

Result-based Payment

for Grassland Breeding Bird Habitats

„The Farmer Becomes A Bird-Farmer“



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Photo: G. Heinze / NLWKN



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What are grassland breeding birds?



Curlew



Lapwing



Redshank



Black-tailed Godwit



Common Snipe



Ruff

LIFE IP Conservation of grassland breeding bird habitats in the Atlantic region

LOCATION:

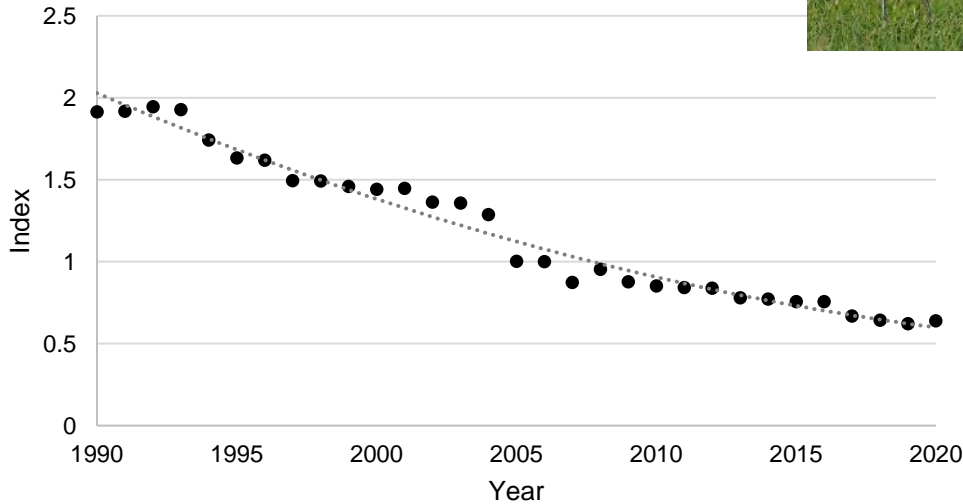
East Atlantic Flyway

DURATION:

11/2020–10/2030

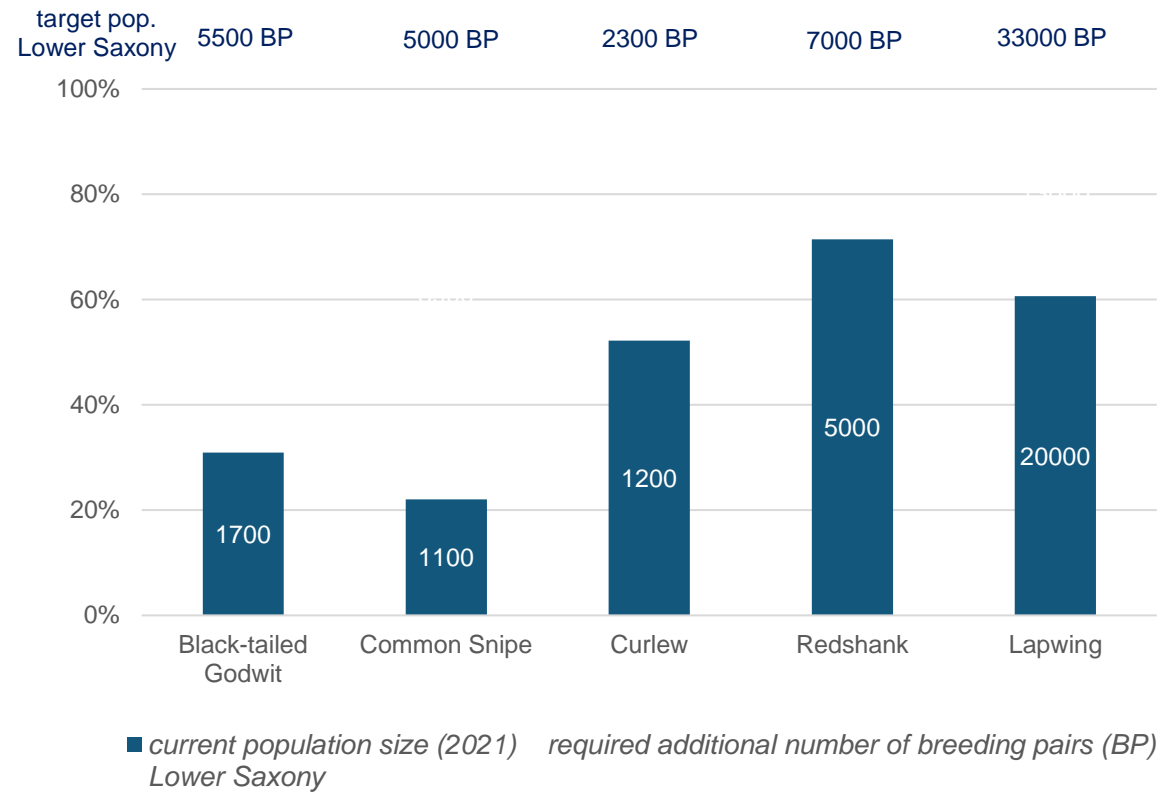


Breeding population in Germany



Favourable Conservation Status

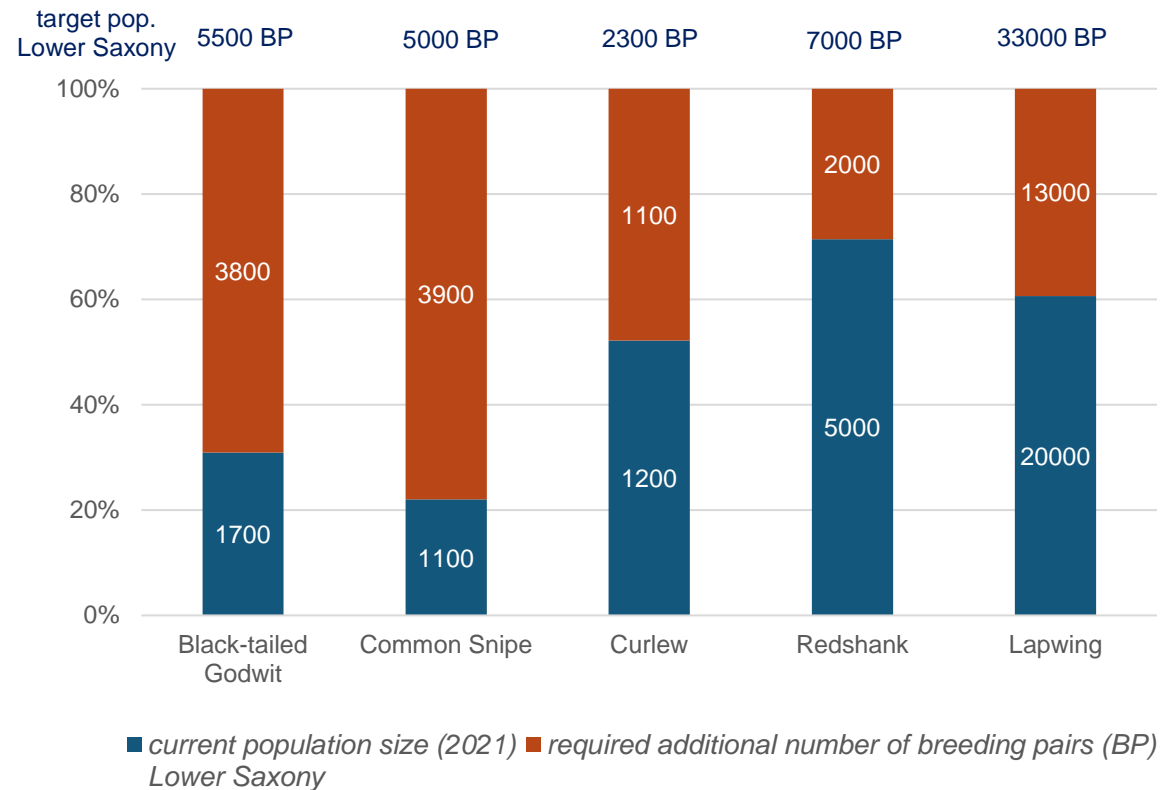
Objectives of meadow bird conservation - Objectives of the biodiversity strategy - Objectives of Natura2000



