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Federal Department of the Environment,
Transport, Energy and Communications DETEC

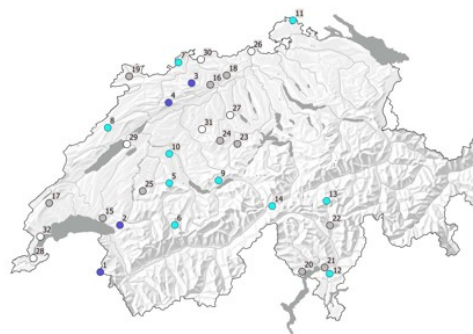
Federal Office for the Environment FOEN
Division Species, Ecosystems, Landscapes



vogelwarte.ch

Key national sites of international importance for raptor conservation

«the Swiss approach»



MoU Raptor – TAG3
Sempach, 12.12.2018



Situation today: protected sites under Swiss law

- Ordinance on water and **migratory bird** reserves
 - 10 international waterbird sites
 - 24 national waterbird sites
 - 1 national bird migration site (Col de Bretolet)



- Bird reserves
 - no hunting
 - limited recreational activities
 - limited infrastructures
 - no feeding / no drones
- Col de Bretolet: birdringing activity of SOI since over 60 years





Situation today: suggested sites under the MoU Raptor

- 1 compulsory site agreed at the MoU signing
 - > Gantrisch – Gurnigel
 - > natural parc > protected landscape



- hunting possible
- infrastructures possible
- drones possible



Proposed sites by Birdlife International

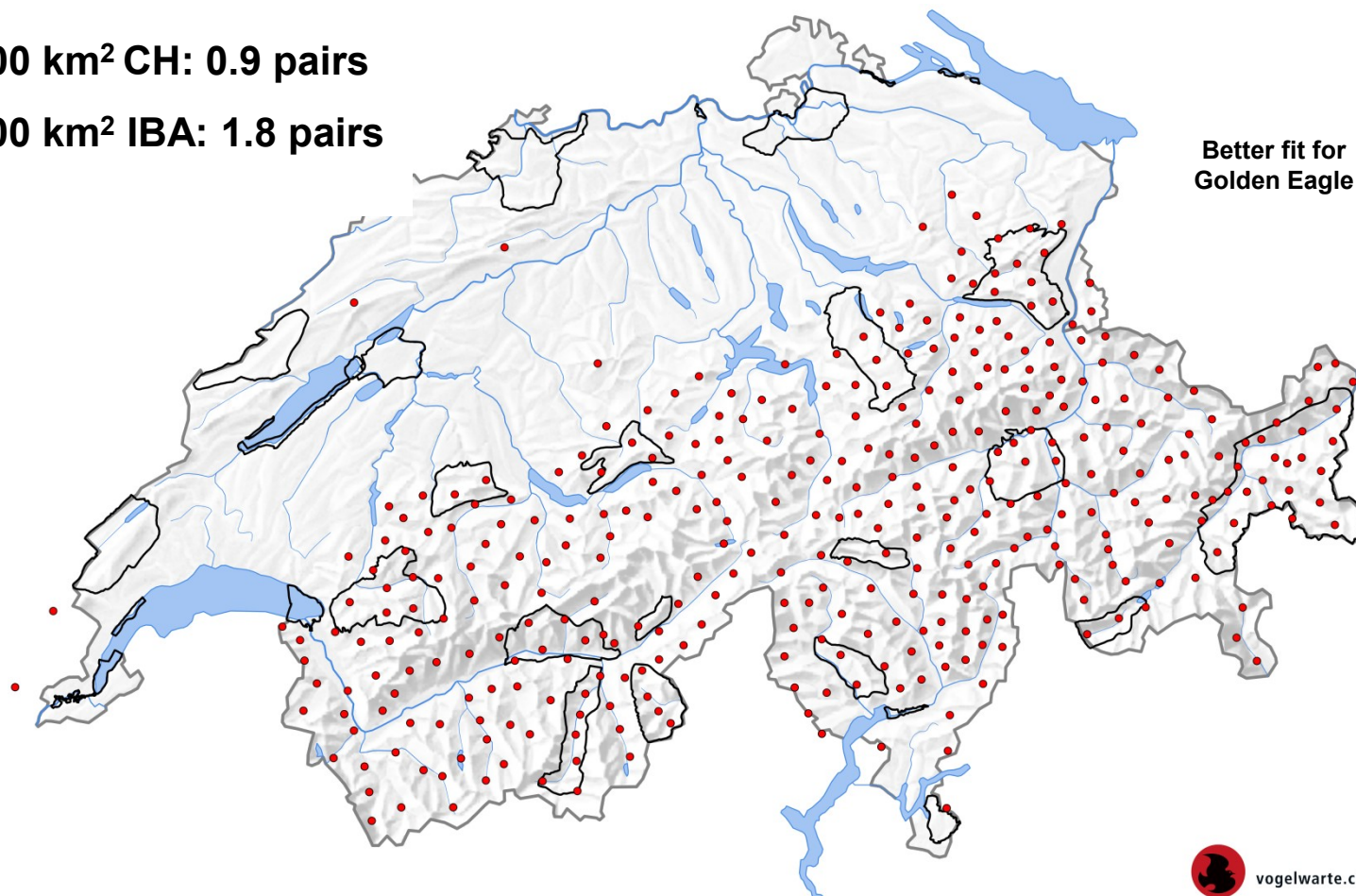
Switzerland				
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Current situation Switzerland

