

EBCC

European Bird Census Council



every bird counts

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 monitoring projects; these have included the atlas of European breeding birds, and currently the pan-European common bird monitoring scheme and the second European atlas.

Chairman's report April 2010 to September 2013

1. Membership of the Board

Ruud Foppen (Chairman, The Netherlands)
David Noble (Vice-Chairman & Treasurer, UK)
Hans-Günther Bauer (Secretary, Germany)
Anny Anselin (Editor *Bird Census News*, Belgium)
Åke Lindström (Delegate Officer, Sweden)
Lluís Brotons (Data Officer, Spain)
Henning Heldbjerg (Denmark)
Mikhael Kalyakin (Russia)
Verena Keller (Conference Officer, Switzerland)
Oskars Keiņš (Latvia)

The Board has also called upon the expertise of the following observers:

Mark Eaton (observer for RSPB, UK)
Ian Burfield (observer for BirdLife International, UK)
Petr Voříšek & Jana Škorpilová (observers Pan-European Common Bird Monitoring Scheme, Czech Republic)
Zoltán Szabó (2013 Conference Organising Committee, Romania)
Szabolcs Nagy (Observer for Wetlands International, The Netherlands)

2. Meetings of the Board

Board has met twice a year since the last Annual General Meeting in Cáceres, Spain in 2010, with its 40th to 45th meetings held in: Nijmegen, Netherlands (November 2010), Solsona, Spain (March 2011), Riga, Latvia (August 2011), Sempach, Switzerland (March 2012), Cluj, Romania (October 2012) and Barcelona, Spain (March 2013). The Minutes and Agendas from Board meetings are posted routinely on the EBCC website allowing Delegates and others to learn more about our work (see: <http://www.ebcc.info/index.php?ID=11>)

3. Financial position (David Noble)

The financial position of the EBCC remained relatively healthy during the period under consideration. A full financial report will be presented by the Treasurer at the General Meeting of the Association and incorporated into the minutes of the meeting. In short, the financial position of the EBCC was healthy in 2010-2012 with a balance of around €8000, thanks largely to income from the supply of data from the previous European Bird Atlas, and the support from Research Institute for Nature and Forest (INBO) for the publication of *Bird Census News*. Costs mostly stemmed from travel costs associated with Board meetings (for delegates from institutions with limited financial resources) and the maintenance of the EBCC website

(contract with CSO as our website master). More and more, however we experience a lack of revenue from requests for atlas data, partly due to the time since these were collected, also global changes in attitude towards access to data and a stronger tendency to engage in a collaborative arrangement. The total balance of money in 2013 remained acceptable at around €5000. Falling income from provision of atlas data and a lack of other current funding sources is an issue for the Board to address, but has not yet had great implications for our work.

4. Conference proceedings (Verena Keller)

Conference proceedings from the 18th EBCC conference in Cáceres, Spain in 2010 were published in *Ardeola* in December 2010 and in *Bird Census News* in July 2011. We thank Juan Carlos del Moral (SEO) and Ana Bermejo and their team and Anny Anselin (BCN publication) for making this happen so quickly and efficiently.

5. Bird Census News (Anny Anselin)

Since the last conference, five issues of *Bird Census News* have been published:

BCN 2010 volume 23/1-2: 143pgs

BCN 2011 volume 24/1: 40 pgs

BCN 2011 volume 24/2: 40pgs

BCN 2012 volume 25/1: 35pgs

The paper version of *Bird Census News* has a circulation of around 250. Since 2003, all issues have been available via the EBCC website in PDF format. Since 2008, *Bird Census News* has been branded as a Journal instead of a Newsletter, since we hope this will raise its profile and because EBCC now has a separate Newsletter for Delegates. In 2012 we decided that BCN will only be produced in a digital format. This will cut down the costs considerably and also enables us to upgrade the layout without incurring extra costs. The EBCC Board is extremely grateful to the Research Institute for Nature and Forest (INBO) in Belgium for providing financial support for the publication of *Bird Census News* until 2012.

