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Aquatic Warbler  
breeding populations  
in European range  
countries –

current state and  
dynamics

Martin Flade (AWCT)



*Brodwin, April 2018 (40 people from 12 countries)*





Brodowin, April 2018









# The Aquatic Warbler Conservation Handbook

Edited by Elizabeth Sutherland and Andrew Bunting  
With contributions from 15 authors

The Aquatic Warbler Conservation Handbook

Most threatened  
passerine bird of  
continental Europe,  
classified as  
'vulnerable' at a  
global scale



Photo: Zymantas Morkvenas





Zvanets, Belarus, early June 2005





Biebrza, NE-Poland, May 2010



# Current situation in the breeding areas

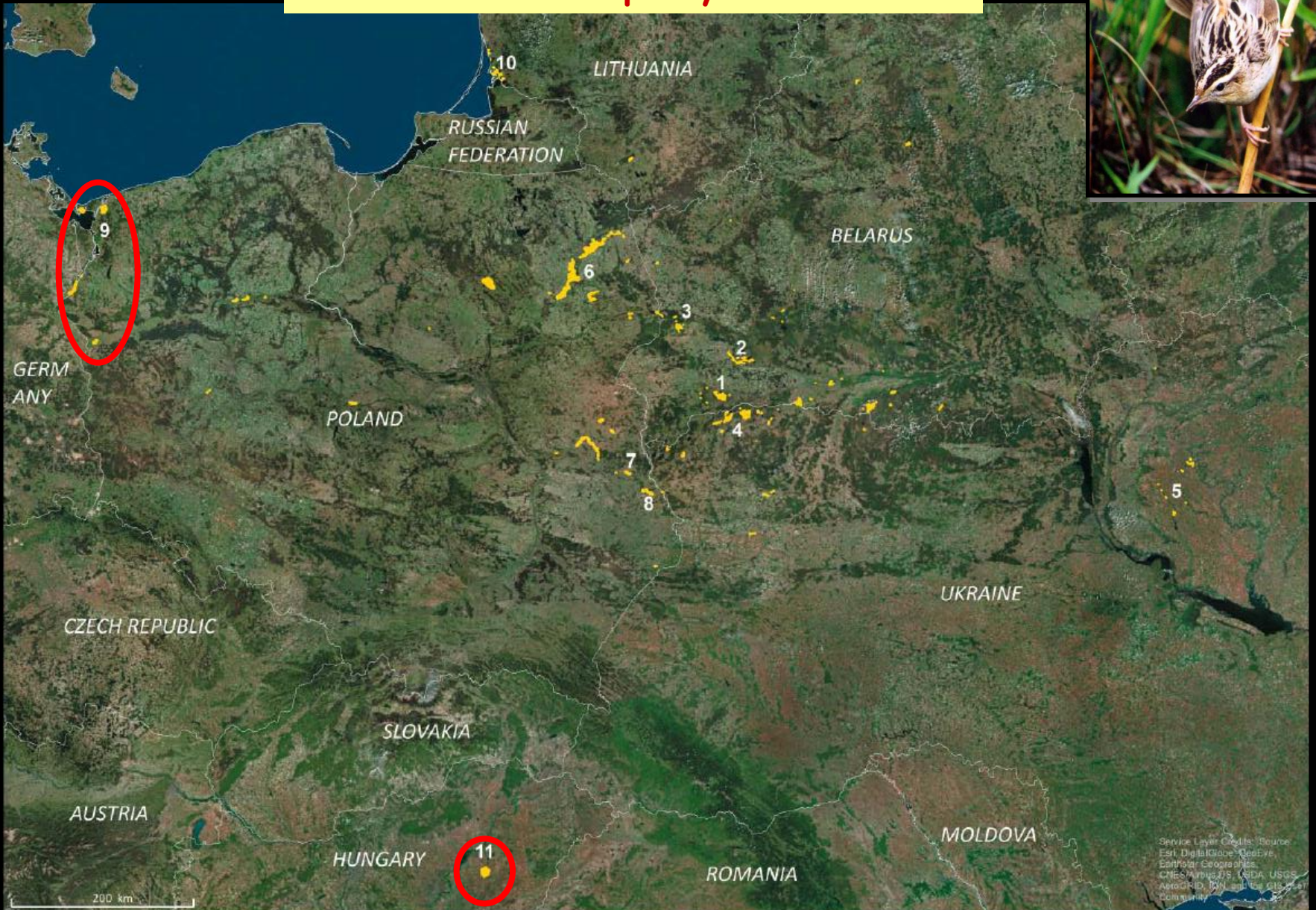


Biebrza, NE-Poland, May 2010



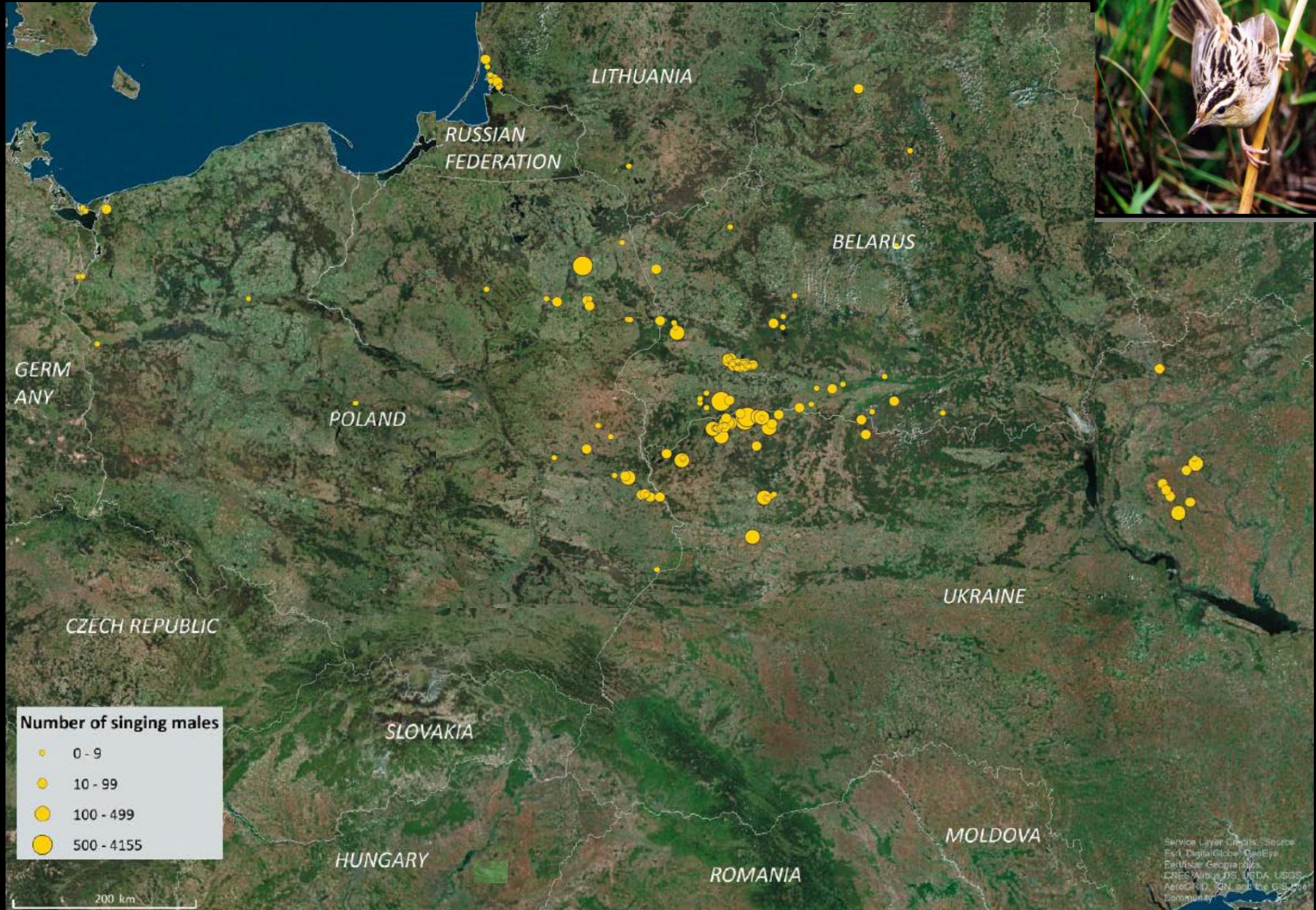
# Breeding sites of Aquatic Warbler (Flade et al. 2018)

