



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 Germany**



Thomas Heinicke

Federation of German Avifaunists (DDA), Germany





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Status, knowledge and monitoring in Germany

- regular migrant and winter visitor in NE Germany (states Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Brandenburg)
- before winter 2003/04 only scattered information about distribution and numbers, no special monitoring (goose monitoring only referred to Bean Goose)
- since winter 2003/04 start of special Taiga Bean Goose counts in NE Germany (field counts, partly combined with roost counts)
- regional TBG monitoring (mid Nov, mid Jan) in two main regions (Lower Odra NP, island Rügen) since 2003/04
- TBG goose ringing: Oct 2007 Lower Odra NP
- collection of historical data (ring recoveries, observations, museum specimen)

	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mch
2003/04	x	x	x	x	x	x
2004/05	x	x		x		
2005/06				x		
2008/09				x		
2010/11				x		
2012/13				x		



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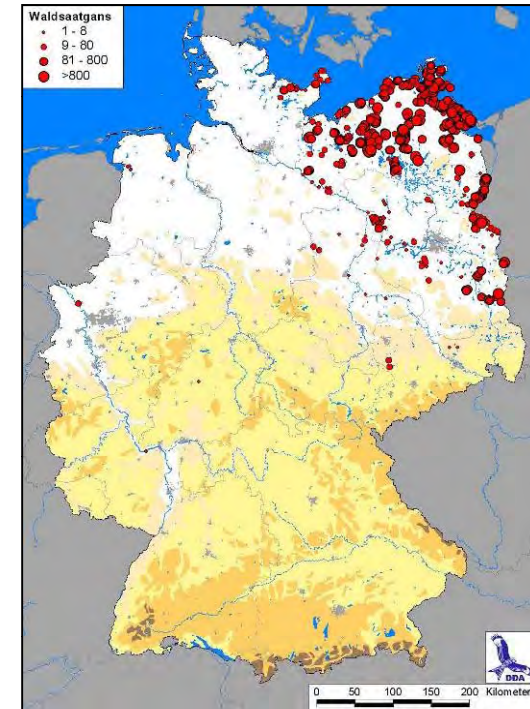
Population size & development in Germany

	2003/ 04	2004/ 05	2005/ 06	2008/ 09	2010/ 11	2012/ 13
Oct	1,000	6,500				
Nov	20,000	28,000				
Dec	30,000					
Jan	35,000	42,000	52,000	22,500	12,100	12,845
Feb	32,000					
Mch	8,000					

©: T. Heinicke/DDA

results: 42,000 Jan 2005 (normal winter)
52,000 Jan 2006 (cold winter)
22,500 Jan 2009 (normal winter)
12,100 Jan 2011 (cold winter)
12,845 Jan 2013 (normal winter)

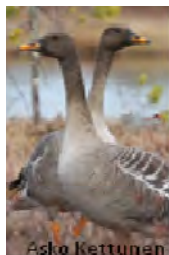
distribution 1995/96-2004/05



©: T. Heinicke/DDA

Main goose regions:

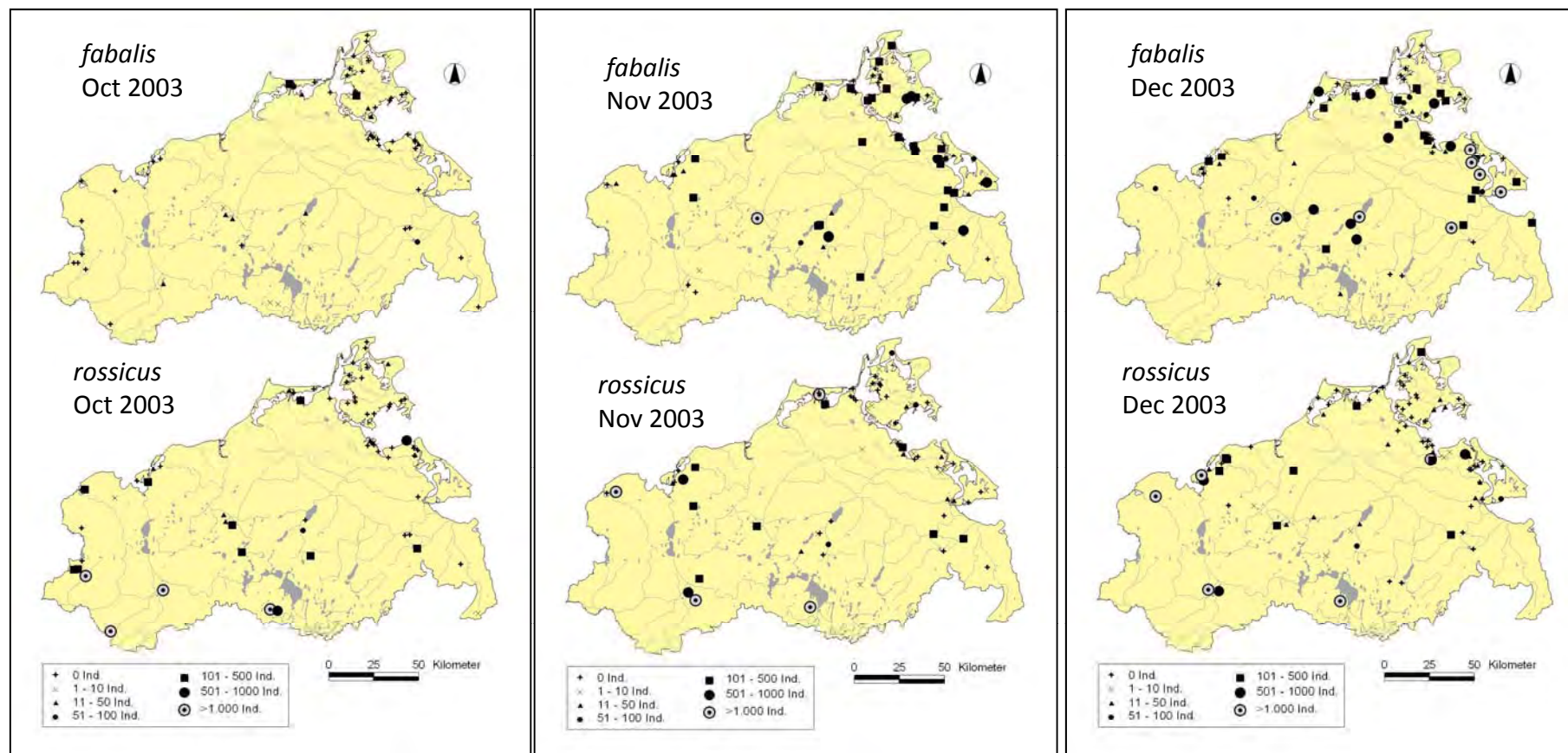
- Lower Odra NP
- Pommerania coastal areas: Stralsund, Rügen, Greifswald, Anklam, Usedom
- Mecklenburg lake district



