



The situation of the Aquatic Warbler in Germany and NW Poland

Franziska Tanneberger

Institute of Botany and Landscape Ecology, University of Greifswald,
Germany

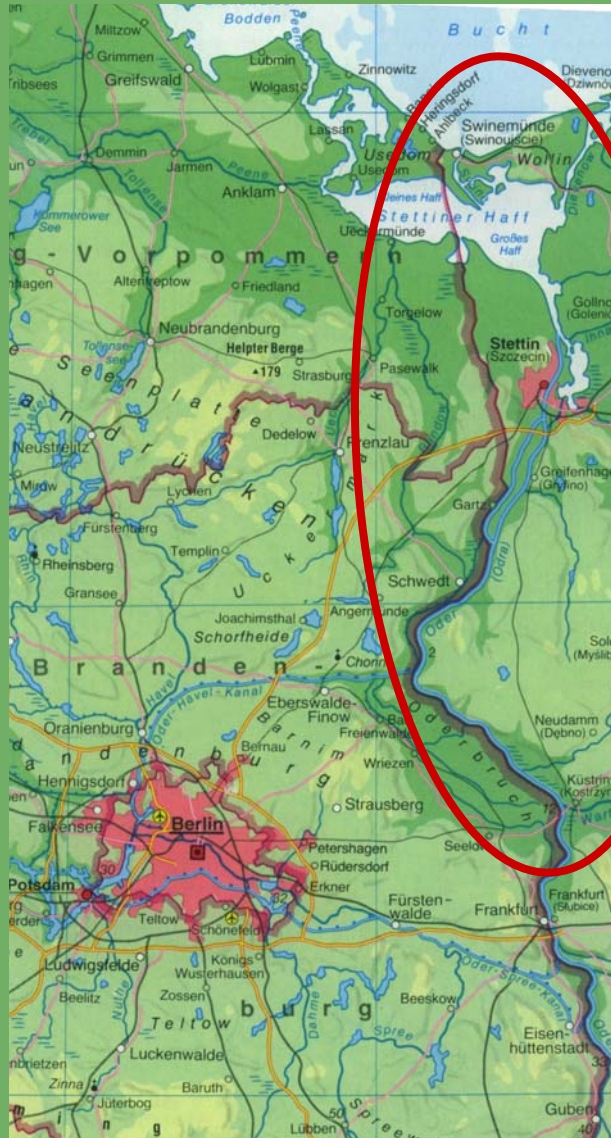


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- ▶ The past situation
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- ▶ Current research



Aquatic Warbler in Germany and NW Poland



The currently westernmost breeding sites of the AW

SUGGESTION:
To call the NE German/NW Polish population the ‘West-Pomeranian population’ as currently most birds breed in the Polish voivodship Zachodniopomorskie = Western Pomerania



The past situation



Germany

„What in particular distinguishes the Aquatic Warbler is its commonness... it occurs all over the vast fen mires...“ (after Hesse 1910)

Brandenburg around 1900: min. 10,000 sM!

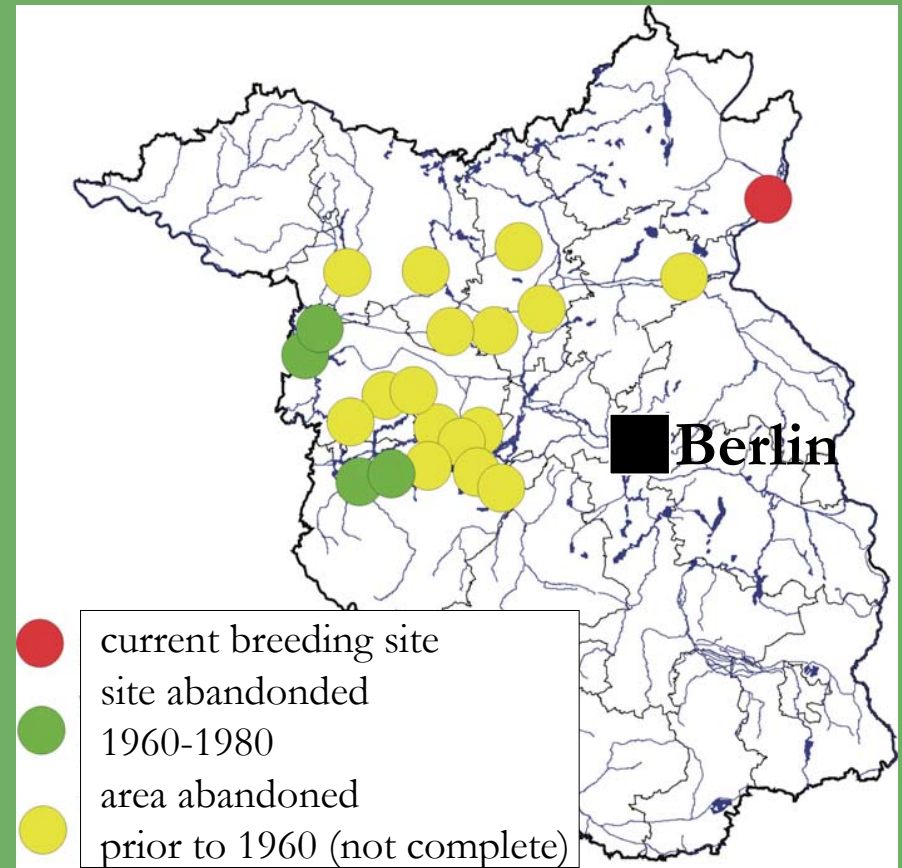


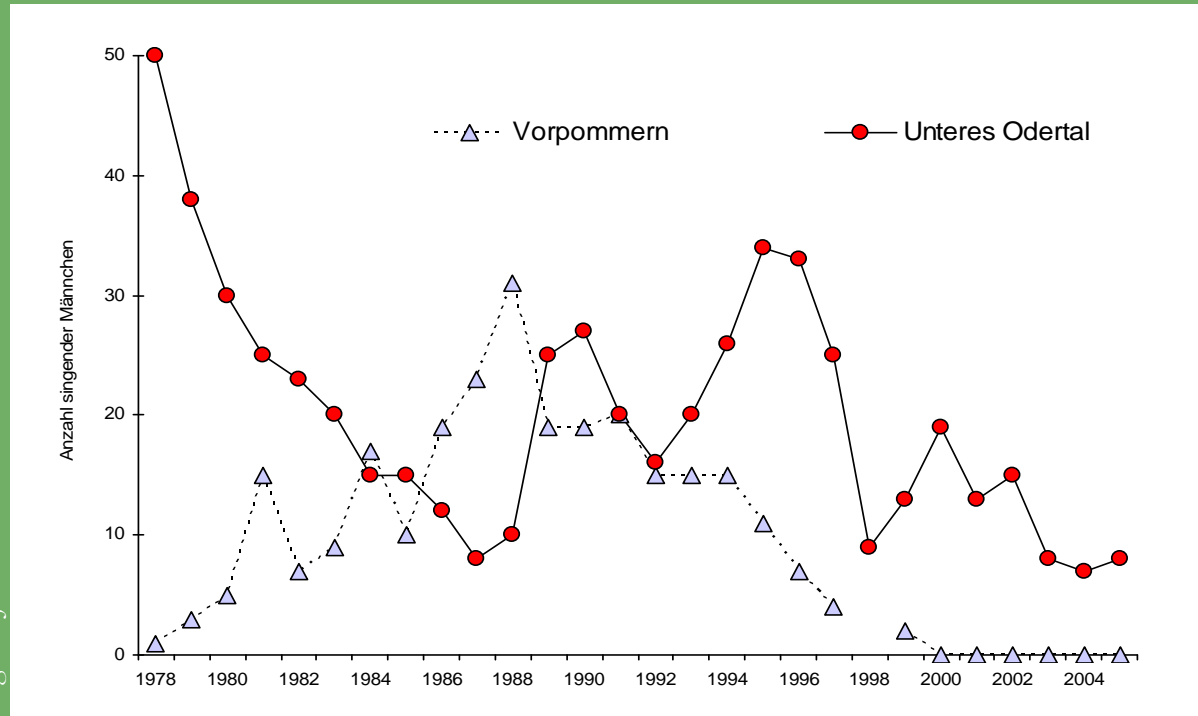
Figure: J. Bellebaum

The past situation



Germany

Figure: J. Bellebaum



- Since 1999 there is only one isolated breeding site in the polders of the Odra river

