

Flexcounts, including 15min counts and Big Butterfly Counts

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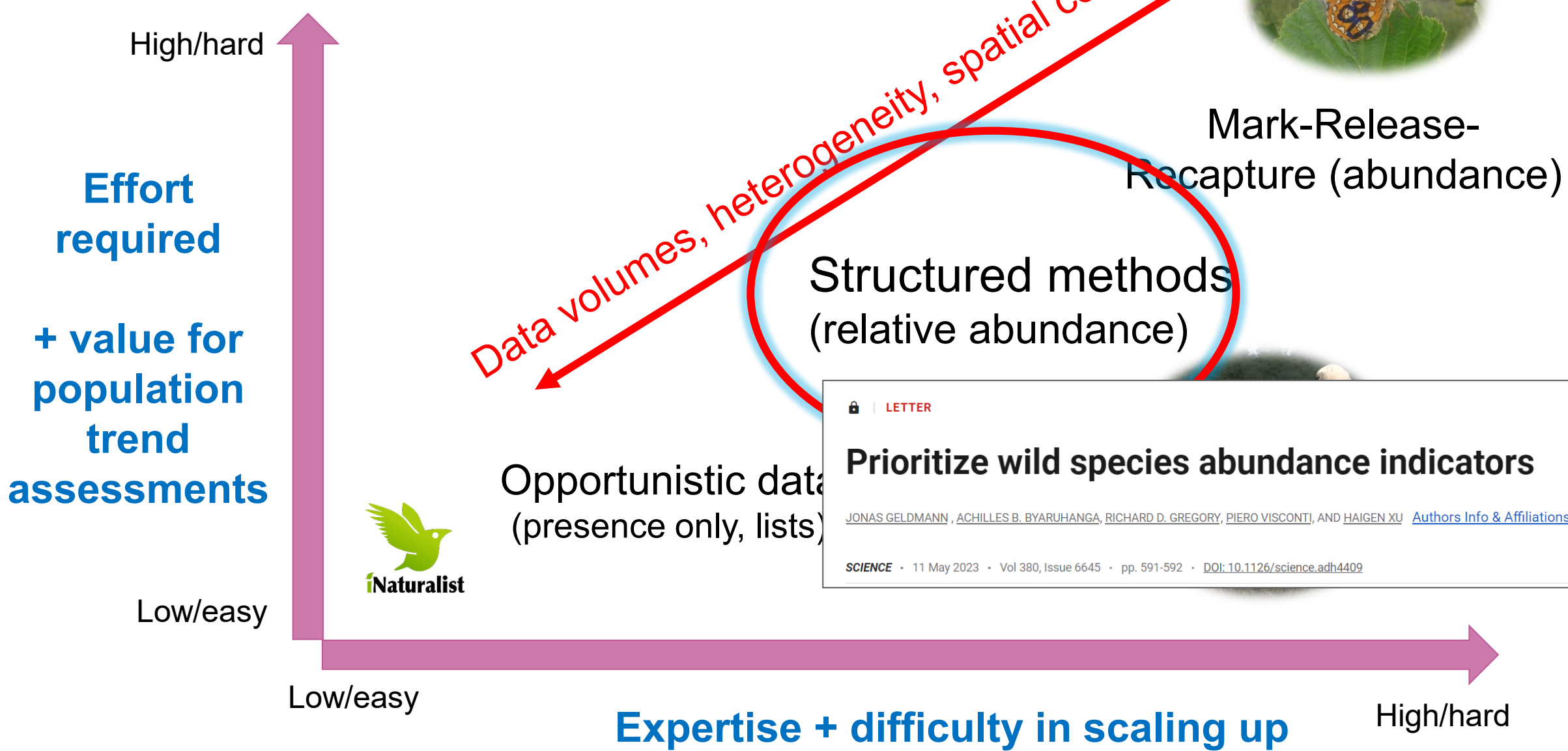
UK Centre for
Ecology & Hydrology



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Cornwall



Monitoring approaches



🔒 | LETTER

Prioritize wild species abundance indicators

[JONAS GELDMANN](#), [ACHILLES B. BYARUHANGA](#), [RICHARD D. GREGORY](#), [PIERO VISCONTI](#), AND [HAIGEN XU](#) [Authors Info & Affiliations](#)

