



Citizen science, common bird monitoring and red listing of species



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Outline

- National monitoring schemes
- Engaging volunteers
- International networks
- Making citizen science matter
- Red list evaluation

Monitoring schemes (7 staff members)

<http://www.luomus.fi/fi/linnustonseuranta>

- Winter bird censuses
- Winter feeding monitoring
- Archipelago bird censuses (SYKE, Metsähallitus)
- Breeding waterbird counts (together with LUKE)
- Landbird point counts
- Line transects (standardized 2006->)
- Breeding bird atlases (last 2006-2010)
- Nest card scheme
- Raptor grid monitoring
- Ringing
- Migration counts

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1. Winter Bird Counts in Finland

<http://www.luomus.fi/fi/talvilintulaskennat>



- Early winter 1.-14.11. (1976-)
- Mid-winter 25.12.-7.1. (1957-)
- Late winter 21.2.-6.3. (1966-)

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- 8 habitat categories since 1986
- **C.550 routes/a, c. 1000 volunteers**

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- Sex ratios of species 2010->
- Mammals 2014->

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- Maps digitized
- Crop size of trees 1986-> (spruce, pine and rowanberry)
- Sex ratios of species 2010->
- Mammals 2014->
- Often done in teams
- Training of new volunteers

Online tools: reporting and feedback

- >90% of reports come through online systems
- Some automatic and manual control checking



Online tools: reporting and feedback

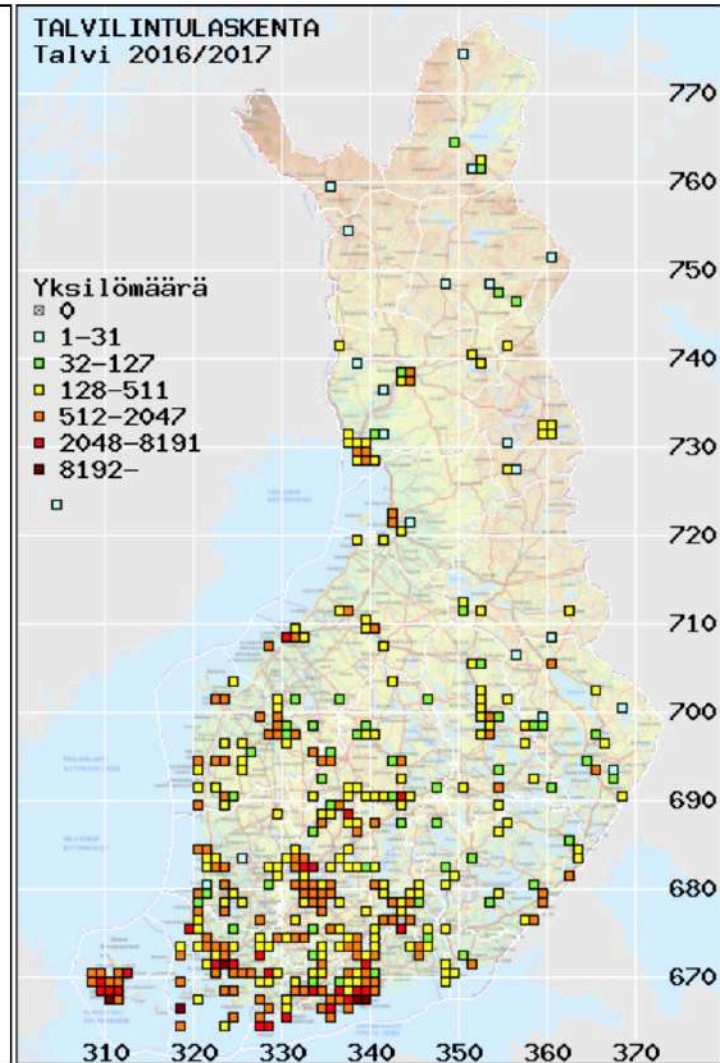
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- Directly to the databases
- Updates the feedback pages



Online tools: reporting and feedback

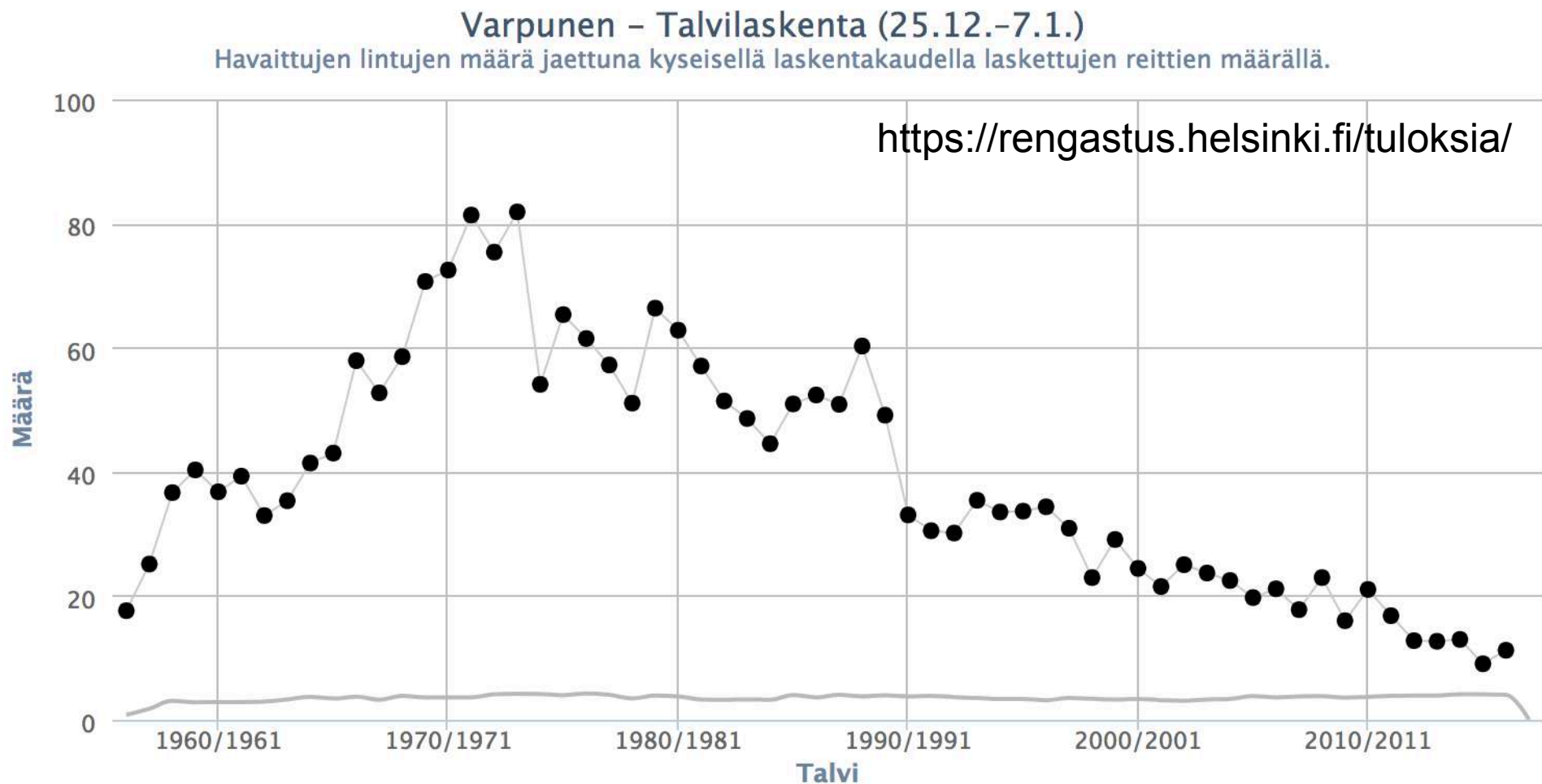
Talvi 2016/2017 Laskenta Talvi Näytä

| Laji (suomi / tiet.) | Reittikm | Yksikm |
|---------------------------------|------------|---------------|
| Yhteensä | 604 | 304762 |
| kuikka | 1 | 1 |
| pikku-uikku | 2 | 2 |
| härkälintu | 1 | 1 |
| merimetso | 14 | 288 |
| harmaahaikara | 12 | 38 |
| kyhmyjoutsen | 74 | 3725 |
| laulujoutsen | 53 | 756 |
| metsähanhi | 3 | 6 |
| kanadanhanhi | 2 | 2 |
| valkoposkihanhi | 4 | 8 |
| tavi | 3 | 11 |
| sinisorsa | 138 | 13415 |
| jouhisorsa | 1 | 1 |
| lapasorsa | 1 | 1 |
| punasotka | 1 | 1 |
| tukkasotka | 44 | 21593 |
| lapasotka | 8 | 40 |
| haahka | 1 | 1 |
| alli | 29 | 13158 |
| mustalintu | 10 | 475 |
| pilkkasiipi | 17 | 202 |
| telkkä | 83 | 7344 |
| uivelo | 22 | 275 |
| tukkakoskelo | 10 | 82 |
| isokoskelo | 102 | 8590 |
| merikotka | 109 | 472 |
| varpushaukka | 88 | 96 |
| kanahaukka | 101 | 140 |
| hiirihaukka | 20 | 32 |
| piekana | 8 | 9 |
| maakotka | 5 | 5 |



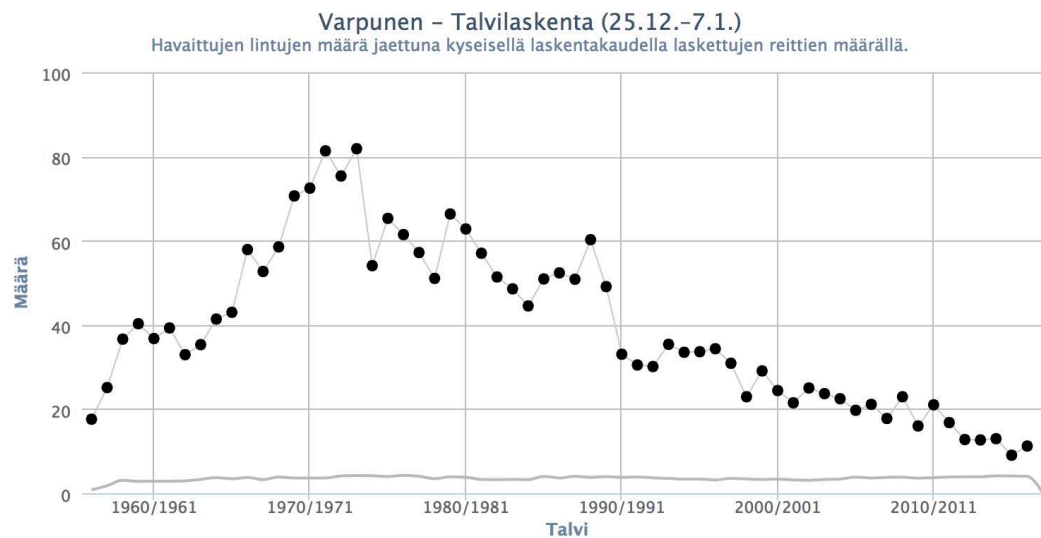
Feedpack (web-pages)

- General population trends
- Information of own route



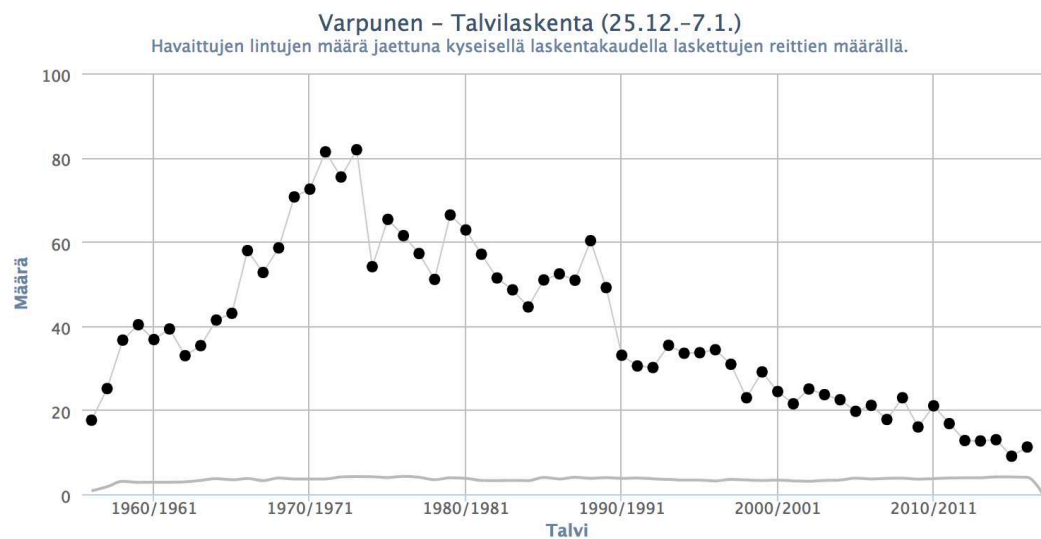
Feedpack

- General population trends
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- **Press releases, articles**



Feedpack

- General population trends
- Information of own route
- Press releases, articles
- Social media



Tykkää Seuraa Jaa ...



Linnustonseuranta

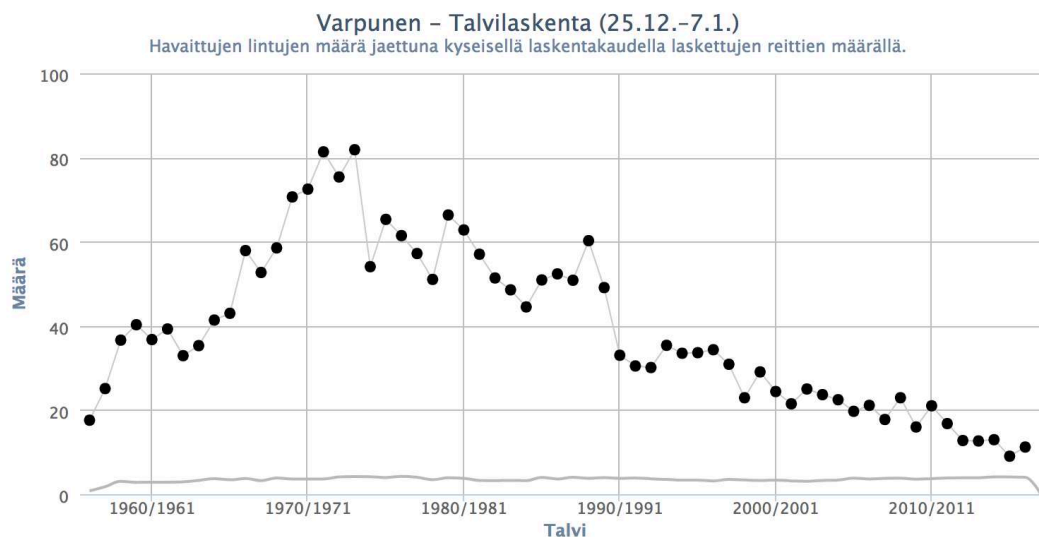
Julkaisija: Päivi Sirkkä [?] · 31. lokakuuta kello 10:47 ·

Talvilintulaskennat alkavat keskiviikkona 1.11. syyslaskentajaksolla! Tulevien parin viikon aikana sadat utterat laskijat kiertävät vuodesta toiseen samoina pysyvät laskentareittinsä. Kun kaikki havaitut linnut lasketaan, saadaan hyvä käsitys lajien runsauksien vaihtelusta. Syyslaskenta paljastaa muun muassa kuinka paljon muuttolintuja on jäänyt viivyttelämään ja kuinka paljon marjoille persoja tilhiä ja rastaista on eri puolilla maata. Talvilintulaskenta on hauska tapa harrastaa lintuja muuten hiljaisena vuodenaikana ja osallistua samalla arvokkaaseen seurantaan. Lisätietoja talvilintulaskennoista: <https://www.luomus.fi/fi/talvilintulaskennat>



Feedpack

- General population trends
- Information of own route
- Press releases, articles
- Social media
- **Monitoring news, birding societies**



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Linnustonseuranta

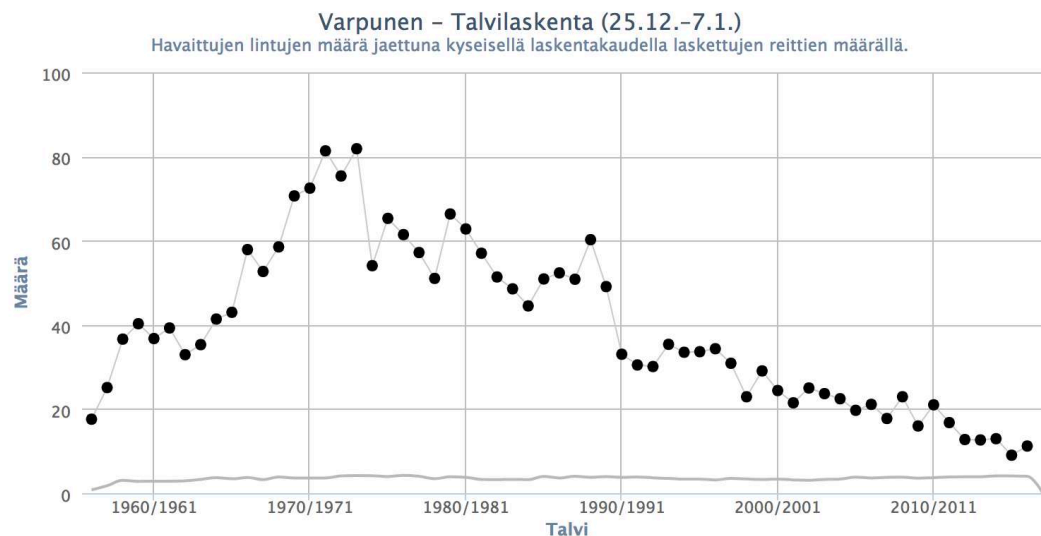
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Feedpack

- General population trends
- Information of own route
- Press releases, articles
- Social media
- Monitoring news, birding societies
- Meetings for observers
- Personal feedback



Tykkää Seuraa Jaa ...

