



*Тожубе
добра слава,
слава Героям...*
М.Шебенко

Corncrake (and some other grassland bird) Conservation in Latvia - does population and monitoring has CAP?



Oskars Keišs
Latvian Ornithological Society, University of Latvia
grieze@edu.lu.lv



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Acknowledgements



- **Volunteers are acknowledged for conducting surveys;**
- **Dr. Jānis Priednieks initialized the Corncrake survey**
- **Dr. Aivars Mednis and Dr. Norbert Schäffer for advice**
- **Various sources supported the bird monitoring surveys in Latvia, including periods with only volunteer work for the whole program**
- **Currently (2015–2023) the bird monitoring is financed by the Nature Conservation Agency (Dabas aizsardzības pārvalde)**
- **My family**

Long-term bird surveys in Latvia



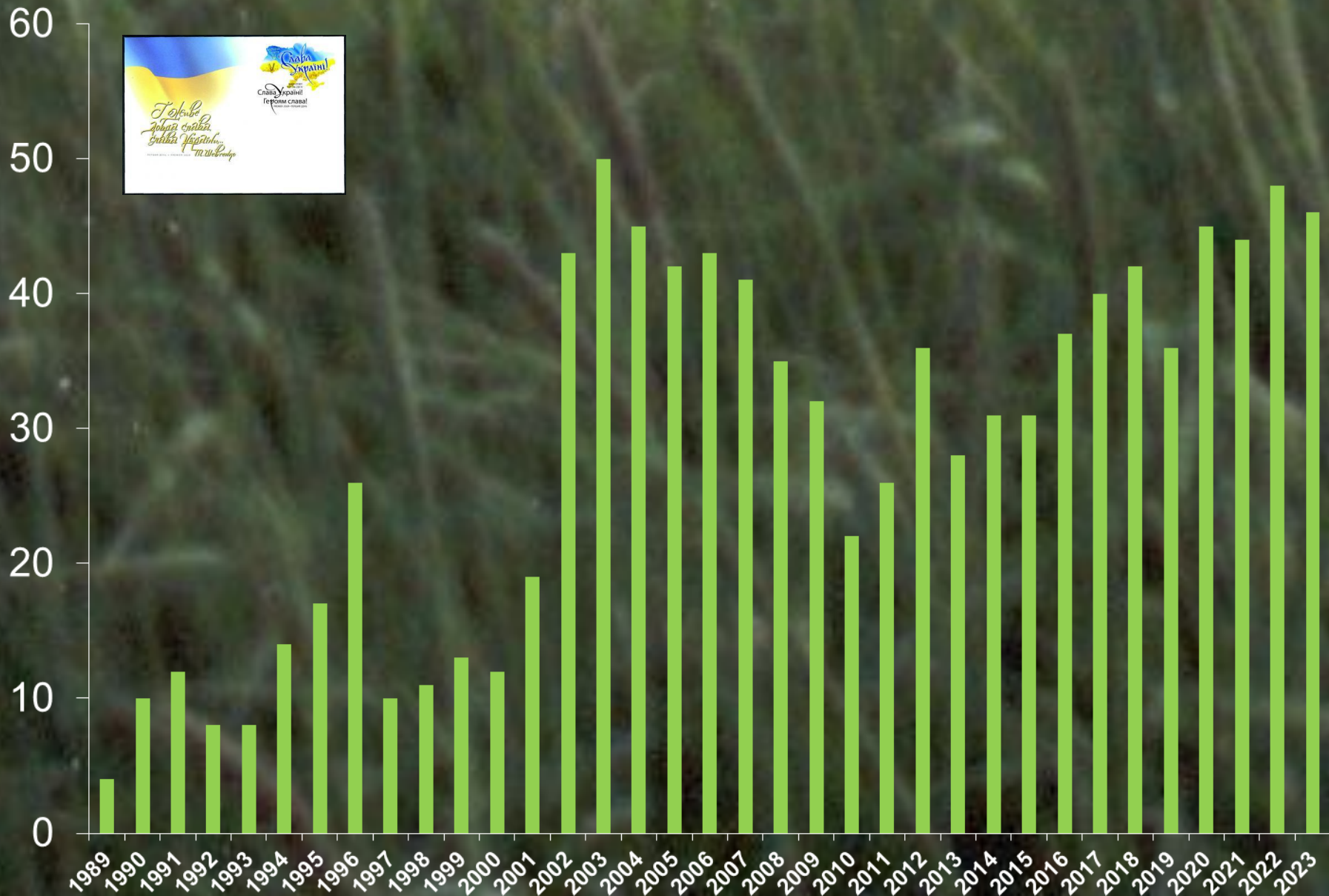
- Breeding bird monitoring (morning counts) since 2005 (farmland species since 1995);
- Night bird monitoring since 2006 extension of Corncrake monitoring (active since 1989);
- Monitoring of autumn migration of selected passerine species at Pape since 1992;
- Breeding bird atlases: 1980–1984; 1985–1989; 2000–2004; 2013–2017;

Night bird monitoring in Latvia



- since 2006 extension of Corncrake monitoring (active since 1989):
 - covers agricultural lands (but Latvia is a mosaic of agriculture and forest land);
 - two counts between May 20 – July 10 required;
 - counting between 23:00–3:00;
 - land use mapping at the plots;

