

Developing the bird monitoring network

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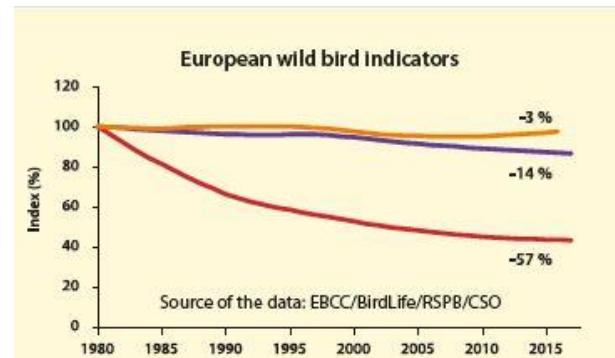
PanEuropean Common Bird Monitoring Scheme

Czech Society for Ornithology

Assessing Butterflies in Europe (ABLE)

ANL conference centre, Laufen

4 December 2019



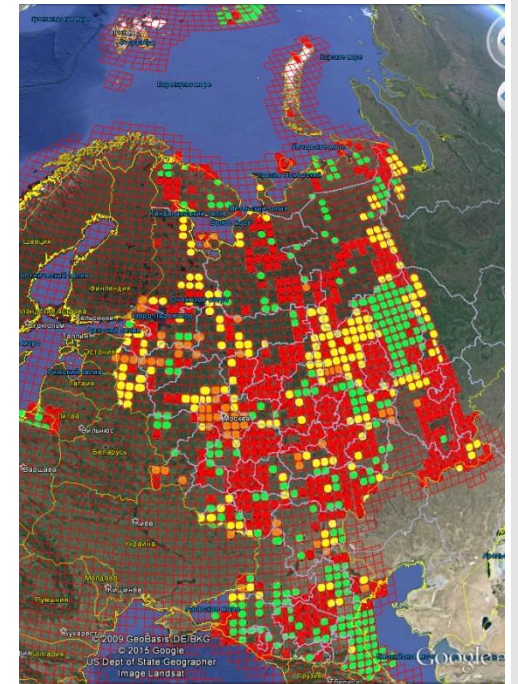
EBCC European Bird Census Council

- an association of bird recording organisations across Europe
- work coordinated by a Board of 10 volunteer representatives from national organisations plus observers who meet every six months
- two National EBCC Delegates per country
- EBCC conference Bird Numbers every 3 years
- www.ebcc.info



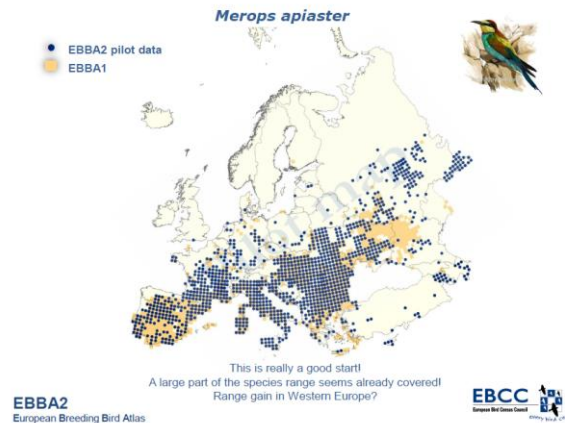
EBCC core activities

- supporting new monitoring schemes and national and regional atlases
- promoting best practice through workshops and publications



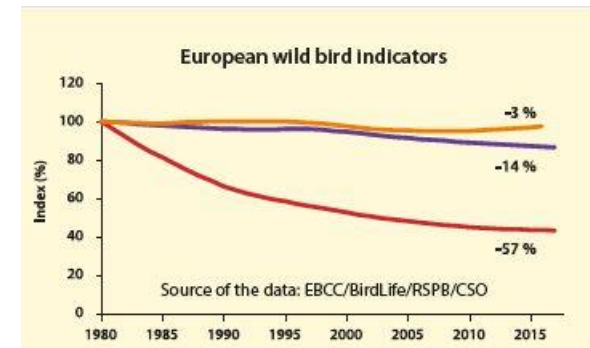
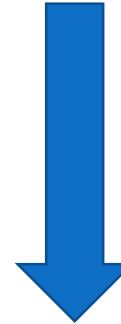
EBCC's current major initiatives