The past situation

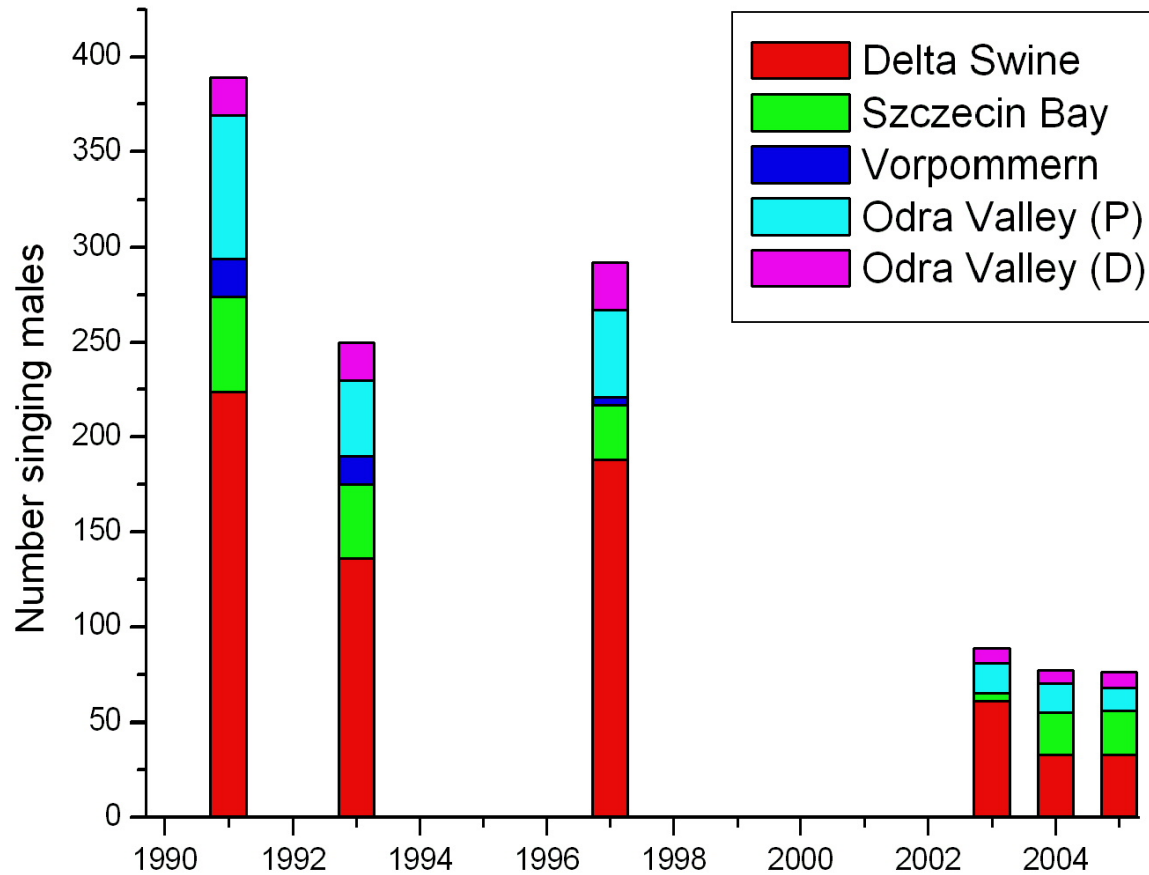


NW Poland

- ▶ At least 19 breeding sites in the early 1990's
- ▶ Currently only 6 breeding sites