Night bird monitoring plots in Latvia

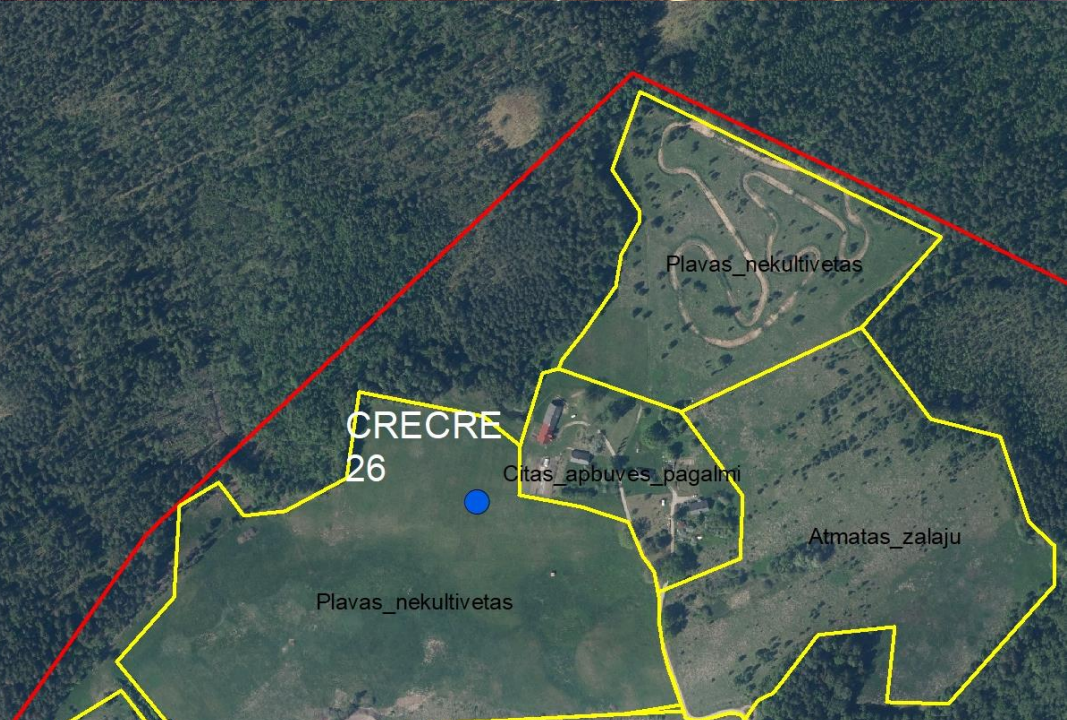




Apzīmējumi

● 2. uzskaitē

□ Biotopi_Erglu klintis



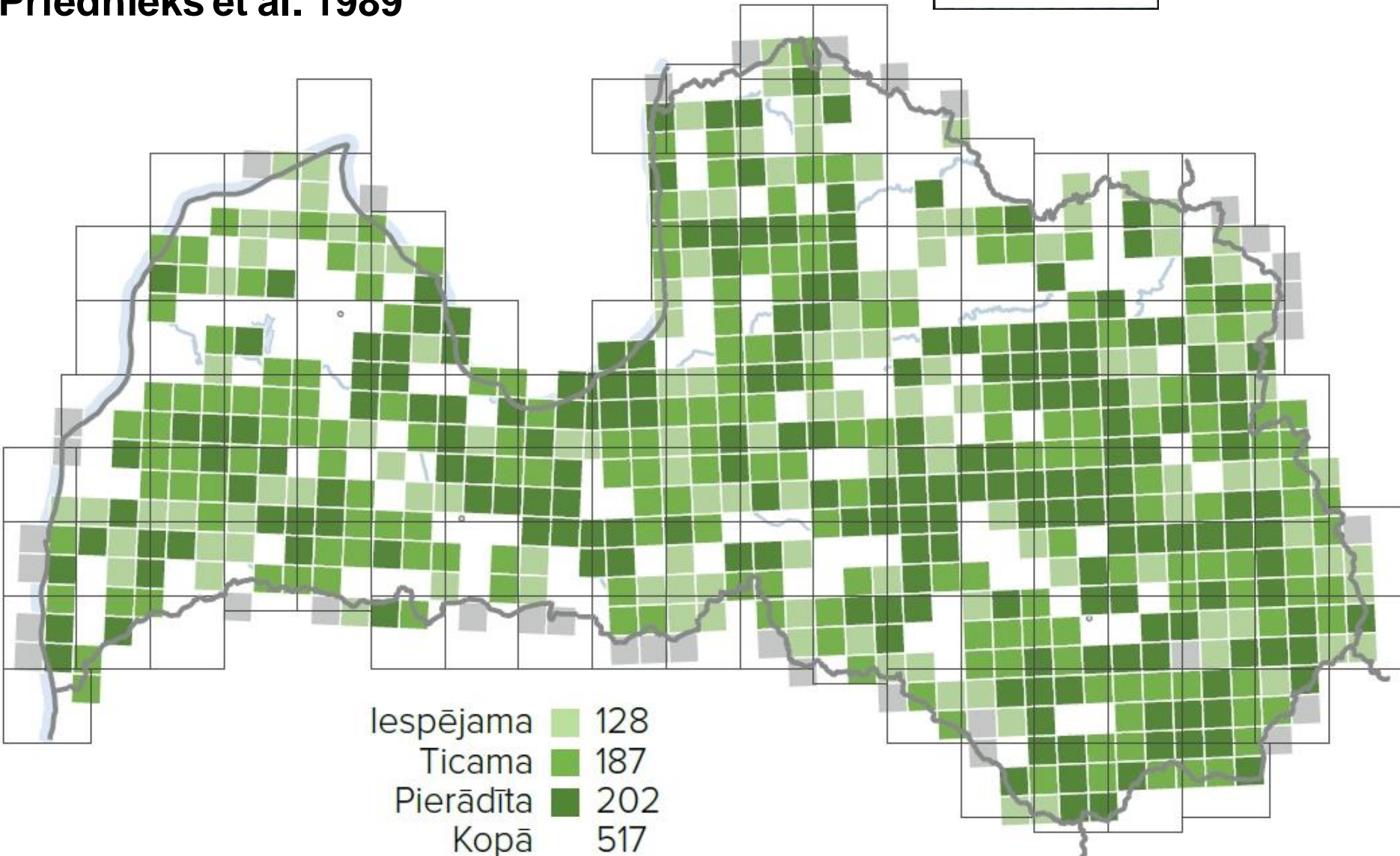
Motacilla flava; Dzeltēnā cielava; Geltonoži kielē; Hänilane;
Keltavästäräkki; Gulärla

1980–1984

Priednieks et al. 1989



10x10 km



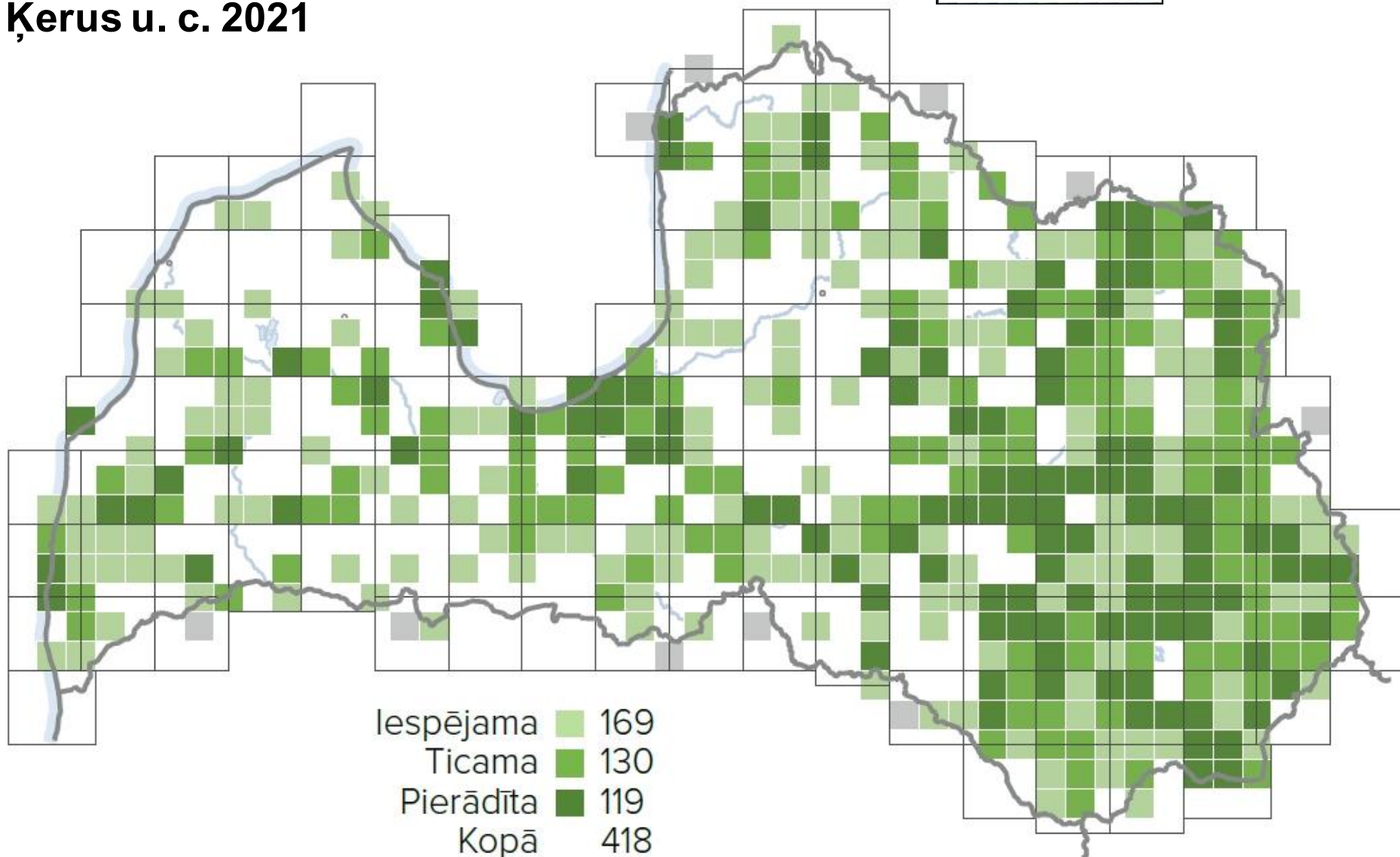
Motacilla flava; Dzeltēnā cielava; Geltonoji kielē; Hänilane;
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2000–2004



