



Capacity building experiences with
volunteers for large scale bird surveys and
projects in Slovenia

Damijan Denac

Trenta, 18.9.2019





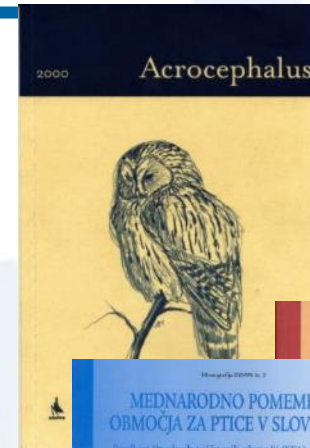
The global Partnership for nature and people



- DOPPS – BirdLife Slovenia is Slovenia’s biggest NGO in the field of nature protection, funded in **1979**
- BirdLife International partner in **2001**
- **1,000** members, employs **29** people
- **200 – 600** volunteers
- Public interest of nature protection, environment protection and research
- We are working for the protection of birds and their habitats thus contributing to conservation of nature and welfare of society



Research, protect, educate, publish





ATLAS PTIC SLOVENIJE

POPIS GNEZDIK 2002-2017





Fotografija: Gregor Bernard

VIJEGLAVKA

Fynx torquilla

Torcicoll
nyaktekercs
vijeglav
Wenzelhal

Karta razlik razširjenosti 10x10 km



LEGENDA
■ gnezdištev ■ gnezdištev Atlas 1995
 domstev na gnezdištev ● močna gnezdištev Atlas 1995

Vijeglavka je pogosta in splošno razširjena v večjem delu Evrope, le v delu zahodne Evrope in na Iberskem polotoku je njena razširjenost bolj razčlenjena, v Veliki Britaniji in na Irskem pa je ni (BirdLife International 2017). V Sloveniji je zelo pogosta in splošno razširjena z izjemo alpskega sveta.

Vijeglavka dosega največje gostote v Sotškem in Voglajnskem grčevju, skrajnem vzhodnem in zahodnem delu Posavskega hribovja in v Grčevjih nad Krško kotlino. Nekoliko manjše so gostote na Banjšicah in Kambreškem, v Vipavski dolini, Brkinih in v Dolini Reke, Beli krajini, Novomeški pokrajini, Savinjski dolini med Menino, Dobrovljami in Goltemi ter v severnem delu Slovenskih goric. Redka je v zahodnem predalpskem svetu, Dravinjskih gorcih, v Čeljski kotlini, na Dravskem polju, Pomurski ravnini in zahodnem Goričkem. V gorskem svetu vključno s Bohorjem, na Snežniku in v večjem delu Ribiško-Kočevskega hribovja je ni. V primerjavi s prejšnjim atlasom (Geister 1995) je bila vijeglavka odkrita v pribl. 40 % več kvadratov, kar pa pripisujemo obsežnim sistematičnim popisom in povečanemu številu ornitologov, ne pa porastu populacije in širitvi areala. Vijeglavka je vrsta grčevij, kar je razvidno iz opisa njene razširjenosti, dodatno pa to potrjuje njena višinska razširjenost. Kar 75 % populacije naseljuje višinski pas 200–600 m, medtem ko se v nižinah do 200 m pojavlja manj kot 15 % populacije, kar je verjetno posledica majhnega deleža površine Slovenije v tem višinskem pasu. V popisu za atlas TNP je bila najvišje zabeležena na 1050 m (Jančar 1997).

Prebiva v mozaični kmetijski krajini z visokodebnimi sadovnjaki, skupinami drevev, grmovno-drevesnimi mejcami in travniki (Geister 1995, Jančar & Trebušak 2000, Tome *et al.* 2005, Denac & Kmecl 2014). Najraje ima na jug obrnjene tople lege (Maumary *et al.* 2007). Ob Muri in Dravi naseljuje tudi rečni poplavljeni gozd (Bračko 1997, Božič 2007), na Kozjanskem gozdni rob (Jančar 2000), na Ljubljanskem barju pas drevev ob večjih odvodnikih (Tome 2001a), v Savinjski dolini pa celo hmeljišča (Vogrín 2004a). Gnezdi v duplih, ki si jih ne izreže sama, rada pa zasede tudi gnezdnice, iz katerih pogosto prečene druge manjše vrste (Maumary *et al.* 2007). V mestnih parkih, npr. v Ljubljani, je kljub zadostnemu številu dupel redka, najverjetneje zaradi pomanjkanja travnikov, kjer išče svoj glavni plen, mravlje in njihove razvojne stadije (Tome *et al.* 2011). Nasplošno pa je na avstrijskem Koroškem in Štajerskem v parkih in na pokopališčih običajna gnezdnika (Feldner *et al.* 2006, Albeegger *et al.* 2015). Za prehranjevanje potrebuje nizko rastle in precizjen delež golih tal, saj je tam plen lažje dostopen (Mermod *et al.* 2009, Weisshaupt *et al.* 2011). Strnjeno gozdom in gozdnim monokulturam se izogiba (Feldner *et al.* 2006), lahko pa se pojavlja v fragmentiranih listnatih gozdovih (Stumberger 2002). Ekologija vrste v Sloveniji se ni bila raziskana, imamo pa kar nekaj podatkov o njenih gostotah. Na Kozjanskem je bila v letu 1999 ugotovljena gostota 3,9–13,9 p./km² (Jančar & Trebušak 2000), v letu 2010 pa le 4 p./km² (Kmecl *et al.* 2014c). Na Goričkem smo izračunali gostoto 0,4 p./km² (Denac & Kmecl 2014), na Ljubljanskem barju 0,4–0,5 p./km² (Tome *et al.* 2005), v kulturni krajini Ljubljane do 0,8 p./km², na območju družinskih hiš in primestnih naselij 0,1–1,3 p./km² (Tome *et al.* 2011) ter v poplavnem gozdu ob spodnji Muri 1,6 p./km² (Božič 2007). V Rusiji in Belorusiji so gostote znašale 0,4 p./km², drugod pa

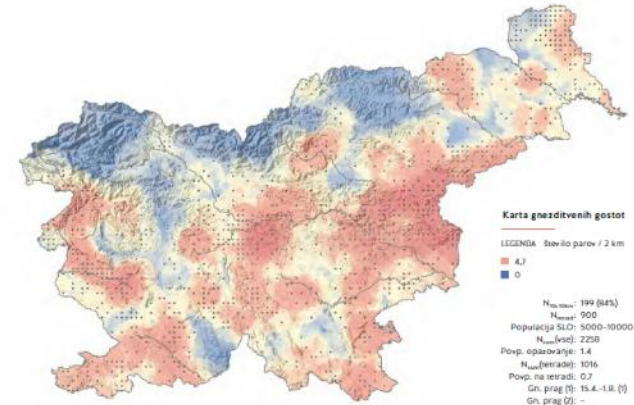
Evropi pa do 0,2 p./km² (Hagmeijer & Blair 1997). V Švici dosega gostote 1,3–2,1 p./km² (Maumary *et al.* 2007), na avstrijskem Štajerskem 0,1–0,5 p./km² (Albeegger *et al.* 2015) in na avstrijskem Koroškem 2–6 p./km², v kmetijski krajini pa le 0,3 p./km² (Feldner *et al.* 2006).