Golden Eagle

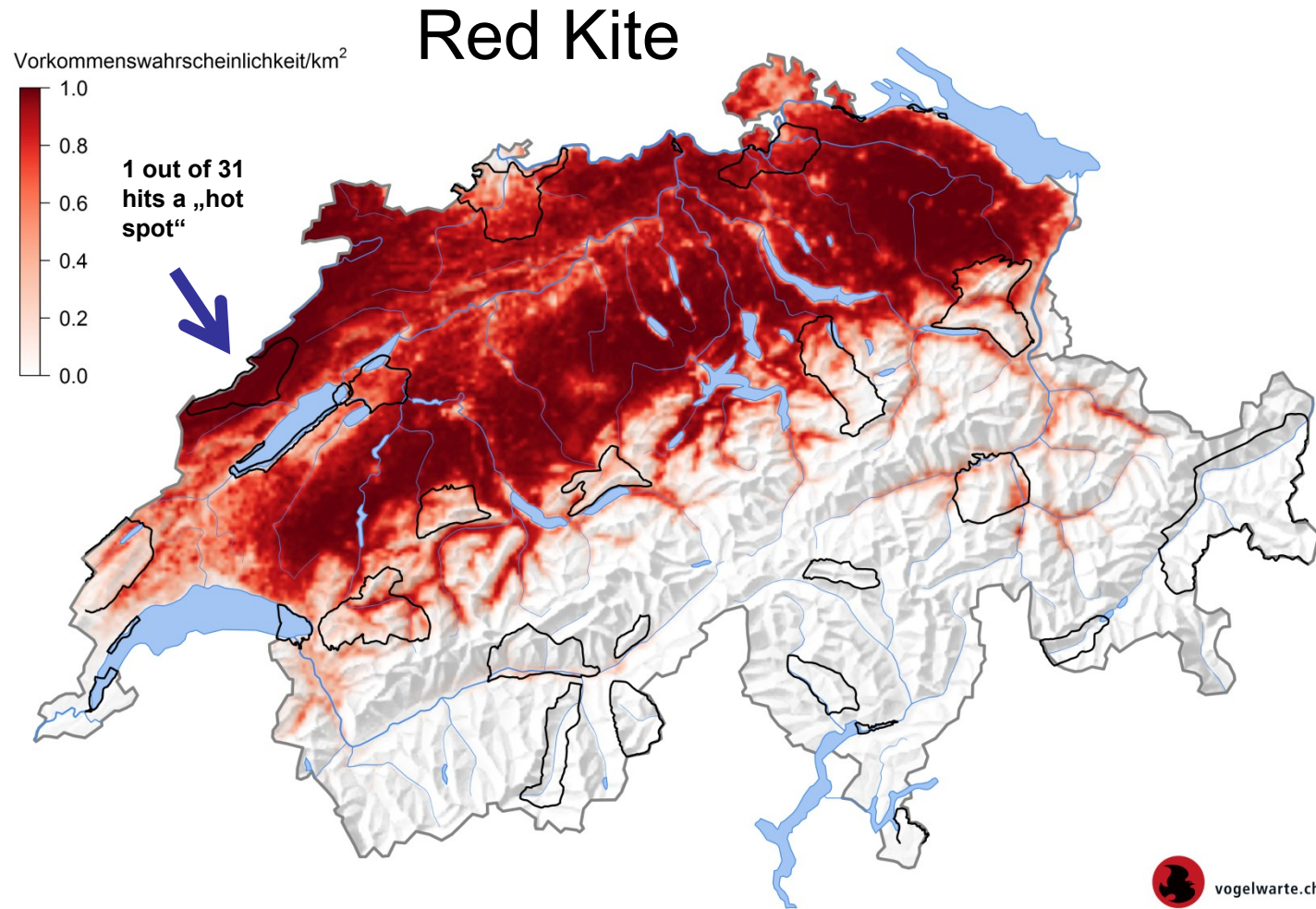
Per 100 km² CH: 0.9 pairs

Per 100 km² IBA: 1.8 pairs





Current situation Switzerland

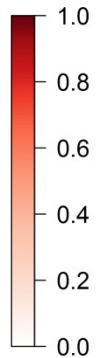




Current situation Switzerland

Common Kestrel

Vorkommenswahrscheinlichkeit/km²



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Data / Criteria Birdlife



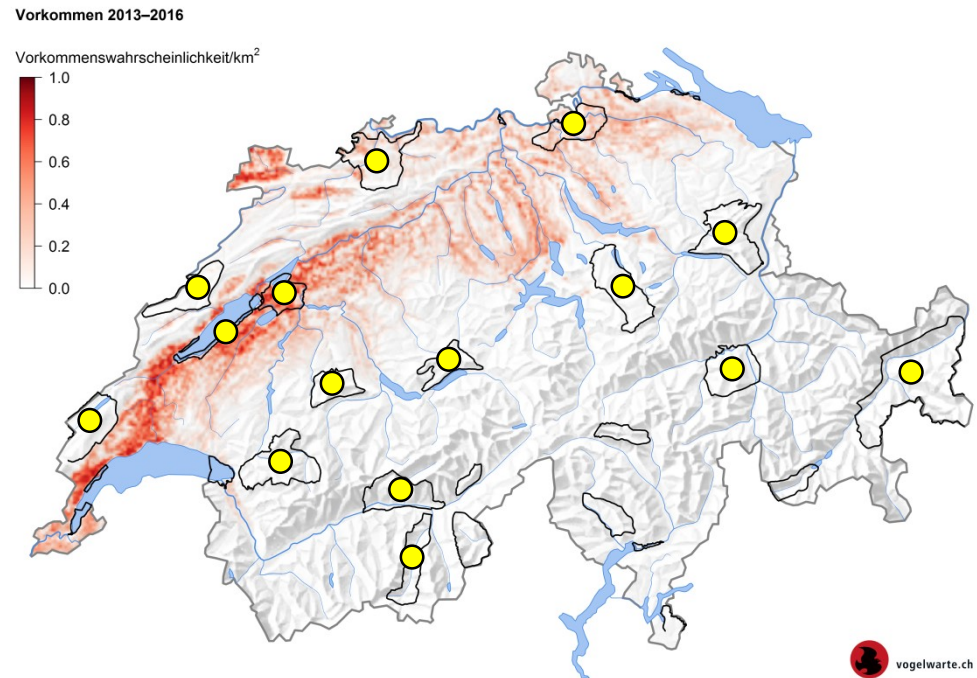
- Criteria for Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas IBA selected by BirdLife International (global approach)
 - 29 bird species in Switzerland **relevant** for IBAs:
 - Species of which at least 1% of European population breeds in Switzerland
- or:
- species of which at least 1 % of the flyway uses Switzerland for staging or wintering (waterbirds)



Data / Criteria Birdlife



- 22 breeding bird species
(mainly alpine species; 6 raptors and owls)
- In 17 out of 31 IBAs
raptors and/or owls are
mentioned
- Only few sites are
selected due to raptors
- Selection based on
data from 1993-96



map of Barn Owl



Data / Criteria Birdlife



Difference in relevant raptor and owl species

Breeding Species	MoU Raptors*	IBA
Red Kite	X	X
Bearded Vulture	X	—
Black Kite	X	X
Golden Eagle	—	X
European Honey Buzzard	X	X
Hobby	X	—
Peregrine Falcon	—	X
Common Kestrel	X	X
Long-eared Owl	X	—
Eurasian Scops Owl	X	—
Barn Owl	—	X

