

Population Trends of European Common Birds 2010



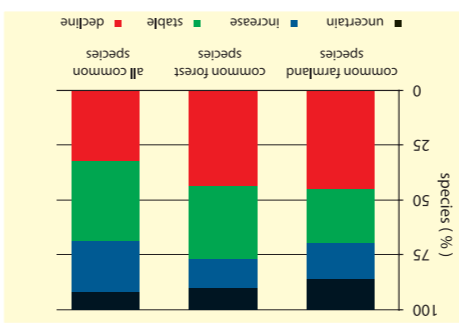
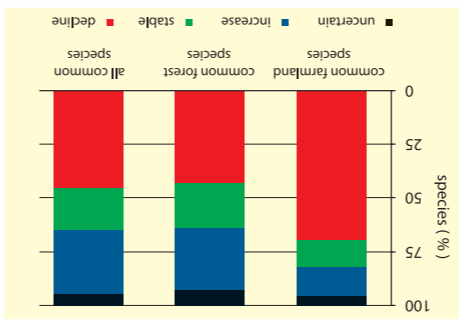
Pan-European Common Bird Monitoring Scheme (PECBMS)



Populations of Eurasian Skylark, a farmland species suffering from agriculture intensification, have declined more than 40% since 1980.

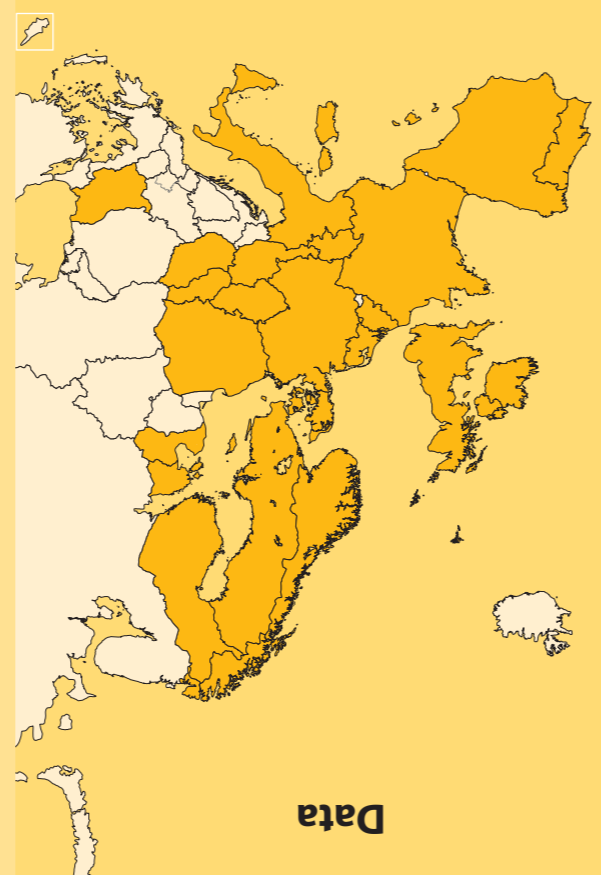
Summary

- This leaflet presents the combined population trends of 137 common bird species based on data collected from 22 European countries, covering the period 1980–2008.
- Of the 137 species covered, 41 have increased moderately and 1 strongly, 50 have declined moderately and 30 have remained stable.
- In only 13 cases do species trends remain uncertain.
- 36 species were classified as farmland birds, of which 18 declined, 7 increased, 6 remained stable and trends of 5 were classified as uncertain.
- Common birds as a whole are still in moderate decline in Europe. Average population levels have fallen by 11% over the last 29 years. However, the situation for common farmland birds is worst, the index of common farmland birds has fallen to 51%.

