



Predation as a general problem of the German Great Bustard conservation programme

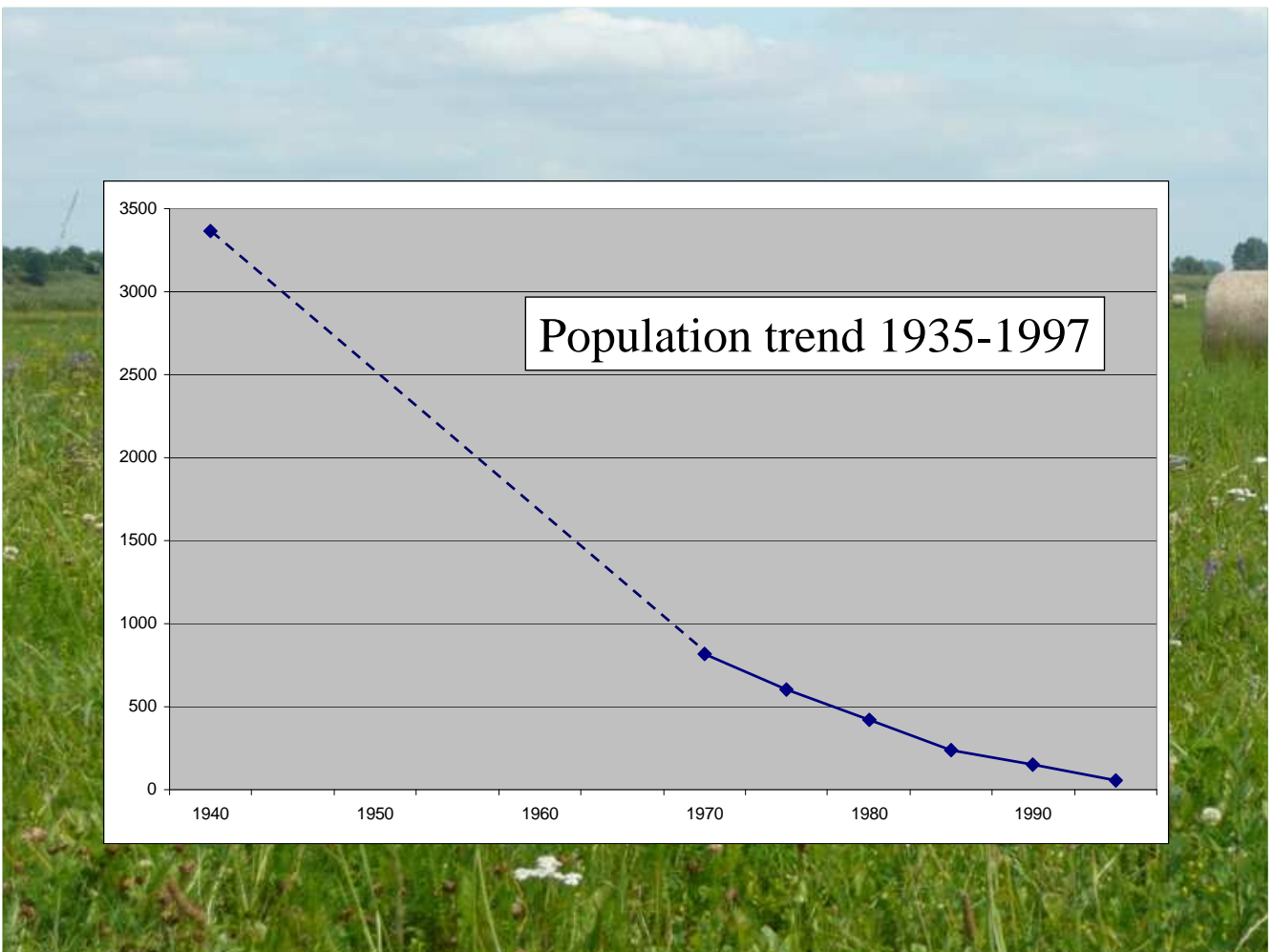
Torsten Langgemach