Overlap: 4 of 11

* Cat. 1 & 2



Data / Criteria Birdlife

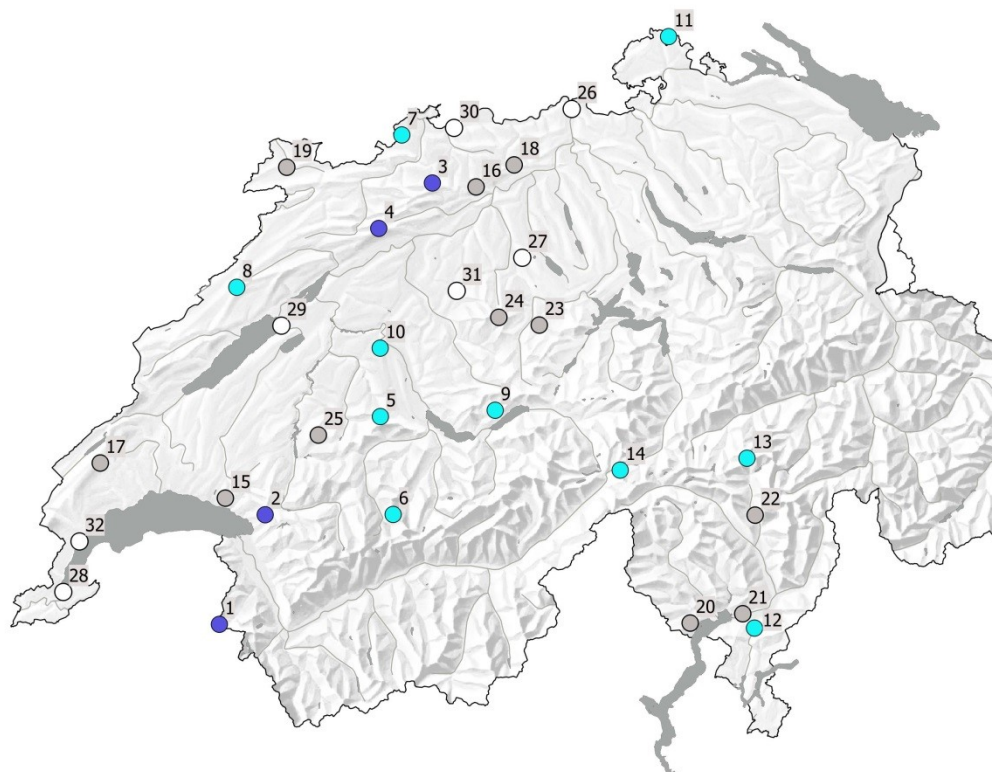


- selection of IBA-sites does not include bottlenecks for raptor migration
 - >20 yrs ago threat of windfarms was not known to Switzerland (or it was underestimated)





Proposed migratory sites by SOI



32 known sites with important raptor migration:

- Classification into 4 categories based on topographic threats and migration behavior:

➤ **High to low susceptibility**

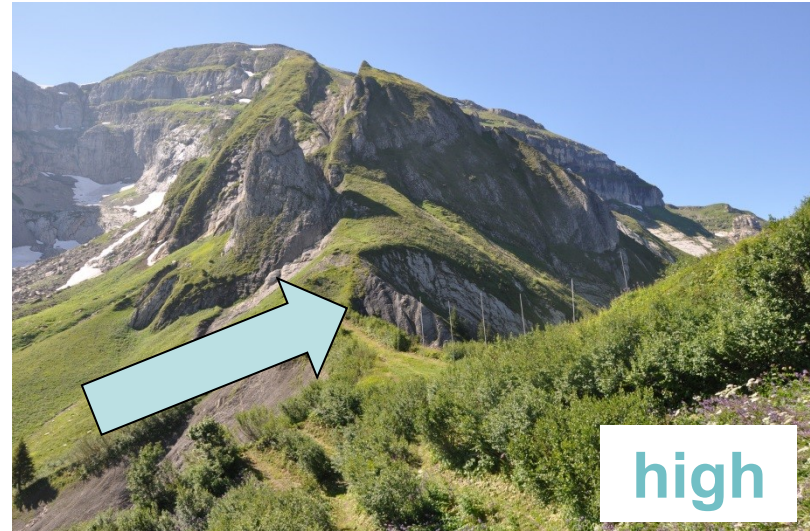
At the moment: characterisation of top 3 categories



