

# Reference-notat vedr. fuglevenlig brak

23.03.23

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**Dette opdaterede notat supplerer og understøtter DOFs guide til fuglevenlig brak**

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## Sammenfatning og læsevejledning

DOFs frivilligbaserede Landbrugsgruppe har udarbejdet en praksisnær guide til placering og etablering af brak og andre småbiotoper, der kan gavne landbrugslandets fugle.

Guiden, der kan downloades fra [www.dof.dk](http://www.dof.dk), retter sig mod landbrugere, der ønsker at efterkomme deres forpligtelse efter GLM8 (om udtag af 4 % uproduktivt areal) ved brakudlæg, og/eller som ønsker at gøre såvel denne som eventuelle yderligere brakudlæg efter bio-ordningen for biodiversitet mere fuglevenlige.

Dette referencenotat gengiver den faglige evidens bag guidens anbefalinger i særdeleshed og den videnskabelige litteraturs behandling af brak som virkemiddel i almindelighed.

Kort fortalt, så er en af de mest indlysende grunde til, at braklægning generelt har en gunstig indvirkning på fuglene i landbrugslandet, at den dæmper de negative effekter af den ellers fremadskridende intensivering.

Brakken reducerer således påvirkningen fra dyrkningen – såvel fysisk som kemisk – ved dels at levne ro og føde, dels – især i det konventionelle brug - mulighed for, at fuglene ikke påvirkes lige så meget af pesticider - hverken direkte eller indirekte.

Derudover virker brakarealer som surrogater for den natur, der ellers kan forekomme i markkanter og randarealer, og som er vigtig for landbrugslandets fugle for fødesøgning og som yngleplads.

Materialet præsenteres på følgende niveauer:

- En beskrivelse af metoden for udvælgelse af den faglitteratur, der ligger til grund for notatet og dermed guiden.
- En kort præsentation af rammebetingelserne for udlæg af brak (GLM 8 og Bio-ordninger)

- En opridsning af evidensen bag guidens seks, prioriterede anbefalinger til placering og etablering af brak.
- En opridsning af evidensen bag guidens anbefalinger til forbedring af udlagt brak.
- En gennemgang af evidensen bag brak som virkemiddel overfor guidens fem eksempelarter.
- En syntese af de mest centrale kilder til evidens for den positive effekt af brak på fuglearter, knyttet til landbrugslandet.
- Et overblik over øvrige kilder (optaget i bibliografien i Bilag I), der vurderer brak som virkemiddel i f.t. fremme af landbrugslandsfugle.
- Et bilag med en bibliografi (samling af abstracts) over den anvendte litteratur (opført i alfabetisk orden efter førsteforfatter), samt en fuldstændig referenceliste.

Der forekommer en del gentagelser, notatet igennem, da det er meningen, brugeren skal kunne slå emner op tematisk, uden at skulle hele materialet igennem.

## Metode

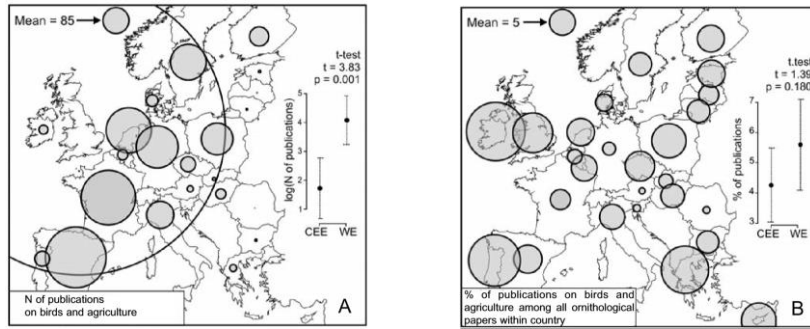
Guidens anbefalinger støtter sig – ud over på gruppemedlemmernes praktiske erfaringer – på en righoldig videnskabelig evidens, som præsenteres i dette notat.

Notatet baserer sig på gennemlæsning af og udvælgelse blandt sammenlagt mere end 700 fortrinsvis fagfællebedømte videnskabelige artikler og afhandlinger samt enkelte bøger med Newton (2017) som den mest centrale sammen med Fuller (2012) og selvfølgelig klassikerne Donald (2004) og Shrubb (2007) f.s.v.a. de to arketyperiske landbrugslandsfuglearter Sanglærke og Vibe.

Artiklerne er primært fremsøgt i litteratur-databaserne [Conservation Evidence](#) (Sutherland *et al.* 2021a) og [Academia](#) samt Elseviers ScienceDirect-service, og ved sekundærsøgning.

### Hvorfor dominans af britisk litteratur?

Når så mange af referencerne handler om eller baserer sig på britiske forhold, skyldes det den simple kendsgerning, at britiske forskere har undersøgt og publiceret så umådeligt meget mere om landbrugslandsfugle, end de øvrige europæiske forskere, og at andelen af ornitologisk litteratur, der handler om landbrug og fugle, for Danmarks vedkommende ligger langt under det europæiske gennemsnit på 5 % – uagtet, at vi er et af de mest intensivt dyrkede lande i verden. Mængden af publiceret litteratur, fordelt på lande, er illustreret hos Tryjanowski *et al.* 2011, fra hvem *Figur 1* er lånt. Eftersom britisk landbrug – i hvert fald hvad angår lavlandsdriften – minder meget om det danske, både hvad angår intensitet og afgrødevalg, må det imidlertid antages, at de britiske erfaringer i rimeligt omfang kan overføres til danske forhold (når selvfølgelig lige bortses fra, at vi næppe kan få arter som Triel, Provencesanger, Gærdeværting og Alpekrage på paletten, uanset hvordan brakken udlægges og designes – og for alt i verden da slet ikke Rødhøne).



Figur 1: A) Antallet af publikationer om fugle og landbrug i de europæiske lande. Bemærk, at den udfyldte storcirkel repræsenterer de britiske publikationer, og at skalaen er logaritmisk. B) Andelen af ornitologiske publikationer, der omhandler fugle og landbrug. Begge er opgjort pr. 10.07.11. og lånt fra Tryjanowski et al. 2011, p. 7.

## Rammebetingelserne i den nye, strategiske CAP-plan for 2023-2027

Danmarks strategiske plan under den europæiske landbrugspolitik (CAP'en), gældende for perioden 2023-2027 blev godkendt af EU-Kommissionen den 31.08.22, og kan i sin helhed ses [her på Landbrugsstyrelsens hjemmeside](#).

Hvad angår fremme af natur og biodiversitet er der to centrale elementer i planen: Dels krav nr. 8 vedr. God Landbrugsmæssig og Miljømæssig stand af landbrugsjord ('GLM'), dels tilskudsmuligheder efter den såkaldte 'bio-ordning' til biodiversitet og bæredygtighed (i planen også betegnet 'Eco-scheme for biodiversitet og bæredygtighed').

GLM 8, der som de øvrige GLM-krav skal være opfyldt, for at landbrugeren ikke får trukket i sin landbrugsstøtte, indebærer, at mindst 4 % af omdriftsarealet skal afsættes til ikke-produktive landskabstræk eller områder. Derudover skal eksisterende landskabstræk bevares, og der er forbud mod at klippe hække og træer i fuglenes yngletid. Det vil være muligt at bekæmpe invasive plantearter i ikke-produktive landskabstræk.

Kravet om 4 % ikke-produktive elementer kan indfries i form af brak, bestøverbrak, markbræmmer, småbiotoper, markkrat, GLM-søer eller GLM-fortidsminder. Landbrugere må ikke afgræsse brak, bestøverbrak, markbræmmer og småbiotoper, der indgår i opfyldelsen af GLM 8. Men dog gerne markkrat, GLM-søer og GLM-fortidsminder, hvis afgræsningen ikke medfører, at elementerne bliver ødelagt.

Det er ikke muligt at blive undtaget fra kravet, da der skal gennemføres biodiversitetsindsatser på alle bedrifter. Landbrugeren modtager dog fortsat grundbetaling på arealer, der er omfattet af GLM8.

Hvis en landbruger også søger bio-ordningen biodiversitet og bæredygtighed (se nedenfor) og tilsammen udlægger mindst syv procent ikke-produktive elementer, nedsættes GLM 8-kravet til tre procent, så landbrugeren kan få ekstra tilskud til én procent mere under bio-ordningen.

Bio-ordningen – eller Eco-scheme – for biodiversitet og bæredygtighed åbner op for, at landbrugere, ud over grundbetaling, kan få støtte til at etablere (yderligere) tiltag i stil med ovennævnte.

CAP-plan anfører følgende om bio-ordningerne (p. 210):

”Der er tale om en støtteordning med étårig forpligtelse, og arealerne kan derefter indgå i driften igen efter endt forpligtelsesperiode, hvorfor effekterne er mere begrænsede, end hvis der er tale om varige forpligtelser. Dog vil ordningen bidrage til at understøtte forpligtelser under fugle- og habitatdirektiverne, nitratdirektivet og vandrammedirektivet og på sigt bidrage til klimamålsætningerne, da der er incitament til at blive i ordningen flere år i træk og derved at fastholde arealerne i længere tid end ét år.”

DOFs guide angår alene GLM 8-kravet, og herunder fortrinsvis braklægnings-elementet, men den kan også bruges som grundlag for design og udlæg af småbiotoper m.v.

## Evidensen bag guidens 6 prioriterede anbefalinger til placering og etablering af brak

### 1. Start dine brakarealer fra nul – de må ikke starte med græs

Northern Zone (2020) angiver med kilde i Kahlert *et al.* (2008), at hvis tidlige successionsstadier af brak – herunder også vildtstriber – er til stede, foretrækkes disse som fourageringsområde for Agerhøne.

Orłowski *et al.* (2011) fandt efter omfattende undersøgelser af vinterføde hos Agerhøne, at bibeholdelse af stubmarker og dæk-afgrøder ved naturlig regenerering af étårige vilde planter vil kunne bidrage som et væsentligt element i strategien for genopretningen af bestandene af Agerhøne i det europæiske landbrugslandskab.

Vickery & Buckingham (2001) fandt, at den mest favorable type af brak for Sanglærke er den, der skabes ved at stub fra den foregående kornafgrøde efterlades upløjet, og hvor ukrudtsplanter får lov at gro frem.

Donald (2004) citerer Henderson *et al.* (2001) for at anføre, at den optimale højde på vegetationen i brak ser ud til at ligge på omkring 20 cm med pletter af bar jord, som tillader fouragering – helt præcist skal op til 30 % helst henligge som bar jord med strå og henfaldets plantemateriale.

Van Buskirk & Willi (2004) fandt signifikant højere antal af plante-, fugle- og edderkoppearter på brakarealer end på dyrkede marker i såvel Europa som USA. Effekten var størst på større og ældre arealer, og især på arealer, der var etableret ved naturlig regenerering frem for udsåning.

Dalgaard *et al.* (2020) anbefaler (p. 36) i forhold til etablering af slåningsbrak, at etablering i stubmark uden udsåning af kulturgræs vil være bedst for biodiversiteten.

### 2. Spred halvdelen af brakarealet ud på ejendommen – læg resten som én mark

Herzon *et al.* (2011), der har undersøgt forholdene i Finland, påpeger, at det er vigtigt, at brakkravet gøres obligatorisk, så det kan brede sig ud over *hele dyrkningsfladen og over hele landet*. Ved givne markstørrelser i studiet, så viste *den blotte tilstedeværelse af brak* en større betydning for artsrigdommen *end brakarealernes størrelse*, mens antallet af territorier øgedes *både* som følge af tilstedeværelsen af brakarealer *og* ved at øge deres størrelse. Herzon *et al.* finder, at også brakarealer, der er for små til at rumme et territorie, ikke desto mindre kan have betydelig effekt som fourageringsområde for landbrugslandsfugle, der anlægger rede i markkanter og uden for markerne, og/eller som har tendens til at fouragere i markrande.

Conover *et al.* (2014) konkluderede, at etablering af bufferstriber af 1.-års-successioner er attraktive for ynglende landbrugslands-fugle og at sådanne striber kan tilvejebringe vigtige økologiske fordele som supplement til forvaltningsformer baseret på store, sammenhængende blokke af 1.-årssuccessioner.

Meichtry-Stier *et al.* (2018) fandt, at den overordnede territorietæthed af fem arter (for hvilke brak var overrepræsenteret omkring centrum for deres territorier) var højere i små brakarealer, som ikke var placeret tæt ved skov, og som rummede brombær, krat og gyldenris.

### 3. Udlæg våde lavninger på marken inklusiv de nærmeste omgivelser (vibe-lavninger)

Schmidt *et al.* (2017) angiver, at især Vibe-vinduer på fugtig bund er lovende, og fandt konkret 67 % af vibevinduer med fugtig bund besat mod kun 37 % i kontrolgruppen. 64 par gjorde således yngleforsøg i 26

fugtigbunds-vinduer med ynglesucces for 24 par i 11 vinduer, mens kun 18 par etablerede sig i 9 vinduer, der ikke var forberedt for Vibe (uden fugtig bund) – og med ringe ynglesucces.

#### 4. Placer brakstriber ind mod eksisterende natur eller til opdeling af store marker

Josefsson *et al.* (2013) fandt, at randzoner langs vandløb havde en positiv effekt på bestanden af Sanglærke i de tilgrænsende marker, formentlig fordi antallet af løbebiller m.v. tiltog også ude i marken, hvor de var tilgængelige for lærkerne.

Hvad angår guidens anbefaling vedr. brug af brak til opdeling af store marker siger de seneste videnskabelige forskningsresultater, at markstørrelserne i sig selv er signifikant negativt korreleret med biodiversiteten. Tschardt *et al.* (2021, 2022) når således frem til, at den optimale markstørrelse ud fra biodiversitetshensyn kun bør være 2 ha, og at indholdet af ikke-produktive elementer (natur og semi-natur) bør være på 20 %, og allerede Batáry *et al.* (2010) nåede frem til, at naturindholdet i landskabet skulle op på 17 %, førend en øgning i naturindhold ikke gav sig udslag i yderligere, væsentlig stigning i biodiversiteten. At udviklingen (fortsat) går den modsatte vej er for danske forholds vedkommende senest dokumenteret af Beier *et al.* (2017), som fandt, at den gennemsnitlige markstørrelse fortsat er stigende, især på højbonitetsjorde.

#### 5. Udlæg lærkepletter i dine kornafgrøder

Allerede Odderskær *et al.* (1997) fandt under danske forhold, at Sanglærke brugte utilsåede pletter i vårbygmarker signifikant hyppigere end man skulle forvente ved ensartet fordeling ud over landskabet.

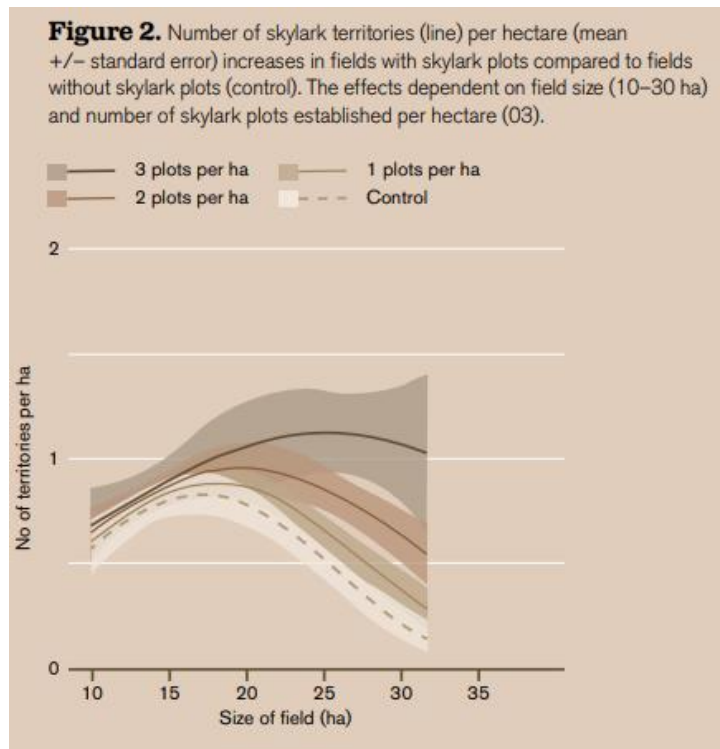
WWF i Sverige har i nyere tid i samarbejde med den svenske landbrugsorganisation Lantmännen, BirdLife Sverige og SLU (det svenske landbrugsuniversitet) gennemført en omfattende, fuldskala-undersøgelse over tre år af effekterne af udlæg af lærkepletter i vinterhvede i forskellig tæthed og på forskellige markstørrelser i fire svenske regioner (Anonym, 2018). De konkluderer, at lærkepletter nu kan påvises at have en signifikant positive effekt på tætheden af Sanglærke-territorier i vinterhvedemarken. Antallet af Sanglærketerritorier i marker med lærkepletter øgedes således med op til 60 %. Der er flere ynglende lærker i marker med lærkepletter og formentlig større ungeoverlevelse, ligesom det så ud til, at lærker fra naboområder blev tiltrukket af marker med lærkepletter.

Hvad der forekommer særligt interessant, er undersøgelsens resultater vedr. sammenhæng mellem markstørrelser, antal lærkepletter pr. ha og antallet af lærketerritorier pr. ha (se rapportens figur 2, som er indkopieret nedenfor).

Bemærk hvordan antallet af lærketerritorier *stiger* med markstørrelsen til et vist niveau – også i kontrolgruppen uden lærkepletter -, og herefter aftager (uanset antallet af pletter pr. ha – dog med en vis 'forsinkelse' desto flere pletter/ha).

*Stigningen* er utvivlsomt udtryk for, at randeffekten er *negativ* indtil en vis afstand (Sanglærken er hegnsfornægter/utryk ved hegn og skovbryn grundet frygt for prædatorer, se bl.a. Donald (2004) herfor og senest Püttmanns *et al.* (2021)).

Det efterfølgende *fald* i takt med stigende markstørrelse, er utvivlsomt udtryk for, at randeffekten omvendt er *positiv* hvad angår tætheden af byttedyr. Den stigende afstand til randen giver mindre indvandring af løbebillen m.v. til markernes centrale dele (se herfor f.eks. Jacobsen *et al.* 2019 & 2022, men også Josefsson *et al.* 2013), hvilket gør markerne mindre attraktive med stigende størrelse. Etablering af 3 pletter pr. ha kan dog tydeligvis gøre selv 30 ha store marker mere attraktive end halvt så store marker *uden* pletter (således ~1,1 territorie/ha mod ~0,8).



Figur 2: Figur 2 fra Anonym (2018) p. 8, som viser antallet af Sanglærketerritorier pr. ha som funktion af markstørrelse (fra 10 til 30 ha) og antallet af lærkepletter (fra 0 til 3). Se teksten for nærmere diskussion.

Schmidt *et al.* (2017) fandt i forsøgsområder med Lærkepletter 5,6 og 3,1 territorier pr. 10 ha i hhv. den tidlige (april/maj-) og sene (juni/juli-) periode – sammenholdt med 3,3 og 1,4 territorier pr. 10 ha i kontrolområder. Tætheden af Sanglærketerritorier i marker med supplerende planteplejespor var 1,6 gange højere i den tidlige periode (4,2 versus 2,6 territorier pr. 10 ha), og 2,2 gange højere i den sene periode (3,6 versus 1,6 territorier pr. 10 ha). Forfatterne konkluderer, at lærkepletter og supplerende planteplejespor forbedrer store marker for Sanglærke og har et potentiale til at øge Sanglærkebestanden, ligesom Schmidt *et al. op.cit.* også fandt, at Sanglærke forekom hyppigere i 'Vibe-vinduer' (udyrkede partier, udlagt til Viber).

Newton (2017) anfører (p. 529 f) at i forsøgsområder rummede lærkepletter høj tæthed af nogle insektgrupper, som Sanglærkerne æder, men den vigtigste gavn for fuglene var, at enhver vegetation, der groede frem, forblev kort og sparsom, hvilket gav fuglene let adgang til disse byttedyr. Marker med to pletter pr. ha havde tætheder af Sanglærkepar, der var mindst 30 % højere end i konventionelle kornmarker. Årsproduktionen af unger var omkring 50 % større, til dels fordi de enkelte reder havde større kuld i marker med pletter, men især fordi fuglene blev i stand til at fortsætte med at yngle længere hen på året, hvilket gav tid til flere yngleforsøg (Morris *et al.* 2004, Stoate & Moorcroft 2007). Ynglepar forlader gradvist konventionelle vinterafgrøder fra slutningen af maj, når afgrøderne gror sig høje, men nogle forblev i marker med pletter indtil høst i juli-august. Sanglærkeunger i marker med lærkepletter var også signifikant tungere end dem i konventionelle marker, og denne forskel øgedes gennem ynglesæsonen. Deres højere vægt reflekterede bedre fodertilstand og har formodentlig forbedret deres overlevelse efter udflyvning i forhold til de lettere individers.

Stort set samme resultater fremkom – stadig ifølge Newton (2017) - fra 15 forsøgsgårde i Storbritannien, hvor pletter blev afprøvet, og også på landbrug i Danmark og Schweiz (hvor den danske reference er Odderskær *op.cit.*).



På de involverede landbrugsejendomme i det britiske forsøg voksede antallet af Sanglærker over tid. Antallet af syngende hanner, talt på RSPB's forsøgsgård i Cambridgeshire, øgedes fra 10 i 2000 til 34 i 2005, efter at lærkepletter blev introduceret i 2001 (Donald & Morris 2005).

Andre fuglearter, som udnyttede disse pletter til fødesøgning, omfattede Bomlærke og Gul Vipstjert.

Ifølge Newton har lærkepletter vist sig upopulære hos britiske landmænd og er blevet taget op i en for lille skala, til at det har kunnet vende bestandsnedgangen for Sanglærke nationalt (i UK).

## 6. Bevar næringsfattige brakmarker samme sted i flere år, flyt øvrige

Dalgaard *et al.* (2020) anfører (p. 34 f.) at "biodiversitetseffekterne af slåningsbrak varierer betydeligt afhængig af jordbunden. På tørre sandede og næringsfattige arealer er der de bedste muligheder for at opnå betydelige biodiversitetseffekter, især hvor udsåning af kulturgræsser undgås. Her kan en relativt artsrig flora med tilhørende insektarter etablere sig (Tscharrntke *et al.* 2011, Bertelsen *et al.* 2008, Mogensen *et al.* 1997). På næringsrige jorde vil biodiversitetseffekterne til gengæld ofte være meget små, idet der typisk etableres en artsfattig og meget tæt vegetation, især ved udsåning af kulturgræsser, men også hvor plantedækket etableres ud fra den eksisterende frøbank. Her vil få, konkurrencesterke arter være dominerende." – og videre: "Konkurrencearterne kan være hjemmehørende arter som stor nælde, agertidse eller tagrør, men også invasive arter som kæmpe-bjørneklo eller gyldenris (Mogensen *et al.* 1997, Bertelsen *et al.* 2008). Da græsning og høslæt med fjernelse af det afklippede materiale ikke er tilladt, vil der ikke være mulighed for, at der dannes åbninger i vegetationen, hvor nye arter kan etablere sig." (Forf. angiver senere, at sammenrivning af afklippede materialer er tilladt, men savner driftsøkonomisk incitament).

Bracken & Bolger (2006) viste, at brak øger såvel artsdiversiteten som antallet af fugle, og at i Irland er den mest effektive brakform varig brak, men også, at den bedst passende brakform vil variere fra situation til situation, og at 'one size fits all'-perspektivet ikke bør lægges til grund ved udviklingen af landbrugsstøtteordningerne.

Donald (2004) anfører, at eftersom Sanglærke foretrækker selvgroet brak, opstået i forrige års stub, så foretrækker den brak, der flyttes rundt på landbrugsejendommen hvert år (rotationsbrak), frem for brak, der efterlades på samme sted for flere år (varig brak). Også Wakeham-Dawson (1995) og Wakeham-Dawson *et al.* (1998) fandt, at Sanglærke anvendte rotations-brak mere end marker med dyrkede afgrøder.

Også Watson & Rae (1997) fandt, at ét år gammel brak tiltrak signifikant flere fuglearter end tilsvarende omdriftsmarker.

Se også afsnittet 'Rotations- eller varig brak?' nedenfor.

## Evidensen bag guidens anbefalinger til forbedring af udlagt brak

### Etabler insektvolde i dine brakstriber

Newton (2017) anfører (p. 535) at fugle benytter insektvolde som fødesøgningssted for invertebrater, og det gælder især arter som Bomlærke og Sanglærke, som jo undgår at søge føde nær høje hegn. Insektvolde opbyder også gode rede-habitater for Agerhøne og – afhængig af strukturen i grønsværen – også for Sanglærke, Bomlærke og Rørspurv (hvor sidstnævnte optræder som agerlandsart i UK). Insektvolde har således potentialet for at øge yngle-tætheden for disse arter ved at skabe ekstra territorie-pladser. Anfører med kilde i Stoate & Leake (2002) og Collins *et al.* 2002 at det ved fuldskalaforsøg på Loddington var lykkedes at øge tætheden af rovbiller på voldene til – som Newton betegner det – utrolige 2.000 individer pr. kvadratmeter, og at de bredte sig ud i de omgivende afgrøder, hvor effekten på hvede-bladlus var effektiv på mere end 80 meters afstand.

Stoate (2002) fandt i et studie over syv år i Leicestershire, at tætheden af sangfugle, der nationalt var i tilbagegang, og fuglearter med højt beskyttelsesbehov, øgedes signifikant over et 3 km<sup>2</sup> stort område, hvor der etableredes insektvolde (men så også en række andre tiltag til fremme af landbrugslandsfugle).

Murray *et al.* (2002) fandt at Sanglærke (i modsætning til Gulspurv) brugte selvgroet brak mere end forventet (ud fra udbuddet) til fødesøgning i ungetiden, *men signifikant mindre end brak, anlagt med grønåls-baserede vildtblandinger, vildtfugleblandinger og insektvolde.*

### Vent med at afpudse marken til efter 15.9

Dalgaard *et al.* (2020) anfører om slåningstidspunkt (p. 35), at "fuglefaunaen er særdeles følsom over for slåning af plantedækket i yngleperioden. Den anbefalede praksis med forbud mod slåning i perioden 1. maj til 31. juli vil til dels beskytte fuglene i ynglesæsonen. Forårsslåning kan dog ødelægge reder hos f.eks. sanglærke, agerhøne og vibe, ligesom slåning umiddelbart før rede-etablering vil gøre arealet uegnet som ynglehabitat i en periode, og slåning i august vil være negativt for unger af sent etablerede kuld (Elmeros *et al.* 2014). Sensommersslåning vil desuden fjerne en stor del af plantefrøene, der er vigtige som fødegrundlag for mange agerlandsarter (Mogensen *et al.* 1997). Vickery *et al.* (2004) anbefaler braklægning og økologisk landbrugspraksis samt dyrkning af vårafgrøder som de vigtigste tiltag til forbedring af ynglesuccessen for lærker. Braklægning i denne undersøgelse er dog uden aktivitetskrav, hvorfor den fundne gavnlige effekt må forventes at være større end for brakmarker med aktivitetskrav. I forhold til vinteroverlevelse angives tilstedeværelsen af overvintrende stubmarker som væsentlig (Vickery *op.cit.*)".

Dalgaard *et al.* (2020) når (p. 36) i forlængelse af ovenstående frem til følgende anbefalinger vedr. slåningsbrak, nemlig at: "perioden med forbud mod slåning bliver længere end de nuværende 3 måneder, 1. maj - 31. juli, således at slåning ikke er tilladt i perioden 1. april – 1. oktober. Vi anbefaler desuden, at slåning i vintermånederne, gerne sen-vinter (februar-marts), overvejes, hvor det er muligt. Opdeling af brakmarken i to eller flere delmarker vil reducere de negative effekter ved slåning og tilbagelægning, idet der hele tiden vil være uforstyrrede områder i marken. Slåningsbrak kan med fordel kombineres med en række andre virkemidler, der placeres i tilknytning til slåningsbrak. F.eks. kan barjordsstriber, haregrønninger, striber udsået med vildtblandinger, assisteret spredning af vilde frø være virkemidler, der med fordel kan tilknyttes arealer med slåningsbrak". [Det skal her tilføjes, at barjordsstriber og haregrønning dog ikke er en del af den palette, der kan indfri GLM8-kravet, men de kan fortsat anlægges som en del af markblokken og fortsat opnå grundbetaling].

