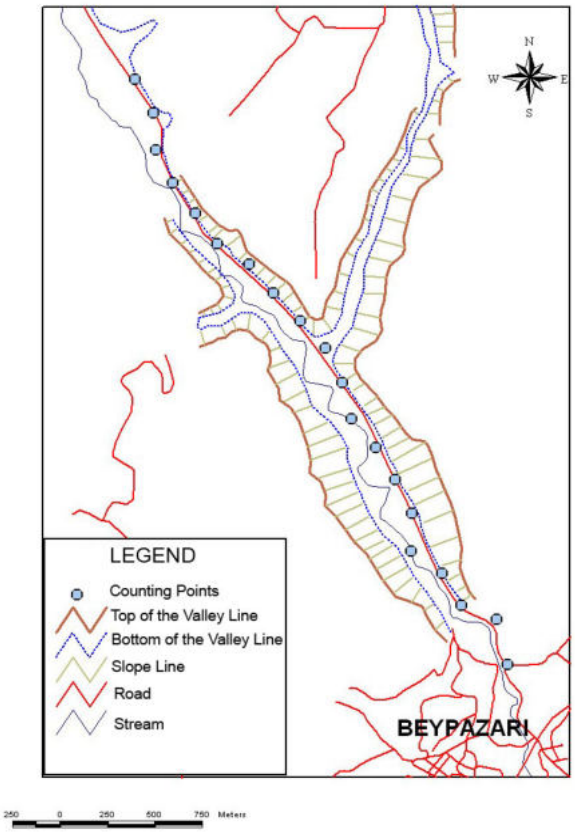


Fig. 2: Map of the study site and count points

To identify the breeding status of the birds we used the international breeding code promoted by the European Bird Census Council (EBCC) with 16 codes in three main categories based on breeding behaviour: possible (1-2), probable (3-10) and confirmed (11-16) (Hagemeijer and Blair, 1997). For recorded birds with unknown status we used a "0".

Results

During the study a total of 480 bird records have been collected from 91 species (28 non-passerines and 63 passerines) belonging to 30 families. Breeding was confirmed for 35 species, probable for another 35 and possible for 14. Complete species lists with highest breeding code, number of samples and records are presented in Tables 1-3.

Table 1: Confirmed breeding species in Inozu Valley (2006), HBC=highest breeding code (11-16), NS=number of samples, NR=number of records.

Species	HBC	NS	NR
Ciconia nigra	16	17	56
Neophron percnopterus	14	18	58
Columba livia	16	7	19
Streptopelia turtur	14	7	17
Apus melba	14	10	32
Merops apiaster	14	3	5
Upupa epops	14	20	134
Hirundo rupestris	13	7	20
Motacilla alba	14	10	30
Erithacus rubecula	14	4	6
Luscinia megarhynchos	14	20	225
Phoenicurus ochruros	14	12	48
Phoenicurus phoenicurus	14	12	32
Oenanthe hispanica	13	8	29
Monticola solitarius	14	11	44
Turdus merula	14	19	104
Turdus viscivorus	14	6	9
Cettia cetti	14	19	117
Sylvia melanocephala	14	2	19
Phylloscopus collybita	14	4	11
Parus lugubris	14	16	49
Parus caeruleus	14	14	45
Parus major	14	20	178
Sitta europea	14	16	70
Sitta neumayer	14	18	89
Oriolus oriolus	12	15	57
Lanius collurio	14	14	47
Lanius nubicus	14	8	19
Corvus corone	14	19	107
Corvus corax	14	11	23
Sturnus vulgaris	14	4	15
Passer domesticus	14	18	117
Petronia petronia	14	10	22
Carduelis carduelis	14	20	125
Carduelis cannabina	14	5	15

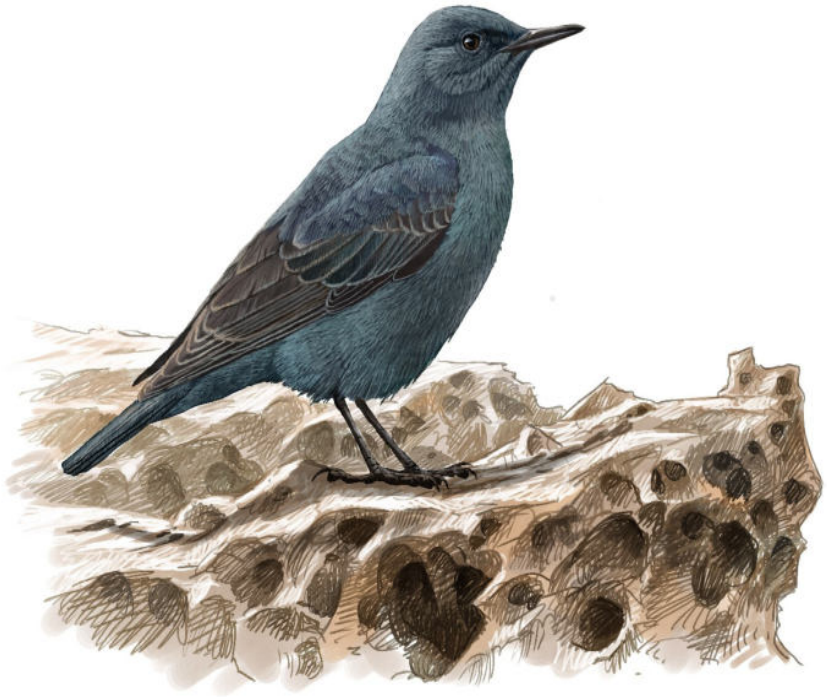
Table 2. Probable breeding species in Inozu Valley (2006), HBC=highest breeding code (3-10), NS=number of samples, NR=number of records.

Species	HBC	NS	NR
Tadorna ferruginea	3	4	7
Buteo rufinus	3	9	14
Falco tinnunculus	7	11	44
Alectoris chukar	3	2	7
Streptopelia decaocto	5	2	10
Cuculus canorus	3	5	11
Apus apus	3	13	41
Coracias garrulus	5	4	5
Picus viridis	6	13	44
Dendrocopos syriacus	6	17	79
Dendrocopos minor	5	11	36
Galerida cristata	3	2	3
Hirundo rustica	5	10	25
Hirundo daurica	5	7	20
Delichon urbica	5	15	31
Motacilla cinerea	7	6	13
Troglodytes troglodytes	5	5	10
Prunella modularis	5	4	9
Saxicola torquata	5	8	19
Oenanthe isabellina	3	2	2
Oenanthe oenanthe	3	7	13
Acrocephalus scirpaceus	3	1	3
Hippolais pallida	5	7	8
Sylvia curruca	5	12	27
Sylvia communis	6	9	14
Sylvia borin	3	12	26
Sylvia atricapilla	3	4	12
Regulus regulus	3	1	4
Aegithalos caudatus	3	1	3
Garrulus glandarius	5	18	93
Pica pica	3	1	2
Passer montanus	6	9	23
Carduelis chloris	5	6	11
Emberiza cia	5	9	19
Emberiza hortulana	3	4	8

Seven species, White Stork, *Ciconia ciconia*, Black Kite, *Milvus migrans*, Lammergeier, *Gypaetus barbatus*, Black Vulture, *Aegypius monachus*, Willow Warbler, *Phylloscopus trochilus*, Pied Flycatcher, *Ficedula hypoleuca* and Hawfinch, *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* are not breeding in the study site. The Black vulture, one of these species, is globally threatened (BirdLife International 2004).