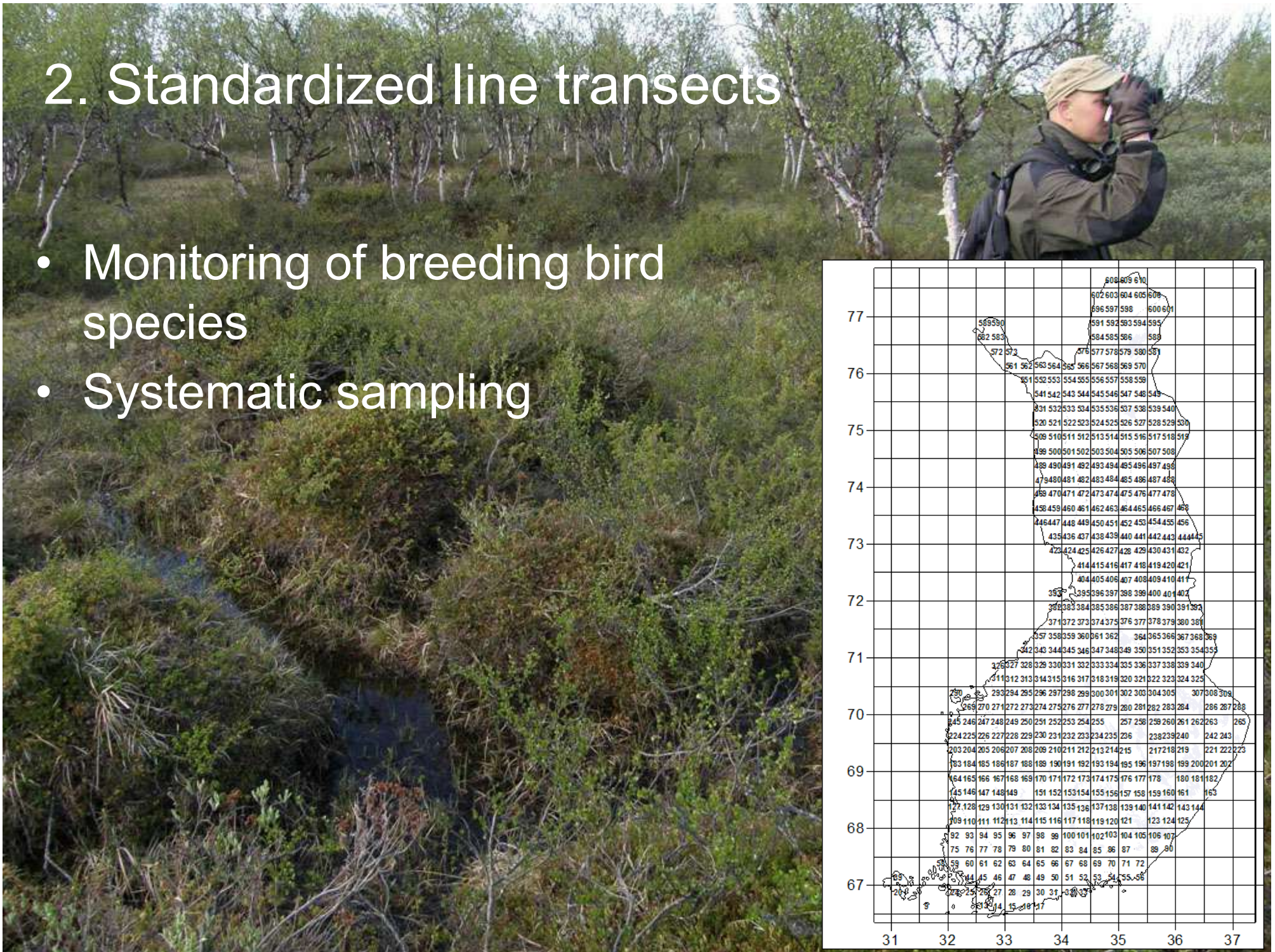
LUOMUS Linnustonseuranta
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A photograph showing a person in winter clothing (a dark jacket and hat) looking through binoculars. They are standing in a snowy landscape with many red berries (likely holly) in the foreground. The background shows some trees and a building under a cloudy sky.

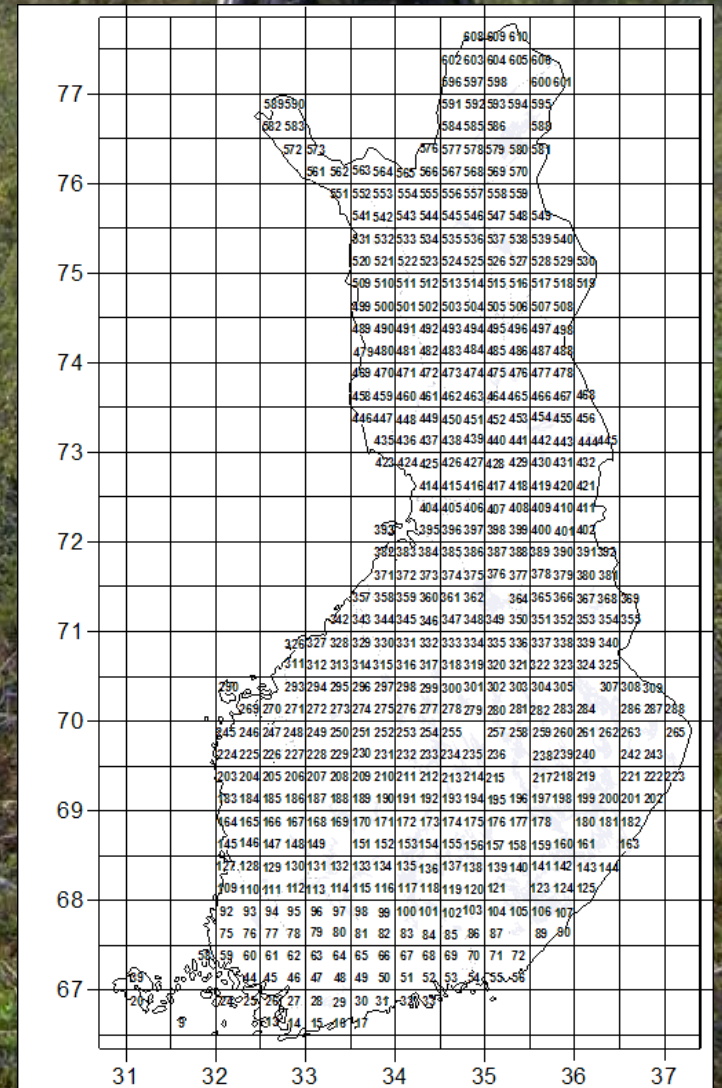
2. Standardized line transects

- Monitoring of breeding bird species
- Systematic sampling



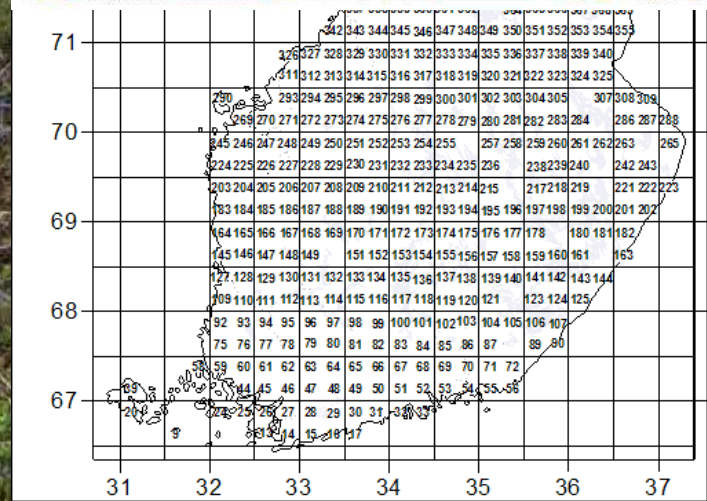
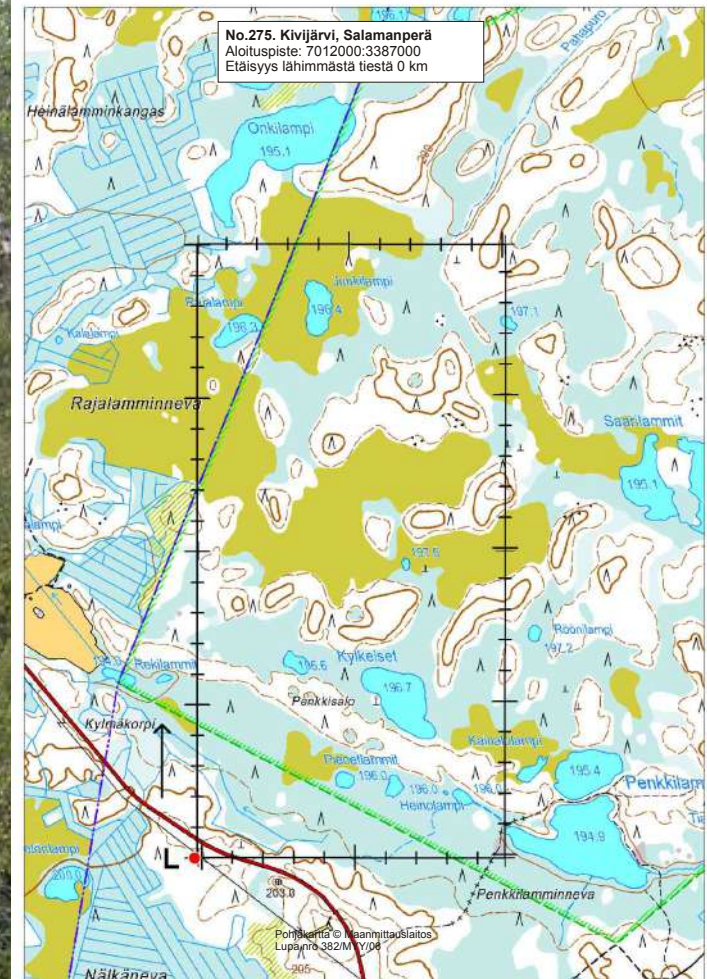
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- 566 transects, since 2006
- Whole Finland 25 km interval, 6 km long (1 x 2 km rectangle)



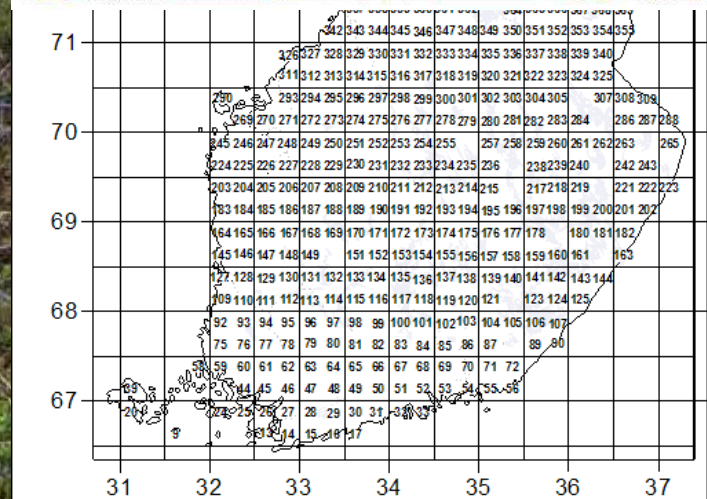
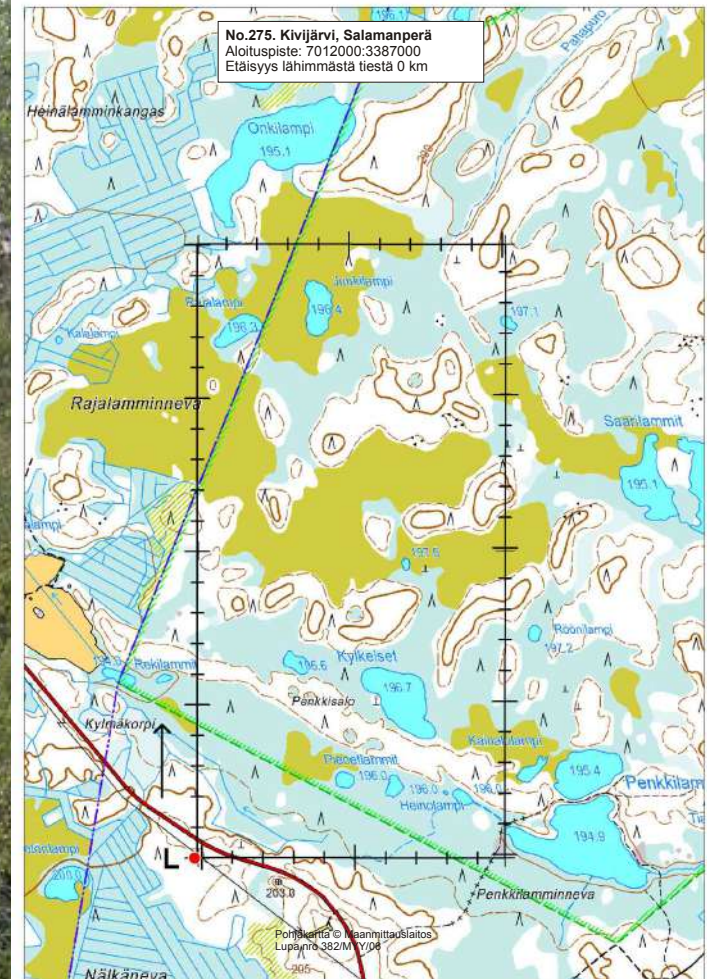
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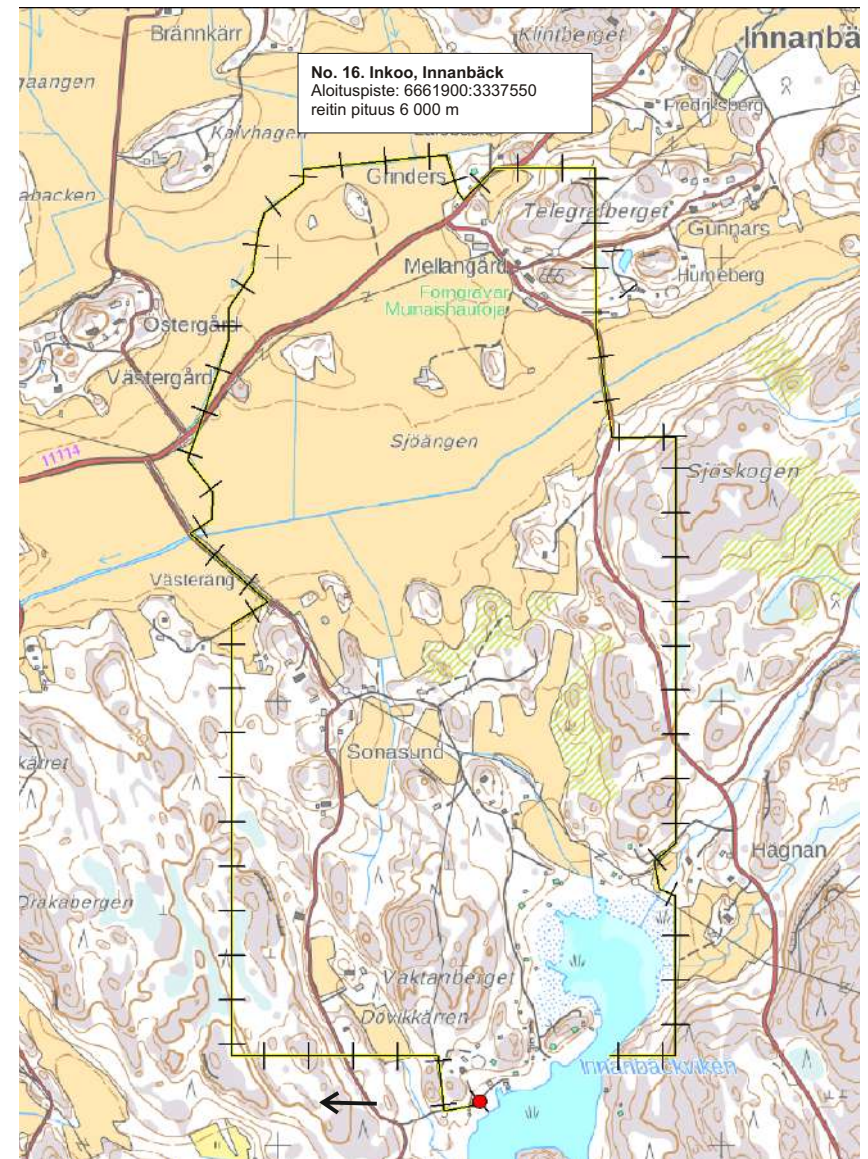
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- Monitoring of breeding bird species
- Systematic sampling
- 566 transects, since 2006
- Whole Finland 25 km interval, 6 km long (1 x 2 km rectangle)
- Counted in June, c. 4–9 a.m.
- 200-300 repeated annually, 100+ volunteers
- Safety instructions!



