

## **Minutes of 58<sup>th</sup> EBCC Board meeting in Sempach**

**Venue:** Swiss Ornithological Institute, Seerose 1, CH-6204, Sempach

**Date /Time:** 7–8 November 2019

**Present:** Mark Eaton (Chair, ME), Verena Keller (Vice Chair, VK), Dawn Balmer (Secretary, DB), Chris van Turnhout (Treasurer, CvT), Aleksi Lehikoinen (AL), Mikhail Kalyakin (MK), Henning Heldbjerg (HH), Danae Portolou (DP), Petr Voříšek (PV), Alena Klvaňová (AK), Anna Staneva (AS) by video conference, Sergi Herrando (SH), Gabriel Gargallo (GG), Szabolcs Nagy (SN), Ainars Aunins (AA), Jean-Yves Paquet (J-YP) Thomas Sattler & Pietro Milanesi for parts.

**Apologies:** Ivan Ramirez

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November (09:00–18:00) & Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November (09:00–16:00)**

### **1. Welcome and adoption of agenda**

Mark Eaton welcomed everyone to the meeting, and thanked Verena for hosting us at SOI in Sempach.

### **2. Minutes and Actions of 57<sup>th</sup> EBCC Board meeting in Evora**

The Minutes from the Evora meeting were adopted. Action points arising from that meeting are addressed in the agenda below.

### **3. EBBA2 update**

VK gave a brief update from the meeting of the ASC. The coordination team had met on Monday and Tuesday, and the ASC on Wednesday afternoon. There has been a lot of work on the data, and the 50-km maps are complete. Last minute checks from national coordinators turned into a big job with updates to the data. The modelled maps also complete. Species accounts are nearly complete; need to submit all texts by 13 November. All texts need to be edited and language edited by the end of November. There has been some progress on general chapters, though still much to do. SH produced new combined maps as a first step, and these were well received by ASC. Everything has to be sent to Lynx by end of February. We talked about a final event to launch the Atlas but need funding. Species sponsorship scheme will raise profile over the next few months to encourage further contributions. Twenty artists have agreed to sell their artwork, and half will give a donation from the sales to EBBA2. The website will be updated by late November.

**58-1 AP: All members of the Board to promote species sponsorship and sales of artwork.**

### **4. Discussion on EBBA2 research**

### **5. EBCC Research Steering Group update**

Items 4 and 5 were discussed together as there was much overlap.

The aim was to discuss the opportunities for using EBCC products in research in general, and specifically EBBA data, and the timing of outputs planned.

In Evora, a small group was created to think about ideas and opportunities moving forward. Since then there has been a call from the European Commission to build a global monitoring project, specifically mentioning bird and butterfly data. LB and AL are working with consortiums to see where EBCC can fit and which would be best. We agreed we needed some principles to help guide EBCC which projects to get involved with.

#### **58-2 AP: Read document and come back with ideas, then update document (All)**

Horizon 2020 call is open from 18 November and will include four or five work packages. One will be led by Finnish Museum which will showcase how EBCC has been able to build bottom up – from vols to organisers and produce robust outputs such as indices. The Prague team are actively involved with partners in the eastern countries. There could be around 100,000 euros for EBCC. LB & SH are involved in another consortium with Henrique Pereira at GEO BON and have a meeting in mid November to discuss plans. A key concept is biodiversity variables from different areas and PECBMS is a good example; scaling is important moving from local to national level and delivering at global level to inform policy. The objective is to analyse the network – showing how EBCC works as an example – could be PECBMS, EBP, EBBA2. It's not about analysing data. The idea is to invest in coordination, structure, research capacity. Think about feedback loop to national coordinators and volunteers so they can see the whole chain – this would help with those countries that lack capacity to feedback to volunteers. Both consortiums will continue to be developed.

We had a general discussion about how we organise ourselves to deal with calls – how we organise information flow and who has the capacity to deal with the calls. AL said we should not be worried that we are not leading the submissions as they are a huge amount of work. EBCC should be recognised as a good potential partner, and need to work more to advertise ourselves, and the excellent datasets and structure we have. We should be more proactive rather than just respond to opportunities.

