

# Raptor conservation in the Netherlands

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CENTRE



<https://vimeo.com/85808414>

# Organisational structure of bird of prey conservation in the Netherlands

- ▶ Legal: Dutch legislation to implement the EU legislation: the Bird Directive
- ▶ Law enforcement, including Intervention Strategy Raptors + Task Force for persecution
- ▶ Measures on different spatial levels:
  - ▶ (a) National Nature Network
  - ▶ (b) Specific sites (Special Protected Areas of the EU Bird Directive) designated for raptor protection
  - ▶ (c) Nest protection
  - ▶ (d) Code of Conduct Forest Management
- ▶ Scientific research

# Monitoring long- and short term trends in population size and distribution

- ▶ SOVON Dutch Centre for Field Ornithology - **since 1973, Sovon has coordinated national surveys of wild bird populations in the Netherlands**
- ▶ **Netherlands Statistics** for independent verification of trend analysis
- ▶ Dutch Raptor Working Group – **breeding raptor surveys**
- ▶ Montagu's Harrier Foundation
- ▶ Peregrine Falcon Working Group

# Raptor surveys

- Breeding bird surveys
- Nest success
- Prey remains
- Age of breeding birds





<b>Species</b>	<b>Number (bp)</b>	<b>Trend past 10 years</b>
Honey Buzzard	500-600	Declining
Red Kite	0-2	-
Black Kite	0-1	-
Marsh Harrier	1150-1250	Declining
Hen Harrier	4-6	Very strong decline
Montagu's Harrier	35-45	Stable
Goshawk	1800-2000	Declining
Sparrowhawk	3500-4500	Declining
Common Buzzard	8000-10.000	Stable
Common Kestrel	5000-7500	Declining
Hobby	750-1000	Stable
Peregrine Falcon	125-140	Strong increase
White-tailed Eagle	4-5	Increase

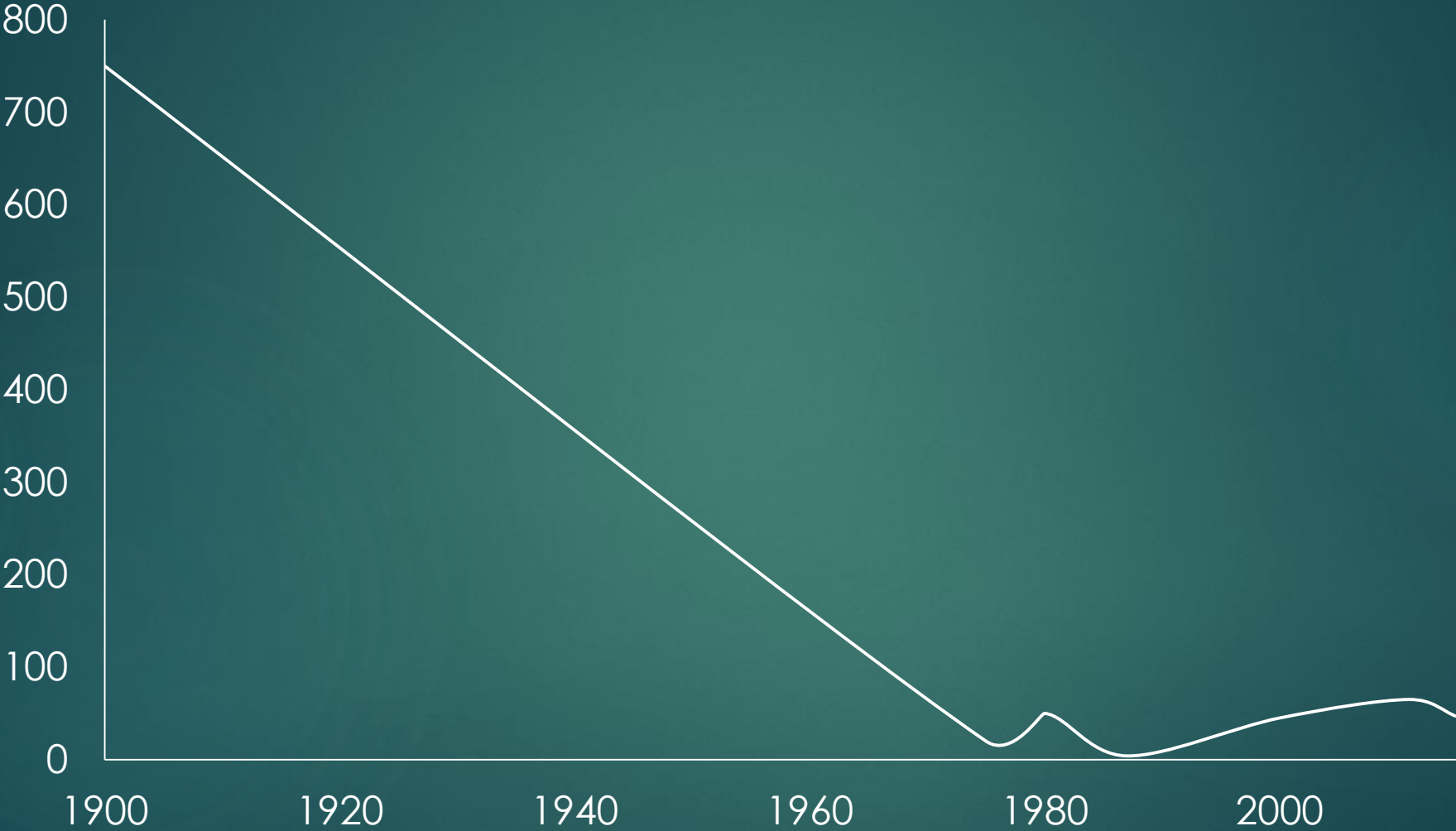
# Montagu's Harrier

- ▶ Nest protection and land management for sufficient food resources (field voles, small birds)