6. Provision of data from the EBCC Atlas of European Breeding Birds (Lluís Brotons)

EBCC has dealt with 25 requests for EBCC atlas data during the current reporting period. Board seeks to assist such requests and make data available for use following EBCC's guidelines for the provision and supply of atlas data. In some cases, EBCC charges for data provision and supply but in most cases EBCC favours scientific involvement in the project to increase the potential impact of the collaboration. The Board assesses each request on its individual merits. Finally, during the present reporting period only about half of the requests received by EBCC (12) have resulted in final data provision (excel file on request).

7. EBCC on the web (David Noble)

EBCC's website www.ebcc.info has been updated on a regular basis. The site is maintained by CSO (Czech Ornithological Society, BirdLife Partner in Czech Republic) under a contract from the EBCC. Board members and observers contribute to the site and it is discussed at each Board meeting. We are especially grateful to David Noble from the BTO who has acted as our Web Champion and to Petr Voříšek and Jana Škorpilova who have largely been responsible for maintaining and updating content. The most active areas are the Pan-European Common Bird Monitoring Scheme (PECBMS) and the 2nd European Breeding Bird Atlas project (EBBA2), where news, information and outputs such as the latest Pan-European bird trends and indicators are regularly updated. Alongside this, there have been regular updates of Board agendas and minutes, *Bird Census News*, the Delegates List and Newsletter, and Country Reports, as well as information about new initiatives and scientific papers related to the EBCC or PECBMS. We encourage all delegates to view sections of the website related to their country, or initiatives they are involved, and provide us with information to update the website and to fill in gaps. In the longer term, the plan is to further develop and improve the website.

8. Planning for the 19th International EBCC conference in Cluj, Romania, September 2013 (Verena Keller)

The organisation of international conferences of the EBCC remains a very high priority for EBCC. The Board therefore designated Verena Keller as Conference officer, to act as contact point to the local organisers and to coordinate the scientific programme. Zoltán Szabó (on behalf of the conference organising committee) has joined Board meetings several times since Cáceres to discuss the preparation and organisation of the conference in Romania. In October 2012, the Board visited Cluj to see the proposed venue and facilities, and discuss details of organisation. The scientific content of the conference was prepared by a Scientific Programme Committee, chaired by Verena Keller, which included several board members: David Noble (secretary), Lluís Brotons, Ruud Foppen, Henning Heldbjerg, Mikhail Kalyakin, Åke Lindström, Zoltán Szabó, and Petr Voříšek.

9. Support for establishing new common bird monitoring schemes in Europe (Mark Eaton, Henning Heldbjerg)

EBCC's Board and observers have provided support and advice in various ways to assist pilot or new common bird monitoring initiatives and to support existing schemes by sending letters of support to governments. Countries to which support was given since 2010 include Belarus, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Poland, Portugal Romania, Slovakia and Turkey.

10. Liaison with Delegates and Newsletter (Åke Lindström)

The work of our Delegate Officer Åke Lindström has allowed the EBCC to maintain and update an impressive list of Delegates. EBCC considers 46 countries where currently we have 83 confirmed national Delegates. We have two confirmed Delegates in 40 countries, one confirmed Delegate in three countries, and three countries without confirmed Delegates. Starting in 2008, we have produced two Newsletters per year that are distributed to the EBCC Delegates and are published on the website. The Newsletters contain information and news about the work of the EBCC that is compiled by Åke around each Board meeting. Delegates are warmly invited to contribute to the Newsletter and tell us about themselves and their news. Please contact our Delegate Officer with your ideas and suggestions, or talk to them and other Board members and observers in Cluj.

11. Pan-European monitoring - The Pan-European Common Bird Monitoring Scheme (Petr Voříšek & Jana Škorpilová)

Activities implemented, main results & achievements over the period April 2010 – September 2013

The Pan-European Common Bird Monitoring Scheme (PECBMS) is a joint initiative of the EBCC and BirdLife International that started in January 2002. The PECBMS has established a large European network of collaborators – coordinators of national or regional monitoring schemes, EBCC delegates and/or BirdLife Partners. The PECBMS is officially led by a project manager, Richard Gregory (based in the RSPB, UK), and coordinated by a central coordination unit (based in the CSO, Czech Republic) that consists of a project coordinator, Petr Voříšek, and technical assistants, Alena Klvaňová (October 2006-May 2008, currently on maternity leave), and Jana Škorpilová (since May 2008). The project Steering and Technical Advisory Group (Ian Burfield, Ruud Foppen, Richard Gregory, David Noble, Arco van Strien, Zdenek Vermousek) meets annually and oversee the work.

