

Important Bird Areas in Europe – Appendix 4

Appendix 4. A comparison of Important Bird Area criteria categories applied in this publication with those used in the first pan-European IBA inventory (Grimmett and Jones 1989) and European Union study (Grimmett and Gammell 1989).

For a full explanation of the current criteria categories see the introductory chapter 'Identifying IBAs'.
For full lists of bird species and the criteria they may potentially fulfil see Appendices 2a and 2b.

Species category to which IBA criteria applies	Criterion definition used in this publication (Heath and Evans 2000)	Criterion code (Heath and Evans 2000)	1989 criteria code(s) (Grimmett and Gammell 1989)	1989 criteria code(s) (Grimmett and Jones 1989)	
GLOBAL	Species of global conservation concern	The site regularly holds significant numbers of a globally threatened species, or other species of global conservation concern.	A1	2 (part), 5 (part)	2.1
	Restricted-range species	The site is known or thought to hold a significant component of the restricted-range species whose breeding distributions define an Endemic Bird Area (EBA) or Secondary Area (SA).	A2	(part) ¹	4.1 (part), 4.2 (part) ¹
	Biome-restricted species	The site is known or thought to hold a significant assemblage of the species whose breeding distributions are largely or wholly confined to one biome.	A3	— ²	— ²
	Congregations	(i) The site is known or thought to hold, on a regular basis, ≥1% of a biogeographic population of a congregatory waterbird species.	A4i	1, 8	1.3 (waterbirds only)
		(ii) The site is known or thought to hold, on a regular basis, ≥1% of the global population of a congregatory seabird or terrestrial species.	A4ii	1, 8	1.1, 1.2 (waterbirds only)
(iii) The site is known or thought to hold, on a regular basis, ≥20,000 waterbirds or ≥10,000 pairs of seabirds of one or more species.		A4iii	9 (waterbirds only)	1.3 (waterbirds only)	
(iv) The site is known or thought to be a 'bottleneck' site where at least 20,000 storks (Ciconiidae), raptors (Accipitriformes and Falconiformes) or cranes (Gruidae) regularly pass during spring or autumn migration.		A4iv	9 ³	1.4 (raptors only)	
EUROPEAN	Congregations	(i) The site is known or thought to hold ≥1% of a flyway or other distinct population of a waterbird species.	B1i	1, 8	1.3 (waterbirds only)
		(ii) The site is known or thought to hold ≥1% of a distinct population of a seabird species.	B1ii	1, 8	1.1, 1.2
		(iii) The site is known or thought to hold ≥1% of a flyway or other distinct population of other congregatory species.	B1iii	1,8	1.1, 1.2
		(iv) The site is a 'bottleneck' site where over 5,000 storks, or over 3,000 raptors or cranes regularly pass on spring or autumn migration.	B1iv	9 ³	1.4 (raptors 5,000)
	Species with an unfavourable conservation status in Europe	The site is one of the 'n' most important in the country for a species with an unfavourable conservation status in Europe (SPEC 2, 3) and for which the site-protection approach is thought to be appropriate.	B2	0 (part), 3 (part)	3.1 (part), 3.2 (part), 3.3 (part), 4.1 (part), 4.2 (part)
Species with a favourable conservation status in Europe	The site is one of the 'n' most important in the country for a species with a favourable conservation status in Europe but concentrated in Europe (SPEC 4) and for which the site-protection approach is thought to be appropriate.	B3	0 (part), 3 (part)	3.1 (part), 3.2 (part), 3.3 (part), 4.1 (part), 4.2 (part)	
EUROPEAN UNION	Species of global conservation concern	The site regularly holds significant numbers of a globally threatened species, or other species of global conservation concern.	C1	2 (part), 5 (part)	2.1
	Concentrations of a species threatened at the EU level	The site is known to regularly hold at least 1% of a flyway population or of the EU population of a species threatened at the EU level (listed on Annex I and referred to in Article 4.1 of the EC Birds Directive).	C2	1, 8 ⁴	1.1, 1.2, 1.3 ⁴
	Congregations of migratory species not threatened at the EU level	The site is known to regularly hold at least 1% of a flyway population of a migratory species not considered threatened at the EU level (as referred to in Article 4.2 of the EC Birds Directive) (not listed on Annex I).	C3	1, 8 ⁴	1.1, 1.2, 1.3 ⁴
	Congregatory – large congregations	The site is known to regularly hold at least 20,000 migratory waterbirds and/or 10,000 pairs of migratory seabirds of one or more species.	C4	9 (waterbirds only)	1.3 (waterbirds only)
	Congregatory – bottleneck sites	The site is a 'bottleneck' site where at least 5,000 storks (Ciconiidae) and/or at least 3,000 raptors (Accipitriformes and Falconiformes) and/or at least 3,000 cranes (Gruidae) regularly pass on spring or autumn migration.	C5	9 ³	1.4
	Species threatened at the European Union level	The site is one of the five most important in the European region (NUTS region) in question for a species or subspecies considered threatened in the European Union (i.e. listed on Annex I of the EC Birds Directive).	C6	0, 3 (part) ⁵	3.1
	Other ornithological criteria	The site has been designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) or selected as a candidate SPA based on ornithological criteria (similar to but not equal to C1–C6) in recognized use for identifying SPAs.	C7	0, 2 (part), 3, 4, 5 (part), 6, 7, 10, 11, 12	—

Footnotes

1. Some sites holding *Apus unicolor*, *Anthus berthelotii*, *Regulus teneiffae* and *Serinus canaria* are included under A2.
2. Three non-SPEC Annex I species are uniquely covered by this criterion: *Podiceps auritus*, *Surnia ulula* and *Strix nebulosa*.
3. 5,000 birds of prey, storks not covered.
4. 1% of EU populations (for a number of populations, these thresholds are lower, see Appendix 2b).
5. Concerning *Bulweria bulwerii*, *Puffinus assimilis*, *P. puffinus*, *P. yelkouan mauretanicus*, *Pelagodroma marina*, *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* and *O. castro*: sites holding less than the C2 threshold may still qualify under criterion C6.

