

# Ecology of avian influenza viruses in wild birds in the Camargue (Rhône Delta, France)

ANR Santé-Environnement et Santé-Travail MigrAvFlu



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- . CNERA-ONCFS
- . CRBPO, MNHN
- . CEFE-CNRS (T. Boulinier)
- . INRA-INA-PG

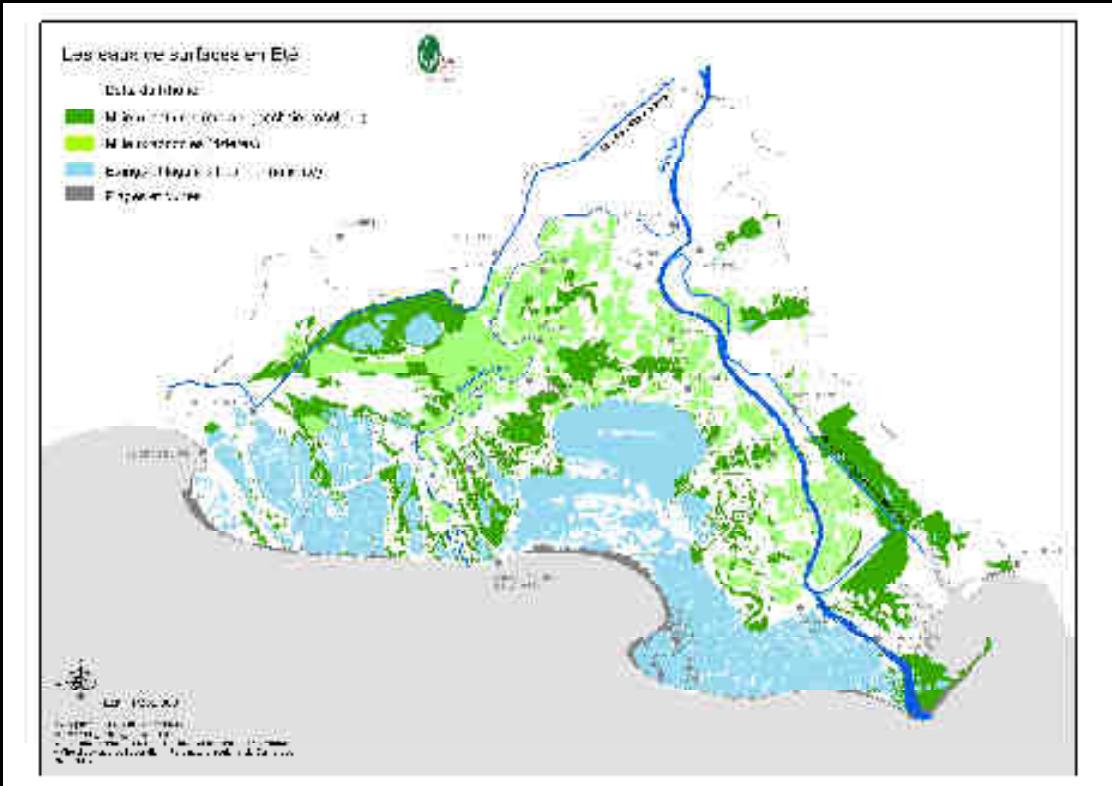


## ◆ The Camargue...

- Rhone delta (south of France).
- 145 500 ha.
- Wide variety of aquatic ecosystems and land use



