

**Minutes of the EBCC Board Meeting , Wednesday 28 March 2001, 19.00 hrs.
Bird Numbers Conference 2001, Nyiregyhaza, Hungary**

1. Chairman's welcome

2. Apologies for absence

Received from Filios Akriotis, Juha Tianen, Lorenzo Fornasari, Gerard Boere, Valentine Serebryakov, Karel Stastny, Igor Gorbam and Jean-Paul Jacob.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

Printed in *Bird Census News* 11(1). The only change that was suggested was that Hans Oelke was not a delegate, although the minutes suggested the contrary.

4. Report of the EBCC Executive Committee (ExCo)

Chairman's Report attached as Annex 1.

5. Financial Report

Treasurer's Report attached as Annex 2.

6. Proposition to make EBCC a foundation under Dutch Law.

This resolution (attached as Annex 3) was discussed at some length. Delegates asked whether or not EBCC could become a charity once a foundation. It was pointed out, however, that in the UK at least, half of the officers would need to be UK residents; such a constitution would not be sensible for EBCC. The resolution was accepted by the Board by a vote of 22 for and none against.

7. Proposition to hold a joint EBCC/European Ornithologists' Union Conference in 2003.

The resolution (attached as Annex 4) generated a lively discussion but was ultimately rejected by the Board by a vote of four for, and 11 against with several abstentions.

Board members felt that: it was too soon in EOU's development to hold such a joint conference; that EBCC could lose profile in a joint conference with EOU; that a joint EOU & EBCC conference could either become very long or with many parallel sessions, losing the informal atmosphere of EBCC conferences; and that 2003 was perhaps a year too early for its next conference, joint or not. While some members of the Board spoke up in support of the resolution, an offer received from Uygur Ozesmi (Turkish delegate) immediately prior to the Board meeting was much more warmly welcomed by the Board. As a consequence, the next EBCC conference will be in Central Anatolia in Turkey in 2004. Under the circumstances, ExCo was content with the decision of the Board.

8. Delegate listing

ExCo has embarked on a revision of the EBCC Delegate List, which has become out of date. Information collected at the conference would be used to create an updated list for circulation. ExCo wished to use the expertise of the national Delegates more pro-actively in the work of EBCC in the future. To this end, Martin Flade would take on the role of Delegate Officer on ExCo

9. Election of new Executive Committee

Filios Akriotis wished to stand down from the committee. ExCo proposed that David Gibbons (Chairman), Ward Hagemeyer (Vice Chairman), Richard Gregory (Secretary), Anny Anselin (Treasurer & BCN-Editor), Martin Flade (Delegate Officer), Alexander Mischenko, Juha Tianen, Lorenzo Fornasari and Tibor Szep should form the next ExCo (although Anny

Anselin wish to stand down as Treasurer). ExCo also proposed Przemek Chylarecki to be elected as a replacement for Filios Akriotis. Both propositions were accepted by the Board.

On behalf of the Board, Jeremy Greenwood warmly thanked ExCo for all the work they had done for EBCC since the last conference.

10. Any other business

None.

List of people attending the Board Meeting, 28 March, Nyiregyheza:

Name	Country	ExCo Member	Delegate
Richard Gregory	UK	Yes	Yes
David Gibbons	UK	Yes	
Frank Saris	Netherlands		Yes
Ward Hagemeyer	Netherlands	Yes	Yes
Tibor Szep	Hungary	Yes	Yes
Karoly Nagy	Hungary		Yes
Zoltan D Szabo	Romania		Yes (proxy)
Colin Bibby	UK		
Melanie Heath	UK		
Uygar Ozesmi	Turkey		Yes (to be)
David Stroud	UK		
Oscar Merne	Ireland		Yes
Roman Julliard	France		Yes
Ake Lindstrom	Sweden		Yes
Soren Svensson	Sweden		Yes
Alexander Mischenko	Russia	Yes	
Hans Oekle	Germany		
Vitas Stanevicius	Lithuania		
Anselin Anny	Belgium	Yes	
De Carli Elisabetta	Italy		
Buoli Lia	Italy		
Devos Koen	Belgium		Yes
Hans Schmid	Switzerland		Yes
Jeremey Greenwood	UK		
Goetz Rheinwald	Germany		Yes
Yuri Vergeles	Ukraine		
Jiri Flousek	Czech Republic		Yes
Agu Leivits	Estonia		Yes
Oskars Keiss	Latvia		
Ainars Aunins	Latvia		
Janis Priednieks	Latvia		Yes
Tomasz Wesolowski	Poland		
Przemek Chylarecki	Poland		
Hermann Hotker	Germany		
Juan Carlos Del Moral	Spain		
Joao Pedro Pina	Portugal		
Erik Manduop Jacobsen	Denmark		Yes
Michael B Grell	Denmark		Yes

