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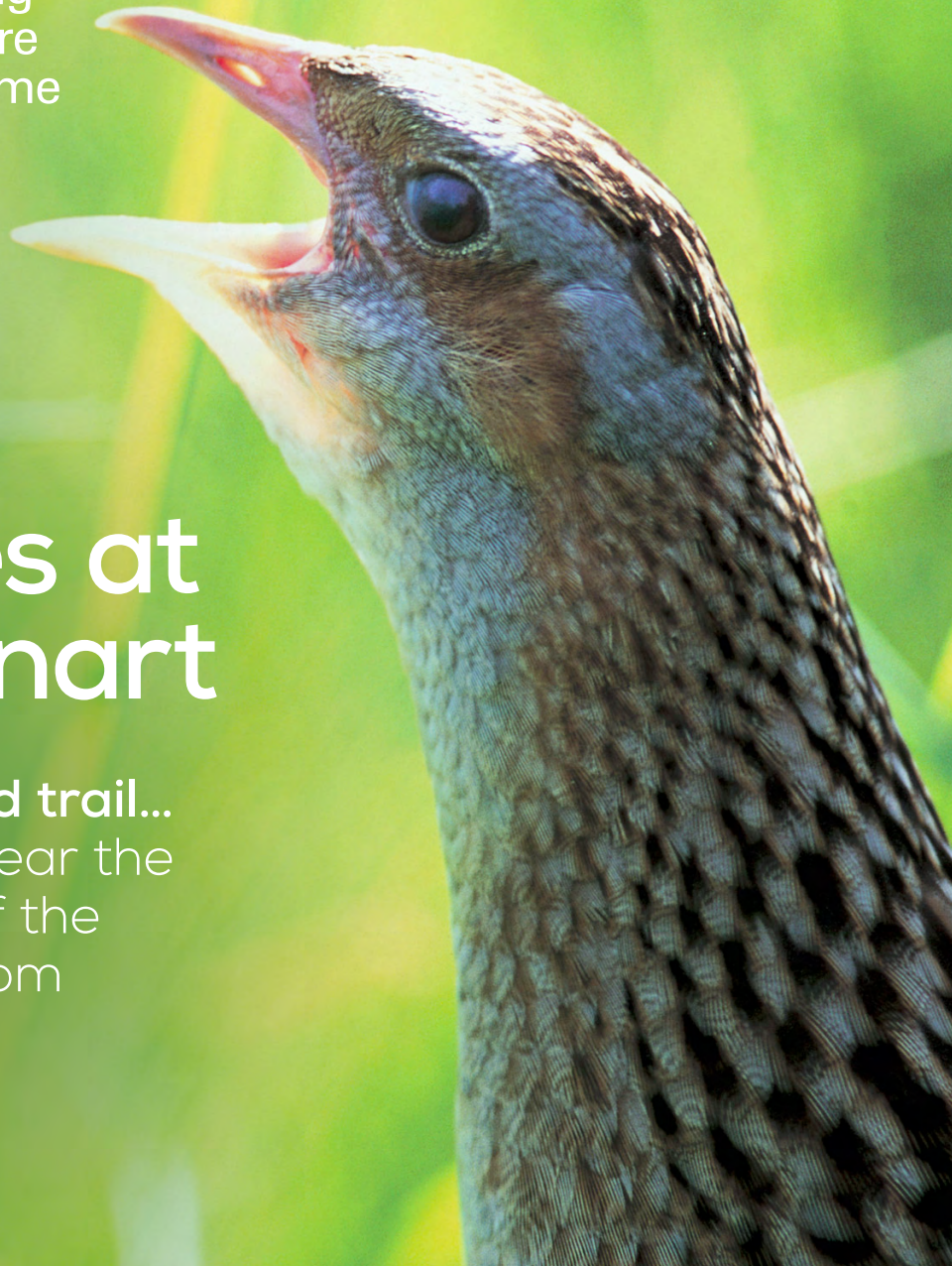
giving  
nature  
a home

Alba

# Listen for the call of corncrakes at Loch Gruinart

Stroll our self-guided trail...

And see if you can hear the  
“crex-crex” sounds of the  
corncrakes calling from  
April to September.



## Care for the corncrakes

Corncrakes are very rare birds in the UK. Please help us to keep them safe and respect the work of the people who look after this distinctive and varied landscape. As you enjoy your walk, please take extra care not to disturb these special birds, which are protected by law.

## Find out more

Visit [rspb.org.uk/corncrakecalling](https://rspb.org.uk/corncrakecalling) to find out more about this secretive little bird and to download this walk. Or use this QR code:

## Become a Corncrake Champion

To keep updated with the latest project news and events and how you can help these birds, visit

[rspb.org.uk/corncrakechampion](https://rspb.org.uk/corncrakechampion)

Or use this QR code:



# RSPB Loch Gruinart nature reserve, Isle of Islay



- **From the Visitor Centre.** Listen out for the “crex crex” of the calling male corncrakes. When they arrive from Africa in mid-April they find a patch of long vegetation to call for a mate.

**Restricted grazing.** At Loch Gruinart, grazing animals are kept out of some areas for most of the winter to ensure the vegetation is long enough to allow the corncrakes to hide them from predators.

- **The viewing platform.** in the woods gives you an idea of the extent of grassland here. The RSPB manages the nature reserve for many different species and each have their own requirements. We cut our grass silage crop in mid-August once the corncrakes have had their second broods. We cut the crop from the inside out so that any corncrakes in the fields can go to the safety of the vegetation at the edges.

- **The South hide.** From here you will be looking directly at the habitat for wading birds. Corncrakes are a member of the rail family, but they don't like getting their feet wet. To the south you can see our silage fields with long vegetation along the edges that the corncrakes use once the grass is harvested.

- **From the North hide.** there are views to the top of the loch. Directly to the north is an area where grazing is restricted until late summer to allow the corncrakes time to safely rear their second brood and to moult and feed undisturbed before they fly southwards at the end of September.

## Stop and listen points.

The best time to hear a corncrake call is between 12 and 3 am! However, on a still, warm day you can hear them call at any time. If you think you can hear a corncrake, cup your ear towards the direction you think you heard it call to hear it better, it really does work!