Perkins *et al.* (2011, 2013) har for skotske forhold vist, hvordan det er lykkedes at øge bl.a. bestanden af Bomlærke med 5,6 % om året ved at indføre målrettede støtteordninger, herunder støtte til *udskudt høslæt*. Det viste sig, at det hos denne sent-ynglende art blev langt de fleste (65 %) af 2.-kuldene ødelagt i f.m. høslæt, og ved at yde tilskud til forsinket slæt, reduceredes redetabene fra 65 % til 5 %.

Bomlærke kan have ikke-flyvefærdige unger helt ind i september, og både Sanglærke og Gulspurv kan have ikke-flyvefærdige unger fra hhv. 3. og 2. kuld langt ind i august, hvorfor udsættelse af brakpudsning så længe som muligt vil gavne disse arter (se i øvrigt guidens yngletidsoversigt, p. 12).

Hertil kommer, at der er større chance for frøsætning blandt brakens vilde planter, og dermed også større udbud af føde efteråret og vinteren over, desto senere brakken afpudses.

### Lav blomsterbrak-striber udvalgte steder – og slå dem tidligt om foråret

Den seneste og mest systematiske analyse af blomsterstribers betydning for landbrugslandsfugle er tysk og offentliggjort i *Basic and Applied Ecology* (Schmidt *et al.* 2022). Den siger allerede i titlen, at marker med vilde blomsterstriber havde en højere artsrigdom og territorietæthed af fugle end kontrol-marker, og at forfatterne med undersøgelsen finder effektiviteten af denne tilskudsordning – der er én af de mest benyttede i Tyskland - bekræftet.

Forskerne undersøgte således effekterne på fuglelivet af en tilskudsordning for etablering af flerårig, såkaldt høj-kvalitets vild-blomsterstriber med artsrige (30 arter), hjemmehørende blomsterblandinger med lokal udbredelse. De undersøgte ynglefugle og vegetation på 40 marker med blomsterstriber (heraf 20 med enkelt-striber og 20 med flere striber) og sammenholdt resultaterne med 20 marker uden blomsterstriber som kontrol. Derudover blev vegetationssammensætningen, blomsterstribernes kvantitative sammensætninger og landskabsstrukturerne (herunder afstande til levende hegn og andre landskabslementer med træer) vurderet i f.m. analysen.

Marker med blomsterstriber havde en højere artsrigdom og territorietæthed af fugle end kontrol-markerne, og den urterige vegetation var den væsentligste *driver* til fremme af fuglene. Antallet af blomsterstriber på landskabsniveau havde betydning for tætheden af fugle, men også marker med blot én blomsterstribe havde flere fugle. Kort afstand fra striberne til landskabslementer med træer *øgede* den totale artsrigdom, mens tætheden af de landbrugslandsfugle, som var *target*-arter for tilskudsordningen, blev negativt påvirkede af tætheden til - og andelen af - landskabslementer med træer i umiddelbar nærhed.

Effekten af andelen af ikke-produktive, åbne arealer og den overordnede habitat-rigdom var uventet lav i det ellers intensivt drevne landskab, mens artsrige, flerårige blomsterstriber fremmede ynglefuglene signifikant.

Forskerne fandt således alt i alt, at etablering af vild-blomsterstriber resulterer i høj-kvalitets-habitater, som ved et højt antal striber i åbne landskaber kan effektivisere genrejsning af ellers nedadgående bestande af *target*-arter inden for landbrugslandsfuglene.

Effekten på enkelt-arter fremgår af artiklens Tabel 2 (p. 20), som er klippet ind nedenfor. Især effekterne på Bomlærke og Tornsanger springer i øjnene, men også Stillits, Vagtel, Rødrygget Tornskade, Sanglærke og Gulspurv, og til dels Skovpiber og Gul Vipstjert (sidstnævnte dog ikke-signifikant).

**Table 2.** Number of territories of bird species on wildflower strip (WFS) plots and controls. All farmland bird species (FB; PECBMS, 2020) and threatened species (RL, Red List of Saxony Anhalt; Schönbrodt & Schulze, 2020) are shown; additional species only if they occupied at least two territories. Bold type indicates species with at least five territories. Differences between WFS plot and control were tested using Mann-Whitney U-test (n.s. = not significant, (.) P < 0.1, \* P < 0.05, \*\* P < 0.01, \*\*\* P < 0.001).

Common name	Scientific name	FB	RL	WFS (n = 40)		Control (n = 20)		Total	P
				Number	Mean	Number	Mean		
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	.	.	2	0.05	1	0.05	3	n.s.
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	.	.	5	0.13	1	0.05	6	n.s.
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	.	.	3	0.08	1	0.05	4	n.s.
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	.	.	8	0.20	1	0.05	9	n.s.
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	.	.	3	0.08	.	.	3	n.s.
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	x	x	17	0.43	.	.	17	**
Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>	.	.	2	0.05	.	.	2	n.s.
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	.	.	9	0.23	.	.	9	*
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	.	.	5	0.13	1	0.05	6	n.s.
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	.	.	2	0.05	.	.	2	n.s.
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	.	x	2	0.05	.	.	2	n.s.
Icterine Warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>	.	x	1	0.03	.	.	1	n.s.
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	x	x	1	0.03	.	.	1	n.s.
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	.	.	2	0.05	.	.	2	n.s.
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	x	x	1	0.03	.	.	1	n.s.
Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	.	.	2	0.05	.	.	2	n.s.
Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>	x	x	3	0.08	1	0.05	4	n.s.
Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	x	.	3	0.08	.	.	3	n.s.
Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	x	.	7	0.18	.	.	7	*
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	x	x	10	0.25	.	.	10	*
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	x	x	166	4.15	49	2.45	215	*
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	.	x	4	0.10	1	0.05	5	n.s.
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	x	.	5	0.13	1	0.05	6	n.s.
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	.	x	14	0.35	2	0.10	16	(.)
Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	x	x	3	0.08	.	.	3	n.s.
Turtle-dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	x	x	1	0.03	.	.	1	n.s.
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	x	x	5	0.13	.	.	5	n.s.
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	.	.	5	0.13	.	.	5	n.s.
Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	x	.	24	0.60	.	.	24	***
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	.	x	6	0.15	.	.	6	n.s.
Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	x	.	37	0.93	10	0.50	47	n.s.
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	x	.	12	0.30	1	0.05	13	*

Ligeledes som helt nyttilkommen kilde skal nævnes den østrigske miljøstyrelse, der har været tovholder for et EU-projekt (*Birds@Farmland Initiative*), dækkende 10 lande, hvor effekterne af forskellige tiltag til fremme af landbrugslandsfugle undersøgte. Det har resulteret i en række faktaark, herunder for arter som Agerhøne, Bomlærke, Gulspurv og Vibe (Umweltbundesamt 2022 a, b, c & d). De anfører, at den mest gavnlige bevarelsesforanstaltning, der er dokumenteret succesfuld for disse arter, involverer etablering af (vilde) blomsterstriber (f.eks. langs dyrkede marker) eller -pletter.

Udsåning af striber eller -pletter af blandinger af hjemmehørende, blomstrende planter, øger ifølge faktaarkene således variationen af planter og bestøvere, og de anførte fuglearter drager nytte af den højere tæthed og diversitet af insekter, især i ynglesæsonen (for Vibens vedkommende dog – må det formodes – fortrinsvis i de tilgrænsende markflader, hvor blomsterstriberne har en afsmittende effekt på såvel tæthed som artsrigdom af insekter).

Newton (2017) anfører (p. 534) om blomsterstriber, at fugle har fordel af det større spektrum af insekter, der understøttes, og at i et schweizisk studie fouragerede Sanglærker mere i vild-blomsterstriber end i nogen anden type dyrkningsjord (Weibel 1998). Agerhøns anlægger reder i vild-blomsterstriber nær hegn, og Sanglærker, Engpibere og Bomlærker anlægger reder i pletter, dyrket i det åbne land.

Før disse forfattere viste f.eks. Boatman & Bence (2000), at brak, tilsået med vildfugle-frøblandinger, var den foretrukne habitat, sammenlignet med andre foreliggende habitater til redeplacering og fouragering for Fasan og Sanglærke (der ellers var i stærk tilbagegang).

Murray et al. (2002) fandt at Sanglærke brugte selvgroet brak mere end forventet (ud fra udbuddet) til fødesøgning i ungetiden, *men signifikant mindre end brak, anlagt med grønkåls-baserede vildtblandinge, vildtfugleblandinger og insektvolde.*

Clarke et al. (1997) fandt, at brakstriber, tilsået med et mix af 11 vilde blomsterarter, tiltrak flere fugle (i snit 45-131 individer) end striber tilsået med tre forskellige græs-mix (18 – 121 individer), eller en græs- og vildblomsterblanding (33 – 100 individer). Imidlertid tiltrak den rene blomsterblanding det laveste antal arter (8 – 15 arter), mens bræmmer tilsået med græs- og blomstermix tiltrak 16 – 25 arter og bræmmer med varierede græsblandinger tiltrak 23 – 33 arter. De fleste af de Gulspurve, der registreredes i forsøget, blev fundet i bræmmerne med blomsterblandinger.

Henderson et al. (2007) fandt, at antallet af fugle, der benyttede varige bræmmer med blandinger af vilde blomster øgedes med 29 % mellem 2003 og 2006. Forvaltningen af de såede blomster-bræmmer påvirkede fuglene mere end de anvendte frøblandinger. Fugletæthederne var således højere i bræmmer, der blev behandlet med græs-specifikke pesticider, end i bræmmer, der blev slået. Fugletæthederne var koblet til tætheden af dag-aktive biller (*Carabidae*) – især i de pesticidbehandlede bræmmer.

Pywell & Nowakowski (2007) fandt at markhjørner og -bræmmer, tilsået med vildfugleblandinger i yngletiden, husede flere både arter og individer af fugle end alle andre undersøgte dyrkningsformer, og det samme gjaldt for plante-, humlebi- og sommerfuglearter. 55 fugle pr. plot, fordelt på fire arter, blev fundet i snit på arealer med vildfuglefrøblandinger mod 0,1-1 fugl og 0,1-0,7 arter pr. plot i gennemsnit for alle plots. Om vinteren fandt Pywell & Nowakowski (2008) at arealer med vildfuglefrøblandinger husede 86 fugle og 6 arter pr. plot, mod 2 fugle og 0,4-1,6 arter i gennemsnit for alle arealer.

Vickery et al. (2009) fandt, at bræmmer tilsået med vildfugle-blandinger havde en højere tæthed af visse invertebrater, som udgør vigtig føde for fugle, men lavere tæthed end i bræmmer med et mix af vilde blomster.

Grass et al. (2016) undersøgte ikke effekterne på fugle, men fandt, at striber af vild blomster understøtter et meget divers bestøver-samfund i såvel komplekse som strukturelt simple landskaber (og dermed – må man antage - også et stort fødeudbud til insektædende fugle).

For *danske forhold* foreslår Dalgaard et al. (2020) p. 42, at eftersom flere blomstrende plantearter vil gavne bestøvere [og dermed også insektædende fugle, v.a.], ”så bør der indføres et krav om 10-15 blomstrende plantearter, som ikke nødvendigvis alle sås, men gerne må inkludere fremspiring fra jordens frøpulje (faciliteret ved tynd såning eller såning i stubmark) eller frø bragt ind ved assisteret spredning. Der bør laves en liste over egnede arter, herunder kriterier for sammensætningen, så der er planter fra flere familier og blomster tilgængelige over hele bestøversæsonen og i flere sæsoner. En sådan liste kan med fordel inkludere information om krav til jordbunden og eventuelle insekter knyttet til de enkelte plantearter (for at undgå økologiske fælder). Ligeledes bør brakarealet opdeles i minimum 2 dele, som startes og behandles forskudt”.

Sidstnævnte bør ifølge forfatterne ”promoveres og gerne gøres til et krav, hvis blomsterbrak praktiseres som toårig. Reglerne for slåning bør ændres, så slåning undgås i perioden 1. marts-1. oktober af hensyn til ynglende fugle og småpattedyr samt markens insekter. Jordbearbejdning bør primært foregå før 1. marts og efter 1. oktober. Muligheden for anlæg og ompløjning samme år bør fjernes. Der kan med fordel åbnes

for muligheden for sjældnere omlægning under forudsætning af tilstrækkelig andel blomstrende og frøsættende arter på arealet.”

Eskildsen & Holbeck (2020) anbefaler (p. 100) for blomsterstriber, der omlægges hyppigt, at vælge frøblandinger med planter, som *ikke* findes i den vilde natur (og nævner her eksplicit honningurt, oliehorn, fodermarkål, kornblomst, kornvalmue, hjulkrone og solsikke), da insekterne så kan bruge dem som pollen- og nektarkilder, men sjældent til at yngle eller overvintre på. Det begrænser faren for, at striberne kommer til at virke som økologiske fælder (fordi insekterne ellers dør, når striben bliver omlagt). Forfatterne sidestiller i øvrigt effekten af marktiltag som blomsterstriber ”med en hurtig tur på tankstationen efter en hotdog og en cola”, som altså giver et hurtigt skud energi, men kun har en beskedent værdi for biodiversiteten (dog uden at angive reference herfor).

### Riv det afslåede materiale sammen, og læg det i et hjørne af marken

Ved at fjerne det afslåede materiale fra størstedelen af brak-fladen, udpines jorden, hvilket giver bedre vilkår for blomstrende planter og dermed et øget insektliv til fordel for de fleste fuglearter, især i yngletiden.

Som det ligeledes anføres i guiden, vil bunkerne af afslået materiale forvandle sig til selvstændige levesteder for bl.a. gnavere og andre byttedyr for agerlandets fugle.

Dalgaard *et al.* (2020) fremhæver nytten af at rive afslået biomasse sammen, men konstaterer samtidig (p. 35), at der ikke eksisterer et driftsøkonomisk incitament herfor.

## Focus på guidens fem eksempelarter

### Agerhøne

Northern Zone (2020) angiver med kilde i Kahlert *et al.* (2008), at hvis tidlige successionsstadier af brak – herunder også vildtstriber – er til stede, foretrækkes disse som fourageringsområde, og de citerer samtidig Green (1984) for ved radiotelemetri på britiske Rød- og Agerhøns at finde, at de 97 % af tiden opholder sig i kornmarker, 40 % af tiden dog inden for 25 meter fra markkanterne.

Aebischer & Ewald (2010) angiver imidlertid, at den estimerede bestandstæthed af Agerhøne var signifikant højere i brak end i konventionelt dyrkede afgrøder. Forskellene var størst for rotationsbrak, mens der ikke kunne påvises signifikante forskelle for varig braks vedkommende.

Watson & Rae (1997) fandt at ét-årig brak husede signifikant flere arter af fugle end tilsvarende varig brak og at tætheden af ynglende Agerhøns var større i ét-årig brak, mens Buckingham *et al.* (1999) angiver, at Agerhønen foretrækker ældre, sået brak.

Orłowski *et al.* (2011) fandt efter omfattende undersøgelser af vinterføde hos Agerhøne, at bibeholdelse af stubmarker og dæk-afgrøder ved naturlig regenerering af étårige vilde planter vil kunne bidrage som et væsentligt element i strategien for genopretningen af bestandene af Agerhøne i det europæiske landbrugslandskab.

Christensen *et al.* 1996 anfører at Agerhønens kyllinger i de første leveuger er stærkt afhængig af proteinrig animalsk føde i form af først og fremmest bladhvepselarver samt snude- og bladbiller. Insekter udgør i de første 5 dage i størrelsesordenen 80 % af fødeindtaget, men aftager herefter til omkring 20 % i løbet af 20-25 dage, idet vegetabiliske fødeemner tager over.

I den første del af unge-perioden er der således behov for, at der for det første findes de planter, som Agerhønekyllingernes byttedyr lever på, og at byttedyrene for det andet er til stede (dvs. har kunnet overvintre og/eller indvandre fra tilgrænsende arealer). Det forudsætter zoner uden mekanisk og/eller kemisk behandling, og her kan brak spille en afgørende rolle. Også når vegetabilisk føde bliver dominerende, er det afgørende, at der er et bredt udbud af ukrudtsplanter (ud over afgrøderne). Se tillige Brewin *et al.* (2020) for en nærmere præsentation heraf.

Umweltbundesamt (2022b) anfører, at den mest gavnlige bevarelsesforanstaltning for Agerhøne er etablering af vilde blomsterstriber (f.eks. langs randene af dyrkede marker) eller -pletter. Striber eller pletter af vilde, hjemmehørende blomstrende planter øger variationen og tætheden af planter og insekter og tilvejebringer velegnede yngle- og fouragerigshabitater for Agerhøne. Det anføres endvidere, at de foreslåede tiltag også vil gavne arter som Stenpikker og Mosehornugle (og Brewin *et al.* (2020) betragter Agerhøne som en paraplyart for biodiversiteten i agerlandet generelt).

Bright *et al.* (2015) fandt, at såkaldte *high-tier* støtteordninger (herunder brakudtag) øgede tætheden af truede landbrugslandfugle, bl.a. agerhøne, med blandet fødebehov (planter, frø og insekter) og en generel anknævnelse til markkanter.

### Vibe

DOF/BirdLife Danmark har – ikke mindst med afsæt i Niels Andersens omfattende arbejde med Viben gennem tiden – udarbejdet en manual og siden også en folder om Vibevenlig forvaltning af landbrugslandet (sidstnævnte i fællesskab med Landbrug & Fødevarer/SEGES), og DOF har i den forbindelse også udarbejdet



- og ajourfører løbende - et særskilt referenceark vedr. Vibe, som tillige med manualen og folderen m.m. kan findes her på foreningens opslag om, hvordan landmanden kan hjælpe Viben:

<https://www.dof.dk/naturbeskyttelse/dof-s-naturpolitik/agerland/sadan-hjaelper-landmanden-viben>

og hvortil der henvises.

Dog skal det kort anføres, at Schmidt *et al.* (2017) angiver, at især Vibe-vinduer på fugtig bund er lovende, og fandt konkret 67 % af vibevinduer med fugtig bund besat mod kun 37 % i kontrolgruppen. 64 par gjorde således yngleforsøg i 26 fugtigbunds-vinduer med ynglesucces for 24 par i 11 vinduer, mens kun 18 par etablerede sig i 9 vinduer, der ikke var forberedt for Vibe (uden fugtig bund) – og med ringe ynglesucces.

Watson & Rae (1997) angiver, at antallet af Viber var højere i Storbritannien under den obligatoriske brakperiode end i de foregående år, og at ynglesuccessen også var højere, om end ikke signifikant.

Umweltbundesamt (2022c) anfører, at den mest gavnlige bevarelsesforanstaltning, der er dokumenteret succesfuld for Vibe, involverer etablering af (vilde) blomsterstriber (f.eks. langs dyrkede marker) eller -pletter, som øger variationen af planter og blomster-besøgende insekter. Viben drager også nytte af restaurering eller skabelse af artsrig, semi-naturlige græsarealer. Hertil kommer, at adskillige foranstaltninger relateret til forvaltning af vand, såsom hævnning af vandspejlet i grøfter eller på græsarealer og restaurering af vådområder og våde enge synes at være gavnlige for arten. Det anføres endvidere, at de foreslåede tiltag også vil gavne arter som Brushane, Rødben, Mosehornugle og Storspove.

Bright *et al.* (2015) fandt, at viben foretrak brak m.v., der var anlagt på midt-marken fremfor langs markrande.

Chamberlain *et al.* (2009) fandt at vibe-lavn timer i form af brak tilvejebragte redehabitater for viber med 40 % af alle undersøgte brakarealer besat af viber, og hvor 25 %-point resulterede i efterfølgende yngleforsøg.

Sidst, men ikke mindst, finder Buschmann *et al.* (2023), at en af de mest effektive metoder til fremme af vibe (under tyske forhold) er introduktion af vibe-pletter i afgrøderne, og forskerne beregner de samlede omkostninger ved at stabilisere den tyske vibebestand ad denne vej til mellem 1,6 og 2,8 mio. € om året (hvilket skal ses i forhold til den samlede landbrugsstøtte i Tyskland på godt 5,1 mia. €. Ved målretning af mellem 3 og 5 o/oo af den samlede støtte vil vibens tilbagegang således kunne stoppes.

### Sanglærke

Donald (2004) har p. 187 nederst en meget præcis anbefaling (hentet delvis fra Vickery & Buckingham, 2001) vedr. Sanglærkevenlig brak, således (*i forf. oversættelse*):

”Den mest favorable type af brak for Sanglærke er den, der opstår, når stub fra det foregående års kornafgrøde efterlades upløjet og ukrudt får lov at regenerere sig naturligt. Derfor foretrækker Sanglærken brak, der flyttes rundt på landbrugsejendommen hvert år (rotationsbrak), frem for brak, der efterlades på samme sted for flere år (varig brak).”

Og Donald citerer yderligere Henderson *et al.* (2001) for at anføre, at ”den optimale højde på vegetationen i brak ser ud til at ligge på omkring 20 cm med pletter af bar jord, som tillader fouragering” (se også kilden, der mere præcist siger, at brak, hvor 30 % henlå som bar jord med strå og henfaldets plantemateriale indeholdt flest Sanglærker).



Boatman *et al.* (2010) konstaterede ved omfattende feltstudier og modelberegninger, at den enkeltfaktor af en række, der havde størst effekt på Sanglærkebestandene, var forskellene i afgrødesammensætning – og her var brakandelen den, der havde overhovedet størst effekt.

### Ungeoverlevelse i brak

Hvad angår *ungeoverlevelsen* i brak versus andre habitater fandt Donald *et al.* (2002), at *det enkelte* Sanglærkekuld havde signifikant *lavere* overlevelseshastighed i brak end på dyrket mark (kun 22 % nåede udflyvning i brak mod 38 % i kornmarker), men forklarer det efterfølgende (i Donald 2004, p. 130 og 188) bl.a. ved den langt højere redetæthed i brak, som lokker prædatorer til, men samtidig, at fordelene ved brak – ud over den større tæthed – så også omfatter muligheden for flere yngleforsøg pr. år (brakken lukker ikke til på samme måde som f.eks. vinterhvede), samt større tilgængelighed til mere proteinholdig føde og mindre afstand til føde generelt, hvilket fører til større kuld, og at fordelene alt i alt opvejer ulempen ved høj prædationsrate på æg og unger. Boatman *et al.* (2010) tilføjer som mulig årsag til den lavere, konstaterede reproduktion, som Donald fandt i brak, at datidens hyppigt anlagte praksis (i UK) med nedsprøjtning af al vækst på brakarealer i maj måned kan have haft afgørende betydning.

Poulsen *et al.* (1998) fandt, at Sanglærke havde signifikant *højere* ungeproduktivitet i brakmarker, sammenlignet med vårsåede kornafgrøder og græsmarker (således 0,5 udfløjen unge/ha i brak vs 0,21 i vårafgrøder (korn) og 0,13 i græs til ensilageslæt). [En iagttagelse, der ikke nødvendigvis er i modstrid med Donald *et al.*'s konstatering (2002) af højere prædationsrate *på de enkelte par*, hvis der så til gengæld er mange par – Poulsen *et al. op.cit.* regner jo i unger *pr. ha.*]

Wilson *et al.* (1997) fandt bestandstætheder på 0,26-0,56 par/ha i brak mod 0,38 i gennemsnit, og fandt, at den gennemsnitlige ungeoverlevelse til udflyvning var 44 % i brak vs 11 % i konventionelle kornmarker.

### Øvrige kilder vedr. brakformer som bestandsbevarende foranstaltninger for Sanglærke

Sanglærken har i særlig grad været genstand for studier, hvorfra de vigtigste *findings* (ud over de allerede citerede) her kort skal resumeres, idet der henvises til Bilag I for abstracts:

- Berg & Pärt (1994) fandt at Sanglærke var én af 4 ud af 17 landbrugslandsarter, der havde præference for brak (de tre øvrige var Bynkefugl, Tornsanger og Tornirisk).
- Boatman & Bence (2000) viste, at brak tilsået med vildfugle-frøblandinger var den foretrukne habitat sammenlignet med andre tilgængelige habitater til fouragering og redeplacering for Sanglærke (og Fasan - ligesom brak med vildfuglefrøblandinger også var den foretrukne habitat for sommerfugle).
- Petersen (1996) har under danske forhold fundet de højeste yngletætheder af Sanglærke på brakarealer, fulgt af kornafgrøder og rotations-græsafgrøder, mens de laveste tætheder blev fundet på varigt græs.
- Lindström *et al.* (2017 – se nærmere nedenfor i syntesen) fandt evidens for nytte (for Sanglærke m.fl.) af et øget udlæg af bl.a. brak.
- Boatman & Bence (2000) viste, at brak, tilsået med vildfugle-frøblandinger, var den foretrukne habitat, sammenlignet med andre foreliggende habitater til redeplacering og fouragering for Sanglærke.
- Bracken (2004) fandt (i modsætning til Donald 2004 – citeret ovenfor), at Sanglærke udviste præference for varig brak over rotationsbrak og øvrige former for forvaltning.
- Eraud *et al.* (2014) påviste gennem kråseanalyser ved midvinter over 10 år i franske overvintringsområder, at det er *ukrudstfrø*, og ikke spildkorn, Sanglærken lever af om vinteren

[hvorfor brak i DK kan få stigende betydning for Sanglærke i takt med, at den formentlig begynder at overvintre mere almindeligt i takt med klimaændringerne].

- Josefsson *et al.* (2013) fandt, at bufferstriber med græs langs kornafgrøder understøttede gennemsnitligt  $0,51 \pm 0,26$  Sanglærketerritorier mere pr. ha op til 100 m ind på marken og boostede invertebrat-tætheden sammenlignet med marker uden bræmmer. Effekterne var tydeligst i foråret, men holdt sig undersøgelsesperioden igennem. Kleijn *et al.* (2006) fandt derimod ikke nogen effekt af etablering af 6 meter brede bræmmer i markkanterne på nogen fuglearter overhovedet.
- Kovács-Hostyánszki *et al.* (2011) kan konkludere, at brakmarker opbyder vigtige pletter af habitater for planter og insekter.
- Murray *et al.* (2002) fandt at Sanglærke brugte selvgroet brak *mere* end forventet (ud fra udbuddet) til fødesøgning i ungetiden, men signifikant mindre end brak, anlagt med grønkåls-baserede vildtblandinger, vildtfugleblandinger og insektvolde, mens hvede- og bygmarker og marker med bredbladede afgrøder som bønner og raps blev anvendt *mindre* end hvad kunne forventes ud fra udbuddet.
- Parish & Sotherton (2004) fandt at ud af 23 undersøgte arter, havde kun Sanglærke signifikant tættere bestande i brak end i marker med dække af vildfugle-frøblandinger.
- Püttmann *et al.* (2022) fandt, at høj grad af afgrødeheterogenitet, herunder islæt af brak, er vigtig for sanglærken, hvis den skal nå at få mere end ét kuld i ynglesæsonen, hvilket er en forudsætning for opretholdelse af bestanden.
- Stevens & Bradbury (2006) fandt, at bestandene af sanglærke (og tornirisk) var positivt korreleret med tilvejebringelse af vinterstub, brak og vildfugle-frøblandinger (dog uden at sondre mellem de tre tiltag).
- Umweltbundesamt (2022a) anfører, at den mest gavnlige bevarelsesforanstaltning for Sanglærke er etablering af blomsterstriber (af vilde blomster) langs kanterne af marker, eller pletter af udsåede hjemmehørende blomstrende plantearter. Sådanne blomsterhabitater øger variationen af plante- og dermed bestøverarter. Det anføres endvidere, at de foreslåede tiltag også vil gavne arter som Turteldue og Engpiber.
- Vickery & Buckingham (2001) fandt, at den mest favorable type af brak for Sanglærke er den, der skabes ved at stub fra den foregående kornafgrøde efterlades upløjet, og hvor ukrudtsplanter får lov at regenerere sig naturligt.
- Wakeham Dawson *et al.* (1995) fandt, at Sanglærke anvendte rotations-brak mere end marker med dyrkede afgrøder.
- Wakeham-Dawson *et al.* (1998) fandt tætheder af syngende Sanglærker større over brakmarker end over nogen anden marktype, bortset fra vårbyg med udlæg af gæs.

Nytten for Sanglærke af *lærkepletter* er nærmere gennemgået ovenfor under Anbefaling nr. 5.