10x10 km

Ҷерус у. с. 2021



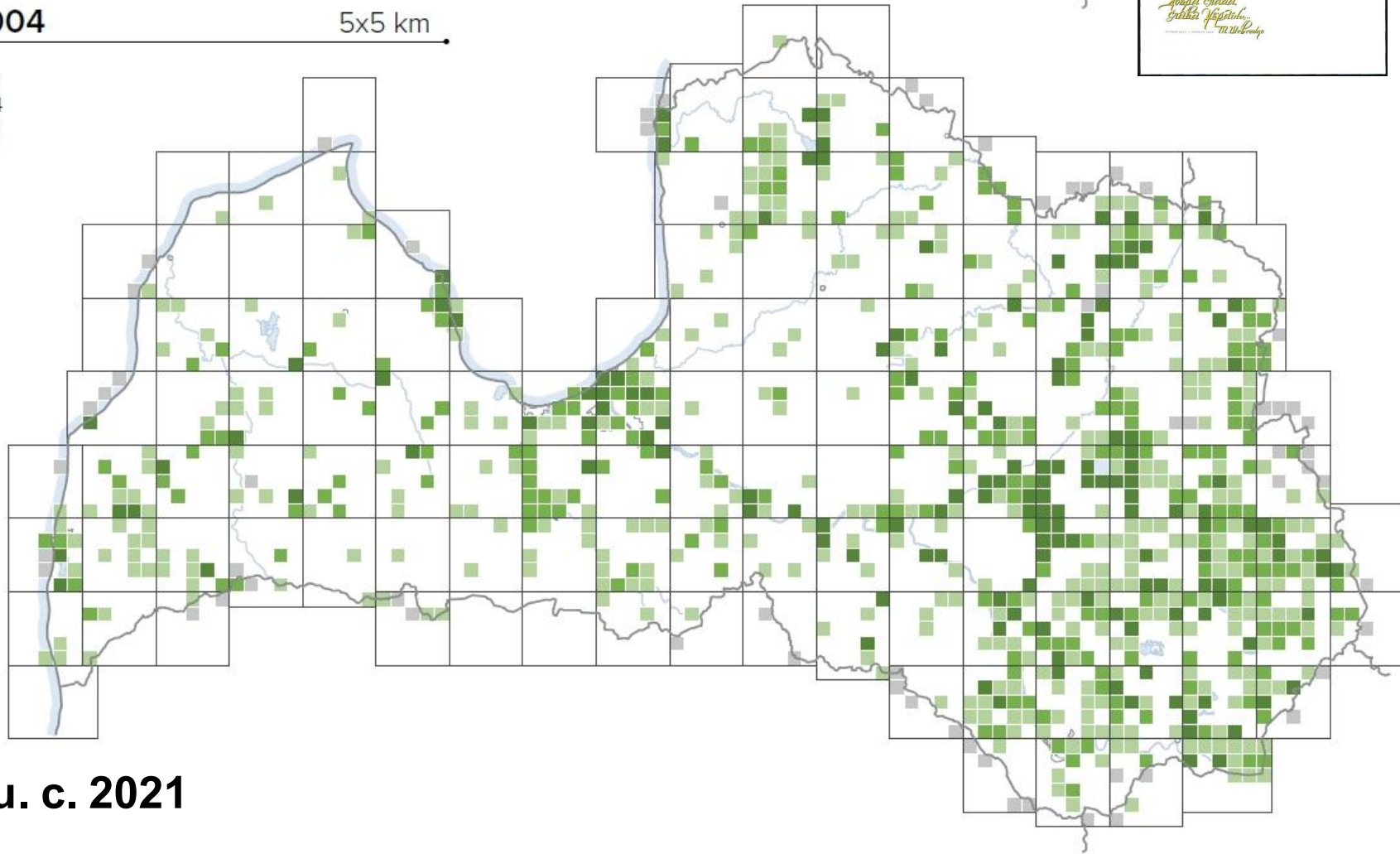
Motacilla flava; Dzeltēnā cielava; Geltonoņi kielē; Hānilane; Keltavästäräkki; Gulārļa



