

IDENTIFICATION OF STUDY AREAS FOR BIRD FOCAL SPECIES STUDIES

BBCH CLASS 00 – 09

SOUTHERN ZONE

WINTER CEREALS



© ebird 2023 (*Luscinia svecica*,
breeding season)



I. Hotopp, A. Russ, B. Gießing, C. Wolf,
T. Schad, M. Ebeling

BACKGROUND

new criteria in the revised EFSA guidance document on risk assessment for birds and mammals (2023) for the selection of focal species

“[...] regionally specific but relevant species may have to be considered [...].”

- a rare species that used the crop might be more vulnerable than a prevalent species
- all species that potentially use the crop have to be considered as relevant

BEFORE

selection of study area based on occurrence of crop

NOW

selection of study area based on occurrence of crop and possibly relevant species

List of European species

exclude species not occurring in EU

exclude species not in relevant feeding guild

exclude species not relevant for crop

BirdLife – European List of Birds 2021

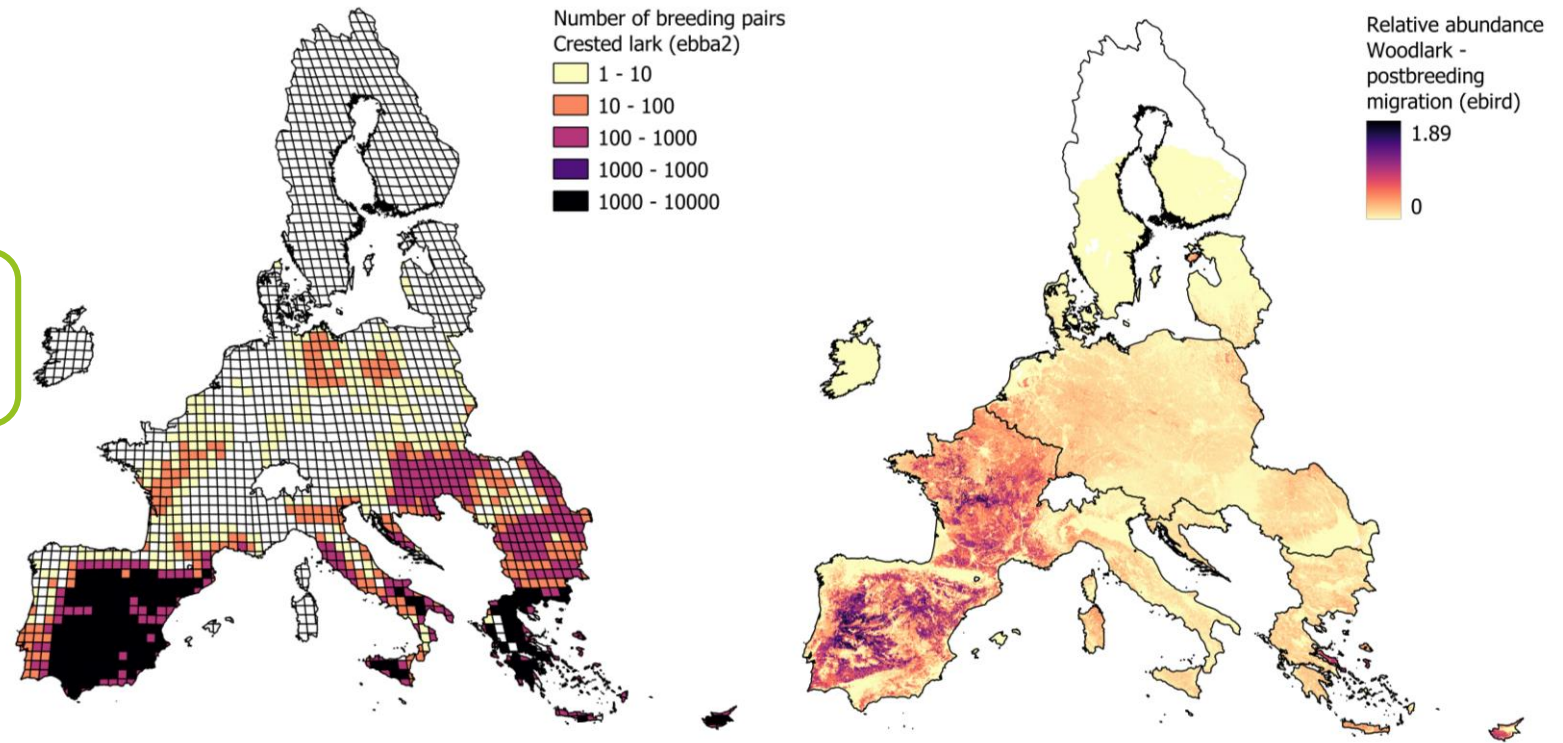
Common species name	Occurrence in EU	Relevant feeding guild	Occurrence in winter cereals
Sedge Warbler	y	y	n
Common Reed-warbler	y	y	n
Common Sandpiper	y	y	n
Long-tailed Tit	y	y	n
Boreal Owl	y	n	
Cinereous Vulture	y	n	
Eurasian Skylark	y	y	y
White-winged Lark	n		
Lesser Short-toed Lark	y	y	y

