

CONNECTICUT BIRD ATLAS



Connecticut
Ornithological
Association



Project goals

- Describe breeding bird distribution and abundance
- Document changes since the last atlas
- Describe wintering distributions
- Stopover habitat use
- Understand where species occur on the landscape
- Develop an interactive web site for updating and data retrieval



2020 Breeding Season

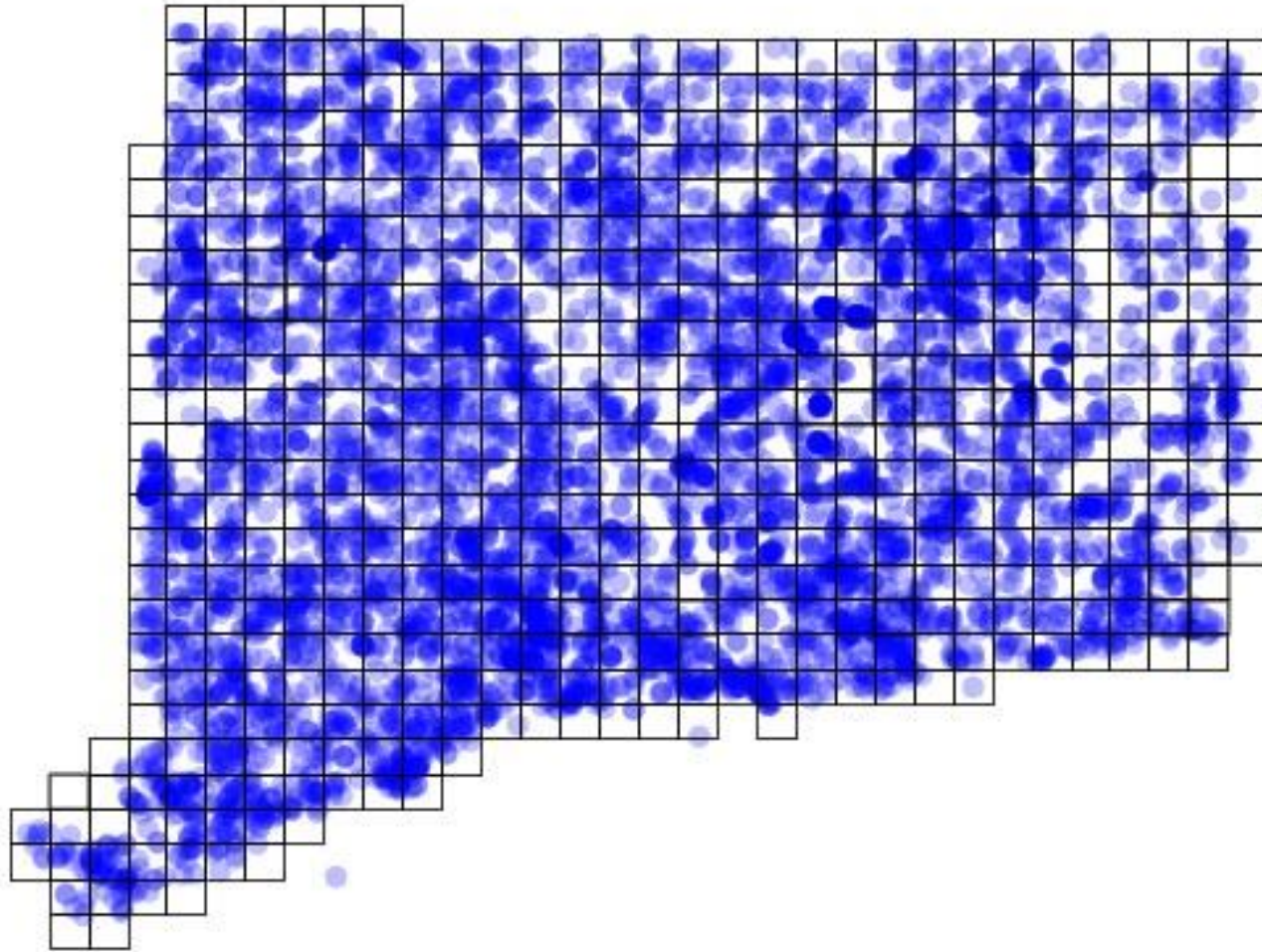
- No technicians due to COVID-19
 - No point counts for abundance estimates
 - No secretive/difficult-to-survey species

2020 Breeding Season

- No technicians due to COVID-19
 - No point counts for abundance estimates
 - No secretive/difficult-to-survey species
- Concentrate on confirming breeding
- Direct effort towards blocks with little data
- Late-season technicians helped fill gaps