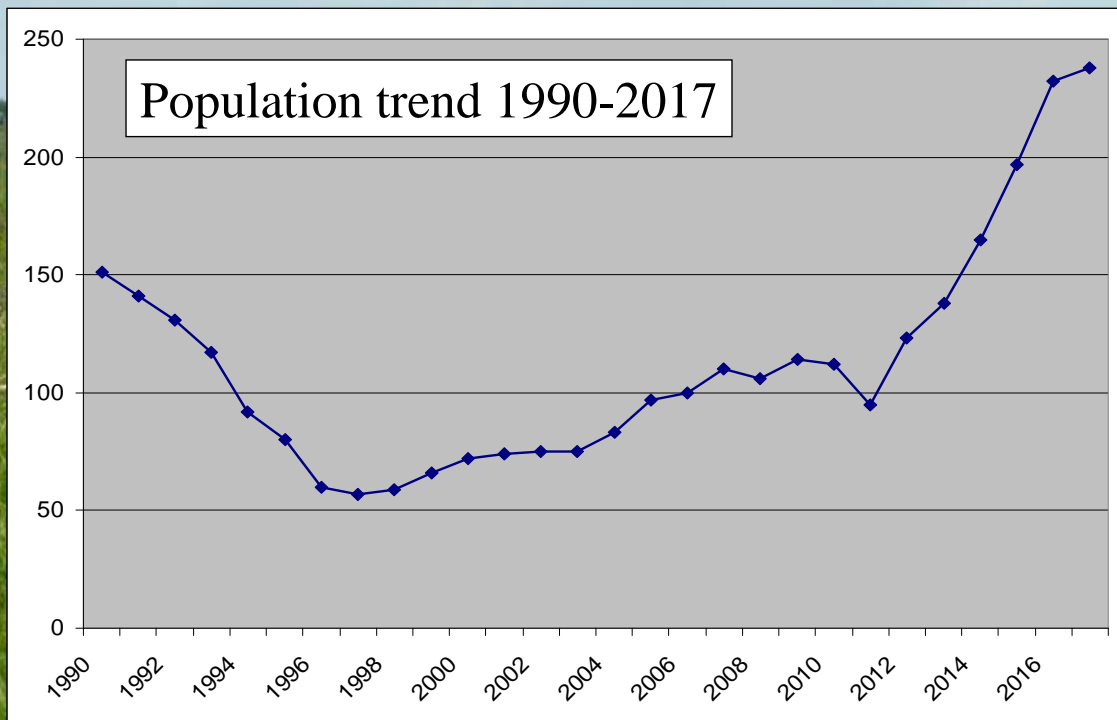
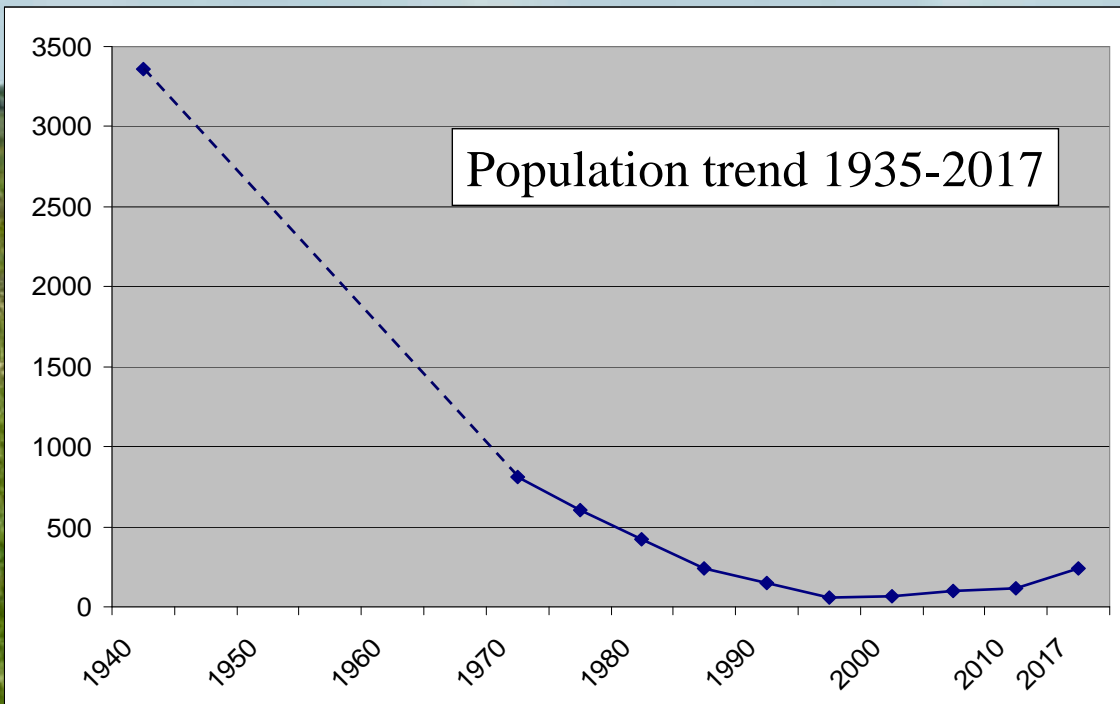
- 1. What have we achieved?**
- 2. Predation**