### Bomlærke

Hoffmann *et al.* (2011) fandt, at 30 % af 621 Bomlærkepar, der ynglede i et 29 km<sup>2</sup> stort område i det nordlige Tyskland, fandtes inden for de kun 12 % af arealet, der var udlagt i brak, og Flade & Schwartz (2013) påviste signifikant fremgang (fra indeks 25 til 140) for Bomlærke i Tyskland i den obligatoriske brakperiode.

Heldbjerg & Fox (2016) viste – se *Figur 3* – med afsæt i danske punkttællingsdata, at Bomlærkebestanden udviste tydelig positiv korrelation med den obligatoriske brakudlægning, som fandt sted i 1993-2007. Efter vedvarende tilbagegang, øgedes bestandsindekserne i såvel Øst- som Vestdanmark ved brakkens

indførelse, og holdt sig på et højere niveau brakperioden igennem – dog med et uforklarligt fald i slutningen, et fald som øgedes markant efter brakperiodens ophør, hvor store dele af bestandene på Sjælland forsvandt (se evt. ændringskort for udbredelse de tre Atlasundersøgelser i mellem hos Vikstrøm & Moshøj *et al.* 2020, p. 703).

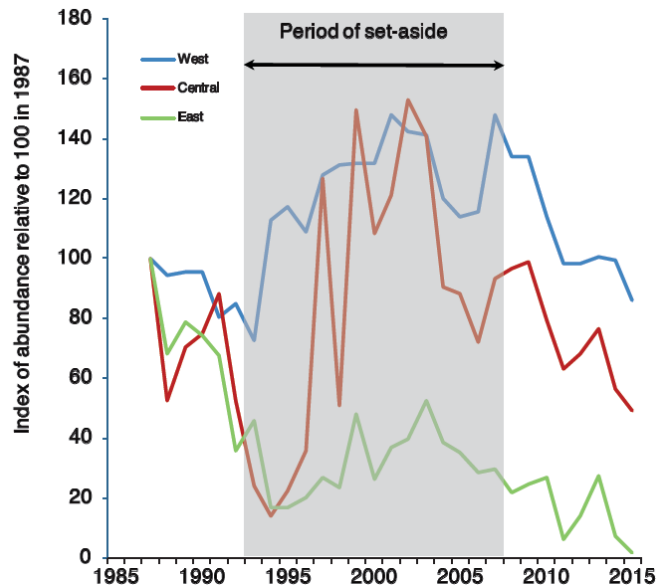


Fig. 2. Indices (Index 100 = 1987) for Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra* in three regions of Denmark. The set-aside period is indicated by grey shading.

Indeks (Indeks 100 = 1987) for Bomlærke i tre regioner af Danmark. Perioden med brakarealer er vist med grå skygge.

Figur 3: Figur 2 fra Heldbjerg & Fox (2016), der viser korrelationen mellem brakperioden og bestandsudviklingen hos Bomlærke i hhv. Vest-, Central- og Østdanmark. Se teksten for diskussion af faldet i slutningen af brakperioden.

[Det skal bemærkes, at eftersom meget af den obligatoriske brak udlagdes samlet som varig brak (såkaldt fjernbrak) på de dårligste jorde, kan den successive udvikling af disse måske have haft en aftagende tiltrækningskraft på Bomlærkerne, hvilket kan være en mulig forklaring på Bomlærkens begyndende tilbagegang allerede i slutningen af den obligatoriske brakperiode.]

Såvel Fox & Heldbjerg (2008) som Lilleør (2007) tegner et billede af Bomlærken som en art, der foretrækker *mixed farming* ('Morten Kork-landskab'), eller som Lilleør konstaterer efter grundig kortlægning af Bomlærkebestanden i et 28 km<sup>2</sup> stort område på Djursland, så har Bomlærken en stærk præference for frodig omdriftsjord og høj afgrødediversifikation, og bestandstæthederne var størst, hvor små græsdækkede habitater dækkede 1-5 % af habitaterne. I Lilleørs undersøgelsesområde var der udlagt 3 % brak i snit, men der kan kun konstateres en svagt negativ korrelation (og en svagt positiv partielkorrelation) til brak, dog ikke signifikant i nogen af tilfældene. Eftersom Bomlærken i samme undersøgelse udviser stærkt og signifikant negative korrelationer til vedvarende eng og græsningsarealer, må de foretrukne forekomster af små græsdækkede habitater alt andet lige typisk kunne have været brak og tilsvarende udyrkede hjørner m.v.

Altewischer *et al.* (2015) fandt tilsvarende, at høj landskabsheterogenitet og arealer med sparsom vegetation og brak på mindst 10 % af dyrkningsfladen gavnede Bomlærken.

Når brak kan være af særlig betydning for Bomlærke, skyldes det ikke mindst artens meget sene yngleperiode (primo juni – primo september), kombineret med behovet for to årlige kuld, som kommer i karambolage med den udbredte overgang til vinterafgrøder og derfor tidligere høst. Det er grundigt beskrevet hos ikke mindst Brickle & Harper (2000, 2002) og Brickle *et al.* (2000) samt allerede hos Crick *et al.* (1994).

Et andet væsentligt element, som kan bidrage til artens tilbagegang, er Bomlærkens ekstreme *stedfasthed* (og dermed begrænset mulighed for genindvandring ved lokal uddøen). Ifølge Christensen *et al.* (2022) er således kun 3 dansk ringmærkede fugle fundet >5 km fra mærkningsstedet, og fugle, mærket om vinteren, er genfundet i samme område i april-august.

Om vinteren samles lokale ynglefugle i flokke (se også Meed (2022) herfor), og da især på stub. Her vil brak etableret på forrige års stub være et vigtigt supplement, hvilket underbygges af Buckingham *et al.* (1999), som fandt signifikant præference for brak blandt værlinger generelt i vinterperioden.

### Gulspurv

Northern Zone (2020) angiver p. 92 med kilde i Lille (1996), der har studeret fødesøgningshabitater for 20 Gulspurvepar, der yngede i landbrugsområder i Nordtyskland, at kornmarker var det, der blev hyppigst besøgt (42,5 % af fødesøgningsturene), fulgt af brak (21,0 %), levende hegn og anden markkantsvegetation (15,7 %), raps (12,7 %) og skov (5,3 %).

Northern Zone citerer også Crocker *et al.* (2002) for, at Gulspurve i et engelsk studie tilbragte gennemsnitligt 25 % af deres aktive fødesøgningsperioder på dyrkede arealer, men at nogle individer tilbragte næsten *hele* deres aktive periode her.

Buckingham *et al.* (1999) fandt, at Gulspurv foretrak 1-årigt sået brak, mens Murray *et al.* (2002) angiver, at Gulspurv bruger ubehandlet brak mindre til fouragering, end man skulle forvente ud fra tilgængeligheden, således signifikant mindre end kornafgrøder og brak med udsåede vildfuglefrøblandinger.

Chamberlain *et al.* (2009) fandt jævnligt Gulspurv i udlagte Vibe-vinduer.

Douglas *et al.* (2010) fandt, at en af årsagerne til, at brak har en positiv effekt på bestandene af bl.a. Gulspurv kan skyldes, at brak typisk opbyder en heterogen svær-højde, og at fugle, der fouragerer her, formentlig er mindre begrænset i deres valg af tilgængelige fourageringssteder – set i forhold til den tætte svær i intensivt dyrkede kornmarker.

Det understøttes af Berg (2008), som for den nærtbeslægtede Hortulan fandt, at alle de foretrukne ynglehabitater havde heterogen vegetation karakteriseret ved pletter med bar jord, eller i det mindste sparsom vegetation, blandet med pletter med højere vegetation, inklusive flerårig brak, energipil i kort rotation og græssede/uforvaltede semi-natur-enge.

Gillings *et al.* (2010) diskuterer i forlængelse af en konstatering af, at tætheden af landbrugslandsfugle har en tendens til at være større på brakarealer end i det øvrige landbrugsland, hvorvidt det spiller ind, at brakarealerne ofte er anlagt på eksisterende stub, og om det således i lige så høj grad er stubben, der får f.eks. Sanglærke og Gulspurv til at foretrække brakken, men når ved modellering dog til den konklusion, at denne bias må anses for minimal.

Stadig Northern Zone, men nu med kilde i Douglas (2009) angiver at studier i UK har vist et signifikant skifte i fourageringshabitater hen over året. I tidlig sommer (20. maj- 2. juli) blev især markrande besøgt (32,4 % af fødesøgningsturene  $\pm$  7,0 %) med kun få besøg i kornmarker (7,9  $\pm$  3,9 %), mens Gulspurvenes brug af

markkanter faldt markant (til kun  $15,4 \pm 3,4$  % af besøgene) og brugen af kornmarker steg (til  $55,8 \pm 7,2$  %) i perioden 3. juli – 14. august.

Ligeledes Northern Zone citerer Petersen *et al.* (1995) for, at danske Gulspurve i en undersøgelse af fourageringsvaner syntes at afspejle afgrødesammensætningen i landskabet, dog med en klar underrepræsentation af vintersædsmarker og økologisk drevne græsmarker (hvor fouragerende Gulspurve forekom langt mindre hyppigt end hvad man skulle forvente ud fra tilgængelighed inden for fuglenes *home range*).

Stoate *et al.* (1998) angiver, at 62 % af redeungernes føde i maj-juli består af invertebrater (med biller som langt det hyppigste (40 % af invertebraterne)), mens de resterende 38 % er (umodent) korn og frø.

Også de voksne fugle dækker en relativt stor andel af deres fødebehov med invertebrater i forår og forsommer, således ifølge Buxton *et al.* (1998) 35 % i marts-juni og 25 % i juli-oktober mod blot 1 % om vinteren.

Det forklarer formentlig det sæsonbetonede skifte i fourageringshabitater, sådan som Douglas (2009) beskriver det med mange flere besøg i markkanter i den tidlige sommersæson. Særligt i denne periode vil Gulspurv kunne drage nytte af brak (som et surrogat for/supplement til markkanter), men da formentlig helst étårig brak, placeret tæt op ad egnede ynglehabitater som levende hegn, og med megen bar jord, som gør biller m.v. tilgængelige (sådan som det er beskrevet hos Henderson *et al.* (2001) for Sanglærkes vedkommende).

Perkins *et al.* (2002) fandt ved studier over 3 år af Gulspurvvenes fødesøgningsvaner i britiske marker, at Gulspurven valgte græsbræmmer og andre udyrkede rand-habitater, så som levende hegn og diger, frem for dyrkede arealer til fouragering. Fandt ingen signifikant forskel mellem slåede og uslåede græsbræmmer, men konstaterer på baggrund af studier, der viser højere tætheder af invertebrater i græsbræmmer, at Gulspurven i yngletiden vil nyde godt af græsbræmmer, der eksempelvis slås i en stribe ud mod dyrkningsfladen. Det vil give Gulspurven bedre adgang til invertebraterne, og samtidig begrænse spredningen af ukrudt ind på dyrkningsfladen.

Umweltbundesamt (2022d) anfører, at den mest gavnlige bevarelsesforanstaltning, der er dokumenteret succesfuld for Gulspurv, involverer etablering af (vilde) blomstestriber (f.eks. langs dyrkede marker) eller -pletter. Udsåning af striber eller -pletter af blandinger af hjemmehørende, blomstrende planter, øger variationen af planter og bestøvere. Gulspurven drager nytte af den højere tæthed og diversitet af insekter, især i ynglesæsonen. Det er også meget gavnligt for Gulspurv at opretholde brede levende hegn - flankeret af brede bræmmer - til redeplacering. Det anføres endvidere, at de foreslåede tiltag også vil gavne arter som Vibe, Rødrygget Tornskade og Engsnarre (og for den sags skyld også Høgesanger, hvis den nu skulle genindfinde sig som ynglefugl i Danmark).

Orlowski *et al.* (2014) fandt med hensyn til Gulspurvens vinteroverlevelse, at mosaiklandskaber med afgrødefrie pletter – især ubefæstede veje og og brak – samt mikrohabitater, stubmarker og markstakke med gødning gør det muligt for Gulspurve at finde lokale fødesøgningssteder. Og det er ekstremt vigtigt, eftersom Gulspurvene tydeligvis overvintrer i eller tæt på yngleområdet (kun 3 % af alle dansk ringmærkede ynglefugle er fundet mere end fem kilometer fra det sted, hvor de blev ringmærket (Christensen *et al.* 2022)) og lever i *clusters* dér året rundt (Meed 2022).

Det skal ses i sammenhæng med, at Whittingham *et al.* (2005) fandt, at tilstedeværelsen af vinterbrakmarker udgjorde en væsentlig forudsætning for Gulspurvens valg af yngleterritorium.

## Syntese af de mest centrale kilder til evidens for den positive effekt af brak på fuglearter generelt knyttet til landbrugsland

En af de mest indlysende grunde til, at braklægning generelt har en gunstig indvirkning på fuglene i landbrugslandet, er, at den reducerede påvirkning – såvel fysisk som kemisk – levner dels ro og føde, dels i konventionelt dyrkede marker reduktion af den direkte og indirekte påvirkning af fuglene fra pesticider (se for sidstnævntes vedkommende nærmere hos bl.a. Wejdling (2022)).

Derudover virker brakarealer som surrogater for den natur, der ellers kan forekomme i markkanter og randarealer, hvilket der findes en righoldig dokumentation for i litteraturen.

Nedenfor præsenteres nyere kilder fra Danmark (Dalgaard *et al.* 2020) og vores tre nabolande, Tyskland (Busch *et al.* 2020), Sverige (Lindström *et al.* 2020) og Norge (Heggøy & Eggen 2020).

Den tyske og den svenske kilde er – udover naturligvis at være baseret på litteratursøgning og bearbejdning heraf – baseret *også* på videnskabelig modellering af konkrete data om landbrugslandsfuglenes udbredelse og tætheder, sammenholdt med landbrugsmæssig praksis, mens den norske og den danske i hovedsagen er baseret på litteraturen. Fælles for dem alle er, at de i et eller andet omfang søger at kvantificere nytten af forskellige tiltag og derved gøre dem sammenlignelige.

Den tyske kilde tager direkte sigte på at analysere effekten af braklægning samt vedvarende græs, raps og vinterhvede. Der modelleres således indførelse af især brak, men også vedvarende græs, på bekostning af dyrkning af energiafgrøderne majs og raps. De øvrige kilder medtager alle braklægning som én af flere analyserede tiltag til fremme af landbrugslandets fugle.

De to modellerings-analyser ender op med at placere braklægning som det mest virksomme værktøj til fremme af landbrugslandsfugle, mens den norske analyse placerer braklægning blandt de højest scorende, når faktorer som evidens, realiserbarhed, kosteffektivitet og antal af begunstigede arter tages i regning.

Den danske analyses pointsætning er baseret på forfatternes bedste skøn ud fra de tilgængelige kilder, og på en skala fra -3 (betydelig negativ effekt) til +3 (betydelig positiv effekt) tildeles slånings- og bestøverbrak scoren 1-2, og blomsterbrak scoren 0-2 for fugle generelt, idet Vibe og Sanglærke især fremhæves som begunstigede af slåningsbrak.

Brakformerne overgås f.s.v.a. fugle i den danske analyse generelt kun af tiltagene 'Permanent udtagning af landbrugsarealer' og 'Levende hegn, vildtremiser, krat, småskove og andre småbeplantninger', der begge opnår scoren 1-3, men uden, at der angives nogen landbrugslandsarter, der kunne tænkes begunstigede heraf. To konkrete tiltag rettet mod hhv. Vibe ('Vibelavn timer') og Sanglærke ('Lærkepletter') opnår scorer fra -1 til +3, uden at der redegøres nærmere for de negative effekter, men omvendt for positive effekter på andre landbrugslandsarter som Agerhøne, Gul Vipstjert, Bomlærke og Gulspurv.

De fire kilder præsenteres nærmere nedenfor, og herefter opridses hovedpointerne fra den øvrige afsøgte litteratur.

### Busch *et al.* 2020 nyeste og mest vægtige bidrag til forståelse af brakkens betydning

Et af de mest vægtige bidrag til forståelsen af betydningen af brak (og græs) i landbrugslandet, er en modelleringsøvelse, udført af Busch *et al.* 2020 på tyske forhold. Kort fortalt har forfatterne undersøgt, hvorledes en række landbrugslandsarter (nærmere betegnet Turteldue, Vibe, Stor Kobbersneppe, Rødrygget Tornskade, Sanglærke, Kærsanger, Græshoppesanger, Tornsanger, Stær, Bynkefugl, Sjagger, Misteldrossel, Gul Vipstjert, Tornirisk, Stillits og Gulspurv) reagerer på brak (i stedet for majs), græs, raps og vinterhvede,

samt på forskellige vejrtilstande (gennemsnitstemperaturen og gennemsnitsnedbøren i april/juli, kolde somre og – for Afrikatrækkernes vedkommende – nedbørsforholdene i Sahel).

Ved hjælp af *linear mixed effect models* kunne det så analyseres, hvad der skete når man så at sige skruede op og ned for de forskellige faktorer, og i *Figur 4* nedenfor – som er en bearbejdet udgave af originalartiklens figur 2 – ses effekten af de forskellige faktorer på de enkelte arter. Det ses at Stær, Turteldue, Vibe, Rødrygget Tornskade, Kærsanger, Tornsanger og Stillits viser signifikant positiv respons på brak (og ingen arter viser signifikant negativ respons), og at for græs' vedkommende udviser Stær, Turteldue, Sjagger, Sanglærke, Kærsanger, Bynkefugl, Tornirisk og Gulspurv signifikant positiv respons. Omvendt viser Stor Kobbersneppe, Vibe, Tornsanger, Sjagger, Græshoppesanger, Sanglærke, Bynkefugl og Tornirisk signifikant negativ respons på raps og/eller vinterhvede.

I *Figur 5*, som er en bearbejdet version af originalartiklens figur 3, er effekterne vist i f.t. det samlede mix af landbrugslandsfugle.

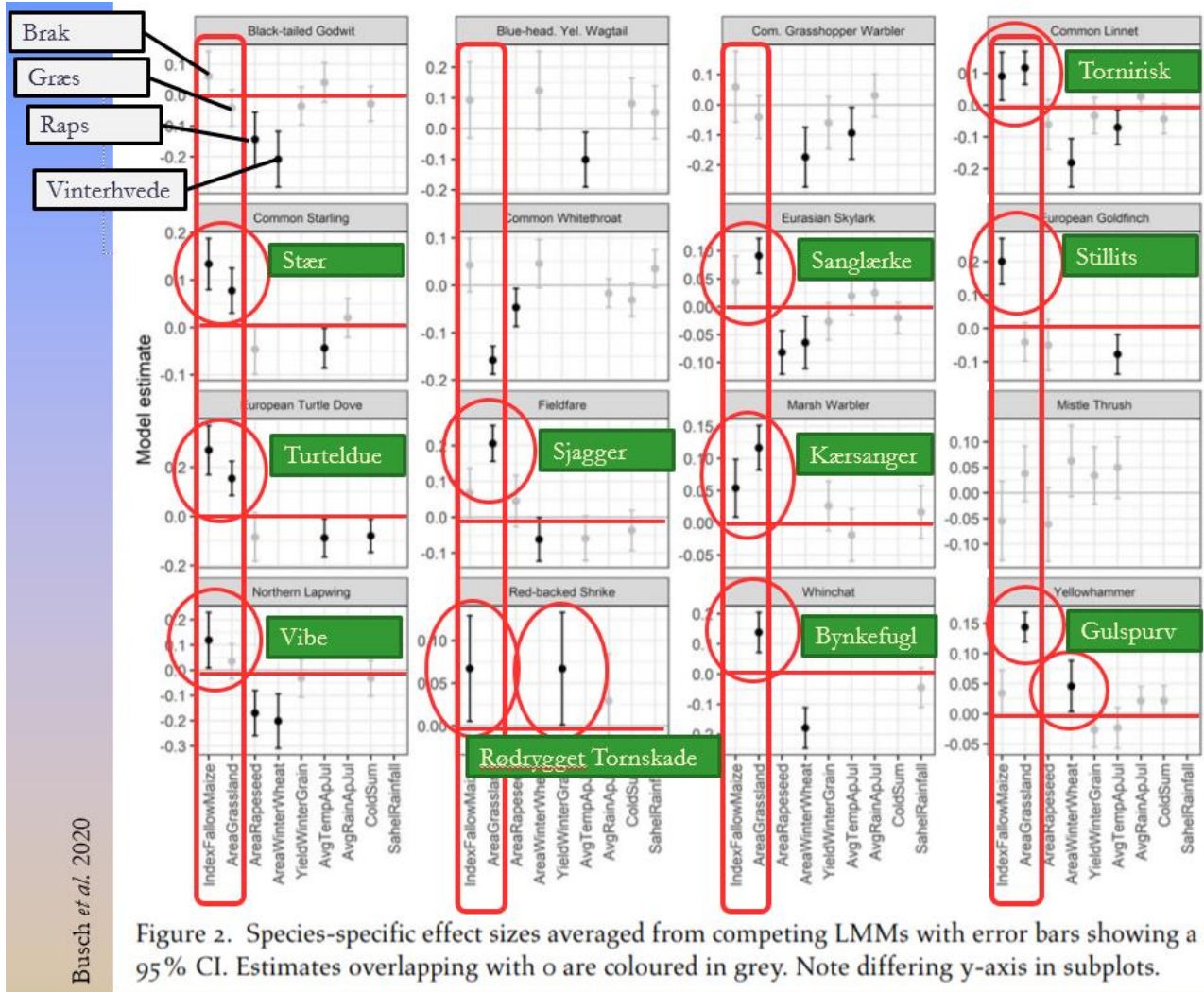
Som det fremgår, så påvirkes de undersøgte landbrugslandsarter under ét signifikant positivt af brak (i stedet for majs) og græs, og signifikant negativt af raps og vinterhvede, mens der – når bortses fra gennemsnitstemperaturen i april/juli – ikke ses at være signifikante effekter af vejrforhold (ej heller nedbørsforhold i Sahel).

Forfatterne konkluderer, at på trods af vejrforholdenes betydning hen over ynglesæsonen, så har arealanvendelsen en stærkere indflydelse på fugle-populationerne end vejret, og gennem modelberegninger når de frem til, at hvis andelen af brakarealet øgedes fra de 1,6 % i 2013 til 10 % af det samlede landbrugsareal i Tyskland (en øgning på 1.465.000 ha – på bekostning af majs), ville det i gennemsnit betyde en øgning på 60 % af populationerne af de 16 arter af landbrugslandsfugle, der er omfattet af undersøgelsen.

Hertil kommer, at hvis den nationale andel af græsarealer øges fra de nuværende 27 % til 30 % (en øgning på 390.000 ha), og hvis omkring 215.000 ha vinterraps tilbageførtes til et repræsentativt mix af den tidligere arealanvendelse, ville det øge fuglebestandene med yderligere hhv. 17 og 14 % (under forudsætning af, at effekterne er additive, hvilket antages). Sammenlagt vil det betyde en øgning på op til 90 % sammenlignet med 2013.

Selv om Tyskland ikke umiddelbart lader sig sammenligne med Danmark (efter som Tyskland har omlagt en meget væsentlig andel af arealet til fremstilling af energiforbrændsel i form af majs (til bioforgasning) og raps (til *bio-fuels*)), så synes modelleringerne at have bibragt væsentlig evidens for betydningen af en eventuel udvidelse af brakarealet – og det formentlig også selv om det ikke udelukkende sker i form af fortrængning af majs.





Figur 4: Bearbejdet udgave af Figur 2 hos Busch et al. 2020, som viser effekterne af de undersøgte faktorer på de enkelte landbrugslandsarter. For overskuelighedens skyld er originalfiguren suppleret med røde rektangler omkring brak- og græs-initiativer, og signifikant positive korrelationer er indrammet i røde cirkler. Brak (i stedet for majs) har signifikant positiv effekt på 7 af de 16 arter og ikke signifikant negativ effekt på nogen af dem, mens græs har signifikant positiv effekt på 8 og negativ på én (Tornsanger). Raps og/eller vinterhvede har signifikant negativ effekt på 8 arter og kun signifikant positiv effekt på én art (Gulspurv). Vejrmæssige forhold synes kun at have signifikant negativ effekt f.s.v.a. gennemsnitstemperaturen i april/juni, og kun for 6 arter, ligesom Turteldue påvirkes signifikant negativt af kolde somre. Afrikatrækkerne påvirkes ikke signifikant af nedbørsforholdene i Sahel.



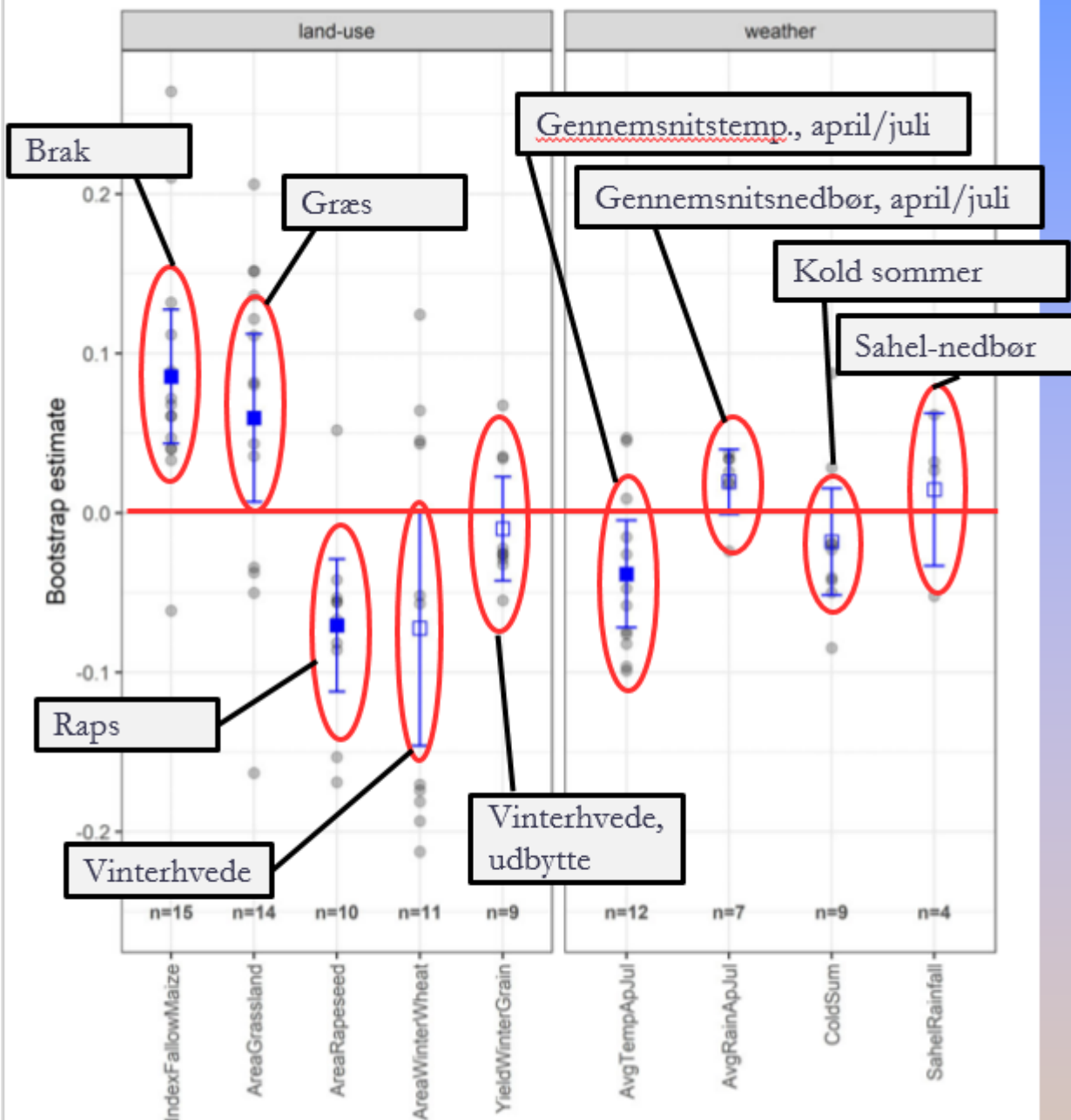


Figure 3. Average effect sizes for the group of farmland birds. Filled blue squares represent averages from 1000 bootstrap replications where the 95% CI does not overlap with 0, for open squares the CI overlaps with 0. Light grey dots show species-specific effect size estimates used for bootstrapping. The sample size ( $n$ ) is the number of species for which an effect of the respective variable was found.