V Evropi je v obdobju 1980–2015 doživela zmeren upad, in sicer za 59 % (EBCC 2017). V slovenski kmetijski krajini je bil njen trend v obdobju 2008–2016 stabilen (Kmecl & Figelj 2016), medtem ko je na Kozjanskem v obdobju 1999–2010 upadla za 38,5 % (Kmecl *et al.* 2014c), na Goričkem pa je njena populacija med letoma 2007 in 2012 porasla (Denac & Kmecl 2014). Vrsto ogrožajo propadanje visokodebnih sadovnjakov, neprimerna oživitvena rez v njih, prečna travnikov v njive, gnojenje travnikov, prepogoste kolinje, zaradi česar propadajo kolonije mravlje, sčinja meje, uporaba pesticidov in odstranjevanje dreves z dupli v gozdu (Feldner *et al.* 2006, Maumary *et al.* 2007, Kmecl *et al.* 2014c, Albeegger *et al.* 2015).

Dominik Bombek, Katarina Denac



EURASIAN WYTNICK IS A COMMON AND WIDESPREAD BREEDER IN THE hills throughout Slovenia, avoiding only high mountain ranges and the large areas of continuous forest. It occupies mosaic agricultural landscapes, riparian forests and forest edges, feeding mainly on grasslands and patches of bare ground. Densities range from 0.1 to 4.0 p./km². The species has opposing trends in different parts of the country with declines probably caused by the degradation of traditional orchards and intensive management of grasslands.



Karta gnezdištevni gostot
 LEGENDA Število parov / 2 km
■ 0
■ 4,7
■ 9,4
 N_{max} (Atlas): 199 (84%)
 N_{max} (Atlas): 900
 Populacija (Atlas): 5000-10000
 N_{max} (Atlas): 2258
 Povp. opazovanje: 1,4
 N_{max} (Atlas): 1016
 Povp. na teras: 0,7
 G₁ prag (I): 15,4-1,8. (I)
 G₁ prag (II): -



A

Črt Ahlin
Ajša Alagić
Nina Aleš
Omar Alhady
Špela Ambrožič
Marjan Artnak

B

Smiljan Bačani
Klavdij Bajc
Zoja Bajde
Branko Bakan
Matej Baldeck
Štefan Baldeck
Petra Bandelj
Tilen Basle
Nadja Baucon
Nataša Bavec
Matjaž Bedjanič
Tanja Benko
Katarina Benulič

Mateja Berce
Sara Berce
Tomaž Berce
Gregor Bernard
Irena Bertoneclj
Danilo Bevk
Vanesa Bezljaj
Andrej Bibič
Primož Bizjan
Edvard Blatnik
Ines Blaž
Blaž Blažič

Gregor Blažon
Gregor Bogovič
Anja Bolčina
Dominik Bombek
Ana Bordjan
Dejan Bordjan
Lan Bordjan
Leon Borovnjak
Al Božič
Aleksander Božič
Ema Božič
Ivo A. Božič
Janez Božič
Luka Božič
Franc Bračko
Alenka Bradač
Igor Brajnik
Branko Brečko
Jan Breznar
Natalija Budin
Urša Budja

C

Andrej Cej
Vanja Celin
Milan Cerar
Valter Cergol
Sara Cernich
Rok Cesar
Henrik Ciglič
Maja Cipot
Denis Cizar
Matjaž Cizel
Barrie Cooper

Marjeta Cvetko

Č

Miran Čas
Aljaž Čepon
Manca Černigoj
Lucija Česnik
Boštjan Čibej
Zlata Čibej
Maja Čonč
Andreja Čurman
D
Igor Dakskobler
Vid Dakskobler
Maarten de Groot
Boštjan Deberšek
Jernej Debevec
Benjamin Denac
Damijan Denac
Katarina Denac
Mitja Denac
Zarja Denac
Urška Deželak
Filip Dobnikar
Mina Dobravec
Petra Dolinar
Rok Dolinar
Tina Dolinšek
Gregor Domanjko
Matija Dominko
Janez Dragolič
Petra Draškovič
Andreja Dremelj
Jošt Drol

Ana Drole

E

Nina Erbida
Iztok Erjavec
Ivan Esenko
Luka Esenko

F

Bojana Fajdiga
Milan Fakin
Dare Fekonja
Kim Ferjančič
Darko Ferlan
Tea Ferlan
Andrej Figelj
Jernej Figelj
Jasmina Filipič
Urša Fležar
Jonathan Franzen

G

Matic Gabor
Igor Gajšek
Špela Gale
Matej Gamser
Fulvio Genero
Martin Gerlič
Blaž Gindiciosi
Matteo Giraldi
Robi Gjergjek
Miran Gjerkeš
Tim Gnidovec
Marjan Gobec
Jan Gojznikar
Nina Golnar

60000
50000
40000
30000
20000
10000
0



Collecting data:

