

New funding to monitor the state of Bulgaria's farmland birds

Title

The Bulgarian Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MFA) has commissioned the preparation of an index of the state of farmland birds from the Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds (BSPB, BirdLife in Bulgaria). The three-year project is funded by the EU Rural Development Programme 2007-2013. This new funding builds upon a project for Common Bird Monitoring (CBM), which started in 2004 with funding from the RSPB (BirdLife in the UK). Within CBM, a national network of volunteers was established and data on the abundance of breeding farmland birds in Bulgaria was collected annually. Data from the most recent assessment suggest that farmland birds decreased by 9% between 2005 and 2009. The new funding will allow future assessments of the state of farmland birds, and thus inform measures for farmland habitat improvement. It will also extend the activities begun under CBM, by allowing BSPB to assess the impact of agri-environmental schemes on the state of farmland birds and High Nature Value sites