**Total area of occupancy: < 400 km<sup>2</sup> !**



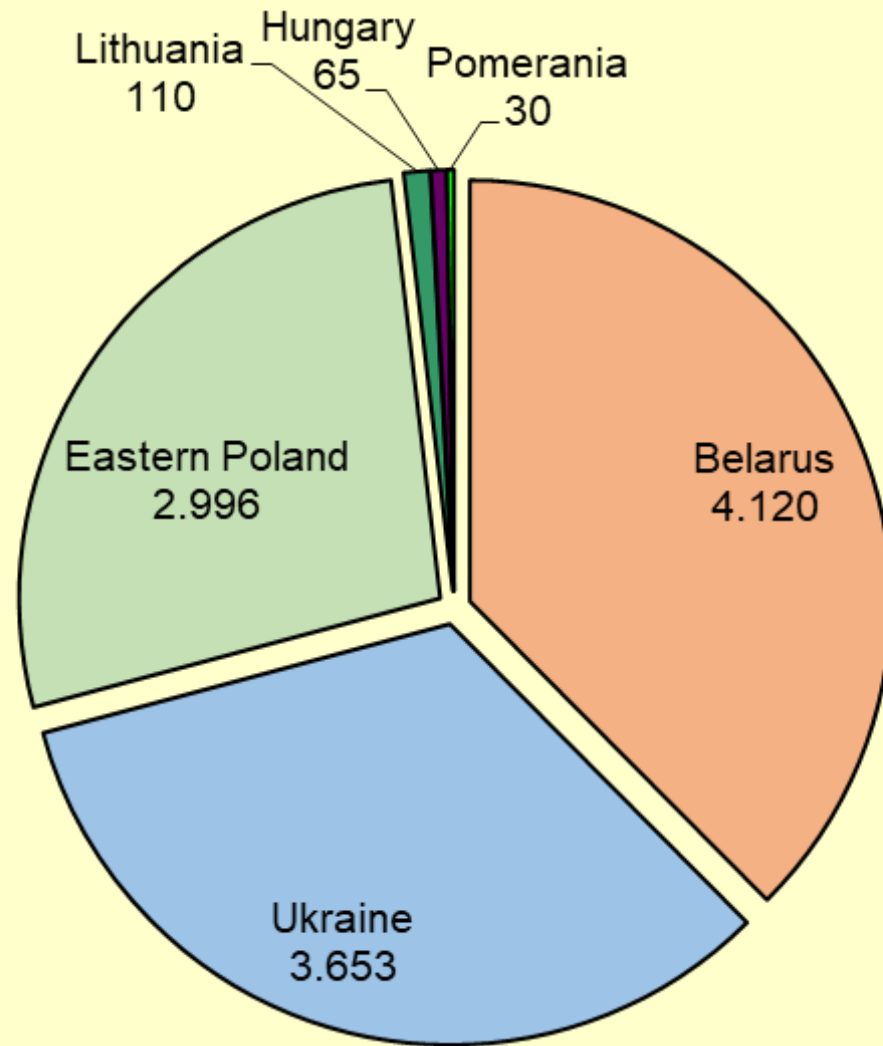


# Breeding populations of Aquatic Warbler (Flade et al. 2018)





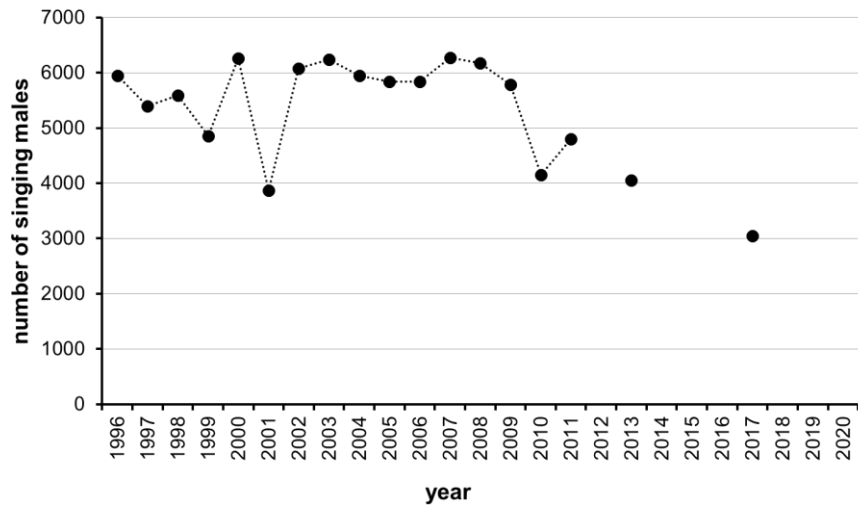
**average global estimates of Aquatic Warbler  
population (singing males)  
2007-2016**



