

EBBA2 species list. Cover letter

Dear Atlas Coordinators,

Attached in the EBBA2 website you will find the new Atlas Species List, which we would like you to get acquainted with and use during the EBBA2 project. Actually, the excel file provided contains three sheets, the contents of which are explained in more detail below. Please read the following paragraphs carefully and get back to us if you have any further questions or if you notice any inconsistencies that should be explained better or be amended.

The species list contains all bird species that are certainly or at least very likely to be found breeding in the area covered by the new atlas (see study area in the EBBA2 Methodology). We are aware that we might have listed some species which may not breed (any more). These should be ignored if they are not encountered during the atlas period (this might apply for example to Small Buttonquail/Andalusian Hemipode, Siberian Crane, Red-billed Tropicbird etc.).

Our initial aim in producing this list was to be as consistent as possible with previous species lists and database structures, for reasons of practicality. Thus, the species list is based heavily on the ones issued for EBCC's first Atlas (published in 1997) and Birds in Europe 2 (2004). However, a range of new information and developments have accumulated since, which had to be taken into account and which we felt necessary and important to consider in this new list. Many of the changes follow decisions of BirdLife International's Taxonomic Working Group (BTWG), but we have included further adaptations in order to render the list "as topical as possible", as it shall be used for the next 5 or 6 years until publication of the atlas.

Therefore, taxonomy, scientific nomenclature, English names, and sequence of species may differ from previous species lists you are familiar with. Most of the taxonomic and systematic changes have been or will be explained and communicated in detail elsewhere; the progress in this field is enormous and still ongoing, thus our aim was to provide a topical list which is still "workable". In instances of ongoing debate and controversy about the taxonomic status of species among different scientific groups, the sub- or semi-species names have been put within double round brackets "(())" in this list. With regard to new species names introduced here, we also have provided the formerly used versions for better orientation and understanding. Finally, we think some additional clarification will be needed to grasp the considerably larger number of species and taxonomic subunits or forms contained in this list.

New species or subunits have been added to the list when (1) formerly lumped species are now (commonly) treated as separate species, as e.g. in *Larus cachinnans*/*L. michahellis*; *Egretta garzetta* /*E. gularis* etc.; (2) species have increased their breeding range into Europe, as e.g. Oriental Turtle Dove, Long-tailed Rosefinch etc.; (3) species are found in formerly unsurveyed areas, as e.g. Temminck's Horned Lark, Hume's Wheatear etc.; (4) diagnosable taxonomic units such as semispecies, subspecies or other taxa show a clear indication that they differ enough in population trends, breeding ranges, and threats, to warrant individual analysis during the final atlas stage; (5) forms that we know very little about at present might have the potential to be important conservation units, as e.g. "Mountain" Crane *Grus grus* (*archibaldi*), "Balkan" Horned Lark *Eremophila* (*alpestris*) *balcanica* or Basalt Wheatear *Oenanthe* (*lugens*) *spp.* etc.

Details on the Species list (Excel sheet 1)

The Species list provided here contains 9 columns (A thru I):

A) **EBBA2 species code.** This code is unique and represents, together with EBBA2 scientific name, one of the bases for data exchange between national and European coordinators (see EBBA2 methodology). It corresponds to the Euring code (updated in November 2013) for the majority of species and subspecies. However, for recently separated or systematically “unclassified” forms/subunits with no code in the Euring version used here, EBBA2 species code corresponds to an unofficial code ranging from 77777 to 77838.

It is extremely important to check for species code equivalents between this and national databases; support from the EBBA2 coordinators could be provided.

EBBA2 species code will not change during the data collection period to ensure a consistent data flow, even in the potential case of changes in official Euring codes in the near future.

B) **EBBA2 scientific name.** This column contains the species, subspecies and other taxonomic subunits that should ideally be differentiated in the field and reported separately by the national coordinators. Reporting should be made with the maximum possible taxonomic detail (i.e. better at subspecies level than at species level when field identification allows it). Taxonomic units not shown here are of facultative differentiation (see column F).

Nomenclature is mainly following the name used by the BirdLife International’s Taxonomic Working Group (BTWG). In some instances other names are given that do not correspond with BTWG’s; this will be specified in column G (“Remarks”). In cases for which there is controversy about the taxonomic status (as by November 2013), double brackets (()) are used. In very few cases “(et al.)” is shown at the end of the scientific name; here see column G for specific information.

EBBA2 scientific names will not change during the data collection period to ensure a consistent data flow, even in the potential case of changes in official names in the near future. A final revision of recent taxonomic changes will be made just before the publication of the final work.

C) **Alternative scientific name.** These have either not (yet) been adopted by BTWG, or are alternatives in need of eventual clarification. Those given in brackets are old-fashioned scientific names, with which many users might be more familiar than with those in column C, but which should not be used anymore.

D) **English name,** which in general follow those used by BTWG.

E) **Old/alternative English names,** which were previously used (e.g. by BirdLife International or in the first EBCC atlas), or which are widely used elsewhere. Confusing or misleading names, which should not be used any more, are set in brackets.

