State of common European breeding birds 2018

170 species

28 countries

37 years

(1980–2016)

Pan-European Common Bird Monitoring Scheme (PECBMS)

www.pecbms.info

Photo: Jiří Bartoš (barnophoto.cz)

*Common Firecrest (*Regulus ignicapilla*) has an extremely large range. The population of this forest species appears to be stable in the long-term perspective and even moderately increasing during last ten years.*

Photo: Martin Mecnarowski (photomecan.eu)

Summary

- This leaflet presents the combined trends of 170 common bird species based on data collected from 28 European countries, covering the period 1980–2016.
- Of the 170 species covered, in long-term 52 increased moderately, 65 declined moderately and one steeply, while 46 remained stable. In six cases the species' trends remained uncertain.
- 39 species were classified as farmland birds, of which in long-term 23 declined, eight increased, five remained stable, and trends of three were classified as uncertain.
- 34 species were classified as forest birds, of which in long-term 12 declined, 12 increased, nine remained stable, and trend of one species was classified as uncertain.
- The other 97 species were classified as other common birds, and included generalists and specialists of other habitats. Of these, in long-term 31 declined, 32 increased, 32 remained stable, and trends of two species were classified as uncertain.
- The Cyprus wheatear (*Oenanthe cypriaca*) and Cyprus warbler (*Sylvia melanothorax*) haven´t been included in the common bird indicators for Europe and EU as they are endemic species for Cyprus. Consequently, only 168 species are included in the common bird indicators. The numbers of species included in the common farmland and forest bird indicators remained unchanged from previous updates.

PECBMS national data providers

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom

The data for the Great Spotted Woodpecker (Dendrocopos major) come from all but one country contributing to PECBMS (the species does not occur in Cyprus). In Europe the population is increasing moderately, by approximately 1% per year.

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Photo: Zdeněk Jakl
500px.com/zdenekjakl

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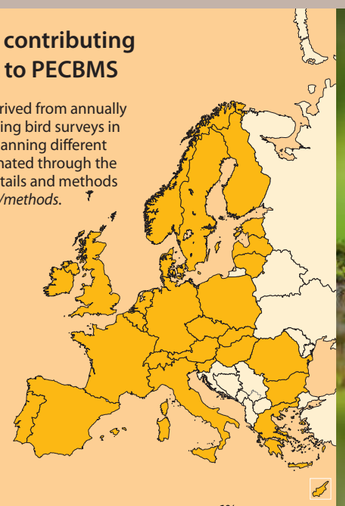
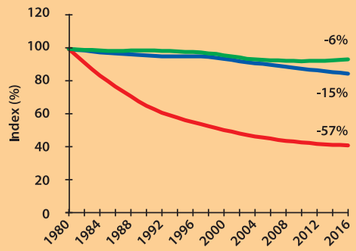
giving nature a home

Countries contributing their data to PECBMS

The data are derived from annually operated breeding bird surveys in 28 countries, spanning different periods, coordinated through the PECBMS. For details and methods see *pecbms.info/methods*.





	↓	↑	—	?
all common species (168 sp.)	66	51	45	6
common farmland species (39 sp.)	23	8	5	3
common forest species (34 sp.)	12	12	9	1

European Turtle-dove is globally threatened; it was uplisted to Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List in 2015.

Photo: Ondřej Prosický (naturephoto.cz)

European wild bird indicators

The numbers in italics show the numbers of species in each indicator which are moderately or steeply ↓ declining, moderately or strongly ↑ increasing, stable — and uncertain ? .
For explanation of categories of species' trend see the table (reverse side of this leaflet).

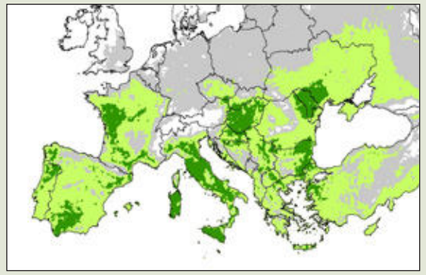
Bird monitoring helps in Turtle-dove conservation

The European population of European Turtle-dove (*Streptopelia turtur*) has been declining by nearly 4% per year since 1980. We are less certain about a trend in 1980s because fewer countries contributed their monitoring data in that period. Since the 1990s, when we have data from more countries, the decline is less steep, however the trend is still negative in recent decades (decline by 3.2% per year in last 10 years).

