ABSTRACT

Population trends of birds are usually studied mainly on large national and continental scales or, on the contrary, quite locally. In an attempt to link these spatial scales, we repeated a quantitative survey of bird communities in the Třeboň Protected Area twenty years later (between 2001 and 2021). Bird counts were conducted during the breeding season on a fifty-kilometre transect (128 count points) intersecting a diverse range of habitats. We found declines in long-distance migrants and insectivorous birds compared to more stable or slightly increasing populations of resident species. Consistent with known trends, we also observed declines in populations of species tied to agricultural landscapes. Deviations from the well described trends by JPSP and PECBMS relate more to individual species characteristics. For example, we observed increases in populations of otherwise declining House Sparrow (Passer domesticus) and Field Sparrow (Passer montanus), or nationally stable Eurasian Siskin (Spinus spinus). Using detailed mapping of habitat and vegetation changes and other ecological characteristics of individual species, we have attempted to explain these general and site-specific changes in bird abundance and population trends. We were also interested in the manifestations of the generally described homogenization of bird communities within this protected and landscape-specific area. Our results suggest that homogenization within the Třeboň region is occurring only at the broadest spatial scale.