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# EDITORIAL

The technical development in automatic sound identification has been progressing very fast over the last ten years. This has increased the interest in passive acoustic monitoring (PAM) among birds and other taxa. The cost of sound recorder devices have come down and there are currently several on-line tools available to automatically suggest the identity of the recorded bird sounds. This makes use of PAM possible for a wider range of researchers. There are already many groups using PAM in their research in Europe. What is the current state of the art in PAM? How good are available acoustic tools and how could PAM be used in bird monitoring? To answer for example these questions and to keep on track in the recent development in this research field, EBCC board decided to establish an Acoustic Monitoring Group (AMOG) in 2024.

This Bird Census News volume is dedicated for articles about acoustic monitoring including eight articles. The first article introduces the AMOG, the newest member of the EBCC family. The second article is based on a questionnaire from the EBCC to the European bird monitoring coordinators to ask how they see the role of acoustic monitoring in bird surveys. The following five articles are national examples how PAM could be used to support monitoring. Two of these articles are case studies from the Netherlands (Roodbergen et al.) and the UK (Wilson et al.) that are exploring how acoustic monitoring could be used in common bird monitoring. Two other articles are single species case studies from Switzerland (Kornienko et al.) and Spain (Klaas-Fábregas et al.) exploring the acoustic monitoring of nocturnal owl species. One of the challenges in PAM is to evaluate accurate location of the vocalising bird and thus estimate potential abundances of species. The case study of Bruggemann et al. from Germany using multiple recorders simultaneously is investigating this issue. The last acoustic article by Ovaskainen et al. is about solving large scale problems in acoustic monitoring: improving (i) classifiers and (ii) the workflow from recordings to the analyses as well as (iii) engage citizen scientist to collect audio data on a larger spatial scale. The first and the last audio article also encourages international collaboration among the EBCC network and we can only strongly agree! I hope these papers will stimulate new approaches and initiatives in the field of acoustic monitoring. The final article of the volume is introducing the secretary of the EBCC board: Dawn Balmer.

Last, we would like to inform that the new editor in chief of the BCN will be Dimitrije Radišić. Please, contact if you wish to publish your work in the journal."

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