

Citizen science contribution to the inventory of alien birds in Belgium

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A previous, unpublished checklist of alien species in Belgium included 164 birds. We removed 16 native species from this list and supplemented it with 96 species consulting a variety of sources including papers and citizen science observatories. The [alien bird checklist](#) is openly published on GBIF and through a software pipeline feeds into [GRIIS Belgium](#). Regular republishing ensures GRIIS is kept updated.



Results

- 244 alien bird species
- 19 orders
 - ducks, geese and swans (27%)
 - passerines (26%)
 - parrots and parakeets (13%)
 - grouses and quails (8%)
 - herons and ibises (6%)
- alien bird introductions increased since 2000
- birds originate from all continents
 - Asia and the Americas contribute most to alien avifauna
- Pathways of introductions:
 - escape pathway (pets, zoos) (96%)
 - release (e.g. for hunting) (3%)
 - natural dispersal (<1%)