- Year 2017
- 341 volunteers
- 54.029 records



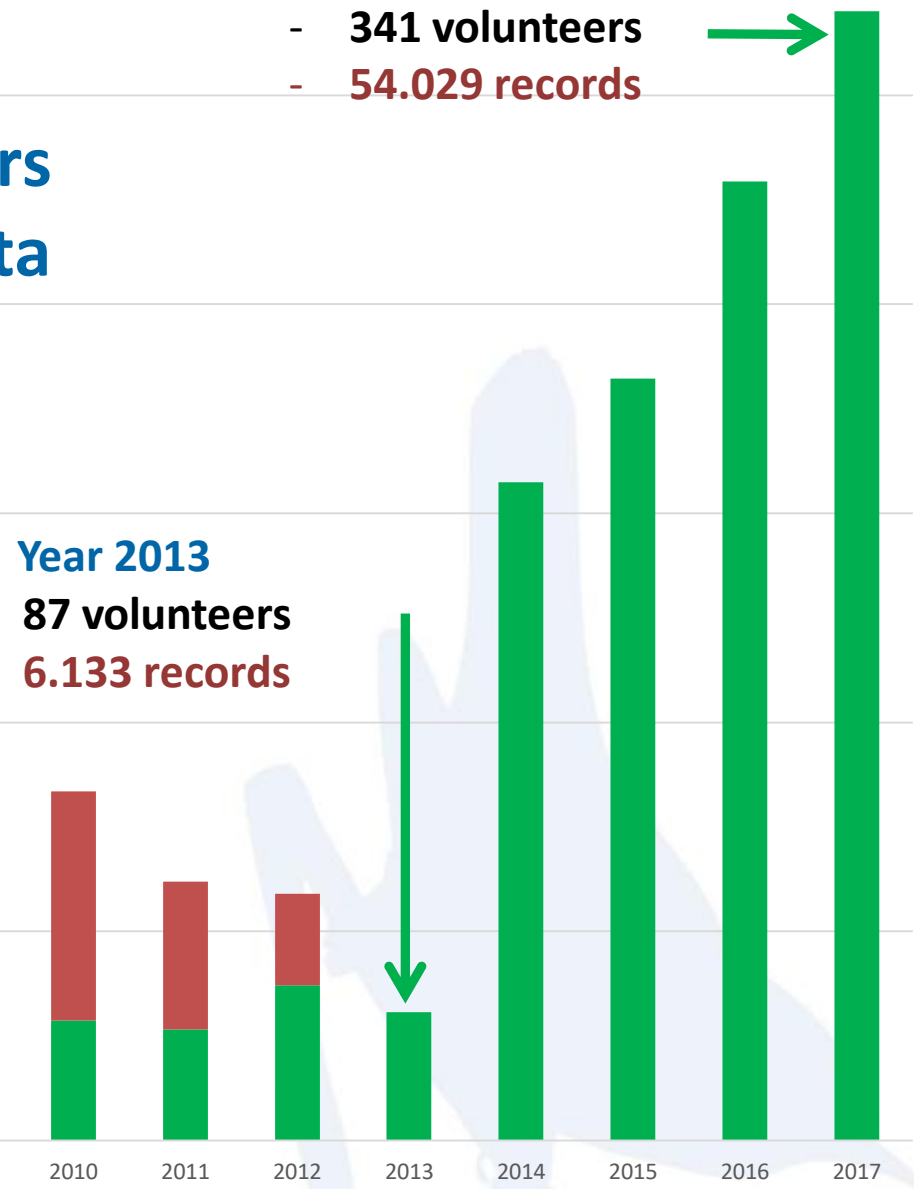
In total 632 volunteers collected 350.000 data

Datum	Številka	Enota	Status	Beležka	Projekt	Popis	Vrsta	Tetrada	FI	LAMBDA
23.05.2...	1	P	1		1	A1	Tetracino	07.45.G	45.796745401	14.418324850
16.04.2...	1	P	20		1	B221	Tetracino	08.40.Z	46.020620636...	12.793984251...
24.04.2...	1	P	20		1	B221	Tetracino	08.47.F	45.710710216	14.848441564
28.04.2...	1	P	20		1	B221	Tetracino	08.44.R	45.924979916...	14.280583289...
05.05.2...	1	P	20		1	B221	Tetracino	06.50.D	45.683193386	15.110700365
29.06.2...	1	P	20		1	B221	Tetracino	06.50.R	45.747221554...	15.039489544...

Year 2013
87 volunteers
6.133 records

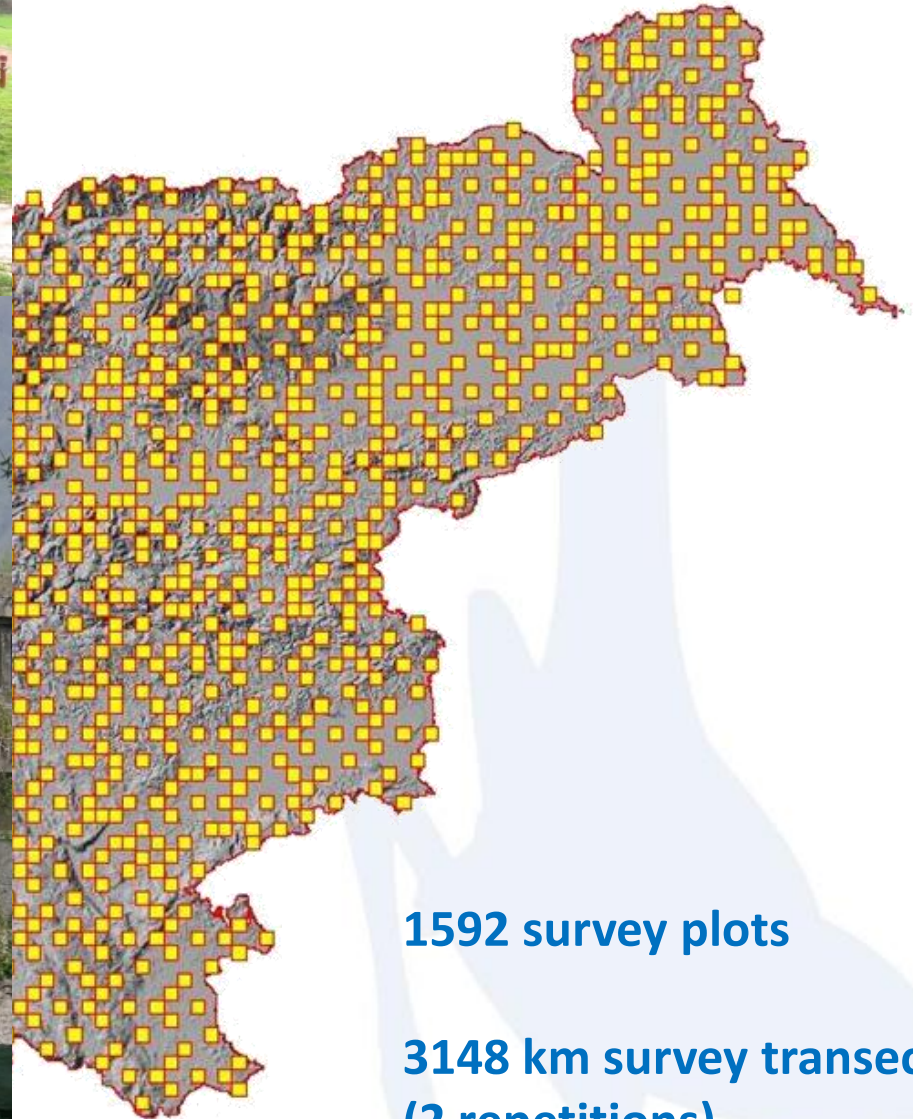


■ rare species ■ line transects





„Group counts“ for remote areas
(4 weekends/year)



1592 survey plots

3148 km survey transects
(2 repetitions)



19010

Število vnosov zadnjih 10 tednov

Zadnjih 15 opazovanj

mlakarica	07.04.2017	Rok Lobnik
rumenonogi galeb	07.04.2017	Rok Lobnik
kvakač	07.04.2017	Al Božič
mlakarica	07.04.2017	Al Božič
ščinkavec	07.04.2017	Al Božič
grivar	07.04.2017	Al Božič
šmarnica	07.04.2017	Rok Lobnik
siva vrana	07.04.2017	Rok Lobnik
domači golob	07.04.2017	Rok Lobnik
grliček	07.04.2017	Rok Lobnik
lišček	07.04.2017	Rok Lobnik
domači golob	07.04.2017	Aleksander Božič
bela štoklja	07.04.2017	Aleksander Božič
črnoglavka	07.04.2017	Aleksander Božič
kanja	07.04.2017	Aleksander Božič