Figur 5: En bearbejdet udgave af figur 3 hos Busch et al. 2020, hvoraf det fremgår at de undersøgte landbrugslandsarter under ét påvirkes signifikant positivt af brak (i stedet for majs) og græs, og signifikant negativt af raps (og negativt, men ikke signifikant, af vinterhvede), mens der – når bortses fra gennemsnitstemperaturen i april/juli – ikke ses at være signifikante effekter af vejrforhold (ej heller nedbørsforhold i Sahel).

Lindström *et al.* (2017) nåede ved modellering på svenske forhold samme resultat som Busch *et al.*

Lindström m.fl. blev inviteret af det svenske Jordbruksverket (svarende til den danske Landbrugsstyrelse) til at foreslå tiltag, der kunne forbedre vilkårene for landbrugslandets fuglearter og vende den fortsatte nedgang i 'the Farmland Bird Index'. Ud fra en systematisk gennemgang af den videnskabelige litteratur om potentielle effekter, der påvirker antallet af landbrugslandsfugle og en analyse af sammenhængen mellem udviklingen i de svenske landbrugslandsfugles udbredelse og antal på den ene side og landbrugsmæssig praksis på den anden, modelleredes den arealmæssige udbredelse af landbrugslandsfugle i relation til den landbrugsmæssige praksis. Ud fra modelleringerne kunne forskerne opstille en række foranstaltninger, rettet mod kvantiteten og kvaliteten af landbrugsland, som ville kunne forbedre de fremtidige forhold for landbrugslandsfuglene.

På det overordnede plan peger forfatterne ikke overraskende på, at den aktuelle konvertering af tidligere landbrugsjord til produktionsskov – eller slet og ret tilgroning i takt med at landbrugsjorden opgives – har stor, negativ betydning for landbrugslandsfuglene. Det samme gælder udviklingen mod stadigt mere specialiserede brug, idet blandet animalsk og vegetabilsk produktion er at foretrække for landbrugslandsarterne.

På det konkrete plan kommer braklægning ud som det eneste tiltag (se *Table 1*, som er lånt fra rapporten), der vil kunne fremme de 16 nærmere angivne arter, der i analysen anvendes som indikatorarter.

Både rotations- og varig brak slår ifølge forfatterne positivt ud i modelleringen, men med forskellig styrke for de forskellige arter. Generelt er billedet imidlertid som anført positivt, uanset brakformen, og forfatterne refererer i den forbindelse til perioden med obligatorisk EU-brak, hvor faldet i landbrugsfugleindekset notorisk aftog.

Derudover viser modelleringen også, at udbredelse af vådområder, reduceret pesticid- og handelsgødningsanvendelse samt flere vårsåede afgrøder højst sandsynligt også vil gavne landbrugslandsfuglene, ligesom de vil have gavn af vildfugleblandinger, lærkepletter, bufferstriber og passende forvaltning af miljø-fokusområder i det hele taget. [Miljø-fokusområder var de dengang gældende obligatoriske tiltag, der nu er 'afløst' af de obligatorisk GLM8-krav og – for DK's vedkommende - de frivillige bio-ordninger for biodiversitet og bæredygtighed.]

Tabel 1: Opsummerende tabel fra Lindström et al 2017 (p. 55) med angivelse af, hvilken potentiel effekt de forskellige foreslåede tiltag antages at have på de 16 mål-arter. Grøn indikerer, at tiltaget overvejende sandsynligt vil være gavnligt og have stærk effekt. Gul at tiltaget må antages at have positiv effekt, og hvis ja, da moderat. Hvid angiver, at forfatterne ikke forventer nogen positiv effekt. Spørgsmålstegn angiver, at effekten er særligt vanskelig at vurdere, typisk p.g.a. manglende empirisk evidens. Arterne i dansk oversættelse er (med danske agerlandsarter markeret med fed): **Vibe**, Storspove, **Sanglærke**, **Landsvale**, **Engpiber**, **Gul Vipstjert (flava)**, **Stenpikker**, **Bynkefugl**, **Tornsanger**, **Rødrygget Tornskade**, **Råge**, **Stær**, **Skovspurv**, **Tornirisk**, **Hortulan** og **Gulspurv**.

	Lapwing	Eurasian Curlew	Skylark	Barn Swallow	Meadow Pipit	Yellow Wagtail	Wheatear	Whinchat	Common Whitethroat	Red-backed Shrike	Rook	European Starling	Tree Sparrow	Linnet	Ortolan Bunting	Yellowhammer
Stop the loss of farmland in Sweden																
Stop the loss of, and create new, semi-natural habitats																
Promote mixed farming (crops AND husbandry)																
Promote set-asides (of various kinds)																
Promote wetlands in the agricultural landscape	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Promote higher crop diversity																
Decrease the use of pesticides and inorganic fertilizers	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Delay the mowing of leys																
Promote spring-sown crops																
Create "bird fields"																
Minimum tillage and No-till "direct drilling"	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?

Dalgaard *et al.* (2020) vurderer effekten på natur og biodiversitet af slånings-, blomster- og bestøverbrak under danske forhold.

Dalgaard m.fl. er af den danske Landbrugsstyrelse blevet bedt om at vurdere mulige biodiversitetsvirkemidler på danske landbrugs- og skovrejsningsarealer, og har i den forbindelse også vurderet slånings-, blomster- og bestøverbrak for biodiversiteten generelt, men også for taksonomiske hovedgrupper som planter, fugle og insekter.

Forfatterne har ud fra bedste skøn på basis af den gennemgåede litteratur tildelt point (på en skala fra -3 (betydelig negativ effekt) til +3 (betydelig positiv effekt) til de forskellige, analyserede tiltag. Scoren for fugle generelt (og med angivelse af særligt fremhævede arter) er sammenstillet i *Tabel 2* nedenfor.

Det ses som anført i indledningen, at slånings- og bestøverbrak opnår scoren 1-2, og blomsterbrak scoren 0-2 for fugle generelt, idet Vibe og Sanglærke især fremhæves som begunstigede af slåningsbrak. Som ligeledes nævnt i indledningen, overgås denne score kun af tiltagene 'Permanent udtagning af landbrugsarealer' og 'Levende hegn, vildtremiser, krat, småskove og andre småbeplantninger', der begge opnår scoren 1-3, men uden at nogle landbrugslandsarter angives som begunstigede heraf. To konkrete tiltag rettet mod hhv. Vibe ('Vibelavninger') og Sanglærke ('Lærkepletter') opnår scoren -1 til -3, uden at der redegøres nærmere for de negative effekter, men omvendt for positive effekter på andre landbrugslandsarter som Agerhøne, Gul Vipstjert, Bomlærke og Gulspurv.

I rapporten redegøres nærmere for problemer med slåningsbrak og de i regelværket fastsatte slåningstidspunkter (indtil 1. april og efter 31. juli), idet det anføres, at slåning i marts og i august kan påvirke ynglefuglene negativt, og at 'fredningsperioden' derfor bør udvides, og at kravet om slåning eventuelt kunne reduceres til hvert andet år, som tilfældet er det med blomsterbrak i dag.

*Tabel 2: De beskrevne tiltag hos Dalgaard et al. 2020 (med angivelse af sidetal for tiltagene) og de arter (og grupper af fugle), der er anført som begunstigede af tiltagene, samt den samlede score for 'fugle' under ét (dog kun for agerlandsfugle f.s.v.a. tiltag med note c). Scoren kan gå fra -3 (betydelig negativ effekt) til +3 (betydelig positiv effekt) og er nærmere forklaret p. 13 i rapporten. Når der i tabel 1 er anført i alt 17 omtalte arter og her kun 14, skyldes det, at rapporten også angiver Engsnarre, Bynkefugl og Kærsanger som landbrugslandsarter, men at de som anført i note e) optræder som 'tabere' ved tiltaget 'Vedvarende græs uden omlægning og øvrig afgrødeetablering'. Danske agerlandsarter er fremhævet med fed.*

Tiltag på- eller i umiddelbar tilknytning til dyrkningsfladen:	Fasan	Agerhøne	Ringdue	Hvid Stork	Vibe	Kirkeugle	Rødrygget Tornskade	Stor Tornskade	Sanglærke	Stær	Stenpikker	Gul Vipstjert	Bomlærke	Gulspurv	Fugle	Insektædende fuglearter	Jordrugende fugle	Hulliggende fugle	Score, fugle	Bemærkninger
Insektvold	x	x														x	x		1-2	
Slåningsbrak, årlig eller reduceret aktivitet (33)					x				x						x				1-2 a)	
Blomsterbrak (39)															x				1-2	
Bestøverbrak (43)															x				0-2	
Vibelavninger (45)			x		x				x			x		x					-1-3 b), c)	
Lærkepletter (48)		x			x				x				x	x					-1-3 c), d)	
Haregrønning og vildtstriber med græs (51)									x				x	x					0-2	
Blomsterstriber (56)															x				0-2	
Barjordsstriber (59)															x				-1-2	
Bufferzoner uden pesticid- og gødningstilførsel (63)															x				0-1	
Vandhuller og andre små vådområder (66)															x				1-2	
Placering af halmballer (71)																			0	
Permanent græs (72)																			0-1	
Vedvarende græs, uden omlægning og øvrig afgrødeetablering (75)					x	x	x	x		x	x								0-2 e)	
Levende hegn, vildtremiser, krat, småskove og andre småbeplantninger (78)															x				1-3	
Permanent udtagning af landbrugsarealer (83)															x				1-3 f)	
Assisteret spredning af frø og andet materiale fra eksisterende naturarealer (86)																			-	
<b>Bevaring og pleje af eksisterende småbiotoper:</b>																				
Fritstående træer, herunder veterantræer (89)															x			x		
Gravhøje og stendiger (92)																				
Jord- og stendiger (94)															x					
Stendynger (95)																				
Vandhuller (96)																				
Hede (96)																				
<b>Bemærkninger</b>																				
a) Slåning kan dog påvirke yngel negativt																				
b) Hvis gavne Vibe og Sanglærke, da afstand til levende hegn.																				
c) Scoren angives udelukkende at gælde for agerlandsfugle																				
d) Vibe dog kun hvis tæt på vibelavning.																				
e) Hvis helårsgræsning angives Kærsanger, Bynkefugl og Engsnarre som tabere.																				
f) Det fremgår p. 84, at fremvæksten af vilde planter vil give føde og levesteder til agerlandets fugle.																				



## Øvrige kilder, der vurderer brak som virkemiddel i forhold til landbrugslandsfugle

Herson *et al.* 2011 fandt på baggrund af studier i perioden 2001-2006 af effekten af den obligatoriske brak under finske forhold, at braklagte marker understøttede 25-40 % flere *arter* og indeholdt 60-105 % flere *par* af fugle, som er typiske for det åbne land i sammenligning med kornmarker i samme landskabstyper.

Forfatterne vurderer, at den estimerede effekt af braklægning på de undersøgte fuglearter var stor nok til at udløse væsentlige ændringer i deres populationsstørrelser.

Ved givne markstørrelser i studiet, så viste *den blotte tilstedeværelse af brak* en større betydning for **artsrigdommen end brakarealernes størrelse**, mens **antallet af territorier** øgedes *både* som følge af tilstedeværelsen af brakarealer og ved at øge deres størrelse.

Forfatterne diskuterer derfor yderligere betydningen af størrelsen af de braklagte arealer. I selve undersøgelsen er kun medtaget arealer >0,8 ha, men eftersom den fortsættelse af brakordningen, som Finland - som vistnok det eneste europæiske land - vedtog ved ophøret af den obligatoriske brak i 2008 (i form af en frivillig 'miljø-brakordning') indebærer, at 48 % af de frivilligt udlagte brakarealer er <0,8 ha, efterlyser forfatterne yderligere undersøgelser af effekterne heraf. Med kilde i Vickery *et al.* 2004 og Kleijn *et al.* 2006 anfører forfatterne, at små brakarealer ikke kan formodes effektivt at påvirke artsrigdommen, men Herzon *et al.* finder, at også brakarealer, der er for små til at rumme et territorie, ikke desto mindre kan have betydelig effekt som fourageringsområde for landbrugslandsfugle, der anlægger rede i markkanter og uden for markerne, og/eller som har tendens til at fouragere i markrande, og foreslår disse forhold yderligere udforsket.

I deres konklusion fremhæver forfatterne, at som det står nu med den nye finske brakordning, så er den frivillig, og fuldstændig afhængig af det aktuelle og fremtidige dyrkningsafkast. Så længe landmændene frivilligt indgår brakaftaler efter den nye ordning i stort omfang, vil det formentlig give substantielle fordele for landbrugslandsfuglene. Imidlertid, understreger forfatterne, vil en obligatorisk ordning med krav om en forholdsmæssig udtagning af brakarealer på enhver ejendom, der modtager landbrugsstøtte, sikre et stabilt minimum af brak-udbredelse på nationalt plan og bidrage til stabiliseringen af nationale bestande af landbrugslandsfugle. Herzon *et al.* 2011 understøtter således det lovgivningsmæssige initiativ med *obligatorisk brak* på alle ejendomme fra 2023.

### Oversigt – på punktform – over de vigtigste øvrige kilder

Det generelle billede af, at braklægning gavner landbrugslandsarter, bekræftes af en række undersøgelser.

I Bilag I til dette notat er optaget abstracts for de væsentligste, og nedenfor gives på punktform en kort oversigt (i alfabetisk orden efter (hoved)forfatter, og hvor ovennævnte referencer er udeladt):

- Bengtsson *et al.* (2021) fandt, at den fremtidige biodiversitet og de afledte økosystemtjenester afhænger af, hvor godt samfundet forvalter og designer såvel beskyttede områder som produktionslandskaberne, herunder sikrer 'rumligt resiliente landskaber' – eller som de betegnede det 20 år tidligere: 'landskaber med økologisk hukommelse' (dvs. med funktionelle, grønne infrastrukturer, der sikrer organismernes overlevelse, spredning og især vandring i takt med klimaforandringerne).
- Berg & Pärt (1994) fandt at 4 ud af 17 landbrugslandsarter (Sanglærke, Bynkefugl, Tornsanger og Tornirisk) havde præference for brak, mens Buckingham *et al.* (1999) fandt tilsvarende for i alt 7 arter af spurve, finker og værlinger, mens Parish & Sotherton (2004) fandt, at det kun var

Sanglærke, der optrådte signifikant tættere på brakmarker end på marker med vildtfugleblandinger (hvor der kunne være op til 100 gange større tætheder af frøædende fuglearter).

- Bianchi *et al.* (2006) fandt i et review af 24 studier, at landskabskompleksitet øgede bestandene af naturlige fjendeorganismer i 74 % af de undersøgte tilfælde. Størst effekt (80 % af tilfældene) konstateredes for brak og markbræmmer, og forfatterne konkluderede generelt, at diversificerede landskaber rummer det største potentiale for bevarelse af biodiversiteten og understøttelse af biologiske kontrolfunktioner.
- BirdLife Europe & EEB (2022) konstaterer, at en andel på mindst 10 % af uproduktive landskabselementer, herunder brakarealer, er den kritiske minimumsgrænse for fastholdelse og restaurering af biodiversiteten i agerlandet.
- Boatman & Bence (2000) viste, at brak, tilsået med vildfugle-frøblandinger, var den foretrukne habitat, sammenlignet med andre foreliggende habitater til redeplacering og foruragering for Fasan og Sanglærke (hvis bestand var i stærkt aftagende).
- Bracken (2004) fandt, at størstedelen af de fuglearter, der lever inde på markfladen, herunder Sanglærke, Engpiber, Fasan og Dobbeltbekkasin udviste præference for varig brak over rotationsbrak og øvrige former for forvaltning.
- Bracken & Bolger (2006) viste, at brak øger såvel artsdiversiteten som antallet af fugle, og at i Irland er den mest effektive brakform varig brak, men også, at den bedst passende brakform vil variere fra situation til situation, og at 'one size fits all'-pespektivet *ikke* bør lægges til grund- ved udviklingen af landbrugsstøtteordningerne.
- Bright *et al.* (2015) demonstrerer hvordan også standard-tilskudsordninger – uden vedvarende specific rådgiver-støtte – kan øge og fastholde tætheden af udbredte, agerlandsarter i tilbagegang – herunder agerhøne.
- Chamberlain *et al.* (2009) fandt, at Vibe optrådte i omkring 40 % af de brak-vinduer, som blev etableret som et led i det britiske landbrugsstøttesystem, og at andelen kunne øges ved en forbedret forvaltning af brak-vinduerne (fugtiggyre dem) og af placeringen af dem i landskabet (fjernt fra skovbryn og levende hegn).
- Concepción *et al.* (2020) fandt, at små markstørrelser, sammenhæng og landskabselementer understøtter den overordnede biodiversitet, og at små markstørrelser, græsarealer og brak fremmer agerlandsspecialister, og foreslår en regional tilgang til planlægning heraf.
- Buschmann *et al.* (2023) beregnede, at hvis hvad der svarer til et sted mellem 3 og 5 o/oo af den tyske landbrugsstøtte målrettedes etablering af vibe-pletter i afgrøderne, ville den tyske vibebestand kunne stabiliseres (hvor den nu ellers er i fortsat tilbagegang).
- Clarke *et al.* (1997) fandt, at flere individer (20 % i snit) og arter (56 % i snit) af fugle anvendte såede brakstriber end de tilstødende afgrøder (7 % af individerne og 33 % af arterne i snit), men at de højeste andele af både individer og arter noteredes i markkanterne (68 % af individerne og 80 % af arterne).
- Conover *et al.* (2014) konkluderede, at etablering af bufferstriber af 1.-års-successioner er attraktive for ynglende (nordamerikanske) landbrugslands-fugle og at sådanne striber kan tilvejebringe vigtige økologiske fordele som supplement til forvaltningsformer baseret på store, sammenhængende blokke af 1.-årssuccessioner.
- Gillings *et al.* (2010) demonstrerede, at tætheden af landbrugslandsfugle havde tendens til at være større på brakarealer end på korn- og rapsarealer, og at 26-52 % af bestandene af landbrugslandets frøædende spurvefugle var til stede på stubmarker.
- Hawro *et al.* (2015) kunne ikke finde en signifikant effekt af hverken landskabsheterogenitet eller dyrkningsintensitet på tætheden af lus, men dog artsspecifikke reaktioner på arealanvendelsen.

- Henderson *et al.* (2000a & 2000b) fandt at 5 ud af 6 'funktionelle fuglegrupper' (jagtbare hønsefuge, duer, kragefugle, sanglærke, drosler og frøædende småfugle (finker, værlinger og spurve)) havde større forekomst på braklagte arealer end dyrkede (således 1,4-1,7 fugle/ha og 7-21 arter på brakmarker vs. 0,2-0,8 fugle og 2-5 arter på dyrkede marker). Det var de jagtbare hønsefugle, der *ikke* viste præference – hvilket står i modsætning til Aebischer & Ewald (2010), som netop finder, at Agerhøne nyder godt af især rotationsbrak, mens Wilson *et al.* (1997) fandt flere Agerhøns i flerårig brak end på dyrkede marker og det samme fandt Buckingham *et al.* (1999). Tilbage til Henderson *et al.* 2000a så viste de fugle, der havde præference for brak, størst præference for rotationsbrak. Det gjaldt dog ikke kragefuglene.
- Meichtry-Stier *et al.* (2018) fandt, at den overordnede territorietæthed af fem arter (for hvilke brak var overrepræsenteret omkring centrum for deres territorier) var højere i små brakarealer, som ikke var placeret tæt ved skov, og som rummede brombær, krat og gyldenris.
- Murray *et al.* (2002) fandt at Gulspurv kun (i modsætning til Sanglærke) anvendte selvgroet brak til fødesøgning i ungetiden i forventeligt omfang (bedømt ud fra udbuddet), men signifikant mindre end brak med korn-baserede vildfugleblandinger.
- Odderskær *et al.* (1997) fandt at Sanglærke brugte utilsåede pletter i vårbygmarker signifikant hyppigere end man skulle forvente ved ensartet fordeling ud over landskabet.
- Orłowski *et al.* (2011) fandt efter omfattende undersøgelser af vinterføde hos Agerhøne, at bibeholdelse af stubmarker og dæk-afgrøder ved naturlig regenerering af étårige vilde planter vil kunne bidrage som et væsentligt element i strategien for genopretningen af bestandene af Agerhøne i det europæiske landbrugslandskab.
- Pe'er *et al.* (2017) fandt ved en analyse af landbrugernes anvendelse af støtteordninger til gavn for natur og miljø, at mens forskerne rangerede markbræmmer, buffer-striber, brak og landskabselementer højest som de mest gavnlige for natur og miljø, implementerede landbrugerne i hovedsagen efterafgrøder og vinterdække, kvælstoffixerende afgrøder og brak højest.
- Perkins *et al.* (2002) fandt i et studie af Gulspurvens fødesøgningsvaner i yngletiden, at de foretrak græsbræmmer og andre udyrkede habitater (levende hegn og diger) frem for dyrkede marker.
- Roberts & Pullin (2007) har i et større review fundet 11 papers, der undersøgte effekten af brak, og de fandt alle signifikant flere fugle på brakarealer end dyrkede arealer både sommer og vinter.
- Schmidt *et al.* (2017) fandt, at etablering af Vibe-vinduer på fugtige steder vil være et lovende, tilskudsberettiget tiltag for beskyttelse af Vibe i det industrialiserede landbrugslandskab i det centrale Europa.
- Staggenborg & Anthes (2022) fandt ved en meta-analyse, at flerårig brak, ikke-produktive afgrøder som vildfuglefrø-blandinger, tilførsel af foder og jorrdække om vinteren gav den tydeligste positive effect på udbredelsen af agerlandsfugle.
- Toivonen *et al.* (2013) fandt, at den dengang nye finske frivillige miljø-brakordning i større omfang end den tidligere brakordning (obligatorisk, men med mulighed for fjernbrak) bidrog til både omfanget og diversiteten i udyrket vegetation på landskabsniveau, men at langtidseffekten af det nye system sandsynligvis vil blive kompromitteret af sin ikke-mårettede og ikke-bindende natur.
- Traba & Morales (2019) fandt, at den signifikant positive korrelation mellem på den ene side de årlige ændringer i to spanske agerlandsfugleindekser og på den anden side ændringen i udbredelse af brakarealer, tydeliggjorde egnetheden af brakandelen som en indikator for tilstanden hos landbrugslandfuglene på nationalt niveau.
- Van Buskirk & Willi (2004) fandt signifikant højere antal af plante-, fugle- og edderkoppearter på brakarealer end på dyrkede marker i såvel Europa som USA. Effekten var størst på større og ældre arealer, og især på arealer, der var etableret ved naturlig regenerering frem for udsåning.



- Vickery & Buckingham (2001) fandt, at den mest favorable type af brak for Sanglærke er den, der skabes ved at stub fra den foregående kornafgrøde efterlades upløjet, og hvor ukrudtsplanter får lov at regenerere sig naturligt.
- Watson & Ray (1997) undersøgte effekten af 1-årig brak, og fandt gennemsnitligt 11,9 arter/10 ha i brak vs. 4,8 på dyrkede marker. Fandt tættere ynglebestande af Agerhøne, Sanglærke, Storspove, Vibe og Strandskade på brak, og en generelt højere – men dog ikke signifikant – ynglesucces for vadefuglearter. Tætheden og antallet af arter aftog over tid (flerårig brak).
- Wretenberg (2006) fandt, at en generel reduktion af dyrkningsintensiteten, f.eks. gennem øgning af brakandelen, høslæts- og græsningsarealer, især gavner agerlandsfugle i agerlandsdominerede landskaber, men agerlandsfugle i kontrast hertil syntes at have større gavn af en øgning af korndyrkningsarealet i skovdominerede landskaber.
- Wretenberg *et al.* (2007) fandt at lokale bestande af trækkende arter gik frem under ekstensivering af den svenske landbrugsdrift, herunder braklægning, og fandt en sammenhæng mellem disse forhold.
- Wretenberg *et al.* (2010): fandt, at lokale ændringer i artsrigdommen var positivt associeret med ændringer i udbredelsen af varig brak og energipil i kort rotation, men også i udbredelsen af vårsæede afgrøder.

### Rotations- eller varig brak?

Som det fremgår af denne fremstilling, er der lidt tvetydige resultater, hvad angår spørgsmålet om rotations- eller varig brak er mest fordelagtigt, og det må antages at være ret så artsspecifikt og utvivlsomt også afhængigt af jordbundsforhold og etableringsform (altså at der ikke kan gives et generelt svar herpå).

Firbank *et al.* 2003 fandt, at fugletætheden var *9 gange højere i rotationsbrak og 7 gange højere i varig brak* end i dyrkede kornmarker, mens Henderson *et al.* 2000a som anført fandt, at fire ud af de fem fuglegrupper, der havde præference for brak, *foretrak rotationsbrak*, Aebischer & Ewald (2010) som sagt at *Agerhøne foretrak rotationsbrak* (i modsætning til flere andre kilder, som siger det modsatte), Van Buskirk & Willi (2004) som nævnt, at *den positive effekt af brak var størst på større og ældre brakarealer* – især hvis de var selvgroede (men undersøgelsen omfattede et bredere spektrum af taksonomiske grupper – også planter og edderkopper).

Watson & Ray (1997) fandt som nævnt, at den positive effekt af brak på fugletætheden *aftog over tid*.

Bracken (2004) fandt, at størstedelen af de fuglearter, der lever inde på markfladen, herunder Sanglærke, Engpiber, Fasan og Dobbeltbekkasin, udviste *præference for varig brak over rotationsbrak* og øvrige former for forvaltning mens Murray *et al.* (2002) som nævnt fandt at Gulspurv (i modsætning til Sanglærke) kun anvendte selvgroet brak til fødesøgning i ungetiden i forventeligt omfang (bedømt ud fra udbuddet), *men signifikant mindre end brak med korn-baserede vildfugleblandinger*.

Wakham-Dawson (1995) fandt at Sanglærke benytter *rotationsbrak* mere end kornafgrøder, specielt til 1. kuld, og Henderson *et al.* (2009) gjorde en interessant iagttagelse f.s.v.a. Sanglærke og brak, nemlig at arten foretrak brak med ~30 % bar jord, strå og afgrøderester – hvilket vel må forstås som en art *selvgroet brak i tidlige stadier*.

## Opsummering vedr. evidensen for braks generelle effekt på fuglelivet

Der er i litteraturen en klar evidens for, at braklægning i ellers intensivt drevet landbrugsland kan fremme et register af landbrugslandsfugle, hvoraf de fleste p.t. er i stærk tilbagegang og flere derfor er rødlistet i f.m. den seneste revision af Rødlisten (Moeslund *et al.* 2019).

Som det er præciseret af Herzon *et al.* (2011), så er det meget vigtigt, at brakkravet gøres obligatorisk, så det kan brede sig ud over *hele dyrkningsfladen* og over *hele landet*.

Der synes også at være evidens for, at en ikke uvæsentlig del af de udlagte brakarealer skal have en vis størrelse (store nok til at rumme territorier af de omhandlede arter), men samtidig, at også mindre arealer kan bidrage til at understøtte eksisterende strukturer som skel, levende hegn og vandløb m.v., hvorfor det er centralt, at en vis andel allokeres til anlæggelse sådanne steder.

Endelig findes der landbrugslandsarter, nemlig dem, der med Sanglærke og Vibe som oplagte eksempler, evolutionært er udviklet, så de er tilpasset steppelandskaber. De vil ingenlunde etablere sig i nærheden af vertikale strukturer som levende hegn, skovbryn og bygninger – ja sågar solitære træer m.v., men de er stærkt afhængige af en ekstensivering af driften ude på selve dyrkningsfladen. Derfor vil brak inde på dyrkningsflader – fjernt fra hegn m.v. være gavnligt for disse arter.

Der findes ikke noget éntydigt svar på, hvorvidt rotations- eller varig brak er at foretrække af hensyn til agerlandsfuglene – formentlig aller helst en kombination, da der synes at være evidens for, at rotationsbrak på den ene side rent faktisk har størst præference for en række arter, mens der på den anden side omvendt også synes at være evidens for, at varig brak i sagens natur udvikler den største generelle biodiversitet.

Muligheden for valgfrihed mellem rotations- og permanent brak vil utvivlsomt vinde gehør hos landbruget (mulighed for opløjning, når den enkelte ejendoms 'cash-crop' (f.eks. kartofler) roterer forbi en given markblok i sædskiftet) og på sigt formentlig føre til en ønskelig mosaik af brakarealer i forskellige aldre.

