# W.I.L.D.
## The Wildlife Information System of Germany

A hunters' initiative
for biodiversity and sustainable use

**Johanna Maria Arnold**
**German Hunting Association (DJV)**
**FACE General Assembly, Brussels, 13.09.2013**

"**M**easuring the response of game populations to changes-deliberate or accidental-in their environment is the big purpose. Continuous census is the yardstick of success or failure in conservation."

*Aldo Leopold, 1933. Game management.*
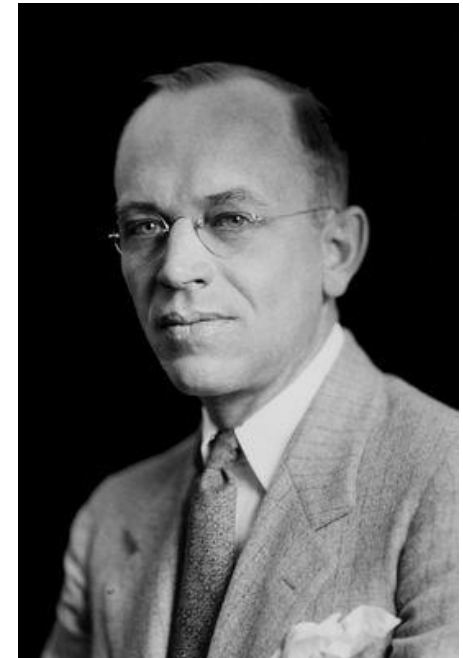
Picture: www.aldoleopold.org

# Wildlife monitoring is an integral part of wildlife management
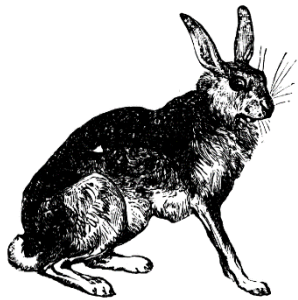
*… but we are still lacking data on*

- abundance
- spatio-temporal distribution
- gender distribution
- age patterns
- health status
- etc.

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*... especially on animals that are not listed in the Habitat Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC), e.g. game species such as*

- Brown hare *(Lepus europaeus)*
- Partridge *(Perdix perdix)*
- Pheasant *(Phasianus colchicus)*
- Red fox *(Vulpes vulpes)*
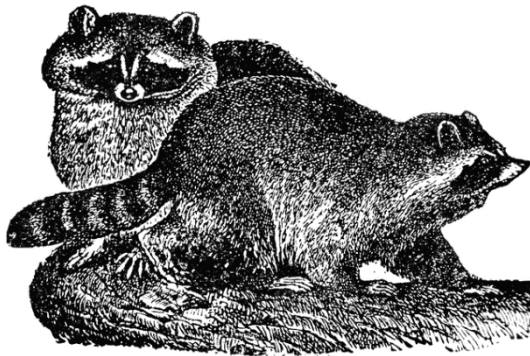- European badger *(Meles meles)*
- etc.
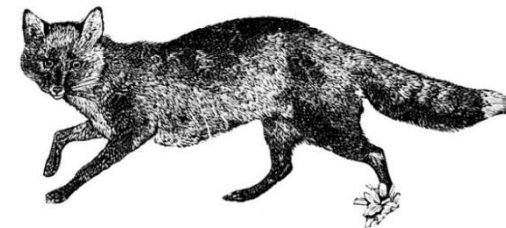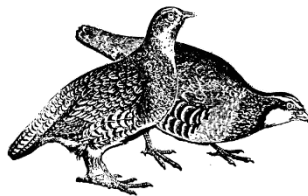
*… as well as invasive alien species, such as*

- Raccoon *(Procyon lotor)*
- Raccoon dog *(Nyctereutes procyonoides)*
- American Mink *(Mustela vison)*
- *etc.*

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In 2001, the German Hunting Association and its' federal hunting associations established the Wildlife Information System of Germany (W.I.L.D.)