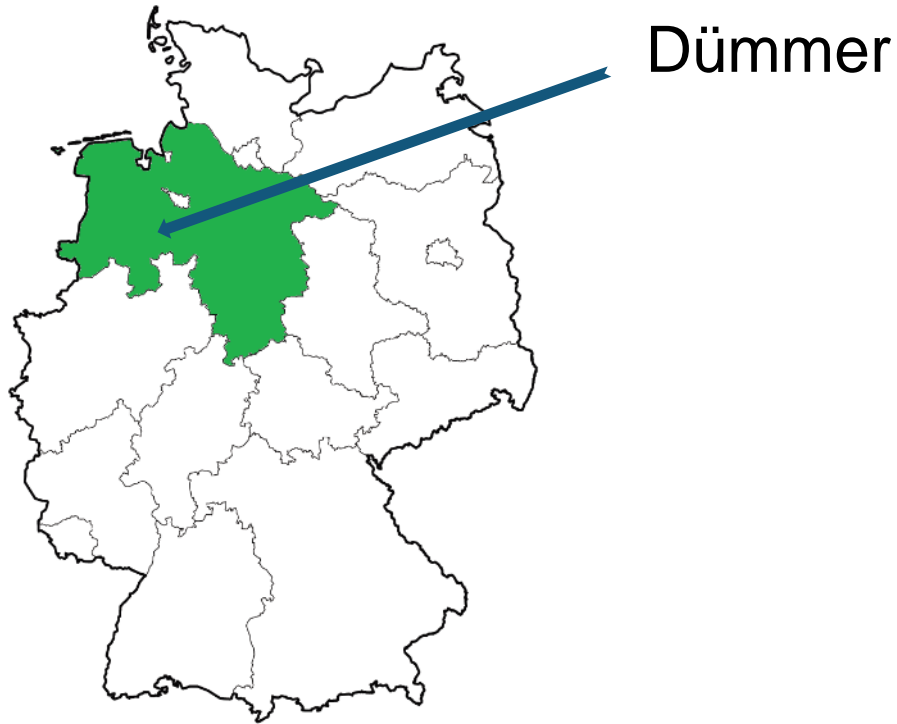
Favourable Conservation Status

Objectives of meadow bird conservation - Objectives of the biodiversity strategy - Objectives of Natura2000