*Wildlife reserves*



*Hunting marshes*



*Rice farming*

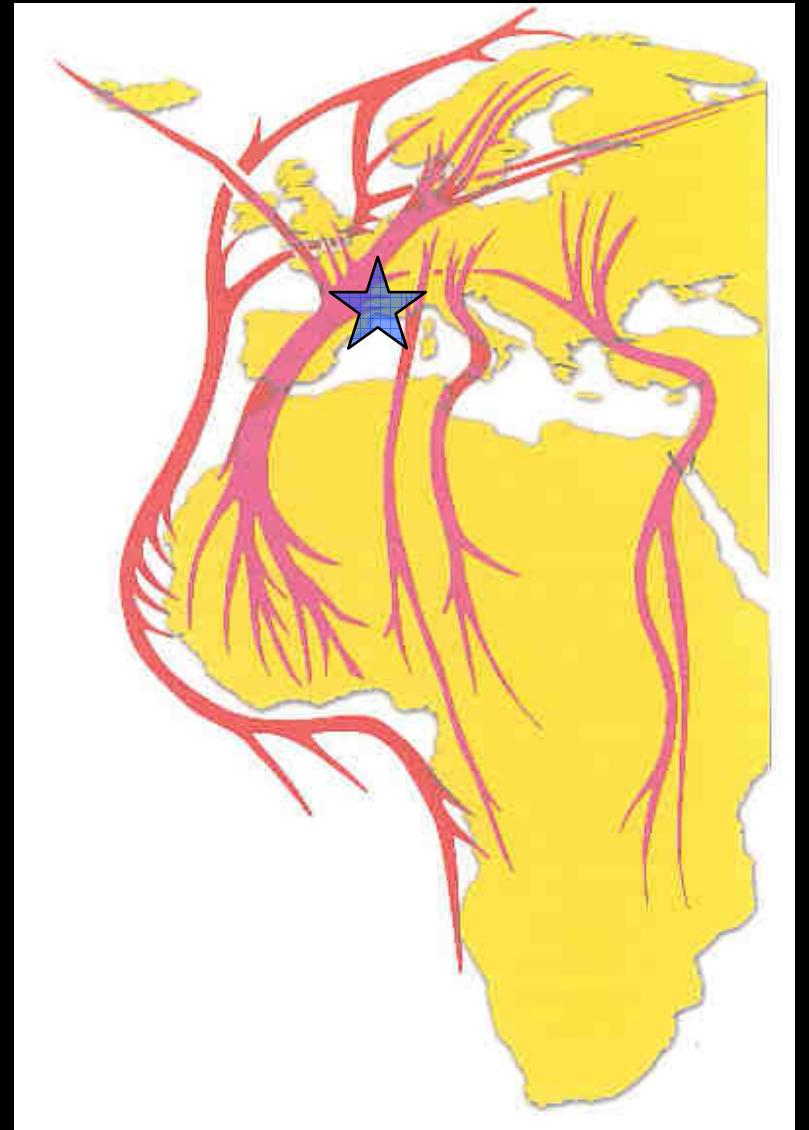


*Salt marshes*

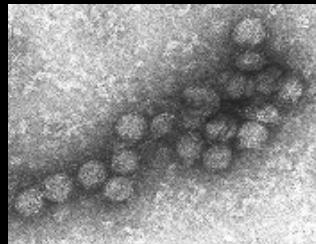
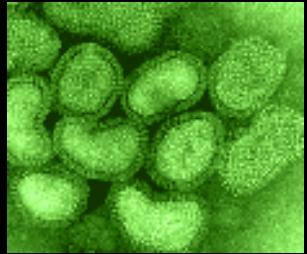
◆ The Camargue...



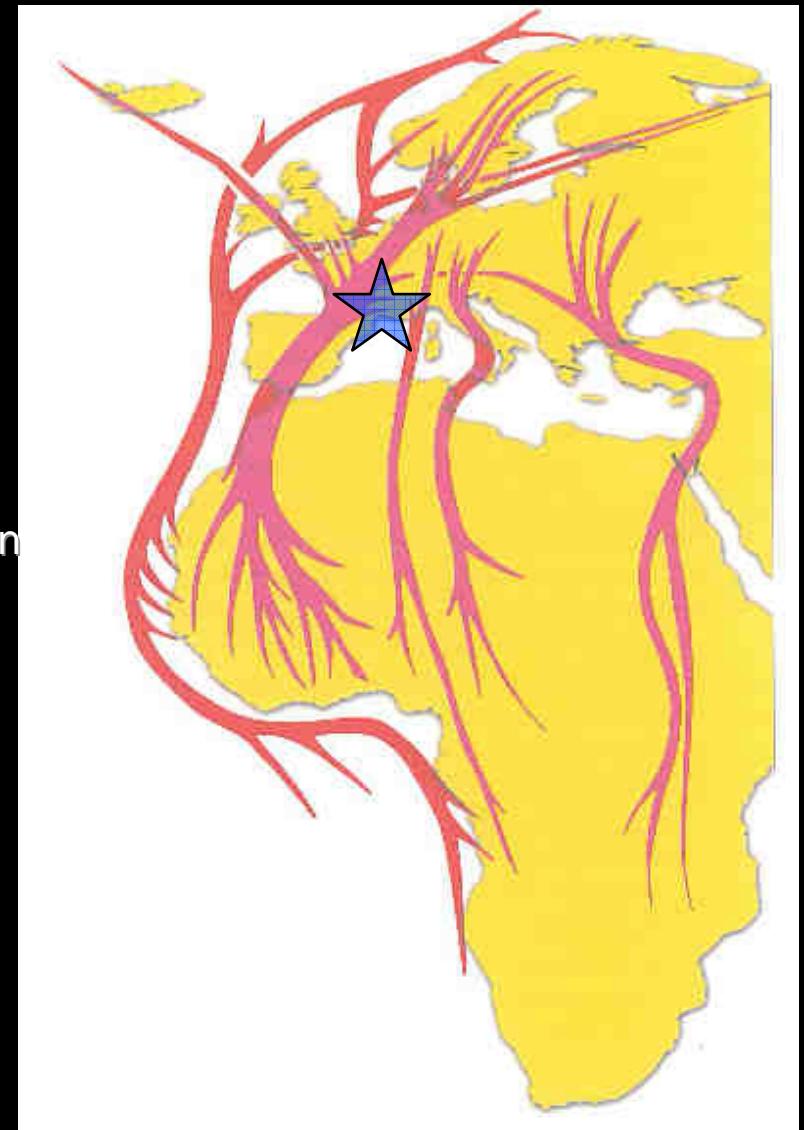
... at the crossroads of  
numerous migratory routes



