

# Using R for the Analysis of Bird Demography on a Europe-wide Scale

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Rob Robinson,  
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vogeltrekstation



**BTO**

Looking out for birds

# Bird populations are dynamic in space and time

Examples:

- decline of farmland birds



# Bird populations are dynamic in space and time

Examples:

- decline of farmland birds
- decline of migratory passerines



Andreas Trepte, [www.photo-natur.de](http://www.photo-natur.de)

# Bird populations are dynamic in space and time

Examples:

- decline of farmland birds
- decline of migratory passerines
- **increase of waterfowl**



## Population changes attributed to:

- climatic change (phenological shift, ...)
- land use and land cover change
- conditions on staging and wintering grounds
- ...

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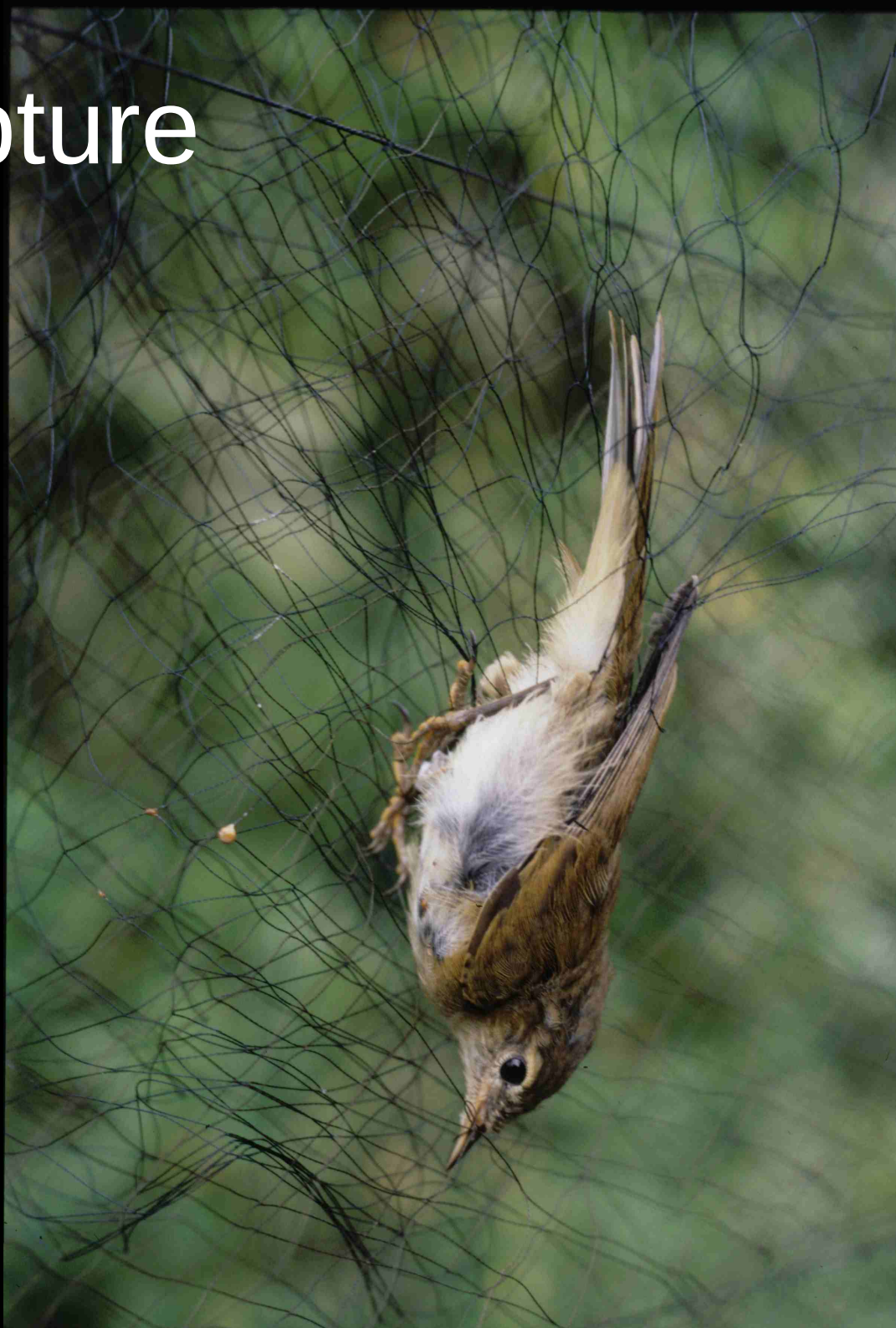
## Proximate causes for abundance changes:

