

Corncrakes in Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in Europe

Des Callaghan

This short note provides an analysis of Important Bird Areas (IBAs) designated for Corncrakes in European countries, based on the data included within HEATH & EVANS (2000). A total of 303

IBAs have been identified for this species, of which apart from three passage sites all have been designated for breeding birds. Figure 1 shows the distribution of these sites, which are spread across

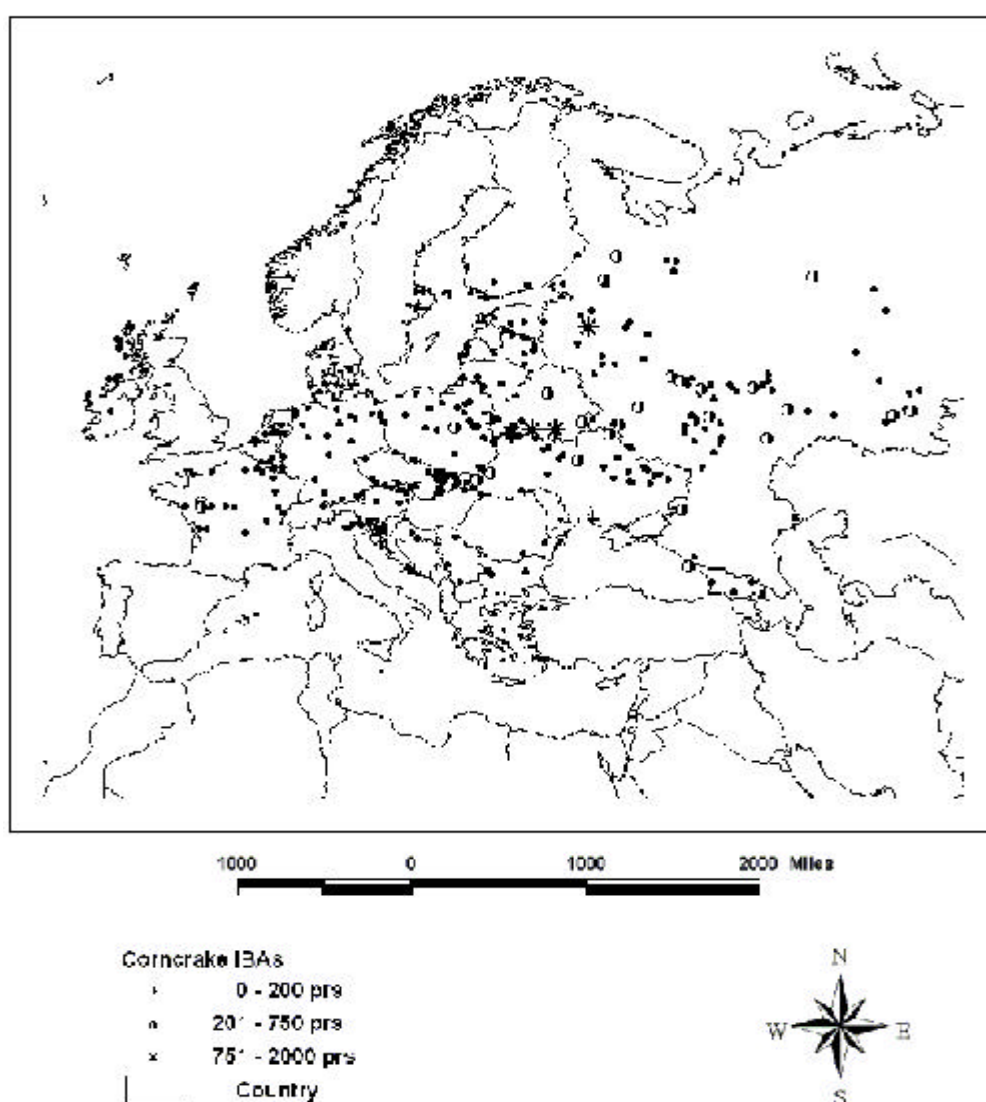


Figure 1: Location of IBAs designated for Corncrakes in Europe.