Data on bird distributions



**EBBA2: European Breeding
Bird Atlas 2**

Data on population trends



**Pan European Common
Bird Monitoring Scheme
(PECBMS)**

Data on bird movements



Euro Bird Portal

PECBMS Pan-European Common Bird Monitoring Scheme

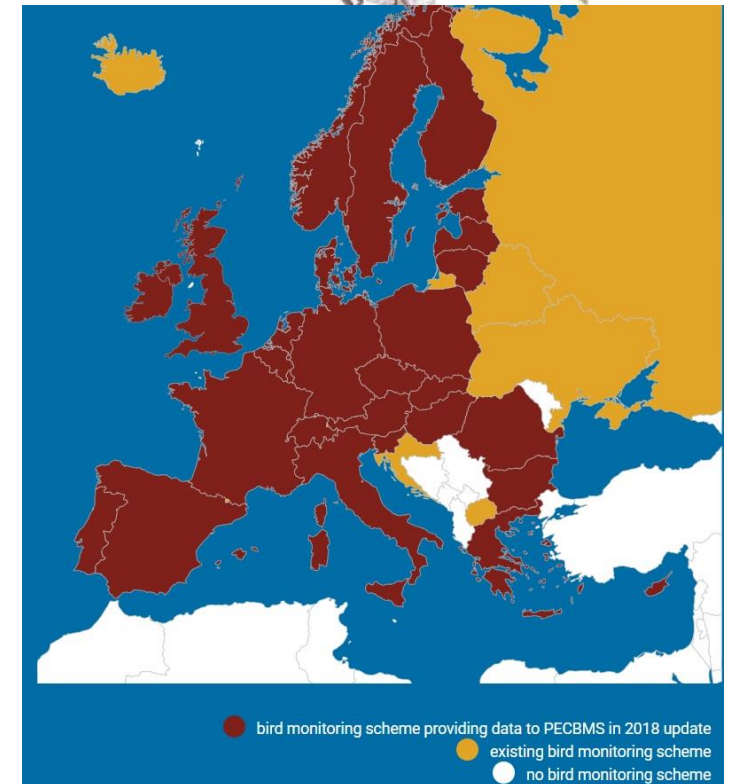
Goal: to use common birds as indicators

Source of data: national/regional monitoring schemes