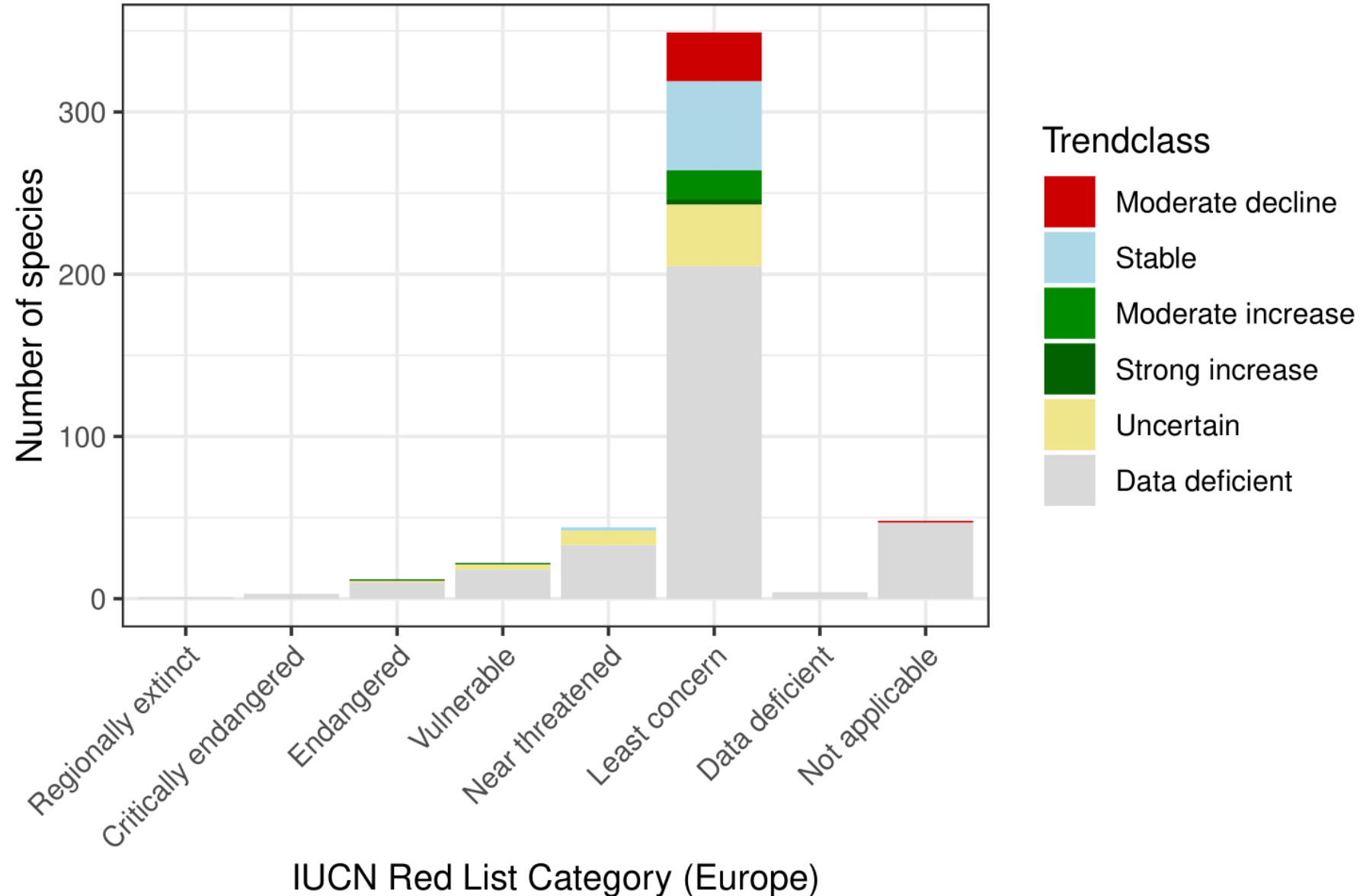
SCIENCE • 11 May 2023 • Vol 380, Issue 6645 • pp. 591-592 • DOI: 10.1126/science.adh4409

Pollard walks not enough?