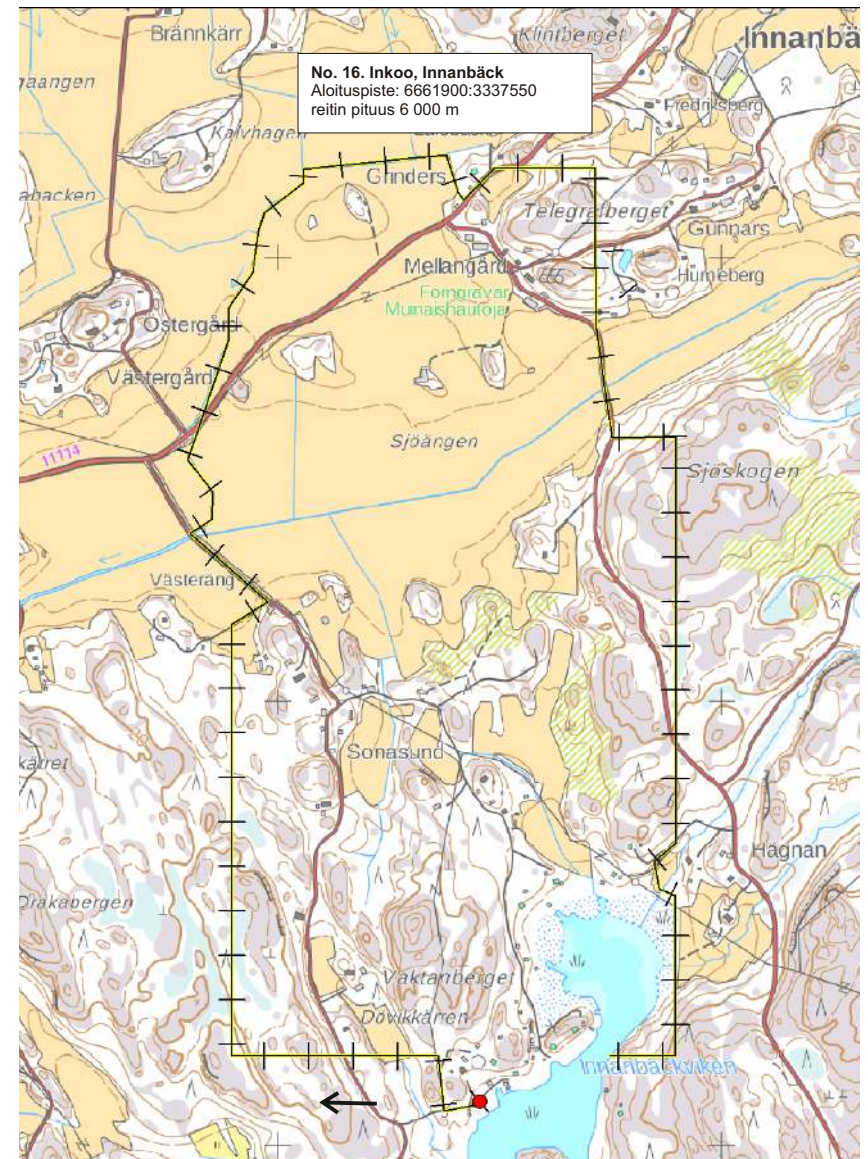
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- Walking along the line

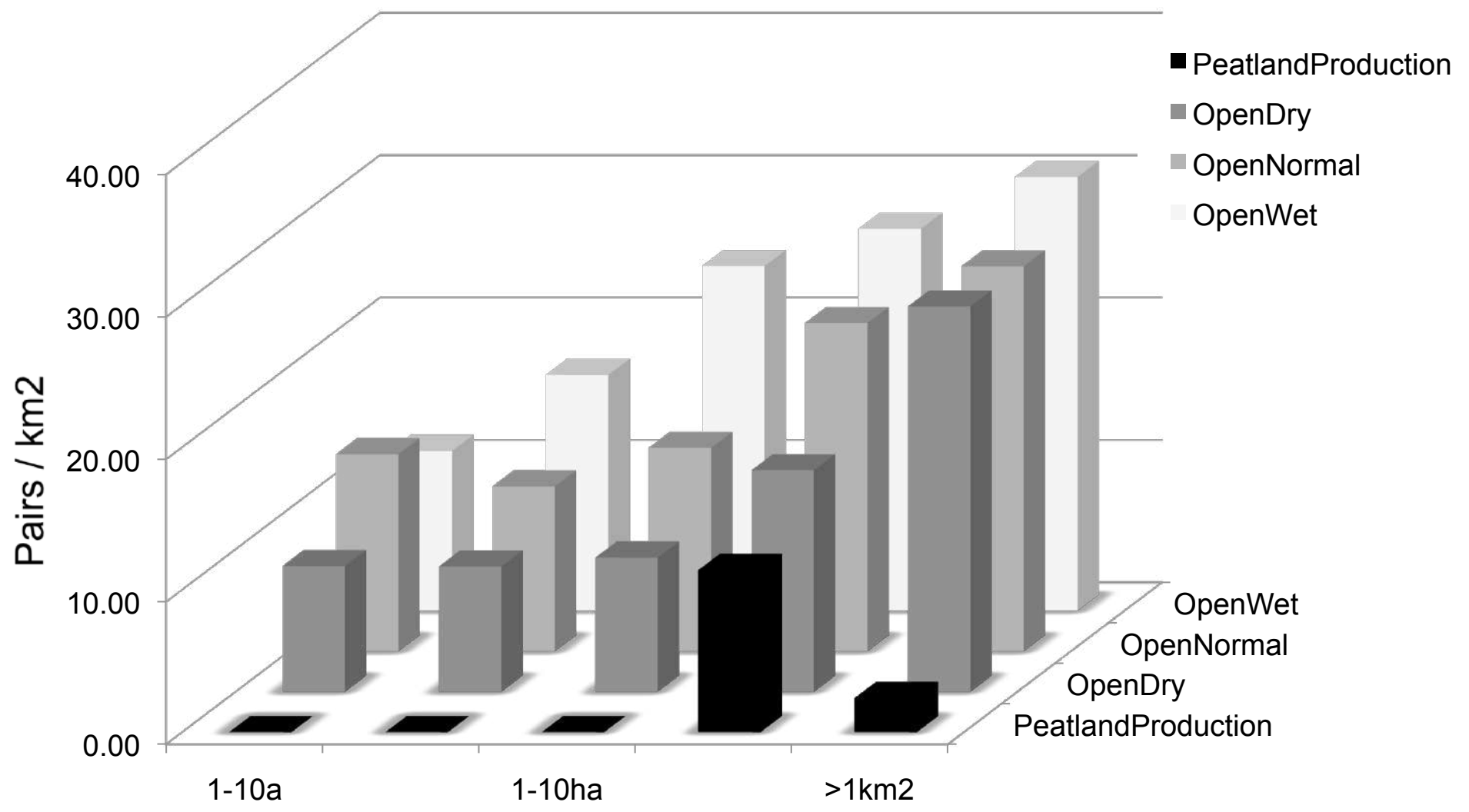


2. Line transect counts

- Walking along the line
- 50 metres habitat blocks

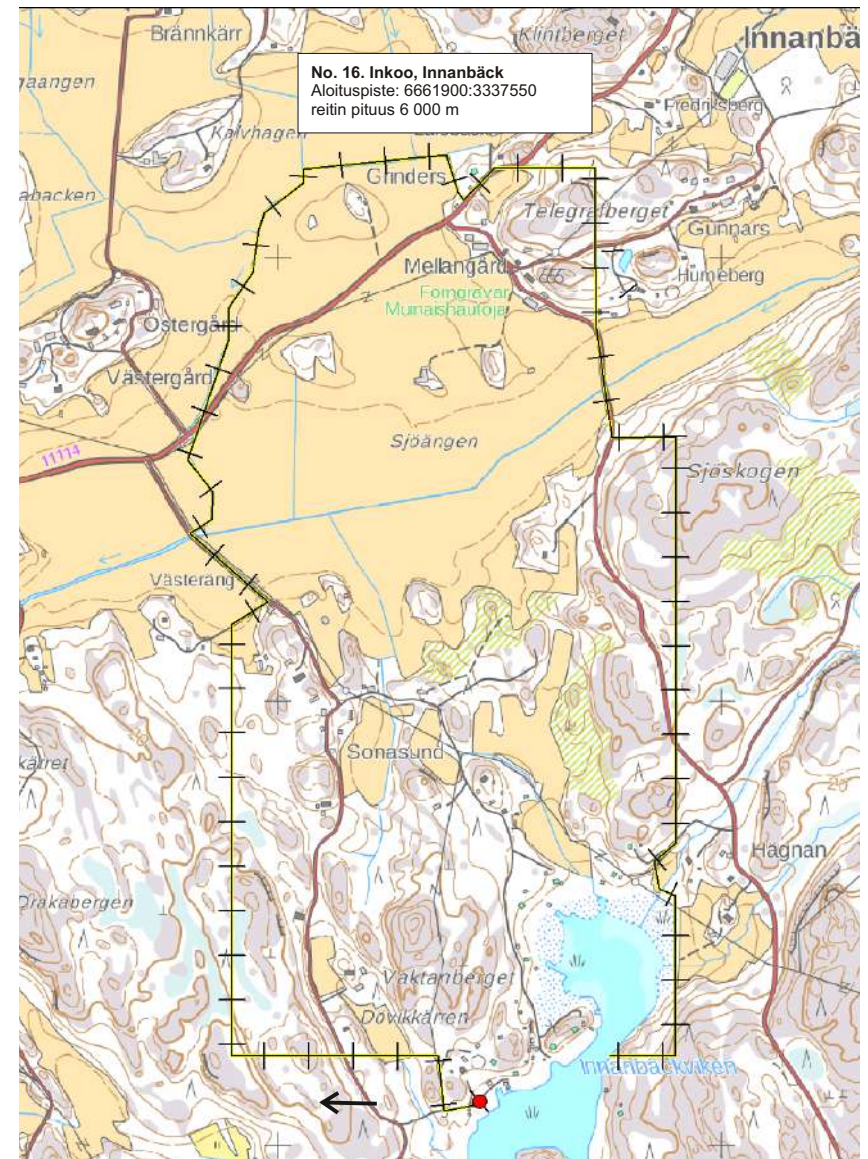


Wader densities according to the type of the open mire



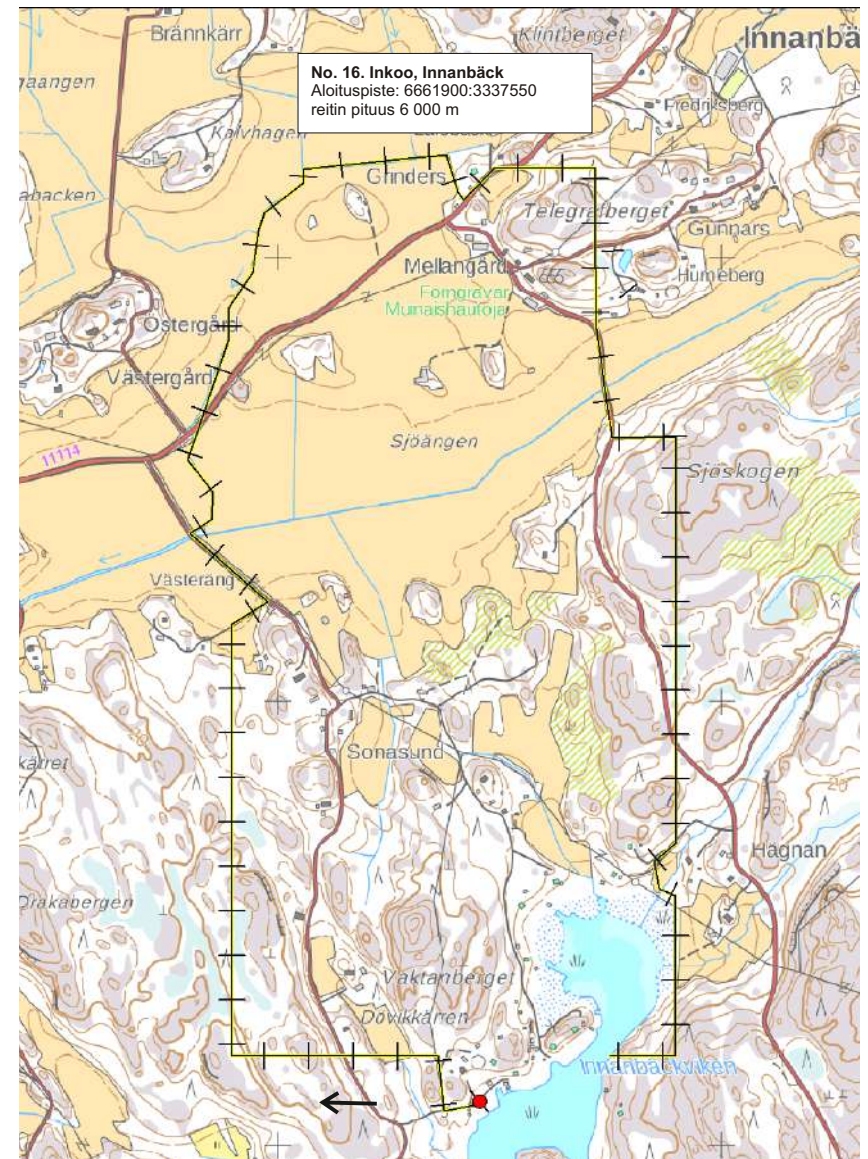
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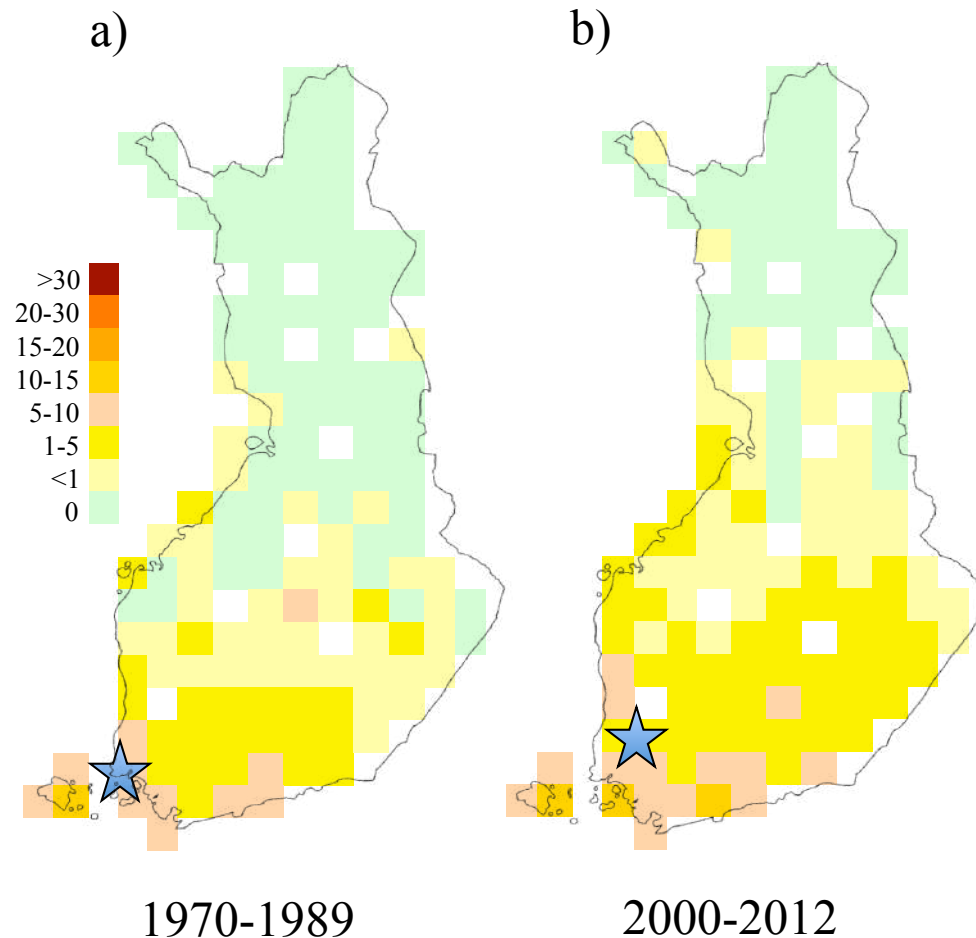


2. Line transect counts

- Walking along the line
- 50 metres habitat blocks
- Type of observation: singing, calling, seen etc
- **GPS handy tool, some borrowed from UH**