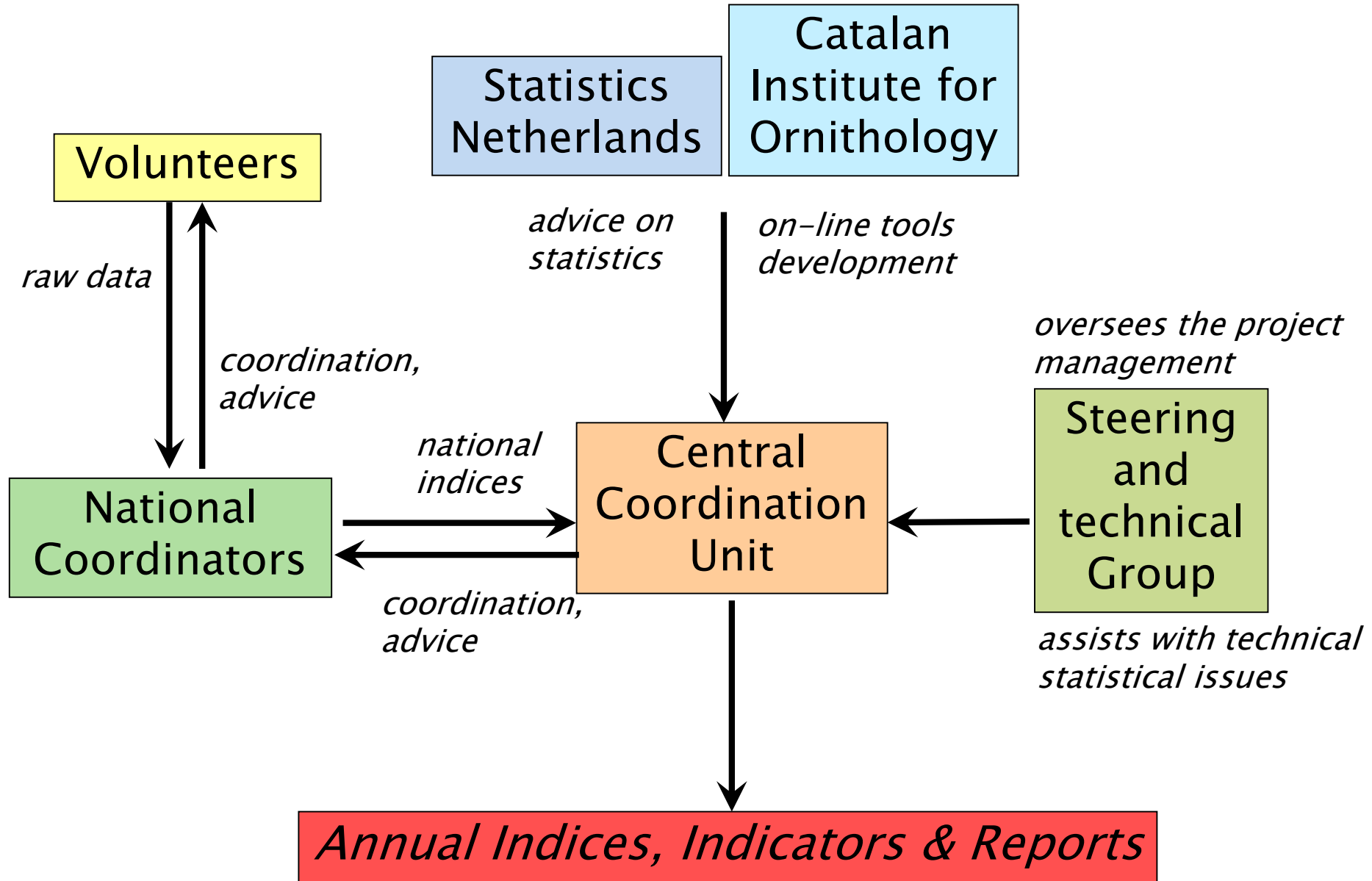
Standardised methods

Volunteer fieldworkers

> 12 000 from 28 countries



Pan-European Common Bird Monitoring Scheme



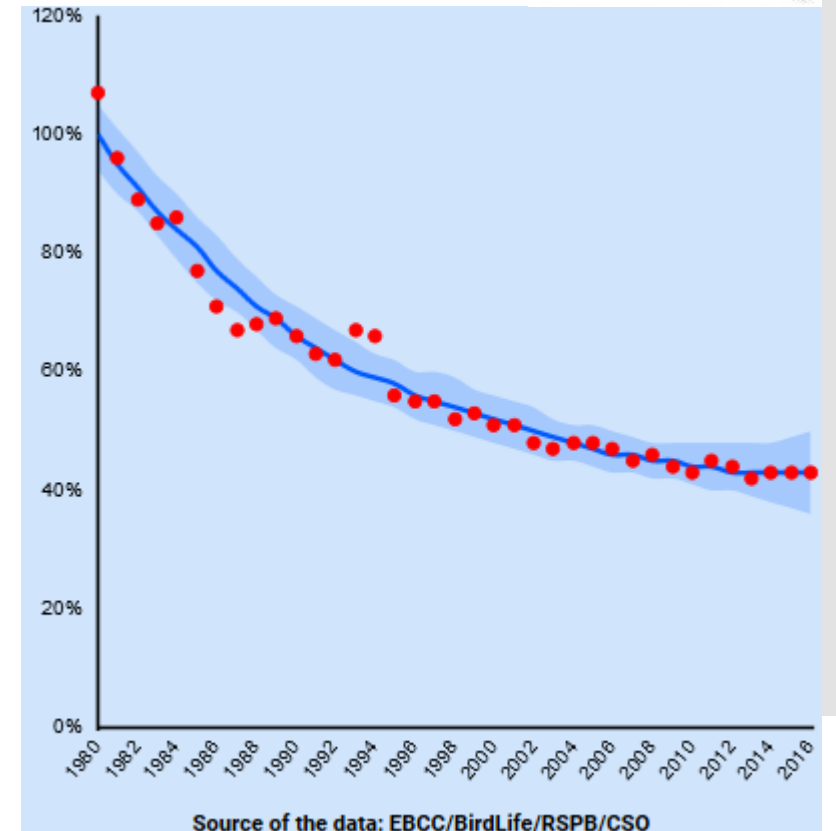
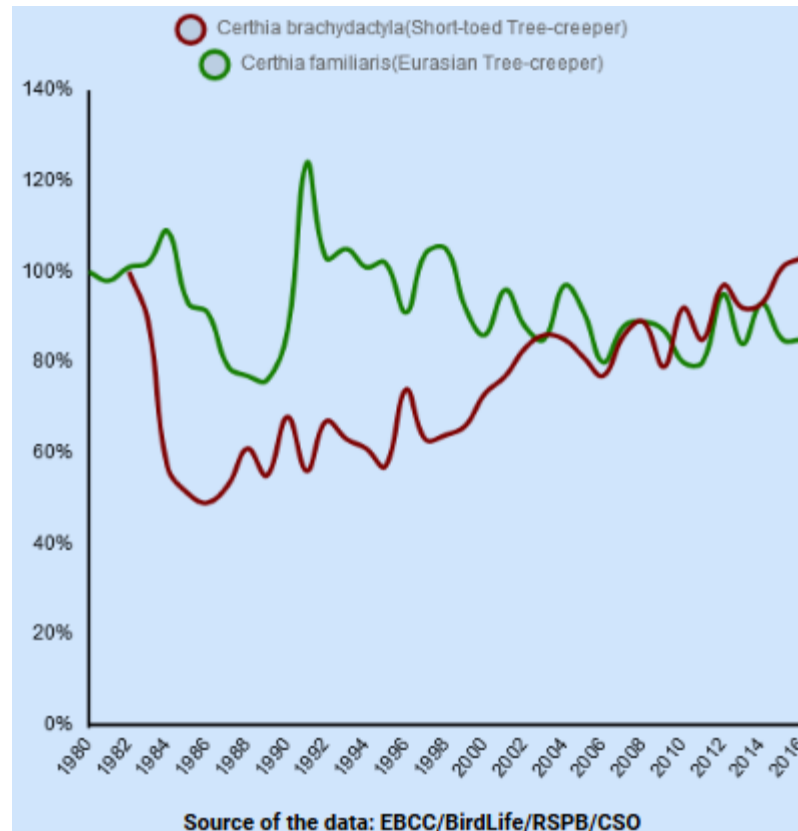
PECBMS relies on enthusiastic people

- Project is based on volunteers – fieldworkers, national coordinators, EBCC members
- 17 years of existence proved this is a viable model