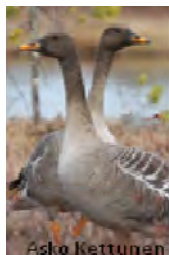
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Current distribution in Germany: count results winter 2003/04 D-MV



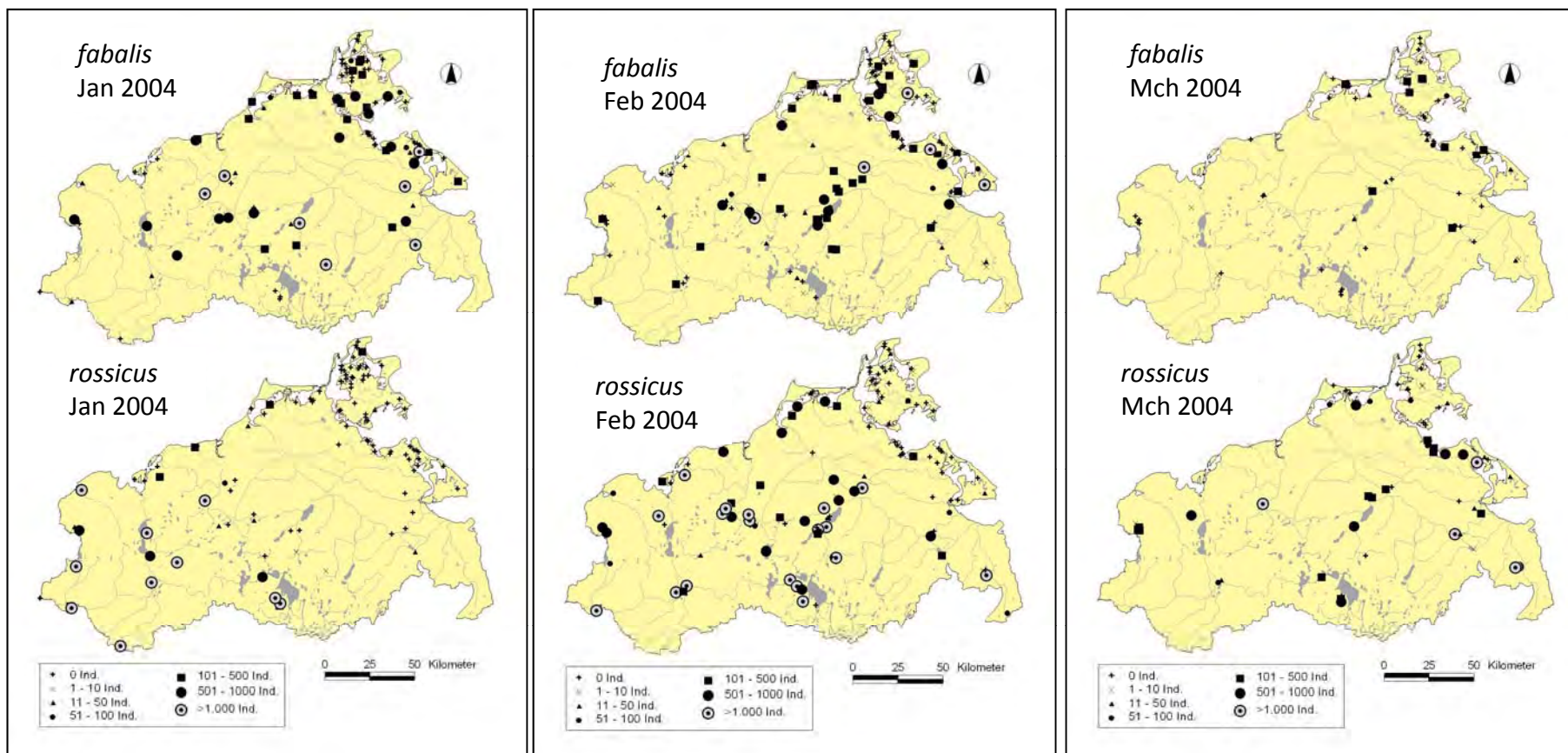
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Current distribution in Germany: count results winter 2003/04 D-MV