Biases:

**Spatial: NW
Europe;
protected areas**

**Species: trends
for only 167
species (out of
496)**



15 minute counts as a complementary method

~Easy to do: suitable weather

Standardised: fixed time with known area

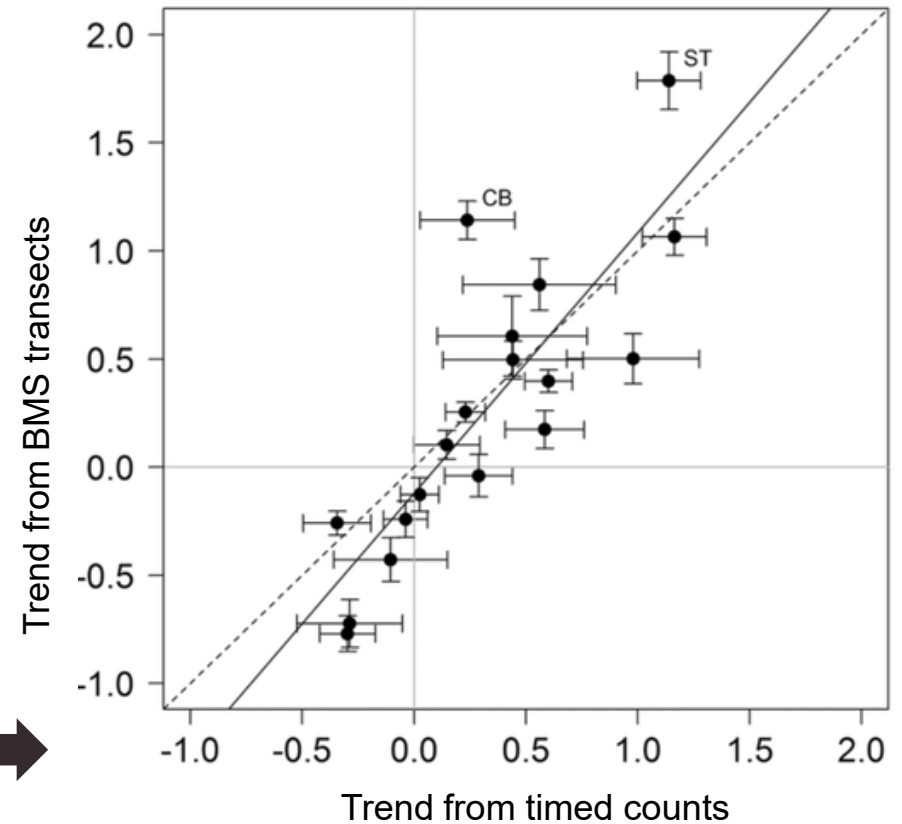
Complete lists with counts

Engage wider public through citizen science (e.g. Big Butterfly Count)