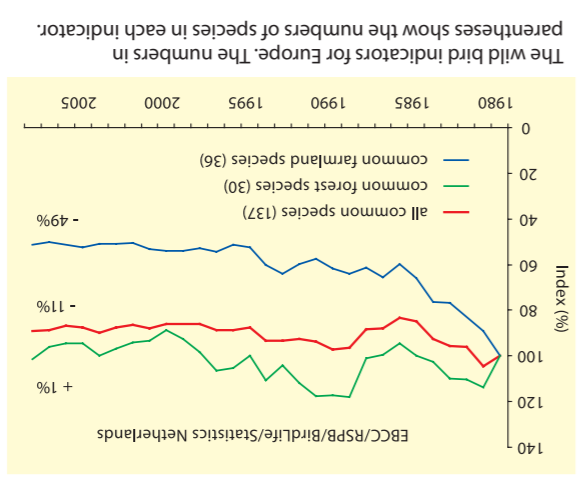


PECBMS national data providers

Austria: BirdLife Österreich	Belgium: Aves	Bulgaria: Българско общество за опазване на птиците	Czech Republic: ČSO	Denmark: Dansk Ornitologisk Forening
Denmark: DANISH MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT	Estonia: Eesti Linnu- ja loomade uurimiskeskus	Finland: Finnish Museum of Natural History	France: Société française pour l'étude du rapace	
Germany: DDA	Hungary: MME	Ireland: BirdWatchIreland	Ireland: BirdWatchIreland	Ireland: BirdWatchIreland
Italy: ZIPU	Italy: MTO 2000	Latvia: Latvian Ornithological Society	Latvia: Latvian Ornithological Society	Netherlands: SOVON
Norway: Direktoratet for naturforvaltning	Norway: HINT	Norway: Norsk Ornitologisk Forening	Poland: UTOP	Portugal: spea
Slovakia: SOS/BirdLife SLOVENSKO	Spain: SEO/BirdLife	Sweden: LUND UNIVERSITY	Sweden: NATUR VÄRDET	
Switzerland: vogelwarte.ch	United Kingdom: BTO	United Kingdom: JNCC	United Kingdom: RSPB	



The data are derived from annually operated breeding bird surveys in 22 European countries, spanning different time periods, coordinated through the PECBMS. For details and methods see <http://www.ebcc.info/index.php?ID=388>.



The long-term trend of Spotted Flycatcher is moderately declining, but the short-term trend has remained stable.

Indicators

Average population levels of all common birds have fallen by 11% between 1980 and 2008 in Europe. The worst situation remains in common farmland birds. Their numbers have on average fallen by 49%. Since mid-1990s the trend appears to have levelled off. However, while a number of farmland species are increasing, many specialist species are still declining. Agricultural intensification and specialization are still considered as the main driving forces behind this disastrous trend. According to a study published recently (Butler et al. 2010, Agriculture, Ecosystems and Environment 137: 348–357), we expect that populations of farmland birds will decline further, especially if agriculture intensification is accelerated in Eastern European countries. Loss of set-asides and continuing land abandonment can have detrimental effect too.



Photo by A. Bacik (naturfoto.cz)

A fall in the number of Common Cuckoos might be linked to food shortage on the breeding grounds, but equally might reflect poorer conditions in Africa.

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western Europe have remained stable. In only 13 cases do species trends remain uncertain. 36 species were classified as farmland birds, of which 18 declined, 7 increased, 6 remained stable and trends of 5 were classified as uncertain. Common birds as a whole are still in moderate decline in Europe. Average population levels have fallen by 11% over the last 29 years. However, the situation for common farmland birds is worst, the index of common farmland birds has fallen to 51%. Short-term trends (with the starting year ranging from 1990 to 2005) of European common bird species. Data available for 137 species, 36 among them are species characteristic for farmland, 30 for forest and 71 are others, i.e. habitat generalists or characteristic for other habitats. The category all common species includes farmland, forest and other species.

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 <http://www.ebcc.info/pecbm.html>). Furthermore, year to year fluctuations might not always reflect real population change, so we recommend cautious interpretation of year by year changes. Readers should also pay attention to individual species' legends.

Long/short-term trend: change (in %) in an index value between first and last year of a time period.

Long/short-term annual change: average percentage change per year.

Long-term: 1980–2008, **Short-term:** 1990–2008.

