Summary

- This leaflet presents the combined bird species trends of 163 common bird species based on data collected from 27 European countries, covering the period 1980–2011.
- Of the 163 species covered, 44 have increased moderately and 2 strongly, 59 have declined moderately and 2 steeply, while 45 have remained stable. In 11 cases the species' trends remain uncertain.
- 39 species were classified as farmland birds, of which 24 declined, 6 increased, 6 remained stable, and trends of 3 were classified as uncertain.
- 33 species were classified as forest birds, of which 12 declined, 11 increased, 8 remained stable, and trends of 2 were classified as uncertain.
- The other 91 species were classified as other common birds, and included generalists and specialists of other habitats. Of these, 25 declined, 29 increased, 31 remained stable, and trends of 6 were classified as uncertain.
- The migration strategy of species appears to play an important role in driving population trends. Long-distance migrants are a particular concern because many of them have declined recently and the PECBMS data confirms declines in several of them. However, some species show different trends in different regions, suggesting a more complex situation. We need to understand factors affecting birds on wintering grounds and during migration, as well as on the breeding grounds.

Wood Warbler, a long-distance migrant, has declined moderately since 1980 in all European regions.

Photo by Ivan Dudáček (ptaci.net)

Population Trends of Common European Breeding Birds 2013

Pan-European Common Bird Monitoring Scheme (PECBMS)

EBCC European Bird Census Council — every bird counts

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Data

Countries contributing their data to PECBMS.

The data are derived from annually operated breeding bird surveys in 27 countries, spanning different periods, coordinated through the PECBMS. In this update, two new countries contributed their data for the first time – Luxembourg and Romania. In Belgium, Cyprus, France, Germany, Latvia, Norway, Spain and Sweden the data from multiple schemes within one country were used. For details and methods see *www.ebcc.info/methods2013.html*.

During the last two centuries, the Golden Oriole has expanded its range in Europe northwards probably thanks to habitat changes. Increasing summer temperatures could play a role as well.

Photo by Ivan Dudáček (ptaci.net)

The decline of long-distance migrants has become major concern in Europe in recent years. In comparison to residents, trends of long-distance migrants are affected by many other factors, particularly weather conditions on their migration routes and wintering grounds. Drought in sub-Saharan winter quarters influences survival in marshland birds and aerial feeding birds, like Barn Swallows. Habitat change and persecution on the wintering sites, as well as hunting or collision with infrastructure during the migration may threaten the population and lead to declines. In many cases, the situation may be complex and there are still large gaps in our knowledge of the factors driving trends in migrating species across their ranges. For example, European populations of Common Nightingale use three different flyways and stopovers to get to their different wintering quarters, which lie in a belt below the Sahara across the African continent from the east to west. Variation in the regional trends of Common Nightingales in Europe might well mirror both habitat changes on breeding grounds as well as factors acting on the migration routes and wintering grounds.

Regional trends of the Common Nightingale in Europe.

PECBMS national data providers

Austria: BirdLife Österreich
Belgium: Aves
Bulgaria: Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds
Cyprus: BirdLife Cyprus
Czech Republic: ČSO
Denmark: Dansk Ornitologisk Forening
Denmark: Danish Ministry of the Environment
Estonia: Estonian Ornithological Society
Finland: Finnish Museum of Natural History
France: MNHN
Germany: DDA Dachverband Deutscher Avifaunisten
Greece: Ornithological Society
Hungary: MME
Ireland: BirdWatch Ireland
Italy: LIPU
Italy: MITO 2000
Latvia: Latvijas Ornitoloģijas biedrība
Luxembourg: natur&ëmwelt a.s.b.l.
Netherlands: Sovon
Norway: Direktoratet for naturforvaltning
Norway: NINA Norsk institutt for naturforskning
Norway: Norsk Ornitologisk Forening
Poland: ptop
Portugal: spea
Romania: SOR
Romania: MILVUS group
Slovakia: SOS/BirdLife Slovensko
Slovenia: DOPPS
Slovenia: Republic of Slovenia, Ministry of Agriculture and the Environment
Spain: SEO/BirdLife
Spain: Generalitat de Catalunya, Government of Catalonia
Spain: ICO Catalan Ornithological Institute
Sweden: Länsstyrelserna
Sweden: Lund University
Sweden: Naturvårdsverket
Switzerland: vogelwarte.ch
United Kingdom: BTO looking out for birds
United Kingdom: JNCC Joint Nature Conservation Committee
United Kingdom: rspb giving nature a home