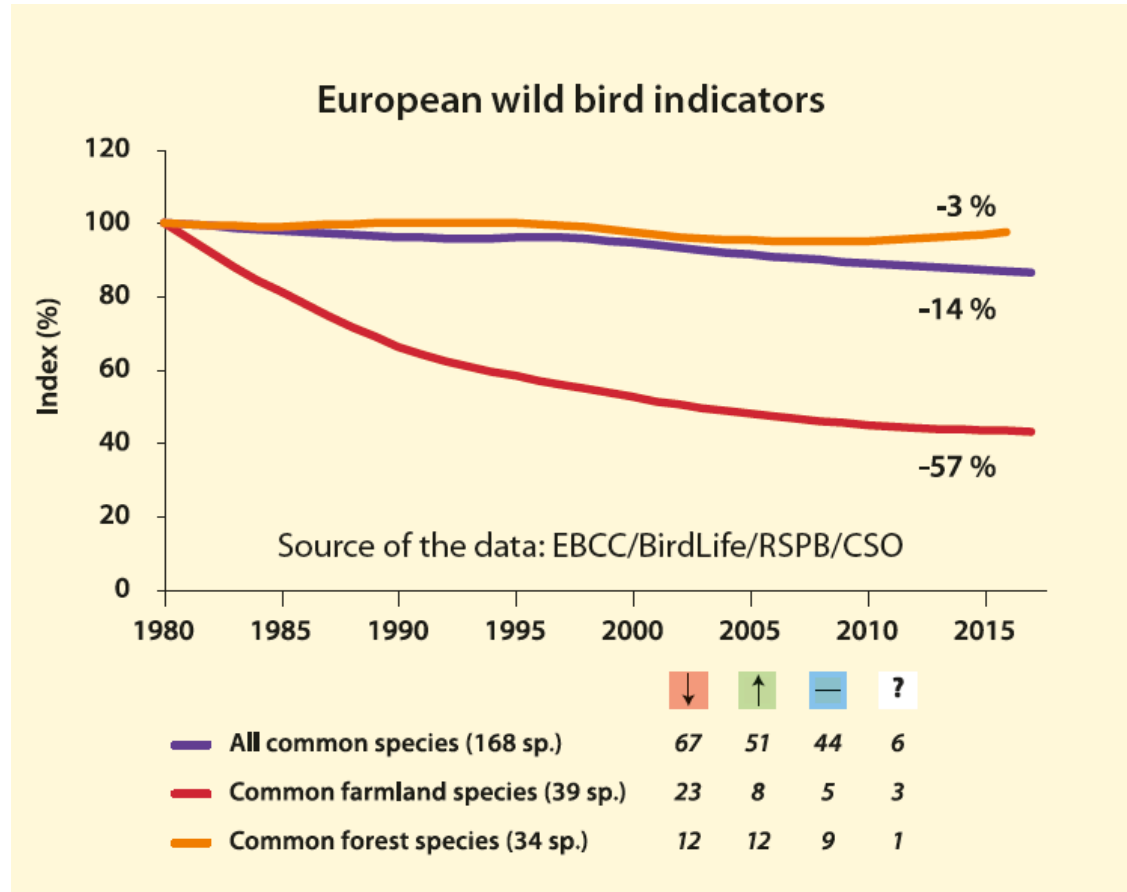
PECBMS
today:
170 species
28 countries
38 years
(1980–2017)

- Combined population trends



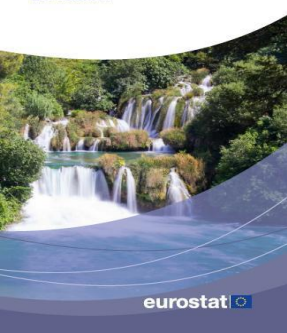
PECBMS today

- **Multispecies indices = European wild bird indicators**



European Red List
of Birds

Compiled by BirdLife International

Key figures on Europe
2014 edition

Use of PECBMS outputs for policy purpose

EEA Technical report | No 2/2015

State of nature in the EU

Results from reporting under the nature directives 2007–2012

ISSN 1725-2237

International level

- Common bird indicators included in 7 international sets of indicators
- EU's Indicators of Sustainable Development and Structural Indicators

Population trends of farmland birds

Aggregated index of population estimates of a selected group of breeding bird species dependent on agricultural land for nesting or feeding

This indicator is an aggregated index of population trend estimates of a selected group of breeding bird species dependent on agricultural land for nesting or breeding. It is indexed on the year 2000. Indices are calculated for each species independently and are weighted equally when combined in the aggregate index using a geometric mean. Aggregated EU indices are calculated using population-dependent weighting factors for each country and species.

[For more information](#)

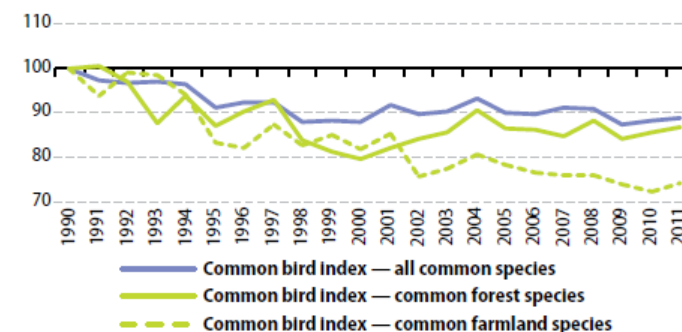
For downloading the complete table in TSV format - see [manual](#)



	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
EU (25 countries)										100		
EU (15 countries)	102.2 (e)	96.9 (e)	98.2 (e)	103.1 (e)	95.7 (e)	97.1 (e)	101.3 (e)	100.2 (e)	101.4 (e)	100	97.2 (e)	88 (e)
Belgium	136.3	139.7	135.3	138.9	109.3	126	124.6	110.1	104.9	100	113.2	109.1
Czech Republic	86.4	117.5	132	123.9	119.8	124.9	132.4	110.2	93.9	100	107	
Denmark	102.8	102.3	106.2	106.3	96.2	97.8	101.9	95.9	104.5	100	102.5	
Germany	86.1	89.9	100	105.7	109.7	117.1	109.1	101.7	110.8	100	98.3	
Estonia	107.9	94.8	97.7	92.9	74.9	104.6	98.6	85.5	94.4	100		

Environment **11**

Figure 11.15: Common bird indices, EU, 1990–2011 (%)
(aggregated index of population estimates of selected groups of breeding bird species, 1990 = 100)



national level

Farmland Bird Indicator (FBI) for EU Rural Development Plans
Common bird indicator accepted by governments as official indicator
in at least 15 European countries

Use of PECBMS outputs for research

- > 30 papers
- Cooperation with researchers
- Efficiency of nature protection (agro-envi schemes, SPA), impact of climate change, impact of hunting etc.



