

SECOND EDITION

THE LITTLE OWL

Population Dynamics, Behavior and Management
of *Athene Noctua*



DRIES VAN NIEUWENHUYSE,
RONALD VAN HAXEN and DAVID H. JOHNSON



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The Little Owl

Population dynamics, Behavior and Management of
Athene noctua

Dries Van Nieuwenhuyse

Ronald van Harxen

David H. Johnson

Illustrations by Joris De Raedt







2008 versus 2023



The Little Owl

- Bibliographie
 - N=3450
- Vocalisations
 - N=1300 xeno-canto; N=840 Macaulay
- Images
 - N=12160
- Bague/Reprise
 - N=108000
- Données BirdLife
- EBBA2 (50 x 50 km)
- Art 12 directive habitat EU27 (10x10km)

xeno-canto

Sharing wildlife sounds from around the world

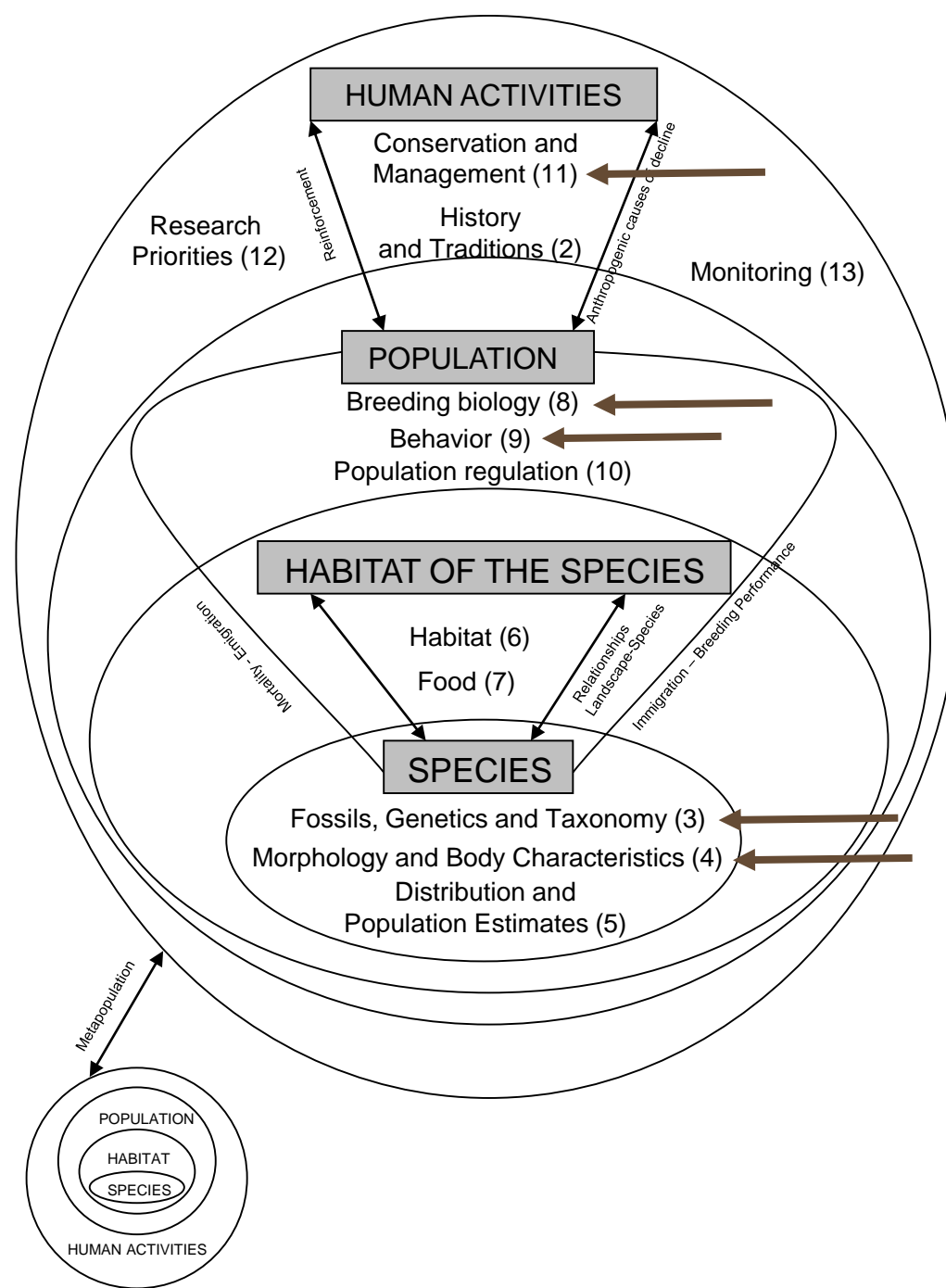
The Cornell Lab of Ornithology
Macaulay Library





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The Little Owl



Changements fondamentaux

- Changements fondamentaux
- Taxonomie
- Morphologie
- Biologie de la reproduction
- Comportement
- Gestion



Atthis noctua
 A. 1607
 C. 37.4
 Sex. ♂
 T. 51.9 (1966.6)
 R. 110.8
 Datum 9. 4. 1951.

Morphologie



Museo Civico di Storia Naturale
 Collezione ornitologica G. Basso
Atthis noctua
 2037E
 26 dicembre - CA
 Buisio - CA
 INCR. 28447
 MCCI 4896



Museo Civico di Storia Naturale
 Collezione ornitologica G. Basso
Atthis noctua
 4374
 Buisio - CA
 INCR. 28447
 MCCI 4896



Museo Civico di Storia Naturale
 Collezione ornitologica G. Basso
Atthis noctua
 4374
 Buisio - CA
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Museo Civico di Storia Naturale
 Collezione ornitologica G. Basso
Atthis noctua noctua
 4374
 Buisio - CA
 INCR. 28447
 MCCI 4896



Museo Civico di Storia Naturale
 Collezione ornitologica G. Basso
Atthis noctua
 4374
 Buisio - CA
 INCR. 28447
 MCCI 4896



Morphologie et couleurs

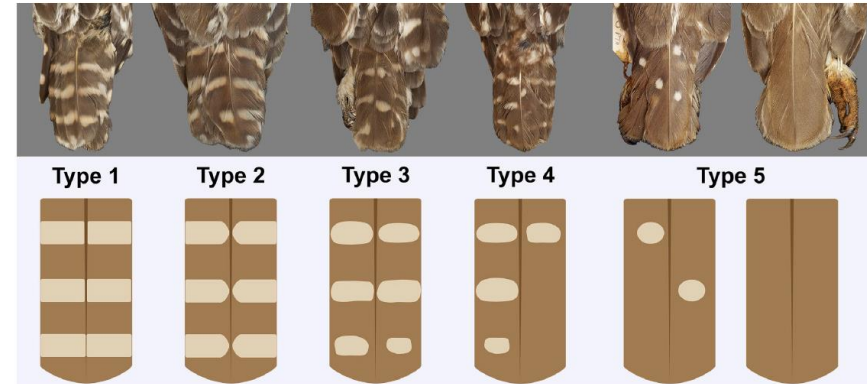
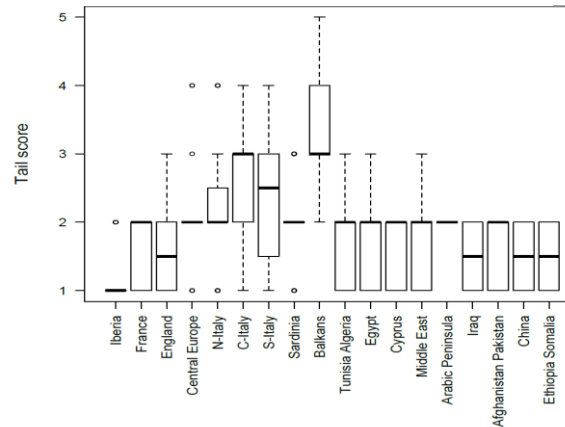
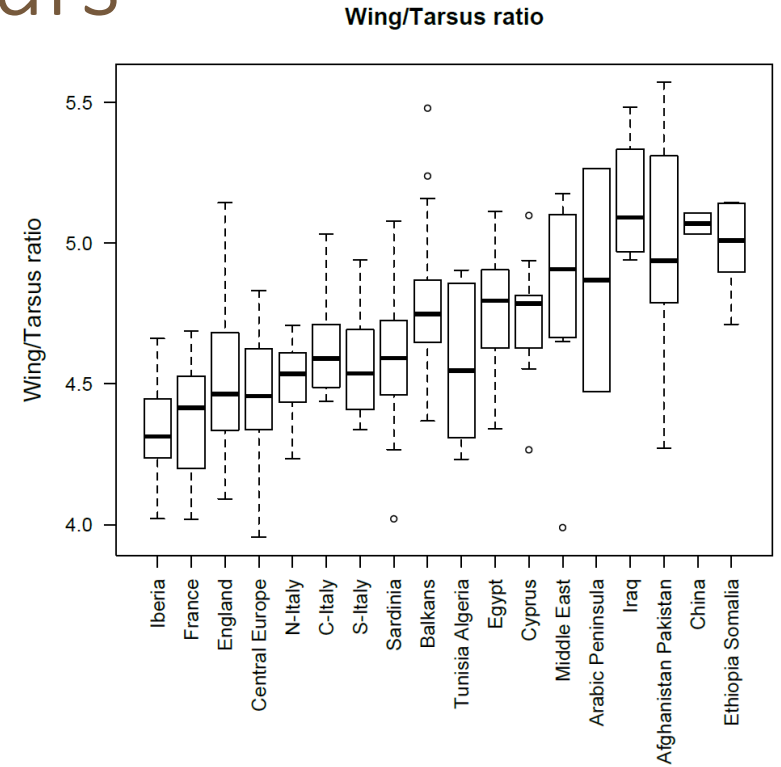
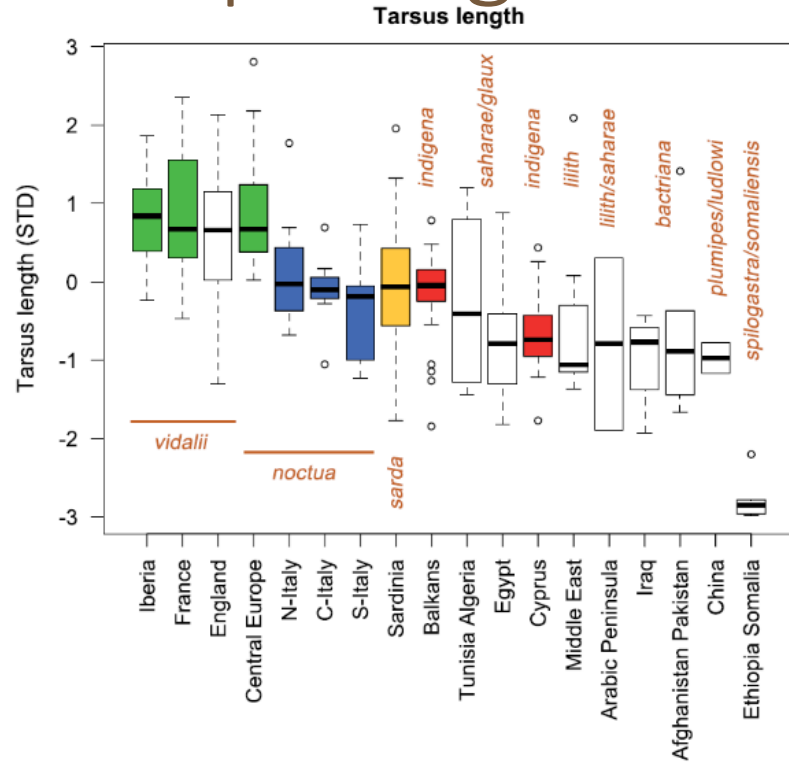


Fig. 1 Tail pattern of the Little Owls. The tail score increases with the extension of the dark area and the concurrent decrease of light spots on the tail feathers

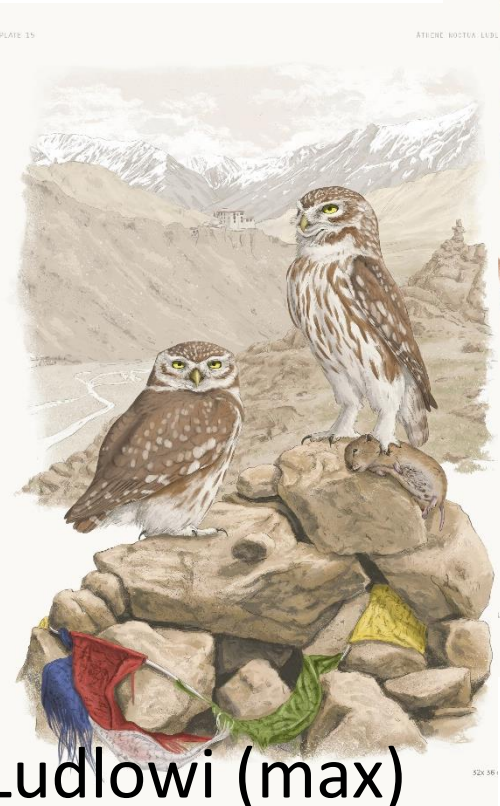
Plumage coloration and morphometrics of the Little Owl *Athene noctua* in the Western Palearctic