Timo Pakkala	Finland		Yes (proxy)
Risto A Vasianen	Finland		Yes
David Noble	UK	Yes (observer)	
Martin Flade	Germany	Yes	Yes

Annex 1. Report of the EBCC Executive Committee (ExCo) for the period April 1998 to March 2001.

Presented to the EBCC Board Meeting on 28 March 2001

1. Membership of ExCo

The membership of ExCo as elected at the Board meeting of 27 March 1998 is:

David Gibbons (Chairman; United Kingdom)
Ward Hagemeijer (Vice Chairman; Netherlands)
Anny Anselin (Treasurer & Editor of Bird Census News; Belgium)
Richard Gregory (Secretary; United Kingdom)
Martin Flade (Germany)
Juha Tiainen (Finland)
Tibor Szep (Hungary)
Filios Akriotis (Greece)
Lorenzo Fornasari (Italy)
Alexander Mischenko (Russia)

The following have been invited by ExCo to attend as observers or special advisors:

Gerard Boere (special advisor; Netherlands)
Des Callaghan (observer for BirdLife International)
David Noble (observer for British Trust for Ornithology)
Simon Delany (observer for Wetlands International). In future, this role will be taken over by Ward Hagemeijer
Ruud Foppen has been asked to stand as an observer for SOVON

2. Meetings of ExCo

ExCo has met twice-yearly since the last Board meeting, with its 15th - 21st meetings held in Cottbus (Germany), Beek-Ubbergen (Netherlands; twice), Nyiregyhaza (Hungary; twice), Gdansk (Poland) & Sandy (United Kingdom).

3. Books and proceedings

Population estimate and trend data for all European birds held within the BirdLife International / EBCC European Birds Database have recently been updated (estimates only) and published in paper form as:

BirdLife International / European Bird Census Council (2000). *European Bird Populations: Estimates and Trends*. Eds: Heath, M., Borggreve, Peet, N. & Hagemeijer, W. Cambridge, UK: BirdLife International (BirdLife Conservation Series No. 10).

The proceedings of the EBCC's 14th International Conference held in Cottbus, Germany in 1998 have been published in a very professional and timely manner as:

Helbig, A. J. & Flade, M. 1999. *Bird Numbers 1998: Where Monitoring and Ecological Research Meet*. Proceedings of the 14th International Conference of the European Bird Census Council (EBCC). Die Vogelwelt 120 (Supplement).

The proceedings of the EBCC's 13th International Conference held in Parnu, Estonia in 1995 have yet to be published. Although several papers presented at the conference have appeared in *The Ring* 17 (1-2), 1995, most papers remain unpublished. While it had been hoped that the proceedings would be published by the Estonian Ornithological Society on behalf of EBCC, this has not come to pass although a great deal of editorial work has been undertaken. With the agreement of EOS, ExCo has assumed control of the publication of these proceedings and, with the editorial help of Mike Blair, will publish them as a special volume (No. 13) of *Bird Census News* (BCN).

4. Bird Census News

Since the last Board meeting, the following issues of Bird Census News have been published: Volume 11, nos 1 & 2 (1998), Volume 12, nos. 1 & 2 (1999) and Volume 14, no. 1 (2001). As outlined above, Volume 13 will be a special volume containing the proceedings of the Parnu Conference.