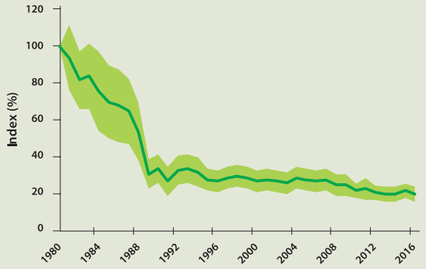
The species is threatened by habitat loss in both breeding and wintering areas, by illegal killing, and unsustainable hunting. The International Species Action Plan (Fisher et al. 2018) sets priority conservation actions in order to achieve the goal of halting the decline of the European population and preparing the ground to restore the species to a favourable status. Bird monitoring and atlasing is helpful in the identification of threats and also in steering conservation actions: using the data collected for the Second European Breeding Bird Atlas (EBBA2, *www.ebba2.info*), experts modelled probability of European Turtle-dove occurrence in Europe on 10x10 km grid. The map was then used to identify Priority Intervention Areas (PIAs) (Herrando et al. 2018), which indicate where conservation interventions might be best directed.

Fisher I. et al. 2018: International Single Species Action Plan for the conservation of the European Turtle-dove *Streptopelia turtur* (2018 to 2028). European Commission.

Herrando S. et al. 2018: Report to the European Commission. CTFC, Solsona. 18 pp.



Priority Intervention Areas (PIAs) for European Turtle-dove. *Intensity of green colour indicates modelled probability of species occurence.*



Trend of European Turtle-dove.
European population index 1980–2016 based on data from 23 countries shows moderate decline of European Turtle-dove. Upper and lower confidence limits are shown (light green) around the index values (dark green).

Legend for Table

The quality of outputs may differ species by species. In some cases, the coverage of species' populations and thus the representativeness of the data may be lower at the beginning of the time series (for information on the time span and the list of countries contributing with their data for individual species, see *pecbms.info/trends-and-indicators/species-trends*). Furthermore, year to year fluctuations might not always reflect real population change, so we recommend caution in interpretation of year-to-year changes. Readers should also pay attention to individual species' legends.

Trend: change (in %) in an index value between first and last year of a time period.

Annual change (%): average percentage change per year.

Long-term: 1980–2016, **Ten-years**: 2007–2016.

Trend classification (Class.):
for detailed explanation see *pecbms.info/methods/pecbms-methods*

- ↑↑ strong increase
- ↑ moderate increase
- — stable
- ↓ moderate decline
- ↓↓ steep decline
- ? uncertain
- **n/a** not available

Notes

1. Long-term trend not available.
2. Long-term trend: 1981–2016.
3. Long-term trend: 1982–2016.
4. Long-term trend: 1984–2016.
5. Long-term trend: 1988–2016
6. Long-term trend: 1989–2016.
7. Long-term trend: 1990–2016.
8. Long-term trend: 1991–2016.
9. Long-term trend: 1996–2016.
10. Long-term trend: 1998–2016.
11. Isolated peak might not reflect real population change.
12. Index for early period may be unrepresentative due to limited geographical coverage and needs to be treated with caution.
13. Index might be influenced by releases by hunters.
14. Index only represents population change of subspecies *Luscinia svecica svecica*.
15. Index for early period may be unrepresentative due to limited geographical coverage and needs to be treated with caution. Minimum index value was set at 5% (minimum threshold) where computed index is below this level.

