

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The work of the staff and volunteer networks of the BirdLife International Partnership are at the core of this publication. National Important Bird Areas (IBA) coordinators have worked tirelessly to collate and assess the data in each country through these national networks and have authored individual country chapters. There are hundreds more individuals who have been closely involved in the collation of national data for this project and they are acknowledged in the individual country chapters. For the project team at the BirdLife International Secretariat it has been a great pleasure and honour to collaborate with such a fantastic group of people across Europe. The last five years of working together, often corresponding and exchanging views from a distance, but also the times shared at workshops and meetings, have been of immense importance.

The data, which are the foundations of this inventory, have been collected by many thousands of amateur and professional ornithologists and birdwatchers. They cannot be thanked individually but we owe them a great debt and wish to recognize the important contribution each has made to the identification of Important Bird Areas across Europe.

We are very grateful to the funders of the project and the many BirdLife Partners who have invested substantial resources into the collation of data nationally. We particularly wish to acknowledge the commitment from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), the BirdLife Partner in the United Kingdom, who have funded the project manager's post and project-coordination activities over the last five years. Mark Avery and David Gibbons (RSPB) arranged this financing and provided advice and words of motivation throughout the course of the project. The Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries, Directorate for Nature Management, through the PIN/MATRA Funds of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands, substantially financed this publication. Also Vogelbescherming Nederland, the BirdLife Partner in the Netherlands, have helped in funding overall coordination costs. We thank Mike Rands, Johanna Winkelman and Marco Lambertini for their help in securing these funds.

Many people have provided helpful advice over the course of the project including the BirdLife European Team, which comprised Johanna Winkelman, Neil Burgess, Alistair Gammell, Fritz Hirt, Peter Iankov, Alejandro Sánchez, Joe Sultana, Zoltan Waliczky, David Chandler, Nelly Paleologou and Christel Davidson. We also thank particularly Marco Lambertini and Colin Bibby of the BirdLife Secretariat in Cambridge, for their advice and scientific guidance at all stages of the work and their constructive and helpful comments on draft manuscripts. Our colleague Zoltan Waliczky, the European Conservation Coordinator at the BirdLife Secretariat from 1993–1998, provided substantial help throughout the project including assisting with the development of the IBA database, criteria and thresholds, co-facilitating workshops associated with the project and providing comments on earlier drafts of the manuscript.

Establishing scientifically credible criteria for selecting IBAs was vital to the project. In this regard we thank Lincoln Fishpool and Zoltan Waliczky, who together with MH developed the global categories with input from David Wege and Mike Crosby of the BirdLife International Secretariat. The European criteria, added a further 13 categories to the set of global criteria, the development of which was coordinated by MH in conjunction with the national IBA coordinators in Europe. We also thank Paul Rose, formerly of Wetlands International, for making data available and for generously giving his time to discuss and advise on their application in the context of IBA identification. Mike Brooke and Mark Tasker advised and provided welcome expertise on seabird population estimates. The European Union criteria development was led by Eduard Osieck, together with MH and also David Pritchard, Nelly Paleologou and members of the Birds and Habitats Directive Task Force of BirdLife International. Eduard Osieck is a key figure

concerning IBA work in Europe, beginning his involvement in 1981 with the publication of the first work on IBAs, and since then for many years carrying out pioneering work on IBAs in the Netherlands and as Chair of the Birds and Habitats Directive Task Force. He has contributed greatly to this publication and has always been available to offer his expert advice.

Many parts of this publication have been generated from the BirdLife IBA database, an essential tool for storing, managing and analysing the huge quantity of data presented in the country chapters and national and pan-European analysis. We thank Henk van Dijkhuizen for all his work on the original specification of the IBA database, and Mike Crosby and Miriam Langeveld for their work on earlier databases. We recognize the many helpful comments from the BirdLife Partners across Europe during the course of the IBA database development, especially Michael Dvorak, Ian Fisher, Eduard Osieck, Szabolcs Nagy, Tanya Sviridova and Carlota Viada, and also in Asia, particularly Rudyanto (BirdLife Indonesia Programme) and Koyama (Wild Bird Society of Japan, the BirdLife Partner in Japan). Research staff at the BirdLife Secretariat have provided regional input into the development of standardized terms and structure of the database, especially Zoltan Waliczky, Lincoln Fishpool, David Wege, Adrian Long and Mike Crosby. For the programming we are indebted to Peter Bishop of Integra whose skills and patience were fundamental to the success of the computer database we have in use today across more than 35 European countries. We also give special thanks to Andrew Rayner for his skills and always gracious and helpful technical support to the Secretariat and Partners in using and distributing the database.