For common species, timed counts and transects give similar trend results

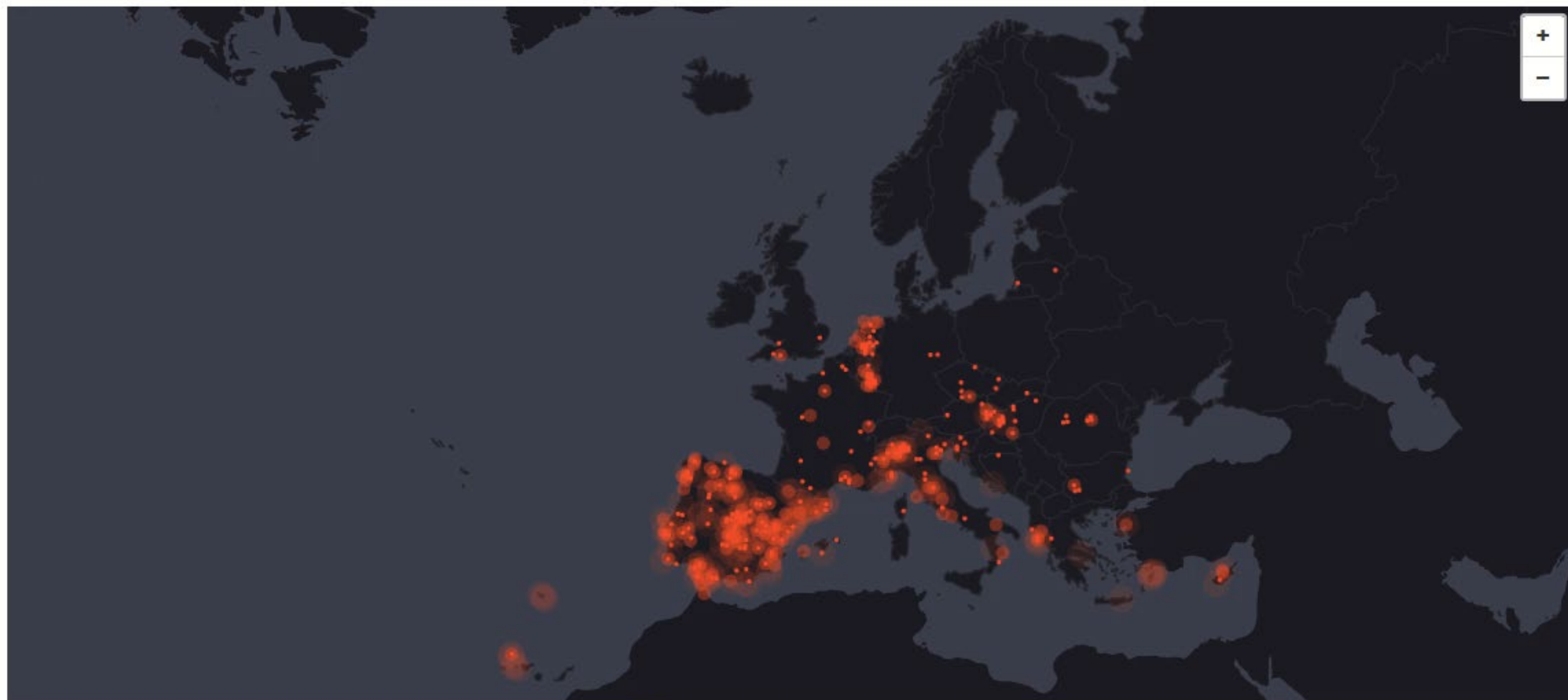
In Europe: ButterflyCount app used for

- rare, cryptic species
- remote places (mountains) and 'boring' places (farmland)
- tracking migrations



Dennis, EB *et al.* (2017) Using citizen science butterfly counts to predict species population trends. *Conservation biology* 31(6): 1350-1361