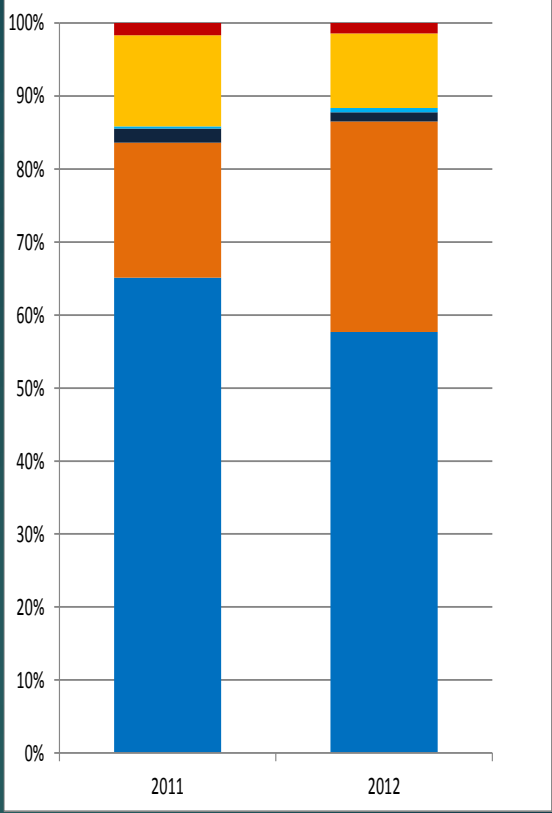




# Montagu's Harrier population trend

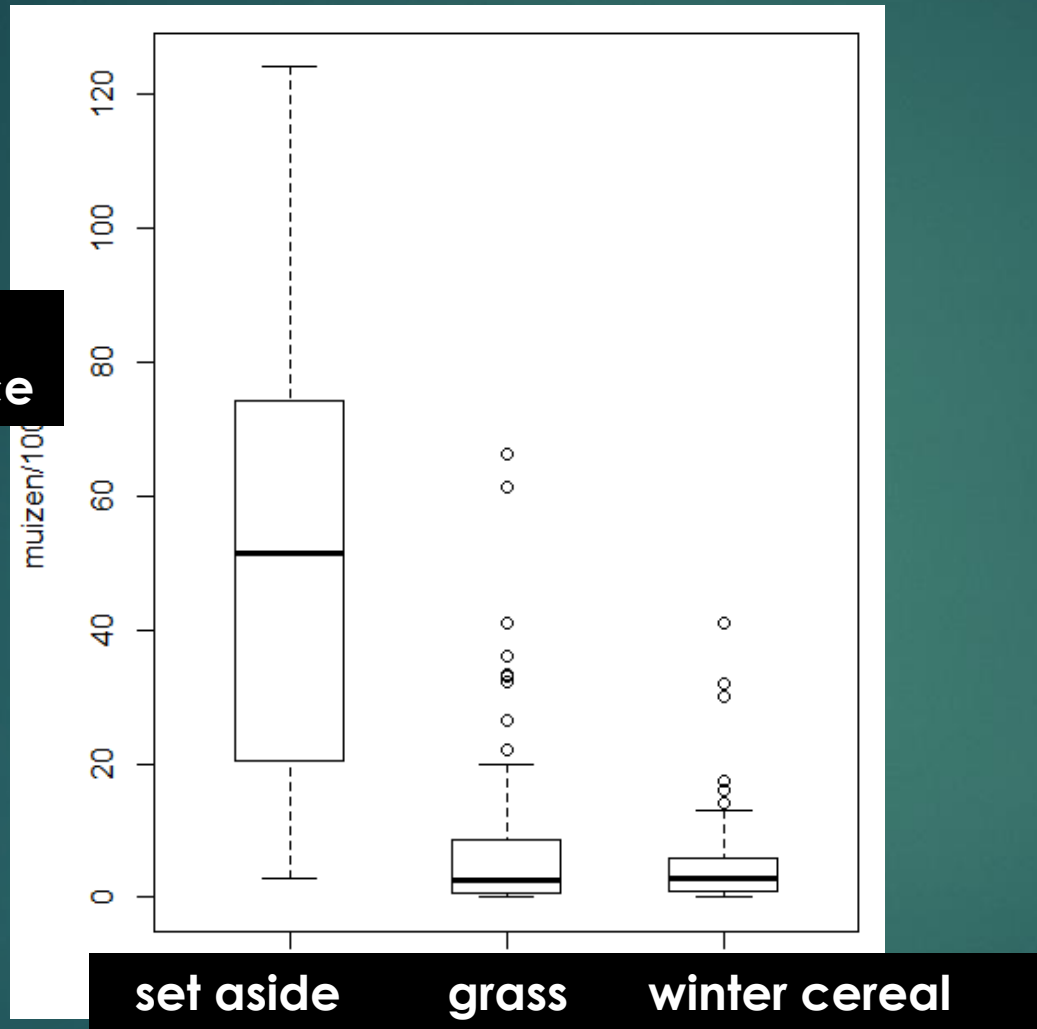






# More voles in set-asides

Vole  
abundance



Voles: 60% of prey