We have integrated products at the European scale and these are hugely valuable. We should consider how EBCC can prepare our data so we are ready to participate in bigger projects, with metadata and data products readily accessible. We could develop products such as statistics from national atlases that would be very valuable to others. These kind of products would make us more attractive partners in the future. What are the main summary products from EBCC? We need to think if there are ways that some of these products could be created in the current calls; this would give a mechanism for work to get done.

We discussed plans for research using EBBA2 data. We need to define which topics will be our first priorities for analysis so that others don't lead on analyses that we want to do.

EBCC has a very broad base, covering eastern and western countries. How can we improve the top/bottom support and ensure the whole of the network benefits from proposals. Consider having a pot of money that national coordinators could apply for and EBCC board decides how to use the money.

We talked about the simple analyses we would like to present in the results overview chapter. The deadline is very tight (end of February) so we need to make decisions quickly. The idea of this chapter will be to show the main patterns of distribution and change. eg species richness, different habitats and biogeographical regions. They will be simple analyses but robust enough to show scope

of data, and we should have a clear idea of how this will lead to future research. SH had presented some suggestions in the Atlas Steering Committee, and these were discussed and expanded:

- Species richness in Europe (split by biogeographic region, by habitat, change between EBBA1/EBBA2). Note that abundance and modelled data another way to present species richness.
- Invasive species.
- Climate change – analyse how fast the change has been in general. AL offered to undertake some analyses. We all agreed we need a strong statement on climate change. It is a complicated story with many species increasing in Northern Europe, many losing range in Southern Europe, and may do not conform to climate change.
- Distribution vs climate change? It's a complex issue as often lose abundance before distribution.
- Split by conservation status, rarity, taxonomy, European Red List?

We agreed that all analyses would be at the European scale, and for analyses involving habitats we suggested using Tucker and Evans classification of habitats. We should think about the messages we want to present in any brochure we might produce, and ensure those analyses are done now. It's important to think about the key messages for the likes of BirdLife and how the analyses support those statements. We can use published papers at this stage to back up statements.

**58-3 AP: Group set up comprising AL, LB, SH, TS, AA, RF to take forward plans for analyses for the book, and to provide an update to the Board.**

We talked about strategies for long-term research. One paper could be published about the time of the launch of the book. Steve Willis (Durham University) would be a key person as he has ideas around predictions based on EBBA1 data – differences and similarities on spatial and distribution level. There needs to be discussions around authorship. People that attended the workshop in Barcelona would be invited but would need to show commitment to work on this paper, and come with specific ideas what you want to do, and ways of funding work.

We then need to define the next priorities, and who will have the resources to push these forward. Then think about data requests outside the community. Think about the decision making process and how this will work for EBCC. Who will be the EBCC contact for external researchers? Representatives of each of the EBCC projects should be in the group. We set up a group comprising AL, SH, GG, AK, LB, RF, MK to take forward long-term research ideas.

Some suggestions were presented in the meeting.

Steve Willis will have a Post Doc who will also be working on the Migration Atlas work, and EBP data, and will have scope for EBBA2 work.

SOI: PM will be available until end of 2020 for analysis. They have ideas for 5+ papers and are particularly interested in altitudinal shifts and latitudinal shifts and temperature niches.

AL: Has funding for a PhD and Post Doc – mostly community analyses. Also smaller amount of money to spend on EBCC work – how should that be spent? We discussed this and agreed the additional money secured should go to core funds, with the option to use it for EBBA2 if there is a funding gap at the end of the project.

LB – ICO has resources available (PhD) to work on EBBA2, and a Post Doc. The main focus will be on changes and drivers of change.

**58-4 AP: Produce list of priorities for research and looking for funding, and potential partners for collaboration and send to Research Group by 20 December. This will be followed up by a meeting, perhaps in Helsinki, though tele-conferencing should be considered.**

**58-5 AP: Research SG to decide on the rules for data requests**

There has already been a request for data via TS, so need to get back to her to say when the data will be available, and ask if there are resources available.

