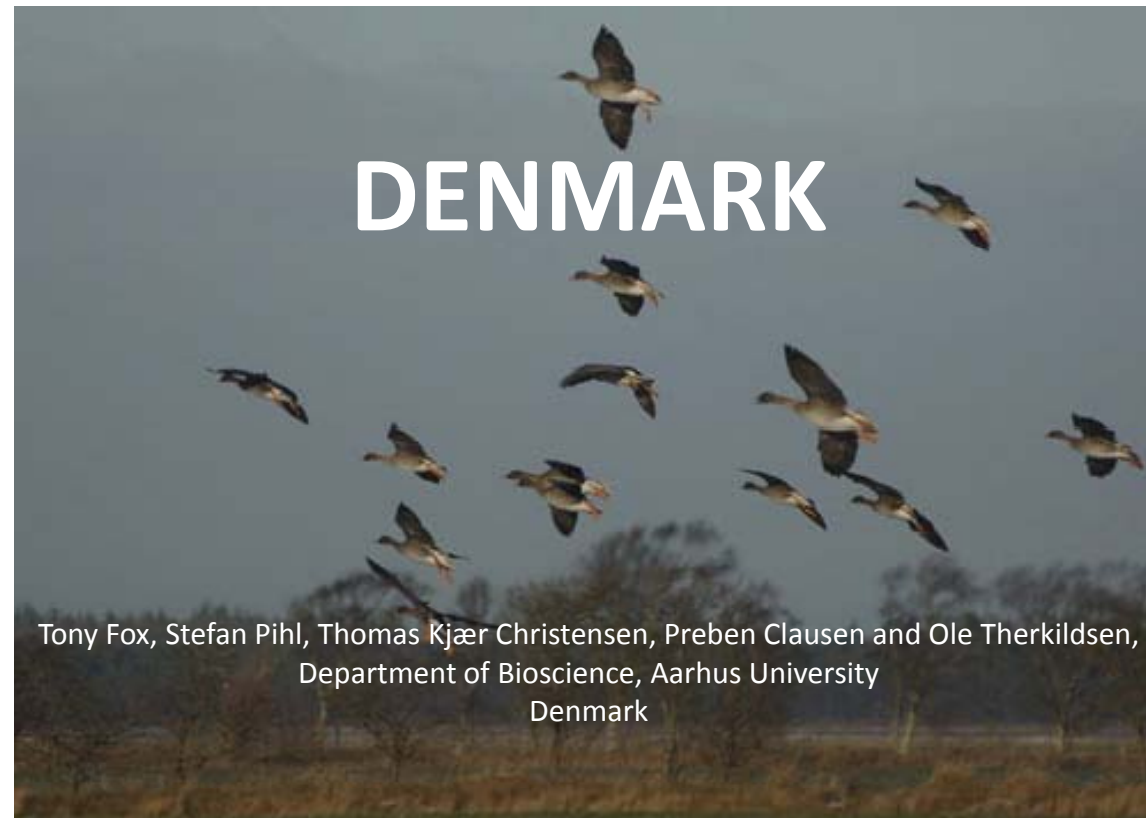


# International AEWA Single Species Action-Planning Workshop for the management of Taiga Bean Goose (*Anser f. fabalis*)

Population size, trend , distribution, threats, hunting,  
management, conservation status and possible actions in



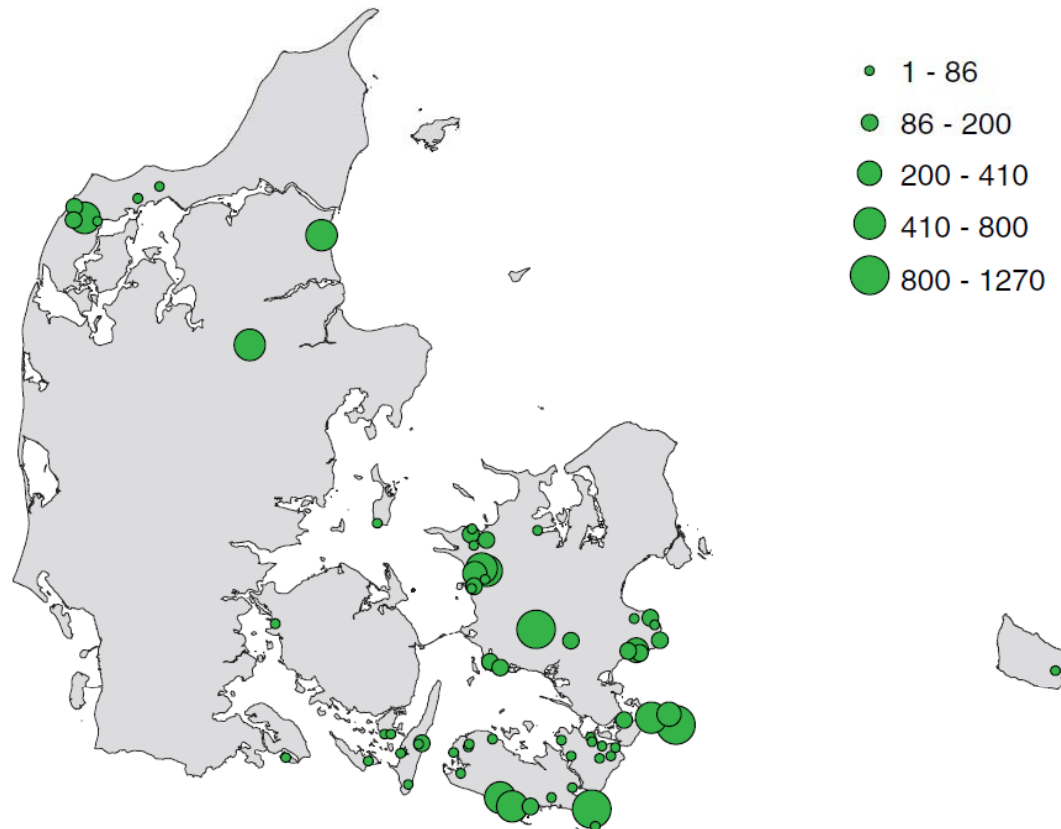
Tony Fox, Stefan Pihl, Thomas Kjær Christensen, Preben Clausen and Ole Therkildsen,  
Department of Bioscience, Aarhus University  
Denmark