Aims of the long-term project

- Comprehensive recording of selected species of wildlife
- Using scientific methods
- For future representative data sets
- For protection and sustainable use of wildlife species
- For political argumentations

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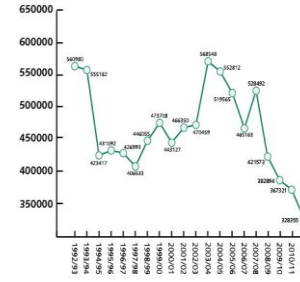**German Hunting Association (DJV)**

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# Elements of W.I.L.D.



**Reference areas**

- Wildlife counts

- Surveying and mapping
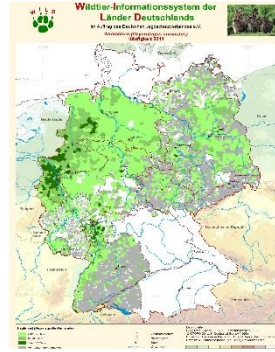
**Area assessment**

- Wildlife estimates

- Presence/ absence

- Additional data (e.g. health status)
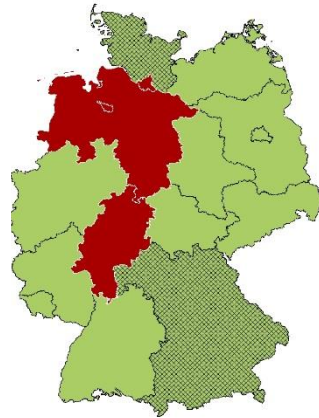
**Hunting bag statistics**

- Hunting bag statistics

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**German Hunting Association (DJV)**

# The staff

University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover

(TiHo)

German Hunting Association

(DJV)

Eberswalde forestry state center of excellence

(LFE)

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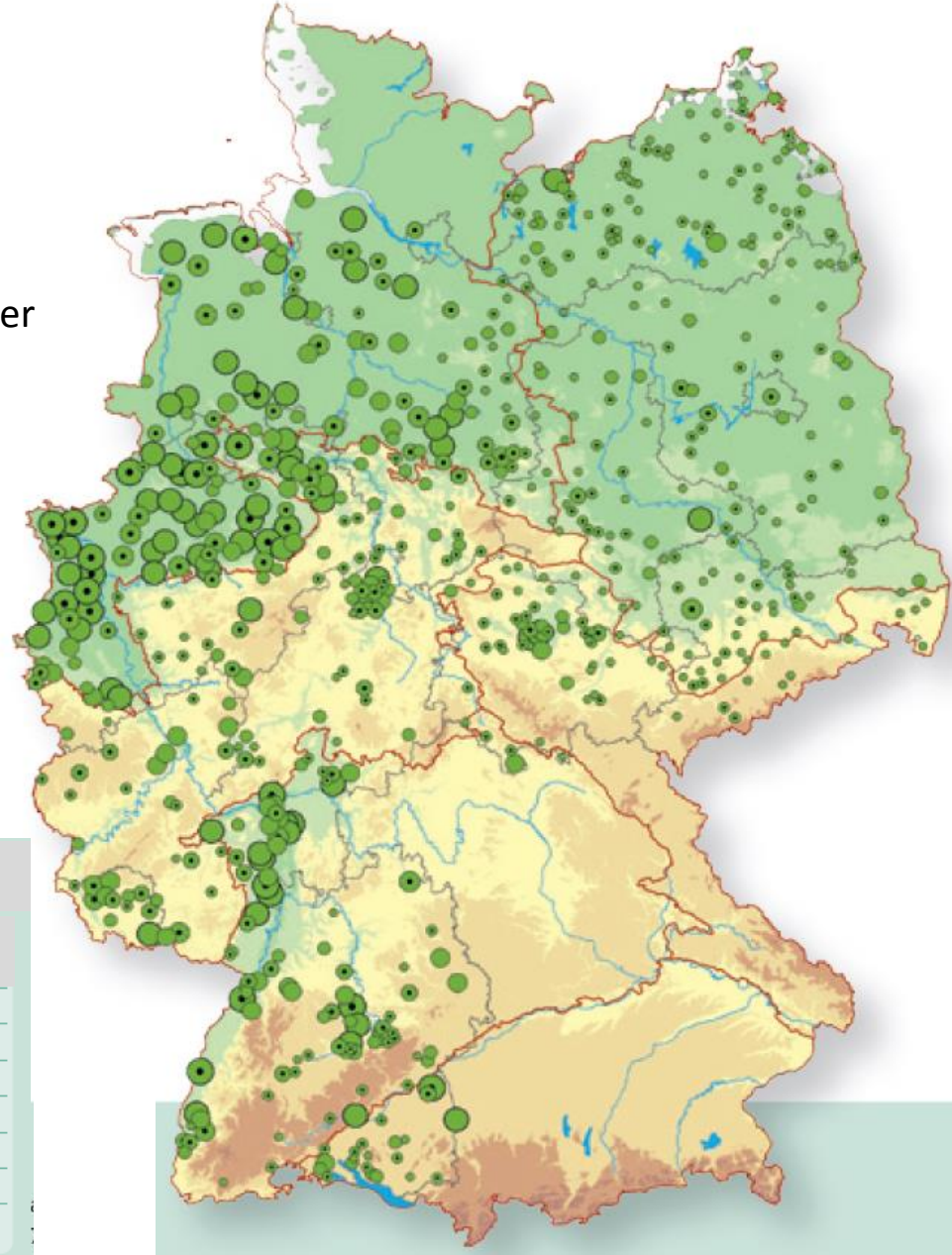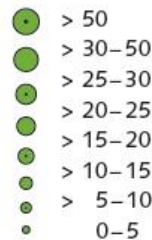
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# Some results