◆ The Camargue...



... hot spot for the risks of  
introduction and transmission  
of pathogens !



- ◆ Global pattern of AIV circulation

- *AIV prevalence*
- *Seasonality of AIV infection*
- *Hosts involved*

- ◆ Genetic characteristics of AIV

- *Molecular subtyping*
- *Phylogeny*
- *Interspecific exchanges*

- ◆ Modelisation



◆ Bird sampling:



Funnel live-traps



Hunters



Mist nets



Cloacal swabs



Fresh dropping samples



- ◆ Molecular analysis and virology

- ◆ AIV detection
- ◆ HP, LP
- ◆ Isolation
- ◆ Subtypes characterization



Unité de Génétique Moléculaire  
des Virus Respiratoires



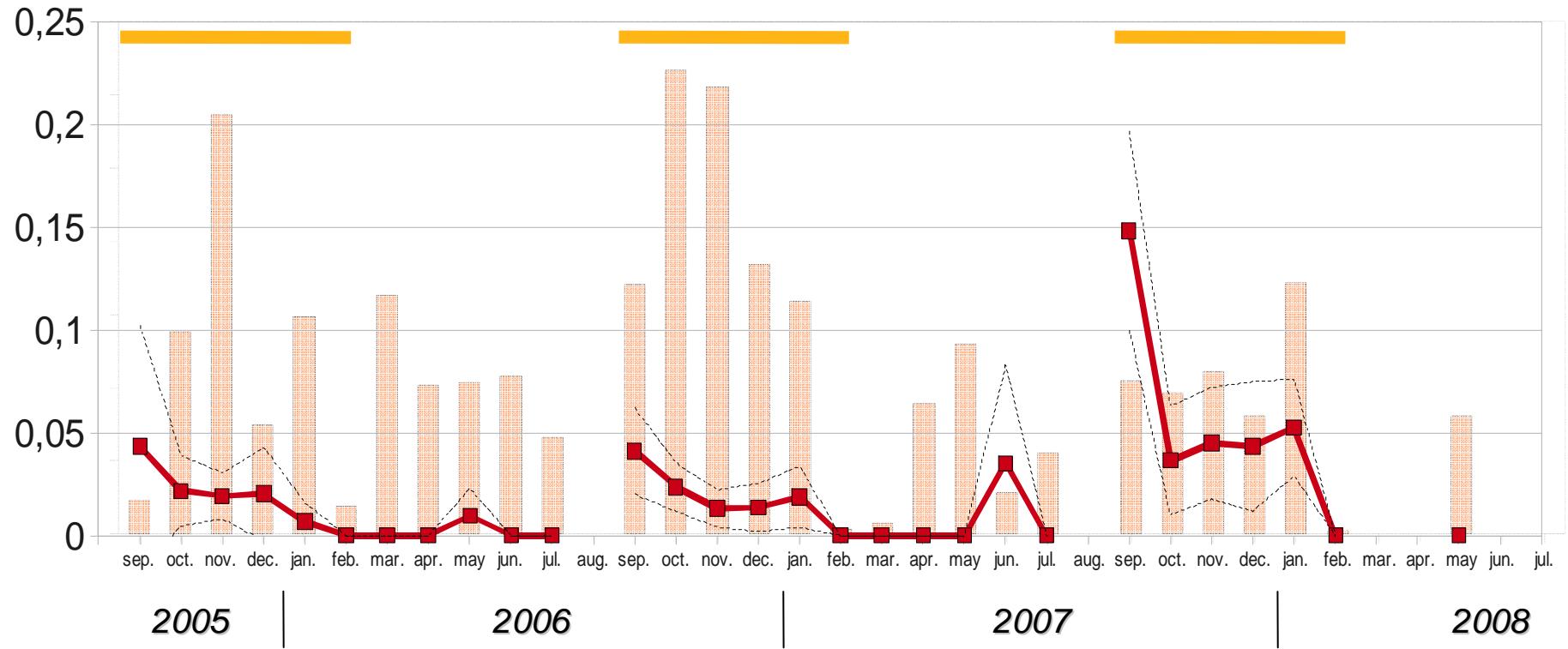
- ◆ Bird sampling (from fall 2005 to spring 2008)