The West-Pomeranian population

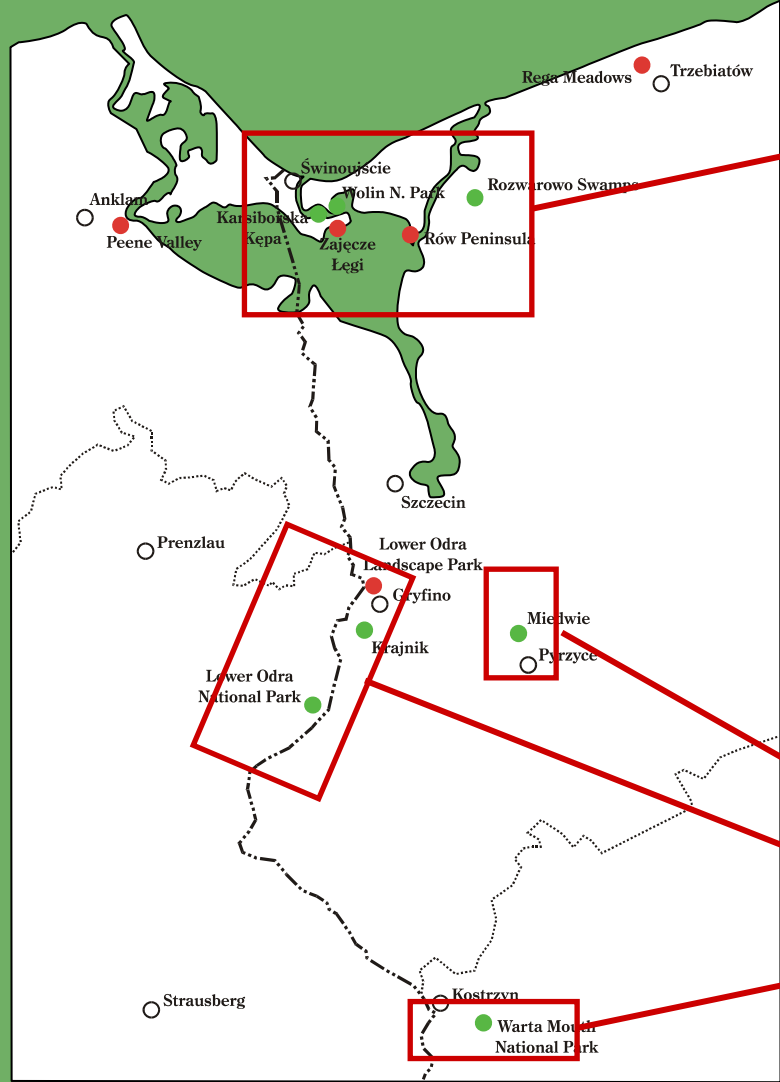




The current situation



Aquatic Warbler in Germany and NW Poland



Coastal habitats

2005: 56-58 sM

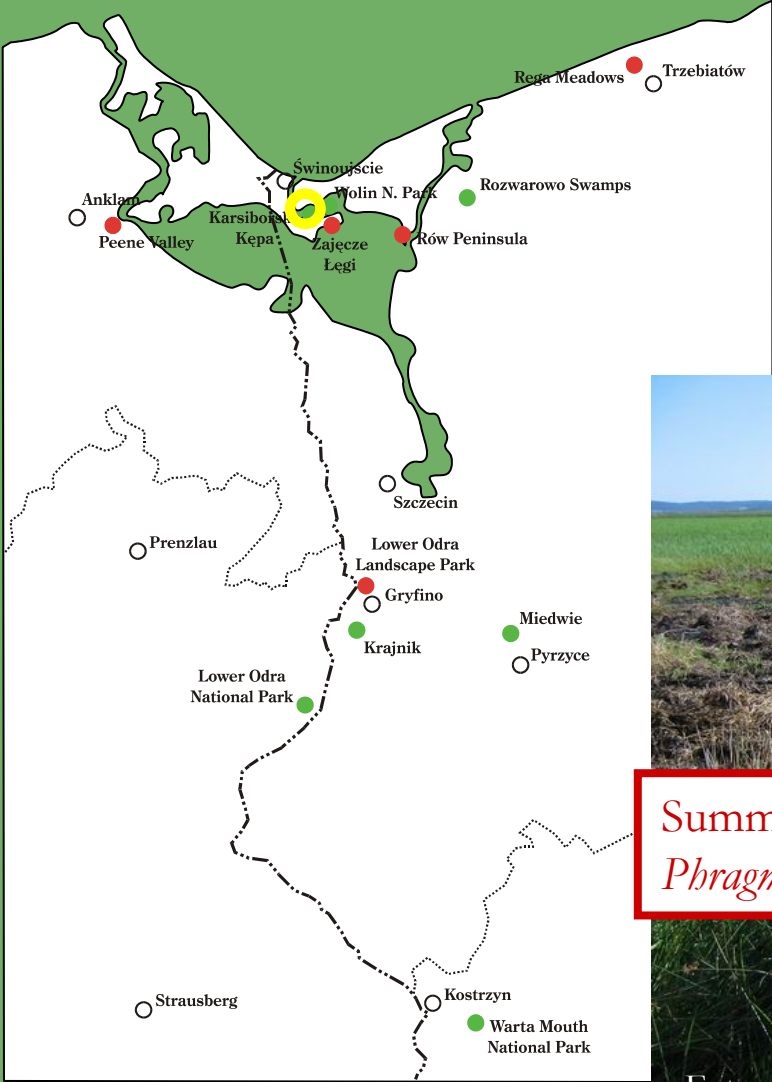
Lower Odra Valley

2005: 19-24 sM

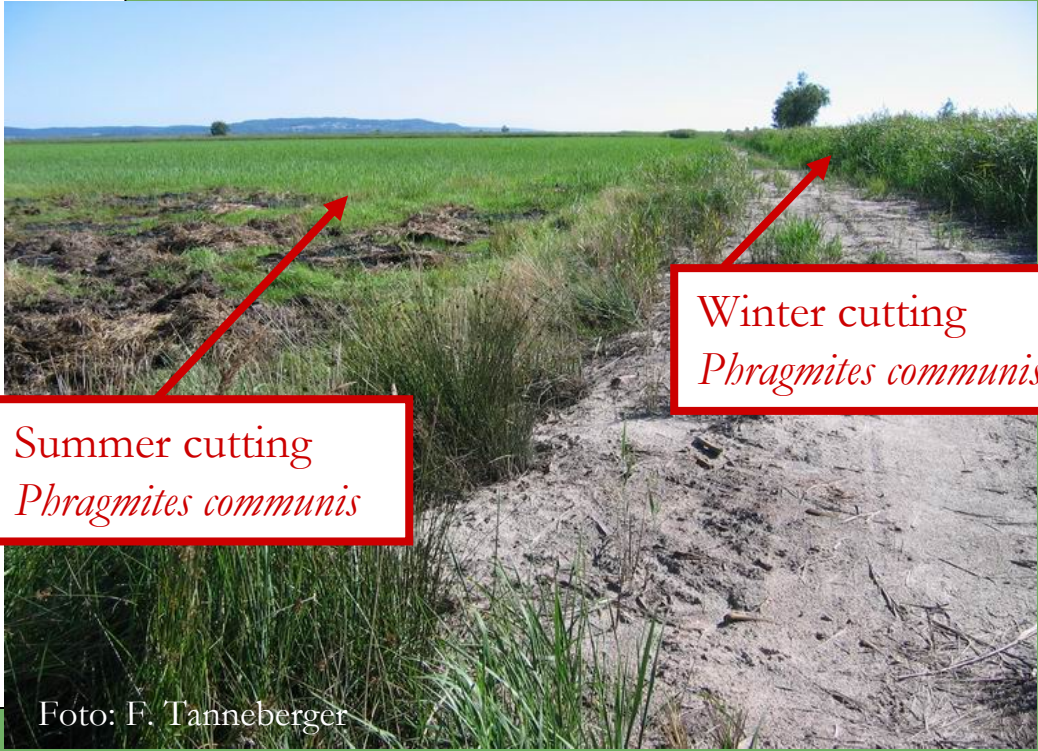
The current situation



Aquatic Warbler in Germany and NW Poland



1991	~100 sM
1993	35 sM
1997	70 sM
2003	15 sM
2005	15 sM



Summer cutting
Phragmites communis

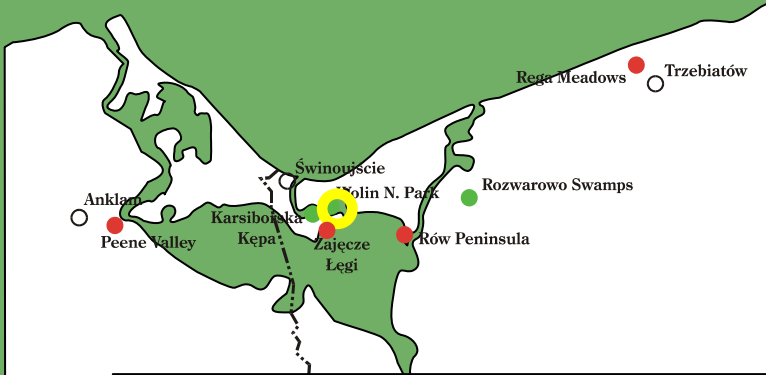
Winter cutting
Phragmites communis

Foto: F. Tanneberger