PECBMS outputs – European and regional common bird indices and indicators

The European indices and indicators have been updated four times since the last Chairman's report in 2010:

- 2010 update contained indices for 137 species and set of headline indicators for period until 2008 based on data from 22 countries
- 2011 update contained indices for 145 species and set of headline indicators for period until 2009 based on data from 25 countries
- 2012 update contained indices for 148 species and set of headline indicators for period until 2010 based on data from 25 countries
- 2013 update contained indices for 163 species and set of headline indicators for period until 2011 based on data from 27 countries

New countries in PECBMS

New schemes in Cyprus, Greece and Slovenia have contributed data since the 2011 update, while Luxembourg and Romania has provided their data since the 2013 update. Countries like Lithuania plan to contribute trend data in the near future and others, such as the Balkans and countries from East Europe, remain our priorities.

Data calculation and quality checks

Data quality control is a continuing process that has undergone many improvements in control of consistency and precision of both national data and European or regional indices before they are published or included in indicators. Several updates of the tool BirdSTATs have been developed to enable coordinators to run TRIM in a more convenient batch mode. In 2013, a transfer of computation technology from the Statistics Netherlands to the CSO has started. Statistics Netherlands will still play an important role in supporting PECBMS and in advising on the calculation of European trends and will also continue updating all tools for trends calculation.

Project outputs publications and dissemination

Indices and indicators published:

- On the EBCC website (<http://www.ebcc.info>) in 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013
- In the leaflet 'Population Trends of Common European Breeding Birds' - published in 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013
- In a series of scientific publications – see below

Selected talks and other presentations at meetings and conferences:

- Presentation at the workshop on citizen science, EEA, Denmark (2011)
- EOU conferences in Latvia (2011)
- EBCC conference in Romania (2013)
- Presentation at a meeting of fieldworkers in Catalonia (Spain), 2012

Use of PECBMS outputs in policy documents and materials

The PECBMS outputs are used as official biodiversity indicators in Europe: the Farmland Bird Index has been used by the EU as a Structural Indicator, a Sustainable Development Indicator, and an indicator of the effectiveness of agri-environment measures under the Rural Development Regulation. The PECBMS wild bird indicators have also been incorporated in the set of indicators to assess progress towards the European target of halting biodiversity loss by 2010 (SEBI indicators).

Other activities

- Regular reports on the EBCC website (ca. twice per year)
- Regular reporting to EBCC Board (twice per year)
- PECBMS workshop in February 2012 (Mikulov, Czech Republic) - www.ebcc.info/PECBMSworkshop2012.html
- Update of PECBMS website – new sections on the PECBMS methods, frequently asked questions and use of our results added (Methods, Questions & Answers and Use of PECBMS results)
- Cooperation on research studies: we have cooperated with external scientists on a research incl. e.g. issues of global change and population trends, forest birds risk assessment or climate change
- Contribution to the EC-funded project on European Red List of birds (and Birds in Europe 3) led by BirdLife (EU trends)
- Contribution to a wildlife comeback study funded by Rewilding Europe and led by ZSL, BirdLife and EBCC (Deinet et al. in press)

Assistance to national monitoring schemes

PECBMS assist to coordinators in various tasks either via e-mail communication or via personal visits (e.g. Macedonia, Cyprus or Greece). For example, we assisted Cyprus, Lithuania, Belarus and Bulgaria with calculation of indices. We helped Latvia, Slovakia and Lithuania in lobbying for funding. We discussed monitoring design or data management with Cyprus, Greece and Czech Republic. And we facilitated provision of national data (with approval from coordinators) in informing decisions about the huntability of selected species in France and Malta.

