

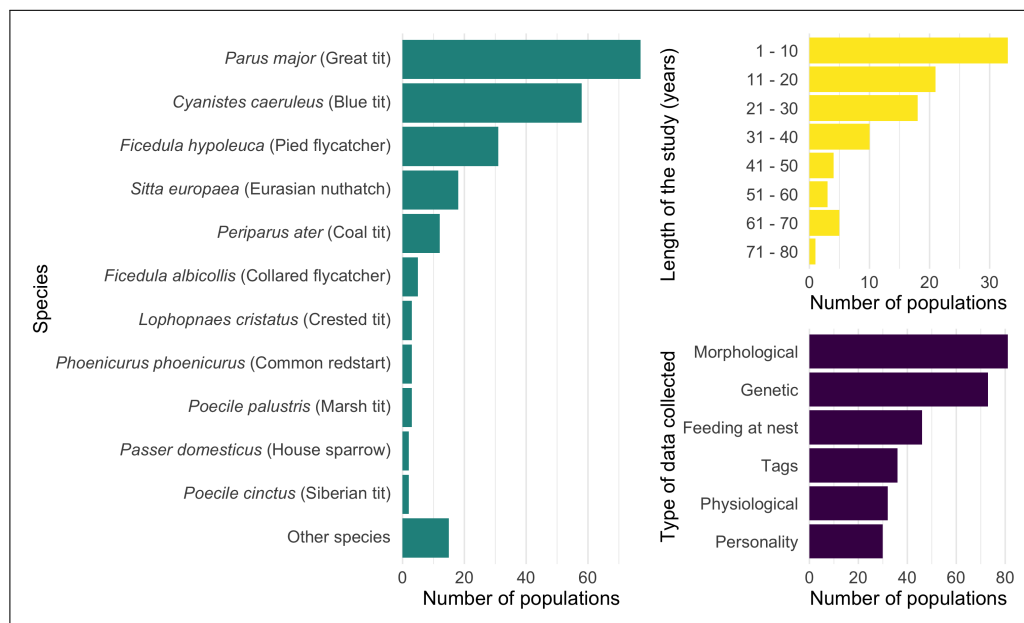
SPI-Birds Newsletter



Welcome to the October 2020 edition of the SPI-Birds newsletter. With the end of 2020 approaching, we can proudly say that we now host data on 80 populations. We are intensely working on standardizing all the data, and the new SPI-Birds postdoc, Zuzana Zajková, has joined the developers team to help with this task. Below, you can read more about new updates and recent happenings, including the first meeting of the Advisory Council. Additionally, we are running a small photo competition to find a potential cover photo for the issue of Journal of Animal Ecology, in which the SPI-Birds paper will be published.

Scale of the current database

Over the last months we have received datasets from almost all of our Network members. SPI-Birds now hosts data on 80 populations, with almost 1.5 million marked birds of 19 species. The figure below breaks down the number of populations per species (left) and the length of the time-series (top right). You can also see that additional data, such as personality or physiological data, are collected for many populations (bottom right). SPI-Birds is currently not standardizing this additional data, but we hope to build capacity to do so in the future. We are thankful to all of our members who have sent us their data.



Meet the new postdoc – Zuzana Zajková



Dr. Zuzana Zajková has joined the SPI-Birds team from October 2020 to aid in our efforts quickly standardise all the datasets in our database. Zuzana is an ecologist and data scientist, with wide experience in the use of tracking devices and analytical tools to reveal new knowledge about the movement and behaviour of animals, with a particular focus on seabirds. Zuzana is employed for a year on funding provided by the NIOO-KNAW internal strategic fund.

Advisory Council meeting

On the 23rd October we held the first meeting of the Advisory Council. It was a real pleasure to see many familiar and a few less familiar faces, and enjoy the discussion on several aspects of SPI-Birds. Based on the discussions, we will now finalize several documents that will ensure that all the procedures and data handling (by Network members and any external users) are well described and followed. Further, we will make some minor changes to the standard format. The meeting notes with more details can be found attached to this email.

Send us your best photos

With the SPI-Birds paper now re-submitted to the Journal of Animal Ecology (JAE), we are looking for a beautiful photo to suggest as the cover photo of the journal issues in which the paper will be published. We hope to select this cover photo from photos of our network members, so please send us your best bird photos (ideally of species included in SPI-Birds)! Pictures should be at least 1800px wide and have a resolution of 300dpi. If you are not the one who took the photo, please also provide us with the name of the owner, and check with them that they're happy for their picture to be used on the journal cover page. Photos can be sent to spibirds@nioo.knaw.nl by the 3rd October.

The main contact point for any comments above is our coordinator, Antica Culina (A.Culina@nioo.knaw.nl).

Thank you again for your contribution and support so far. We look forward to sending you another update in two months' time!