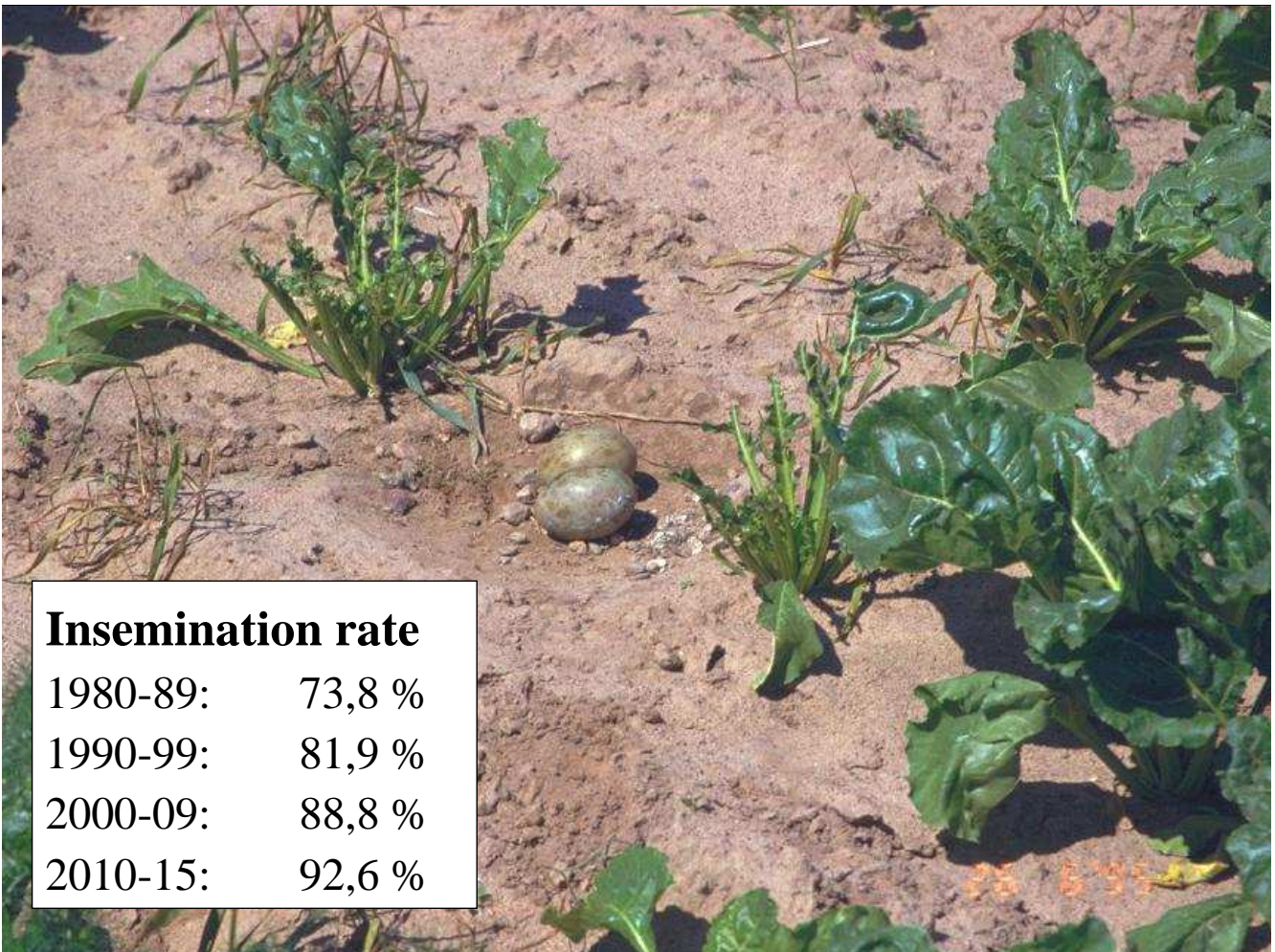
We are still there!!!