Trend classification: **↑↑** strong increase, **↑** moderate increase, **—** stable, **↓** moderate decline, **↓↓** steep decline, **?** uncertain.

Habitat: **for** – forest, **farm** – farmland, **oth** – other.

- 1 Long-term trend not available.
- 2 Long-term trend: 1982–2008.
- 3 Long-term trend: 1984–2008.
- 4 Short-term trend: 1991–2008.
- 5 Short-term trend: 1998–2008.
- 6 Short-term trend: 1999–2008.
- 7 Short-term trend: 2005–2008.
- 8 Index for early period may be unrepresentative due to limited geographical coverage and needs to be treated with caution.
- 9 Index might be influenced by releases by hunters.

For more details on species trends, including standard errors, see <http://www.ebcc.info/index.php?ID=387>.

Trend classification

The multiplicative overall slope estimate (trend value) in TRIM is converted into one of the following categories. The category depends on the overall slope, as well as its 95% confidence interval (= slope +/- 1.96 times the standard error of the slope).

➤ **Strong increase** – increase significantly more than 5% per year (5% would mean a doubling in abundance within 15 years). Criterion: lower limit of confidence interval > 1.05.

➤ **Moderate increase** – significant increase, but not significantly more than 5% per year. Criterion: 1.00 < lower limit of confidence interval < 1.05.

➤ **Stable** – no significant increase or decline, and it is certain that trends are less than 5% per year. Criterion: confidence interval encloses 1.00 but lower limit > 0.95 and upper limit < 1.05.

➤ **Uncertain** – no significant increase or decline, but not certain if trends are less than 5% per year. Criterion: confidence interval encloses 1.00 but lower limit < 0.95 or upper limit > 1.05.

➤ **Moderate decline** – significant decline, but not significantly more than 5% per year. Criterion: 0.95 < upper limit of confidence interval < 1.00.

➤ **Steep decline** – decline significantly more than 5% per year (5% would mean a halving in abundance within 15 years). Criterion: upper limit of confidence interval < 0.95.

Population trends of common birds in Europe.

Species	Species	Long-term		Class.	Short-term		Class.	Habitat
		Trend (%)	Annual Change (%)		Trend (%)	Annual Change (%)		
<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	Zitting Cisticola ^{1,5}	—	—	—	-16	0	—	oth
<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	Hawfinch ⁸	627	1	↑	-29	-2	↓	for
<i>Columba oenas</i>	Stock Dove	14	1	—	14	1	—	for
<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Common Wood-pigeon	100	2	↑	29	1	↑	oth
<i>Corvus corax</i>	Common Raven	114	2	↑	71	2	↑	oth
<i>Corvus corone & cornix</i>	Carrion & Hooded Crow	23	1	↑	11	1	↑	oth
<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	Rook	39	1	↑	25	1	—	farm
<i>Corvus monedula</i>	Eurasian Jackdaw ⁸	12	-1	↓	-15	-2	↓	oth
<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Common Cuckoo	-13	-1	↓	-6	0	—	oth
<i>Cyanopica cyanus</i>	Azure-winged Magpie ^{1,5}	—	—	—	78	5	↑	oth
<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	Northern House-martin	-16	-1	↓	-17	-1	—	oth
<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	Great Spotted Woodpecker	68	2	↑	27	2	↑	oth
<i>Dendrocopos medius</i>	Middle Spotted Woodpecker ¹	—	—	—	93	3	↑	for
<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker ⁸	-71	-4	?	-51	-5	?	for
<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>	Syrian Woodpecker ^{1,6}	—	—	—	-19	-2	?	oth
<i>Dryocopus martius</i>	Black Woodpecker	172	2	↑	77	2	—	for
<i>Emberiza cia</i>	Rock Bunting ^{1,5}	—	—	—	4	0	—	oth
<i>Emberiza cirius</i>	Cirl Bunting ¹	—	—	—	71	4	↑	farm
<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Yellowhammer	-39	-2	↓	-19	-1	↓	farm
<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>	Ortolan Bunting ⁸	-82	-6	↓↓	-38	-1	—	farm
<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>	Black-headed Bunting ^{1,7}	—	—	—	3	-2	?	farm
<i>Emberiza rustica</i>	Rustic Bunting	-71	-5	↓	-62	-8	↓↓	for
<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Reed Bunting	-13	-1	↓	1	-1	—	oth
<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	European Robin	31	1	↑	18	1	↑	oth
<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Common Kestrel	-16	-1	—	-25	-3	↓	farm
<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>	Collared Flycatcher ^{2,8}	173	3	↑	69	0	—	for
<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	European Pied Flycatcher	-18	-1	↓	-20	-1	↓	for
<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Eurasian Chaffinch	6	0	—	-5	0	—	oth