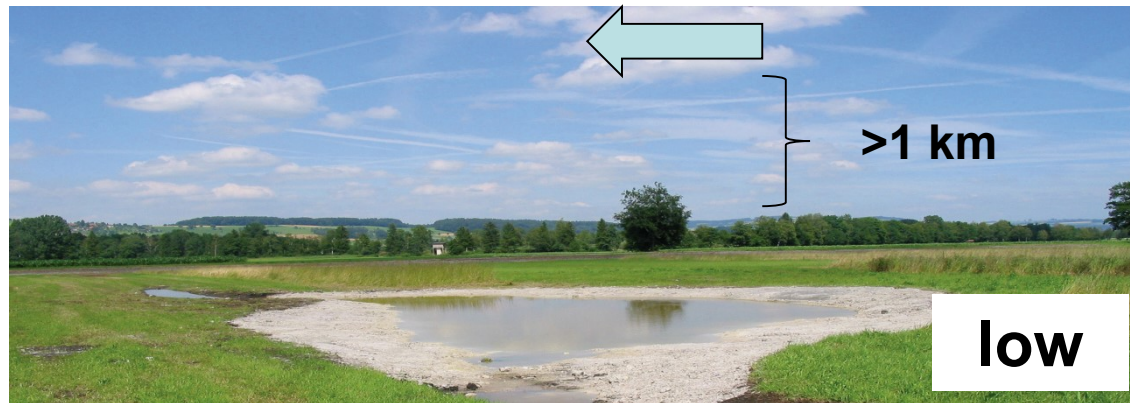
Proposed migratory sites by SOI



Col de Bretolet



Plain of Wauwil

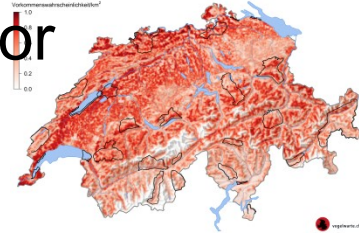




Proposed breeding hotspots

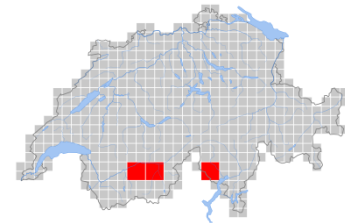


Because of widespread distribution of most raptor species, designation of certain areas would be somewhat artificial



- wider protection approach of current threats necessary (e.g. ban of lead ammunition in the alps)

Breeding hotspots focus on rare Swiss flagship species with currently restricted distribution



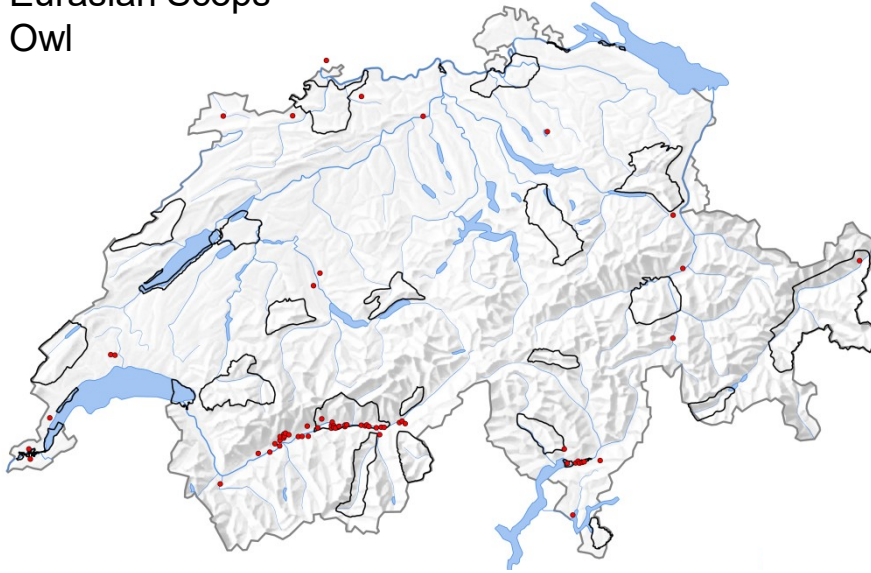
- Little Owl, Scops Owl, Short-toed Eagle, Bearded Vulture