- 6792 samples from 121 bird species.
  - 150 AIV detected in 9 bird species.

Global prevalence of infection in the  
Camargue bird community: 2.2%.



◆ AIV prevalence (from fall 2005 to spring 2008)



- Consistent pattern between years and seasons: **higher infection rates during the wintering periods (Sep. to Feb.).**  
(GLM; OR = 14.7; CI = [5.4 – 39.6]; P < 0.001)

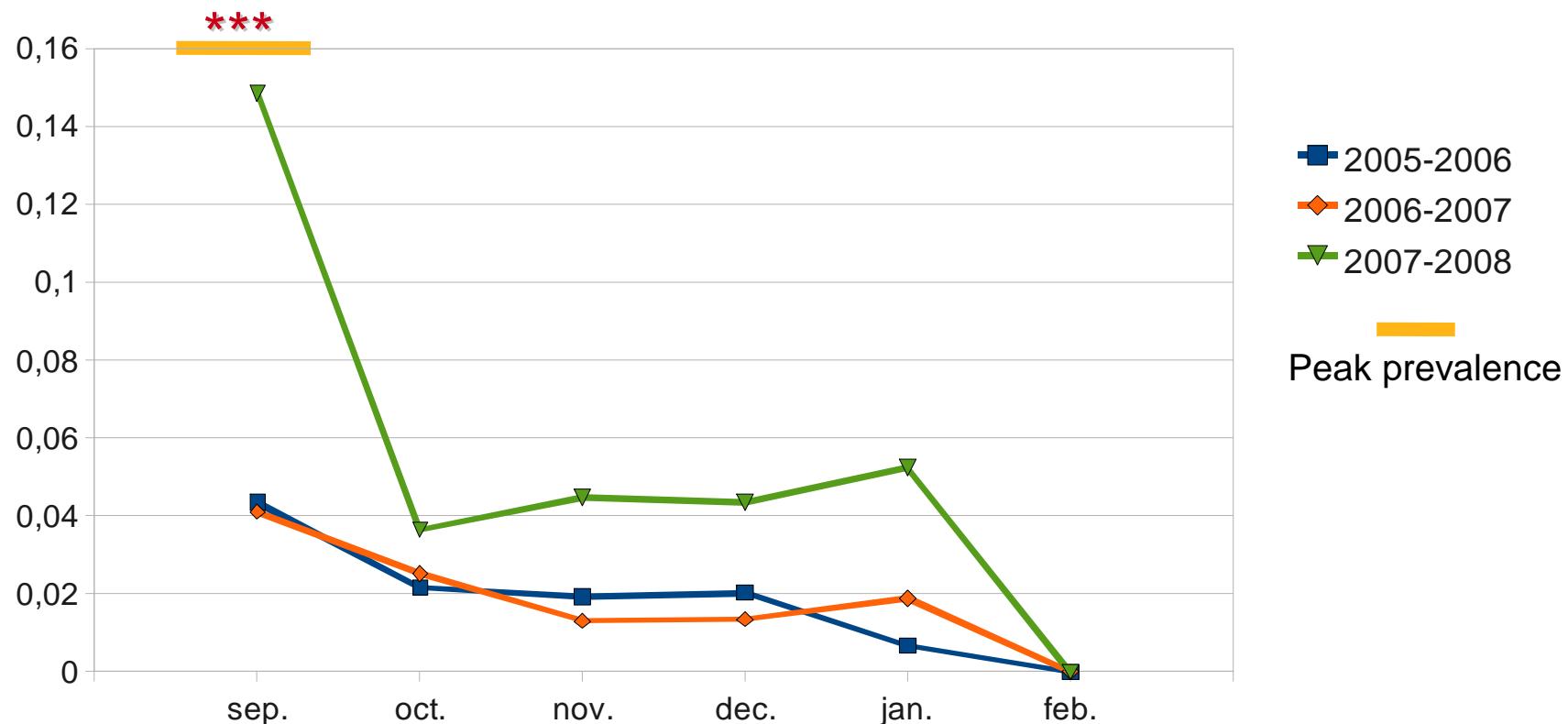
█ AIV prevalence.  
— Confidence interval (95%).  
— “wintering period”.

