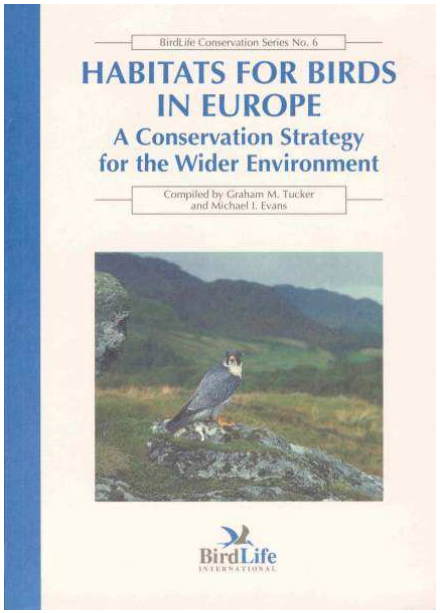
# HNV farming and birds

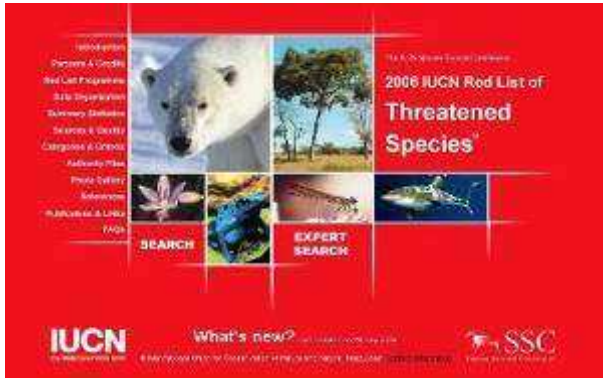



**Ian Burfield, BirdLife International**
**Katrina Marsden, RSPB**
**Jenja Kronenbitter, IFAB**

BirdLife INTERNATIONAL
Together for birds and people

# BirdLife is… the authority on birds

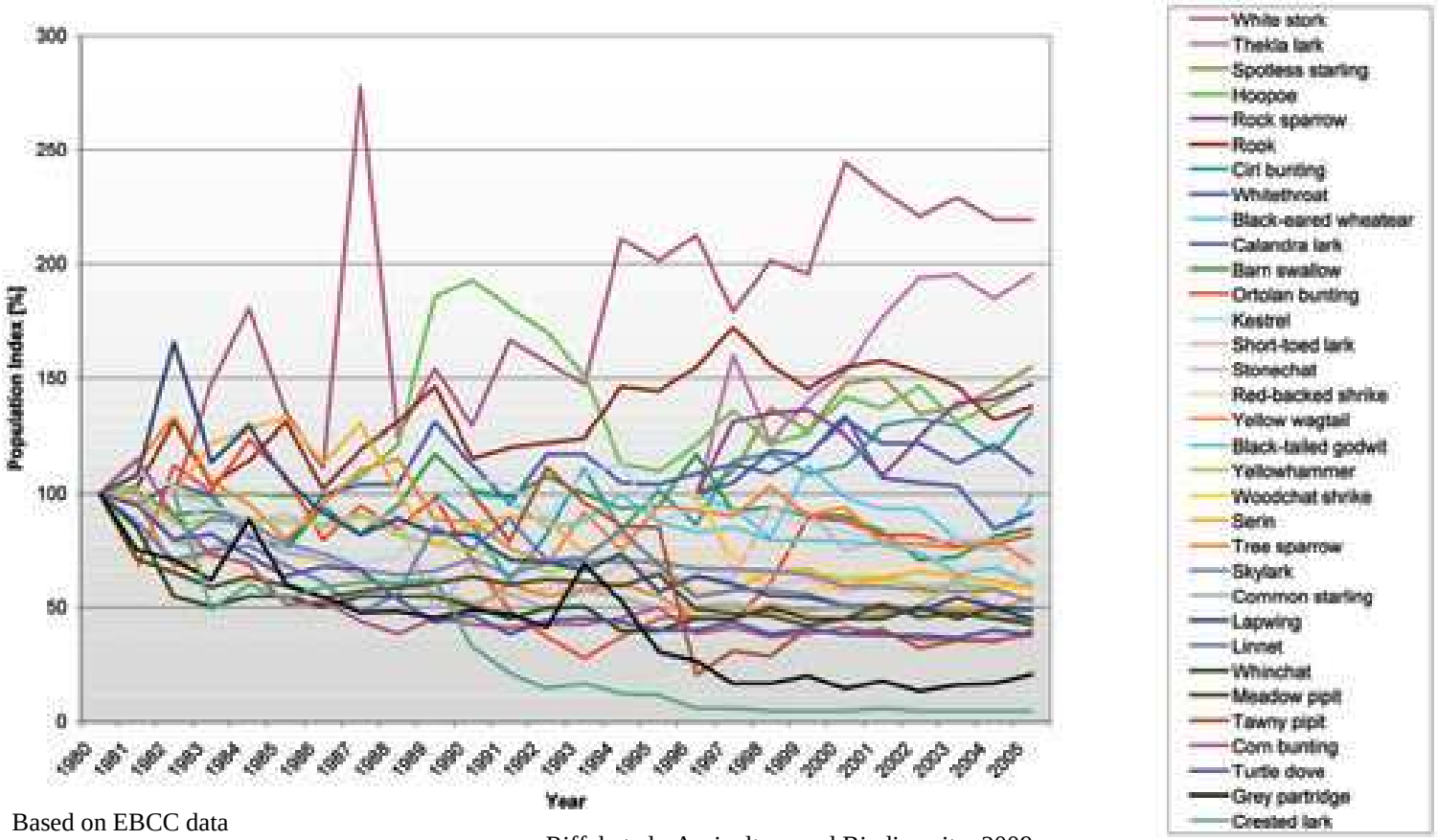
- Official authority on the global extinction risk of all birds for the *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*
- Developed standardised, objective, data-driven criteria to identify *Important Bird Areas* (IBAs) around the world
- Used data gathered through network to develop cutting-edge biodiversity indicators