ExCo is considering publishing BCN on the web, as well as in paper form.

ExCo is extremely grateful to the Institute of Nature Conservation (I.N.) in Belgium for providing financial support for the publication of BCN.

5. The EBCC Atlas of European Breeding Birds

The Atlas continues to sell, with several thousand having been sold (though only 200 in 1999) in addition to the 2,500 that were made freely available in Eastern Europe.

ExCo is in discussion with BirdLife International about how Atlas information could be held on BirdLife's web site. This would make the distribution maps, etc, more widely available.

At each of its meetings, ExCo considers requests from a range of users, keen to make use of Atlas data for academic or conservation purposes. Amongst others, requests have been received from: British Museum (Natural History), European Topic Centre for Nature Conservation, Scottish Natural Heritage, Koenig Institute, RSPB and the Universities of Aachen, Cambridge, Durham and Oxford.

6. Pan-European Monitoring

Following a workshop on this issue at Cottbus, ExCo has worked with Statistics Netherlands and a number of national monitoring organisations to develop a statistical method to generate pan-European trends by combining population indices from national monitoring schemes. This method is soon to be published as:

Van Strien, A. J., Pannekoek, J & Gibbons, D. W. A method for indexing European bird population changes based on the results of national monitoring schemes. *Bird Study*, in press.

A proposal to take pan-European monitoring forward on a bigger scale has been developed with a variety of partners and will be made available to Board members. Outlines of this proposal have been published in:

Gibbons, D, W. 1998. Pan-European breeding bird monitoring. *Bird Census News*, 11, 42-45.

Gibbons, D.W. 2000. Pan-European breeding bird monitoring. *Schriftenr. Landschaftspflege Naturschutz* 62, 173-178.

ExCo organised and ran a symposium on pan-European monitoring and the development of national monitoring schemes at the 2nd European Ornithologists' Union conference in Gdansk (1999). Papers presented at the conference will be published in the conference proceedings (in *The Ring*).

Several new monitoring schemes have started in Europe over the last three years; EBCC ExCo has been involved to varying degrees in the development of a number of these, principally those in Hungary, Poland and Italy. EBCC was aware of other new schemes in France, Austria, Spain and Ireland, with developments to existing schemes in Switzerland, Norway and Sweden.

7. Delegates list

ExCo has become concerned that the delegate's list is somewhat out-of-date. This may be simply because contact details have not been maintained. In other cases, however, delegates may no longer be active in the field of monitoring and atlas work. ExCo is in the process of contacting all delegates to ask them whether they wish to remain as a delegate.

8. EBCC on the web

ExCo plans to establish EBCC more formally on the web. Currently, the College of Nyiregyhaza hosts EBCC's site. This site has been used to great advantage in promoting the Hungarian conference, but other parts of the site are weak and have not been maintained. ExCo plans to make greater use of the web in the future and to establish its own domain name.

David Gibbons (18 March 2001)

Annex 2. Financial Report EBCC: period 01.03.1998-01.03.2001

Preliminary Remarks:

- The amounts at left are in Euro (€), those at right (between brackets) are in Belgian Francs (BF), to facilitate the checking with the account outprints which have only the main figures indicated in Euros.
- In the past, EBCC had only one account: the 'Check account'. In January 1999 we opened a 'Savings Book' and transferred part of the money onto it.

Assets on 01.03.2001:

1. Check Account

Account on 01.03.1998	2890,19	(116590)	
Account on 01.03.2001	341,2	(13764)	A1

Difference	-2548,99	(-102826)	B1
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2. Savings Book

Account on 01.03.1998	0	(0)	
Account on 01.03.2001	1559,99	(62930)	A2
Difference	+1559,99	(+62930)	B2