**2011:** about 400 RA

- Western federal states: 9,8 – 31, individuals/km2
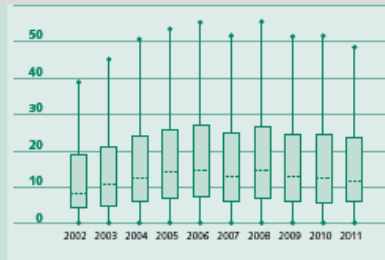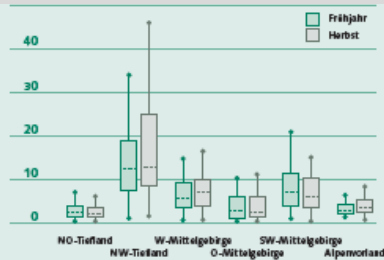- Eastern federal states: 2,7 – 7,0 individuals/km2
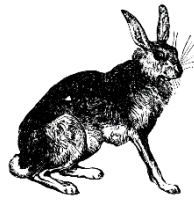
Individuals per km2

- ● > 50
- ● > 30 – 50
- ● > 25 – 30
- ● > 20 – 25
- ● > 15 – 20
- ● > 10 – 15
- ● > 5 – 10
- ● 0 – 5

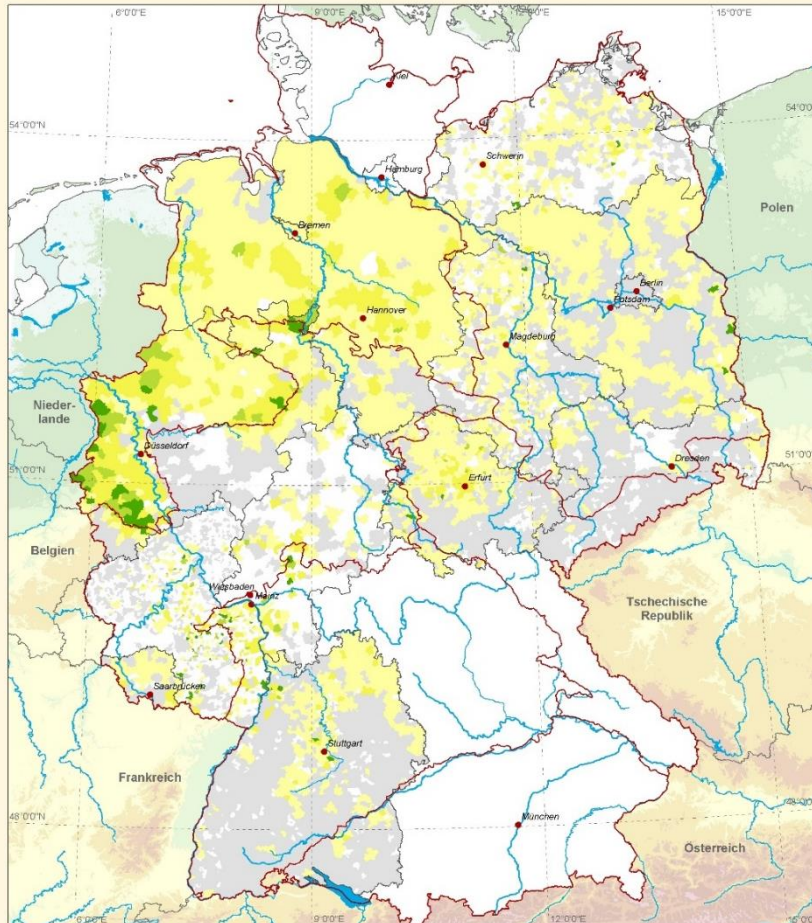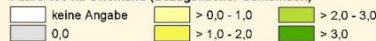Geographic region          Development in RA

Population density per 100ha taxation area

Wildtier-Informationssystem der Länder Deutschlands
im Auftrag des Deutschen Jagdschutz-Verbandes e. V.