- reproductive success
- survival rate



mist net

# bird capture







ring application

Sampling  
occasion  
**1**

Sampling  
occasion  
**2**

Sampling  
occasion  
**3**

ringed  
**100**

Sampling  
occasion  
**1**

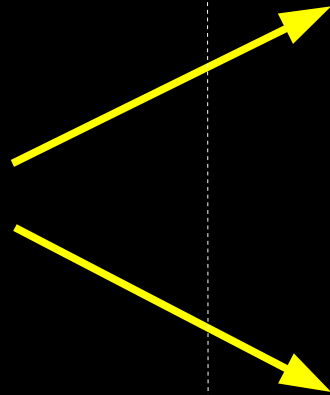
Sampling  
occasion  
**2**

Sampling  
occasion  
**3**

ringed  
**100**

observed  
**60**

not observed  
**40**



Sampling  
occasion  
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Sampling  
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**2**

Sampling  
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**3**

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**100**

observed  
**60**

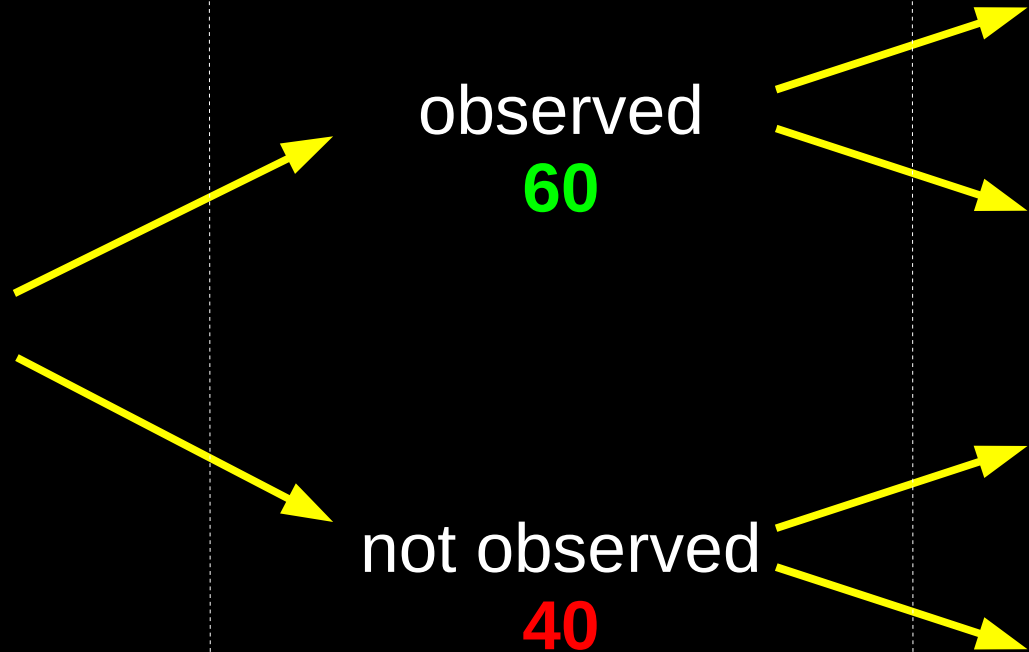
not observed  
**40**

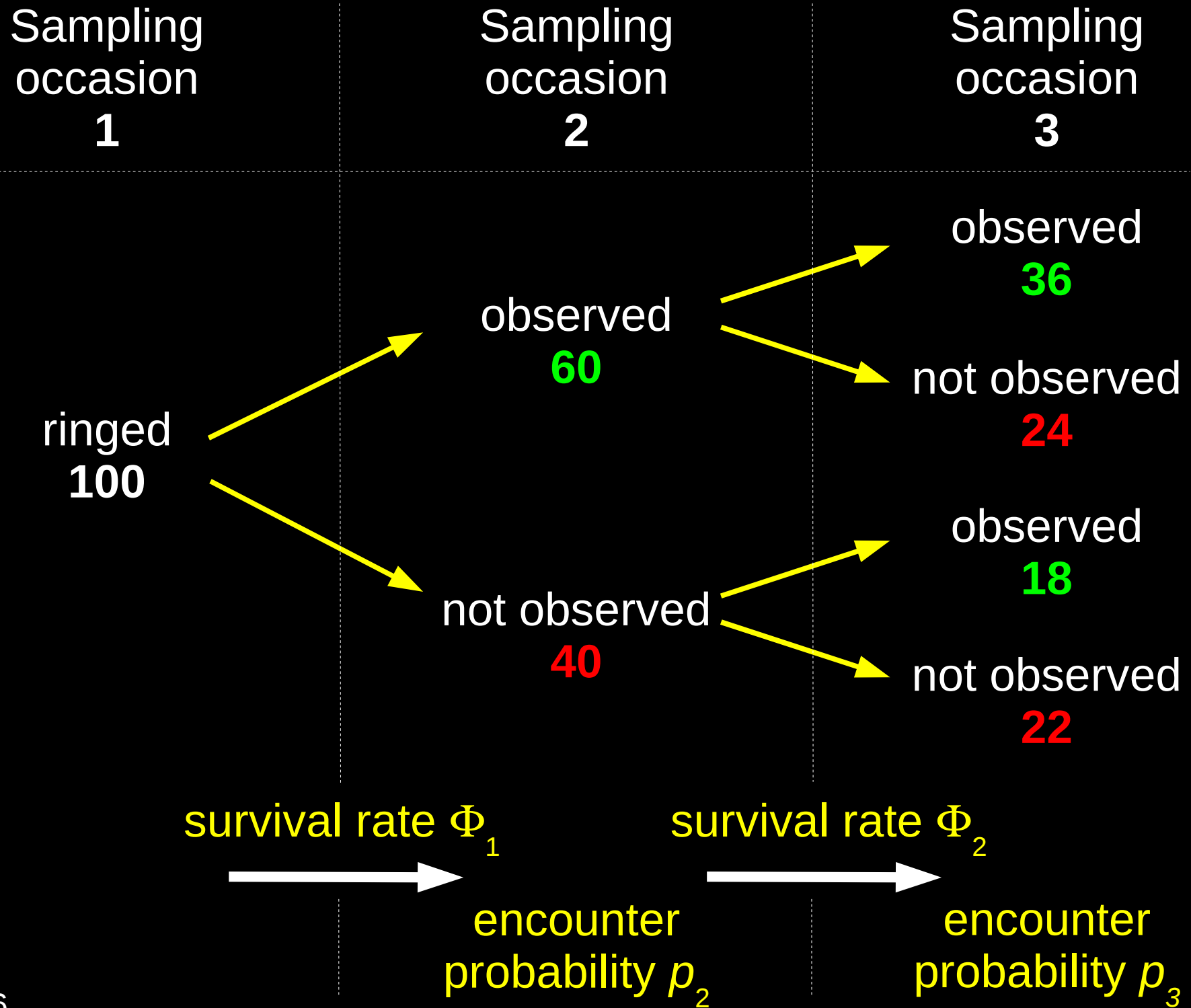
observed  
**36**

not observed  
**24**

observed  
**18**

not observed  
**22**





encounter