Funding

Since its inception in 2002, the scheme has been continuously supported by the RSPB. It has also been supported financially by the European Commission since 2006. However, the financial support from EC was interrupted from July 2012 - June 2013. During this period, PECBMS was supported by the RSPB and other resources such as other grants from research cooperation on the PECBMS. Since July 2013, European Commission re-allocated again support for PECBMS, with the new grant running from July 2013 until June 2016.

Challenges for near future

We aim to increase the number of species by incorporating data on new species (as demonstrated through the Wildlife Comeback Study), and to explore the possibility of producing indicators for other habitats. We also want to continue helping countries and improving geographical coverage by establishing new monitoring schemes in countries with no scheme. Another task for future project development is to increase the scientific research to reveal the underlying trend patterns of individual species and groups of species in more details.

12. Spatial Modelling Workgroup (SMOG) and SCALES project update (Lluís Brotons, Henk Sierdsema)

The work of the Spatial Modelling Workgroup (SMOG) has continued to develop as capacity and opportunities have allowed. Spatial modelling raises both difficult technical questions and difficult practical questions about data access that need to be overcome for the work to develop. Both of these aspects in part explain modest progress by the working group, although this is now set to change. In 2013, SMOG will finalize a first version set of R-scripts for spatial modelling of count data specifically developed to cover modelling needs from monitoring count data ("TRIMmaps": see below). There has been involvement in a number of studies regarding the effectiveness of high natural value farming areas in France and Europe. Several papers from members of the workgroup on various types of (spatial) modelling of (breeding) bird data have been published. A draft of a review paper on the technical aspects of monitoring data integration for mapping purposes has been prepared. The different members of the SMOG Group are now commenting on the draft. A second document will be produced in 2013, which will identify priorities for future spatial modelling work within SMOG. Networking activities and group developments have led to oral presentations at the PECBMS workshop in Mikulov (Feb 2012) and the ECCB meeting in Glasgow (Aug 2012). In addition to the activities derived from the SCALES and EUBON projects (discussed below), the group has agreed to stay involved in EBCC specific priority projects. The priorities in this line have been identified as the contribution to the new European atlas (EBBA2) and the development of specific products within PECBMS.

13. EBBA2– Second European Breeding Bird Atlas (Verena Keller)

Main activities and achievements until September 2013

Following the support at the Cáceres conference the Board started work on this new and challenging project. In 2011 the Board set up an atlas steering committee (ASC), consisting of members and observers on the Board: Verena Keller (chair), Hans-Günther Bauer, Lluís Brotons, Ian Burfield, Mark Eaton, Ruud Foppen, Mikhail Kalyakin, David Noble, and Petr Voříšek. The ASC held its first meeting in Sandy (UK) October 2011, followed by four meetings plus a Skype meeting in 2012: Mikulov (CZ), Sempach (CH), Glasgow (UK), Cluj (RO), and two in 2013: Barcelona (E), Cluj (RO).

European Coordination

Lacking a central coordinator, the first tasks were carried out by members of the ASC. In spring 2012 a call was sent out to the EBCC network asking organisations or research institutes to express their interest in

hosting the central coordination. Based on the responses, and because the funding situation remained insecure, the board decided not to advertise the post for a European coordinator, but to set up a coordination team consisting of Sergi Herrando from the Catalan Ornithological Institute (ICO) and Petr Voříšek from the Czech Society for Ornithology (CSO), under the supervision of Verena Keller from the Swiss Ornithological Institute, as chair of the ASC. These three organisations have also been main financial supporters of the coordination.

Project development

The ASC prepared a first internal project description, setting the main objectives and fixing a provisional timetable. A short project description was distributed and made available on the EBCC website.

Network of national coordinators

As a first task to set up a network of national coordinators, a questionnaire was sent out to EBCC delegates in November 2011. The feedback, with almost all European countries responding, was very positive, with all countries wanting to contribute, and allowed to identify the gaps and need for support in each country. Up to September 2013, national atlas coordinators or EBBA2 contact points have been established for all countries except Albania. There are 112 contacts from 46 countries in the database.