for the relevant BBCH class
calculate occurrence of each
species per area (grid)

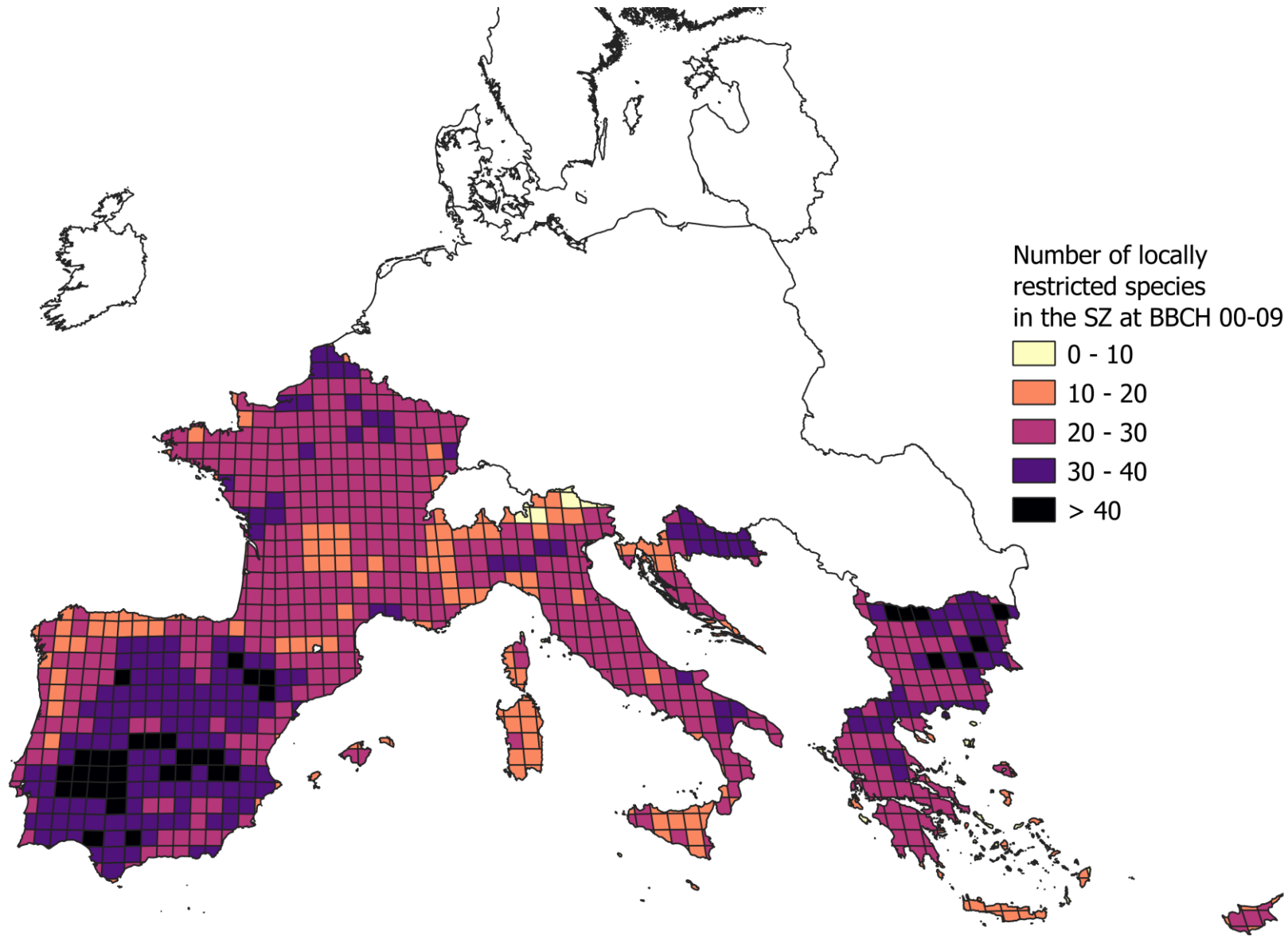
calculate number of species
per grid cell