history    frequency    probability

---

111	36	$\Phi_1 p_2 \Phi_2 p_3$
110	24	$\Phi_1 p_2 (1 - \Phi_2 p_3)$
101	18	$\Phi_1 (1 - p_2) \Phi_2 p_3$
100	22	$1 - \Phi_1 p_2 - \Phi_1 (1 - p_2) \Phi_2 p_3$

$$\ln L(\Phi_1, p_2, \Phi_2, p_3) = 36 \ln(\Phi_1 p_2 \Phi_2 p_3) + 24 \ln(\Phi_1 p_2 (1 - \Phi_2 p_3)) + \\ + 18 \ln(\Phi_1 (1 - p_2) \Phi_2 p_3) + 22 \ln(1 - \Phi_1 p_2 - \Phi_1 (1 - p_2) \Phi_2 p_3)$$

110100100010  
100101101000  
100000000000  
111000000000  
100110010100  
101001001011  
100001000000  
100010010010  
010100110100  
011010110000  
010000000000  
010000000000  
010100000000  
010000000100  
010001000010  
001000000001  
001001001001  
001010100000

Program MARK Interface

File Window Help

# Program MARK

You can obtain context-sensitive help with the F1 key,  
and can investigate objects with the Shift-F1 key.  
See the Help menu for known problems.