2000–2004

5x5 km

İespējama 377
Ticāma 224
Pierādīta 150
Kopā 751



Ķerus u. c. 2021

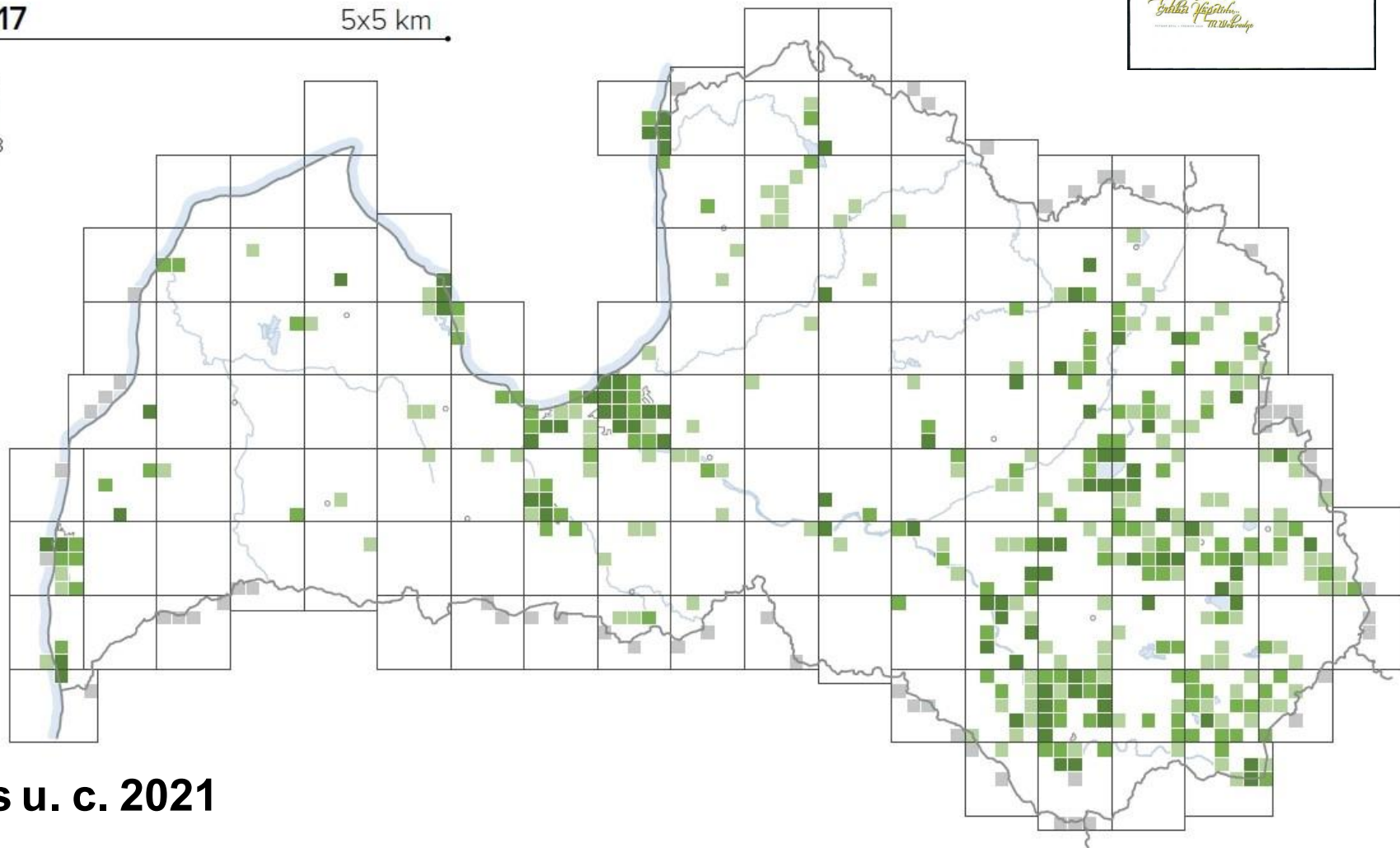
Motacilla flava; Dzeltēnā cielava; Geltonoņi kielē; Hānilane; Keltavästäräkki; Gulārļa



2013–2017

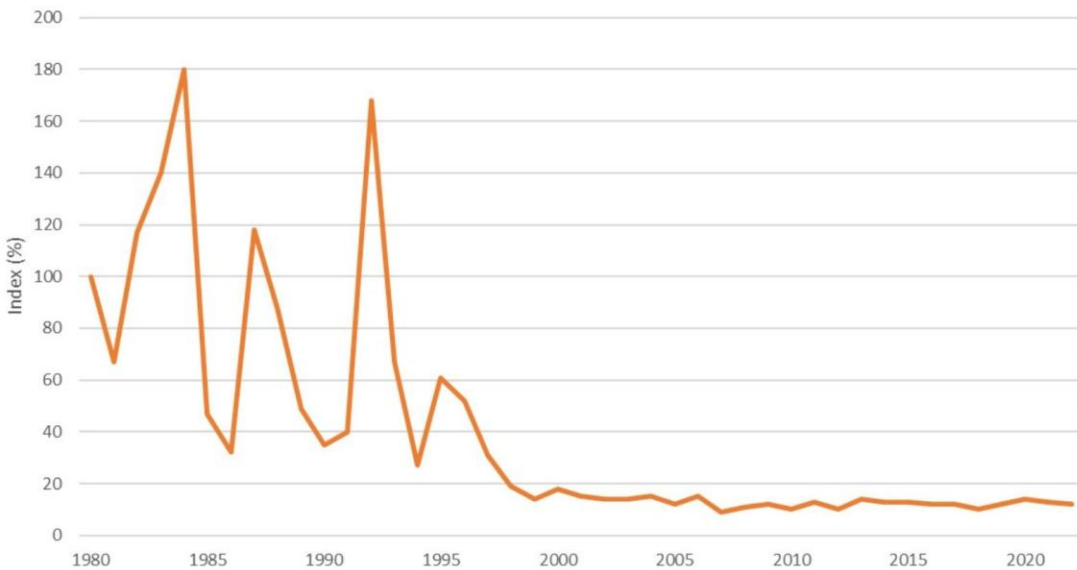
5x5 km

Iespējama 158
Ticama 119
Pierādīta 91
Kopā 368



Čerušas u. c. 2021

Yellow wagtail in EU



– 88%




































EU, 1980–2022

The **Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*** is one of the species whose numbers have dropped the most in the EU. The decline of this grassland bird is probably due to the drying up of wet meadows, and threats it faces during migration to sub-Saharan Africa.



www.pecbms.info



Species	morning	night		atlas
<i>C.crex</i>				
<i>E.hortulana</i>	 	n/a		 
<i>A.dumetorum</i>		 		 
<i>A.palustris</i>				
<i>L.fluviatilis</i>				
<i>L.naevia</i>				
<i>A.arvensis</i>		n/a		
<i>A.pratensis</i>		n/a		
<i>V.vanellus</i>		n/a		
<i>M.flava</i>	 	n/a		 
<i>C.coturnix</i>				

Emberiza hortulana; dārza stērste; sodinē starta; pōldtsiitsitaja;
peltosirkku; ortolansparv



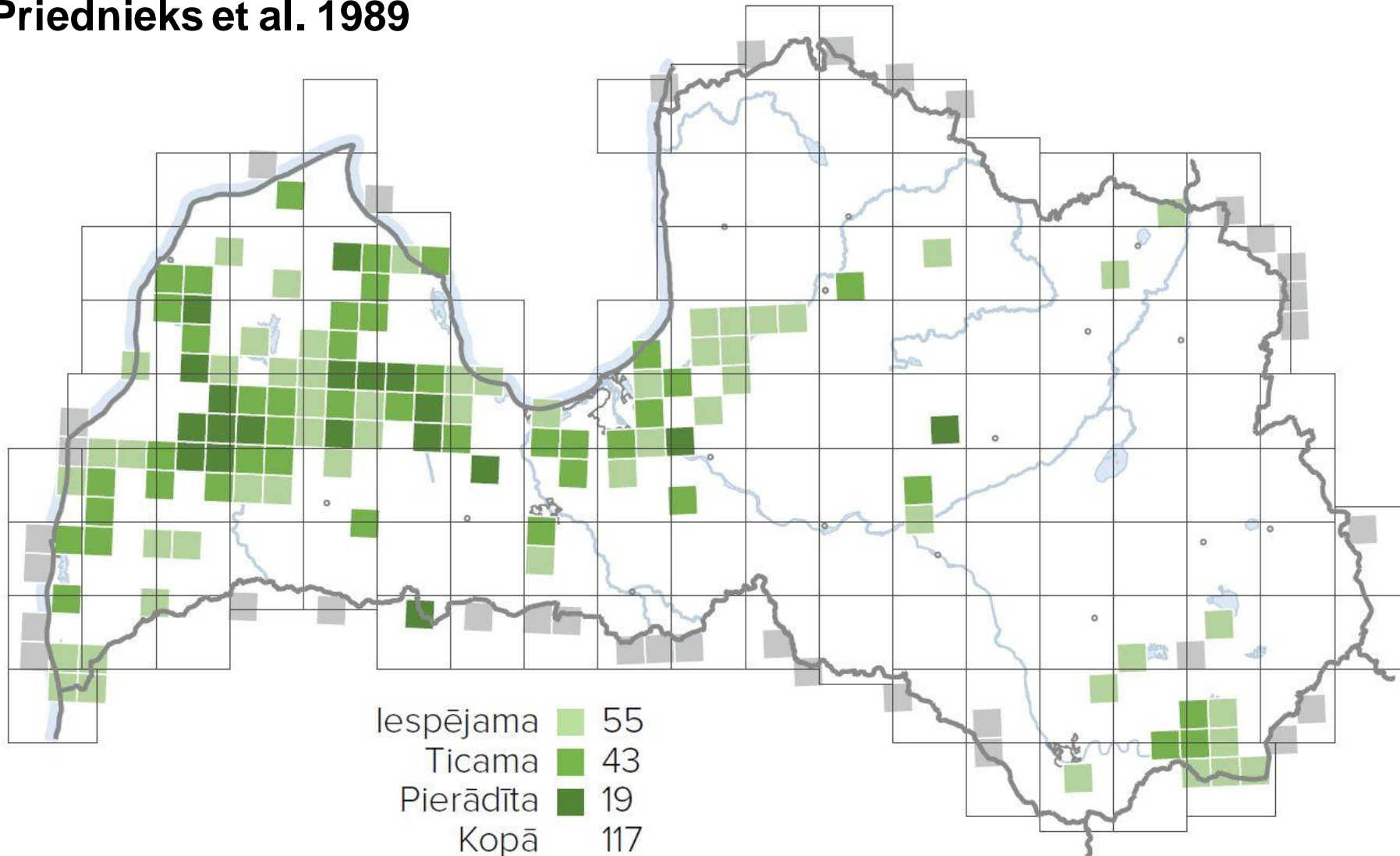
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1980–1984