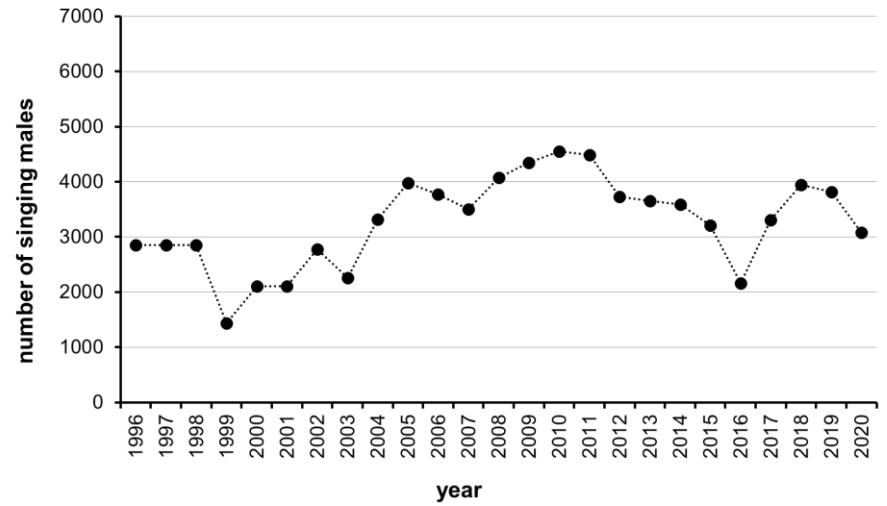


# Aquatic Warbler population dynamics 1

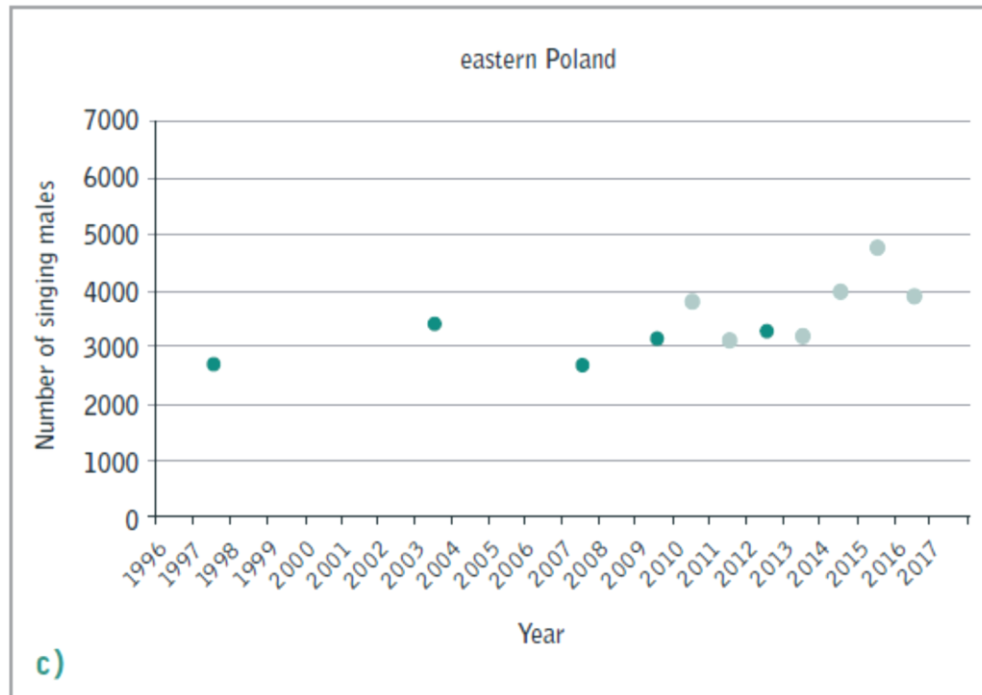