Display, reproduction etc. →
we are „well-behaved“



Insemination rate

1980-89:	73,8 %
1990-99:	81,9 %
2000-09:	88,8 %
2010-15:	92,6 %

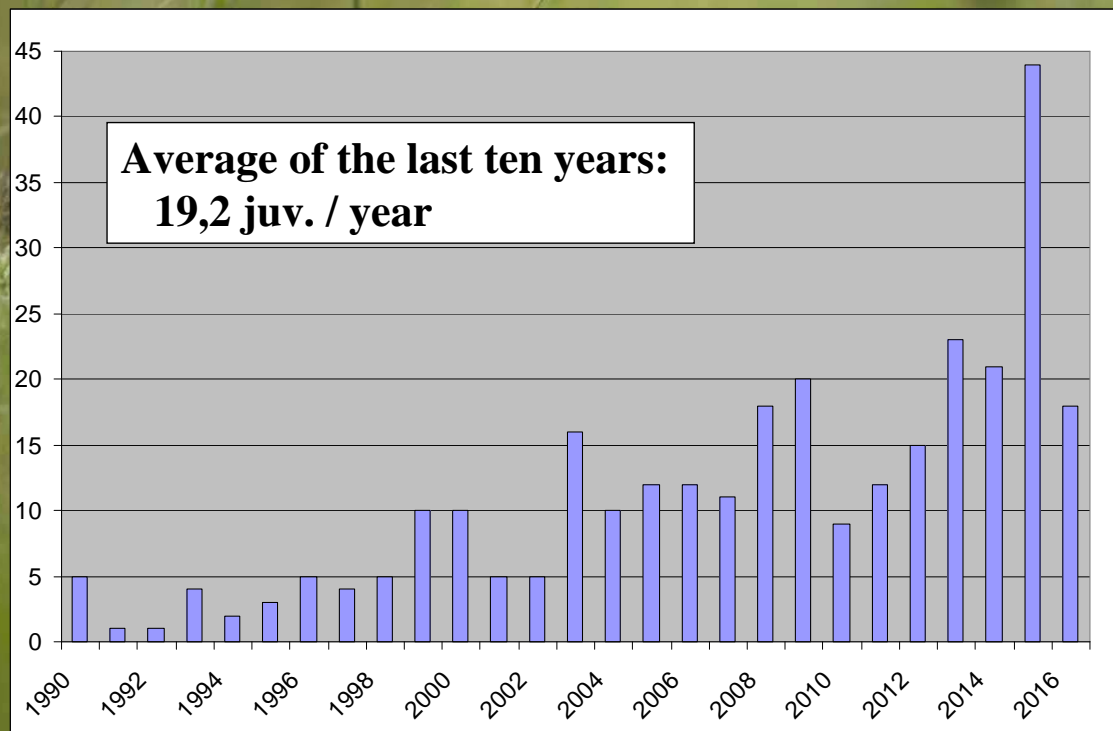


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HC600 HYPERFIRE

Increasing offspring in the field



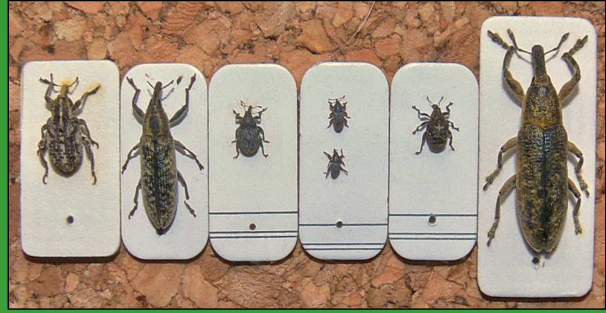
Improving habitat quality





2016 in the SPA „Havellaendisches Luch”
9 organic farms, ca. 2.050 ha (= 37 %)

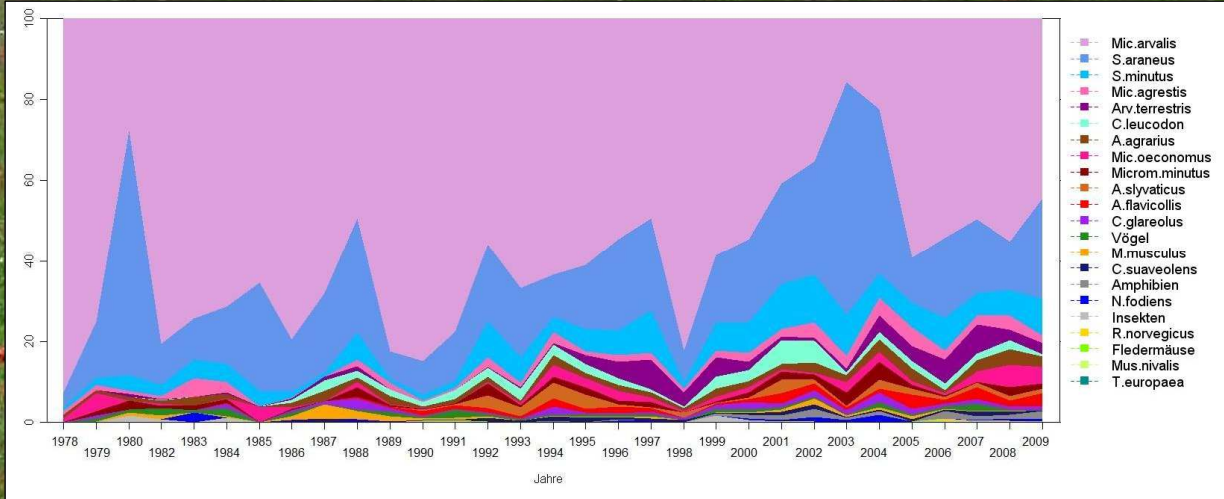
Increasing plant and invertebrate diversity