Data collection and support at national level

Ensuring that basic data are collected at national level was one of the top priorities. In countries with well-developed monitoring schemes and atlas projects, providing data for EBBA2 will not be a problem regardless of the methodological requirements. In east and southeast Europe in particular, data collection is a big challenge. Some countries have already started national atlas projects. The initiative by Mikhail Kalyakin to start an atlas for the European part of Russia needs special mentioning, as it will increase the geographical area covered in the first atlas.

In March 2013 a workshop was held in Barcelona, organised and hosted by ICO, for countries that had indicated a need for support in the questionnaires. It was attended by 32 participants of 23 countries mainly from east and southeast Europe. The workshop focused on methodologies for national atlases, basic rules for data collection but also on issues such as recruiting volunteers and fundraising. The workshop improved contacts between national coordinators and between national coordinators and the European coordination, which resulted in bilateral collaboration and allowed targeted support of particular countries. Documents from the workshop incl. presentations and conclusions are available at the EBCC web site (<http://www.ebcc.info/index.php?ID=506>).

In 2013, a few ornithologists, mainly from the Czech Republic and Catalonia visited countries in the Balkans and the Caucasus to collect data in regions with few observers. Several enquiries on methods or fundraising have been answered by the coordination team.

Methodology

The specific methodology for the European atlas was developed in parallel to the support for data collection at national level. The geographical area covered was defined and a species list developed, looking as much as possible for synergies with other European projects such as the European Red List. While the collection of data at the grid of 50x50 km, which will allow direct comparison to the first atlas, is relatively straightforward, the development of new methodologies allowing the application of spatial modelling techniques poses a challenge. It is still in discussion, taking into account the possibilities in different regions in Europe.

Supporting documents and website

Many documents and working material have been made available on the EBCC website, including basic guidelines for data collection, the species list, atlas codes, the atlas grid as GIS shape files and linked to Google Earth maps, as well as the Barcelona workshop material (<http://www.ebcc.info/index.php?ID=506>).

Communication

The project has been presented on the EBCC website, and updates have been provided in Bird Census News and the EBCC newsletter. A short project description and a leaflet have been produced.

The project has been promoted at international and national conferences and meetings:

2011: Launch of the Birds Directive Article 12 reporting process (Brussels)

2012: European Red List of Birds kick-off meeting (Mikulov CZ), 3rd European Congress on Conservation Biology (Glasgow UK), German Ornithologists' Union (DO-G, Saarbrücken D), Launch of the Swiss breeding bird atlas (Fribourg CH)

2013: European Ornithologists' Union (Norwich UK)

A simple information sheet about the Atlas was made available at an event organised by the newly established European Association of Citizen Science within the Green Week in Brussels (June 2013).

Funding

So far, work for the atlas has been funded by research income from EBCC-related projects, namely PECBMS and SCALES, and small contributions from participating organisations, in particular the Swiss Ornithological Institute and BTO. In addition, external funding has been secured for the Barcelona workshop. In-kind funding has been provided by the Catalan Ornithological Institute and the Czech Ornithological Society for work of the coordination team, and by several additional organisations especially for work done by the ASC members. The RSPB has provided in-kind support through the work of Daniel Hayhow, who has been supporting the ASC in fundraising. However, it has not yet been possible to secure large grants for the project and fundraising remains a top priority for the near future.

Support of national projects contributing to EBBA2 has so far focused on the Atlas for European Russia, where members of the ASC have been involved in finding small grants; support in the form of advice has been also provided to Armenia and Czech Republic (upon request).

14. Collaboration projects with other organisations

Wetlands International

Wetlands International established a new steering body for the International Waterbird Census (IWC) in the AEWA region, the African Eurasian Waterbird Monitoring Partnership (AEWMP) and invited EBCC to join. The representation of EBCC was taken up by Verena Keller. The EBCC board sees this as an important step to strengthen waterbird monitoring in Europe and invited Wetlands International (Szabolcs Nagy) in return to attend EBCC board meetings as an observer. The AEWMP has held two meetings in 2012 and 2013, and initiatives to strengthen the IWC have been started.