Table 3. Possible breeding species in Inozu Valley (2006), HBC=highest breeding code (1-2), NS=number of samples, NR=number of records.

Species	HBC	NS	NR
Accipiter nisus	1	1	1
Aquila chrysaetos	1	2	2
Falco peregrinus	1	1	6
Dendrocopos major	2	1	1
Dendrocopos medius	1	1	1
Anthus trivialis	2	1	2
Turdus philomelos	2	2	2
Ficedula semitorquata	1	2	2
Parus ater	1	1	1
Fringilla coelebs	2	3	4
Serinus serinus	2	3	3
Emberiza melanocephala	2	4	5
Miliaria calandra	2	1	1



Habitat diversity at count points

The broad habitat types within a 50 m distance band of each count point and their percentages are shown in Figure 3. An important part of the points are situated in forest habitat.

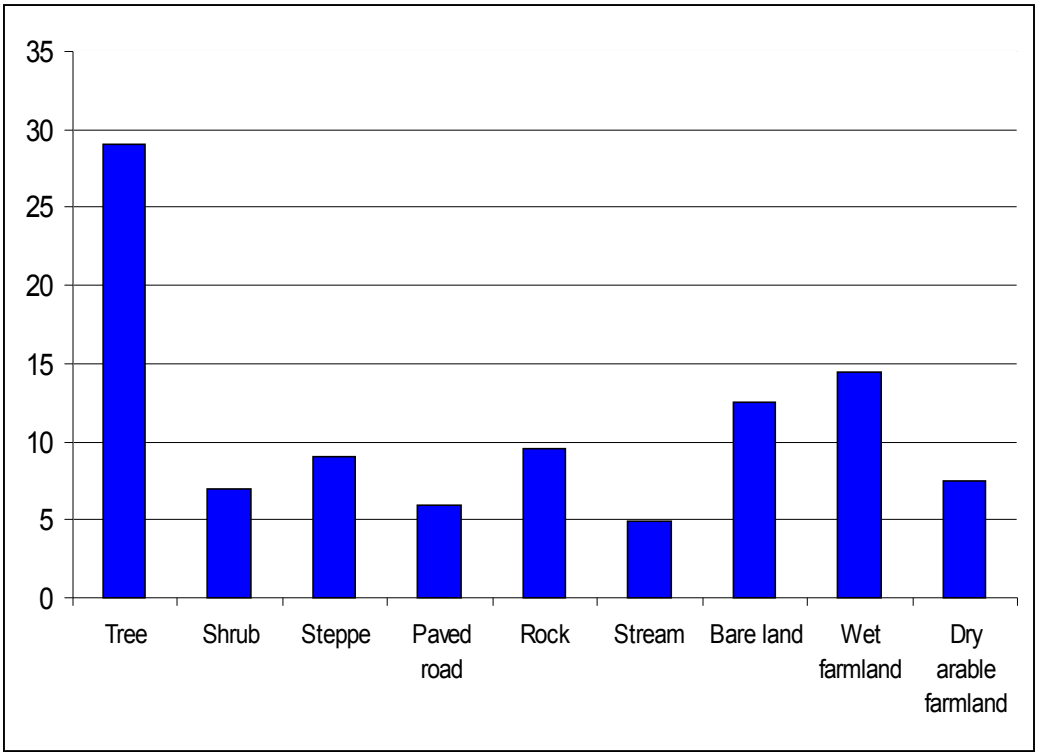


Fig. 3: Broad habitat types at the count points

Discussion and Conclusion

A total of 84 breeding species (14 only possibly) and 7 non-breeding species have been observed in the Inozu Valley during the study period. As a consequence of the method used, nocturnal species have not been detected during the fieldwork. The species lists (Table 1-3) show the presence of various typical cliff (rock) breeding birds like Black Stork, *Ciconia ciconia*, Egyptian vulture, *Neophron percnopterus*, Alpine Swift, *Apus apus*, Blue Rock Trush, *Monticola saxatilis*, Rock Nuthatch, *Sitta neumayer* and Rock Bunting, *Emberiza cia* with confirmed and probable breeding, and Peregrine Falcon, *Falco peregrinus* and Golden Eagle, *Aquila chrysaetos*, as possible breeders.

Several species breeding in the Inozu Valley have an "Unfavourable Conservation Status" and therefore qualify as "Species of European Conservation Concern" (BirdLife International, 2004). The Egyptian Vulture belongs to the category "Endangered". Ruddy Shelduck, *Tadorna ferruginea*, Long-legged Buzzard, *Buteo rufinus* and Roller, *Coracias garrulus,* are classified as "Vulnerable" while Kestrel, *Falco tinnunculus*, Chukar, *Alectoris chukar*, and Masked Shrike, *Lanius nubicus* are "Declining". All species suffered important population declines in Turkey since 1990. For some of them the country is the European stronghold of the species and thus has a responsibility for their conservation.

Although not breeding, Black Kite, *Milvus migrans*, Lammergeier, *Gypaetus barbatus* , and Black Vulture, *Aegypius monachus*, all listed as threatened species on the Red List of Birds of Turkey (Kılıç and Eken, 2004), use the site for feeding.

This first inventory confirms that the Inozu Valley (and gorge) is still an important ornithological site. The particular location in the transition zone between two main natural zones, the Central Asian steppe and the Western Black Sea forest, with a mozaik of habitats in a relatively small area (from open and dry rocks to humid riverine forest) has certainly a positive effect on the bird richness of the area.

The valley floor and the rocky cliffs of the Inozu Valley, which have Natural Site I and II statuses, hold not only a rich diversity of birds, but also of butterflies and plants. The site attracts many nature lovers and photographers, and this recreational pressure could have a negative effect if not properly managed. It is important that local people should be involved in the conservation of this site e.g. by being encouraged and supported to develop eco-tourism facilities and preserving natural values of the valley. Future management should take into account the principles of sustainable natural resources. At present, one of the activities by local people in this valley is bee-keeping . This is probably why *Merops apiaster* (Bee-eater) chooses this area for breeding and foraging. We could not collect information on hunting because our fieldwork took place outside the hunting season. However, there is a possibility that locals hunt *Alectoris chukar* (Chukar).

In the future we plan to extend our study and cover not only the breeding season but the whole year which will result in important data which will allow us to evaluate the natural value of the site in more detail and will serve as a base for management advise and future actions.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Kerem Ali Boyla, Zafer Ayaş, Uygar Özesmi, Hilary Welch, Geoff Welch and Jose Tavares for sharing their knowledge on ornithological research and methods as well as Önder Cırık for the translation of our article.

