

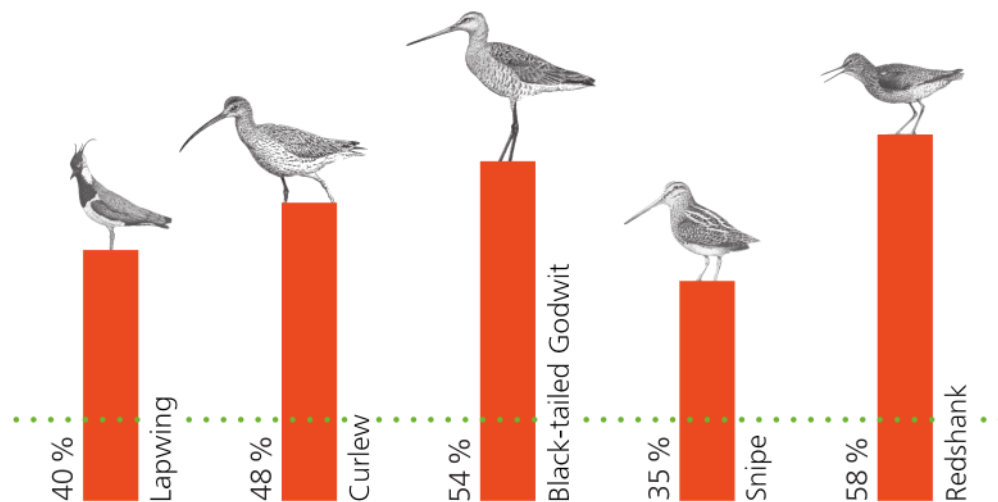
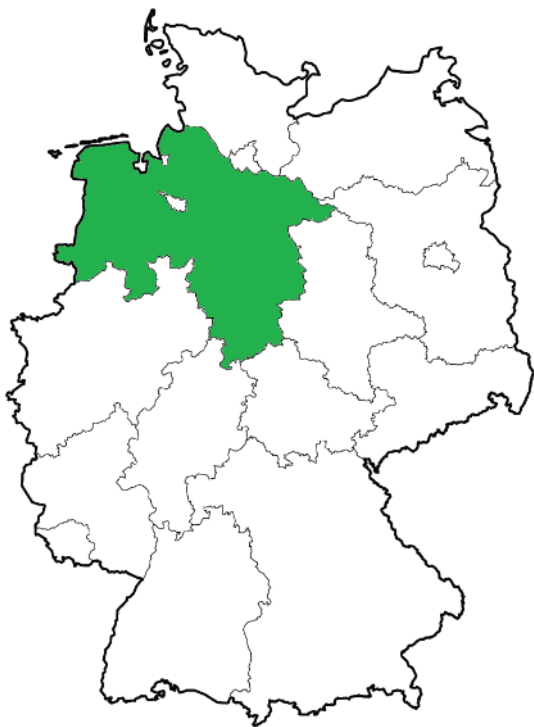
LIFE IP GRASSBIRDHABITATS