3. Cash Money

In cash on 01.03.2001	53,3	(+2150)	A3
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4. Total assets on 01.03.2001

$$A1+A2+A3= 1954,49 \text{ € } (78844 \text{ BF})$$

5. Money to be expected in near future

- Royalties European Breeding Bird Atlas: **356 €**
- Contract with BirdLife for data use: **2454 €**
- Contract for use of atlas data for climate modelling: **250 €**
- ETCNC Paris for atlas data use: **± 1000 €**

Details on income and expenses

a. Bird Census News

Income		
Subscriptions	87,01	(3510)
Sponsorship Vol. 11, 12 and 14 (1)	1477,35	(59596)
Total	+1564,36	(63106)
Expenses		
Production of Vol. 11, 12 and 14 (1)	808,03	(32596)
Mailing of Vol. 11, 12 and 14 (1)	669,31	(27000)
Total	-1477,34	(59595)
Difference	+87,01	(+3510)

b. ExCo Meetings

Income:		
Total	+0,0	(0)
Expenses		
Travel to Hungary and Sandy	1168,62	(47142)
Total	-1168,62	(47142)
Difference	-1168,62	(-47142)

c. Contracts

Income:		
SNH via BTO	300,94	(12140)
Royalties European Breeding Bird Atlas	230,17	(9285)

Total	+531,11	(21425))
Expenses		
Payment BTO for Atlas Work	72,50	(2925)
Payment SOVON for Atlas Work	161,57	(6518)
Total	-234,07	(9443)
Difference	+297,04	(+11982)

d. Parnu Proceedings

Expenses		
Mailing costs Ring (Part 1 Parnu Proceedings)	99,16	(4000)
Total	99,16	(4000)
Difference	-99,16	(-4000)

e. Banking

Income		
Interest Check Account	2.48	(100)
Total	+2.48	(100)
Expenses		
Charges and taxes	127,07	(5126)
Total	-127,07	(5126)
Difference	-124,56	(5026)

Total difference between income and expenses at Check Account:

total income		total expenses	
+87,01	(+3510)	-1168,62	(47142)
+297,04	(+11982)	-99,16	(4000)
		-124,56	(5026)
+384,04	(+15492)	-1392,37	(-56168)
Total difference= -1008,33 (40676) (added by expenses of 1487,5 (60000) (transfer to Savings Book) and 53,3 (2150) (transfer to Cash Money)= 2548,99 € or (102826 BF: see B1 on page 1)			

EBCC would like to thank the Institute of Nature Conservation (Flanders, Belgium) for sponsoring Bird Census News, the various Institutes and Organisations that sponsored travel costs of ExCo members, and Ward Hagemeijer for his special effort to arrange with Poyser the regular payment of the European Breeding Bird Atlas Royalties.

For EBCC ExCo
Anny Anselin
EBCC Treasurer
23.03.2001

Annex 3. The Executive Committee of the European Bird Census Council (EBCC) recommends to the Board that EBCC becomes a Foundation in Dutch Law if further investigation proves this affordable.

At present, the legal status of EBCC is somewhat ambiguous. EBCC exists as a 'de facto' organisation under Belgian Law allowing it to have a bank account and handle money, but to a limited extent only. EBCC's capacity to tender for contracts and employ staff is also limited should it wish to. In the future, this could act as a barrier to further development of EBCC's work and its capacity to achieve its stated objective. EBCC has a constitution (reproduced in *Bird Census News* 1995, 8, 60-66; copies available at the Board meeting), with country delegates, an executive committee, regular conferences and board meetings. The executive members may have responsibility for the actions of the organisation, but the degree of responsibility is unclear. In fact, the formal status of EBCC is equivocal.

The Executive Committee (ExCo) recommends to the Board that EBCC act to formalise its legal status. Specifically, ExCo recommends that EBCC registers as a Foundation in Dutch Law to allow it to fulfil better its stated objectives.