Conservation Letters

A journal of the Society for Conservation Biology

Open Access

LETTER

Tracking Progress Toward EU Biodiversity Strategy Targets: EU Policy Effects in Preserving its Common Farmland Birds

Anna Gamero¹, Lluís Brotons^{2,3,4,5,6}, Ariel Brunner⁷, Ruud Foppen^{6,8,9}, Lorenzo Fornasari¹⁰, Richard D. Gregory¹¹, Sergi Herrando^{3,4}, David Hořák¹², Frédéric Jiguet¹³, Primož Kmecl¹⁴, Aleksi Lehikoinen¹⁵, Åke Lindström¹⁶, Jean-Yves Paquet¹⁷, Jiří Reif^{18,19}, Päivi M. Sirkkiä¹⁵, Jana Škorpilová¹, Arco van Strien²⁰, Tibor Szép²¹, Tomáš Telenský^{1,18,22}, Norbert Teufelbauer²³, Sven Trautmann²⁴, Chris A.M. van Turnhout^{8,9}, Zdeněk Vermouzek¹, Thomas Vikstrøm²⁵, & Petr Voříšek^{1,6,19}



Service contract to support follow-up actions to the mid-term review of the EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 in relation to target 3A – Agriculture

Final Report

19th June 2017

Funded by

European Commission, DG Environment

In collaboration with



How did it start?

- **1997 EBCC workshop in Italy**: first efforts to coordinate generic schemes in Europe
- No funding, no leading organisation
- Later **RSPB** decided to invest in the start and support the coordinator
- **One way how to start:**
 - Strong organisation/partner in your back
- **Another example:**
 - EuroBird Portal – funded by Life Preparatory project



How did it start?

- **January 2002:** PECBMS has commenced as a joint initiative of EBCC and BirdLife International
- Supported by RSPB (Richard Gregory)
- Statistics Netherlands
- Czech Society for Ornithology (CSO)
- Petr Voříšek as the first coordinator



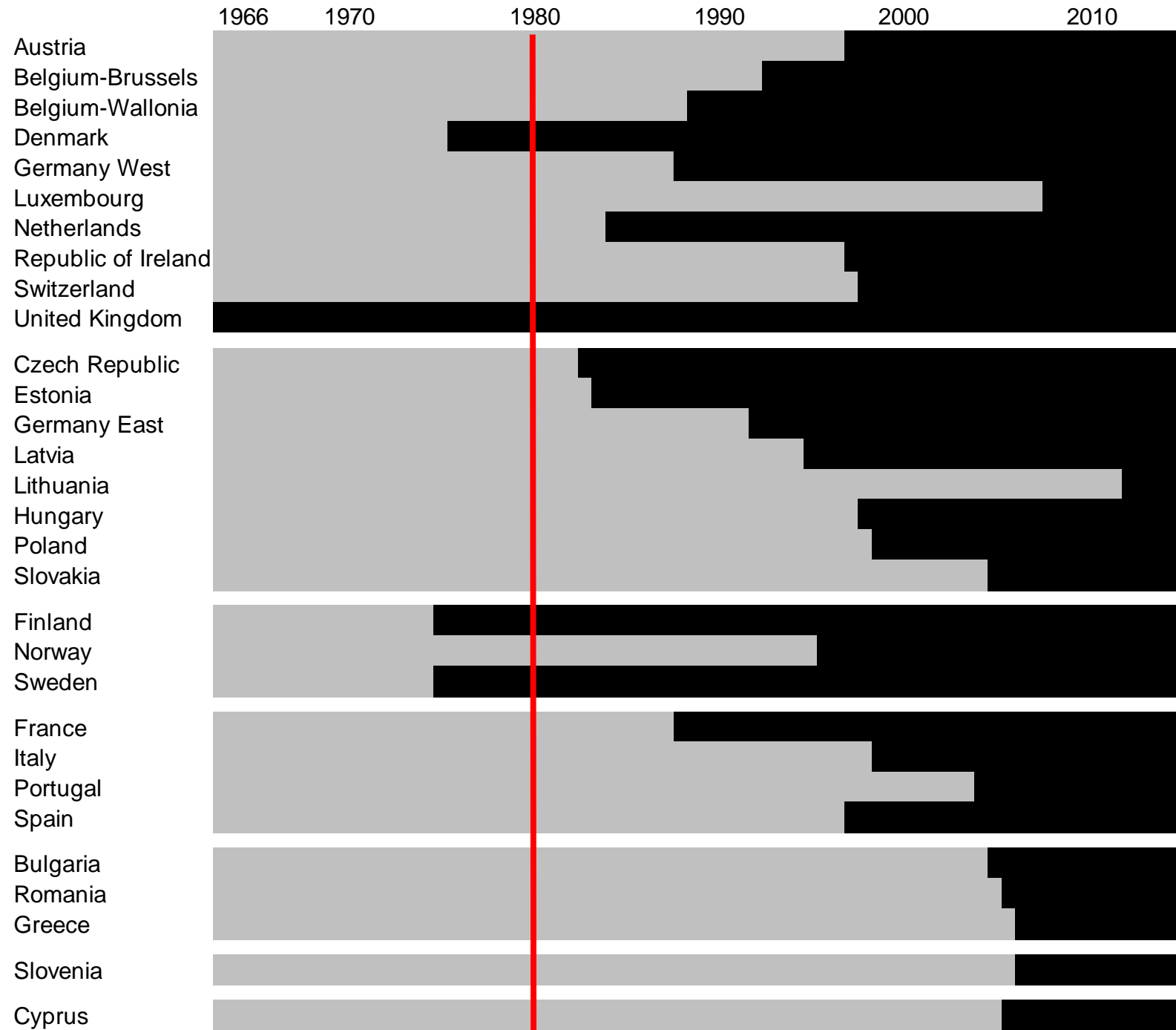
How did it
start?

