

Habitat selection and conservation of the Aquatic Warbler in Hungary

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Subjects

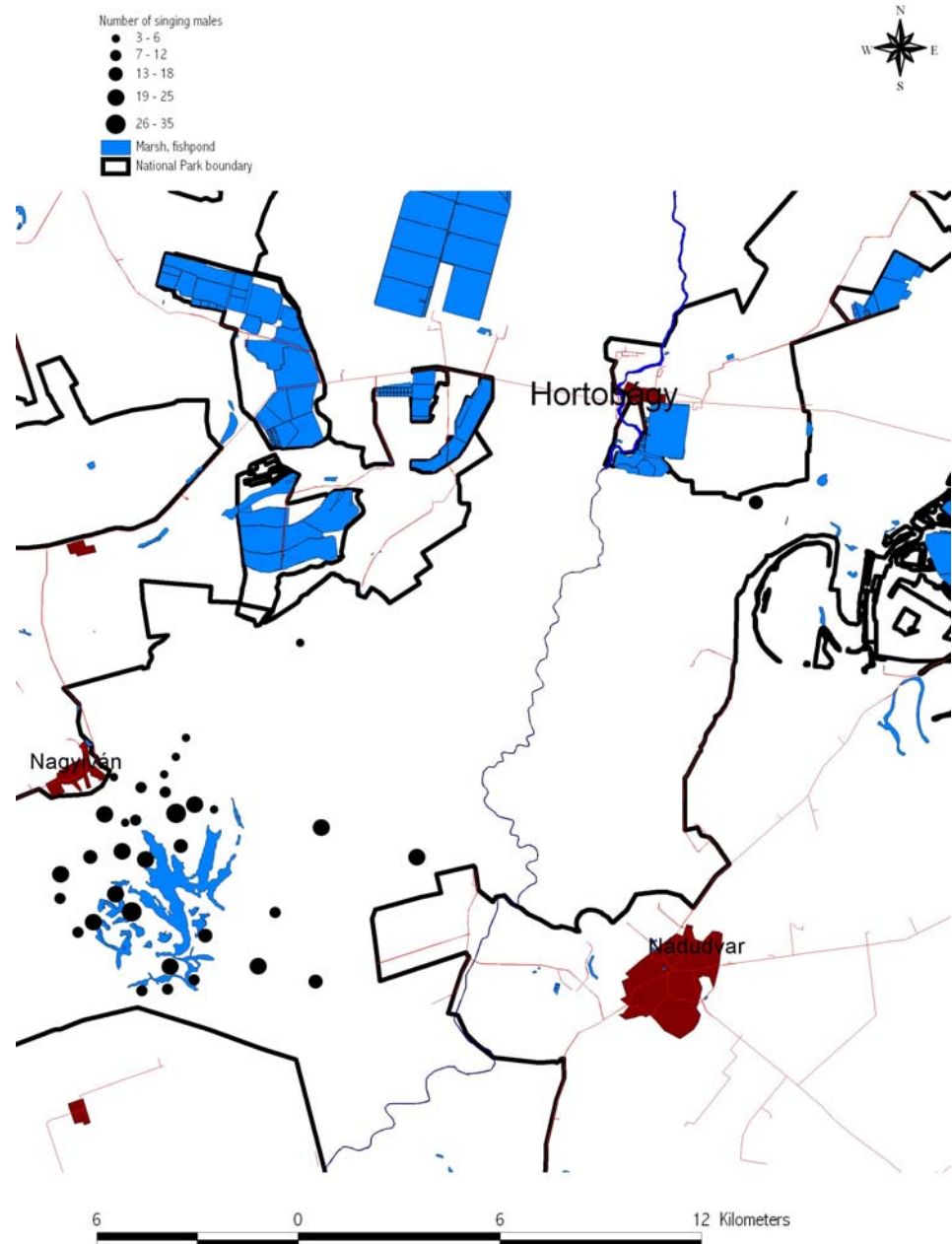
- **Introduction**
- **Materials and methods**
- **Results** (Distribution , Population trends, Effects of flooding, The effects of drought and fire)
- **Discussion** (Distribution , Effects of habitat changes on the population trend, Management plans)

Introduction

- First breeding record: 1971
- Continuous population increase with only one period of decrease (1999-2000)
- In spite of ongoing search no other breeding site in Hungary was found
- Ringing and taking blood samples carried out in 2004

