



RAPTORS
MOU

Swiss Strategic Guidelines and Management Priorities for Raptors – Experiences and outlook

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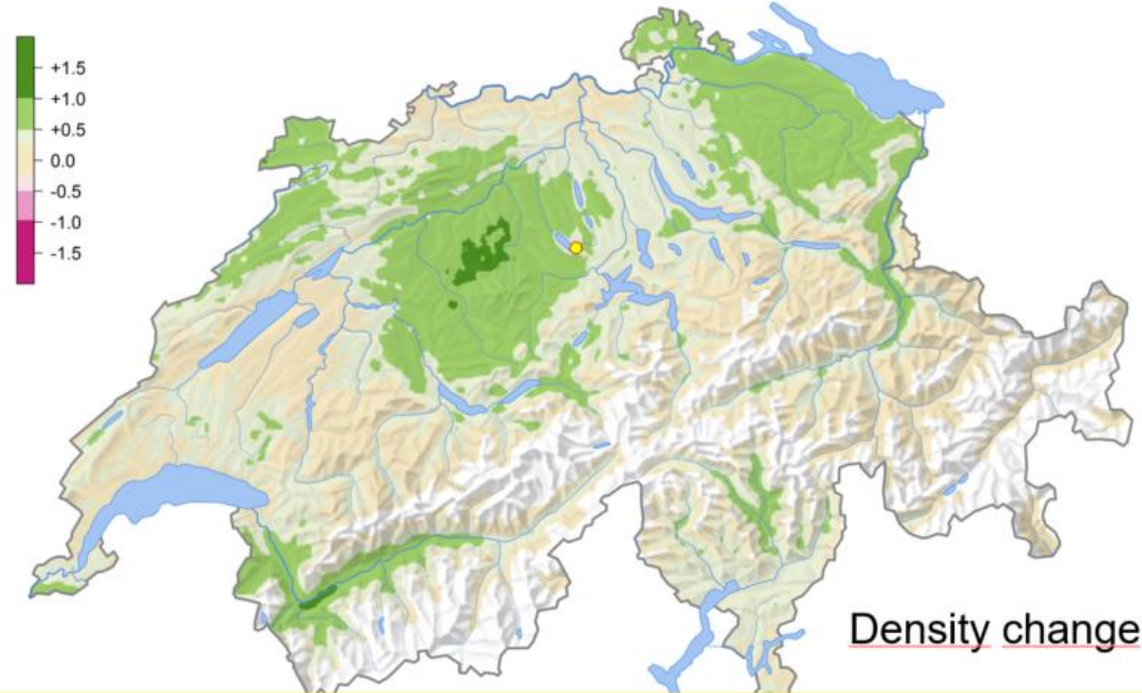


Raptors in Switzerland: a positive story

Anzahl Greifvogel- und Eulenarten



Combined map for Red Kite, Black Kite, Common Buzzard, Kestrel



Density change map

75% of raptor species show a positive population trend

1950-1959



1972-1976



1993-1996

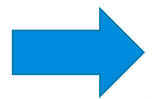


2013-2016



Why did we embark on this «adventure»?

- structured discussions with Swiss experts on
 - national objectives
 - relevant activities
 - prioritisation
 - feasibility
- focus on «elsewhere lost» themes
 - lead
 - sites for migrating raptors
 - neonicotinoids/ pesticides



an «**all in one**» document on raptor and owl conservation

Raptor and Owl Conservation in Switzerland: Strategic Guidelines and Management Priorities