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The ADEBAR Project: tested in 2006 in the Ith Mountains of the hillside country of Lower Saxony, Germany

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Introduction

In 2005 a new project started in Germany with the aim to monitor breeding birds and use these data for a new national Breeding Bird Atlas (Gedeon, Mitschke & Sudfeldt 2006). Special attention has been paid to the methodological background (Südbeck *et al.* 2005, Stübing & Bergmann 2006, Gedeon, Mitschke & Sudfeldt 2007). As part of the course "Introduction to ornithology" at the university of Göttingen (Lower Saxony) we offered to collaborate by counting along a transect on the woodland ridge of the Ith Mountains. Quantitative data on birds from most of the hilly woodland complexes around Göttingen (Deister , Saupark, Süntel, Hils, Osterwald, Vogler, Bramwald and Göttinger Wald) with the exception of the Solling woodland (Scherner 1977) are very scarce, and the only existing birdlist of the Ith Mountains is very incomplete (Behnke 2006, B. Galland, Ornithological Bird Club Hildesheim in litt. 2007) As far as we know there are no active bird clubs or motivated birdwatchers in and around the Ith Mountains. Thus the ADEBAR project (the Atlas Deutscher Brutvogelarten) was a welcome opportunity to start up a study in this long-time neglected woodland area.

Material and Methods

Study area

The Ith Mountains (51°57-52°07 N, 9°31-9°39 E) are a 3.000 ha woodland ridge in the centre of the river Weser-Leine hillside country in Lower Saxony (NW Germany). They are located some 14 km ESE of Hameln, 28 km SW of Hildesheim, 40 km SW of the capital Hannover and 60 km NNW of Göttingen

(Fig. 1). The Jurassic Ith ridge, 350-410 m a.s.l., runs more than 28 km in NNW-SSE direction. The narrow ridge spans between 0.5 and 3 km from W to E. At the top of the Ith runs a 7.2 km long ridge of eroded and steep up to 20 m high cliffs. The central part of the Ith, although nature reserve and Fauna Flora and Natura 2000 Habitat (NLWKN 2008), is heavily mutilated by a huge stone quarry.

The area is covered with broadleaved forest with Beech, *Fagetalia* and *Fraxino-Carpinion* (Tuexen, 1952, 1986, Hettwer, 1999), with 100-227 year tree stands which form a dense and closed 15-25 m high canopy. Mainly the cliffs and some edges to neighbouring fields are characterized by semi natural old tree stands of *Fagus sylvatica* with many shags as a consequence of recent storms. Broadleaved trees (*Fagus sylvatica, Acer pseudo-platanus, A. platanoides, Fraxinus excelsior, Quercus robur, Prunus avium, Ulmus glabra, Tilia platyphyllos, Sorbus torminalis, Alnus glutinosa, Salix alba*) constitute 95 % of the woodland (data ML Forstwirtschaft in Niedersachsen 1997 a-c). Another 5% are coniferous stands (*Picea abies, Pinus sylvatica, Larix decidua, Pinus nigra, Abies alba*). A rich shrub and herbaceous plant layer dominates with a cover of 15-95 %.There are no clear cuttings and uniform tree stands are still common. Due to high prices logging and sale of wood have increased in recent years. Natural reforestation prevails under older and more open stands of *Fagus sylvatica* and *Fraxinus excelsior* .

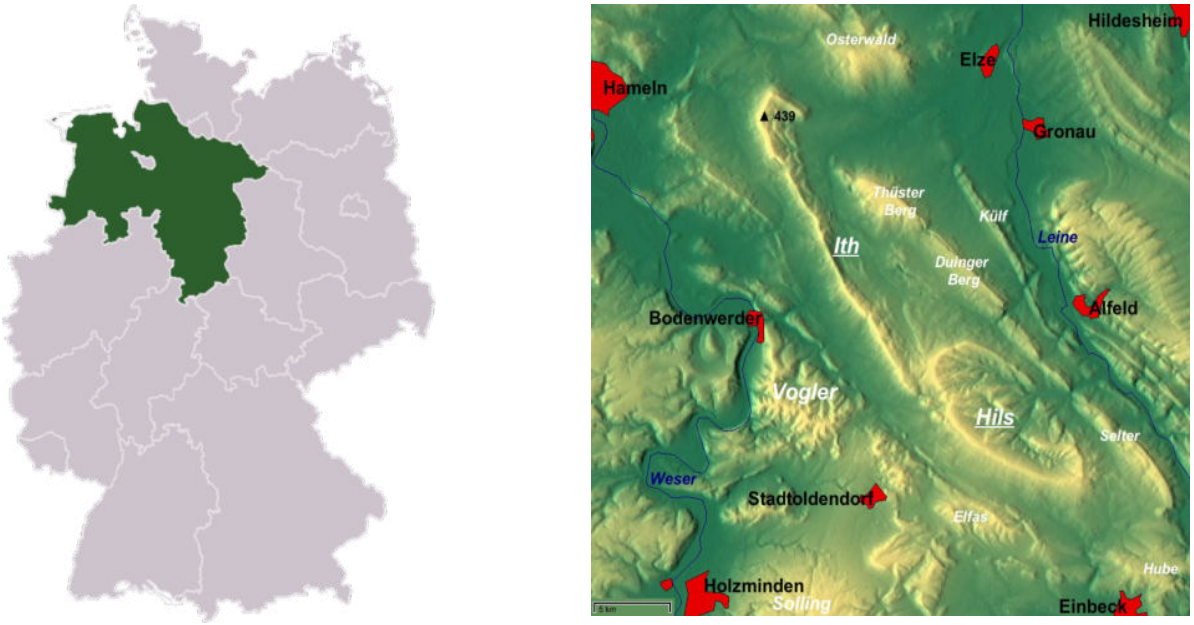

Fig. 1: LEFT: The location of Lower Saxony (Niedersachsen) (in dark) within Germany; RIGHT: a detail of the geography of the Ith region with the study area (ridge) in the centre.

Field Method

The ADEBAR project requires the use of 3 km line transects within a 100 ha study plot on the basis of the official topographical maps (scale 1: 25.000 = TK 25 or quarters of it = TK 25 /quadrants). 16 hours of observation are required per study plot. The results of the transect counts are to be converted into mapping indices grouped for different main habitat types (forest, field, wetland, special cultures and habitats) and will be transformed on a national mapping scale into densities (Gedeon, Mitschke & Südfeldt 2007). The territory of the Ith Mountains is spread over 3 topographical maps (TK 25 –3823 Coppenbrügge, TK 25 – 3923 Salzhemmendorf, TK 25 -4023 Eschershausen). Therefore we decided not to choose several 100 ha study plots and 3 km lines within the 3 maps but to count along one continuous 22.5 km line transect following the mountain ridge (200-400 m a.s.l) with 48 fixed counting points of 5 minutes spaced 500 m apart. In November and December 2005 the area was visited several time to become familiar with the terrain and prepare the fieldwork. We marked the counting points sites with numbered yellow plastic flags. Each point was visited 4-5 times for 5 minutes between April and July 2006. The transect was divided into 15 daily coverage units, resulting in a minimum of 87 observation hours. An additional count was carried out in May 2007 to survey the 10 km long field-meadow edges at the eastern side. The observation radius around a point was about 100 m (thus by each stop we surveyed an area of 3.14 ha). All birds, seen or heard at the stops within the radius were mapped and combined with line transect observations in the “intermediate, open” areas (200-300 m) between two points. The records were collected independently by 3 observers and then combined. The winter of 2005/2006 was long and snowy with a 50 cm snow cover on the top ridge from January- March onward. The trails were impassable even in March. April brought snow and hail showers. From May to July the weather was mostly sunny and dry.