## Belarus



## Ukraine



## eastern Poland

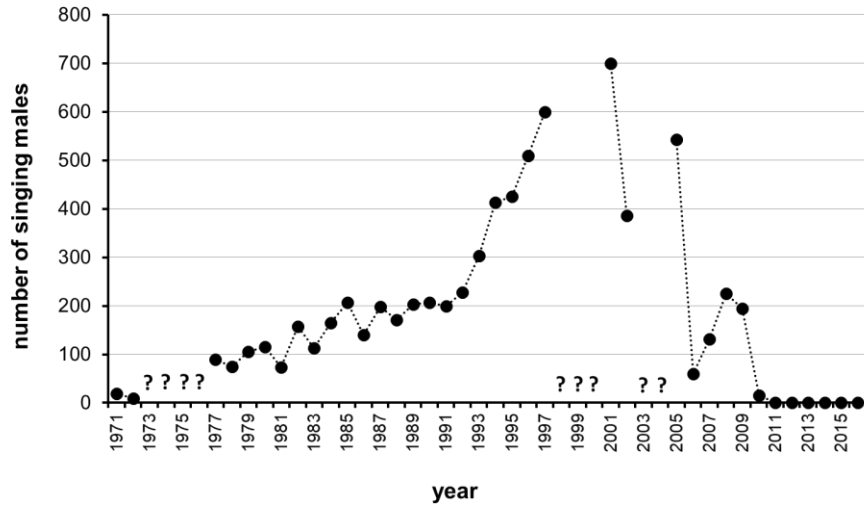


c)