Rebhuhn *(Perdix perdix)*
Paardichte in Deutschland, Frühjahr 2011

**2011:** about 27 000 hunting districts (AA)

Present in 16 % of districts Number of breeding pairs in total: 40 902

→ 0,33 breeding pairs/ km2 (mean)
→ Almost 0,0 breeding pairs/ km2 (median)
→ Declines almost all over the country
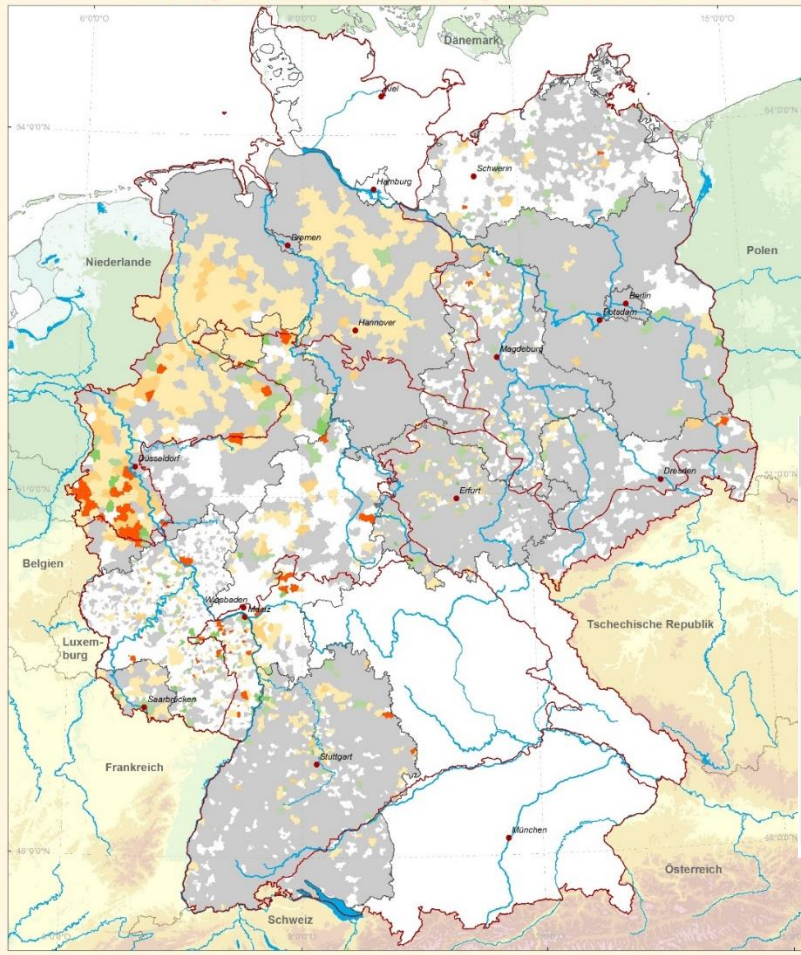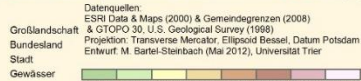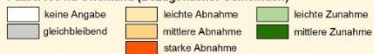
Wildtier-Informationssystem der Länder Deutschlands
im Auftrag des Deutschen Jagdschutzverbandes e.V.
Rebhuhn (Perdix perdix)
Entwicklung der Paardichte in Deutschland, Frühjahr 2006 bzw. 2009 zu 2011