Brakken bør – i det omfang reglerne tillader det – så vidt muligt være selvgroet, gerne ud fra overvintrende stub eller barjord i starten af år ét. Også nytten heraf synes der at være klar evidens for i materialesamlingen – ikke mindst med Herzon *et al.*'s (2009) konstatering af, at brak med 30 % barjord, strå og planterester er det optimale for f.eks. Sanglærke. Dette vil være et markant opgør med kravet om vedvarende plantedække, og rummer selvsagt implikationer i f.t. ønsket om at dæmpe udvaskningen af næringsalte. Imidlertid vil de biodiversitetsmæssige fordele formentlig så langt overgå ulemperne ved den (marginalt) øgede udvaskning.

Den positive effekt af at udså fuglevenlige plantearter i brakmarker synes også at have klar evidens i materialesamlingen, hvor det for flere arters vedkommende dokumenteres, at fuglene har større præference for sådanne brakformer end for selvgroede eller alene græs-baserede brakformer.

Forslaget hos Dalgaard *et al.* (2020) om reduktion af slåningskravet til hvert andet år, bør forfølges yderligere, herunder kunne det forfines til, at kun en del af brakarealet skulle slås årligt, hvilket vil give en langt større variation og sikre den *kitchen-diningroom-kombination*, som er velbeskrevet om ikke i herværende materiale, så i hvert fald hos bl.a. Vickery & Arlettaz (2012) – d.v.s. en kombination, der sikrer plads både for opformering af fuglenes fødeemner (i de uslåede partier) og for adgang til byttedyrene (i de slåede partier). Der er allerede skabt præcedens for accept af slåning hvert andet år i bestøverbrak-ordningen.

## Brak som element i økologisk infrastruktur til fremme af økosystemtjenester

Ud over at bidrage direkte med øget fødegrundlag og ro til at yngle, bidrager brak-islæt i dyrkningsfladen også indirekte til bedre vilkår for fugle og andet mark-liv:

Korrekt placeret og anlagt kan brakarealerne således bidrage til den økologiske infrastruktur i landskabet, som er en forudsætning for, at nytteorganismer i form af bestøvere og naturlige fjender for skadevoldere i afgrøderne kan formere sig og sprede sig rundt i landskabet og videre ud på dyrkningsfladerne.

Jo flere både arter og individer af nytteorganismer, desto lavere bliver behovet for syntetisk input i form af pesticider for at nå det samme udbytte. Det giver højere dækningsbidrag, og samtidig øges mulighederne for endnu flere nytteorganismer og dermed endnu større uafhængighed af omkostningstunge, syntetiske input.

En negativ spiral, hvor stadig større syntetisk input giver stadig færre nytteorganismer og dermed stadig større behov for syntetiske input, kan vendes til en positiv, hvor stadig flere nytteorganismer fører til stadigt mindre syntetisk input, som igen resulterer i stadig flere nytteorganismer.

Det er bevidstheden om disse mekanismer, der ligger bag bl.a. EU-Kommissionens biodiversitetsstrategi, der taler om 10 % ikke-produktive arealer i landbrugslandet til sikring af nytteorganismer og deres økosystemtjenester, og senest også Kommissionens forslag til forordning om bæredygtig anvendelse af plantebeskyttelsesmidler, som direkte taler om vigtigheden af økologisk infrastruktur til sikring af nytteorganismers opformering og spredning (se f.eks. forordningsforslagets Artikel 13).

Evidensen bag er bl.a. tilvejebragt af Dainese *et al.* (2019), hvis arbejder er citeret i miljøvurderingen af forordningsforslaget<sup>1</sup>.

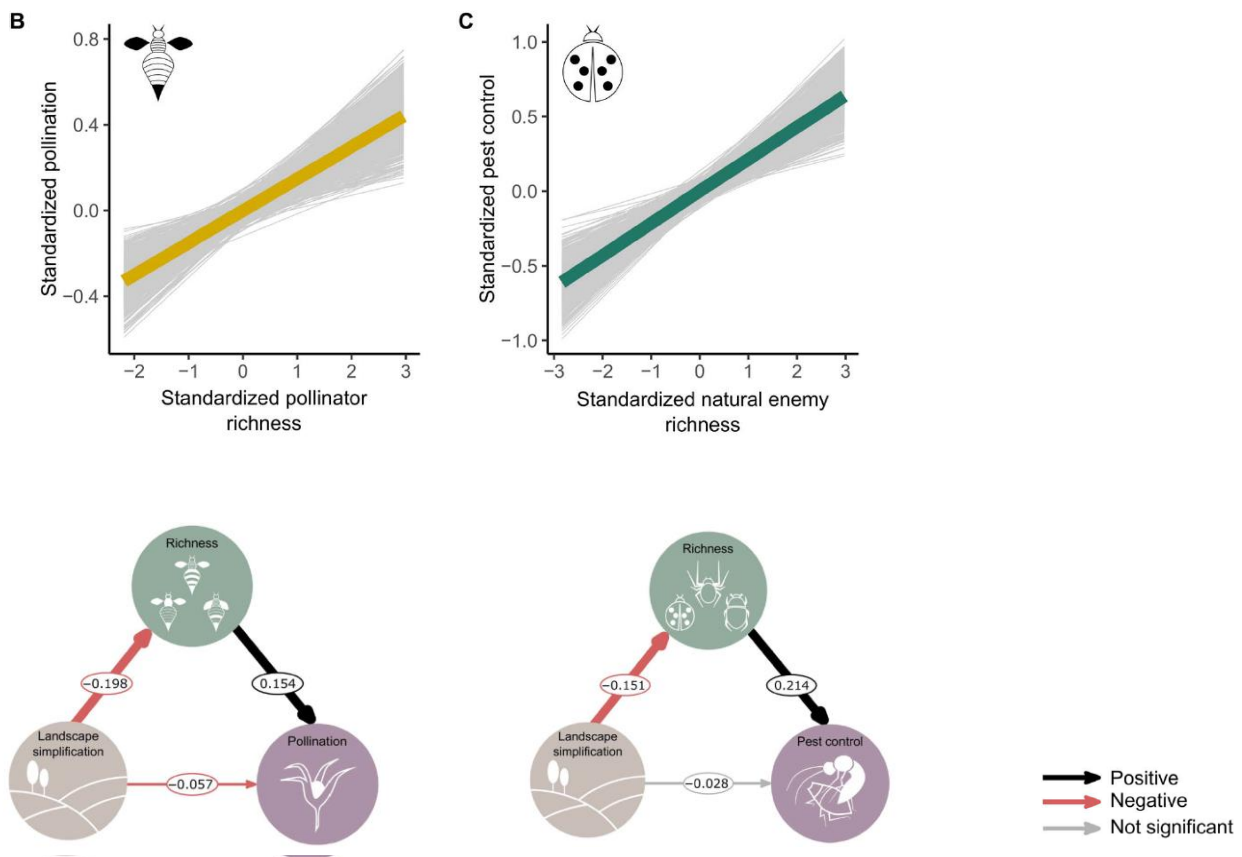
Artiklen, som Dainese *et al.* har publiceret, er blevet til i et samarbejde mellem 103 forskere fra 79 universiteter og forskningsinstitutioner verden over, som efter nøje fastlagte kriterier om validitet m.v. har udvalgt og behandlet 89 studier af sammenhænge mellem landskabsudformning, antallet af arter og individer af nytteorganismer og de resulterende effekter på udbytter. Studierne dækker i alt 1.475 lokaliteter fra alle verdensdele (på nær Antarktis).

Ved at standardisere resultaterne af de mange studier, så de er blevet direkte sammenlignelige, er forskerteamet nået frem til nogle klare konklusioner, som er utrykt i figurerne nedenfor, hentet fra artiklen:

Der er således en lineær, positivt korreleret sammenhæng mellem *artsrigdommen* af bestøvere og så den bestøvning, der effektueres i studierne, og en tilsvarende sammenhæng mellem på den ene side *artsrigdommen* af naturlige fjender af skadegørere og på den anden side den biologiske kontrol af skadevoldere (se *Figur 6* nedenfor).

Det er indlysende, at disse sammenhænge må gælde når alene henses til *udbredelsen* (dvs. antallet af individer pr. ha f.eks.) af bestøvere og naturlige fjender, men det nye i Dainese *et al.*'s forskningsresultater er, at der *også* kan dokumenteres en signifikant sammenhæng mellem *artsrigdommen* og såvel bestøvning som biologisk kontrol.

<sup>1</sup> (COM(2022) 304 final - 2022/0195 (COD)), særligt bilaget (Part 4) vedr. økosystemer (Annex VI, Analysis by ecosystem) figur IV-9 (B og C), p. 394f.



Figur 6: Klip fra Dainese *et al.* (2019) som øverst viser, hvorledes bestøvning og biologisk kontrol med skadevoldere stiger med øget artsrigdom blandt bestøvere og naturlige fjender, og nederst hvordan landskabsforarmelse har stærk negativ effekt på netop denne artsrigdom.

Og deres forskningsresultater stopper ikke herved: Dainese *et al.* påviser tillige, at der eksisterer en kraftig negativ korrelation mellem landskabsforarmelse (monotonisering eller *Landscape simplification*, som forskerne betegner det) og så *artsrigdommen* af såvel bestøvere som naturlige fjendeorganismer – som ellers var dokumenteret at have en særdeles *positiv* korrelation til bestøvning og biologisk kontrol.

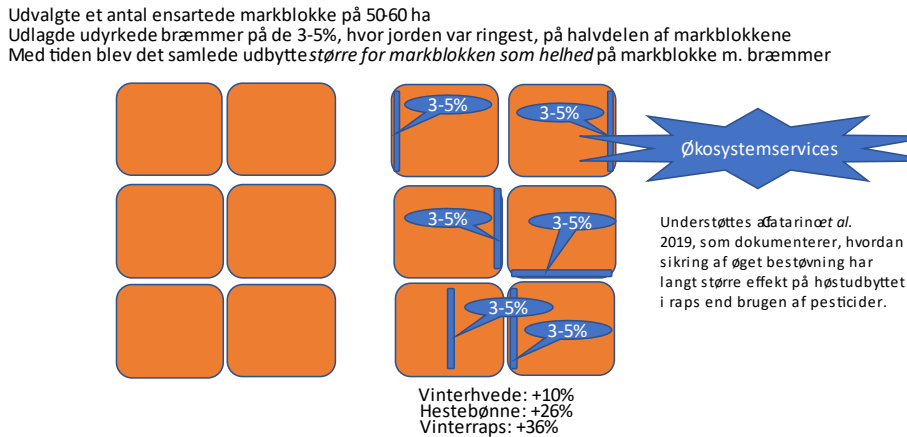
Så *summa summarum* fører landskabsforarmelse til ringere bestøvning og biologisk kontrol – mens omvendt øget landskabsheterogenitet fører til bedre bestøvning og større biologisk kontrol med skadevoldere i afgrøderne.

Dette er eftervist i praksis hos Pywell *et al.* (2016), som i et stort anlagt fuldskalaforsøg i UK, dækkende sammenlagt 900 ha, udvalgte et antal ensartede markblokke på 50-60 ha, opdelte dem i en kontrol- og en forsøgsgruppe, og etablerede ikke-produktive arealer (udyrkede bræmmer m.v.) på 3-5 % af markerne i forsøgsgruppen (på den dyrkningsmæssigt mindst egnede jord).

Udviklingen fulgtes herefter over nogle år, og med tiden blev det samlede udbytte *større* pr. markblok som helhed på de marker, hvor der var udlagt ikke-produktive arealer, end på kontrolmarkerne, også selv om forsøgsmarkerne jo var blevet 3-5 % mindre. Dette kunne alene forklares ved de øgede økosystemtjenester i form af bestøvning (for de bestøvningskrævende afgrøder) og biologisk kontrol med skadevoldere. Det er f.s.v.a. bestøvning sidenhen understøttet af Catarino *et al.* (2019), som kunne dokumentere, hvordan sikring af øget bestøvning har langt større effekt på høstudbyttet i raps end brugen af pesticider. Pywell *et al.*'s (2016) forsøg er søgt illustreret nedenfor i Figur 7.

Pywell et al. 2016

## Ingen udbyttenedgang ved udtag til økologisk infrastruktur - snarere tvært imod!



Figur 7: Forf. forsøg på at illustrere forsøgsresultaterne hos Pywell et al. (2016), hvor et antal ensartede markblokke på 50-60 ha opdelt i en kontrol- og en forsøgsgruppe, hvor der i sidstnævnte udtoges 3-5 % til udyrkede bræmmer på den dårligste dyrkningsjord, og hvor slutresultatet blev større udbytte (og dækningsbidrag) på markblokkene med udtag (trods det mindre dyrkningsareal). Alt som følge af øgede økosystemtjenester i form af bestøvning (for de bestøvningskrævende arter) og biologisk kontrol med skadevoldere.

Newton (2017) anfører med kilde i Stoate & Leake (2002), at det ved fuldskalaforsøg med insektvolde er lykkedes at øge tætheden af rovbiller på voldene til – som Newton betegner det – utrolige 2.000 individer pr. kvadratmeter, og – med kilde i Collins et al. 2002 – at de bredte sig ud i de omgivende afgrøder, hvor der kunne konstateres begrænsende effekt på hvede-bladlus på mere end 80 meters afstand.

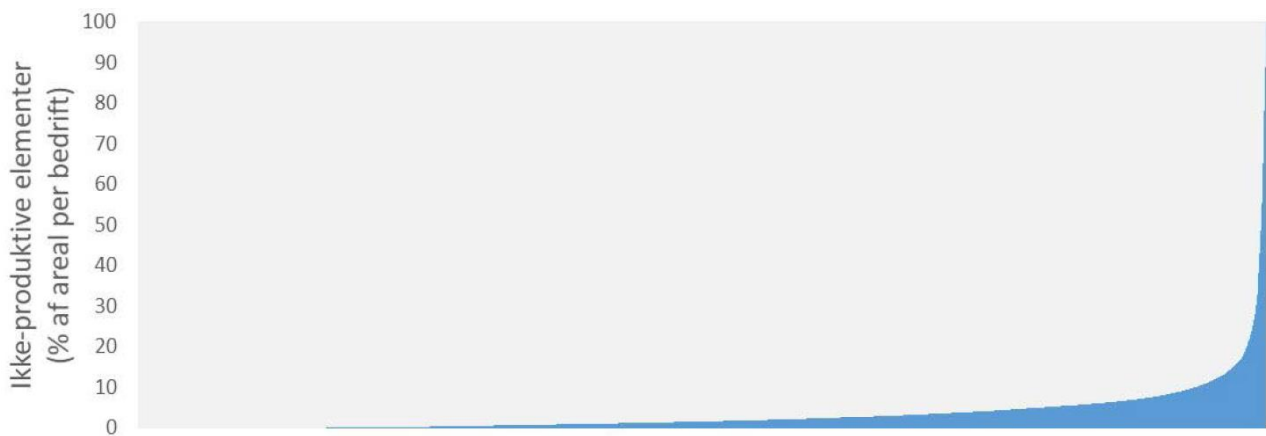
Bianchi et al. (2006) fandt i et review af 24 studier, at landskabskompleksitet øgede bestandene af naturlige fjendeorganismer i 74 % af de undersøgte tilfælde. Størst effekt havde islet af urtedækkede ikke-produktive landskabs-elementer som brak og markbræmmer, hvor antallet af naturlige fjendeorganismer øgedes i 80 % af tilfældene, mens det for træbevoksede elementer og spredte pletter lå lidt lavere (hhv. 71 % og 70 %). Hvad angik konstateret effekt på skadevoldere opfyldte kun 10 studier reviewets udvælgelseskrav, og her konstateredes signifikante negative effekter i 45 % af tilfældene. Forfatterne konkluderede på denne baggrund, at diversificerede landskaber rummer det største potentiale for bevarelse af biodiversiteten og understøttelse af biologiske kontrolfunktioner.

Albrecht et al. (2020) har i en syntese af 18 studier af effekterne af blomsterstriber på kontrol af skadevoldere konstateret, at blomsterstriber forbedrer den biologiske kontrol af skadegørere med gennemsnitligt 16 % i de tilgrænsende afgrøder. Se i øvrigt Wejdling (2022) for yderligere eksempler.

Hawro et al. (2015) kunne imidlertid ikke finde en signifikant effekt af hverken landskabsheterogenitet eller dyrkningsintensitet på tætheden af lus, men fandt dog artsspecifikke reaktioner på forskellige former arealanvendelse. De observerede også en tendens hen imod øget artsrigdom af luse-parasitter ved lav landbrugsmæssig intensitet, men ikke ved forøgelse af landskabsheterogeniteten.

Andelen af ikke-produktive elementer udgør i snit 3,2 % på danske landbrug, men ulige fordelt. DCA har for Landbrugsstyrelsen udført beregning af, hvor stor andelen af ikke-produktive elementer var på de dengang 37.800 landbrug i Danmark (Dalgaard *et al.* 2019). Ikke-produktive elementer, som altså er forudsætningen for opretholdelse af en økologisk infrastruktur og dermed sikring af opformering og udbredelse af nytteorganismer i form af bestøvere og naturlige fjender af skadevoldende organismer på dyrkningsfladen.

Resultatet blev, at der gennemsnitligt var 3,2 % ikke-produktive arealer på danske landbrug, men at – med forfatterens egne ord – ”det gennemsnitlige areal med ikke produktive elementer er skævt fordelt på bedrifterne [se Figur 8 nedenfor], idet en relativ lille andel af bedrifterne har en høj andel af ikke-produktive elementer, mens mere end 2/3 af bedrifterne vurderes at have under gennemsnittet, og ca. 1/4 vurderes at have under 2 % ikke produktive elementer.”



Figur 8: Fordelingen af den estimerede andel af ikke-produktive elementer (y-aksen) for hver af de i alt 37.800 landbrugsbedrifter i DK (vist på x-aksen, sorteret efter % andel af arealet med ikke-produktive elementer). Fra Dalgaard *et al.* (2019) p. 3.

Set i det lys vil der i langt hovedparten af de danske landbrug ikke være megen hjælp at hente fra økosystemtjenester i form af bestøvning og biologiske kontrol med skadevoldere fra tilgrænsende natur- og halvnaturarealer, og Beier *et al.* (2017) har vist, hvordan markstørrelserne fortsat stiger – og dermed den gennemsnitlige afstand til kilder for økosystemtjenester.

Sammenholdt med Tscharrntke *et al.*'s (2021, 2022) konstatering af, at markstørrelser på 2 ha og et natur- og halvnaturindhold på 20 % i landbrugslandskabet vil være det optimale for biodiversiteten, strækker det nu pålagte udlæg af 4 % ikke-produktive elementer selvfølgelig ikke stort. Men når man ser på kurven over fordelingen af ikke-produktive arealer på danske landbrug, må man konstatere, at tiltaget vil hæve indholdet betragteligt på de 2/3 af brugene, der i dag har under 3,2 % islet af ikke-produktive arealer (og selvfølgelig også en del på de brug, der har mellem 3,2 og 4 %).

Økologiske infrastrukturer kan ud over at bidrage med økosystemtjenester i marken også bidrage til sikring af biodiversiteten i naturområder

Ud over at bidrage med økosystemtjenester, vil den udbygning af økologiske infrastruktur, som de ikke-produktive arealer giver anledning til, generelt gavne også naturindholdet i de beskyttede naturområder.

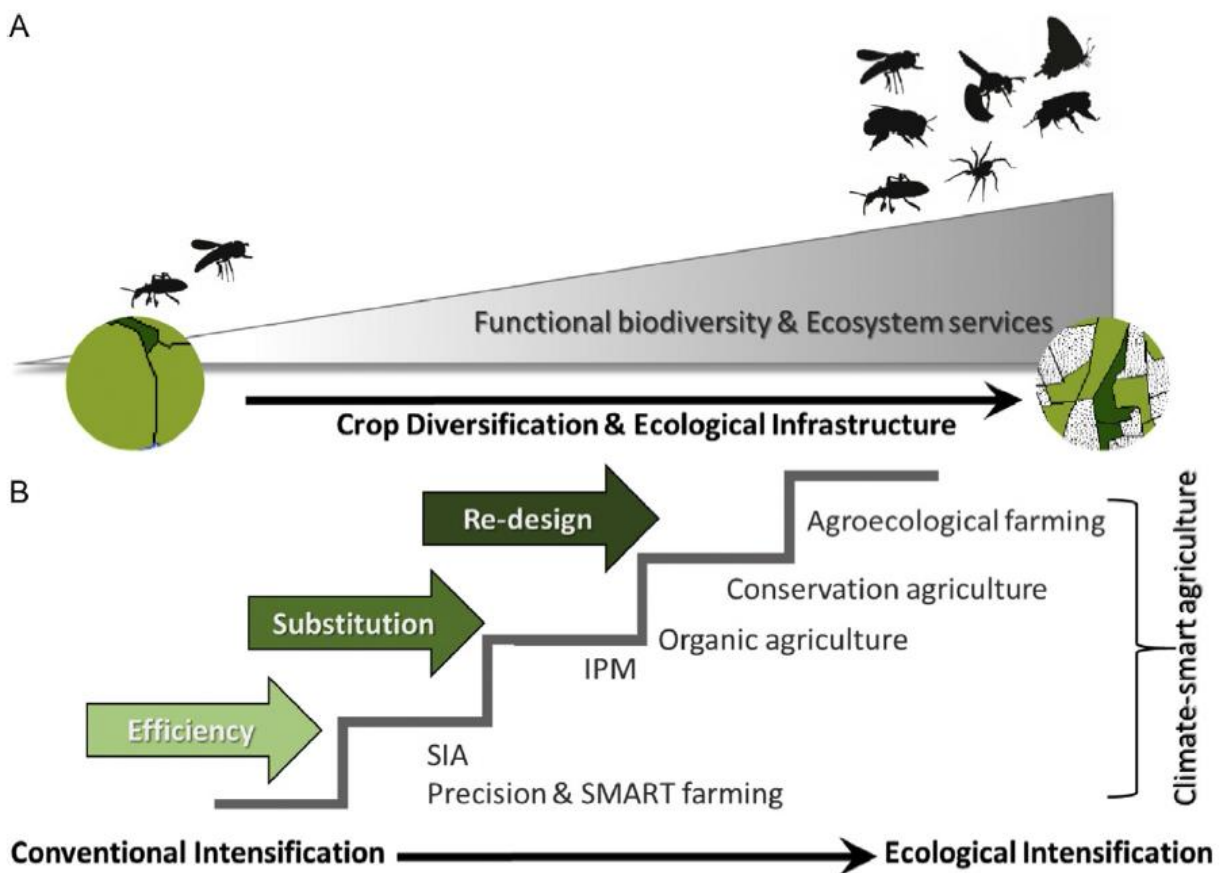
Bengtsson *et al.* (2021) fandt således ved genbesøg af deres arbejder for 20 år siden, at den fremtidige biodiversitet og de afledte økosystemtjenester afhænger af, hvor godt samfundet forvalter og designer såvel beskyttede områder som produktionslandskaberne, herunder sikrer ’rumligt resiliente landskaber’ –



eller som de betegnede det 20 år tidligere: 'landskaber med økologisk hukommelse' (dvs. med økologiske infrastrukturer, der sikrer organismernes spredning og især vandring i takt med klimaforandringerne).

Herved ligger de helt på linje med bl.a. Vanbergen *et al.* (2020), som påpeger nødvendigheden af, at landbrugsproduktionen kloden over bevæger sig fra det konventionelle intensiveringsspor, vi kender i dag, og som fører til den nedadgående spiral med stadigt større input af energi og syntetiske hjælpepestoffer med faldende biodiversitet og økosystemtjenester til følge, til et *ecological intensification*-spor, der gennem i første omgang substitution af eksisterende dyrkningssystemer med f.eks. økologisk drift og *Conservation Agriculture*, siden et egentligt re-design til *agroecological farming*, der bygger på funktionel biodiversitet og økosystemtjenester, tilvejebragt gennem øget afgrødediversifikation og etablering af økologiske infrastrukturer.

Det er illustreret i *Figur 9* lånt fra artiklen.



*Figur 9: Vanbergen et al.'s (2020) illustration p. 6 af, hvordan den globale fødevarerproduktion nødvendigvis må bevæge sig trinvist via substitution og re-design fra konventionel til økologisk intensivering under inddragelse af funktionel biodiversitet og økosystemservices, tilvejebragt gennem øget afgrødediversifikation og økologisk infrastruktur. Forkortelser: 'SIA': Sustainable Intensification of Agriculture'. 'IPM': Integrated Pest Management (på dansk: Integreret plantebeskyttelse).*

Også Sutherland *et al.* (2021) indplacere i en 360-graders scanning overgangen til bæredygtigt landbrug blandt de globalt set 15 mest påtrængende emner for beskyttelse af biodiversiteten – i første omgang i alle indiske delstater (eftersom de af den såkaldt grønne revolution er blevet sendt i den stik modsatte retning), men på sigt globalt.

Goulson (2021) peger i sin bog, *Silent Earth. Averting the Insect Apocalypse*, også på nødvendigheden af en nytænkning af den globale fødevareproduktion, der inddrager økosystemservices. Han sår (p. 259) i den forbindelse tvivl om, hvorvidt biodiversiteten kan reddes alene ved 'sparing', hvor naturen henvises til reservater, hvor den kan udfolde sig frit, mens landbrugsproduktionen intensiveres så meget som muligt for at skabe så meget plads som muligt til natur. For Goulson illustrerer kollapsedet i insektbestandene i tyske, beskyttede naturområder over de seneste 27 år (som vist hos Hallmann *et al.* 2017), at denne tilgang ikke virker, "*for the spared land is being impacted by the surrounding devastation*", som han noterer.

Det sidste underbygges af Bär *et al.*'s (2022) påvisning af langdistancespredning af cocktails af op til 12 forskellige pesticider – heraf flere i anseelige koncentrationer – dybt ind i bl.a. Harzen National Park i Brocken.

Udlæg af 4 % ikke-produktive elementer i landbrugslandet vil selvfølgelig langt fra vende denne udvikling, men kan *måske* være det første skridt på rejsen mod (gen)etablering af en økologisk infrastruktur, der på sigt vil kunne overflødiggøre det høje input af syntetiske hjælpestoffer i form af bl.a. pesticider, som er den konventionelle intensiverings svar på udfordringerne.

Guiden til fuglevenlig brak kan her forhåbentlig være en hjælp til et lille skridt på vejen.



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[Aebischer & Ewald, 2010: found that the estimated population density of grey partridge \*Perdix perdix\* was significantly higher on set-aside land than on conventional arable crops](#)

A site comparison study in 2002-2009 on mixed farmland in Hertfordshire, England (Aebischer & Ewald 2010) found that the estimated population density of grey partridge *Perdix perdix* was significantly higher on set-aside land than on conventional arable crops. The difference was strongest for rotational set-aside, with non-rotational set-aside not having a significant positive impact on partridge densities.

[Altewischer et al. \(2015\) Heterogeneity and sites with sparse vegetation \(fallows > 10%\) and song posts important to Corn Bunting](#)

Altewischer *et al.* 2015, abstract: "Agricultural ecosystems have faced dramatic changes during past decades, resulting in a dramatic loss of farmland biodiversity. The Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra* is considered a suitable indicator for the conservation value of farmland habitats, and has recently suffered strong declines throughout much of its European range. As a basis for targeted conservation measures, we investigated the habitat preferences of this species in north-eastern Germany by comparing the composition of male territories with randomly chosen control sites. A territory was defined as the area within a radius of 150 meters around the assumed centre of the territory, as the majority of nests is found within this radius. To assess food availability for nestlings, arthropod abundance within the most abundant land use types i.e. crop fields, fallows, grassland as well as within unploughed strips was investigated. In total we found 102 male Corn Bunting territories, which were mainly composed of crop fields (50%), grassland (28%), and fallows (12%). Territories compared with control sites were characterized by a lower proportion of crop fields, a higher proportion of fallows, more diverse land use types, more abundant field boundaries, unploughed strips, and tracks, and a higher availability of song posts. However, neither the number of larger ( $\geq 1$  cm), smaller ( $< 1$  cm) or all arthropods differed significantly among analysed land use types i.e. crop fields, fallows, grassland, unploughed strips. Our study confirms the significance of habitat heterogeneity and especially of sites with sparse vegetation (fallows > 10%) and song posts (> 70 m 'linear song posts' or > 1 solitary post per ha) for the habitat selection of male Corn Buntings. We conclude that measures to halt population declines of Corn Buntings seem to be relatively easy to implement, provided that farmers are granted a fair compensation."