Irene Pellegrini¹ · Marco Cucco¹ · Elisa Calà¹ · Giovanni Boano² · Marco Pavia³



The Little Owl

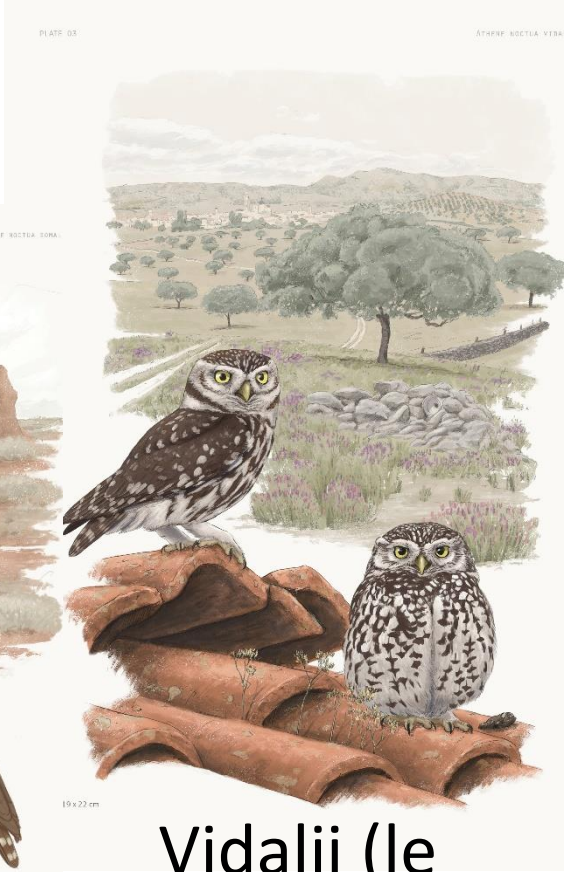
Morphologie & couleurs



Ludlowi (max)



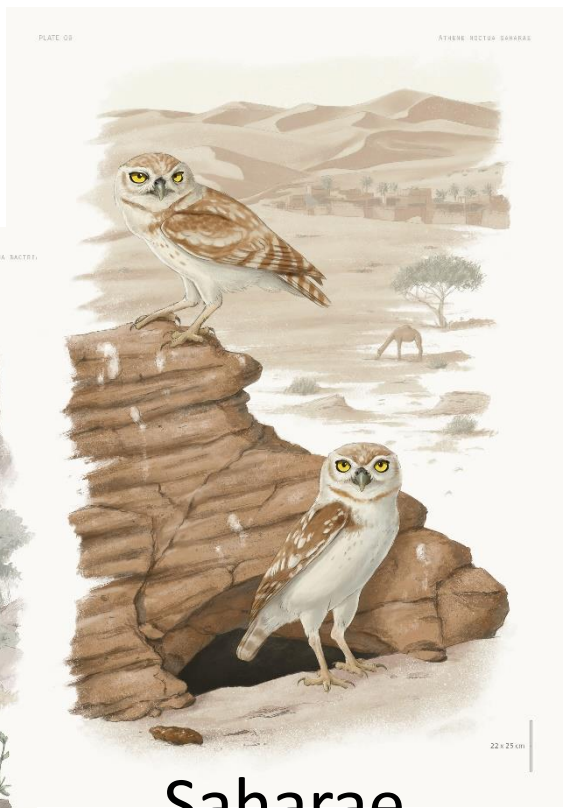
Somalensis (min)



Vidalii (le plus sombre)



Bactriana (grisâtre)

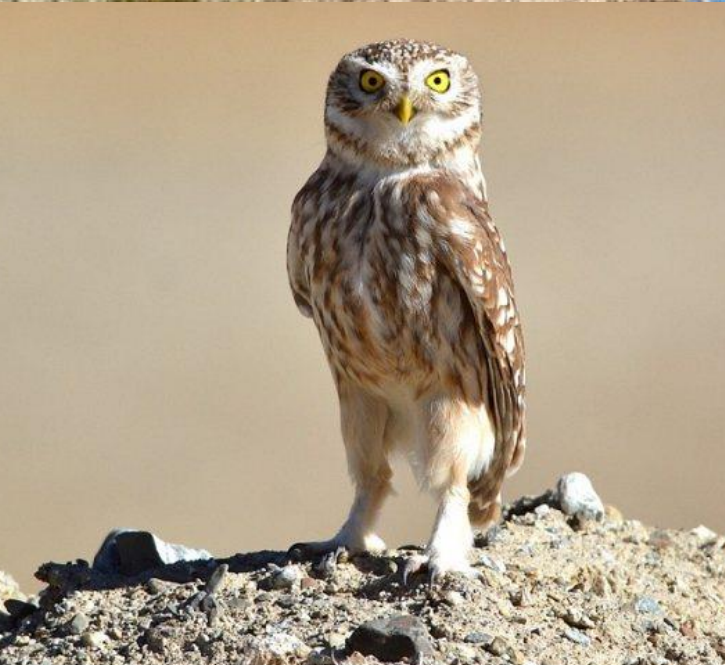


Saharae (jaune)

<https://search.macaulaylibrary.org/catalog?taxonCode=litowl1&q=Little%20Owl%20-%20Athene%20noctua>



32x 36 cm



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©Nik Borrow



PLATE 12.

ATHENE NOCTEA SOMALIENSIS



16 x 18 cm



©Nik Bo





19 x 22 cm





The Little Owl

Trouvez les 7
différences ...
1863 vs 2022

*Athene
noctua*
Heuglin, 1863



Heuglin, Ornith. N. O. Afrika's.

Tab. IV



Noctua spilogastra
Fem. adult.



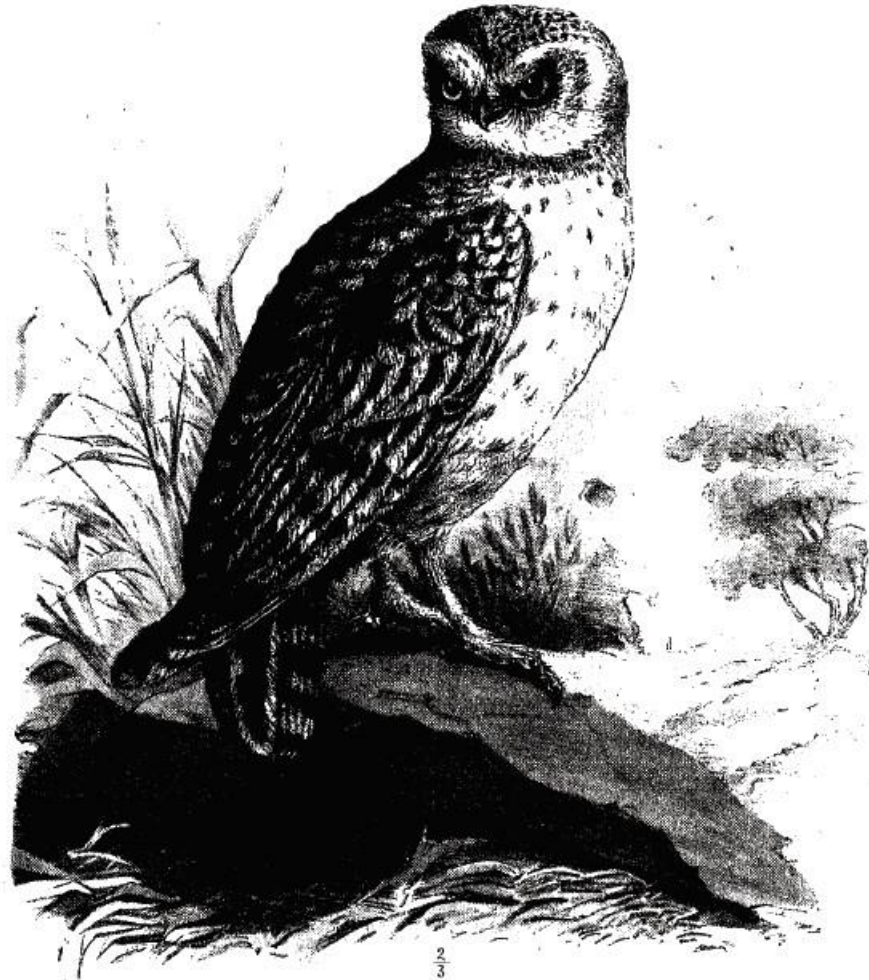
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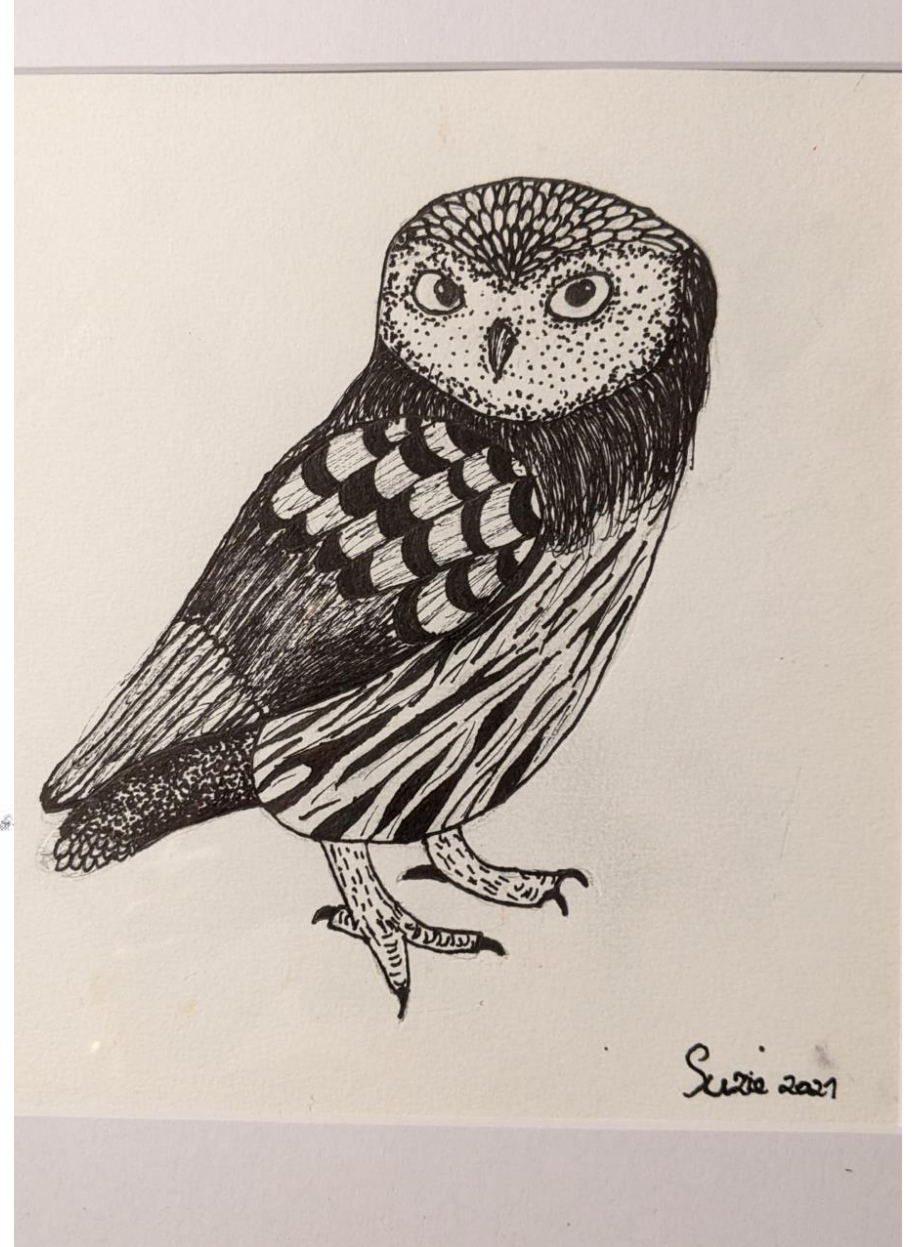
1863 vs 2024
Athene noctua spilogastra
Suzie, 2021

Hughes, Ornith. N. O. Africa's.

Tab. IV



Noctua spilogastra
Fem. adult.





La génétique

The Little Owl

A Study on Genetic Polymorphisms Within *A.n.impasta* *Athene noctua**

QU Yan-Hua LEI Fu-Min² YIN Zuo-Hua

(Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, 19 Zhongguancun Lu, Haidian, Beijing 100080. E-mail:leifm@panda.ioz.ac.cn)



Journal of Avian Biology 46: 001–014, 2015
doi: 10.1111/jav.00679
© 2015 The Authors. Journal of Avian Biology © 2015 Nordic Society Oikos
Subject Editor: Javier Perez-Tris. Editor-in-Chief: Jan-Åke Nilsson. Accepted 5 March 2015

Evidence for strong genetic structure in European populations of the little owl *Athene noctua*

Irene Pellegrino, Alessandro Negri, Giovanni Boano, Marco Cucco, Torsten N. Kristensen, Cino Pertoldi, Ettore Randi, Martin Šálek and Nadia Mucci

A.n.sarda

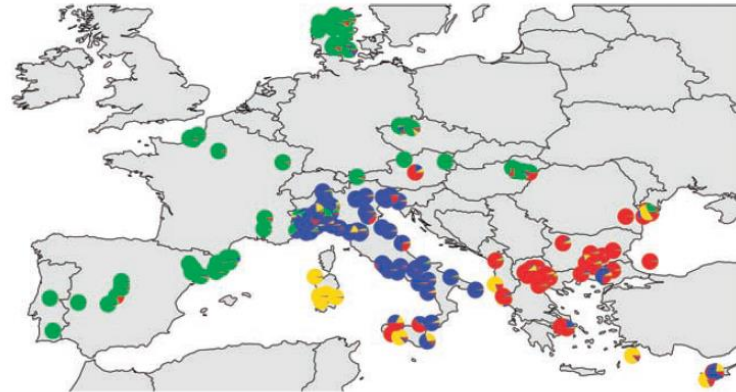


Figure 1. Sampling sites and genotype structure of individuals. Pie charts show the proportion of the four clusters calculated analysis ($K = 4$, same colours as Fig. 3) in each sampled population.