The current situation: Karsiborska Kępa



Aquatic Warbler in Germany and NW Poland



1991	52 sM
1993	65 sM
1997	83 sM
2003	45 sM
2005	18 sM

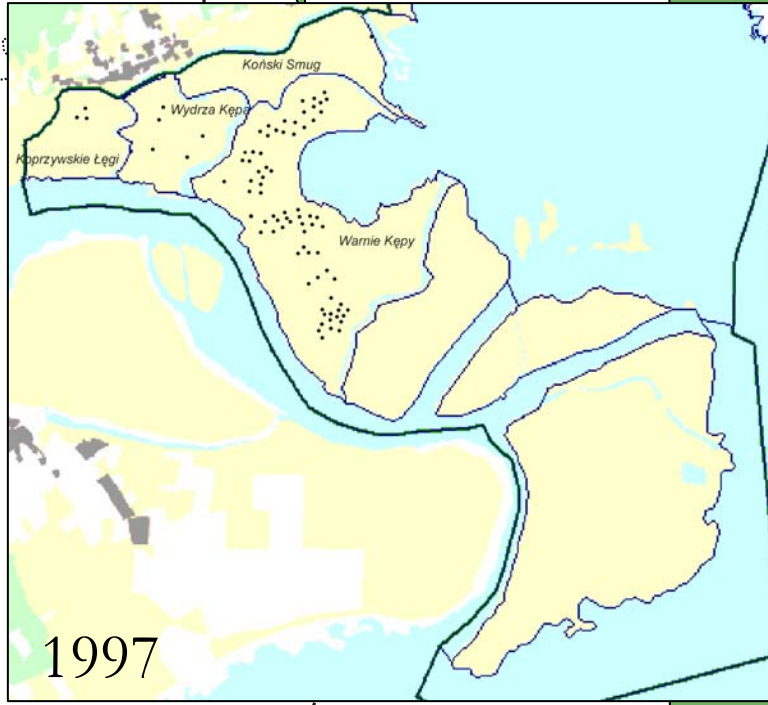


Figure: M. Dylawski

1997

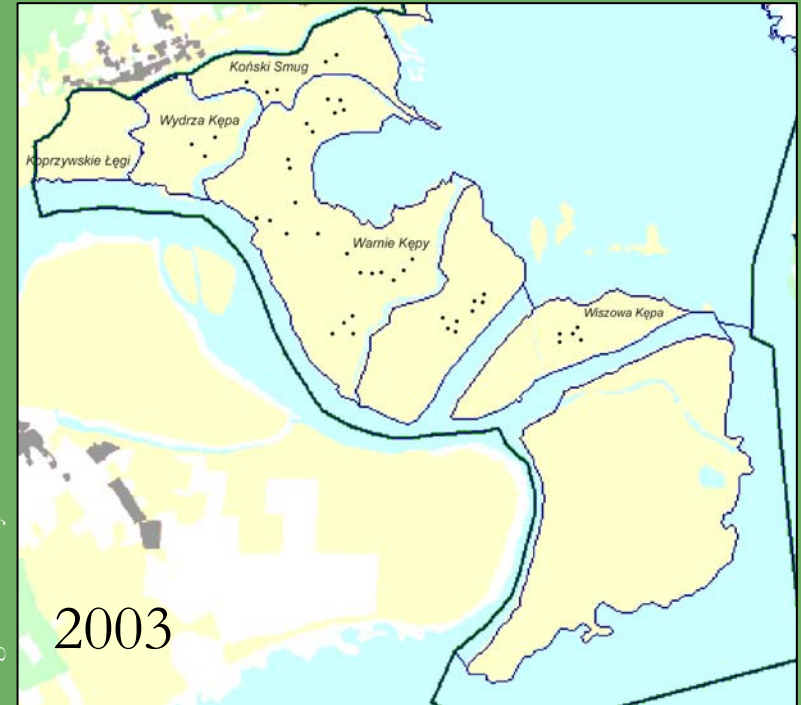


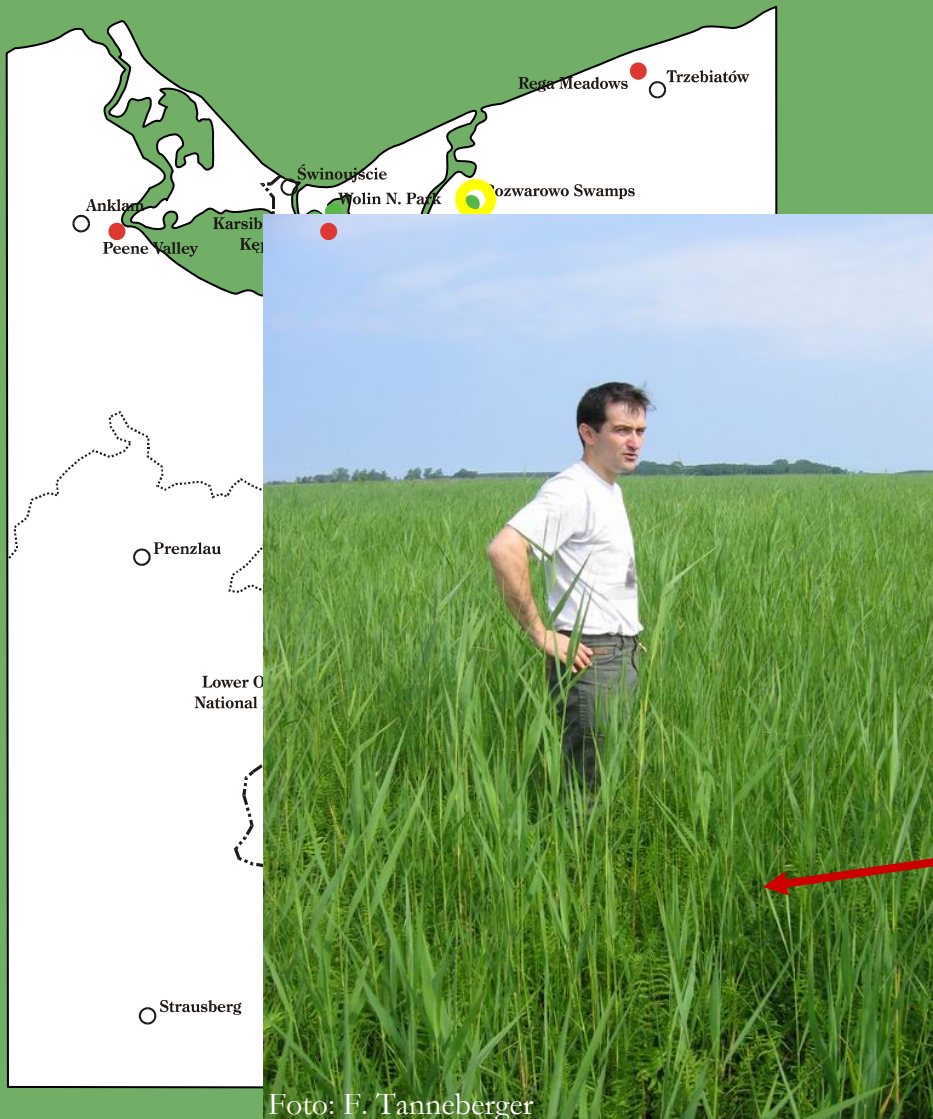
Figure: M. Dylawski

2003

The current situation: Wolinski PN



Aquatic Warbler in Germany and NW Poland



1991	60 sM
1993	37 sM
1997	28 sM
2003	4 sM
2005	23 sM

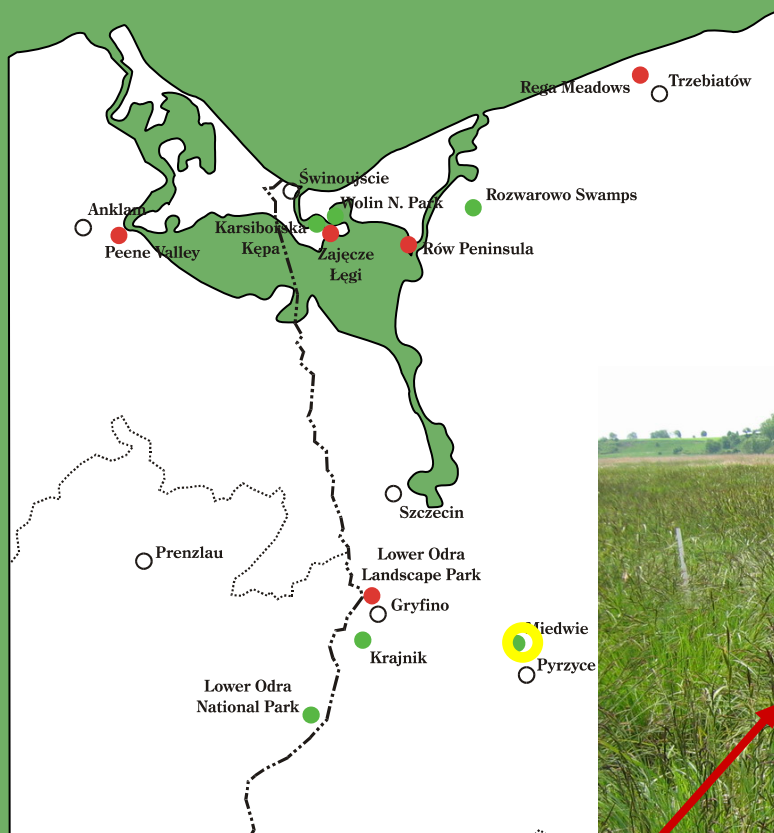
Sparse, low winter cutting *Phragmites communis* with *Thelypteris palustris*