Vanessa cardui (Linnaeus, 1758) - all years



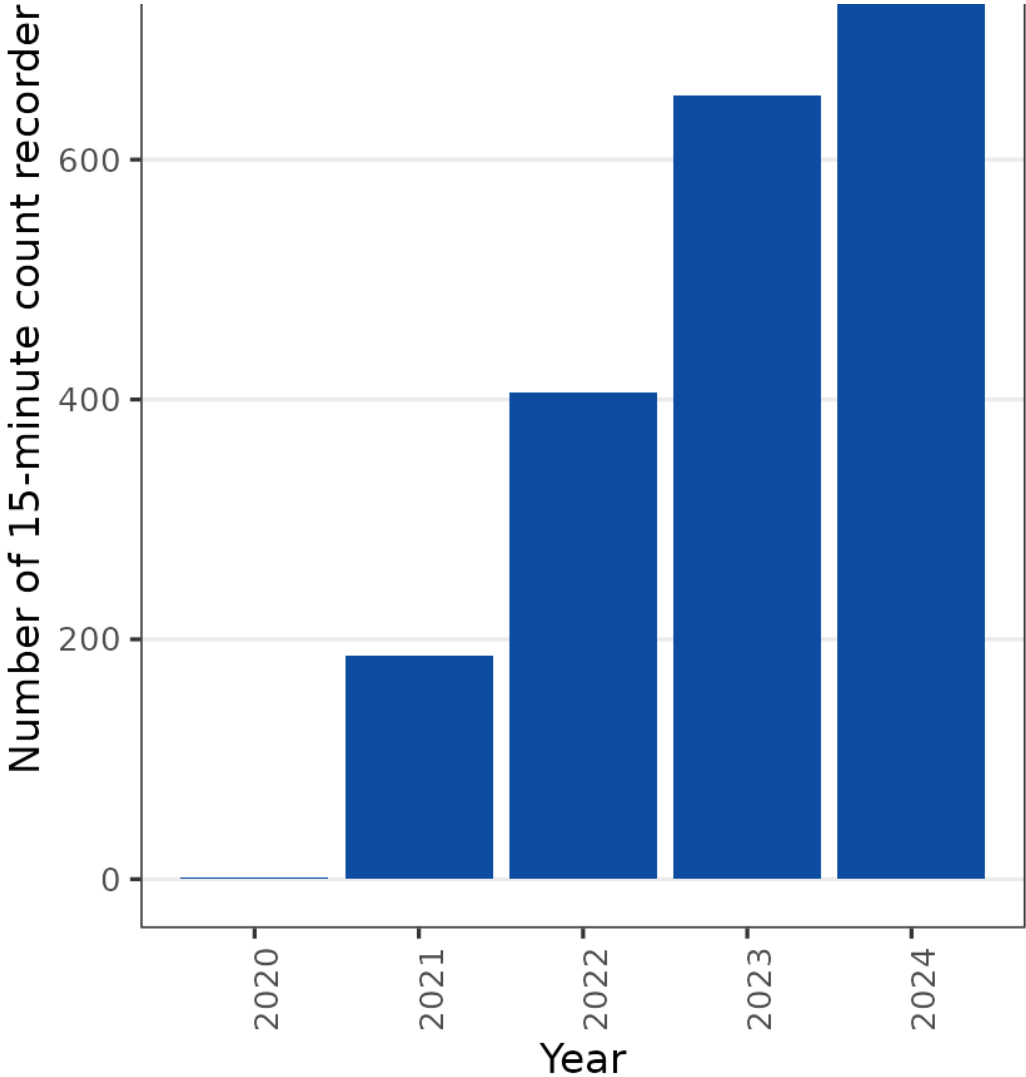
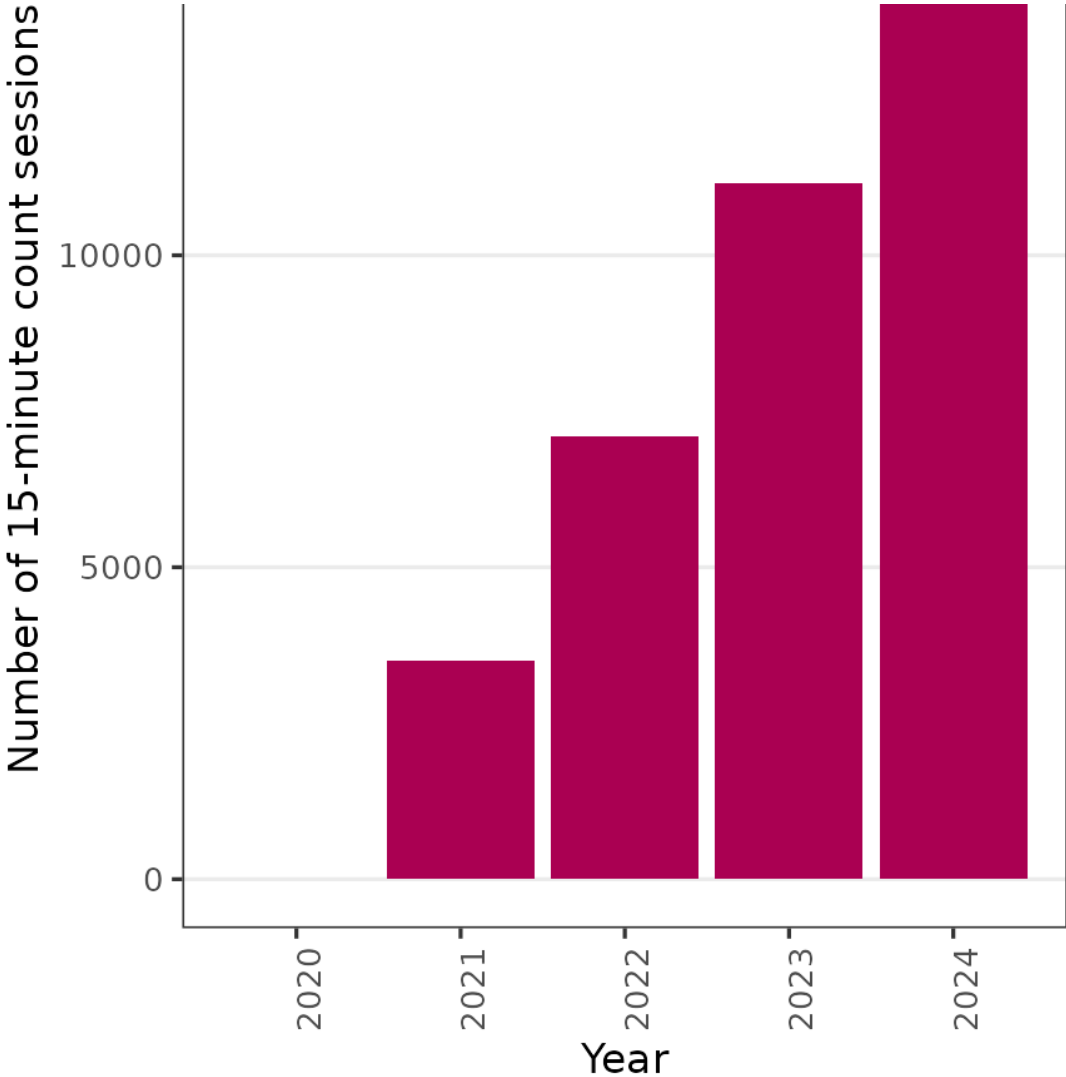
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Fetch data