Seasonality of AIV infection

◆ AI/V prevalence during wintering periods

Anseriformes (3.9%, N=3659, mainly ducks).

(GLM; OR = 31.2; CI = [11.5 – 84.2]; P < 0.001)



◆ Higher infection rates in 2007-2008.

GLM; OR = 3.1; CI = [1.9 – 4.9]; P < 0.001

◆ Peak prevalence in September.

(GLM; OR = 3.1; CI = [1.9 – 5.0]; P < 0.001)

## ◆ Infected duck species

Species	Prevalence	Sample size
♦ Northern Pintail ( <i>Anas acuta</i> ) <i>Canard pilet</i>	1%	100
♦ Northern Shoveler ( <i>Anas clypeata</i> ) <i>Canard souchet</i>	3.2%	282
♦ Common Teal ( <i>Anas crecca</i> ) <i>Sarcelle d'hiver</i>	5.3%	1798
♦ Mallard ( <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> ) <i>Canard colvert</i>	4.4%	767
♦ Garganey ( <i>Anas querquedula</i> ) <i>Sarcelle d'été</i>	10.3%	29
♦ Gadwall ( <i>Anas strepera</i> ) <i>Canard chipeau</i>	1.3%	237
♦ Common Pochard ( <i>Aythya ferina</i> ) <i>Fuligule milouin</i>	0.3%	201

(GLM; OR = 11.4; CI = [1.1 – 114.4]; P < 0.5)



◆ AIV during spring and summer



**Charadriiformes** (N=945, mainly gulls):

- ◆ **Mediterranean gull (2.8%, N=71)**
- ◆ **Yellow legged gull (0.5%, N=369)**

→ *Breeding colonies*

**Absence of positive detection in:**

- ◆ **Ciconiiformes: herons, egrets, etc. (N=177)**
- ◆ **Phoenicopteriformes: greater flamingo (N=312)**
- *Breeding colonies*
- ◆ **Passeriformes: 60 species (N=1599)**
- *During migration (spring and fall)*

- ◆ Clear seasonal pattern of infection in ducks (*Anas sp.*) with highest prevalence at the beginning of the wintering period.

- ◆ Passerine birds are not affected by AIV infection in the Camargue.

- ◆ Absence of circulation of HP

- ◆ High level of circulation of H1 (12%, H1N1), H5 (21% ; majority H5N2 and H5N3), and H9 (8% ; half H9N2) AIV compared with other studies performed in Europe.

- ◆ Circulation of H9 AIV in the Camargue and possible inter-continental genetic exchange with northern America.