10x10 km

Priednieks et al. 1989



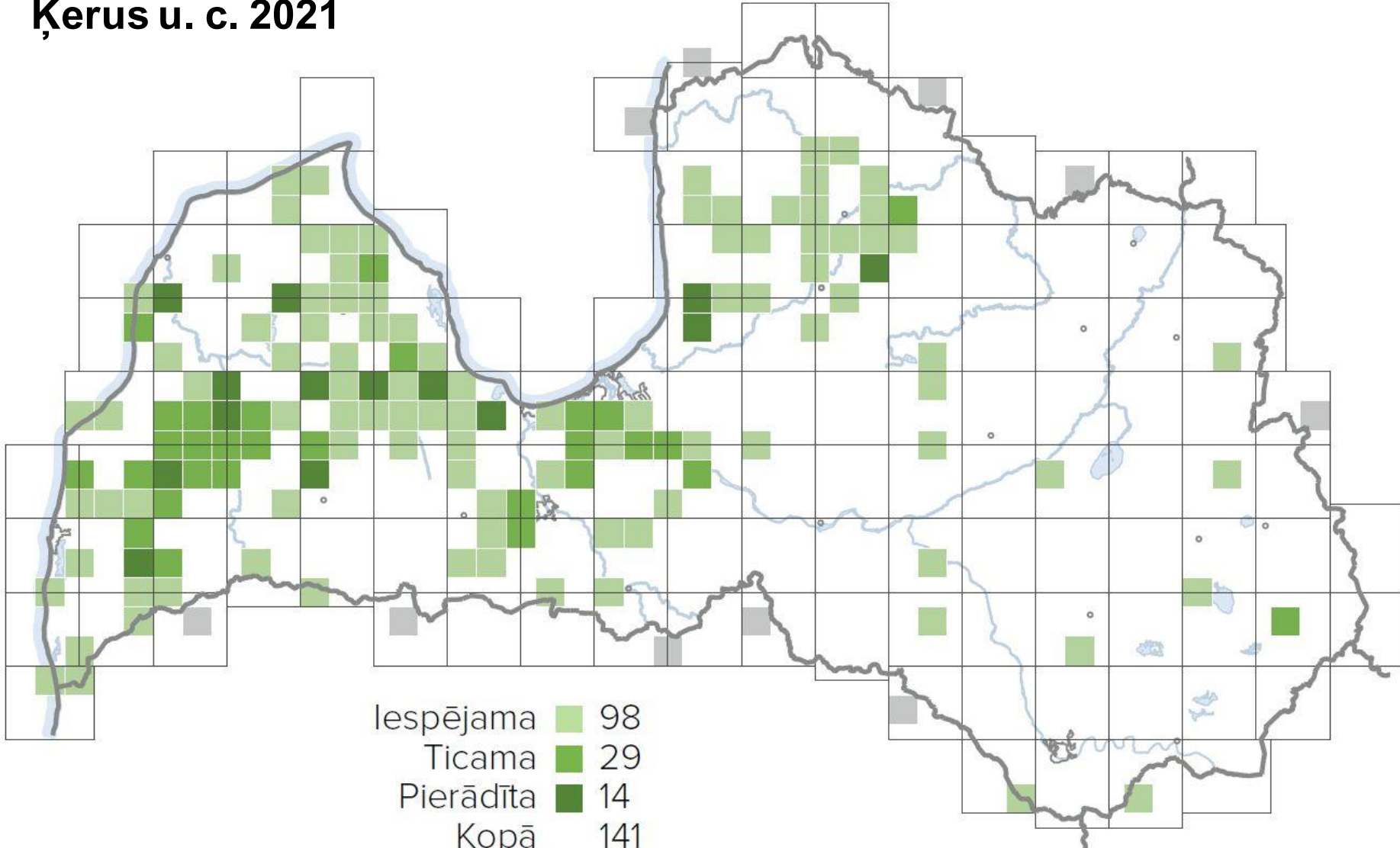
Emberiza hortulana; dārza stērste; sodinē starta; pōldtsiitsitaja;
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2000–2004

