

**Draft minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the
European Bird Census Council**

**6 April 2022 1515-1615 hrs
Verkehrshaus der Schweiz, Lucerne**

1. Chairman's welcome

Mark Eaton welcomed everyone to the AGM in Lucerne.

2. Apologies for the absence

No apologies received.

3. Minutes of last AGM available on the website

The minutes of the last AGM are on the website at <http://www.ebcc.info/board-meetings/>

4. Chairman's report

The full Chairman's report is available on the website. ME expressed thanks to the EBCC Board, Observers and Delegates for their hard work over what has been a difficult few years for everyone. EBCC Board has had meetings over zoom since 2019. We plan over the next two years to have online AGM meetings, until the next conference in 2025.

The Pan-European Common Bird Monitoring Scheme (PECMBS) team has been very busy with data provision and new developments. They have published trends for 170 common breeding birds and indices. New schemes have been added to PECMBS – Croatia and Flanders. A total of 18 scientific papers have been published. A new approach using International Census Plots has been implemented to improve coverage. The team have been busy fulfilling data requests.

The EuroBirdPortal (EBP) has seen many exciting new developments over the last three years. It's great to see Russia and Iceland now contributing data. A total of 34 countries using 21 different portals collected more than 60 million records in 2021; one-third of the data is from complete lists. The EBP Viewer was improved in June 2020, with recent developments funded by EFSA; now 132 species can be viewed. The New Mapping Tool will be launched at this conference.

The European Breeding Bird Atlas (EBBA2) book was launched at an online event in December 2020 and the team have been busy analysing and interpreting data and publishing the new online maps. It was an impressive book with 348 authors for 586 species and 46 artists. It was an immense effort by the Coordination Team and Publishing Team. So far, 7500 copies have been sold and we are now on the fourth print run. The new website was launched on 7 February 2022 (<https://ebba2.info/maps/>). There is ongoing work with researchers to use the EBBA2 data and progress with peer-reviewed papers.

Special thanks to the MAVA Foundation, the Species Sponsorship initiative and many partners including the Swiss Ornithological Institute who supported the atlas.

We're delighted that EBCC's work has been recognised by the BTO Marsh Awards. Congratulations to Gabriel Gargallo who received the Innovation Award on behalf of EBP, and Petr Voříšek and Verena Keller who received the Marsh Award for International Ornithology in 2019 and 2020 respectively.

The EBCC community remains strong with 47 countries represented and 89 delegates. Communication is important to EBCC and we continue with the publication of the e-newsletter and are active on social media. *Bird Census News* published 20 papers over the last three years

EBCC Board has supported the organisation of this conference but special thanks to Verena Keller who has been our contact from the Board to the Local Organising Committee. Jean-Yves Paquet led the Scientific Programme Committee.

EBCC finances are quite healthy so we're planning to take an exciting and experimental approach and establish a Secretariat, based at CSO in Prague, working with Petr Voříšek and Alena Klvaňová. There is a requirement for the Secretariat to raise funds to ensure long-term sustainability. There is scope for larger and well-resourced organisations to support this new initiative, and we would encourage partners across the network to consider whether they could do so, to whatever extent. EBCC will also be establishing a Small Grant Fund to support projects in low and middle-income countries.

5. Financial Report for the year 2021

Chris van Turnout presented the key figures for 2021. On 1 January 2021, there was 34,718.37 EUR capital in the bank. Income from data charging and royalties from EBBA2 sales amounted to 45,861.10 EUR and expenses for banking and support ICP Serbia amounted to 3211.97 EUR, leaving a balance of 77,367.50

To put the figures into perspective, balances in Sept 2016 were 46,585 EUR, April 2019 18,949 EUR and in April 2022 87,812 EUR.

Ruud Foppen and Koen Devos have reviewed the accounts, looked at the administration, consider the accounts to be correct and transparent, and confirm that the Treasurer did a good job. CvT thanked Ruud Foppen and Koen Devos for approving the accounts.

6. Changes to the Board

Henning Heldbjerg has been on the Board for 12 years and steps down from the Board at this meeting, though he will stay as part of the editing team for BCN. Very many thanks to Henning for all his hard work on the Board and as Delegates Officer. Sergi Herrando was proposed and welcomed onto the Board, unopposed. Danae Portolou will take on the role of Delegate Officer.

7. Changes in National Delegates

HH reported that currently there are 89 national delegates from 47 countries, of which five countries have only one delegate (Albania, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Lichtenstein and Serbia). In 2021 there were three changes: Latvia (Oskars Keiss replaces Andris Dekants), Spain

(Virginia Escandell González replaces Juan Carlos del Moral) and Switzerland (Nicolas Strebel replaces Verena Keller).

- 1) Thanks to everyone who has stepped down and thanks to new delegates. Delegates are an important link between national work and EBCC. Delegates can help by providing news and annual updates of relevant national monitoring/atlas projects for the EBCC website, newsletter and Bird Census News and promoting EBCC's aims and good reputation when appropriate opportunities arise in your country

8. Any other business

None.

Dawn Balmer
Secretary