Results

For the total species list we refer to Table 1. Contrary to our first assumptions the abundance in the 48 study plots and their variation are low (Shannon-Weaver Index Hs 2.88, Eveness E 0.74) and not comparable to lowland abundance standards in Lower Saxony (Oelke 1963).

No new, rare or endangered species were recorded, compared to the list of Behnke (2007). Birds of prey, owls, pigeons and even thrushes, warblers (*Phylloscopus, Sylvia*) were rare or nearly absent. We recorded 31-32 resident species (population proportion < 1 %, < 6 breeding pairs/study): *Anas platyrhynchos, Buteo buteo, Acipiter gentilis, A. nisus, Milvus milvus, Columba oenas, Cuculus canorus, Strix aluco, Dendrocopos minor, D. medius,*

Dryocopus martius, Prunella modularis, Anthus trivialis, Phoenicurus ochruros, Turdus viscivorus, Regulus ignicapillus, Phylloscopus trochilus, P. sibilatrix, Ficedula hypoleuca, Sylvia communis, S. borin, S. curruca, Parus cristatus, Aegithalos caudatus, Carduelis chloris, Pyrrhula pyrrhula, Certhia familiaris, C. brachydactyla, Passer montanus, Emberiza citrinella. Sturnus vulgaris. Compared with the list of Behnke (2007) we "overlooked" 7 species: *Asio otus, Oriolus oriolus, Motacilla alba, Regulus regulus, Picus canus* and *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*.

One species, *Fringilla coelebs*, has been recorded at all counting points, while the majority of the other species is restricted to only a few circles representing special, unique habitats e.g. cliffs for *Phoenicurus ochruros*, formerly, but not during our study *Bubo bubo, Falco peregrinus*; and quarry edges for *Anthus trivialis, Sylvia borin* and *Phylloscopus trochilus,* a fish-pond for *Anas platyrhynchos*, an isolated spruce stand for *Regulus regulus* and *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* and the shags at the cliffs for *Phylloscopus trochilus* and *Ficedula hypoleuca*.

We tried to calculate the total number of breeding pairs in 2006 for the total area of the Ith Mountains (3000 ha), taking into account the mean abundance on the 48 study plots (plot size 3.14 ha) and the total plot size (150.8 ha) (see Table 1).

Discussion

Our fieldwork experience in the Ith Mountains learns us that the ADEBAR programme requires high observation efforts and substantial manpower to obtain reliable density figures (abundance status) by using the mapping and line transect standard. After several years of the project, and as a result of the lack of observers in many parts of a big country like Germany, the fieldwork coverage in most federal states, except for the city states Berlin, Hamburg and Bremen, is still not high enough (Gedeon *et al.* 2006). We strongly feel that the aim of the ADEBAR coordinators, to obtain a sufficient coverage of the distribution and density of breeding bird species by mapping, will be difficult to reach because of the large study plots and the few skilled observers.

Table 1: Calculated breeding pairs for the ITH Mountains (3.000 ha) in 2006.

Species	N BP	N pairs Ith
Fringilla coelebs	147	2745
Turdus merula	79	1475
Parus major	69	1289
Erithacus rubecula	57	1075
Sylvia atricapilla	47	878
Sitta europaea	41	766
Turdus philomelos	32	600
Troglodytes troglodytes	30	560
Columba palumbus	28	523
Parus caeruleus	23	430
Parus ater	20	355
Dendrocopus major	16	280
Corvus corone	12	205
Garrulus glandarius	7	168
Phylloscopus collybita	9	168
Certhia familiaris	8	149
Columba oenas	7-8	131
Phylloscopus sibilatrix	5-7	131
Dryocopus martius	5	93
Ficedula hypoleuca	4	75
Turdus viscivorus	4	75
Buteo buteo	2	37
Strix aluco	2	37
Dendrocopos medius	2	37
Dendrocopos minor	2	37
Prunella modularis	2	37
Phylloscopus trochilus	2	37
Carduelis chloris	1	18
Cuculus canorus	1	18
Certhia brachydactyla	1	18
Sylvia communis	1	18
Sylvia borin	1	18
Sylvia curruca	1	18
Anthus trivialis	1	18
Sturnus vulgaris	1	18
Aegithalos caudatus	1	18
Parus cristatus	1	18
Phoenicurus ochruros	1	18
Regulus ignicapillus	1	18
Pyrrhula pyrrhula	1	18
Emberiza citrinella	1	18
Passer montanus	1	18
Corvus corax	1	10
Accipiter nisus	1	1-5
Milvus milvus	1	1-5
Accipiter gentilis	2	1-5
Total	702	12836

In spite of our time-consuming efforts the results of our transect counts are not fully representative for the avifauna of the region. *Scolopax rusticola*, a winter resident and probably breeding in the dark, wet beech stands was not recorded. The expected high-lights *Phylloscopus trochiloides* or *Phylloscopus bonelli* and *Ficedula parva* (Zang *et al.* 2005) were not observed. A number of species easily observed outside the Ith like *Acrocephalus palustris*, *Hippolais icterina, Muscicapa striata, Luscinia megarhynchos* and *Turdus pilaris* avoided the woods and the cliff zone. *Passer domesticus, Streptopelia decaocto* occur at nearby villages (e.g. Coppenbrügge, Lauenstein, Ockensen, and Holzen). *Hirundo rustica* and *Delichon urbica* were also missed.

Randomly changing starts within the long survey route could not improve the results. Nest records, feeding adults or calling juveniles (*Dendrocopos medius, D. major*) improved detection of some species. For *Corvus corax*, *Accipiter* and *Milvus milvus* only indirect records (fights, display calls) had to be used. The final calculations of the Ith Mountains breeding bird population is probably too low and should be increased by at least 10 % for the dominant and subdominant species.

Acknowledgements

We were supported in many ways: for the important forest informations and the driving permits for forests roads closed to public access, in the state forest office of Grünenplan (FD H. Bruns) and his assistants the Mrs. Mast, Möhle, Deike, Bock, in the forest office Coppenbrügge by FOI J. Rebers. Mrs. Christel Behm-Berkelmann, Hameln, contributed the ornithological observations of her late husband. We greatly appreciate their support. Mr. Bernd Galland, chairman of the bird club Hildesheim (OVH), who summarized the (poor) bird status of the Ith from the records of the OVH. Two unknown referees and the chairman of Bird Numbers 2007, Dr. Lorenzo Fornassari helped us with valuable comments to improve the manuscript.