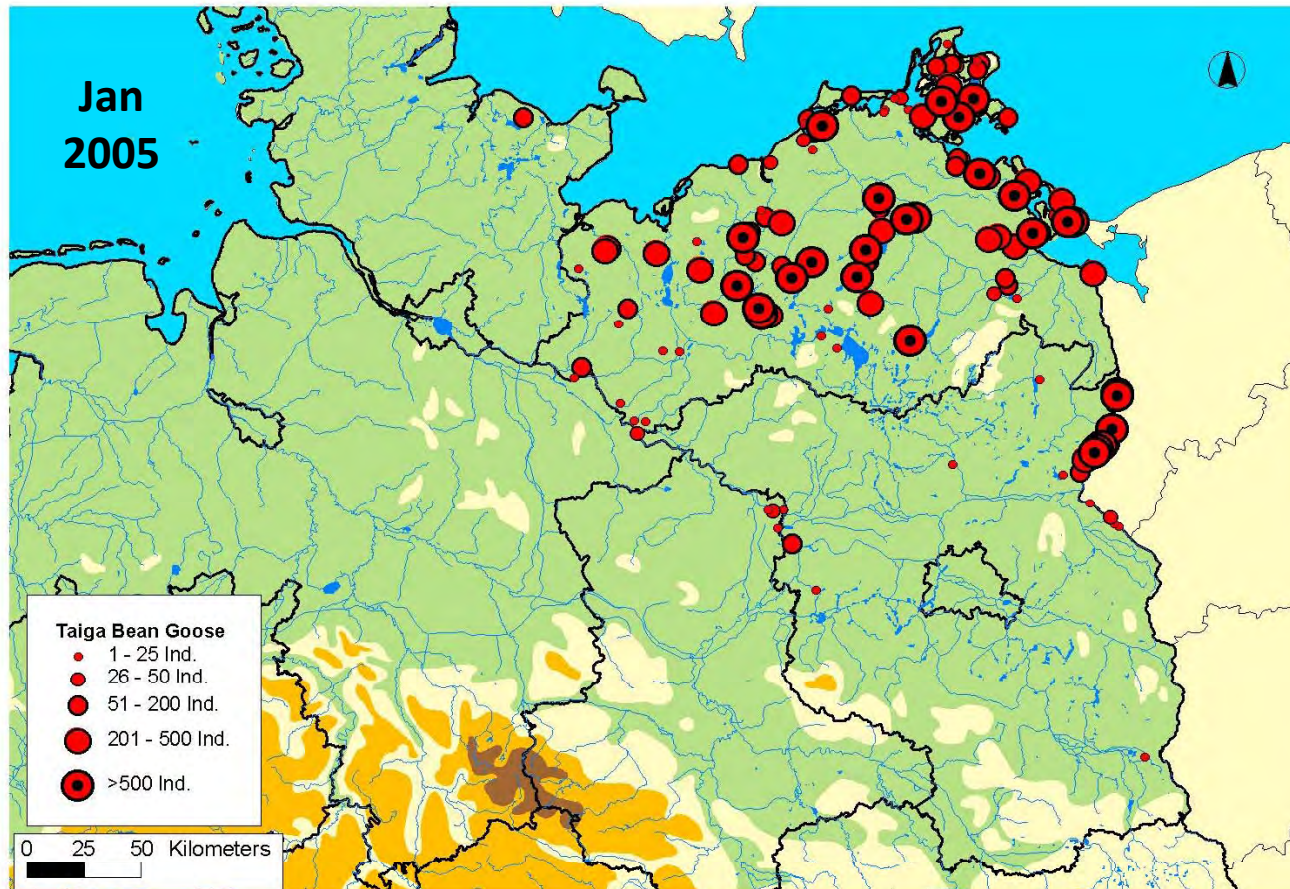
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Current distribution in Germany: count results January 2005 NE-Germany