BirdLife International

EBCC is a formal partner (and a member of the steering committee) in a 3-year project that BirdLife is leading, commissioned by the European Commission, to compile a European Red List of Birds. As well as supporting Article 12 reporting under the Birds Directive, this will also lead to the third comprehensive assessment of the population status of all European species (Birds in Europe 3, BiE3). Many BirdLife Partners and EBCC Delegates are involved in national panels established for the purpose of data collation, and many are benefitting from financial support from their Governments (inside the EU) or small grants from BirdLife (outside the EU). The results of the project will provide another good example of the important role of the EBCC network in delivering high impact, policy relevant data.

In 2013, Rewilding Europe commissioned BirdLife and the EBCC (in conjunction with the Zoological Society of London, ZSL) to undertake a wildlife comeback study, collating data on c. 20 European bird species that have recovered from earlier declines. With help from the EBCC network, the PECBMS team and others, this has facilitated the production of the first ever population indices for certain species, as well as an assessment of the key factors driving their recoveries. The results have been combined with those for a similar number of mammals (compiled by ZSL), and will be launched in London on 26 Sep and at WILD10 (the 10th world wilderness congress) in Salamanca on 4 Oct, giving good profile to EBCC.

European science projects: SCALES and EUBON

One of the most exciting developments for EBCC capacity in recent years has been formal involvement of EBCC in EU-funded FP7 framework project SCALES (scaling spatial biodiversity issues on European scale) and more recently in the EUBON project (Building the European Biodiversity Observation Network). The EBCC is a partner in these two projects and in both cases has benefitted from funding for a two-year post-doc position based in Solsona (Spain) mainly supervised by Lluís Brotons. The EBCC-CTFC post-doc, Francesc Sardà was recruited in March 2010 for the SCALES project and worked on a variety of spatial modelling issues regarding bird monitoring data during the period 2010-2012, representing EBCC issues in the project. Francesc worked very closely with the SMOG working group to take our ideas on spatial modelling forwards (see attached articles). Work on the SCALES project is now mostly finished for the EBCC team and has resulted in a number of outputs with EBCC affiliation and an increased network capacity at the European scale (see annex article attached).

The successful integration of EBCC in a FP7 project consortium and the positive participation in the SCALES project has allowed the EBCC team to be invited to the EUBON project, another larger FP7, strategic project starting in 2013. This will allow further complementarity between research activities and the flagship EBCC projects (PECBMS and EBBA2). In the near future, EBCC will have again the opportunity to recruit a post-doc within the EUBON project and strengthen the working capacity of EBCC to organise and lead large scale bird related research initiatives involving data integration at the pan European scales.

15. Strategic planning

A first step taken by the Board formed in Cáceres in March 2010 was to discuss and set priorities. As the former chairman, Richard Gregory, pointed out in his report for the period 2007-2010, there were various options for this. From the former report it was noted that the EBCC Board might wish to:

...’ raise the profile of EBCC, raise awareness of the need for greater funding opportunities

....pursue funding opportunities for high priority work.

... continue to promote common bird monitoring and the use of wild bird indicators at national and EU/European levels

....continue to promote ongoing work on spatial modelling and birds.

....promote a second breeding atlas for European birds .

... promote further work on climate change and birds .

....(arguably one of the higher priorities for the EBCC) revamp and re-launch its website’

As you can see from this report a number of these issues have been picked up and successfully taken forward in the last couple of years. Clearly PECBMS and its further development is still a main priority. As indicated in paragraph 11 this has resulted in a further increase in the number of countries that deliver data to the scheme. We have also worked to develop indicators for other habitats by expanding the suite of species trends collated from national schemes. Furthermore ,PECBMS data have been and will continue to be used more and more as a basis for scientific research, increasingly using the spatial as well as the -temporal component of the information. One area of concern is how to ensure the ongoing financial support that is needed to run the scheme. This takes a lot of attention and time and although we once again have further EU funding, we are very grateful for the interim support of the RSPB and their efforts to secure this funding.