➤ favourable conservation status obligatory



SPA Dümmer



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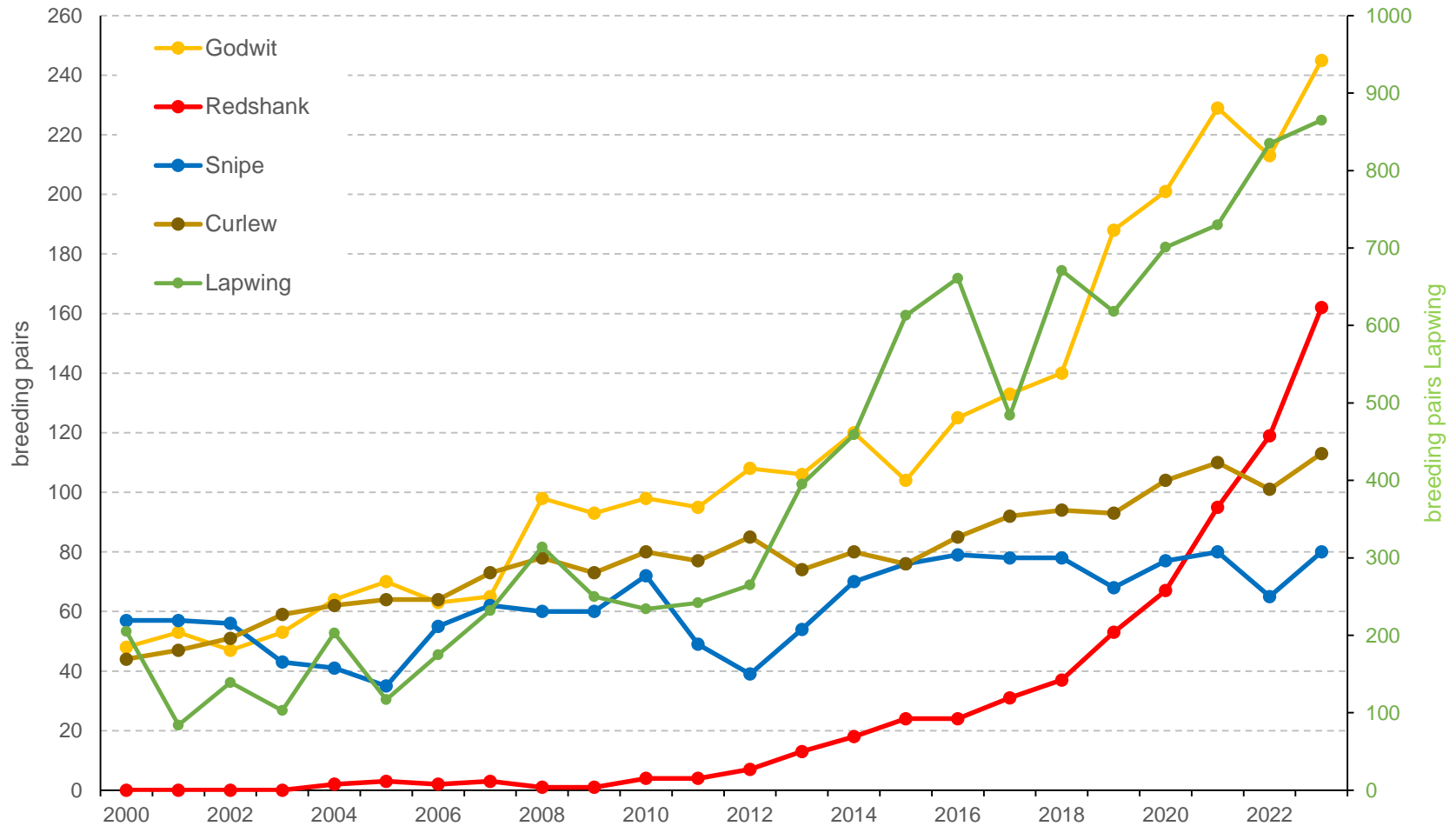
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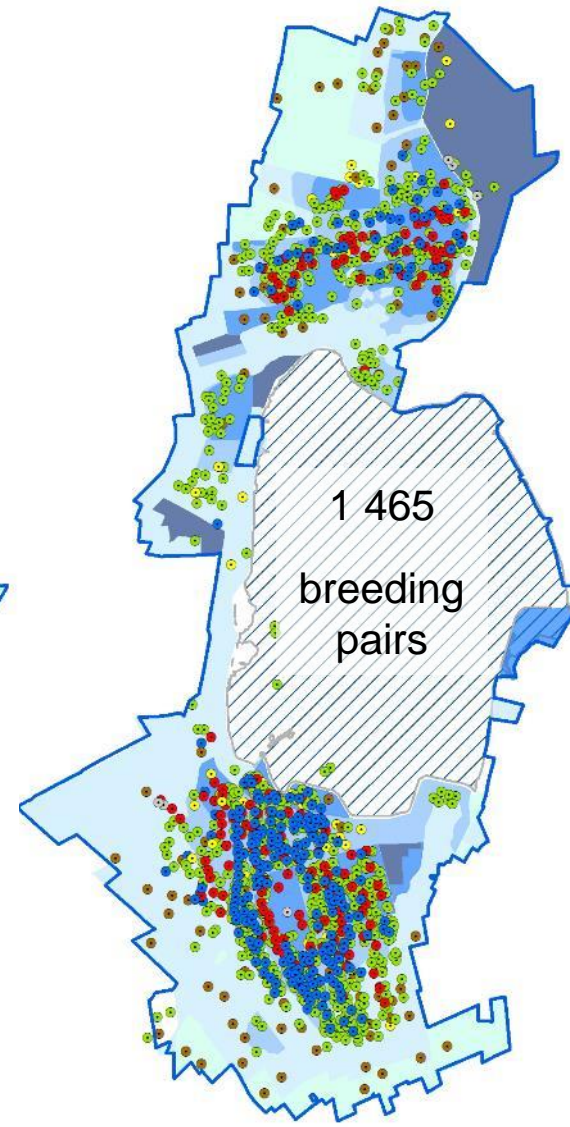
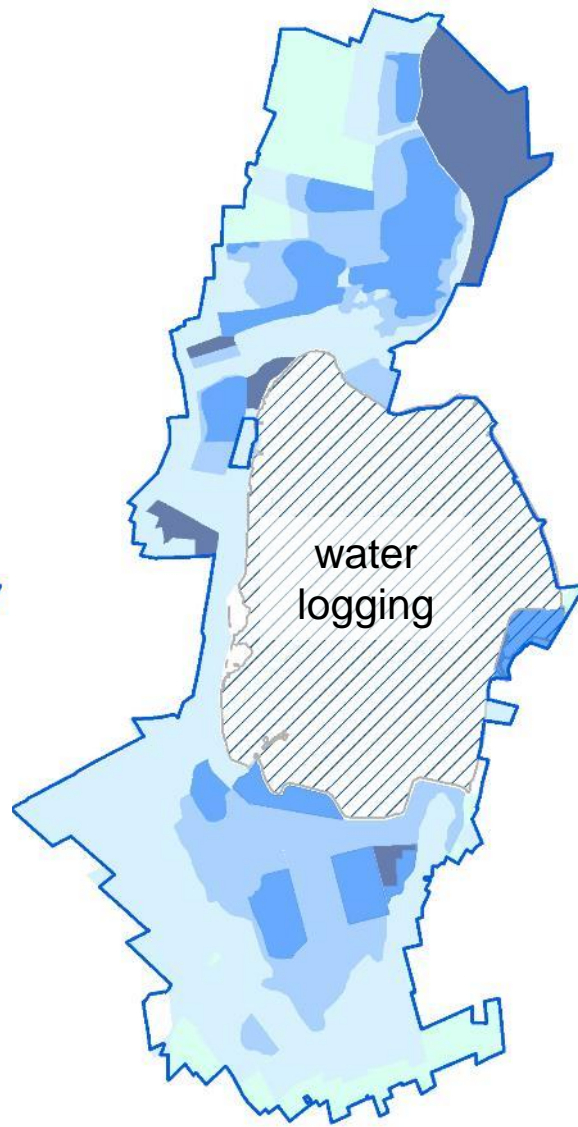
SPA Dümmer



