



Flanders
State of the Art



Management of the Egyptian goose (*Alopochen aegyptiaca*) in Flanders (BE)

Frank Huysentruyt & Tim Adriaens

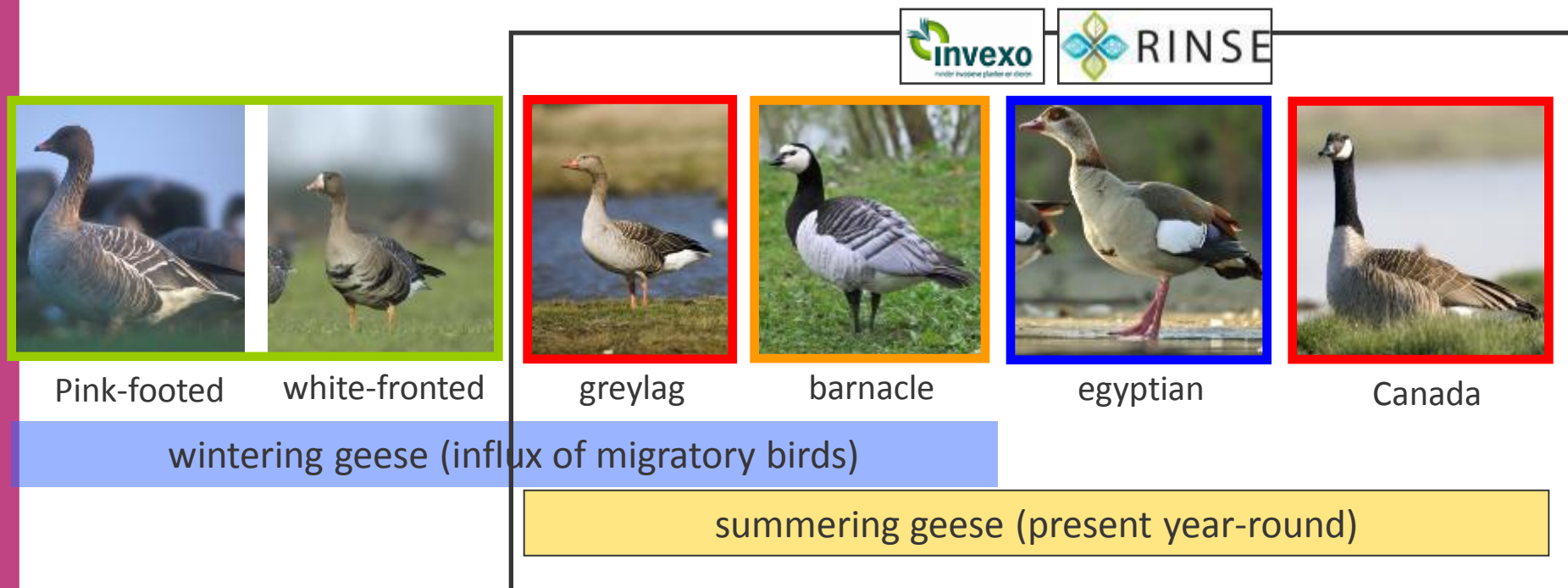
The International Conference on Invasive No-native Species:

Problems, Management, Control and Eradication Tools

20-21/3/2018, San Francisco Cultural Complex, Cáceres, Spain.