total: 42,000
normal winter

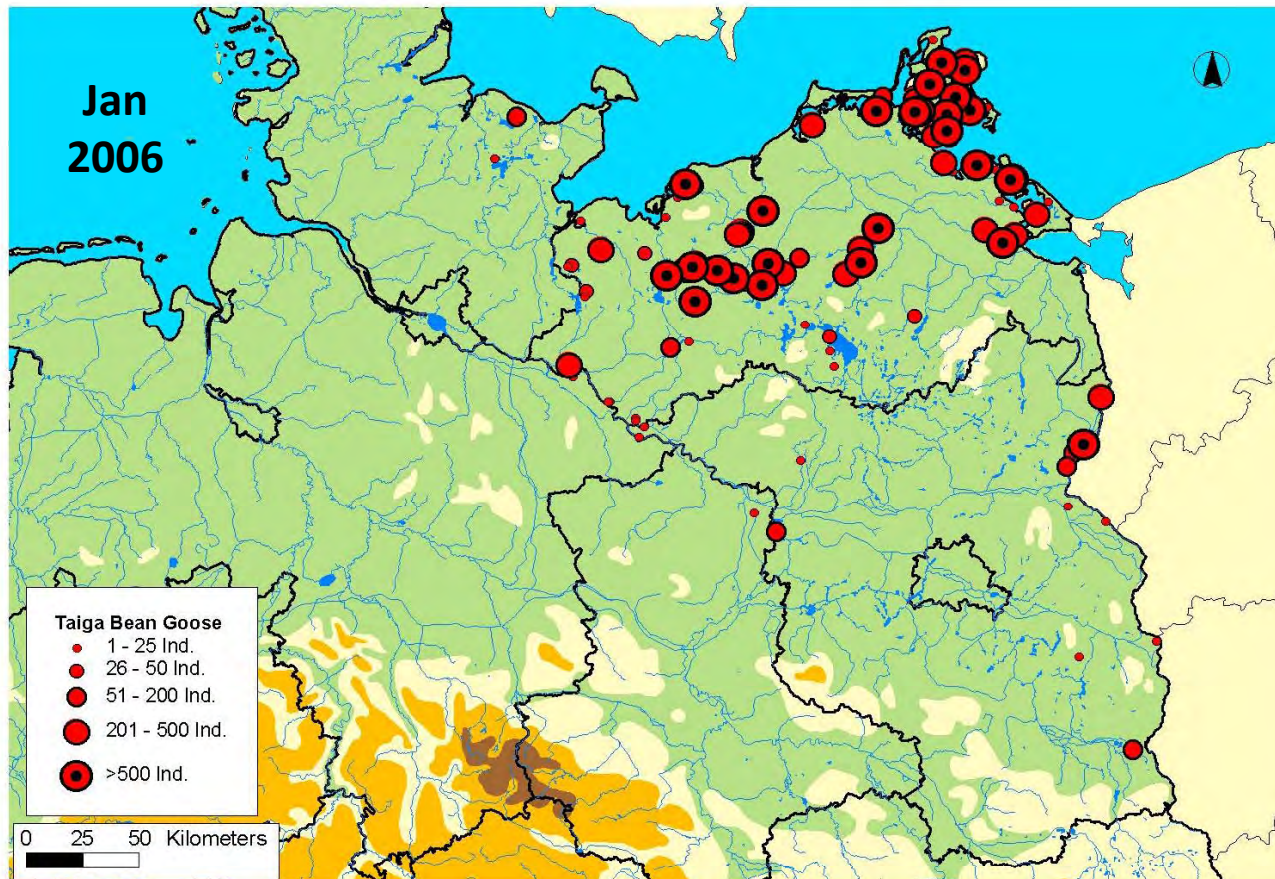
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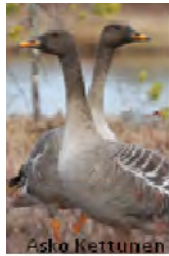