All species have been increased



SPA Dümmer



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We know how successful meadow bird conservation works

Congruently determined by:

- Large areas of wet grassland
 - High openness, almost no vertical structures
 - Low disturbance
 - High watertables with temporarily flat-flooded sites
- Low or medium nutrient content of the soil
 - Mowing and grazing compliant to nesting distribution
 - Sufficient farming intensity for optimal vegetation structures
- High heterogeneity on landscape and parcel level
 - Moderate predation
 - Well organized guardianship and monitoring



All parameters need to be met

Meadow birds need...

everything, a farmer doesn't need

- Meadow bird-friendly management is not attractive for farmers



bad grass, bad hay - bad feed
but tons of work

Necessity of payments

*Maintenance in autumn is time-consuming and expensive
= no interest*



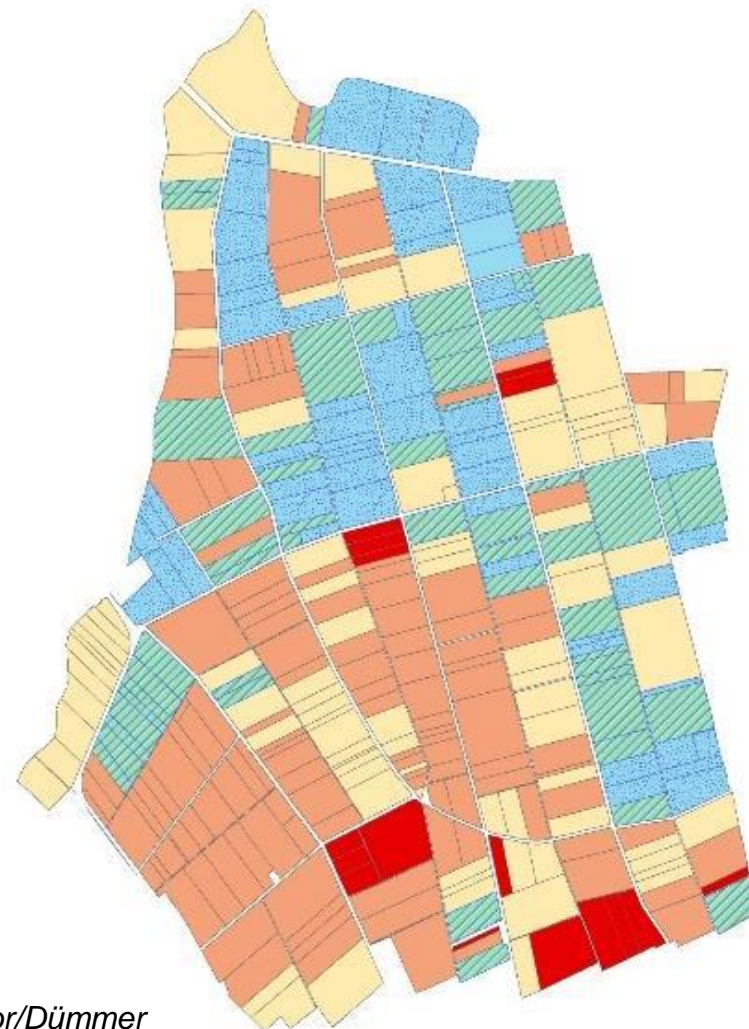
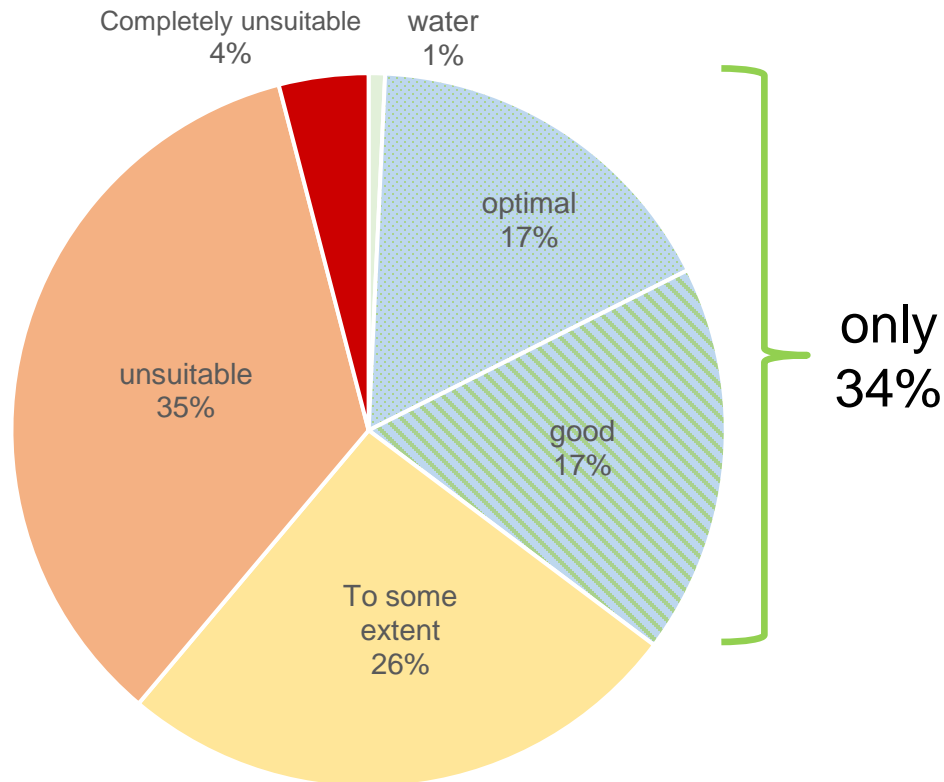
habitat quality declines