BirdLife
IBA
IMPORTANT
BIRD AREA

COUNTDOWN
2010
SAVE BIODIVERSITY

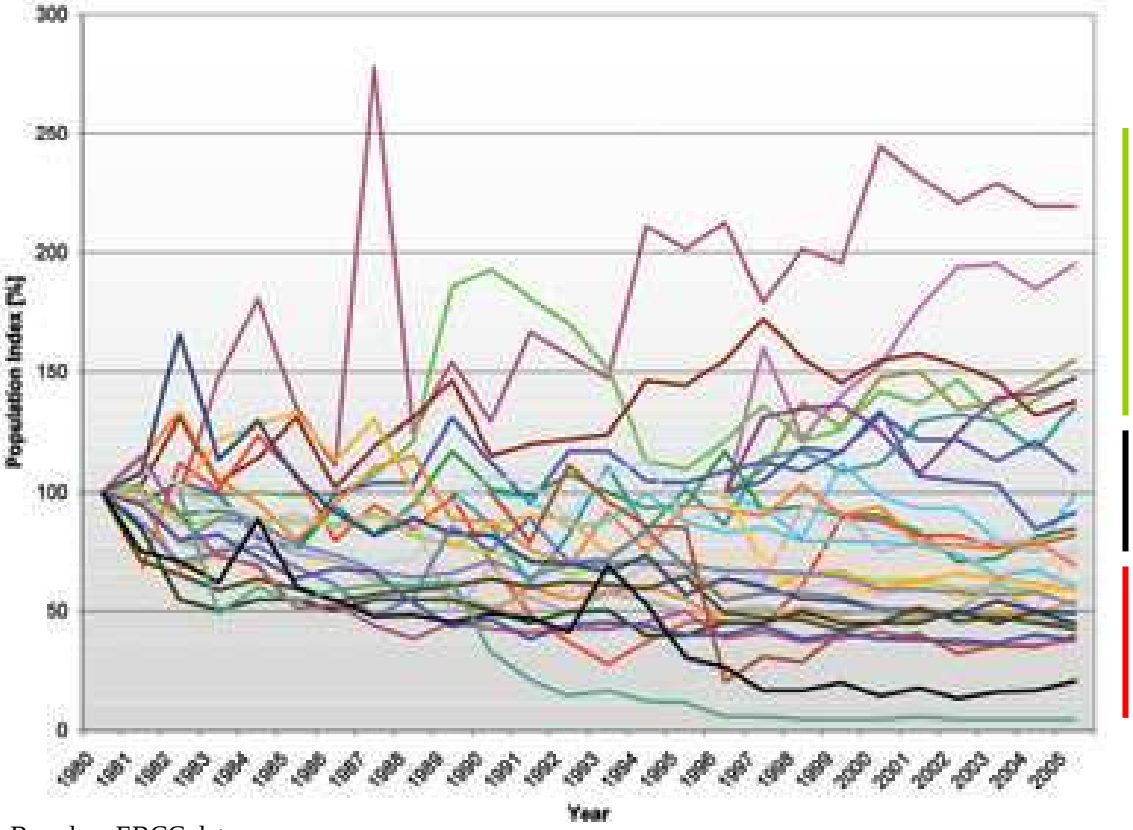
# Population development of 33 farmland bird species




Based on EBCC data

Riffel et al., Agriculture and Biodiversity, 2009

# Population development of 33 farmland bird species

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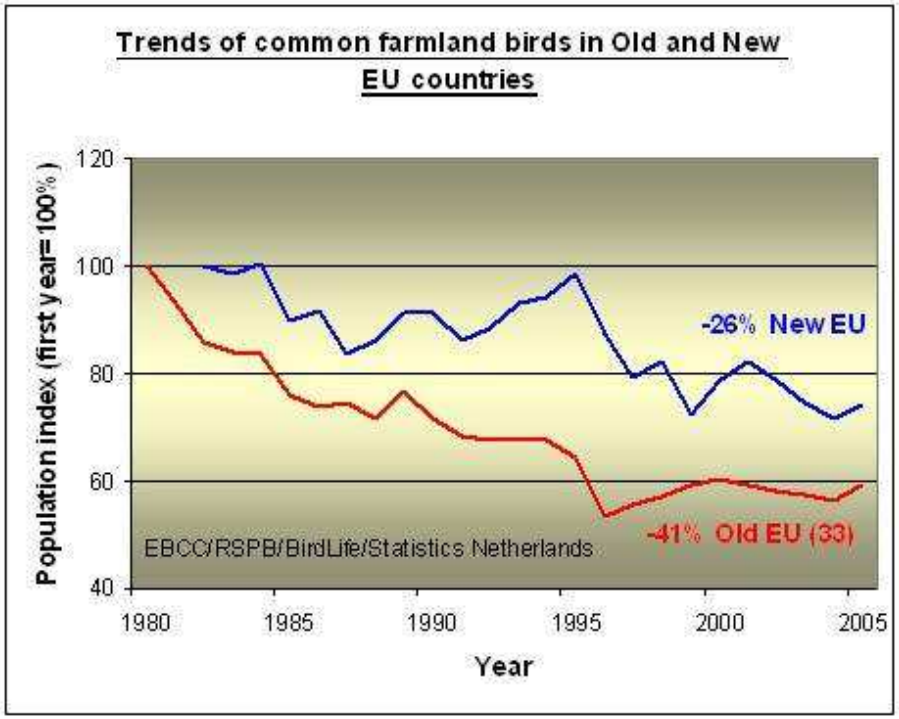
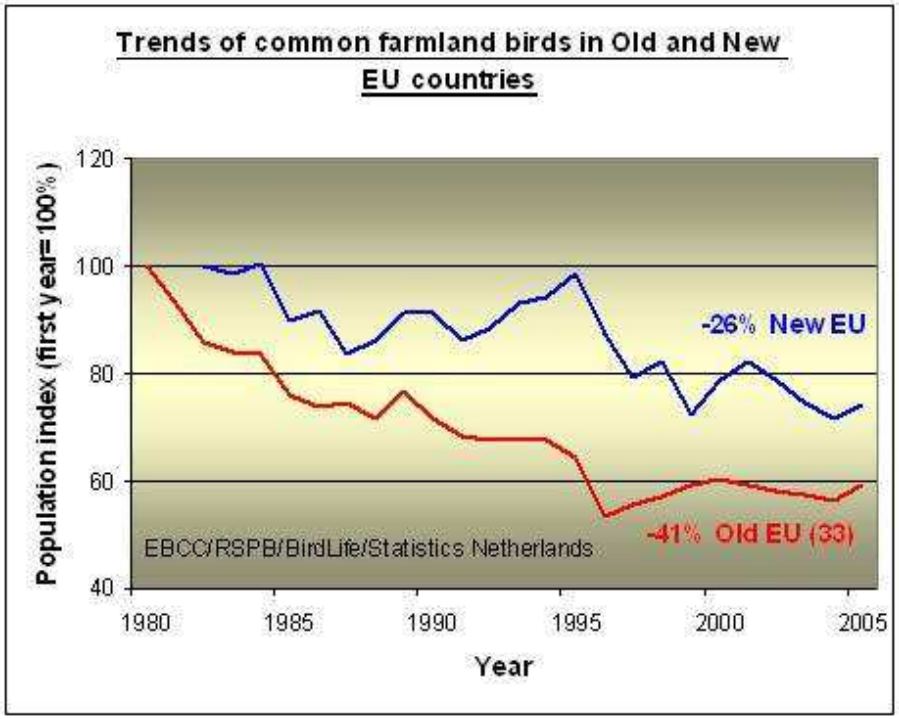
Riffel et al., Agriculture and Biodiversity, 2009

