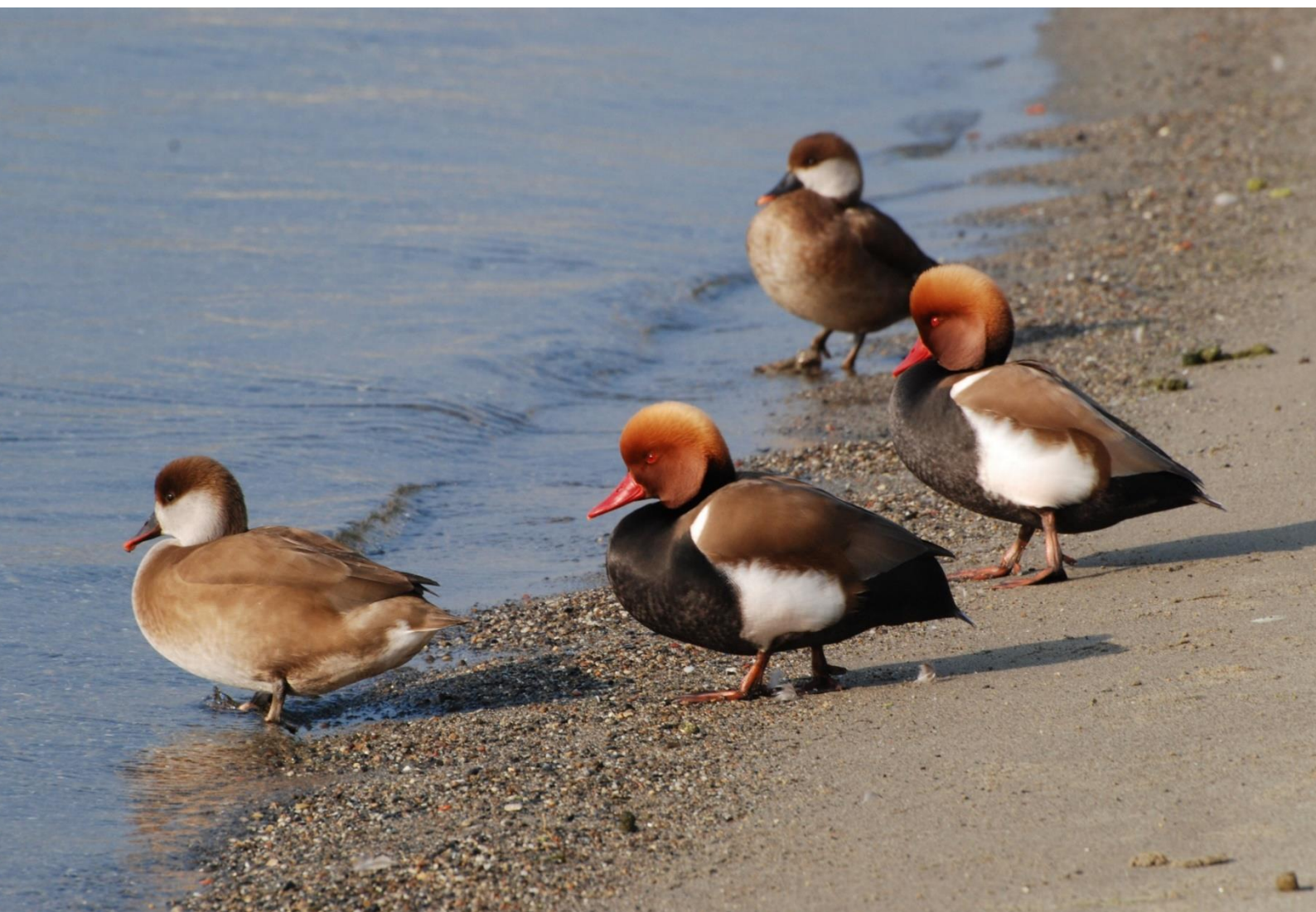


# Bird Numbers 2022

## *Beyond the Atlas: challenges and opportunities*

### Programme and Abstracts



22<sup>nd</sup> Conference of the European Bird Census Council  
4–9 April 2022, Lucerne, Switzerland



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**Bird Numbers 2022**  
**Beyond the Atlas: challenges and opportunities**

22<sup>nd</sup> Conference of the European Bird Census Council  
4–9 April 2022, Lucerne, Switzerland

**Programme and Abstracts**

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**Conference logo**

The logo of the Conference pictures two species with different stories: the Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina* and the Alpine Swift *Tachymarptis melba*, both occurring in Lucerne. The first winters on Lake Lucerne in important numbers and several couples breed; the second breeds in over 100 pairs in the city in buildings, church towers and the Water Tower (“Wasserturm”) in the old town.

**Cover photo**

Verena Keller, Lucerne, 8 February 2010

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## Foreword

Dear friends and colleagues

We are pleased to welcome you to the 22<sup>nd</sup> Conference of the European Bird Census Council (EBCC) called *Bird Numbers 2022: “Beyond the Atlas: challenges and opportunities”*. The conference is held from 4 to 9 April 2022 in Lucerne, Switzerland. It is organised by the Swiss Ornithological Institute in Sempach. The historic city of Lucerne, the venue – the Swiss Museum of Transport (“Verkehrshaus der Schweiz”) next to Lake Lucerne – and the nearby mountains will provide a setting for an inspiring week full of interesting talks, workshops and posters.