Population trends of common European breeding birds 2018

Species	Long-term		10-years		Habitat
	Annual Change (%)	Class.	Annual Change (%)	Class.	
Clamator glandarius [10, 11]	1.18	—	-8.73	↓↓	other
Coccothraustes coccothraustes [12]	0.07	—	3.02	↑	forest
Columba oenas	0.92	↑	2.2	↑	forest
Columba palumbus	1.56	↑	1.49	↑	other
Corvus corax	1.54	↑	0.08	—	other
Corvus corone	0.56	↑	-0.3	↓	other
Corvus frugilegus	2.45	↑	-0.99	↓	farmland
Corvus monedula [11]	-0.25	—	0.46	—	other
Cuculus canorus	-1.02	↓	-0.7	↓	other
Cyanistes caeruleus	1.02	↑	0.31	—	other
Cyanopica cyanus [10]	2.64	↑	3.44	↑	forest
Cygnus olor	1.4	↑	0.01	—	other
Delichon urbicum	-0.31	—	-1.05	↓	other
Dendrocopos major	1.45	↑	1.01	↑	other
Dendrocopos syriacus [1]	n/a	n/a	-6.58	↓	other
Dryobates minor [11]	-2.6	?	-3.8	↓	forest
Dryocopus martius	0.97	↑	-0.38	—	forest
Egretta garzetta [1]	n/a	n/a	0.8	—	other
Emberiza cia [10]	0.11	—	-1.24	—	other
Emberiza cirlus [6]	2.43	↑	8.06	↑	farmland
Emberiza citrinella	-1.36	↓		↓	farmland
Emberiza hortulana [12]	-5.61	↓	-2.77	↓	farmland
Emberiza melanocephala [1]	n/a	n/a	-3.42	↓	farmland
Emberiza rustica	-5.53	↓	0.67	—	forest
Emberiza schoeniclus	-0.95	↓	-2.33	↓	other
Erithacus rubecula	0.81	↑	0.09	—	other
Falco tinnunculus	-0.92	↓	-0.04	—	farmland
Ficedula albicollis [3, 12]	1.97	↑	1.71	↑	forest
Ficedula hypoleuca	-1.4	↓	-2.3	↓	forest
Fringilla coelebs	0.08	—	-0.14	—	other
Fringilla montifringilla	-2.69	↓	-0.44	—	other
Fulica atra [12]	0.64	↑	-1.84	↓	other
Galerida cristata [3, 15]	-13.32	↓↓	-0.92	↓	farmland
Galerida theklae [10]	2.79	↑	3.48	↑	farmland

Population trends of common European breeding birds 2018

Species	Long-term		10-years		Habitat
	Annual Change (%)	Class.	Annual Change (%)	Class.	
Oenanthe hispanica [10]	-2.58	↓	-2.06	?	farmland
Oenanthe oenanthe [12]	-2.47	↓	-3.23	↓	other
Oriolus oriolus [3]	0.29	—	0.39	—	other
Parus major	0.38	↑	0.89	↑	other
Passer domesticus	-2.43	↓	-0.92	↓	other
Passer montanus	-2.18	↓	2.15	↑	farmland
Perdix perdix	-6.73	↓	-3.22	↓	farmland
Periparus ater	-0.53	↓	0.78	↑	forest
Petronia petronia [10]	1.16	↑	4.08	↑	farmland
Phasianus colchicus [13]	1.03	↑	-0.52	↓	other
Phoenicurus ochruros [3, 12]	1.03	↑	1.19	↑	other
Phoenicurus phoenicurus	1.06	↑	3.01	↑	forest
Phylloscopus bonelli [6]	-0.14	—	7.05	↑↑	forest
Phylloscopus collybita	1.65	↑	1.19	↑	forest
Phylloscopus sibilatrix	-1.81	↓	-0.8	↓	forest
Phylloscopus trochilus	-1.39	↓	-0.42	↓	other
Pica pica	-1.11	↓	-0.21	—	other
Picus canus [3, 12]	3.84	↑	5.64	↑	forest
Picus viridis	2.25	↑	-0.51	↓	other
Pluvialis apricaria [2, 12]	0.03	—	-1.39	↓	other
Podiceps cristatus [7]	-1.29	↓	-0.29	—	other
Poecile montanus	-3.37	↓	-2.67	↓	forest
Poecile palustris	-0.63	—	1.03	↑	forest
Prunella modularis	-0.74	↓	-0.23	—	other
Ptyonoprogne rupestris [10]	0.91	—	0.34	—	other
Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax [10]	1.27	—	4.14	↑	other
Pyrrhula pyrrhula	-1.23	↓	1.93	↑	forest
Regulus ignicapilla [3, 12]	0.08	—	3.33	↑	forest
Regulus regulus	-1.67	↓	-0.32	—	forest
Saxicola rubetra	-2.32	↓	-2.42	↓	farmland
Saxicola torquatus [6]	-0.38	—	-0.32	—	farmland
Serinus serinus [3, 12]	-2.88	↓	-0.74	↓	farmland
Sitta europaea	1.68	↑	1.61	↑	forest
Spinus spinus	-1.06	↓	0.03	—	forest