Conservation at the regional level – Lower Saxony, Germany

Heinrich Belting

Lower Saxony Water Management, Coastal Defense and Nature Conservation Agency

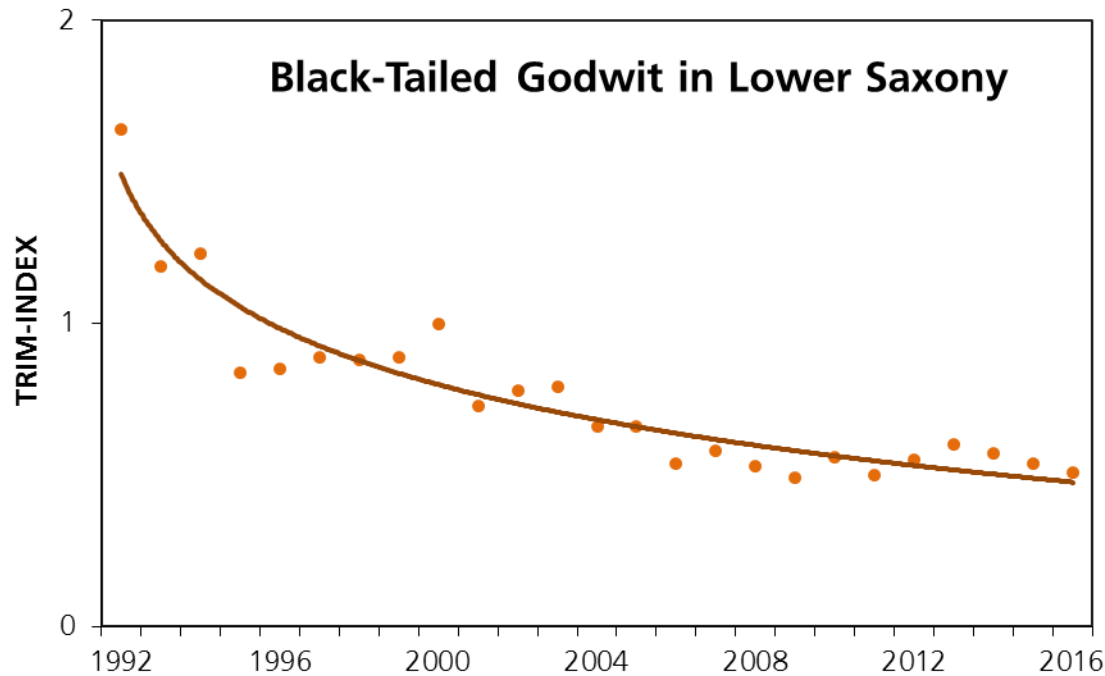
Responsibility of Lower Saxony



Proportions of breeding populations in Lower Saxony to the total populations in Germany.

Green line: area share of Lower Saxony in Germany (13 %).

GODWIT POPULATION DEVELOPMENT



1990–2016: -70 %

DUE TO CHANGE IN LAND USE



What did we learn in 30 years of grassland breeding bird conservation ?

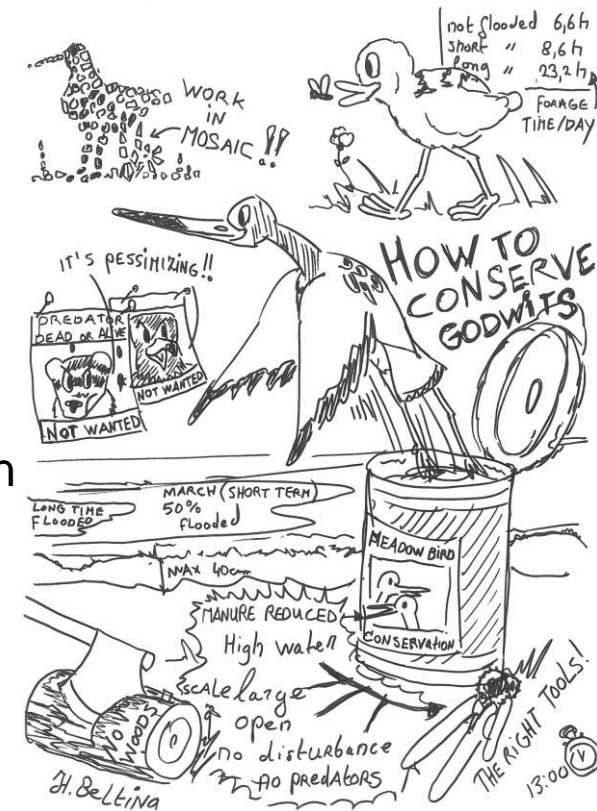
- Currently,
 - Agro-Environment Schemes
 - Nest- and Chick Protection
 - Designation of SPA
- - are not efficient at all

✓ **But, ...**

SUCCESSFUL GRASSLAND BIRD CONSERVATION

Congruently determined by:

- Large areas of wet grassland
- High openness, almost no vertical structures
- Low disturbance
- High watertables with temporarily flat-flooded sites
- Low or intermediate trophic level of soil
- Mowing and grazing compliant to nesting distribution
- Sufficient farming intensity for optimal vegetation structures
- High heterogeneity on landscape and parcel level
- Moderate predation
- Well organized guardianship and monitoring



Ysbrand Galama (09/2018)

All parameters need to be met

DÜMMER

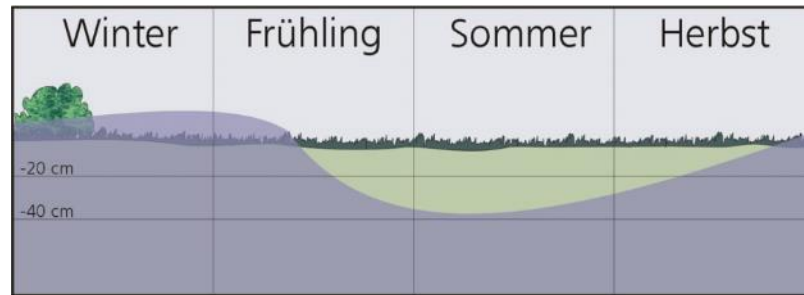
2.500 ha are purchased and optimized for grassland breeding birds