The main goal:

- **to use common birds as indicators of the general state of nature using large-scale and long-term monitoring data on changes in breeding populations across Europe**
- Exploration of the existing bird monitoring schemes in Europe (John Marchant, Petr Voříšek)
- Using network of the BirdLife partners
- and EBCC delegates



Generic bird monitoring schemes in Europe



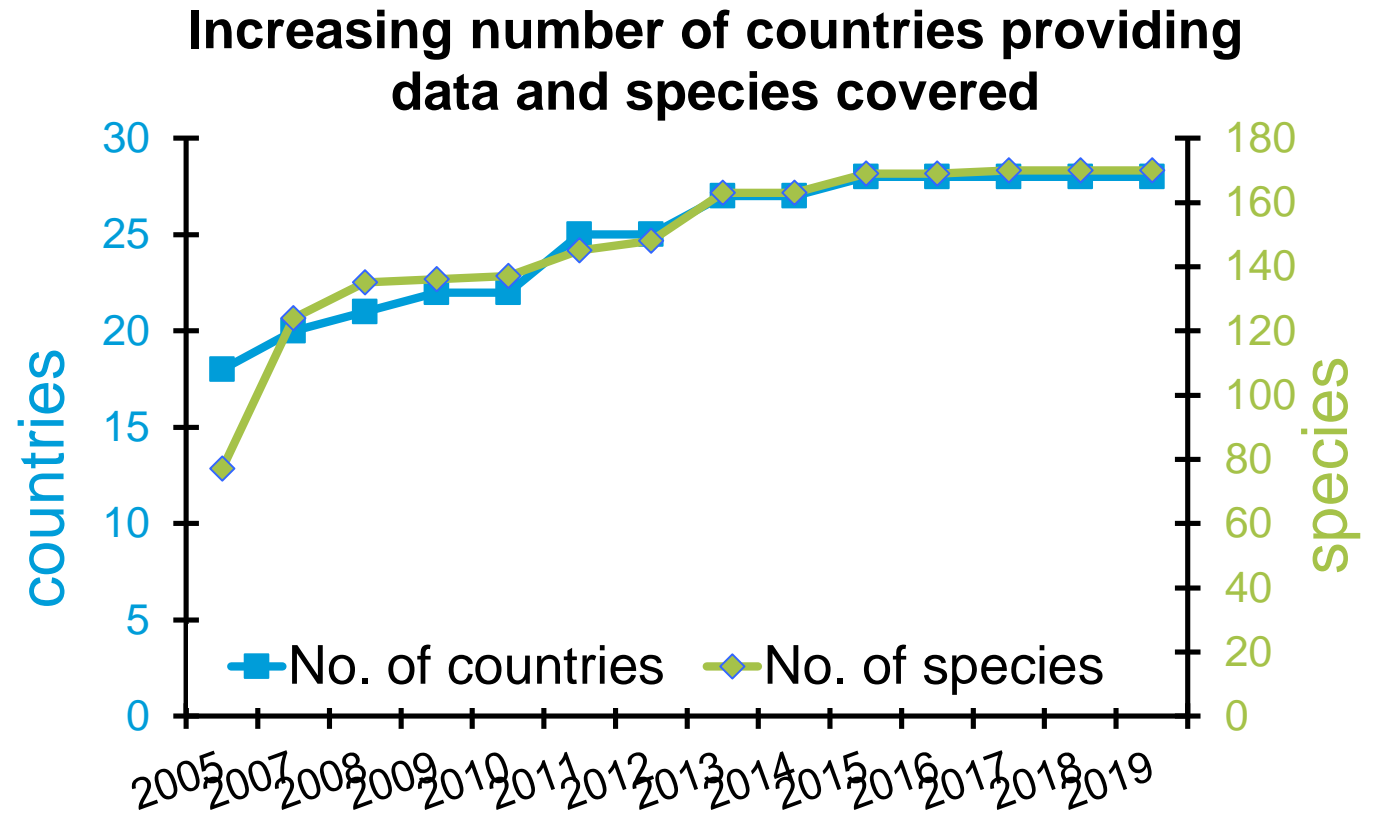
How did it start?

- **Autumn 2002:** first workshop
- all national coordinators invited
- methods presented – TRIM (Arco van Strien)
- Final summary lecture (Jeremy Greenwood):
 - **Do you go for it?**



How did it start?