Female Lark Bunting by Amy Yackel-Adams

Colorado State University

Colorado State University

Program MARK Interface

20:29:57

Gary White (Colorado State University)

# The MARK Parameter Index Matrix (PIM)

	$\phi_1$	$\phi_2$	$\phi_3$	$\phi_4$	$\phi_5$
birds ringed at $t = 1$ :	1	2	3	4	5
2:		6	7	8	9
3:			10	11	12
4:				13	14
5:					15

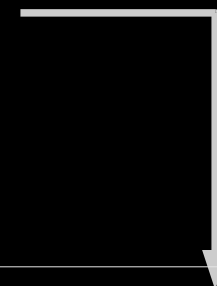


each column corresponds to a year



	$\phi_1$	$\phi_2$	$\phi_3$	$\phi_4$	$\phi_5$
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each row corresponds to a cohort

each column corresponds to a year

	$\phi_1$	$\phi_2$	$\phi_3$	$\phi_4$	$\phi_5$
birds ringed at $t = 1$ :	1	2	3	4	5
2:		6	7	8	9
3:			10	11	12
4:				13	14
5:					15

each diagonal corresponds to an age class

each row corresponds to a cohort

# Time-specific model

$\phi_1$	$\phi_2$	$\phi_3$	$\phi_4$	$\phi_5$
1	2	3	4	5
	2	3	4	5
		3	4	5
			4	5
				5



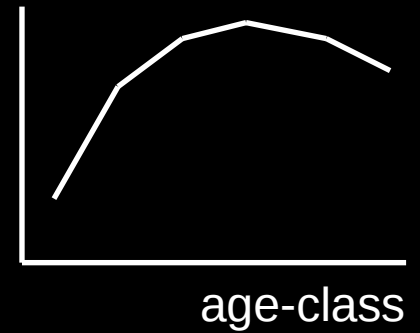
# Time-specific model

$\phi_1$	$\phi_2$	$\phi_3$	$\phi_4$	$\phi_5$
1	2	3	4	5
	2	3	4	5
		3	4	5
			4	5
				5



# Age-specific model

$\phi_1$	$\phi_2$	$\phi_3$	$\phi_4$	$\phi_5$
1	2	3	4	5
	1	2	3	4
		1	2	3
			1	2
				1



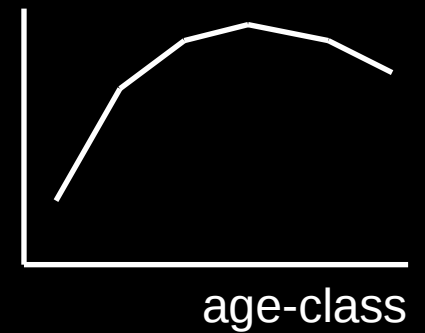
# Time-specific model

$\phi_1$	$\phi_2$	$\phi_3$	$\phi_4$	$\phi_5$
1	2	3	4	5
	2	3	4	5
		3	4	5
			4	5
				5



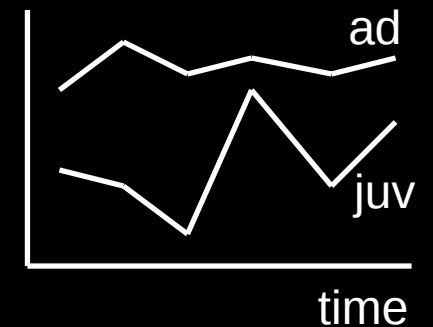
# Age-specific model

$\phi_1$	$\phi_2$	$\phi_3$	$\phi_4$	$\phi_5$
1	2	3	4	5
	1	2	3	4
		1	2	3
			1	2
				1



# Time and two age-classes

$\phi_1$	$\phi_2$	$\phi_3$	$\phi_4$	$\phi_5$
1	6	7	8	9
	2	7	8	9
		3	8	9
			4	9
				5



# The MARK Design Matrix

Program MARK Interface (C:\Program Files\MARK\Examples\ed.DBF) - [Design Matrix Specification: Live Recaptures (CJS)]

File Undo Redo AddCol DelCol FillCol Appearance Run PIM Browse Window Help

Design Matrix Specification (B = Beta)

B1: Phi Int	B2: Phi g1	B3: Phi t1	B4: Phi t2	B5: Phi t3	B6: Phi g1*t1	B7: Phi g1*t2	B8: Phi g1*t3	Parm	B9: p Int	B10: p g1	B11: p t1	B12: p t2	B13: p t3	B14: p g1*t1	B15: p g1*t2	B16: p g1*t3
1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1:Phi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	2:Phi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	3:Phi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4:Phi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	5:Phi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	6:Phi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	7:Phi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8:Phi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9:p	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10:p	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11:p	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12:p	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13:p	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14:p	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15:p	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16:p	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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File Undo Redo AddCol DelCol FillCol Appearance Run PIM Browse Window Help

