

The Rufford Small Grants Foundation

Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford Small Grants Foundation.

We ask all grant recipients to complete a Final Report Form that helps us to gauge the success of our grant giving. We understand that projects often do not follow the predicted course but knowledge of your experiences is valuable to us and others who may be undertaking similar work. Please be as honest as you can in answering the questions – remember that negative experiences are just as valuable as positive ones if they help others to learn from them.

Please complete the form in English and be as clear and concise as you can. We will ask for further information if required. If you have any other materials produced by the project, particularly a few relevant photographs, please send these to us separately.

Please submit your final report to jane@rufford.org.

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details

Your name	Andrey Atemasov
Project title	Conservation of Corncrakes during autumn migration in Southern Ukraine. The plain Crimea.
RSG reference	10470-2
Reporting period	August – December 2011
Amount of grant	£5000
Your email address	atemasov@gmail.com , atemasov@ukr.net
Date of this report	20th November, 2012

1. Please indicate the level of achievement of the project's original objectives and include any relevant comments on factors affecting this.

Objective	Not achieved	Partially achieved	Fully achieved	Comments
To inventory key stopover sites for migrating corncrakes in the plain part of Crimean peninsula.		+		We establish that corncrake virtually do not use steppe part of Crimean peninsula as stopover sites during fall migration. We discover stopover sites of corncrakes only in western part of Tarkhankut peninsula, but migration intensity was very low.
To identify key threats for corncrakes during autumn migration.		+		We didn't detect any additional factors of threat for corncrakes in migration period because of very low number of stopover sites and low migration intensity. It is possible that autumn hunting results in reduction of corncrake numbers.
To develop urgent measures for protection of migrating corncrakes at key stopover sites of the Crimean peninsula.	+			Due to low migration intensity within Crimean peninsula it's not necessary to develop urgent measures for protection of corncrakes.
Expansion of public awareness campaign launched during previous project in Southern Ukraine to the territory of Crimea.			+	We perform this part of project completely.

2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

There were some problems with applied methods. Two methods were used: the method of estimation of migration intensity by means of capturing birds in mist nets and line transect counts. First method proved to be very good in mountainous Crimea where the migration intensity was high due to passage bottleneck. However, it was less appropriate in conditions of plain terrain in southern Ukraine where the migration intensity was lower. Often it was possible only to establish that the birds migrate through certain site but not to estimate the migration intensity. The capture success was also negatively affected by unfavourable weather conditions (rain, thunderstorm, heavy wind). Therefore line transect counts were used too. But this method was also unsatisfactory because of sizeable areas of suitable habitats which should be surveyed and low migration intensity (or lack of migration at all).

3. Briefly describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

- Corncrake use only Tarkhankut peninsula (Western Crimea) as stopover sites during fall migration. Corncrake migration intensity is very low;
- The meetings with local people (especially hunters and amateurs) gave us unique new information about previously unknown for us corncrake stopover sites in mountainous Crimea;
- Public awareness campaign launched during previous project within southern part of Ukraine was expanded to the territory of Crimea. The meetings with local hunters, conservationists and environmental activists were organised. The articles for local newspapers were prepared and published. The booklet on the problems of corncrake conservation was prepared, published and distributed.

4. Briefly describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefitted from the project (if relevant).

Local people were involved in project implementation. Local bird amateurs and hunters provided information on the sites where stopovers of migrating corncrakes are possible. In turn, they received information on how to solve problems in bird protection during seasonal migration.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

I am planning to continue this work. I am going to investigate stopover sites in mountainous Crimea. The information about these stopover sites was obtained during current project implementation. Thereafter I am going to produce recommendations on creation of protected areas in southern regions of Ukraine and binding them into a network. After that I am planning to cover the rest of the territory of Ukraine to capture known main migration routes of the species. Besides, I am going to expand public awareness campaign launched during previous project within southern part of Ukraine and Crimea to the territory of all Ukraine. In my plans also to develop new methods for estimation of the migration intensity of corncrake (especially, acoustic).

6. How do you plan to share the results of your work with others?

The results of the work will be spread in press (All-Ukrainian, regional and district newspapers), through radio and TV broadcasting. The results will be presented at international, All-Ukrainian and regional scientific and conservation meetings.

7. Timescale: Over what period was the RSG used? How does this compare to the anticipated or actual length of the project?

RSG was used for the length of the project (5 months).

8. Budget: Please provide a breakdown of budgeted versus actual expenditure and the reasons for any differences. All figures should be in £ sterling, indicating the local exchange rate used.

£1= 13 UAH

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Travel expenses. Car rent	1200	1200	0	
Travel expenses. Fuel	240	290	+50	
Travel expenses. Daily allowance	1800	1800	0	
Travel expenses. Lodging	1200	1100	-100	
Field supplies	200	240	+40	
Postage	100	110	+10	
Telephone	70	60	-10	
Printing	100	160	+60	
Contingency	90	40	-50	Poles for mist nets instead of broken
TOTAL	5000	5000		

9. Looking ahead, what do you feel are the important next steps?

Investigate stopover sites in mountainous Crimea. Completion of the survey of the whole territory of Ukraine to find major sites which are important for migrating corncrakes. Development of a network of protected areas for migrating birds. Development and approval of acoustic methods for the estimation of migration intensity.

10. Did you use the RSGF logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the RSGF receive any publicity during the course of your work?

We have used the RSGF logo in the leaflet we made for local birdwatchers and hunters. Indication of the financial support through RSGF was placed in the text of articles sent to regional and district newspapers.