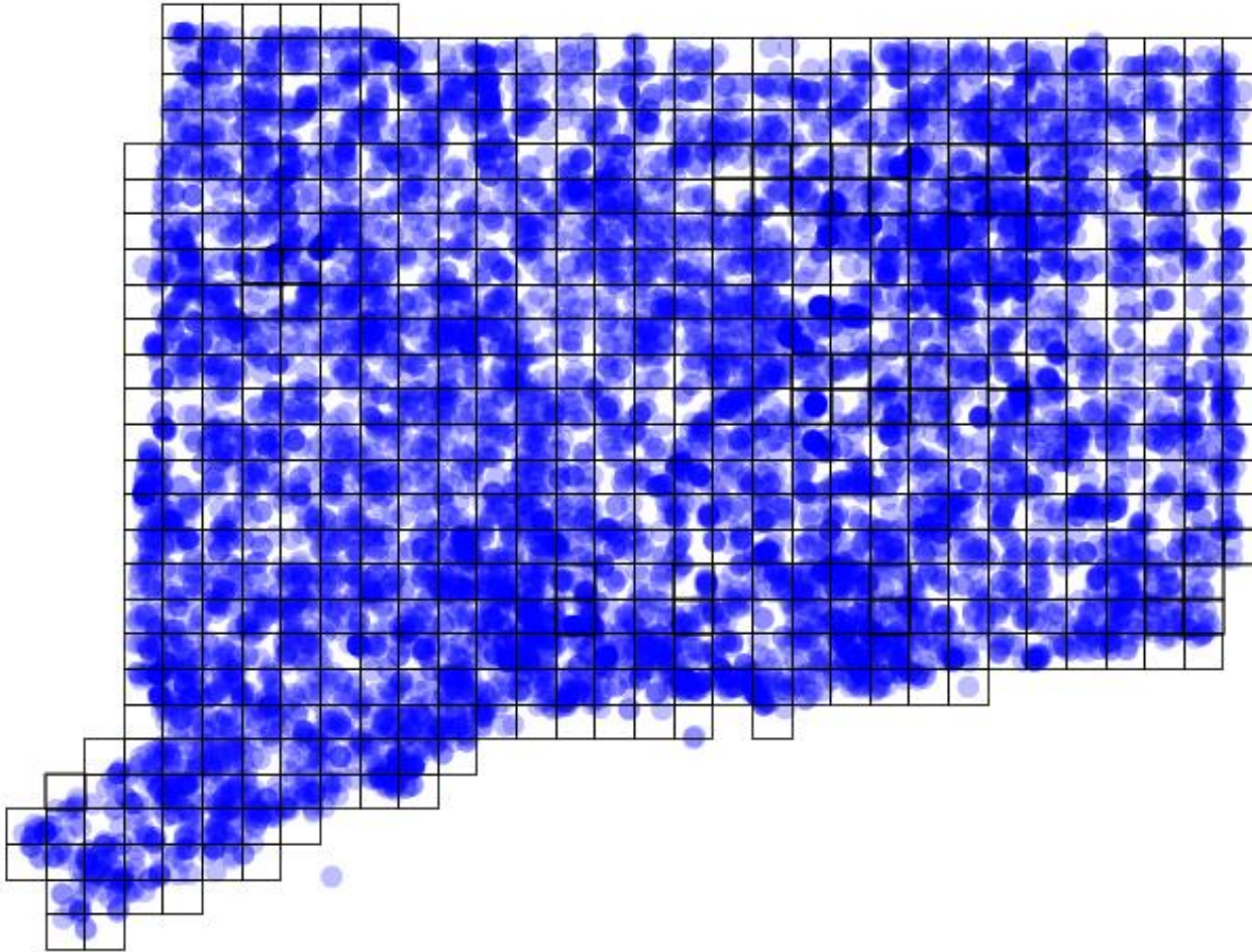
Preliminary breeding results





May 2020

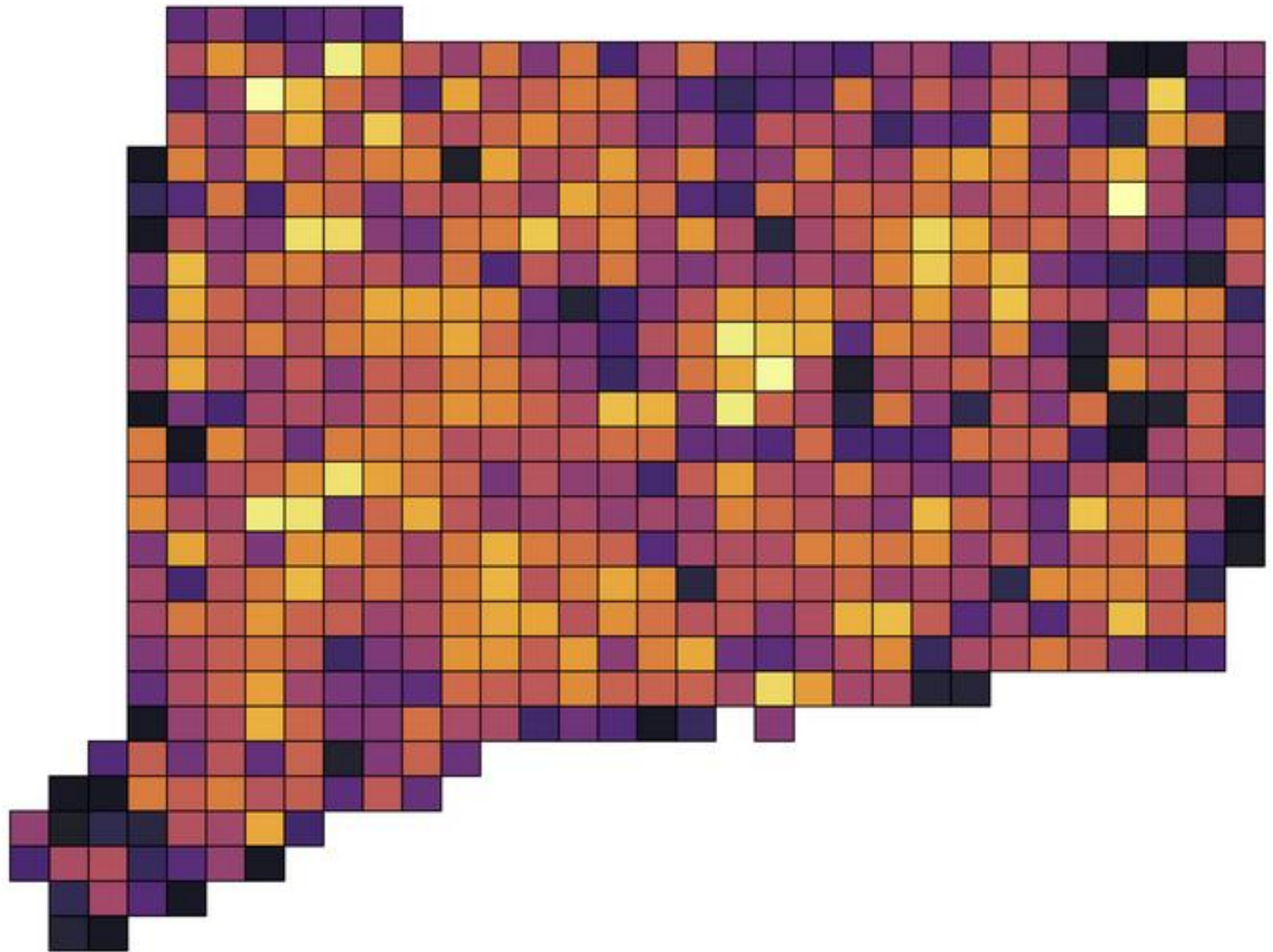
>132,000 records



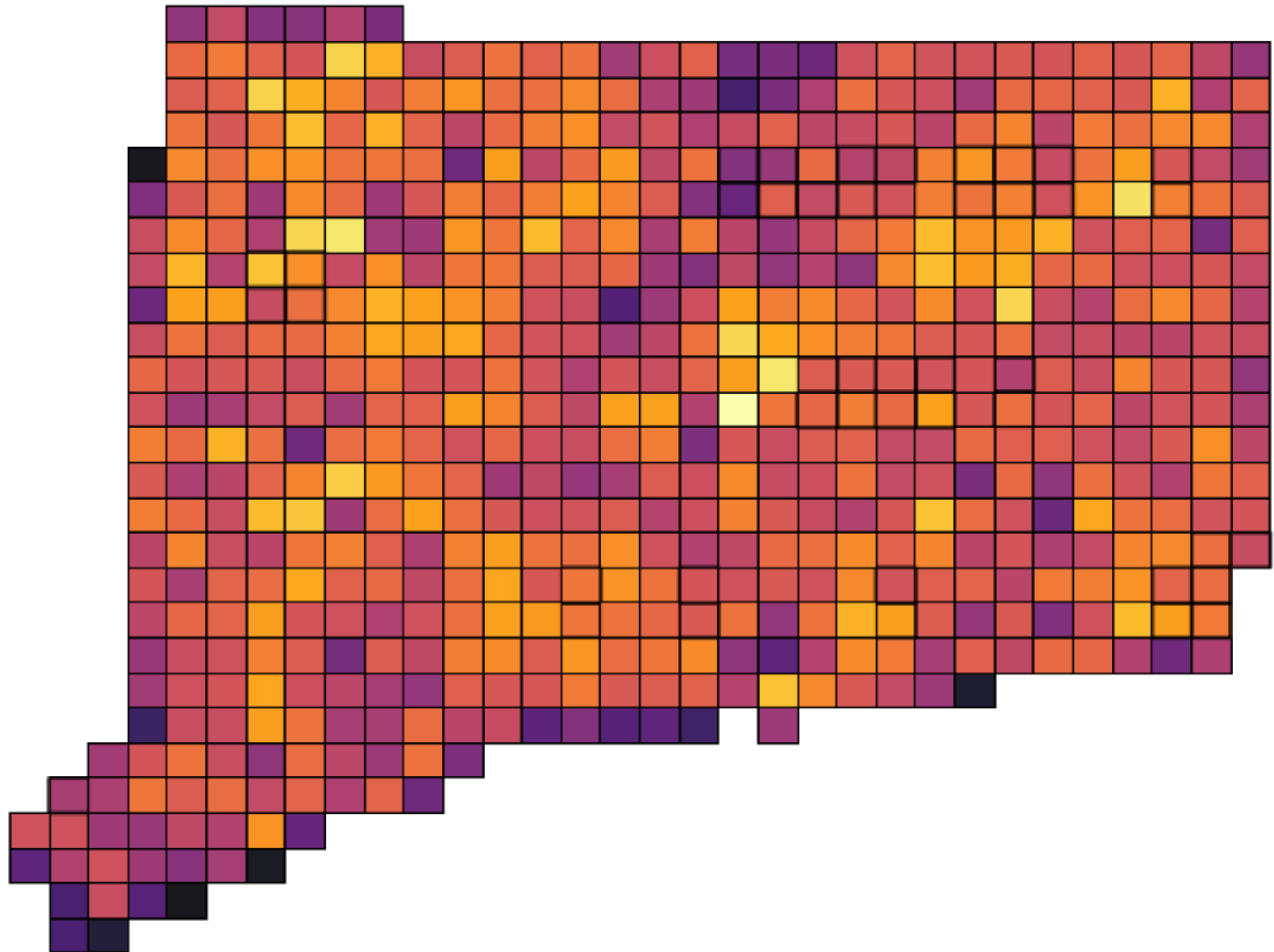
May 2020
>132,000 records

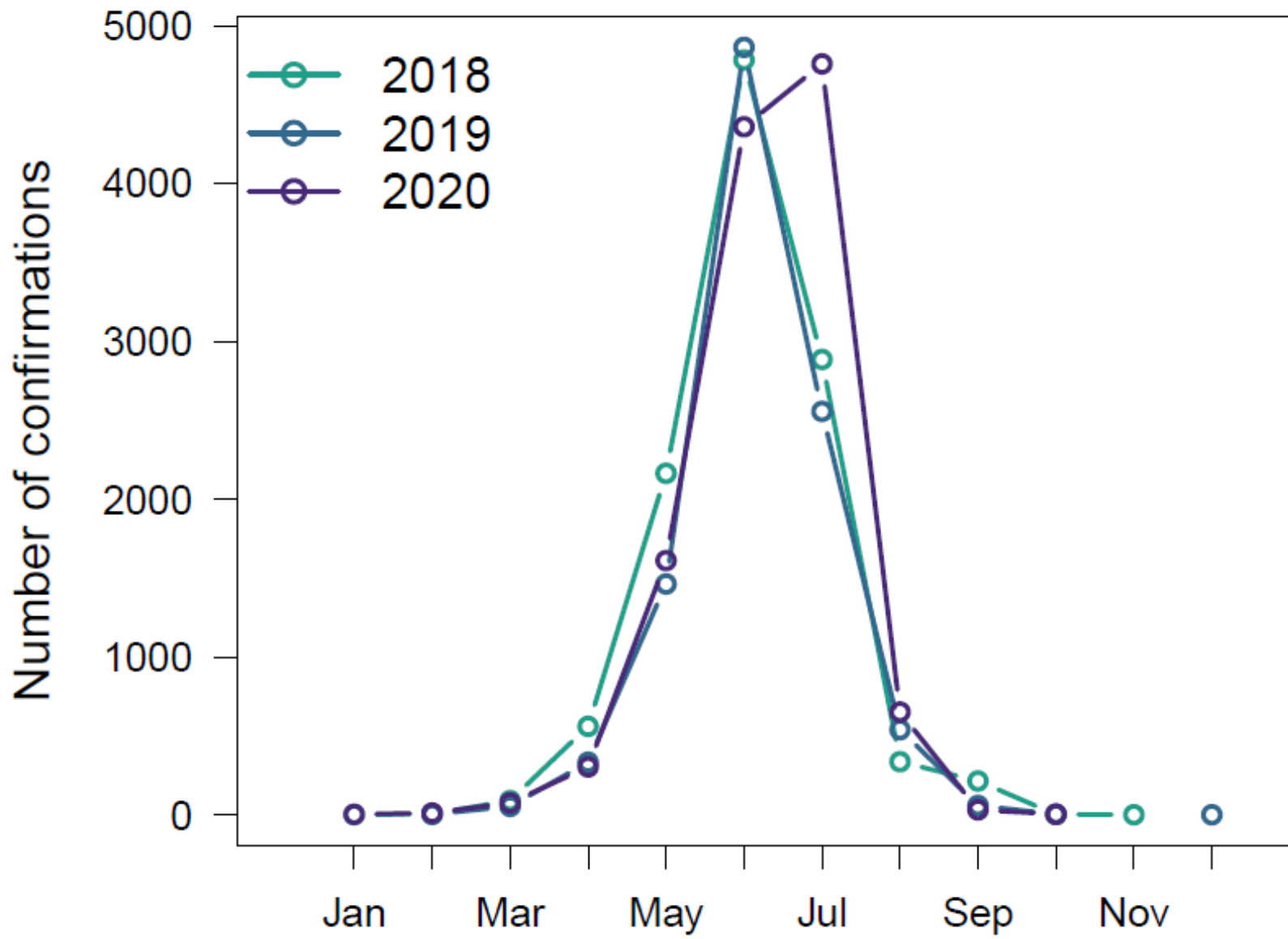
Oct 2020
>188,191