Indicators

This year we present indicators based on an increased number of species. In this update, we were able to present data on 15 new species, of which three were included in the farmland bird indicator, while the others contributed to the common bird indicator line. Nevertheless, the overall pattern of population change in the indicator has remained virtually unchanged; common farmland birds are still declining and common forest birds appear to be stable.

More indicators can be found on www.ebcc.info/indicators2013.html.

The wild bird indicators for Europe. The numbers in parentheses show the numbers of species in each indicator. 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).

Eurasian Oystercatcher belongs to the 15 new species included in this update for the first time.

Photo by Ondřej Prosický (naturephoto.cz)

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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 *www.ebcc.info/trends2013.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: 1980–2011, **Short-term:** 1990–2011.

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: 1981–2011.
3 Long-term trend: 1982–2011.
4 Long-term trend: 1984–2011.
5 Short-term trend: 1991–2011.
6 Short-term trend: 1996–2011.
7 Short-term trend: 1998–2011.
8 Short-term trend: 1999–2011.
9 Short-term trend: 2000–2011.
10 Index for early period may be unrepresentative due to limited geographical coverage and needs to be treated with caution.
11 Index might be influenced by releases by hunters.

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 most probable 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, and unlikely 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.

For more details on species trends, including standard errors, see *www.ebcc.info/trends2013.html*.