Current distribution in Germany: count results January 2006 NE-Germany



total: 52,000
cold winter

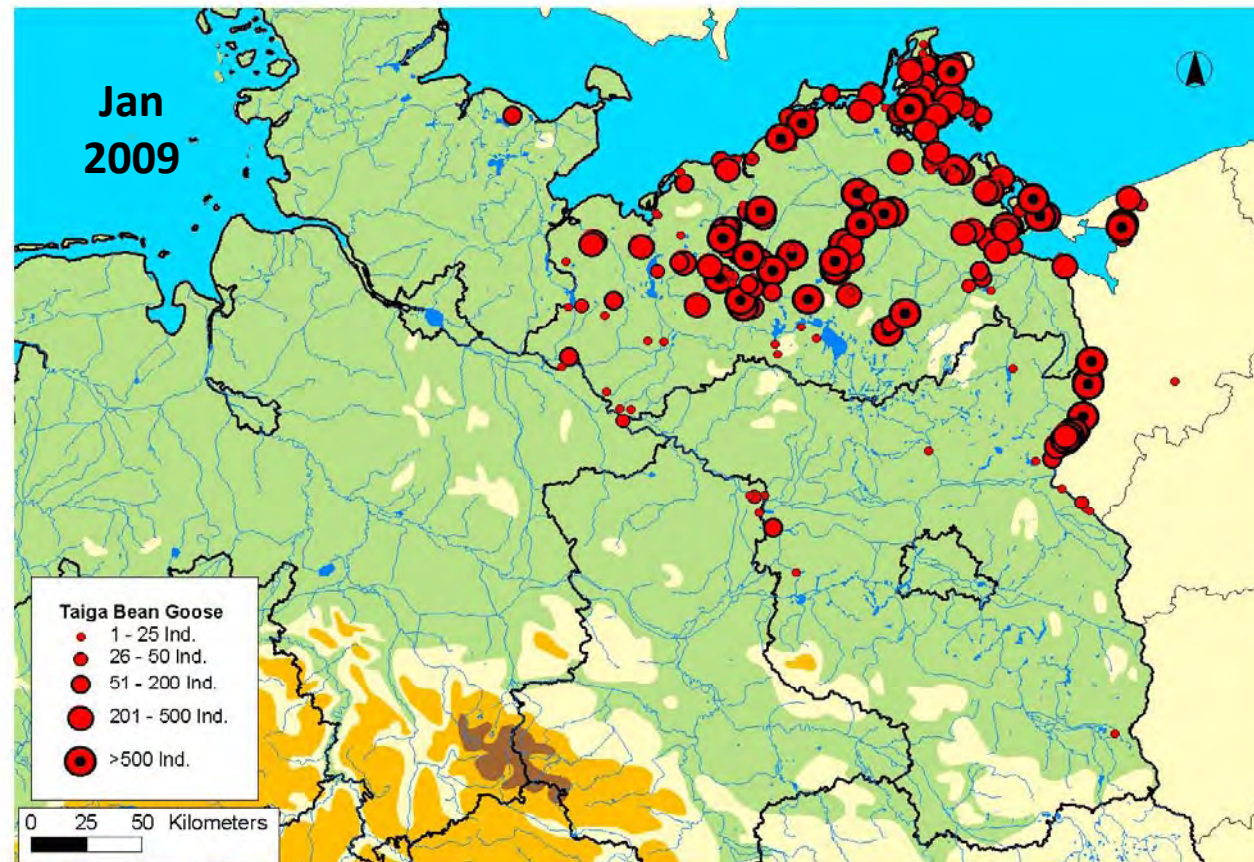
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Current distribution in Germany: count results January 2009 NE-Germany



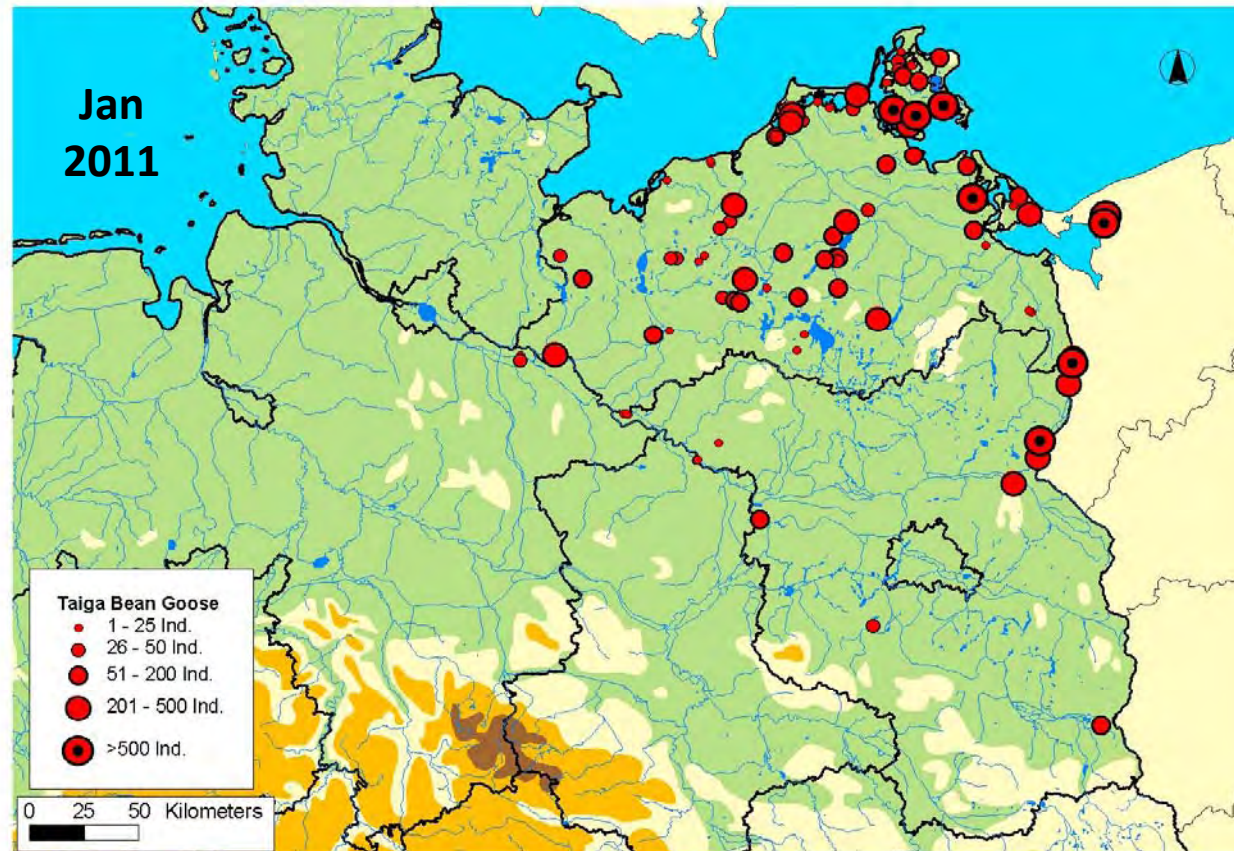
total: 22,500
normal winter



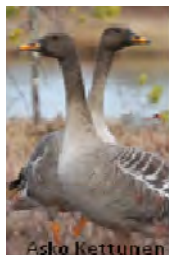
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Current distribution in Germany: count results January 2011 NE-Germany