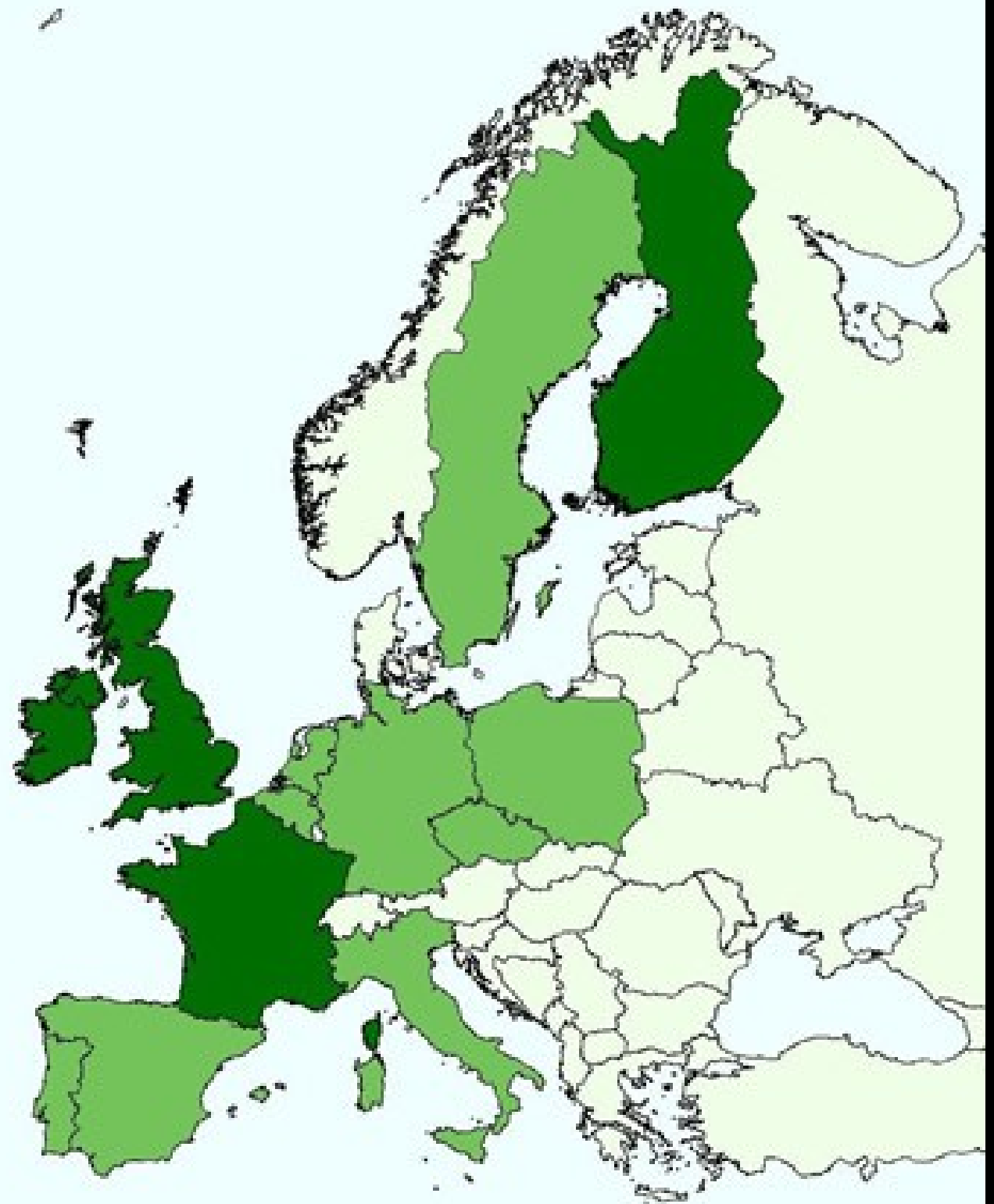
Design Matrix Specification (B = Beta)

B1: Phi Int	B2: Phi g1	B3: Phi t1	B4: Phi t2	B5: Phi t3	B6: Phi g1*t1	B7: Phi g1*t2	B8: Phi g1*t3	Parm	B9: p Int	B10: p g1	B11: p t1	B12: p t2	B13: p t3	B14: p g1*t1	B15: p g1*t2	B16: p g1*t3
1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1:Phi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	2:Phi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	3:Phi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4:Phi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	5:Phi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	6:Phi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	7:Phi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8:Phi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9:p	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10:p	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11:p	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12:p	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13:p	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14:p	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15:p	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16:p	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Development of even moderately complex models is tedious and error-prone because the parameter structure and design matrix are created by hand.