Bengtsson et al. (2021) The future of biodiversity and ecosystem services depends on how well society manages and designs both protected areas and production landscapes.

P. 963: “The dynamic nature of ecosystems, also within reserves (to the dismay of some conservation biologists), will become increasingly important under climate change. For species not to go extinct as the climate becomes warmer they will need to migrate across production landscapes. These landscapes need to have enough suitable habitat forming a functional green infrastructure to allow species to persist. The future of biodiversity and ecosystem services (now also called Nature’s Contributions to People; NCP) thus depends on how well society manages and designs both protected areas and production landscapes.”

Berg (2008) On Ortolan Bunting: All the preferred habitats had heterogeneous ground vegetation characterized by patches with bare ground, or at least sparse ground vegetation, intermixed with patches with taller vegetation (including permanent set-asides, short rotation coppice, and grazed and unmanaged semi-natural pastures)

Berg (2008), abstract: Many granivorous birds have shown severe population declines in Europe during recent decades. The aim of the present study was to analyse habitat preferences and reproductive success of one such species, the Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*, in different farmland habitats in south-central Sweden. Four seemingly different land-use types were preferred: permanent set-asides, short rotation coppice, and grazed and unmanaged semi-natural pastures. Territories and random sites differed considerably in the proportion of these preferred land-use types; 39% of territories had > 70% preferred habitat (at the 100-m scale) compared to 5% of random sites. In contrast, 22% of territories and 65% of random sites had no preferred habitats. All the preferred habitats had heterogeneous ground vegetation characterized by patches with bare ground, or at least sparse ground vegetation, intermixed with patches with taller vegetation. Ortolan Buntings also preferred a heterogeneous habitat structure with occurrence of field islets, shrubby edges, barns and electric wires, which could act as song posts or suitable nest-sites, in 88% of territories. At a larger (1-km square) scale, territories occupied by pairs aggregated strongly in areas with high proportions of preferred habitats. The number of territories with single males correlated positively with the number of pairs, which suggests that conspecific attraction may influence territory distribution. No measured habitat factors were related to reproductive success. However, due to habitat preferences and the higher proportion of paired males in one habitat type (set-aside), the production of young (fledglings/ha) is expected to be higher in set-asides, as well as in short-rotation coppices and semi-natural pastures. Thus, these habitats are important for the conservation of the Ortolan Bunting. Large areas with habitat structures such as field islets are especially important because the Ortolan Bunting breeds in aggregations in these areas.

Berg & Pärt, 1994: found that four of 17 bird species sampled showed a significant positive association with set-aside fields: skylark *Alauda arvensis*, whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*, whitethroat *Sylvia communis* and linnet *Carduelis cannabina*.

A replicated site comparison study of 24 one-year-old set-aside fields and 24 cereal fields in Uppland, central Sweden (Berg & Part 1994) found that four of 17 bird species sampled showed a significant positive association with set-aside fields: skylark *Alauda arvensis*, whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*, whitethroat *Sylvia communis* and linnet *Carduelis cannabina*. Other species showed greater association with unfarmed habitats, roads and houses, forest edges or open habitat. The study plots were of similar size, edge and habitat structure. Each was sampled seven times for 28 species of breeding bird from April-June 1992. Species with at least 10 territories were examined.

BirdLife Europe & EEB (2022): An area of at least 10% of non-productive elements, including fallow land, is critical for the maintenance and restoration of biodiversity on agricultural land.

BirdLife Europe & EEB (2022) *Key messages*: » An area of at least 10% of non-productive elements, including fallow land, is critical for the maintenance and restoration of biodiversity on agricultural land. This has been reflected by including a corresponding target in the EU Biodiversity Strategy. » The analysis shows that the draft CAP strategic plans are unlikely to adequately contribute to reaching the 10% biodiversity target. The reasons include: low mandatory baseline, use of exemptions and weighting factors that inflate the real area. The ambition to support non-productive elements by voluntary schemes measured by indicator R.34 is blatantly inadequate and/or in many cases the area is overestimated. » The European Commission should not allow creative accounting with nature. It must insist that all CAP strategic plans include a target for indicator R.34 and show their ambition to support non-productive elements through voluntary measures. The value of the indicator must be sufficient to reach the Green Deal biodiversity target and include only measures that truly support non-productive elements and areas.

Boatman & Bence (2000) showed that set-aside sown with wild bird cover was a preferred habitat compared to other available habitats for nesting and foraging by a wild game bird species (pheasant) and a declining songbird species (skylark)

*Abstract*: Although there has been a considerable amount of research on the biodiversity benefits of set-aside, little work has been done on the habitat value of the wild bird cover option. Studies on a farm in Leicestershire showed that set-aside sown with wild bird cover was a preferred habitat compared to other available habitats for nesting and foraging by a wild game bird species (pheasant) and a declining songbird species (skylark) and was also a favoured habitat for a group of invertebrates of high conservation interest (butterflies). The relative value of wild bird cover in relation to other types of set-aside is discussed.

Boatman *et al.* (2010) The most significant effect was found to be the difference between crops (with set-aside as the priority)

Boatman *et al.* 2010 modellerer udviklingen i sanglærebestande ud fra kendskab til aktuel og formodet afgrødesammensætning, og siger p. xx): "The most significant effect was found to be the difference between crops (Wald = 81.55, df = 9, P < 0.001). Once this factor had been included in the model, none of the other three factors was found to have a significant effect. There was no evidence of any effect of region (Wald = 0.19, df = 1, P = 0.66), hedge length (Wald = 0.3, df = 1, P = 0.58) or field shape (Wald = 0.41, df = 1, P = 0.53) on Skylark density. The Wald statistics shown represent the effect of adding each of those factors after having added crop type in the model. The density of Skylarks on set-aside was significantly higher than on all other crops except oats, peas and maize (Table 2). The lack of significant difference between set-aside and oats/peas and maize was probably due to the large standard error of the mean for these two crops as a result of the limited number of observations (only seven, seven and 16 fields respectively in each case; Table 2).

Og videre i diskussionen p. 73): "The results for the predictive modelling carried out here suggest that at best, Skylark populations might be sustained, and that under the (more likely) market-led and energy crops scenarios, further reductions in density might occur. Recent increases in grain prices have provided an incentive to maximize crop production and the environment-led scenario now seems unlikely to represent a realistic possibility in the short to medium term (Gaskell *et al.* 2007). Furthermore, the European Commission has now abolished the set-aside obligation as part of the CAP mid-term 'Health Check'. As the

highest densities of Skylarks were found in set-aside, this is likely to place further pressure on Skylark populations unless alternative measures are put in place.

The model used here is based on simple habitat association, and takes no account of population dynamics, or of spatial or temporal interactions. The predictions arising from the models assume that abundance is determined by habitat availability within the breeding season, and that densities will increase or decrease in relation to crop area. However, if breeding success is not positively related to density, this relationship may not hold. For example, Donald et al. (2002) found that nesting success in set-aside was lower than in cereal crops, because of higher levels of predation in set-aside. This could have been a result of the common practice of spraying off rotational setaside with a broad-spectrum herbicide in May, thus making the nests more vulnerable to predation, or may simply reflect concentration of activity by predators in response to the high densities of Skylarks in set-aside fields (Donald et al. 2002). If this was a general trend, then set-aside could be an 'ecological trap', attracting high densities of Skylarks to breed and then exposing them to high predation levels. However, Wilson et al. (1997) found that breeding success was higher on set-aside than on (non-organic) cereals, with no difference in predation rates between crops. Set-aside may provide high-quality breeding habitat unless and until the vegetation cover is destroyed. Henderson et al. (2009) found that Skylark densities were higher in late-sprayed set-aside than early sprayed set-aside or other crops. If this were the case, the development of a management option to create similar habitat, but left undisturbed, to replace set-aside post-abolition, could increase Skylark productivity compared with current set-aside and agricultural crops.

Our analysis did not take account of any influence of neighbouring crops. Wilson et al. (1997) concluded that Skylarks require structurally diverse crop mosaics to make multiple nesting attempts throughout the season, switching to different crops during the season as their vegetation structure becomes suitable. Chamberlain and Gregory (1999) found that Skylark density was positively related to the diversity of field types, and Chamberlain et al. (1999) also found a positive relationship between Skylark density and habitat diversity in a survey of 608 1-km squares, but no effect of habitat diversity in predominantly farmland squares. Furthermore, in a second survey of 59 farmland plots in lowland England, Chamberlain et al. (1999) found that Skylark density decreased with increasing habitat diversity in lowland farmland plots in England. They point out that measures of habitat diversity give all habitats equal weight, regardless of their value to the species concerned. Thus, a square with set-aside, winter and spring cereals would be more suitable for Skylarks than one containing oilseed rape, grazed pasture and potatoes, yet both have the same crop diversity. They suggest that the components of diversity (i.e. specific crop types) may be the crucial factor rather than habitat diversity per se. Where large areas of mono-cropping occur, as predicted under the market-led scenario, it seems likely that this would reduce the breeding success of birds in these areas, but this could be dependent on crop types in the homogeneous areas."

Og p. 74: "The predicted declines indicated under the market-led and energy crop scenarios do not take into account any potential mitigation measures, for example through agri-environment schemes. For example, research for the 'Sustainable Arable Farming For an Improved Environment (SAFFIE)' project highlighted the potential for increasing the breeding success and productivity of Skylarks in winter wheat fields through the adoption of small undrilled patches. Where these were implemented, Skylark territory densities were higher (particularly in the crucial late-season breeding period) and the number of Skylark chicks reared was nearly 50% greater than in fields without undrilled patches (Clarke et al. 2007, first-year results were also reported by Morris et al. (2004)). Undrilled patches are available as 'Skylark plots' in Entry Level Stewardship (ELS), which is open to all farmers in England. Where these are implemented, they could offset the impact of winter wheat domination of the arable landscape, and allow levels of breeding success

comparable with those of more favourable crop types. However, initial uptake of Skylark plots in ELS has been low (Boatman et al. 2007), and it is likely that active promotion of this option will be required if it is to have a real impact. Other potentially valuable options for Skylark include overwintered stubbles (winter foraging) and beetle banks (for nesting).

**CONCLUSION** This study has shown that predicted changes in cropping pattern are likely to have negative impacts on Skylark densities, although the large amount of variability present in the data, the low replication for some crops and the assumptions made in the analysis need to be borne in mind when considering the results. Nevertheless, the results for crop type are consistent with similar analyses from the literature where these exist, suggesting that the results can be interpreted with some confidence. The most likely of the scenarios considered to come to fruition, at least in the short term, is the market-led scenario and this resulted in a predicted fall in Skylark numbers of around 14%. In contrast, the introduction of SRC (short-rotation coppice – altså energipil m.v.) as modelled here resulted almost entirely in losses in the fields converted to this crop, particularly in the 2nd and 3rd years of the rotation, with Skylarks continuing to use the crop to some extent in the 1st year. The implication of these results is that appropriate mitigation strategies need to be implemented, e.g. through the uptake of appropriate options in ELS, if a continued decline in Skylark population on lowland arable farmland is to be averted. However, if SRC replaced only permanent pasture or was focused on smaller, enclosed or sloping fields, impacts on Skylarks could be minimal.

Bracken (2004) found that the majority of field interior species including skylark, meadow pipit, pheasant and snipe showed a preference for non-rotational set-aside over rotational set-aside and the other management types.

**Abstract:** This study examined bird and butterfly diversity in agricultural land and woodland in Irish lowland landscapes in Co. Laois and Co. Kildare. Similar studies have been conducted in Britain and other European countries but it was believed that the situation might have been different in Ireland due to the island status, the physical environment and history of landuse of the country, which have resulted in impoverished bird and butterfly faunas.

In the breeding season, bird species richness and abundances were significantly different between the habitats studied: broadleaf forest, coniferous forest, pasture, set-aside and tillage. However, in winter this was not the case. The habitats differed in the bird species assemblages they contained both in summer and winter.

Farmland habitats contributed more unique species to the total bird diversity, which probably reflects the lack of woodland specialists in Ireland.

Farmland and woodland habitats did not differ significantly in terms of butterfly species diversity and abundance. However, this may have been due to the low numbers recorded. Individual species showed preference for different aspects of local habitat and vegetation structure including the presence of larval foodplants. The numbers of butterflies and species recorded were higher from transects placed along hedgerows compared to those in the middle of fields in the same farmland site.

In lowland farmland in Ireland, bird species diversity in the breeding season was greater in set-aside compared to neighbouring farmland. The type of management of set-aside was important and determined which species were likely to be found using the set-aside field. The majority of field interior species including skylark, meadow pipit, pheasant and snipe showed a preference for non-rotational set-aside over rotational set-aside and the other management types.

Landscape structure was also shown to be important for bird and butterfly diversity in lowland Ireland. In the breeding season, area of forest had a negative influence on bird diversity while large unfragmented areas of grassland had positive effects. The presence of areas of grassland and mature mixed forest in the landscape were more important for birds in winter. Butterfly diversity in the landscape was influenced by heterogeneity of habitat patches with grassland and forest patches having positive effects. Large areas of arable land and coniferous forest had negative effects on butterfly diversity.

The types of habitats present in the landscape and how they are managed, along with the structure of the landscape, determine species diversity of birds and butterflies in lowland Irish landscapes

Bracken & Bolger (2006) shows that set-aside does enhance bird diversity and abundance and that, in Ireland, the most effective form of set-aside is non-rotational. It also shows that the most appropriate form of set-aside will vary from situation to situation and that a one size fits all view should not be taken in the development of agri-environmental schemes.

**Summary:** Farmland birds have suffered a severe decline in recent years throughout Europe including Ireland. Agricultural intensification is believed to be the main cause and this has led to the introduction of agri-environmental schemes, of which set-aside is a part. Bird abundance and diversity were compared between set-aside and adjacent tillage or grassland at 18 locations. The set-aside sites were also assigned to one of four management types: rotational set-aside; non-rotational set-aside; first year set-aside that was productive grassland in the previous year; and long-term set-aside that was grazed by animals in winter. Species diversity and the abundances of skylark, meadow pipit and woodpigeon were significantly greater in set-aside sites.

Species diversity was not significantly different between set-aside management types and meadow pipit, skylark, pheasant, house sparrow, magpie, snipe and starling were closely associated with non-rotational set-aside, which also contained significantly larger numbers of these species compared to the other set-aside types.

This study shows that set-aside does enhance bird diversity and abundance and that, in Ireland, the most effective form of set-aside is non-rotational. It also shows that the most appropriate form of set-aside will vary from situation to situation and that a one size fits all view should not be taken in the development of agri-environmental schemes.

Buckingham *et al.* 1999: found that one taxonomic group (finches, sparrows and buntings) showed a significant selection of set-aside habitats

A randomized, replicated site comparison in the winters of 1992-1993 and 1993-1994 on 40 farmland sites in Devon and East Anglia, England (Buckingham *et al.* 1999) found that only one taxonomic group (finches, sparrows and buntings) showed a significant selection of set-aside habitats in both years, preferentially using sown set-aside less than one year old. Conversely, thrushes (four species) and hedge-dwelling species (European robin *Erithacus rubecula*, wren *Troglodytes troglodytes* and dunnock *Prunella modularis*) avoided regenerating set-aside less than one year old in Devon. At a species-level, a preference for set-aside was seen in both winters by one species in Devon (cirl bunting *Emberiza cirlus* selected sown set-aside more than one year-old) and two species (plus one introduced species not considered here) in East Anglia (grey partridge *Perdix perdix* preferred older sown set-aside and yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella* selected one year-old sown cover). A further 13 species in both East Anglia and Devon preferentially selected set-aside in one winter. Blackbird *Turdus merula* and five other species avoided some set-aside in at least one year in



Devon, no native species did so in East Anglia. The same 40 plots (50-100 ha) were surveyed each winter, although the amount of set-aside they contained varied due to rotation schemes.

Buckingham *et al.* (1999), **abstract:** “Between 1992 and 1993 over 600 000 ha of arable farmland in the UK were set aside under a production control mechanism of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) of the European Union. One of the management options for this set-aside land was to leave it as an over-winter fallow with a naturally regenerated green cover. This study was designed to test whether such land was used by seed-eating bird species, populations of many of which have undergone recent severe declines. Five out of six declining species recorded in the study were found in significantly greater numbers on this habitat than would be expected if the birds were randomly distributed over the farmland landscape. The results of this study, covering a wide geographical area, reinforce previous findings of the importance of winter food sources, particularly over-winter stubble fields, to declining farmland seed-eaters. Proposed changes to the CAP under Agenda 2000 include the reduction of the obligatory set-aside rate to zero. These results suggest that such a move might be detrimental to populations of declining farmland birds. There is an urgent need for an agri-environment scheme designed to integrate arable production and conservation objectives, which operates in the wider countryside, includes provision for over-winter stubble fields and is available to every arable farmer.”

[Busch \*et al.\* 2020: found that increasing the area of fallow land from 1.6 % in 2013 to 10 % of the total agricultural area in Germany would on average mean a 60 % increase of the populations of farmland birds](#)

[Busch *et al.* 2020 – brak og græs størst effekt] Farmland bird populations in Germany are declining at a higher speed than species inhabiting other habitats. We studied potential causes for bird population changes based on data from standardised German breeding bird monitoring schemes. We related population trends to covariates describing the changes in the agricultural landscape in Germany, weather conditions during the breeding season and for some migratory species, conditions at stopover and wintering sites. Linear mixed effect models were used to analyse effect strength at species level and conclusions are drawn for the overall group of farmland bird species. The area of grassland and fallow land was shown to have the strongest positive effects and the area of maize and rapeseed the strongest negative effects on farmland bird population trends. The results obtained also indicate that despite the consistent influence of weather conditions during the breeding season, land-use changes had a stronger impact on bird populations than weather. Conditions at Sahel wintering sites did not show a consistent effect on population trends. Based on these findings the study quantitatively underpins and ranks key factors shaping farmland bird populations in Germany. [Preference: Vibe for brak, Sanglærke for græs og Gulspurv for græs og vinterhvede]

Fra diskussionen (Busch *et al.* 2020 p. 14 (i fortrykket)): “We modelled the effects of the different variables as additive, which surely represents a simplification. Nevertheless, based on our results, increasing the area of fallow land from 1.6 % in 2013 to 10 % of the total agricultural area in Germany (increase of 1,465,000 ha) would on average mean a 60 % increase of the populations of farmland birds considered in our analysis. It has to be noted, that due to our model parameterization with an index of area fallow and area maize, this effect is based on a simultaneous decrease of the same area planted with maize. Additionally, if a) the nationwide percentage of grassland is increased from about 27 % to 30 % (by 390,000 ha; retaining ratios of high- and low-quality types) and b) about 215,000 ha sown with rapeseed are restored to a representative mix of prior use, these measures would on average increase the farmland bird populations by another 17 %

and 14 % respectively. Thus, according to our scenario based on the model results, a far-reaching change in agricultural management would lead to an increase of the farmland bird populations in Germany of up to 90 % compared to the year 2013 - by cutting down on bioenergy production, setting aside land for conservation and by preservation and restoration of cultivated grasslands. This scenario is based on the simplifying assumption that effects are additive and neither amplify nor complement each other.”

[Chamberlain et al \(2009\)](#) found that Northern Lapwings occurred on about 40 % of fallow plot options within agrienvironment schemes; this could be increased by improved management and better placement of plots in the landscape.

#### **Capsule**

Northern Lapwings *Vanellus vanellus* occurred on about 40 % of fallow plot options within agrienvironment schemes; this could be increased by improved management and better placement of plots in the landscape.

#### **Aims**

To determine the use by Lapwings (and other species) of fallow plot options from the UK Countryside Stewardship and Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) agri-environment options.

#### **Methods**

The number of Lapwings and other bird species using a plot and any evidence of breeding by Lapwings was recorded. Adjacent crop and boundary features, and vegetation height and bare ground within the plot, were recorded.

#### **Results**

Approximately 40 % of the 212 plots surveyed were used by Lapwings. Breeding was suspected on 25 % of plots and was proven on 11 %. Lapwing presence was lower where woodland was close to the plot and breeding evidence was more likely on plots with more bare ground. Sky Larks *Alauda arvensis*, Woodpigeons *Columba palumbus* and Yellowhammers *Emberiza citrinella* were also frequently recorded.

#### **Conclusions**

Fallow plot options are one of the most expensive per-hectare agri-environment options under HLS. Better ‘value for money’ could be achieved by ensuring that a greater proportion of plots are:

- (1) managed to promote a short broken sward, with plenty of bare ground; and
- (2) placed in open landscapes away from woods and vertical features.

[Bianchi et al. \(2006\)](#) Sustainable pest regulation in agricultural landscapes: a review on landscape composition, biodiversity and natural pest control.

Agricultural intensification has resulted in a simplification of agricultural landscapes by the expansion of agricultural land, enlargement of field size and removal of non-crop habitat. These changes are considered to be an important cause of the rapid decline in farmland biodiversity, with the remaining biodiversity concentrated in field edges and non-crop habitats. The simplification of landscape composition and the decline of biodiversity may affect the functioning of natural pest control because non-crop habitats provide requisites for a broad spectrum of natural enemies, and the exchange of natural enemies between crop and non-crop habitats is likely to be diminished in landscapes dominated by arable cropland. In this review, we test the hypothesis that natural pest control is enhanced in complex patchy landscapes with a high proportion of non-crop habitats as compared to simple large-scale landscapes with little associated noncrop habitat. In 74% and 45% of the studies reviewed, respectively, natural enemy populations were higher and pest pressure lower in complex landscapes versus simple landscapes. Landscape-driven pest

suppression may result in lower crop injury, although this has rarely been documented. Enhanced natural enemy activity was associated with herbaceous habitats in 80% of the cases (e.g. fallows, field margins), and somewhat less often with wooded habitats (71%) and landscape patchiness (70%). The similar contributions of these landscape factors suggest that all are equally important in enhancing natural enemy populations. We conclude that diversified landscapes hold most potential for the conservation of biodiversity and sustaining the pest control function.

[Bright \*et al.\* \(2015\): The first study to demonstrate that standard AES management without substantial ongoing advisory support can increase or maintain the densities of widespread declining species \[also grey partridge\].](#)

Bright *et al.* (2015), Abstract: Agri-environment schemes (AES) are the main policy mechanism available to reverse the widespread losses of farmland biodiversity across Europe. Previous examples of AES enhancing the abundance of farmland birds have been restricted to targeted species recovery programmes, often with bespoke [skræddersyet] habitat management and high levels of advisory support for landowners. Here, we tested whether standard higher-tier AES agreements targeted at multiple species and with lower levels of advisory support than targeted species recovery programmes can enhance the breeding densities of farmland birds. Surveys of breeding birds were undertaken during 2008 and 2011 on 65 farms under Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) and 21 farms lacking AES interventions, in three regions of England. After allowing for any impacts of predator control, changes in density were more positive on HLS farms in at least one region for six priority species [grey partridge, lapwing and tree sparrow (HLS target species) and reed bunting, house sparrow and yellowhammer (of conservation concern)]. Five of the six species had mixed diets and were predominantly associated with field edges; the other (lapwing) probably responded to the provision of field-centre fallow plots. Changes in bird numbers were not consistently related to the extent of AES habitat provision. This is the first study to demonstrate that standard AES management without substantial ongoing advisory support can increase or maintain the densities of widespread declining species.

[Buschmann \*et al.\* \(2023\) An effective conservation measure is the lapwing plot. The cost for at least stabilizing the German lapwing population by lapwing plots range between 1.6 and 2.8 million € per year.](#)

Buschmann *et al.* (2023) The populations of farmland birds such as the lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) are declining sharply. These populations suffer from frequent cultivation measures and degraded habitat quality on arable land. An effective conservation measure is the lapwing plot, an agriculturally unused section within an arable field. We address German lapwing population development and dispersal if different shares of the population are safeguarded by the use of lapwing plots. We adapted a matrix projection model and extended it by projecting population development in three different habitat types (arable land, grassland and optimal habitat) and in varying scenarios. We introduced a cellular automaton and developed a new algorithm to simulate dispersal dynamics. The results show that without further conservation measures, the population could decline from 70 000 breeding pairs in 2006 to 12 000 or 23 000 pairs in 2055, depending on the underlying assumptions. Our model can be used to set environmental goals and then simulate the necessary implementation levels of conservation measures, such as the lapwing plot, and estimate the corresponding costs. For the goal of at least stabilising the population, 60% of the pairs in the normal agricultural landscape need to be safeguarded. For the population on arable land the corresponding costs range between 1.6 and 2.8 million € per year. [Den tyske landbrugsstøtte ligger ifølge den danske EU-oplysning til sammenligning på godt 5,1 mia. €/år, hvorfor omkostningerne udgør mellem 3 og 5 o/oo af støtten].

Clarke et al. (1997): More bird individuals (average 20 %) and species (average 56 %) used the strips than the adjacent crop area (average 7 % individuals and 33 % species). However, the highest proportions of both individuals and species were recorded in the field boundaries (average 68 % ind. and 80 % spp.)

*Summarised by Sutherland et al. (2021):* A replicated, controlled study in summer and autumn of 1995 and 1996 on 15 sown set-aside strips on a farm in Cambridgeshire, UK (Clarke et al. 1997) found that more bird individuals (average 20 %) and species (average 56 %) used the strips than the adjacent crop area (average 7 % individuals and 33 % species) in both years. However, the highest proportions of both individuals and species were recorded in the field boundaries (average 68 % ind. and 80 % spp.). The highest species richness was found in the most diverse grass mix. The seed mixture 'Tübinger Mischung' with only wildflowers attracted most individuals, but the lowest species numbers. Note that no statistical analyses were performed on these data. Five seed mixtures were sown on set-aside areas (minimum 20 m wide and 100 m long) in the autumns of 1993 and 1994. Seed mixtures contained either only grass species (three mixes including three to six species, cost £15-£70/ha), a mix of grasses and herbs (six grass and eight herb species, cost £300/ha) or only herbs 11 species, £35/ha). Birds were recorded during 15 min point counts on 10 occasions between June and September 1995 and July and October 1996. Each bird's location was recorded in three categories: field boundary, set-aside strip and crop. After each count, the strips were walked to flush any birds present but not visible during the count.

Concepción *et al.* (2020): The next CAP reform could include compulsory measures that support connectivity, heterogeneity and small-landscape elements characteristic in each region, combined with more regionally-orientated voluntary measures

Concepción *et al.* (2020), Highlights: **1.** Biodiversity-habitat relationships greatly vary among regions and organisms' groups. **2.** Some of these relationships were non-linear and less significant in complex systems. **3.** Small field size, connectivity and landscape elements supported overall diversity. **4.** Small field size, grassland and fallow favoured farmland specialists. **5.** Permanent and cover crops, agroforestry and crop diversification had fewer benefits.

Conover et al. (2014) concluded that buffers are attractive to farmland breeding birds and may provide important ecological benefits to supplement a conservation management system founded on large blocks of early succession vegetation

**ABSTRACT:**—Creating and restoring patches of noncrop early-succession vegetation within agricultural landscapes may mitigate grassland bird population declines caused by agricultural land use and intensification. Achieving this goal requires an ability to balance avian benefits with agronomics, which may be facilitated by understanding how bird communities respond to various conservation practices. We evaluated bird richness, abundance, Shannon diversity, and Total Avian Conservation Value in 20 replicates of four Conservation Reserve Program practices in an intensive rowcrop agricultural landscape in the Mississippi Alluvial Valley from May–Jul., 2005–2007. Conservation practices included: (1) large blocks of structurally-diverse early-succession vegetation (6–8 y old trees) and three buffer types; (2) 30 m wide monotypic filter strips with tall dense switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*); (3) 30 m wide diverse filter strips with a forb-native warm season grass mixture; and (4) 60 m wide early-succession riparian forest buffers (1–3 y old trees). The breeding bird community was dominated by red-winged blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*; 43 % of total) and dickcissels (*Spiza americana*; 42 % of total) but commonly included eastern meadowlarks (*Sturnella magna*), indigo buntings (*Passerina cyanea*), mourning doves (*Zenaidura macroura*), and northern bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*). We observed  $\geq 1.8$  x more dickcissels in large blocks and diverse filter strips than other buffers and greater Shannon diversity in large blocks than any buffers ( $P < 0.05$ ). Diverse filter strips had  $\geq 1.6$  x greater overall bird density (7.2 birds/0.6 ha), on average, than all

other practices. Based on these data, we conclude that buffers are attractive to farmland breeding birds and may provide important ecological benefits to supplement a conservation management system founded on large blocks of early succession vegetation.

