HNV farming and birds

Ian Burfield, BirdLife International
Katrina Marsden, RSPB
Jenja Kronenbitter, IFAB
BirdLife is... the authority on birds

- Official authority on the global extinction risk of all birds for the *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*

- Developed standardised, objective, data-driven criteria to identify *Important Bird Areas* (IBAs) around the world

- Used data gathered through network to develop cutting-edge biodiversity indicators
Population development of 33 farmland bird species

Based on EBCC data

Riffel et al., Agriculture and Biodiversity, 2009
Population development of 33 farmland bird species

Based on EBCC data

Riffel et al., Agriculture and Biodiversity, 2009
Population development farmland bird species

![Trends of common farmland birds in Old and New EU countries](image)

- **-26% New EU**
- **-41% Old EU**

Population index (first year=100%)
Population development farmland bird species

Trends of common farmland birds in Old and New EU countries

-26% New EU
-41% Old EU (33)

Based on EBCC data
Riffel et al., 2009
Chough, *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*
Chough

- population size in Europe: 28 to 85 thousand pairs
- Red List Status for Europe: Vulnerable
- Declining in about 90% of its range, contraction in its distribution
Chough

- feeds predominantly on arthropods in grasslands
Chough

• feeds predominantly on arthropods in grasslands

• 190 birds on scottish hebrides

• depends on areas of extensive agriculture such as **low-intensity pastoral livestock farming** in areas of high natural diversity
Extensive livestocking

Chough

cattle dung

access to bare ground
Red-backed shrike, *Lanius collurio*
• population size in Europe: more than 6.3 mio pairs

• Red List Status: Least Concern
• population size in Europe: more than 6.3 mio pairs

• Red List Status: Least Concern

Red-backed shrike

Based on EBCC data

Riffel et al., 2009

Based on EBCC data

Riffel et al., 2009
Red-backed shrike

characteristic bird of semi-natural grasslands with bushes and hedges
Red-backed shrike

characteristic bird of semi-natural grasslands with bushes and hedges

Swabian Alb

http://www.efnecp.org/
Red-backed shrike

Extensively managed grasslands

open insect-rich fields with exposed look-outs

http://www.efnep.org/
Extensively managed grasslands

other animals

Large blue, *Phengaris arion*

Myrmica sabuleti

Thyme
Little Bustard, *Tetrax tetrax*
Little Bustard

Little Bustard

• open grassland and undisturbed cultivations such as long-rotation fallows, legume crops and pastures with high floristic and arthropod diversity
Little Bustard

• Red List Category in Europe: Vulnerable
• moderately rapid overall population decline, driven by rapid declines in the west of its range

• habitat loss and degradation due to intensification of agriculture
Little Bustard distribution in France

Bouches-du-Rhône with the steppes of Crau:

- Population trend:
- Mixture of steppe and extensive agricultural habitats

http://www.patrimoine.ville-arles.fr/
Red-breasted goose, *Branta ruficollis*
Red-breasted goose

- Red List Status: Endangered
- Population size: 37,000 pairs
- Population trend: Declining

www.iucnredlist.org
Red-breasted goose

- Red List Status: Endangered
- Population size: 37,000 pairs
- Population trend: Declining

www.iucnredlist.org
Red-breasted goose

• overwintering birds at the western Black Sea coast

• depends on agricultural land dominated by cereal crops and grassland around lakes

• endangered by touristic boom, hunting and loss of winter wheat cultivation
IBAs

C1  Species of global conservation concern
C2  > 1% of flyway / EU population of Annex I species (referred to in Article 4.1 of Birds Directive)
C3  > 1% of flyway population of migratory species (referred to in Article 4.2 of Birds Directive)
C4  > 20,000 waterbirds / 10,000 pairs of seabirds
C5  Migration bottleneck: > 5,000 storks / > 3,000 raptors / > 3,000 cranes
C6  Five most important sites in NUTS region for Annex I species (Article 4.1 of Birds Directive)
History of involvement in HNV project

2005
• JRC approached BirdLife re. availability of IBA data
• BirdLife supplied digital IBA boundaries from two countries (Hungary and Portugal) for pilot study
• Expert group approved results of pilot study, supported use of IBA data

2006
• JRC/EEA submitted formal data request for HNV IBA boundaries in EU
• Relevant IBAs identified and data sent to JRC

2007
• Consultation on draft HNV maps
• Final species list, IBAs selected on this basis
• Revised map in EEA report

2008
• Final report circulated for comments
Identification of HNV IBAs

• 73 species identified as predominantly farmland birds (Donald et al, Tucker and Evans)
• IBA database queried for sites triggered by any of these 73 species
• Removed sites where the land-uses in IBA database not 'agriculture/rangeland/pastureland'
• Identification of 903 sites, for which BirdLife supplied boundary data to JRC
The value of IBAs for identifying HNV farmland: at EU level
HNV mapping – a critique

• Useful as overview of where HNV areas likely to occur
• Can compare where funding being directed
• Gives Member states a starting point for identification of HNV systems

BUT

• Scale of CLC too large
• Doesn’t tell you anything about management – need this if to be way to direct funding
The Greek Approach
Next Steps

- Protection of most important areas through regulation
- Identification of HNV – need to use a combination of data sources to identify the farming systems and check these with good biodiversity data
- Better use of agricultural statistic collection e.g. IACS to include data relevant to HNV identification
- Encouragement maintain extensive systems delivering biodiversity through agricultural funding
Thank you for listening