Population trends of common European breeding birds 2018

Species	Long-term		10-years		Habitat
	Annual change (%)	Class.	Annual change (%)	Class.	
Acanthis flammea	-3.09	↓	-1.71	↓	other
Accipiter nisus [11]	-0.78	—	-0.13	—	forest
Acrocephalus arundinaceus [3, 12]	1.09	—	-2.18	—	other
Acrocephalus palustris	-0.27	—	-0.82	—	other
Acrocephalus scirpaceus	-0.16	—	-0.51	—	other
Acrocephalus schoenobaenus	-0.12	—	-2.81	↓	other
Actitis hypoleucos	-1.61	↓	-0.83	—	other
Aegithalos caudatus	0.5	—	0.35	—	other
Alauda arvensis	-1.69	↓	-2.38	↓	farmland
Alcedo atthis [8]	0.41	—	2.38	↑	other
Alectoris rufa [10]	-2.35	↓	-6.08	↓↓	farmland
Anas platyrhynchos [13]	0.97	↑	-0.89	↓	other
Anthus campestris [8, 11]	-2.05	?	-1.43	—	farmland
Anthus pratensis	-2.53	↓	1.24	↑	farmland
Anthus trivialis	-2.27	↓	-1.05	↓	forest
Apus apus	-0.01	—	-2.31	↓	other
Ardea cinerea	1.63	↑	-1.73	↓	other
Bombycilla garrulus [5]	7.48	↑	2.66	↑	forest
Bonasa bonasia	-1.08	↓	-5.38	↓	forest
Bubulcus ibis [10]	0.8	—	5.8	↑	farmland
Burhinus oedicnemus [10]	0.21	—	-3.27	↓	farmland
Buteo buteo	1.74	↑	-0.12	—	other
Calandrella brachydactyla [10]	1.2	↑	3.27	↑	farmland
Calcarius lapponicus [1]	n/a	n/a	-7.1	↓	other
Carduelis carduelis	1.74	↑	0.23	—	other
Carduelis citrinella [1]	n/a	n/a	0.54	—	forest
Carpodacus erythrinus	-1.36	↓	-3.09	↓	other
Cecropis daurica [10]	1.46	↑	4.43	↑	other
Certhia brachydactyla [3, 12]	1.51	↑	2.06	↑	forest
Certhia familiaris	-0.39	↓	0	—	forest
Cettia cetti [6]	3.13	↑	0.39	—	other
Ciconia ciconia	1.48	↑	0.38	—	farmland
Circus aeruginosus	4.33	↑	0.53	—	other
Cisticola juncidis [10]	1.47	↑	3.53	↑	other
Gallinago gallinago	-2.84	↓	-0.95	—	other
Gallinula chloropus	-0.22	—	-1.88	↓	other
Garrulus glandarius	0.59	↑	0.29	—	forest
Grus grus [4]	5.22	↑	3.43	↑	other
Haematopus ostralegus	-1.29	↓	-2.35	↓	other
Hippolais icterina	-1.39	↓	0.06	—	other
Hippolais polyglotta [6]	-0.66	—	0.11	—	other
Hirundo rustica	-0.28	—	-2.03	↓	farmland
Chloris chloris	0	—	-1.41	↓	other
Iduna pallida [1]	n/a	n/a	1.21	?	other
Jynx torquilla [12]	-2.33	↓	1.19	—	other
Lanius collurio	0.11	—	0.83	—	farmland
Lanius minor [1]	n/a	n/a	0.39	?	farmland
Lanius senator [10]	-2.29	↓	-1.72	↓	farmland
Larus ridibundus [7]	-2.89	↓	-3.93	?	other
Leiopicus medius [6]	1.47	—	3.87	↑	forest