Panoramafoto: 08.03.2017

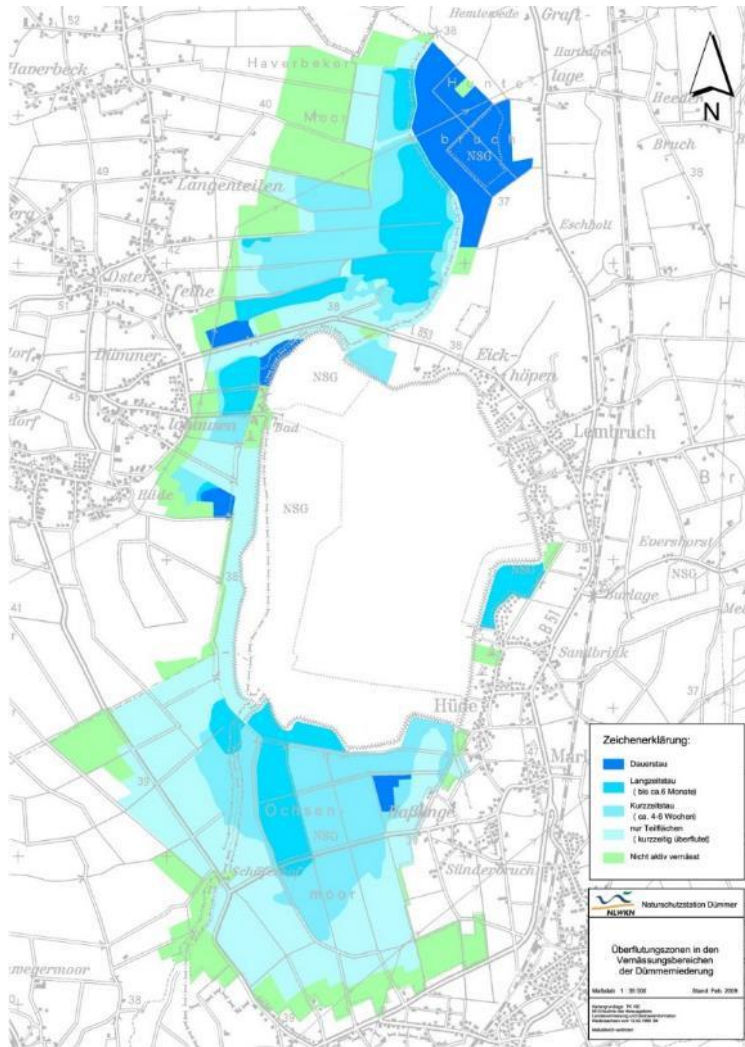
FLOODING OF FEN MEADOWS ...

... during winter season by adjustable weirs



Rewetted Grassland

Duration of flooding



+/- permanent

long term (2-6 months)

short term (app. 1 month)

without (only partly)

drained (private land)

FLOWERING MEADOWS ...

... after perennial flooding:



Marsh Marigold (*Caltha palustris*)



Lady's Smock
(*Cardamine pratensis*)

REPOPULATION

Over 10 disappeared breeding species came back:



Sedge Warbler (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*)

White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*)

Pintail (*Anas acuta*)

Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*)

Garganey (*Anas querquedula*)

Spotted Crake (*Porzana porzana*)

Corncrake (*Crex crex*)

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*)

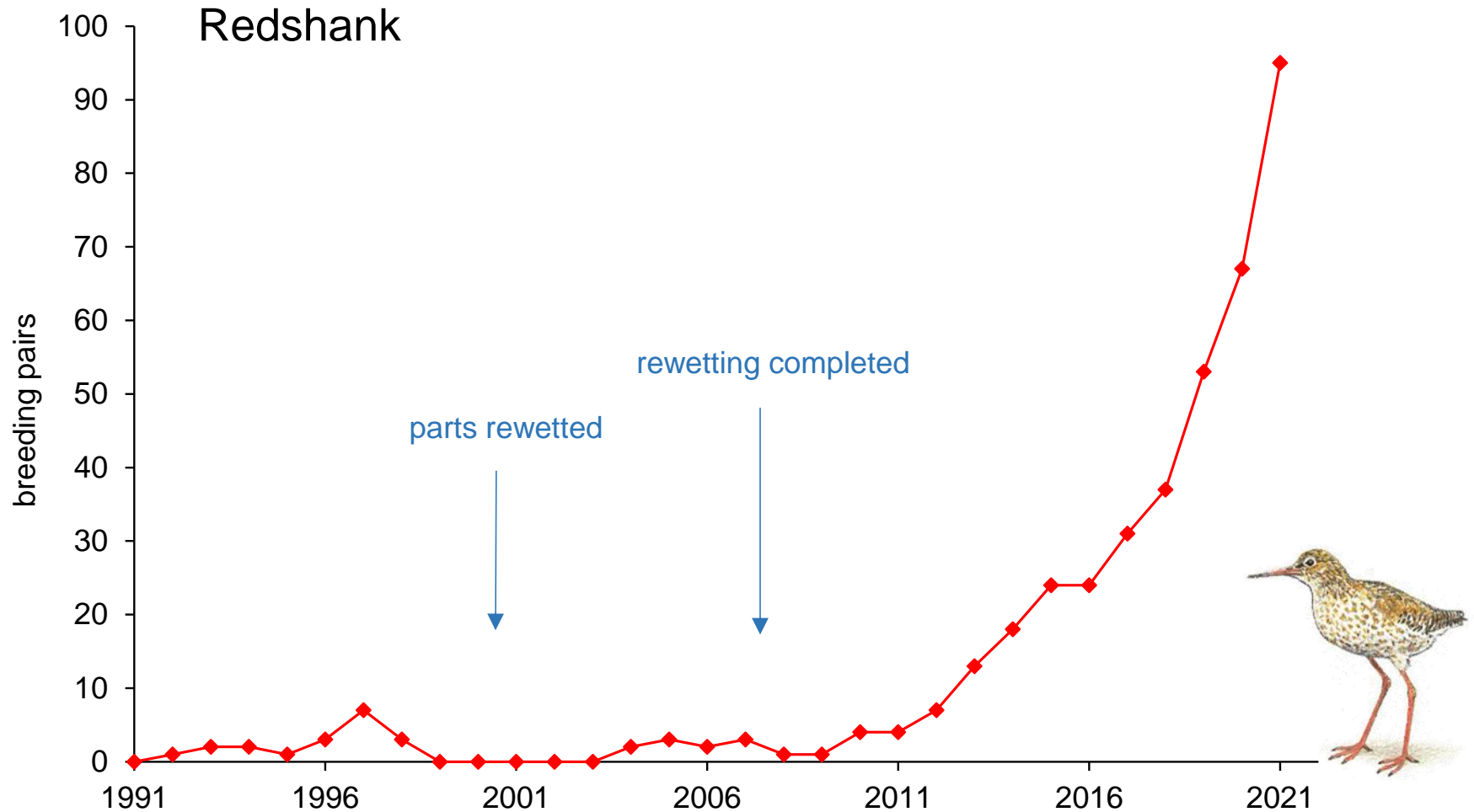
Redshank (*Tringa totanus*)

Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*)

Bluethroat (*Luscinia svecica*)

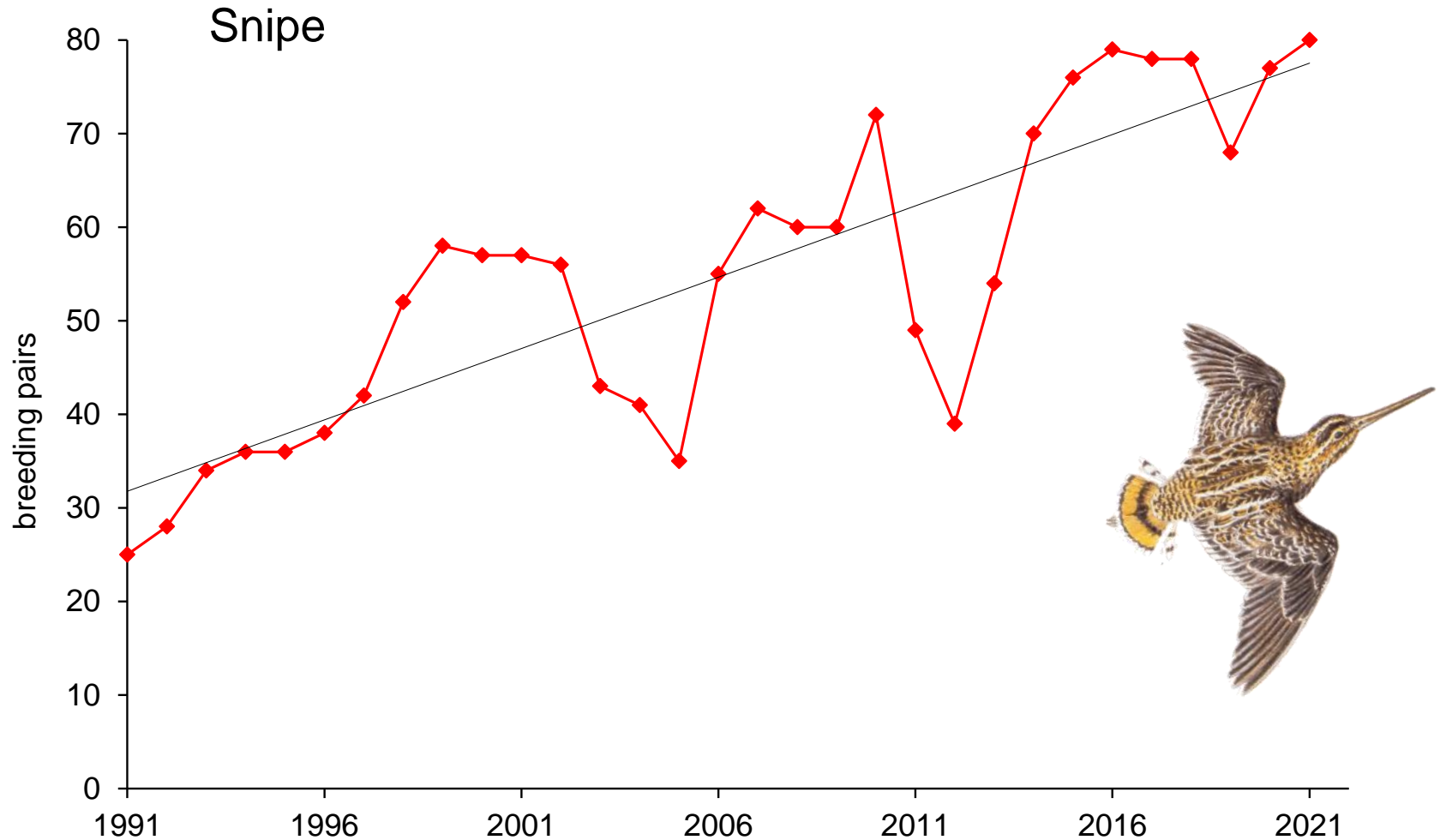
Source: Data Base of Naturschutzstation Dümmer and Naturschutzring Dümmer e.V.

