

species	data	document	Last updated
Greylag Goose	Common Bird Monitoring Breeding Bird Index	Methodology	27042022

The Common Breeding Bird Monitoring schemes provide a method to achieve information on the relative changes in the breeding population. The aim of these schemes is, however, not to count and estimate the total number of breeding pairs (or breeding individuals), but instead to produce comparable national breeding bird indices from year to year, which are useful for the production of trends, and thus provide a second source of information regarding population developments, besides counts in midwinter.

Similar as in winter, these schemes are all based on fieldwork by a large number of volunteers and include all the common species; hence, Greylag Goose is only one of the species counted. The setup of the census scheme varies between the countries but all have standardised methodology, a formal design and all are producing annual breeding bird indices which can be compared between countries and, when combined, deliver aggregated trends (PECBMS 2019). Information about each of the schemes can be found via www.pecbms.info.

In general, the precision of the indices increases with the number of observers and with the abundance of the species. A national index for the Greylag Goose is included when data on the species makes it possible in the given country. These factors explain the length of the time series, the variation in the indices and explains for instance the higher annual variation seen in the data from Finland compared to the data from The Netherlands and the shorter time series for Norway compared to the longer time series for Sweden and Denmark.

The breeding bird indices are obtained from each of the national schemes. For comparison of the different national indices, the indices have been recalculated for this status report, so all indices were set to 100 in year 2010. We used the indices to calculate trends for the longest possible period in each country and for the most recent 10 year's period.

Of the two Swedish breeding bird estimates, we used the Point Counts indices, since it provides data from a much longer period (since 1981) than the Fixed routes (since 1998).

In Belgium, the species is presently considered too scarce and with an aggregated distribution only in a limited number of wetland areas for the production of a reliable breeding bird index.