EBCC conferences are held every three years, bringing together people involved in bird monitoring, research and conservation across Europe and beyond. One year after the publication of the European Breeding Bird Atlas 2 book and following the online version of the maps published at the beginning of 2022, there is a strong focus on topics following up on EBBA2, be it the use for conservation, research, national atlases and monitoring programmes.

For two years the Covid-19 pandemic did not allow to have international conferences with physical presence. Enabling the EBCC network to meet face-to-face in Lucerne is therefore especially valuable. Around 250 participants will be present, coming from 47 different countries. Sadly, we will miss the participants from Ukraine, Russia and Belarus due to the military attack of the Russian Federation on Ukraine. We will hopefully be able to show some of their talks as pre-recorded videos, and we have kept all abstracts of participants who had to cancel their attendance. Birds do not know borders, and their research and conservation require international cooperation. Within EBCC projects, we work together with individuals and organisations across the whole of Europe towards common goals. Regardless of differences in language, culture, religion, or political views, the EBCC network has always shown a sense of cooperation and solidarity. The success of the EBCC projects – European Breeding Bird Atlases, EuroBirdPortal or Pan-European Common Bird Monitoring Scheme – is based on goodwill, cooperation, and tolerance. Unfortunately, these values have been put under severe threat by the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine. While EBCC is a non-political organisation, it can work effectively only in conditions of an open and democratic society.

We acknowledge the contribution of all our partners and sponsors. Without their support this Conference would be unconceivable. We are also grateful to all the helpers and volunteers, who will do their best to make your stay among us pleasant and memorable.

We are sure that this will be another successful and inspiring EBCC conference. Have a very enjoyable and fruitful week!

Mark Eaton, EBCC Chair; Jean-Yves Paquet, Chair of the Scientific Programme Committee  
Peter Knaus, Thomas Sattler and Verena Keller, Local Organising Committee

deciduous forests was the most favourable habitat for both the species. Among the two, CV had more suitable area than GV in the study area. Agricultural areas were found to be largely unsuitable, though sporadic presence was recorded. Total suitable area for the two were 49,000 km<sup>2</sup> (CV) and 37,000 km<sup>2</sup> (GV) out of the available 240,928 km<sup>2</sup>. Suitable area can be used for vulture conservation by adopting different strategies such as, improving animal husbandry for providing sufficient foraging materials. Simultaneously, destruction of forest habitat and decrease in foraging materials need to be arrested in and around these areas.

[cancelled]

### **Changes in bird communities throughout secondary succession of oak forest in south-western Belarus**

**Iryna Abramova**

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The article tracks the changes in the bird population during secondary succession of cleared oak forest. The fieldwork was performed in the years 1996–2018 applying the conventional bird count methods. The study revealed that the bird species diversity in the course of succession (6 stages, 1–150 years old) increased from 10 to 58 species, total abundance – from 153.2±1.45 to 1128.9±1.81 birds/km<sup>2</sup>. The ornithological diversity included six faunal types. At the initial stages of succession the bird population comprised the European, European-Turkestan, Afro-Eurasian and Palearctic types of fauna. At the stage of 120–150 years old the species structure (50.0%) were dominated by the Palearctic types of fauna, and the bird population (48.0%) was dominated by the European types of fauna.

[cancelled]

### **Spring migration geese of genus *Anser* on the territory of Polissya and Forest-Steppe zone of the Leftbank Ukraine**

**Vitalii Kazannyk, Valentyn V. Serebryakov**

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Geese of genus *Anser* are the most numerous spring migrants in Ukraine. They migrate along ecological corridors as well as in wide front over the whole country. Our studies were focused on the particularities of their migration on the territory of Polissya and Forest-Steppe zone of the Leftbank Ukraine. Observations were conducted in Kyiv, Poltava, Chernigiv and Sumy regions during 2007–2018 in daylight time in different biotopes. Four species of genus *Anser* were recorded. *Anser albifrons* was dominant which can form polyspecies flocks mixed with *A. fabalis* though the last one forms its own flocks but too rare. Rarer are the flocks of *A. anser*. *A. erythropus* was observed only once. The spring migration begins on average in the second decade of March (M=15.III, n=36) and stops in the second-third decade of April (M=15.IV, n=12). The limits are 27.II–9.V but on average migration lasts one month. In total 197 flocks and 10,952 birds were recorded. The number of birds in flocks varied between 2 and 296, the average size was 55.6±3.4 and CV=85.7% (n=197). The most popular were the flocks up to 80 birds. The main direction of the migration was to the North-East (29.5% of the whole flocks). Nearly equal were directions to the East (15.5%) and the South-East (13.5%), the Northern and North-Western were equal (11.9%). Sometimes the geese form numerous gatherings on the sites where food is sufficient and there is no disturbance. The size of such gatherings varies between some hundreds and 7–8 thousand birds.

Data presented are previous and do not pretend on completeness, but are very important addition to the general picture of migration movements in the studied region.

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