Donald *et al.* 2002: found that skylark *Alauda arvensis* nests had significantly lower survival in set-aside, compared to in cereals

A replicated site comparison in 1996-1998 on 22 farms in southern England (Donald *et al.* 2002) found that skylark *Alauda arvensis* nests had significantly lower survival in set-aside, compared to in cereals (22 % overall survival for 525 nests in set-aside vs 38 % survival for 183 nests in cereal fields). There were no differences between set-aside and other crop types (19 % survival for 173 nests in grass fields, 29 % survival for 60 nests in other field types) or between rotational and non-rotational set-aside. On one intensively-studied farm, over 90 % of 422 skylark nests were found on ten fields of well-established, non-rotational set-aside.

Douglas *et al.* (2010): Set-aside typically offers a heterogeneous sward and birds foraging within this may be less restricted in their choice of accessible foraging sites, relative to the dense swards of intensively managed cereal crops.

Douglas *et al.* (2010), **Capsule:** No strong determinants of patch selection were found in set-aside; in cereal fields tractor tramlines were favoured. **Aims:** To examine and compare the factors influencing patch selection by Yellowhammers foraging for nestling food in set-aside and cereals. **Methods:** Observations of adults provisioning nestlings were made at 21 nests on lowland mixed farmland in northeast Scotland. Vegetation measurements and arthropod abundance from mapped foraging sites were compared with control sites within the same habitats. **Results:** In set-aside, no differences in vegetation and arthropods were found between foraging and control sites. In cereal fields, tractor tramlines with sparser vegetation than cropped areas were favoured. **Conclusions:** Set-aside typically offers a heterogeneous sward and birds foraging within this may be less restricted in their choice of accessible foraging sites, relative to the dense swards of intensively managed cereal crops. Recent policy changes have resulted in the reconversion of set-aside to more intensive cereal cropping; this may reduce the availability of beneficial foraging habitat for farmland birds.

Eraud & Boutin (2002) Farming systems that decrease field size and increase set-aside and lucerne instead of oilseed rape, maize and sunflower will benefit Skylark and other declining farmland species.

**Capsule:** Small field size and the maintenance of set-aside and lucerne are important to ensure high breeding pair densities and productivity.

**Aims:** To investigate the effects of crop types and their attributes on density and productivity of breeding Skylark.

**Methods:** At each of four selected study sites in western France, territory density, vegetation height, vegetation cover and field size was estimated by field and attempts were made to find nests. Crop types included winter and spring cereals, oilseed rape, sunflower, maize, grass, lucerne, set-aside, and bare ground.

**Results:** About 80 % of Skylark territories included more than one crop type. Birds preferred small fields and territory density decreased with increasing field size. Density was highest in crops with low vegetation height and cover. Set-aside, lucerne and grass supported highest territory density. Fledging productivity

was highest in set-aside and lucerne, and was zero on bare ground. Skylark density decreased throughout the breeding season (–26 % in 1999 and –29 % in 2000), suggesting an instability in territory distribution or activity in intensive farmland.

Conclusions: Farming systems that decrease field size and increase set-aside and lucerne instead of oilseed rape, maize and sunflower will benefit Skylark and other declining farmland species.

### [Eraud \*et al.\* 2014: The maintenance of rich weed habitats is a crucial issue for populations of skylarks that overwinter in agricultural landscapes of Western France](#)

Eraud *et al.* (2014), Abstract: Assessing the diet of farmland birds during the wintering period has important implications for conservation. However, for some species such as the skylark, the diet composition remains poorly known across its wintering range. On the basis of gizzards collected in mid-winter over a 10-year interval and in two regions of Western France, we quantified the contribution of seeds and investigated whether the diet differed between sexes, regions and period and whether seeds entered the diet with respect to their size, nutritive value or their spring occurrence within the farmland landscape. Also, the amount of seeds that birds need to consume for meeting their daily energy requirements was assessed by simulation and compared with estimates measured in captive individuals. Thirty-eight seed species belonging to 16 families were identified in gizzards. All species but one were weeds, and cereal grains were absent from all gizzards. The diet differed slightly between sexes but contrasted between regions and periods. We found no clear evidence for a selective intake based on seed traits. Conversely, our results suggest that weed seeds would enter the diet with respect to their relative occurrence. Our simulation indicated that birds should ingest about 8 g (4200–5600 seeds) to meet their daily requirements. A mean value of 6.7 g per day was measured in captive skylarks. These results suggest that the maintenance of rich weed habitats is a crucial issue for populations of skylarks that overwinter in agricultural landscapes of Western France.

### [Firbank \*et al.\* 1993 om potentialer i braklægning](#)

Firbank *et al.* 1993 har i en længere rapport redegjort for potentialerne i at udnytte braklægningsordningerne til fremme af 'wildlife', herunder rotationsræk, varig brak, langtidsrestaurering af habitater ved brug af brak samt endelig generel forbedring af de braklagte arealer mhp forbedring af forholdene for *wildlife*. Der gives forslag til forvaltning inden for alle de nævnte områder. Rapporten afsluttes med de meget sigende ord (p. 146): "While we hope that this book is of some help in showing how farmers can improve their environment within set-aside programmes, there is far less experience farming for wildlife than farming for more conventional forms of production. This book is, therefore, a first step only; the skills of the farmers and advisors remain paramount in managing set-aside land for wildlife."

### [Firbank \*et al.\* 2003: found that set-aside supported a range of biodiversity](#)

A replicated, randomized site comparison study of 200 farms in England with set-aside (Firbank *et al.* 2003) found that set-aside supported a range of biodiversity. Rotational set-aside supported 12 plant species/site and one nationally rare species (corn marigold *Chrysanthemum segetum*). On non-rotational set-aside, plant species richness and cover of annuals was greater on naturally regenerated than sown grass sites (27 vs 20 species/site); cover by perennials showed the opposite trend. Older naturally regenerated sites had more perennial species, but plant communities did not appear to be developing into those considered of conservation value. Twenty percent of farmers reported an increase in wildflowers, and 47 % reported an increase in bird numbers on rotational set-aside. Fifty-one percent of farmers reported an increase in wildflowers and 69 % an increase in bird numbers on non-rotational set-aside. Bird density in set-aside was nine times higher than in crops for rotational set-aside and seven times higher for non-rotational sown



grassland set-aside. Management of set-aside had minimal effect on bird abundance. Significantly more invertebrates were found in set-aside than in the adjacent crop. Vegetation was assessed on 100 rotational (spring 1996-1997) and 100 non-rotational set-aside sites (summer 1996-1997). Breeding bird territories were mapped on 63-92 farms (1996-1997). More intensive surveys were undertaken for: vegetation (8+ per year) on six farms, habitat use by birds and invertebrates (pitfall trapping, May-June) on 11 farms (1996-1997). Pest data are not presented here.

[Gillings et al. \(2010\)](#) demonstrates that farmland bird densities tended to be higher on set-aside than on either cereal or oilseed rape crops and that 26–52 % of the farmland populations of key granivorous passerines were present on stubble fields.

**Abstract:** Between 1988 and 2007, set-aside, a European Commission production control measure, took an average of 10 % of arable farmland in the EU out of production each year.

In 2007, the set-aside rate was set to 0 % and the scheme was later abandoned altogether. By assessing associations of farmland birds with set-aside and quantifying the extent of set-aside loss, this study aims to assess the implications of set-aside loss for farmland bird conservation. During the lifespan of set-aside, a large number of studies assessed the biodiversity value of set-aside and other agricultural crops and habitats. Where possible we considered measurable benefits of set-aside. However, some studies did not specify the type of set-aside and in some cases set-aside fields were grouped with cereal stubble fields. In these cases, we took the pragmatic approach of assessing the value of generic stubble fields as a conservative minimum estimate of the value of set-aside fields. A reanalysis of data from 30 intensive studies demonstrates that farmland bird densities tended to be higher on set-aside than on either cereal or oilseed rape crops. Without mitigation, these are the two crops likely to replace most set-aside fields. We estimate that 26–52 % of the farmland populations of key granivorous passerines were present on stubble fields, giving an indication of the proportion of birds likely to be present on set-aside fields within this broader category. An extensive survey of lowland farmland during winters 1999 / 2000, 2000 / 2001 and 2002 / 2003, repeated in February 2008, showed a doubling of the number of 1-km squares with no stubble and a halving of the number of squares with more than 10 ha of stubble. After set-aside abandonment, 72 % of squares had no stubble in the important late winter period, confirming that many of the former stubble fields were retained as set-aside. A simple correlative model suggests that this could cause a small increase in the rate of decline of Skylark *Alauda arvensis* and Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella* populations, assuming causal links between stubble area and demography. However, even if this assumption cannot be supported, these results clearly indicate that a significant proportion of some farmland bird populations will need to find alternative breeding and foraging habitats.

[Hawro et al. \(2015\)](#) Landscape complexity is not a major trigger of species richness and food web structure of European cereal aphidparasitoids.

Hawro *et al.* (2015), abstract: In fragmented farmland landscapes structural complexity and low agricultural intensification should decrease the abundance of crop aphids due to increased abundances and species diversity of aphid enemies, including hymenopteran parasitoids. Here we study the effects of landscape structure and agricultural intensification on parasitism rates, abundances, and species richness of aphids and their parasitoids in five different regions in Europe. While total aphid numbers did not differ significantly among regions, we observed marked differences between Scandinavian and central European sites with respect to the species composition of aphids and their parasitoids and parasitism rates. In the cross-country comparison landscape complexity and agricultural intensification did not significantly affect total aphid densities, although we observed species-specific reactions to land use. We also observed a



tendency towards increased parasitoid species richness at low agricultural intensification but not at high landscape structure.

[Heldbjerg & Fox, 2016](#): Although the Con Bunting may have benefitted from the period of setaside in all regions of Denmark during 1993-2007 inclusive, it shows parallel declines in abundance since 2003, i.e. before the cessation of the set-aside period

[Heldbjerg & Fox 2016, uddrag af diskussionen p. 218 om Bomlærke og (bl.a.) brak] Despite the marked differences between agricultural practices in the West of Denmark compared to the East (more cattle, fodder crops and pasture, and less cereal and other crops in West than in East), we found little convincing evidence for differences between trends in farmland specialist bird populations between regions, suggesting that the general decline of farmland birds is most likely caused by the overall intensification in agriculture. The only major exception was Corn Bunting, which showed unchanged abundance in Central and West, but suffered a significant decline in the East as hypothesized. Although very much an arable specialist, the Corn Bunting requires a mosaic farmland landscape comprising arable fields, but including some grassland (Fox & Heldbjerg, 2008), where it benefits from delayed mowing (Perkins et al. 2013). As a result, it especially has benefitted from the increase in the growth of seed grass in Denmark, where single species crops of grass are commercially grown for the production of seed, forming dense grass swards that provide dense cover and are harvested relatively late (late July/early August) compared to hay and silage (A.D. Fox unpubl.). The Corn Bunting has shown major distributional change and numerical decline within Denmark (especially in the East) between the 1970s and 1990s (Grell 1998). These changes continued to the present, presumably due to the continued intensification of arable agriculture in the East region that increasingly removes grassland from the increasingly homogenous farmland landscape. Although the species may have benefitted from the period of setaside in all regions of Denmark during 1993-2007 inclusive, it shows parallel declines in abundance since 2003, i.e. before the cessation of the set-aside period (Fig. 2), suggesting that also other factors were contributing to the decline

[Henderson et al. 2000a](#): Found five of six bird functional groups at higher densities on set-aside fields

A replicated site comparison study with paired sites in 1996-1997 across 92 arable farms in England (Henderson et al. 2000a) found five of six bird functional groups at higher densities on set-aside fields, compared to winter cereals or grassland (although thrushes only showed this preference in one year). On ten farms with rotational and non-rotational set-aside, all groups except crows were found at higher densities on rotational fields. All groups except gamebirds (which showed no significant field preferences) were more likely to be found on set-aside than other field types. Functional groups of birds were gamebirds, pigeons, crows, skylarks *Alauda arvensis*, thrushes and seed-eating songbirds (sparrows, buntings and finches).

[Henderson et al. 2000b](#): found that set-aside fields supported more species and higher densities of birds than adjacent crop fields

A replicated paired sites comparison study in 1996-1997 on 11 farms in east and west England (Henderson et al. 2000b) found that set-aside fields supported more species and higher densities of birds than adjacent crop fields (1.4-7.1 birds/ha and 7-21 species for 11 set-aside fields vs 0.2-0.8 birds/ha and 2-5 species on 11 crop fields). Between 78 % and 100 % of species found on both field types were more abundant on set-aside. These preferences were stronger (although not significantly so) for rotational set-aside, compared to non-rotational. [Artikel downloaded I arkiv – omtaler eksplicit Sanglærke (ikke significant) og Gulspurv (significant – tydeligst tæt på brak)]

Henderson *et al.* 2001: found that skylark *Alauda arvensis* densities on set-aside fields ranged from zero to approximately 2.7 birds/ha

Another analysis (Henderson *et al.* 2001) as part of the same study as Henderson *et al.* 2000a, found that skylark *Alauda arvensis* densities on set-aside fields ranged from zero to approximately 2.7 birds/ha. A total of 74 set-aside fields (36 rotational and 38 non-rotational) were examined, each from a different farm. Fields with approximately 30 % bare earth, straw and litter had the highest densities of skylarks.

Henderson *et al.* 2009: found that set-aside fields sprayed in May or June supported higher densities of grey partridge *Perdix perdix*, seed-eating songbirds and skylark *Alauda arvensis*, compared to set-aside sprayed in April

A before-and-after site comparison study in 2000-2005 in Bedfordshire, England (Henderson *et al.* 2009) found that set-aside fields sprayed in May or June supported higher densities of grey partridge *Perdix perdix*, seed-eating songbirds and skylark *Alauda arvensis*, compared to set-aside sprayed in April or crop fields (although seed-eating songbirds were equally numerous on oilseed rape *Brassica napus* fields). Early-sprayed set-aside had consistently lower densities of all species, compared to all land uses except winter-sown wheat.

Herzon *et al.* 2011: found that set-aside fields supported 25–40 % more species and held 60–105 % more pairs of birds.

(Herzon *et al.* 2011, abstract, p. 3) “The set-aside obligation under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) brought widespread benefits for wild farmland species. Shortly after it was abolished in 2008, the national political process in Finland replaced it with a targeted agri-environment scheme for environmental fallow. Though potentially highly valuable, the value of the current scheme for securing biodiversity is yet to be confirmed. This study evaluates the importance of set-asides established under CAP to all birds of open farmland based on national monitoring data from 2001 to 2006. The set-aside fields supported 25–40 % more species and held 60–105 % more pairs of birds typical of open farmland in comparison with cereal fields within a similar landscape setting. The estimated effect of set-aside presence in farmland on the studied bird species is large enough to trigger considerable changes in bird populations.”

Og fra diskussionen (p. 7) “The results affirmed the value of the CAP set-aside as breeding habitat for a number of typical farmland bird species in Finland. This is one of only a few studies from continental Europe and the first one from the Nordic countries that focuses on environmental effects of set-asides as a land use type in contrast to cereal fields. Given the range in field sizes in the study, the mere presence of set-asides was more important for species richness than their size. The number of territories was raised both by the presence of set-asides and by an increase in their size. In contrast, increasing the size of cereal fields did not affect bird abundances in two study years. Birds benefit from an expanded area of set-asides due to the enhanced carrying capacity of large fields (Kleijn *et al.*, 2006) or due to habitat preferences of some of the species studied here (Vickery *et al.*, 2004).

Because set-aside parcels below 0.8 ha were excluded from the analysis, the role of very small set-asides for farmland birds therefore remains undetermined here. However, the issue calls for further research since 48 % of environmental fallow fields were below 0.8 ha in 2010. Such small areas enrolled into the agri-environment schemes are unlikely to effectively enhance species richness of birds (Vickery *et al.*, 2004; Kleijn *et al.*, 2006). The importance of set-aside patches too small to accommodate a territory may nonetheless be considerable as foraging sites for farmland species that nest in field boundaries or outside fields and/or that tend to forage close to the edges of fields. By dealing exclusively with breeding birds this

study underrates the use of fallow swards for foraging, including the non-breeding season (van Buskirk and Willi, 2004). “

[Hoffmann \*et al.\* 2011: fandt, at 30 % af 626 Bomlærker, der ynglede i et 29 km<sup>2</sup> stort område i Tyskland, fandtes i de kun ca. 12 % af arealet, der var braklagt](#)

Hoffmann *et al.* (2011) fandt, at 30 % af 626 Bomlærker, der ynglede i et 29 km<sup>2</sup> stort område i Tyskland, fandtes i de kun ca. 12 % af arealet, der var braklagt, og at kun 7 % ynglede i den mest udbredte afgrødetype, nemlig majs, som dækkede 25 % af arealet. Konkluderede at Bomlærken kan betragtes som en typisk mosaik-krævende art i det egentlige dyrkningslandskab – herunder med behov for små græsarealer eller plots med vilde urter i kombination med struktur-rig brak. Stort set det samme når Lilleør, 2007 frem til, nemlig at Bomlærken foretrækker mosaiklandskaber med stor variation, blot ikke træer, tørvebund og store arealer med vedvarende græs, men derimod gerne dyrket jord, blot der er små, udyrkede afsnit ind i mellem.

[Josefsson \*et al.\* 2013: efterviser, at randzoner langs vandløb har en positiv effekt på lærkebestandene i de tilgrænsende marker](#)

Et svensk studie (Josefsson *et al.*, 2013) efterviser, at randzoner langs vandløb har en positiv effekt på lærkebestandene i de tilgrænsende marker, fordi der er et rigere insektliv i overgangen mellem randzonerne og de dyrkede marker. Studiet tilbageviste således tidligere studier, som indikerede, at randzoner ikke havde nævneværdig betydning, eftersom Sanglærken sjældent fouragerer i selve randzonerne med deres typisk høje vegetation.

[Kleijn \*et al.\* 2006: found that installing 6 m-wide grass field margin strips along arable fields had no effect on the number of birds](#)

A replicated paired site-comparison study in 2006 in the UK (Kleijn *et al.* 2006) found that installing 6 m-wide grass field margin strips along arable fields had no effect on the number of birds or bird species found to breed or forage on farmland. Under the Countryside Stewardship Scheme, these 6 m-wide grass field margin strips were either created through natural regeneration, sowing grass species, or sowing a grass/wildflower mixture. The study surveyed seven pairs of fields (one with field margins managed under the Countryside Stewardship Scheme, one conventionally farmed) and the 12.5 ha area surrounding each field, from each of three different parts of the UK four times during the breeding season.

[Kovács-Hostyánszki \*et al.\* \(2011\) can conclude that set-aside fields provide important habitat patches for plants and insects, in some cases with similar value to semi-natural grasslands.](#)

Kovács-Hostyánszki *et al.* (2011), abstract: The area of non-cropped habitats has been decreasing in Europe largely due to land conversion into cropland and energy crops. In Hungary, special agri-environment schemes in Environmentally Sensitive Areas require the establishment of sown set-aside fields especially for endangered bird species. We tested if these set-aside fields are beneficial for plants and insects of agricultural landscapes. We compared the herbaceous flora, grasshopper (Orthoptera), bee (Apidae) and butterfly (Rhopalocera) fauna of five field types (1, 2 and 3 year-old set-aside, winter cereal fields and semi-natural grasslands). Species richness, abundance and species composition of insects were tested against field type and plant species richness. The wheat fields were the poorest habitats for all taxa. The species richness and abundance of the studied insects were usually higher in set-aside than in cereal fields with no significant difference between set-aside of different age. We found the highest number of orthopteran species and butterfly individuals in semi-natural grasslands. At community level, field type and plant species

richness had a significant effect on orthopteran assemblages. Butterfly assemblages were significantly affected by field type. Bee assemblages were not significantly related to the above variables. We can conclude that set-aside fields provide important habitat patches for plants and insects, in some cases with similar value to semi-natural grasslands. Our results emphasise the importance of set-aside within the Hungarian agri-environment scheme. Establishment of set-aside management in other Central European countries will likely to be of a similar value as the Hungarian set-aside fields.

Lilleør (2007): Corn bunting had strong preference for tilled land with many fields and high crop diversity and density was highest where small grassy habitats made up 1-5 % of all habitats.

**Abstract** Male Corn Buntings *Miliaria calandra* were mapped in a 28 km<sup>2</sup> farmland area in Djursland, Denmark. Mean territory density was 8.8 territories km<sup>-2</sup> but with great local variation, up to a maximum of 23.9 territories km<sup>-2</sup>. The distribution of birds and habitat characteristics (crops, hedgerows, soil types etc.) were analysed by using Principal Component Analysis (PCA) and linear multiple regression. The highest Corn Bunting densities were found on the most fertile soil type, while the birds strongly avoided bog, forest and humus soil areas. There was a clear preference for areas with the greatest proportion of tillage, but with a strong preference for tilled land with many fields and high crop diversity. Corn Bunting density correlated significantly with several crop types, but sometimes this was merely due to a preference for tilled land per se. After controlling for extent of tilled land, only winter rape, beets and mixed spring barley/peas showed significant positive partial correlation coefficients with Corn Bunting density while rye was avoided. In the tilled land density was highest where small grassy habitats made up 1-5 % of all habitats. The decline in the Corn Bunting population in Denmark during several decades and the partial recent recovery is discussed. Changes in farming systems from traditional mixed farming to more specialized and intensive farming seems to have been an important factor in the decline.

Lindström et al. (2017) found support for the benefits of increased use of set-asides, wild bird cover, skylark plots, buffer strips and appropriately managed ecological focus areas.

Lindström *et al.* (2017), Summary; Many birds species connected to the agricultural landscape have for several decades fared poorly in Sweden, as well as in Europe as a whole. This is reflected in the decline of the Farmland Bird Index, an official EU indicator for farmland birds specifically, and biodiversity in general. The Swedish Board of Agriculture invited us to propose measures that will improve the conditions for farmland birds in Sweden. In this report, we have briefly summarized the scientific literature on potential drivers of farmland bird numbers, analysed temporal trends in farmland birds and some farming practices, and modelled the spatial distribution of farmland birds in relation to farming practices. The bird data come from the Swedish Breeding Bird Survey, and the farming practice data from the Swedish Land Parcel Information System (Swedish Board of Agriculture). Based on our findings, we propose a suite of measures concerning the quantity and quality of farmland that would improve the future conditions for farmland birds. At the more general level, farmland birds would benefit if the ongoing loss of farmland in general and important semi-natural habitats in particular was halted. We also propose that farmland birds would benefit from measures taken to promote mixed farming (combined animal husbandry and crop production at the same farms), notably to increase crop farming in the north and animal husbandry on the plains. Increased use of set-asides of various kind, not least those of varied vegetation structure and year-round cover, would also benefit farmland birds. Furthermore, farmland birds would most likely also benefit from more wetlands in the agricultural landscape, reduced use of pesticides and inorganic fertilizers, and more spring-sown crops. They may benefit from higher crop diversity at the farm level, and we found some evidence for this. Some more directed measures may also benefit the Farmland Bird Index; we found

support for the benefits of wild bird cover (“fågelåkrar”), skylark plots (“lärkrutor”), buffer strips (“skyddszoner”) and appropriately managed ecological focus areas (“ekologiska fokusområden”).

Meichtry-Stier et al. (2018) found that the overall territory density of five species (for which fallows were overrepresented around their territory centerpoints) was higher in small fallows which were not placed next to a wood and which held bramble, shrubs and the tall-growing forb goldenrod.

**Abstract:** Across Europe, patches of un-cropped land (field margins, fallows, etc.) have been established and managed as part of agri-environment schemes (AES) to counteract the decrease in farmland biodiversity. Various studies demonstrate a positive impact of such un-cropped land on different taxa. However, there is potential to further improve the efficiency of fallow options for farmland birds. In a long-term monitoring, 12 breeding farmland bird species and sizes of perennial fallows were recorded from 1992 to 2015 in a 6.1 km<sup>2</sup> area in Switzerland. Furthermore, habitat composition and fallow characteristics were mapped in 2012. We calculated population trends, analyzed habitat associations and revealed the impact of fallow habitat characteristics on territory density. The proportion of fallows in the study site increased from 1.4 % (1992) to 8.5 % (2012). Population trends of six of 12 censused species increased significantly over the same time, four species showed no trend and trends of two species decreased. Seven species were analyzed in more detail, for five of them fallows were overrepresented around their territory center points compared to arable fields and grassland. The overall territory density of these five species was higher in small fallows which were not placed next to a wood and which held bramble *rubus* spp., shrubs and the tall-growing forb goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis* and *S. gigantea*).

Our study confirms that perennial fallows are a highly suitable option to support different farmland birds in arable landscapes. Yet, we recommend optimizing fallows through careful site selection and management, such that they are not established on shady locations and are structurally diverse by allowing brambles, shrubs, and tall-growing forbs to occur. We suggest adapting the Swiss AES in this regard. Biodiversity-related advisory services available for farmers could increase the probability that fallow options are implemented and managed properly for targeted species.

Murray et al. 2002: found that skylark *Alauda arvensis*, but not yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella* used unmanaged set-aside more than expected compared to availability

A study of different set-aside crops at Loddington farm, Leicestershire (Murray et al., 2002) found that skylark *Alauda arvensis*, but not yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella* used unmanaged set-aside more than expected compared to availability. Skylarks used unmanaged set-aside more than expected, but significantly less than set-aside sown with kale-based wild bird cover, wild bird cover strips and beetle banks. Cereal (wheat, barley) and broad-leaved crops (beans, rape) were used less than expected. Yellowhammer used unmanaged set-aside as expected compared to availability, but significantly less than cereal and set-aside with cereal-based wild bird cover or wild bird cover strips. Field margin and midfield set-aside strips were sown with kale-based and cereal-based mixtures for wild bird cover, and beetle banks. Other habitat types were: unmanaged set-aside, cereal (wheat, barley), broad-leaved crop (beans, rape) and other habitats (including permanent pasture, woodland, hedgerows, tracks and riparian areas). Thirteen skylark and 15 yellowhammer nests with chicks between 3-10 days old were observed. Foraging habitats used by the adults were recorded for 90 minutes during three periods of the day.

Northern Zone (2020): Densities are affected by crop type, highest on set-aside, followed by cereals and rotational grassland, and the lowest densities were found on permanent grassland

Northern Zone (2020), p. 51-52: The skylark is a pronounced farmland bird and is almost exclusively found in arable land using a wide range of crop types for breeding and foraging (Mason and Macdonald 2000). In a study in Finnish farmland, one important factor for the presence of skylarks in fields was the distance to nearest forest and the openness of the area (no birds were found in areas smaller than 11.5 ha) (Piha et al. 2003). In a similar Danish study (Petersen 1998), skylark densities were negatively associated with the presence of buildings, woods, hedgerows, coverts and other habitat islands.

In farmland areas in the southern and central parts of Sweden, mean skylark densities were 0.26 territories/ha (Robertson and Berg 1992). Densities are affected by crop type as shown by inventories in SW Sweden with the highest skylark density in peas (0.82 territories/ha), followed by rape (0.61), winter cereals (0.53), spring sown cereals (0.37), oat (0.32), cabbage (0.25) and flax (0.09) (Lindqvist et al. 2000). Skylarks are also found at high densities in set-asides (0.80) and early stages of energy forest (0.37 territories/ha respectively) (Berg and Pärt 1994, Berg 2002). In Finland, the density depends on the size of the farmland patch (Piiroinen et al. 1985). In large open areas, the average density was 0.64-0.72 territories/ha in southwestern Finland and 0.45 territories/ha in southeastern Finland (Tiainen and Seimola 2010). The density can be as high as 1.2 territories/ha in plots of over 100 ha in organic farms (Tiainen and Seimola 2010). In Åland, the average density of skylarks was 0.68 territories/ha with maxima in winter cereals and winter oilseed rape (> 1,2 territories/ha, Tiainen et al. 2012a). In a Danish study, the highest densities were found on set-aside, followed by cereals and rotational grassland, and the lowest densities were found on permanent grassland (Petersen 1996).

The home range size of skylarks depends on both crop type and landscape structure (Jenny 1990; Poulsen et al. 1998). Average home-range size in winter cereals is 4.6 ha and between 2.4 and 2.6 ha in sprayed spring cereal fields (Odderskær et al. 1997a, Poulsen et al. 1998).