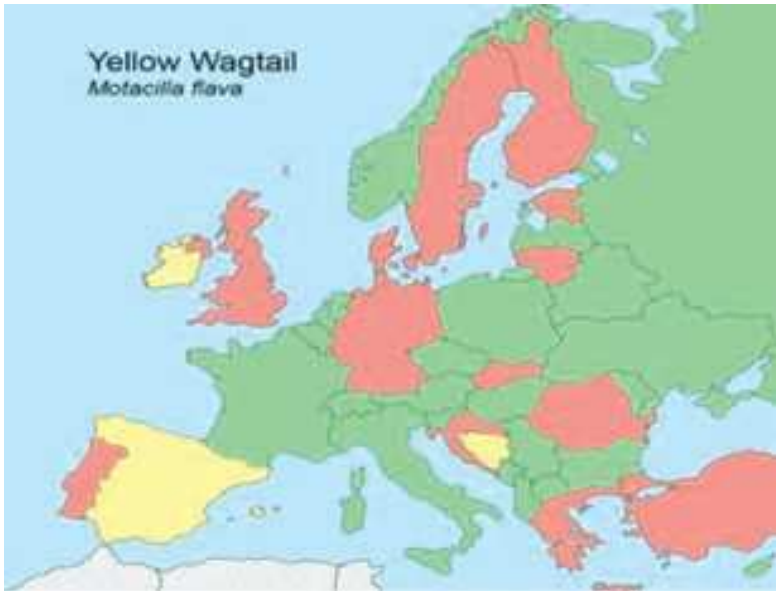
# Population development farmland bird species



# Population development farmland bird species







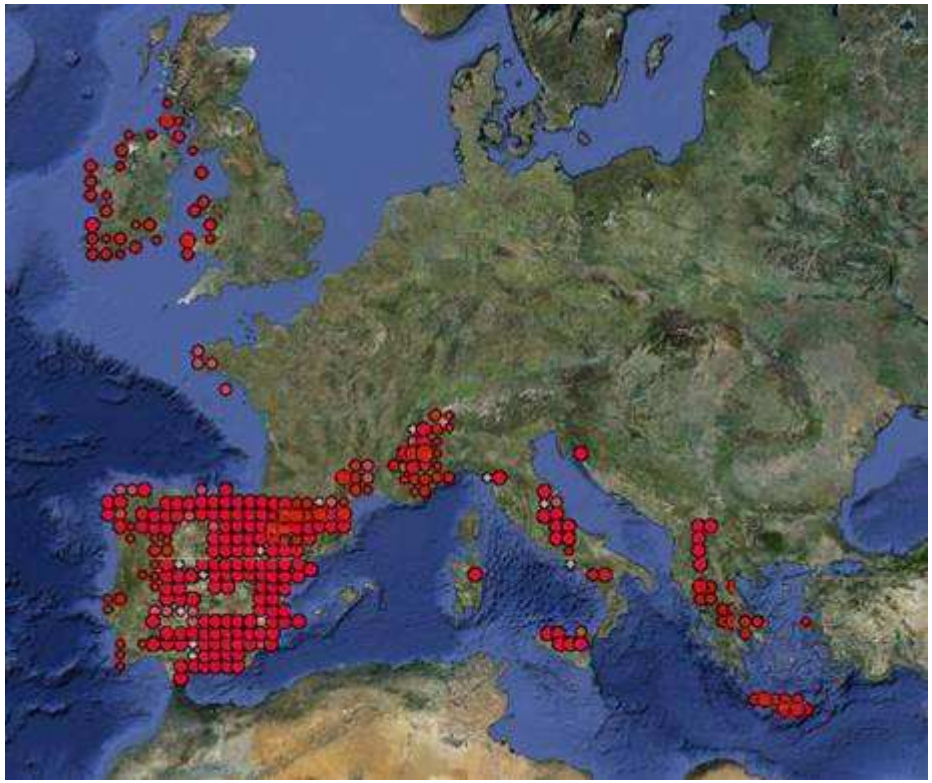

Based on EBCC data

Riffel et al., 2009

# Chough, *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

www. wikipedia.de

# Chough



- population size in Europe:

  28 to 85 thousand pairs

- Red List Status for Europe: Vulnerable
- Declining in about 90% of its range, contraction in its distribution


# Chough

- feeds predominantly on arthropods in grasslands


# Chough

- feeds predominantly on arthropods in grasslands
- 190 birds on scottish hebrides
- depends on areas of extensive agriculture such as **low-intensity pastoral livestock farming** in areas of high natural diversity


www.wikipedia.de

Extensive livestocking


# Chough

cattle dung


access to bare ground

# Red-backed shrike, *Lanius collurio*

www. wikipedia.de

# Red-backed shrike

- population size in Europe:

  more than 6.3 mio pairs

- Red List Status: Least Concern

# Red-backed shrike

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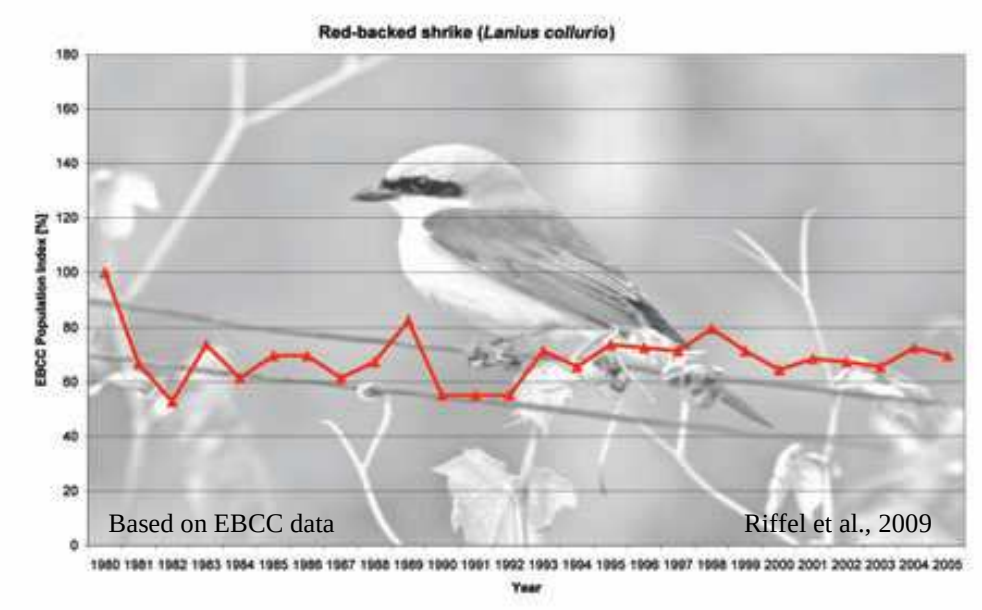
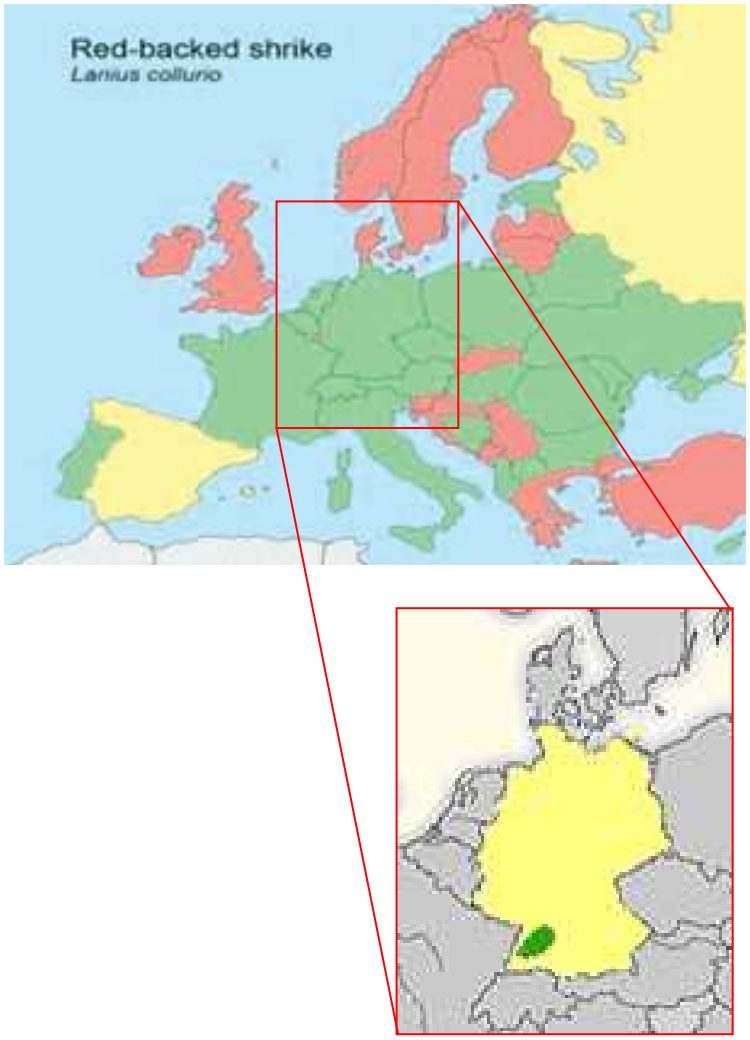