AL has been contacted by Post Doc Davide Scridel, who would be interested in studying population trends of species in different altitudes (i.e. are population trends higher in higher altitude among mountain generalist species). The analyses would require site level information with altitude data. The request is for PECBMS data. This overlaps with interest from SOI for EBBA2 data. Is there scope to collaborate on this project? Site level data is available from national coordinators, and ECO are willing to coordinate and send the data. We suggested we use this as a test case for establishing the process.

RF, ME, AK are having conversations with Rewilding Europe They published a report in 2013, and now funding is available to repeat the report. Propose reestablishment of the partnership (ZSL, EBCC, BirdLife Europe and Rewilding Europe) by spring 2022. Focus of the work is on recovering species. A plan is being developed including budgets, timeline. They would be interested in EBBA2 data. We agreed it was worth doing to raise the EBCC profile, make good use of data and generate some income.

## **6. Update on communications**

The EBCC Newsletter is produced on a quarterly basis and the next one is planned for December. There are more than 400 subscribers to the Newsletter (mostly coordinators, researchers, policy people). The newsletter is currently sent by mailchimp and can also be viewed on the website. The main readership is the network, rather than volunteers. We can do more to promote by social media.

**58-6 AP: Please send more news to AK, and share the newsletter around the Network (All).**

On Facebook, EBBA2 has 2,365 followers though the page hasn't very active in recent months as there is not so much news to share. We plan to rename to European Bird Census Council, and publish news from EBP, PECBMS, EBBA2 and EBCC.

**58-7 AP: Rename Facebook as soon as possible (AK).**

On Twitter we did have two accounts: EBP (1500 followers) and EBBA2 (600 followers). We have now set up an EBCC account (@\_EBCC) which has 150 followers. We plan to migrate to a single account at a point when we have gained followers from EBP and EBBA2. We need to consider how we run the account – as one person or a team? Do we want to just promote EBCC work, or be more engaging and retweeting. After some discussion we agreed the account could be broad and engaging. We need to encourage National Coordinators to let EBCC know if interesting paper are published and try to produce content from across Europe. There is a lot of value in Twitter especially, in engaging media, ministers.

#### **58-8 AP: BirdLife will promote EBCC via Facebook and Twitter, and put an article in BirdLife Newsletter (AS)**

The new EBCC website is in development ([www.ebcc.info](http://www.ebcc.info)). Administration is in Wordpress, with layout by a graphic designer. Website should be ready in late November for sharing, with comments and corrections back by December.

We had a discussion around what information is provided for each country – is it links to all the common bird monitoring projects, atlas etc or just a link to the country? Part of the problem is engagement with the countries that provide no information. There is scope to collate and publish information on monitoring projects across Europe.

Regarding the archive of Bird Census News, BirdLife Finland are interested in hosting. Another option suggested by DB is <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/>

#### **58-9 AP: Use the newsletter to explain about plans for the website, what new information is needed (DP, AK) and give link to current country information and ask for updates.**

#### **58-10 AP: Good quality photos of birds, people and landscapes are needed for the website. Please send to AK.**

### **7. PECBMS progress report**

AK circulated a comprehensive report to the Board. European species indices and trends for 170 European common bird species based on data from 28 countries are going to be produced in November and published during the first week in December. The leaflet State of common birds 2019 will be published and distributed until the end of December. Updates will be included in the next newsletter.

R has created some issues; there are still many countries using TRIM rather than R. Hope that next year more will use R.

The deadline for the next tender application is 11 November; CSO will lead with RSPB, UEA, BirdLife Europe and ECO. The current grant ends at the end of the year. Data paper needs to be produced but may not be done by the end of year.

In September AK had a Skype contact with Veronika Vyšná, the new contact person in Eurostat - she is very interested in PECBMS work and outputs.

We discussed the need to resolve who should be in the PECBMS Steering & Technical Group and what are their roles should be. CvT will take over as a Board Member. We agreed it was important to represent eastern countries in the Steering Group. David Noble remains keen to stay in the group. J-YP happy to help with communication of PECBMS – has recently helped with DG Agri and explained about PECBMS and the Farmland Bird Index to policymakers. We should plan more regular meetings using video conferencing, or linked to Board Meetings. AS suggests needs a more strategic approach to think about communication, planning, policy and how to increase the number of countries contributing data.