- 2003: first set of wild bird indicators
- 18 countries
- 48 species



PECBMS development

- RSPB organised a workshop
- To support monitoring in Eastern Europe (Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria)
- To explain the methods, financial help
- The coordination unit in Prague
- Advantages:
 - it's cheaper
 - It's in the centre of Europe - accessible
 - Language skills
 - credibility



Ingredients of success for the start and continuation

- Know what you want
- Clear methods
- Strong partner (organisation)
- Respected personalities on your side
- Enthusiastic coordinator
- Coordination unit in a strategic place
- Respect the differences (methodologic, cultural etc.)
- Longevity, continuity
- Communication – keeping the network alive

COMMUNICATE



PECBMS development

- Make the outputs available, open access BUT respect data ownership – coauthorship policy
- Invite the researchers to study the data

- Publish scientific papers



- Respect and credibility
- Researchers, policy people, Eurostat, EC etc.



PECBMS development

Encourage the policy people to use the data for conservation actions

- 2005: Lunchtime presentation in EC (Zoltan Waliczky)
- Officers paid their attention
- Ice started to melt
- Meeting with Eurostat people
- Total disaster, no trust in citizen science
- But EC needed the biodiversity indicators
- We offered the only suitable data based on proved methods



Wild bird indicators accepted as oficial indicators

Ingredients of success for the development

- Talk to the stakeholders, user of the data
 - Researchers
 - Officers
 - Policy people
- Invite them to the meetings, workshops, conferences
- Involve them in your network
- Keep them continuously informed

COMMUNICATE



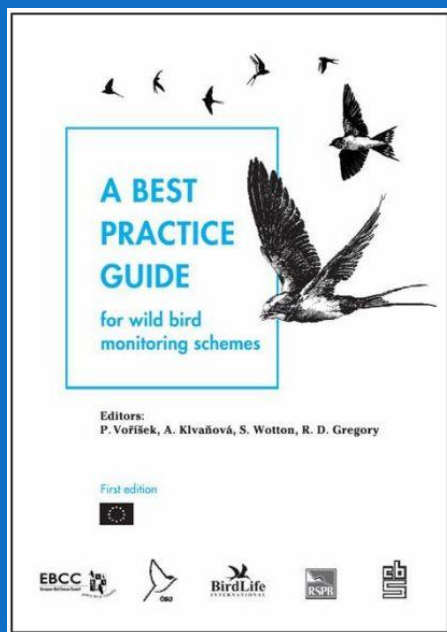
PECBMS Promotion, popularization



www.pecbms.info
www.ebcc.info



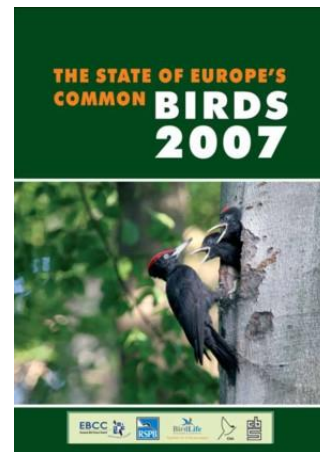
Promotional publications



Population Trends of European Common Birds 2010



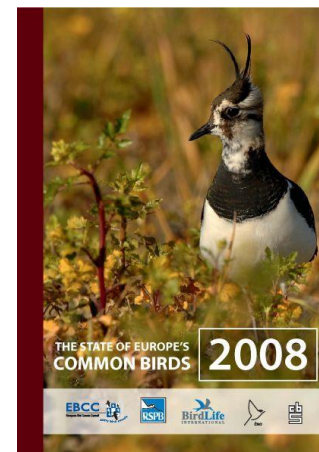
Pan-European Common Bird Monitoring Scheme (PECBMS)



Population Trends of Common European Breeding Birds 2011



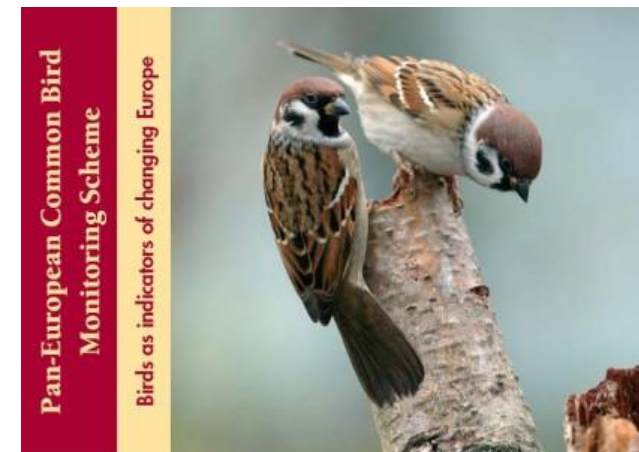
Pan-European Common Bird Monitoring Scheme (PECBMS)



Population Trends of Common European Breeding Birds 2012



Pan-European Common Bird Monitoring Scheme (PECBMS)

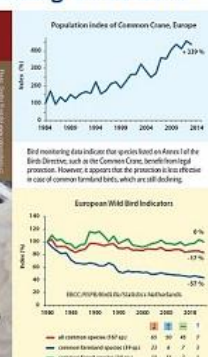
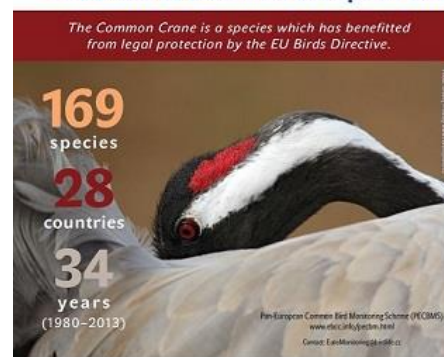