Population trends of common birds in Europe.

Species	Species	Long-term		Class.	Short-term		Class.	Habitat
		Trend (%)	Annual Change (%)		Trend (%)	Annual Change (%)		
<i>Parus montanus</i>	Willow Tit	-59	-3	↓	-40	-2	↓	for
<i>Parus palustris</i>	Marsh Tit	-30	-2	↓	-9	0	—	for
<i>Passer domesticus</i>	House Sparrow	-62	-3	↓	-17	-1	↓	oth
<i>Passer montanus</i>	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	-55	-2	↓	7	-1	—	farm
<i>Perdix perdix</i>	Grey Partridge	-81	-6	↓	-64	-7	↓	farm
<i>Petronia petronia</i>	Rock Sparrow ^{1,5}	—	—	—	13	3	?	farm
<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	Black Redstart ^{2,8}	38	1	↑	-3	0	—	oth
<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	Common Redstart	-2	1	↑	34	1	↑	for
<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>	Bonelli's Warbler ¹	—	—	—	-33	-2	?	for
<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	Common Chiffchaff	78	2	↑	-11	0	?	for
<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	Wood Warbler	-30	-2	↓	-26	-3	↓	for
<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Willow Warbler	-34	-2	↓	-33	-2	↓	oth
<i>Pica pica</i>	Black-billed Magpie	5	-1	↓	-30	-3	↓	oth
<i>Picus canus</i>	Grey-faced Woodpecker ^{2,8}	174	2	?	-20	-2	—	for
<i>Picus viridis</i>	Eurasian Green Woodpecker	66	3	↑	66	3	↑	oth
<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Hedge Accentor	-37	-2	↓	-18	-1	↓	oth
<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>	Red-billed Chough ^{1,5}	—	—	—	29	1	—	oth
<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	Eurasian Bullfinch	-54	-2	↓	-35	-3	↓	for
<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>	Firecrest ^{2,8}	-12	1	—	-28	0	—	for
<i>Regulus regulus</i>	Goldcrest	-19	-1	↓	-39	-2	↓	for
<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	Whinchat	-55	-2	↓	0	0	—	farm
<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>	Common Stonechat ¹	—	—	—	2	1	—	farm
<i>Serinus serinus</i>	European Serin ^{2,8}	-43	-3	↓	-37	-3	↓	farm
<i>Sitta europaea</i>	Wood Nuthatch	75	1	↑	-7	0	—	for
<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Eurasian Collared-dove	73	2	↑	94	4	↑	oth
<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	European Turtle-dove	-69	-4	↓	-26	-1	↓	farm
<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>	Spotless Starling ^{1,5}	—	—	—	12	2	↑	farm
<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Common Starling	-56	-2	↓	-8	-1	↓	farm
<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Blackcap	102	3	↑	35	2	↑	oth