the continent primarily at 45-60° latitude. The most important IBAs in terms of total numbers are clustered primarily in the east. Table 1 shows the number of IBAs designated for Corncrake in each country, the total area of these sites and the number of breeding Corncrakes present. The total area of the 303 IBAs is 125,438 km² (mean = 414 km²), of which 37 % is located in Russia. These sites combined support about 28,958 pairs of Corncrakes, with the majority (49 %) again located in Russia, but with substantial number (>1000 pairs) also present in IBAs in Belarus, Ukraine, Poland, France and Slovakia. The top 20 sites in terms of total numbers are shown in

Table 1: Corncrakes in IBAs in Europe.

Country	No IBAs supporting corncrakes	Total area of IBAs supporting corncrakes (km ²)	No Corncrakes (breeding pairs)
Russia	72	46270	14091
Belarus	8	3128	3165
Ukraine	28	4580	2930
Poland	25	9638	2120
France	20	3317	1078
Slovakia	19	10245	1066
Germany	21	5584	727
Latvia	17	943	641
Czech Republic	5	4668	455
Slovenia	6	267	415
United Kingdom	7	2712	413
Hungary	4	1586	300
Lithuania	4	271	281
Estonia	5	1248	210
Austria	12	2970	199
Italy	6	2043	163
Republic of Ireland	7	319	147
Croatia	1	2100	135
Bulgaria	4	1590	111
Romania	3	4576	93
Yugoslavia	3	1155	60
Finland	4	224	46
Belgium	5	2242	35
Netherlands	5	269	24
Sweden	2	250	23
Norway	1	135	18
Denmark	1	60	6
Luxembourg	2	11	4
Liechtenstein	1	1	2
Georgia	4	13029	?
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1	7	?
TOTAL	303	125438	28958

Table 2, which together hold 49 % of Corncrakes breeding in IBAs. This table again illustrates the prime importance of Russian sites, and to a lesser extent those in Belarus, Ukraine, Poland and France. Note: the analysis above does not include data concerning about 100 IBAs identified recently in European Russia.

Des Callaghan
Research and Database manager
BirdLife International
European Division Office
Droevendaalsesteeg 3a, PO Box 127
NL-6700 AC Wageningen, Netherlands
e-mail D.A.Callaghan@birdlife.agro.nl

References

HEATH, M. & EVANS (2000): Important Bird Areas in Europe. Priority sites for conservation. – BirdLife Conservation Series No 8.

Table 2: Top 20 IBAs for Corncrakes in Europe.

Country	IBA Code	Site Name	Area (ha)	Mean No Corncrakes (breeding pairs)
Russia	RU051	Lake Ilmen' and adjoining marshy plain	250000	2000
Belarus	BY017	Mid-Pripyat	100000	1250
Belarus	BY020	Lower Pripyat	40000	1100
Ukraine	UA005	River Prip'yat valley	12500	1050
Russia	RU101	Ichalkovski	10000	750
Russia	RU161	Imeretinskaya lowland	1500	750
Russia	RU141	Delta of the River Don	53800	750
Russia	RU074	Dedinivo flood-plain of Oka river	23120	575
Russia	RU016	Zaonezh'ye	330000	560
Russia	RU208	Watershed of Bel'skaya and Nugush rivers	150000	550
Russia	RU195	Racheyski forest	40100	500
Russia	RU131	North part of Volgogradski reservoir	74250	475
Russia	RU097	Tsninski Forest	100000	450
Belarus	BY021	Flood-plain of Sozh river	13400	400
France	FR026	Basses Vallées Angevines	6450	396
Russia	RU083	Kaluzhskiye Zaseki Nature Reserve	44613	380
Ukraine	UA024	Chaykovichi marsh	8300	350
Russia	RU070	Faustovo flood-plains of Moscow river	9000	350
Poland	PL030	Upper Narew river valley	8400	340
Russia	RU014	Olonets plain	18000	325
TOTAL			1293433	13301