Change in the central gravity of breeding landbirds



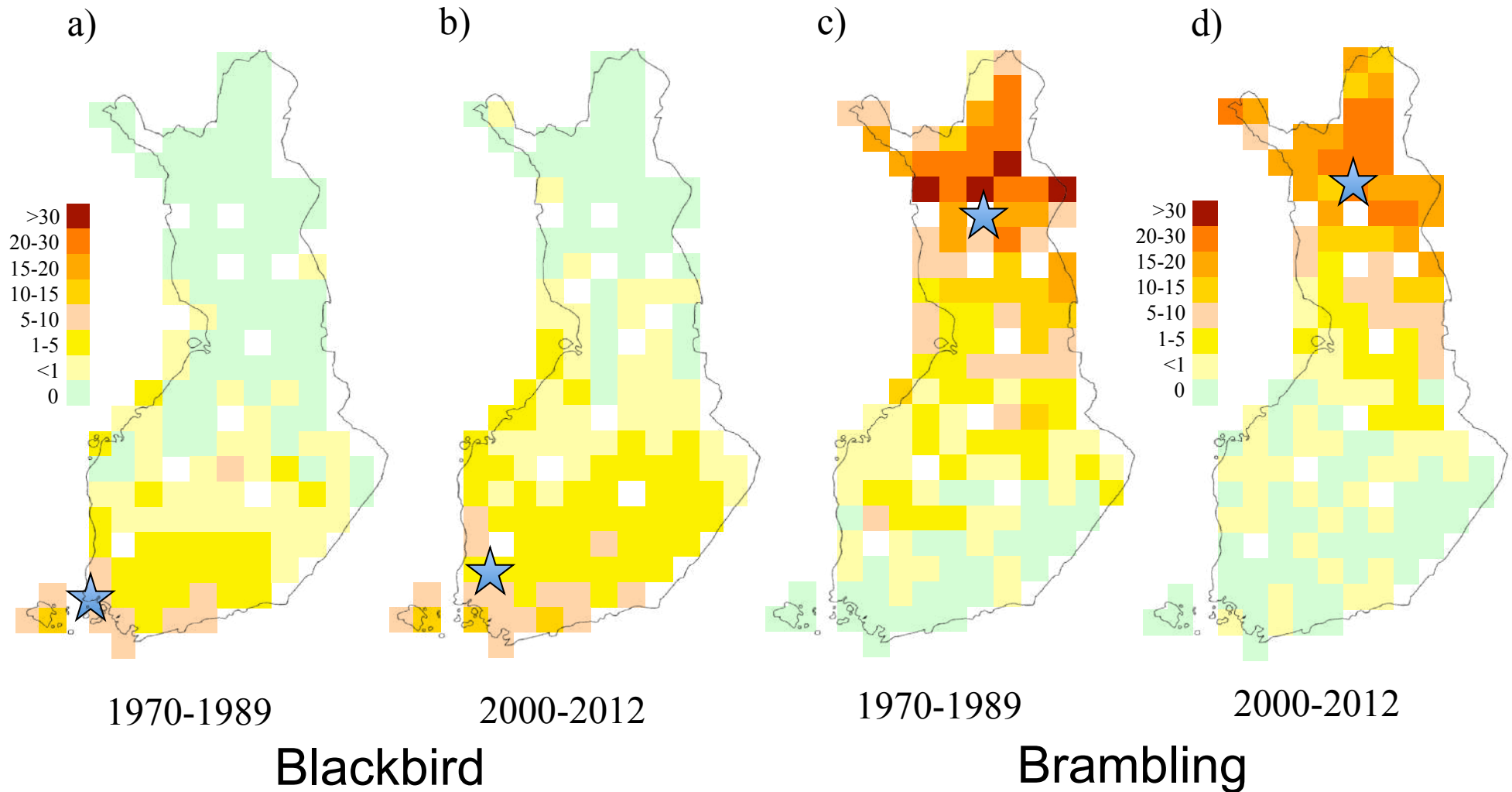
1970-1989

2000-2012

Blackbird

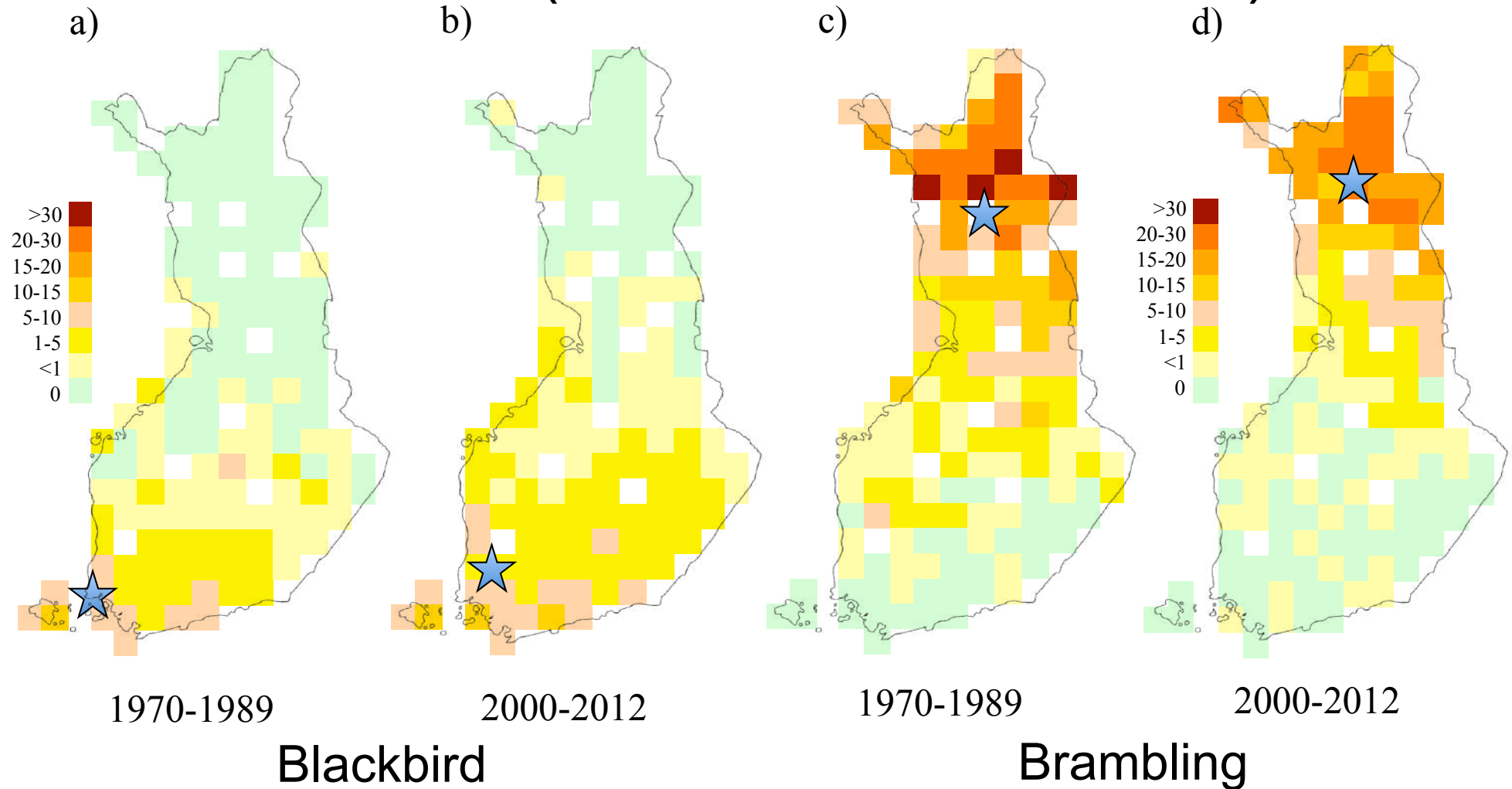
Lehikoinen & Virkkala 2016: Global Change Biol 22: 1121–1129

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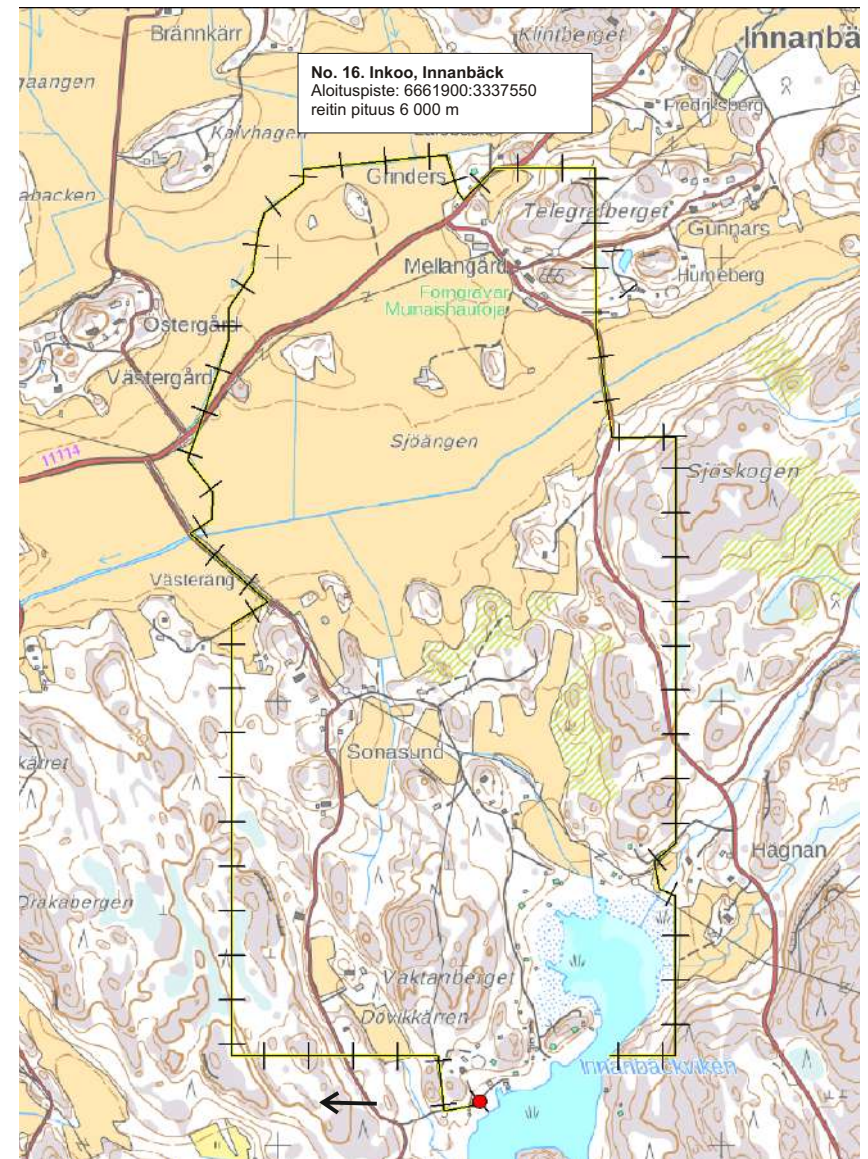
Lehikoinen & Virkkala 2016: Global Change Biol 22: 1121–1129

Change in the central gravity of breeding landbirds (≈ 16 km NNE / decade)



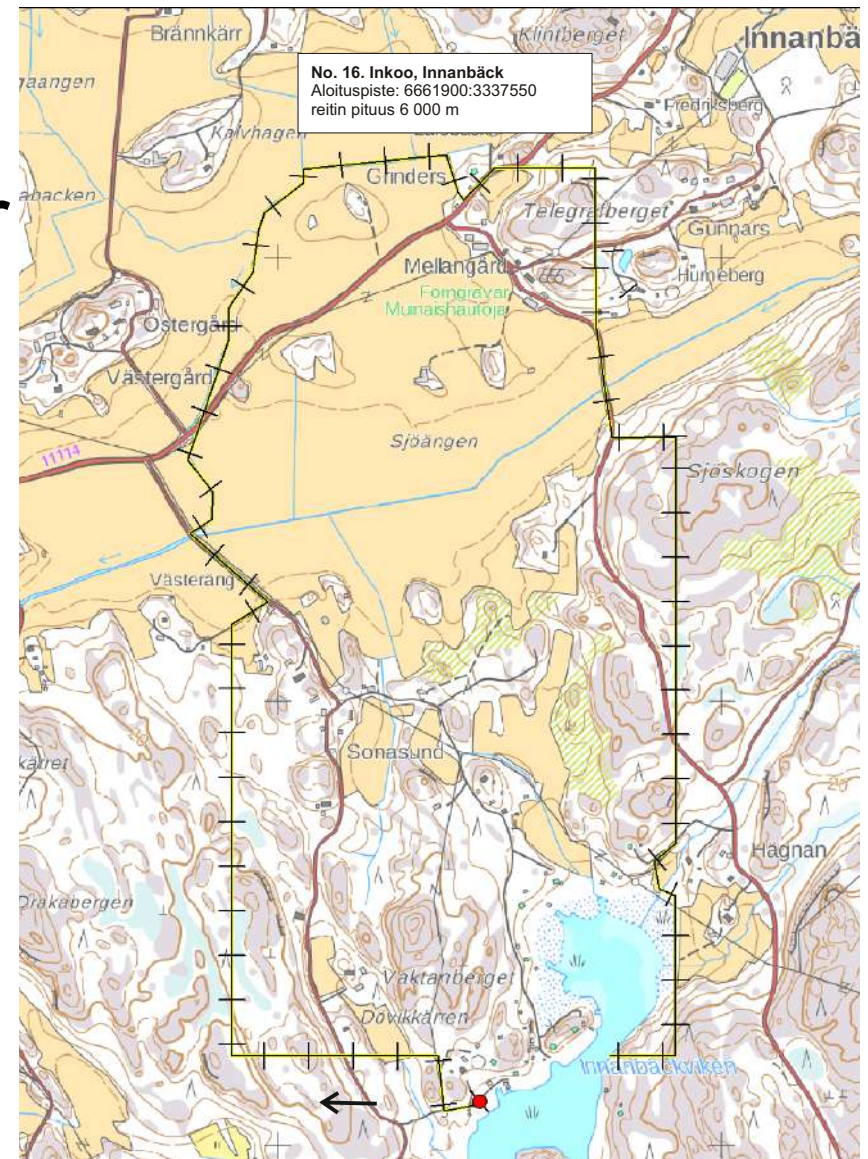
2. Line transect counts

- Online booking system



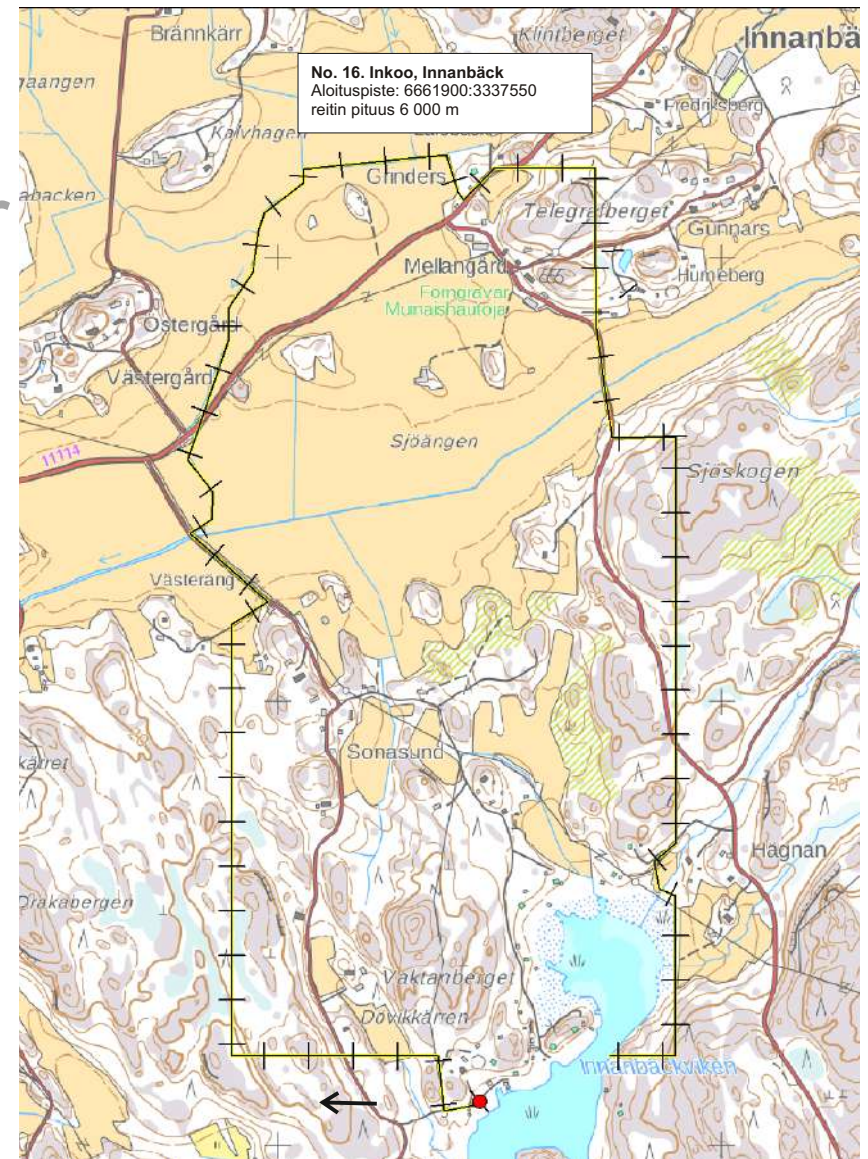
2. Line transect counts

- Online booking system
- Observers can book their favourite transects



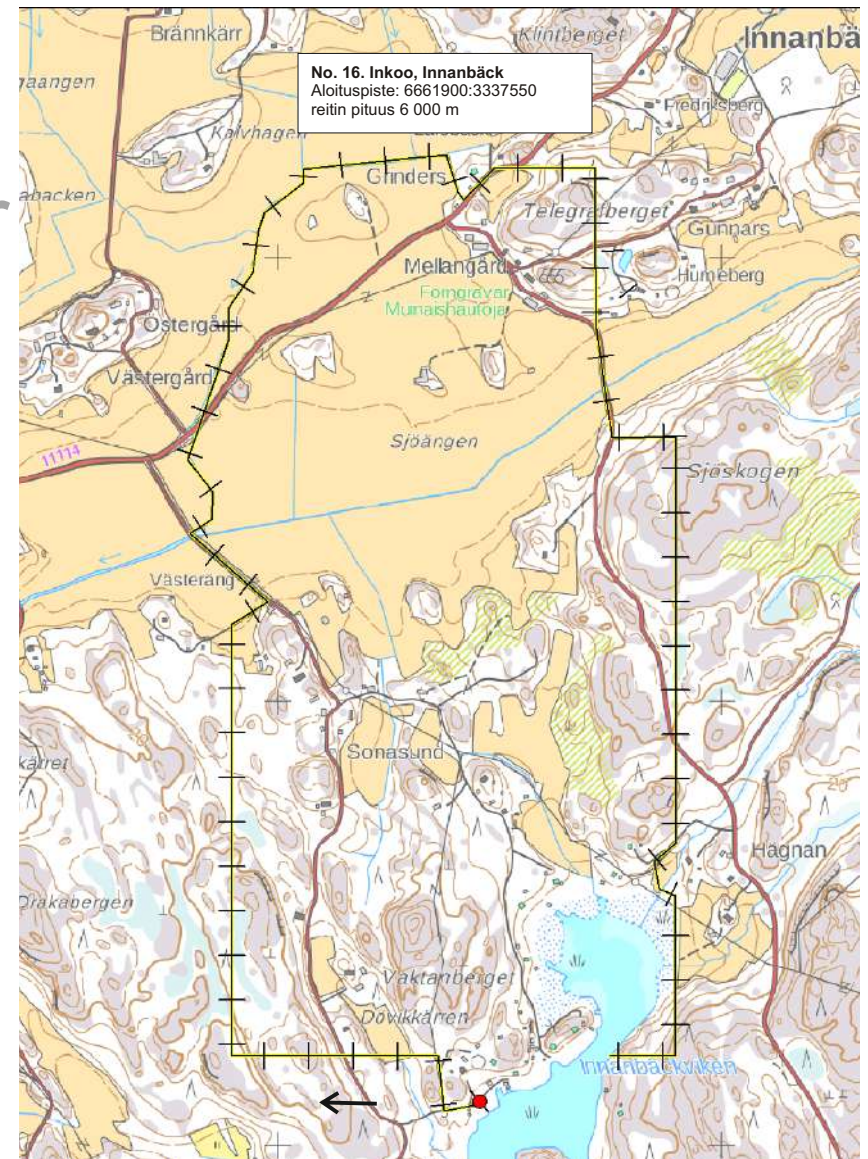
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- Not many “own” routes
- Gap routes highlighted



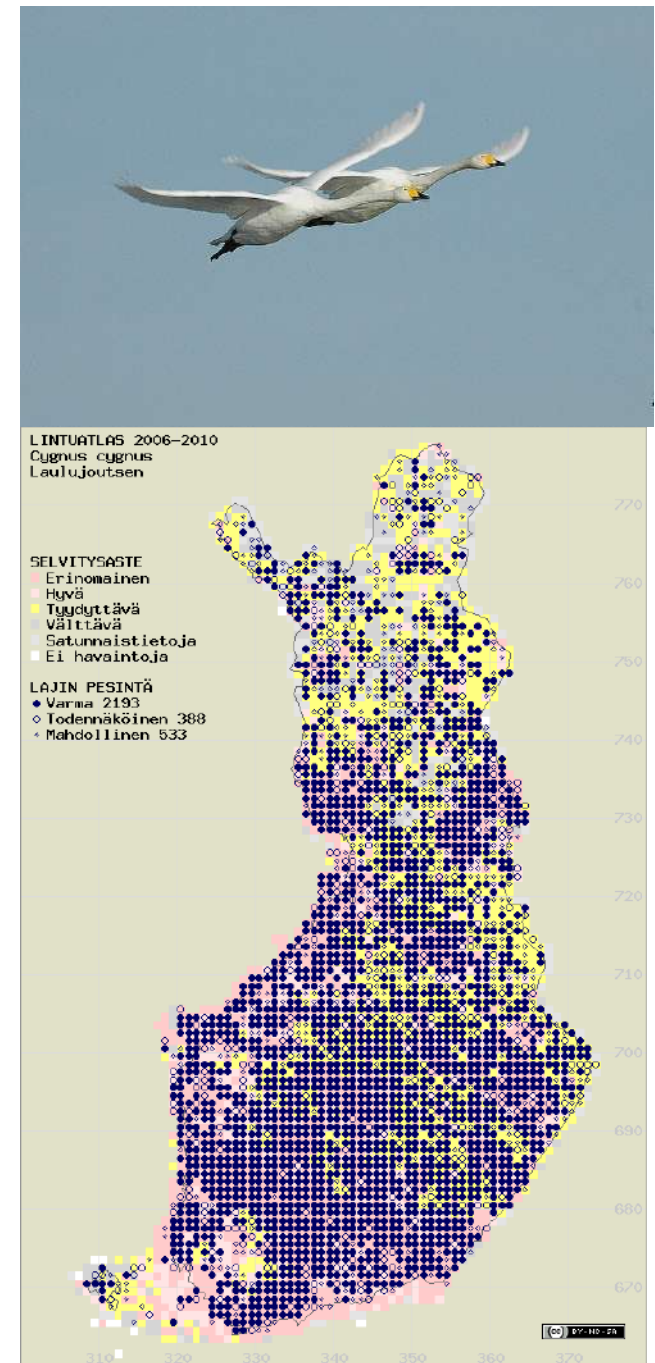
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- Whatsapp group for observers 2017: shared guidance and fun!