Securing the population is jeopardised



Situation at the Dümmer and in many other areas in Lower Saxony ...

Key factor „short vegetation“ → not yet sufficient



March 2023, Ochsenmoor/Dümmer

Necessity of payments

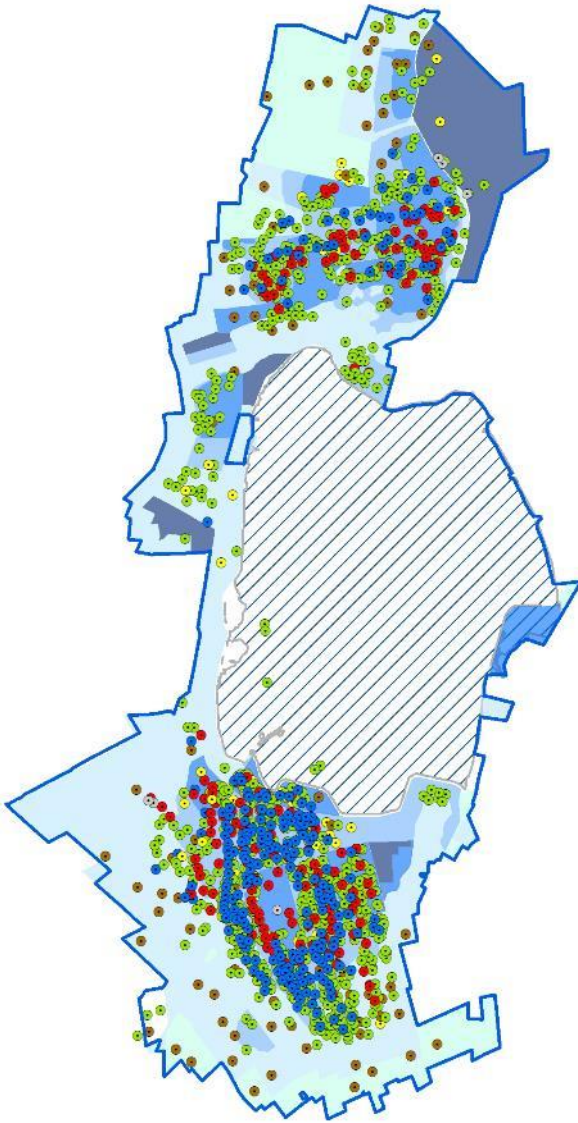
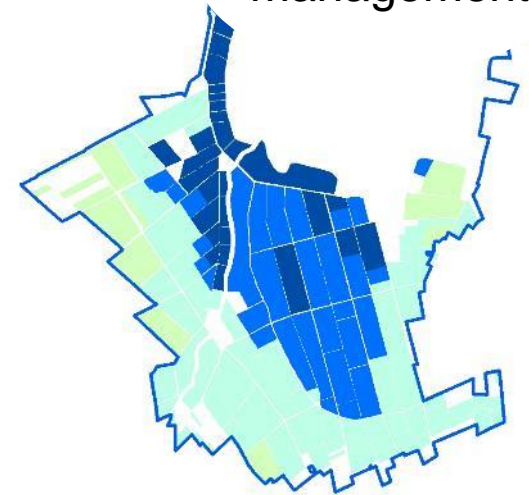
the wetter the more birds
the more expensive