Number of species: October 2019

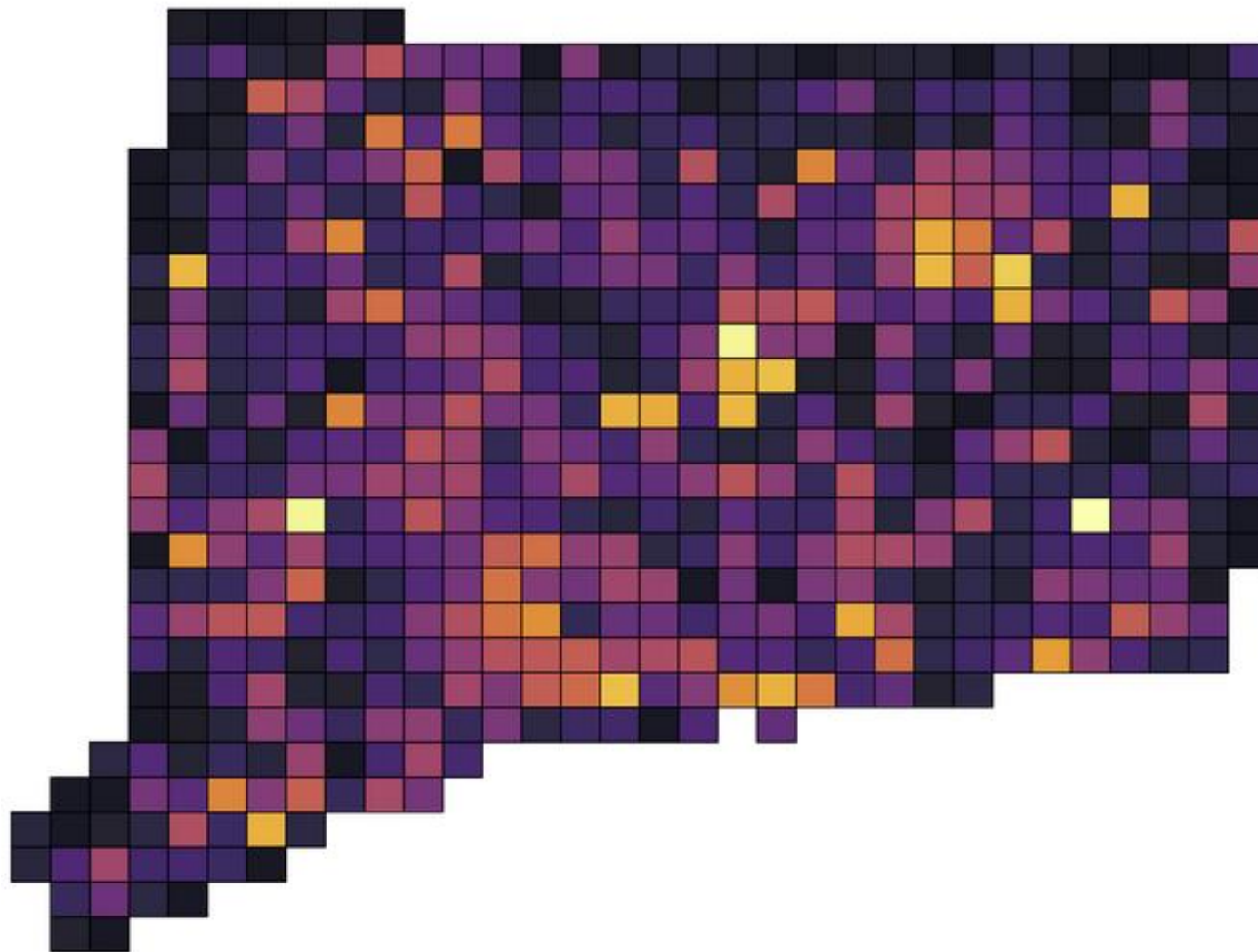


Number of species: October 2020



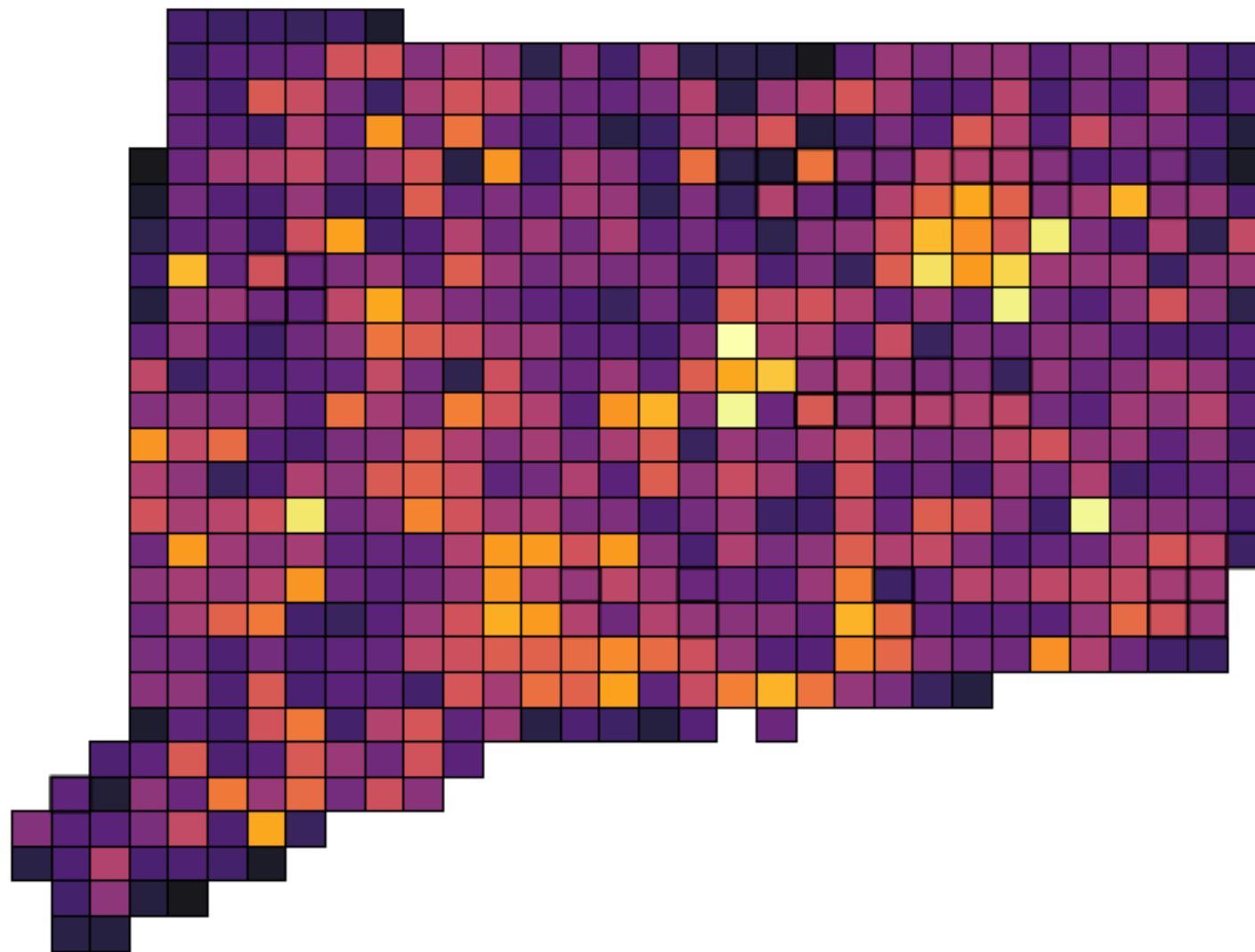


Number confirmed: October 2019

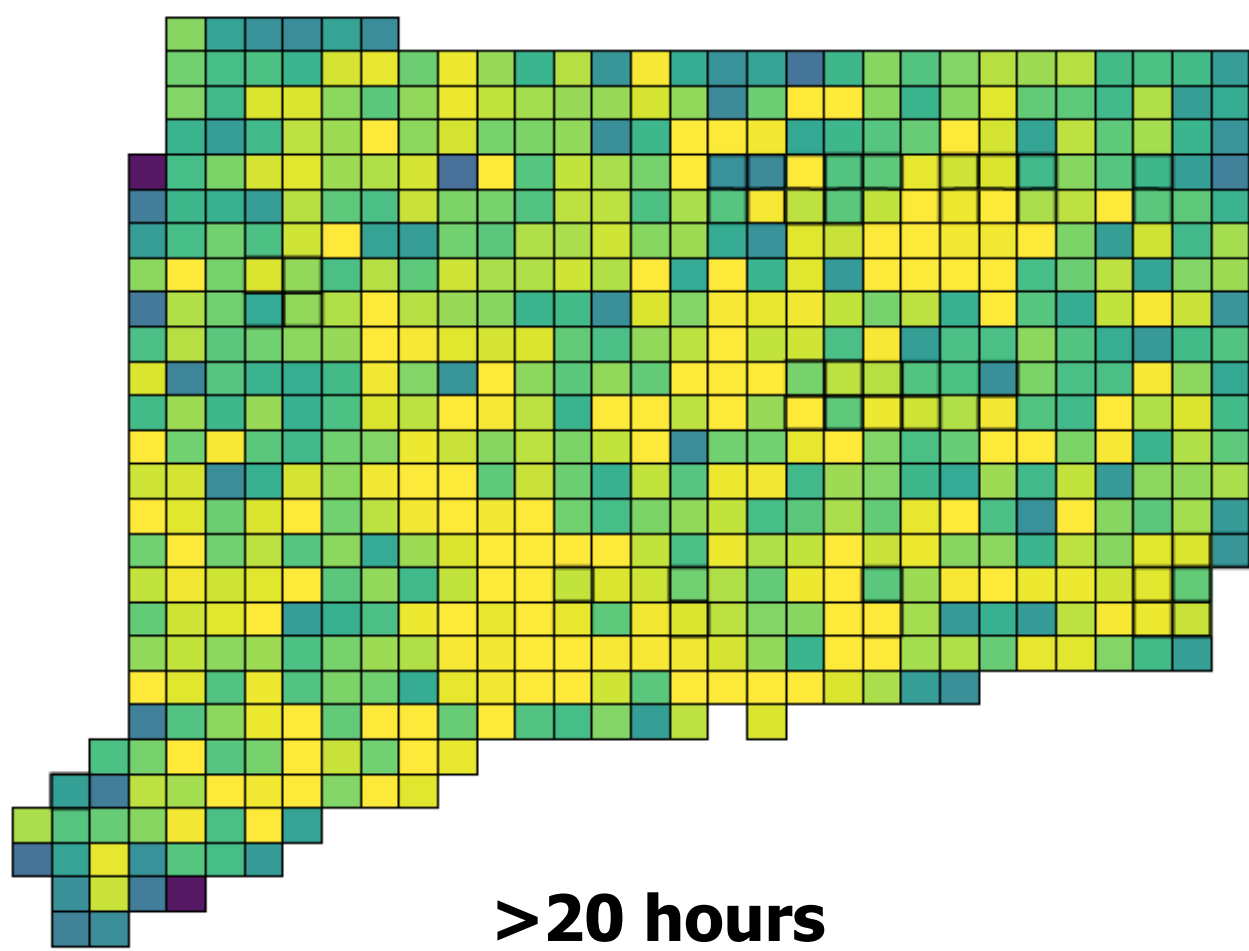
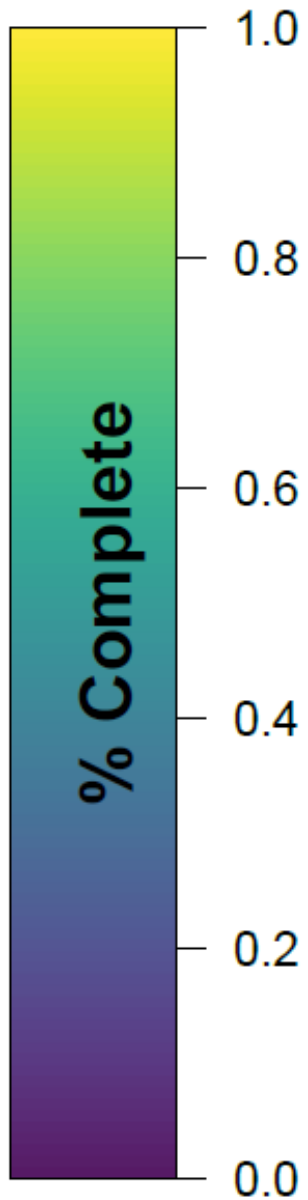