<i>Sylvia borin</i>	Garden Warbler	-17	-1	↓	-14	0	—	oth
<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>	Subalpine Warbler ¹	—	—	—	10	3	↑	oth
<i>Sylvia communis</i>	Common Whitethroat	36	1	↑	15	1	↑	farm
<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	Lesser Whitethroat	-13	0	↑	14	1	↑	oth
<i>Sylvia hortensis</i>	Orphey Warbler ¹	—	—	—	216	10	↑↑	oth
<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	Sardinian Warbler ¹	—	—	—	-5	1	—	oth
<i>Sylvia nisoria</i>	Barred Warbler ^{2,8}	79	1	?	-35	-2	?	oth
<i>Sylvia undata</i>	Dartford Warbler ^{1,5}	—	—	—	-32	-6	↓	oth
<i>Tringa totanus</i>	Common Redshank	-44	-2	↓	-37	-3	↓	oth
<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Winter Wren	60	2	↑	11	1	↑	oth
<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Redwing	7	0	—	13	0	—	oth
<i>Turdus merula</i>	Eurasian Blackbird	18	1	↑	15	1	↑	oth
<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Song Thrush	-2	0	↑	24	1	↑	oth
<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	Fieldfare	5	0	↑	-36	-1	↓	oth
<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Mistle Thrush	-23	-1	↓	-5	-1	—	for
<i>Upupa epops</i>	Eurasian Hoopoe ^{2,8}	182	4	?	-13	1	?	farm
<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Northern Lapwing	-48	-3	↓	-32	-2	↓	farm

Species names: BirdLife International (2010). The BirdLife checklist of the birds of the world, with conservation status and taxonomic sources. Version 3. <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/species>



Common Stonechat has been stable since 1990, but future PECBMS updates will reveal if it has declined as a result of the harsh 2009–10 winter.

Photo by T. Bělka (birdphoto.cz)

Population trends of common birds in Europe.

Species	Species	Long-term		Class.	Short-term		Class.	Habitat
		Trend (%)	Annual Change (%)		Trend (%)	Annual Change (%)		
<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Eurasian Sparrowhawk ⁸	31	0	—	-7	-2	?	for
<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>	Great Reed-warbler ^{2,8}	59	3	?	33	2	—	oth
<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>	Marsh Warbler	23	0	—	-8	1	↑	oth
<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	Sedge Warbler	-19	0	—	3	0	—	oth
<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	Eurasian Reed-warbler	-7	0	—	-14	-1	↓	oth
<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Common Sandpiper	-31	-2	↓	-29	-2	↓	oth
<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	Long-tailed Tit	91	1	—	16	1	—	oth
<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Eurasian Skylark	-42	-2	↓	-13	-1	↓	farm
<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Mallard ⁹	63	1	↑	-17	0	—	oth
<i>Anthus campestris</i>	Tawny Pipit ^{1,4,8}	—	—	—	-31	-1	?	farm
<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Meadow Pipit	-60	-2	↓	-47	-3	↓	farm
<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	Tree Pipit	-49	-3	↓	-33	-2	↓	for
<i>Apus apus</i>	Common Swift	-3	-1	—	13	1	—	oth
<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Grey Heron	282	4	↑	26	2	↑	oth
<i>Bonasa bonasia</i>	Hazel Grouse	-21	-1	—	-12	-1	—	for
<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>	Eurasian Thick-knee ^{1,5}	—	—	—	2	2	↑	farm
<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Common Buzzard	102	2	↑	-6	-1	—	oth
<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>	Greater Short-toed Lark ^{1,5}	—	—	—	0	-1	—	farm
<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	Eurasian Linnet	-60	-3	↓	-47	-5	↓	farm
<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	European Goldfinch	-15	2	↑	-7	0	—	oth
<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	European Greenfinch	31	1	—	-11	0	—	oth
<i>Carduelis flammea</i>	Common Redpoll	-78	-2	↓	-41	-1	—	oth
<i>Carduelis spinus</i>	Eurasian Siskin	-14	-1	↓	-26	-2	↓	for
<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>	Common Rosefinch	-10	0	—	-36	-3	↓	oth
<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>	Short-toed Treecreeper ^{2,8}	-17	2	↑	46	3	↑	for
<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	Eurasian Treecreeper	6	0	—	9	0	—	for
<i>Cettia cetti</i>	Cetti's Warbler ¹	—	—	—	538	5	↑	oth
<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	White Stork ^{2,8}	192	4	↑	29	2	↑	farm
<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Western Marsh-harrier	293	4	↑	-18	-1	—	oth