Very helpful comments were received on drafts of the introductory and analysis chapters and also earlier designs of the site accounts and national overviews from Colin Bibby, Nigel Collar, John Fanshawe, David Gibbons, Marco Lambertini, Adrian Long, Szabolcs Nagy, Eduard Osieck, David Pritchard, Alison Stattersfield, John O'Sullivan, Richard Thomas, Zoltán Waliczky and Johanna Winkelman.

Many colleagues, past and present, at the Secretariat of BirdLife International in Cambridge have given assistance to this project, many of whom have already been mentioned above. We would like to add particular thanks to Mike Rands, Carlos Martín Novella, Laurence Rose, Terry Parker, Chris Spreadbury and Kelly Hague for fundraising, finance and marketing support to the project, and to Mike Rands and Kathleen Rosewarne for negotiations with production companies and designers at earlier stages of the project. Adrian Long oversees the production of the BirdLife Conservation Series and has contributed greatly to this publication through the innovative and constructive input on design and liaising with printers and designers. Margaret Parnwell helped by cataloguing the photographs, and we are very grateful to the photographers who provided them, for the most part, free of charge. Beverly Childs and Anne Collins provided highly valuable secretarial assistance.

Several workshops were held throughout the course of the project and for the generous and excellent logistical help in their organization we would like to thank Dorothy Bashford, Beverley Childs, Anne Collins, Johanna Winkelman and Marianne de Rijk. We also thank the officers working for BirdLife Partners responsible for cross-Partner support for the European Programme for the help they have given in this regard to this project: Johanna Winkelman, Kevin Strandring, Norbert Schäffer, Neil Burgess and Fritz Hirt.

Collaboration and support from other organizations was very gratefully received throughout the course of the project. Paul Rose of Wetlands International provided help and data on waterbird populations, Jim Paine and Michael Green of the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) provided access to the WCMC Protected Areas Database, Henrik Skov of Ornis Consult advised on marine issues, Dorian Moss from the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology and Mark Roekaerts advised on database

systems and Ward Hagermeijer from the European Bird Census Council for advice on atlas data.

For the design, layout, map and graphic production, copy-editing and print management we thank Peter Creed, Rebecca Miles and Tony Vetta of the Nature Conservation Bureau Ltd., whose dedication, professionalism and enthusiasm have added much to the presentation of information in this book.

Finally, this publication builds upon and updates the first pan-European IBA inventory, the authors of which, Richard Grimmett and Tim Jones, are warmly thanked and congratulated for setting such sound foundations upon which the European IBA Programme has evolved to benefit the conservation of IBAs, and from which this new publication has evolved 10 years on.

#### ■ Project Team

**Melanie Heath** – Project Manager, 1994–1999 Coordinating the production of this publication as part of her job as European Research Manager, including project development, scientific direction and analysis, editing and the development of the European IBA Database.

**Michael Evans** – Senior Editor, 1997–1999. Responsible for overall editing standards, standardization of terms and nomenclature, and final proof-reading.

**Tony Payne** – Research Assistant, 1996–1998. Central to the development, functionality and management of the IBA database and the validation of data within it, and technical support to Partners using the database.

**David Hoccom** – Research Assistant, 1998–1999. Editor of country chapters and producer of national overview graphics.

**Nic Peet** – Research Assistant, 1999. Editor of country chapters.

**Tim Morrissey** – Map production for country chapters and pan-European overview.

**Regina Pfaff** – Editorial support and incorporating editorial changes into the manuscript.

**Paulina Phillips** – Data-entry and checking.