Foto: F. Tanneberger

The current situation: Bagna Rozwarowskie



Aquatic Warbler in Germany and NW Poland



1991	???
1993	9-12 sM
1997	7-14 sM
2003	2-5 sM
2005	1 sM



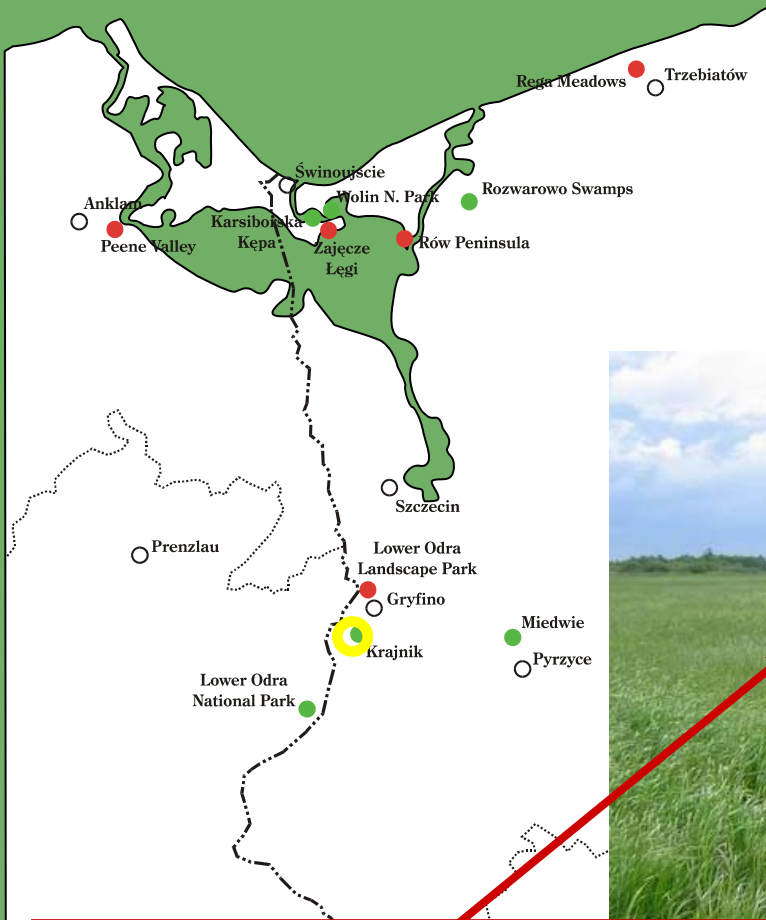
Grazed meadows with
C. appropinquata, *Phalaris arundinacea*,
Phragmites communis, *Cladium mariscus*

Foto: Franziska Tanneberger

The current situation: Miedwie



Aquatic Warbler in Germany and NW Poland



1991	55-70 sM
1993	15 sM
1997	6-8 sM
2003	8-10 sM
2005	7 sM



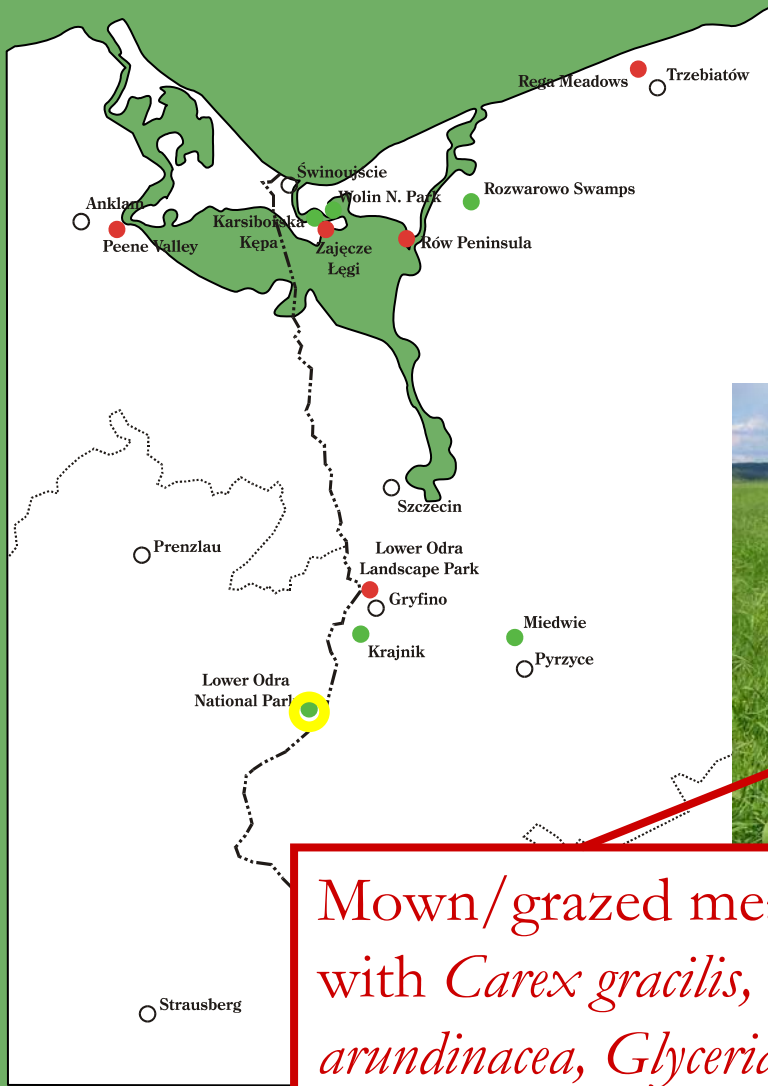
Foto: F. Tanneberger

Mown/burnt meadow with
Calamagrostis canescens, *Carex gracilis*,
C. riparia, *Phalaris arundinacea*

