

Welcome to the world ? Alien breeding birds in Flanders



Anny Anselin, Glenn Vermeersch &
Geert Spanoghe



inbo

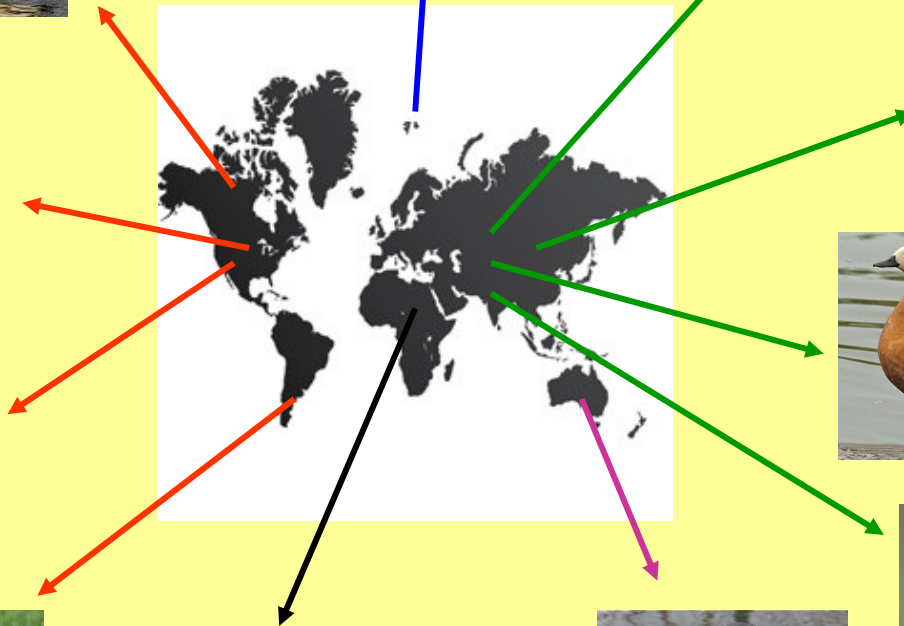
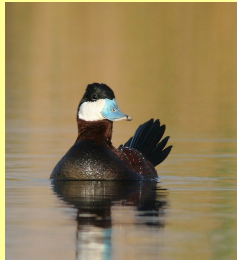
Instituut voor Natuur- en Bosonderzoek
Research Institute for Nature and Forest



www.inbo.be

- **Which species ?**
- **What do we know: numbers, trends, distribution, impact ?**
- **Legislation and management ?**
- **Evaluation of management and future needs ?**

Which species?



What do we know ?