The other major priority is our EBBA2 project. We are pleased that we could start this off thanks to the combined effort of many people. However we fully realize that this is a very ambitious and time consuming project that will need our attention and efforts for a large number of years. It has additional challenges related to differences in methods and capacity between countries and sensitivities about national data. Therefore the Board does not envisage taking on any other major new initiatives in the next few years. What we still will pursue are opportunities to collaborate in scientific research projects (see also paragraph 14). The result of this approach in recent years is that collectively the EBCC community has had papers published in some of the most highly rated ecological and ornithological journals . We think there are many other occasions where we can use the data collected by EBCC and its partner organizations and their expertise for relevant scientific studies and is the reason for developing appropriate strategies for data access and collaborations. These

publications with EBCC affiliations remain of great importance for the scientific reputation and credibility of the EBCC.

Another big issue is the global growth of online bird recording systems, and their potential to provide valuable data for bird monitoring and atlases. The EBCC will continue to engage closely with the organisers of these schemes, whether national, international or private companies, to act as a central point for information about the schemes, and to help develop approaches to the appropriate use of data collected in very different ways.

Finally, as Chairman of EBCC I would like to thank all of the Board Members and Observers for the support in the last three years to run the EBCC and to employ such important activities. It is not always easy to dedicate time to the EBCC besides the regular job necessities that all of us have. Hence, I find it not more than fair to express, on behalf of you, the delegates, my enormous gratitude for these efforts.

16. Publications involving EBCC authors and data (2010-2013)

Clavero, M., Villeró, D. & Brotons, L. 2011. Climate Change or Land Use Dynamics: Do We Know What Climate Change Indicators Indicate? *Plos One* 6:(4) e18581.

Deinet, S., Ieronymidou, C., McRae, L., Burfield, I.J., Foppen, R.P., Collen, B. and Böhm, M. (in press) *Wildlife comeback in Europe: the recovery of selected mammal and bird species*. Final report to Rewilding Europe by ZSL, BirdLife International and the European Bird Census Council. London, UK: ZSL.

Ivits, E., Buchanan, G., Olsvig-Whittaker, L., Cherlet, M. (2011): European Farmland Bird Distribution Explained by Remotely Sensed Phenological Indices. *Environmental Modeling and Assessment* 16 (4): 385-399 (DOI: 10.1007/s10666-011-9251-9).

Keil, P., Schweiger, O., Kühn, I., Kunin, W. E., Kuussaari, M., Settele, J., Henle, K., Brotons, L., Pe'er, G., Lengyel, S., Moustakas, A., Steinicke, H. & Storch, D. (2012). Patterns of beta diversity in Europe: the role of climate, land cover and distance across scales. *Journal of Biogeography*, Volume 39, Issue 8. Pages: 1473–1486.

Le Viol, I., Jiguet, F., Brotons, L., Herrando, S., Lindström, Å., Pearce-Higgins, J. W., Reif, J., Van Turnhout, C. & Devictor, V. 2012. More and more generalists: two decades of changes in the European bird fauna. – *Biol. Lett.* 8:780–782.

Lindström, Å., Green, M., Paulson, G., Smith, H.G. & Devictor, V. 2012. Rapid changes in bird community composition at multiple spatial scales in response to recent climate change. – *Ecography*, published online 7 September 2012.

Norman, D., Peach, W. J. (2013): Density-dependent survival and recruitment in a long-distance Palaearctic migrant, the Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*. *Ibis* 155: 284 – 296

Scholefield, P., Firbank, L., Butler, S., Norris, K., Jones, L.M., Petit, S. (2011): Modelling the European Farmland Bird Indicator in response to forecast land-use change in Europe. *Ecological Indicators* 11 (1): 46-51.

Stjernman, M., Green, M., Lindström, Å., Olsson, Ola, Ottvall, R. & Smith, H. G. 2013. Habitat-specific bird trends and their effect on the Farmland Bird Index. – *Ecological Indicators* 24:382–391.

Wade ASL, Barov B, Burfield IJ, Gregory RD, Norris K, et al. (2013) Quantifying the Detrimental Impacts of Land-Use and Management Change on European Forest Bird Populations. *PLoS ONE* 8(5): e64552. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0064552

Ruud P.B. Foppen

On behalf of EBCC's Board and Observers
(September 2013)