Odderskær *et al.* (1997) found that Eurasian skylarks *Alauda arvensis* used unsown plots in the fields significantly more than expected by an even distribution across the landscape.

In a replicated study from April-May 1990 to 1993 in five spring-sown barley fields in eastern Jutland, Denmark Odderskær *et al.* (1997) found that Eurasian skylarks *Alauda arvensis* used unsown plots in the fields significantly more than expected by an even distribution across the landscape. Radio-tracked birds were observed more in tramlines and unsown plots and mean dropping density was significantly higher in unsown areas than in crops (1.4 droppings/ha vs 0.1). One 22 ha field with one hundred 40 m<sup>2</sup> plots had higher densities of skylarks than four fields with an average of seven plots/ha, each of 7 m<sup>2</sup>. Tramlines (30 cm wide, 18 m apart) were kept clear of vegetation by driving a truck along them several times a week. Adult male and female skylarks were radio-tracked and observed visually. Dropping counts were made in two 5 x 5 m squares in eight territories in one field (May and June 1991).

Orłowski et al. (2011) found that maintenance of stubble fields and cover crops with natural regeneration of annual weeds should constitute an important element of a strategy for the recovery of Grey Partridge populations in arable landscapes in Europe.

**Capsule:** Diet composition differed significantly between winter cereals, winter oil-seed rape, stubble fields and permanent fallows.



*Aims:* To determine the composition of the diet of Grey Partridges in autumn and winter in four agricultural land-cover types, characteristic of lowland areas of Central Europe.

*Methods:* Faecal analysis was used to determine diet. Multivariate analysis of variance (MANOVA), Simpson Index of Diversity (SID) and Detrended Correspondence Analysis (DCA) were used to assess variation in the proportions of the six main dietary components (cereal and broad-leaved plant leaves, weed seeds cases, cereal grains, husks of grasses and other plant material).

*Results:* Thirty-seven different kinds of plant food items were found, and the most numerous were cereal leaves (58.2 % in total of all items), followed by leaves of broad-leaved plants (21.8 %), weed seed cases (13.3 %), cereals grains (3.5 %), husks of grasses (1.2 %) and other plant material (2.0 %). Diet composition differed significantly between winter cereals, winter oil-seed rape, stubble fields and permanent fallows. The DCA showed that the two first axes explain 38 % of the total variance of the diet. The diet diversity was highest in stubble fields and permanent fallows, and the smallest in winter cereals. Dietary diversity was negatively correlated with the overall abundance of leaves, and positively with the abundance of weed seeds, cereal grains and husks of grasses.

*Conclusion:* Cereal leaves might replace other food items, which suggests that food resources are not a critical factor limiting the population of Grey Partridges during winter. A high proportion of weed seeds and cereal grains in the diet of Grey Partridges in stubble fields confirms the importance of these fields as sources of food of high-calorific value. Maintenance of stubble fields and cover crops with natural regeneration of annual weeds should constitute an important element of a strategy for the recovery of Grey Partridge populations in arable landscapes in Europe.

[Orlowski \*et al.\* \(2014\) A mosaic landscape with crop-free plots and microhabitats, stubble fields and manure heaps enables Yellowhammers to find local feeding grounds \[in winter\]](#)

*Orlowski et al. (2014), Conclusion:* Semi-natural habitats and winter stubble fields are important sources of non-cereal plant food for Yellowhammers. In particular, unpaved roads and fallow land support dicotyledonous weed seeds (*Polygonum* spp.), and manure heaps contain cereal plant food (probably both husks and seeds from the faeces of farm animals and straw used as litter in their bedding). Contemporary changes in weed communities as a consequence of intensification of agriculture that has reduced this flora to certain abundant nitrophilous species (e.g. *Polygonum* spp., *Chenopodium album*, *Echinochloa crus-galli* and *Setaria* spp.), the seeds of which are often consumed by Yellowhammers, can therefore increase the food resources of granivorous birds. A mosaic landscape with crop-free plots and microhabitats (with patches of permanent vegetation like road verges), stubble fields (with natural regeneration of annual weeds) and manure heaps enables Yellowhammers to find local feeding grounds, especially during periods of thick snow cover, when feeding sites or resources in open farmland are inaccessible.

[Parish & Sotherton, 2004: found that, of 23 species recorded, only skylarks \(\*Alauda arvensis\*\) were significantly denser in fields with set-aside than fields with wild bird cover crops or conventional crops.](#)

A replicated, controlled site comparison study from November-February in 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 on 20 arable farms in eastern Scotland (Parish & Sotherton 2004) found that, of 23 species recorded, only skylarks (*Alauda arvensis*) were significantly denser in fields with set-aside than fields with wild bird cover crops or conventional crops. Bird density was up to 100 times higher in wild bird cover crops than on set-aside



fields. The wild bird cover crops attracted 50 % more species than set-aside fields. Of eight species with sufficient data for individual analysis, seven were consistently more abundant in wild bird cover than in set-aside fields. Set-aside fields were those in which cereal stubble was left to regenerate naturally. Between 6.2 and 28.3 ha were sampled on each farm annually.

[Pe'er \*et al.\* \(2017\)](#) Ecologists scored field margins, buffer strips, fallow land, and landscape features as most beneficial EFA's whereas farmers mostly implemented "catch crops and green cover," nitrogen-fixing crops, and fallow land.

Pe'er *et al.* (2017), abstract: "Ecological Focus Areas (EFAs) are one of the three new greening measures of the European Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). We used an interdisciplinary and European-scale approach to evaluate ecological effectiveness and farmers' perception of the different EFA options. We assessed potential benefits of EFA options for biodiversity using a survey among 88 ecologists from 17 European countries. We further analyzed data on EFA uptake at the EU level and in eight EU Member States, and reviewed socio-economic factors influencing farmers' decisions. We then identified possible ways to improve EFAs. Ecologists scored field margins, buffer strips, fallow land, and landscape features as most beneficial whereas farmers mostly implemented "catch crops and green cover," nitrogen-fixing crops, and fallow land. Based on the expert inputs and a review of the factors influencing farmers' decisions, we suggest that EFA implementation could be improved by (a) prioritizing EFA options that promote biodiversity (e.g., reducing the weight or even excluding ineffective options); (b) reducing administrative constraints; (c) setting stricter management requirements (e.g., limiting agrochemical use); and (d) offering further incentives for expanding options like landscape features and buffer strips. We finally propose further improvements at the next CAP reform, to improve ecological effectiveness and cost-effectiveness."

[Perkins \*et al.\* \(2002\)](#) Grass margins and other non-crop field boundary habitats, such as hedgerows and ditches, were selected relative to cropped areas by yellowhammers.

Some agri-environment schemes promote the creation and management of a variety of non-crop habitats on farmland in the UK, yet there has been relatively little monitoring to assess how species, particularly birds, use these habitats. The present study deals with a declining UK farmland bird species, yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*, and considers to what extent grass margins of arable fields are used as a foraging habitat when feeding nestlings. Studies were carried out in lowland mixed farmland in southern England. Grass margins and other non-crop field boundary habitats, such as hedgerows and ditches, were selected relative to cropped areas by yellowhammers. No significant difference was found between use of cut and uncut grass margins. Studies have shown that grass margins support high densities of invertebrates and their provision at the edge of arable fields would benefit yellowhammers during the breeding season both as habitat for prey and as nesting habitat. During the breeding season from May to August, management should create cut and uncut grass margins in close proximity to each other. This could be achieved by cutting only the outer edge of the grass margin, maintaining cover next to the hedgerow. Cut areas would provide easier access to food resources for birds and prevent weed encroachment to the crop, whilst adjacent uncut areas would maintain invertebrate sources and provide nesting cover for yellowhammers.

[Poulsen \*et al.\* 1998:](#) found that skylarks *Alauda arvensis* had significantly higher productivity in set-aside fields, compared to spring-sown cereals or grass

A site comparison study from April to August 1992 on three farms in south England (Poulsen *et al.* 1998) found that skylarks *Alauda arvensis* had significantly higher productivity in set-aside fields, compared to spring-sown cereals or grass (0.5 fledglings/ha in set-aside vs 0.21 fledglings/ha in spring cereals and 0.13 fledglings/ha in silage grass). This difference was largely due to higher densities of territories (2-3 times

higher in set-aside and grass, compared to cereals), more successful nests (highest on grass, but twice as high in set-aside as in cereal crops) and larger clutches in set-aside (3.9 eggs/clutch for nests in set-aside vs 3.3 eggs/clutch for spring cereals and 3.4 eggs/clutch in grass, eleven nests in each habitat type). Fledging success did not vary between habitats. No nests with chicks were found in winter-sown cereals. Set-aside consisted of 4-year-old permanent fallow sown with red fescue *Festuca rubra*, perennial ryegrass *Lolium perenne* and white clover *Trifolium pratense*.

[Püttmanns et al. \(2021\) Skylarks nested 2 m further away from linear structures than expected if nest location was random, but shifted towards them in the late breeding season.](#)

Püttmanns et al (2021), abstract: “Linear structures in winter cereals like tramlines are frequently used but high-risk nesting sites for Eurasian Skylarks when crop vegetation becomes impenetrable during May. However, their influence on nest-site selection before vegetation greatly limits choice is less studied. Between 2017 and 2019, we located 32 nests in winter cereals during the early breeding season and show that Skylarks nested 2 m further away from linear structures than expected if nest location was random. We interpret this avoidance as anti-predation behavior and propose additional tramline fragments for conservation management. Moreover, we confirm earlier findings about a higher nest predation risk on linear structures and a shifting of nesting sites towards them in the later breeding season.”

[Püttmanns et al. \(2022\) Heterogeneous farmland enabled diversely composed home ranges and prevented a curtailment of the breeding season. Results reinforces the need for crop diversification which gives Skylarks a chance to survive in modern farmland.](#)

Püttmanns et al. (2022), abstract: The lack of suitable nesting sites is one key driver behind the farmland bird crisis in Europe. Winter cereals become impenetrable for ground-breeding birds like the Eurasian Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*), curtailing breeding time. Stable Skylark populations depend on multiple breeding attempts per year; thus, the widespread cultivation of winter cereals has strongly contributed to their tremendous decline. Crop diversification is thought to be a potential measure to counteract this development. Therefore, we explored how individual Skylarks respond to the decreasing suitability of winter cereals as nesting habitats in heterogeneous but otherwise conventionally managed farmland. Our study focused on: (i) the degree to which Skylarks prematurely cease nesting activity, switch nesting habitats, or breed on linear structures like tramlines. Additionally, we analyzed: (ii) if nest success decreases throughout the breeding season and (iii) how often Skylarks make a successful breeding attempt per year. We radio-tagged 28 adults in a German population during April 2018 and 2019, tracked half of them for more than 3 months, and measured their breeding success. Additionally, we monitored nests of untagged pairs, resulting in 96 nests found. None, except one tagged individual, stopped breeding activity before July 1st. Home ranges were mainly stable, but Skylarks switched nesting habitats away from winter cereals to crops like sugar beet or set-aside. High-risk nesting sites like corn and linear structures played a minor role in breeding. Overall, Mayfield logistic regressions revealed no seasonal decrease in nest success, and tagged Skylarks had sufficient time to make 1.5–1.8 breeding attempts, of which 0.8 were successful. We suggest that heterogeneous farmland in our study area, which enabled diversely composed home ranges, prevented a curtailment of the breeding season. Thus, our study reinforces the need for crop diversification which gives Skylarks a chance to survive in modern farmland.

Roberts & Pullin, 2007: identified 11 papers investigating the effect of set-aside. In both winter and summer surveys there were significantly higher densities of farmland birds on fields under set-aside than on conventionally farmed fields.

A 2007 systematic review (Roberts & Pullin 2007) identified 11 papers investigating the effect of set-aside provision on farmland bird densities in the UK. In both winter and summer surveys there were significantly higher densities of farmland birds on fields removed from production and under set-aside designation than on conventionally farmed fields. The meta-analysis included experiments conducted between 1988 and 2002 from eight controlled trials and three site comparison studies.

Schmidt et al. (2017) found that Lapwing plots at damp sites are a promising AES for lapwing conservation in industrialised agricultural landscapes in Central Europe.

*Abstract:* Unsown fallow plots, commonly referred to as 'lapwing plots', are widely promoted within the English agri-environmental programme, but remain unstudied outside of England. We tested Lapwing plots in an industrialised agricultural landscape in Central Europe from 2010 to 2015. Lapwings (*Vanellus vanellus*) and other birds as well as plant species were mapped. Factors influencing the success of the plots were modelled to obtain information on how to design a well-working agri-environment scheme (AES). Lapwings were present at 65 % of the 61 lapwing plots studied, whereas colonisation of untreated control sites was significantly lower (37 %). 64 lapwing pairs bred at 26 lapwing plots, but only 18 pairs at nine untreated sites. Hatching success was significantly higher than without treatment (24 pairs at 11 lapwing plots vs. 3 pairs at 2 control sites). Other species which benefitted from the measures were Eurasian Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*) and Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*). The modelling of key factors showed that a successful lapwing plot should be: (1) large (at least about 2 ha); (2) located at a traditional breeding site; (3) sparsely vegetated; and, (4) equipped with a shallow pool of water. Placing them in winter cereals improved hatching success. Lapwing plots at damp sites are a promising AES for lapwing conservation in industrialised agricultural landscapes in Central Europe.

Staggenborg & Anthes (2022): Long-term fallows, nonproductive crops such as wild bird seed mixtures, artificial food supply, and winter cover yielded the strongest positive associations with farmland bird abundance.

Staggenborg & Anthes (2022), *abstract:* Agri-environment schemes (AES) serve to counteract the ongoing decline of farmland bird populations, but their success remains controversial. We conducted a meta-analysis to compare standardized effect size estimates among European AES options—classified into 15 categories that capture relevant management practices—for farmland bird abundance and species richness. Effect strengths varied substantially between AES categories. Long-term fallows, nonproductive crops such as wild bird seed mixtures, artificial food supply, and winter cover yielded the strongest positive associations with farmland bird abundance. Average effect sizes were larger but also more variable in cropland compared to grassland-dominated farming systems. This observation highlights the need to develop more effective conservation schemes for grassland inhabitants, which face similarly severe population declines as cropland inhabitants. Schemes that provided large ecological contrasts between treatment and control sites yielded particularly strong relative benefits, but AES-specific effect sizes further varied with foraging and nesting site guilds of the target species. Our study confirms that the AES that is currently implemented can benefit farmland birds. However, clear improvements require AES to focus on

options with maximal improvements in habitat quality and to locally implement sufficiently diverse AES options to serve the often-incongruent needs of several bird guilds and species.

Toivonen et al. (2013) found that the new Finnish voluntary Environmental Fallow-scheme to a greater extent than the former set-aside contributed to both the amount and diversity of noncropped vegetation on the landscape level, but that the long-term efficiency of the current scheme is likely to be compromised by its untargeted and unbinding nature.

*Abstract:* A novel agri-environment scheme for Environmental Fallows (EFs) was introduced in Finland to replace a former obligatory set-aside under the Common Agricultural Policy. It currently keeps fallow at nearly 7 % of the agricultural land area and therefore may make a unique contribution to the enhancement of farmland biodiversity on the national scale. Farmers can choose from four types of EF fields (game, grassland, landscape, and meadow) or their combination as long as their total annual area falls within 5–15 % of the field area. We studied the biodiversity value of EF fields in three regions across Finland (n = 229) based on survey data of vegetation in four fallow types. We compared EF plant communities to those of other on cropped biotopes (margins and semi-natural grasslands) (n = 99). The meadow type sown with low competitive grasses and meadow species has proven to be the most species-rich EF type, approaching the diversity level of semi-natural meadows. Vegetation of the grassland type varied considerably ranging from swards similar to those of production grasslands to ones typical for semi-natural meadows. The vegetation composition of the game and landscape types of EF differed most from the other non-cropped biotopes, and other EFs. Plant species richness in the perennial fallows correlated positively with the parcel size (through increased within-field diversity) and age, and variation in the sward height. It was negatively related to the sward's height and density, and the reported fertility level before EF establishment. Plant species richness in EFs was not related to the forest cover in the surrounding landscape. The scheme to a greater extent than the former set-aside contributed to both the amount and diversity of noncropped vegetation on the landscape level. The long-term efficiency of the current scheme is likely to be compromised by its untargeted and unbinding nature.

Traba & Morales (2019) found that the significant positive relationship between yearly change rates of the Spanish Farmland and Cereal Bird Indices (FBI and CBI) and fallow surface change highlights the adequacy of fallow land cover as an indicator of the state of farmland bird communities at country level.

*Summary:* Farmland bird populations have strongly declined across Europe over the last decades due to agriculture intensification, despite successive reforms of EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). In parallel, CAP has led to a reduction of fallow land, a critical habitat for biodiversity in agroecosystems. Fallow land in Spain, a country harboring the largest European populations of many endangered farmland birds, has decreased by 1.1 million ha in 15 years. The significant positive relationship between yearly change rates of the Spanish Farmland and Cereal Bird Indices (FBI and CBI) and fallow surface change highlights the adequacy of fallow land cover as an indicator of the state of farmland bird communities at country level. Moreover, the strong and positive association between the reduction in abundance of the fallow specialist little bustard and fallow surface suggests a potential causal link between these two factors. These results highlight the need for a new CAP that guarantees the maintenance of fallow land in European agroecosystems if farmland bird populations are to be conserved.

Umweltbundesamt (2022a): Found that the most beneficial conservation measures for the Skylark are the creation of wildflower strips

The most beneficial conservation measures for the Skylark are the creation of wildflower strips (e.g. along the edges of agricultural fields) or patches by sowing mixtures of native flowering plants. Such wildflower habitats increase the variety of plant and pollinator species.

Umweltbundesamt (2022b): Found that the most beneficial conservation measure for the Grey Partridge is the creation of wildflower strips.

The most beneficial conservation measure for the Grey Partridge is the creation of wildflower strips (e.g. along the edges of agriculturally used fields) or patches. Wildflower strips or patches composed of native flowering plants increase the variety and abundance of plants and insects and provide suitable breeding and foraging habitats for the Grey Partridge.

Umweltbundesamt (2022c): Found that the most beneficial conservation measures proven as successful for the Northern Lapwing involve the creation of wildflower strips (and water management)

The most beneficial conservation measures proven as successful for the Northern Lapwing involve the creation of wildflower strips (e.g. along the edges of agriculturally used fields) or patches, which increase the variety of plants and flower-visiting insects, including pollinators such as wild bees. The Northern Lapwing also benefits from the restoration or creation of species-rich, semi-natural grasslands. Additionally, several measures related to water management, such as raising water levels in ditches or grasslands and restoring of wetlands and wet meadows are likely to be beneficial for the species.

Umweltbundesamt (2022d): Found that the most beneficial conservation measure proved as successful for the Yellowhammer involves the creation of wildflower strips.

The most beneficial conservation measure proved as successful for the Yellowhammer involves the creation of wildflower strips (e.g. along the edges of agriculturally used fields) or patches. The creation of wildflower strips or patches by sowing mixtures of native flowering plants increases the variety of plants and pollinators such as wild bees. The Yellowhammer benefits from higher abundance and diversity of insects, especially during the breeding season. It is also very beneficial for Yellowhammer to maintain thick hedges with wide margins for nesting.

Van Buskirk & Willi, 2004: found that species richness and population densities of plants, birds, insects and spiders and harvestmen were significantly higher on set-aside land than on nearby conventional fields in Europe and North America.

A review and meta-analysis of 127 studies comparing set-aside and conventional land (Van Buskirk & Willi 2004) found that species richness and population densities of plants, birds, insects and spiders and harvestmen were significantly higher on set-aside land than on nearby conventional fields in Europe and North America. Positive effects were greatest on larger and older areas of set-aside, when the comparison conventional field contained crops rather than grasses, in countries with more arable land under agri-environment schemes and with less intensive agriculture. Overall, variation in establishment methods and types of set-aside made little difference to the positive effect on biodiversity, although species richness was increased more when set-aside was naturally regenerated rather than sown.

Vickery & Buckingham (2001): The most favorable type of set-aside for Skylarks is that created when the stubbles of the previous cereal crop are left unploughed and weeds are allowed to regenerate naturally.

Donald (2004), p.187 citerer Vickery & Buckingham (2001) for på baggrund af deres store review over 'sanglærke-og-brak-artikler' at konstatere for sanglærkens vedkommende, at artiklerne "clearly shows that set-aside fields can hold very high numbers of Skylark relative to other farmland habitats, both during the breeding season and during winter. However, the way in which set-aside is established and managed is crucial. Certain forms of set-aside are left in the same place each year, and if they become too tall or rank, Skylarks will not use them."

- og videre:

"The most favorable type of set-aside for Skylarks is that created when the stubbles of the previous cereal crop are left unploughed and weeds are allowed to regenerate naturally. Because of this, Skylarks generally prefer set-aside that is moved around the farm each year (rotational set-aside), rather than set-aside that is left in the same place for several years (non-rotational set-aside)."

- og endelig (med reference til Henderson et al. 2001):

"The optimal height of vegetation in set-aside appears to be around 20 cm, with patches of bare ground to allow foraging.

Wakeham-Dawson, 1995: found that rotational set-aside tended to be used more than arable crops by skylarks

A replicated site comparison study of four arable, 10 mixed and three pastoral farms within the South Downs Environmentally Sensitive Area, UK (Wakeham-Dawson 1995) found that rotational set-aside tended to be used more than arable crops by skylarks *Alauda arvensis*, but used less or a similar amount by hares *Lepus euroaepus*. Rotational set-aside was used significantly more than arable crops during the first skylark brood period (22 vs 3-15 males/km<sup>2</sup>). During the second brood, once set-aside had been topped or cultivated, use of set-aside by skylarks was more similar to their use of arable crops (topped: 16; cultivated: 8; arable: 9-14). Hares used winter sown cereals more than rotational set-aside in October-January (0.2-0.3 vs 0.1 hares/ha), but in February set-aside was used the same amount as crops (0.1 hares/ha). Hares were sampled by spotlight counting over an average of 26 % of the area of each farm between November and March (1992-1993, 1993-1994). Skylarks were sampled by mapping breeding males during two counts along representative transects on 12-17 farms in April-June (1992-1993).

Wakeham-Dawson *et al.* 1998: found that the density of singing Eurasian skylarks *Alauda arvensis* was higher on set-aside fields than on any other field type, except undersown spring barley fields

A replicated site comparison study in summer 1995 on 89 fields in the South Downs, southern England (Wakeham-Dawson *et al.* 1998) found that the density of singing Eurasian skylarks *Alauda arvensis* was higher on set-aside fields than on any other field type, except undersown spring barley fields (approximately 15 birds/km<sup>2</sup> on six set-aside fields vs 22 birds/km<sup>2</sup> on four spring barley fields and 2-12 birds/km<sup>2</sup> on 79 other fields). Other field types were: arable fields reverted to species-rich grassland or permanent grassland, downland turf, permanent grassland, winter wheat, barley and oilseed rape.



### Watson & Rae, 1997: found that 1-year-old set-aside fields held significantly more species of bird than similar, non-set-aside fields

A replicated, paired sites before-and-after study on seven pairs of fields in northeast Scotland in 1989-1991 (Watson & Rae 1997) found that 1-year-old set-aside fields held significantly more species of bird than similar, non-set-aside fields (average of 11.9 species/10 ha for first year set-aside vs 4.8 species/10 ha for control fields). There were no differences in the years before or after set-aside. In addition, there were higher breeding densities of grey partridge *Perdix perdix*, skylark *Alauda arvensis* and Eurasian curlew *Numenius arquata* in set-aside compared with control fields. Densities of curlew, partridge, northern lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* and Eurasian oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* were higher in set-aside years than before set-aside (passerine densities were not recorded before set-aside was used). Wader breeding success appeared higher on set-aside, but numbers were too small for statistical tests. The densities and number of species declined over time in set-aside fields. Set-aside fields were previously arable fields but were not cropped for at least one year. [From Sutherland *et al.* (2021a)]

### Provision of winter set-aside fields for summer territory selection by yellowhammers is an important consideration for farm management where conservation is a priority (Whittingham *et al.* 2005)

Whittingham *et al.* (2005), abstract: **Summary 1.** Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella* populations have declined rapidly in the UK over recent decades, and a clear understanding of their habitat requirements is important to help inform conservation schemes. We aimed to disentangle and rank the effects of winter versus breeding season habitat characteristics. **2.** We used information theoretic methods to analyse the factors determining yellowhammer distribution across 26 sites in England and Wales. We did this at two spatial levels: individual field boundaries and individual territories, the latter consisting of spatial clusters of boundaries. **3.** We considered the role of nine predictor variables, all of which have been suggested in the literature as potentially important. These comprised boundary height and width, and the presence of hedges, trees, ditches, boundary strips, tillage crops, winter set-aside and winter stubbles. **4.** The results of the statistical modelling showed that winter habitats play an important role in determining where birds locate territories in summer. In particular, the presence of rotational set-aside fields in winter showed the strongest association with summer territories. **5.** There were minor differences between the territory- and boundary-based models. Most notably, the territory data demonstrated a strong preference for territories containing trees, but this was not observed in the boundary data set. We suggest that the differences between the models may reflect different scales of habitat selection. Boundary occupancy reflects broad distributions of habitat suitability; territory occupancy patterns better reveal detailed habitat requirements. **6.** Regional densities were more closely correlated with the predictions of the boundary-based model than those of the territory-based model, and we discuss the implications of this for interpreting habitat association models. **7. Synthesis and applications.** Provision of winter set-aside fields for summer territory selection by yellowhammers is an important consideration for farm management where conservation is a priority. We show that models based on occupancy of individual boundary units (e.g. hedgerows) correlate with the density of territories at the farm scale; thus farm management practices link directly to population sizes through effects on the quality of breeding habitat.



Wilson *et al.* 1997: found significantly higher densities of skylark *Alauda arvensis* territories on set-aside fields than on conventionally or organically-managed crop fields

A replicated study in summers of 1993-5 on seven farms in southern England (Wilson *et al.* 1997) found significantly higher densities of skylark *Alauda arvensis* territories on set-aside fields than on conventionally or organically-managed crop fields (0.26-0.56 territories/ha for set-aside fields vs a maximum of 0.38 territories/ha for cropped fields). Estimated nest survival was significantly higher on set-aside fields than conventionally-managed cereal fields (44 % survival to fledgling on set-aside vs 11 % for conventional cereals). Set-aside was both naturally regenerated from crop stubble or sown with grass.

Wretenberg *et al.* 2007: found that four locally migrant farmland birds showed less negative (or positive) population trends during a period of agricultural extensification (incl. set-aside)

A before-and-after study examining data from 1976 to 2003 from farms across southern Sweden (Wretenberg *et al.* 2007) found that four locally migrant farmland birds showed less negative (or positive) population trends during a period of agricultural extensification, which included an increase in the area of set-aside. The authors suggest that the two could be causally linked.

Wretenberg *et al.* (2010): Local change in species richness was positively associated with a change in the proportion of non-rotational set aside and short-rotation coppice, but also to changes in the amount of spring-sown crops

(Wretenberg *et al.* 2010, abstract) "It has been suggested that an increase in the area of low-intensity land-use on arable land (e.g. set-aside fields and short-rotation coppice), and high or increased farmland habitat heterogeneity, may halt or reverse the observed population decline of farmland birds. We tested these hypotheses by undertaking farmland bird censuses during two contrasting periods of agricultural policies and land-use (i.e. 1994 and 2004) in a farmland region covering a gradient of forest- to farmland-dominated landscapes in Sweden. Local species richness (i.e. at 3 hectare sites) declined significantly between 1994 and 2004. Local species richness was positively related to habitat heterogeneity in both years of study whereas temporal change in species richness was not. Local change in species richness was positively associated with a change in the proportion of non-rotational set aside and short-rotation coppice (i.e. low-intensity landuse forms), but also to changes in the amount of spring-sown crops. However, the effect of low-intensity land-use was significantly dependent on the amount of forest in the surrounding landscape. An increase in low-intensity land-use was linked to an increase (or less marked decrease) in species richness at sites located in open farmland surroundings but to a decrease in richness at sites located in forest surroundings. This interaction between amount of forest and low-intensity land-use could be interpreted as a "rare habitat effect", where an increase in a farmland habitat only positively affects biodiversity when it was originally uncommon (i.e. open farmland areas). Our results suggest that conservation measures of farmland biodiversity have to be put in a landscape context."