Population numbers & trends: Breeding: since 1994 INBO Anselin

Wintering: since 1978 INBO Devos

Distribution: Breeding bird atlas 2000-2002 INBO & co Vermeersch *et al*

***Canada Geese:** winter counts, dispersal movements Anselin, Cooleman

Impact: Status report on “alien species” for ANB INBO Beck *et al*

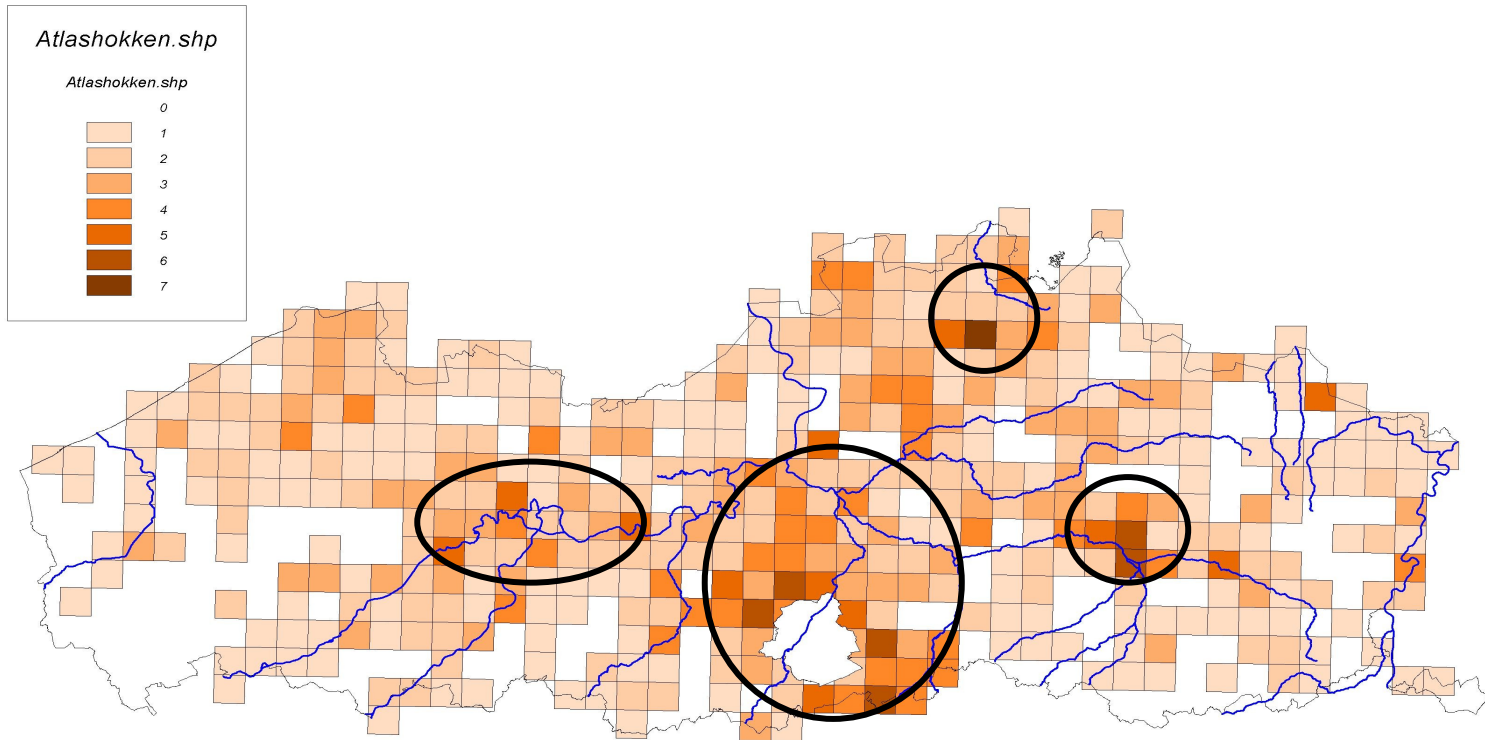