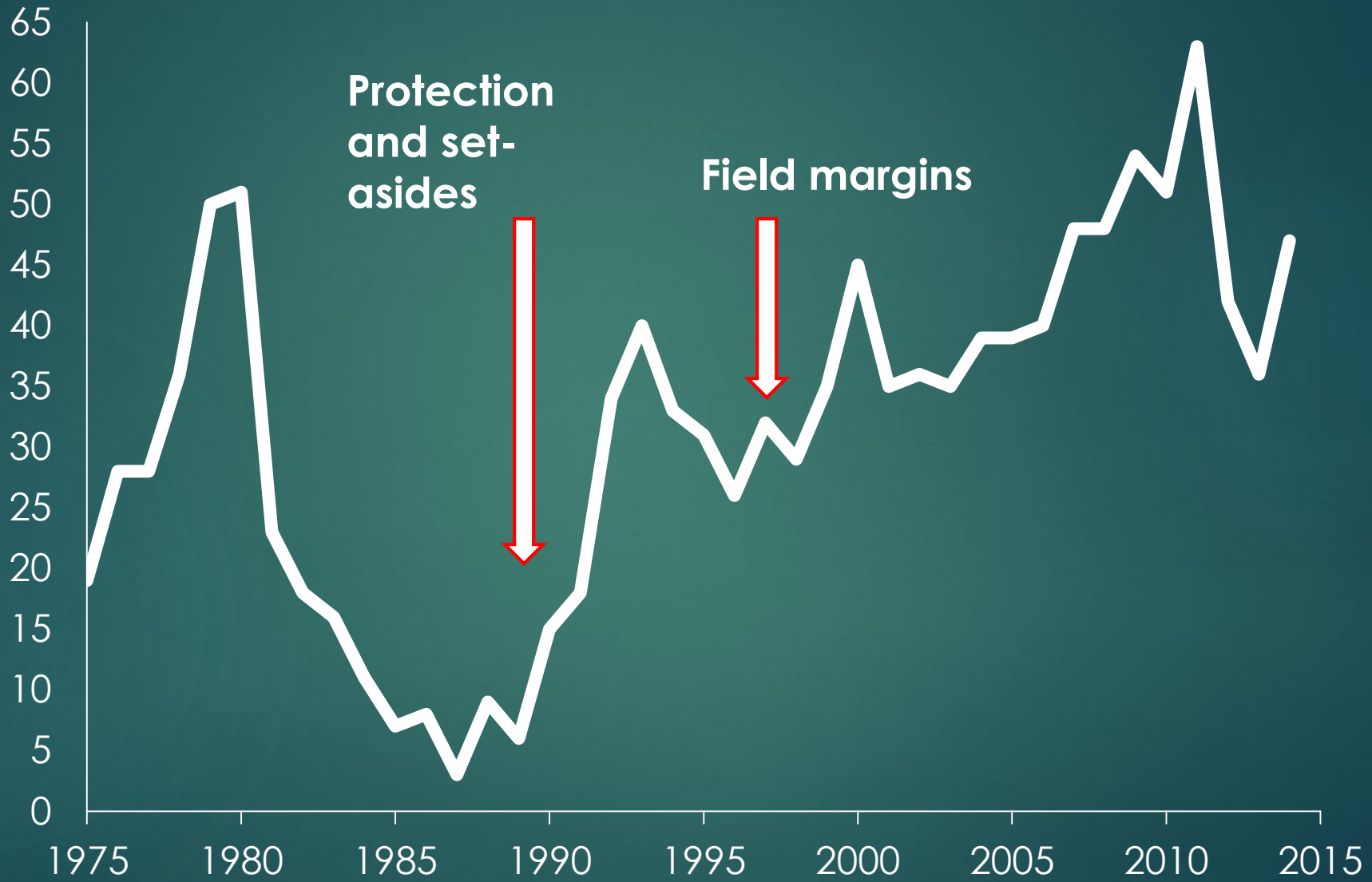




Volunteers and farmers help out



# Breeding pairs

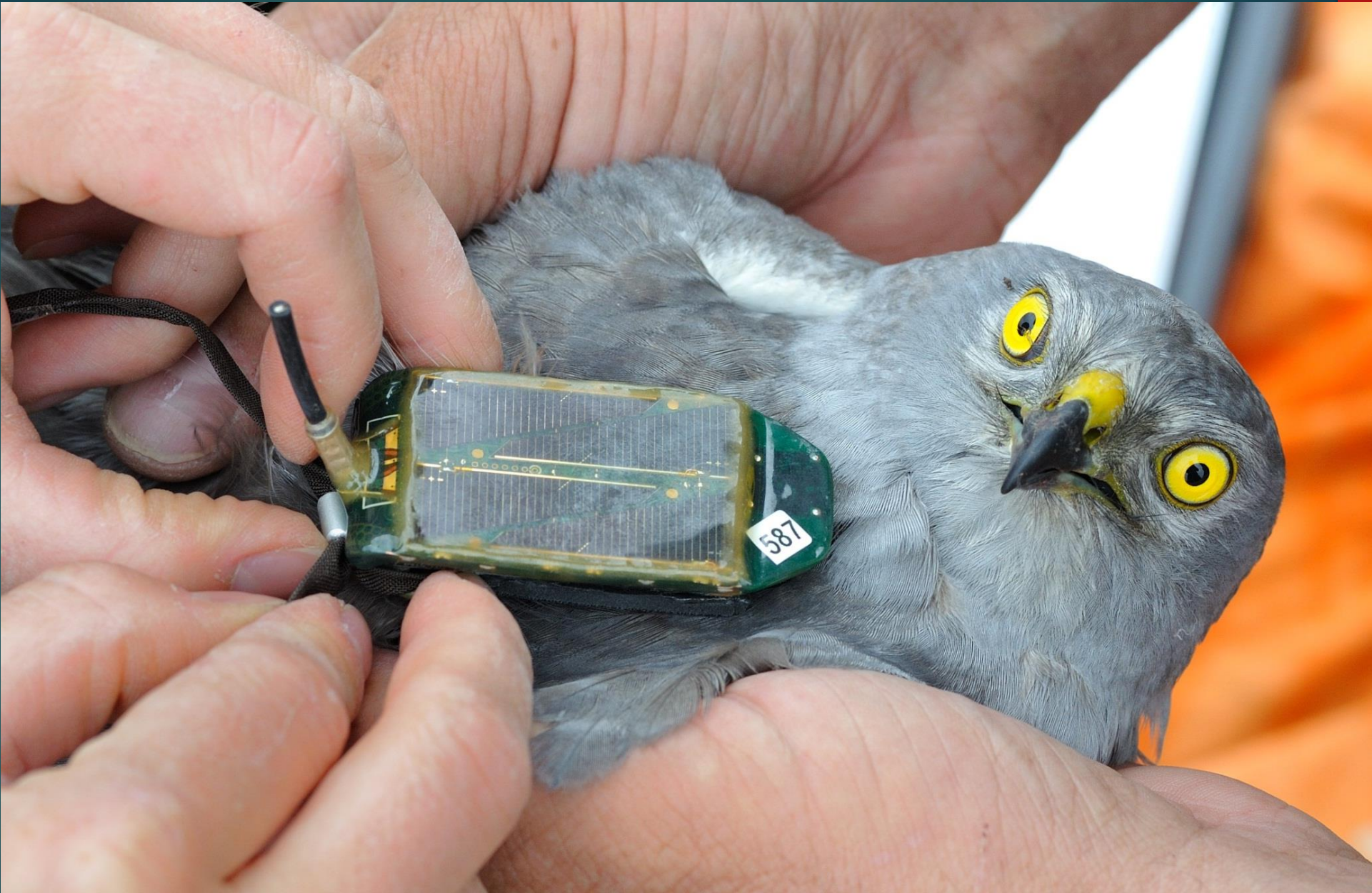


# UvA Bird Tracking System



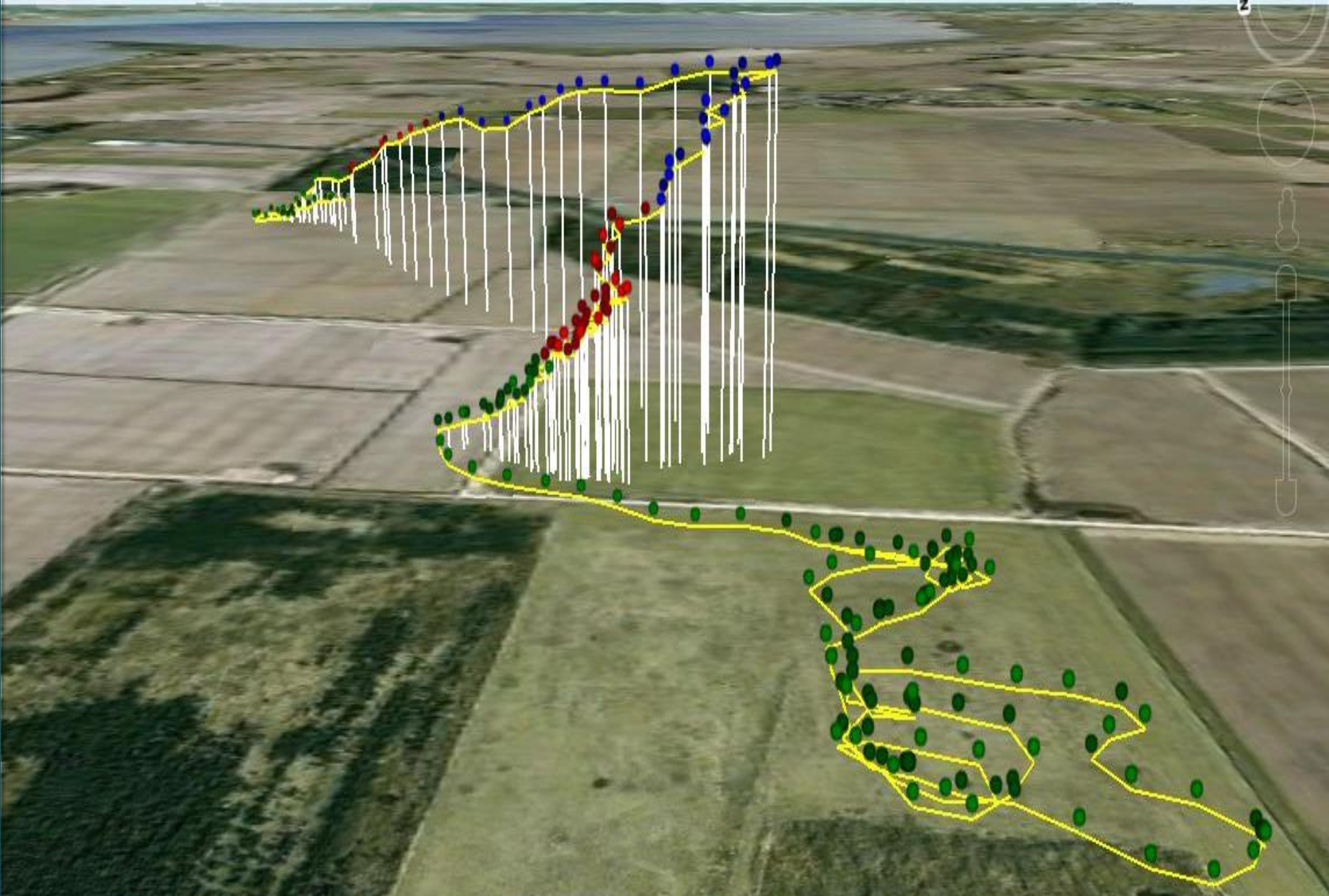