Based on EBCC data Riffel et al., 2009


# Red-backed shrike

characteristic bird of
semi-natural grasslands
with bushes and hedges




# Red-backed shrike

characteristic bird of
semi-natural grasslands
with bushes and hedges

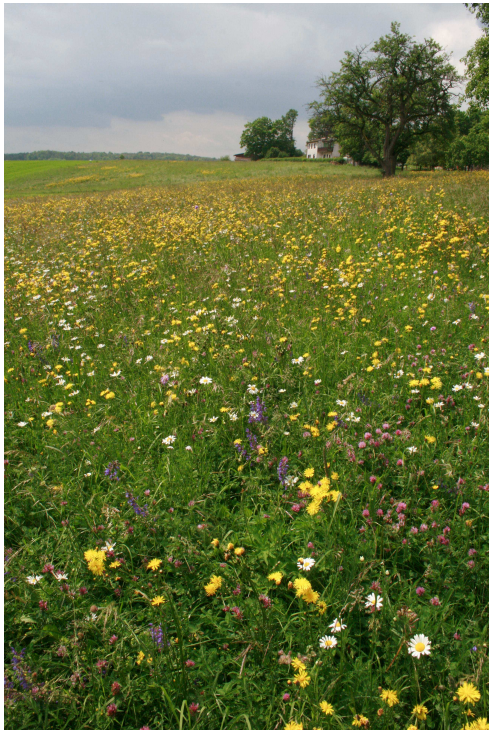
Swabian Alb

http://www.efncp.org/


http://www.efncp.org/

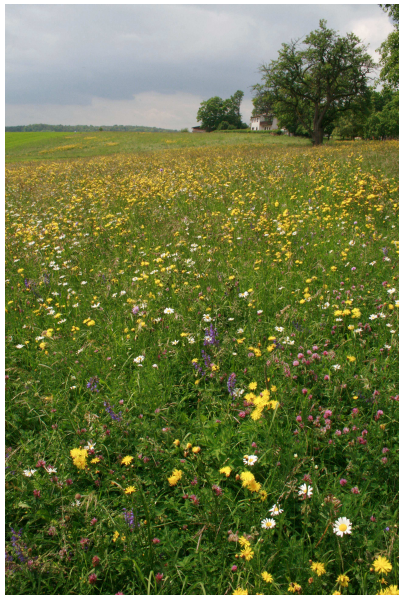
# Red-backed shrike

Extensively managed grasslands



open insect-rich fields with exposed look-outs

Extensively managed grasslands



## other animals

…

www. wikipedia.de

Large blue, *Phengaris arion*


*Myrmica sabuleti*

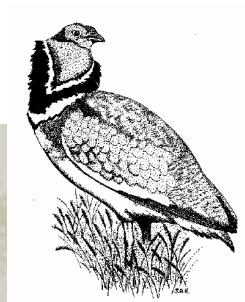
Thyme

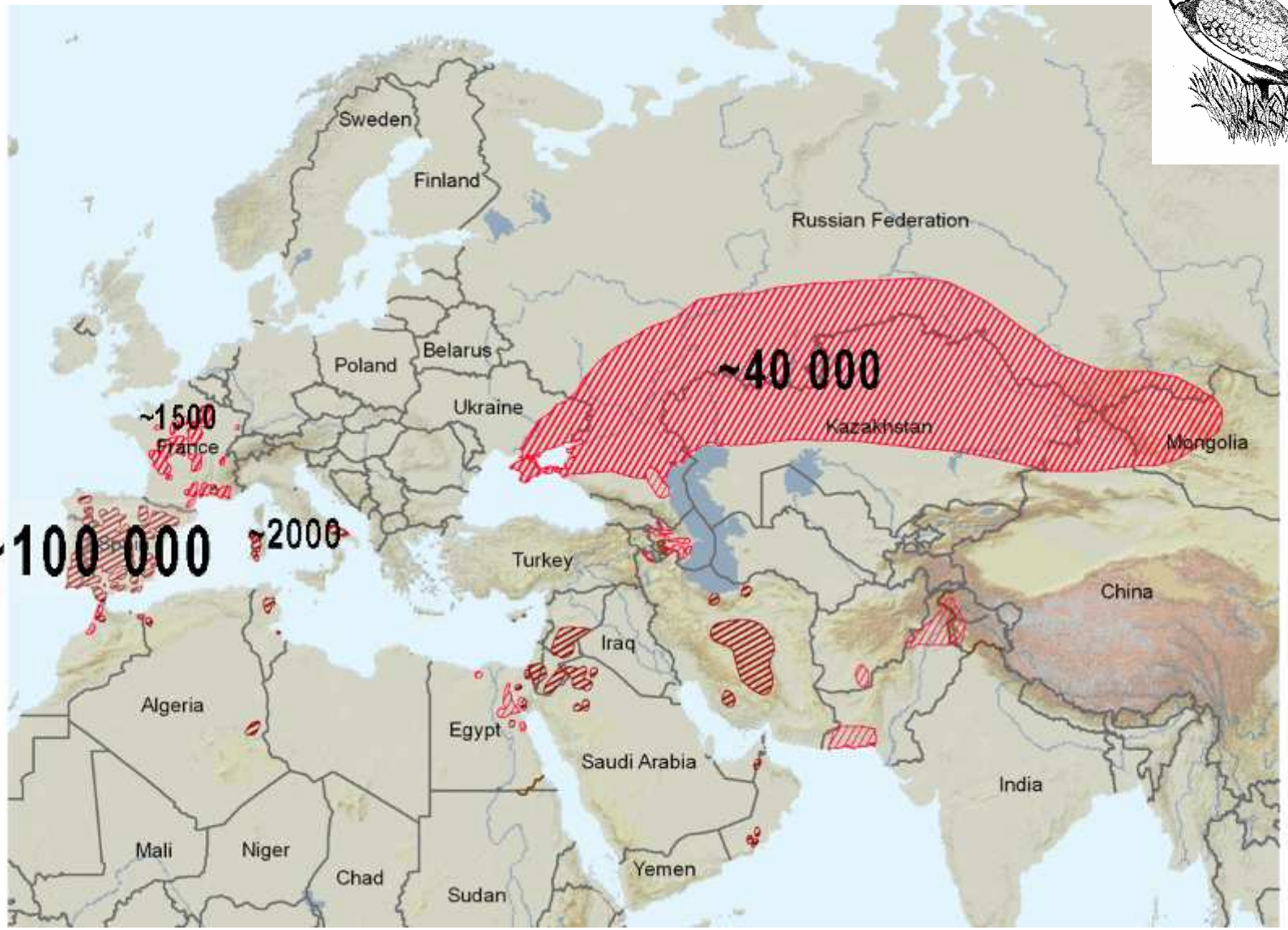
www. wikipedia.de

# Little Bustard, *Tetrax tetrax*

Johan Tillet, LPO

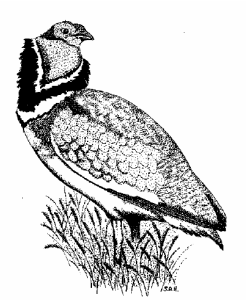
# Little Bustard





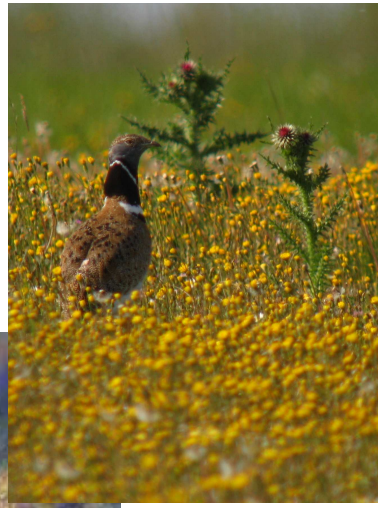

Adapted from: BirdLife International 2008. *Tetrax tetrax*. In: IUCN 2010. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2010.1. Downloaded on 13 June 2010.

# Little Bustard



- open grassland and undisturbed cultivations such as long-rotation fallows, legume crops and pastures with high floristic and arthropod diverstiy

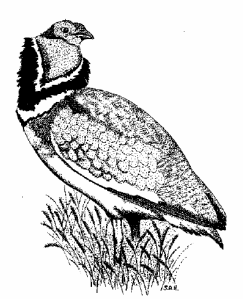
www.wikipedia.com



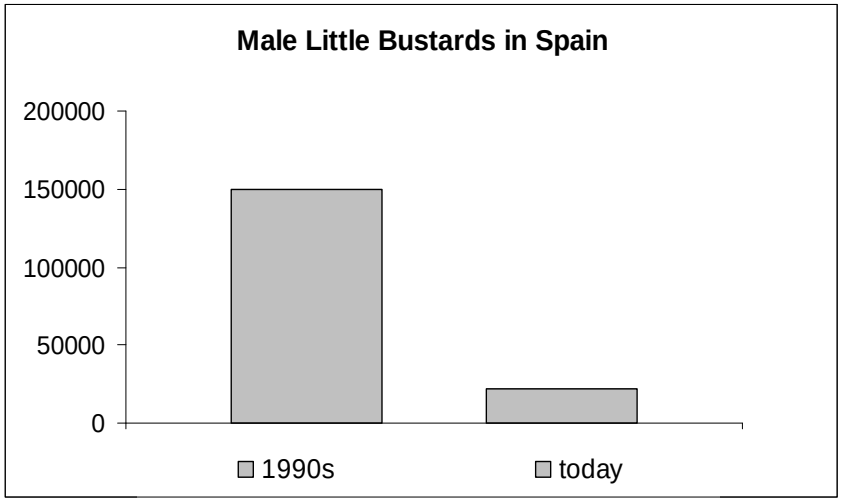
Johan Tillet, LPO

Alejandro Torés Sánchez

# Little Bustard

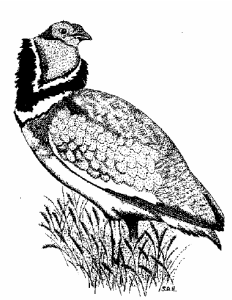


- Red List Category in Europe: Vulnerable
- moderately rapid overall population decline, driven by rapid declines in the west of its range

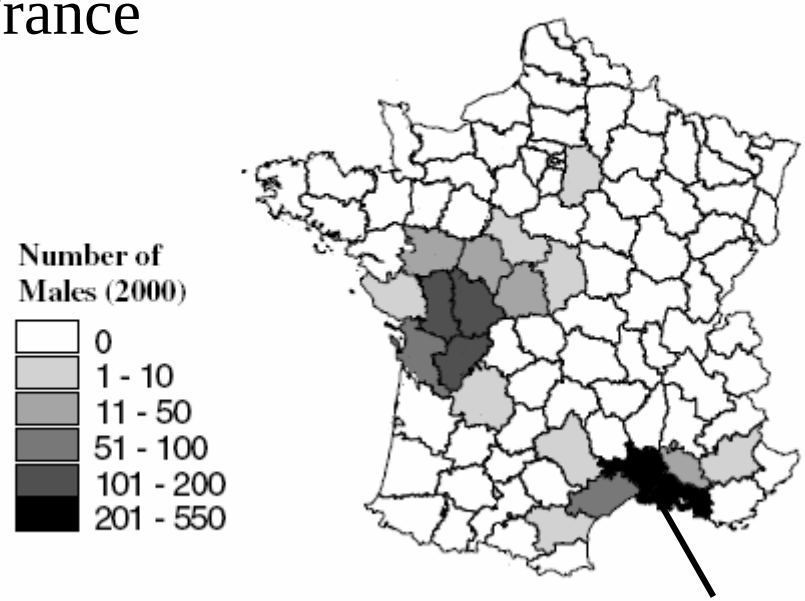




- habitat loss and degradation due to intensification of agriculture

# Little Bustard



Little Bustard distribution in France



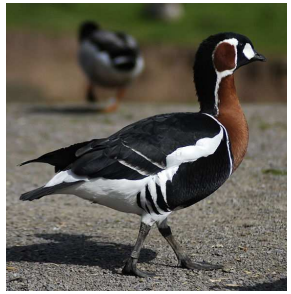

http://www.patrimoine.ville-arles.fr/

Bouches-du-Rhône with the steppes of Crau:

- Population trend: ↗
- Mixture of steppe and extensive agricultural habitats

# Red-breasted goose, *Branta ruficollis*

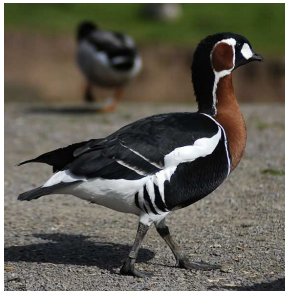
# Red-breasted goose

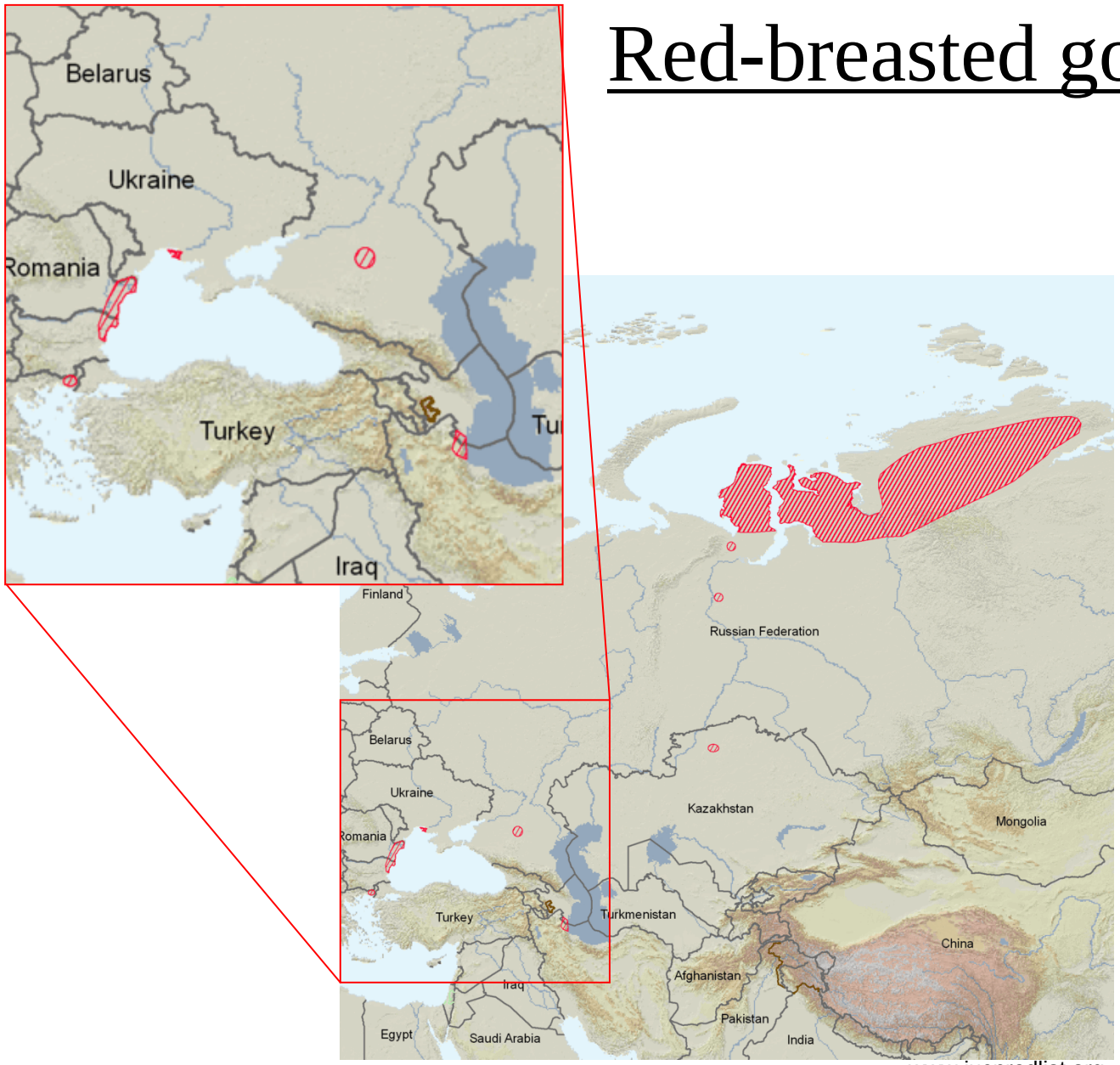



www.iucnredlist.org

- Red List Status: Endangered
- Population size: 37 000 pairs
- Population trend: Declining

# Red-breasted goose



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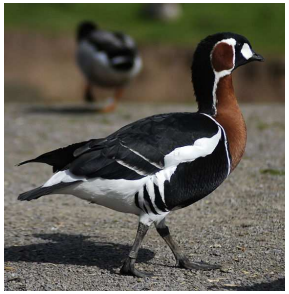
# Red-breasted goose



- overwintering birds at the western Black Sea coast
- depends on agricultural land dominated by cereal crops and grassland around lakes
- endangered by touristic boom, hunting and loss of winter wheat cultivation

www. wikipedia.de

# IBAs

C1 Species of global conservation concern

C2 > 1% of flyway / EU population of Annex I species (referred to in Article 4.1 of Birds Directive)

C3 > 1% of flyway population of migratory species (referred to in Article 4.2 of Birds Directive)

C4 > 20,000 waterbirds / 10,000 pairs of seabirds

C5 Migration bottleneck: > 5,000 storks / > 3,000 raptors / > 3,000 cranes

C6 Five most important sites in NUTS region for Annex I species (Article 4.1 of Birds Directive)

# History of involvement in HNV project

**2005**

- JRC approached BirdLife re. availability of IBA data
- BirdLife supplied digital IBA boundaries from two countries (Hungary and Portugal) for pilot study
- Expert group approved results of pilot study, supported use of IBA data

**2006**

- JRC/EEA submitted formal data request for HNV IBA boundaries in EU
- Relevant IBAs identified and data sent to JRC