Population Trends of Common European Breeding Birds 2013

Species		Long-term			Short-term			Habitat
		Trend (%)	Ann. Change (%)	Class.	Trend (%)	Ann. Change (%)	Class.	
Accipiter nisus	Eurasian Sparrowhawk [10]	11	-0.19	—	-23	-2.18	?	for
Acrocephalus arundinaceus	Great Reed-warbler [3, 10]	13	1.10	—	-52	-1.68	↓	oth
Acrocephalus palustris	Marsh Warbler	7	-0.21	—	-20	0.22	—	oth
Acrocephalus schoenobaenus	Sedge Warbler	-14	0.08	—	4	0.21	—	oth
Acrocephalus scirpaceus	Eurasian Reed-warbler	-1	-0.13	—	-1	-0.48	—	oth
Actitis hypoleucos	Common Sandpiper	-20	-1.31	↓	-17	-1.15	↓	oth
Aegithalos caudatus	Long-tailed Tit	52	0.81	—	-14	0.54	—	oth
Alauda arvensis	Eurasian Skylark	-51	-1.81	↓	-29	-1.68	↓	farm
Alectoris rufa	Red-legged Partridge [1, 7]				-18	-0.68	↓	farm
Anas platyrhynchos	Mallard [11]	64	0.93	↑	-3	-0.30	—	oth
Anthus campestris	Tawny Pipit [1, 5, 10]				-64	-2.32	?	farm
Anthus pratensis	Meadow Pipit	-68	-2.80	↓	-57	-3.96	↓	farm
Anthus trivialis	Tree Pipit	-54	-2.52	↓	-38	-1.94	↓	for
Apus apus	Common Swift	-3	-0.07	—	10	1.15	—	oth
Ardea cinerea	Grey Heron	161	2.66	↑	19	1.54	↑	oth
Bombycilla garrulus	Bohemian Waxwing [1]				169	10.71	↑↑	for
Bonasa bonasia	Hazel Grouse	-9	-0.91	—	1	-0.78	—	for
Bubulcus ibis	Cattle Egret [1, 7]				30	-0.77	—	farm
Burhinus oedicnemus	Eurasian Thick-knee [1, 7]				-19	0.43	—	farm
Buteo buteo	Common Buzzard	92	2.26	↑	-18	-0.80	—	oth
Calandrella brachydactyla	Greater Short-toed Lark [1, 7]				6	-0.24	—	farm
Calcarius lapponicus	Lapland Longspur [1, 9]				-46	-2.90	?	oth
Carduelis cannabina	Eurasian Linnet	-63	-3.25	↓	-54	-4.43	↓	farm
Carduelis carduelis	European Goldfinch	4	2.20	↑	6	-0.08	—	oth
Carduelis chloris	European Greenfinch	29	0.50	↑	-18	-0.63	—	oth
Carduelis flammea	Common Redpoll	-70	-2.00	↓	-23	-1.01	↓	oth
Carduelis spinus	Eurasian Siskin	11	-0.96	↓	-3	-1.69	↓	for
Carpodacus erythrinus	Common Rosefinch	-24	-0.88	↓	-49	-3.22	↓	oth
Certhia brachydactyla	Short-toed Treecreeper [3, 10]	-7	1.75	↑	39	2.60	↑	for
Certhia familiaris	Eurasian Treecreeper	-10	-0.31	—	-3	-0.86	↓	for
Cettia cetti	Cetti's Warbler [1]				486	3.44	↑	oth
Ciconia ciconia	White Stork	53	1.33	↑	50	1.53	↑	farm