© Harold van der Meer





7/11/2011 11:37:18 am

Z



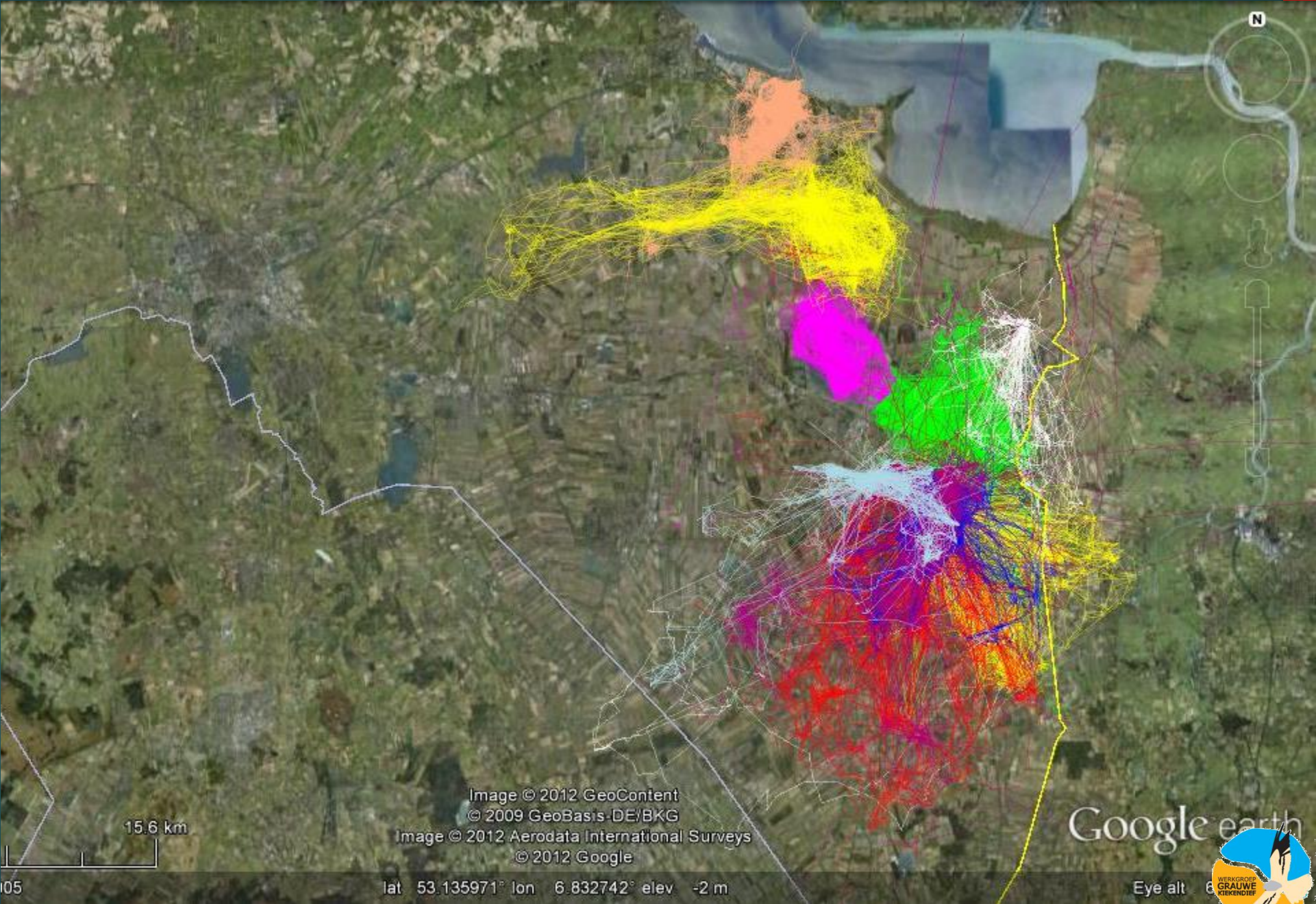


Image © 2012 GeoContent  
© 2009 GeoBasis-DE/BKG  
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Google earth