50x50 km grid by EBBA2

eBird¹ – relative abundance
EBBA2² – abundance (pairs)

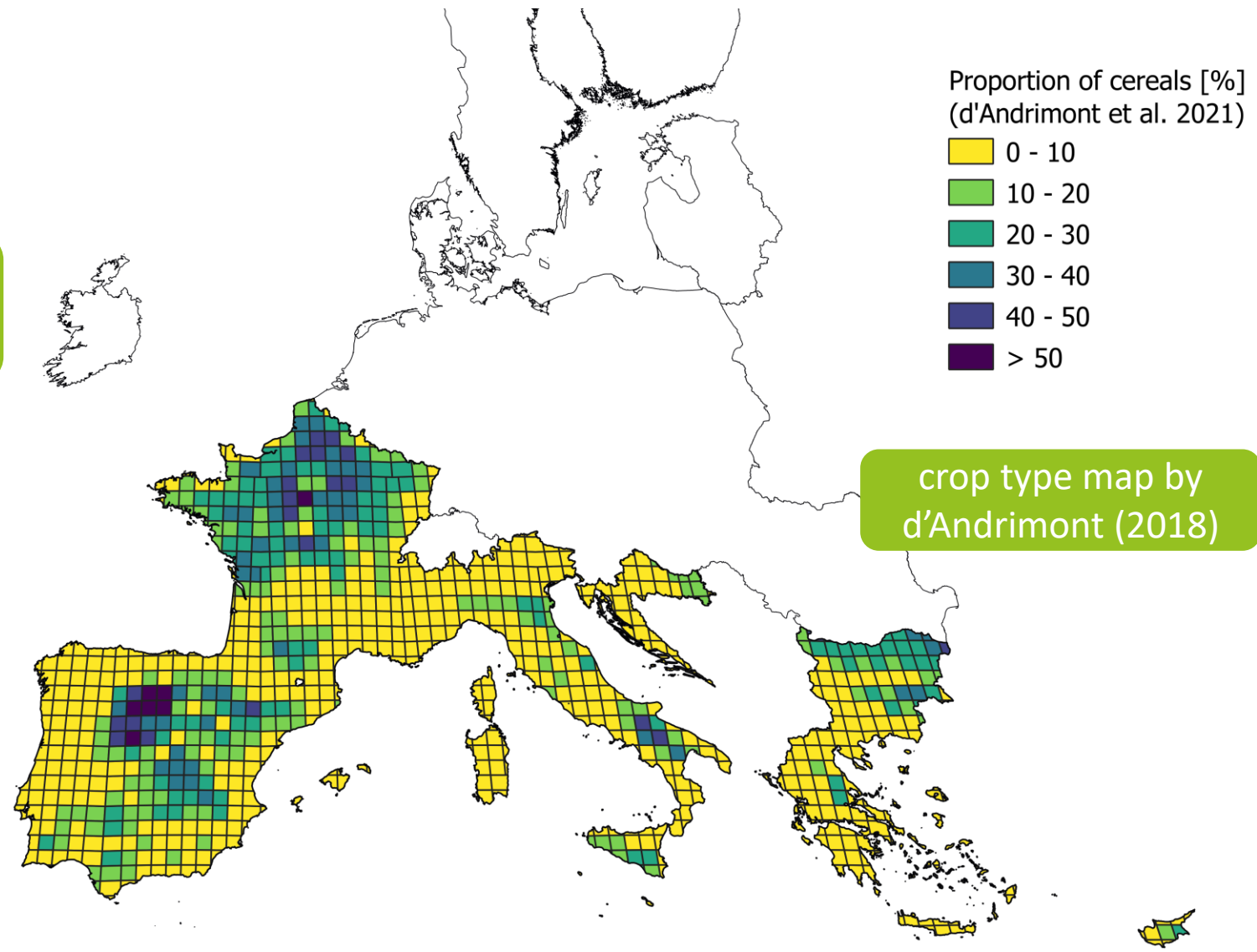