Breeding populations and trends

1989



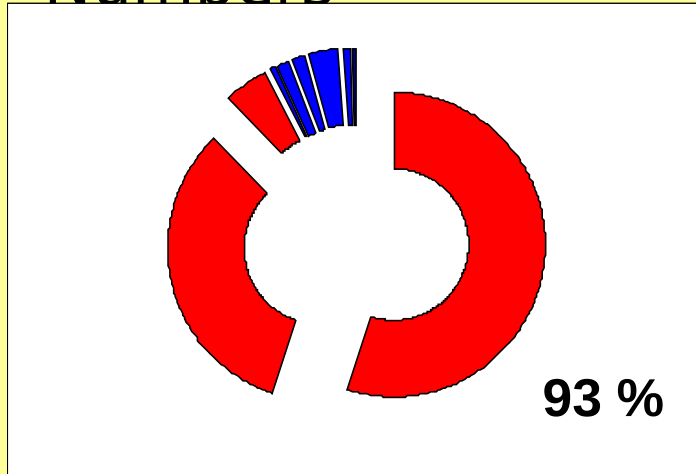
2008

Distribution aliens: 70 % of Flanders

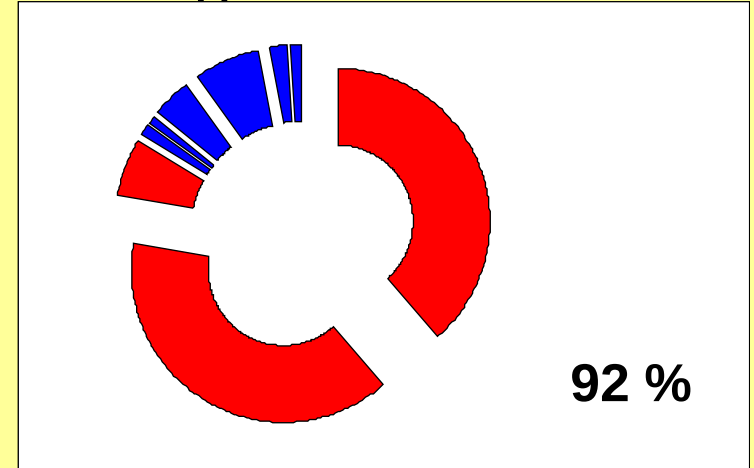


5x5 km squares with breeding of 0-7 species

Population Numbers



Distributio n

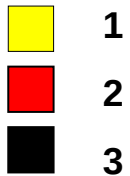
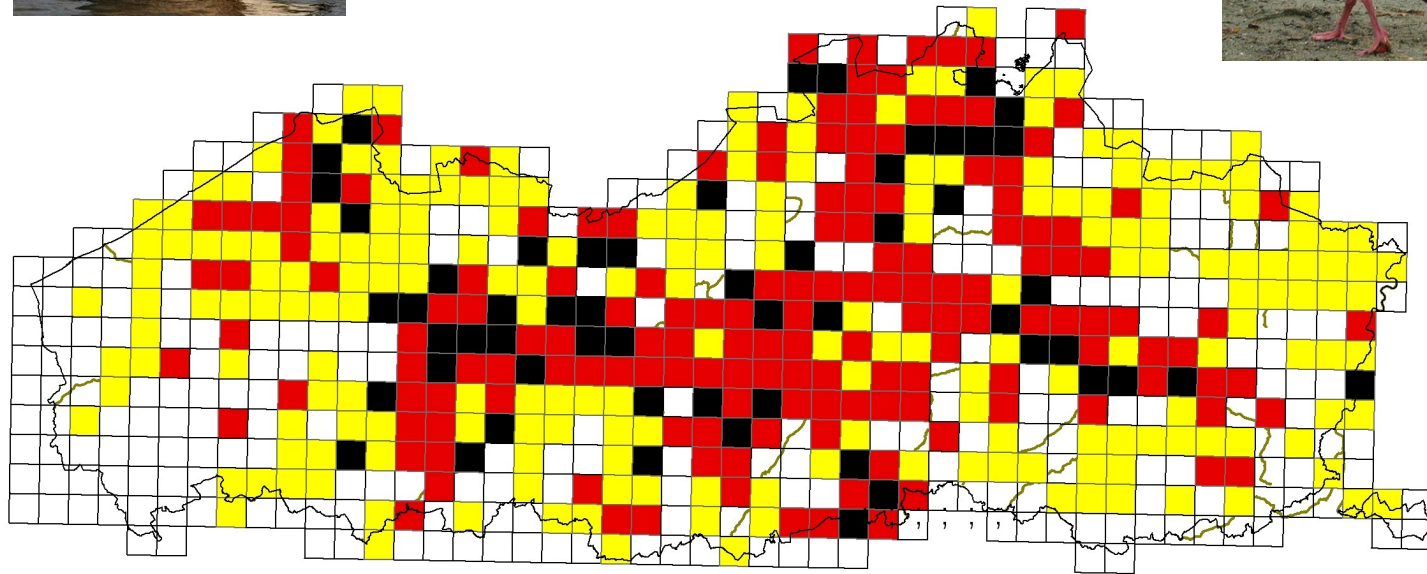