#### **58-11 AP: Prepare a proposal for next meeting, probably in Prague in spring (AK)**

We recognised the recent Marsh Award presented by BTO to Petr Voříšek for his brilliant work with PECBMS. Congratulations to Petr.

### **8. Euro Bird Portal – future developments and products**

GG told us that Eurobirdportal went live in April 2019. 33 countries are contributing, 99.9% of the EU (27 of 28 countries). Continuing discussions with countries further east. There are aspirations to have North Africa contributing. There is good engagement with the partners, even if they are not currently contributing to EBP, and we can work together to incorporate data in the future. There have been increases in the volume of data received, especially in Spain and Portugal. Quality of data has also improved. There has been an increase in the number of complete lists received: 2015 8,794,669 and 2018 16,144,539. Sweden has recently added in complete lists. 99.2% of the data is collected automatically and 83.8% are collected through EBP API service, with 16.2% through partner API service.

Current work on Avian Influenza with European Food Safety Authority (efsa) will increase the number of species in EBP from 105 to 137. EBP can provide contextual records. The plan is to have a contract and make an online tool where information on patterns of distribution over time and connectivity are presented. Need to provide information on how to use the tools and how to interpret the data.

There may be opportunities to collaborate with Movebank. There is potential to map the tracks and add a buffer to show the observational data - opportunity to work together to develop a tool. Plan is to have a pilot to see what can be done, and have an agreement to list common aims.

GG met with the Radar group at SOI in Sempach. There are opportunities to do more with radar and observation data; a SOI staff member is going to USA to work with Birdcast and can bring back ideas. Need to think about what specific products EBP can produce and about funding opportunities.

6000-10000 euros are needed to maintain the servers for a year. Additional funds are required to expand the number of species. There are ideas around research papers with Stephen Baillie, and scope to include EBP in NERC project that BTO will run from 2020.

Congratulations to Gabriel and EBP for their Marsh Award presented by BTO in October.

## **9. Review of EBCC conference Evora**

Planning/development phase – relationship was good but sometimes a bit slow to get a response from organisers. Some decisions were left quite late. The website was very good, as was communication via Facebook. Payment was a bit complicated at times and the preliminary programme was published quite late.

Numbers – 231 names listed as participants. Organisers were a bit disappointed with the numbers, and were a bit lower than expected - considered at the lower end in recent years. Location and cost may have put some people off from attending. There was little funding available from the conference organisers to support participants though some support from EBCC was made available. The conference in Halle (Germany) was the other extreme – had so much funding that allowed support of participants from Africa, and EBBA2 coordinators. The general feeling was that there were fewer delegates from the east. There was also IOC and EOU that year.

### **58-12 AP: Pull together locations, numbers, season, cost of recent conferences (HH)**

Venue – Evora was a lovely place for a conference, nice city, accommodation was readily available. Talks were close to each other, catering excellent. Everyone really enjoyed the conference and location.

Conference – the organisation was good. Very many thanks to all the local organisers and students that helped out.

Catering – the conference dinner was a bit disappointing as there was no welcome or music.

Lunchtime catering was good – queuing was an issue to start with but was resolved and food ran out some lunchtimes. Seating for lunch could have been better, though many sat outside.

Scientific programme – plenaries were good (Frank Vassen, Becki Lawson stood out). Talks were good quality and very similar to other conferences. Having only two parallel sessions was good and it was easy to move between the two.

Poster session – used electronic posters (four stands) which were expensive to hire. A positive was that participants did not have to bring posters. The poster session didn't work well in that so many people turned up at once and it was difficult to hear what the speaker was saying. It may have worked better if the space had been larger. We had the impression that few people looked at the posters outside of the main poster session. It would be worth discussing the merits for future conferences.

Excursions – good, with a nice variety of locations to choose from.

Proceedings – in June there were eight submissions and these were planned for December issue in AIRO journal.

In general, a successful conference and we are very grateful to the organising team.

## **10. Next EBCC conference 2022 (All)**

We spent a couple of hours discussing the location of the next conference in 2022. We had excellent presentations from TS on Switzerland and AA on Latvia. Thanks to both for all the hard work in bringing together the offers.

