

# Important Bird Areas in the European Union

## Priority sites for biodiversity conservation



15.7% of the total surface area in the EU27 is covered by IBAs

**Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis***  
**Assemblage of biome-restricted species**  
 Sites known to hold a component of the group of bird species whose distributions are largely or wholly confined to one biome can qualify.



**Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus***  
**Congregations**  
 Sites known to significant numbers of congregatory waterbirds, seabirds or terrestrial bird species, or migratory species at bottleneck sites, can qualify.



**Finland**  
 96 IBAs  
 2,748,649 ha\*  
 8.2%\*\*

**Sweden**  
 73 IBAs  
 2,008,559 ha\*  
 4.5%\*\*

**United Kingdom**  
 287 IBAs  
 3,013,991 ha\*  
 12.4%\*\*

**Denmark**  
 127 IBAs  
 5,066,800 ha\*  
 34.0%\*\*

**Estonia**  
 64 IBAs  
 628,750 ha\*  
 13.9%\*\*

**Republic of Ireland**  
 140 IBAs  
 430,892 ha\*  
 6.1%\*\*

**Germany**  
 542 IBAs  
 5,650,900 ha\*  
 15.8%\*\*

**Latvia**  
 71 IBAs  
 534,056 ha\*  
 8.3%\*\*

**Netherlands**  
 106 IBAs  
 1,166,261 ha\*  
 23.6%\*\*

**Lithuania**  
 84 IBAs  
 712,192 ha\*  
 10.9%\*\*

**Poland**  
 140 IBAs  
 4,665,582 ha\*  
 14.9%\*\*

**Belgium**  
 48 IBAs  
 643,647 ha\*  
 21.1%\*\*

**Czech Republic**  
 39 IBAs  
 702,194 ha\*  
 8.9%\*\*

**Slovakia**  
 40 IBAs  
 1,384,085 ha\*  
 28.2%\*\*

**Luxembourg**  
 9 IBAs  
 11,293 ha\*  
 4.4%\*\*

**Hungary**  
 54 IBAs  
 1,301,629 ha\*  
 14.0%\*\*

**Portugal**  
 90 IBAs  
 1,460,646 ha\*  
 15.9%\*\*

**Romania**  
 134 IBAs  
 3,953,025 ha\*  
 16.6%\*\*

**Austria**  
 55 IBAs  
 1,363,413 ha\*  
 16.3%\*\*

**There are 3,404 IBAs in the EU27**

**Slovenia**  
 25 IBAs  
 496,500 ha\*  
 24.5%\*\*

**Bulgaria**  
 114 IBAs  
 2,601,786 ha\*  
 23.4%\*\*

**France**  
 277 IBAs  
 4,735,014 ha\*  
 8.6%\*\*

**Greece**  
 196 IBAs  
 3,430,245 ha\*  
 26.0%\*\*

**Italy**  
 172 IBAs  
 4,987,118 ha\*  
 16.6%\*\*

**Malta**  
 11 IBAs  
 480 ha\*  
 1.5%\*\*



**Spain**  
 391 IBAs  
 15,768,905 ha\*  
 31.2%\*\*

**Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni***  
**Species of global conservation concern**  
 Sites known to hold significant numbers of a globally threatened bird species can qualify.

**Cyprus Warbler *Sylvia melanothorax***  
**Assemblage of restricted-range species**  
 Sites known to hold significant numbers of a significant component of the restricted-range bird species whose breeding distributions define an Endemic Bird Area (EBA) can qualify.



**Cyprus**  
 19 IBAs  
 164,155 ha\*  
 17.7%\*\*



IBAs in the EU27 cover a total area of 69,630,767 ha

BirdLife International's Important Bird Areas (IBA) Programme is a global initiative that aims to protect a network of sites critical for bird conservation. All IBAs meet one more ornithological criteria, which are internationally agreed, standardised, quantitative and scientifically defensible. In the EU, the criteria have been designed specifically to capture the legal obligation in the Birds Directive for Member States to protect their most important bird sites Special Protection Areas (SPAs). Repeated rulings by the European Court of Justice have confirmed that BirdLife's IBA inventories are the best scientific evidence available for this purpose. This map shows the boundaries of all terrestrial and freshwater IBAs in the European Union; some marine sites are also shown, but many are still being identified. BirdLife keen to maximise the availability and use of these data for conservation purposes.

\* Area of IBAs  
 \*\* Surface area covered by IBAs

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