Population Trends of Common European Breeding Birds 2011

Pan-European Common Bird Monitoring Scheme (PECBMS)

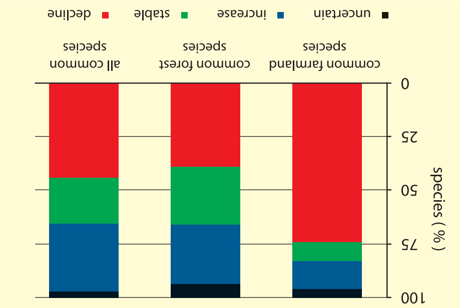
EBCC European Bird Census Council · RSPB · BirdLife International · ČSO

Summary

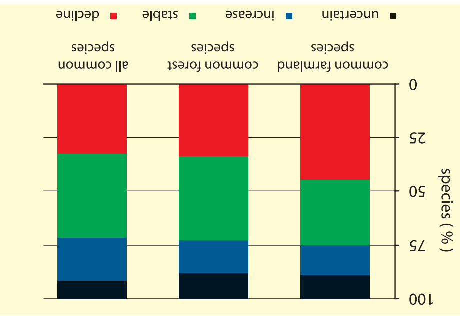
- This leaflet presents the combined bird species trends of 145 common bird species based on data collected from 25 European countries, covering the period 1980–2009.
- Of the 145 species covered, 41 have increased moderately and 2 strongly, 54 have declined moderately and 1 steeply, while 35 have remained stable. In 12 cases species trends remain uncertain.
- 36 species were classified as farmland birds, of which 20 declined, 6 increased, 6 remained stable and trends of 4 were classified as uncertain.
- 33 species were classified as forest birds, of which 11 declined, 10 increased, 9 remained stable and trends of 3 were classified as uncertain.
- The other 76 species were classified as other common birds, and included generalists and specialists of other habitats. Of these, 24 declined, 27 increased, 20 remained stable and trends of 5 were classified as uncertain.
- The situation of European farmland birds remains alarming. The index of common farmland birds has fallen by 48% over the last 30 years.

Although the indicator of common forest birds appears to be stable, the Goldcrest, the smallest European passerine, is moderately declining in Europe, experiencing large fluctuations in population size most likely caused by severe winters.

Photo by D. Jirovský (wildbirdphoto.eu)

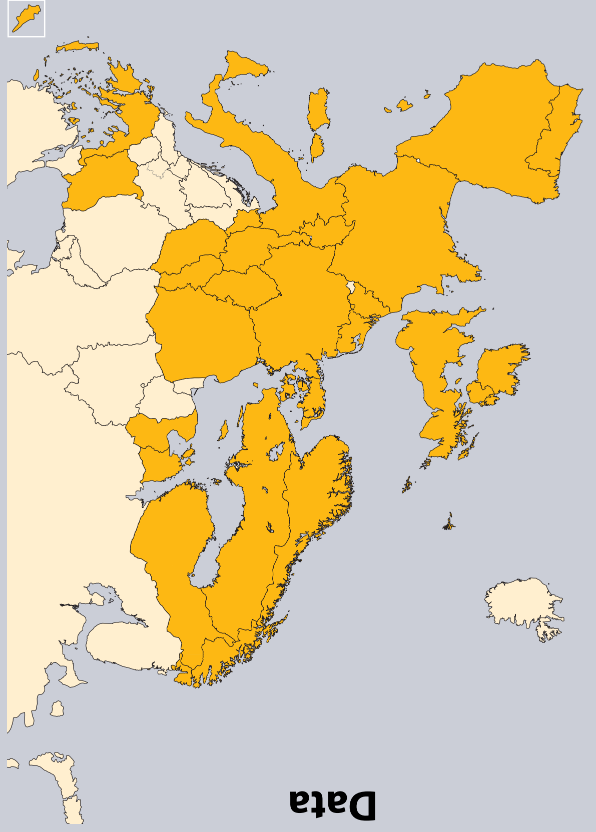


Long-term trends (with the starting year ranging from 1980 to 1984) of European common bird species. Data available for 116 species, 23 among them are species characteristic for farmland, 29 for forest and 64 are others, i.e. habitat generalists or characteristic for other habitats. The category all common species includes farmland, forest and other species.