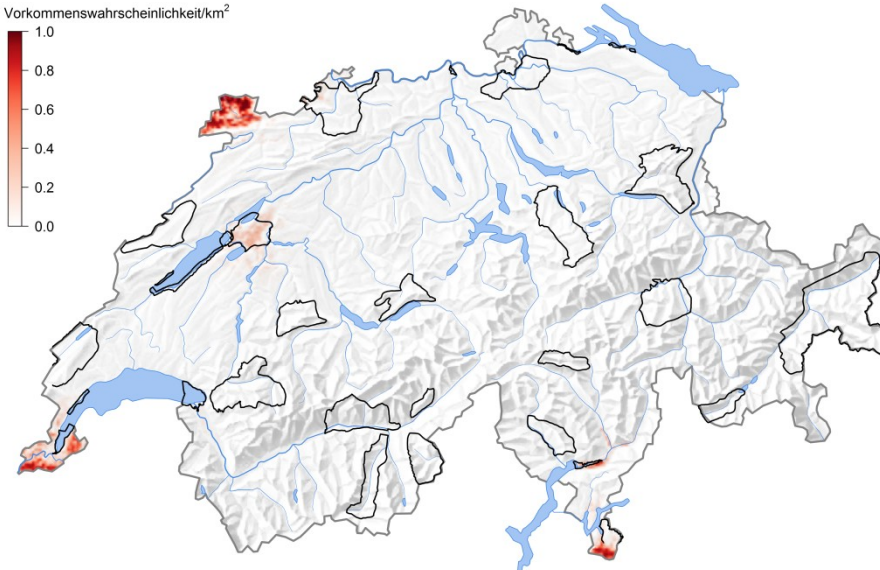
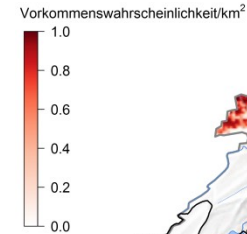
Methodology by SOI