Red Kite (*Milvus milvus*) © M. Burkhardt

12 July 2019

Report of the Swiss Focal Point of the Raptors MoU

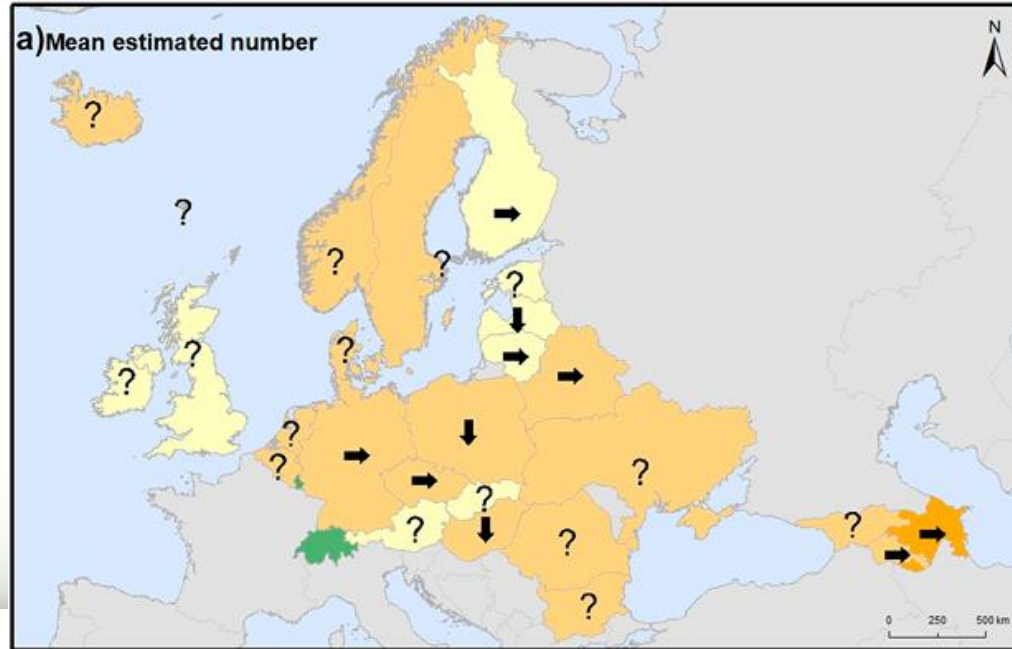
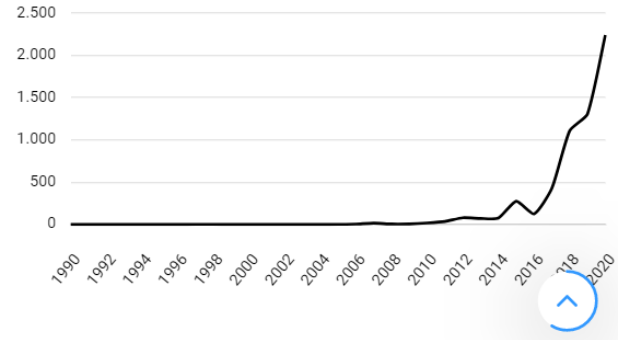
under the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)

Sabine Herzog

Challenges

- «sterile» agricultural landscapes
- leisure time activities
- pesticides
- lead
- pigeons
- planning of windfarms

Presence index ⓘ

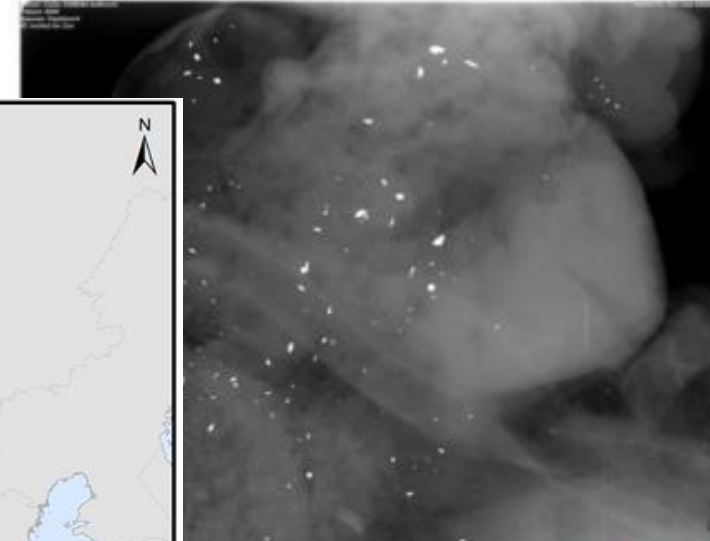


Mean estimated number of birds killed/taken illegally per country per year

≤ 10,000	> 100,000
10,001 - 100,000	Birds killed/taken in trivial numbers

Mean trend of the illegal killing over last 10 years per country

↑↑ Substantial increase	↑ Moderate increase	→ Stable
↓↓ Substantial decline	↓ Moderate decline	? Unknown



Swiss Strategic Guidelines: 2014 – 2020/2021

- **signing of the MoU Raptor** CMS CoP11, Quito, November 2014
- mandate to SOI (project leader: Stefan Werner), October 2016
- Action Plan for the Swiss Biodiversity Strategy, September 2017
- workshop with SOI & FOEN with detailed activities, January 2018
- **New SOI Atlas 2013-2016** > better data published, November 2018
- TAG3 meeting: feedback especially on sites, December 2018
- **Switzerland submits National Guidelines in September 2019**
- Switzerland includes different adaptation in the Hunting Ordinance in May 2020 (**Lead ban, sites, woodcut ban**)
- On 27.9.2020 voted the Swiss against the hunting law...