Identification of focal species study areas



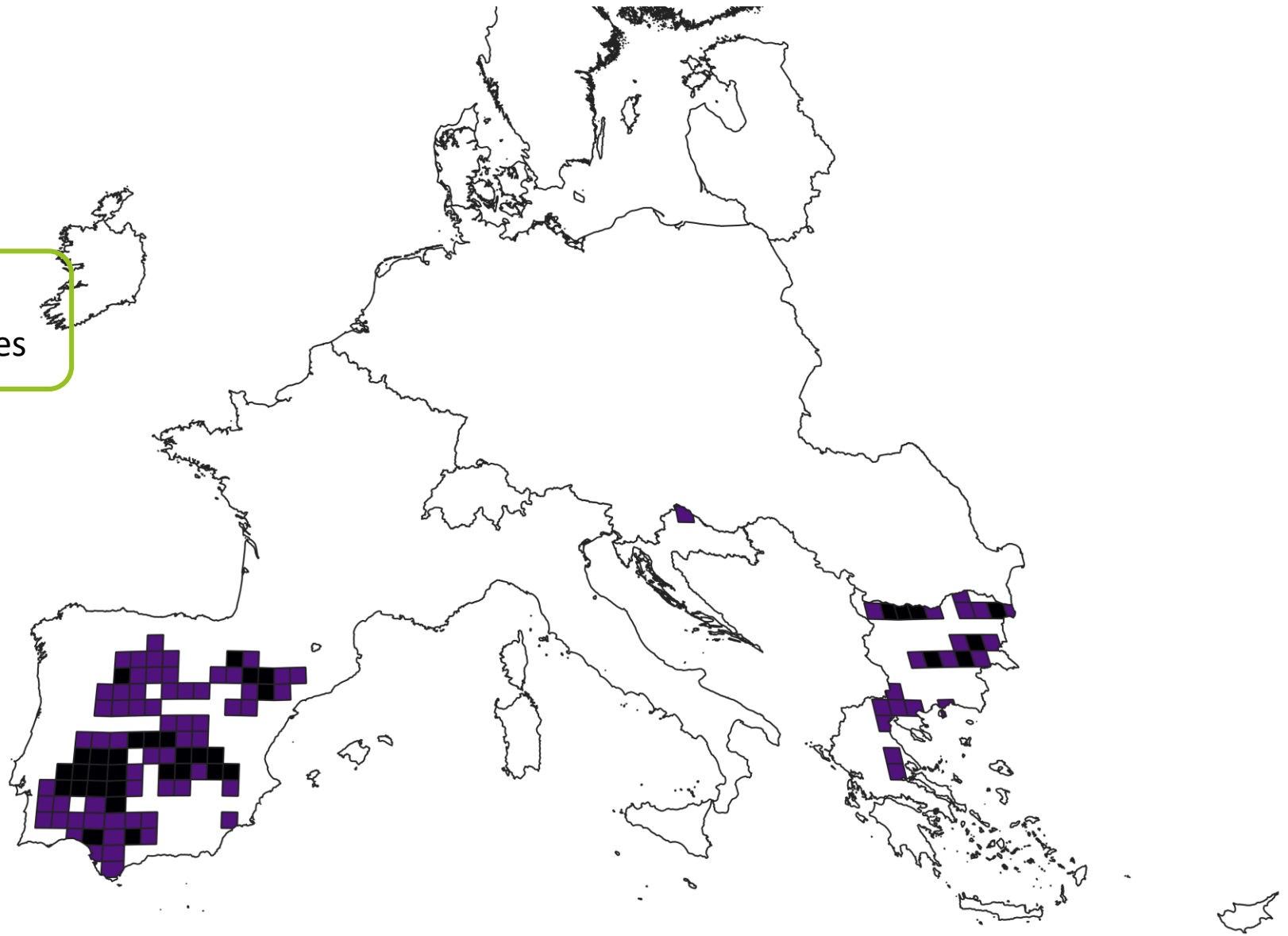
Identification of focal species study areas