Število vrst letos

Blažič Blaž	172
Sešlar Maks	162
Bordjan Dejan	155
Denac Mitja	147
Bernard Gregor	145
Mulej Aljaž	143
Božič Aleksander	131
Basle Tilen	126
Kapš David	125
Škornik Iztok	125
Vidmar Jani	124
Pušenjak Tosja	124
Borovnjak Leon	122
Hribovšek Jurij	118
Mlakar Medved Matija	117



1467

Število vnosov zadnji teden

Gnezdilke letos

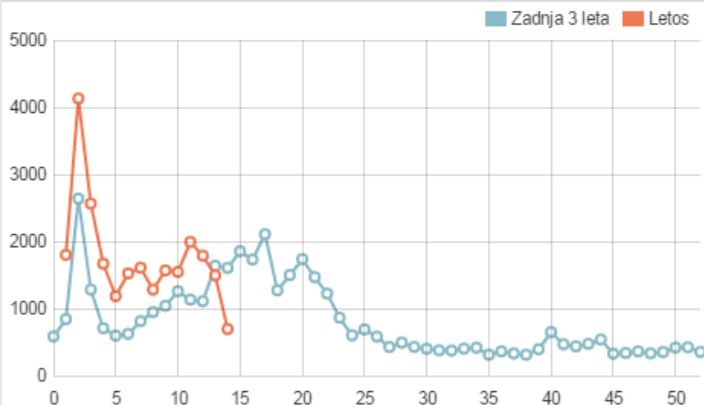
Blažič Blaž	39
Borovnjak Leon	32
Bordjan Dejan	31
Sešlar Maks	30
Mulej Aljaž	28
Pečar Žan	27
Fekonja Dare	26
Božič Aleksander	22
Šalamun Željko	19
Domanjko Gregor	17
Podletnik Mojca	17
Krečič Peter	16
Basle Tilen	15
Mandeljč Marjana	15
Gjergjek Robi	14

Število opazovanj letos

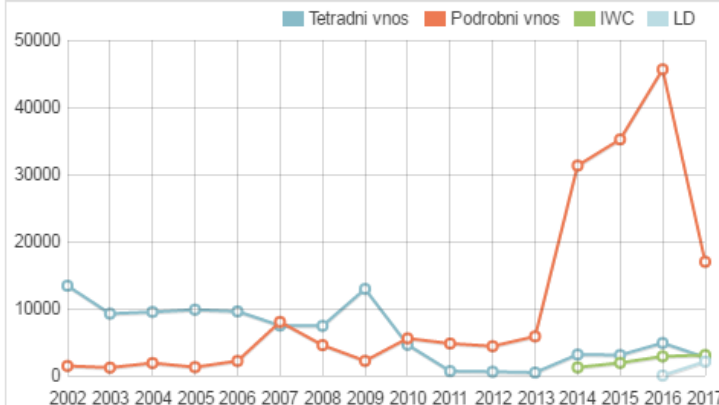
Božič Aleksander	4860
Božič Luka	2226
Turk Velimir	2190
Bordjan Dejan	1365
Blažič Blaž	1134
Kapš David	1007
Basle Tilen	890
Kapš Filip	881
Bernard Gregor	860
Sešlar Maks	776
Borovnjak Leon	746
Vidmar Jani	743
Pušenjak Tosja	725
Domanjko Gregor	630
Mulej Aljaž	624

Rezultati za leto 2016

Letošnja opazovanja po tednih



Število opazovanj po letih



Rezultati za leto 2016

V rezultate so šteta vsa opazovanja od 1.1.2016 do 31.12.2016.

Matej Gamser: 276v! Željko Šalamun: 201g! Dejan Bordjan: 5555p!

Število vrst 2016	
1. Gamser Matej	276
2. Denac Mitja	265
3. Mlakar Medved Matija	264
4. Bordjan Dejan	256
5. Šalamun Željko	231
6. Novak Jure	227
7. Poljanec Nejc	224
8. Kotnik Alex	220
9. Sešlar Maks	218
10. Bernard Gregor	217
11. Poljanec Luka	213
12. Blažič Blaž	207
13. Stanič Domen	201
14. Fekonja Dare	199
15. Vidmar Jani	199
16. Rutnik Katja	197
17. Pršín Tjaša	193
18. Mihelič Tomaž	192
19. Kapš David	191
20. Mihelič Ruj	189
21. Cernich Sara	187
22. Bordjan Lan	186
23. Mihelič Gaber	184
24. Denac Katarina	179
25. Poljanec Jon	179

Gnezdilke 2016	
1. Šalamun Željko	201
2. Gamser Matej	180
3. Denac Mitja	150
4. Fekonja Dare	145
5. Borovnjak Leon	128
6. Mlakar Medved Matija	124
7. Bordjan Dejan	122
8. Vidmar Barbara	118
9. Kotnik Alex	105
10. Krečič Peter	104
11. Stanič Domen	103
12. Tekavčič Rudolf	101
13. Poljanec Nejc	98
14. Domanjko Gregor	96
15. Gjergjek Robi	92
16. Leskošek Janez	89
17. Šiško Robi	85
18. Bernard Gregor	85
19. Cernich Sara	82
20. Vidmar Jani	77
21. Podletnik Mojca	76
22. Bavec Nataša	74
23. Kozina Aleksander	73
24. Kapš David	70
25. Denac Katarina	69

Število opazovanj 2016	
1. Bordjan Dejan	5555
2. Turk Velimir	4591
3. Gamser Matej	3649
4. Domanjko Gregor	3304
5. Šalamun Željko	2703
6. Šiško Robi	
7. Denac Mitja	
8. Mihelič Ruj	
9. Fekonja Dare	
10. Mihelič Tomaž	
11. Mihelič Gaber	
12. Kapš David	
13. Podletnik Mojca	
14. Bernard Gregor	
15. Gjergjek Robi	
16. Stanič Domen	
17. Mihelič Kalina	
18. Mihelič Bor	
19. Blažič Blaž	
20. Zagoršek Tjaša	
21. Novak Jure	
22. Rutnik Katja	
23. Borovnjak Leon	
24. Mingot Brigita	
25. Cernich Sara	