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Bird Census News 2008, 21/2: 62-67

EBCC
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MEDIA RELEASE

Europe's farmland birds continue to suffer from agricultural policy

EU unlikely to meet its 2010 biodiversity target

Brussels and Prague, 2 December 2008 – According to the latest data from the European Bird Census Council (EBCC) and BirdLife International, many of Europe's formerly "common" farmland birds continue to suffer from the effects of agricultural intensification.

The updated European wild bird indicators, which were released today, bring together the most comprehensive biodiversity data of their kind in Europe, collated by the Pan-European Common Bird Monitoring Scheme (PECBMS) – a partnership of leading ornithologists and statisticians from the European Bird Census Council, the Royal Society for the Protection of the Birds/BirdLife UK, BirdLife International, and Statistics Netherlands [1]. The indicators cover the period from 1980-2006, and have been recognised as a vital barometer of the state of biodiversity and the environment in general by the EU's sustainable development strategy.

The ongoing loss of wildlife and the degradation of the wider environment have become a focus of public interest, as it is increasingly clear how much human well-being, economic development and food production are dependent on biodiversity-rich ecosystems, as well as our ability to deal with the effects of climate change.

EU leaders have pledged to halt biodiversity loss in Europe by 2010 [2], but a mid-term report expected from the European Commission in early December is likely to show that this target will not be met without drastic changes to EU and national policies, most notably in the field of agriculture.

While many rare and localised bird species have benefited from special protection under the EU's Birds Directive and the Natura 2000 network [3], the new figures show what is happening to many species that are perceived as 'common and widespread' (Fig. 1). Overall, the numbers of all common birds declined by around 10 % between 1980 and 2006.

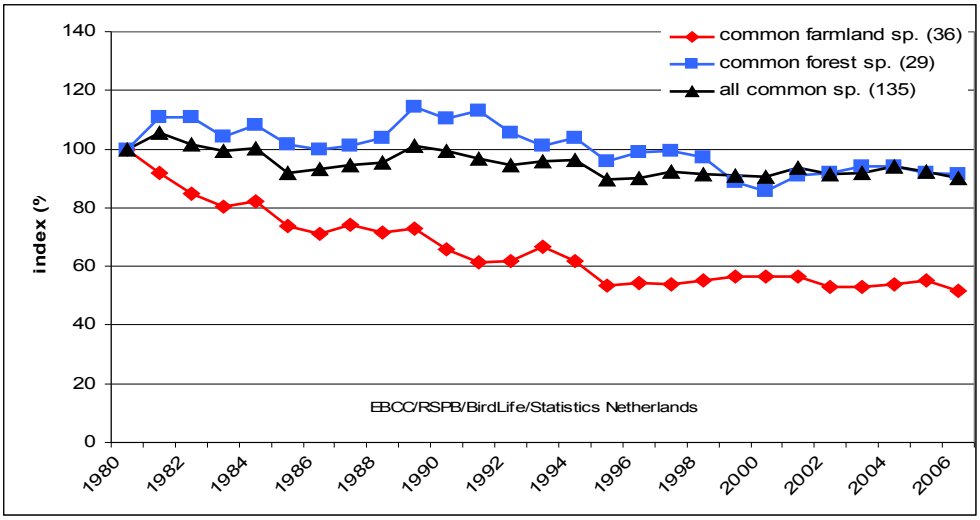

Fig. 1: A biodiversity indicator for Europe: wild bird indicator 2008

Common forest birds declined by a similar amount, but common farmland birds declined most severely, their average breeding populations in 2006 being around 50 % lower than in 1980 – and there is no sign of recovery. The Skylark *Alauda arvensis* is a typical example (Fig. 2)

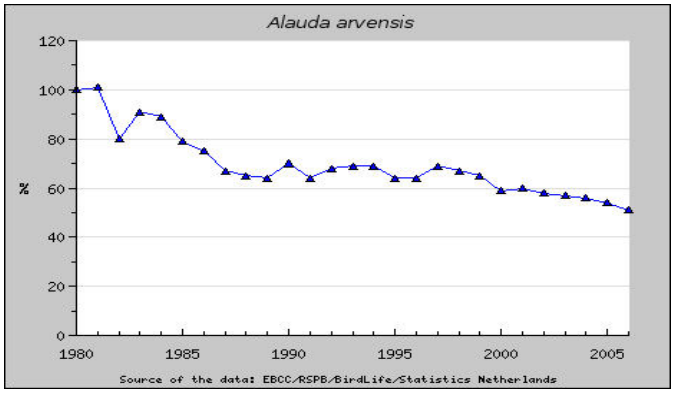

Fig. 2: The population of the Skylark, Alauda arvensis is declining rapidly across Europe.

Farmland birds have suffered most in western Europe, which has the longest history of agricultural intensification (Fig. 3). The countries of central and eastern Europe, which joined the EU more recently (in 2004 or 2007), have not yet sustained such large losses of farmland birds, but their numbers are declining and are already much lower than in the 1980s [4].

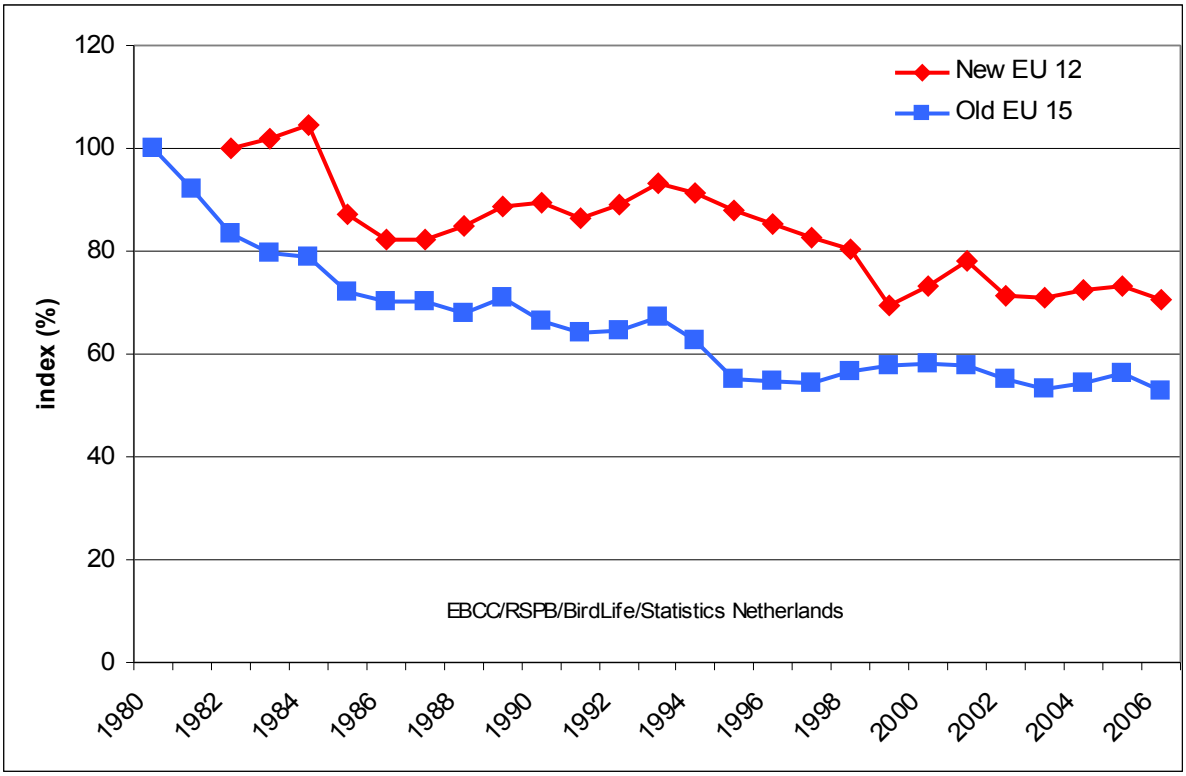

Fig.3: Populations of common farmland birds in old and new EU member states. The group 'Old EU15' represents the countries that were EU members before 2004, the group 'New EU12' represents the countries that entered the EU in 2004 or in 2007.

