

# EBBA2

European Breeding Bird Atlas



## An exciting new challenge for European ornithology: providing vital data for science and conservation

The European Bird Census Council, together with its partners across Europe, plans to produce a new atlas for breeding birds in Europe, to update the ground-breaking first atlas (Hagemeijer & Blair 1997), whose data are now 30 years old.

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

### Why a new Atlas?

- Over the last 30 years, many environmental changes, such as those in land use and climate, have impacted on populations of birds across Europe. For effective conservation and informed decision making, we need the most up-to-date information on these impacts.
- Knowing where birds occur, and how this has changed, is a crucial part in targeting conservation action, and will tell us much about the state of the wider environment. It also provides valuable data for scientific analyses, and for assessing if and how projected changes are materialising.
- New opportunities have arisen, improving our ability to incorporate even the most remote parts of Europe and provide a robust baseline for future monitoring across the whole continent.

### What will the new Atlas achieve?

- The Atlas will provide up-to-date distribution maps for birds across the whole of Europe.
- The Atlas will show changes in species distribution since the 1980s.
- The volume of bird data collected for the Atlas will make it 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.
- The Atlas will build capacity for conservation and monitoring in areas where this is most needed.

### How will the Atlas be produced?

- Data collection will build on the vast network of volunteer citizen scientists and professional ornithologists across Europe, from the Azores to European Russia.
- National Atlas coordinators will be responsible for compiling the data in each country.
- The EBCC will coordinate the project across the continent as a whole.
- The project will utilise existing data where possible, but new data will have to be collected from many areas, in particular in eastern and south-eastern Europe.
- Analysis and production of maps will be carried out in collaboration with specialists of EBCC member organisations, including leading experts in spatial modelling and mapping.

### What outputs are planned?

- The results will be presented in a book, to be published by 2020 at the latest.
- Interactive maps and further information will be made available online.
- Leading scientists and conservationists will produce summaries to highlight the most crucial findings.
- The Atlas database will be made available for further scientific work.

### How will the project be financed?

- This ambitious project will require resources at both the national and European levels, and the EBCC will work with partners to explore a myriad of different funding possibilities.
- By using volunteer citizen scientists, and existing networks of ornithologists, EBBA2 will be as efficient and low-cost as is possible to achieve such a far-reaching and ambitious goal.

For further information, please contact:

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