DÜMMER: POPULATION DEVELOPMENT



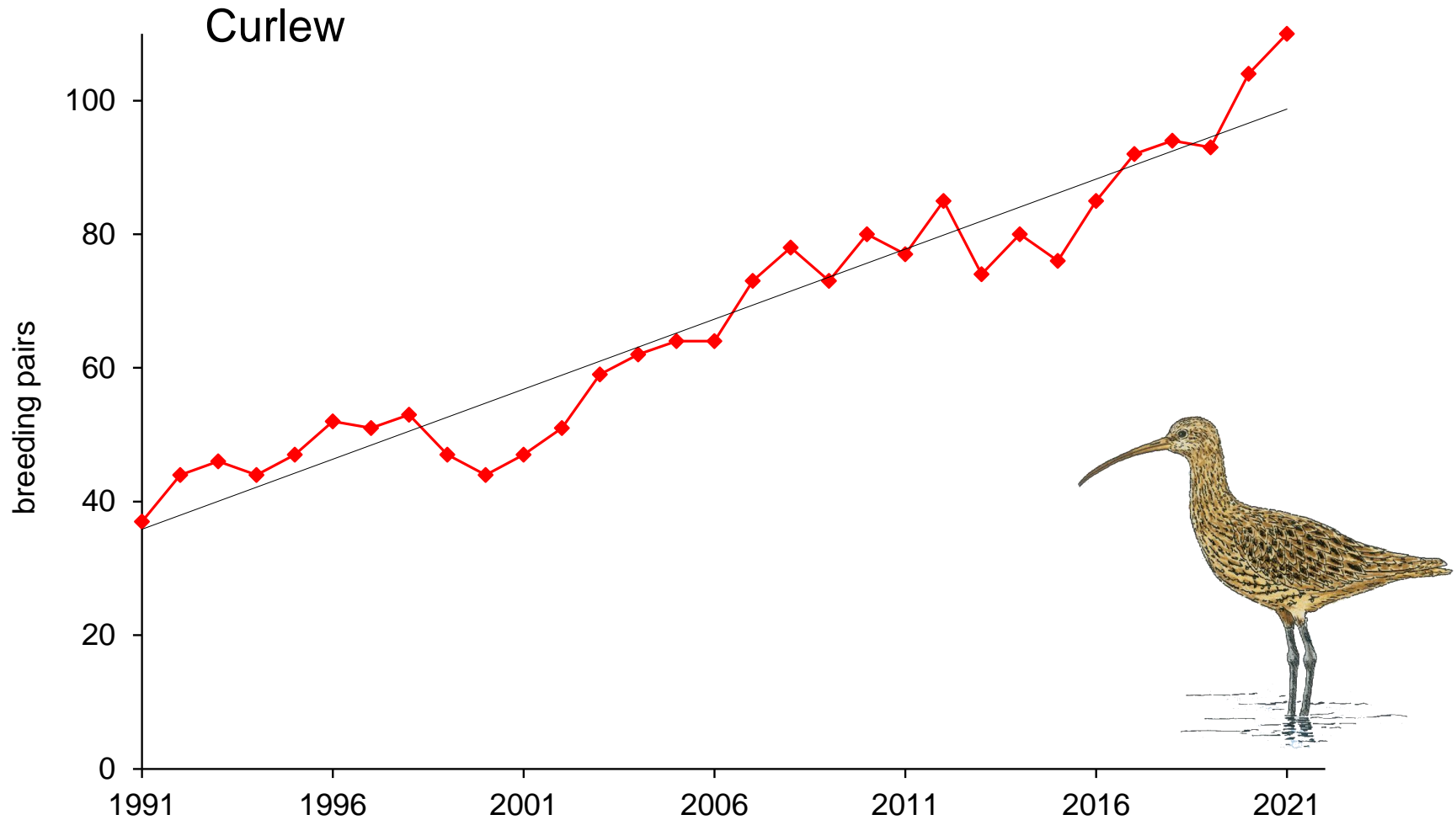
Source: Data Base of Naturschutzstation Dümmen and Naturschutzing Dümmen e.V.