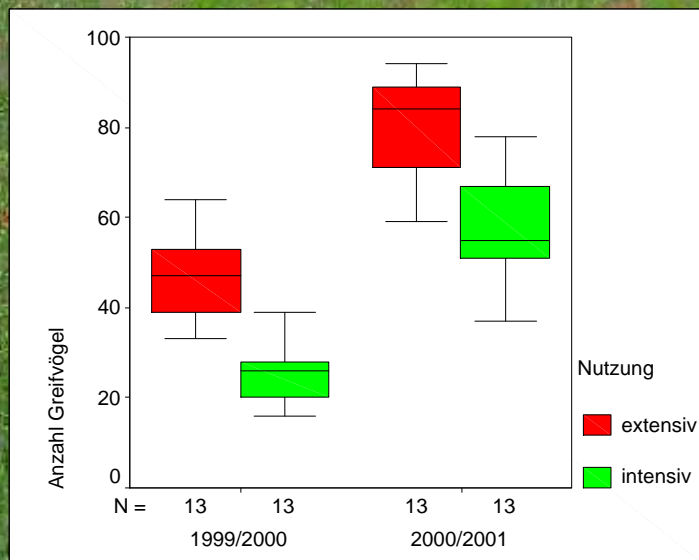
Increasing bird diversity and abundance



Increasing diversity in small mammals



Probably increasing abundance in small mammals



Increasing diversity and numbers of other mammals



... and high densities of corvids and raptors as well

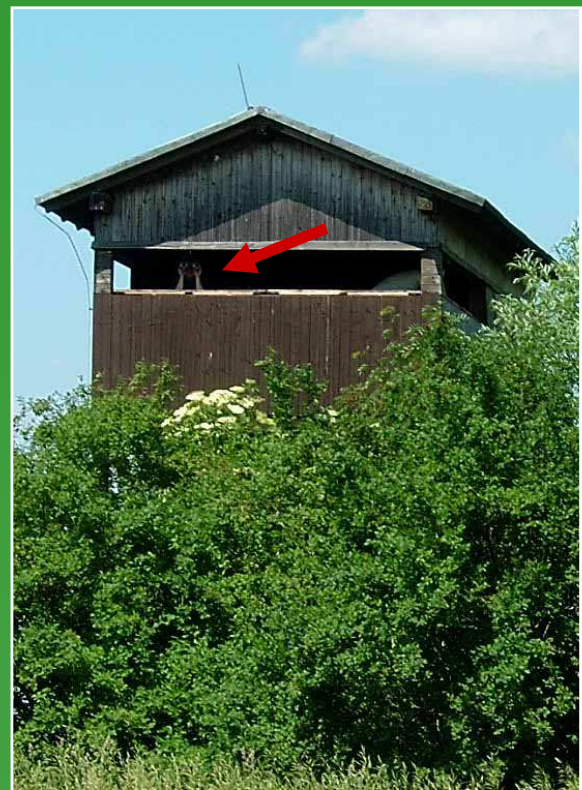


“Predation as a general problem”? Other factors?