Constant  
Effort  
Site  
schemes  
in Europe





Jeff Laake  
(Alaska Fisheries  
Science Center)



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Further advantage for Europe-wide cooperation of CES network:

- Entire analyses can be written, documented and exchanged as scripts.

The use of RMark for survival analysis (and other **R** packages for reproduction analysis etc.)

- allows the standardisation of statistical analyses



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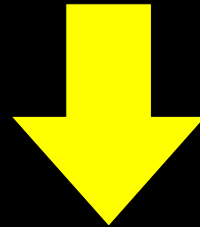
- allows the standardisation of statistical analyses
- allows the standardisation of the presentation of results

## The use of RMark for survival analysis (and other **R** packages for reproduction analysis etc.)

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- facilitates access to statistical analysis for national schemes with small staff or little analytical experience

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**Euring**

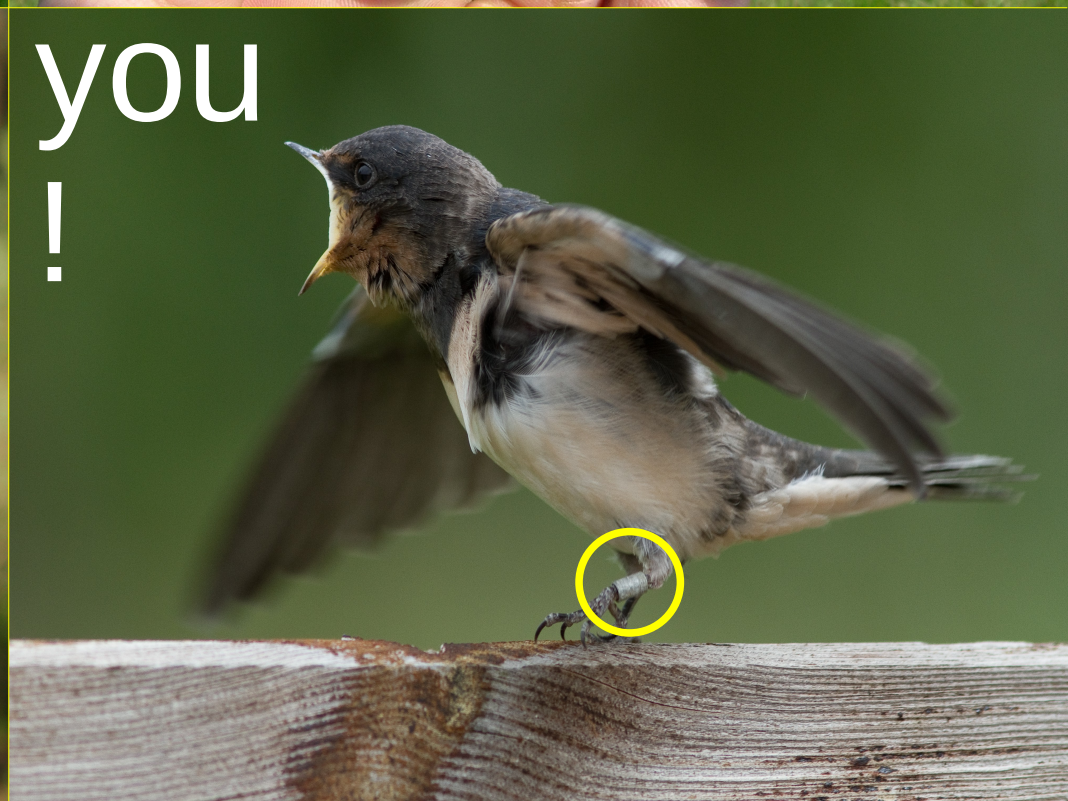
Co-ordinating bird ringing throughout Europe



Workshops on how to use R in the analysis of bird demography: demonstration and exchange of scripts, presentation of the prototype of an R package specifically designed for CES data,...



Thank



you  
!