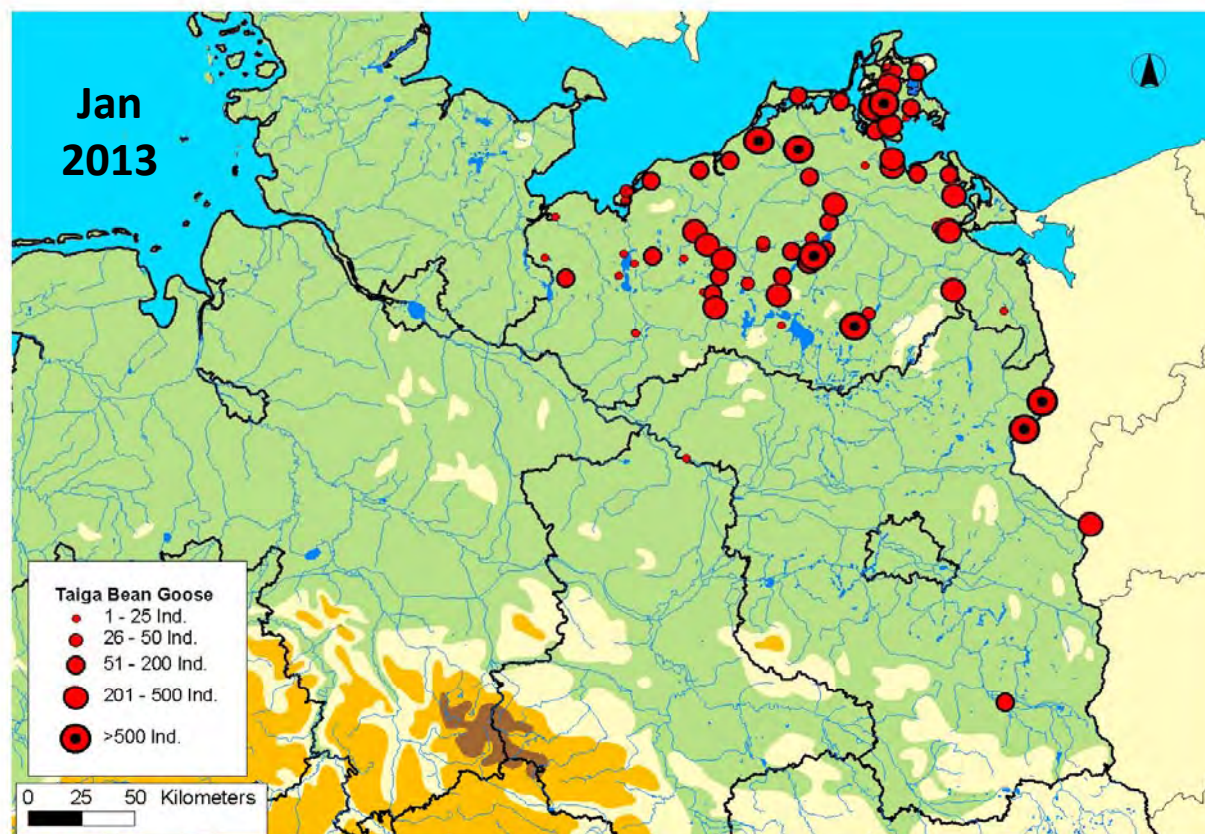
total: 12,100
cold winter



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Current distribution in Germany: count results January 2013 NE-Germany