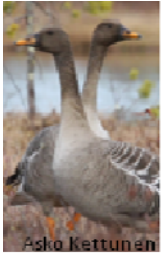




# Populations and distributions

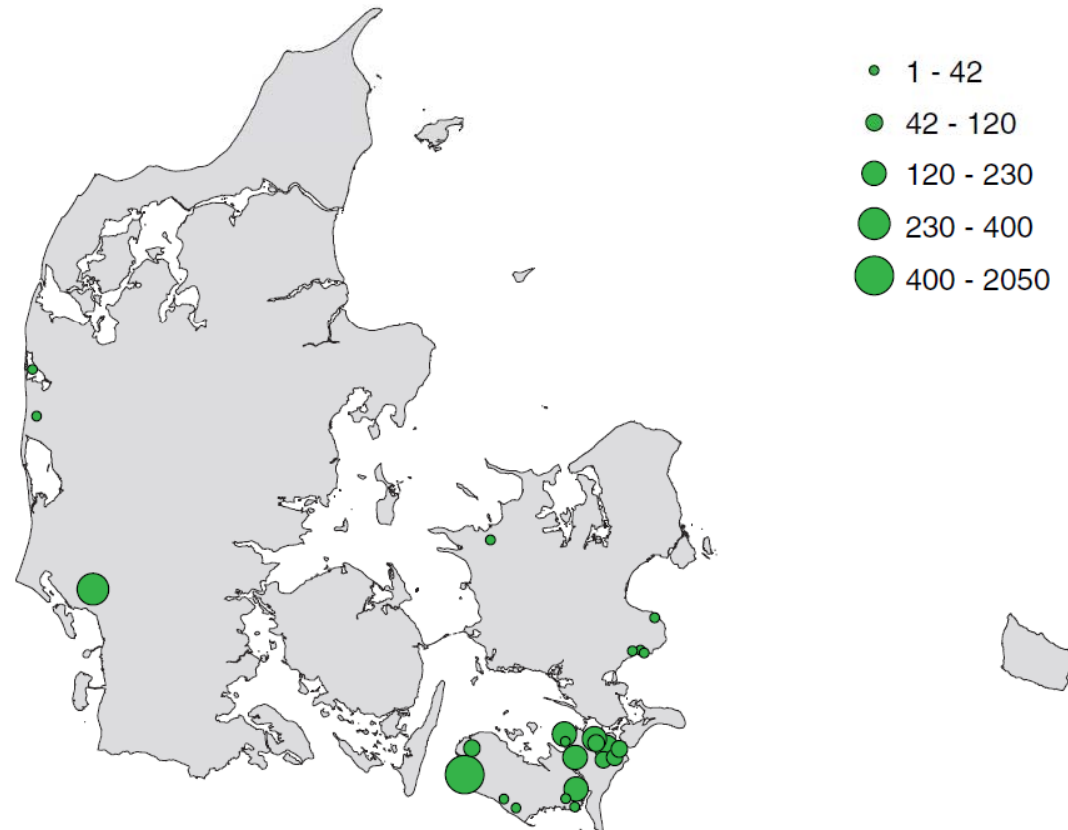
- Distributional overview: Taiga Bean Geese *Anser fabalis fabalis* in mid-January 2011

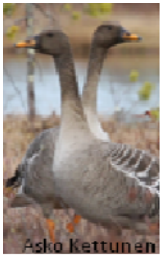




# Populations and distributions

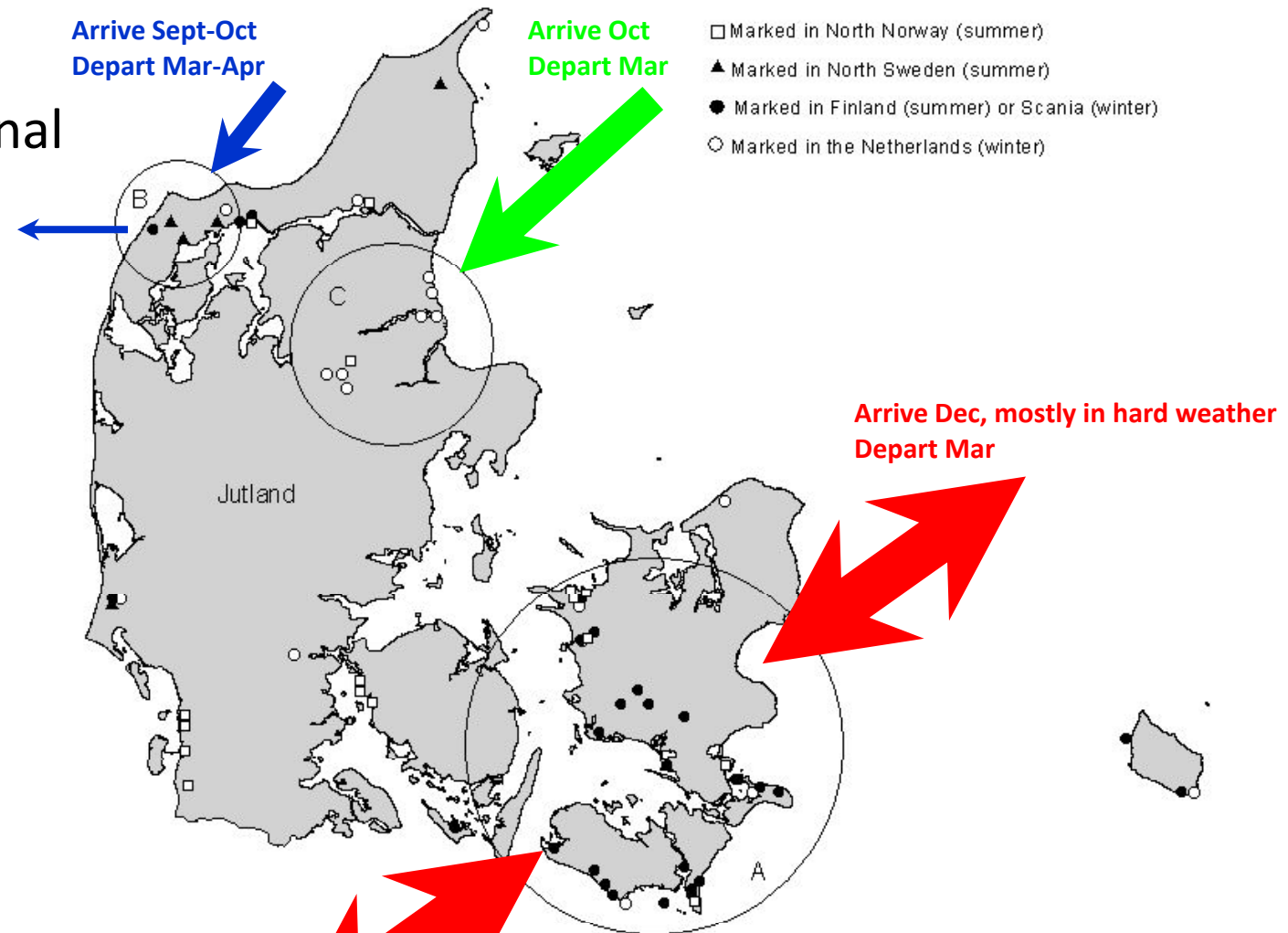
- Distributional overview, Tundra Bean Geese *Anser fabalis rossicus* in January 2011