Short-term trends (with the starting year ranging from 1990 to 2000) of European common bird species. Data available for 145 species, 36 among them are species characteristic for farmland, 33 for forest and 76 are others, i.e. habitat generalists or characteristic for other habitats. The category all common species includes farmland, forest and other species.

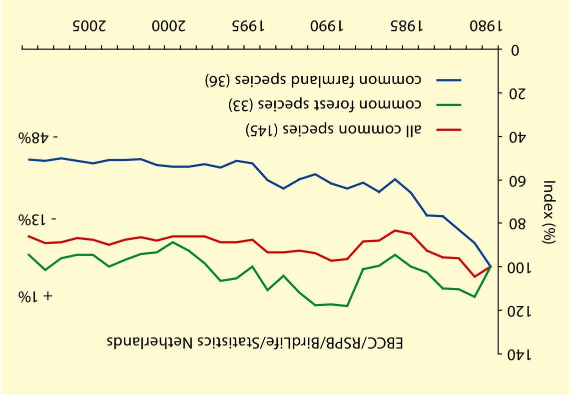
Data



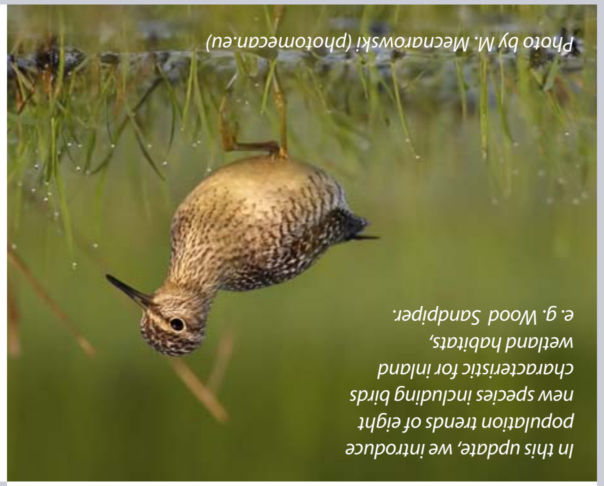
Countries contributing their data to PECBMS.

The data are derived from annually operated breeding bird surveys in 25 countries, spanning different periods, coordinated through the PECBMS. According to information from coordinators of national monitoring schemes, 11 150 volunteer counters took part in the surveys in 2010. For details and methods see *http://www.ebcc.info/pecbm.html.*

Indicators



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

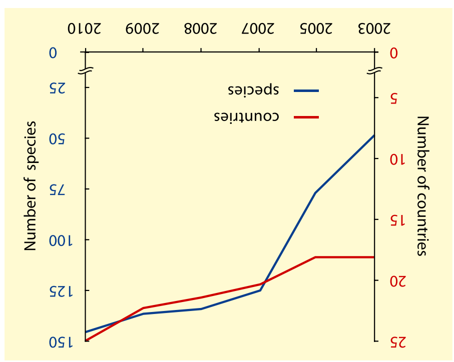


In this update, we introduce population trends of eight new species including birds characteristic for inland wetland habitats, e. g. Wood Sandpiper.

Photo by M. Mecnarowski (photomecan.eu)

In this update, we were able to use more data sources, e.g. data from several national schemes within one country were combined. Although increased number of countries and species has affected the indicators, the overall picture is consistent with the previous versions. The indicator of common farmland species shows that their numbers halved since 1980s. The decline of numbers of farmland birds has been accompanied by parallel decline of their biomass (Voříšek et al. 2010, *http://www.bou.org.uk/bouproc-net/lfb3/vorisek-etal.pdf*).

The common forest bird indicator appears to keep stable, with some signals of increase in last decade.



The number of countries actively contributing to the PECBMS data set is steadily increasing as well as number of species covered.

Woodchat Shrike is moderately declining at least partially through habitat loss in its Mediterranean strongholds, but also climatic changes and Sahel droughts are discussed as factors affecting this migrant's population trend.