Phylogeography and Pleistocene refugia of the Little Owl *Athene noctua* inferred from mtDNA sequence data

IRENE PELLEGRINO,^{1*} ALESSANDRO NEGRI,¹ MARCO CUCCO,¹ NADIA MUCCI,² MARCO PAVIA,³ MARTIN ŠÁLEK,⁴ GIOVANNI BOANO⁵ & ETTORE RANDI²

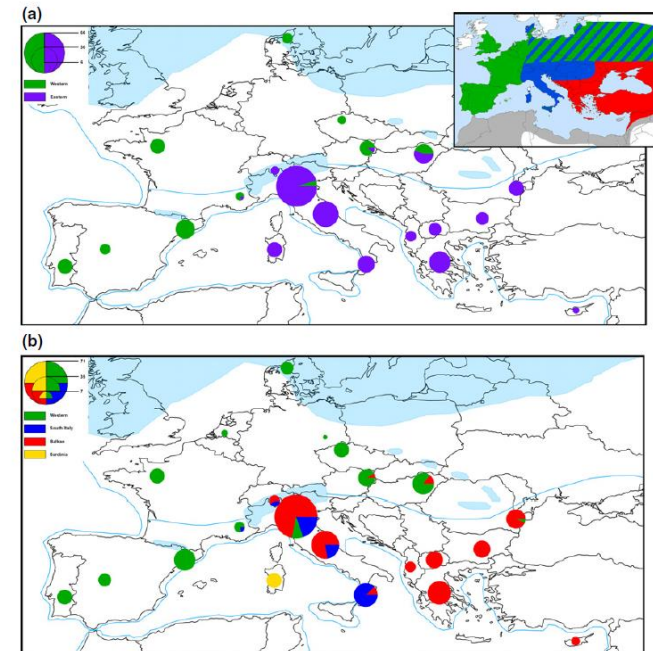


Figure 3. Putative subspecies distributions according to Cramp (1985) and Vaurie (1960) are shown on the top right: green: *Athene noctua vidalii*; blue: *Athene noctua noctua*; red: *Athene noctua indigena*. In the hatched area, Vaurie (1960) reports *A. n. noctua* and Cramp (1985) *A. n. vidalii*. In Cyprus, the literature suggests the presence of *Athene noctua lilith*. (a) COI haplogroups distribution at sampled sites. Pie charts represent the proportion of individuals in the western and eastern clades, respectively. (b) CR1 haplogroup distribution. Pie charts represent the proportion of individuals in each of the four clades recovered. The shaded area indicates the extension of ice sheets during the last glacial maximum (redrawn from Taberlet *et al.* 1998): lowered seashore is depicted by a thinner line at the 100-m submarine contour. A full colour version of this figure is available at *Ibis* online.

A.n.impasta

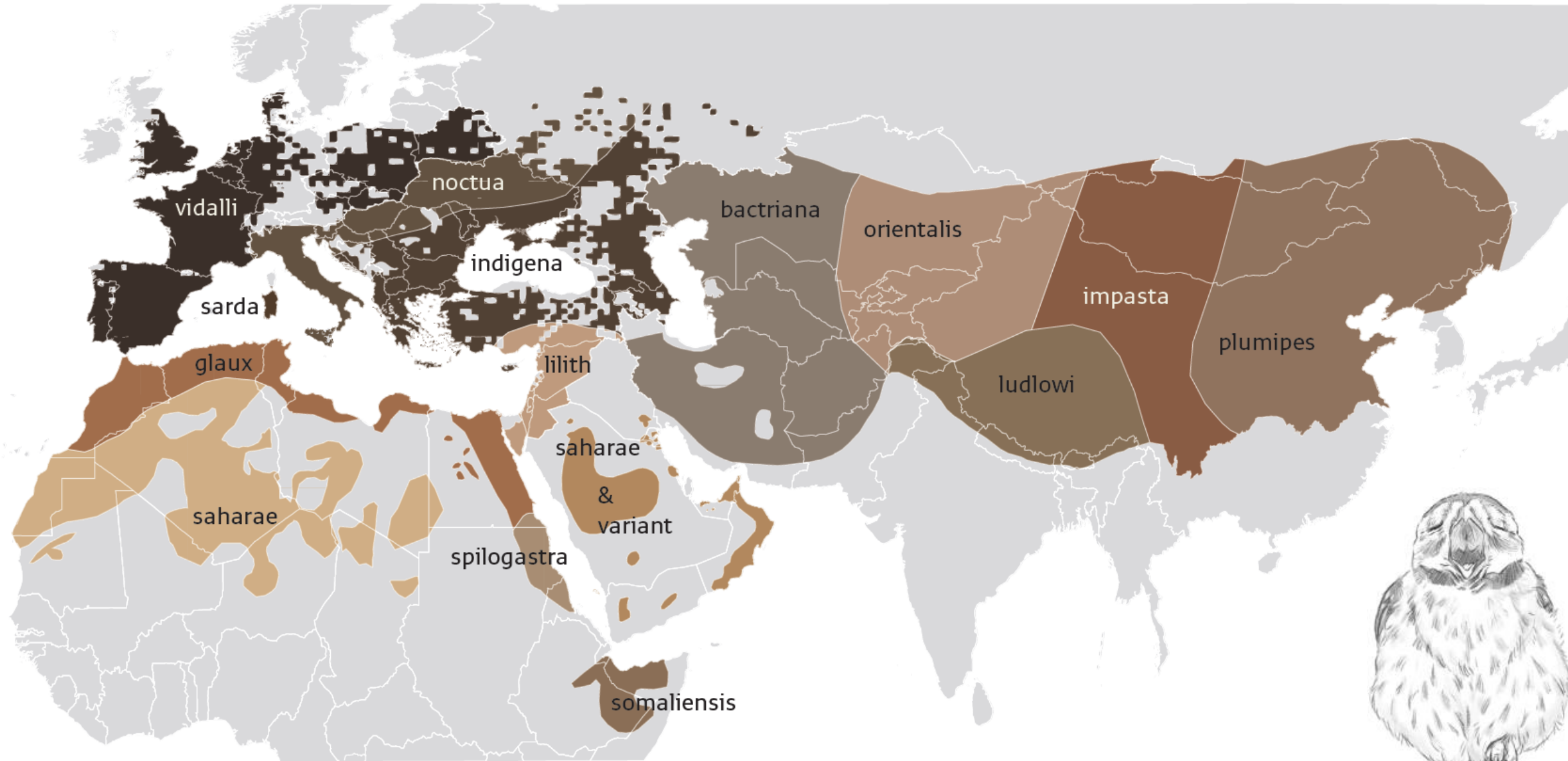


26 x 30 cm

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The Little Owl

L'étude de la variante arabe du *A.n.lillith*, semblable au *A.n.glaux*, reste à étudier

PLATE 12

SUBSPECIES OF *ATHENE NOCTUA*

PLATE 02

RARE PLUMAGE OF *ATHENE NOCTUA*



lillith



Arabian variation



partly leucistic



leucistic



glaux



saharae



melanistic

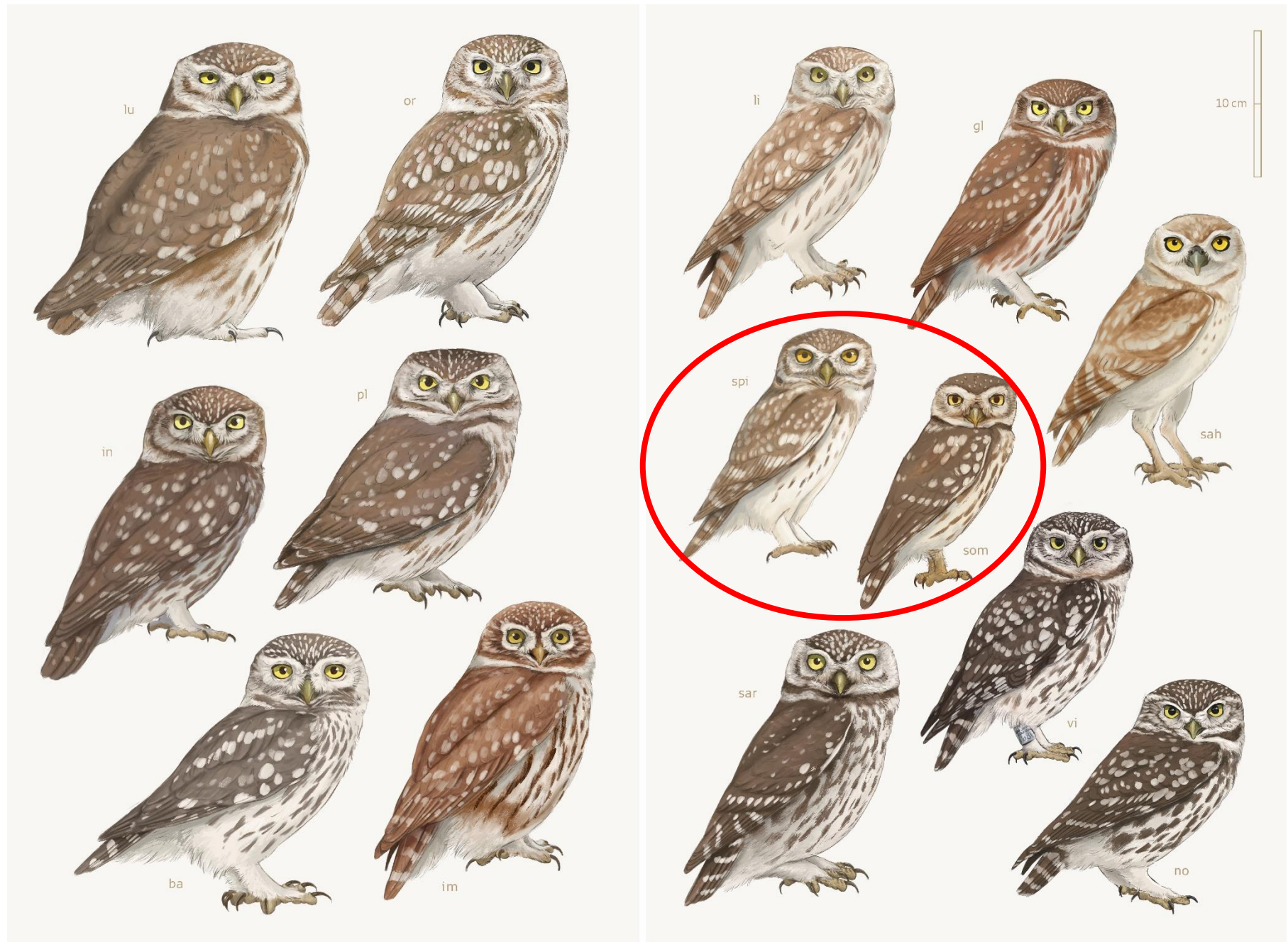


normal (*vidalii*)



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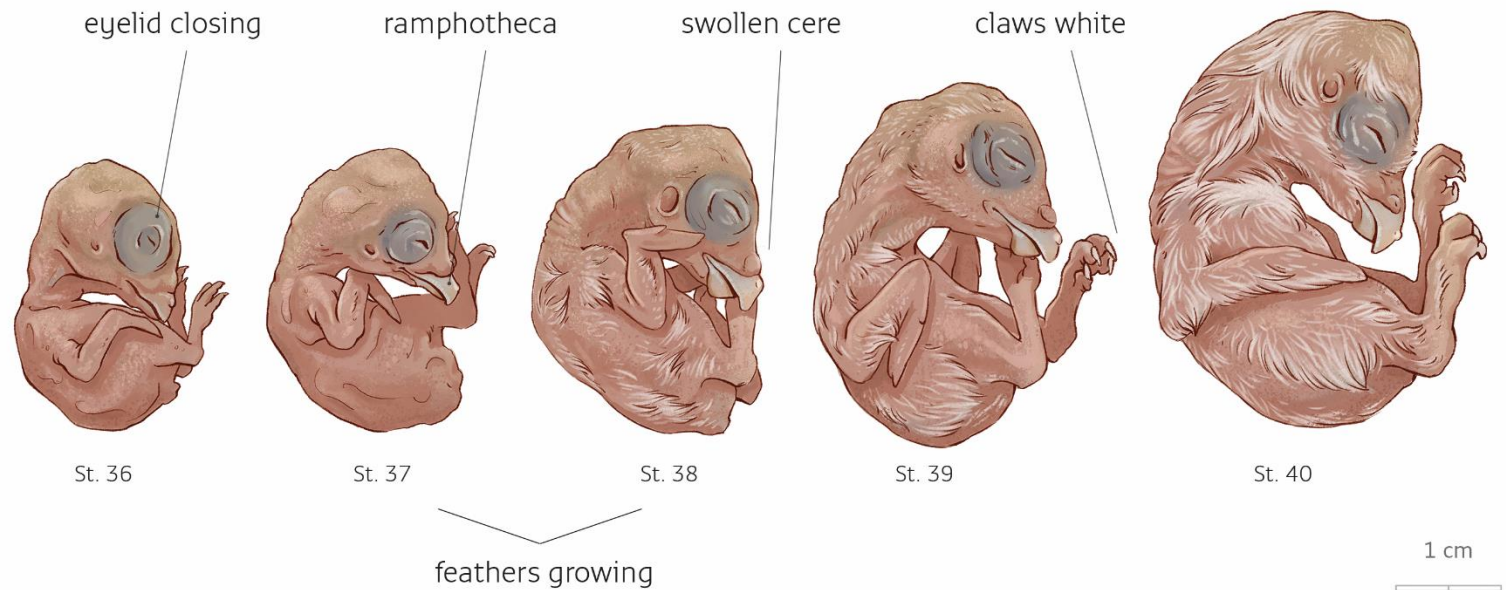
Division suggérée d'*A. spilogastra* en Éthiopie et au Somaliland avec deux sous-espèces *A. s. spilogastra* et *A. s. somaliensis*) reste à étudier.