Agricultural intensification, such as the loss of crop diversity, destruction of grasslands and hedgerows, and excessive use of pesticides and fertilizers, has been widely recognised as one of the main driving forces behind this dramatic decline of common farmland birds. Therefore, the EBCC and BirdLife reiterate their call to use the ongoing EU Budget Review to transform the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) into a sustainable land management and rural development policy [5]. “We need to spend EU taxpayers’ money more sensibly – let us support those farmers who maintain a healthy, thriving rural environment, and let’s stop distributing unjustified and environmentally harmful subsidies” says Konstantin Kreiser, EU Policy Manager at BirdLife International.

As well as updating the indicators regularly, the PECBMS strives to improve the quality of the underlying data by helping European countries to develop or improve their national common bird monitoring schemes. The new PECBMS publication, 'A Best Practice Guide for Wild Bird Monitoring Schemes', which is also launched today, represents another step towards improving the quality of bird monitoring schemes, many of which have already achieved high scientific standards [6].

Dr Richard Gregory, Chairman of the EBCC, concluded: "National monitoring schemes are a crucial source of data for European wild bird indicators, so great importance is attached to maintaining and where possible improving their performance and data quality. Long-term funding from national governments is crucial for supporting this essential work, which offers excellent value for money because most of the data are collected by skilled volunteers."

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[1] The European wild bird indicators are produced by the **Pan-European Common Bird Monitoring Scheme** (PECBMS). The PECBMS is a common initiative of the European Bird Census Council (EBCC) and BirdLife International, and the partnership involves also the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and Statistics Netherlands. Currently funded by the European Commission and the RSPB, its aim is to deliver policy-relevant biodiversity indicators to decision-makers in Europe. It collates national data in a harmonised way from a network of expert ornithologists, and aims to increase both the numbers of countries collecting and submitting data on trends, and the number of bird species and habitats covered. More widely, the project aims to improve the scientific standard of bird monitoring by fostering co-operation and sharing best practice and expertise. The success of this project owes much to the cooperation, goodwill and expertise of the PECBMS network. Special thanks goes to all the individuals and organisations responsible for national data collation and analysis, and to the many thousands of skilled volunteer counters responsible for data collection.

Project Coordinator: Dr Petr Voříšek; Technical Assistant: Jana Škorpilová; Project Manager: Dr Richard Gregory; Statistical Advisor: Dr Arco van Strien. Website: http://www.ebcc.info/pecbm.html.

The European Bird Census Council (EBCC) is an association of like-minded expert ornithologists co-operating in various ways to improve bird monitoring and atlas work in Europe, and thereby inform and improve the management and conservation of bird populations. It aims to promote exchange of news, ideas and expertise through a journal and a programme of workshops and conferences. It works closely with ornithological and conservation organisations, and encourages links between ornithologists, land managers and policy makers. The EBCC oversees specialist working groups and European monitoring projects; these have included *The EBCC Atlas of European Breeding Birds* (1997), and currently the Pan-European Common Bird Monitoring Scheme. Website: http://www.ebcc.info

BirdLife International is a global alliance of conservation NGOs working in more than 100 countries and territories that, together, are the leading authority on the status of birds, their habitats and the issues and problems affecting them. BirdLife is represented in 42 European countries and in all 27 Member States.
Sign up to BirdLife's e-newsletter today to receive a monthly update on BirdLife's activities in Europe: http://europe.birdlife.org

[2] Indicators of biodiversity are needed to assess whether this ambitious target has been met. While many such indicators have been proposed and many are under development, few are ready to be used and updated regularly. The wild bird indicators produced by the PECBMS are an exception. The PECBMS indicators are based on data from generic breeding bird monitoring schemes in 21 countries (http://www.ebcc.info/index.php?ID=368). With each new update, the number of species and countries involved has increased, and the data quality control procedures have improved (http://www.ebcc.info/index.php?ID=362), but the messages conveyed by the indicators have remained clear and consistent.

[3] In 2007, a paper published in the leading journal *Science* (317: 810-813) by scientists from the RSPB and BirdLife showed how the EU Birds Directive has helped those species considered to be most at risk, partly through the designation of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) as part of the EU's Natura 2000 network. The Birds Directive was adopted in 1979 and is binding law for all EU countries. It covers all species of wild birds across the EU, and requires special conservation measures for a number of listed species. For more information, see: http://www.birdlife.org/news/pr/2007/08/science_paper.html

[4] The numbers of many bird species characteristic of European farmland are declining, as shown by examples of Eurasian Skylark *Alauda arvensis* (http://www.ebcc.info/index.php?ID=360&species%5B9760%5D=1), Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella* (http://www.ebcc.info/index.php?ID=360&species%5B18570%5D=1) and Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra* (http://www.ebcc.info/index.php?ID=360&species%5B18820%5D=1).
For individual species indices and trends, please see http://www.ebcc.info/index.php?ID=358.

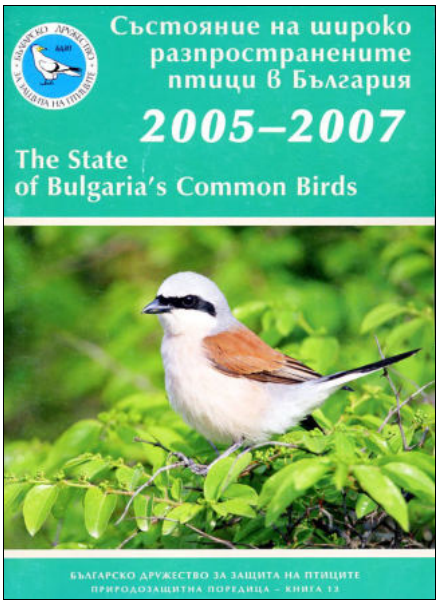
[5] For more detailed information on BirdLife's position on agricultural policy, see http://www.birdlife.org/eu/EU_policy/Agriculture/index.html

[6] To expand the scheme, there has been a big effort to initiate common bird monitoring schemes in countries not currently covered by the PECBMS by providing encouragement, assistance and advice on methods and approaches. Today marks the launch of a new tool – A Best Practice Guide for Wild Bird Monitoring Schemes (For more information on this tool, please visit the following link: http://www.ebcc.info/index.php?ID=365) – aimed at those wishing to start a bird monitoring scheme, as well as those wishing to improve an existing scheme. The book has been written by bird monitoring experts from across Europe. It covers various aspects of bird monitoring, from field methods and sampling design, through data management and analysis, to the use of results and communication. The text is accompanied by case studies from various European countries, a list of recommended literature, and sources of information available on the internet.