RESEARCH INSTITUTE
NATURE AND FOREST

Goose mgmt Flanders - legal framework



game species, open season

game species, no open season

protected species, possible for control

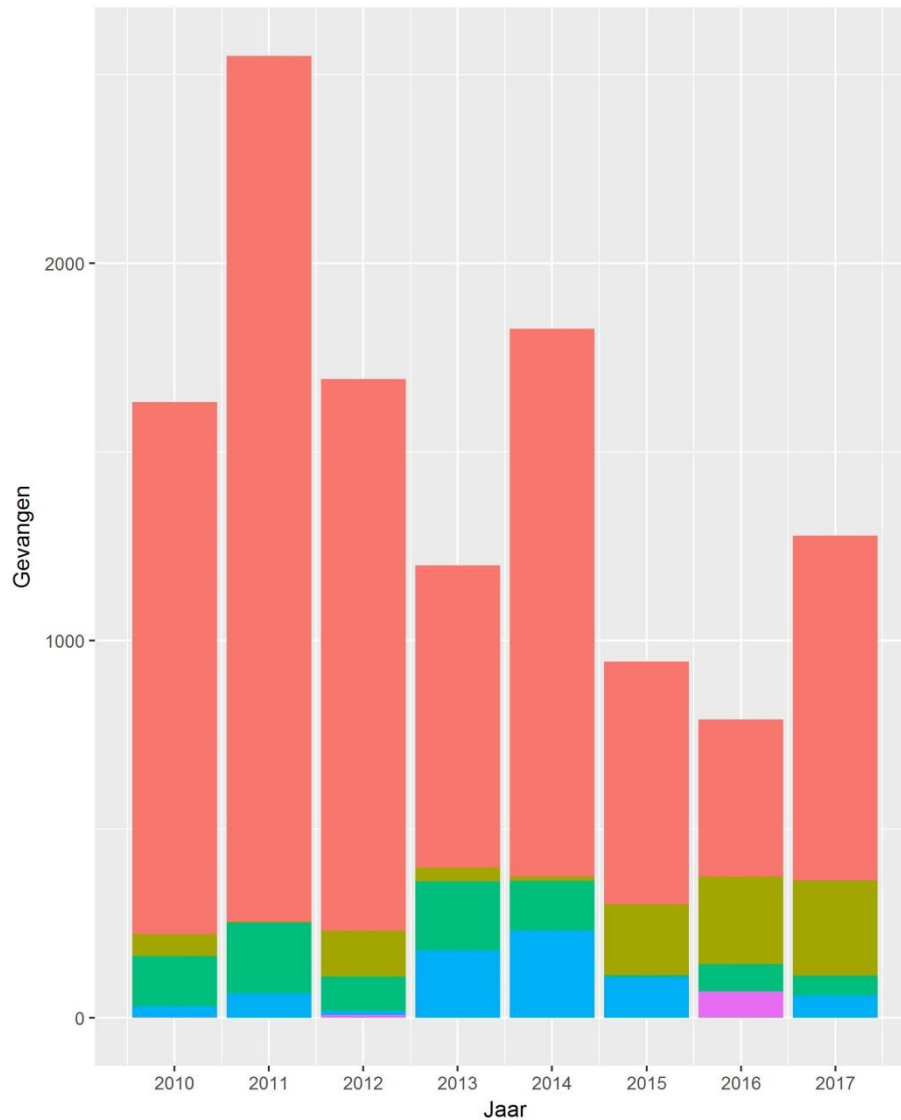
not protected exotic/domesticated species

Goose management in Flanders

- Reduction of reproduction
 - egg oiling/pricking
 - limited efficiency
- Increase mortality
 - hunting
 - moult captures
- Main targeted species (reduction):
 - Canada goose
 - Barnacle goose
- To lesser extent:
 - Greylag
- **NOT** targeted:
 - Egyptian goose



Moult capture results



- ▶ Mostly Canada
- ▶ Other species:
 - greylag, barnacle , feral
- ▶ No Egyptian



The Egyptian goose: the odd man out

Part of Anatidae which has 3 subfamilies

- ducks, geese and intermediate 'shelducks'