Meadow bird-friendly
management
costs a lot of money



Difficulty of
management



„The Farmer Becomes A Bird-Farmer“

Development of a Result-based Payment



Survey and agronomic calculation

Prof. Dr. A. Mährlein



„The Farmer Becomes A Bird-Farmer“

The current harvest:

Harvest and benefit in future:



Result-based Payment: „The Farmer becomes a Bird-Farmer“

Management
deficits €/ha/a

+

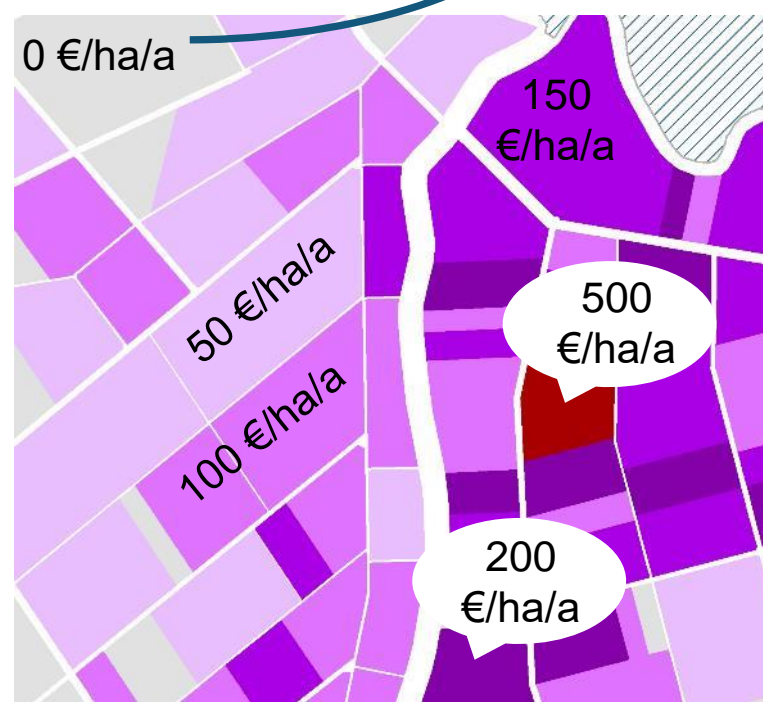
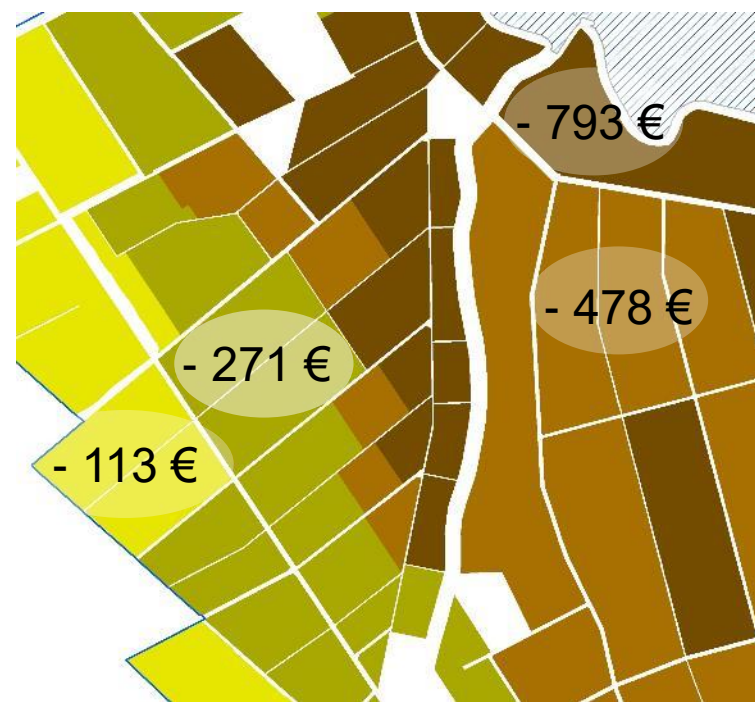
Meadow-Bird-Payment

*the more birds
the more money*

+

allocation

€/ha/a
parcels
without birds



Thresholds for any payments

Payments only:

- *Good habitat quality, perfect vegetation structure 20th Oct.*
- *less than 1.000 ex. soft rushes/ha*



And what do farmers say ?