Embryologie

The Little Owl



- Les oreilles asymétriques disparaissent deux jours avant l'éclosion



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The Little Owl

Morphologie



Day 0 - Still wet hatching



Day 1



Day 18



Day 23



Day 5



Day 7



Day 29



Day 31



Day 9



Day 14



Day 38



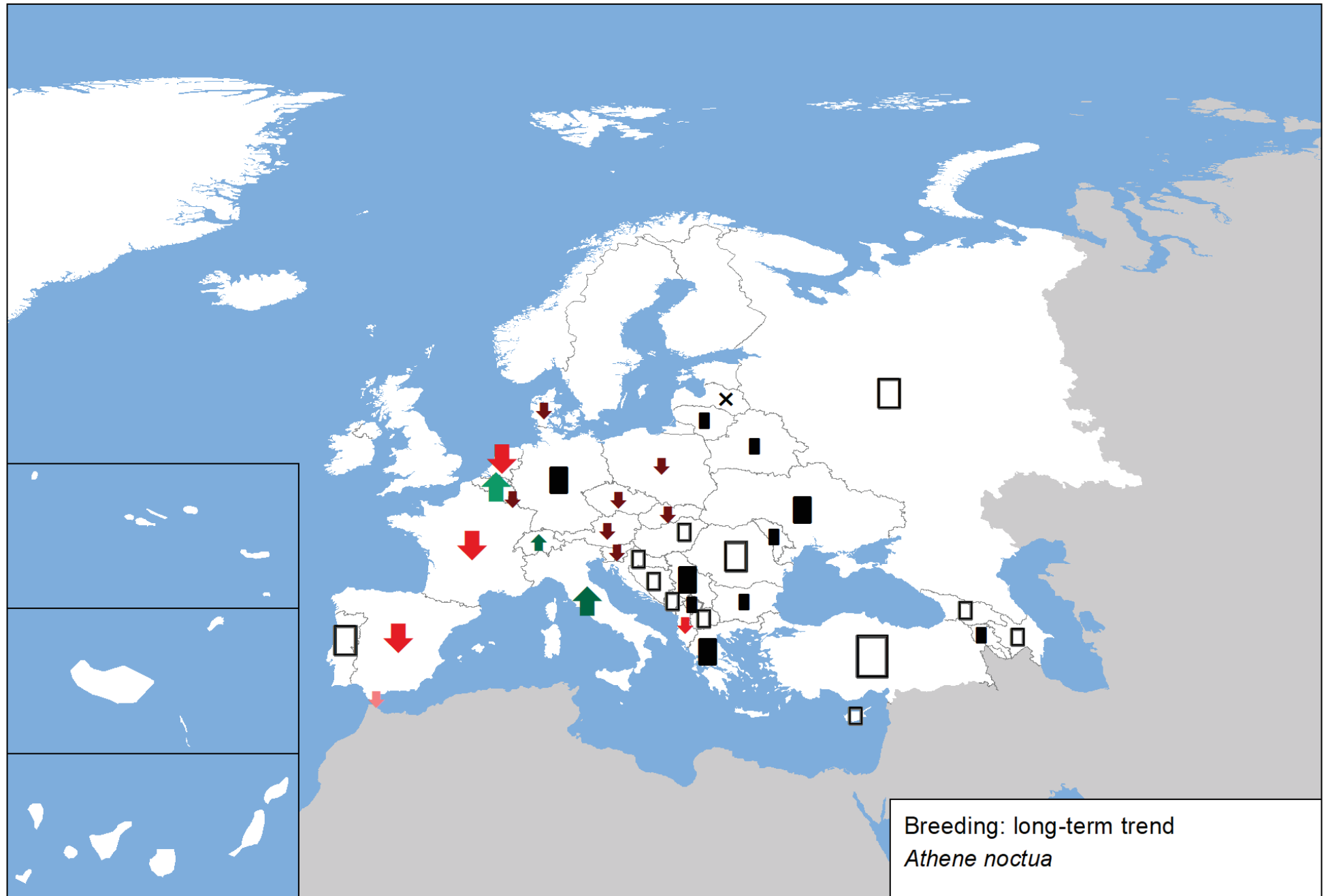
Adult





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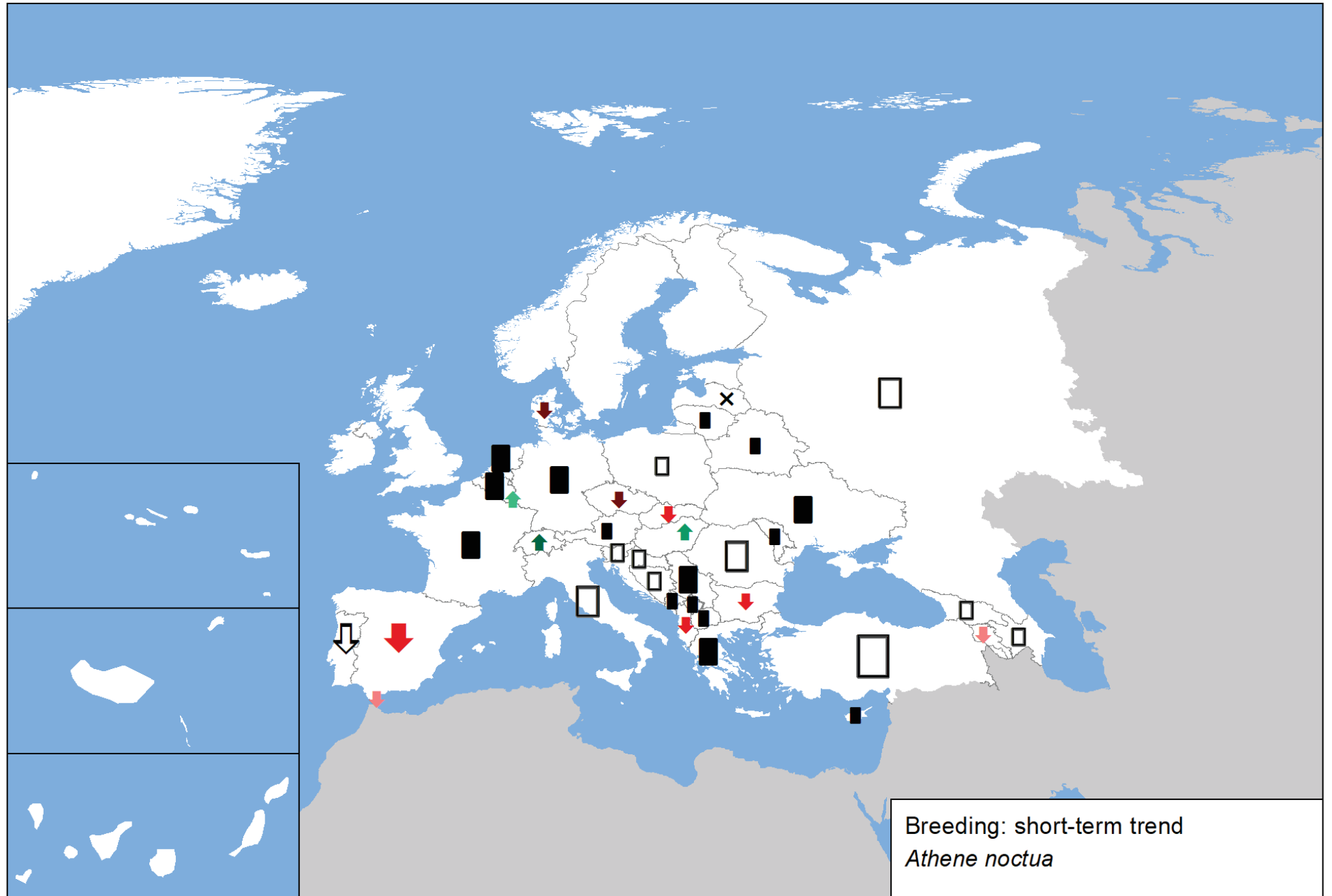
Figure 5.6
Taille des populations reproductrices et tendances à long terme en Europe (BirdLife International 2015).





The Little Owl

Figure 5.5
Taille des
populations
reproductrices
et tendances à
court terme
Europe
(BirdLife
International
2015).





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EBBA2

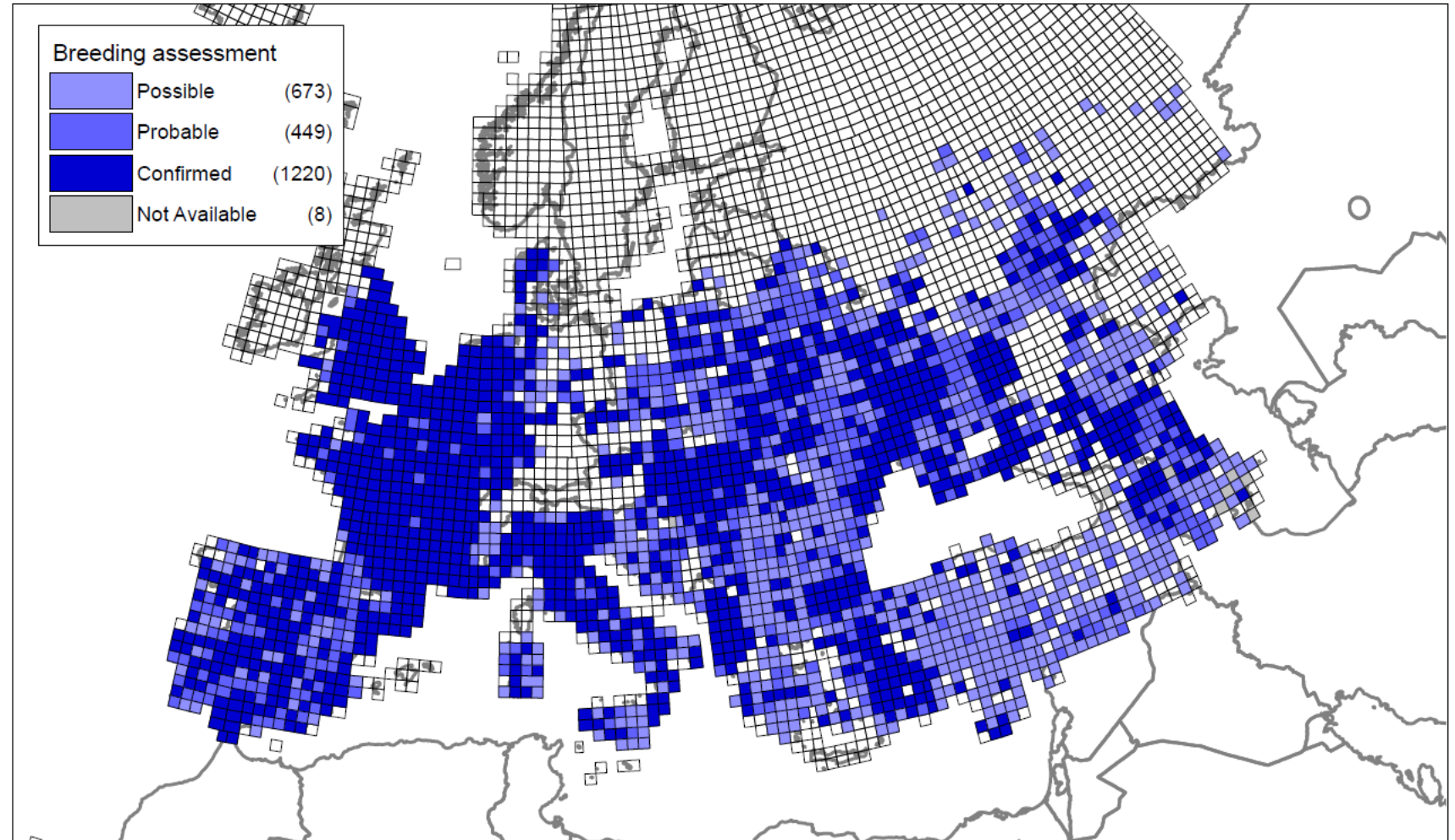


Figure 5.2 Répartition européenne de la Chouette chevêche dans des cellules de grille de 50 à 50 km (d'après Keller et al. 2020).(A) Preuve de reproduction.