DÜMMER: POPULATION DEVELOPMENT



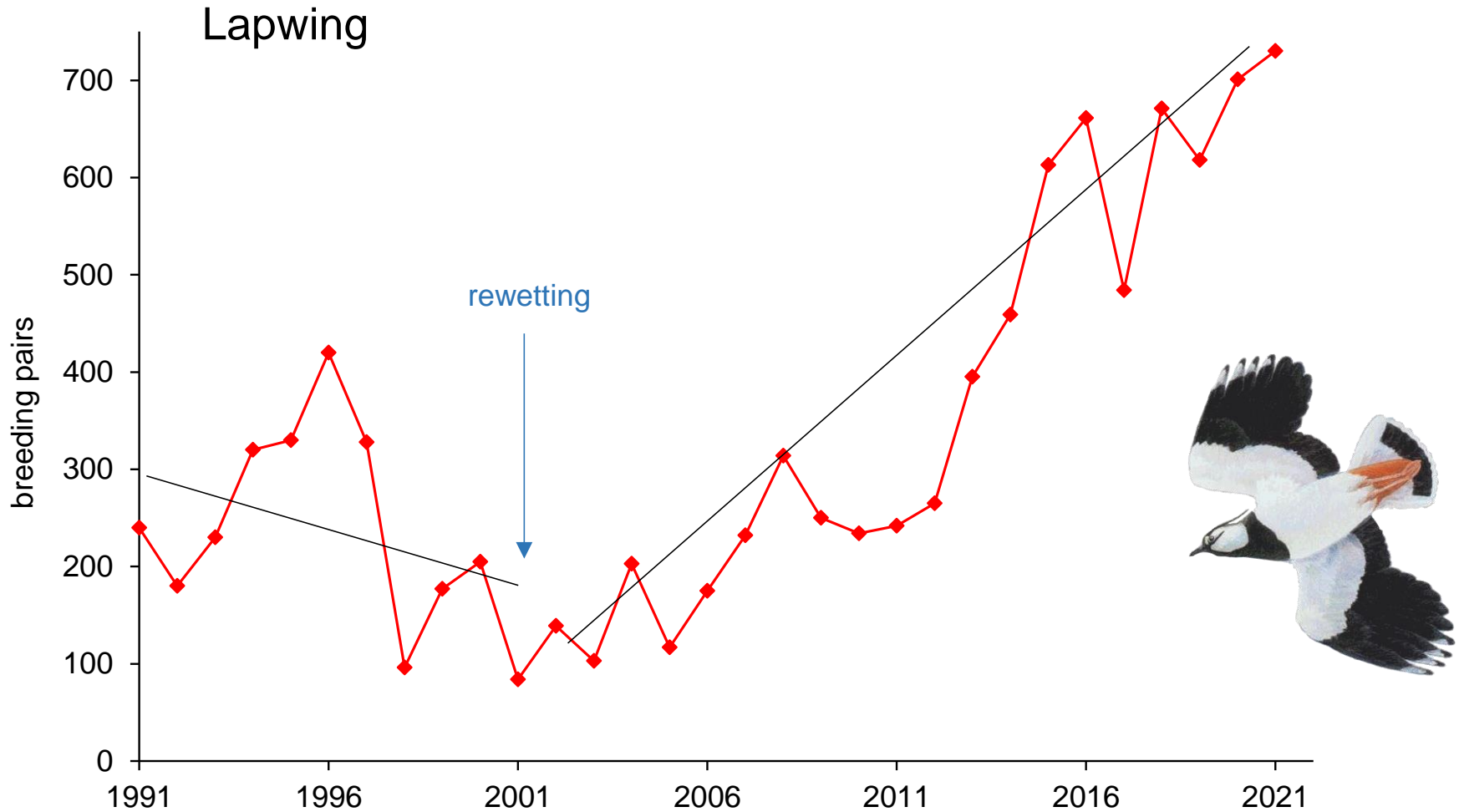
Source: Data Base of Naturschutzstation Dümmmer and Naturschutzing Dümmmer e.V.