Switzerland Submits National Guidelines to Conserve Migratory



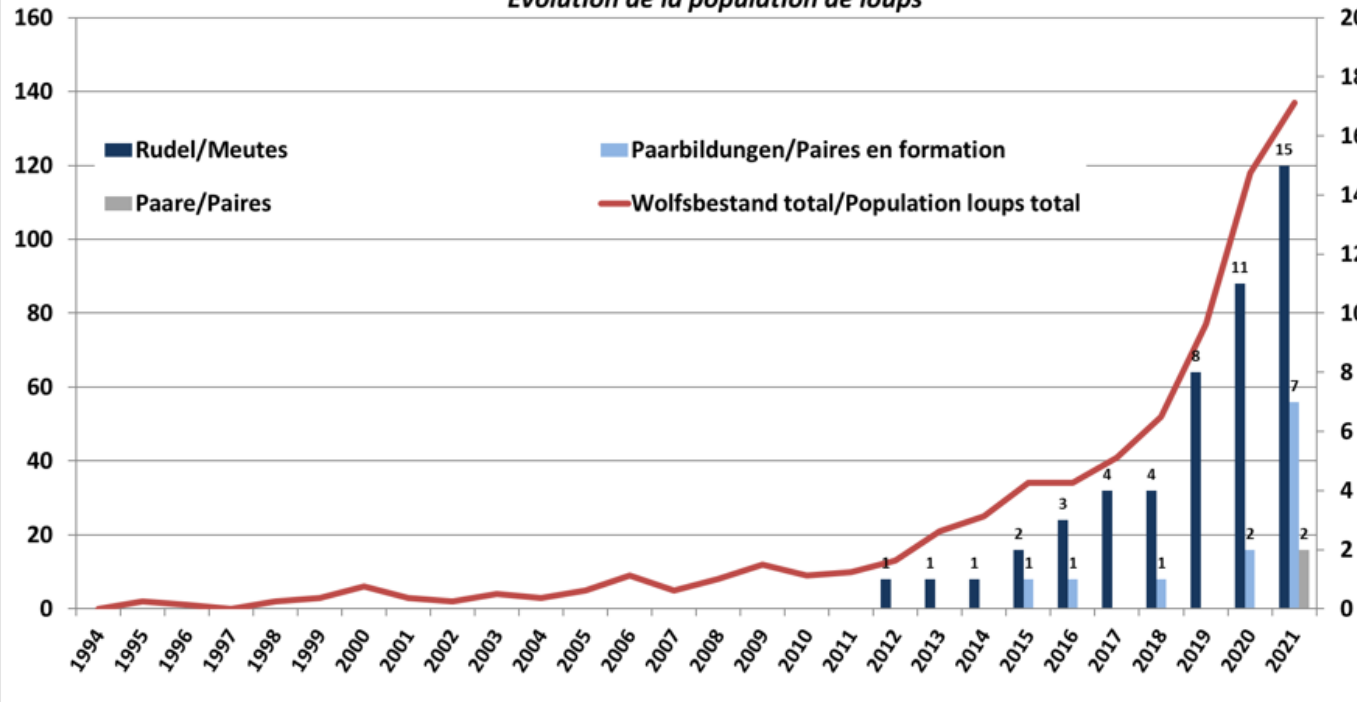
Red Kite (*Milvus milvus*) © M. Burkhardt

Abu Dhabi, 3 September 2019 – The Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MOU wishes to extend its sincere 'congratulations' to the Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN), Switzerland for being the first Signatory to fulfill the obligation to prepare and submit a national strategy to implement the Raptors MOU.

The Swiss Alps are beautiful, but are they biodiverse?

Voters decide not to water down wolf protection

Entwicklung des Wolfsbestandes
Evolution de la population de loups



The International Guidelines were “*lines that guided us*”

- ✓ helpful and a good orientation to start with, as all the relevant topics are well explained;
- ✓ a link to the action plan in the MoU is ensured;
- ✓ the necessary information for a comprehensive text are available.

- ✗ the international guidelines where not directly applicable to national needs (in CH)
- ✗ (national) strategy is a strongly occupied word
- ✗ several adaptations for our national approach were needed
 - species (Cat. 1 / Cat. 2 / Swiss Flagship species)
 - threats
 - sites



Lessons learnt

- it takes a lot of time and effort because it is an iterative process;
- collaboration (GO's, NGO's and experts) is important, the who and when is crucial;
- the ornithologists bring the basic information, government people the force and the procedural information;
- prioritisation, timing and feasibility are of crucial importance.