158 confirmed breeding species

Number confirmed: October 2019



165 confirmed breeding species



>20 hours
>80% of species in 1980s
>50% species confirmed

Preliminary winter results

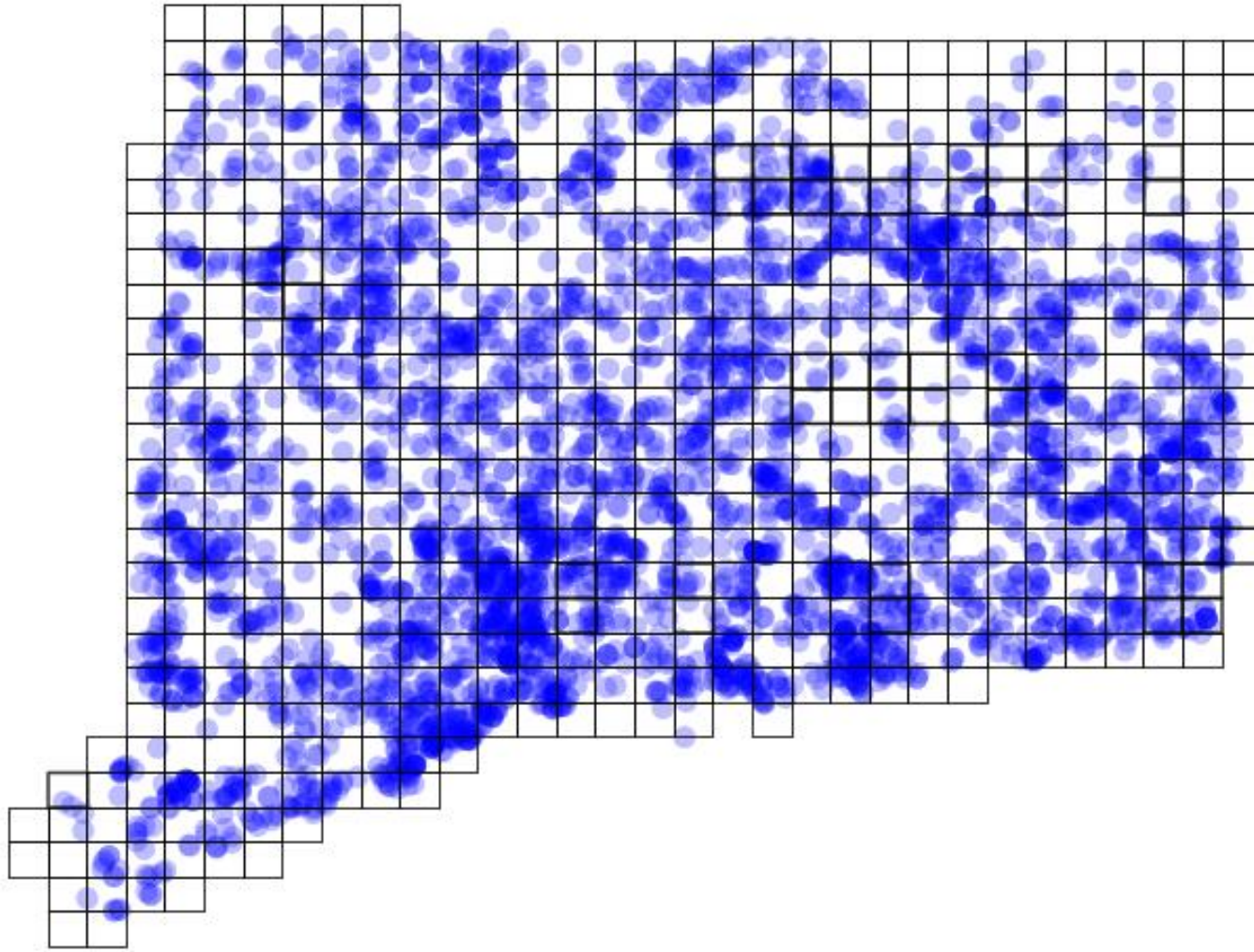


Winter stats (Oct 2020)

- **Early: 453 blocks have >1 checklist (75%)**
- **Late: 488 blocks with >1 checklist (81%)**

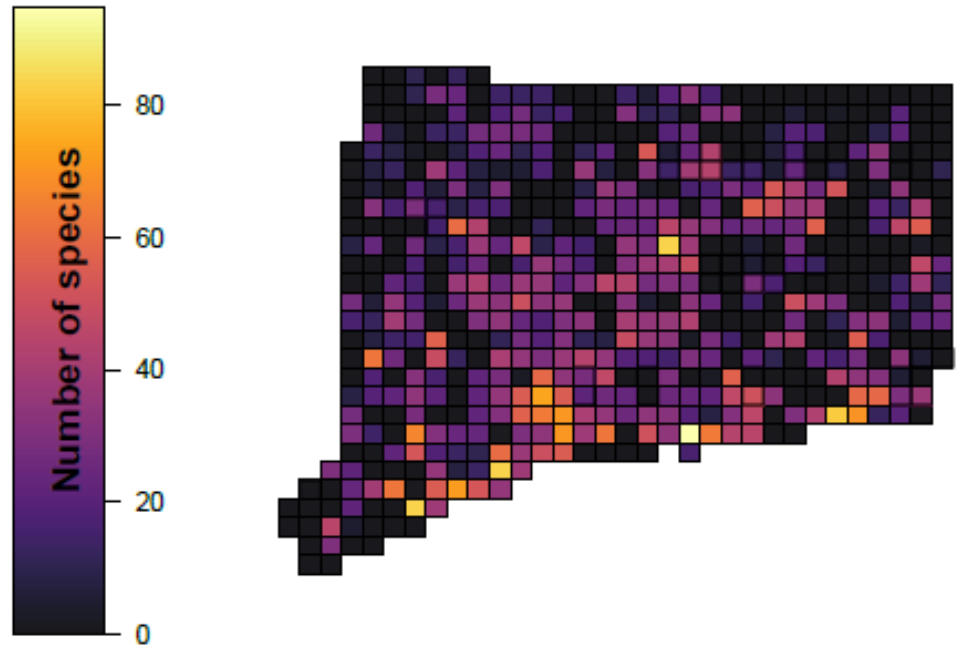
- **48 blocks with no surveys at all (10%)**