Family Schmedt
180 ha + 200 ha Reserve

We've always been waiting for something like this. This is where we see our future



Family Böckermann
23 ha + 76 ha Reserve

My daughters will take over the farm. The birds will benefit and so will we. A win-win situation.

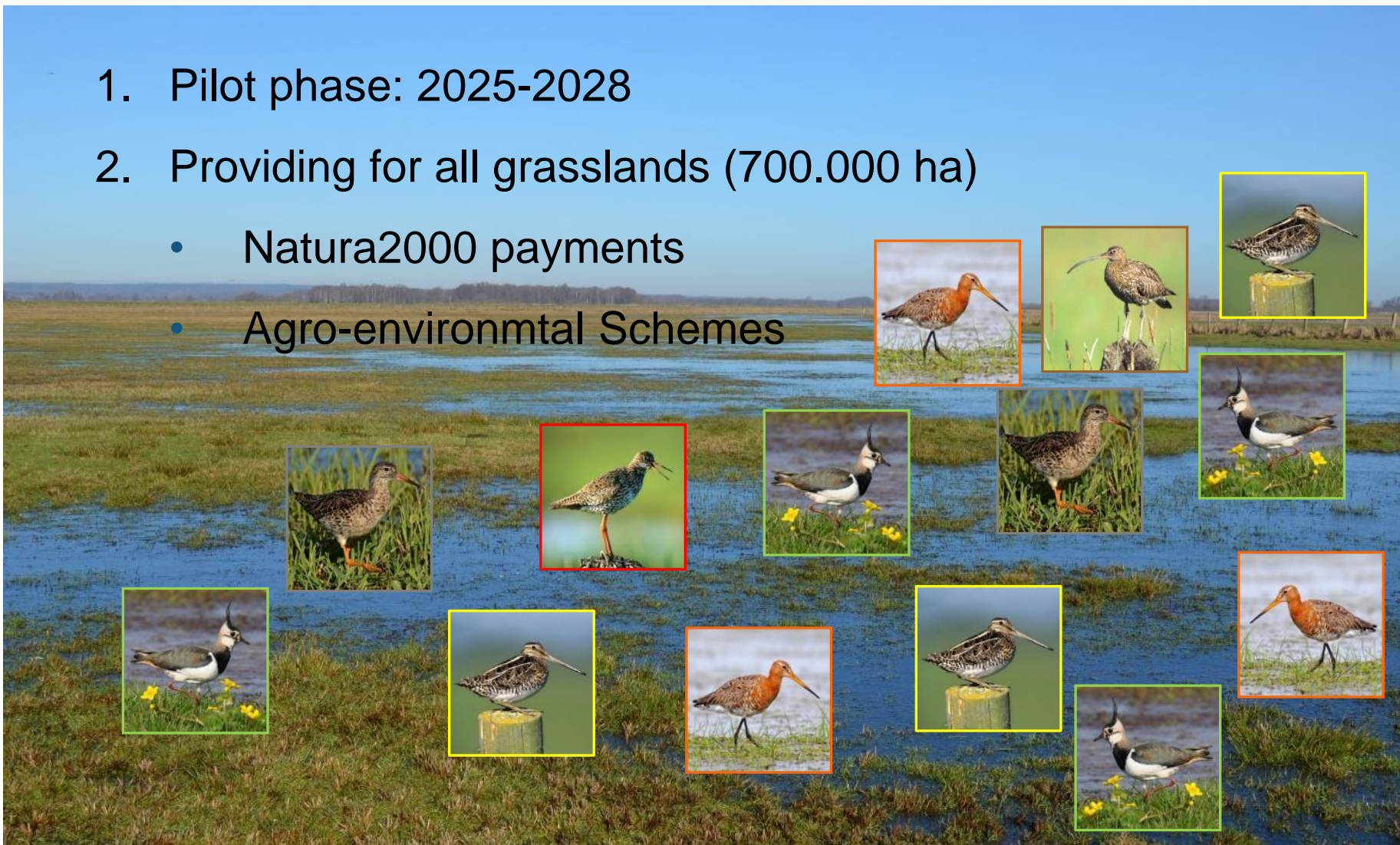


„Family“ Clausen
2 ha + 136 ha Reserve

I would like to expand my suckler cow herd in the protected area. I'm looking forward to the project.

The only future

1. Pilot phase: 2025-2028
2. Providing for all grasslands (700.000 ha)
 - Natura2000 payments
 - Agro-environmental Schemes





Thanks a lot for your kind attention!