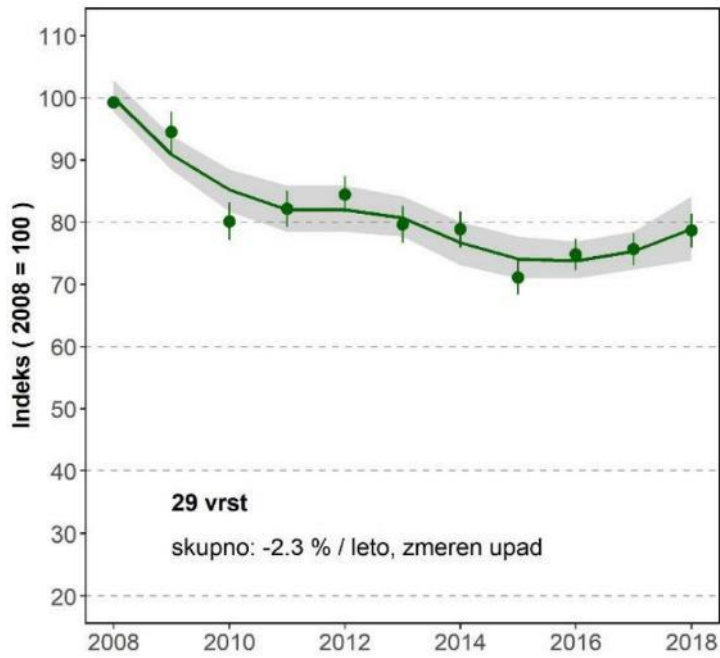


Lesson #1

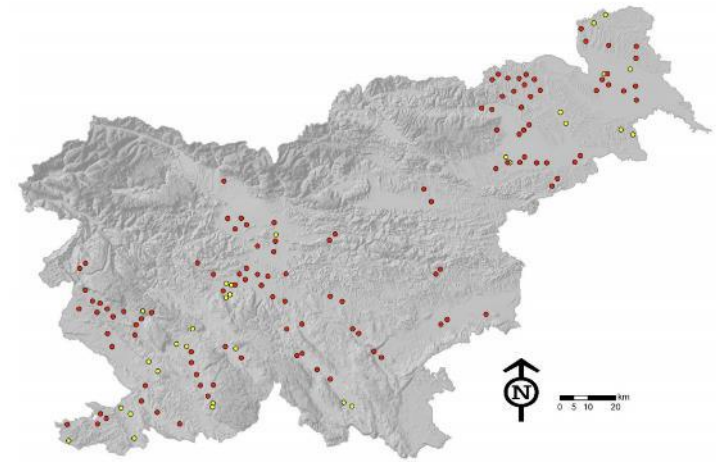
- Professional online database (fast, counting of records - feedback, competition, admin should be fluent)
- Provide feedback on a volunteer's performance
- To see your results in „real time“
- Awards for „best ornithologist“ – stimulation
- Collective effort (group counts)
- Make them part of the team



SIPKK 145



FBI





IWC

- 2017 - 21. successive year
- **235 volunteers**
- 413 river/sea sections in total length 1,427 km and 200 locations (standing waters).
- 51.790 waterbirds counted / 61 species
- source: Božič, L. (2017): Rezultati januarskega štetja vodnih ptic leta 2017 v Sloveniji. – *Acrocephalus* 38 (174/175): 203-215.





Eagle Owl survey (caretaker scheme)



POPULATION DYNAMICS OF THE WHITE STORK *Ciconia ciconia* IN SLOVENIA BETWEEN 1999 AND 2010

Populacijska dinamika bele štoklje *Ciconia ciconia* v Sloveniji med letoma 1999 in 2010

DAMIJAN DENAC

DOPPS - BirdLife Slovenia, P.O. Box: 2990, SI-1001 Ljubljana, Slovenia & National Institute of Biology, Večna pot 111, SI-1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia, e-mail: damijan.denac@dopps.si, damijan.denac@nib.si

Between 1999 and 2010, an annual census of the White Stork *Ciconia ciconia* breeding population was carried out in Slovenia using standardised methods. The Stork's population was concentrated in the NE and SE parts of Slovenia. In the 1999–2010 period, the breeding range of its population in Slovenia expanded in NW direction (the Savska ravan region), in SW direction (the Notranjsko podolje and Pivško podolje regions), but the species also colonized a part between Central and SE Slovenia (Dolenjsko podolje). Between 193 and 240 pairs were breeding during the study period, 209 pairs on average (HPa). The largest number of breeding pairs was recorded in 2004, the smallest in 2005. During the study period, breeding pairs (HPa) occupied 350 discrete nests in total. Average number of breeding pairs that raised juveniles (HPm) was 161. The highest fecundity was recorded in 2004, when 534 juveniles (JZG) fledged, the lowest in 2006, with only 219 fledged juveniles. On average, 414 juveniles fledged per year. The breeding pairs' (JZa) average breeding success in these 12 years was 2.02, the highest in 2000 (2.41), the lowest in 2006 (1.09). Average breeding success for the successful breeding pairs (JZm) was 2.57. The highest was in 2007 (2.94), the lowest in 2006 (2.07). The largest number of breeding pairs in 2004 and 2008 can be explained by the favourable fecundity in the population in 2000 and 2004, as juveniles become sexually mature at the age of 3–5 years, and at that age they generally return to the breeding grounds for the first time. The lowest number of breeding pairs and poor breeding success in 2005 and 2006 was caused by late arrival of White Storks to the breeding grounds and by unfavourable weather conditions during the breeding period. The pattern of nests placement did not change generally during the last 12 years. The largest proportion of nests was positioned on various kinds of poles (81%) and on chimneys (18%). In total, 27 area surveyors and 239 assistants helped in census realisation.

Key words: White Stork, *Ciconia ciconia*, breeding population, census, Slovenia

Cljučne besede: bela štoklja, *Ciconia ciconia*, gnezditvena populacija, census, Slovenija

1. Introduction

At irregular intervals, the White Stork *Ciconia ciconia* populations have been counted all over the world since 1934. There is no other bird for which statistics on its population trends exist for such a comparably

long period of time. Up till now, six international censuses of the White Stork breeding population have been carried out in the years 1934, 1958, 1974, 1984, 1994/1995 and 2004/2005. The data resulting from these censuses provide an overview of the long term population trend of the White Stork in its overall

in available food resources. The variability of breeding success between years was explained by weather, specifically by the amount of rainfall in May and temperatures in June. The less the amount of rainfall in May and the higher the temperatures in June, the higher the breeding success. Moreover, weather effect was significant only in the population in the traditional breeding range, which is poorer in the terms of food resources. Food was generally a more important reproductive predictor than weather (DENAC 2006b).

In traditional breeding range with poorer food resources, ecological density influenced the Stork's breeding success. Pairs breeding alone and pairs with one neighbour within their home range most frequently reared three chicks, pairs with two neighbours reared two, whereas pairs with three or four neighbours most frequently failed to raise even a single chick. Intraspecific exploitation competition was the cause for density-dependent breeding success (DENAC 2006a).

The trends in nest site selection – reduction of the number of nests in trees and on buildings and the increase of the number of nests on poles – are similar to the trends found elsewhere in Europe (GUZIAK & JAKUBIEC 1999, FULIN 1999, LOVÁSZI 1999, RUBACHA & JERZAK 2006, TRYANOWSKI *et al.* 2009). In Slovenia, the trends were mainly caused by changes in architecture and by destruction of traditionally built houses with huge chimneys' platforms commonly used by White Storks. In addition, poles are the only suitable place for nests in the regions where Storks expanded recently.