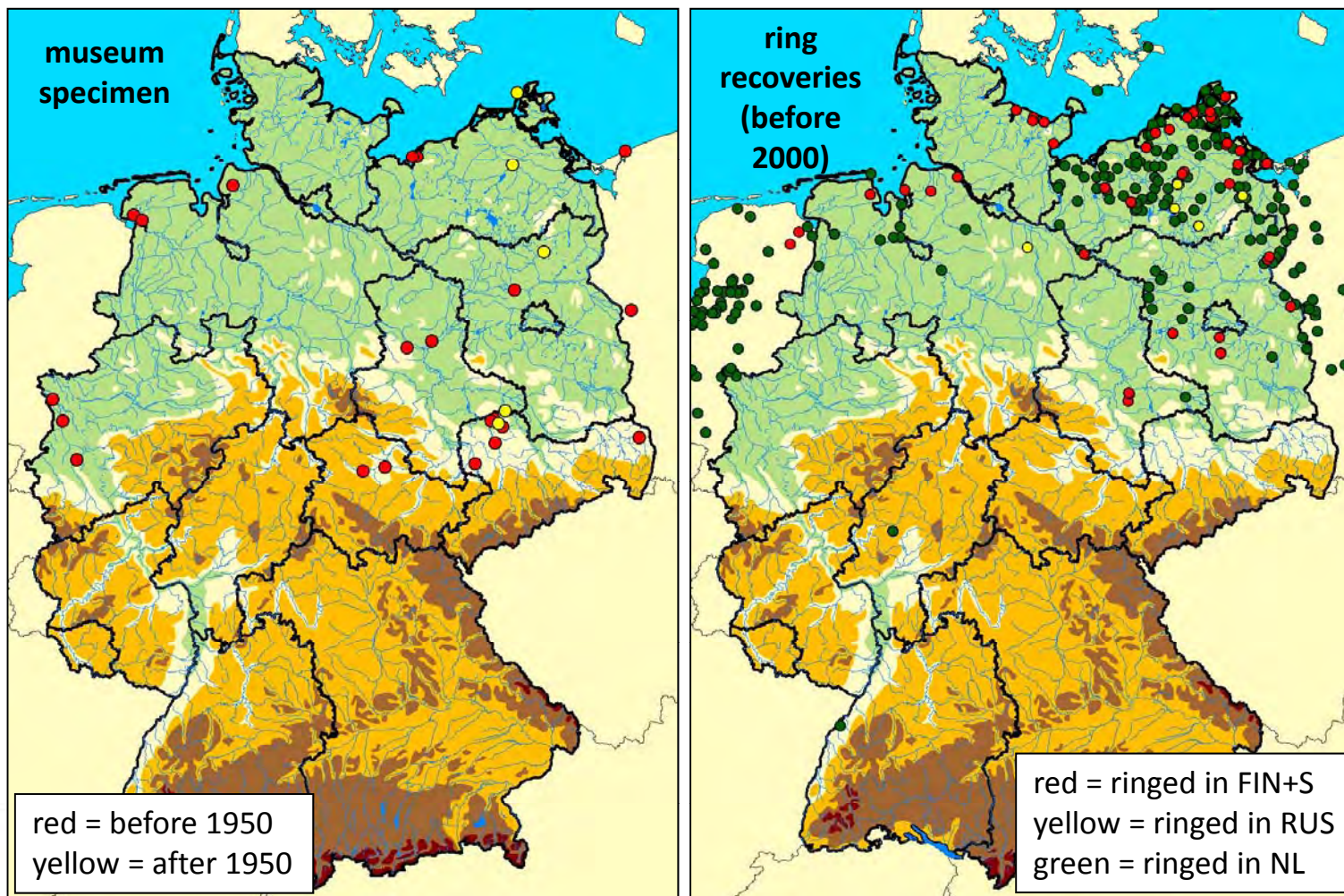
total: 12,845
normal winter



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Historical distribution in Germany: museum specimen, old ring recoveries





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Changes & trends

	2003/ 04	2004/ 05	2005/ 06	2008/ 09	2010/ 11	2012/ 13
Oct	1,000	6,500				
Nov	20,000	28,000				
Dec	30,000					
Jan	35,000	42,000	52,000	22,500	12,100	12,845
Feb	32,000					
Mch	8,000					

trend: **strongly decreasing** (ca. -70% within last 10 years)

reduction of the wintering area in Germany

practically no cold weather movements from Germany into the Netherlands

in autumn larger numbers arrive later in the season

(e.g. Lower Odra NP: Nov 2007 = 1,700, Nov 2012 = 200)



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Threats to the Taiga Bean Goose in Germany

threat	Staging/wintering	remarks
loss of natural/near natural feeding habitats	4	loss of natural/near natural wet grasslands as feeding habitats
disturbance at roosts	2	Some roosts are affected by hunting, fishery & fireworks
disturbance at feeding areas	3 - 4	In some wintering areas large scale scaring of geese in general, generally scaring occurs in most feeding areas
predation (non-human)	2	White-tailed Eagles in practically all staging/wintering areas
hunting	4	Hunting at feeding areas in most areas, hunting at roosts mostly restricted, no hunting in National Parks
interspecies competition	2	Partly on island Rügen with Canada Geese
windfarms	3	Practically most staging/wintering areas are now affected by windfarms (loss of feeding areas)
powerlines	2	In some staging areas are problems with high-voltage power lines (killing of birds at power lines)
infrastructure	2	New road constructions through some major staging/wintering areas (mainly Vorpommern)



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Hunting and management

- **Bean Goose is a huntable species in Germany**
 - general hunting season: 1. November - 15. January (federal law)
 - extra season D-MV: 15. September – 31. October (only at newly sown fields to prevent crop damage)
 - extra season D-BB: 16. September – 31. October, 16.-31. January (only at fields to prevent crop damage)
 - protection of roosts (D-MV: water bodies + 400 m buffer zone)
 - local restrictions (e.g. national parks, nature reserves)
 - no bag limit
- **Bean Goose hunting bag**
 - no separation between *fabalis* and *rossicus* (*guestimate: a few hundred fabalis/year*)
 - insufficient separation between goose species (high level of misidentification or no separation)
 - no head or wing survey
 - D-BB: average annual bag 5,050 geese (1995/96-2011/12), (min 3,449, max 7,585)
 - D-MV: average annual bag 5,939 geese (1995/96-2010/11), (min 2,325, max 11,360)
- **Are there conservation / management actions, if yes, are local hunters involved in these conservation/management initiatives? NO**