3. Atlas work

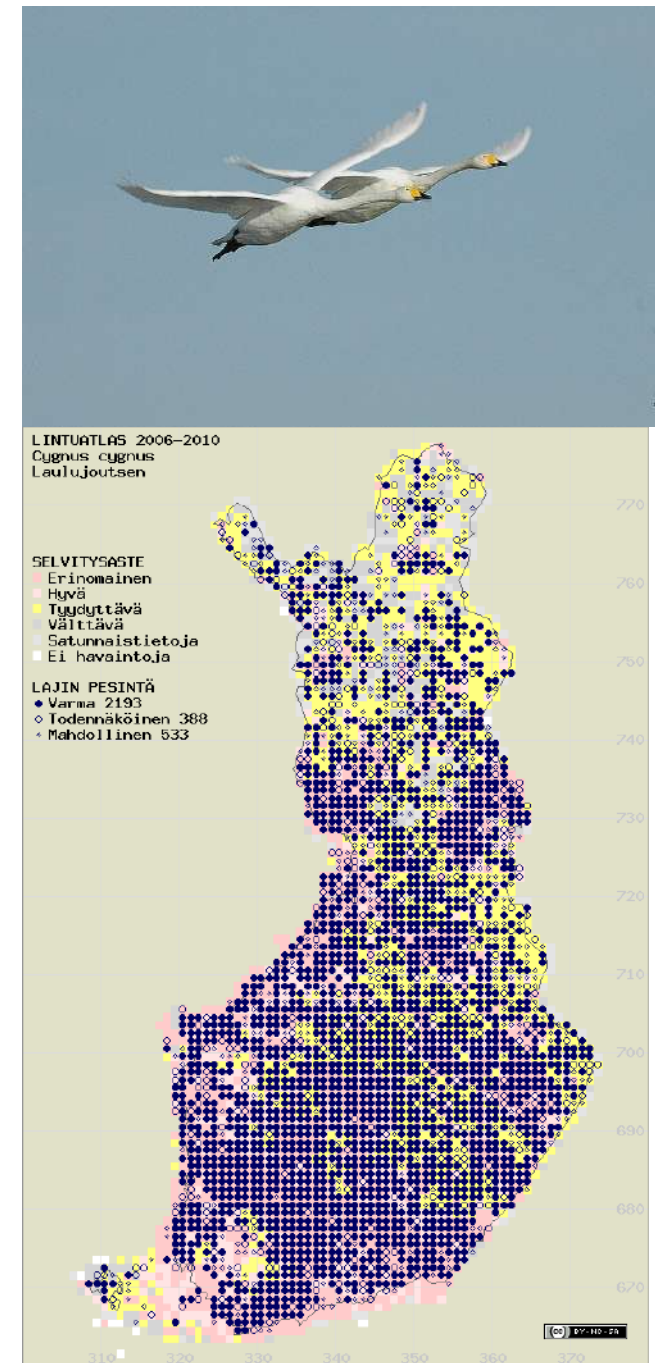
- What is a probability that species is breeding in 10x10km square?



3. Atlas work

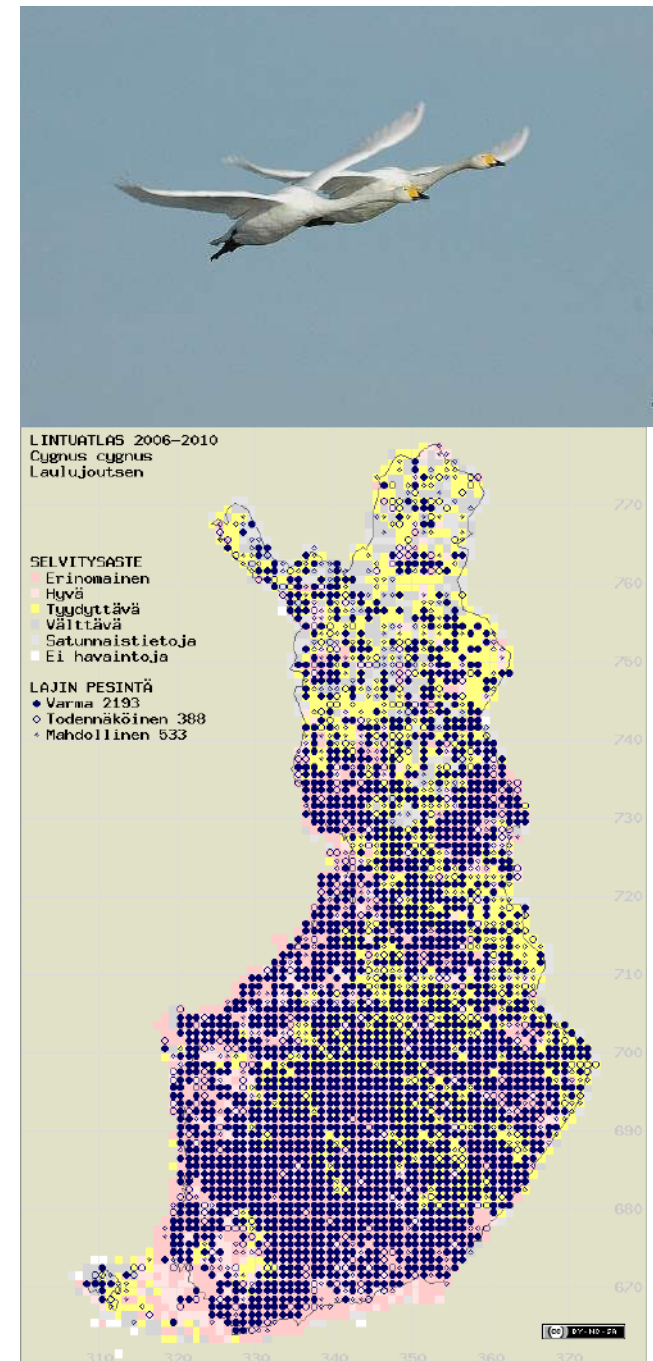
- What is a probability that species is breeding in 10x10km square?

- Possible
- Probable
- Confirmed



3. Atlas work

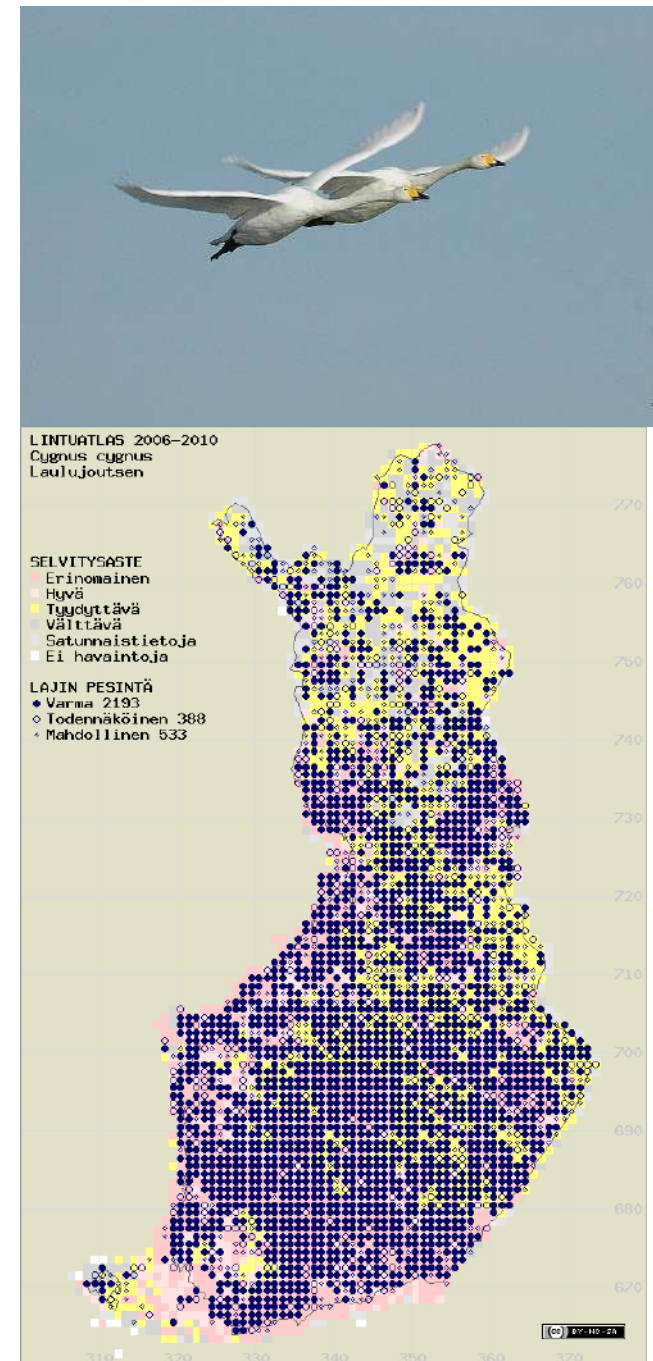
- 3 atlas in Finland
- Latest 2006-2010 online



<http://atlas3.lintuatlas.fi/>

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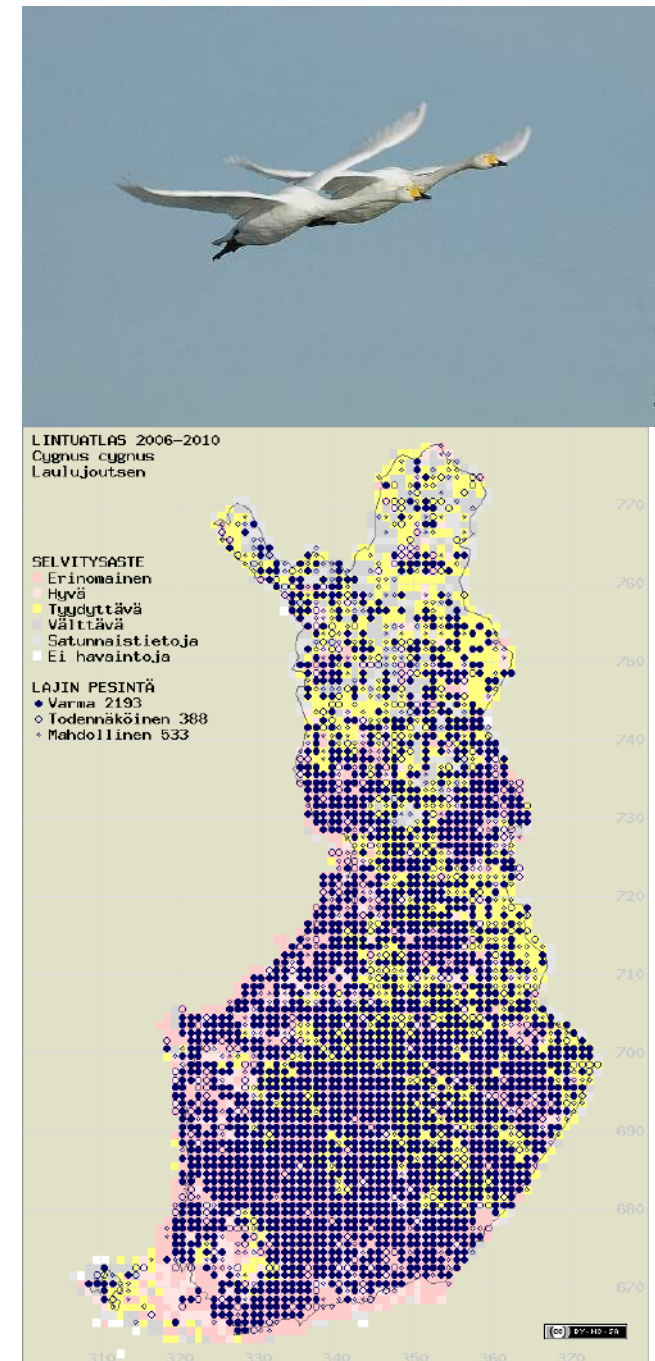
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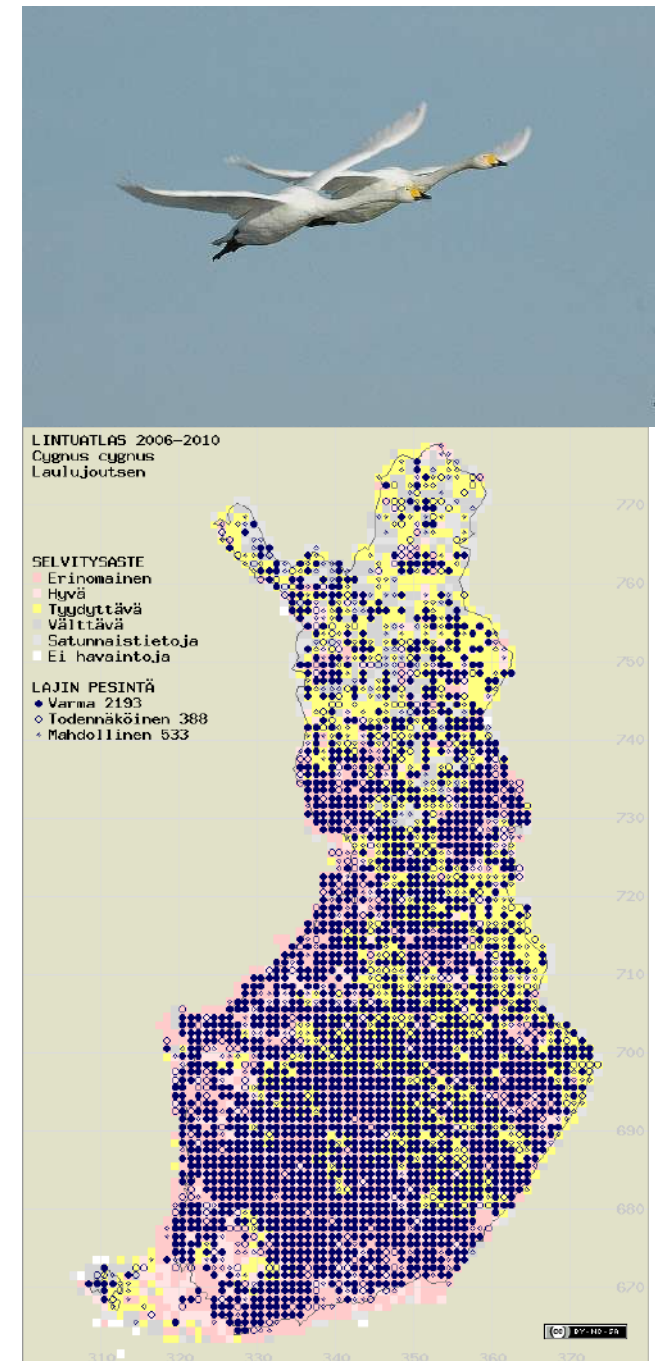
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- Gap areas
- >5000 participants