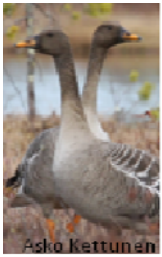




# Populations and distributions

- Distributional overview





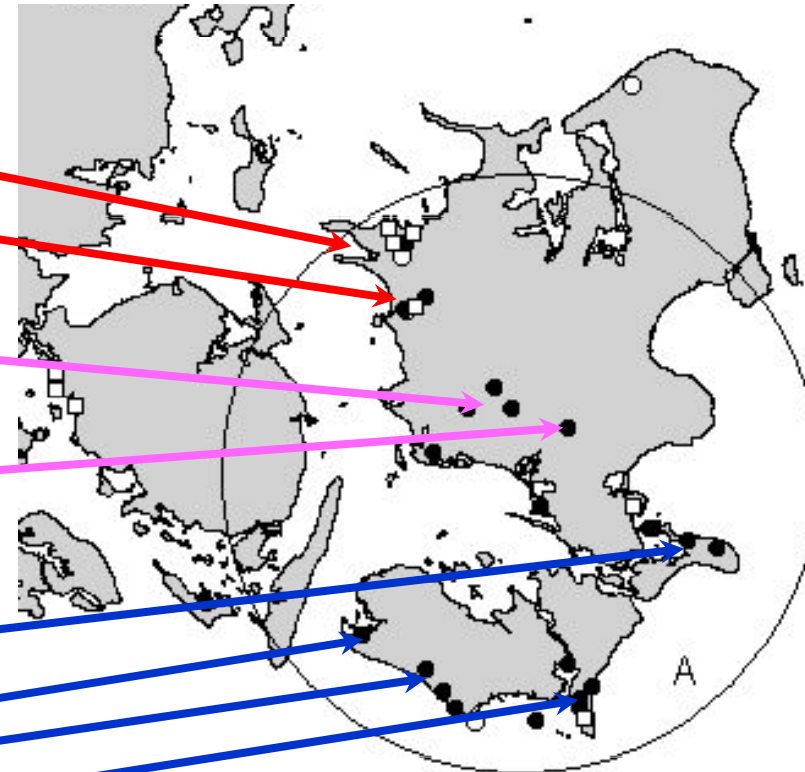
# Population A distribution

- Distributional overview

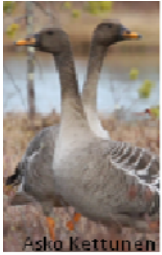
**Saltbækvig**  
**Tissø**

**Tystrup-Bavelse**  
**Lakes**  
**Holmegårds Mose**  
**og Porsmose**

**Møn**  
**Nakskov Fjord**  
**Maribosø**  
**Bøtø**



- Marked in North Norway (summer)
- ▲ Marked in North Sweden (summer)
- Marked in Finland (summer) or Scania (winter)
- Marked in the Netherlands (winter)



# Population B distribution

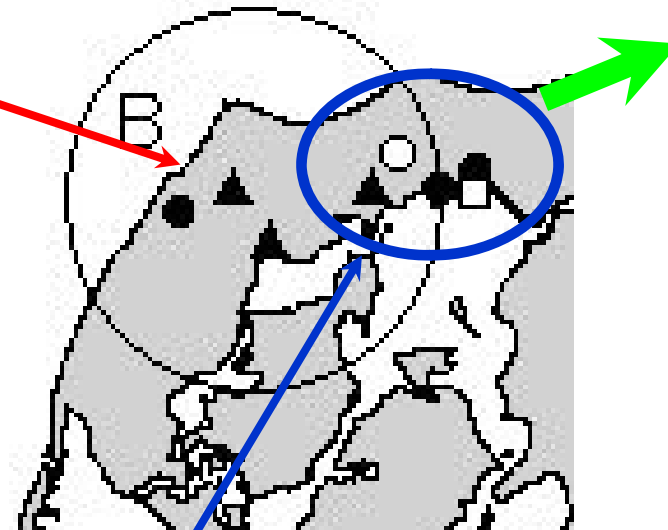
- Distributional overview

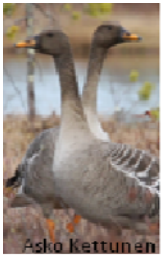
**Hanstholm Reserve**  
(Rosvag/Sjørring, Nors, Vandet and Ove lakes)



**Bygholm Vejle**  
**Løgstør Bredning**  
**Østlige Vejler**  
**Vestlige Vejler**

- Marked in North Norway (summer)
- ▲ Marked in North Sweden (summer)
- Marked in Finland (summer) or Scania (winter)
- Marked in the Netherlands (winter)