Appendix 4 ... continued. A comparison of Important Bird Area criteria categories applied in this publication with those used in the first pan-European IBA inventory (Grimmett and Jones 1989) and European Union study (Grimmett and Gammell 1989).

CRITERIA APPLIED IN GRIMMETT AND GAMMELL (1989)

0. The site is amongst the five most important for such a species or subspecies in a NUTS region of the Community or is amongst the 100 most important in the Community for a vulnerable species or subspecies (Annex I).

Breeding sites

1. Sites supporting 1% or more of the breeding pairs of the biogeographical population. [The biogeographical population has been defined for the purposes of the European Community criteria, as a discrete population where this was identifiable or where it was not, the populations occurring in Europe and North-west Africa (Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco), but excluding for the most part, the USSR and Black Sea States.]
2. If Criterion 1 is not appropriate (because for example the biogeographical population is not clearly defined, is not known or the 1% criterion is too high to select important sites), criteria for the selection of breeding sites have been based on the specific characteristics of dispersion and habitat preference of the species.
3. If Criterion 2 also proved impossible to apply, all sites with proved breeding are selected (this Criterion is applied to six very poorly known seabird species only; *Bulweria bulwerii*, *Puffinus puffinus mauretanicus* [now treated as *Puffinus yelkouan mauretanicus*], *P. assimilis*, *Pelagodroma marina*, *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* and *O. castro*).
4. Sites of particular importance for marginal or isolated breeding population in the Community, with criteria based on specific characteristics of dispersion and habitat preference of the species.
5. All regular breeding sites of rare or endangered species or subspecies in the Community, or small and endangered distinct biogeographical populations: c.2,500 pairs or less (for some colonial species a level of five pairs is used to exclude irregular breeding sites.).
6. For widely dispersed species, breeding sites are selected on the basis of high densities or good numbers.
7. Regular breeding sites for significant numbers of three or more Annex I species.

Areas other than breeding areas

8. Sites having 1% (being at least 100 individuals) of the flyway or biogeographical population of one species.
9. Sites having (at least) 20,000 waterfowl, or 5,000 birds of prey on passage during a migration season.
10. Sites of particular importance for marginal or isolated populations in the Community, with criteria based on specific characteristics of dispersion and habitat preference of the species.
11. Sites which regularly hold five (for gregarious species, 25) individuals of rare and endangered species or subspecies in the Community, or small and endangered distinct biogeographical populations (less than 10,000 individuals in number).
12. Sites regularly holding numbers of three or more Annex I species.

CRITERIA APPLIED IN GRIMMETT AND JONES (1989)

Category 1: Sites for migratory species which congregate (either when breeding, or on passage, or in winter) in important numbers.

- Criteria:*
1. The site regularly holds 1% of a species's world population; or
 2. the site regularly holds 1% of a species's European population (or EEC population for EEC Member States only); or
 3. the site regularly holds 1% of a species's biogeographical population; or
 4. it is a 'bottleneck site' where over 5,000 storks (Ciconiidae) or over 3,000 raptors (Accipitridae) regularly pass on spring or autumn migration.
- ¹ Waterbird sites have also been selected where they regularly hold 20,000 or more waterbirds.

Category 2: Sites for globally threatened species.

- Criterion:* 1. The site regularly holds a significant number of the species.

Category 3: Sites for species and subspecies which are threatened throughout all or large parts of their range in Europe (but are not globally threatened).

- Criteria:*
1. The site is one of the five most important in the European region in question for the species or subspecies, or one of the ten most important in the European region in question for the species or subspecies (if the region is particularly large and is subdivided into comparatively small political units); or
 2. the site is one of the 100 most important in Europe for the species or subspecies; or
 3. the site is one of the 100 most important for the species or subspecies in the European Community.

Category 4: Sites for species which have relatively small total world ranges with important populations in Europe.

- Criteria:*
1. The site is one of the five most important in the European region in question for the species, or one of the ten most important in the European region in question for the species (if the region is particularly large and is subdivided into comparatively small political units); or
 2. the site is one of the 100 most important in Europe for the species.

References

- GRIMMETT R. F. A. AND GAMMELL, A. B. (1989) Inventory of Important Bird Areas in the European Community. (Unpublished report prepared for the Directorate-General for the Environment, Consumer Protection and Nuclear Safety of the European Community, Study contract B6610-54-88.) Cambridge, UK: International Council for Bird Preservation.
- GRIMMETT, R. F. A. AND JONES T. A. (1989) *Important Bird Areas in Europe*. Cambridge, UK: International Council for Bird Preservation (Tech. Publ. 9).