Achievements (*against all odds*)

- lead is partially banned by two **cantons**
- the windfarm projects are all going before the **judge**
- the sites project is stopped...
- but we continue to **monitor** possible (future) migratory sites protected by Swiss law

SWI swissinfo.ch

Schweizer Perspektiven in 10 Sprachen

Bleihaltige
Jagdmunition wird im
Wallis verboten

Swiss perspectives in 10 languages

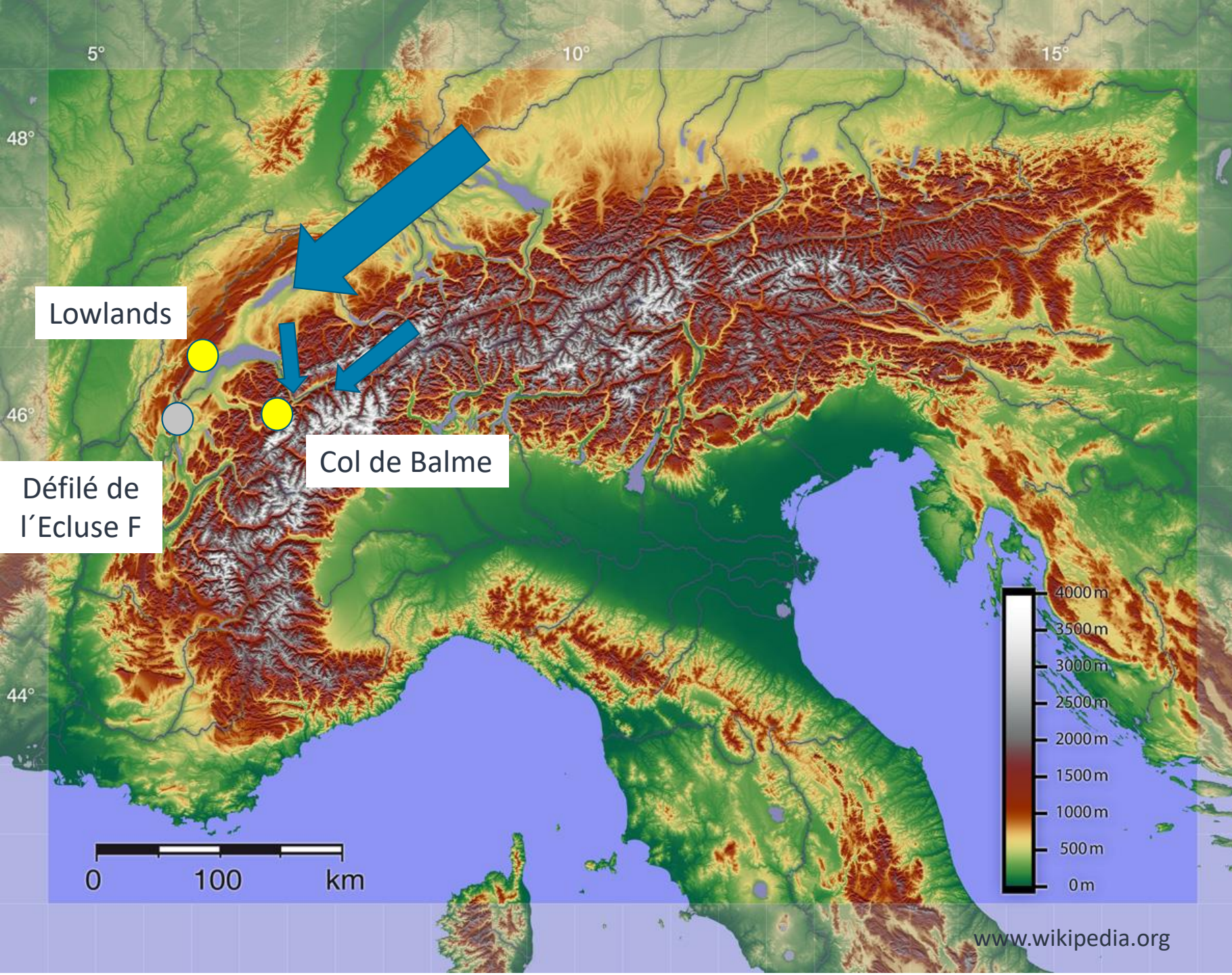
Swiss wind power held
up by legal challenges