The Little Owl

EBBA2

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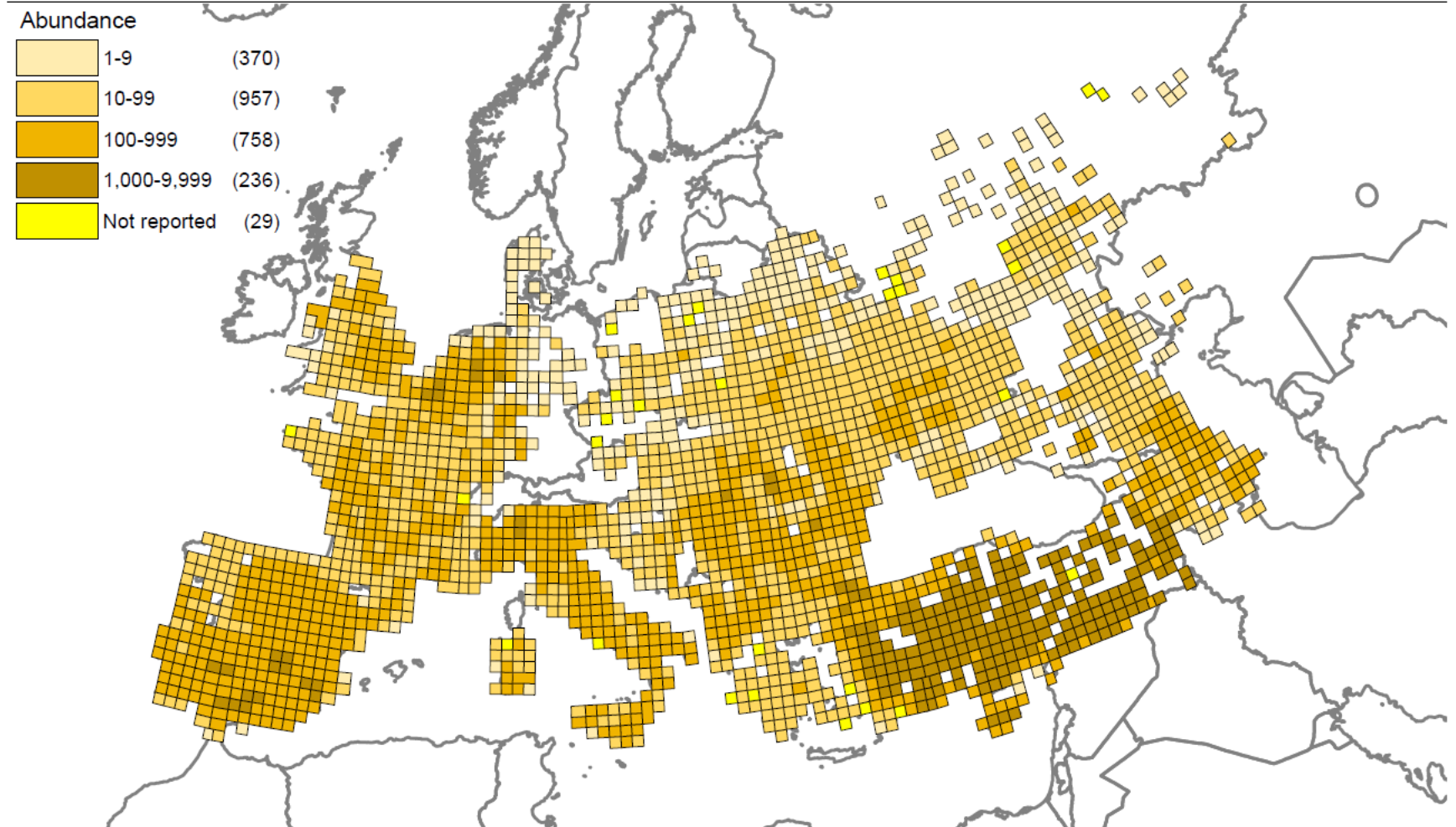


Figure 5.2 Répartition européenne de la Chouette chevêche dans des cellules de grille de 50 à 50 km (d'après Keller et al. 2020). (B) Abundance.



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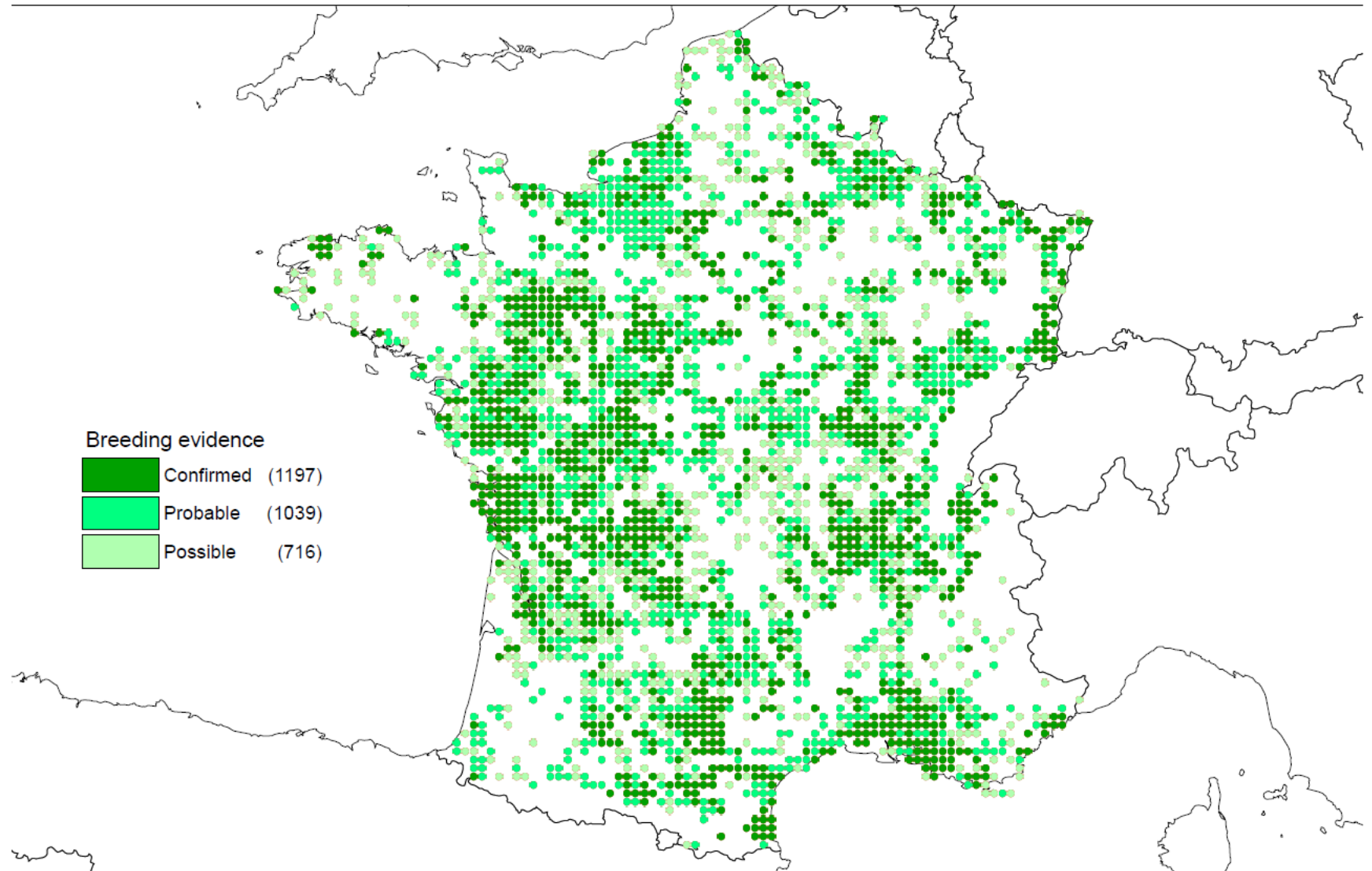


Figure 5.21 Répartition de la Chouette chevêche en France 2005–2012 (d'après Issa and Muller 2015).

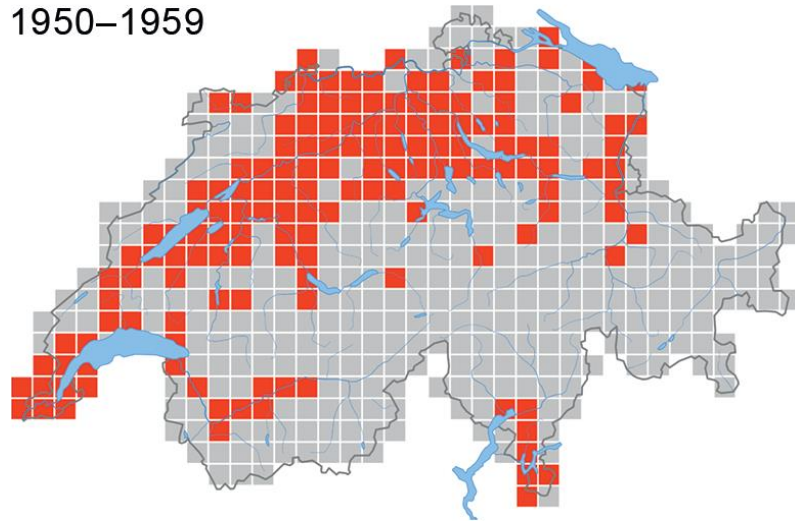


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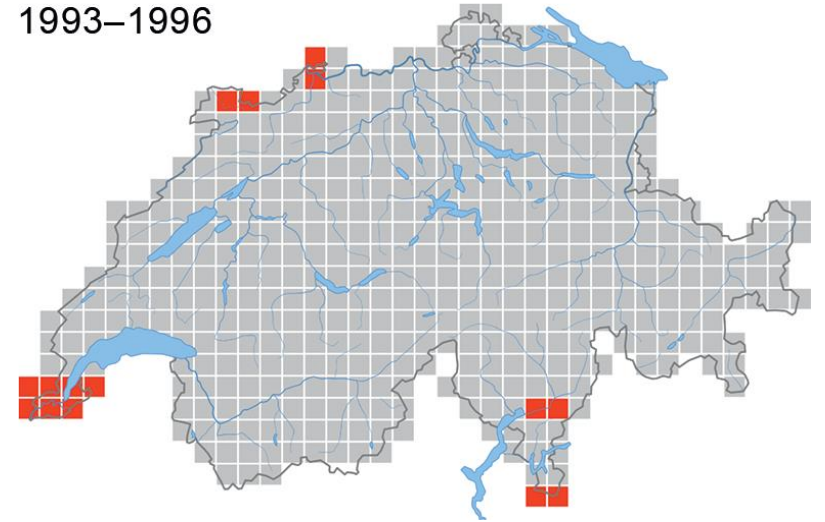
The Little Owl

Figure 5.27 Répartition de la Chouette chevêche en Suisse de 1950 à 1959, de 1972 à 1976, de 1993 à 1996 et de 2013 à 2016 d'après Knaus et al. 2018. Reproduit avec l'autorisation de Vogelwarte, Sempach, Switzerland. www.vogelwarte.ch.

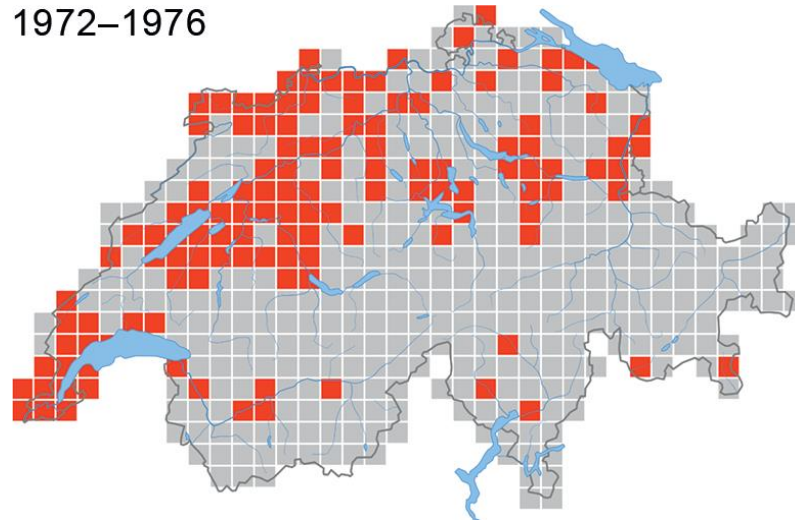
1950–1959



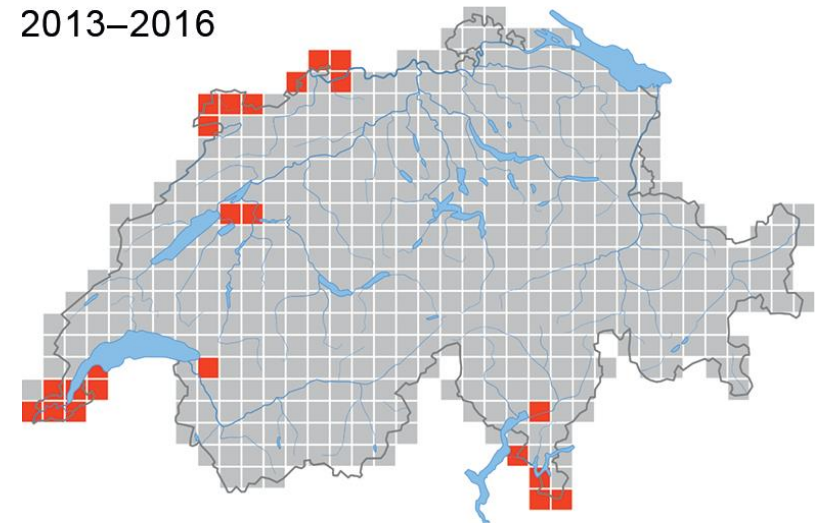
1993–1996



1972–1976



2013–2016





The Little Owl

Comportement

- Vivez le printemps!
 - Mouvements entrants et sortants n=17 saisons
 - Ensemble de données exceptionnel n = 34 916 éléments de proie