Canada Goose

Egyptian Goose

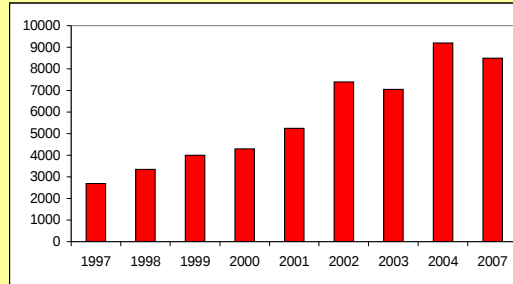
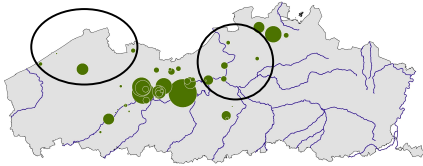
Barnacle Goose

Overlap Canada Goose, Egyptian Goose and Barnacle Goose

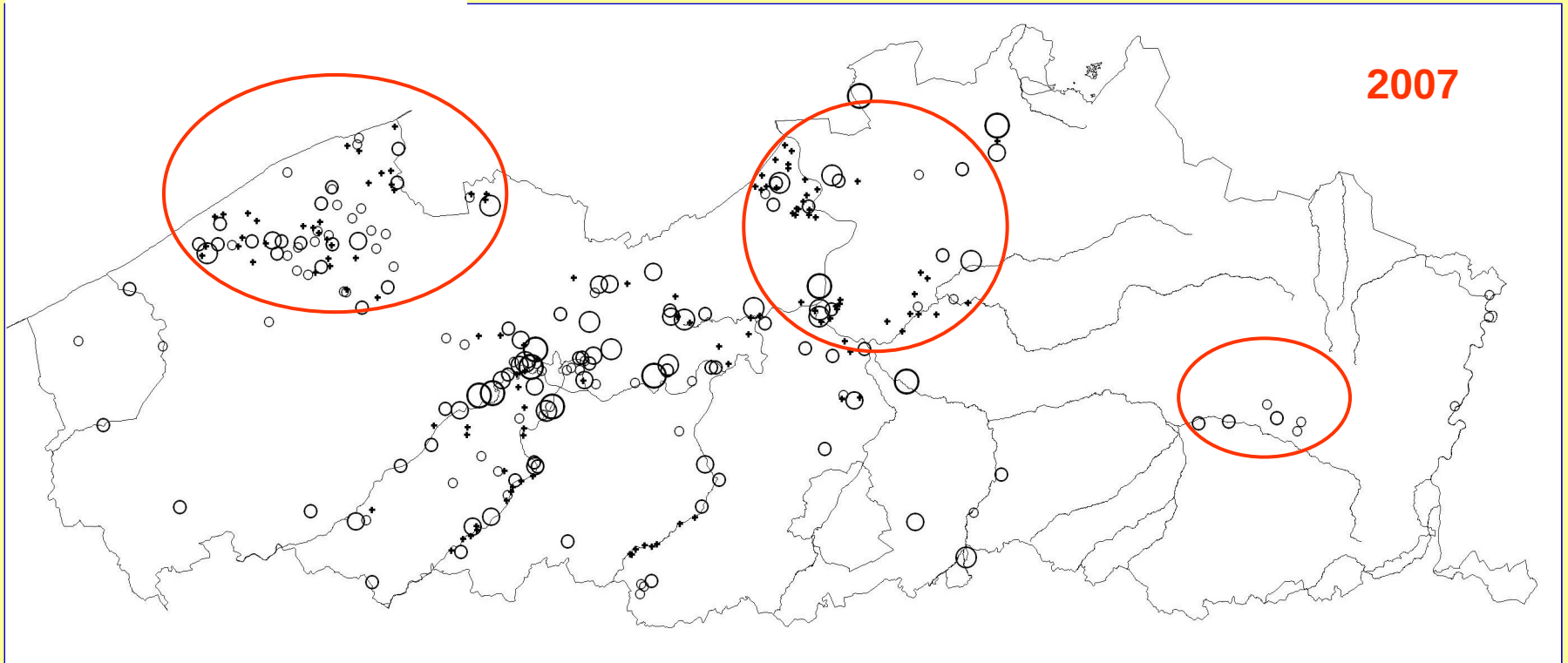


Canada Goose in winter

1998



2007