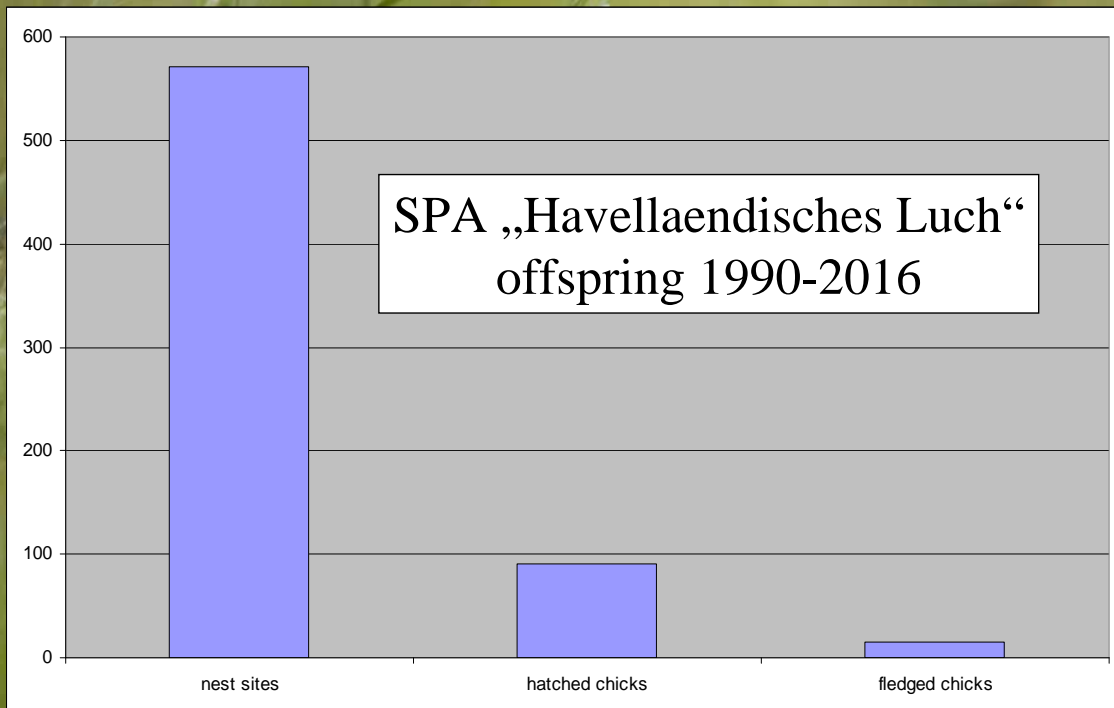


Line of argumentation

- intensive observation

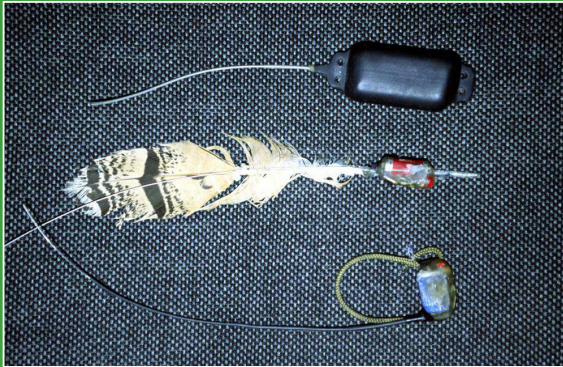






Line of argumentation

- intensive observation
- radio-tracking

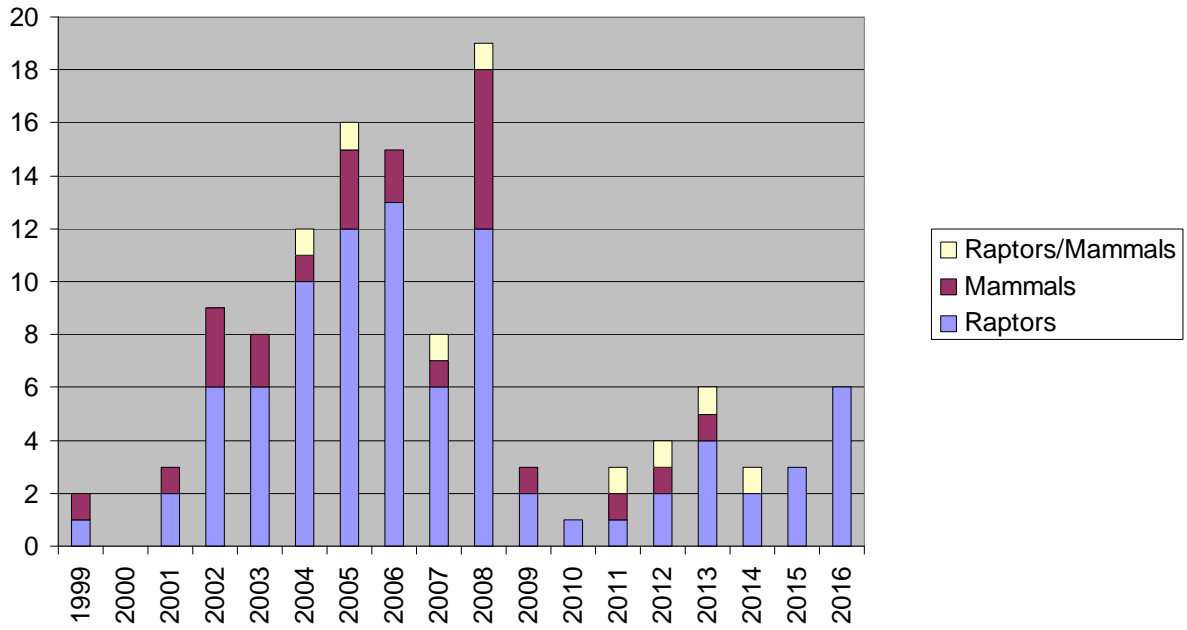


Line of argumentation

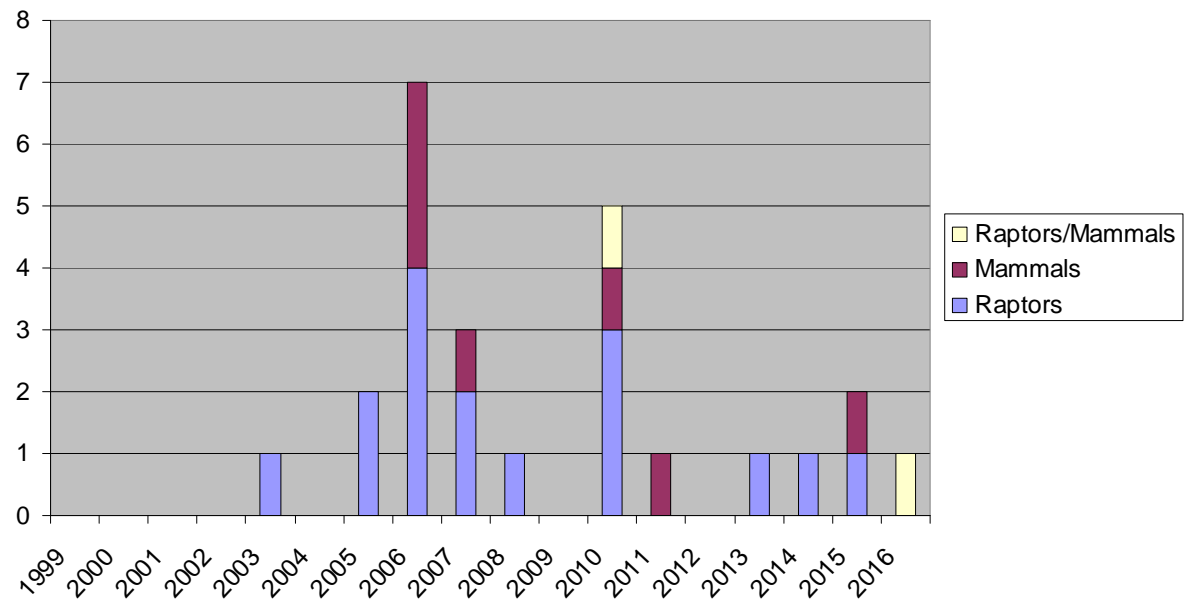
- intensive observation
- radio-tracking