Actueel Winkel Zeist Webshop **WORD LID**

Ontdek vogels ▾ In mijn tuin ▾ Help mee ▾ Bescherming ▾ Contact ▾

Home

Beleef de Lente

Vogelbescherming NEDERLAND

Nourriture





The Little Owl



Sélection de l'habitat

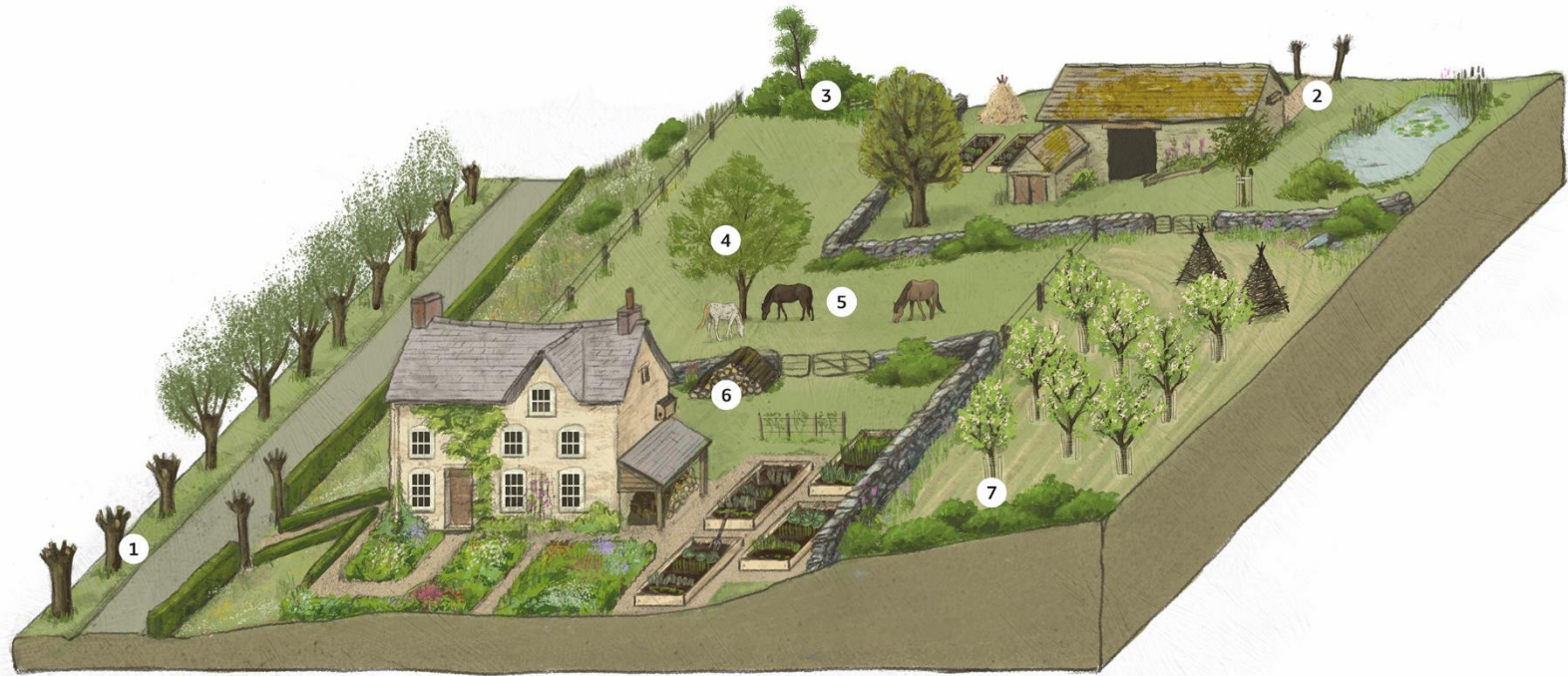
- Différentes échelles spatiales (Apolloni et al. 2018)
 - Près du nid
 - Zone de chasse
 - Paysage environnant
- Modèles multi-échelles
 - Différentes échelles combinées dans un seul modèle (Fattebert et al. 2018)
- Comparaisons transfrontalières
 - Suisse versus Bavière (Tschumi et al. 2020)
- Impact proactif de l'évaluation de la remembrement réattribution des terres
 - Belgique - Gooik (Onckelinx & Everaert, 2018)



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Gestion & Conservation UK

The Little Owl

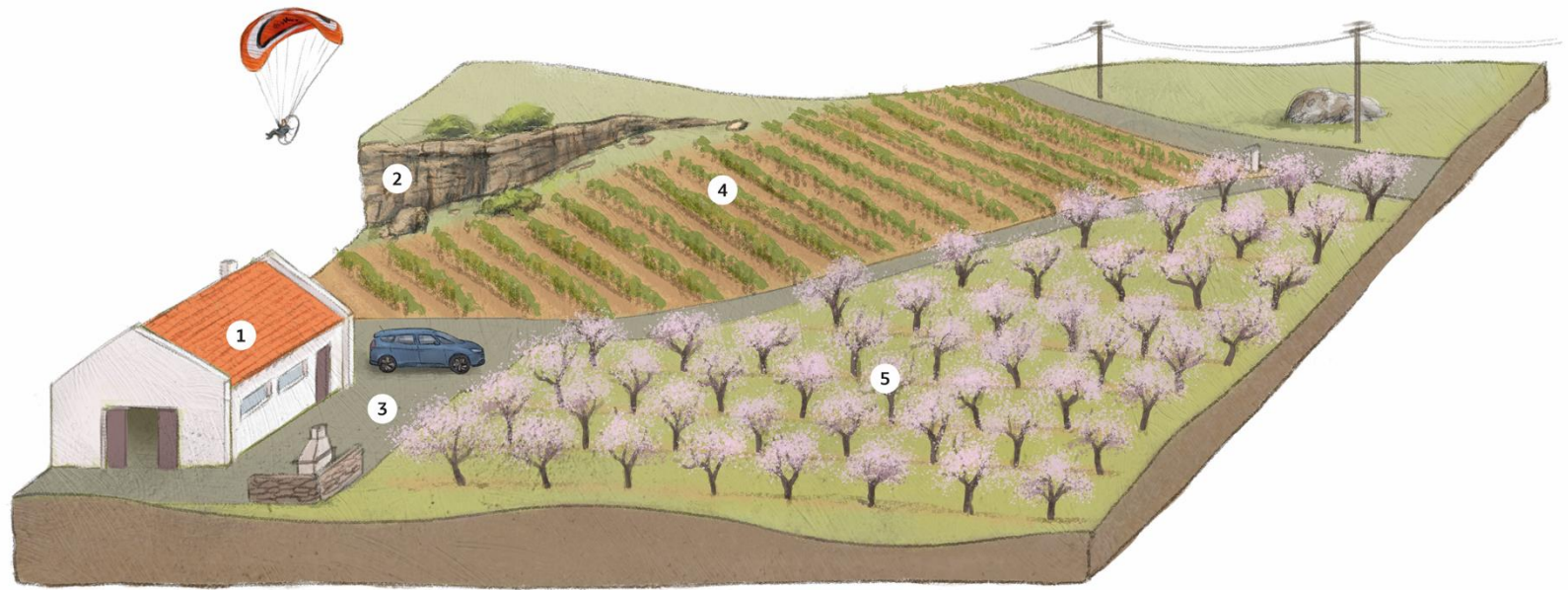




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Gestion & Conservation Portugal

The Little Owl





Baguage/Reprise

The Little Owl

- 108.000 observations
- Depuis 1910
- Dispersion des oisillons
- Dispersion of adultes



EURING

The European Union for Bird Ringing





The Little Owl

Les mâles recherchent un territoire le plus vite que possible

Les femelles recherchent un partenaire avec un territoire

Distances de dispersion

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Table 10.9 Adult dispersal distances in km of dead and recovered Little Owls based upon the EURING Data Bank ring recovery database

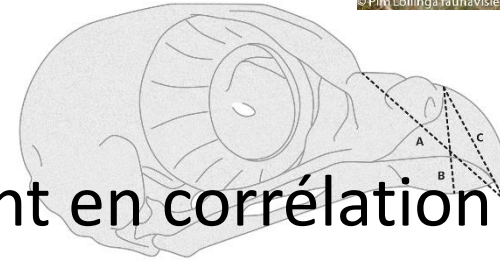
Sex	Ringed as	Found Dead or Alive	Time after ringing	n	Distance in km									
					Mean	Min	Max	SD	Range	Q25	Median	Q75	Percentile	
												99.99	99.95	
Adult dispersal distances ≥ 0 km														
Female	Adult	Alive	>1 year	2057	2.33	0	179	8.87	179	0	0	2	179	113
Female	Adult	Alive	First year	634	1.40	0	117	5.77	117	0	0	0	117	117
Female	Adult	Dead	>1 year	373	5.56	0	442	26.92	442	0	2	3	442	442
Female	Adult	Dead	First year	150	5.02	0	178	19.68	178	0	0	3	178	178
Male	Adult	Alive	>1 year	388	2.45	0	112	10.13	112	0	0	2	112	112
Male	Adult	Alive	First year	195	0.97	0	25	2.73	25	0	0	0	25	25
Male	Adult	Dead	First year	55	3.40	0	59	9.50	59	0	0	3	59	59
Male	Adult	Dead	>1 year	92	5.59	0	86	13.33	86	0	2	3.5	86	86
Unknown	Adult	Alive	>1 year	2815	2.42	0	319	13.82	319	0	0	0	319	266
Unknown	Adult	Alive	First year	1404	2.66	0	285	14.73	285	0	0	0	285	285
Unknown	Adult	Dead	>1 year	721	8.65	0	332	25.93	332	0	2	6	332	332
Unknown	Adult	Dead	First year	722	8.11	0	262	24.94	262	0	2	6	262	262
Adult dispersal distances > 0 km														
Female	Adult	Alive	>1 year	498	7.15	2	113	13.28	111	2	3	6	113	113
Female	Adult	Alive	First year	141	6.04	2	117	10.96	115	2	3	6	117	117
Female	Adult	Dead	>1 year	139	13.21	2	442	42.96	440	2	3	8	442	442
Female	Adult	Dead	First year	61	12.08	2	178	29.59	176	2	4	7	178	178
Male	Adult	Alive	>1 year	110	6.55	2	92	14.60	90	2	3	4	92	92
Male	Adult	Alive	First year	43	4.35	2	25	4.40	23	2	3	5	25	25
Male	Adult	Dead	First year	21	6.10	2	29	7.89	27	2	3	5	29	29
Male	Adult	Dead	>1 year	32	12.31	2	86	19.62	84	3	5	9	86	86
Unknown	Adult	Alive	>1 year	474	12.05	2	319	30.75	317	2	3	7	319	319
Unknown	Adult	Alive	First year	280	13.15	2	285	30.85	283	2	4	11	285	285
Unknown	Adult	Dead	> 1 year	321	18.56	2	332	36.36	330	3	6	15	332	332
Unknown	Adult	Dead	First year	385	15.20	2	262	32.56	260	3	6	13	262	262

du Feu et al. 2016. Data is grouped by sex, either alive or dead at the last observation within or over one year after ringing as an adult bird (real age unknown)



The Little Owl

Expériences contrôlées



- Les becs plus jaunes des femelles adultes sont en corrélation avec les oisillons plus lourds (Aviles et al. 2012).
- Plus les oisillons ont de becs jaunes, plus ils reçoivent de nourriture (Aviles et al. 2012).
- Les oisillons femelles reçoivent plus de nourriture que les oisillons mâles (Tschumi et al. 2019).
- Probabilité de prédation anticipée lors de la sélection du site de nidification
 - Couleuvre de Montpellier (Parejo et al. 2018)

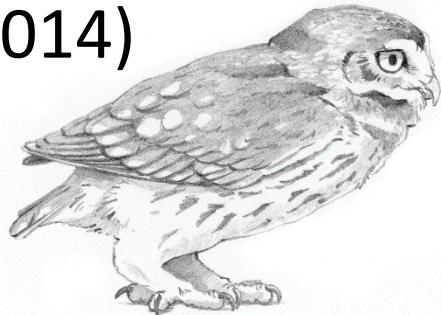




Expériences contrôlées

The Little Owl

- Expériences de supplémentation alimentaire (Thorup et al. 2010, Perrig et al. 2014, Gruebler et al. 2018))
- Echange partiel des oisillons (Perrig et al. 2014)
 - Pour contrôler les facteurs intrinsèques
- Nichées synchrones avec ou sans nourriture supplémentaire (Perrig et al. 2014)







Recherche multidisciplinaire

The Little Owl

- Relation entre la qualité de l'habitat et le succès de reproduction
 - Importance des sites de repos
 - Et de la prédation sur la qualité de l'habitat (Michel et al. 2016)
- L'hétérogénéité du paysage est essentielle (Michel et al. 2017)
- Meilleures informations sur les paramètres démographiques
 - Immigration/Émigration (Bock et al. 2013)





