

EUROPEAN MONITORING NEWS

Introducing the EBCC board: Henning Heldbjerg

Aleksi Lehikoinen



Henning is birding much less than he wants to but the binoculars are never far away.
Photo by Eskild Ryhl Heldbjerg

What is your title and the current working position?

I work as an academic employee at Department of Ecoscience, Aarhus University, Denmark. Here, I was involved in the European Goose Management Platform work until recently. Now I am mainly working with farmland bird research.

What is your role in the national bird monitoring and in the EBCC?

I used to be involved in all sorts of monitoring work within DOF-Birdlife Denmark but I am no longer involved in the national monitoring activities. I did my PhD in citizen science and the use of mainly Danish monitoring data. In EBCC, I am the Delegate Officer and also involved in the Editorial Board of BCN and the Scientific Programme Committee of the EBCC2022.

National delegates have an important role in the EBCC. What do you wish to say to the national delegates and to those who would wish to be involved in European bird monitoring?

Thank you, you are all doing a great job. Seek influence and enjoy the friendly and helpful network of EBCC.

You used PECBMS data also in your PhD thesis. Could you please tell more about it?

Coming from one of the smaller countries, it was extremely inspiring to see how the 'big' countries used the CBM data. I realised that we had good monitoring programmes and that we could use the data much more than we did. I also understood that there is so much to learn by comparing the trends in different parts of Europe. The use of PECBMS is growing and the network is amazing. I am sure that we will see a lot of papers based on PECBMS data in the coming years.

Which monitoring programs do you personally participate in?

I participate in the Danish point count program (CBM) for breeding birds and winter birds and enter data in the Danish platform, DOFbasen. I was also involved in the latest Atlas survey. Besides I am a ringer. I hope someday to be able to take part in monitoring in eastern parts of Europe.

Do you have a favourite bird or birding habitat/location?

Somehow, I have ended up working with some of the most common birds and I have realised that the more I work with a species the more interesting I find it. I have enjoyed studying Starlings the last 5–6 years but other species will also get my attention soon.