by March 2020

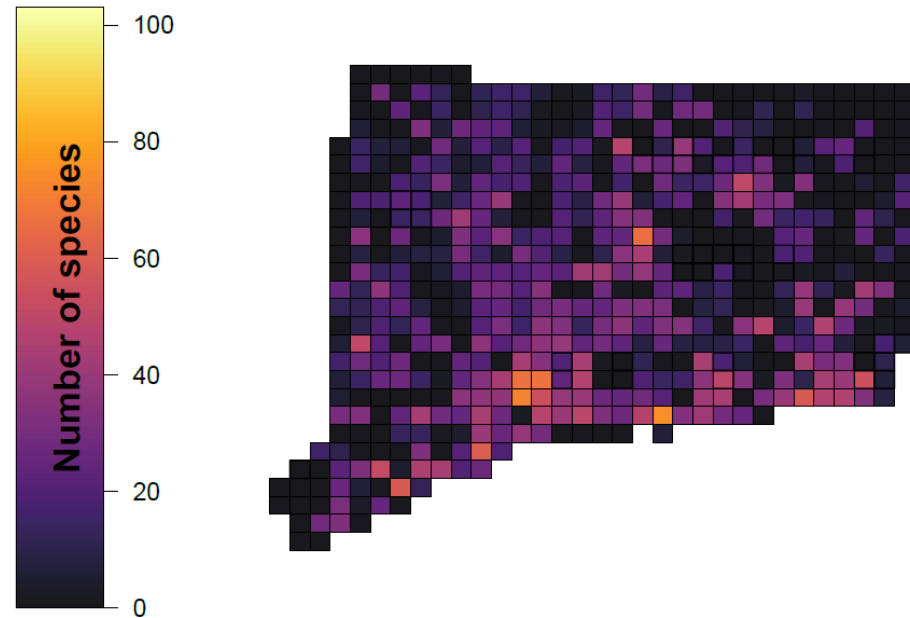


Number of species: March 2019

Nov-Dec

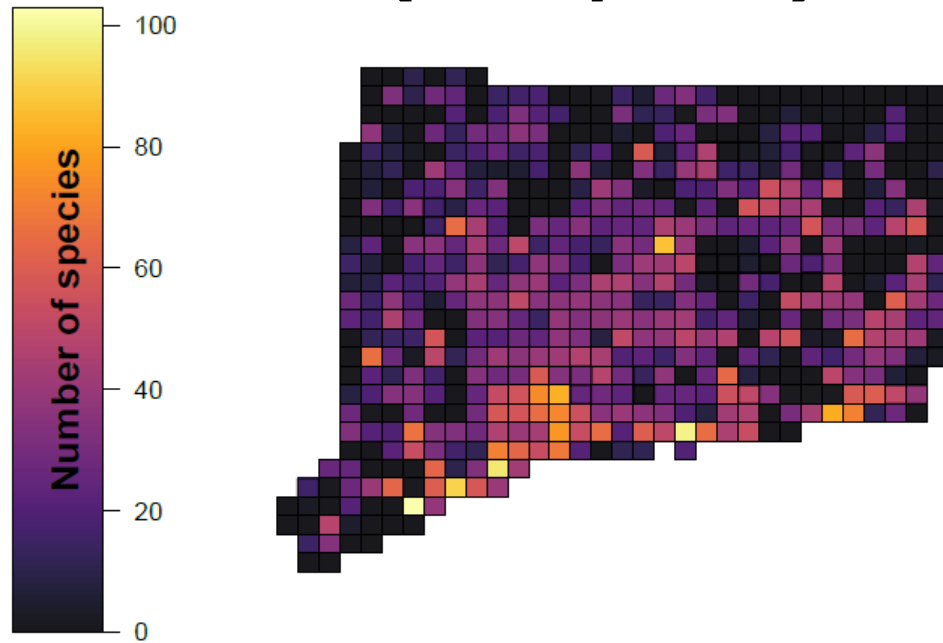


Jan-Feb

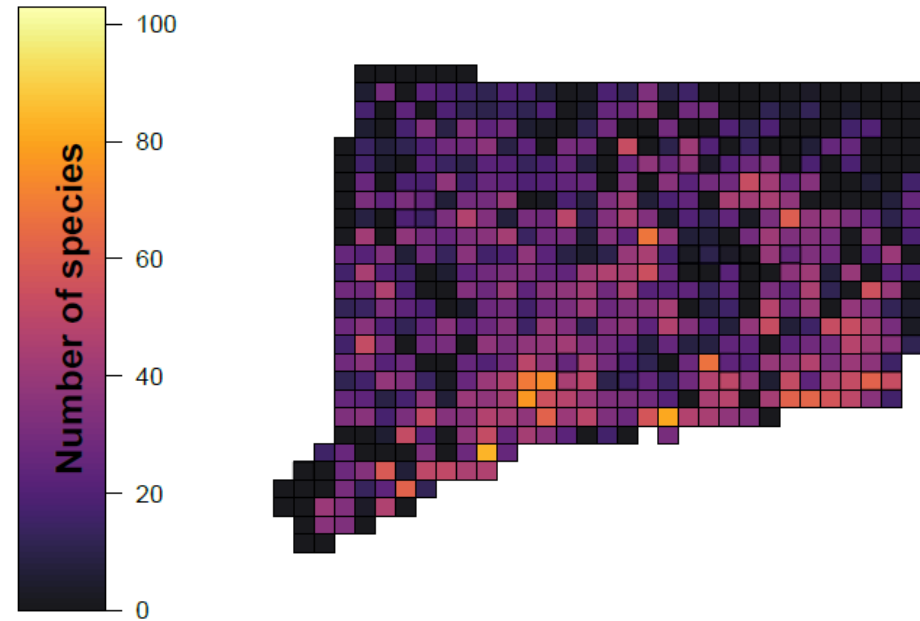


Number of species: March 2020

**Nov-Dec
(202 species)**



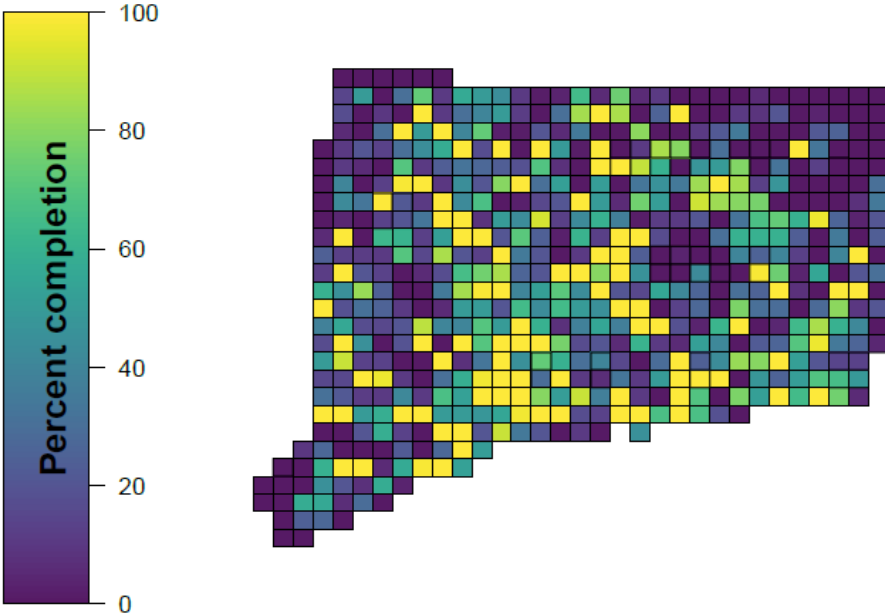
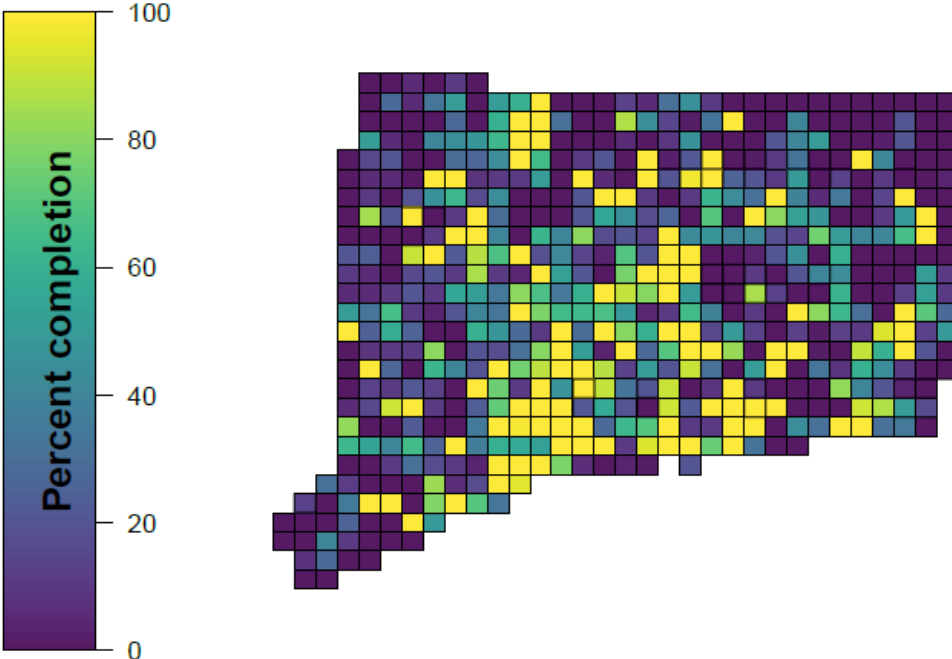
**Jan-Feb
(177 species)**