**2007**

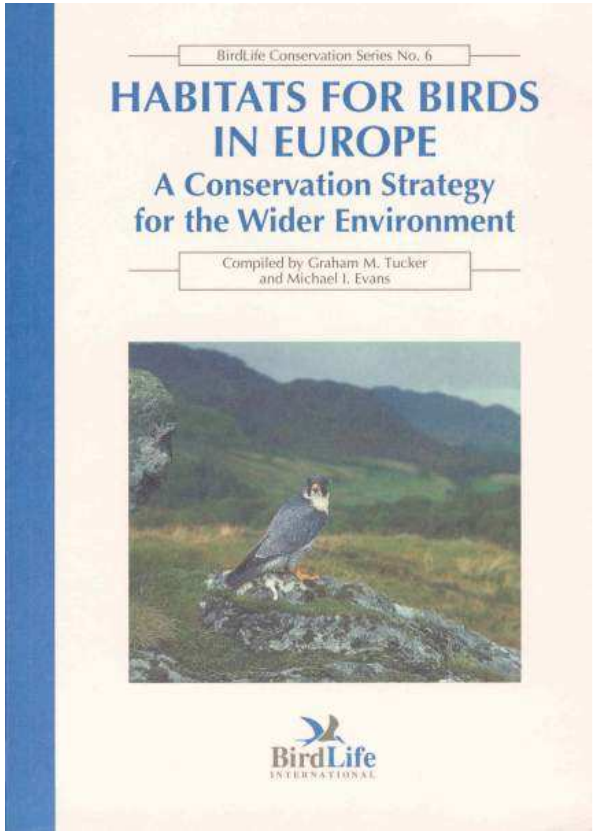
- Consultation on draft HNV maps
- Final species list, IBAs selected on this basis
- Revised map in EEA report