Limosa limosa [4]	-3.32	↓	-2.91	↓	farmland
Linaria cannabina	-2.84	↓	1.37	—	farmland
Locustella fluviatilis [3, 12]	-2.96	↓	-3.31	?	other
Locustella naevia	-2.57	↓	-3.18	↓	other
Lophophanes cristatus	-0.73	↓	-0.53	—	forest
Lullula arborea [12]	3.51	↑	-0.55	—	other
Luscinia luscinia	-0.79	↓	-2.62	↓	other
Luscinia megarhynchos	-1.36	↓	0.73	↑	other
Luscinia svecica [9, 14]	-2.76	↓	-1.48	—	other
Lyrurus tetrix [9]	0.29	—	-3.12	↓	other
Melanocorypha calandra [10]	-3.1	↓	-0.14	—	farmland
Merops apiaster [6]	0.22	—	-2.02	↓	other
Miliaria calandra	-3.13	↓	0.23	—	farmland
Motacilla alba	-0.19	—	-0.78	↓	other
Motacilla cinerea [12]	-0.35	—	-0.8	—	other
Motacilla flava	-4.25	↓	0.53	—	farmland
Muscicapa striata	-1.34	↓	-0.47	—	other
Nucifraga caryocatactes	-0.42	—	-0.42	—	forest
Numenius arquata	-1.31	↓	-0.38	—	other
Numenius phaeopus [4]	1.13	↑	-0.12	—	other
Oenanthe cypriaca [1]	n/a	n/a	-0.52	—	other
Streptopelia decaocto	1.62	↑	1.34	↑	other
Streptopelia turtur	-3.91	↓	-3.24	↓	farmland
Sturnus unicolor [10]	0.87	↑	-0.46	—	farmland
Sturnus vulgaris	-2.43	↓	-0.6	↓	farmland
Sylvia atricapilla	2.89	↑	2.14	↑	other
Sylvia borin	-0.82	↓	-1.51	↓	other
Sylvia cantillans [6]	5.06	↑	1.7	—	other
Sylvia communis	0.66	↑	0.22	—	farmland
Sylvia curruca	0.07	—	-1.3	↓	other
Sylvia hortensis [6]	5.92	↑	6	↑	other
Sylvia melanocephala [6]	0.79	—	0.65	—	other
Sylvia melanothorax [1]	n/a	n/a	5.38	↑	other
Sylvia nisoria [3, 12]	-3.89	?	2.44	?	other
Sylvia undata [10]	-2.73	↓	-3.29	↓	other
Tadorna tadorna [8]	0.57	↑	0.42	—	other
Tachybaptus ruficollis [7]	0.44	—	1.1	—	other
Tetrax tetrax [10]	-4.75	↓	-8.49	↓↓	farmland
Tringa erythropus [1]	n/a	n/a	-4.52	↓	other
Tringa glareola	-0.37	—	0.44	—	other
Tringa nebularia [10]	-0.66	—	-0.43	—	other
Tringa ochropus [12]	0.76	↑	0.46	—	forest
Tringa totanus	-2.26	↓	-1.54	↓	other
Troglodytes troglodytes	1.35	↑	1.21	↑	other
Turdus iliacus	-0.74	↓	-2.72	↓	other
Turdus merula	0.86	↑	1.35	↑	other
Turdus philomelos	0.41	↑	1.23	↑	other
Turdus pilaris	0.21	—	0.63	↑	other
Turdus torquatus [10]	-0.56	—	0.37	—	other
Turdus viscivorus	-0.42	—	1.65	↑	forest
Upupa epops [3, 12]	3.01	?	-0.84	↓	farmland
Vanellus vanellus	-2.85	↓	-1.97	↓	farmland

Species scientific and common names follow the HBW-BirdLife Taxonomic Checklist Version 3.0 (November 2018).