The current situation: Krajnik



Aquatic Warbler in Germany and NW Poland



1991	20 sM
1993	20 sM
1997	25 sM
2003	8 sM
2005	8-12 sM



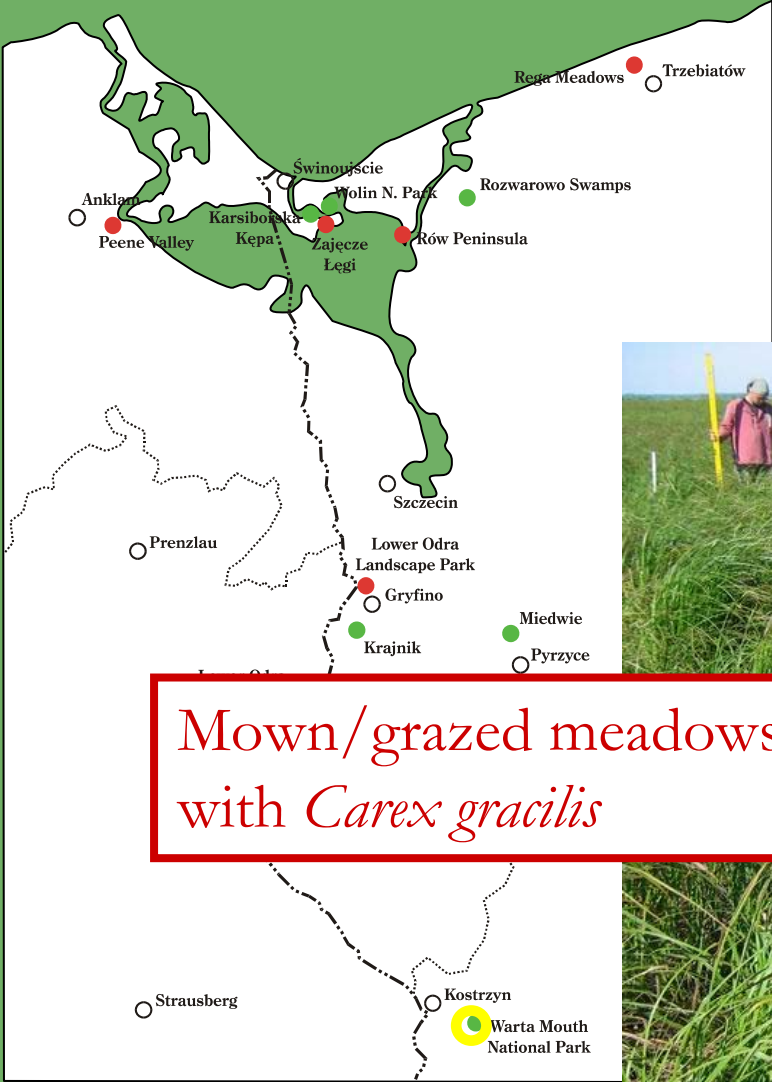
Mown/grazed meadows with *Carex gracilis*, *Phalaris arundinacea*, *Glyceria maxima*

Foto: F. Tanneberger

The current situation: Nationalpark Unteres Odertal



Aquatic Warbler in Germany and NW Poland



1991	? sM
1993	? sM
1997	35-42 sM
2003	1 sM
2005	3 sM



Mown/grazed meadows
with *Carex gracilis*

Foto: F. Tanneberger

The current situation: Ujście Warty PN



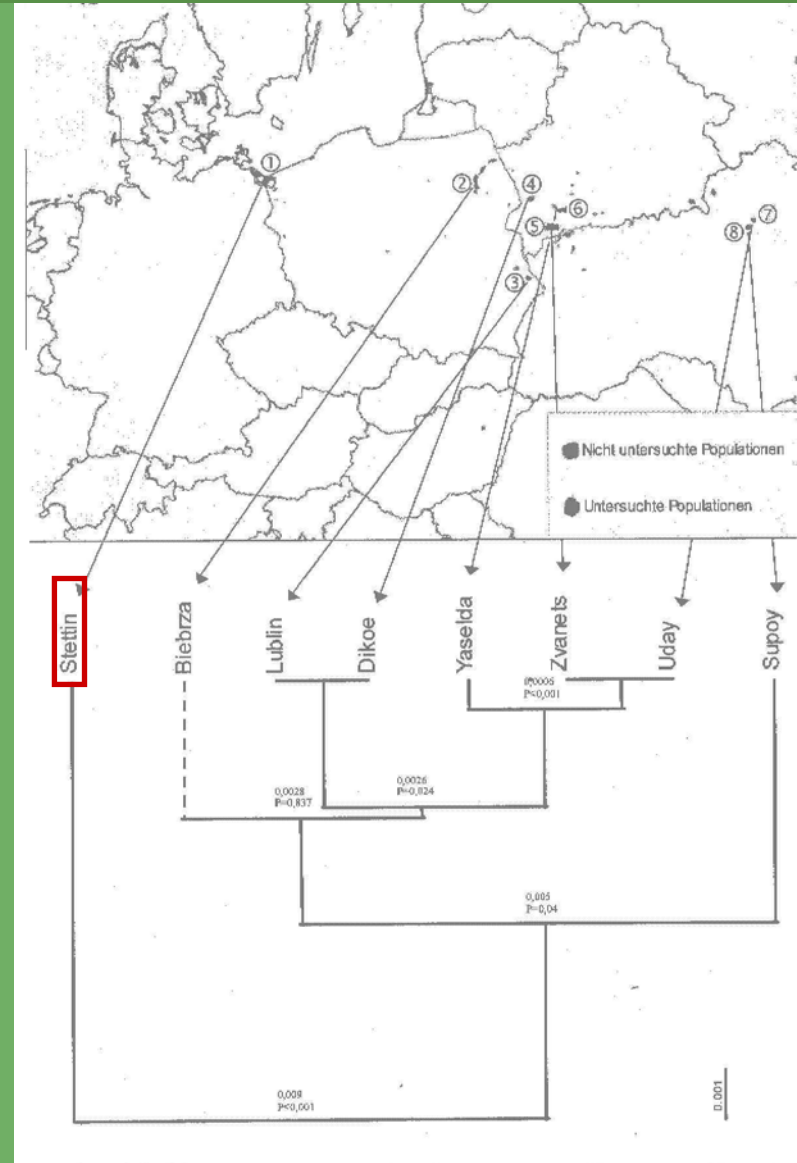
Why preserve the West- Pomeranian population?

Why preserve the West-Pomeranian population?



The German/North-West Polish population is genetically separate from all other studied Aquatic Warbler populations (Giessing 2002).

... also from the Lithuanian!

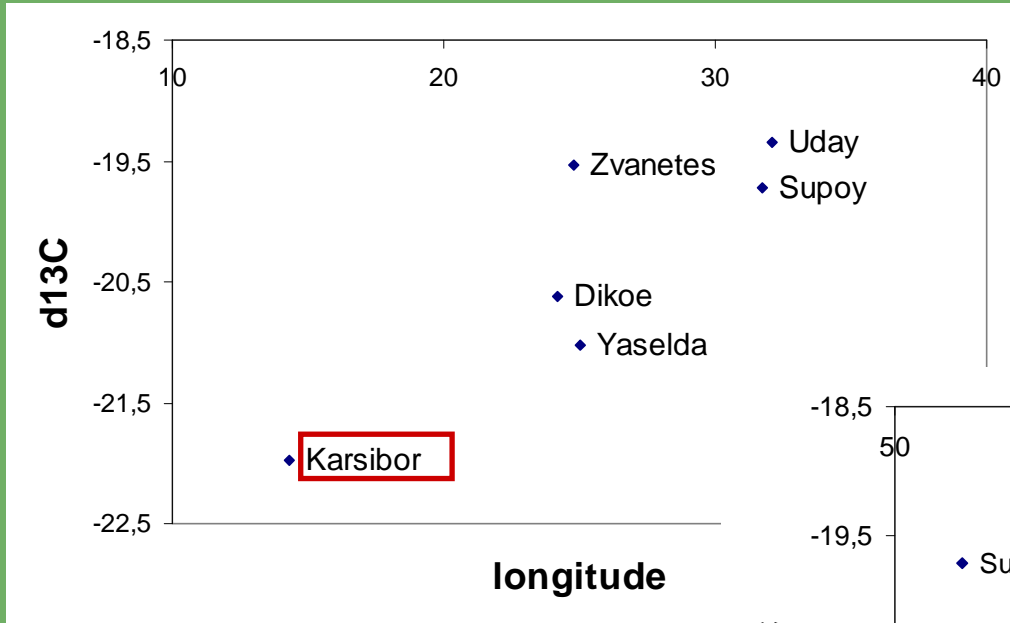


Why preserve the West-Pomeranian population?