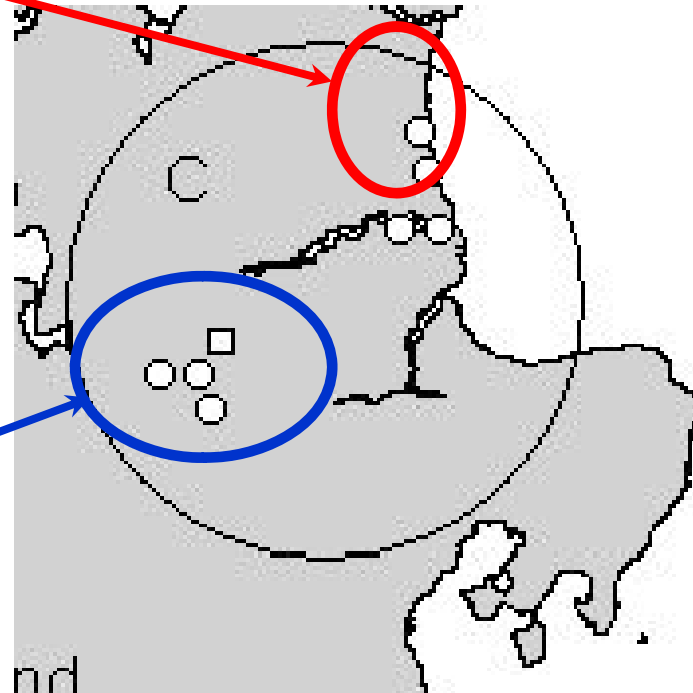


# Population C distribution

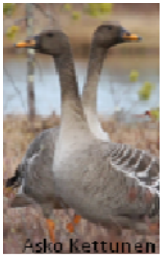
- Distributional overview

Lille Vildmose

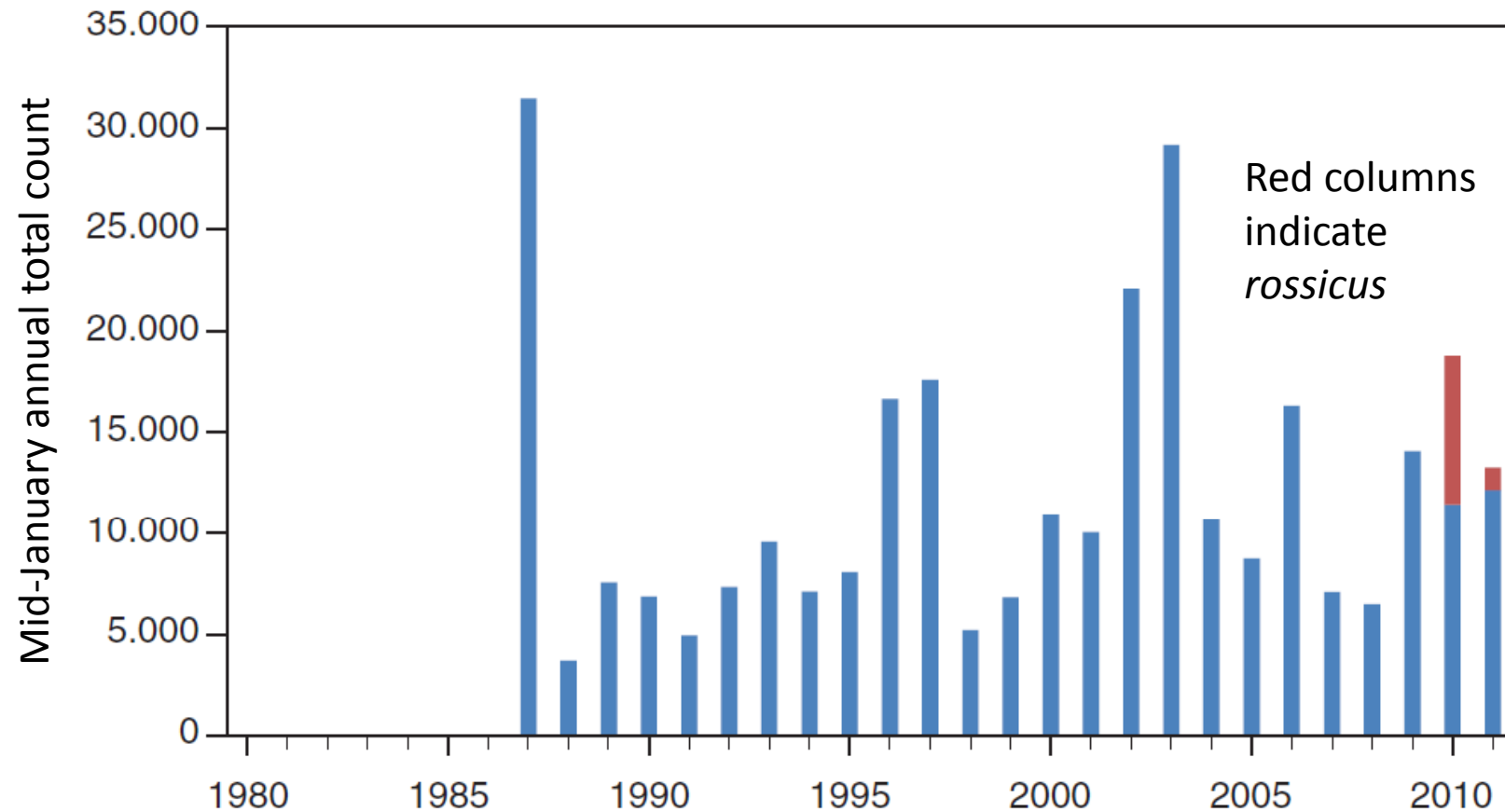
(Tjele and  
Nørreådal)



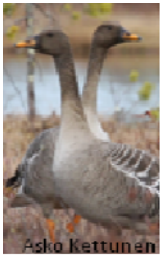
- Marked in North Norway (summer)
- ▲ Marked in North Sweden (summer)
- Marked in Finland (summer) or Scania (winter)
- Marked in the Netherlands (winter)