15.6 km

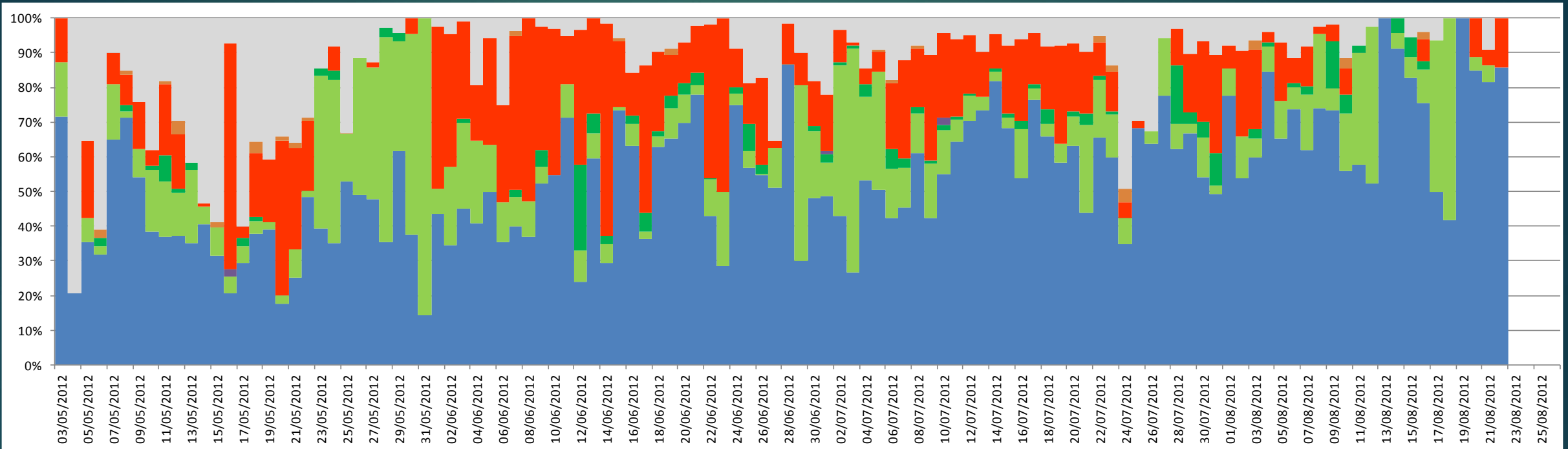
105

lat 53.135971° lon 6.832742° elev -2 m

Eye alt

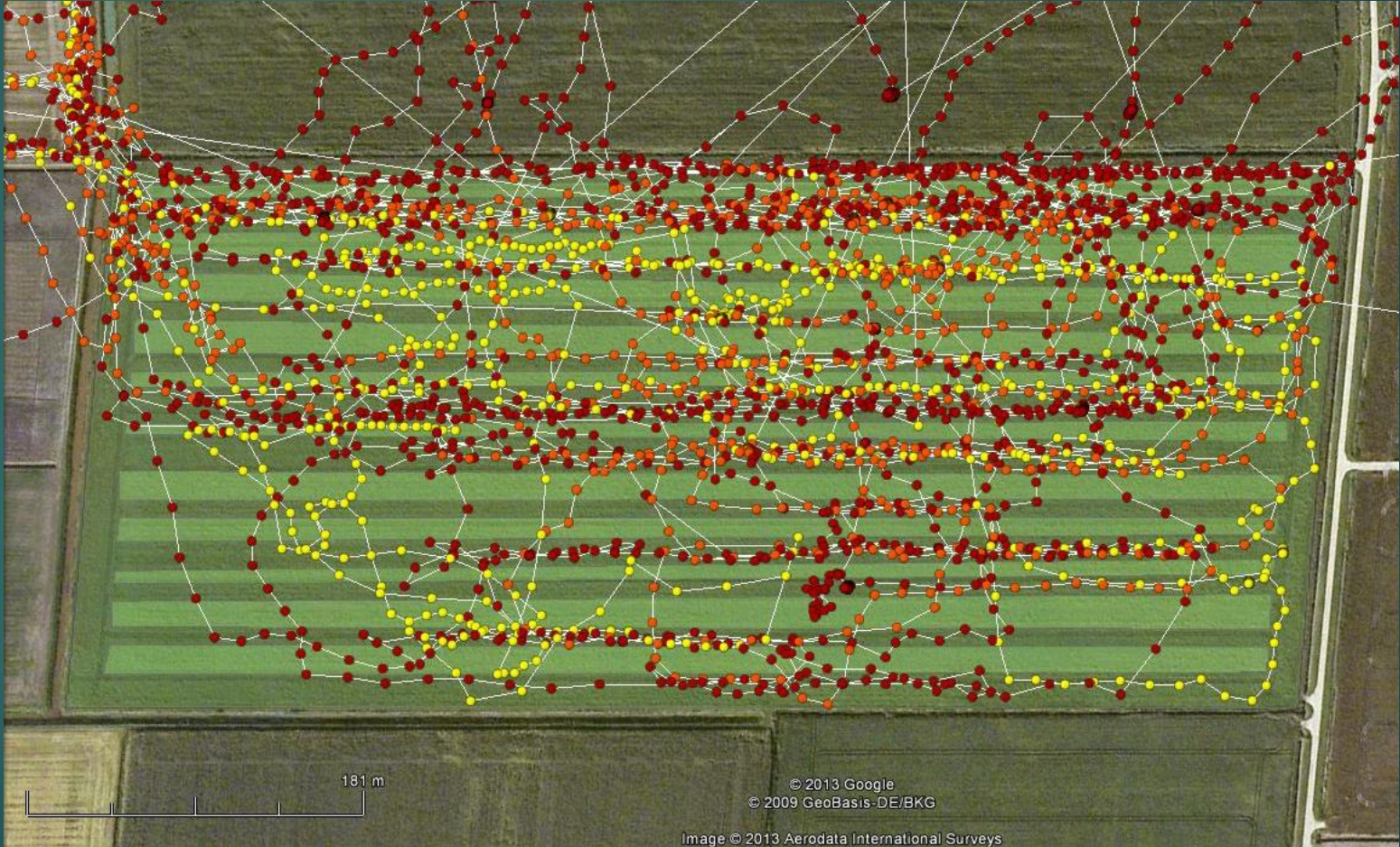


# Habitat use



Blue = cropland, Green = grass/lucern, red = set-aside, grey=unknown





181 m

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Image © 2013 Aerodata International Surveys

Click to toggle time slider animation.



Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO  
Image Landsat

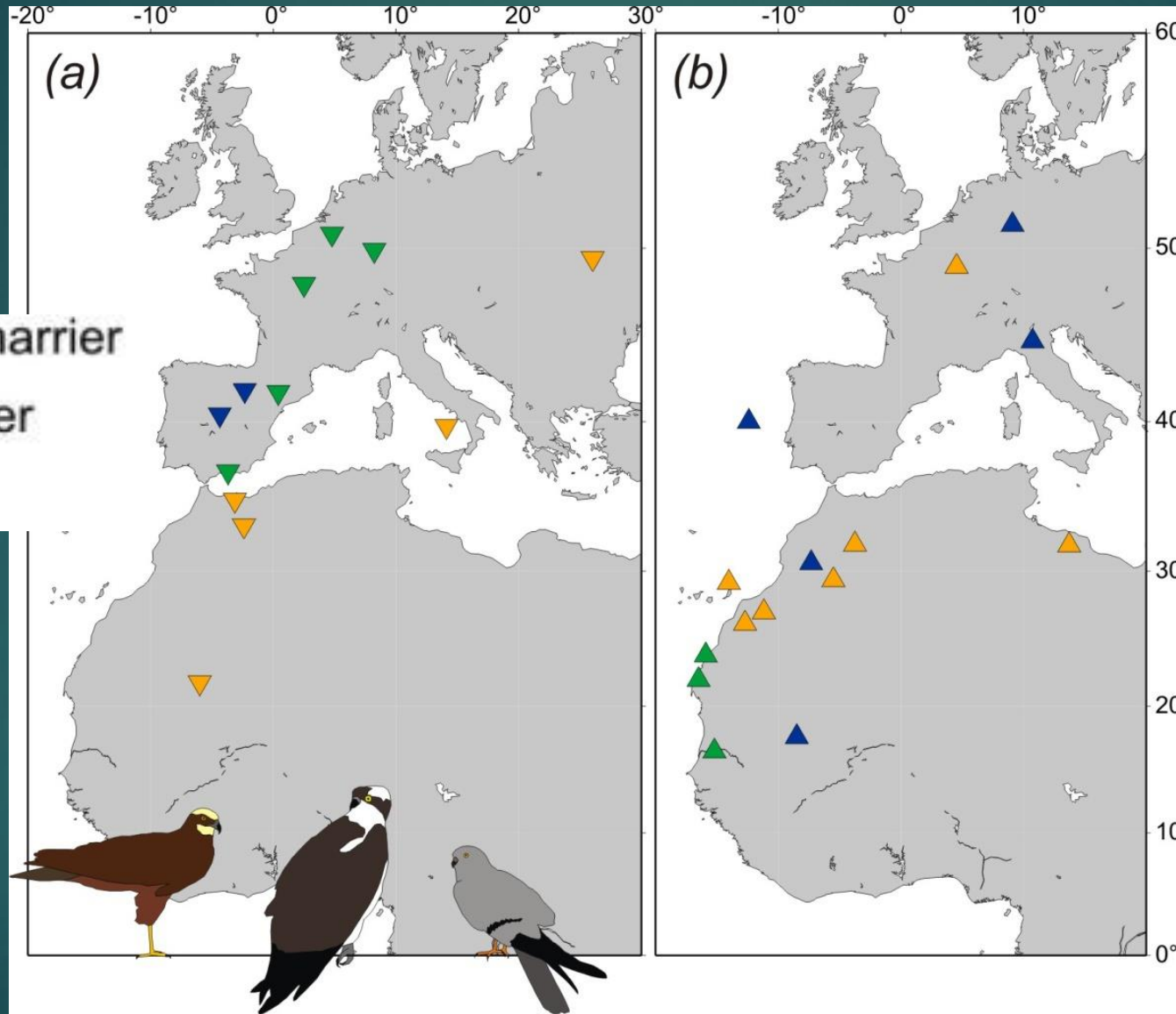
Google earth







# Mortality during migration



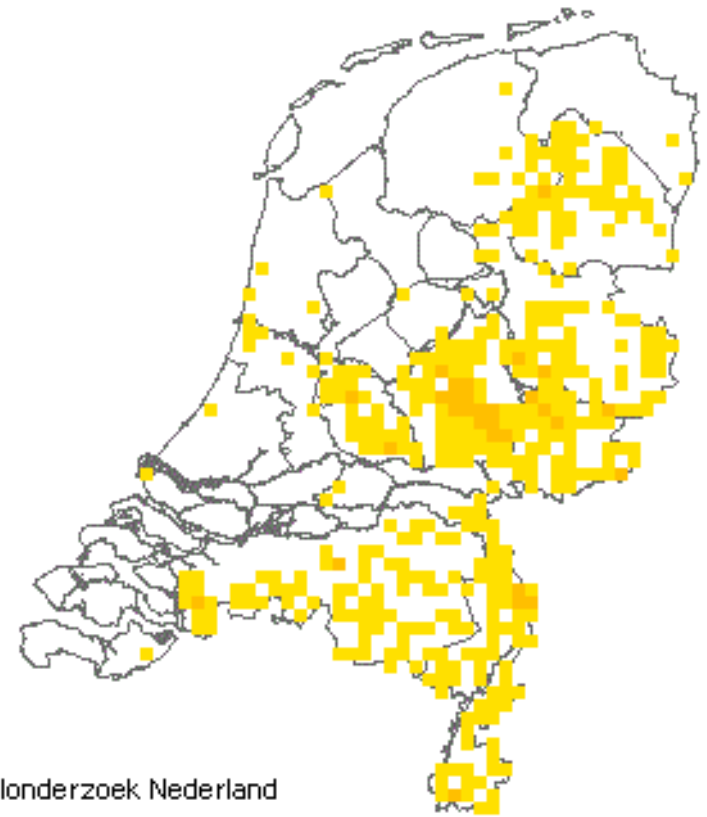
Klaassen et al. 2013  
Daily mortality rates were about six times higher during migration than during stationary periods (breeding and wintering)

# Honey Buzzard



**Wespendief**  
broedvogels  
verspreiding  
1998-2000

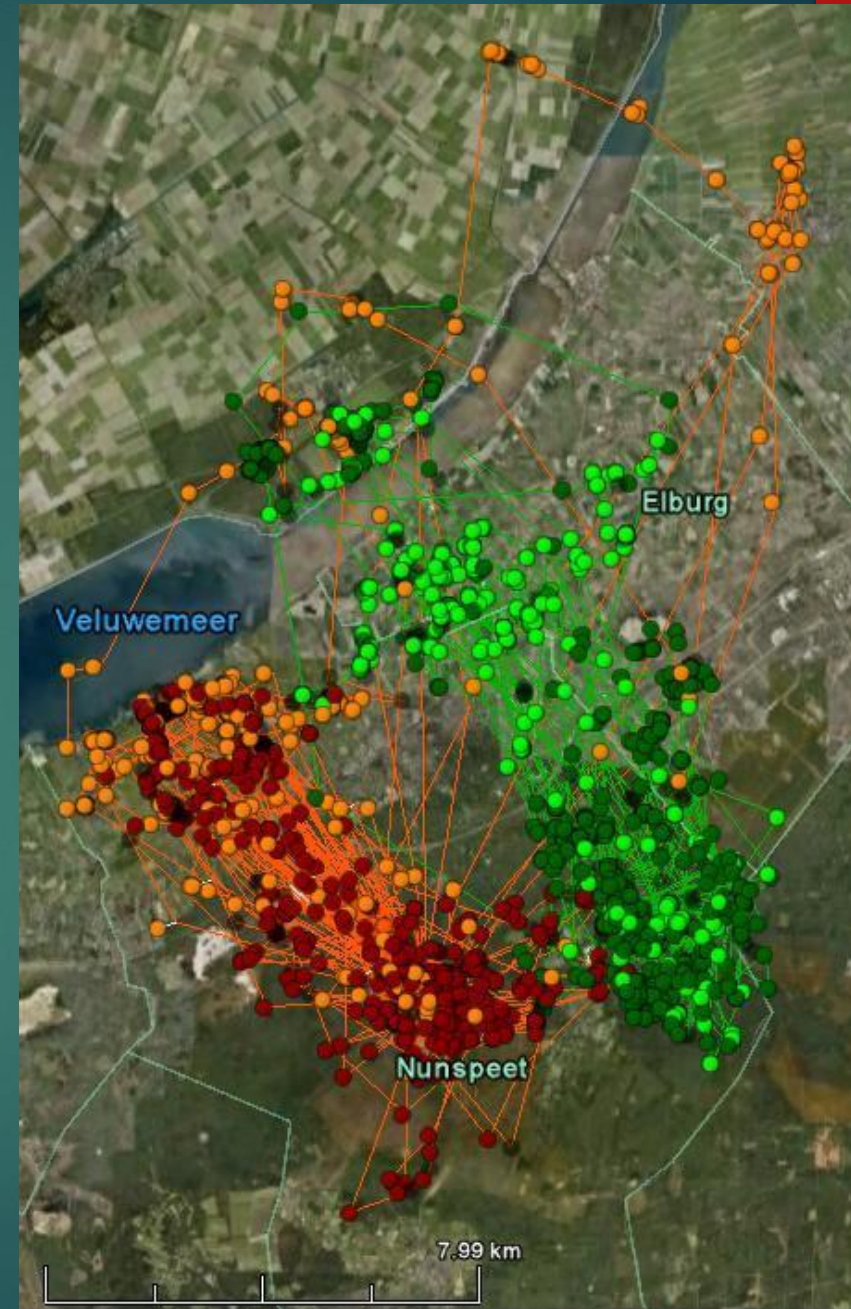
- 1 - 3
- 4 - 10
- 11 - 25
- 26 - 100
- 101 - 500
- > 500