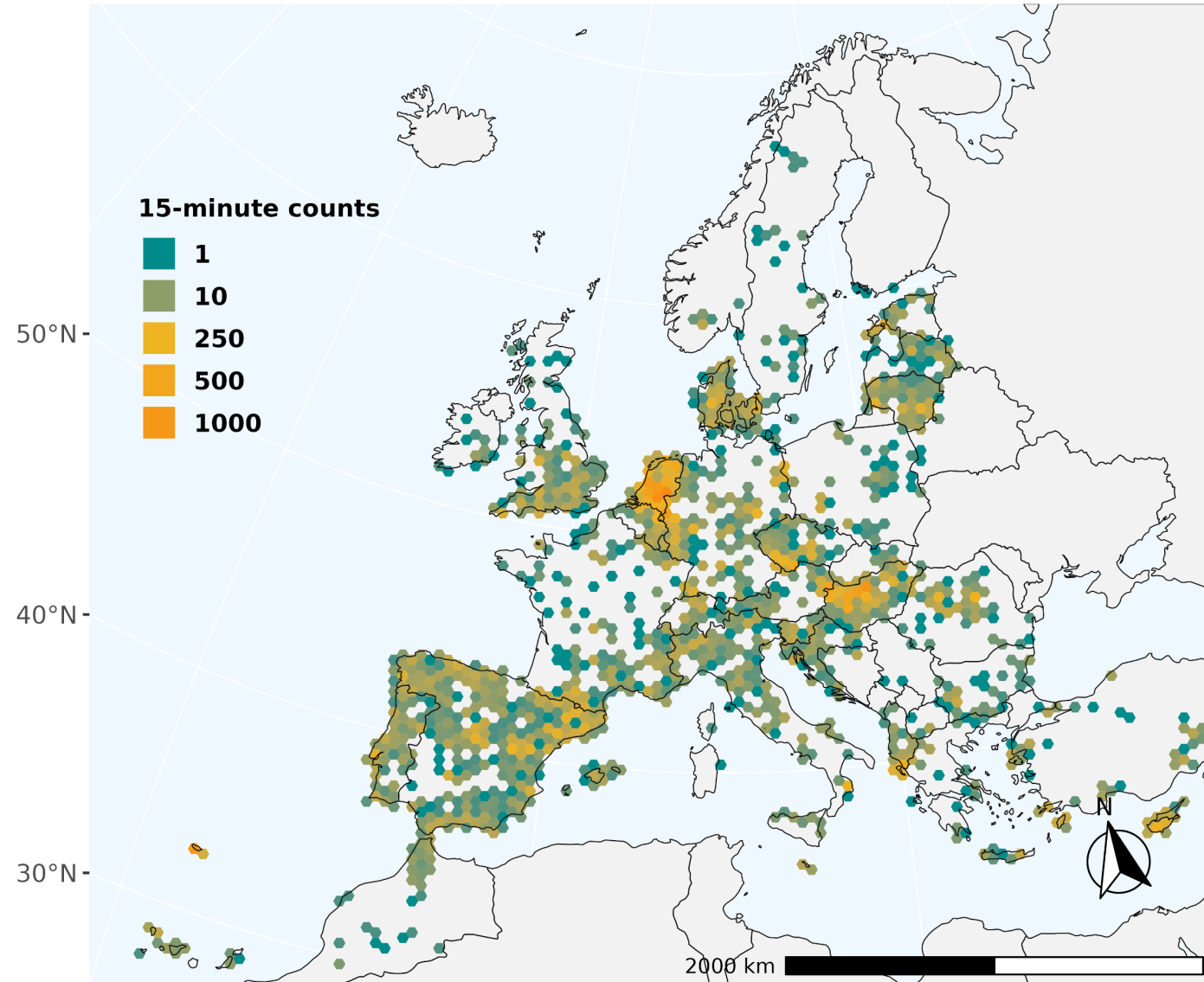
☒ All years

21 - 27 May