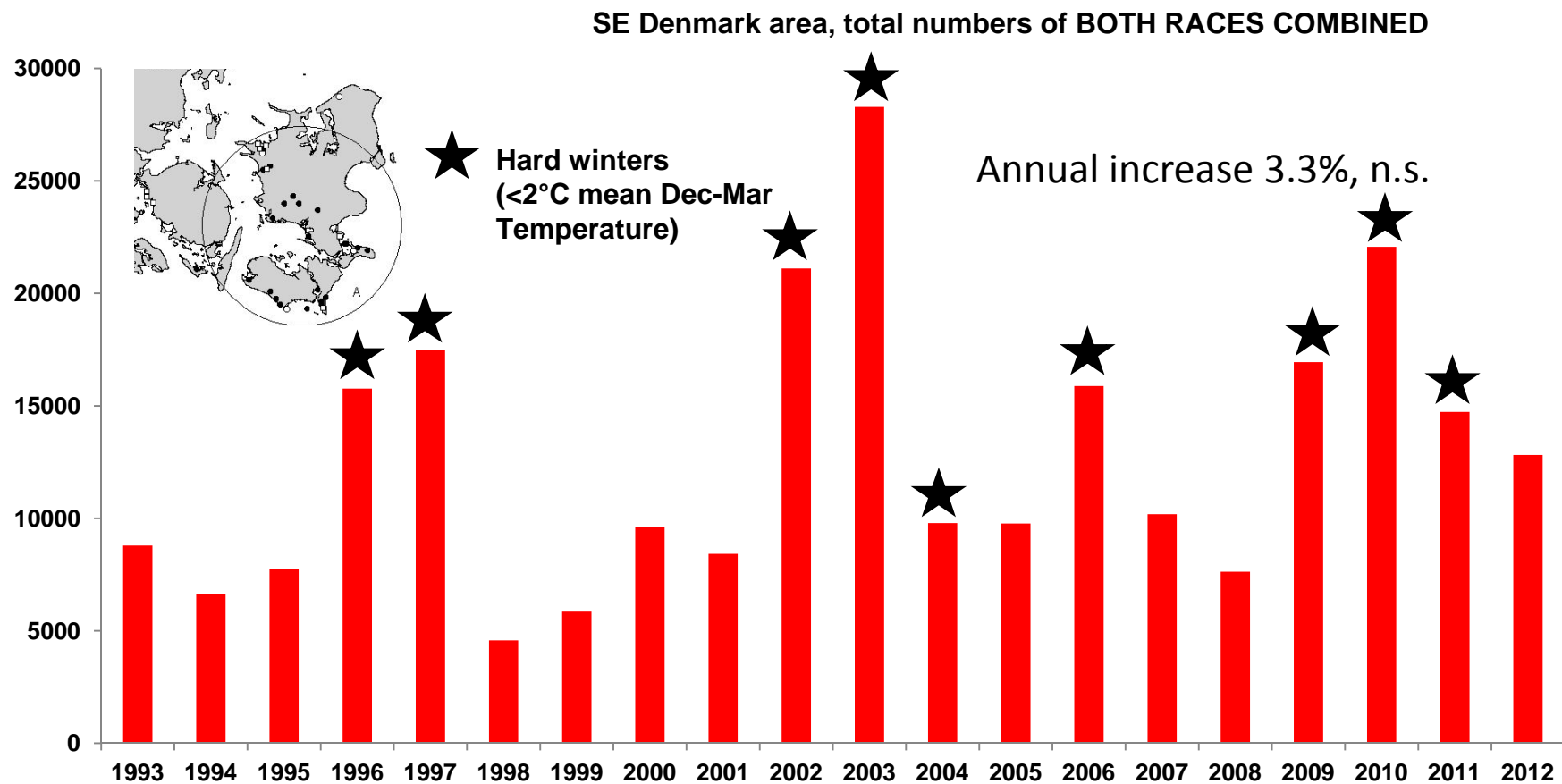
# National trend: Bean Geese in Denmark

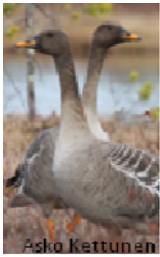






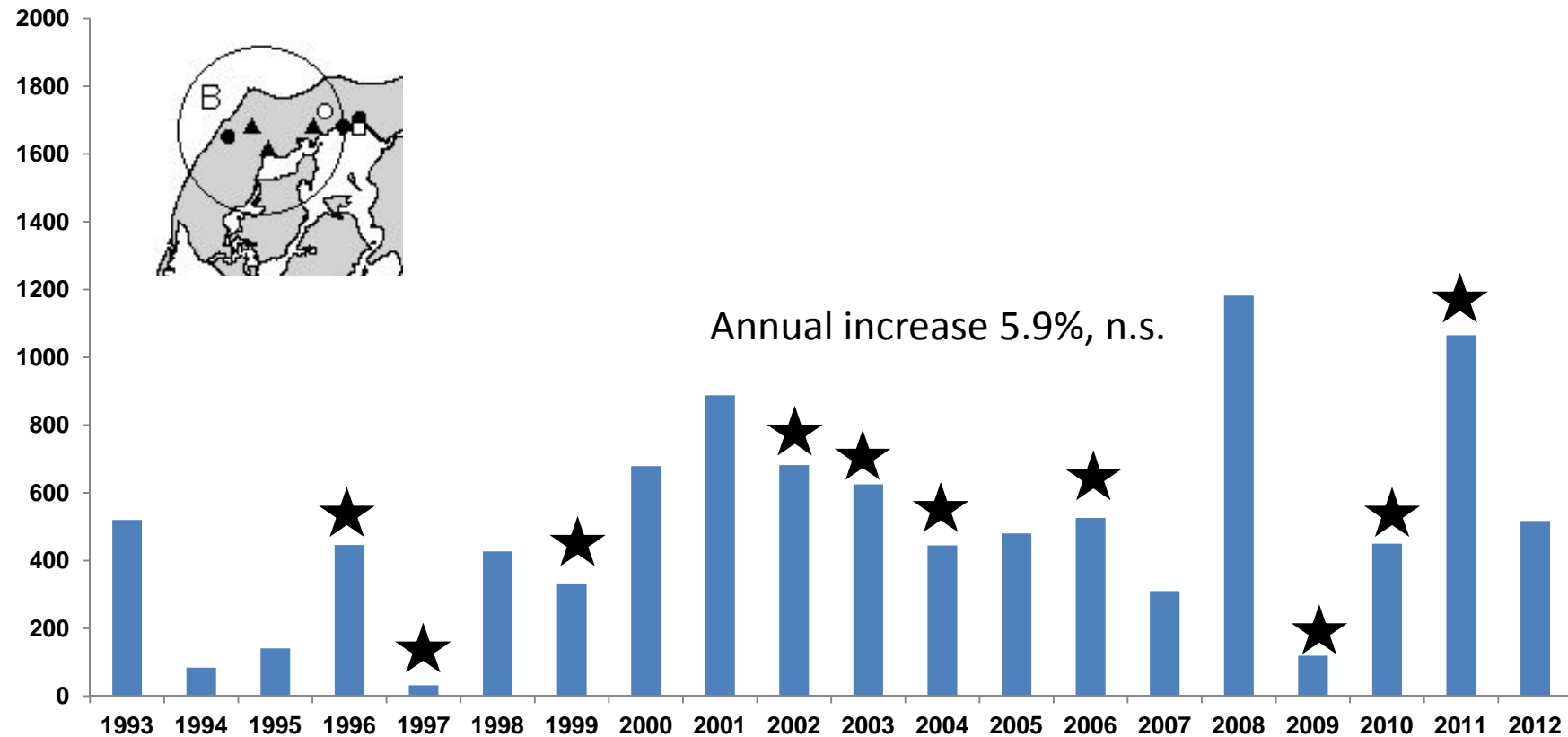
# Trend: Population A

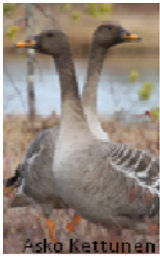




# Trend: Population B

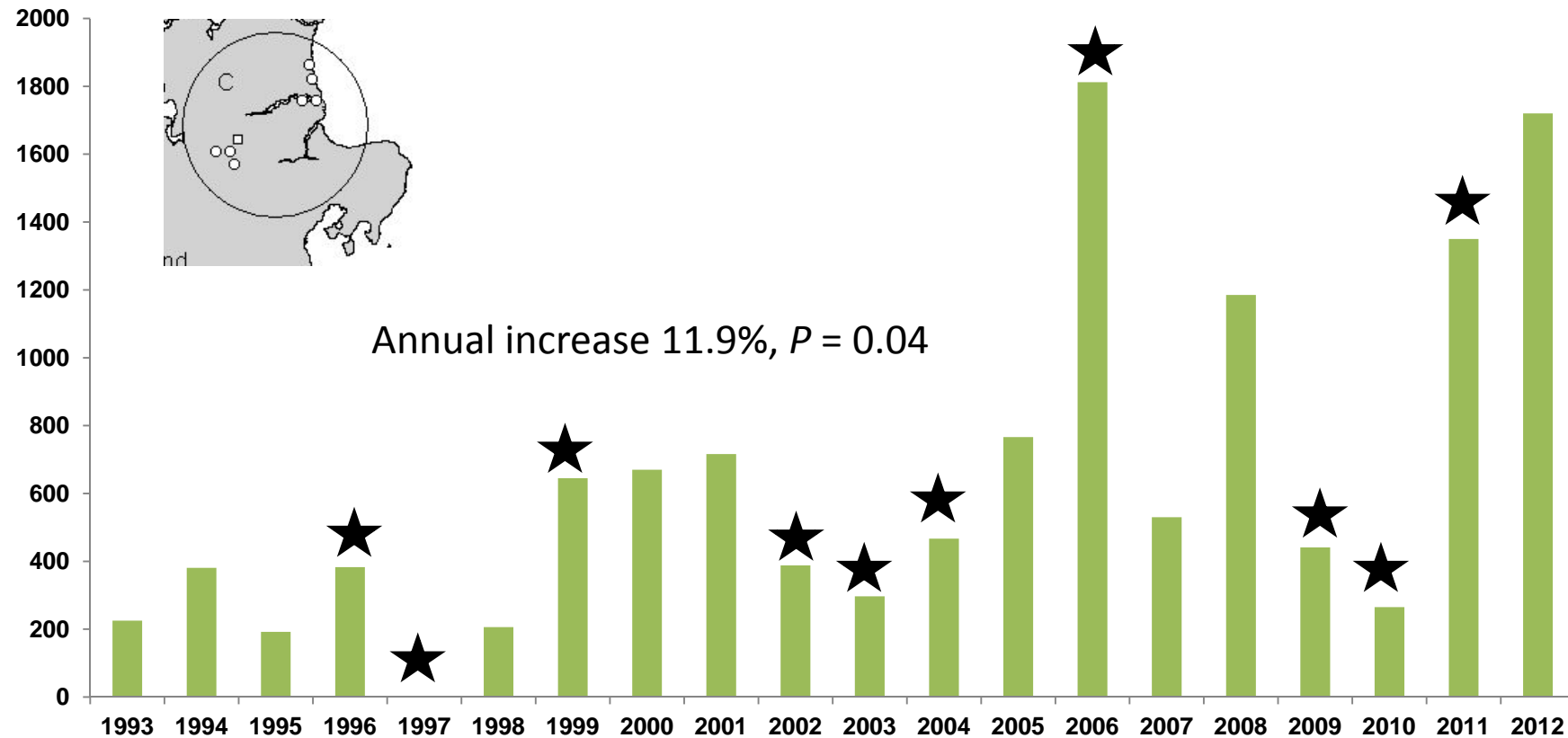
NW Jutland area, total numbers

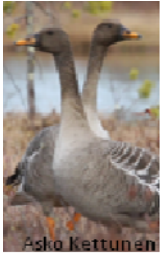




# Trend: Population C

Lille Vildmose area, total numbers





# Threats to the Taiga Bean Goose in Denmark

- List threats in order of significance:

- Habitat destruction and degradation (2)

*Generally confined to feeding on crop waste (SE Denmark) and traditionally managed meadows (everywhere), so very little threat from habitat destruction and degradation*

- Disturbance (2)

- Hunting (2)

*Populations in northern Jutland totally protected, hence only hunted in SE Denmark amongst rossicus*

- Interspecific competition (winter) (1)

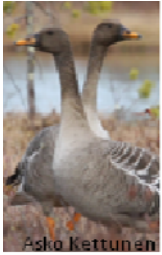
*Not really known, but unlikely. Either the species feeds alone or (in SE Denmark) on abundant food where it mixes with other species*

- Predation (1)

- Interference with agriculture (1)

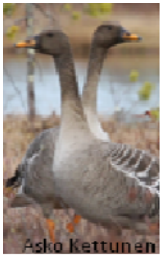
*As above, because the nature of the habitat use, there is little or no conflict with agriculture within the traditional wintering areas; in SE Denmark there are claims from farmers about agricultural damage by large concentrations of geese and swans and although not attributable to Taiga Bean Geese this could be seen as interference with agriculture which could intensify in the future.*

(5=very significant, 4=significant, 3=medium, 2=low, 1=very low)