Bird Census News 2008, 21/2: 68-72

Books, reports & journals

Spasov, S. 2008. The State of Bulgaria's Common Birds 2005-2007.
Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds, Conservation Series 13, BSPB, Sofia, 24 pp. ISBN 978-954-8310-01-7 (in Bulgarian with English summaries. Graphs and Tables with English legends and scientific and English species names).
Contact: svetoslav.spasov@bspb.org



This report presents the first ever national population trends of 38 common and widespread bird species in Bulgaria, resulted from the Common Bird Monitoring scheme that started in 2004. The scheme is based on a broad network of volunteers organized by the Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds (BSPB), the Bulgarian BirdLife partner. The CBM scheme is part of the National System for Monitoring of Biodiversity, managed by the Executive Environmental Agency. The scheme is funded by the RSPB an is part of the Pan-European Common Bird Monitoring Scheme (PECMBS). The farmland bird index for Bulgaria compiled by population trends of 17 farmland bird species, is also included in the report. The results given are for the period 2005-2007.

The scheme uses a line-transect method of surveying birds in randomly selected 1×1 km squares. The observer makes two visits to count all birds seen and heard along two 1-km transects across their square. Birds are recorded in one of three distance bands, or in flight, the former to enable detectability to be assessed and species densities calculated. Population trends are estimated with the computer package TRIM. In the base year 2005 there were 129 sample plots, 155 in 2006 and 119 in 2007. About 60 % of the plots are farmland (crops and pastures). In addition, broadleaved forest and scrub cover about 25 % of the surveyed transect routes.

For the period 2005-2007 a total of 191 bird species were recorded, which is about 67 % of all Bulgarian breeding bird species. Barn Swallow and Common Starling have been found in over 75 % of the sample plots. Those two species, together with Cuckoo, Skylark, Nightingale and Corn Bunting, recorded in about 70 % of the squares, are abundant an are the most widespread species in the country. In the course of three years, 44 species have been recorded in more than 20 plots. It was possible to estimate the population trends for 38 birds. Five farmland species out of 17 included in the analysis, show a significant decline over the period. Their number had decreased significantly at a rate of over 5 % a year. These species are Common Quail, Hoopoe, Crested Lark and Corn Bunting. Red-backed Shrike and Common Starling show a moderate decline. Common Whitethroat is the only farmland bird whose number has increased significantly in the past three years. The Farmland Bird Index for Bulgaria is strongly influences by the population trends of these species.

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Südfeldt, C., Dröschmeister, R., Grüneberg C., Jaehne, S., Mitschke, A., Wahl, J. 2008. Vögel in Deutschland – 2008. DDA, BfN, LAG VSW, Münster, 44 pp. (in German). Download for free at the website of the Dachverband Deutscher Avifaunisten, www.dda-web.be. To order: schriftenversand@dda-web.be

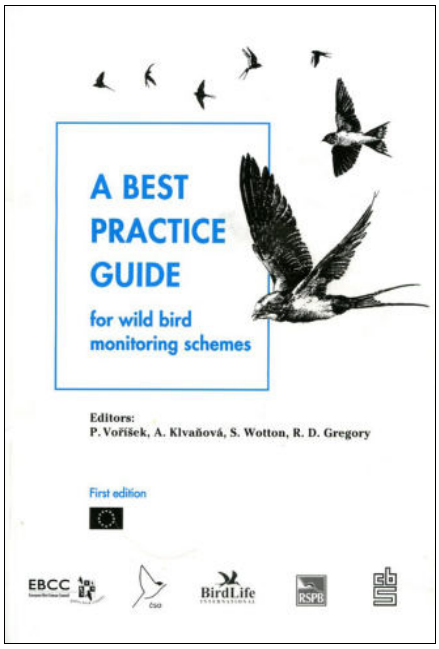
This second volume in the series "Vögel in Deutschland", a joint publication of the Dachverband Deutscher Avifaunisten, the Bundesamtes für Naturschutz and the Länderarbeits-gemeinschaft der Vogelschutzwarten, deals with the following items: common birds, threatened species, birds as indicators, farmland and woodland birds, threats and migration strategies, waterbirds, "specials in 2008", and ends with a call for collaboration to monitoring programmes and surveys.

Trends of 64 common species are compared between two periods: 1990-2006 (long term) and 2002-2006 (short term). 23 species show a long-term decline, while 21 show a decline in the last period. Populations of Chiffchaf, Starling, Serin and Goldfinch have decreased with more than 50 %. On the other hand, Stock Dove, Green Woodpecker, Nightingale and Blackcap are doing fine and are increasing on long as well as on short time. The 20 most common species are listed in order of "commonness" with an (rough) estimation of their population numbers. The top four are Chaffinch, House Sparrow, Blackbird and Great Tit. Skylark is ninth in the overall ranking which comes rather as a surprise. At present, 110 or 42 % of Germany's wild bird species are on the national Red List, with 30 species "Critically Endangered" and 24 "Endangered". Moorland/heather, coastal and alpine habitats hold the largest percentage of endangered species, while long- and short distance migrants show higher decline rates than resident species.

Combined population indices of selected breeding species are used as national indicator for the status of various landscape/land-use types: farmland, forest, urban, inland wetlands, coast and lakes and alpine (mountain). Population numbers in 1970-1975 have been chosen as reference (target) population. For most landscapes the current population is between 60-70 % of the target. For farmland the present percentage is at 67. For woodland species the situation is better with 85 % of the target reached. The chapter on threats and migration strategies examines in more details the relations between population trends and differences in long and short-time migratory species and residents. The chapter on waterbirds gives an overview of short-time and long-time trends of wintering waterbirds compared with the international trends.

Bird Census News 2008, 21/2: 68-72

Vořišek, P., Klvaňová, A., Wotton, S., Gregory, R. Eds. (2008). A Best Practice Guide for Wild Bird Monitoring schemes. First Edition, CSO, RSPB, 155 pp.
Contact: PECBMS coordinator Petr Vořišek: EuroMonitoring@ birdlife.cz



The new publication with title A Best Practice Guide for Wild Bird Monitoring Schemes has just been published. The book summarises recommendations on establishing, running and improving national wild bird monitoring schemes. The methodology is described in details and includes field methods, sampling design, data management and analysis, and communication; including case studies from various countries. The guide will be distributed among the Pan-European Common Bird Monitoring Scheme (PECBMS) network of cooperating individuals and organisations across Europe, as well as through the European Bird Census Council national delegates and BirdLife International partner organisations. We hope that the first edition will contribute to and help to improve the high scientific standard of bird monitoring in Europe.