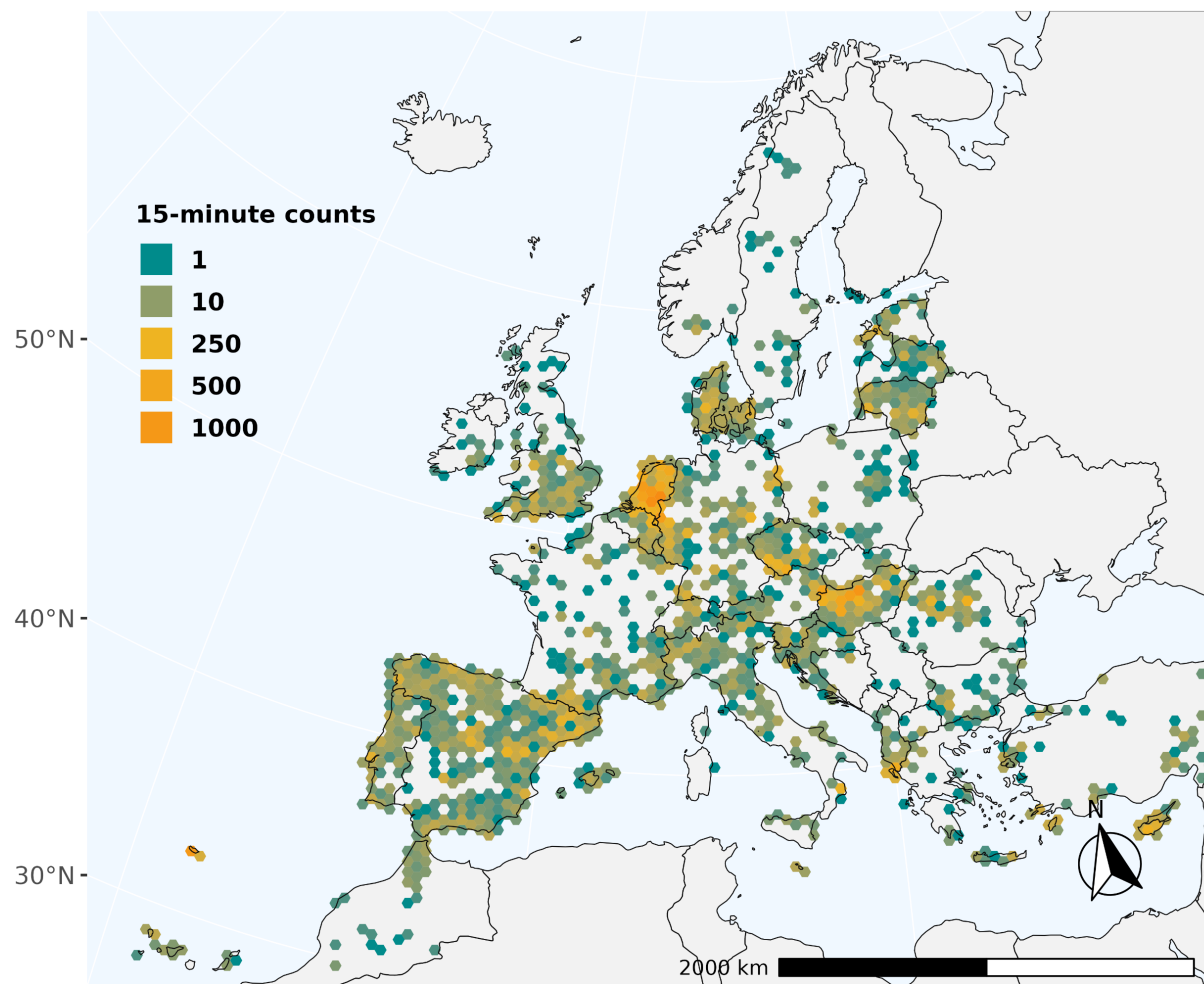
Growing use of 15 minute counts via ButterflyCount