Percent complete: March 2019

Nov-Dec

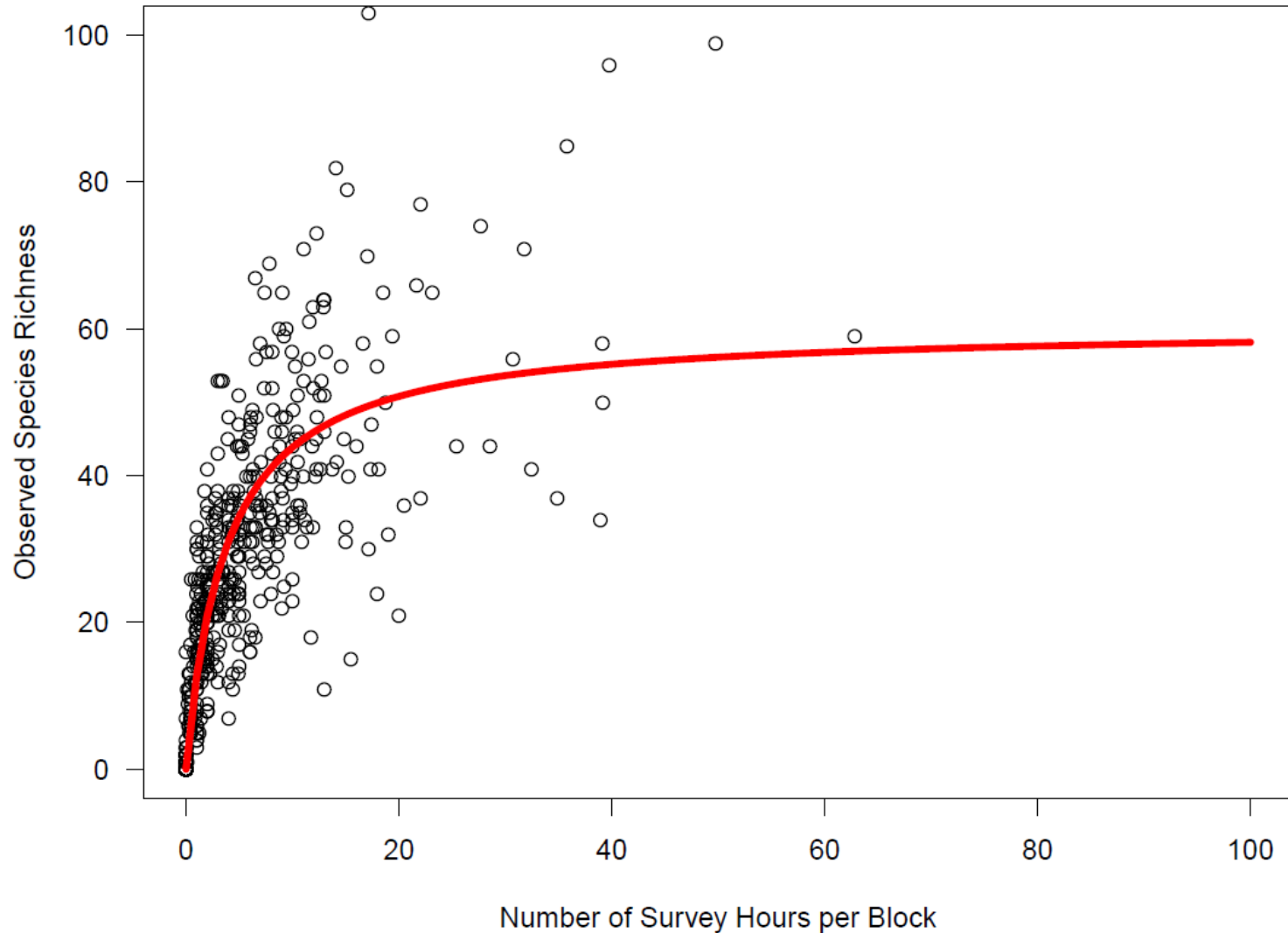
Jan-Feb



>10 hours

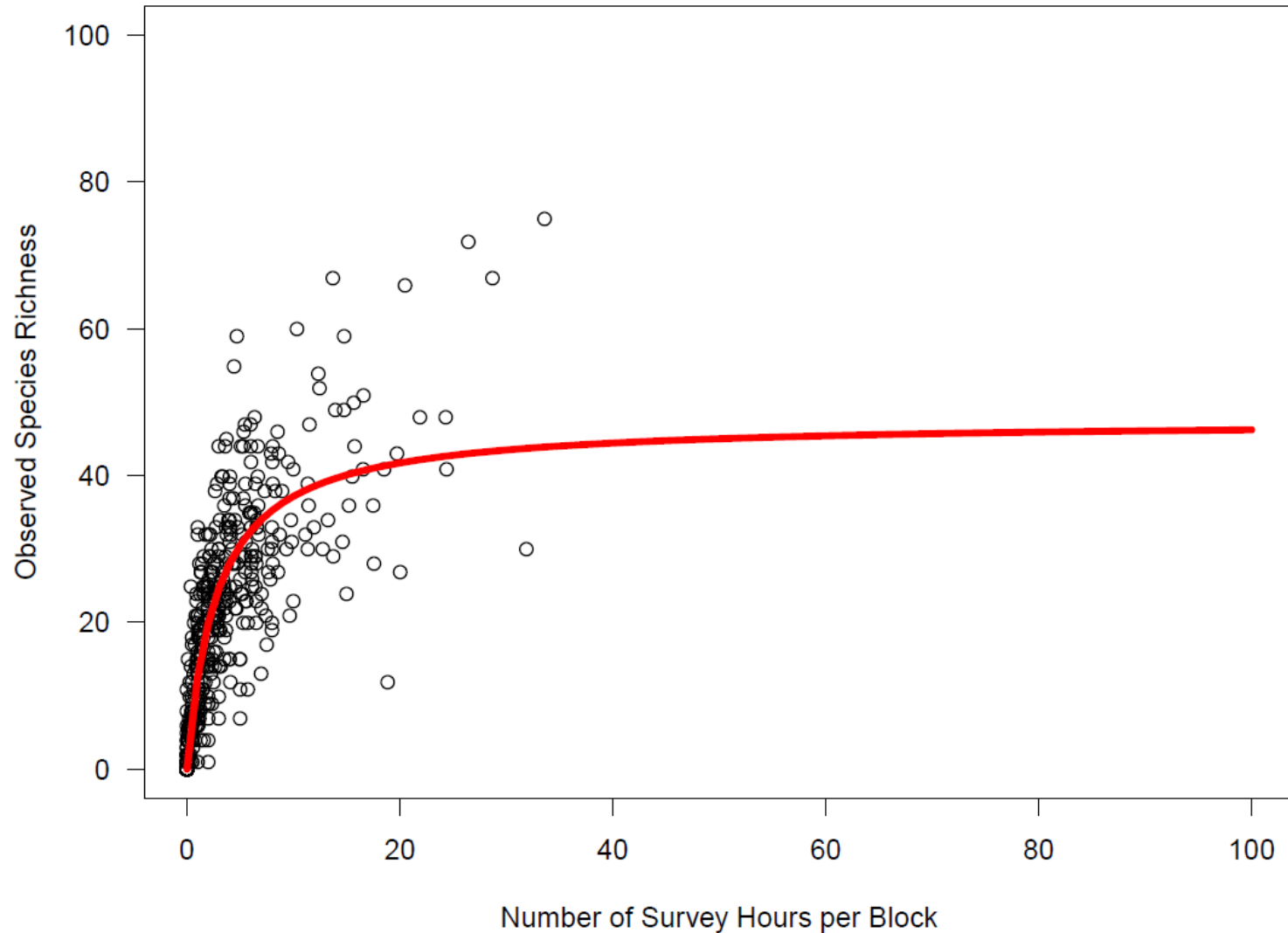
Diminishing returns after 10 hours

Early Winter Richness



Diminishing returns after 10 hours

Late Winter Richness



Moving forward: priorities

This winter

- **Empty blocks, especially inland**

Next summer

- **Finish abundance surveys (technicians)**
- **Hard to detect species**
 - night birds
 - secretive wetland birds
- **Confirmations: July/Aug**

Winter atlas

- **One-hour surveys**



Winter atlas

- **One-hour surveys**
- **Inland waterbodies & shoreline surveys**



Winter atlas

- **One-hour surveys**
- **Inland waterbodies & shoreline surveys**
- **Roost sites**



The long term ...

Bald Eagle

Haliaeetus leucocephalus

Family: Hawks, Kites, and Eagles

Bald eagles are an uncommon, but increasing, breeding species throughout Connecticut, a regular winter visitor especially along the coast and large rivers, and frequently pass through on migration.

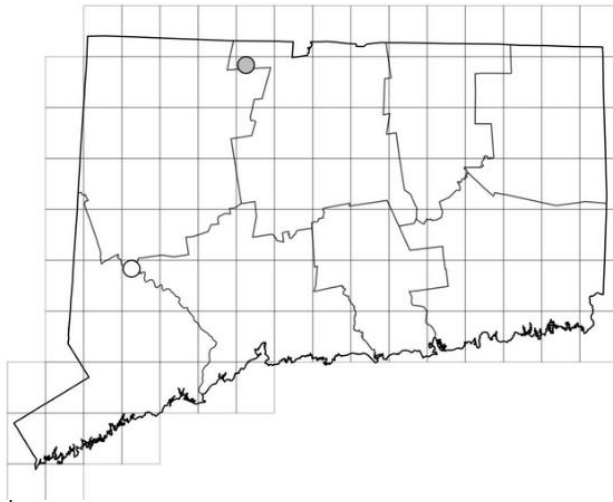


Bald eagles were common in Connecticut during the 1800s, but largely disappeared during the middle of the 20th century due to pesticide use, habitat change, and direct persecution by humans. Following the ban of DDT and increased protection, their numbers have increased substantially.

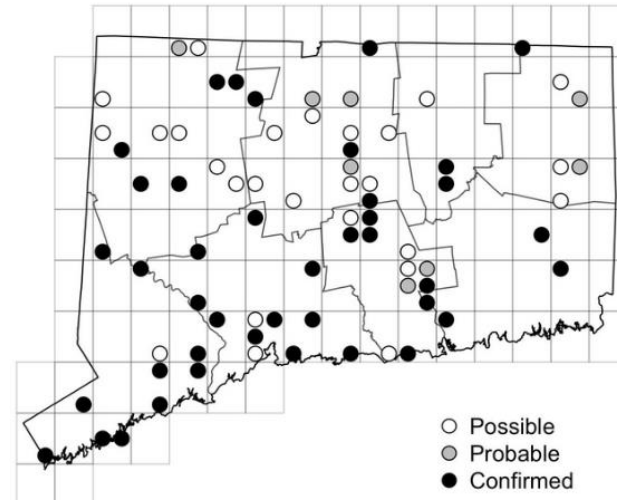
Breeding distribution

During the 1980s atlas, bald eagles were suspected of breeding in Connecticut, but not confirmed. The current atlas shows the extent of their comeback, with birds now nesting in all eight counties and at least XX documented nests.