Population Trends of Common European Breeding Birds 2013



Pan-European Common Bird Monitoring Scheme (PECBMS)

The State of Common European Breeding Birds 2015



State of common European breeding birds 2018



EBCC Newsletter

Since December 2017

Up to date 8 issues
spread

quarterly



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Twitter

Social media -
FB




Seznam Email x EBCC newsletter x A New European Breeding Bird Atlas - EBBA2 x +

facebook.com/EBBA2.info/

A New European Breeding Bird Atlas - EBBA2

Alena Hlavní stránka Hledat přátele Vytvořit Nastavení 3 Nápověda


Stránka Doruč... 21 Upozornění Přehledy Nástro... Centrum reklam Další

 +

A New European Breeding Bird Atlas - EBBA2
@EBBA2.info

Hlavní stránka

Informace
Fotky
Události
Videa
Příspěvky
Služby
Obchod
Skupiny
Doklady



Tohle se mi líbí Sleduji Sdílet + Přidat tlačítko




Vytvořte Živě Událost Nabídka Práce

Napište příspěvek...

Fotka nebo v... Získejte zprávy Pociťte nebo a...

2 koncerty

Navrhované Skupiny

-  **Future of Waterfowl...**
407 členů • 4 příspěvků za měsíc
Přidat se
-  **Birding Georgia**
1 tis. členů • 8 příspěvků za den
Přidat se
-  **Ringers' DigiGuide**
1,2 tis. členů • 5 příspěvků za týden
Přidat se

Workshops, meetings



Meetings



Potential problems

- Funding - communication
- Lack of confidence (researchers, officers) – scientific papers
- Lack of volunteers – training, feedback, support



Support to national coordinators work with volunteers in the field



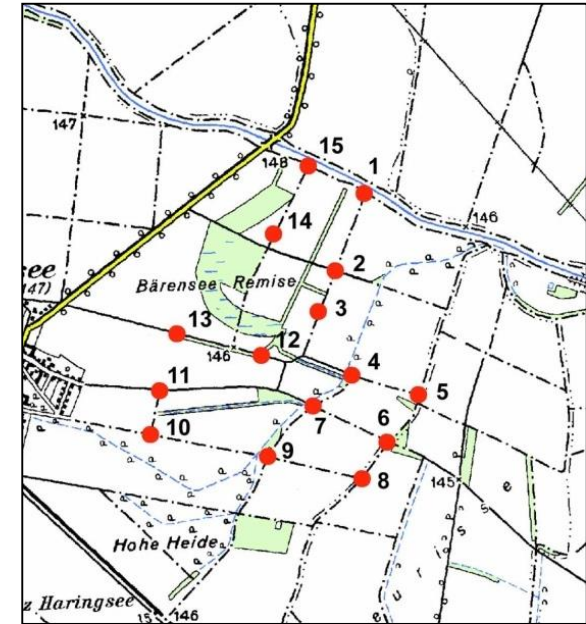
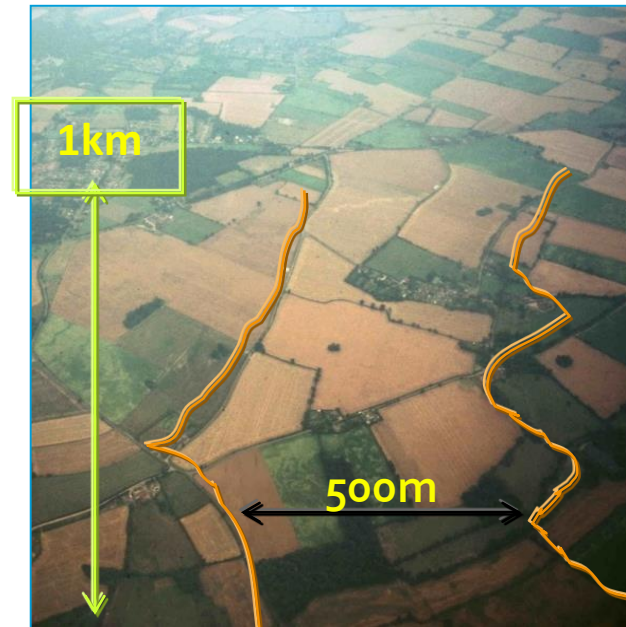
Training
volunteers:
technologies
are great, but
don't forget
about the
people!

Citizen scientists are the best ambassadors of nature
protection and science



Training volunteers/ citizen scientists

- Know and respect national/local specifics
- BUT standardise too
- Different field methods are used in European countries to survey birds numbers and distribution
- A statistical method to combine the existing diverse data was developed



Keep
volunteers
happy

- Clear goals
- Bird identification tools
- Fair treatment
- Feedback



Sustainable support

- Support to NGOs running the monitoring schemes and citizen science programmes
- Citizen science is cheap but not for free!
- Cooperation with professional researchers – they can include the monitoring costs in the projects
- Communicate with policy people, governments, officers to convince them that citizen science data are reliable and sustainable
- Encourage them to use the monitoring data more widely for conservation actions



Thanks go to the
thousands of
volunteer
counters across
Europe...



...to the
partnership



...and to you for your attention!