© Sovon Vogelonderzoek Nederland

# Honey Buzzard

- ▶ Forest management is important



# UvA Bird Tracking System



# White-tailed Eagle

- ▶ From zero to five pairs the past decade



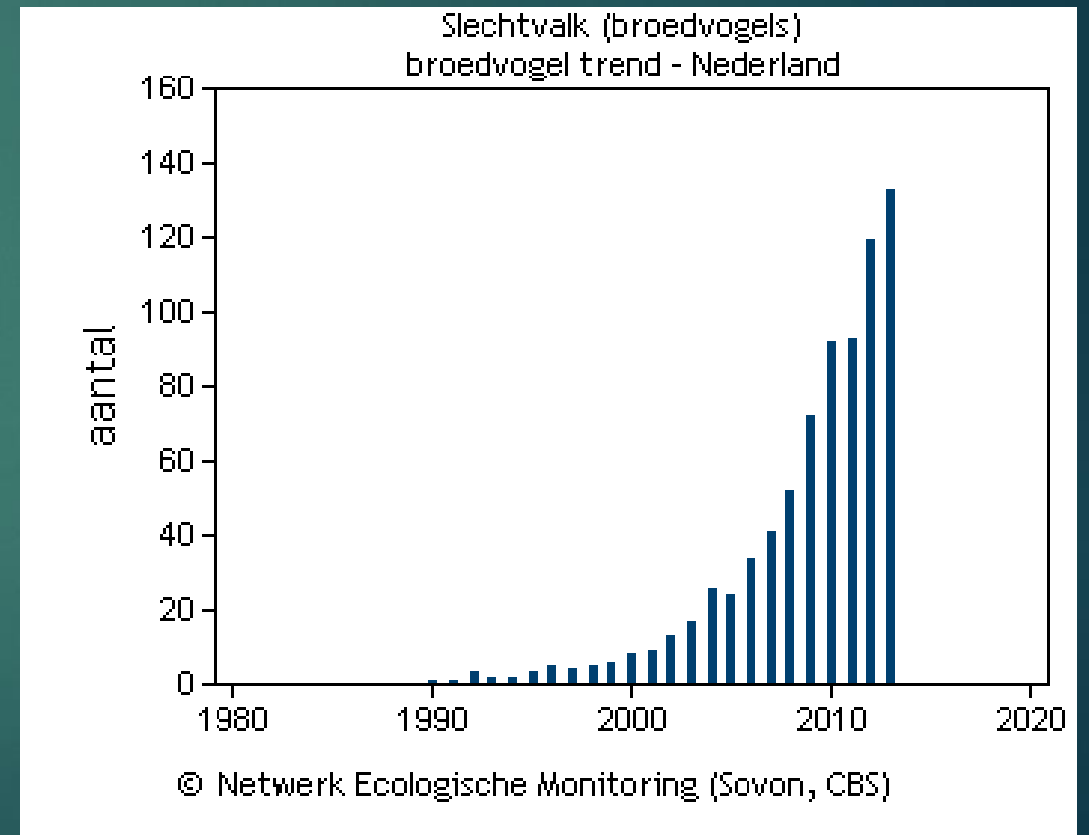


# White-tailed Eagle wind turbine victim 2008



# Peregrine falcon

- ▶ From zero to 140 pairs since 1990





# Peregrine falcon

- ▶ Hybridization
- ▶ Disturbance
- ▶ Persecution



# Persecution

- ▶ Persecution is on the rise the past decade
- ▶ More than 200 raptor nests disturbed per year (0-3% of total per species)
- ▶ Mainly by hunters (87% of police reports)
- ▶ Meadow bird conservationists, pigeon keepers, falconers also involved
- ▶ Very few cases solved – low fines
- ▶ Difficult to catch perpetrators

# Persecution

Source: CVI, WRN

	<b>poison</b>	<b>trap/killed</b>	<b>shot</b>	<b>nest disturbance</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
1975-1988	621	2	69	145	837
1995-1999	518	27	55	403	1003
2000-2005	195	4	6	433	638
2005-2010	168	3	23	578	772
2011	16	0	4	93	113
2012	2	0	0	93	95
2013	11	1	9	60	81
2014	6	0	7	30	43