A development of new bird monitoring schemes, as well as a need for improvements of existing schemes, brings an increasing need to use the highest level of scientifically sound methods for counting birds, analysing and presenting the data. Although general principles of bird monitoring are available in a form of textbooks and scientific papers, the information is scattered across many titles. Probably more importantly, there is much good experience and practice across Europe, which can be shared and used for development and improvement of monitoring schemes. Therefore, PECBMS, a common initiative of European Bird Census Council and BirdLife International, decided to bring together and publish a Best Practice Guide summarizing the principles of good bird monitoring including case studies from European countries documenting details of various aspects of bird monitoring.

The Best Practice Guide is not intended to replace existing textbooks and methodological papers. The aim is to guide coordinators of schemes in designing and running a scheme in order to keep high methodological standards and avoid obvious mistakes. More detailed information can be found by readers in relevant literature.

The book has nine chapters covering planning a scheme, survey design and selection of sample plots or field methods, it tackles also the problem of bird detectability and distance sampling, data management and analysis, and principles and recommendations for using the results for nature conservation and communication. Case studies come from several European countries and cover subjects such as sampling design, field methods, working with volunteer fieldworkers, and setting up an on-line database. Final recommendations in a form of a list of 'things best to do' and 'things best to avoid' are part of the publication too.

Bird Census News 2008, 21/2: 68-72

Raine, A., Sultana, J., Gillings, G. (2008). Malta Breeding Bird Atlas 2008.
BirdLife Malta, Malta, 104 pp.
Available: BirdLife Malta, Contact: andre.raine@birdlifemalta.org

In January 2009, BirdLife Malta will be launching the first breeding bird atlas for Malta. This is an exciting new publication for the organisation and represents an important step forward for Maltese ornithology. The atlas examines the fortunes of all of Malta's breeding birds and will be the benchmark for future bird atlases to allow population changes to be considered in a scientific framework.

The Atlas adopted standardised methods that are used throughout Europe, and utilised the breeding categories recommended by the European Bird Census Council. The British Trust for Ornithology also contributed to the project by lending its expertise in atlas development and mapping techniques. The Atlas project itself was funded by the Ministry of Resources and Rural Affairs.

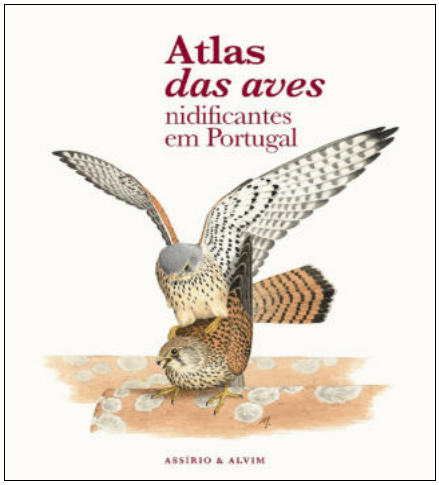
Birds were mapped at the 1 km grid square level, which were based on the squares of the Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) grid. Surveys were carried out on all of the main islands (Malta, Gozo, Comino and Filfla), for a total of 394 grid squares. The fieldwork for the Atlas started in March 2008 and continued until August. It was a monumental effort, with 31 fieldworkers scouring the countryside recording breeding birds. The majority of data was collected by local ornithologists, with additional support from several staff members of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

A total of 26 species were confirmed breeding in Malta in 2008, with another 8 species recorded as 'Possibly' or 'Probably' breeding. A further three introduced species were also recorded. Some species, such as Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis*, Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis* and Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala* were widespread and recorded in most squares. The Atlas also highlighted the continued importance of the Maltese islands for its seabird populations, with sizeable populations of Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea*, Yelkouan Shearwater *Puffinus yelkouan* and European Storm-petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*. However, the breeding distribution of the majority of species was much more localised. This was due to a combination of habitat constraints and key conservation issues.

The *Malta Breeding Bird Atlas 2008* has set the standard to which all future Breeding Bird Atlases should follow in Malta. In this way, future bird populations can be accurately assessed and measures put in place to safeguard Malta's breeding bird species. The Atlas has also highlighted the current perilous state of many breeding species in Malta. Due to serious conservation issues such as intensive and illegal hunting and widespread trapping, many species that should have viable breeding populations in Malta (such as birds of prey and finches) are currently rare and highly localised, or even locally extinct. The results of this 2008 Atlas therefore stress the need by the Maltese government to take these conservation issues seriously, if breeding populations of these species are to ever recover.

Bird Census News 2008, 21/2: 68-72

Equipa Atlas (2008). Atlas das Aves nidificantes em Portugal (1999-2005). (Atlas of the breeding birds in Portugal 1999-2005). Ed. Instituto da Conservação da Natureza e da Biodiversidade, Sociedade Portuguesa para o Estudo das Aves, Parque Natural da Madeira, Secretaria Regional do Ambiente e do Mar, Assírio & Alvim, Lisboa. In Portugees with English summary. 590 pp, 58,5 Euro, ISBN 978-972-37-1374-9 Contact: spea@spea.pt



The new Portuguese breeding birds atlas was officially launched on the 2nd of December at Lisbon. The project was the result of a partnership involving 4 institutions: Nature Conservation and Biodiversity Institute (ICNB), Portuguese Society for the Study of Birds (SPEA), Madeira Natural Park (PNM) and Regional Secretary of Environment Azores (SRAA).

The field work was carried out between 1999 and 2005 and for the first time it included the Madeira, Selvagens and Azores archipelagos. The grid used was 10×10 km which resulted in a total of nearly 1000 squares for the all of the country.

The field work was carried out by 500 people, mostly volunteers. SPEA was responsible to organise this “labour force” and also for training and promotion sessions. SPEA played also an important role in the project team at all stages and especially in preparing the publication (producing and reviewing texts).

The final result is a 590 pages book covering 235 species illustrated with drawings of 7 artists. Nearly 100 authors were involved in the production of texts. All species have distribution maps and for most of them relative abundance maps are also provided.

The return of the Spanish Imperial Eagle and of the Black Vulture as breeding species is among the most exciting news. The first breeding records of Glossy Ibis or Shelduck were also noted. White-rumped Swifts appears to be increasing their range the same as Red-rumped Swallows or Spanish Sparrows. On the other hand, the work confirmed the extinction of Osprey and the reducing of range of species like Egyptian Vulture, Red Kite or Black Weather. The number of exotic species increased and now 7 species seems to breed regularly and 7 are irregular breeders.

Your text in the next issue?

Bird Census is meant as a forum for everybody involved in bird census, monitoring and atlas studies. Therefore we invite you to use it for publishing news on your own activities within this field:

- you have (preliminary) results of your regional or national atlas,
- you have information on a monitoring campaign,
- you have made a species-specific inventory,
- you are a delegate and have some news on activities in your country,
- you are planning an inventory and want people to know this,
- you read a good (new) atlas or an article or report on census and you want to review it,

Do not hesitate to let us know this!

Send text (in MSword or Open Office), figures and tables (and illustrations!) by preference in digital format. Figures and tables in colour will be shown in colour in the PDF version on our EBCC website: www.ebcc.info

* By preference by email to:
anny.anselin@inbo.be

* or by mail on CD to:
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B-1070 Brussels, Belgium

You will receive your article in pdf-format to use for reprints

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