Predation in released juveniles (1999-2016, n=121)

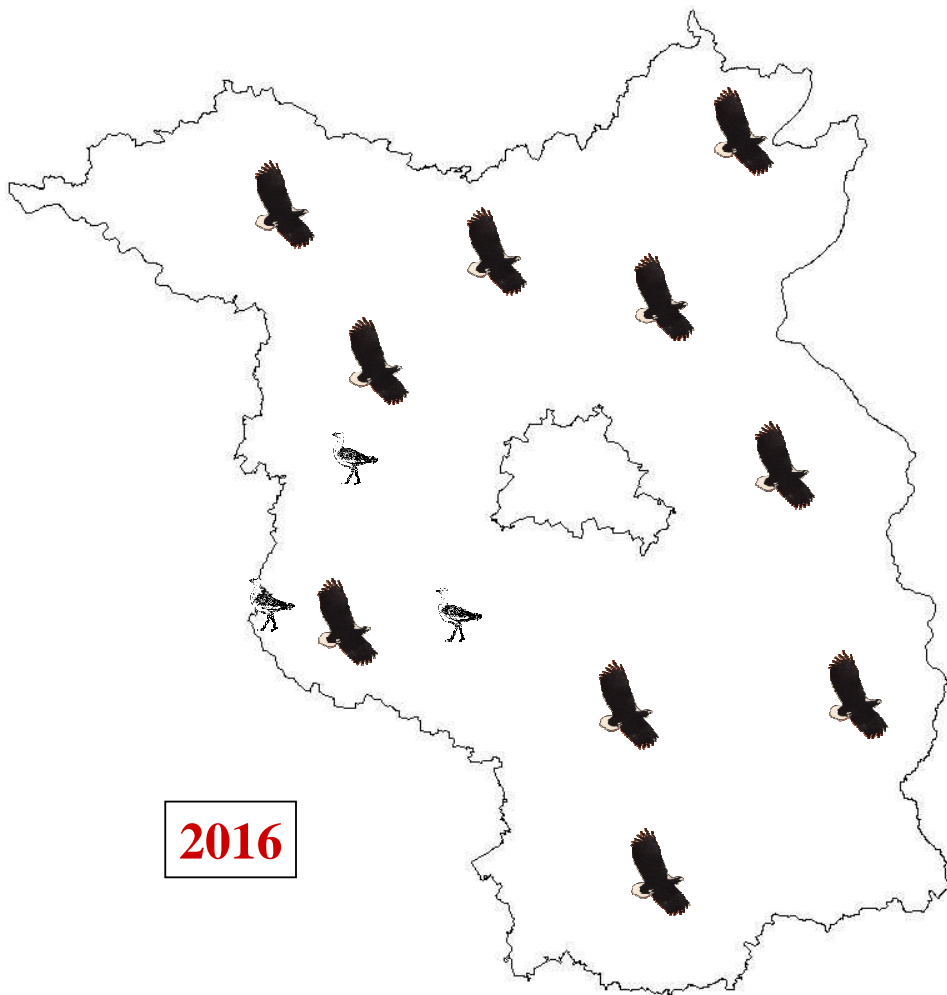


Predation in wild chicks (1999-2016, n=25)





1940



2016

Line of argumentation

- intensive observation
- radio-tracking
- camera traps



Line of argumentation

- intensive observation
- radio-tracking
- camera traps
- forensics



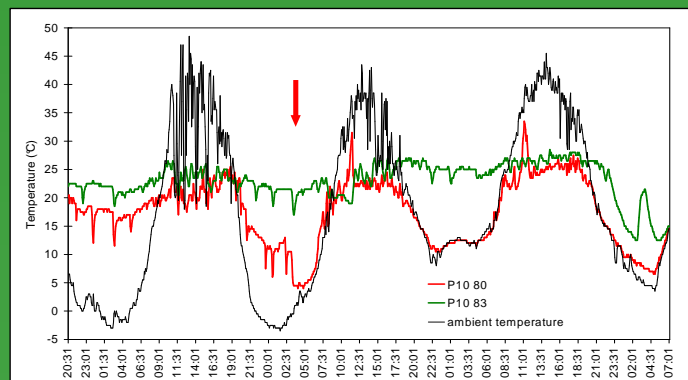
Line of argumentation

- intensive observation
- radio-tracking
- camera traps
- forensics
- post-mortem findings