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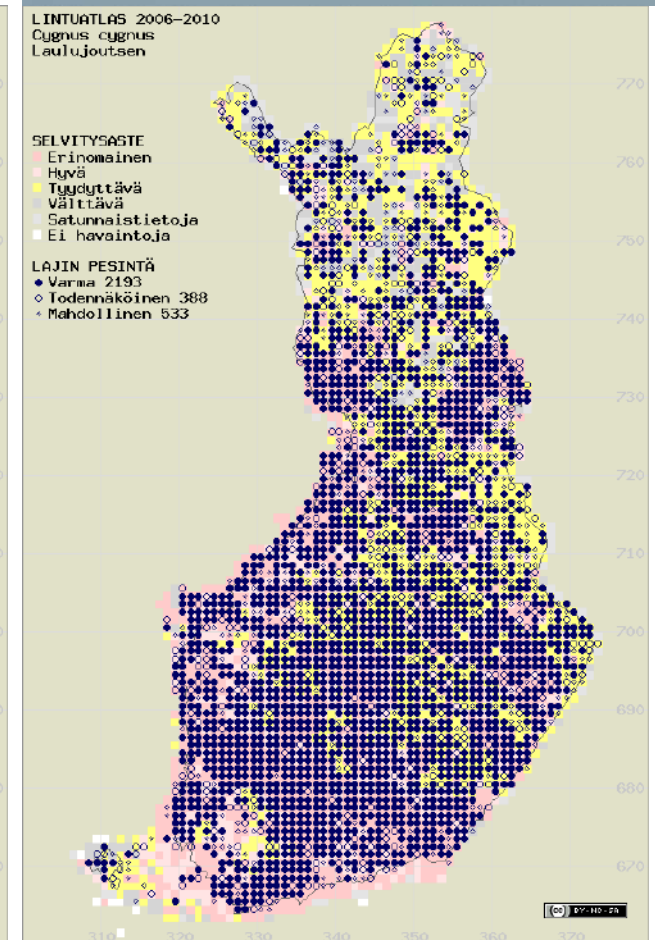
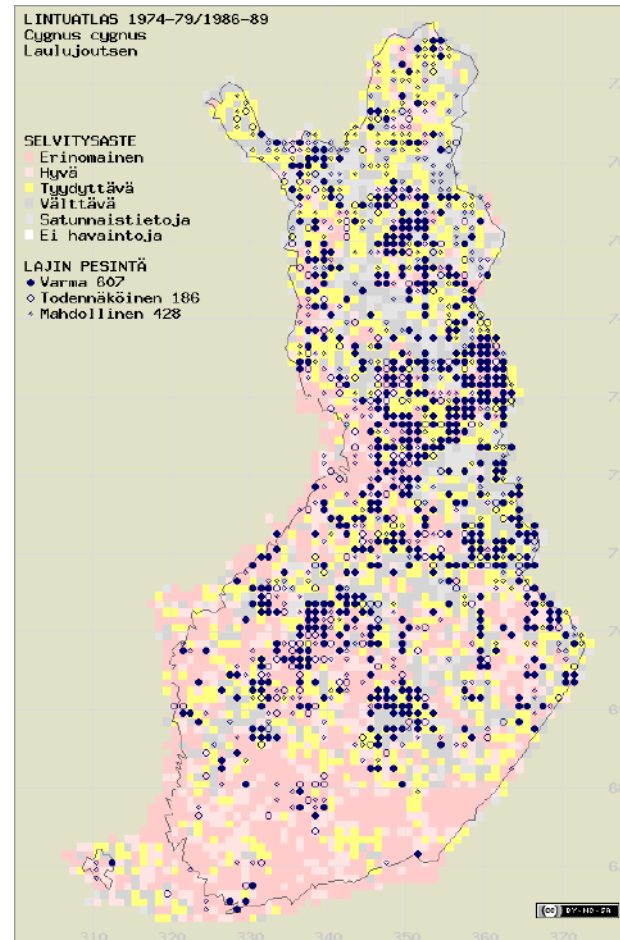
- 3 atlas in Finland
- Latest 2006-2010 online
- Gap areas
- >5000 participants
- One coordinator



<http://atlas3.lintuatlas.fi/>

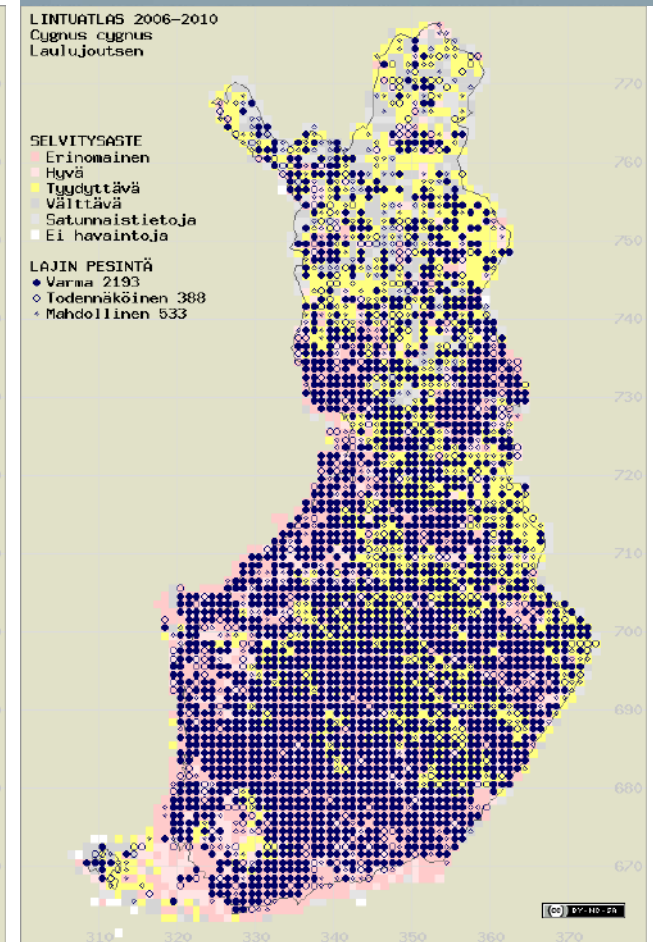
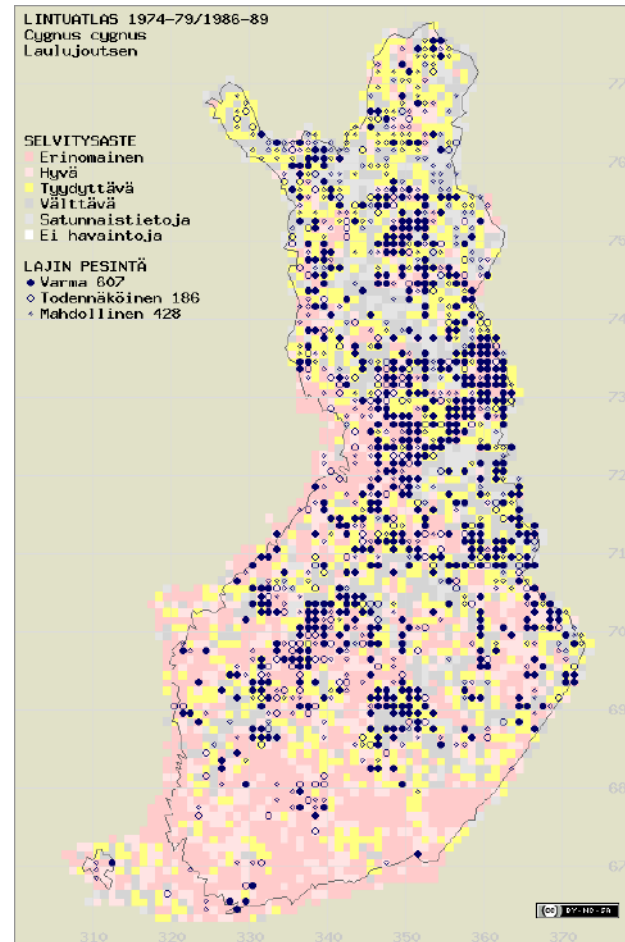
3. Atlas work

- Not abundance data
- Observation effort may be difficult to measure



3. Atlas work

- Not abundance data
- Observation effort may be difficult to measure
- **Very very popular!!**



Observer training:

Observer training: Birdin.no



NORD
University



Birds

News

| | |
|-----------------------|------------|
| 40 000 media! | 21.11.2017 |
| Server Problems:FIXED | 06.11.2017 |
| Server upgrade | 14.02.2017 |



Mammals

News

| | |
|-----------------------|------------|
| 1000 new photos! | 18.11.2016 |
| Improved mammal quiz | 15.10.2015 |
| Mammal identification | 17.04.2013 |



Tracks

News

| | |
|----------------------|------------|
| Software updates | 23.02.2017 |
| Track identification | 17.04.2013 |



International monitoring networks

- Finnish winter bird counts are part of the International Waterbird Counts (IWC)



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- Largest BD monitoring scheme in globe

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- IWC are conducted >140 countries
- Largest BD monitoring scheme in globe
- National and local coordinators (NGOs, Universities, research centres etc)
- IW coordination team

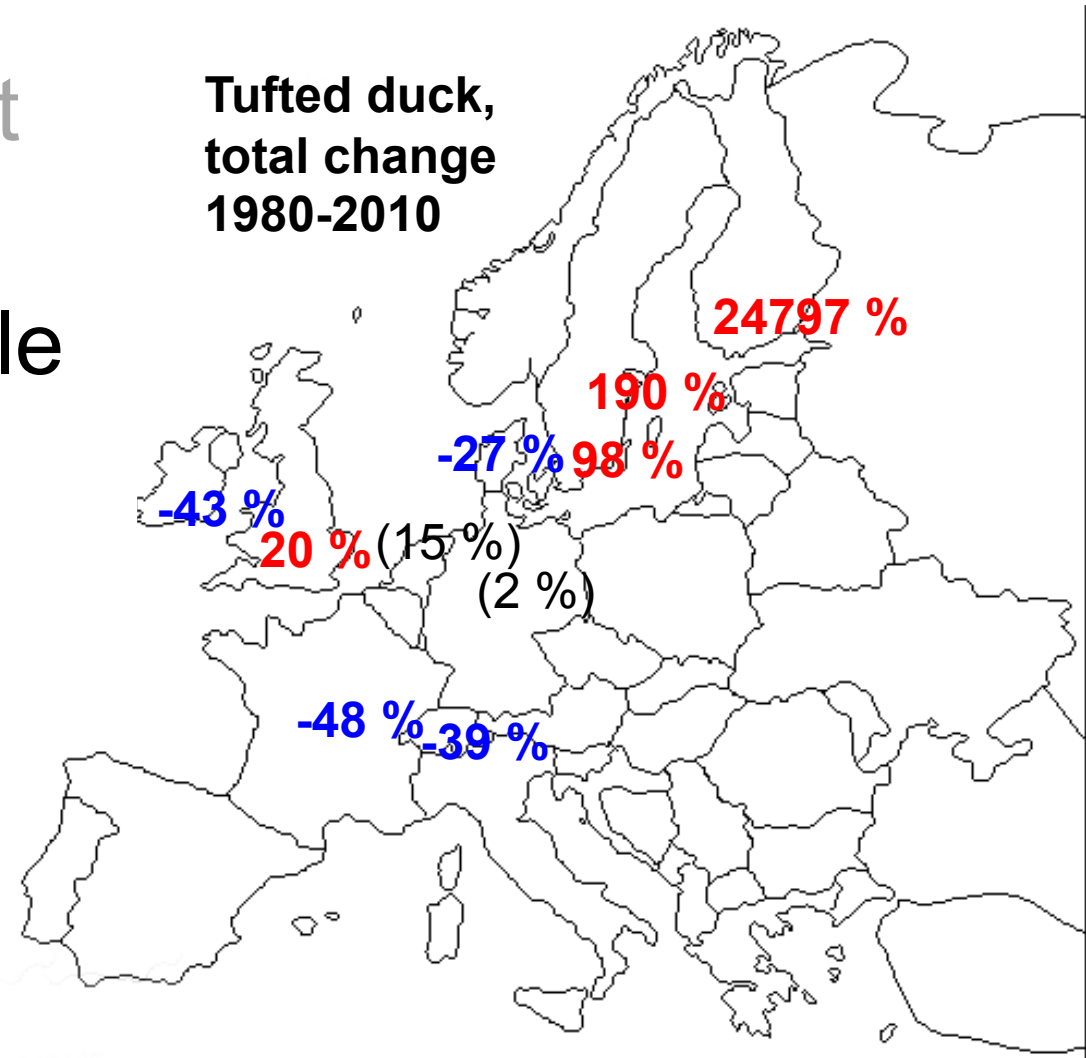
International monitoring networks

- Coordinators meet regularly



International monitoring networks

- Coordinators meet regularly
- Enables large scale studies



Lehikoinen et al., 2013 Global Change Biol

International monitoring networks

- European Bird Census Council, ebcc.info
- Gathers European census information



International monitoring networks

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- Gathers European census information
- Provide guidance for monitoring schemes, including softwares
- Capacity building in developing countries



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- **2nd European Breeding Bird Atlas**



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- **Pan-European Common Bird Monitoring Scheme**



International monitoring networks

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- Gathers European census information
- Provide guidance for monitoring schemes, including softwares
- Capacity building in developing countries
- 2nd European Breeding Bird Atlas
- Pan-European Common Bird Monitoring Scheme
- Tens of thousands of volunteers



International monitoring networks



- Breeding evidence in 50x50 km grids



International monitoring networks



- Breeding evidence in 50x50 km grids
- Aggregation of national atlases

International monitoring networks

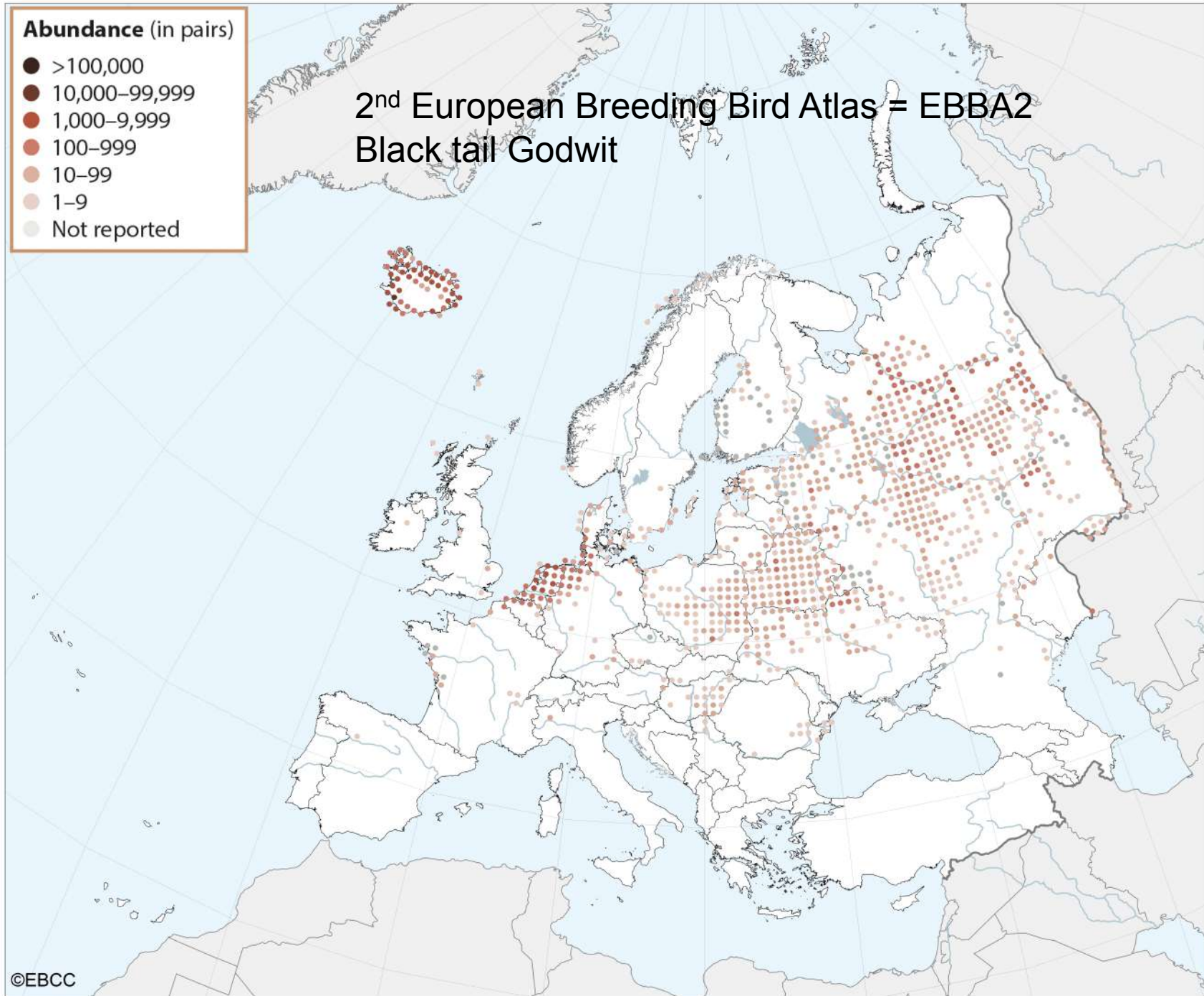


- Breeding evidence in 50x50 km grids
- Aggregation of national atlases
- 2013-2017
- EU 2020 BD targets

Abundance (in pairs)