Photo by Z. Tunka (birdphoto.cz)

PECBMS national data providers

Austria – BirdLife Österreich; Belgium – Aves; Bulgaria; Cyprus – BirdLife Cyprus; Czech Republic – ČSO; Denmark – Dansk Ornitologisk Forening

Denmark – Danish Ministry of the Environment; Estonia; Finland – Finnish Museum of Natural History; France; Germany – DDA

Greece; Hungary – MME; Ireland – BirdWatch Ireland; Italy – LIPU

Italy – MITO 2000; Latvia – Latvijas Ornitologijas Biedriba; Netherlands – SOVON; Norway – Direktoratet for naturforvaltning, HiNT

Norway – NINA, Norsk Ornitologisk Forening; Poland – Otop; Portugal – spea; Slovakia – SOS/BirdLife Slovensko

Slovenia – DOPPS; Spain – SEO/BirdLife, Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Medio Rural y Marino, Generalitat de Catalunya, ICO Catalan Ornithological Institute

Sweden – Lund University, Naturvårdsverket; Switzerland – vogelwarte.ch; United Kingdom – BTO, JNCC, RSPB

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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 *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: 1980–2009, **Short-term**: 1990–2009.

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: 1981–2009.
3 Long-term trend: 1982–2009.
4 Long-term trend: 1984–2009.
5 Short-term trend: 1991–2009.
6 Short-term trend: 1998–2009.
7 Short-term trend: 1999–2009.
8 Short-term trend: 2000–2009.
9 Index for early period may be unrepresentative due to limited geographical coverage and needs to be treated with caution.
10 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 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.

For more details on species trends, including standard errors, see *http://www.ebcc.info/trends2011.html*.

Population Trends of Common European Breeding Birds.

