

Bird Numbers 2022

Beyond the Atlas: challenges and opportunities

Programme and Abstracts



22nd Conference of the European Bird Census Council
4–9 April 2022, Lucerne, Switzerland



vogelwarte.ch



03

Birds in education: innovative learning methods for capacity building in nature conservation

Inês Roque¹, Carlos Godinho¹, João Eduardo Rabaça^{1,2}, Shirley van der Horst³, Akos Klein⁴, Zoltan Schneider⁴, Laszlo Patko⁵, Dora Gigler⁵, Alessia Portaccio⁶, Thomas Campagnaro⁶, Tommaso Sitzia⁶, Davide Pettenella⁶, Ellie Parker⁷, Michael Singh⁷, Simon Roper⁷

¹MED, Laboratory of Ornithology – University of Évora, Évora, Portugal; ²Department of Biology – University of Évora, Évora, Portugal; ³Ambios Portugal, Coruche, Portugal; ⁴The Barn Owl Foundation, Orosztony, Hungary; ⁵WWF Hungary, Budapest, Hungary; ⁶TESAF – University of Padova, Padova, Italy; ⁷Ambios Ltd, Totnes, United Kingdom; capg@uevora.pt

The role of volunteer birdwatchers in bird censuses across the world is crucial to acquire data for science and conservation, and people with different skill specializations and motivations are engaged as citizen scientists. Bird species richness is positively related to life-satisfaction across Europe, while this association doesn't exist in other wildlife groups. Therefore, birds seem to be particularly captivating for recruiting people to environmental monitoring and nature conservation efforts.

The WildSkills EU Erasmus+ project identified a discrepancy at the European level between higher education training and the needs of the labour market in the field of environmental monitoring and nature conservation. To address this skills gap, a collaboration between professionals from European non-governmental organizations and higher education institutions was set up to develop innovative and accessible distance learning. The project will use a virtual learning environment that combines the use of physical equipment and tools with webinars and livestream technologies, and periods of transnational mobility, to provide, assess, accredit, and support the acquisition of new knowledge.

The Birds in Education course is part of the learning materials of the WildSkills EU project. This course will explore (1) the personal motivations for, and the implications to science and society, of our awareness of birds, (2) notions of bird conservation in the European context, (3) the basics of bird identification, (4) how to use birds as environmental education tools, and (5) digital tools for bird identification and citizen science. The course will be tested by higher education students from different backgrounds, aimed at developing skills for the nature conservation sector, and by professionals of the education sector. In the end, this course will contribute to capacity building and to citizen science and has the potential of increasing the public engagement in bird counts, which represents a growing need of many bird conservation organizations.

Bird distribution and atlas work

04

Second Bird Atlas in Bulgaria: methodology and results from a pilot year

Stoycho Stoychev¹, Georgi Popgeorgiev^{1,2}, Iordan Hristov¹, Mihail Iliev¹, Vladimir Mladenov¹, Irina Mateeva¹, Svilen Cheshmedjiev¹, Volen Arkumarev¹, Girgina Daskalova^{1,2}, Petar Shurulinkov²

¹Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds, BirdLife in Bulgaria; ²National Museum of Natural History Bulgarian Academy of Sciences; stoychostoychev@abv.bg

The First Bulgarian Breeding Bird Atlas was published in 2007 (Iankov 2007) based on data from the period 1996–2005. The data collection for the Second Atlas will be done in 2021–2025. It will cover both breeding and wintering period. The Second Atlas is based on UTM 10 × 10 km (MGRS) grid as the First Atlas in order to enable direct comparison of the distribution changes. The total number of 10 × 10 squares to be surveyed is 1,257, including 970 entirely on the territory of Bulgaria. The data are collected in the electronic data base smartbirds.org/. The observers that select squares to survey can see lists of species found in the same squares during the first Atlas, lists of species recorded by themselves