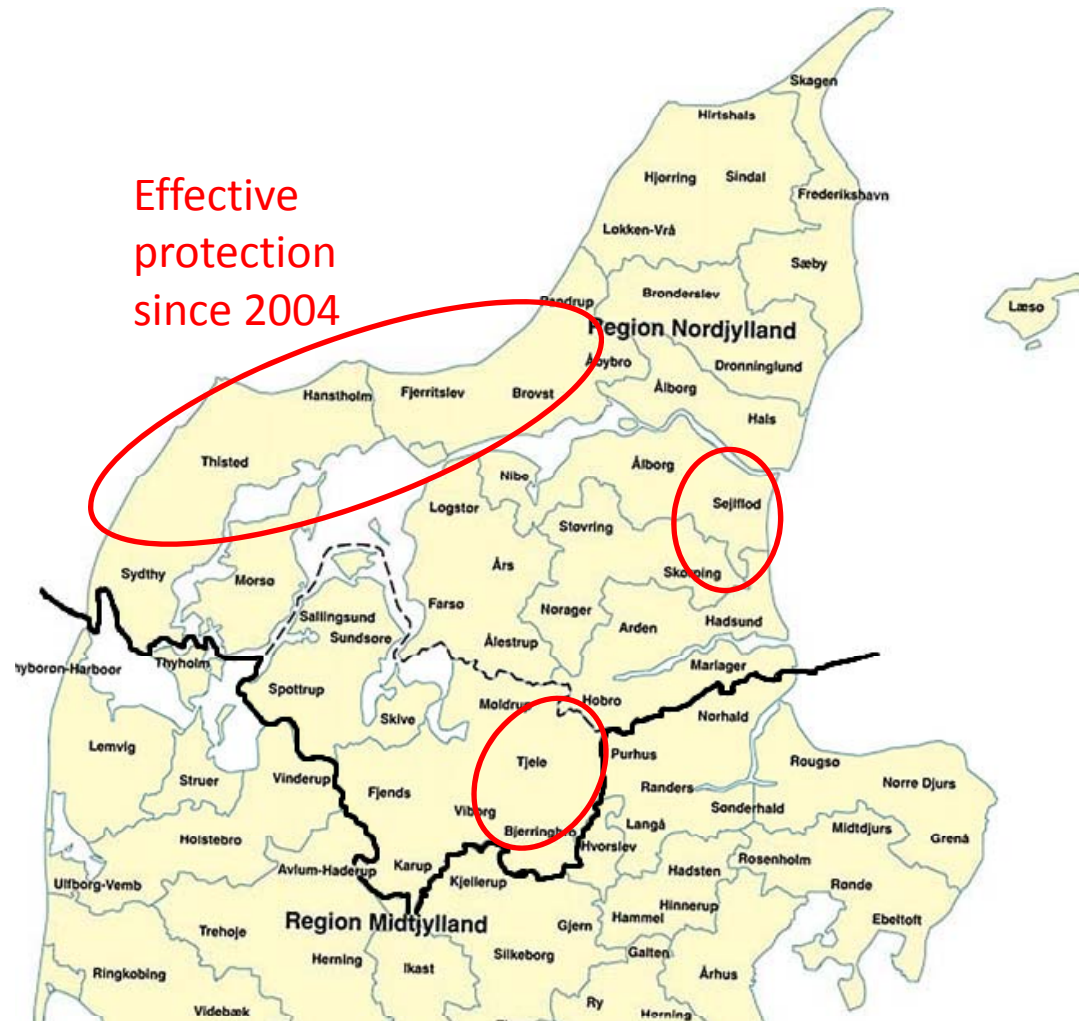
# Hunting and management

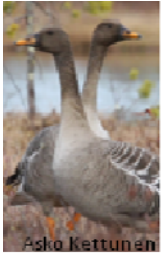
- Hunting regulation of Taiga Bean Goose in Denmark
  - *The hunting season extends from 1 September to 31 December, in coastal areas until 15 January*
  - *There are no bag limits and no possibility to impose these at present*
  - *Since 2004, hunting of Bean Geese has not been allowed in the North Jutland Region and in the municipalities of Viborg and Skive, which effectively protects all the key staging and wintering sites for the two sub-groups in North Jutland*



# Hunting and management

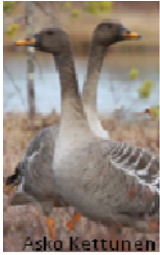
Effective  
protection  
since 2004





# Hunting and management

- Hunting regulation of Taiga Bean Goose in Denmark
  - *The hunting season extends from 1 September to 31 December, in coastal areas until 15 January*
  - *There are no bag limits and no possibility to impose these at present*
  - *Since 2004, hunting of Bean Geese has not been allowed in the North Jutland Region and in the municipalities of Viborg and Skive, which effectively protects all the key staging and wintering sites for the two sub-groups in North Jutland*
  - *Since 2011, hunting of Bean Geese has not been allowed in the North Jutland and Midtjylland Regions.*
  - *From 2014, hunting is allowed 1 September – 30 November only in the south-eastern municipalities of Vordingborg, Guldborgsund and Lolland, aiming at protecting fabalis nationwide.*