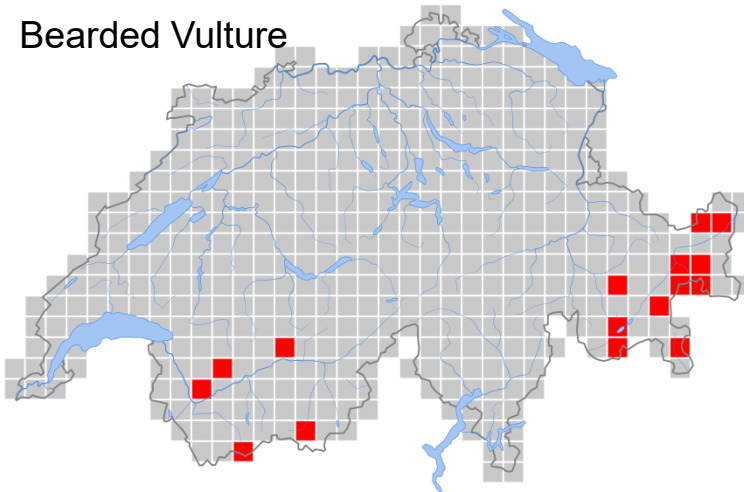
Eurasian Scops Owl



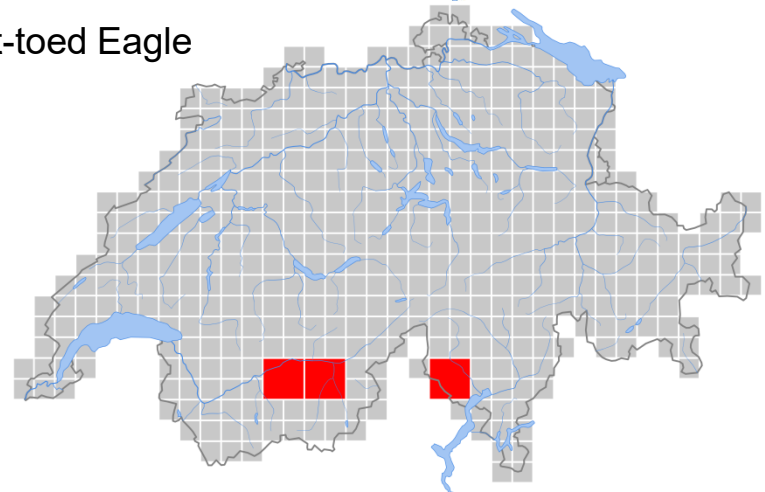
Little Owl



Bearded Vulture



Short-toed Eagle

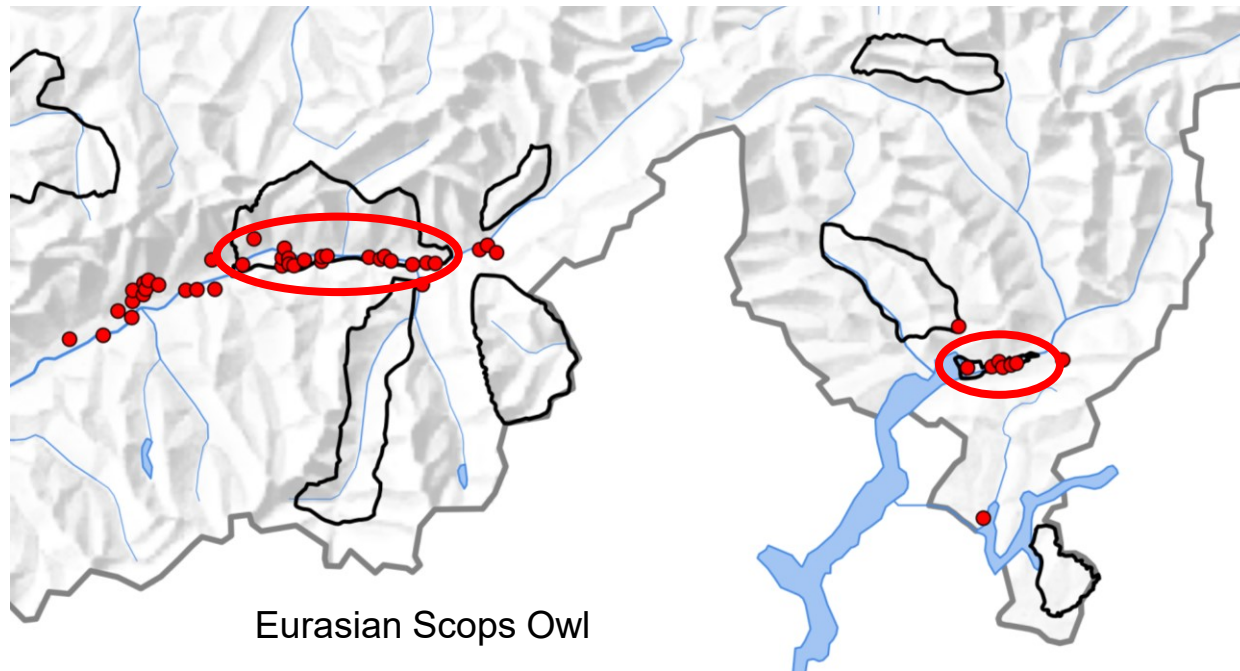




Next steps by SOI



- Calculate importance of IBAs based on current breeding records for raptors and owls
 - some IBAs seem to overlap with important sites for raptors
 - some IBAs seem to be irrelevant for raptor conservation





Next steps by SOI



- Calculate importance of IBAs based on current breeding data for raptors and owls
 - some IBAs seem to overlap with important sites for raptors
 - some IBAs seem to be irrelevant for raptor conservation
- Characterisation of important migratory sites
 - SOI develops recommendations for perimeters for protection of migrating raptors
- Characterisation of important breeding sites?
- Official designation of new protected areas based on our recommendations?