Species		Long-term Trend (%)	Long-term Annual Change (%)	Class.	Short-term Trend (%)	Short-term Annual Change (%)	Class.	Habitat
Accipiter nisus	Eurasian Sparrowhawk [9]	23	0.10	—	-13	-1.64	?	for
Acrocephalus arundinaceus	Great Reed-warbler [3,9]	20	1.49	—	-45	-1.40	↓	oth
Acrocephalus palustris	Marsh Warbler	15	0.05	—	-13	0.64	—	oth
Acrocephalus schoenobaenus	Sedge Warbler	-12	0.43	—	10	0.78	—	oth
Acrocephalus scirpaceus	Eurasian Reed-warbler	-7	-0.34	—	-13	-0.67	—	oth
Actitis hypoleucos	Common Sandpiper	-21	-1.22	↓	-19	-0.98	↓	oth
Aegithalos caudatus	Long-tailed Tit	64	0.89	—	-10	0.56	—	oth
Alauda arvensis	Eurasian Skylark	-46	-1.81	↓	-19	-1.42	↓	farm
Anas platyrhynchos	Mallard [10]	53	1.13	↑	-22	-0.13	—	oth
Anthus campestris	Tawny Pipit [1,5,9]				-11	-1.12	?	farm
Anthus pratensis	Meadow Pipit	-63	-2.67	↓	-51	-3.84	↓	farm
Anthus trivialis	Tree Pipit	-54	-2.66	↓	-38	-1.97	↓	for
Apus apus	Common Swift	5	-0.17	—	11	1.02	—	oth
Ardea cinerea	Grey Heron	221	3.25	↑	23	2.46	↑	oth
Bombycilla garrulus	Bohemian Waxwing [1]				329	12.53	↑↑	for
Bonasa bonasia	Hazel Grouse	-31	-0.88	—	-23	-0.86	—	for
Burhinus oedicnemus	Eurasian Thick-knee [1,6]				-2	1.19	—	farm
Buteo buteo	Common Buzzard	84	2.35	↑	-17	-0.89	—	oth
Calandrella brachydactyla	Greater Short-toed Lark [1,6]				11	0.28	—	farm
Carduelis cannabina	Eurasian Linnet	-62	-3.49	↓	-49	-4.81	↓	farm
Carduelis carduelis	European Goldfinch	1	2.01	↑	13	0.24	—	oth
Carduelis chloris	European Greenfinch	33	0.62	↑	-18	-0.55	—	oth
Carduelis flammea	Common Redpoll	-68	-2.48	↓	-20	-1.28	↓	oth
Carduelis spinus	Eurasian Siskin	18	-1.21	↓	-2	-1.78	↓	for
Carpodacus erythrinus	Common Rosefinch	-19	-0.42	—	-42	-3.00	↓	oth
Certhia brachydactyla	Short-toed Treecreeper [3,9]	-20	1.55	↑	33	2.65	↑	for
Certhia familiaris	Eurasian Treecreeper	-3	-0.06	—	1	-0.36	—	for
Cettia cetti	Cetti's Warbler [1]				466	4.07	↑	oth
Ciconia ciconia	White Stork [3,9]	204	3.90	↑	28	2.01	↑	farm
Circus aeruginosus	Western Marsh-harrier	310	4.36	↑	-11	-0.14	—	oth
Cisticola juncidis	Zitting Cisticola [1,6]				-38	-1.00	↓	oth
Coccothraustes coccothraustes	Hawfinch [9]	609	1.63	↑	-31	-1.46	↓	for
Columba oenas	Stock Dove	42	0.85	—	42	1.11	—	for
Columba palumbus	Common Wood-pigeon	84	1.85	↑	32	1.79	↑	oth
Corvus corax	Common Raven	118	2.21	↑	74	1.72	↑	oth
Corvus corone & cornix	Carrion & Hooded Crow	20	0.61	↑	4	0.46	—	oth
Corvus frugilegus	Rook	35	1.16	↑	18	0.57	—	farm
Corvus monedula	Eurasian Jackdaw [9]	-5	-1.22	↓	-39	-2.70	↓	oth
Cuculus canorus	Common Cuckoo	-21	-1.13	↓	-15	-0.49	—	oth
Cyanopica cyanus	Azure-winged Magpie [1,6]				82	4.50	↑	for
Cygnus olor	Mute Swan	31	1.81	↑	38	1.50	↑	oth
Delichon urbicum	Northern House-martin	-18	-1.51	↓	-22	-1.44	—	oth
Dendrocopos major	Great Spotted Woodpecker	57	1.63	↑	19	2.11	↑	oth
Dendrocopos medius	Middle Spotted Woodpecker [1]				-10	1.81	—	for