10x10 km

Ҷерус у. с. 2021



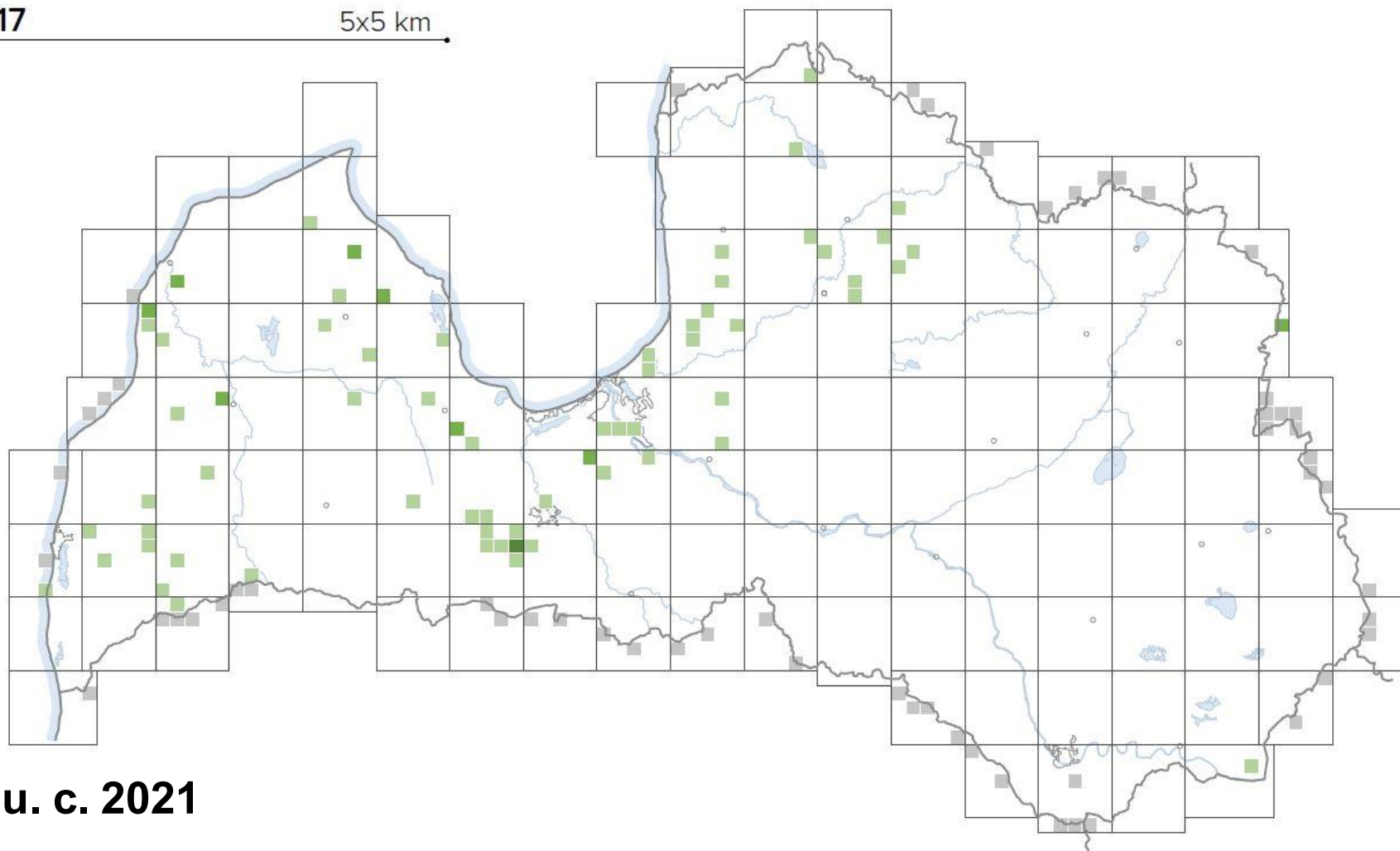
Emberiza hortulana; dārza stērste; sodinē starta; pōldtsiitsitaja; peltosirkku; ortolansparv



2013–2017

5x5 km

ļespējama 58
Ticama 8
Pierādīta 1
Kopā 67



Ķerus u. c. 2021



Corncrake *Crex crex*, Latvia 1989 – 2023

grieze, griežlė, rukkirääk, ruisträäkkä, kornknarr





Habitat

calling males/km²
(Keišs 2006)

Abandoned meadows

3.05

Uncultivated meadows

2.85

Abandoned arable lands

2.70

Cultivated meadows

1.68

Other habitats

1.60

Uncultivated pastures

1.56

Shrubland

1.27

Winter crops

1.25

Cultivated pastures

0.81

Spring crops

0.69

Other arable land

0.12

Corncrake *Crex crex* in Latvia

grieze, griežlė, rukkirääk, ruisträäkkä, kornknarr

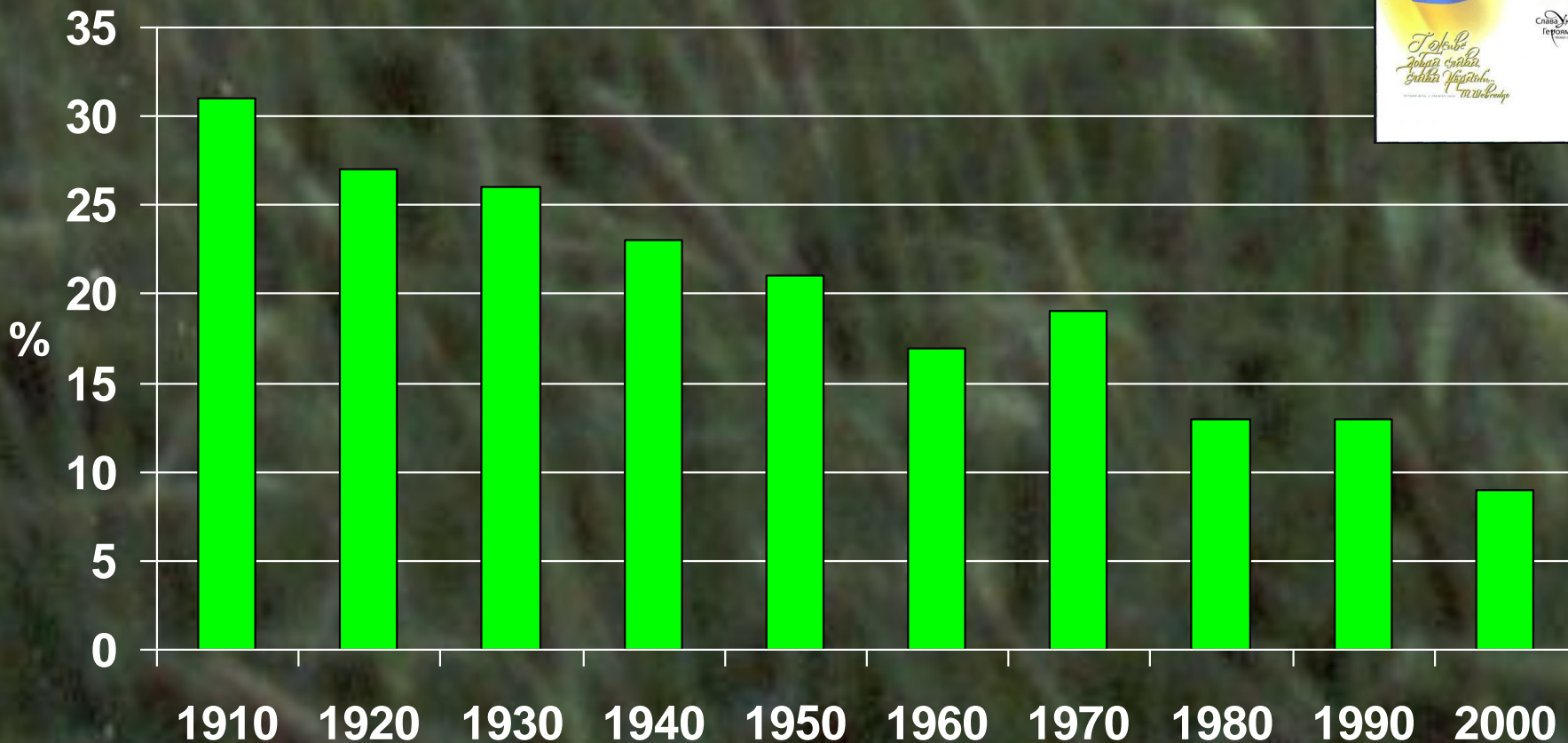


Meadows – preferred habitat

Pastures – NOT preferred!