### **Switzerland – TS**

Suggested a location in central Switzerland, based in Lucerne, close to Vogelwarte and close to the mountains. Suggestion for early April (around 4<sup>th</sup>) when there is still quite a lot of snow in the mountains. Two options were suggested.

1. Armee – Ausbildungszentrum venue very central, with accommodation, lecture theatre, restaurants. Lecture hall has 250 limit which we felt was perhaps too small. The Army have priority bookings so unable to fix the location for about one year.

2. Nottwil on lake at Sempach – has a bigger auditorium. There is a hotel at the location but this is quite expensive at 80–100 swiss francs per night. There is cheaper accommodation further afield (bus or train/bus or organise a shuttle). We would need to make sure that people from low income countries don't all stay in cheaper accommodation further away from the venue which would limit the opportunity for socialising in the evening – an important part of the conference! It is possible to reserve this venue immediately.

Overall, prices are reasonable. SOI would invest some effort to find some funding from governments and trusts to help with support for delegates from low income countries. For excursions it would be possible to go to the mountains to view the landscape, and perhaps some snow walking. There are also big lakes nearby. Verena will be stepping down from board at the conference. Also EBBA2 will have been published in 2020, and the online version will be published.

### **Latvia – AA**

Riga is offered as the location for the conference, based at the University of Latvia and with help

from the Latvian Ornithological Society. Riga is easy to reach with direct flights and there is inexpensive accommodation (c50 euros per night or less), and food and drink is comparatively cheap. There are excellent opportunities for birding nearby!

The venue would be the Academic Centre at University of Latvia in Riga. There are new buildings with a 300 seat auditorium and also internet live stream possible. There are other smaller auditoriums, work stations, inner area for coffee and lunch and a Cafeteria available. August 2022 is the preferred time when students are not there, though March/April 2022 is still possible.

There are many hotels in the old city (walking distance or 5 mins by bus) and student dormitories would be available in August. Proceedings would be planned for *Environmental and Experimental Biology*. There are many excellent locations for excursions including several IBAs in reachable distance eg Lake Engure Nature Park, Kemeru National Park, Gauja National Park.

Latvia would enable higher Russian participation. There would be a plan to fundraise but cannot predict how successful it would be. From a Waterbirds perspective, potential to attract people from Russia and Asia. Also Switzerland has played an important role in monitoring in the past.

We had discussion around the size limitation of the hall in the Armees location (250). We also talked about how the conference would work with students around in Riga.

We are confident that both Switzerland and Latvia can host an excellent conference. Where ever the conference is, we would celebrate EBBA2. A location in eastern/central Europe might offer the potential to be more strategic about the future direction of fieldwork and monitoring in these areas. Atlases are only produced every 30 years so this is a good opportunity to celebrate the support of Switzerland, not just SOI but also all the fundraising achieved.

Two fantastic offers. We decided on Switzerland in April 2022 and Riga late March/early April 2025.

### **11. Report from EBCC Delegates Officer (HH)**

46 countries have delegates; there are none in Albania, only one from Azerbaijan, Georgia and Liechtenstein. Eight new delegates were appointed in Evora. There is an updated list on website (excel file which downloads) which includes contact details.

**58-13 AP: Talk to AK about having a table on the website showing delegates name, country and email address or opens up an email (HH)**

**58-14 AP: Explain in the newsletter that delegate names are displayed on the website, along with contact details (HH) and that all phone numbers and organisations from the excel file on the website have been removed.**

### **12. Revise statute to allow removal of delegates that no longer respond to communication (ME)**

This was an action point from Evora to see if we are able to remove delegates that no longer respond to communication. ME says that the articles says "A Delegate may terminate his membership only effective as at the last day of a financial year by giving written notice at least four (4) weeks prior to that date."

We have a mechanism under 7.2



“The Delegate's obligations are:

to cooperate actively towards realising and optimising the objectives of the Association;  
to accept and comply with the resolutions passed by the General Meeting and the by the Board of the Association;  
to provide the Association with regular updates of monitoring activity within their country;  
to attend workshops and conferences on a regular basis;  
to cooperate with and where appropriate participate in the Associations projects to work to further the objectives of the Association.”

