

# SPI-BIRDS NETWORK AND DATABASE

---

---

## METADATA INFORMATION & POLICY

---

---

VERSION 1.0.0

16 FEBRUARY 2023

PRODUCED BY:

SPI-BIRDS TEAM

ANTICA CULINA, STEFAN J.G. VRIEND,  
JOSEPH B. BURANT, & MARCEL E. VISSER

# 1 Introduction

This document is created as part of the **SPI-Birds Network and Database** ([www.spibirds.org](http://www.spibirds.org)). SPI-Birds is an international network of researchers and others who collect data on populations of individually marked birds, with the aim to improve data accessibility and transparency and to facilitate data reuse and collaboration.

Please take the time to read the following information carefully before deciding whether to submit your metadata to SPI-Birds. Please send an email to [spibirds@nioo.knaw.nl](mailto:spibirds@nioo.knaw.nl) if anything is unclear or if you would like more information. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

## 2 General Information

### ▷ Who coordinates SPI-Birds?

SPI-Birds is an international network whose members span various countries but the initiative is coordinated and run by a small team based at the Netherlands Institute of Ecology (NIOO-KNAW) and the Ruđer Bošković Institute. The database and website are also hosted at NIOO-KNAW. You can find more about SPI-Birds' current structure [here](#).

### ▷ Are there any disadvantages to submitting metadata to SPI-Birds?

Submission of metadata does not raise ethical issues, nor does it bear any harm to the participants.

### ▷ Will I be compensated for submitting my metadata?

If you seek compensation for submitting metadata, participation is not incentivised.

### ▷ What happens if I do not want to take part or if I change my mind?

It is up to you to decide whether to join the SPI-Birds Network and submit your metadata. If you do decide to take part, please indicate your consent on the online metadata form. Withdrawing your metadata contribution to SPI-Birds is possible at any time. If you're filling the metadata form and you wish to withdraw, you may simply close the browser window without giving a reason and without detriment to yourself. If you wish to withdraw at a later stage (i.e., once your metadata are submitted to SPI-Birds), please contact us at [spibirds@nioo.knaw.nl](mailto:spibirds@nioo.knaw.nl).

### 3 Data Protection and Confidentiality

#### ▷ What information will you collect about me?

Apart from the metadata of your study and study site, we also collect *person identifying information* (PII). This includes your name, affiliation, email address and ORCID. Here, we follow the European Union's [General Data Practice Regulation](#) and the [Data Protection Act 1998](#) to ensure adequate data privacy. You maintain the rights under these regulations to access, view, and edit your identifying data; to be forgotten, and to not receive follow-up messages. You can also decide (while filling in the metadata form, or after) for these data to be publicly visible on the SPI-Birds website, or make them visible only to SPI-Birds team.

Personal non-identifying data collected include: the project member's role in the field study. These data will be publicly available on the SPI-Birds website, if provided. You can at any time decide to withdraw your metadata from SPI-Birds.

#### ▷ Under what legal basis are you collecting this information?

We are collecting and storing all information in accordance with data protection laws that protect your rights. These laws state that we must have a legal basis (i.e., a specific reason) for collecting data. Our specific reason is that it is "a public interest" and "a process necessary for research purposes".

#### ▷ What if I have a complaint or want my metadata or personal information removed from SPI-Birds?

If you have a complaint that you wish to direct to SPI-Birds, please contact us at [spibirds@nioo.knaw.nl](mailto:spibirds@nioo.knaw.nl).