F) **Facultative separate identification of subunits.** This column contains the subspecies, other taxonomic subunits or populations whose separate treatment would be desirable, although it may be hard to achieve in some cases.

G) **Remarks.** Section in which some cases are pointed out, where either BTWG has not (yet) adapted scientific/taxonomic changes found in recent literature, or where a BTWG revision is currently on the way, or for which other relevant information is considered important.

Non-native breeding bird species across Europe are also marked here.

H) **Order.** This column names the Order to which the species/taxonomic unit is currently allocated to by most authorities. Please note that the number of Orders used here is higher than usually encountered; some of these systematic units may undergo future changes (e.g. mainly lumping), and the sequence of Orders certainly will be changed again in the face of current taxonomic debate.

l) **Family.** This column states the Family to which the species/taxonomic unit is now allocated to. The sequence of Passerine families follows most recent publications and may differ in some cases from that used by BTWG.

Use of the Species Lists and reporting

EBBA2 species code and scientific name are the only data fields associated to the species list that should be included in data provision forms (see EBBA2 methodology). There is only one EBBA2 species code for each scientific name and vice versa but we would ask for the provision of both codes for double checking and minimising risks of mistakes in data flow.

We would urge you to separately record all forms that show unique EBBA2 species codes, - particularly when more than one form occurs in your country. Examples for separate treatment include *Buteo buteo buteo/vulpinus*, *Limosa limosa limosa/islandica*, *Calidris alpina alpina/schinzii*, *Picus viridis viridis/sharpei*, *Parus montanus montanus/salicarius*, *Luscinia luscinia cyanecula/svecica/namnetum* etc. In some species, the different forms or subunits may be more difficult - or even impossible – to distinguish in the field. These are listed in column F in order to point out that we would like to have the best-possible information for detailed analyses as e.g. for *Phalacrocorax carbo carbo/sinensis*, *Larus michahellis michahellis/atlantia*, *Porphyrio porphyrio poliocephalus/caspicus/seistanicus* etc.

We ask coordinators to provide data for all breeding species recorded within the range of EBBA2 during the atlas period. In the reporting form, a distinction shall be made between regular and exceptional/occasional breeding in your country, allowing us to precisely assess the breeding status of all bird species in Europe (see EBBA2 Methodology). We have included a few species that were formerly recorded as sporadic breeders in Europe, but it is most likely that there will be more, and probably different ones, during the current atlas period. Please ensure that any additional species that you find in your country is reported to EBBA2 coordinators. Please clearly indicate cases of hybrid pairs/populations, if these are identifiable.

Similarly as for native species we will require data on the breeding occurrence of all non-native species. The species list provided here for regularly breeding non-native species of Europe may already seem very long, but could still be incomplete. And we only listed a few of all the non-native species which are known to only breed occasionally. Please report any further breeding species that you have encountered during the atlas period and fill in the information required in the EBBA2 Methodology as in any other case. We are aware that there might be as many as 30 of these occasionally breeding non-native species in Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands alone.

Quite a range of species will have both wild or re-established and feral or naturalised breeding populations in Europe or even within single countries, e.g. Whooper Swan and Red-crested Pochard in Germany, or Ring-necked Pheasant with wild populations in eastern Turkey and feral/naturalised ones in all countries of Europe. If at all possible, wild and feral populations should be differentiated and reported separately, if they exist independently in your country and have not mixed to an extent that renders separation impossible, as e.g. in Mute Swan or Greylag Goose populations in Central and Western Europe. We also need clear indication on human-dependent “park” populations which might have to be treated differently from other feral populations, as their breeding may be based on human support (see EBBA2 Methodology).

Finally, some coordinators may want (and be able to achieve) differential treatment of genetically distinct taxa, of different flyway populations or of high- vs. low-altitude populations, but since such a differentiation will not be deliverable by most other national schemes, a separate treatment in the EBBA2 analyses will probably not be achieved. In these cases, differential treatment during the atlas project is not a priority.

In summary, the list of regularly breeding indigenous bird species of Europe currently comprises 582 species, including at least one long-established non-native species derived from wild European birds (Feral Pigeon). Sporadically breeding native species are also part of the main list, which is likely to be incomplete and in need of supplementation during the atlas project. 40 species show "split numbers", i.e. two or more (up to eight) subunits are listed within one species in separate lines, and their differential treatment in the field shall be highly recommended.

At the end of the list there is a number of non-native breeding birds (neozoans). Of these, there are currently at least 63 species in Europe known to breed regularly, about 56 of them annually. But note that the list of non-native species only breeding sporadically may be very incomplete (!).

In order to assist you in finding all the species names you are familiar with and searching for, we have added alphabetical lists of the scientific names (sheet 2) and of the English names (sheet 3). In both cases the species names are given in connection with their original EBBA2 species code for reference to the main list.

Radolfzell, Cambridge and Barcelona, 13 December 2013

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<http://www.ebcc.info/new-atlas.html>