We agreed that the option is there to set a threshold, and write to delegates for whom we've had no correspondence for a specified number of years.

#### **58-15 AP: Identify delegates who have been inactive based on (date of last activity) (HH)**

The plan would then be to write to inactive delegates and remind them of their obligations as delegates and ask if they still wish to continue as a delegate, and if not, can they propose someone else. If there is no response, the Board will need to decide what to do.

#### **13. Standing update on future Board roles and composition**

Positions of Conference Officer and Chair of Scientific Programme Committee are vacant.

AA will consider the role of Conference Officer. Decision on who takes on the role of the Chair of Scientific Programme Committee can wait until we are nearer the conference. The main task of that role is to set the deadlines for abstract submission, sorting of abstracts, selecting talks and posters (with others) and scheduling the talks for the conference.

#### **14. Financial update for 2019**

CvT explained there had been few banking transactions. We started the year with 18949 euros, and there have been some expenses for Board and banking costs, and we will expect to end at 16,500 euros. Payment for website development is planned (4000 euros) in next few months. Money from AL Research grants will be transferred to EBCC; exact arrangements for transferring money will be arranged between AL and CvT. Banking costs are c30 euros every three months.

#### **15. News from BirdLife International**

AS provided an update via video conference. The European Red List of Birds is nearly at the end of the project; data has been received and checked. Only Romania has not sent data. The first draft will be ready in late November.

EU level assessment will take place over winter with the aim of delivering in mid April. Data from non-EU data has mostly been gathered; data from Russia arriving in mid Dec. There will be 180 species in the first batch and a second batch later. There is no data from Turkey yet. SPEC assessments are not part of the output.

EU State of Nature Report – there will be an update in late 2020, with the draft ready in early spring. This will cover the main messages coming from assessment of data, species and habitats. Main messages will also be promoted during Green Week - biodiversity is the theme in 2020. First week of June. This is a good opportunity to promote other publications like the EU biodiversity strategy.

A Pan European assessment is planned for next winter with publication in first half of 2021.

There was an EU Tender on Farmland birds released in September. BirdLife Europe are invited to be part of the Steering Committee. The aim is to find out which are the best agri environment practices for farmland bird and create guidance for members states on how to put these measures into practice.

## 16. News from Wetland International

SN explained he is working on the annual report. TRIM has been used for analysing data but recognise this is not the best method; they are looking to work with BTO to investigate improved statistical methods. Problems arise with countries that don't have a good monitoring scheme or gaps in coverage eg Denmark and Spain and need to consider how these issues be better overcome. One of the key issues with waterbird data is that big counts fluctuate.

The plan for the Waterbird indicator is to combine winter and breeding bird monitoring for waterbirds. A review of 61 species from 21 countries suggests it is best to include all waterbirds and not just colonial birds. This is Work in Progress and discussions are continuing.

2020 is the year of the AEWA conservation status report. It will use IWC data, European Red list and article 12 data, and also PECBMS split by breeding ranges. Also within AEWA there is work on prioritisation of monitoring; where to invest to get better quality data and trend estimates. Monitoring guidelines have been produced which suggests staggered cycle of surveys eg in certain years there could be a focus on NEWS or colonial birds etc. The plan is to come up with 6–12 year cycle on how surveys can be conducted across Europe – this will really help with population size estimates. Baltic wide surveys are a good example. Hope to agree at the next IWC meeting, and have support from EBCC. Also need new site monitoring guidelines. A priority is to really try to increase the number of species that we can produce European trends for.

The staggered cycles has clearly worked in some places – East Atlantic Flyway, Baltic waterbird surveys. Volunteers are keen to know that countrywide surveys are part of much bigger European projects. There is a need to find a compromise between what government agencies might be willing to fund, and what ornithologists want. If we adopt a six year cycle then we hope that in some years that countries will coincide. Think about starting cycle in 2024.

We discussed what is the best time and frequency for species or groups/habitats eg NEWS, Dispersed Waterbirds. We need both trends and population estimates so important to plan for both. We agreed to keep to waterbirds for now, but maybe expand to other species in the future. We need to come up with a framework of species that can be lumped together and think about funding sources to coordinate this work.