- >100,000
- 10,000–99,999
- 1,000–9,999
- 100–999
- 10–99
- 1–9
- Not reported

2nd European Breeding Bird Atlas = EBBA2
Black tail Godwit

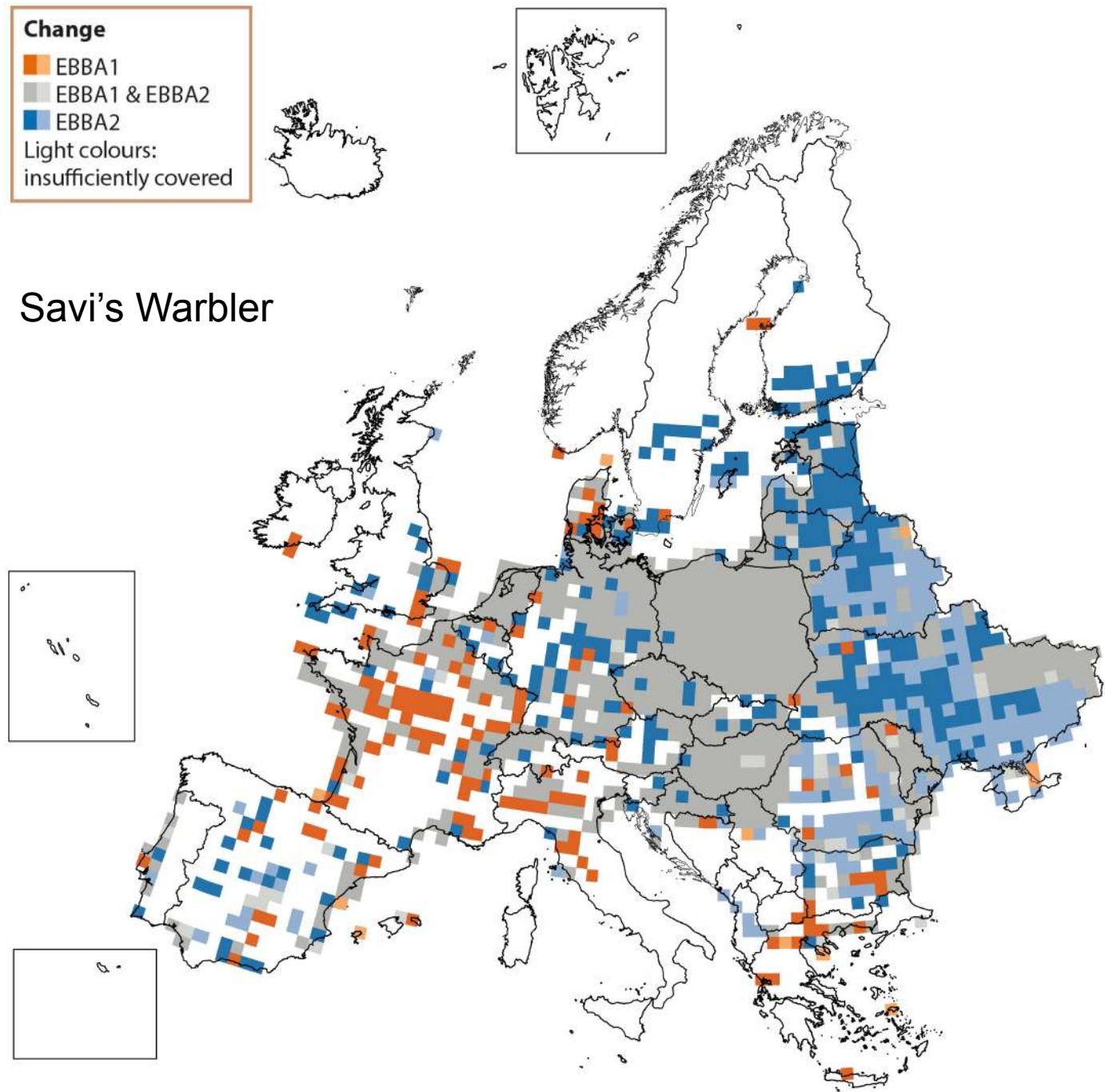


Change

- EBBA1
- EBBA1 & EBBA2
- EBBA2

Light colours:
insufficiently covered

Savi's Warbler



Making citizen science matter

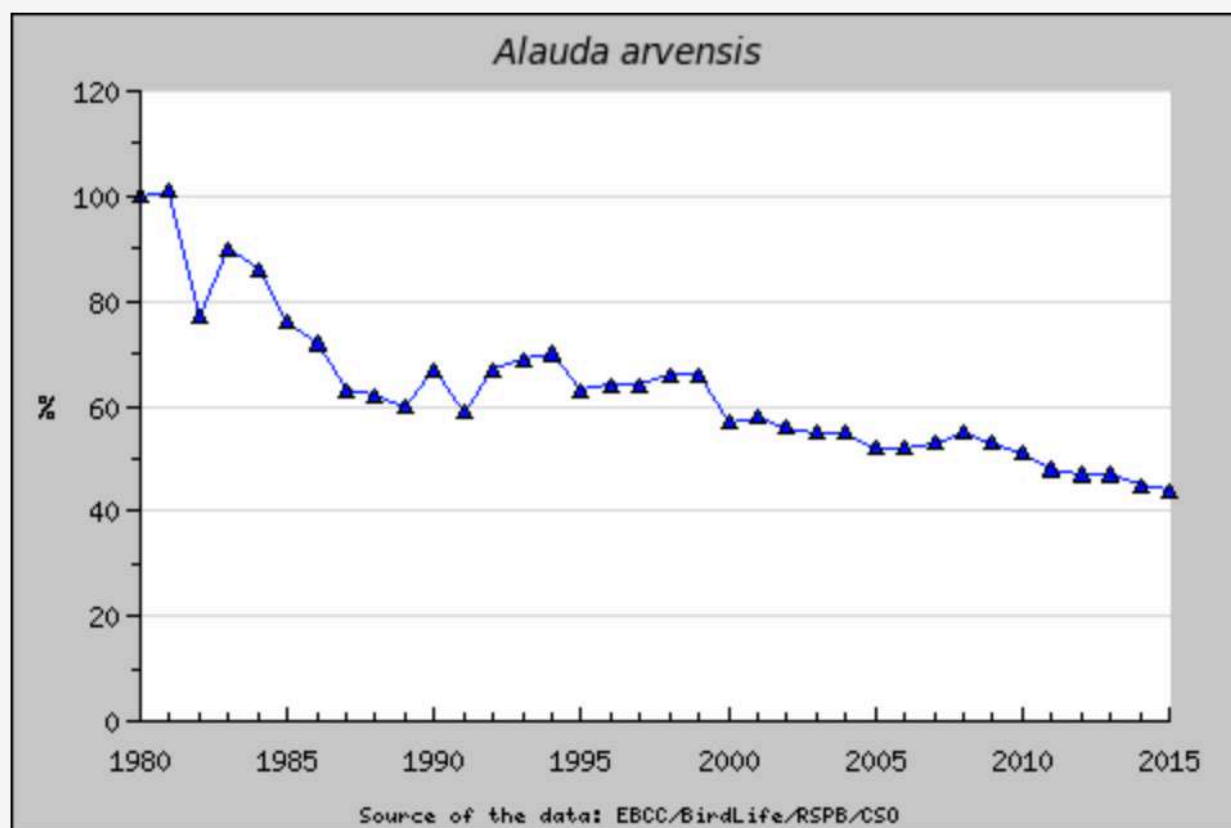
Eurasian Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*)

Population index (%) 1980 - 2015, Europe.

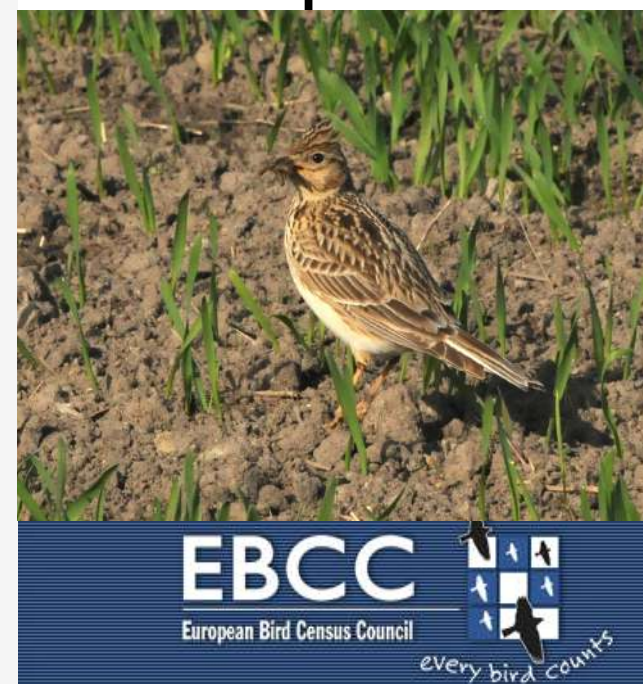
Trend classification: Moderate decline ([explanation](#))

[List of Countries](#)

Source of the data: EBCC/BirdLife/RSPB/CSO

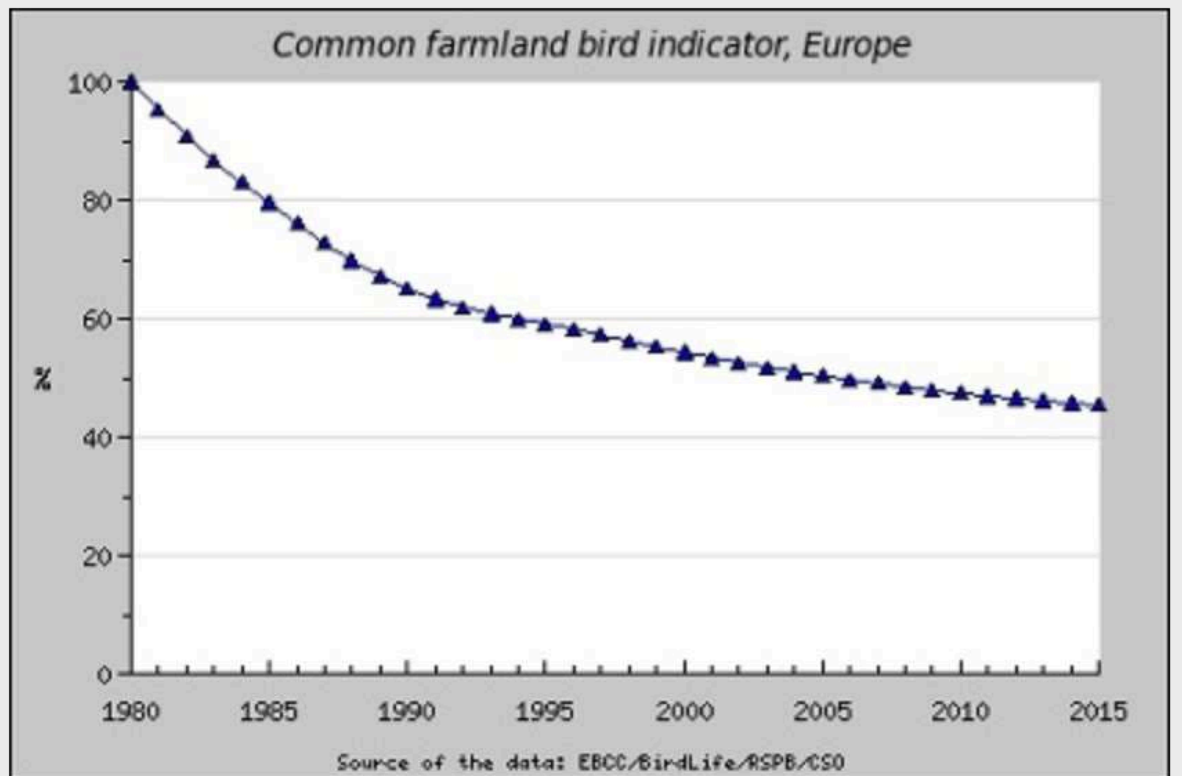


- Population trends of >170 bird species in Europe



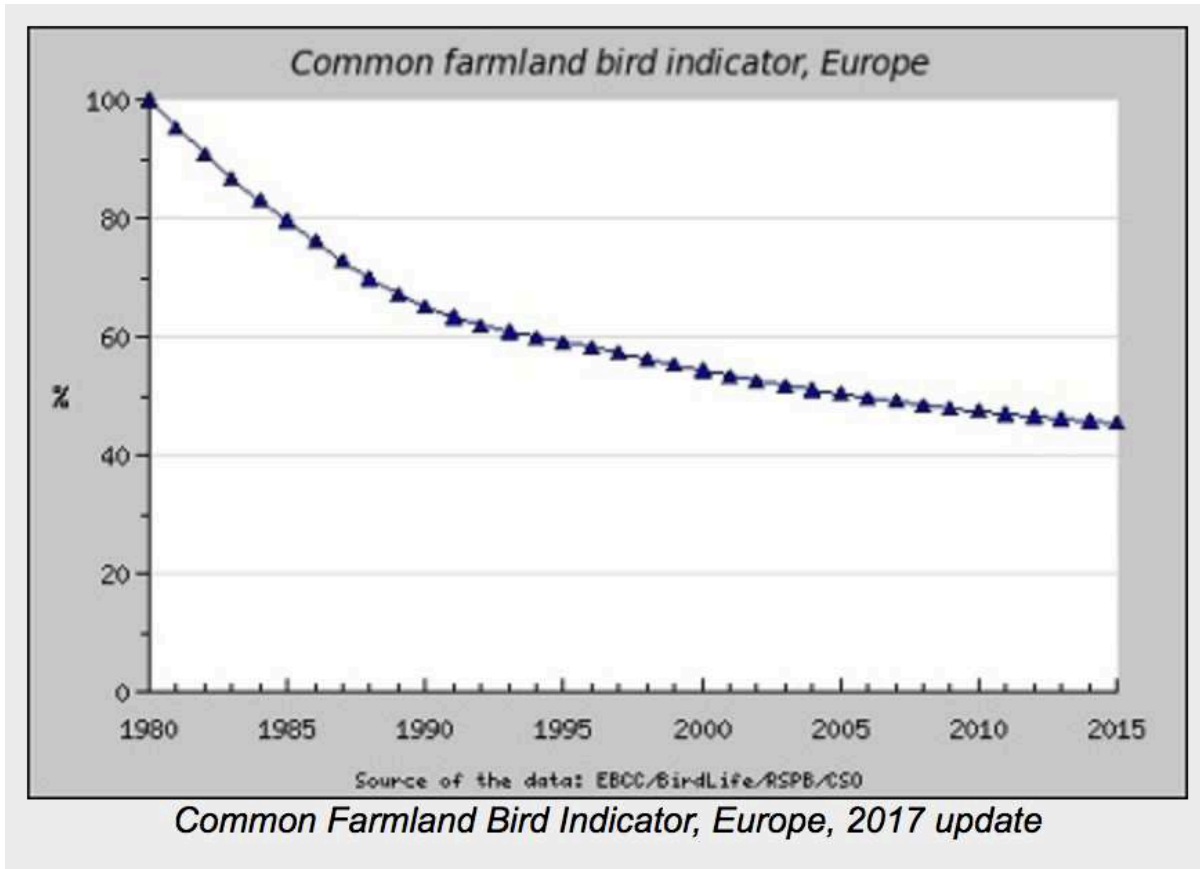
Making citizen science matter

- Biodiversity indicators



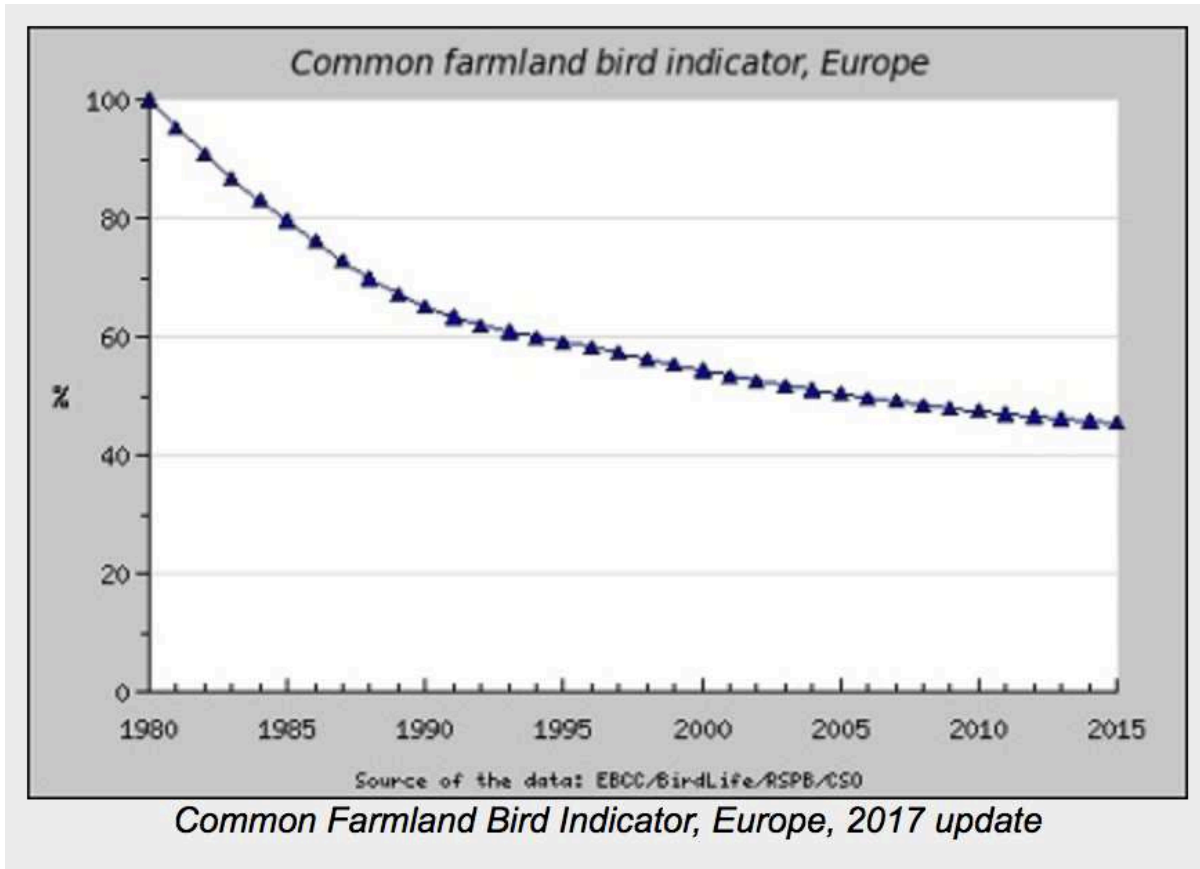
Common Farmland Bird Indicator, Europe, 2017 update

Making citizen science matter



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- Efficiency of EU farmland policy