Priorités de recherche

The Little Owl

- Réplication des expériences
- Coaching en méthodologie/statistiques
- Approche multidisciplinaire
- Recherche transfrontalière
- L'IA dans la reconnaissance des proies
- L'IA dans la classification des oiseaux en peluche
- RFID
- Application des connaissances en gestion
- Expansion géographique de la recherche



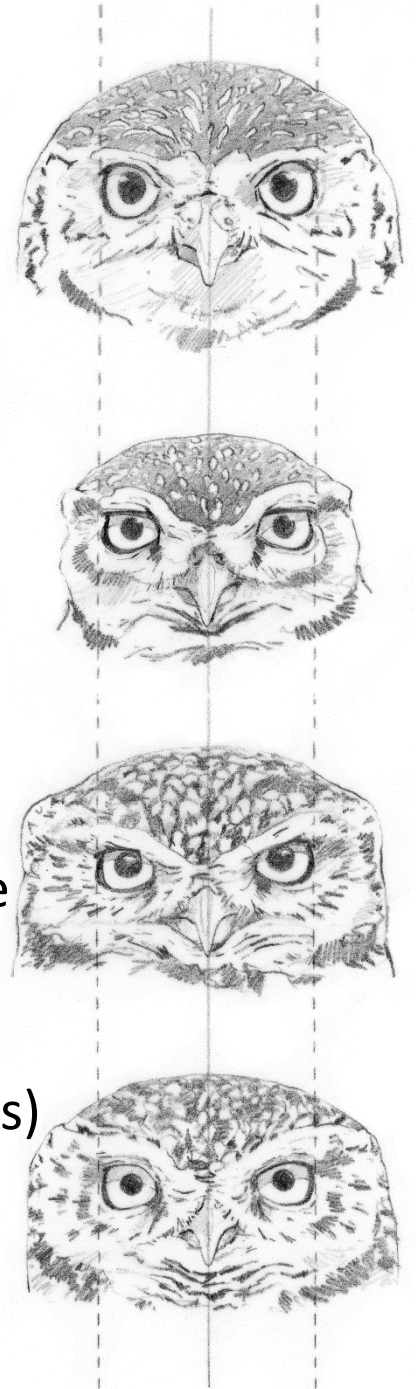
Figure 4.3. Feeding



Citizen Science

The Little Owl

- Prendre des photos standardisées des becs
- Photos de forme de tête mâle/femelle
- Pourcentage d'immigrants bagués/non bagués (démographie/source/sink)
- Inventaire des sites de repos
- Expérimentez avec l'ajout ou non de nichoirs supplémentaires comme site de repos
- Expérimenter l'impact possible des latrines de la fouine (avec ou sans)
- Complément alimentaire (compromis entre les distances et la taille des proies)
- Réplication des recherches sur les relations entre Hulotte/Chevêche

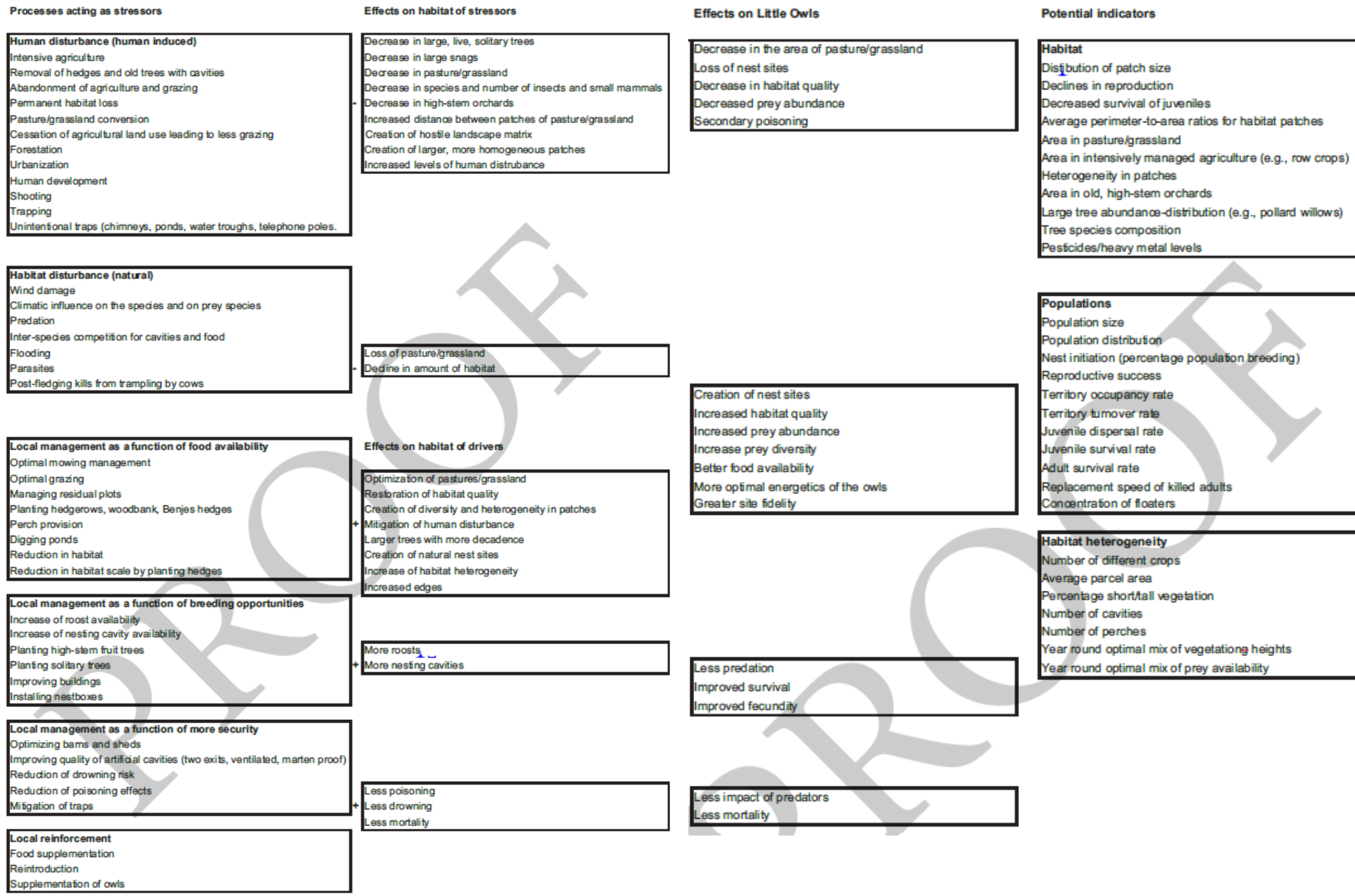




The Little Owl

Conservation
domaine
vital

Figure 11.7 Modèle conceptuel des effets des facteurs de stress et des facteurs naturels et anthropiques sur la Chouette chevêche à l'échelle du domaine vital





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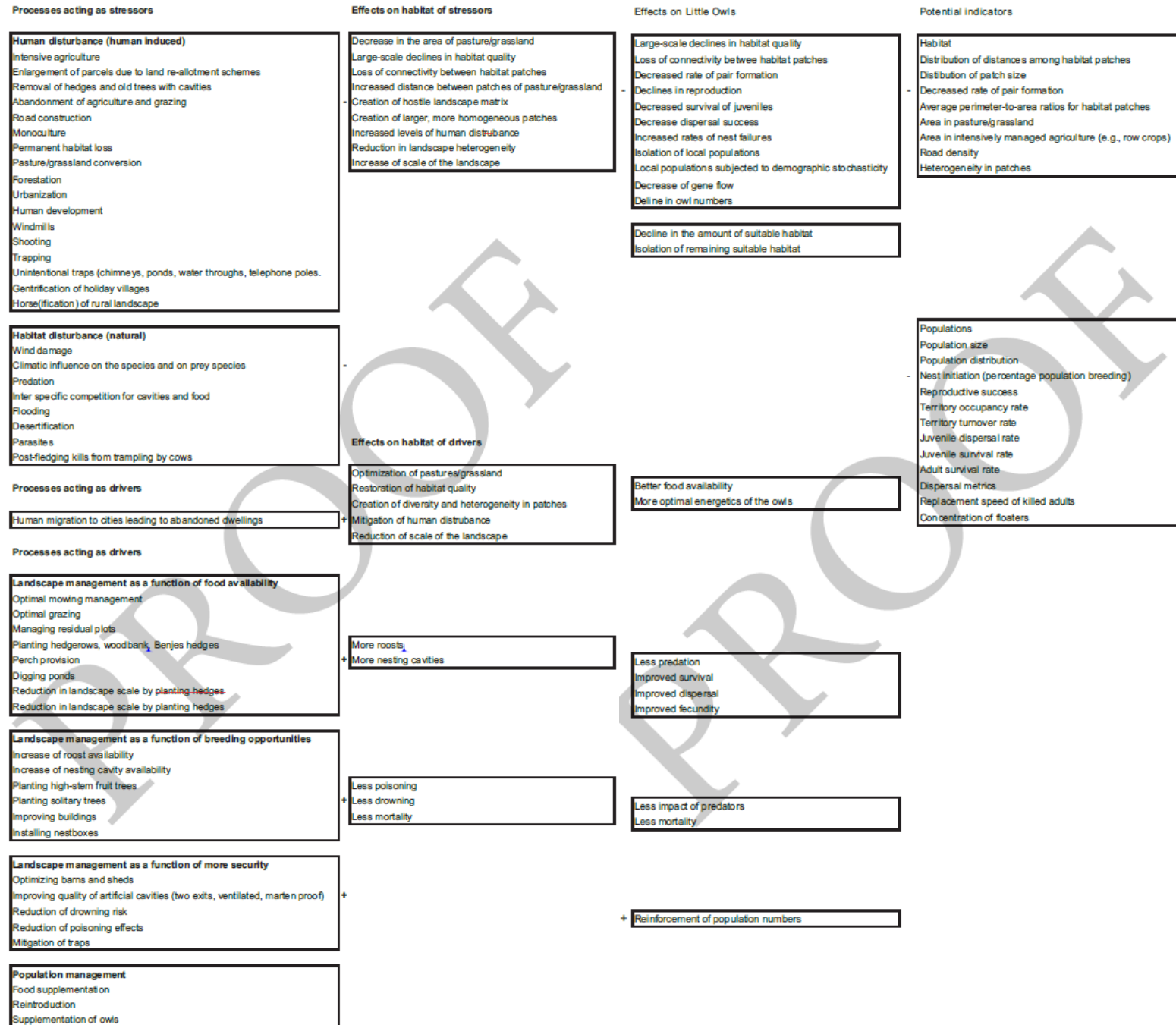
The Little Owl

Conservation à l'échelle du paysage

Figure 11.8

Modèle

conceptuel des effets des facteurs de stress naturels et anthropiques sur la Chouette chevêche à l'échelle du paysage.





Conclusion

The Little Owl

- Explosion de la littérature
- Excellente coopération avec EBBA, BirdLife, BTO et les équipes nationales pour utiliser leurs excellentes données et informations standardisées
- Regroupement de nombreuses informations
- Utilisation maximale des données existants (images et vocalisations - géocodés et horodatés)
- Illustrations de haute qualité et standardisées
- **Merci à tous ces bénévoles qui ont contribué**



Figure 4.3. Chicks

THE LITTLE OWL

Population dynamics, Behavior and Management of *Athene noctua*

Understanding of the basic biology of owls is poor compared to that of other bird species. The Little Owl, *Athene noctua*, has become one of the best models for biological and conservation research, due to its commonness and the fact that it occupies nest-boxes very easily. In this unique book the authors synthesise the substantial literature, and detail current information regarding the Little Owl. They discuss its wide-ranging ecology, genetics and subspecies and population status by country. In addition, they outline a strategy and monitoring program for its conservation. The book features an outstanding bibliography of literature on the Little Owl, listing publications dated from 1769 to the present day, in many languages, including Russian, English, French, Dutch, German, Spanish and Italian. Whilst being an invaluable resource for academic researchers, its straightforward style holds undoubted appeal for amateurs and enthusiasts.