**58-16 AP: Produce a list of species that can be grouped together before next meeting. Seek support from professional network that this is a good idea. (J-YP).**

Several countries send all the indices to PECBMS even if not collected through core PECBMS monitoring methods and these will include waterbirds. These data could be available for Wetlands International.

There is a need to produce more resources to support monitoring in low income countries. One mechanism could be to introduce a data service fee. In EURING, there is a data handling charge in relation to the amount of data requested. SN sent round a version to National Coordinators. Data Service Fee eg 100 euro per 10,000 records. There would be exceptions for students from low income countries. The money raised will be split by country whose data was requested.

## 17. Bird Census News update

AL informed us there was one accepted manuscript and one being revised. AL has contacted potential authors about writing articles about monitoring migrants eg Batumi, Falsterbo, Trektellen Hanko Bird Observatory.

Posters from Evora have been read, and some authors contacted about writing articles, with two positive replies.

Other possible topics included breeding waterbird schemes and other taxa collected through monitoring schemes.

### **58-17 AP: Potential archiving system to be further investigated and will report back (AL)**

J-YP offered to help with BcN. AL suggested late Feb for the next issue. We need better promotion of BCN, and of each article to raise the profile of BCN, and attractiveness of BCN.

### **58-18 AP: Skype in the New Year to discuss progress with BCN (AL, ME, J-YP)**

## 18. Norwegian Bird ID

Funding for the website has stopped. Some countries in SE Europe found this website very useful for training in bird identification. VK suggested it was a top priority for EBCC to support this. There is a potential to link with EBP funding opportunities.

### **58-19 AP: Provide an update on the funding situation for Norwegian Bird ID and a list of what other countries use it for training are doing (DP)**

## 19. Any Other Business

Minutes of the AGM in Evora in April 2019 were approved.

It's the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Bird Protection and Study Society of Serbia on 22 November 2019.

### **58-20 AP: Write a card and sign by EBCC (done), and also mention in the next newsletter (VK)**

European Seabirds at Sea initiative collects information on density of seabirds at sea – DP asked if EBCC is interested in establishing a stronger relationship with ESAS. In Netherlands, Trektellen data from seawatching sites is used. There are discussions in Baltic States about seabird at sea data and best partnerships, but no consensus. We concluded it was perhaps slightly distant from current strengths and strategic directions.

ME explained that Rob Robinson (BTO) asked if there was any interest in an Observer relationship with EURING. There are some similarities with CES and PECBMS. There is already an agreement with EBP and EURING. They could provide better understanding of demographic and population dynamics and trends, and share expertise in statistical analyses. EURING Technical Meetings are very valuable for learning new techniques. We agreed a closer relationship with EURING would be beneficial. We should consider if occasional meetings by video conferencing between EBCC and EURING would provide a mechanism to exchange information.

EBCC have received an approach from SPNI (Yoav Perlman). There are plans in Israel to develop capacity for monitoring (atlas, common bird monitoring) and they already have involvement in EBP. Yoav is interested in collaboration. How might EBCC support advice to Israel, and could they be involved in PECBMS? In EBP there has been expansion with plans to cover North Africa, and already

include Israel. We discussed where to draw the line in terms of EBCC countries. We are happy to provide advice, and encourage Yoav to attend conferences.

**58-21 AP: Talk to Yoav Perlman, express support and understand more about PECBMS interest (ME)**

We discussed the location of future Board Meetings

21/22 April 2020 - J-YP kindly offered to host in Namur in Belgium. Need to consider whether there are still ASC issues to discuss that means a ASC meeting is required.

September 2020 - proposal from MK to go to Moscow – to celebrate the Russian Atlas, EBBA2 and host a Board Meeting. There would be costs for visas, accommodation, travel. We should consider how long to stay and investigate visa prices.

**58-22 AP: Produce proposal for dates for visit soon (MK)**

Spring 2021- Do we need to visit Switzerland in preparation for the conference in spring 2022?

September 2021 - Northumberland

**Close of meeting**