Making citizen science matter



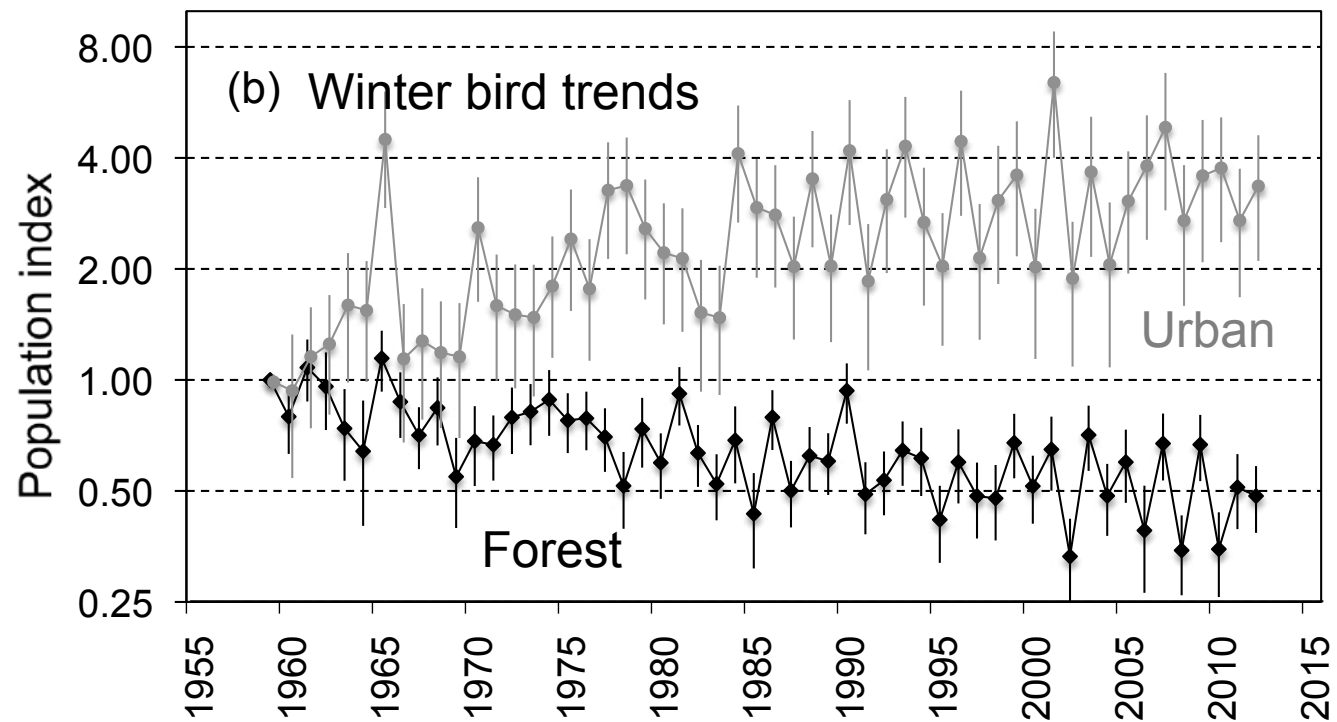
- Biodiversity indicators
- Efficiency of EU farmland policy
- National indicators

Impact of land use changes

- Change in habitat quality
- National habitat specific indicators



Fraixedas Nuñez
et al. 2015 J
Avian Biology 46:
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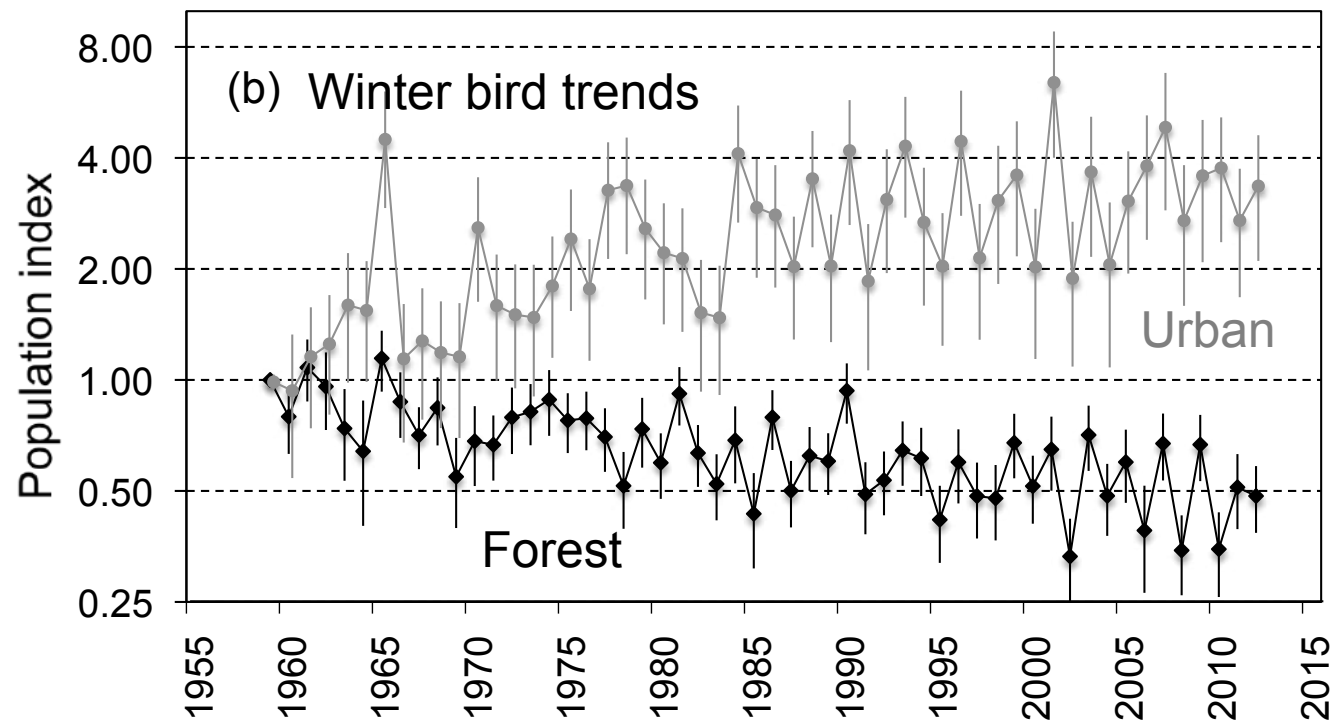


Impact of land use changes

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Red listing of Finnish species

The latest published in 2019

punainenkirja.laji.fi

IUCN criteria (vol. 3.1)

- Species listed in categories:
 - i) Extinct (EX)
 - ii) Extinct in the wild (EW)
 - iii) Critically endangered (CR)
 - iv) Endangered (EN)
 - v) Vulnerable (VU)
 - vi) Nearly threatened (NT)
 - vii) Least concern (LC)
 - viii) Data deficient (DD) (no data)
 - ix) Not evaluated (NE) (non-native)

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IUCN criteria (vol. 3.1)

- Five main criteria:
 - A) Decline in population size
 - B) Small geographical range and fragmented or declining population
 - C) Small population size and decline
 - D) Very small population size
 - E) Quantitative analysis showing probability of extinction

<http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/categories-and-criteria>

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A. Decline in population size

- An observed, estimated, inferred or suspected population size reduction of
 - i) $\geq 80\%$ in CR,
 - ii) $\geq 50\%$ in EN,
 - iii) $\geq 30\%$ in VU over the last 10 years or three generations, where the reduction or its causes may not have ceased OR may not be understood OR may not be reversible

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A. Decline in population size

- based on (and specifying) any of the following:
 - (a) direct observation
 - (b) an index of abundance appropriate to the taxon
 - (c) a decline in area of occupancy, extent of occurrence and/or quality of habitat
 - (d) actual or potential levels of exploitation
 - (e) the effects of introduced

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A. Decline in population size

Examples

Ortolan bunting

Peltosirkku



Generation length 3.6 years * 3 = 11 years, e.g.
2006-2017

Decline in breeding counts -80%

A. Decline in population size

- An observed, estimated, inferred or suspected population size reduction of
 - i) $\geq 80\%$ in Critically endangered (CR)
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over the last 10 years or three generations, where the reduction or its causes may not have ceased OR may not be understood OR may not be reversible

A. Decline in population size

Examples

Willow tit, Hömötäinen

Generation length 4.6 years * 3 = 14 years,
e.g. 2003-2017

Decline in breeding counts -53%, winter
counts -68%



A. Decline in population size

- An observed, estimated, inferred or suspected population size reduction of
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A. Decline in population size

Examples

Sedge Warbler, Ruokokerttunen

Generation length 3.6 years * 3 = 11 years, e.g.
2006-2017



Decline in breeding counts -22%

A. Decline in population size

- An observed, estimated, inferred or suspected population size reduction of
 - i) $\geq 80\%$ in Critically endangered (CR)
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B. Geographic range

1. Extent of occurrence estimated to be less than 1000 km² (CR), 5,000 km² (EN), 20,000 km² (VU), and estimates indicating at least two of a-c:
 - a. Severely fragmented or known to exist at no more than five locations.
 - b. Continuing decline, observed, inferred or projected,
 - c. Extreme fluctuations

2. Area of occupancy estimated to be less than 10 km² (CR), 500 km² (EN), 2000 km² (VU) and estimates indicating at least two of a-c:
 - a. Severely fragmented or known to exist at no more than five locations.
 - b. Continuing decline, observed, inferred or projected
 - c. Extreme fluctuations

B. Geographic range

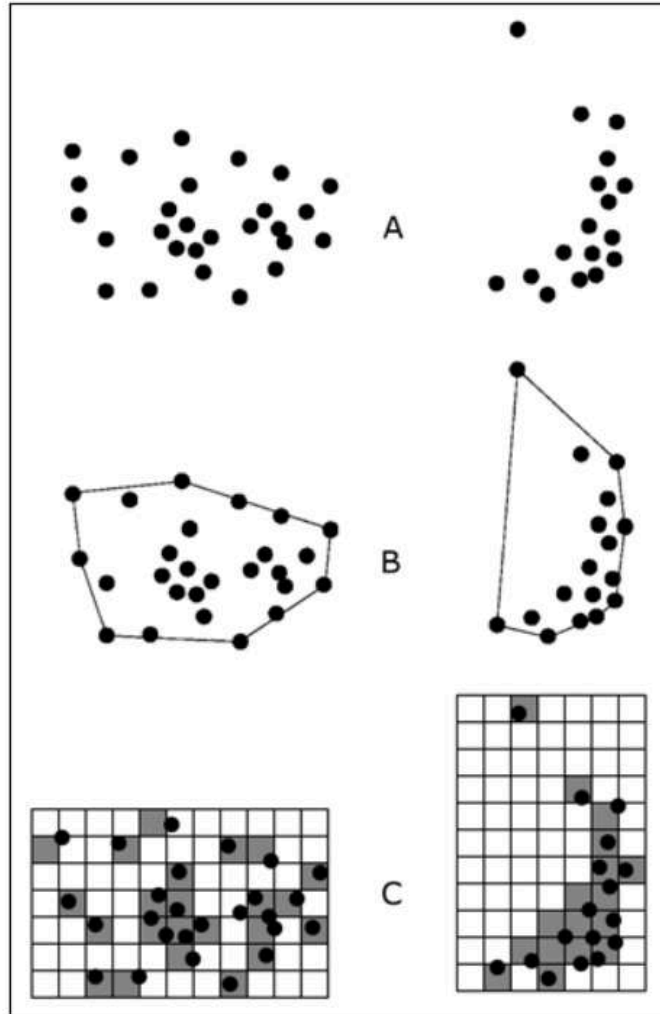


Figure 2. Two examples of the distinction between extent of occurrence and area of occupancy. (A) is the spatial distribution of known, inferred or projected sites of present occurrence. (B) shows one possible boundary to the extent of occurrence, which is the measured area within this boundary. (C) shows one measure of area of occupancy which can be achieved by the sum of the occupied grid squares.

C. Population size and decline

- C. Population size estimated to number fewer than 250 (CR), 2500 (EN) or 10000 (VU) mature individuals and either:
 1. An estimated continuing decline
 - i) 25% in 3 years/1 generation (CR)
 - ii) 20% in 5 years/2 generations (EN)
 - iii) 10 % within certain 10 years/ 3 generations (VU)

OR

2. A continuing decline, observed, projected, or inferred, in numbers of mature individuals AND at least one of the following (a-b):
 - a. Population structure in the form of one of the following: (i) no subpopulation estimated to contain more than 50 mature individuals, OR (ii) at least 90% of mature individuals in one subpopulation.
 - b. Extreme fluctuations in number of mature individuals.

D. Small population size

- Population size estimated to number fewer than
 - i) 50 mature individuals (CR)
 - ii) 250 mature individuals (EN)
 - iii) 1000 mature individuals (VU)

D. Small population size, **examples**

- Population size estimated to number fewer than

i) 50 mature individuals (CR)

Breeding population less than 25 pairs: very rare breeding species, which have had breeding population for some time:

Greater spotted eagle, snowy owl, black tern, turtle dove, kingfisher

D. Small population size, **examples**

- Population size estimated to number fewer than

i) 50 mature individuals (CR)

Populations recently colonized (edge populations) are upgraded: e.g.

Citril wagtail (->EN), Savi's warbler (->EN)

D. Small population size

- Population size estimated to number fewer than

iii) 1000 mature individuals (VU)

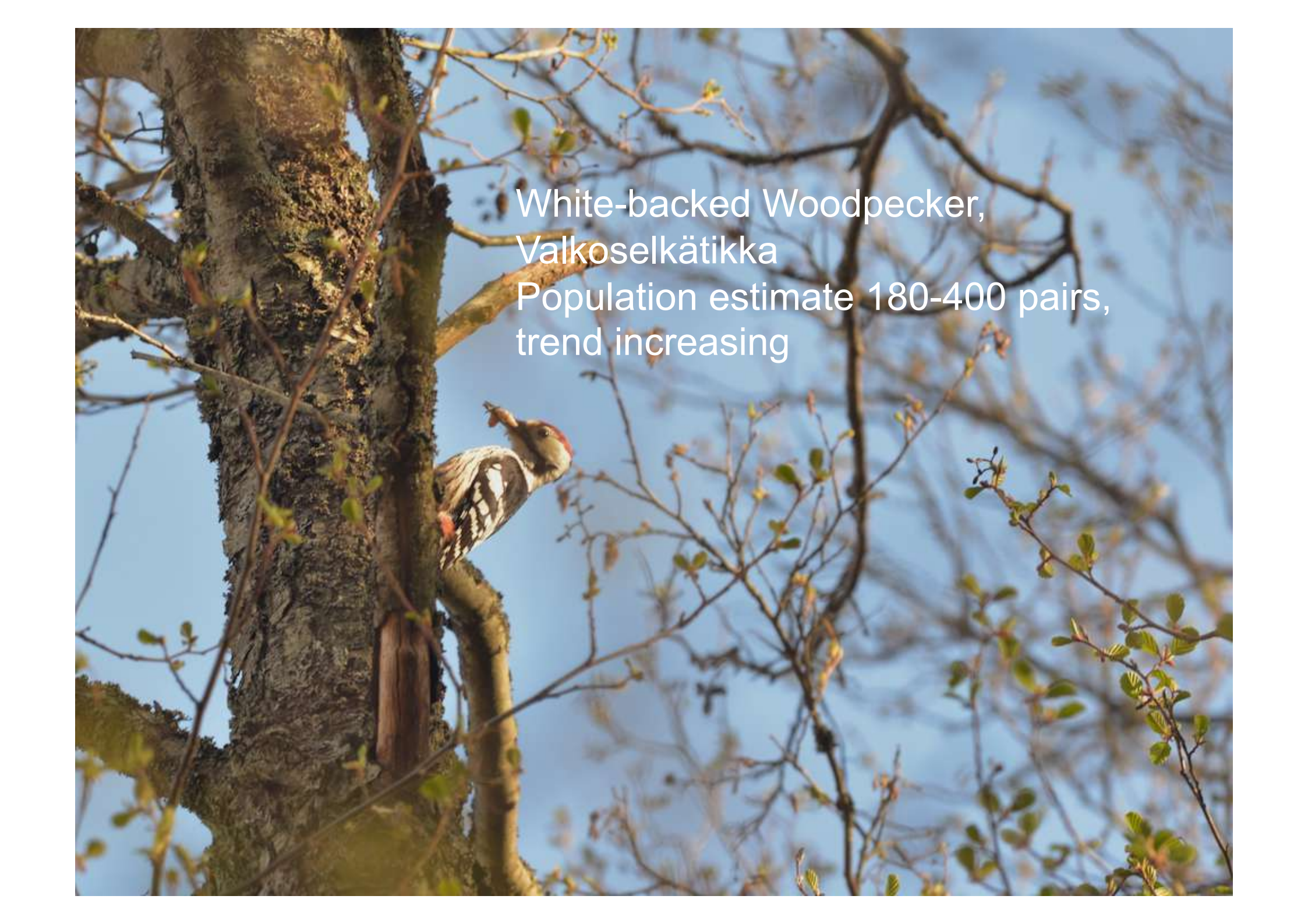
Relatively rare species: quail, eagles, moorhen, great reed warbler, barred warbler, bearded tit



Gadwall, *Harmaasorsa*
Population estimate 700-1500 pairs,
trend increasing

D. Small population size

- Population size estimated to number fewer than
 - i) 50 mature individuals (CR)
 - ii) 250 mature individuals (EN)
 - iii) 1000 mature individuals (VU)



White-backed Woodpecker,
Valkoselkätikka
Population estimate 180-400 pairs,
trend increasing

D. Small population size

- Population size estimated to number fewer than
 - i) 50 mature individuals (CR)
 - ii) 250 mature individuals (EN)
 - iii) 1000 mature individuals (VU)

E. Quantitative analysis

- Quantitative analysis showing the probability of extinction in the wild is
 - i) at least 50% within 10 years or three generations (CR)
 - ii) at least 20% within 20 years or five generations (EN)
 - iii) at least 10% within 100 years (VU)

Problematic species

- Uncommon species with poor monitoring data: bean goose (VU in 2015), little ringed plover (NT)
- Borderline species e.g. decline 29-31%
- Contrasting data: one show clear decline other not.

Take home messages

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- Importance of national coordinators



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Take home messages

- Common Bird Monitoring is a key example of long-term citizen science
- Importance of national coordinators
- Many ways to encourage volunteers
- Feedback on multiple levels important
- Strength of international networks
- Societal importance inc. Redlisting
- Every bird counts!

Thank you!



LUOMUS

LUONNONTIETEELLINEN KESKUSMUSEO
NATURHISTORISKA CENTRALMUSEET
FINNISH MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY



Wetlands
INTERNATIONAL



HELSINGIN YLIOPISTO
HELSINGFORS UNIVERSITET
UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI

EBCC
European Bird Census Council
every bird counts