

Towards a new European Breeding Bird Atlas

Verena Keller

EBBA2
European Breeding Bird Atlas

EBCC
European Bird Census Council
every bird counts

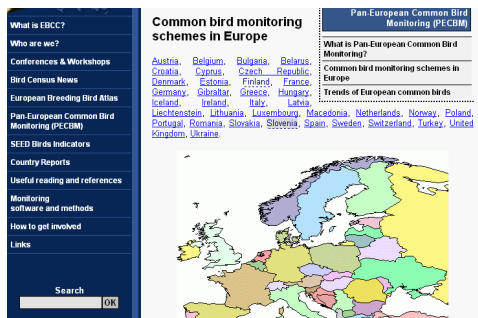
What is the EBCC?



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EBCC is a key partner in PECBMS

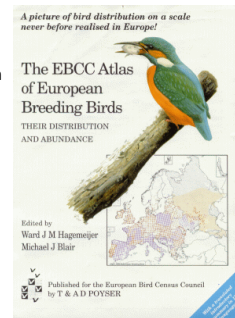


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The first European Breeding Bird Atlas

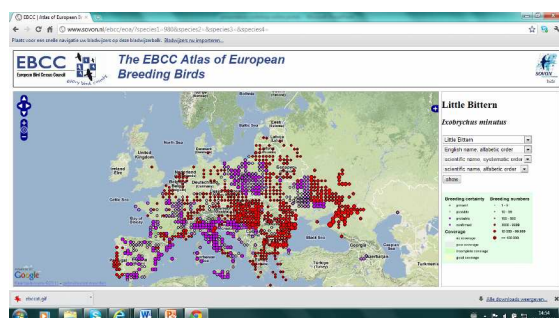
- Published in 1997
- Spatial coverage: all of Europe except parts of European Russia and Turkey
- Species coverage: comprehensive
- Grid size: 50x50 km
- Data sampling period
Intention: 1985-88
Reality: (70)/80-90/(95)
- General method: field work for atlas
- Estimates of breeding numbers



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Maps also available on web: www.ebcc.info



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Uses of previous European Bird Atlas data

- Targeting conservation measures
- Basis for Red-Listing and EU Nature Directives reporting
- Basis for priority setting in species conservation
- Research into impacts of climate change
- Evaluating impacts of land use change in Europe
- Modelling the epidemiology of vector-borne diseases
- Many other projects from scientists around the world



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Why a new atlas?

- Knowing where birds occur, and how this has changed, is a crucial part in targeting conservation action
- Over the last 30 years, many environmental changes have impacted on populations of birds across Europe.
- We need up-to-date information
- New opportunities have arisen, improving our ability to incorporate even the most remote parts of Europe
- New baseline for future monitoring across the whole continent.
- It also provides valuable data for scientific analyses

What will the new Atlas achieve?

- Up-to-date distribution maps for birds across the whole of Europe.
- Changes in distribution since the 1980s
- One of the most comprehensive biodiversity data sets in the world
- New analytical approaches will allow better maps of range and relative abundance than ever before
- Capacity building for conservation and monitoring in areas where this is most needed

Relationship with BiE3, Art. 12 reporting and European Red List

BiE3

- BirdLife did not collate distribution maps for BiE1, because these were already in preparation for 1997 EBCC Atlas – BiE1 just included trend maps
- Few new national atlases were published between mid-1990s and 2003, so no distribution data were collated for BiE2 either – just trend maps, again
- BiE3 will include trend maps again (also required under Red List contract)

Relationship with BiE3, Art. 12 reporting and European Red List

Art. 12

- Art 12 reporting requires 10 x 10 gridded distribution maps for all regular breeding species in all EU Member States
- Many countries will be able to report these in 2013 (based on recent national atlases) – but there will be gaps, especially in south-east
- Clear need for new atlas fieldwork/investment before 2019 reporting round

European Red List

- European Red List requires European breeding distribution maps (polygons)
- BirdLife holds such polygons for all species, derived from 1997 EBCC Atlas
- Proposal to circulate these in 2012-13 for verification/update/refinement

How will the Atlas be produced?

- Data collection by volunteer citizen scientists and professional ornithologists
- National Atlas coordinators responsible for compiling the data
- EBCC: overall coordination
- Use of existing data where possible, but new data will have to be collected from many areas
- Analysis and production of maps in collaboration with specialists of EBCC member organisations