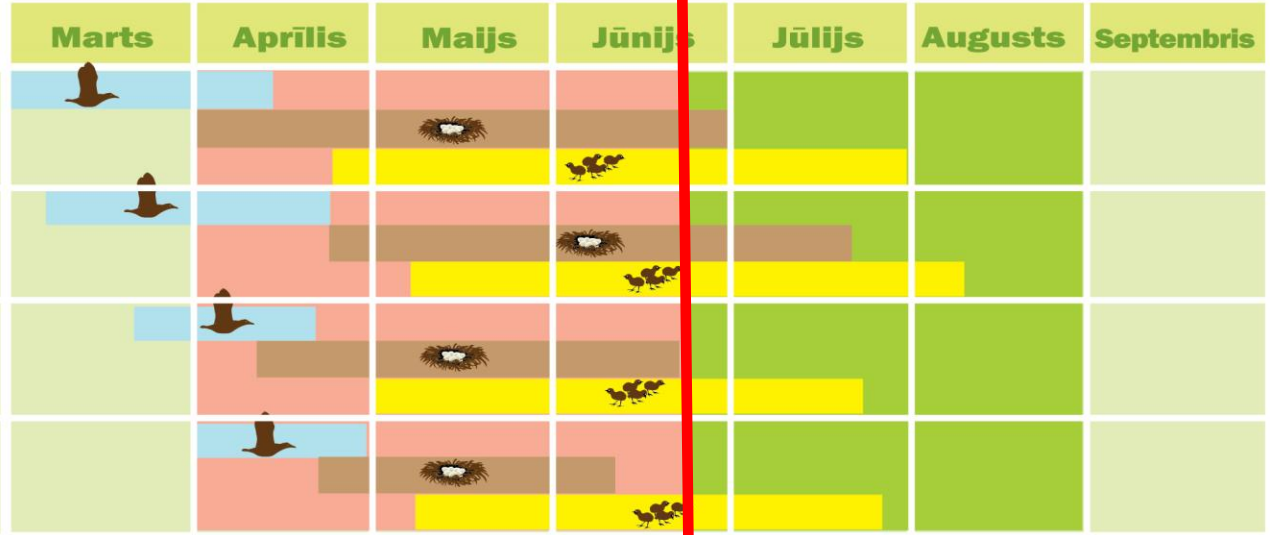
Decline of meadows % in Latvia

(Anonymous 1959; 1967; 1976; 1986; 1991; 1993; 1994; 1996; 1997a; 1997b; 1999a; 1999b; 2000a; 2000b; 2000c; 2001; 2002; 2003a; 2003b; 2004a; 2004b).





Grassland birds – WADERS (Charadriiformes)



Pļaušana

NEDRĪKST

NEPIECIEŠAMA

Ganišana

PIEĻAUJAMA NELIELA GANĪBU SLODZE

NEPIECIEŠAMA



Pļaušana

NEDRĪKST

NEPIECIEŠAMA

Ganišana

PIEĻAUJAMA NELIELA GANĪBU SLODZE

NEPIECIEŠAMA

Survival and behaviour of Corncrake *Crex crex* chicks during the mowing of agricultural grassland

GLEN A. TYLER¹, RHYS E. GREEN^{1*} and CATHERINE CASEY² ¹Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, 17 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh EH7 5BN, Scotland, UK and ²Birdwatch Ireland, Ruttledge House, 8 Longford Place, Monkstown, Co. Dublin, Republic of Ireland



32 % of Corncrake chicks died;