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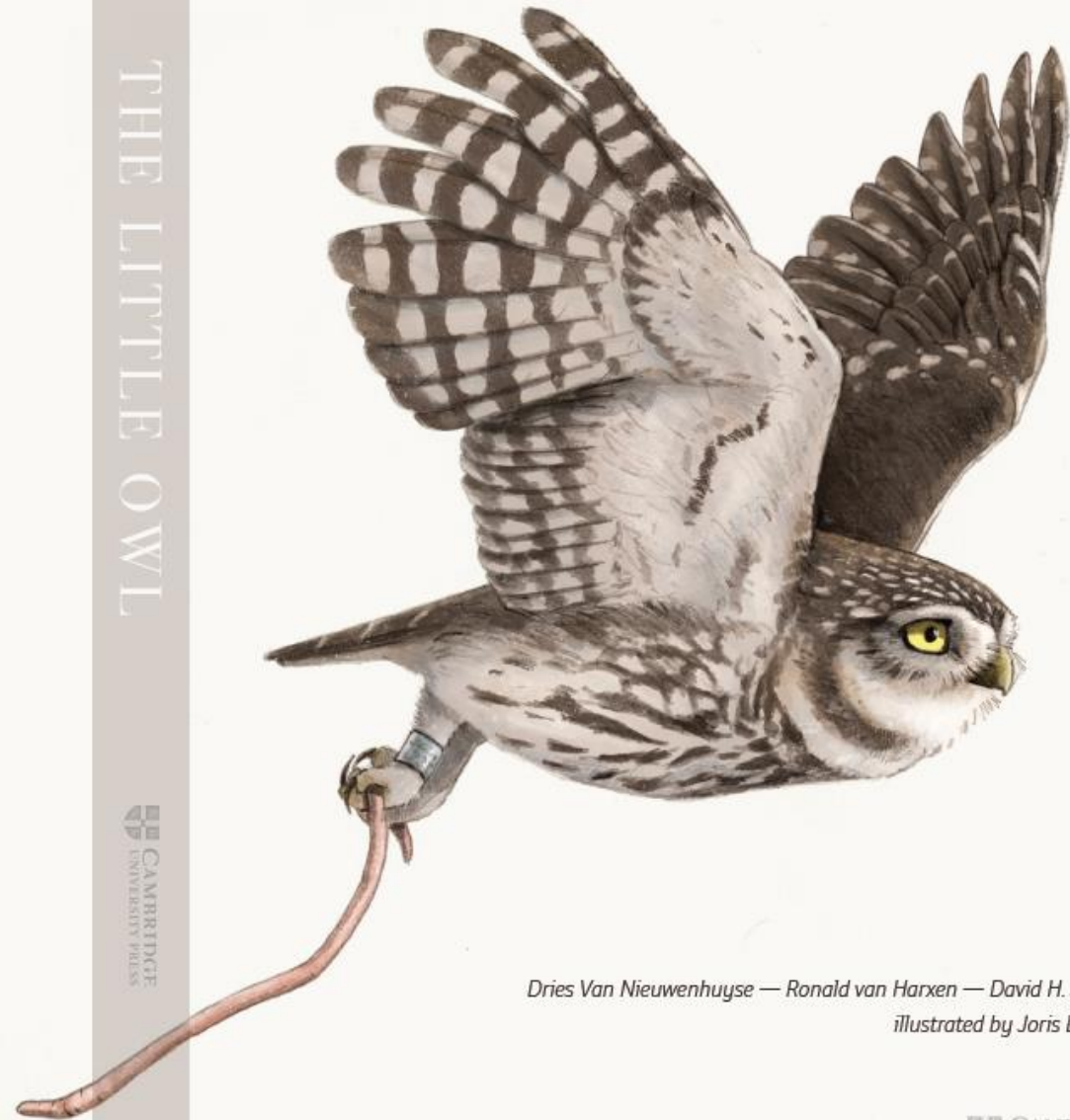


THE LITTLE OWL

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THE LITTLE OWL

Population dynamics, Behavior and Management of *Athene noctua*



Dries Van Nieuwenhuysse — Ronald van Harxen — David H. Johnson
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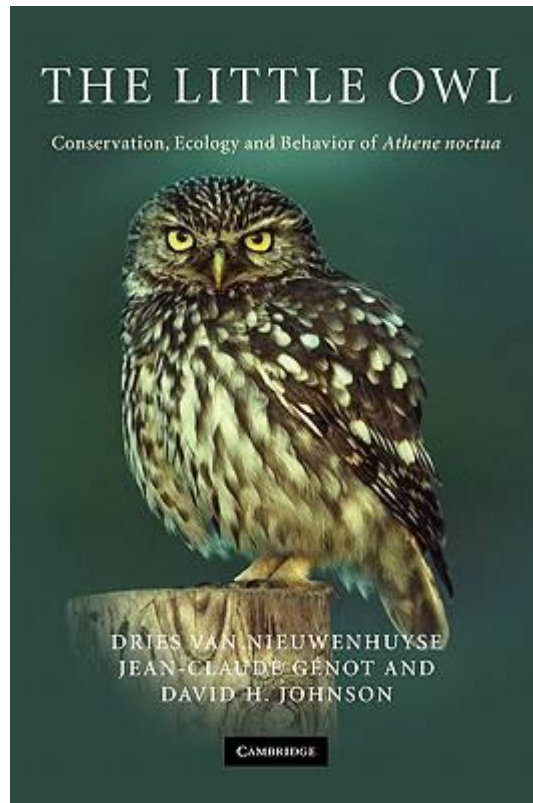


Figure 4.3. Courtship

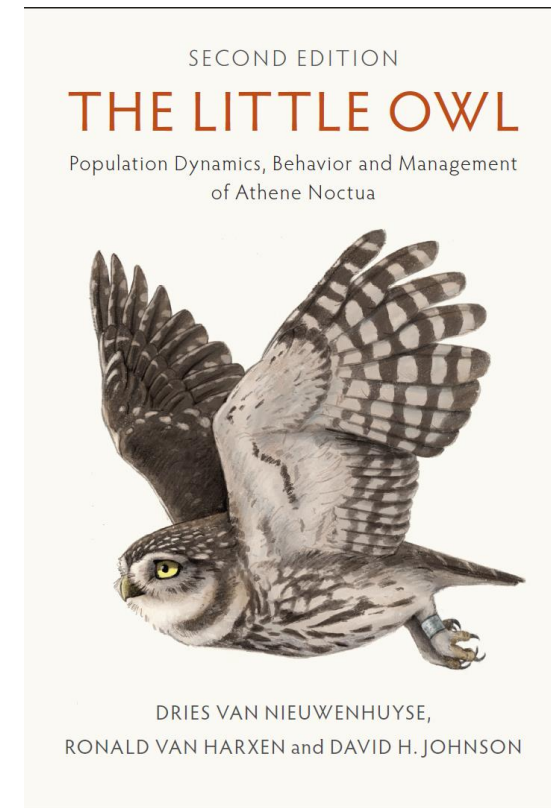


2008 versus 2022

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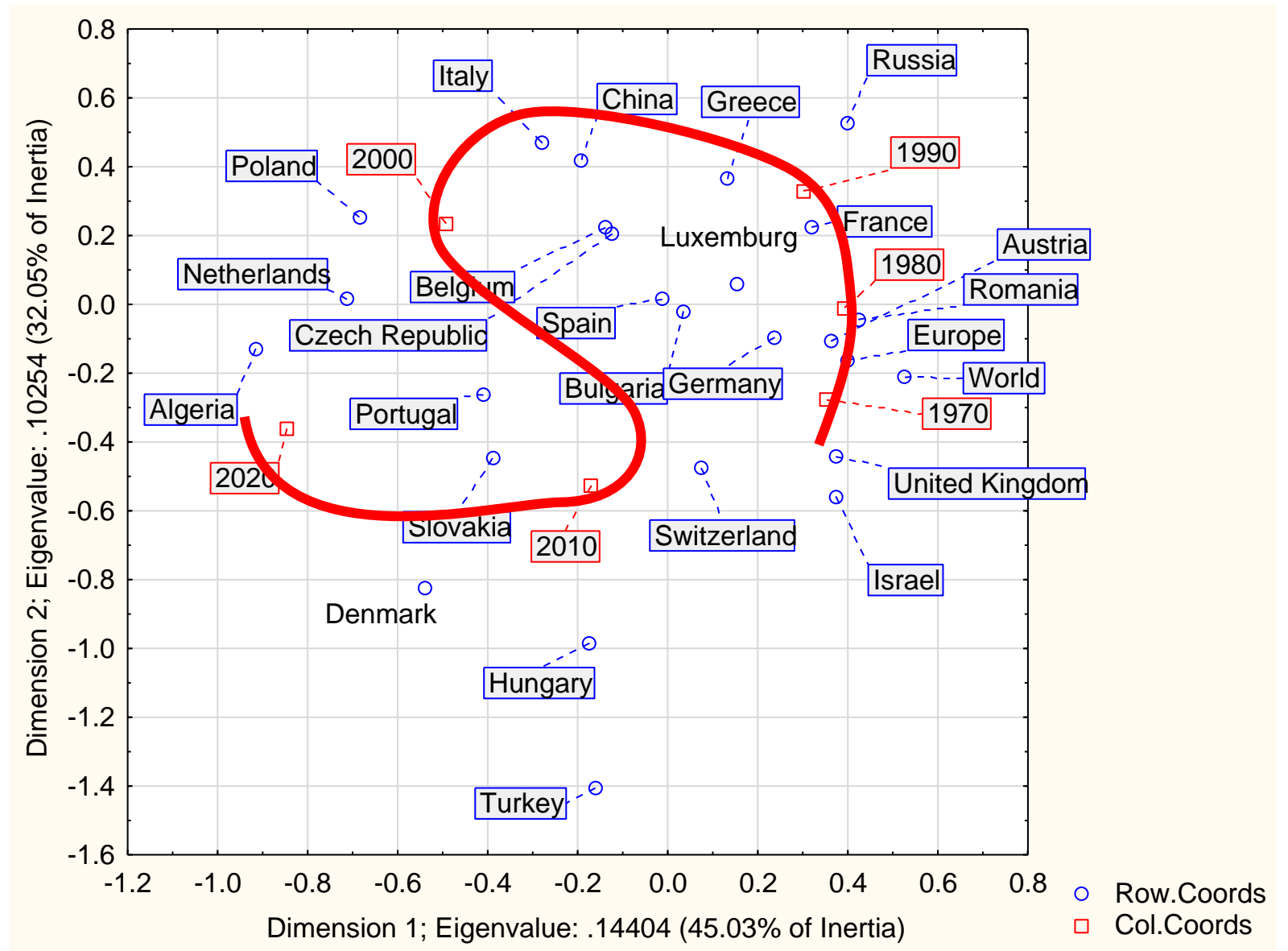


versus

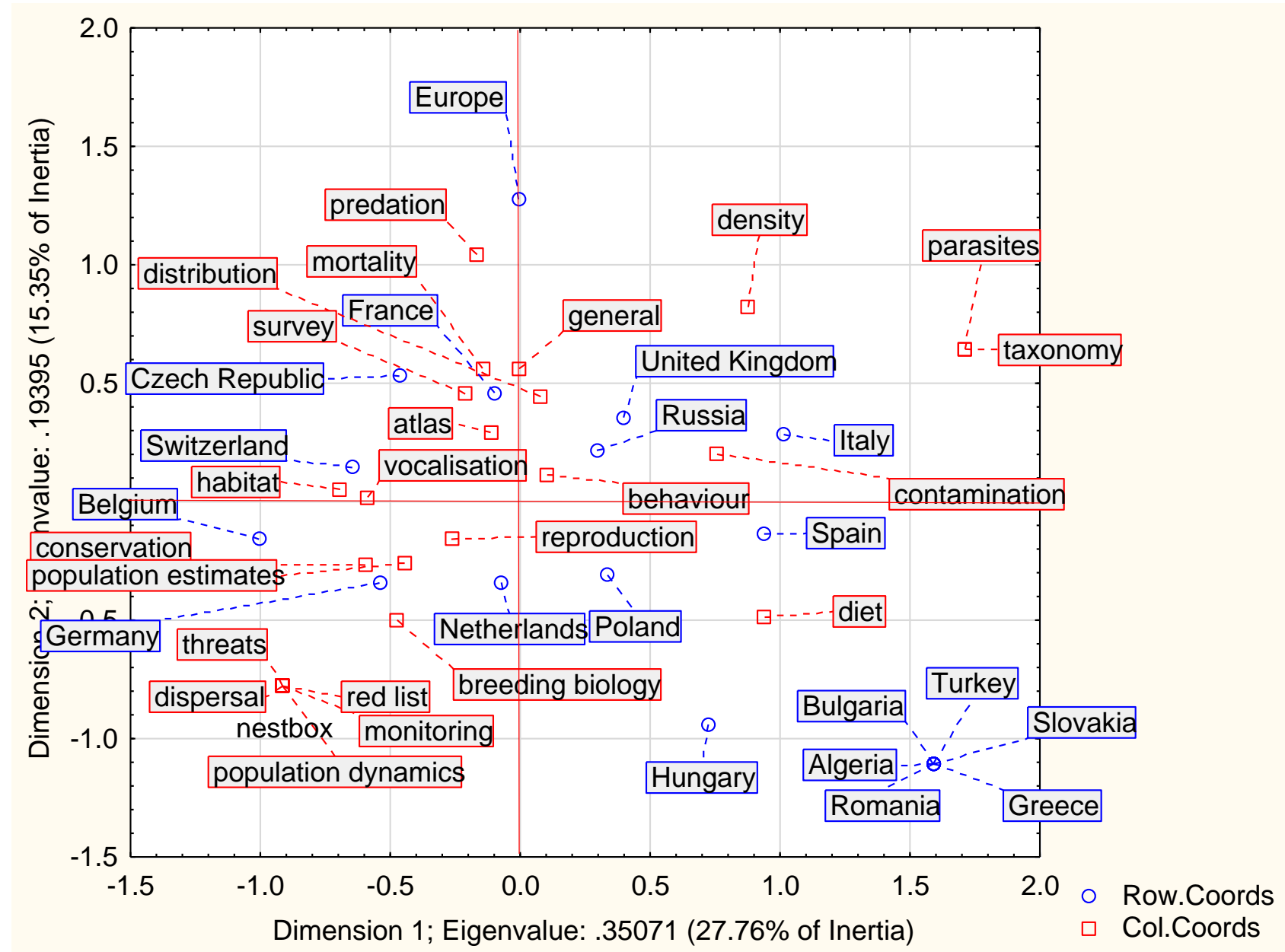




Littérature: Evolution des pays



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