DÜMMER: POPULATION DEVELOPMENT



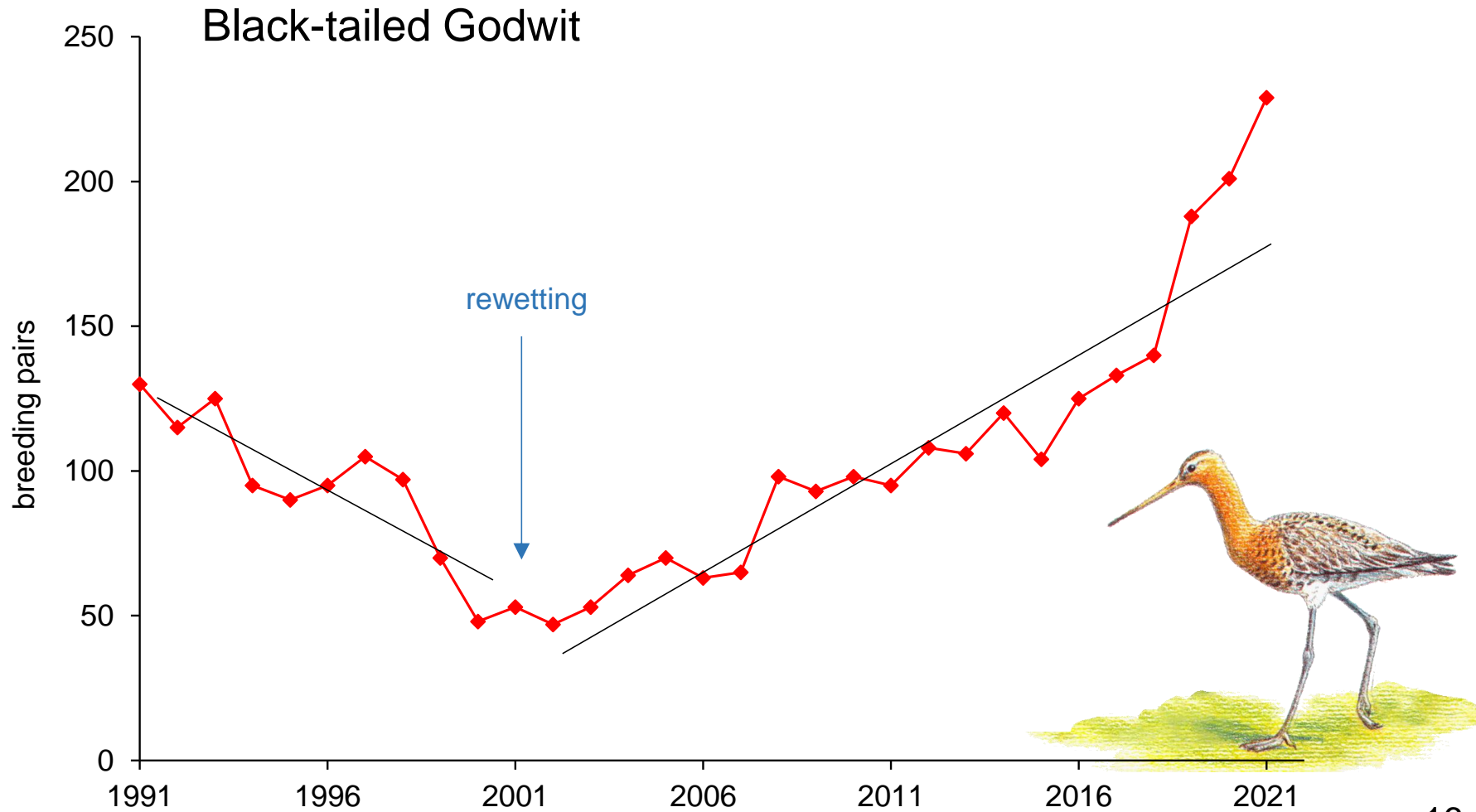
Source: Data Base of Naturschutzstation Dümmmer and Naturschutzing Dümmmer e.V.

DÜMMER: POPULATION DEVELOPMENT



Source: Data Base of Naturschutzstation Dümmmer and Naturschutzing Dümmmer e.V.

DÜMMER: POPULATION DEVELOPMENT



Source: Data Base of Naturschutzstation Dümmmer and Naturschutzing Dümmmer e.V.

AIM

The aim is to export this success across the country and all across Europe – and beyond!



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LIFE Nature project „MeadowBirds“ (2011-2022)

