

The Corncrake (*Crex crex*) in Bosnia-Herzegovina

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1. Introduction

The ornithofauna of Bosnia and Herzegovina was studied at two separate times. The first systematic investigation was by Othmar Reiser, curator of the Land Museum in the period from 1887 to 1915 (REISER 1939). The next investigations were of a fauna-ecological character and they were performed continuously in the period from 1964 to 1991 (Svjetoslav Obratil, ornithologist of the Land Museum of Sarajevo).

2. Development of knowledge about the corncrake in Bosnia-Herzegovina

Exact knowledge of the presence of this bird resulted from general investigation of bird fauna and give some basic data on locality and recovery.

3. Distribution and important areas of corncrake population (see map)

3. 1. Recovery data at nesting time, 1887 - 1915

- North Bosnia:
Kladuša-Vrnograc, Orahovo, Orašje
- West Bosnia:
Glamoc-Hrbljina (Fild of Glamoc)
- Central Bosnia (Bosna river valley):
Doboj, Maglaj, Fild of Sarajevo (Sarajevsko polje)
- Herzegovina:
Mudflats of Mostar (Mostarsko blato)

3. 2. Recovery data at nesting time, 1964 - 1991 (OBRATIL 1974, RUCNER & OBRATIL 1973, DELIC)

- North Bosnia:
Bardaca (Srbac), Svilaj-Bos.Samac
- Southeast Bosnia:
Tjentište
- Southeast Herzegovina:
Fild of Gacko (Gatacko polje)

3. 3. Recovery data at non-nesting time, IX-XII (REISER 1939, OBRATIL 1975)

- North Bosnia:
Bos. Gradiska
- West Bosnia:
Kljuc
- Central Bosnia:
Zavidovici-Vozuca, Fild of Sarajevo (Sarajevsko polje)
- Herzegovina:
Mudflats of Hutovo (Hutovo blato)

4. Development of population

Ecology of the corncrake population of Bosnia and Herzegovina has not been investigated.

5. Threats to the corncrake population

The degradation and even total destruction of the ecosystem in which corncrake live or immigrate into have resulted in severe lowering of numbers

of this species. Detrimental factors also include peat and coal extraction on karst field, dams, etc.

6. Conservation status

Legal regulations exist. On the basis of the suggestion of The Red List Endangered Birds of Bosnia and Herzegovina (OBRATIL & MATVEJEV 1989), corncrake are considered as potentially endangered (Category "R" rare).

7. Conservation projects

No conservation projects have been planned due to exceptionally low financial resources.

8. Ongoing or planned conservation or study projects

Due to financial resources given by European associations, it will be possible to monitor the corncrake population. This will be done by experts from the Land Museum of Sarajevo, Dr Svjetoslav Obratil, ornithologist and Drazen Kotrosan, student ornithologist.

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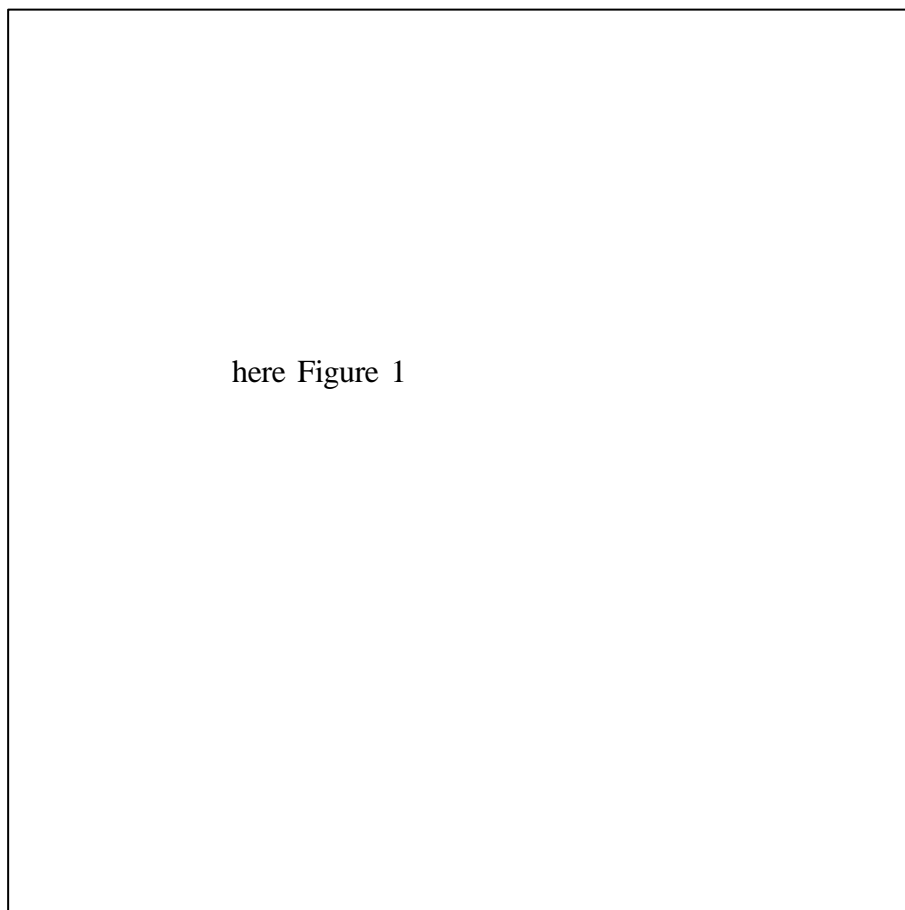


Figure 1: Map of recovery data of nesting and non-nesting times of corncrakes in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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