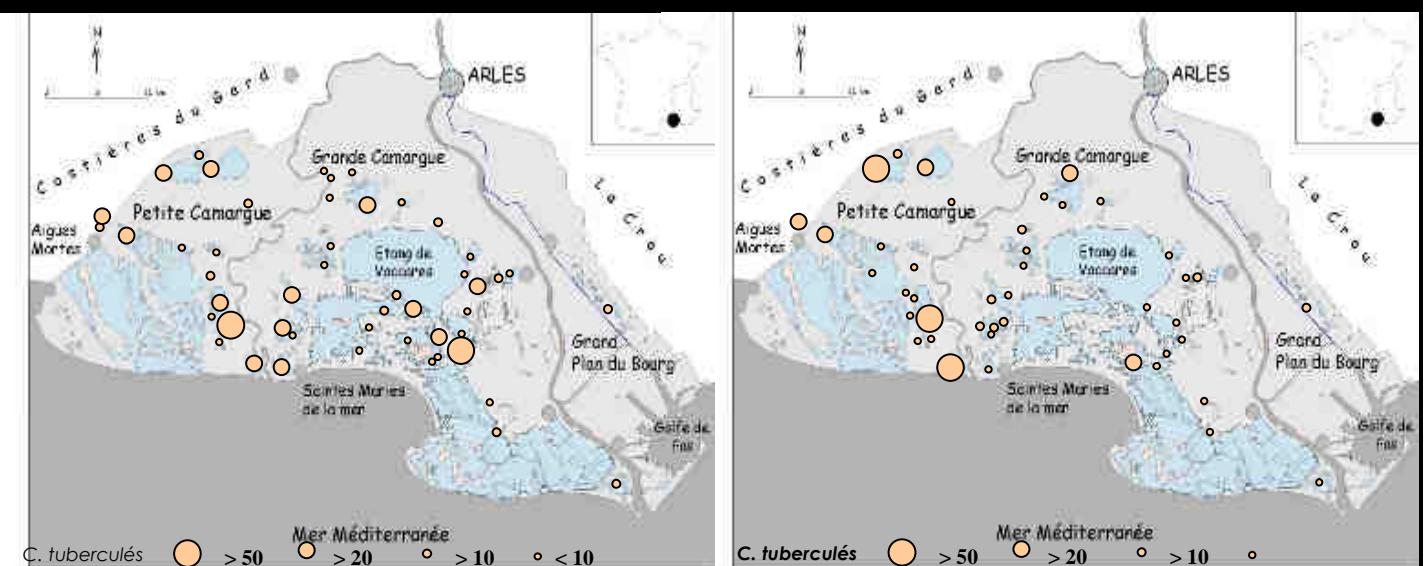
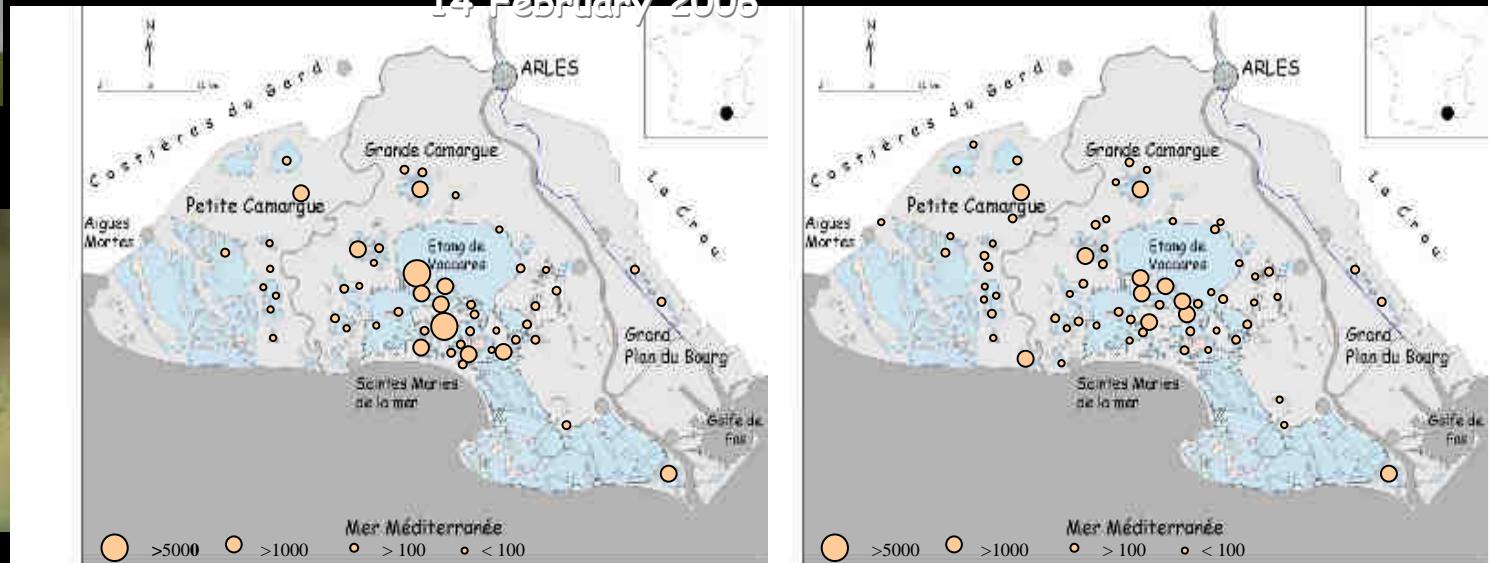


