

SPI-Birds Newsletter



Welcome to the December 2021 edition of the SPI-Birds newsletter. We were a bit silent over the last six months, but we were also busy. In this newsletter we update you on: (1) the growth of the SPI-Birds database, (2) outcomes of the workshop on the long-tail of data in which we discussed, among other things, connection between SPI-Birds, Movebank, and EURING; (3) the 4th SPI-Birds advisory meeting; (4) new postdoc on the SPI-Birds project, and (5) the opening of a tenure track/senior researcher position at NIOO-KNAW to work on long-term studies of birds. Following discussions at our workshop, we will also be sending a number of proposed updates to the standard format this coming January. Finally, we hope to see many of you at the EOU2021! Please email spibirds@nioo.knaw.nl or a.culina@nioo.knaw.nl if you would like to join an informal gathering of the SPI-Birds members at the EOU2021.

Growth of the current database

Over the last months, we have received close to 20 new datasets, and created pipelines for 13 dataset. We have also received our first fully open dataset: long-term data on Common Terns from three islands in the USA, collected by Dr. Ian Nisbet. You can find information on these populations at the SPI-Birds website: North Monomoy Island, Ram Island, and Bird Island. If you wish to make your data fully open, or discuss what this would mean for your data, please contact spibirds@nioo.knaw.nl or a.culina@nioo.knaw.nl.

Outcomes of the Lorentz workshop

In September we had a 5 day online workshop together with Movebank, EURING, and GBIF. At the workshop, we identified the main obstacles and relevant solutions to move towards creating a FAIR landscape for the long-tail of ecological data. We identified tasks that each database needs to conduct in order to improve its FAIRness as well as work that we need to do as a community. We have set out to identify a number of clear scientific use-cases that would benefit from a connected FAIR data landscape. The latter will also be a base for funding applications to support our future efforts.

Advisory Council meeting

On the 3rd November we held the fourth meeting of the Advisory Council. We mostly discussed the best approach to present our user-case to the EOSC E-INFRA 2023-2025 Horizon call, which would potentially enable us to drastically increase our funding base with 3-5 million euros. The meeting notes with more details can be found attached to this email, and you can provide your feedback on the topics discussed via spibirds@nioo.knaw.nl.

Meet the new postdoc – Stefan Vriend

While Stefan has been supporting us since the very start of the SPI-Birds project with his work on the quality check, he will now join SPI-Birds as a postdoc, starting on the 1st of February 2021. Stefan will be working on standard pipelines, and will also be conducting a case-study which will aim to make use of Movebank and SPI-Birds data. The funding for Stefan's position is provided by the NIOO-KNAW internal strategic fund.

Tenure track/senior researcher at NIOO-KNAW

The Netherlands Institute of Ecology (NIOO-KNAW) seeks a population ecologist for a tenure track / senior researcher position within the Department of Animal Ecology. They are looking for somebody that will come up with exciting new research questions, build a strong research line, and make extensive use of the long-term populations on hole-breeding passerines in the wild (four populations, 1955-present). The position will focus on the interface between individual- and population-level research. Please find the official advertisement attach to this email.

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 2022.