Acknowledgements: In the first place, I wish to thank all the surveyors for their regular and systematic censusing of a large number of nests – they contributed the core data, and without them the census would not have been possible. They are: Danica Barotič, Dominik Bombček, Luka Božič, Franc Bračko, Katarina Denac, Gregor Domanjko, Dare Felonja, Andrej Hudolin, Matjaž Kerček, Dušan Klenošček, Urška Koce, Janez Kolenko, Tatjana Koren, Branko Koren, Cvetka Marhold, Janez Maroša, Tomaž Mihelič, Bernarda Novak, Matjaž Premzl, Janez Senegačnik, Jakob Simole, Željko Salaman, Borut Stumberger, Aleš Tomažič, Tadej Trestnjak.

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D. DENAC: Population dynamics of the White Stork *Ciconia ciconia* in Slovenia between 1999 and 2010

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All the surveyors, assistants and other people collaborated in the White Stork census as volunteers. The greater part of the censuses in the years 2000 (Velika Polana), 2003 (Timovska vas) and 2004 (Pušč) was carried out within the scope of DOPPS - Bird life Slovenia ornithological research camps for young ornithologists. Since 2004, the census in IBAS/SPAs is part of a National Monitoring Scheme of qualifying bird species and is supported by the Slovenian Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning. During the last 12 years, several endangered nests have been protected and saved by colleagues from the Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation (ZRSVN), and therefore I dedicate the article to them especially to Mr. Janko Urbanec.

5. Povzetek

Med letoma 1999 in 2010 smo na območju Slovenije opravili vsakletni census gnezditvene populacije bele štoklje *Ciconia ciconia*. Vse cenzuse smo izvedli skladno z mednarodno metodo popisovanja. Jedro populacije bele štoklje je v sv in JV Sloveniji. Od leta 1999 do leta 2010 se je gnezditveno območje bele štoklje v Sloveniji iz tradicionalnih gnezdišč razširilo v SZ (Savska ravan) in JZ smeri (Notranjsko in Pivško podolje), bela štoklja pa je kolonizirala tudi del Dolenjskega podolja med osrednjo in JV Slovenijo. V popisnem obdobju je gnezdišč bilo 193 in 240 parov (HPa), v povprečju 209. Največje število parov je gnezdišč leta 2004, najmanjše leta 2005. Skupno so v tem obdobju gnezdišč pari (HPa) zausli 350 razlikih gnezd. Povprečno število uspešnih parov – parov, ki so speljali mladiče (HPm) – je bilo 161. Največjo rodnost populacije (JZG) smo ugotovili v letu 2004, ko je poletelo 534 mladičev, najmanjšo pa leta 2006, takrat je poletelo 219 mladičev. V povprečju je poletelo 414 mladičev letno. Povprečni gnezditveni uspeh gnezdišč parov (JZa) je bil 2.02, največji je bil leta 2000 (2.41), najmanjši leta 2006 (1.09). Povprečni gnezditveni uspeh uspešnih parov (JZm) je bil 2.57, največji je bil leta 2007 (2.94), najmanjši pa leta 2006 (2.07). Veliko število gnezdišč parov leta 2004 in 2008 lahko razložimo z dobro rodnostjo v letih 2000 in 2004, saj mladiči spolno dozorejo med 3–5 leti in se v tej starosti praviloma prvir vmejo s preživovalci na območju gnezdenja. Mesta gnezd se v zadnjih 12 letih v glavnem niso spremenila. Največ gnezd (81 %) je bilo na različnih drogovih, večina električne napeljava,





Lesson #2

- Good coordinator
- Clear communication
- Provide equipment, tools (maps, GPS, playback device...), good working conditions
- Prepare instructions
- Work/fun
- Organize events for volunteers (focus on fun, competition)
- Acknowledge, say thank you!
- Formal stuff - legislation (Volunteer Law), ensurance ...