Anselin & Devos, 2006 ; Anselin & Cooleman, 2007

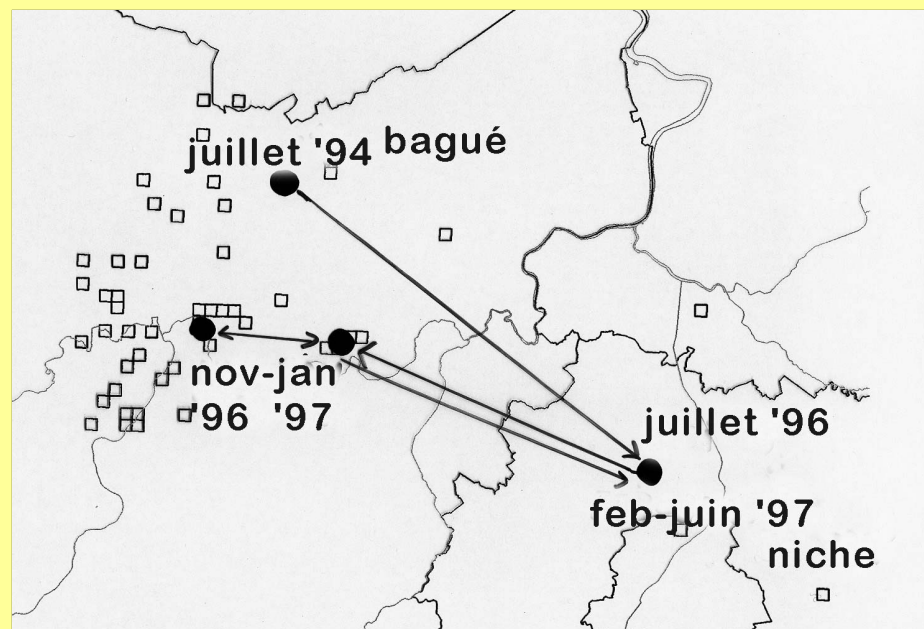


1993-2000

200 birds ringed



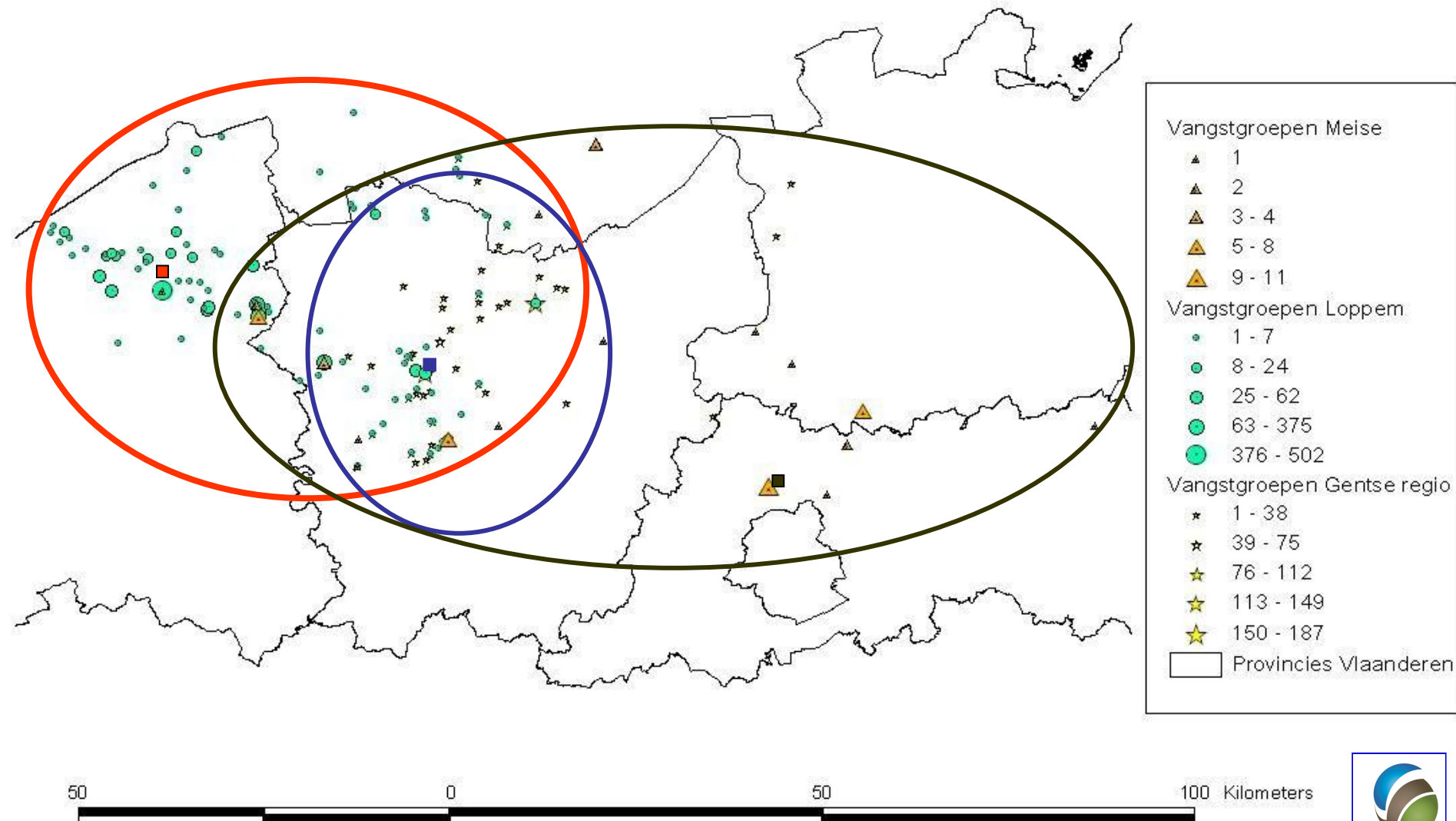
Dispersal of Canada Goose



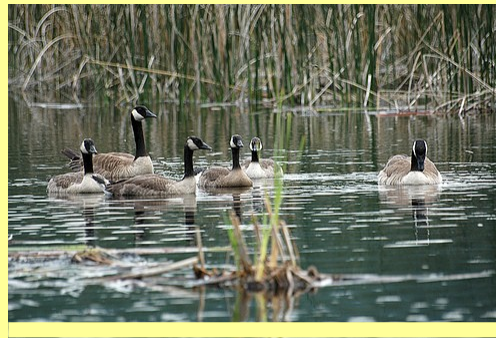
Anselin & Calberg, 1999

Movements of ringed Canada Geese

50 km / 200 km



Impact



Large concentrations



Grazing & trampling

Roosting on water



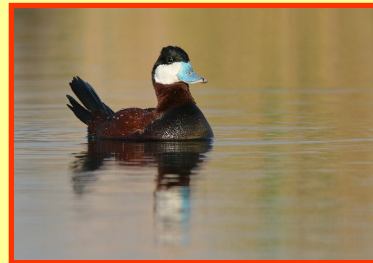
Crop & vegetation damage

Fouling

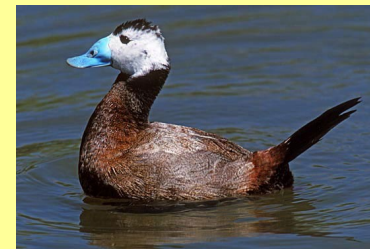
Water eutrophication



Aggressive behaviour



X



Hybridisation

How invasive are they
all ?