identify occurrence of crop of interest in grid cells

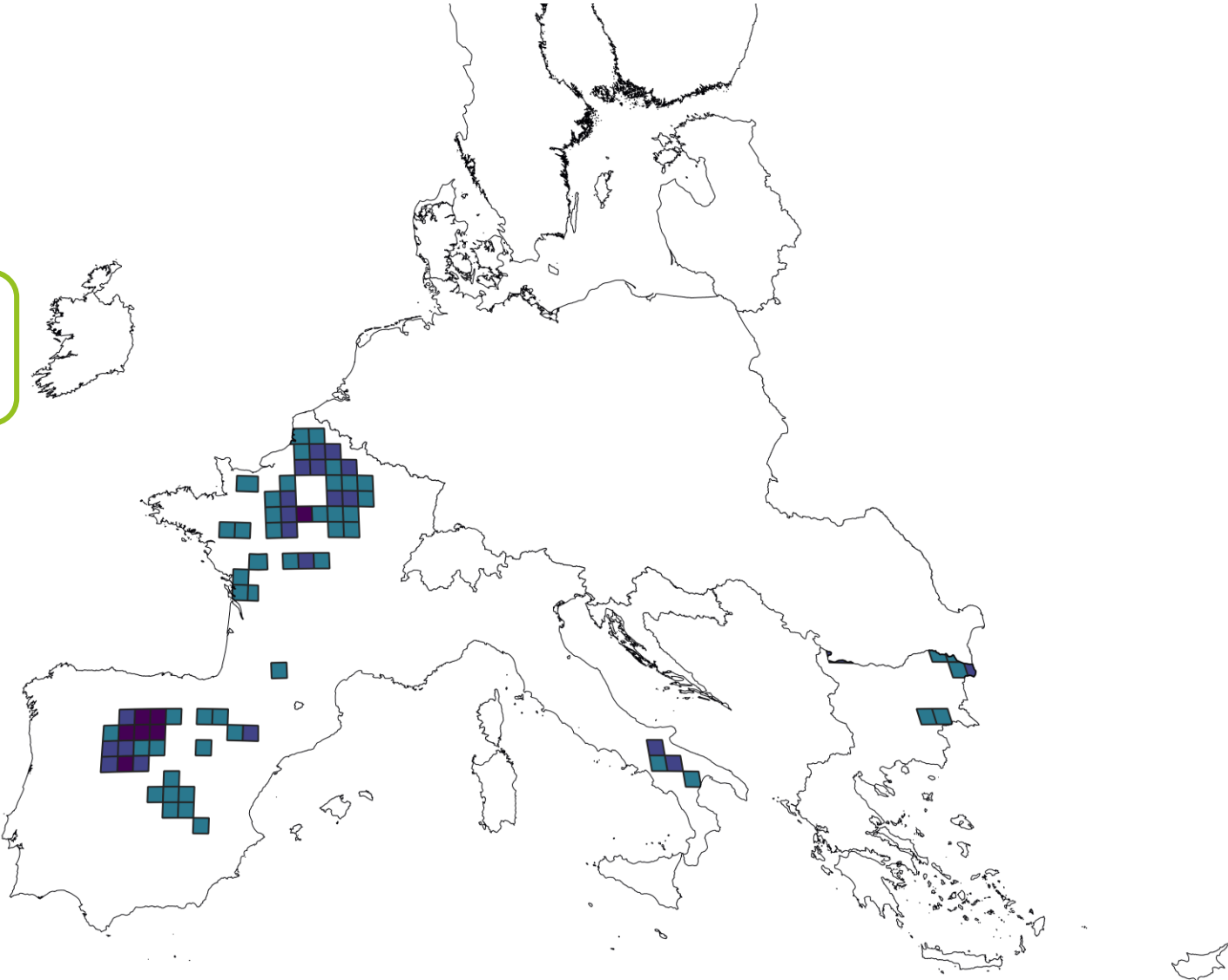


Identification of focal species study areas

select areas with a high number of relevant species

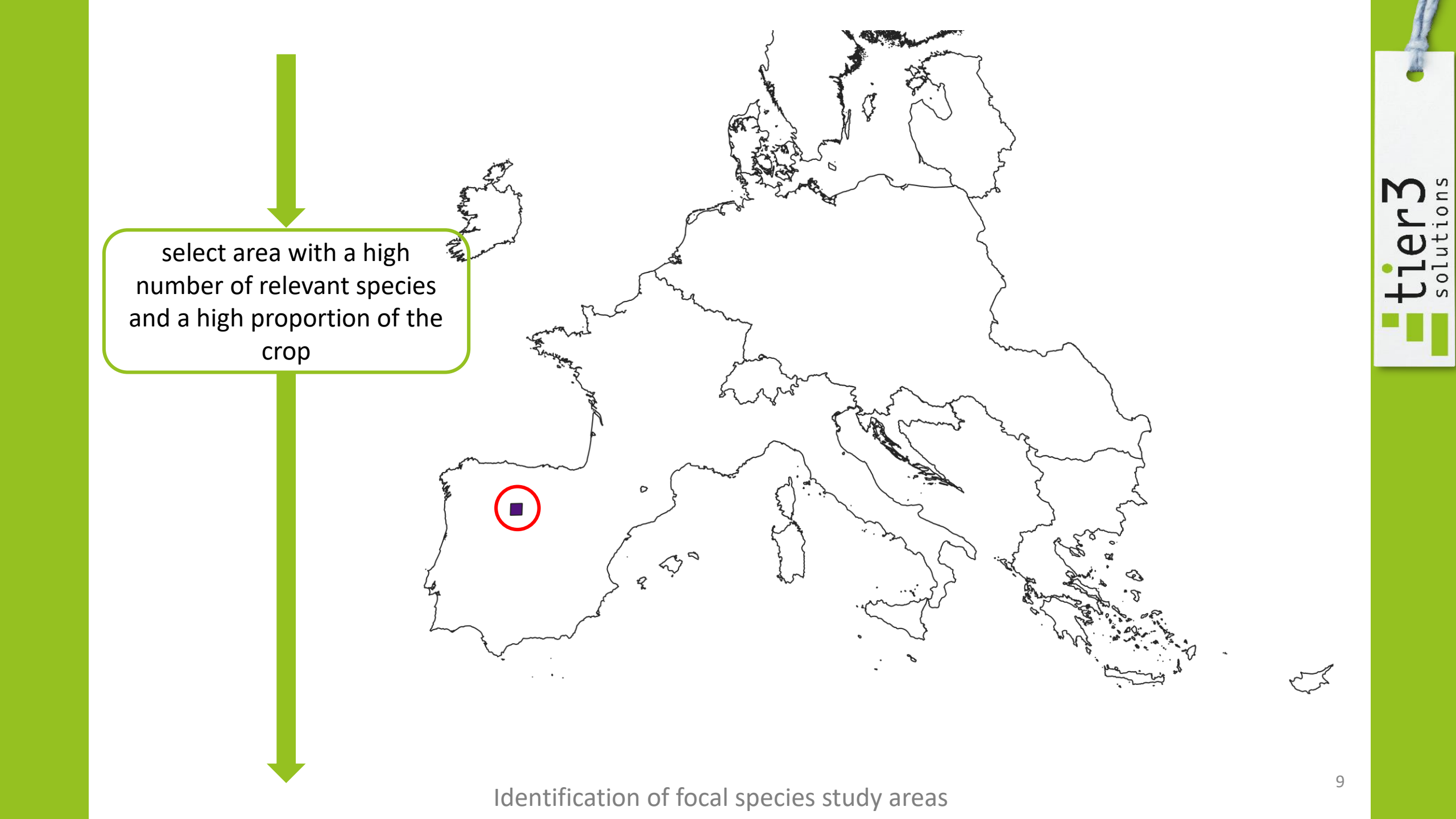


Identification of focal species study areas



select areas with a high proportion of the crop

Identification of focal species study areas



select area with a high number of relevant species and a high proportion of the crop