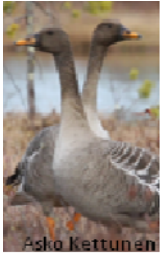
# Hunting and management

Additional  
protection  
since 2011



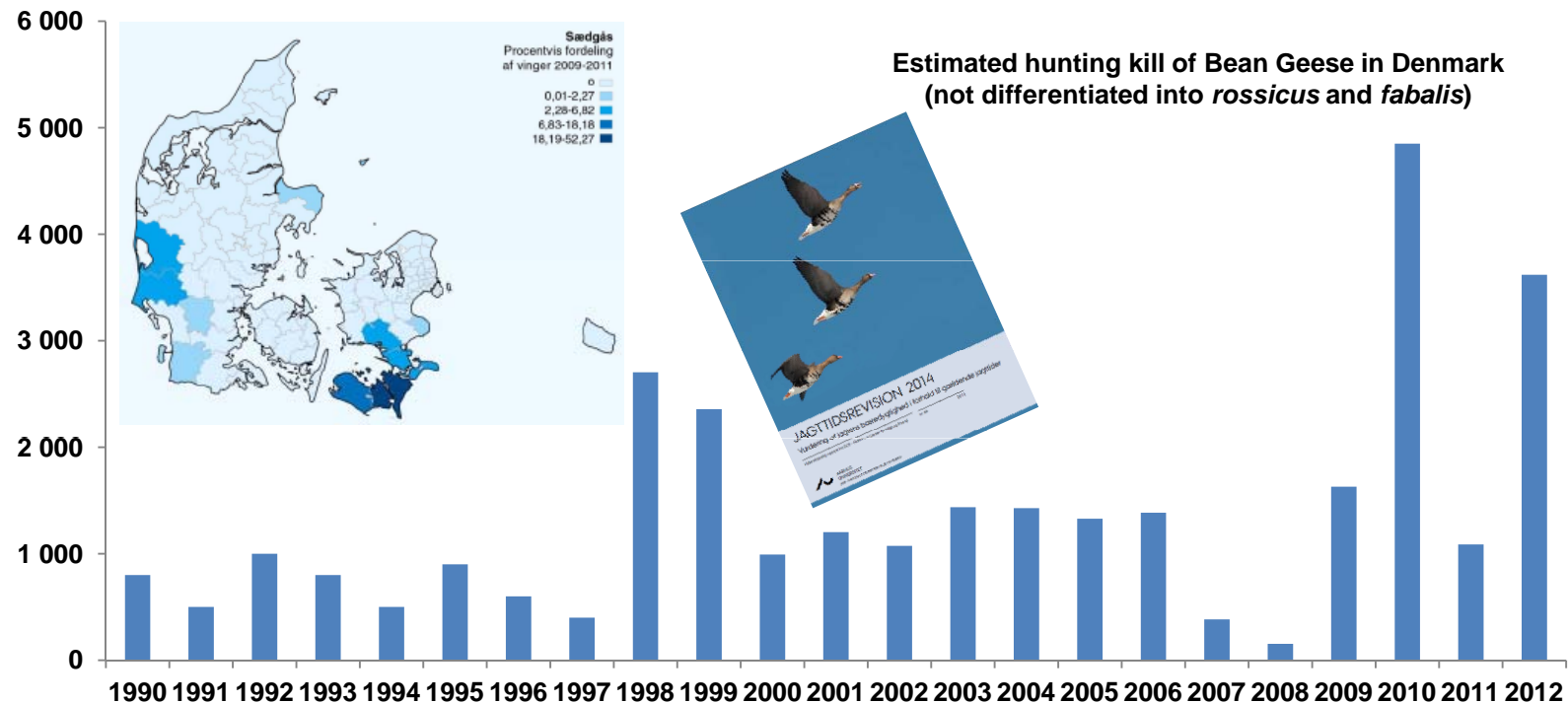
No hunting  
from Dec  
onwards to  
come into  
force in 2014





# Hunting and management

- Estimates of the annual hunting bags for Taiga Bean Goose in Denmark





# The Taiga Bean Goose - the local community and the economy benefits - damages

- Information about the relevance of the Taiga Bean Goose to local communities and national / local economy in Denmark

- Taiga Bean Geese are respected/valued locally

*The Lille Vildmose Nature Centre has information about TGB which winter on the adjacent reserve and meadows in the vicinity*

- There were local (hunting) traditions associated with it

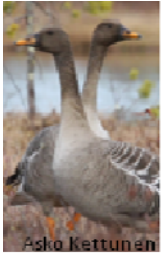
*In northern Jutland, there was a considerable tradition of hunting this population, formerly the only native goose present in winter, and the hunters of the area still have a respect and affinity for Taiga Bean Geese. In SE Denmark, it is just another quarry goose species with little or no tradition associated with it*

- The species not important for the national or local economy

*Not especially, there may be minor winter bird-watching activity associated with the geese at Lille Vildmose and some income for farmers in SE Denmark associated with renting out goose shoots, but generally there is little economic activity generated by the geese*

- Taiga Bean Goose do not cause damage/harm to agriculture or other activities etc?

*Because of the nature of the habitat the geese use there is little or no damage and no compensation schemes in place to accommodate such conflict. As mentioned earlier, Taiga Bean Geese are present in areas of SE Denmark where there are claims of damage in association with large aggregations of other goose and swan populations.*



# Danish National Information - Monitoring

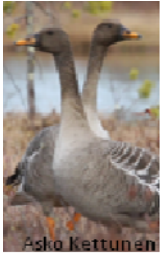
- The national monitoring programme in Denmark (NOVANA) compile annual data on Taiga Bean Goose in mid-January only

*Before 2010, counts did not differentiate Taiga and Tundra Bean Geese, but from now on, the mid-winter counts do differentiate the two races at all monitored sites. The latest report for 2004-2011 is available on web at <http://www2.dmu.dk/Pub/SR49.pdf> (in Danish).*

- There are no plans to launch any further monitoring programmes

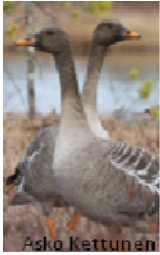
*...but if there are enhanced requirements for extra monitoring efforts (e.g. sampling age ratios, monthly and highly coordinated searches and counts to establish sub-population status and distribution, habitat use, staging phenology, DNA identification to race of shot Bean Geese etc.) these could be considered and potentially incorporated into current protocols.*





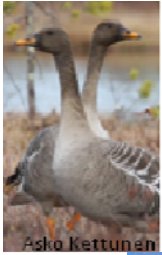
# National Information – Status of the sub-species in Denmark

- National legal status for the species:
  - The Taiga Bean Goose is a protected population in northern Jutland and is a quarry species in SE Denmark as documented above
  - There is a three yearly cycle of the Hunting Law that includes revision of the status of quarry populations where these are shown not to be able to support sustainable hunting in Denmark; protection was conferred in northern Jutland in 2004 and 2011 and has been agreed in SE Denmark from 2014 in response to previous such assessments
  - Red list status is not granted to non-breeding species in Denmark
  - The Danish Nature Agency is responsible for implementation of the Hunting Law
  - The only serious obstacle that hinders effective implementation of the Hunting Law is the lack of ability to distinguish Taiga Bean Geese from other quarry grey geese



## Actions and Planning

- Taiga Bean Geese are regionally protected from hunting and their numbers and distribution subject to annual mid-winter monitoring
- There is currently no National Species Action Plan or other relevant plan, but clearly there are many issues arising from this review of monitoring than need to be addressed
- There is currently no National (Taiga) Bean Goose Working Group or other relevant group



Thank you very much for your attention!



*With thanks to "NatureFootstep" for her magnificent image!*