Dendrocopos minor	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker [9]	-75	-3.47	?	-58	-4.33	?	for
Dendrocopos syriacus	Syrian Woodpecker [1,7]				-22	-2.89	?	oth
Dryocopus martius	Black Woodpecker	148	1.64	↑	64	2.04	—	for
Emberiza cia	Rock Bunting [1,6]				25	-0.18	—	oth
Emberiza cirlus	Cirl Bunting [1]				30	3.36	↑	farm
Emberiza citrinella	Yellowhammer	-40	-1.56	↓	-20	-1.01	↓	farm
Emberiza hortulana	Ortolan Bunting [9]	-84	-6.21	↓↓	-43	-0.80	—	farm
Emberiza melanocephala	Black-headed Bunting [1,8]				49	4.87	?	farm
Emberiza rustica	Rustic Bunting	-72	-5.39	↓	-64	-7.75	↓↓	for
Emberiza schoeniclus	Reed Bunting	-24	-0.69	↓	-13	-0.96	↓	oth
Erithacus rubecula	European Robin	24	1.29	↑	11	0.96	↑	oth
Falco tinnunculus	Common Kestrel	-35	-0.72	↓	-42	-2.76	↓	farm
Ficedula albicollis	Collared Flycatcher [3,9]	142	2.52	↑	50	0.14	—	for
Ficedula hypoleuca	European Pied Flycatcher	-21	-0.92	↓	-23	-1.08	↓	for
Fringilla coelebs	Eurasian Chaffinch	4	0.16	↑	-6	-0.15	—	oth
Fringilla montifringilla	Brambling	-76	-3.53	↓	-43	-3.08	↓	oth
Fulica atra	Common Coot [9]	51	0.79	↑	-7	0.03	—	oth
Galerida cristata	Crested Lark [3,9]	-95	-11.80	↓	0	2.94	?	farm
Galerida theklae	Thekla Lark [1,6]				43	2.58	↑	farm
Gallinago gallinago	Common Snipe	-41	-2.04	↓	-16	-0.13	—	oth
Gallinula chloropus	Common Moorhen	-6	0.62	↑	0	0.78	—	oth
Garrulus glandarius	Eurasian Jay	25	0.83	↑	32	1.75	↑	for
Hippolais icterina	Icterine Warbler	-50	-1.64	↓	-25	-1.32	↓	oth
Hippolais polyglotta	Melodious Warbler [1]				-23	-1.14	—	oth
Hirundo rupestris	Eurasian Crag-martin [1,6]				0	1.25	—	oth
Hirundo rustica	Barn Swallow	-18	-0.59	—	-33	-1.84	↓	farm
Jynx torquilla	Eurasian Wryneck [9]	-49	-3.38	↓	-30	-2.10	↓	oth
Lanius collurio	Red-backed Shrike	-36	0.52	—	31	0.95	—	farm
Lanius minor	Lesser Grey Shrike [1,7]				-50	-4.71	?	farm
Lanius senator	Woodchat Shrike [1,6]				0	-1.29	↓	farm
Limosa limosa	Black-tailed Godwit [4]	-45	-3.10	↓	-55	-3.64	↓	farm
Locustella fluviatilis	Eurasian River Warbler [3,9]	-62	-1.47	↓	-45	-1.79	—	oth
Locustella naevia	Common Grasshopper-warbler	-39	0.14	—	3	0.13	—	oth
Lullula arborea	Wood Lark [9]	-3	3.28	↑	43	0.38	—	oth
Luscinia luscinia	Thrush Nightingale	9	1.12	↑	18	1.39	↑	oth
Luscinia megarhynchos	Common Nightingale	-63	-1.84	↓	-5	0.34	—	oth
Melanocorypha calandra	Calandra Lark [1,6]				-35	-4.66	↓	farm
Merops apiaster	European Bee-eater [1]				98	0.44	?	oth
Miliaria calandra	Corn Bunting	-66	-3.53	↓	-24	-1.70	↓	farm
Motacilla alba	White Wagtail	-19	-0.45	↓	-35	-1.04	↓	oth
Motacilla cinerea	Grey Wagtail [3,9]	-34	-0.64	—	-19	-0.28	—	oth
Motacilla flava	Yellow Wagtail	-53	-3.04	↓	-2	-1.06	—	farm
Muscicapa striata	Spotted Flycatcher	-43	-1.67	↓	-19	-0.90	—	oth
Nucifraga caryocatactes	Spotted Nutcracker	41	-0.01	—	-59	-2.82	?	for
Numenius phaeopus	Whimbrel [4]	-28	-0.43	—	-8	0.30	—	oth