Circus aeruginosus	Western Marsh-harrier	272	4.08	↑	-4	-0.73	—	oth
Cisticola juncidis	Zitting Cisticola [1, 7]				-21	0.12	—	oth
Clamator glandarius	Great Spotted Cuckoo [1, 7, 10]				76	7.10	↑	oth
Coccothraustes coccothraustes	Hawfinch [10]	282	1.17	↑	-30	-1.08	↓	for
Columba oenas	Stock Dove	45	0.91	↑	45	1.38	—	for
Columba palumbus	Common Wood-pigeon	105	1.98	↑	37	1.86	↑	oth
Corvus corax	Common Raven	93	2.06	↑	45	0.73	—	oth
Corvus corone & cornix	Carrion & Hooded Crow	21	0.60	↑	5	0.39	—	oth
Corvus frugilegus	Rook	118	2.81	↑	17	0.31	—	farm
Corvus monedula	Eurasian Jackdaw [10]	20	-0.69	—	-19	-1.26	—	oth
Cuculus canorus	Common Cuckoo	-16	-1.13	↓	-10	-0.55	—	oth
Cyanopica cyanus	Azure-winged Magpie [1, 7]				47	3.44	↑	for
Cygnus olor	Mute Swan	18	1.81	↑	33	1.47	↑	oth
Delichon urbicum	Northern House-martin	-11	-1.41	↓	-12	-1.29	—	oth
Dendrocopos major	Great Spotted Woodpecker	61	1.66	↑	20	2.02	↑	oth
Dendrocopos medius	Middle Spotted Woodpecker [1]				-2	1.36	—	for
Dendrocopos minor	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker [10]	-76	-3.27	?	-59	-4.10	?	for
Dendrocopos syriacus	Syrian Woodpecker [1, 8]				-53	-5.71	?	oth
Dryocopus martius	Black Woodpecker	103	1.49	↑	43	1.80	—	for
Egretta garzetta	Little Egret [1, 9]				27	-0.60	—	oth
Emberiza cia	Rock Bunting [1, 7]				21	1.31	—	oth
Emberiza cirlus	Cirl Bunting [1]				56	3.25	↑	farm
Emberiza citrinella	Yellowhammer	-44	-1.50	↓	-25	-0.90	↓	farm
Emberiza hortulana	Ortolan Bunting [10]	-86	-6.18	↓↓	-46	-1.50	—	farm
Emberiza melanocephala	Black-headed Bunting [1, 9]				-34	-1.43	?	farm
Emberiza rustica	Rustic Bunting	-75	-5.64	↓	-69	-7.78	↓↓	for
Emberiza schoeniclus	Reed Bunting	-31	-0.80	↓	-25	-1.15	↓	oth
Erithacus rubecula	European Robin	17	1.07	↑	4	0.57	↑	oth
Falco tinnunculus	Common Kestrel	-36	-0.95	↓	-42	-2.84	↓	farm
Ficedula albicollis	Collared Flycatcher [3, 10]	148	2.32	↑	55	0.43	—	for
Ficedula hypoleuca	European Pied Flycatcher	-23	-1.18	↓	-29	-1.62	↓	for
Fringilla coelebs	Eurasian Chaffinch	8	0.16	↑	-4	-0.07	—	oth
Fringilla montifringilla	Brambling	-54	-2.64	↓	-42	-3.32	↓	oth
Fulica atra	Common Coot [10]	26	0.98	↑	-5	-0.28	—	oth