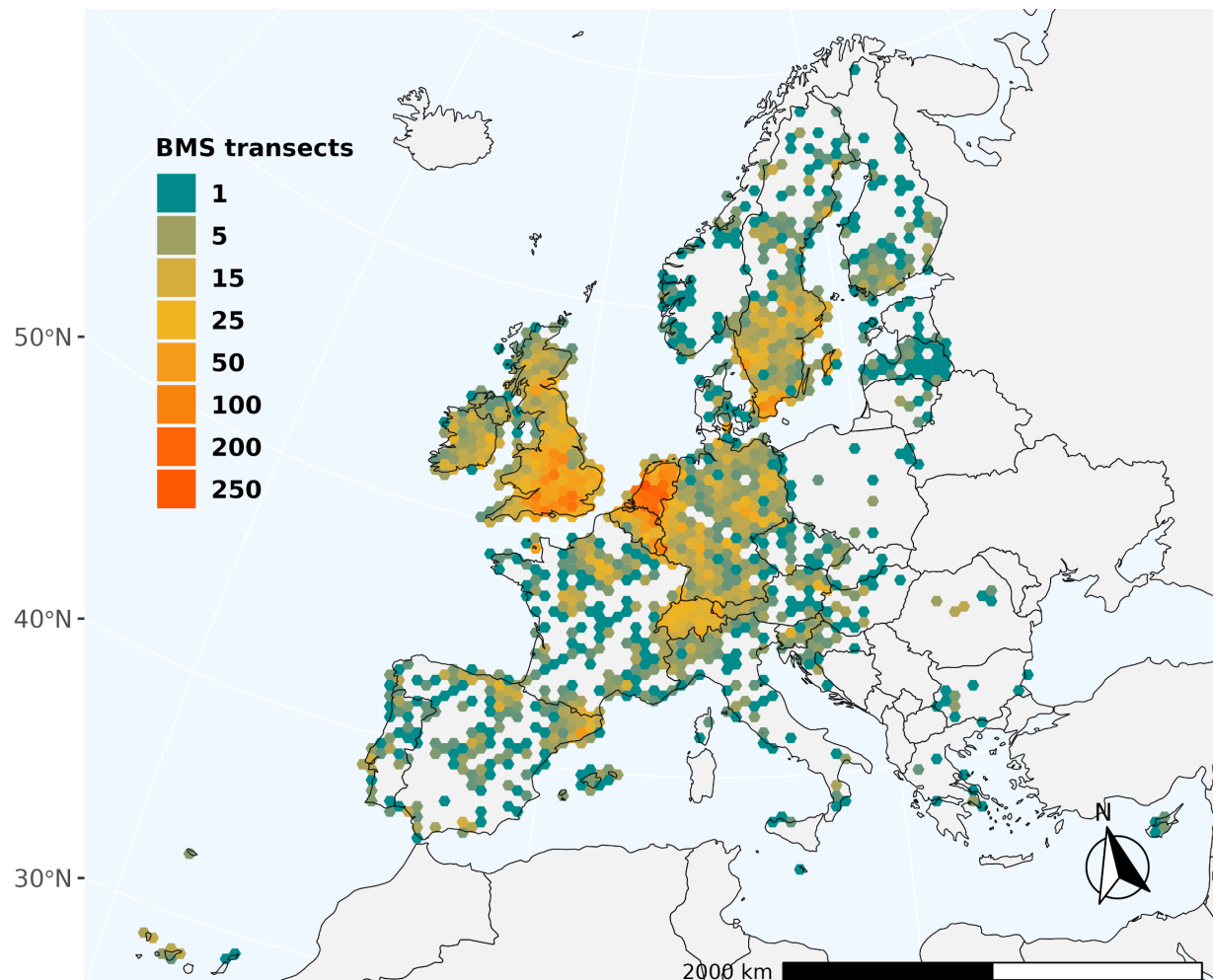
Growing use of 15-minute counts via ButterflyCount



Growing use of 15-minute counts via ButterflyCount



15 minute counts (via ButterflyCount)



Transects (all schemes)

Discussion topics

1. How does your scheme make use of other survey methods (e.g. not 'Pollard walks')
2. Do you have flexicount data outside of the eBMS database? If so, what format
3. Would you welcome the opportunity for these counts being included in the eBMS (offline) database managed by Reto?