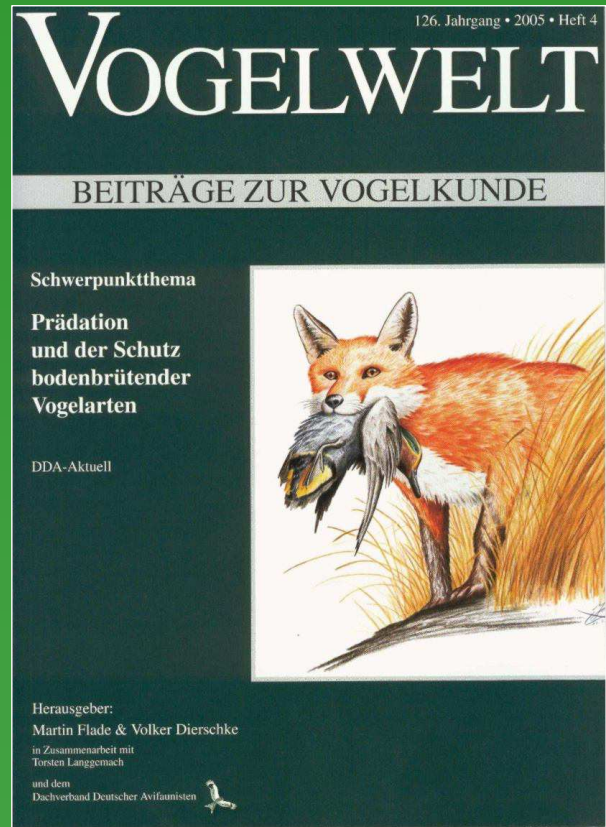
Line of argumentation

- intensive observation
- radio-tracking
- camera traps
- forensics
- post-mortem findings
- thermo-loggers



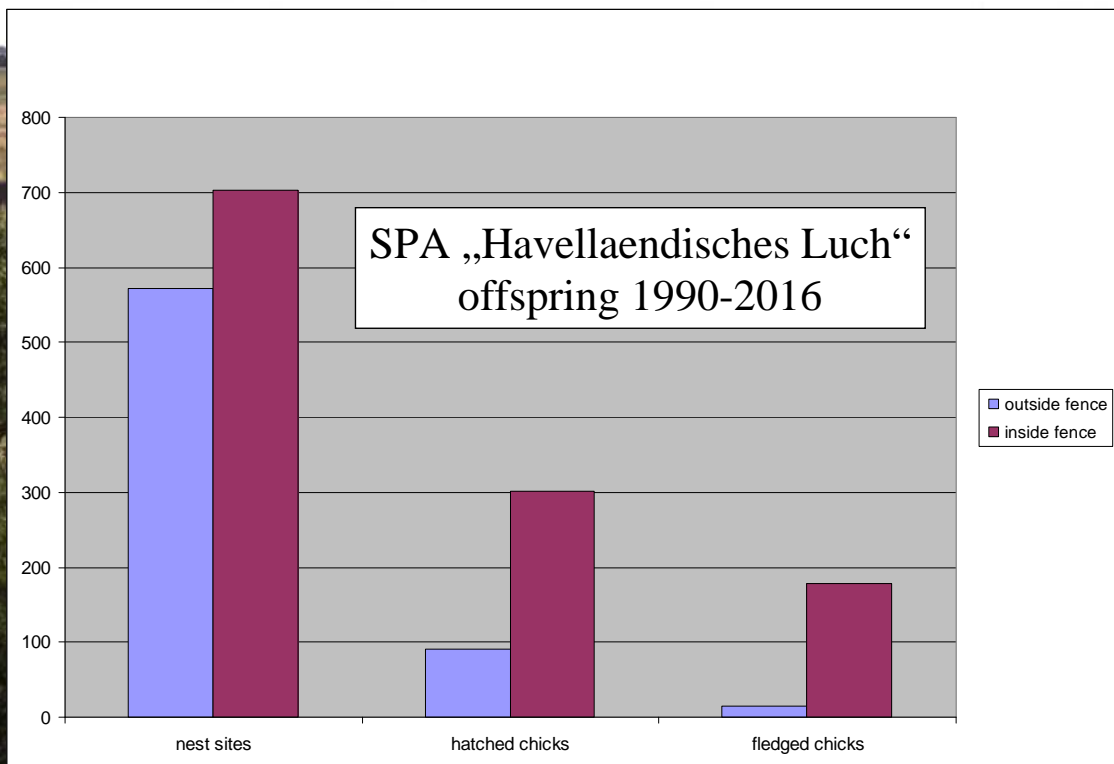
Line of argumentation

- intensive observation
- radio-tracking
- camera traps
- forensics
- post-mortem findings
- thermo-loggers
- scientific interchange



Line of argumentation

- intensive observation
- radio-tracking
- camera traps
- forensics
- post-mortem findings
- thermo-loggers
- scientific interchange
- other evidence



Summary

- severe predation pressure on eggs and juv., mainly due to canids and corvids
→ breeding performance much too low
- losses of eggs / chicks due to agriculture of local importance
- White-Tailed Eagle as a potent predator for juv. and ad. bustards, even ad. males
- adult mortality too high – only predation?
- population not self-sustaining, further reinforcement and better predation management required



Many thanks for beautiful photos to
B. Block, A. Eisenberg,
N. Eschholz, S. Fahl,
W. Jaschke, H. Litzbarski,
A. Marinko, D. Nill,
F. Plücken & T. Ryslavý.

Thanks as well to all
co-workers and supporters
of the project!!