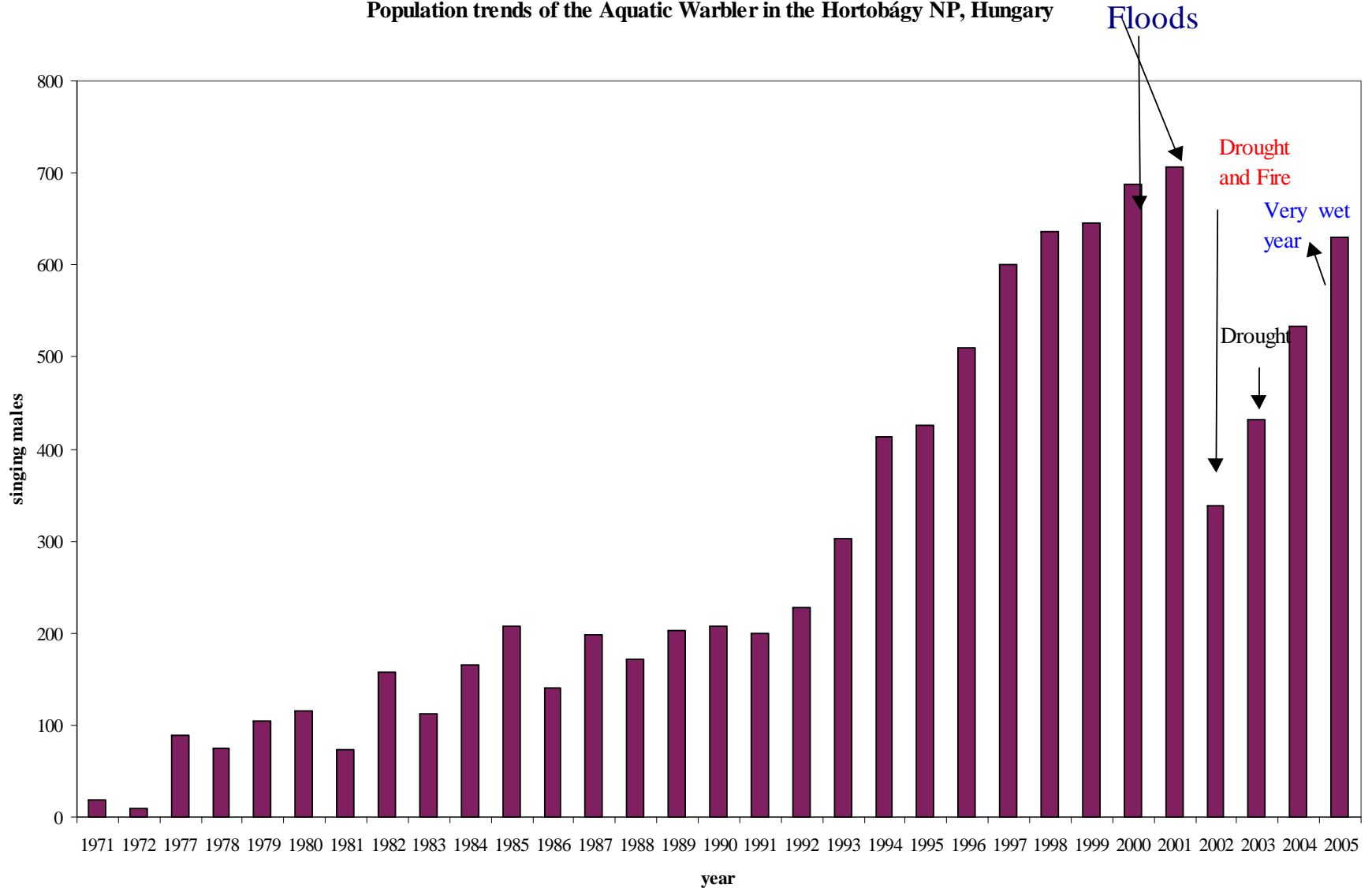
Results

1. Distribution



2. Population trends

Population trends of the Aquatic Warbler in the Hortobágy NP, Hungary



Effects of floods

- floods in 1999 & 2000 => population dispersal to suboptimal habitats
- Shift to new habitats : e.g. *Juncus conglomeratus*
- Habitat change: e.g.: *Alopecurus pratensis* meadows->stands of *Typha angustifolia* and *Bolboschoenus maritimus*
- Fast reoccupation of former breeding sites and habitat types