Atlas 1982-1986

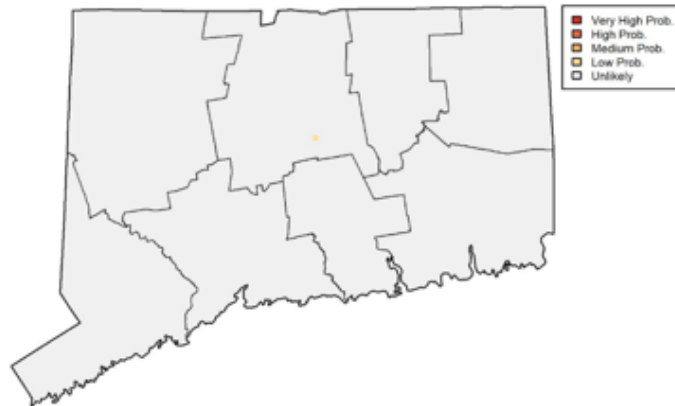


Atlas 2018-2020

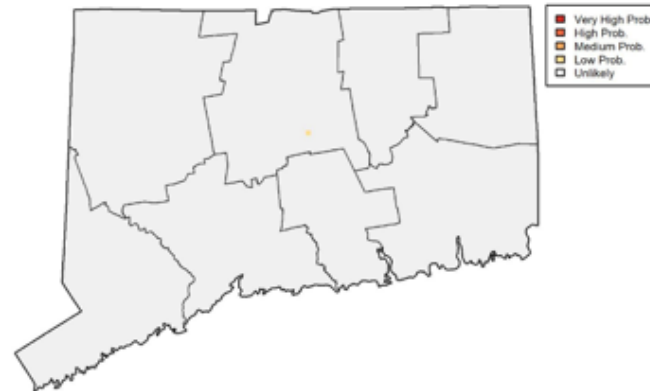


Modelled breeding distribution:

Probability of occurrence



Predicted relative abundance

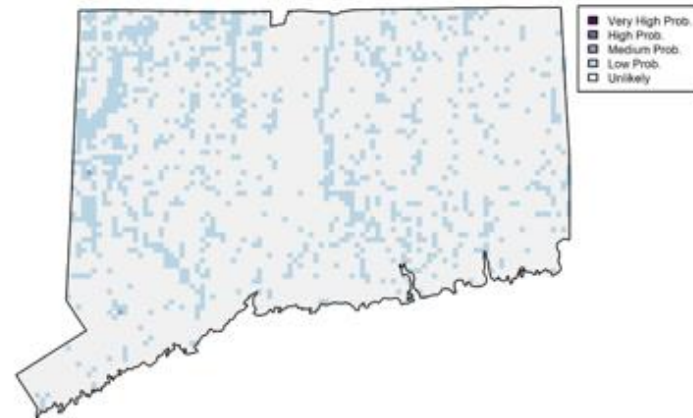
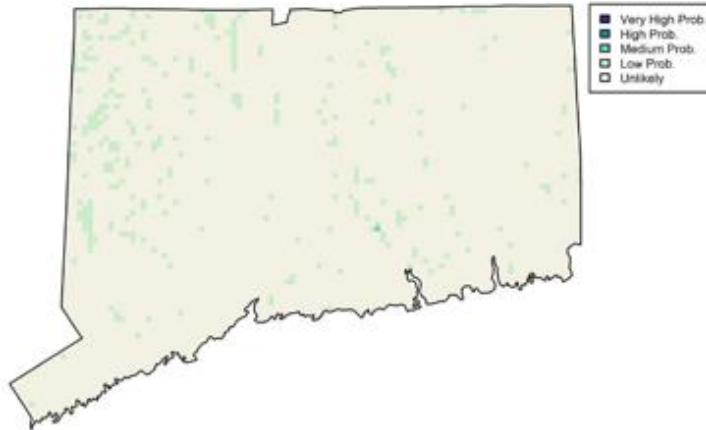
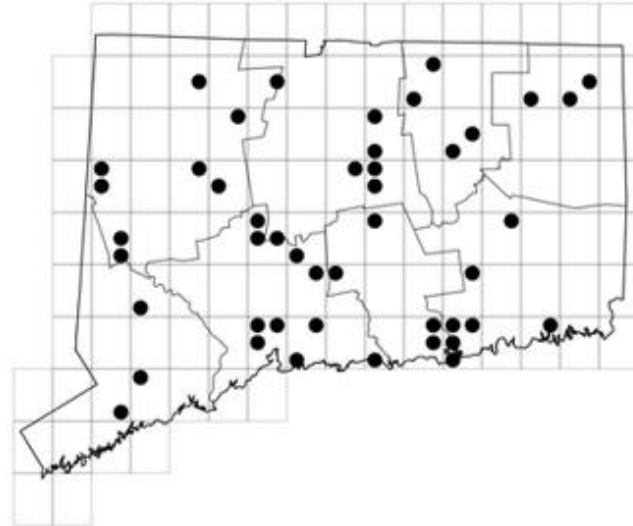
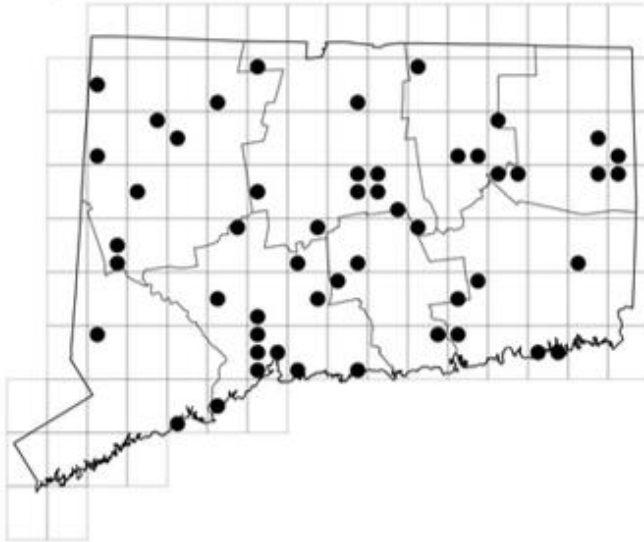


Winter distribution

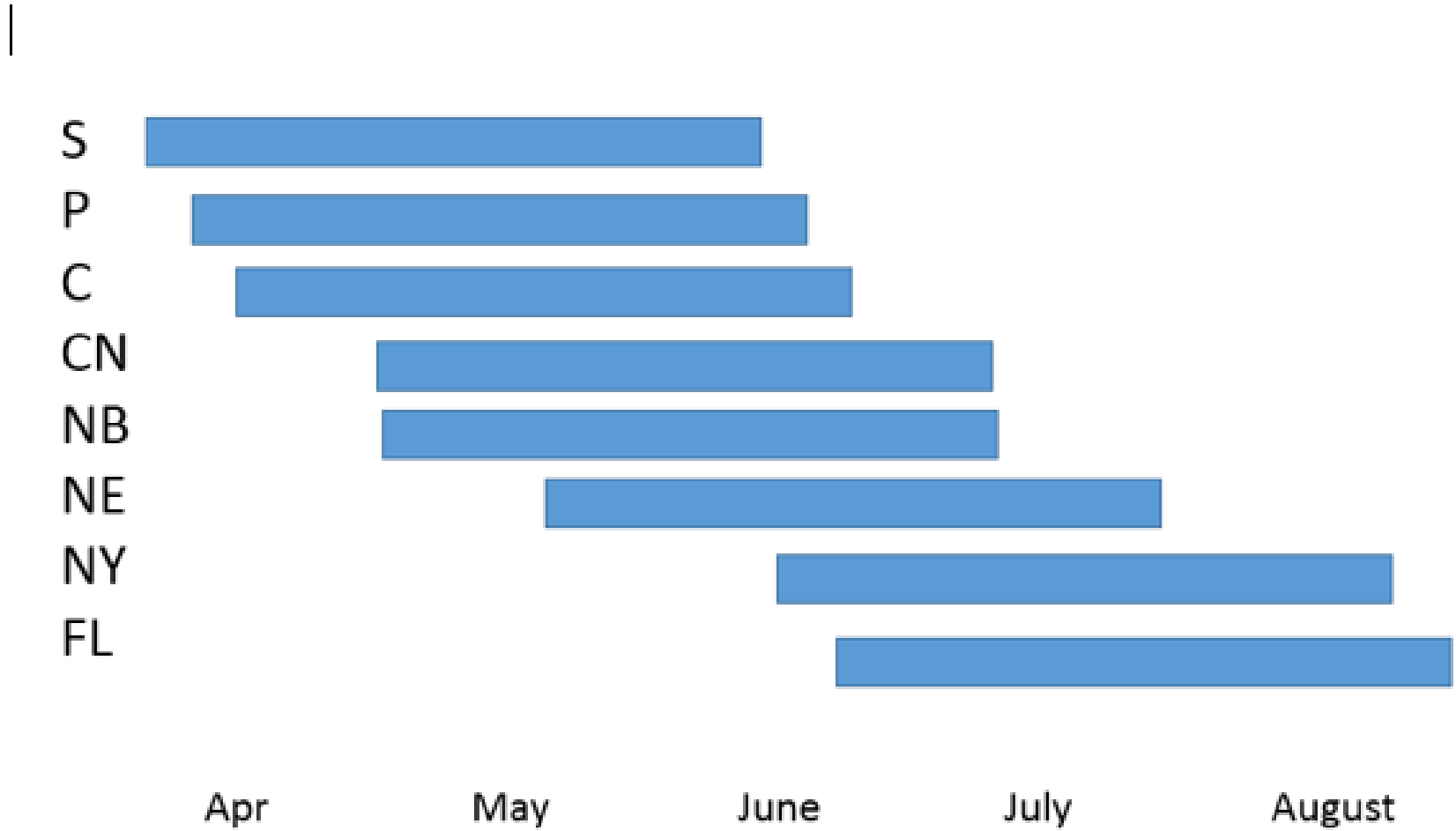
Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Etiam purus orci, iaculis non porta in, placerat sed nulla. Suspendisse scelerisque tellus neque, eget rutrum metus ornare id.