2015



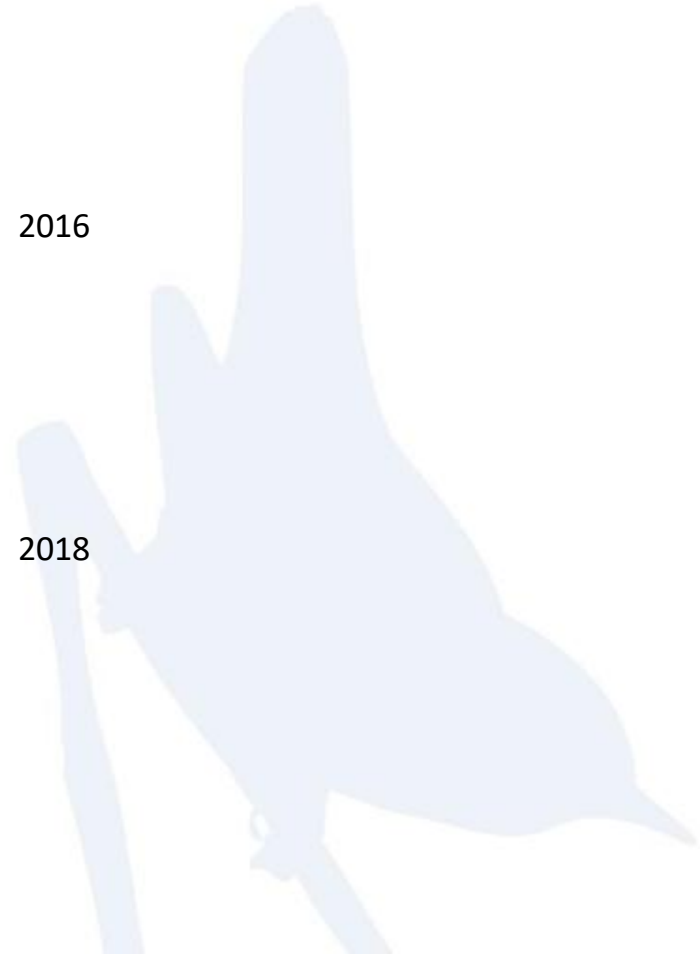
2016



2018

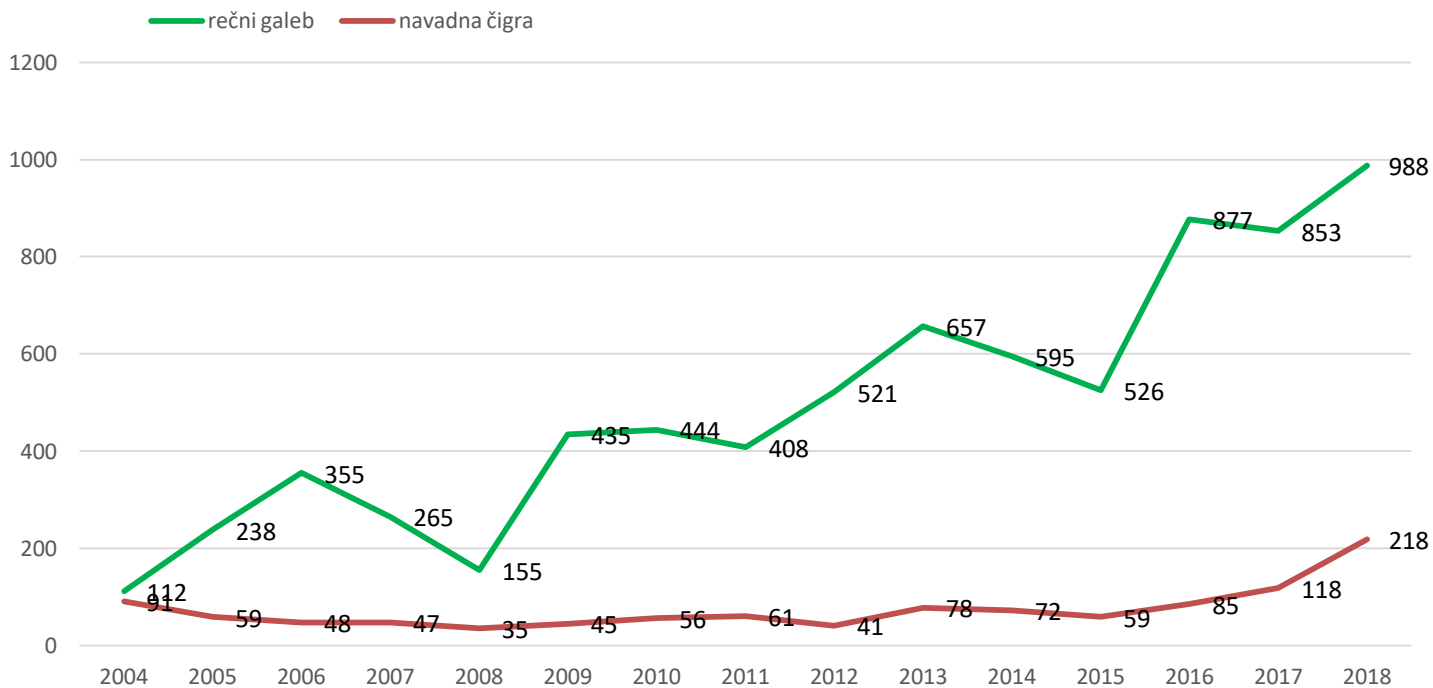


Partnership for
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Common Tern & Black-headed Gull population at Lake Ptuj as result of cons. management with volunteers



1 bp (2006) to 28 bp (2019)





European
Commission

LIFE and new partnerships for nature conservation

Environment

LIFE Nature



VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers vital to success of LIFE Nature and Biodiversity

Volunteers play a crucial role in the success of many LIFE Nature projects, supporting activities for the conservation of endangered habitats and species and raising awareness of the importance of conservation and the Natura 2000 network.

Within the LIFE programme, LIFE Nature and Biodiversity projects in particular have benefited from the ability of many nature conservation NGOs to leverage their networks of volunteers to minimise the costs of conservation works, involve local society, and to help ensure projects' longer-term sustainability.

For instance, for the Lorraine Belge project (LIFE99 NAT/BE/006285), the project beneficiary, Natagora - an NGO active in nature conservation in the French and German-speaking parts of Belgium - mobilised large numbers of supporters to restore and subsequently manage very rare alkaline fens at four sites in Belgian Lorraine.

Traditionally, these wet areas were often used as hay meadows in Belgium. However, in recent decades the Lorraine fens, abandoned by farmers, have been spontaneously afforested by bush and scrub, or have been drained and turned into plantations or nurseries. During the LIFE project, volunteers helped remove bush and scrub overgrowth from abandoned hay meadows to enable their function to be restored. After LIFE, Natagora's Lorraine district team of volunteers has continued to manage the restored sites. The work involves regular cutting of willow and cyclic mowing of the wetland.

A main conclusion of a 2015 follow up visit carried out by the LIFE programme external monitoring team

(NEMO EEG) was that the habitats are "well developed due to the implementation of the LIFE measures, but also to the recurrent management carried out by the NGO (including volunteer work)."

The local volunteers have also continued communicating the value of this work to the public, through guided tours, nature management open days, an educational programme for schools and other activities.

La Mancha wetlands

In Spain, the ongoing project HUMEDALES DE LA MANCHA (LIFE10 NAT/ES/000563) is another example of the deployment of significant numbers of volunteers to carry out labour intensive and otherwise costly works. The 2011-2016 project is being coordinated by Fundación Global Nature, a private, non-profit educational organisation established in 1993. As a foundation, a large proportion of its projects enlist volunteer workers, especially students. The foundation undertakes activities all over Spain, including the location of this project, the Humedales de la Mancha wetlands in Castilla-La Mancha. The wetlands are surrounded by Mediterranean forest, grasslands and agricultural lands with the latter (lands for cereals, vineyards and olive trees) posing the greatest negative impacts on the groundwater/wetland conservation.

Much of the project work is focused on recovery and extension of "buffer zones" between the especially sensitive wet areas and the agricultural lands. Volunteers are mainly needed during the summertime, when the land is dry - with students and other amateur conservationists able to assist with tasks such as dismantling of drainage ditches and debris clearance for recovery of landscape and water levels, as well as (with guidance from experts) sowing seeds by hand within the target wetland habitats.

Volunteers make a crucial contribution to the success of many LIFE projects



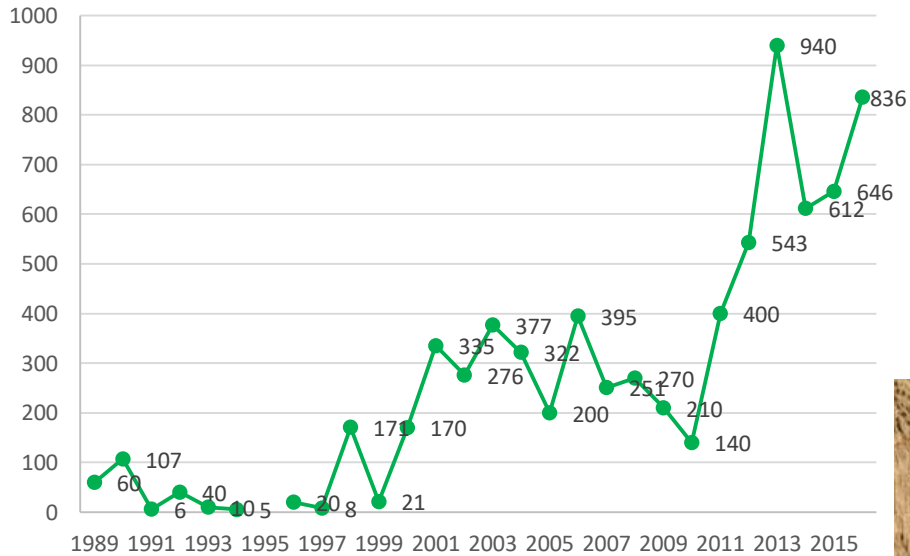
Photo credit: LIFE/Biodiversity Conservation