Partridge hunting bags

# Some results

Wildtier-Informationssystem der Länder Deutschlands
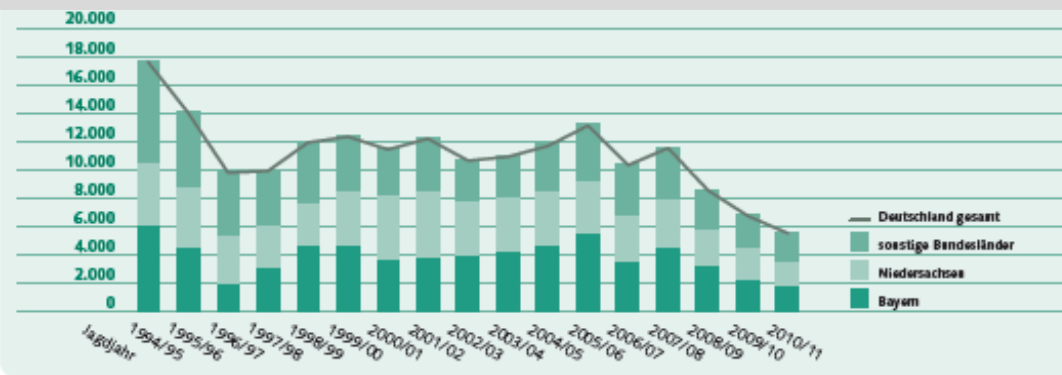im Auftrag des Deutschen Jagdschutzverbandes e.V.
Wildkatze (Felis silvestris)
Vorkommen 2006, 2011