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Taiga Bean Goose – the local community & economy, benefits & damages

- **Provide information about the relevance of the Taiga Bean Goose to local communities and national / local economy in your country**
 - Is the TGB respected/valued locally? **NO**
 - Are there local (hunting) traditions associated with it? **NO** (tradition of goose hunting in general, but not associated with TBG)
 - Is the species important for the national or local economy? **NO** (in some region geese in general act as a tourism highlight)
 - If so, for what reasons (e.g. Tourism, Hunting, Subsistence)?
 - Does Taiga Bean Goose cause damage/harm to Agriculture or other activities etc? **NO** (geese in general often claimed for, but no real damage)
 - Value of the damages? **NO** Compensations scheme? **NO**





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National Information – Monitoring in Germany

- **National waterbird & goose counts**
 - overall coordination by DDA, but counts organized separate in each German state
 - insufficient separation of Taiga and Tundra Bean Geese (lack of ID knowledge); most birds are reported as Bean Geese
 - insufficient coverage in some states (e.g. Mecklenburg-Vorpommern)
 - normal monitoring programs (partly roost counts, partly field counts) are insufficient for a TBG monitoring (special field counts for full race separation needed)
- **Special Taiga Bean Goose counts**
 - voluntary, outside the regular monitoring program, T. Heinicke & co-observers
 - full site coverage every 2nd winter (only mid January)
 - more detailed regional counts (island Rügen, Lower Odra NP, mid Nov+Jan (annually since 2003/04))
- **Is there any Plans launching a monitoring programme?**
 - no, but urgently needed





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National legal status for the Taiga Bean Goose in Germany

- Whether the Taiga Bean Goose is a protected species **NO** or managed as a game species, please define **NO**
- the legislation and when this/they was declared. **NO**
- Red list status? **NO**
- Which government agencies are responsible for implementation? **NA**
- What is the level of implementation? **NA**
- What obstacles hinder effective implementation? **NA**





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Actions and Planning in Germany

- Is there any Actions taken on Taiga Bean Goose
 - Special TBG counts every 2nd winter (only January) in NE Germany, annual regional counts on island Rügen & Lower Odra NP (mid Nov, mid Jan)
 - Special ID workshops, presentations about Bean Goose field ID at meetings of regional ornithological societies
 - Neckbanding project (*fabalis*: Oct 2007, Lower Odra NP; *rossicus*: large scale neckbanding project in Europe), large network of voluntary ringreaders in Germany and other european countries
 - For most relevant TBG roosts goose hunting at roosts is forbidden (400 m buffer around roosts in D-MV), but hunting outside buffers zones and at fields is allowed
- National Species Action Plan or other relevant plan **NO (Not yet)**
- National (Taiga) Bean Goose Working Group or other relevant group **Not yet**

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Dia 18

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I have left this question as an additional one to the former questions. If there are no WGs, then they will leave the space blank. If there much more information than one slide can contain, it can be continued on another slide.

Evelyn Moloko (UNEP/AEWA Secretariat); 16.8.2012



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Other Information

- Knowledge gaps (**proposed actions**):
 - Establishment of an annual TBG monitoring in Germany (at least mid January counts annually) (**financial support for regular special roost-field counts**)
 - Connectivity between staging and wintering sites within Germany and to sites outside Germany (Germany-Poland, Germany-Sweden, Germany-Denmark) (**need for transmitter bird studies**)
 - Geographical origin and migration routes of TBG, wintering in NE Germany (**need for transmitter bird studies; definition of management units**)
 - How many TBG migrate from staging sites in Sweden to wintering sites in Germany? Which routes these birds are using? Which wintering sites are the main sites for these birds? (**need for transmitter bird studies**)
 - Insufficient hunting bag statistics (poor species separation, no separation between *rossicus* and *fabalis*) (**establishment of a combined wing-head survey**)
 - How many geese (TBG) are shot within the regular and the extra season to prevent crop damage? And at which sites how many geese (TBG) are shot within or outside the regular season? (**better hunting bag statistics**)
 - Is hunting the major threat to TBG in Germany and is the close of goose hunting an appropriate management tool?
 - Reproduction and survival rates of TBG wintering in Germany (**need for further neckbanding and ringreading activities + special counts for juv percentages/brood size**)
 - Interspecific competition with other goose species (e.g. Canada Goose versus TBG)? (**special study on island Rügen**)
 - Which threats occur at specific staging/wintering sites of TBG in Germany? (**site specific analysis of threats on habitat loss, hunting, disturbance, windfarms, powerlines, infrastructure etc.**)
 - Potential or real crop damage by TBG? (**in general and site specific analysis**)

