

## BOOK REVIEW

**Keller, V., Herrando, S., Voříšek, P., Franch, M., Kipson, M., Milanese, P., Marí, D., Anton, M., Klvaňová, A., Kalyakin, M.V., Buaer, H.-G., Foppen, R.P.B.: EUROPEAN BREEDING BIRD ATLAS 2: DISTRIBUTION, ABUNDANCE AND CHANGE. - European Bird Census Council & Lynx Edicions, Barcelona., 2020, 968 pages, ISBN 978-84-16728-38-1**

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Very interesting and very important book has been produced and edited by European Bird Census Council (EBCC). Very interesting is this book because of it deals with all breeding birds in large area from the Macaronesia to the Urals mountain. Very important is this book because it summarizes main current knowledge of distribution and trends in abundance of all breeding European birds. Thus, we can say that 596 bird species are breeding in Europe today.

This phenomenal book (968 pages, 568 illustrations of birds, 689 maps of abundance and breeding evidence, 222 modelled maps, 446 change maps) is a result of ten years effort of 120,00 fieldworkers during 5 years of field ornithological research in total area of 11,075,000 km<sup>2</sup>. By the way, it is probably the largest result of citizen-science world-wide. Forty-eight national partners (including Czech Society for Ornithology) participated on the data collection and compilation. 348 authors completed bird species texts.

The first European breeding bird atlas was published in 1997. But it is obviously that changes in bird diversity, distribution and abundance go fast and new information are needed. So, this new second European bird breeding atlas fills these huge knowledge-gaps. Many presented changes in bird populations in Europe clearly reflected human activities in landscape. Thus, the book will be in the focus of landscape ecologist because of much information on breeding bird species are closely related to landscape features (altitude, habitat types etc.).

Preparation of second European atlas started in 2011 and fieldwork was done in period 2013 – 2017. The different situation across Europe required different approaches in methodology. Five workshops of EBCC coordinated the international network of national experts, followed by 11 training workshops. Fieldworks were organised on national levels with support of EBCC experts and mostly were done by local ornithologist on a voluntary basis in their free-time. Development of various types of grid-based maps and tools to convert grids from national to European geographic information system were prepared with support from Forest Science and Technology Centre of Catalonia. Transfer of national data to European coordinators was facilitated by an online tool, checking uploaded data. The assessment of abundance data was processed via special software. More details on methodological processing and evaluation of huge amount of field data is described in the book in special chapter, which deals with methodology of bird breeding atlas preparation.

Important part of the book is chapter “Patterns and distribution and change”, which deals with general biogeographical patterns of bird distribution in biogeographic regions. Each breeding bird in European region is described in detail under current knowledge. Main part of the book consists of maps of species distribution (50-km squares) in unparalleled completeness and modelled probability of occurrence and changes in bird distribution over the last three decades. It will be fundamentals for a new era of ornithological and ecological

research of Europe's avifauna and will support biodiversity conservation in Europe for many years to come. EBCC done very good job!

**Ivo Machar\***

### **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

The authors declare no conflict of interest

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