duck

shelduck

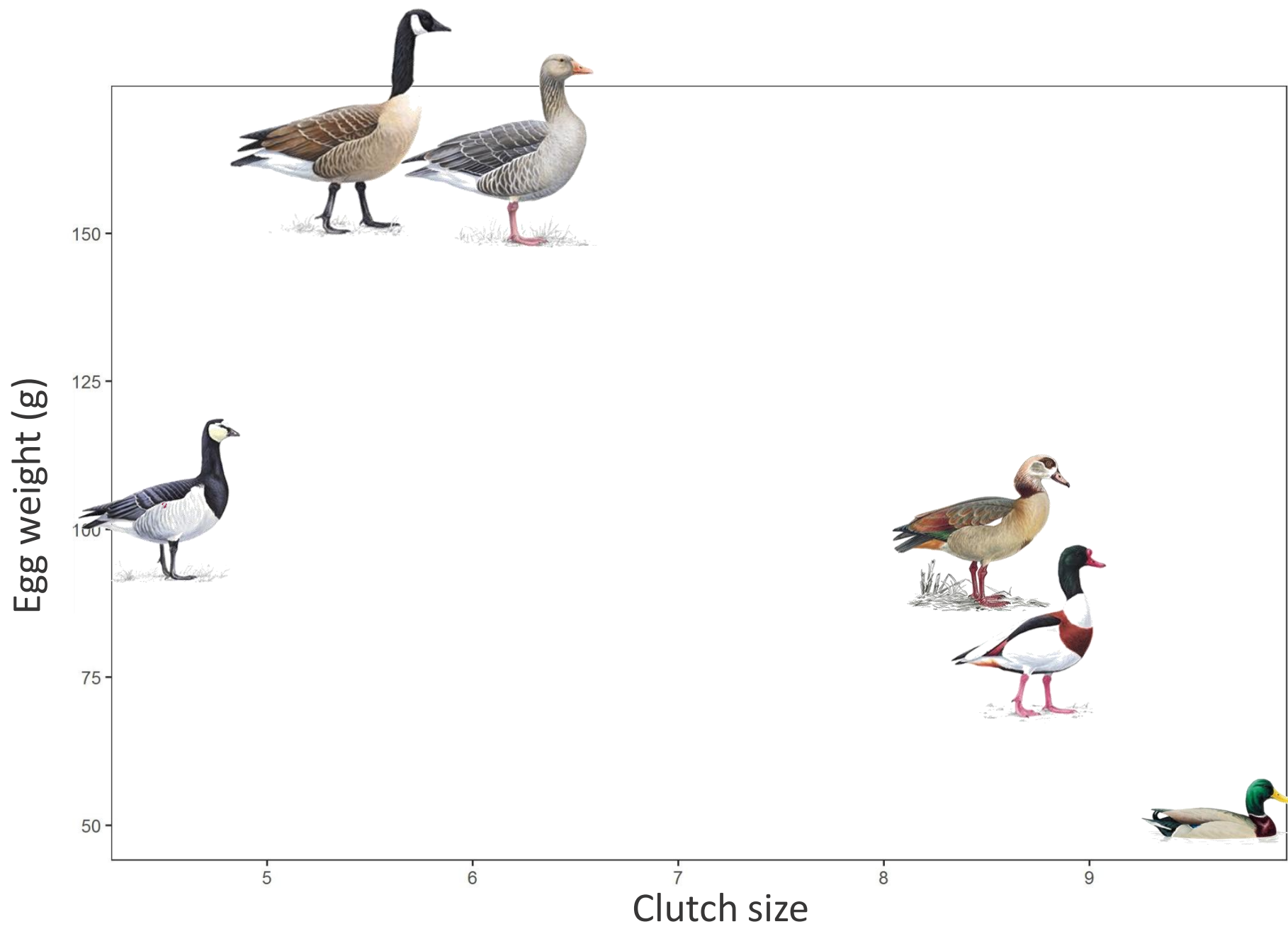
goose

shelduck

goose

goose



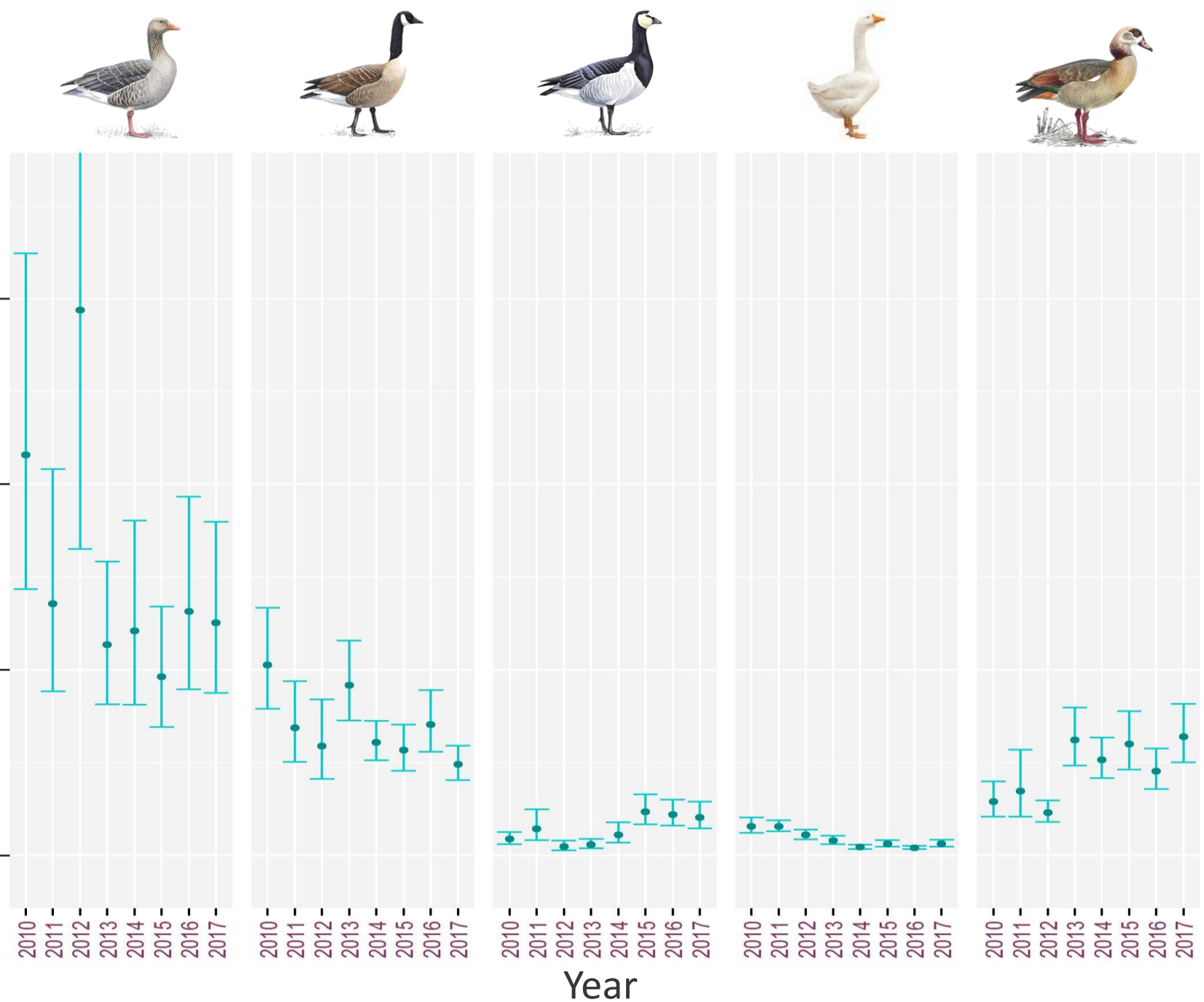


Differs from true geese species in behavior:

- Not an exclusive ground-breeder, often also in trees
- Not, or limited, colonial breeder
- Only in groups during moult
- Territorial in rest of the year
- No fixed migration routes
- Good diver



Estimated # of geese / municipality



Year

Trapping

How?

- Moulting trapping: not successful
- Clap or rocket nets: difficult and labour intensive,... and not very successful
- But: traps with lure birds >> without lure birds