Population Trends of Common European Breeding Birds.

Species		Long-term Trend (%)	Long-term Annual Change (%)	Class.	Short-term Trend (%)	Short-term Annual Change (%)	Class.	Habitat
Oenanthe hispanica	Black-eared Wheatear [1,6]				-8	-1.86	↓	farm
Oenanthe oenanthe	Northern Wheatear [9]	-66	-3.82	↓	-69	-4.36	↓	oth
Oriolus oriolus	Eurasian Golden Oriole [3]	18	0.41	—	28	1.32	—	oth
Parus ater	Coal Tit	-12	-0.54	—	-23	-1.40	—	for
Parus caeruleus	Blue Tit	36	1.30	↑	30	1.76	↑	oth
Parus cristatus	Crested Tit	-35	-1.01	↓	-23	-0.91	↓	for
Parus major	Great Tit	13	0.33	↑	14	0.89	↑	oth
Parus montanus	Willow Tit	-64	-3.23	↓	-45	-1.84	↓	for
Parus palustris	Marsh Tit	-32	-1.61	↓	-9	0.18	—	for
Passer domesticus	House Sparrow	-62	-2.37	↓	-7	-0.38	—	oth
Passer montanus	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	-53	-1.93	↓	9	-1.23	—	farm
Perdix perdix	Grey Partridge	-82	-6.38	↓	-66	-6.43	↓	farm
Petronia petronia	Rock Sparrow [1,6]				2	1.28	—	farm
Phoenicurus ochruros	Black Redstart [3,9]	36	0.89	—	-6	0.24	—	oth
Phoenicurus phoenicurus	Common Redstart	7	0.70	↑	45	1.45	↑	for
Phylloscopus bonelli	Bonelli's Warbler [1]				-37	-1.77	?	for
Phylloscopus collybita	Common Chiffchaff	76	2.01	↑	-15	-0.44	↓	for
Phylloscopus sibilatrix	Wood Warbler	-33	-2.11	↓	-32	-2.78	↓	for
Phylloscopus trochilus	Willow Warbler	-33	-1.54	↓	-34	-1.73	↓	oth
Pica pica	Black-billed Magpie	-1	-1.12	↓	-41	-3.75	↓	oth
Picus canus	Grey-faced Woodpecker [3,9]	179	1.81	?	-21	-1.45	—	for
Picus viridis	Eurasian Green Woodpecker	43	2.54	↑	42	2.71	↑	oth
Pluvialis apricaria	Eurasian Golden-plover [2,9]	-14	-0.88	↓	62	0.68	—	oth
Prunella modularis	Hedge Accentor	-39	-1.45	↓	-24	-1.00	↓	oth
Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax	Red-billed Chough [1,6]				28	0.40	?	oth
Pyrrhula pyrrhula	Eurasian Bullfinch	-58	-1.69	↓	-42	-2.86	↓	for
Regulus ignicapilla	Firecrest [3,9]	-30	-0.05	—	-41	-0.21	—	for
Regulus regulus	Goldcrest	-48	-1.52	↓	-61	-2.56	↓	for
Saxicola rubetra	Whinchat	-67	-1.87	↓	-13	0.04	—	farm
Saxicola torquatus	Common Stonechat [1]				29	0.41	—	farm
Serinus serinus	European Serin [3,9]	-44	-3.07	↓	-37	-2.72	↓	farm
Sitta europaea	Wood Nuthatch	72	1.42	↑	-8	0.19	—	for
Streptopelia decaocto	Eurasian Collared-dove	94	1.67	↑	152	5.32	↑	oth
Streptopelia turtur	European Turtle-dove	-69	-3.89	↓	-22	-0.93	↓	farm
Sturnus unicolor	Spotless Starling [1,6]				13	1.52	↑	farm
Sturnus vulgaris	Common Starling	-53	-2.01	↓	-8	-0.77	↓	farm
Sylvia atricapilla	Blackcap	114	2.94	↑	41	2.29	↑	oth
Sylvia borin	Garden Warbler	-25	-0.59	↓	-23	-0.55	↓	oth
Sylvia cantillans	Subalpine Warbler [1]				39	2.93	?	oth
Sylvia communis	Common Whitethroat	27	1.19	↑	11	0.75	↑	farm
Sylvia curruca	Lesser Whitethroat	-15	0.23	—	10	0.45	↑	oth
Sylvia hortensis	Orphean Warbler [1]				80	9.61	↑↑	oth
Sylvia melanocephala	Sardinian Warbler [1]				89	1.24	—	oth
Sylvia nisoria	Barred Warbler [3,9]	-48	-1.75	?	-46	-2.97	↓	oth
Sylvia undata	Dartford Warbler [1,6]				-34	-5.12	↓	oth
Tringa glareola	Wood Sandpiper	-33	-0.68	—	-3	-0.84	—	oth
Tringa ochropus	Green Sandpiper [9]	-11	0.79	—	-3	0.46	—	for
Tringa totanus	Common Redshank	-51	-2.27	↓	-46	-2.97	↓	oth
Troglodytes troglodytes	Winter Wren	56	1.95	↑	4	1.26	↑	oth
Turdus iliacus	Redwing	10	-0.13	—	15	0.55	↑	oth
Turdus merula	Eurasian Blackbird	16	1.10	↑	17	1.06	↑	oth
Turdus philomelos	Song Thrush	2	0.35	↑	32	1.49	↑	oth
Turdus pilaris	Fieldfare	5	0.32	—	-36	-1.28	↓	oth
Turdus viscivorus	Mistle Thrush	-23	-0.87	↓	-9	-0.60	—	for
Upupa epops	Eurasian Hoopoe [3,9]	137	3.70	?	-25	0.05	—	farm
Vanellus vanellus	Northern Lapwing	-52	-3.06	↓	-38	-1.76	↓	farm

Species names: BirdLife International (2011). The BirdLife checklist of the birds of the world, with conservation status and taxonomic sources. Version 4.
Downloaded from http://www.birdlife.info/im/species/checklist.zip
Table with species names ordered according to taxonomy can be found on http://www.ebcc.info/trends2011.html