Breeding numbers: **low**

Wintering numbers: **low**

Dispersion: **low**

Impact: **low**

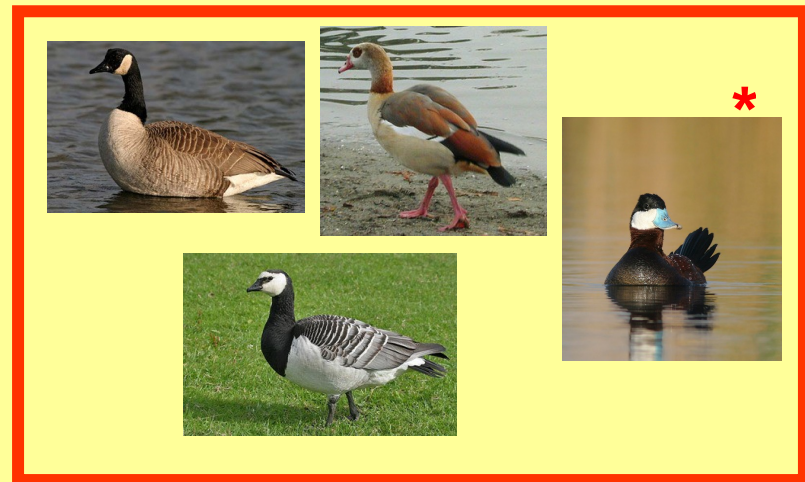


Breeding numbers: **high**

Wintering numbers: **high**

Dispersion: **important**

Impact: **important***

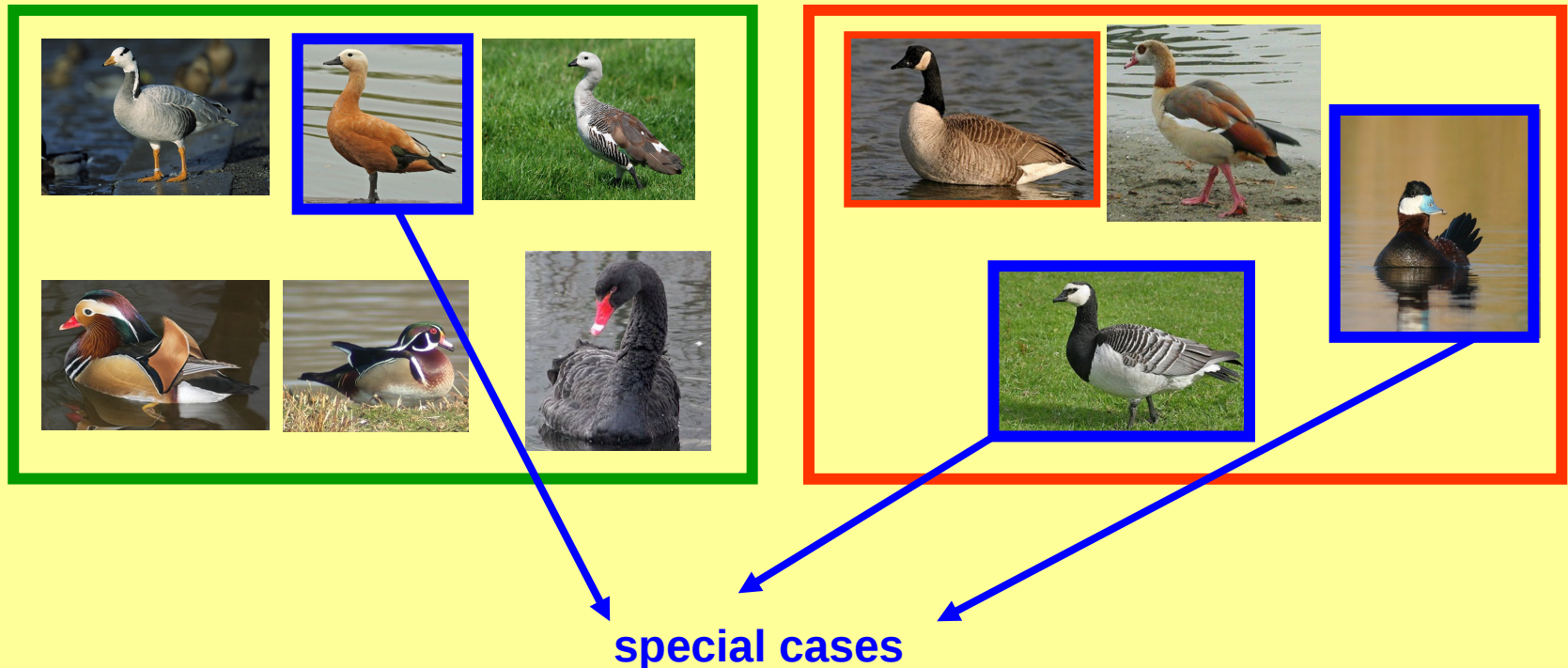




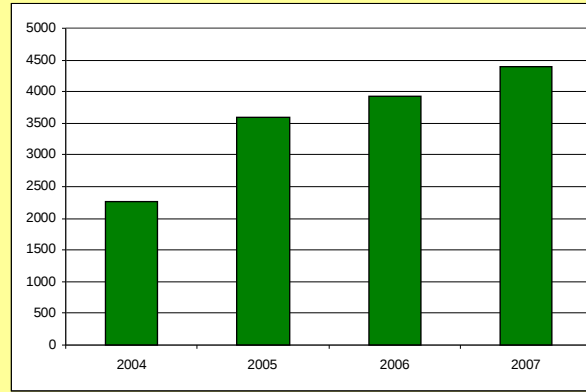
Legislation & Management

General: Introduction or release of alien species in the wild is forbidden

Management: only **Canada Goose** but legislation includes **enlarging**



Canada Goose



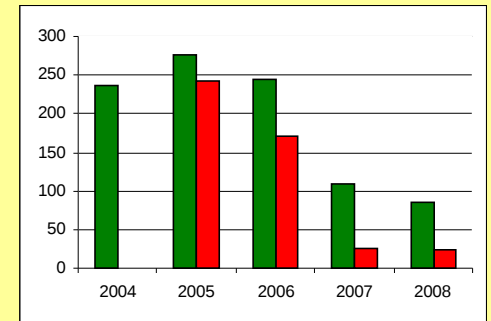
Scheppers & Casaer, 2008

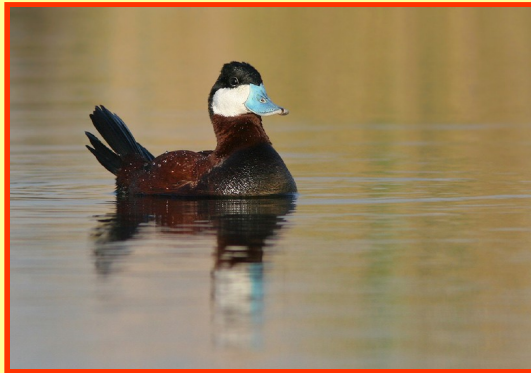


several thousands/year



Flightless birds killed after rounding up





Ruddy Duck

International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the White-Headed Duck, *Oxyura leucocephala*

prepared to assist fulfilment of obligations under:

- Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)
- Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA)
- EU Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds (Birds Directive)

Evaluation of management and future needs

- Maintain and develop existing **monitoring** on a regular and standardised way
- Develop a structural management of the **Egyptian Goose**
- Find a solution for the special case of the **Barnacle Goose** (Annex I species)
- Support or start specific **studies** on damage impact (crops, vegetation, species)
- Apply the **AEWA Conservation Guidelines** on Avoidance of Introductions of Non-native Waterbird Species Owen *et al*, 2006
- More actions on **international scale**