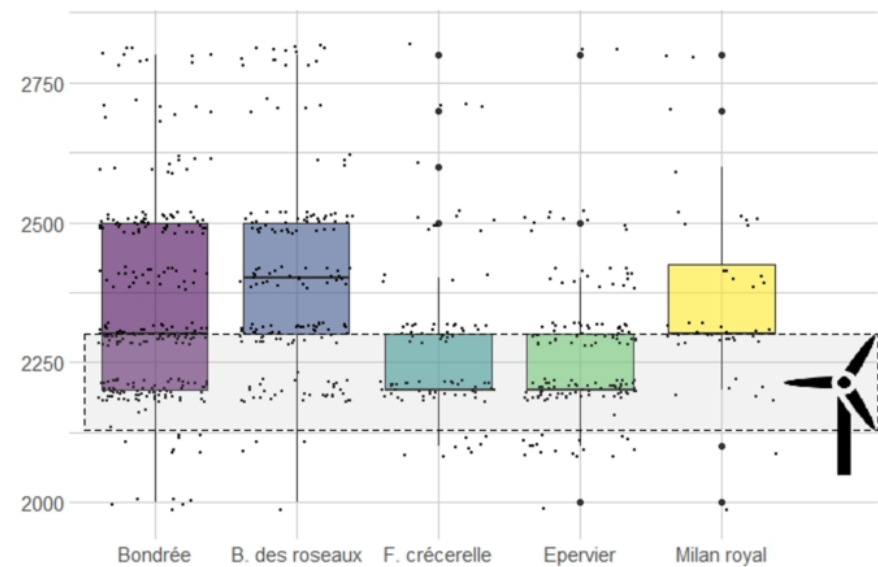
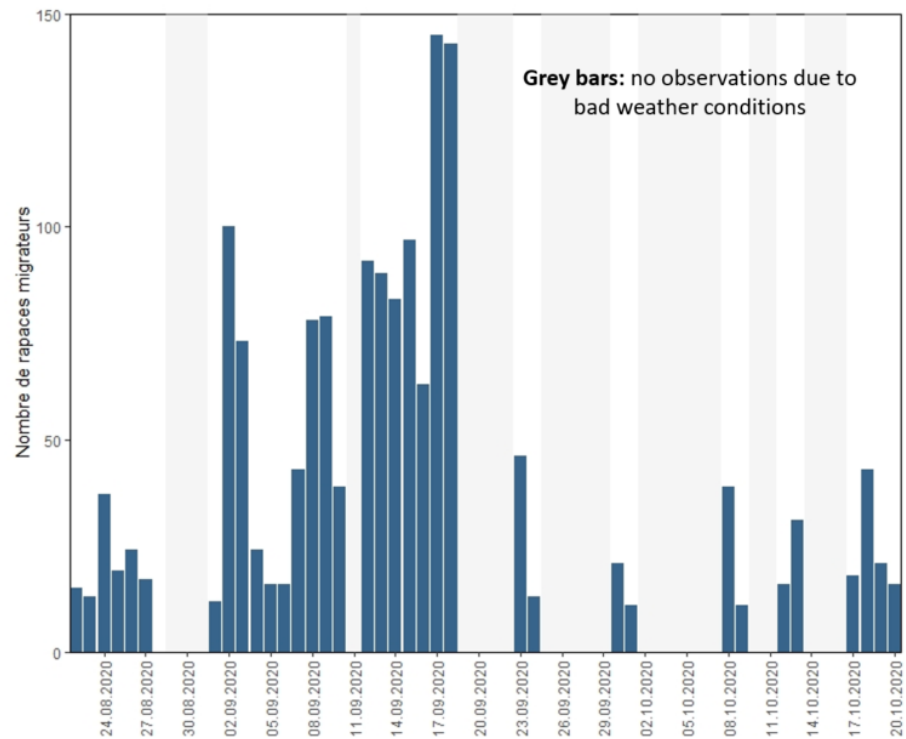
Raptor migration in Switzerland

Two surveys:

- Col de Balme VS
- Lowlands close to Jura mountains and Lake Geneva VD



Raptor migration at Col de Balme 2109 |



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	Prealpine and Alpine sites			these birds cross CH Lowlands (survey 2021)
	Col de Bretolet VS	Gurnigel BE	Col de Balme VS 2020	Défilé de l'Ecluse (France)
Altitude (m)	1'920	1'590	2'200	420
Duration of observation (h per season)	600	450	293	1'000
No. of raptors per season (estimation)	3'000	3'000	1600	20'000 - 50'000
Raptors per hour	5	6,7	5,5	20 - 50

Most migrating raptors crossed the Alpine pass below 200 m above the ground

➤ Potential conflict with infrastructures