Identification of focal species study areas

Identify relevant species not occurring in the area

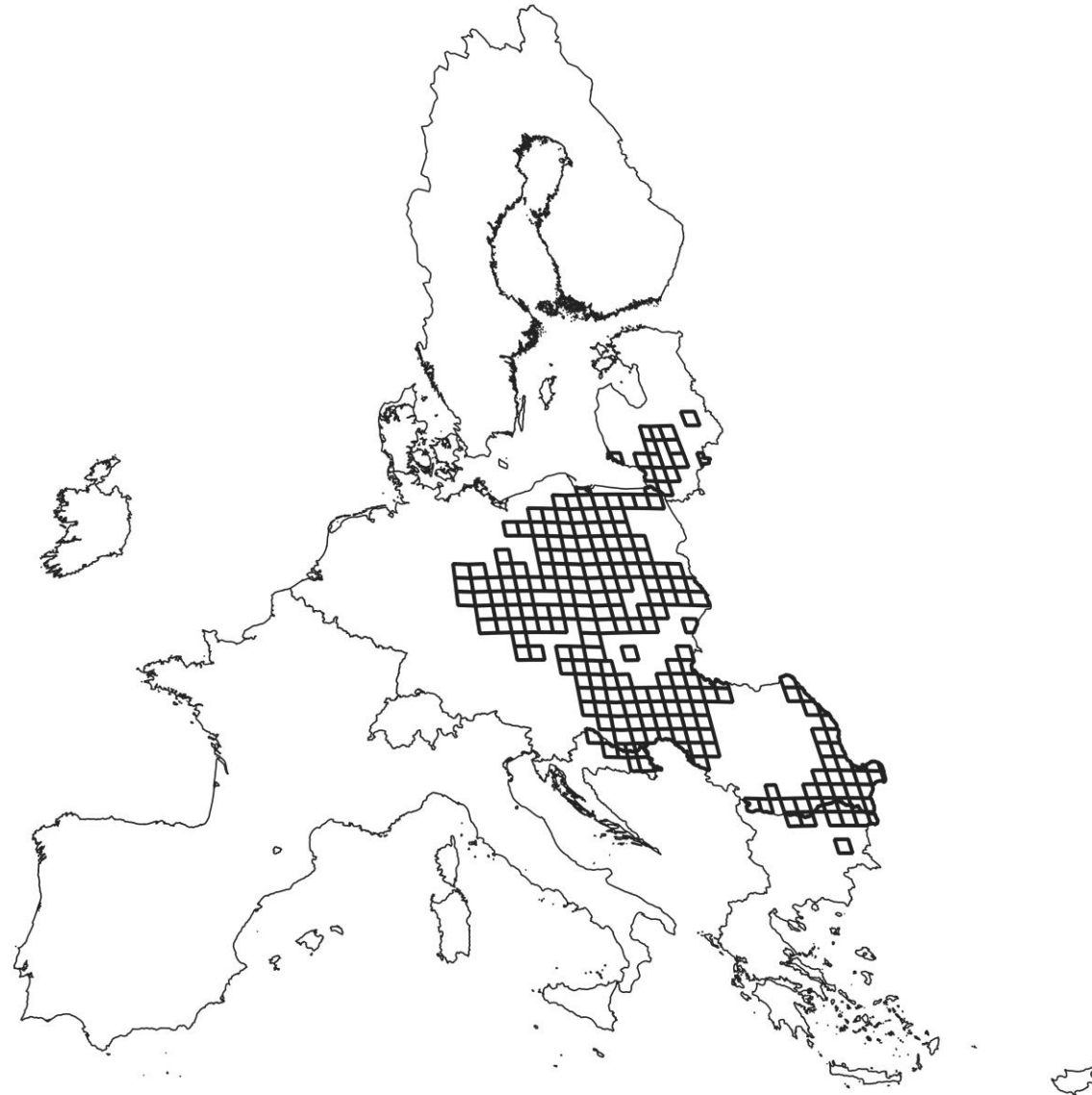
Missing species		
Bean Goose	European Herring Gull	Red-breasted Goose
Black-bellied Sandgrouse	Great Grey Shrike	Red-rumped Swallow
Black-eared Wheatear	Greater White-fronted Goose	Ring Ouzel
Black-headed Gull	Grey Partridge	Rook
Black-tailed Godwit	Iberian Grey Shrike	Rough-legged Buzzard
Black-winged Kite	Lesser Black-backed Gull	Thekla's Lark
Caspian Gull	Lesser Grey Shrike	Tundra Swan
Chukar	Mediterranean Gull	Whooper Swan
Common Gull-billed Tern	Mew Gull	Yellow-legged Gull
Common Pheasant	Ortolan Bunting	Yellowhammer
Cretzschmar's Bunting	Pin-tailed sandgrouse	
Eurasian Dotterel	Red-backed Shrike	