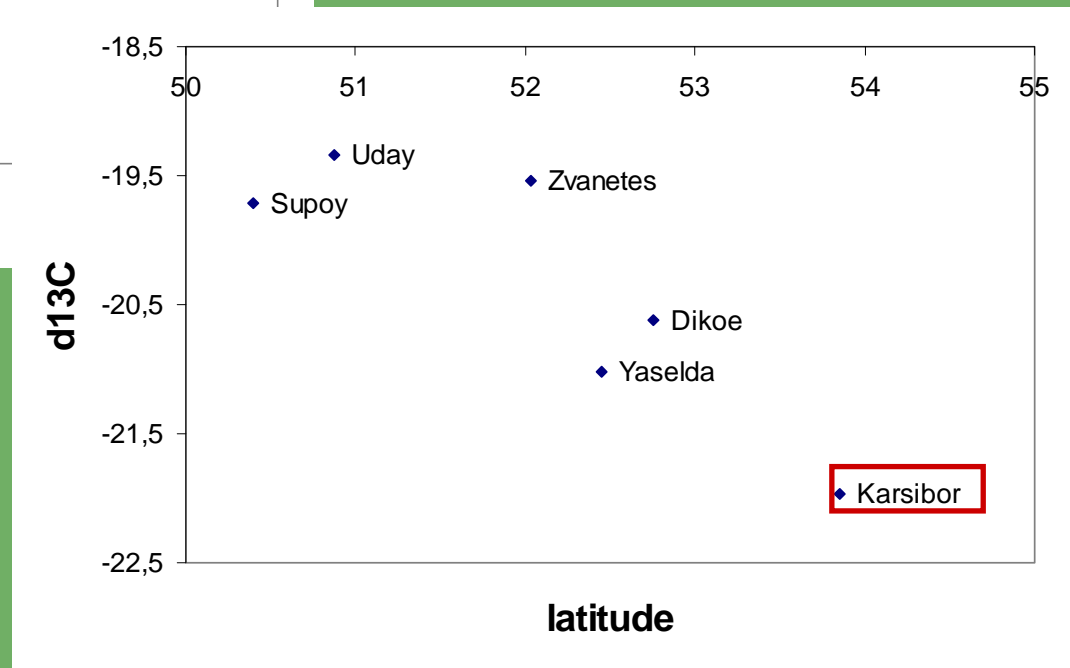
Aquatic Warbler in Germany and NW Poland

Pain et al. 2003



It has most probably a different, very restricted and more northerly wintering area than the other populations (Pain et al. 2003).

The West-Pomeranian population is thought to be the last remnant of a formerly huge Western population.



Why preserve the West-Pomeranian population?



Current research

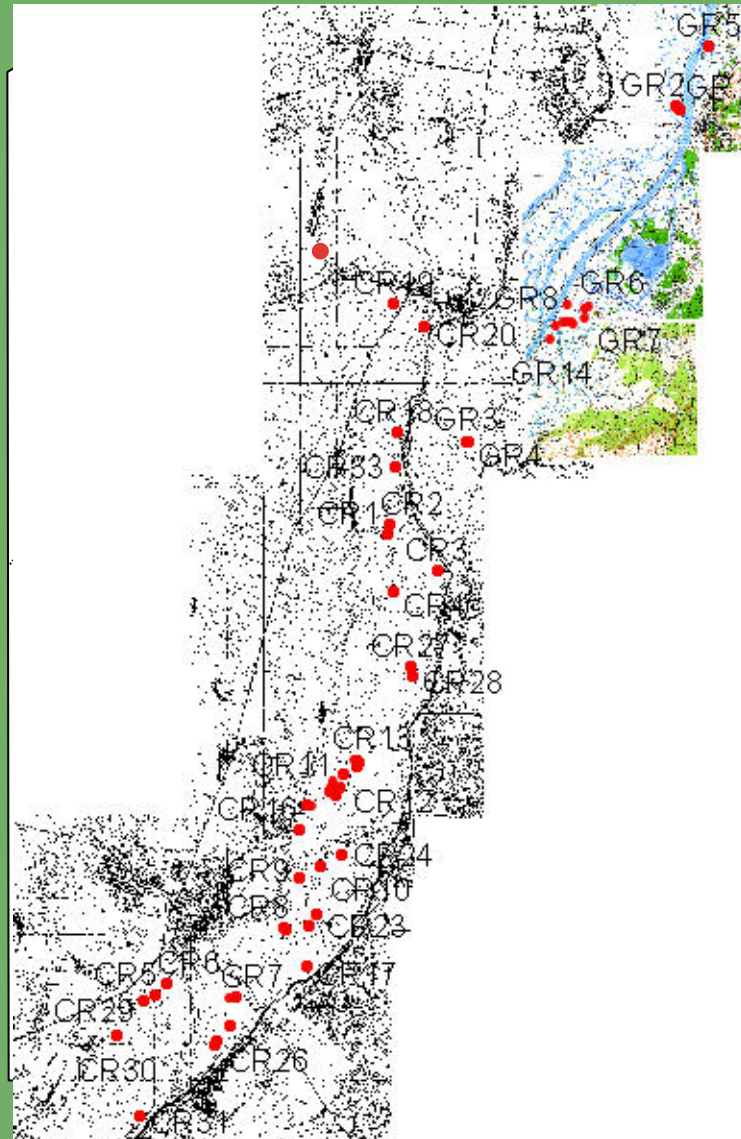


PhD study on habitat requirements

- ▶ Started in 2004
- ▶ 100 permanent plots in 7 study areas
- ▶ Classes: currently used (A) – recently abandoned (B)– potentially suitable (C)
- ▶ Habitat parameters: vegetation structure, plant communities, trophic level, soil stratigraphy, soil and water quality, water level, hydrological regime, land use, diet and food availability



Aquatic Warbler in Germany and NW Poland





Methods



Permanent plots 5x5 m



Stability/stalks



Litter and vegetation height



Vertical density





Diet and food availability



June 2005: 10 nests *A. schoenobaenus* and 5 nests *E. schoeniclus*: Neck collar samples (292) and faeces (415)