Background

The present status of EBCC mirrors that of the Wader Study Group (WSG) some years ago. To overcome uncertainty over legal status and take its work forward WSG became registered as a Foundation in Dutch Law. This required WSG registering with the Dutch Chamber of Commerce for a fee and subsequently paying a small annual fee and providing some reporting of budgets. The signature of a number of Dutch nationals was required to support the application. A solicitor was required for the formal registration although they would not normally charge for this work in the Netherlands. In the case of WSG, members pay an annual fee (but this is not a condition of Foundation status). Members appoint an Executive Committee to act on behalf of the Board to steer the direction of the organisation. The Executive Committee is able to raise funds, employ staff, co-operate with other bodies, and hold workshops and seminars, and commission research in furtherance of the organisation's objectives.

The constitution of the WSG is, in fact, very similar to the present constitution of the EBCC. The only exception is that ordinary members of WSG pay annual dues, but this is not a requirement of a Foundation. A move to Foundation status would not affect, or restrict, the standard activities and structures of EBCC, its Board, Executive Committee, delegates and conferences and area of interest. The reverse is true; confirmation of status would allow EBCC to pursue its objectives with added vigour and strength.

The advantages of EBCC becoming a Foundation are:

1. Legal status is formalised
2. It is able to raise and handle funds
3. It is able to employ staff
4. It is able to tender for or commission work
5. Present structures require little, or no, modification
6. It will help to clarify the financial responsibilities of ExCo

The disadvantages of EBCC becoming a Foundation are:

1. A fee is required for registration and on an annual basis

Should Board agree with ExCo, we would need to find several Dutch Nationals to support an application. This is unlikely to be a problem.

Annex 4. The Executive Committee (ExCo) of the European Birds Census Council (EBCC) recommends to the Board that the next EBCC conference should be held jointly with the EOU in 2003.

Background

EBCC's Executive Committee (ExCo) is considering working more closely with the European Ornithologists' Union (EOU). One of the most obvious ways of collaborating would be by holding a joint conference.

It had been hoped to hold the 2001 Hungarian EBCC conference in late summer 2001. However, it soon became clear that the 3rd European Ornithologist's Union (EOU) conference was scheduled for the same time, in a different country (the Netherlands). When this problem first arose, EOU Council asked EBCC ExCo whether they would be interested in holding a joint EOU/EBCC conference in 2001. However, as plans for the EBCC 2001 conference were well advanced, ExCo decided to continue with plans for its own conference. In addition, ExCo felt that the decision to hold a joint conference had to be put to the full EBCC Board, and that this could only be done at its 2001 Hungarian conference. The clash of dates between the EOU and EBCC conferences was avoided by EBCC moving its 2001 conference to spring.

Despite this, there will still be two major gatherings of European ornithologists within a six-month period in 2001. This seems unhelpful, especially given that there is quite a large overlap between 'members' of the EOU and EBCC.

EOU Council is still keen for EBCC to hold a joint conference, and have once again approached ExCo to ask whether EBCC would like to hold a conference in 2003. ExCo is keen to pursue this option, but has told EOU Council that it will not do so without discussing it at this meeting of the full Board.

The question that EBCC ExCo would like to ask the full Board is:

Is the Board happy for the next EBCC conference to be held jointly with the EOU in 2003?

The advantages of this are:

- It avoids clashes of conference dates and helps reduce the packed international conference schedule.
- The EBCC would benefit from promoting its ideas to a wider audience and the EOU could benefit from the knowledge and experience of the EBCC.

Potential disadvantages are:

- A potential loss of profile for the EBCC; it could be seen as part of EOU, rather than a full partner.
- Conference fees might be greater
- The next conference would be in 2 years time, rather than the customary 3 years.
- The choice of host country could not be decided by EBCC alone.

It is looking increasingly likely that the EOU will hold the 2003 conference in Saxony in E Germany. Although this is not ideal from an EBCC perspective, as our 1998 conference was in Cottbus, E Germany, EOU had originally been planning to hold its 2003 conference in Hungary. ExCo was able to dissuade them from this. Should the Board wish to pursue a joint

conference with EOU in 2003, EBCC would need to find a local organiser to help with the planning.

Whether or not conferences beyond 2003 would be joint or separate would need to be decided in the future, based on the success or otherwise of a joint 2003 conference.

EBCC ExCo March 18, 2001