

## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the European Bird Census Council in Evora, Portugal**

**23 October, 2014**

**Attending:** Board members: Ruud Foppen, David Noble, Verena Keller, Anny Anselin, Henning Heldbjerg, Mikhail Kalyakin, Oskars Keišs, Danae Portolou and Aleksi Lehikoinen.

Observers and Invitees: Petr Voříšek (CSO/PECBMS), Martin Kupka (CSO/EBBA), Sergi Herrando (ICO/EBBA2), Gabriel Gargallo (ICO/EBP), Joao Rabaca (University of Evora) and Kai Gedeon (EBCC 2016 conference organiser).

### **TOP 1: Chairman's welcome**

EBCC Chair Ruud Foppen welcomes all participants (Board members, Delegates and invitees) to the AGM 2014.

### **TOP 2: Apologies for absence**

Apologies received from Board member Lluís Brotons and Observer Ivan Ramirez (BirdLife). There were no apologies from other Delegates.

### **TOP 3: Minutes of last Annual General Meeting**

The minutes of the last AGM in Cluj, Romania in September 2013 can be found on the EBCC website. There were no questions or modifications raised and the minutes were accepted.

### **TOP 4: Chairman's Report on behalf of EBCC Board and Observers**

The Chairman briefly described activities over the past year highlighting progress with the EBCC's main projects such as PECBMS and EBBA2.

A successful Board meeting in March 2014 in Istanbul focussed on the Turkish atlas project and the Board was impressed by the good work of Kerem Ali Boyla and his team.

The PECBMS project reports business as usual thanks to new EC grant for three years (2013-2016). Updated trends and indicators were produced in summer 2014. Because of the increasing work pressure in also coordination of EBBA2, the CSO team in Prague has been reinforced with two new positions: a one year full-time Research Officer (Anna Gamero) and a part-time Communications Officer (Martin Kupka).

The EBBA2 work is progressing well overseen by Verena Keller (SOI) and in the teams led by Sergi Herrando (ICO) and Petr Voříšek (CSO). Support is being provided to many countries on atlas work (European and national scales), and to encourage and support foreign birdwatchers visiting atlas countries. The Atlas Steering Group is prioritizing the work in areas of technical support for national atlases, communications, and the creation of a European database and test methods of data exchange procedures. A growing number of countries are starting up national atlas projects which will create a powerful base for the

European Atlas. Fundraising for the initial phase of the project has been successful, particularly thanks to the activities of Verena Keller. We will actively seek additional funding for the later stages of the projects and to support more national initiatives. The situation in Russia is worth mentioning, described by its coordinator Mikhail Kalyakin as 'rather good' with ca 300 50x50 squares covered already.

We can gladly announce that the next Bird Numbers will be hosted by two German organisations: Stiftung Vogelmonitoring Deutschland and Deutscher Avifaunisten (DDA). The probable location will be in Germany, near Leipzig, in 2016.

**TOP 5: Financial report**

The EBCC Treasurer Anny Anselin presented the Financial Report for 2013, including expected income and expenses for 2014. The bank account currently holds ca €10,000. Income from data charges and royalties have become less in recent years and insufficient to balance annual costs for meeting travel of some Board members and for maintaining the EBCC website. However, there are expected sources of income from data provision still to come in and there is no significant change in the EBCC's financial position overall.

**TOP 6: Delegate Officer's Report and election of new national Delegates**

Oskars Keišs presented the Delegates Report. There has been no progress yet in final decision on potential Georgian Delegates and no other changes have been proposed.

**TOP 7: Any other business**

There were no AOB items raised. The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

Evora , 23 October 2014

Chairman  
Ruud Foppen

Secretary  
David Noble