**2008**

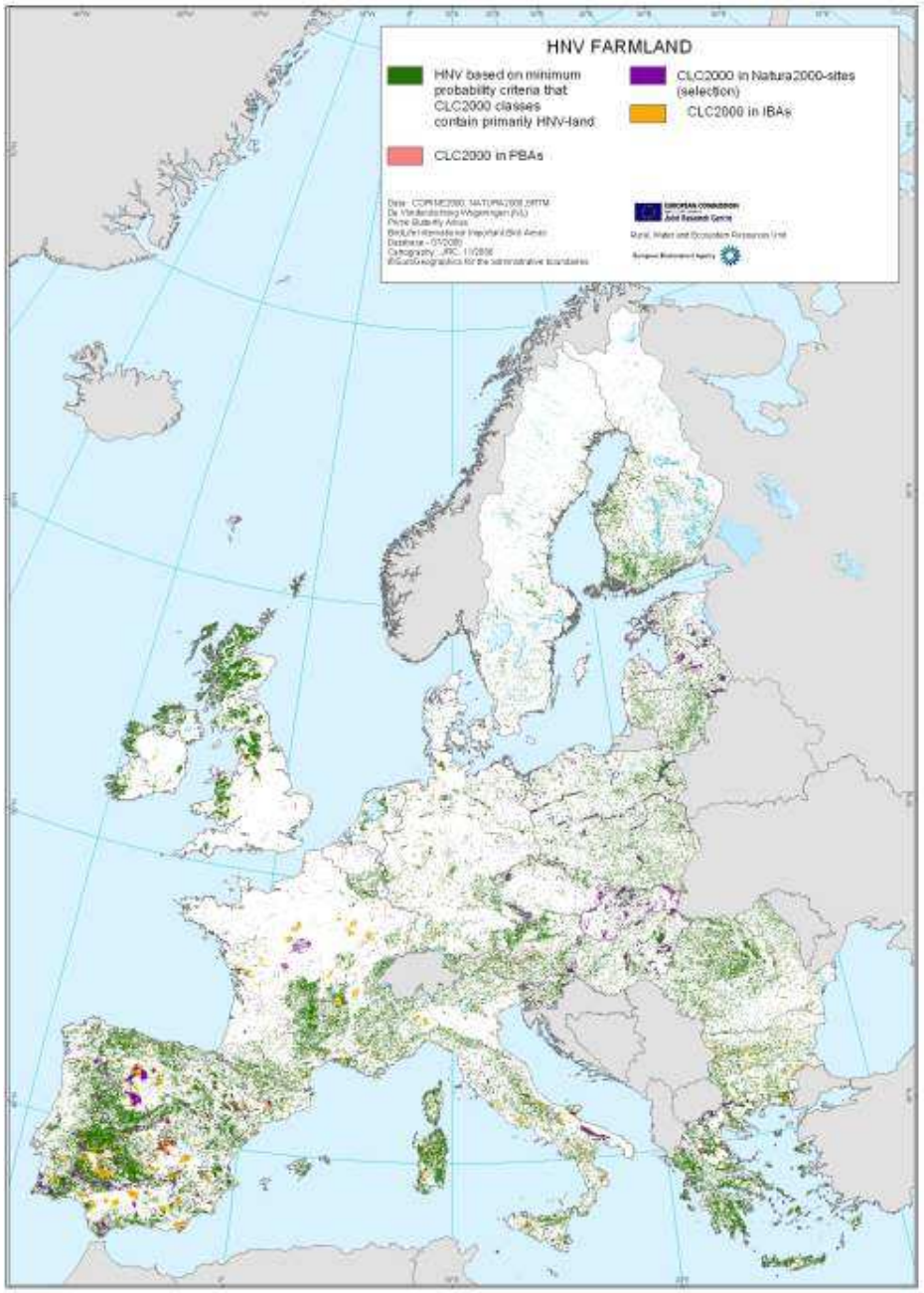
- Final report circulated for comments

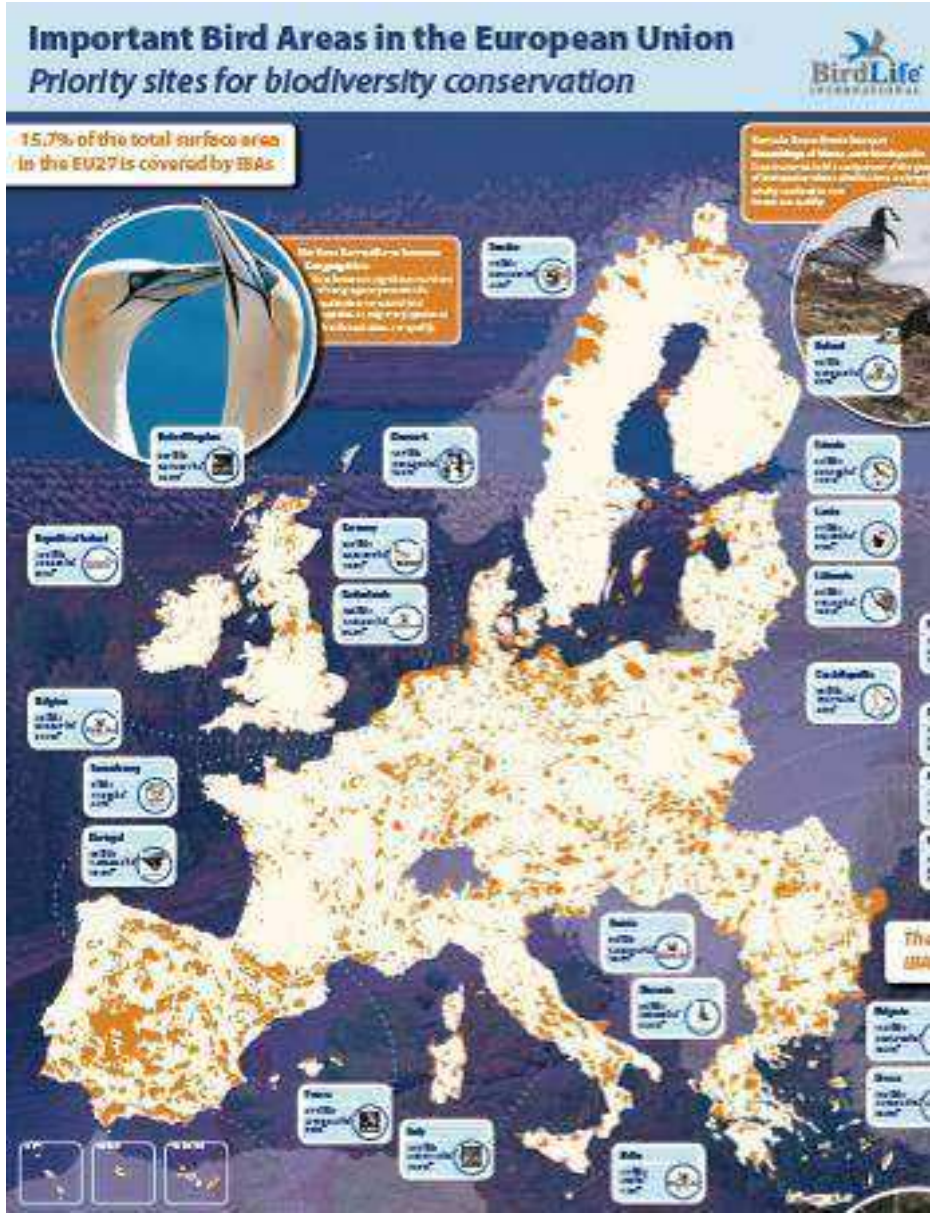
# Identification of HNV IBAs

- 73 species identified as predominantly farmland birds (Donald et al, Tucker and Evans)
- IBA database queried for sites triggered by any of these 73 species
- Removed sites where the land-uses in IBA database not 'agriculture/rangeland/pastureland'
- Identification of 903 sites, for which BirdLife supplied boundary data to JRC



# The value of IBAs for identifying HNV farmland: at EU level



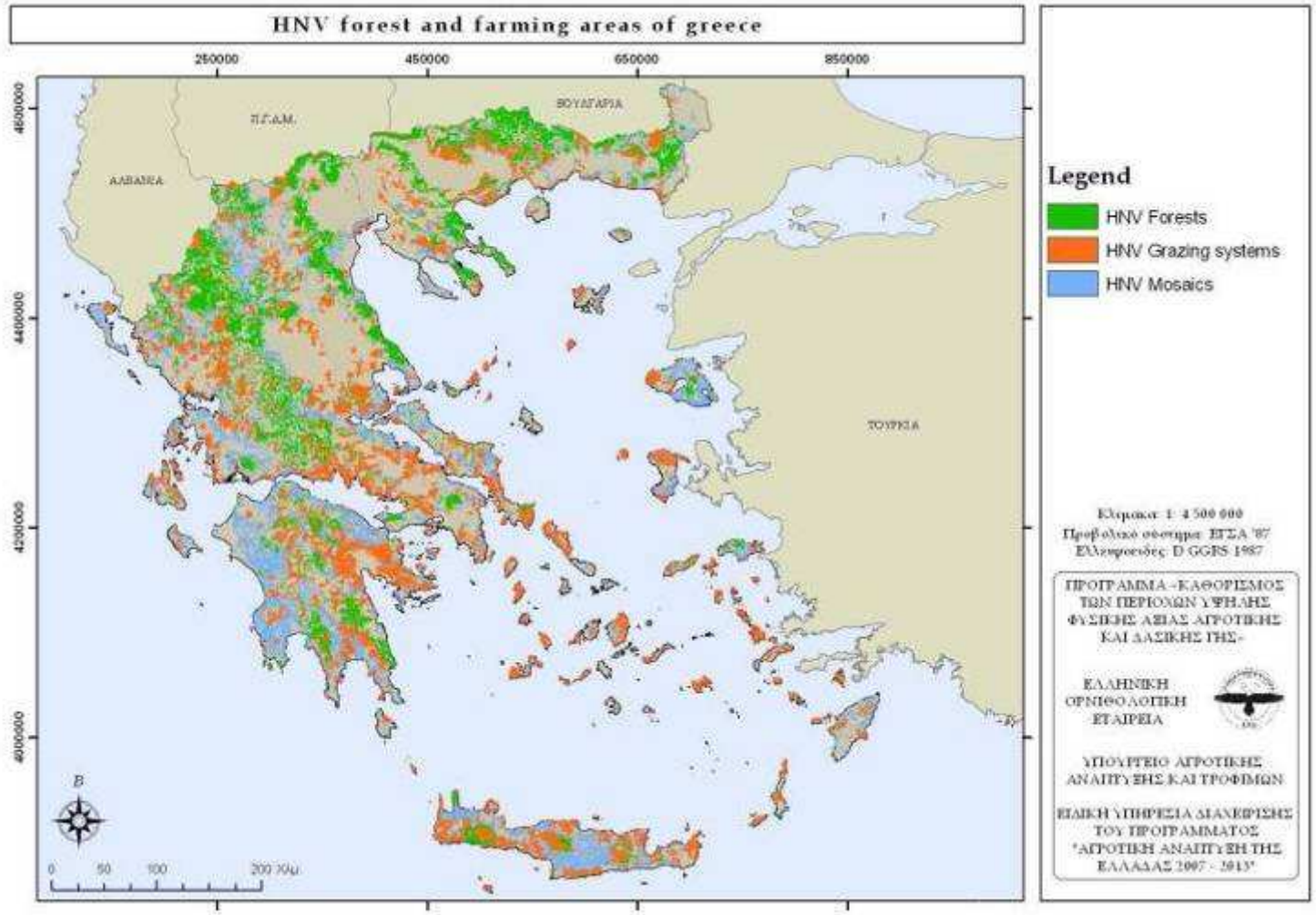
# HNV mapping – a critique

- Useful as overview of where HNV areas likely to occur
- Can compare where funding being directed
- Gives Member states a starting point for identification of HNV systems

BUT

- Scale of CLC too large
- Doesn’t tell you anything about management – need this if to be way to direct funding

# The Greek Approach



# Next Steps

- Protection of most important areas through regulation
- Identification of HNV – need to use a combination of data sources to identify the farming systems and check these with good biodiversity data
- Better use of agricultural statistic collection e.g. IACS to include data relevant to HNV identification
- Encouragement maintain extensive systems delivering biodiversity through agricultural funding

Thank you for listening