Nov-Dec

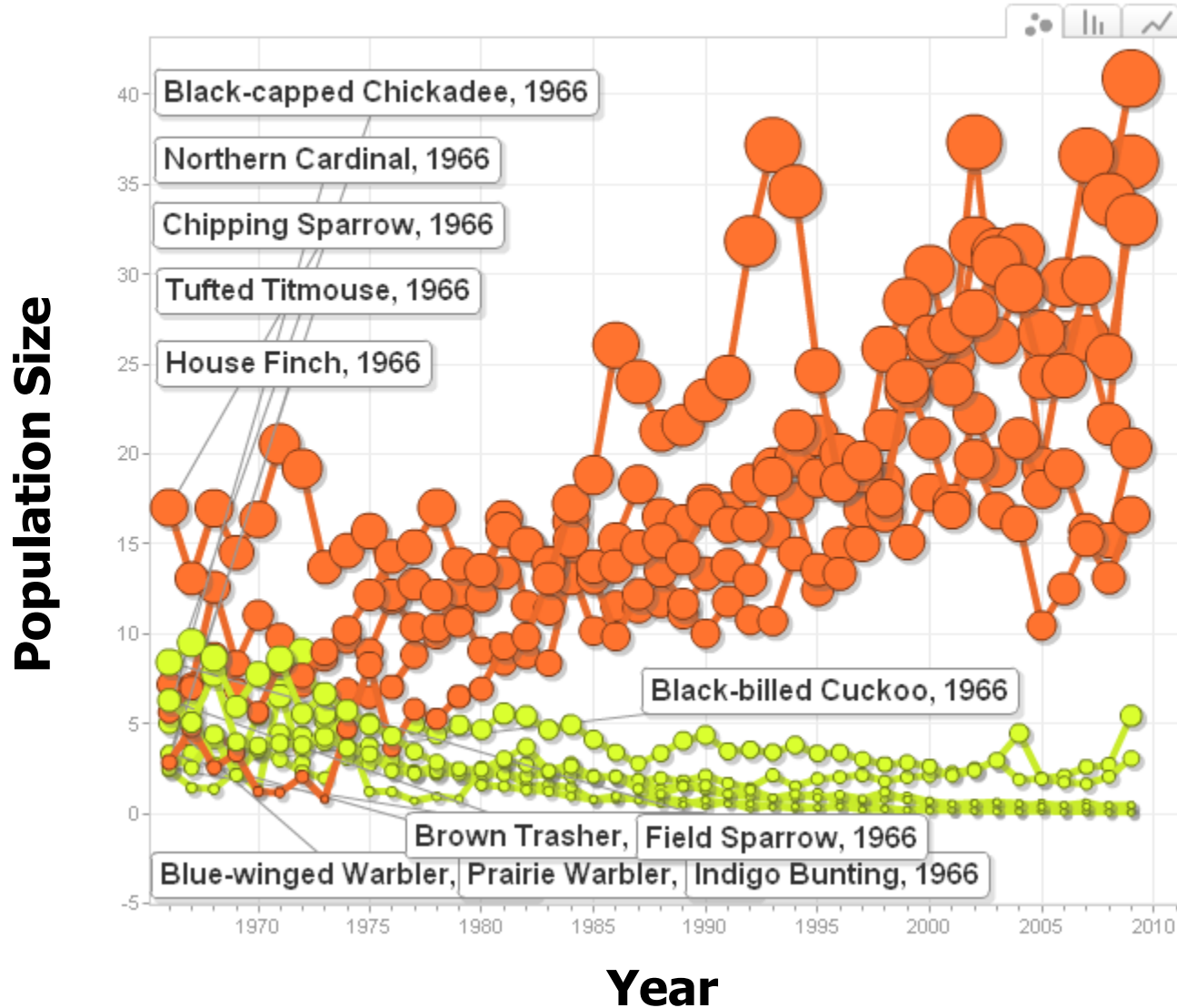
| Jan-Feb



Breeding phenology:



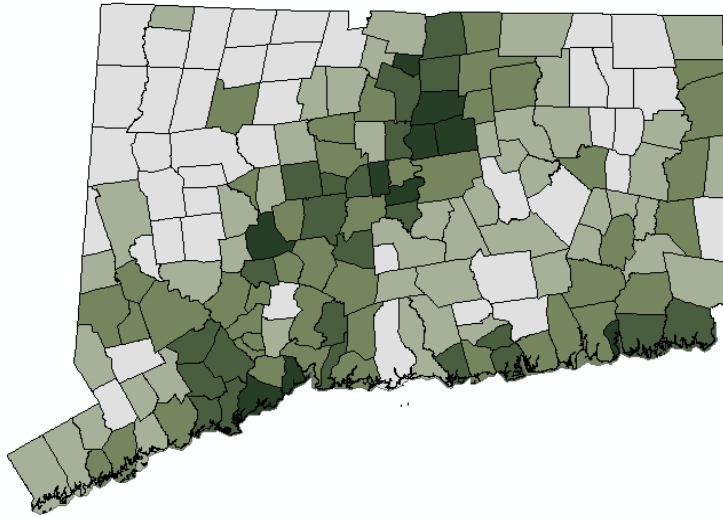
Population changes



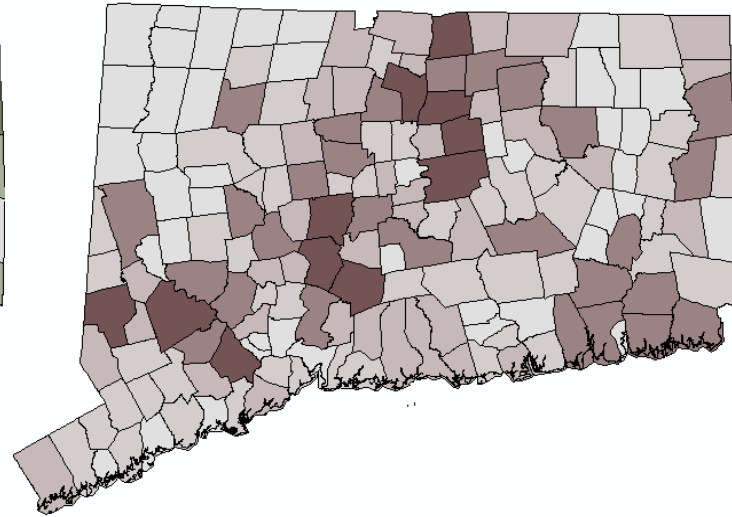
Analysis of USGS Breeding Bird Survey data by Chris Field (UConn)

Conservation guidance

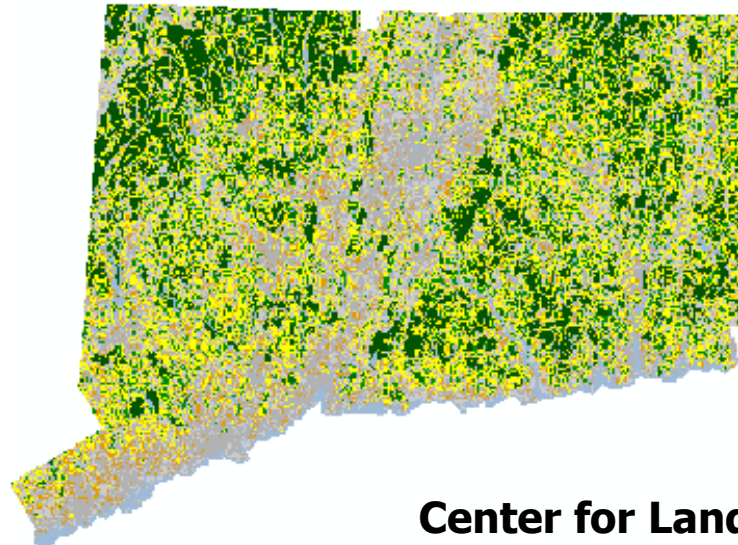
% forest decline



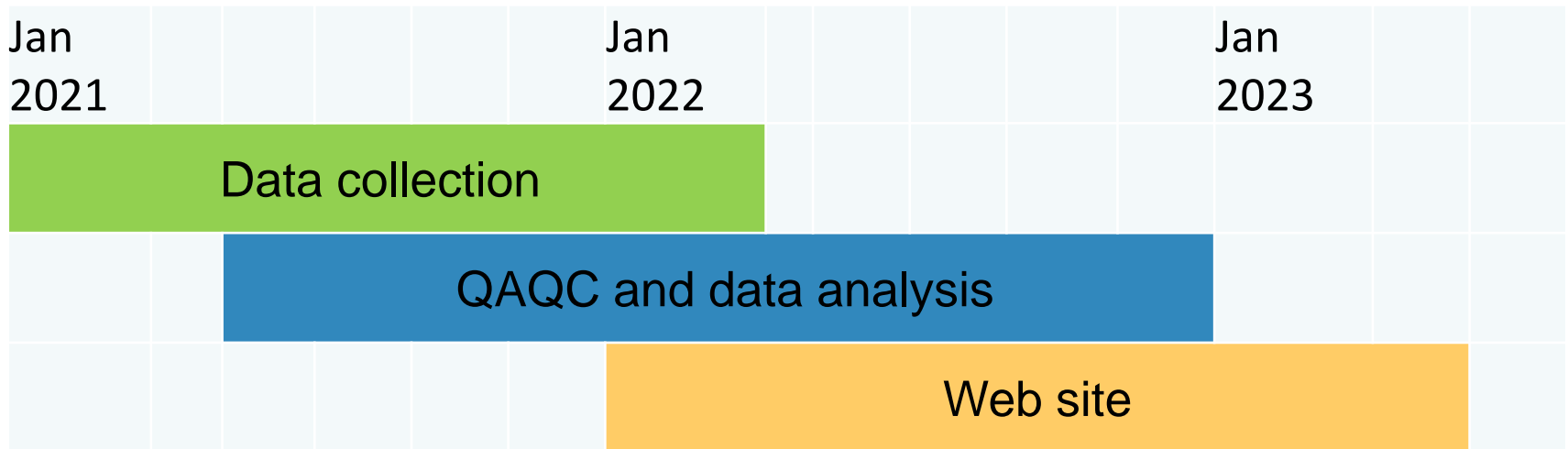
% developed increase



Forest fragmentation



Approx. timeline ...



ctbirdatlas.org

CONNECTICUT BIRD ATLAS: STARTS SPRING 2018

SEEKING **BIRD**WATCHERS

THE CONNECTICUT BIRD ATLAS NEEDS YOUR HELP!

CONTACT US



PAUL J. FUSCO
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**PROTECTING THE STATE'S BIRDS REQUIRES THAT
WE KNOW WHERE THEY ARE.**

To volunteer:
ctbirdatlasvol@gmail.com

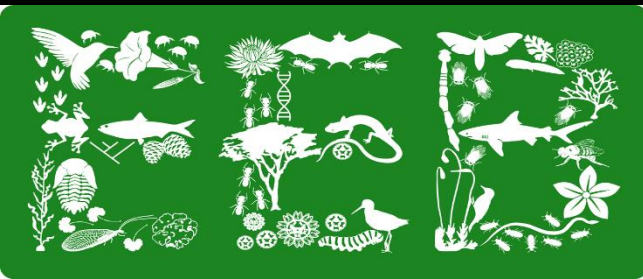
For other information, contact:
chris.elphick@uconn.edu



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**Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
Center of Biological Risk
University of Connecticut**



Connecticut Department of
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