12 meadow bird **core areas**
in Lower Saxony

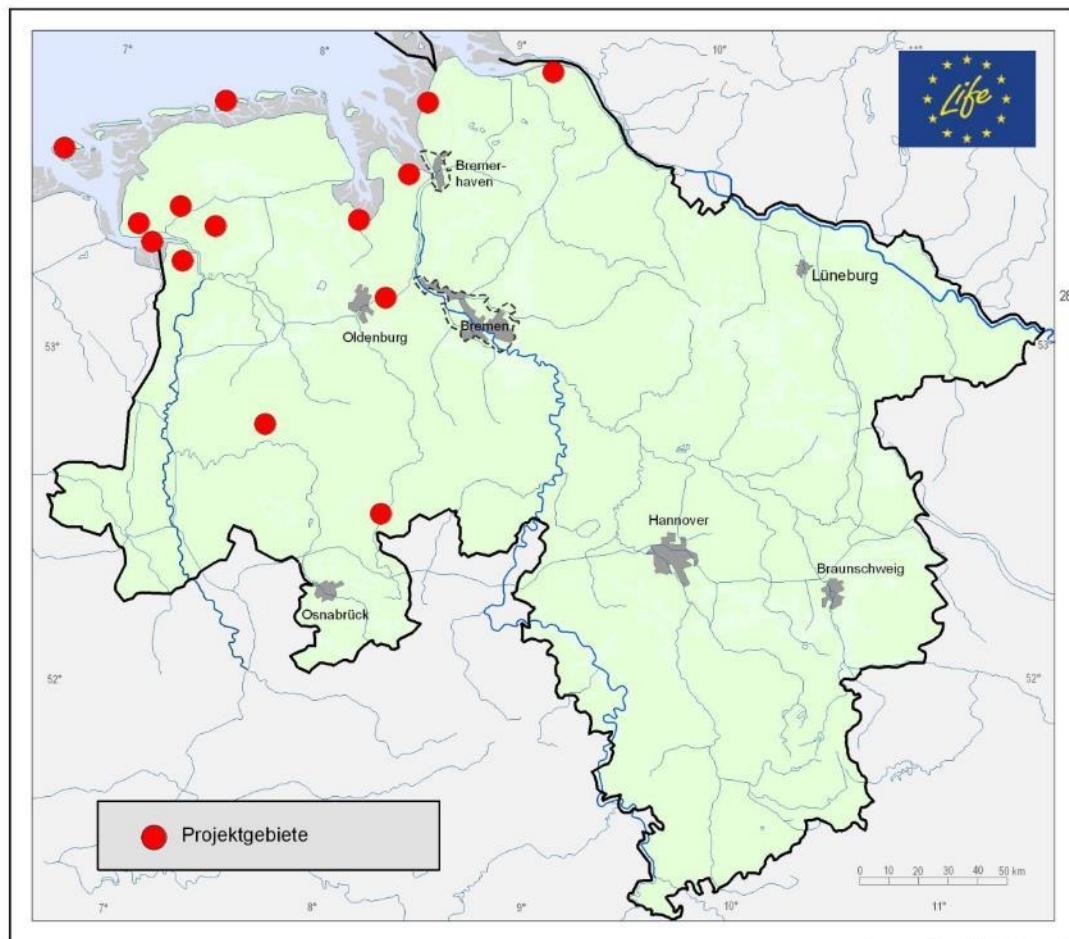
budget: 30 Mio.€

(including additional funding)

- Additional 2,500 ha optimized



A LIFE+ project of the federal state of Lower Saxony



Kartengrundlage: NLWKN/Naturschutz

LIFE IP GRASSBIRDHABITATS (2020-2030)

LOCATION:

East Atlantic Flyway

TOTAL BUDGET:

(INCLUDING COMPLEMENTARY FUNDS):

400,000,000 €



COORDINATING BENEFICIARY:

- Lower Saxony Ministry for the Environment
- Lower Saxony Agency for Nature Conservation

ASSOCIATED BENEFICIARIES:

- BIO-CONSULT OS
- University of Groningen
- Nationalparkverwaltung
Niedersächsisches Wattenmeer
- Province of Fryslân
- Coöperatieve Vereniging Súdwestkust
- Bond Friese Vogelwachten

THE HOLISTIC APPROACH

4 months – Breeding grounds

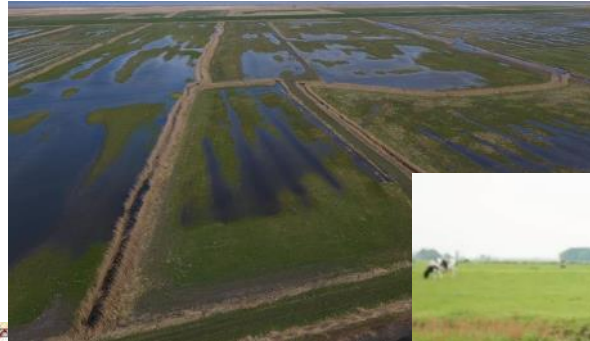
8 months – Abroad



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Targets in Lower Saxony until 2030

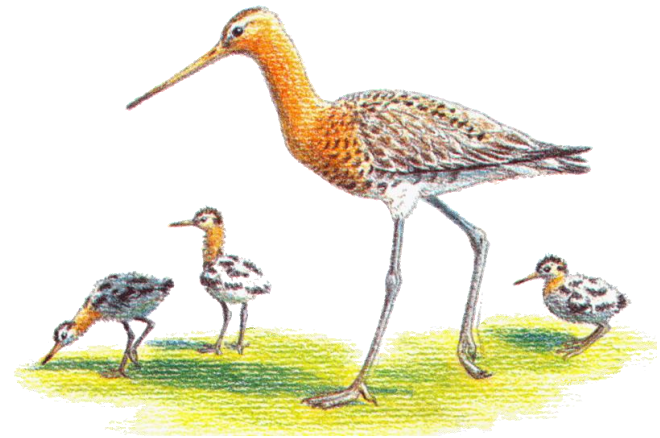
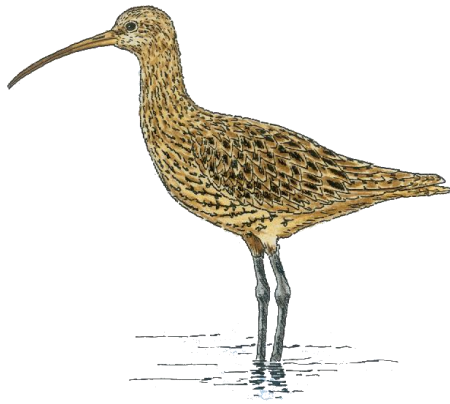
- Optimized habitats – 20,000 ha



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EXPECTED RESULTS 2030

- Favourable conservation status
- Increase from 1,700 towards 5,500 breeding pairs of Black-tailed Godwit
- Increase from 1,200 towards 2.300 breeding pairs of Curlew
- Reestablishment in abandoned areas



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Thanks a lot for your kind attention!