Flanders
State of the Art

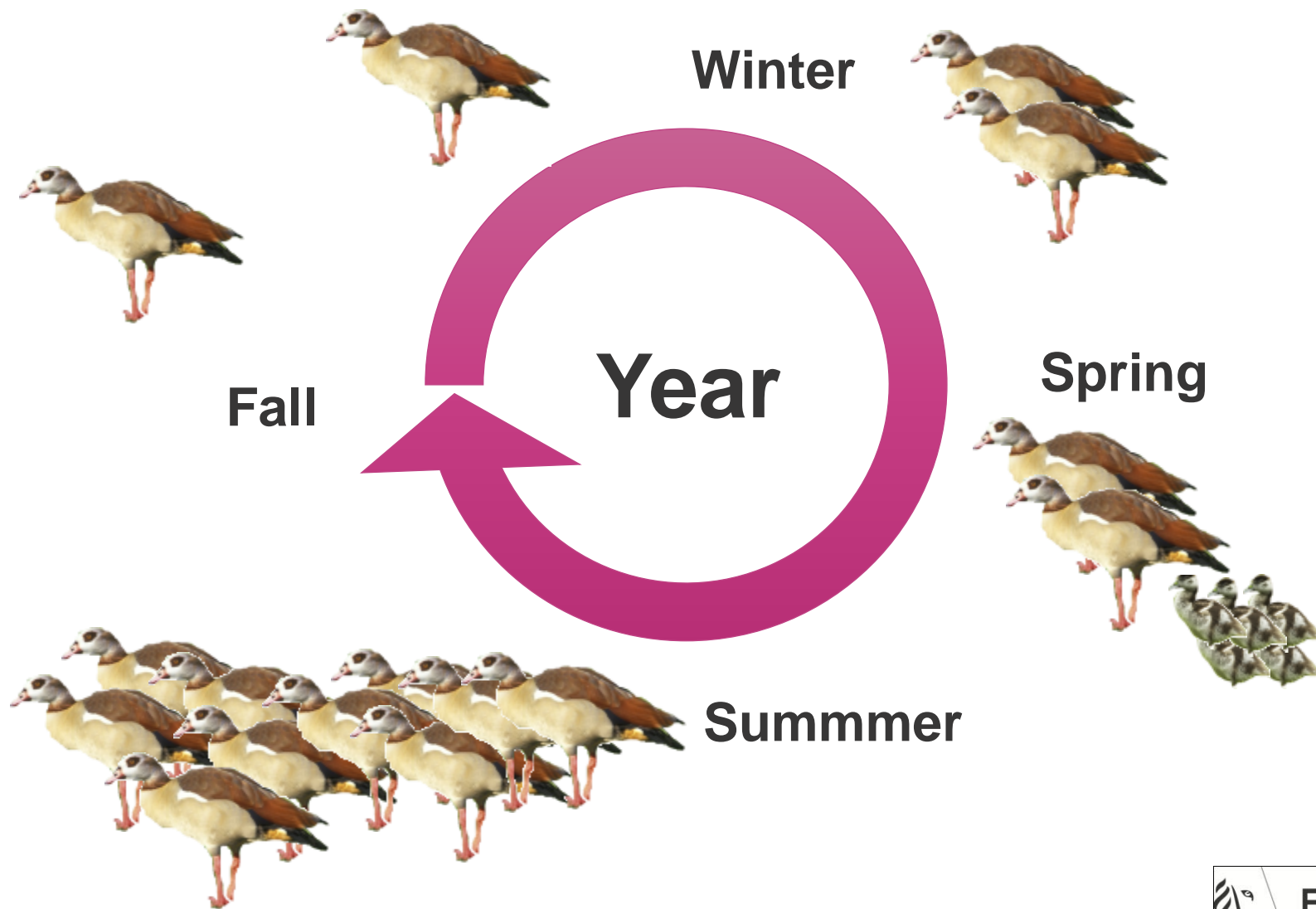
Trapping

How?

- Walk-in traps with lure birds: works!

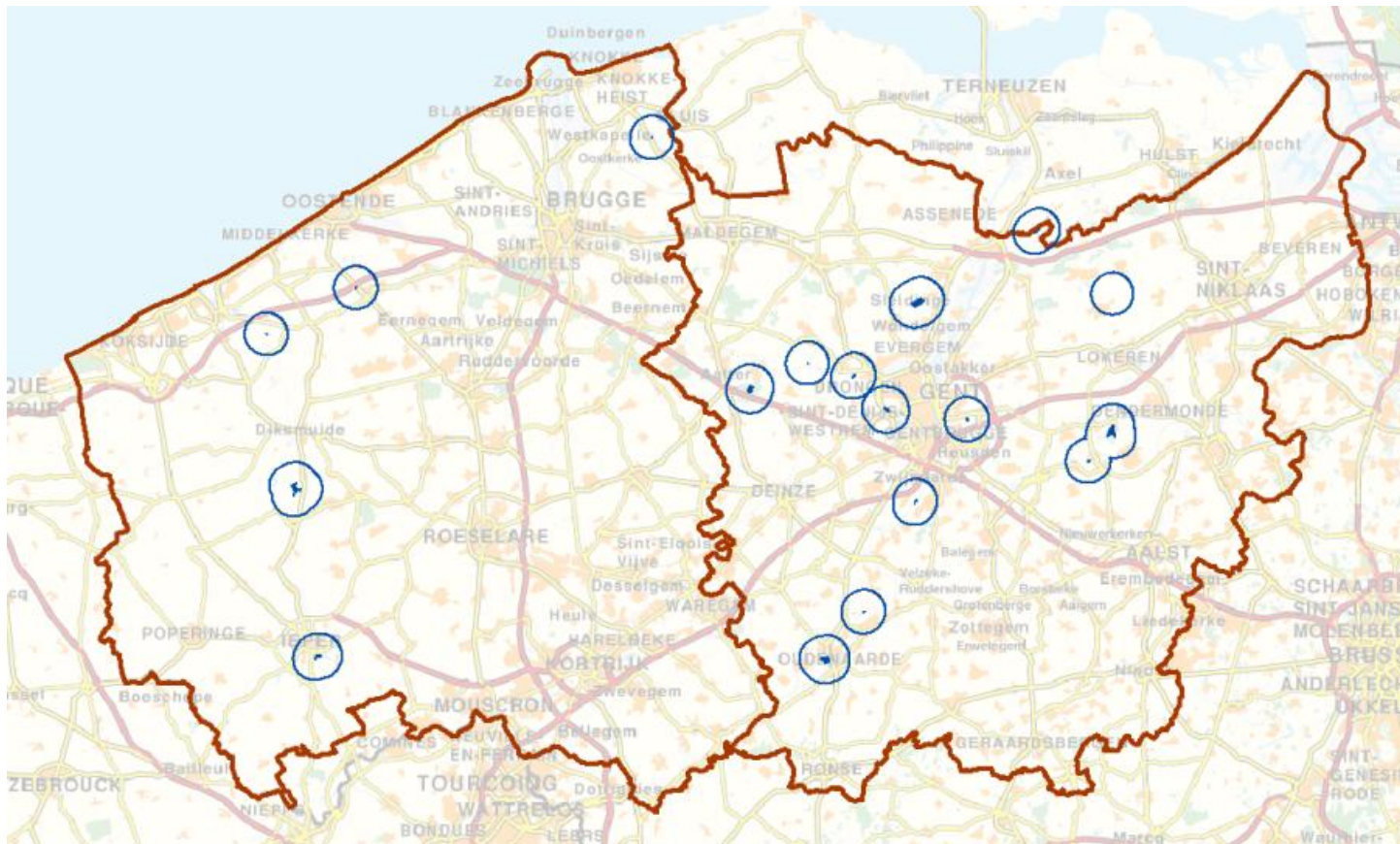


Flanders
State of the Art



Field trial setup:

- The middle week of each month
- 5 trapping days
- 17 different locations



Hypothesis:

Catching success differs per month

- What defines success?
 - **How quickly** can we trap a goose :
 - = how long does it take to catch the first goose
 - Probably lowest (fast) in winter/spring due to territoriality
 - **How many** geese can we trap in a single week:
 - = total number of geese caught per trapping week
 - Probably highest in summer/fall due to large groups

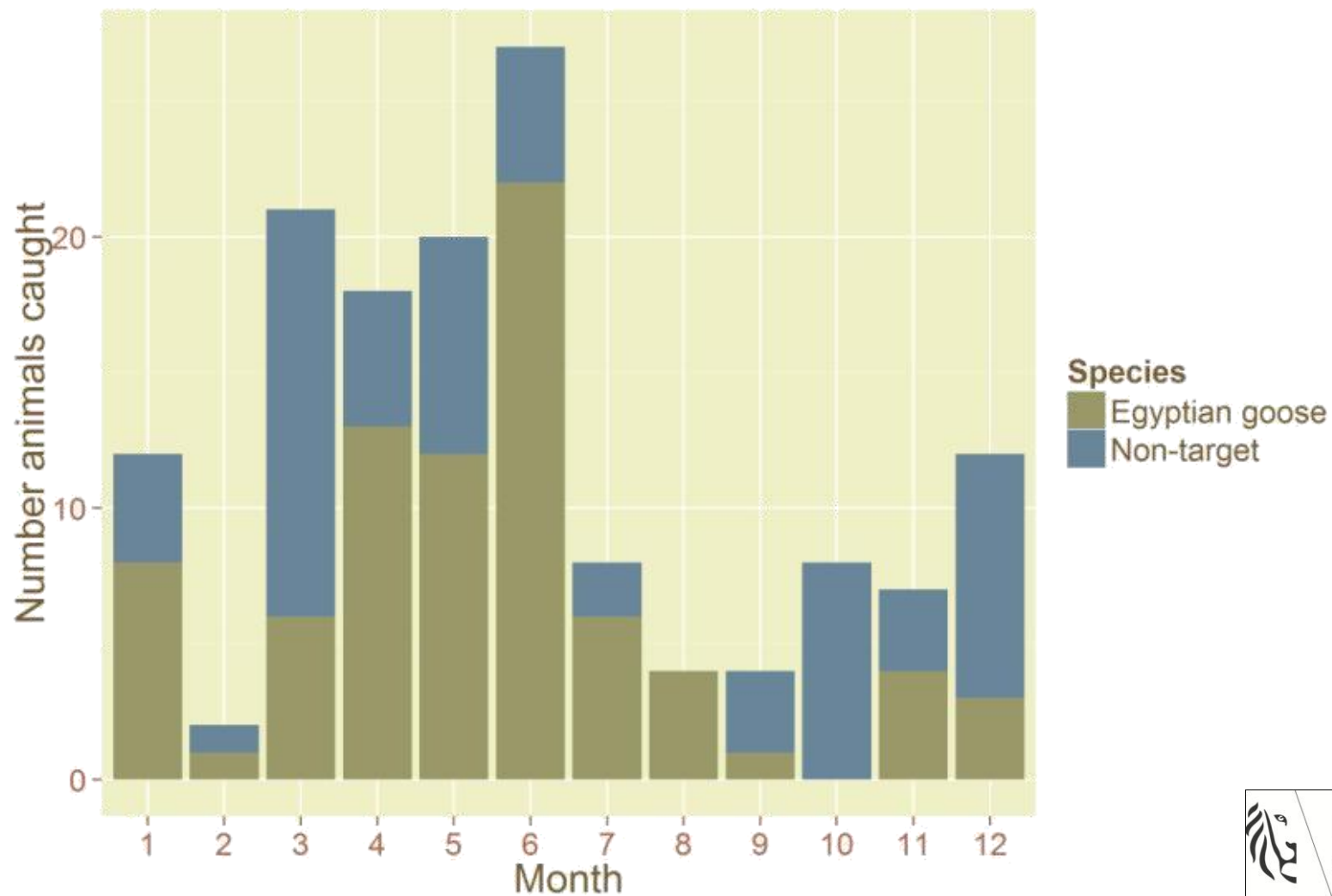


Results: overall and bycatches

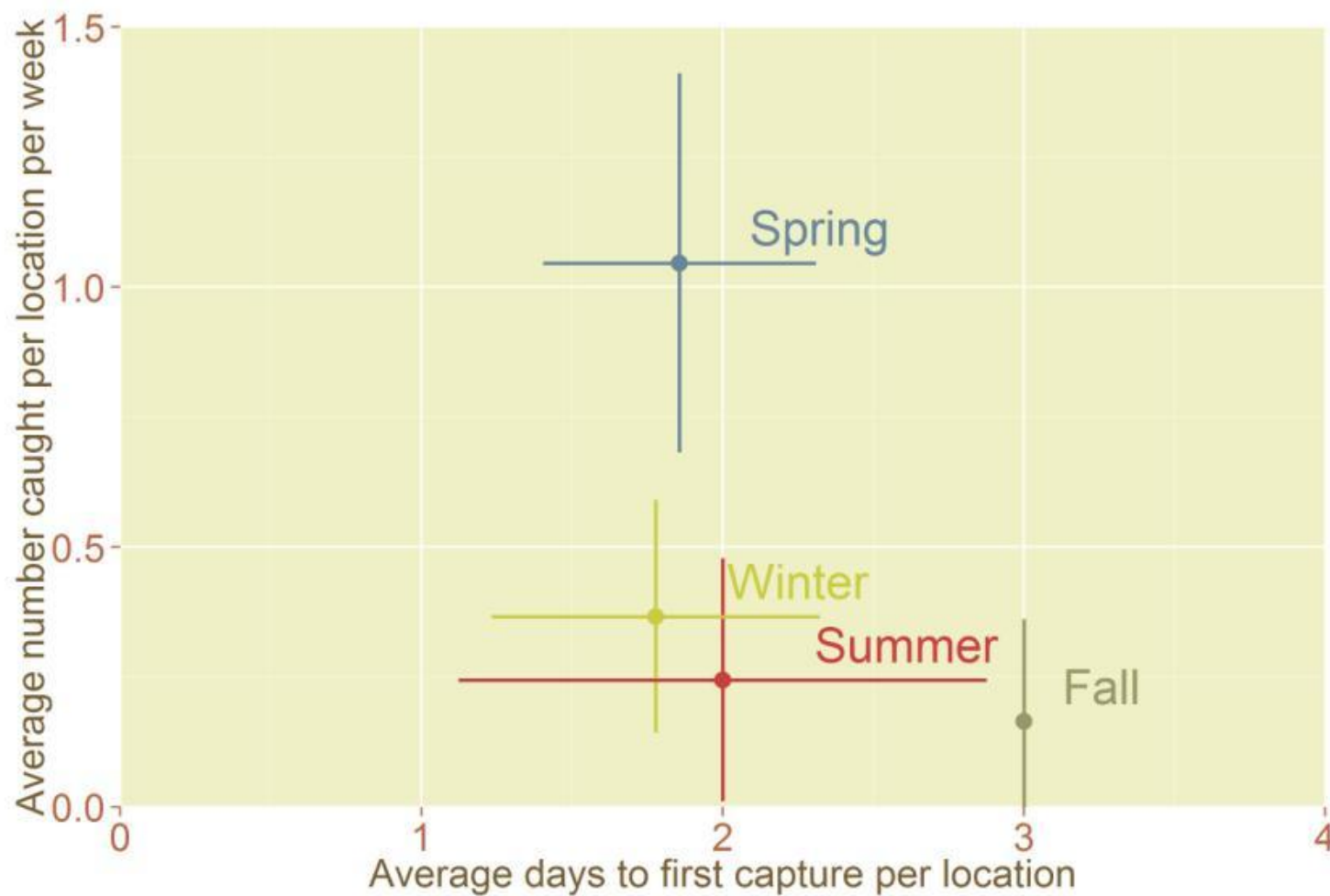
- 80 Egyptian geese caught in 860 trapping days
- 68 animals from other species:
 - Mallard 20
 - Coot 19
 - Moorhen 10
 - Feral goose 8
 - Canada goose 7
 - Greylag goose 1
 - Red fox, mandarin duck, cormorant 1



Results per month:



Results per season

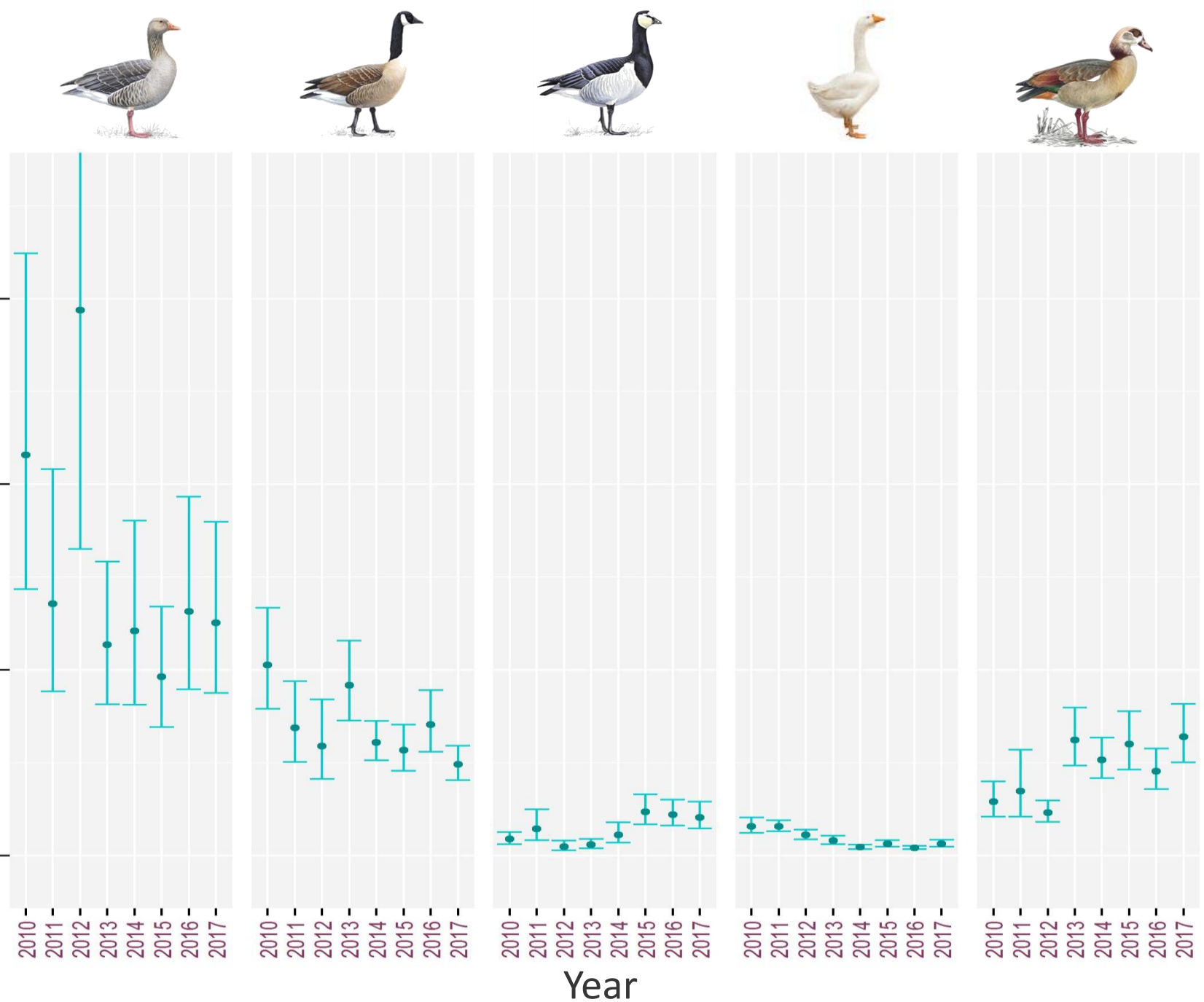


Land-based trap

- Very successful
- Choice of lure bird is very important
- Calm, calling rooster
- Rounded trap
- Small mesh size
- Frequent controls
- Best in spring/early summer, at breeding locations
- A region (province) traps approx. 80 birds per season



Estimated # of geese / municipality



Future: combination of land based traps during winter/spring combined with shooting efforts in summer /fall?

- Currently good results shooting of Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) and African Sacred Ibis (*Threskiornis aethiopicus*)
- Numbers?
- .223 or air rifle?



Thank you for listening!

Contact:

Wildlife Management Team

Research Institute for Nature and Forest (INBO)

Havenlaan 88

B-1000 Brussels

gsm +32 499 86 53 40

Mail: frank.huysentruyt@inbo.be, tim.adriaens@inbo.be,

faunabeheer@inbo.be