3. The effects of drought and fire

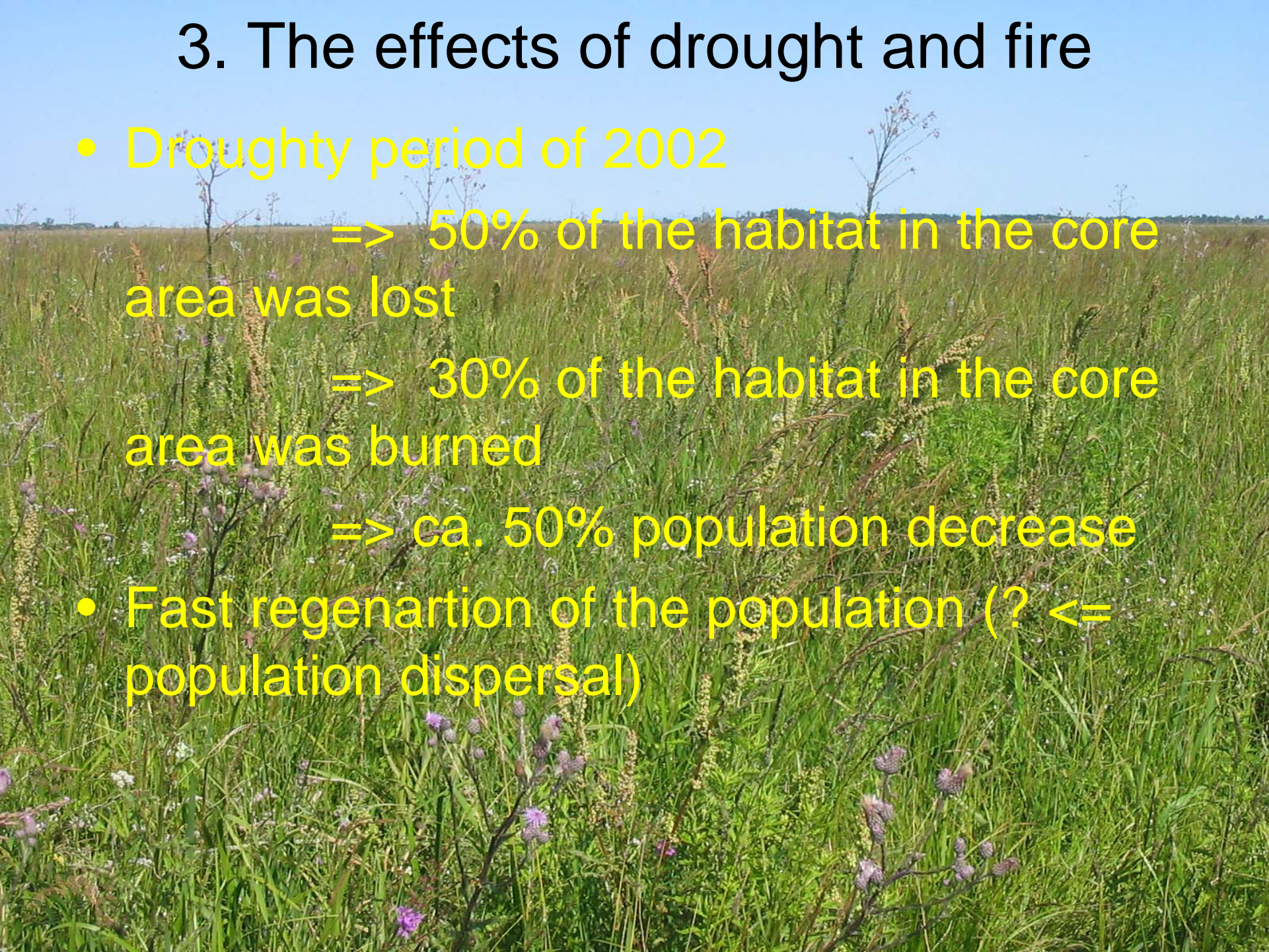
- Droughty period of 2002

=> 50% of the habitat in the core area was lost

=> 30% of the habitat in the core area was burned

=> ca. 50% population decrease

- Fast regeneration of the population (? <= population dispersal)



Discussion

- **Distribution:** only one site in Hungary, small core area, few satellite areas, large suitable, unoccupied areas
- **Effects of habitat changes on the population :** population increase due to decreasing grazing intensity (?) from 1971



Management plans

- Strictly protected species
- The needs of the AW play a key role in outlining management plans in wetlands
- Hay-cutting is prohibited in breeding areas
- Water-management is optimized for the AW in the core area
- New fire control plan is under way

Acknowledgements

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Thank you for the attention!