Population Trends of Common European Breeding Birds 2013

Species		Long-term			Short-term			Habitat
		Trend (%)	Ann. Change (%)	Class.	Trend (%)	Ann. Change (%)	Class.	
Galerida cristata	Crested Lark [3]	-95	-10.10	↓	0	4.63	?	farm
Galerida theklae	Thekla Lark [1, 7]				71	3.37	↑	farm
Gallinago gallinago	Common Snipe	-59	-2.36	↓	-47	-1.48	↓	oth
Gallinula chloropus	Common Moorhen	-20	0.33	—	-15	0.24	—	oth
Garrulus glandarius	Eurasian Jay	22	0.81	↑	31	1.58	↑	for
Grus grus	Common Crane [4]	409	5.56	↑	253	5.85	↑	oth
Haematopus ostralegus	Eurasian Oystercatcher	-5	-1.11	↓	-40	-2.21	↓	oth
Hippolais icterina	Icterine Warbler	-42	-1.67	↓	-12	-1.31	↓	oth
Hippolais polyglotta	Melodious Warbler [1]				-8	-0.50	—	oth
Hirundo daurica	Red-rumped Swallow [1, 7]				60	0.79	—	oth
Hirundo rupestris	Eurasian Crag-martin [1, 7]				-3	1.17	—	oth
Hirundo rustica	Barn Swallow	-28	-0.67	↓	-35	-1.80	↓	farm
Jynx torquilla	Eurasian Wryneck [10]	-62	-2.83	↓	-49	-2.04	↓	oth
Lanius collurio	Red-backed Shrike	-45	-0.03	—	8	-0.07	—	farm
Lanius minor	Lesser Grey Shrike [1, 8]				-66	-7.03	↓	farm
Lanius senator	Woodchat Shrike [1, 7]				8	-2.03	↓	farm
Larus ridibundus	Black-headed Gull [1]				-25	-2.33	↓	oth
Limosa limosa	Black-tailed Godwit [4]	-32	-2.81	↓	-44	-3.38	↓	farm
Locustella fluviatilis	Eurasian River Warbler [3, 10]	-62	-2.30	↓	-51	-3.20	↓	oth
Locustella naevia	Common Grasshopper-warbler	-46	-1.08	—	-21	-1.44	↓	oth
Lullula arborea	Wood Lark [10]	38	2.33	?	37	0.49	—	oth
Luscinia luscinia	Thrush Nightingale	-21	-0.22	—	-29	-0.72	—	oth
Luscinia megarhynchos	Common Nightingale	-61	-1.66	↓	0	0.52	—	oth
Luscinia svecica svecica	Red-spotted Bluethroat [1, 6]				-20	-2.77	?	oth
Melanocorypha calandra	Calandra Lark [1, 7]				-34	-4.22	↓	farm
Merops apiaster	European Bee-eater [1]				81	-0.28	?	oth
Miliaria calandra	Corn Bunting	-61	-3.03	↓	-19	-1.22	—	farm
Motacilla alba	White Wagtail	-8	-0.34	—	-24	-0.67	—	oth
Motacilla cinerea	Grey Wagtail [10]	-7	0.06	—	-43	-1.54	↓	oth
Motacilla flava	Yellow Wagtail	-42	-2.56	↓	9	-0.18	—	farm
Muscicapa striata	Spotted Flycatcher	-36	-1.48	↓	-9	-0.56	—	oth
Nucifraga caryocatactes	Spotted Nutcracker	64	0.16	—	-44	-1.87	—	for
Numenius arquata	Eurasian Curlew	-45	-1.57	↓	-29	-1.96	↓	oth
Numenius phaeopus	Whimbrel [4]	30	0.51	—	67	1.76	↑	oth
Oenanthe hispanica	Black-eared Wheatear [1, 7]				-23	-1.99	↓	farm
Oenanthe oenanthe	Northern Wheatear [10]	-60	-3.26	↓	-63	-3.34	↓	oth
Oriolus oriolus	Eurasian Golden Oriole [3]	12	0.16	—	20	0.97	—	oth