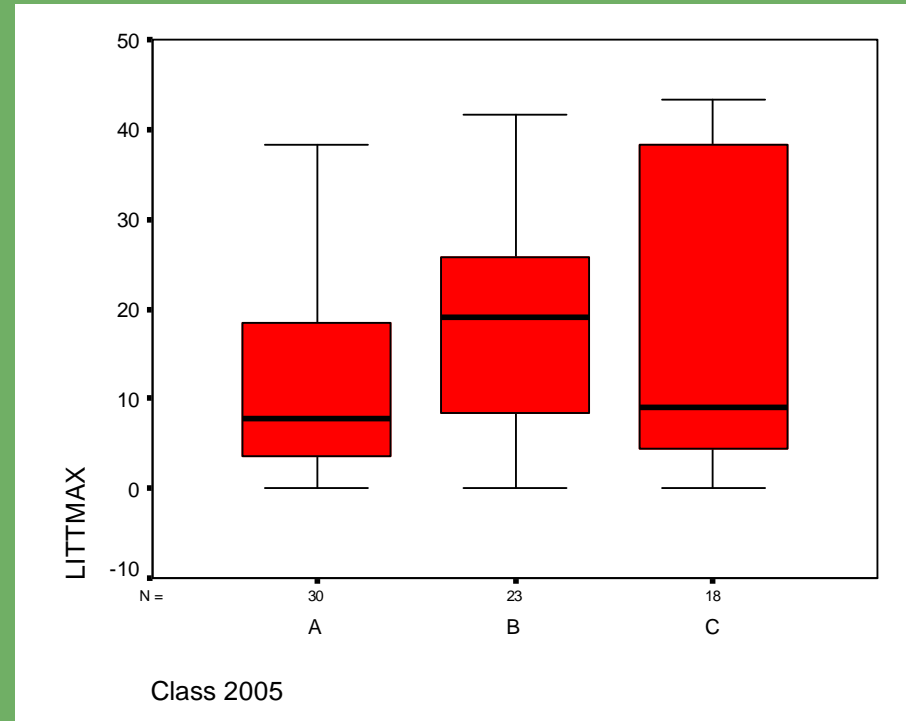
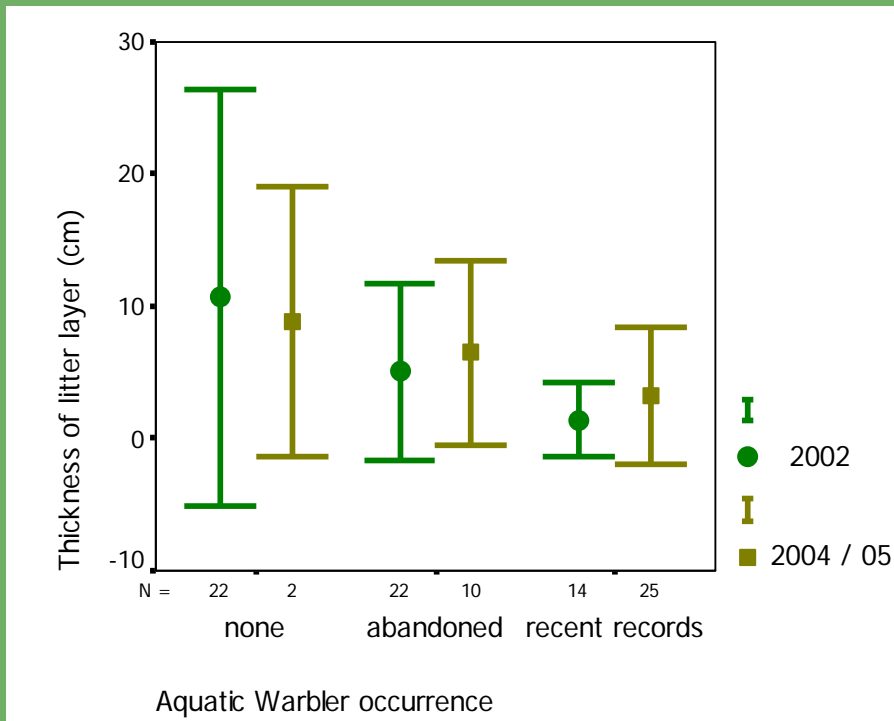


May-July 2005:
dipnetting, Barber
traps, eclectors





Initial results: Thickness of litter layer



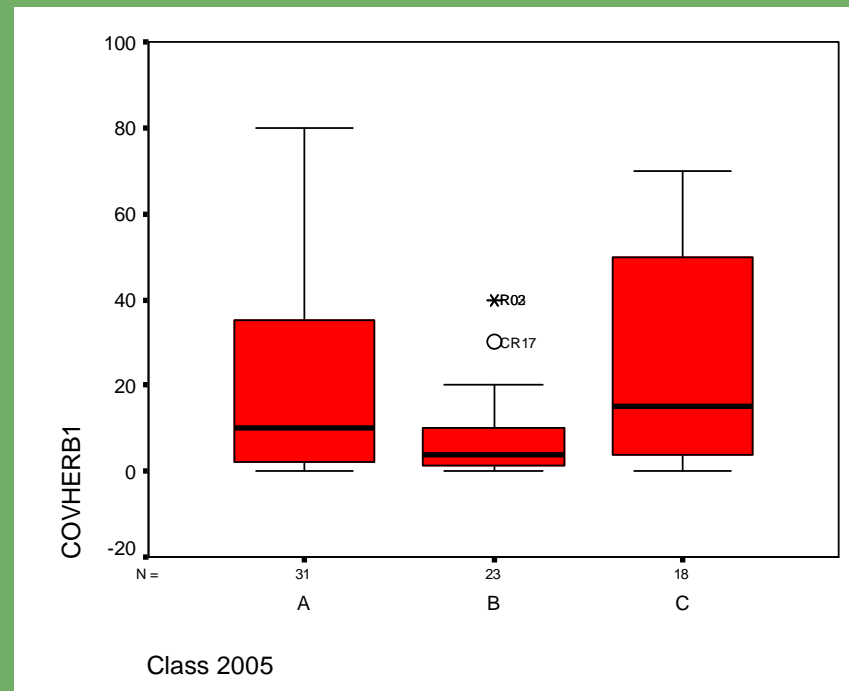
German Odra Valley
(2002 and 2004/2005)

Western Pomerania
(Early May 2005)

Current research



Initial results: Cover of herb layer



Western Pomerania
(Early May 2005)



Initial results: Vegetation height

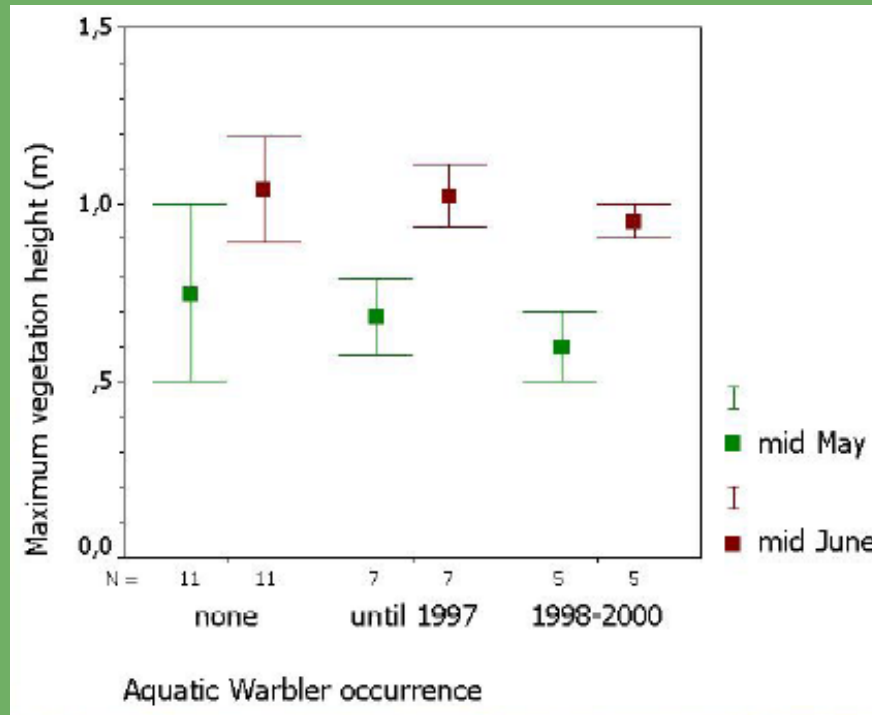


Figure: J. Bellebaum

German Odra Valley (1998 - 2002)



Threats in breeding habitats

Cessation of mowing/
grazing due to low economic
attractiveness or designation
as strict nature reserve:

- Litter layer too high
- Vegetation too high



Foto: F. Tanneberger



Aquatic Warbler in Germany and NW Poland

Thanks to all persons involved in Aquatic Warbler conservation in Western Pomerania, especially P. Jablonski, M. Dylawerski, G. Kiljan, B. Migdalska, R. Czeraszewicz, M. Maniakowski, S. Guentzel, M. Kalisinski, J. Sadlik, H.-J. Haferland, M. Bolz, A. Helmecke, J. Bellebaum, J. Kube, A. Pataki, D. Sellin, M. Flade, M. Bartoszewicz, and K. Wypychowski



Foto: F. Tanneberger