Next steps by FOEN

- Analysis of SOI to FOEN



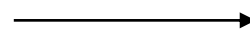
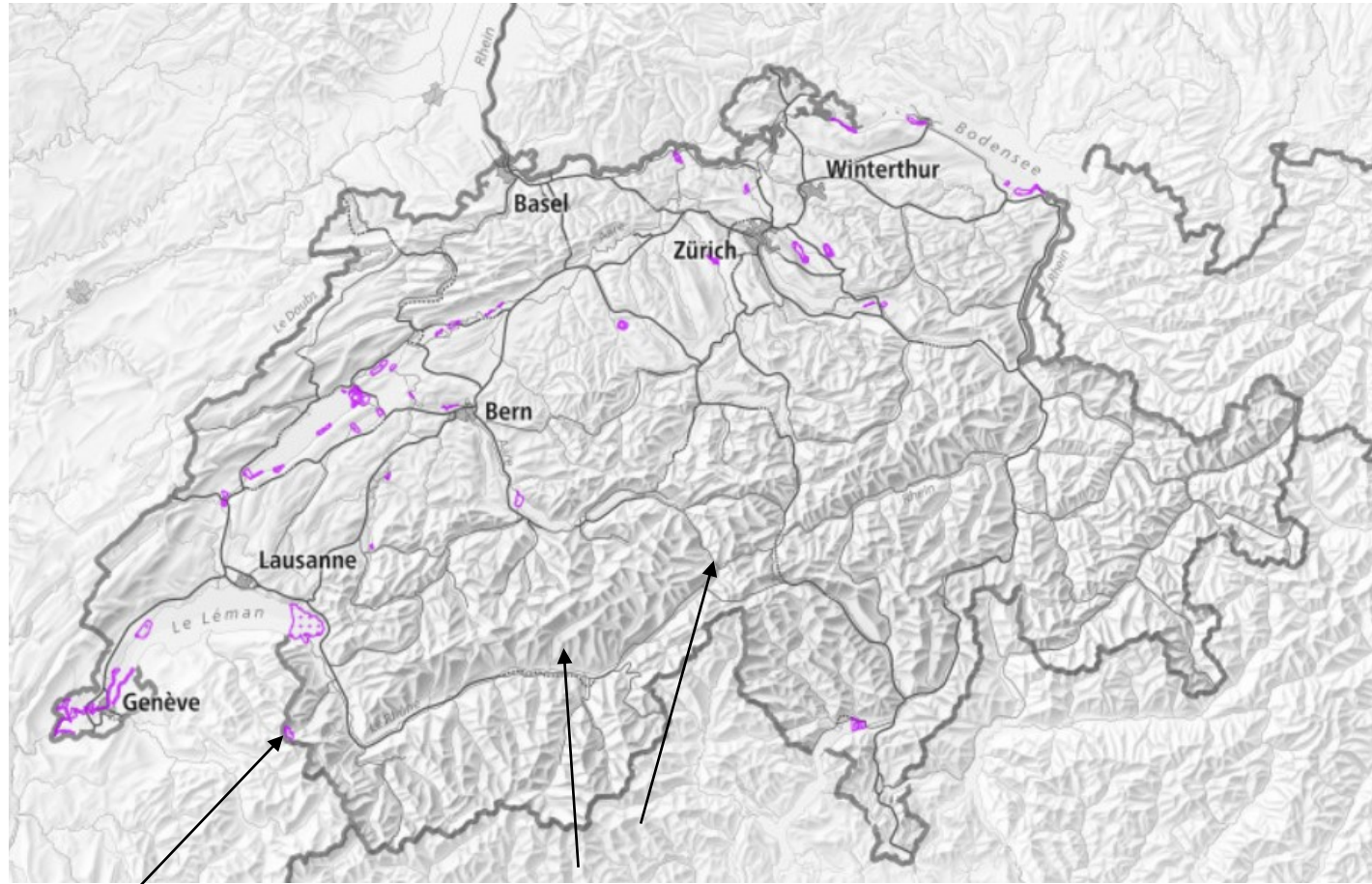
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Revised list...



protected sites



The way to go...



- Workshop with SOI, BirdLife Switzerland, experts & FOEN
- Proposal to CMS (including a detailed methodology and explanation) of the new sites
- Validation of the criterias by Birdlife International
- Presentation at the next Signatory Meeting in 2021



Thank you!