Population Trends of Common European Breeding Birds 2013

Species		Long-term			Short-term			Habitat
		Trend (%)	Ann. Change (%)	Class.	Trend (%)	Ann. Change (%)	Class.	
Parus ater	Coal Tit	-3	-0.52	↓	-16	-1.14	↓	for
Parus caeruleus	Blue Tit	39	1.43	↑	29	1.74	↑	oth
Parus cristatus	Crested Tit	-46	-1.36	↓	-41	-1.55	↓	for
Parus major	Great Tit	17	0.41	↑	18	0.92	↑	oth
Parus montanus	Willow Tit	-62	-3.10	↓	-43	-1.90	↓	for
Parus palustris	Marsh Tit	-27	-1.27	↓	0	0.45	—	for
Passer domesticus	House Sparrow	-63	-2.14	↓	-8	-0.33	—	oth
Passer montanus	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	-59	-2.00	↓	-15	-1.68	↓	farm
Perdix perdix	Grey Partridge	-94	-9.91	↓↓	-90	-11.81	↓↓	farm
Petronia petronia	Rock Sparrow [1, 7]				18	1.07	—	farm
Phasianus colchicus	Common Pheasant [11]	48	1.05	↑	19	1.00	↑	oth
Phoenicurus ochruros	Black Redstart [3, 10]	62	1.04	↑	3	0.17	—	oth
Phoenicurus phoenicurus	Common Redstart	18	0.91	↑	62	1.71	↑	for
Phylloscopus bonelli	Bonelli's Warbler [1]				-24	-1.01	—	for
Phylloscopus collybita	Common Chiffchaff	98	1.91	↑	-8	-0.35	↓	for
Phylloscopus sibilatrix	Wood Warbler	-35	-2.37	↓	-36	-2.86	↓	for
Phylloscopus trochilus	Willow Warbler	-31	-1.50	↓	-30	-1.56	↓	oth
Pica pica	Black-billed Magpie	1	-1.04	↓	-42	-3.26	↓	oth
Picus canus	Grey-faced Woodpecker [3, 10]	246	2.25	?	-24	-1.41	—	for
Picus viridis	Eurasian Green Woodpecker	38	2.56	↑	39	2.45	↑	oth
Pluvialis apricaria	Eurasian Golden-plover [2, 10]	24	-0.21	—	121	1.74	↑	oth
Podiceps cristatus	Great Crested Grebe [1]				-9	-0.81	—	oth
Prunella modularis	Hedge Accentor	-36	-1.17	↓	-20	-0.78	↓	oth
Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax	Red-billed Chough [1, 7]				10	0.62	—	oth
Pyrrhula pyrrhula	Eurasian Bullfinch	-50	-1.62	↓	-29	-2.60	↓	for
Regulus ignicapilla	Firecrest [3, 10]	-24	-0.27	—	-36	-0.22	—	for
Regulus regulus	Goldcrest	-49	-1.80	↓	-62	-3.13	↓	for
Saxicola rubetra	Whinchat	-71	-2.19	↓	-24	-0.83	—	farm
Saxicola torquatus	Common Stonechat [1]				34	0.20	—	farm
Serinus serinus	European Serin [3, 10]	-39	-2.74	↓	-34	-2.27	↓	farm
Sitta europaea	Wood Nuthatch	76	1.48	↑	-9	0.27	—	for
Streptopelia decaocto	Eurasian Collared-dove	88	1.68	↑	151	4.28	↑	oth
Streptopelia turtur	European Turtle-dove	-74	-3.90	↓	-30	-1.21	↓	farm
Sturnus unicolor	Spotless Starling [1, 7]				12	1.63	↑	farm
Sturnus vulgaris	Common Starling	-52	-1.86	↓	-6	-0.79	↓	farm
Sylvia atricapilla	Blackcap	150	3.02	↑	58	2.54	↑	oth
Sylvia borin	Garden Warbler	-12	-0.68	↓	-12	-0.68	↓	oth
Sylvia cantillans	Subalpine Warbler [1]				99	4.99	↑	oth
Sylvia communis	Common Whitethroat	43	1.05	↑	22	0.36	—	farm
Sylvia curruca	Lesser Whitethroat	-19	0.14	—	5	0.02	—	oth
Sylvia hortensis	Orphean Warbler [1]				120	8.75	↑↑	oth
Sylvia melanocephala	Sardinian Warbler [1]				106	1.29	—	oth
Sylvia nisoria	Barred Warbler [3, 10]	-69	-4.11	?	-64	-4.23	↓	oth
Sylvia undata	Dartford Warbler [1, 7]				-17	-3.06	↓	oth
Tachybaptus ruficollis	Little Grebe [1]				-20	-0.43	—	oth
Tetrao tetrix	Black Grouse [1, 6]				-20	0.52	—	oth
Tetrax tetrax	Little Bustard [1, 7]				-41	-2.40	↓	farm
Tringa glareola	Wood Sandpiper	-4	-0.60	—	52	-0.27	—	oth
Tringa nebularia	Common Greenshank [1, 7]				2	-0.53	—	oth
Tringa ochropus	Green Sandpiper [10]	11	0.83	—	8	0.31	—	for
Tringa totanus	Common Redshank	-47	-2.28	↓	-40	-2.82	↓	oth
Troglodytes troglodytes	Winter Wren	20	1.38	↑	-15	0.69	↑	oth
Turdus iliacus	Redwing	-22	-0.38	↓	-20	-0.17	—	oth
Turdus merula	Eurasian Blackbird	20	1.12	↑	19	0.94	↑	oth
Turdus philomelos	Song Thrush	5	0.43	↑	28	1.20	↑	oth
Turdus pilaris	Fieldfare	-13	-0.06	—	-49	-1.66	↓	oth
Turdus torquatus	Ring Ouzel [1, 7]				-3	-0.56	—	oth
Turdus viscivorus	Mistle Thrush	-20	-0.78	↓	-7	-0.41	—	for
Upupa epops	Eurasian Hoopoe [3, 10]	140	3.47	?	-22	0.65	—	farm
Vanellus vanellus	Northern Lapwing	-48	-2.77	↓	-31	-1.93	↓	farm

Species names: BirdLife International (2011). The BirdLife checklist of the birds of the world, with conservation status and taxonomic sources. Version 4.
Table with species names sorted by taxonomy can be found on www.ebcc.info/trends2013.html.