

“International treaty for a small brown bird”.

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on behalf of BirdLife International **Aquatic Warbler Conservation Team**



Why so much attention is devoted to a 10 g creature?



Photo: Siarhey Zujonak



Aquatic Warbler characteristics

- Most threatened passerine bird of continental Europe, classified as 'vulnerable' at a global scale
- inhabiting large open mesotrophic to eutrophic fens and grassy marshes of central Europe and W-Siberia



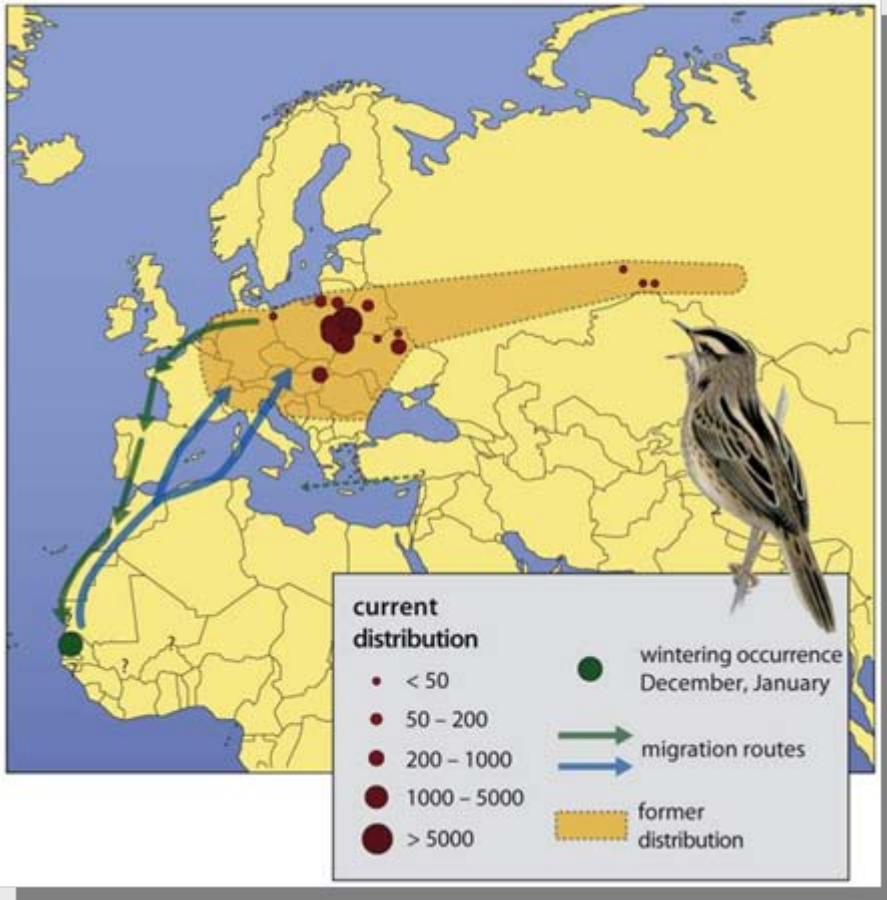
Open fen mire, Sporava, Belarus



Aquatic Warbler characteristics

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- inhabiting large open mesotrophic to eutrophic fens and grassy marshes of central Europe and W-Siberia
- no pair bonds, successive polygyny and promiscuity
- uniparental care by the females
- multiple paternity, broods fathered by up to 5 different males
- high degree of flexibility and mobility as adaptation to quickly changing habitats.

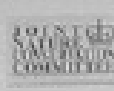
How rare is the Aquatic Warbler?



- The global population of the species is estimated to fluctuate between 9,000 and 14,000 singing males during the last 10 years (data from 2001-2010)
- It is likely that population declined by >95 % during the 20th century

- 68-78% of the total population is concentrated at only four global key sites: Zvaniec and Sporava mires in Belarus, Biebrza Valley in Poland, and the Ukrainian Upper Prypiat.

- currently occupied breeding areas sum up to only 32,400 ha (324 km²) according to calculations of experts from the BirdLife International Aquatic Warbler Conservation Team (AWCT)



International Meeting to Finalise the Memorandum of Understanding and Action Plan Concerning Conservation Measures for the Aquatic Warbler

April 28
Minsk, Rep



International treaty for a small brown bird

In 2003 a "Memorandum of Understanding concerning conservation measures for the Aquatic Warbler" has been signed and ratified by 12 range states of the species as a sub-agreement to the Bonn Convention on Migratory Species - the first and only international treaty for a "little brown bird".



Second Meeting of Signatories:
May 2010, Biebrza National Park, Poland



International Species Action Plan for
the Aquatic Warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola*



photo: Gerold Dobler

Prepared by:



On behalf of the European Commission



Key functions of the International Species Action Plan:

- Summarises up-to-date conservation information
- Provides agreed framework for action, helping to target limited resources
- Forms the basis for political agreements, raising the profile of the species

International Species Action Plan for
the Aquatic Warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola*



photo: Gerold Dobler

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International Species Action Plan Implementation review:

- Important progress was done towards achieving **the short-term aim**: to maintain the current population through its range. As a result of joined conservation efforts dramatic decline of the world population stopped since the late 1990ies.
- However **medium to long-term aims** have not yet been achieved. Thus, an overall slow decline still possibly take place, and small marginal populations show clear declines.



BirdLife International Aquatic Warbler Conservation Team (AWCT).

an informal association of more than 50 researchers and conservationists working on the Aquatic Warbler coming from all over the species range states.

www.aquaticwarbler.net

Thanks for your attention!



Photo: Siarhey Zujonak