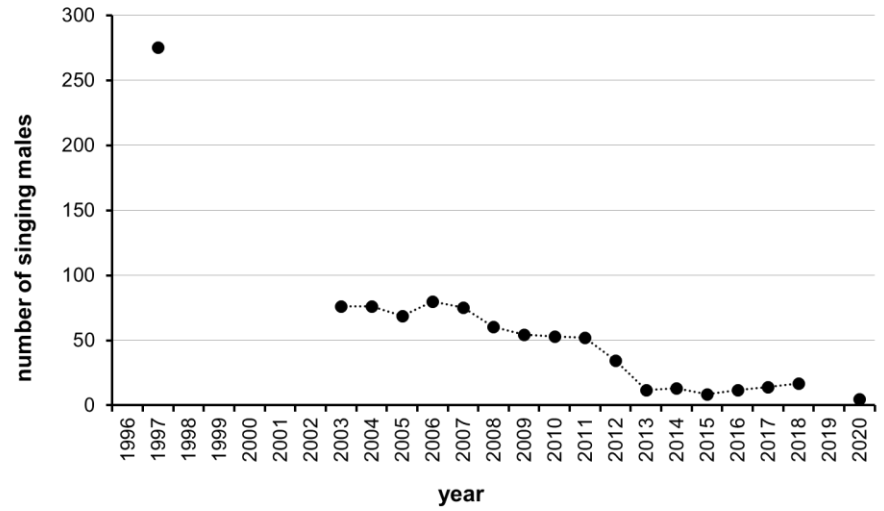


# Aquatic Warbler population dynamics 2

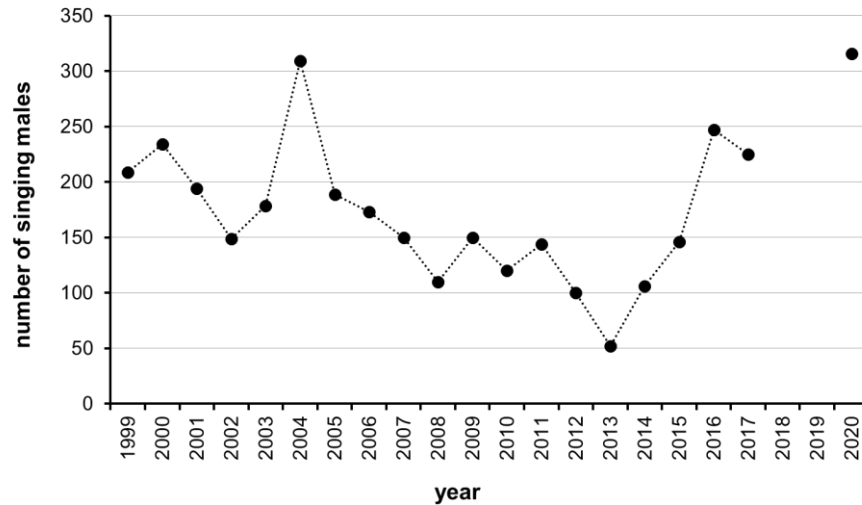
## Hungary



## Pomerania



## Lithuania





A photograph of a field with tall, dry grasses and several green bushes. The bushes have small, round leaves and some small yellow flowers. In the background, there is a line of trees under a clear sky. A semi-transparent white box with red text is overlaid on the bottom left of the image.

Abandonment leads to  
overgrowth with  
trees and bushes (Biebrza)





## EU LIFE Projects

on the Conservation of Aquatic Warbler in Pomerania and NE-Poland (2005-2010)

and on AW conservation through biomass use (2011-2015)



Production of biomass  
briquets and pellets in  
Trczianne, NE-Poland





# Achievements of the projects:

and of course:

## more and better AW habitat



- 3,200 ha actively managed by the project
- 4,000 ha under AES packages good for AW
- Area occupied by AW within managed areas strongly increased at Biebrza
- Strong indications for higher densities of AW after mowing at Biebrza



# Suggested priorities of international AW conservation

## (AWCT Meeting 2018)

1. Development of economically sustainable methods of fen mire management and biomass use (esp. in Belarus + Ukraine)
2. Implementation of the EU LIFE Project MagniDucatusAcrola in Lithuania and Belarus with pilot translocation BY - LIT
3. Research on migration/wintering of Lithuanian and N-Belarusian AW by means of new geolocators (2018-2019)
4. Application for a new EU LIFE Project „missing links“ Ukraine - Poland - Germany, including translocation, connected with habitat improvement in Pomerania and „stepping stones“ in central Poland
5. Monitoring of AW productivity through ringing in France/Spain
6. Approaches to initiate/support AW habitat conservation in Africa

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