EBBA2 Steering Committee

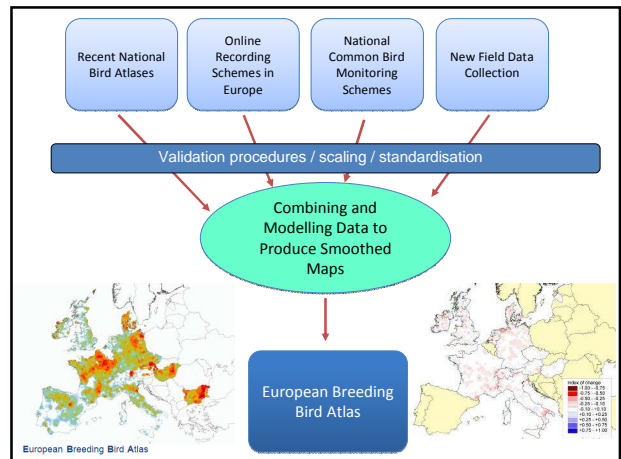
Working group within the EBCC board

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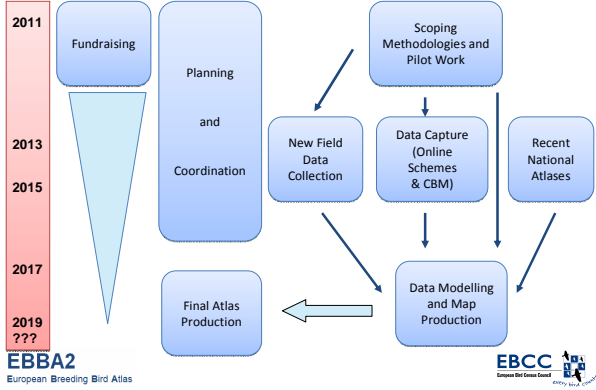
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What outputs are planned?

- Results presented in a book
- Publication by 2020
- Interactive maps available online
- Summaries to highlight the most crucial findings
- Atlas database available for further scientific work



Modules of EBBA2



Questionnaires

- Sent out end of October 2011 to EBCC delegates
- Sent out to 46 countries
- Answers received : 41 countries

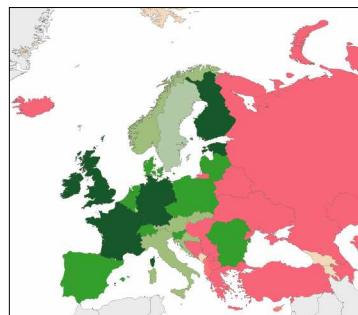
Positive response – thanks to everybody!

All countries answering want to collaborate!

Existing national atlases

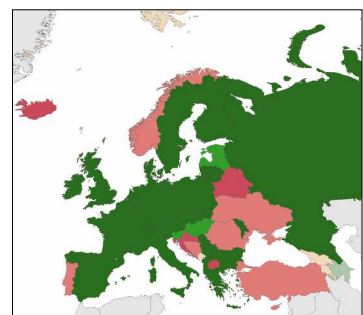
Time of fieldwork in relation to EBBA2

- <10 years: 2004-2013
- 10-20 years: 1994-2003
- 20-30 years: 1984-1993
- >30 years
- No atlas



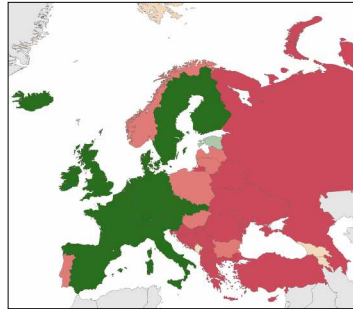
Data provision for European Atlas (50x50 km)

- from national atlas (recent or planned)
- other databases
- Fieldwork for some species
- Fieldwork for all species



Support from outside country needed

no
 uncertain
 Funding
 Funding plus advice,
 material, observers etc.

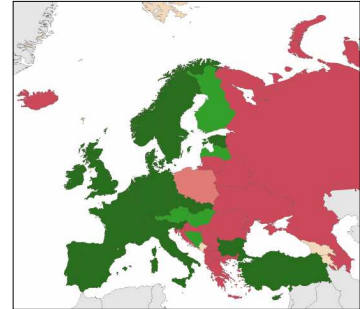


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Online platforms for data collection

yes
 planned
 yes, but insufficient
 no



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Some comments in questionnaires

"I think that survey methods for new atlas should be developed by EBCC & Co. and harmonized (implemented) across countries starting new atlas."

"The new atlas is necessary to monitor the population status of breeding birds. "

"New atlas has not been planned due to shortage of human and financial resources."

"we are looking very much forward to contribute to the EBBA2"

"I would like to congratulate the EBCC for the EBBA2 initiative. It is scientifically relevant, socially urgent and technically audacious."

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Next steps

- Promote the Atlas and highlight its value across Europe
- Engage prospective national and international data holders (Atlases, common bird monitoring programmes, online portals)
- Obtain funding to start and for subsequent modules
- Establish European Coordinator
- Start plans for field work in known gaps
- Support national atlases where needed
- Develop guidelines for data collection, define standards

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Yes, we can!

One of the most ambitious
 biodiversity mapping projects
 ever attempted, **EBBA2** will
 cover:
5 years of fieldwork (2013-17)
50+ countries
500+ breeding species
5000+ 50x50 km squares

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