**2011:** about 27 000 hunting districts (AA)

Present in 10 % of districts

Estimates of the AA are evaluated before publishing

Population spreading

Tool to identify possible wildlife corridors

Raccoon

Raccoon dog

American Mink
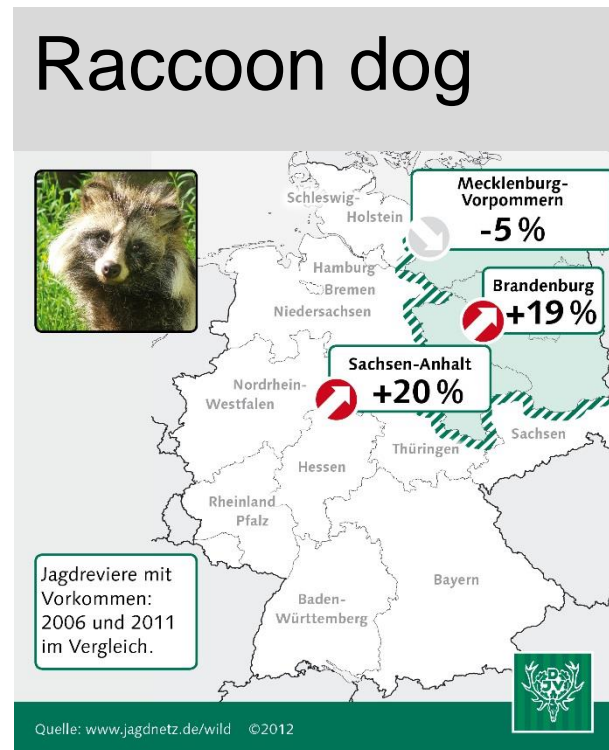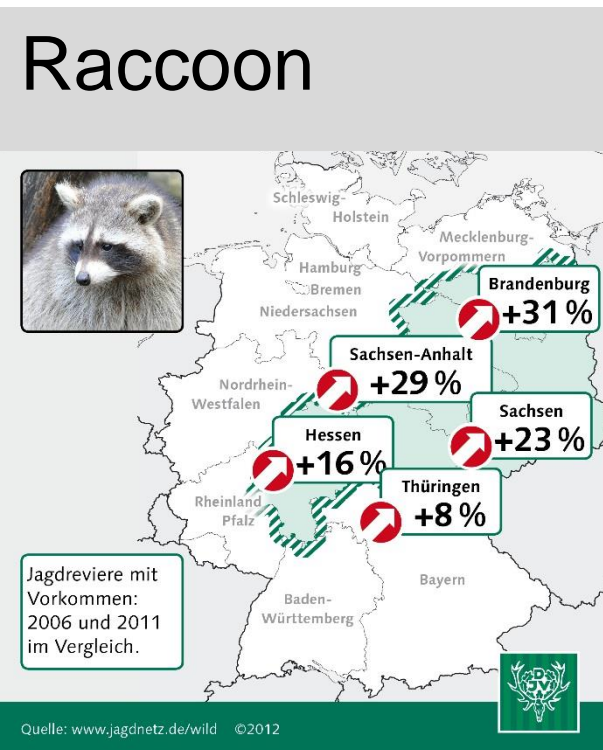
**2011:** about 30 000 hunting districts (AA)

Invasive alien species spreading out in Germany

**2010:** all hare date, mapping of land use type and crops (agriculture)
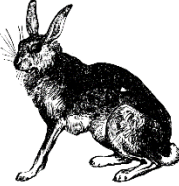
Positive effects of arable land, negative impacts of grasslands on brown hare numbers (Ossen 2011)

# W.I.L.D. provides essential data

- allows the annual estimation of relative densities (partridge), absolute densities (hare) and productivity (average den size: fox, badger), etc.
  - long-term data sets

→ Powerful conservation and environmental management system
→ Powerful monitoring tool

# W.I.L.D. provides essential data

**for science**

W.I.L.D. is one module of long-term biomonitoring programmes, in combination with other long-term data, a deeper understanding of our ecosytem and impacts of anthropogenic activities can be gained (climate change)

**for governmental authorities and NGOs**

Birds Directive, Habitats Directive, Convention on Migratory Species, African-Eurasian Waterbrid Agreement, German National Strategy for Biodiversity

# W.I.L.D. provides essential data

**for hunting**
Sustainable and responsible use of game animals
Arguments pro or contra hunting (e.g. partridge)
Political communication and lobbying



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# W.I.L.D. – hunters' contribution to society

- Provide data for society at zero cost by German Hunting Association and ist' federal hunting associations and committed hunters

- hundreds of voluntary hours of hunters

# W.I.L.D.- a good example for cooperation

- hunters and scientists, wildlife managers

- powerful combination for modern wildlife management

# Thank you for your attention!

More information:
www.jagdverband.de/wild

j.arnold@jagdverband.de