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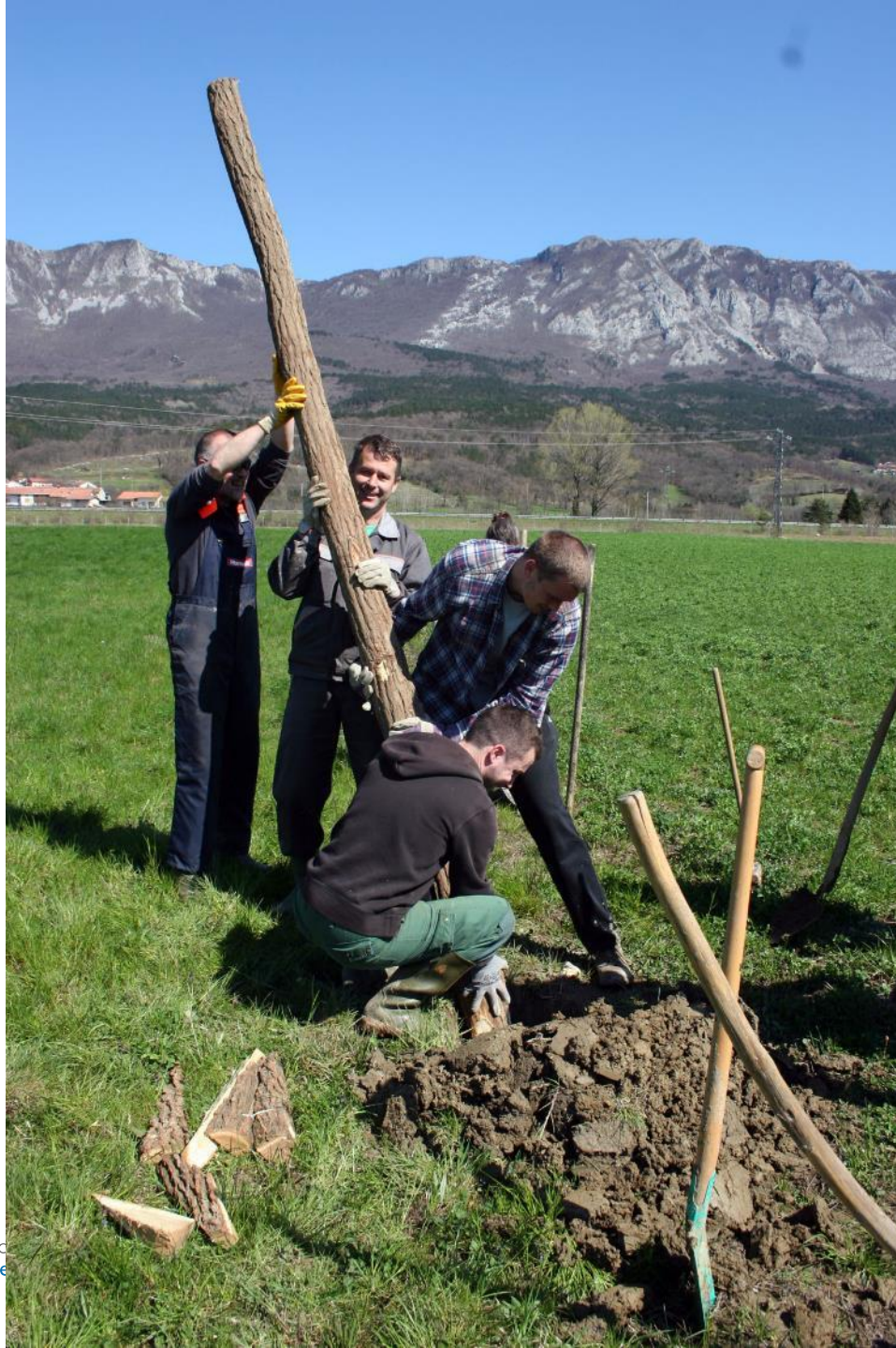
Sand Martin, breeding pairs, Drava



Uferschwalbe

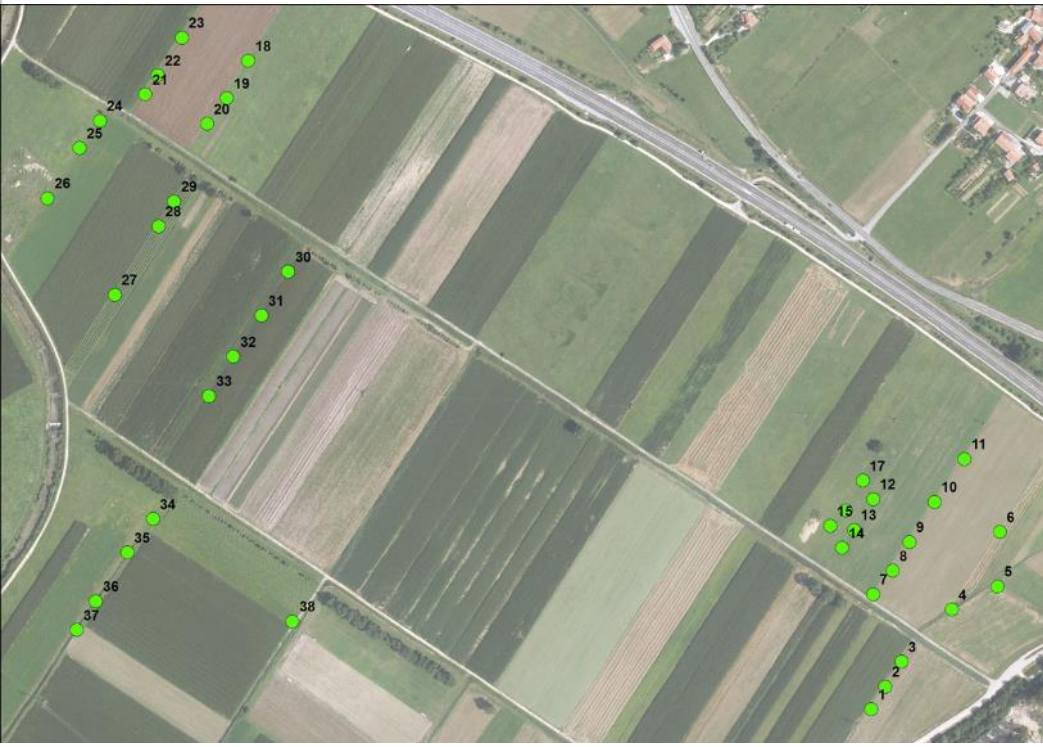


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Lesson #3

- Diversify „offer“ (assess skills and match to job)
- Identify with the mission - has right to know it!
- Enable hands-on conservation
- Believe in the work you want volunteers to do
- Always have clear job descriptions
- What is refundable?
- Provide possibility to „see the conservation results“ – organize excursion to the site, lecture



Conclusion

- Investment (training for staff and vol., guidance, preparation)
- Long term (building capacity)
- Enlarge capacity of organisation, new knowledge and skills (profiles that you „cannot afford“)
- Spread the message (experience is best advertisement)



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