

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. The Final Report must be sent in **word format** and not PDF format or any other format. 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. Please note that the information may be edited for clarity. 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
RSG reference	38.02.09
Reporting period	July – December 2009
Amount of grant	£5320
Your email address	atemasov@gmail.com , atemasov@ukr.net
Date of this report	27th January, 2011

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 southern Ukraine		+		The project initial plan provided for the field survey to be undertaken by two expedition teams. However, because the National Geographic Society rejected my application the survey was done only by one expedition group. Therefore, only some of the sites which are suitable as stopover places were inspected in southern regions of Ukraine. Possibly some stopover sites remained unrevealed.
To identify key threats for corncrakes during autumn migration		+		It was established that hunting is the main factor of threat. Recommendations on the protection of temporary protected areas were developed. But bearing in mind that not all suitable stopover sites were surveyed it's possible that some underestimated factors of threat exist as well as unidentified key sites which need protection.
To develop urgent measures for protection of migrating corncrakes at key stopover sites		+		
To conduct an educational campaign for raising public awareness on conservation of migrating corncrakes			+	A full-scale public awareness campaign was executed.

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

The main difficulty was project funding shortfall (National Geographic Society rejected financing the project). As a result, the set objectives weren't fulfilled in full scale.

Besides, there were some problems with applied method. The method of estimation of migration intensity by means of capturing birds in mist nets was used. It 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).

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

- It was discovered that in autumn corncrakes migrate not only through Crimean peninsula but also along the whole stretch of the coast of Black and Azov seas within the territory of Ukraine (from Danube and Dniester deltas on the west to the very outskirts of Don delta on the east).
- Key sites which are important for the protection of migrating corncrakes in southern regions of Ukraine were revealed. The background for the organisation of protected areas and recommendations on the protection of corncrake on these sites were developed.
- Public awareness campaign was executed. 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 complete the survey in southern regions of Ukraine to produce recommendations on creation of protected areas 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 intensify public awareness campaign by means of attracting young naturalists and schoolchildren to conservation of corncrake. In my plans also to check the suitability of other methods for estimation of the migration intensity of corncrake and to develop new methods (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 (six 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= 11.8 UAH)

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Equipment. Tape recorders	350	180	- 170	Because field survey was undertaken by one expedition team one tape recorder was buy
Travel expenses. Car rent Fuel Daily allowance Lodging Field supplies	1,050 350 1,680 840 210	1,050 430 1,680 910 180	0 +80 0 +70 -30	
Postage	350	400	+50	
Telephone	140	130	-10	
Print leaflets	210	240	+30	
Contingency	140	120	-20	Poles for mist nets
Total	5,320	5,320		

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

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.

11. Any other comments?

Thank you very much for support!