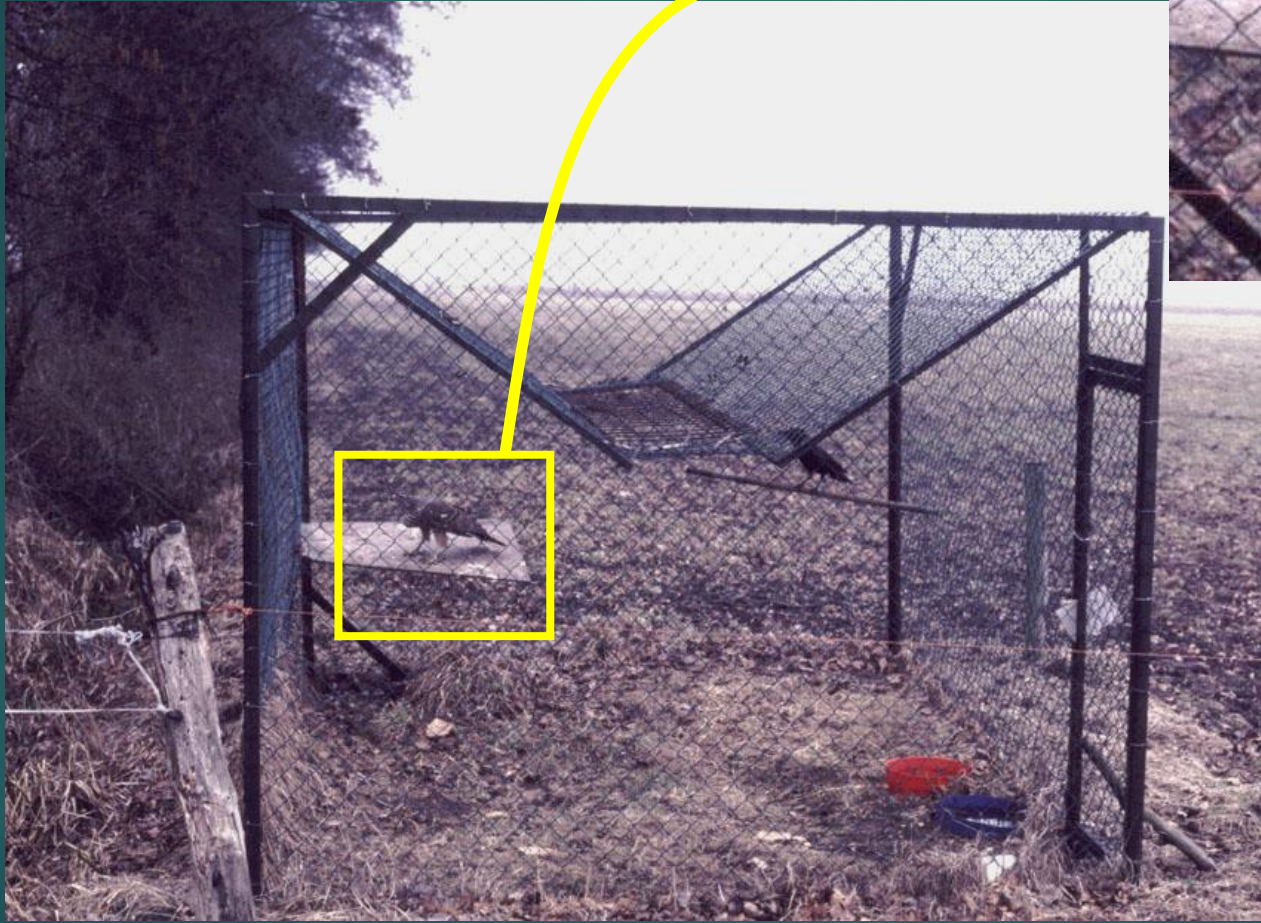
# Persecution

## Task Force

- ▶ Sovon, Dutch Raptor Working Group
- ▶ Central Veterinary Institute
- ▶ Police force
- ▶ Local informant networks
- ▶ Nature conservation societies
- ▶ Royal Dutch Hunting Association













# Consequences of persecution:

- Lower breeding success
- Local decline



## Gezocht:torenvalk

Advertentienr.:4531195113

[Terug](#) | [Dieren en Toebehoren](#) > [Vogels](#) | [Overige](#)



[Grotere afbeelding](#)

Prijs:	<b>N.o.t.k</b>
Datum:	<b>10-08-06, 09:20</b>
Gezien:	<b>190 keer</b>

### Adverteerder

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Naam:	
Telefoon:	
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### Beschrijving:

torenvalk gezocht graag handschoenmak om me te gaan vliegen. Neem ook graag tegen vergoeding over cites, schoentjes, veters enz. (en ook eventueel een handschoen)  
Prijs in overleg

## koppel torenvalken

Advertentienr.:5162271413

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Prijs:	<b>€ 300,00</b>
Datum:	<b>18-09-06, 13:45</b>
Gezien:	<b>57 keer</b>

### Adverteerder

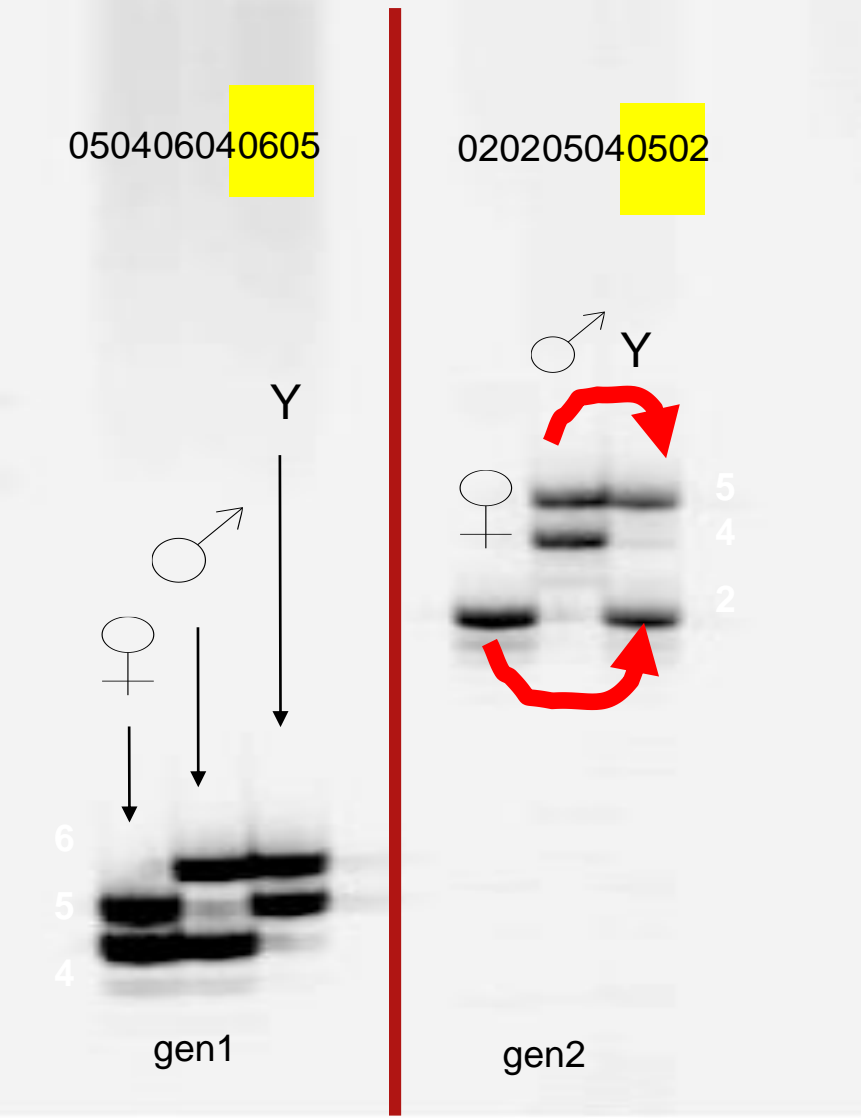
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Naam:	
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### Beschrijving:

zeer mooi broed koppel torenvalken groot soort de tarsel is 5 en wijf 4 jaar oud  
heb meerdere jongen gehad



# Important impacts and focus of future strategy

- ▶ Persecution/poisoning (aldicarb, carbofuran) – intervention strategy + task force
- ▶ Intensification of agriculture – agricultural land management for species conservation
- ▶ Wind turbines – future risk?
- ▶ Forest management – Code of Conduct

# Acknowledgements



UNIVERSITEIT VAN AMSTERDAM