55 % of Corncrake chicks died

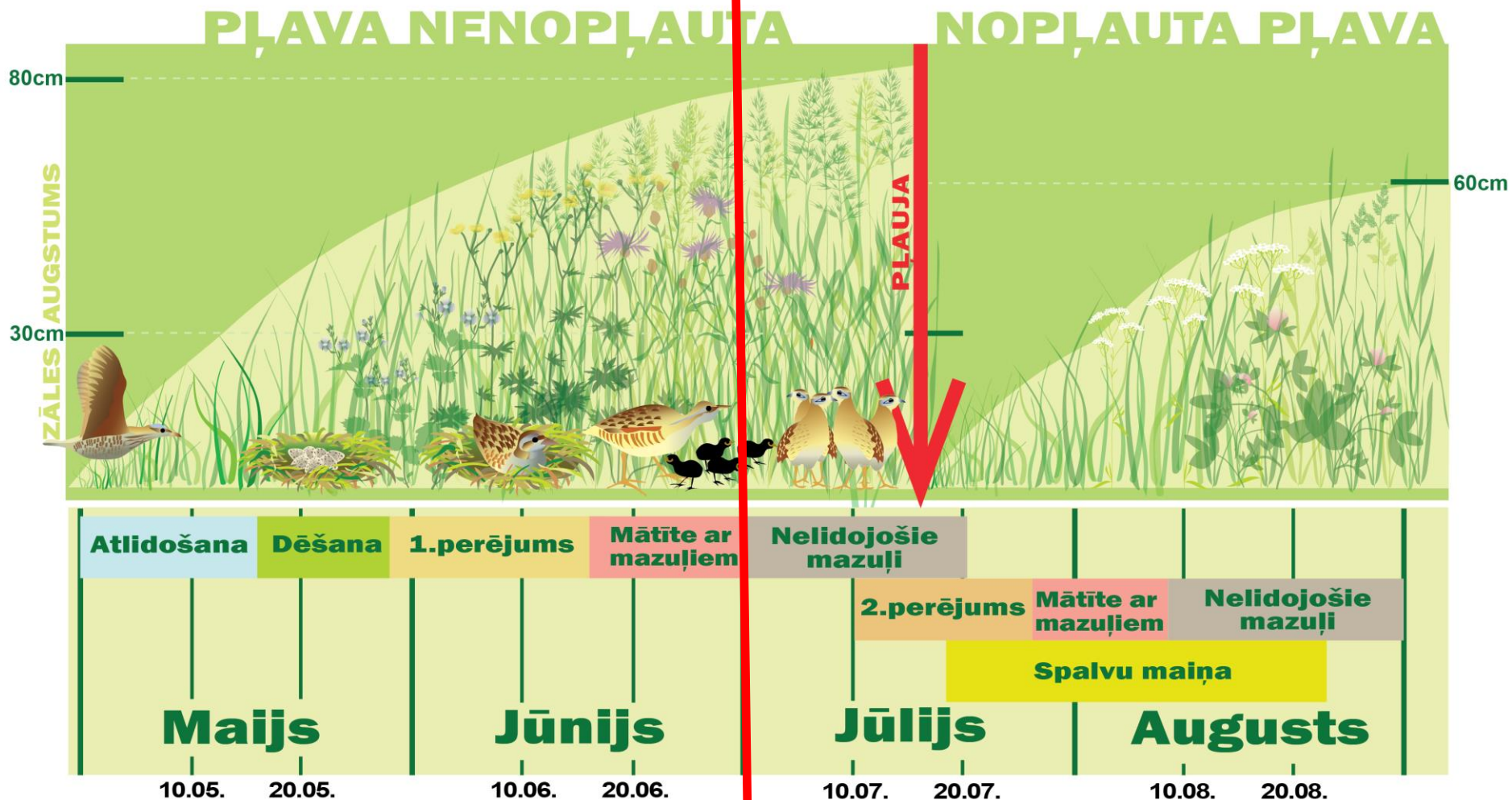


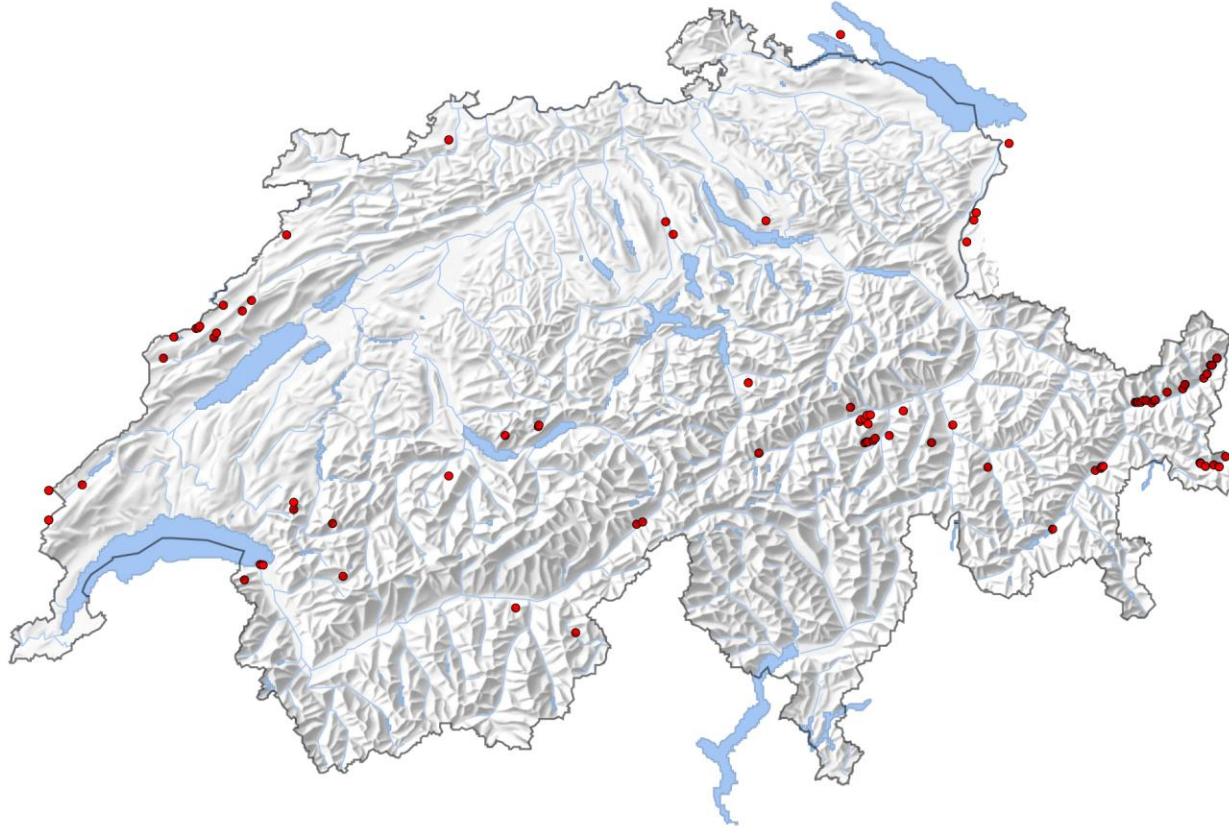
Step 2: Mow slowly from the centre out

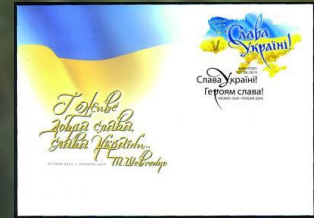


Corncrake *Crex crex*

grieze, griežlè, rukkirääk, ruisträäkkä, kornknarr
~7 (SEVEN) weeks for young birds to fledge







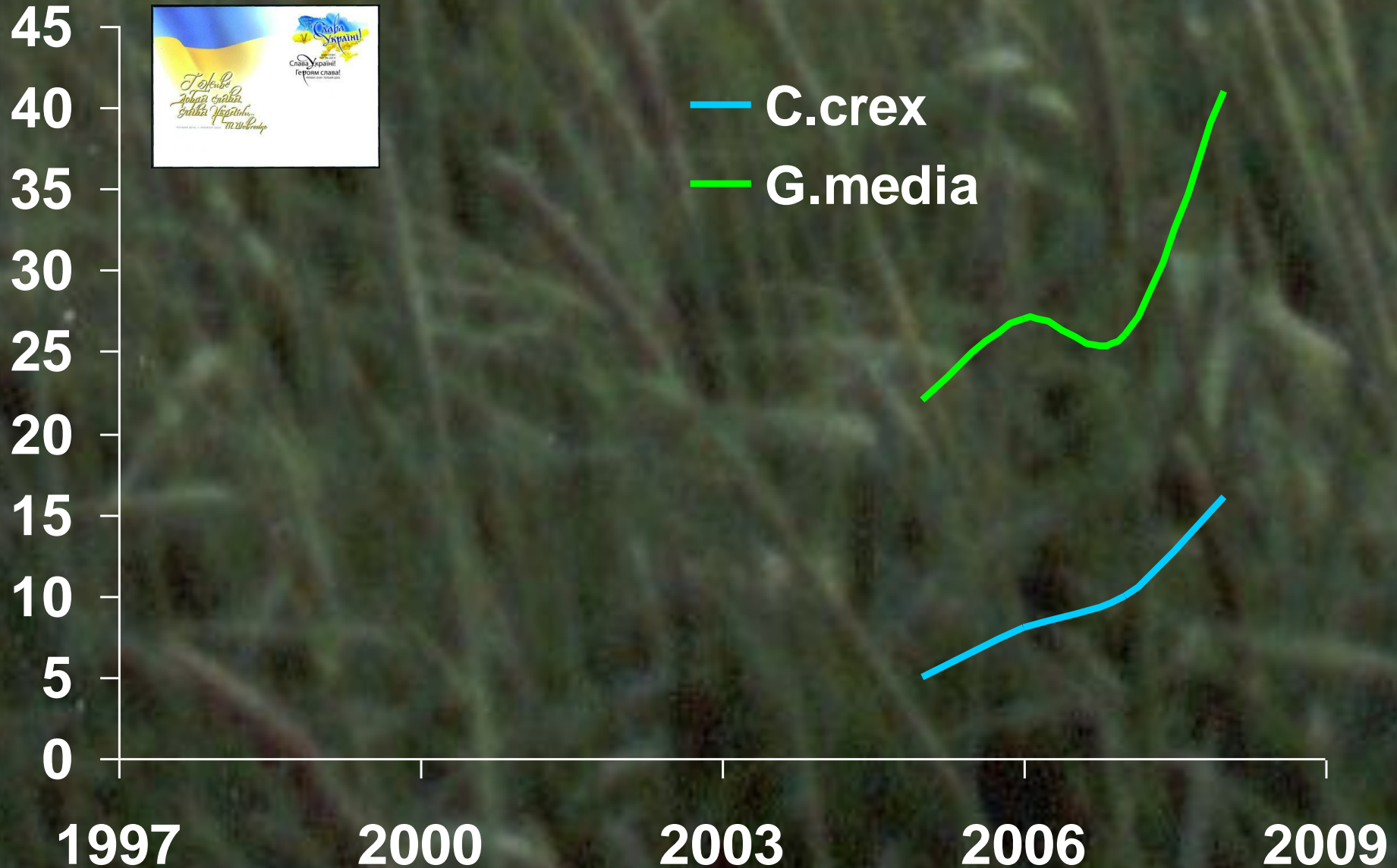
So – what about the cap or CAP?





Ačiū! Aitäh! Kiitos! Tack! Paldies!

Increase of observed individuals after management in Rūja floodplains



Corncrake *Crex crex* index Latvia 2006–2021, moderate decline ($p < 0,01$)

