What potential is there to increase the set of species that PECBMS reports on?



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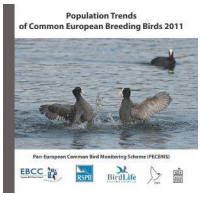
What are 'common' species?

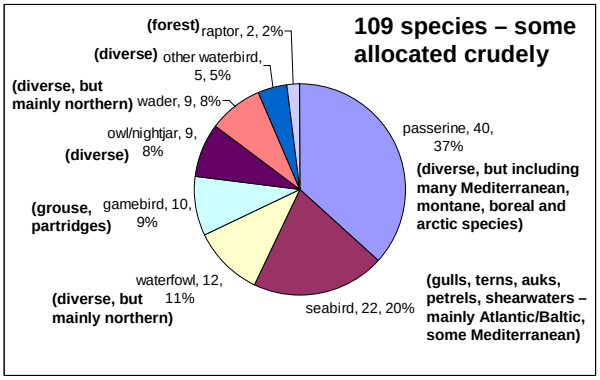
- PECBMS definition: those with a maximum estimated breeding population size of >50,000 pairs in 'PECBMS Europe'
- 'PECBMS Europe' = EU27 + Norway + Switzerland (i.e. those countries already delivering data or expected to do so in near future)
- Assessed using population data from *Birds in Europe 2* (BirdLife International 2004)


What are 'common' species?

- 252 species (around 60% of total breeding in 'PECBMS Europe')
- In 2011, PECBMS reported trends for 143 of these species (plus Marsh Harrier, Red-billed Chough)
- PECBMS receives data on other species too - but only produces indices for species when data are available from countries with >50% of 'PECBMS Europe' population

Where are the gaps?



Why do these gaps exist?

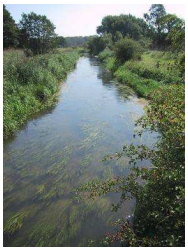
- PECBMS only receives data from countries holding <50% total pop
- Some species poorly covered by generic, large-scale CBM schemes, hence insufficient data reported
- Some species inadequately monitored due to difficult terrain +/or remoteness (e.g. montane, arctic, islands)
- Some species require specific survey methods (e.g. owls, seabirds)
- Some species better monitored in winter/on passage (e.g. waterbirds)


How can we fill these gaps?


- Identify which species are covered by other (more specific) monitoring schemes in different countries
- Ask relevant data holders in key countries to provide data (>50%)
- Promote (better) monitoring of gap species – e.g. standard methods
- Accept that some species are not amenable to annual monitoring at European level (too difficult/remote)
- Accept that some species are better monitored in winter or on passage

What could/should we prioritise?

(1) Birds of rivers/streams/canals



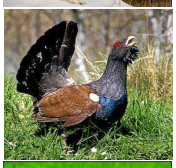
- Partly, but not wholly, addressed by draft 'inland wetland' bird index work
- Key species missing (e.g. Dipper, Kingfisher, Sand Martin, Goosander)
- Close links to water quality/health
- EU Water Framework Directive: river basin management plans
- Linear features – 'relatively' easy to monitor on foot, by bike or by boat
- Well monitored in some countries
- **Try to gather more existing data?**

What could/should we prioritise?

(2) Owls (and nightjars) and raptors

- Many are common and widespread
- Very popular with the public – hence citizen science monitoring potential
- Most are on Birds Directive Annex I
- Potential for developing/spreading best practice guidance for monitoring
- Pretty well monitored - especially in countries where scarce or rare (!)
- MEROS (www.greifvogelmonitoring.de)
- EURAPMON (www.esf.org/eurapmon)
- **Discuss potential to collaborate?**

What could/should we prioritise?



(3) Gamebirds (grouse, partridges)

- Common in few (northern) countries [rare/scarce in many other countries]
- Often monitored by hunting/game associations (e.g. winter transects)
- [Some difficult to monitor, e.g. Quail]
- Economically important with issues of sustainable utilisation (ecoservice)
- Frequent source of 'debate' between conservationists and 'harvesters'
- Most are on Birds Directive Annexes
- **Gather existing data (from north)?**

What could/should we prioritise?

(4) Colonially breeding seabirds

- Monitored annually at many sites
- Standard methods published/used
- Monitoring well-established for some [but difficult for petrels/shearwaters]
- Winter/passage not viable for many
- Most are on Birds Directive Annex I
- Seas cover a huge area of Europe
- EU Marine Strategy Directive: GES
- Seabird experts already collaborate
- **Discuss with Seabird Group, ICES, CAFF, CBird, Medmaravis, etc?**

What could/should we 'park'?

Arctic/northern dispersed breeders (e.g. some waders and ducks)

- Better covered in winter (congregate)
- Aim for periodic breeding surveys?

Montane species (inc. passerines)

- Annual monitoring rarely possible
- Aim for periodic breeding surveys? (more frequent than for arctic species)

Difficult species (e.g. petrels, rails)

- Annual monitoring rarely possible
- Aim for periodic breeding surveys? (more frequent than for arctic species)

Caveat: just because we can, it doesn't necessarily mean that we should

- Increasing the number of species for which PECBMS can report reliable European trends is highly desirable
- But – we should be cautious about rushing to combine such trends to produce multispecies indicators, even for some 'obvious' sets here
- The ecological meaning and policy relevance of any such indicators must be considered very carefully, before embarking on new directions