PROCESSING OF MISSING SPECIES IN SELECTED AREA

1. Much more relevant in another regulatory zone (if a study is conducted there)
2. Covered by another (at least similarly vulnerable) species occurring in area or surrounding area
3. Occurring in surrounding area
4. Occurring in another region of the same regulatory zone

MISSING SPECI

Missing species	1.
Bean Goose	X
Black-bellied Sandgrouse	
Black-eared Wheatear	
Black-headed Gull	
Black-tailed Godwit	
Black-winged Kite	
Caspian Gull	X
Chukar	
Common Gull-billed Tern	
Common Pheasant	
Cretzschmar's Bunting	
Eurasian Dotterel	



1.
X
X

MISSING SPECIES COVERED BY OTHER SPECIES

Missing species	1.	2.
Bean Goose	X	
Black-bellied Sandgrouse		
Black-eared Wheatear		
Black-headed Gull		
Black-tailed Godwit		
Black-winged Kite		
Caspian Gull	X	X
Chukar		X
Common Gull-billed Tern		
Common Pheasant		
Cretzschmar's Bunting		X
Eurasian Dotterel		

Missing species	1.	2.
European Herring Gull		X
Great Grey Shrike		X
Greater White-fronted Goose		
Grey Partridge		X
Iberian Grey Shrike		
Lesser Black-backed Gull		
Lesser Grey Shrike		
Mediterranean Gull		
Mew Gull		X
Ortolan Bunting		
Pin-tailed sandgrouse		
Red-backed Shrike		

Missing species	1.	2.
Red-breasted Goose		
Red-rumped Swallow		
Ring Ouzel		X
Rook		
Rough-legged Buzzard		
Thekla's Lark		
Tundra Swan	X	
Whooper Swan	X	
Yellow-legged Gull		
Yellowhammer		

MISSING SPECIES OCCURRING IN OTHER REGION

Missing species	1.	2.	3.	4.
Bean Goose	X			
Black-bellied Sandgrouse				X
Black-eared Wheatear				X
Black-headed Gull				X
Black-tailed Godwit				X
Black-winged Kite				X
Caspian Gull	X	X		X
Chukar		X		
Common Gull-billed Tern				X
Common Pheasant				X
Cretzschmar's Bunting		X		
Eurasian Dotterel				X

Missing species	1.	2.	3.	4.
European Herring Gull		X		
Great Grey Shrike		X		
Greater White-fronted Goose				
Grey Partridge		X		X
Iberian Grey Shrike				X
Lesser Black-backed Gull				X
Lesser Grey Shrike				X
Mediterranean Gull				X
Mew Gull		X		
Ortolan Bunting				X
Pin-tailed sandgrouse				X
Red-backed Shrike				X

Missing species	1.	2.	3.	4.
Red-breasted Goose				X
Red-rumped Swallow				X
Ring Ouzel		X		
Rook				X
Rough-legged Buzzard				X
Thekla's Lark				X
Tundra Swan	X			X
Whooper Swan	X			X
Yellow-legged Gull				X
Yellowhammer				X

AREAS COVERING ALL RELEVANT SPECIES



Identification of focal species study areas

TO KEEP IN MIND

- mostly transparent approach
- universally applicable
- expert knowledge and secondary literature sources
 - feeding guilds
 - occurrence in crop
 - assessment of data quality
- comprehensible due to data-driven background
- dependent on high-quality data
- need of up-to-date data for species and crop occurrence to adapt to dynamic circumstances
- *common crop* ↔ *less common crop*