# Bird number and spatial distribution

Winter 2005-2006

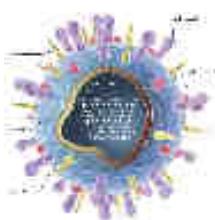
10 January 2006

14 February 2006



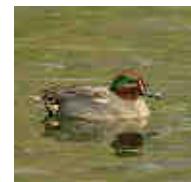
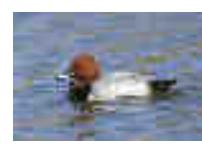
# Winter 2005-2006

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## Molecular analysis

1345 wild  
waterbirds of 17  
common species



Species known to **breed** in eastern or central  
**Siberia**, where **HP H5N1** was recorded  
during **summer 2005**.

No detection  
of HP H5N1

## Waterbird monitoring

Census performed  
monthly:



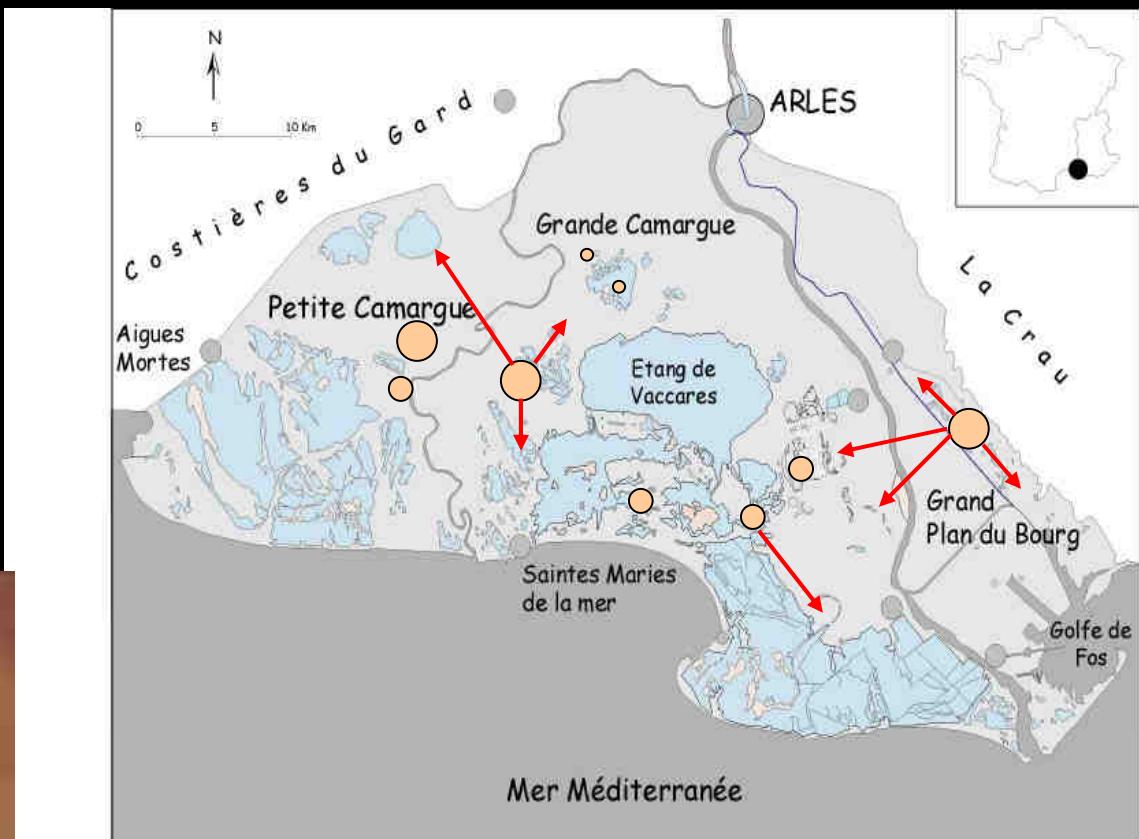
Comparison with data  
recorded since 1964

Mortality  
surveillance

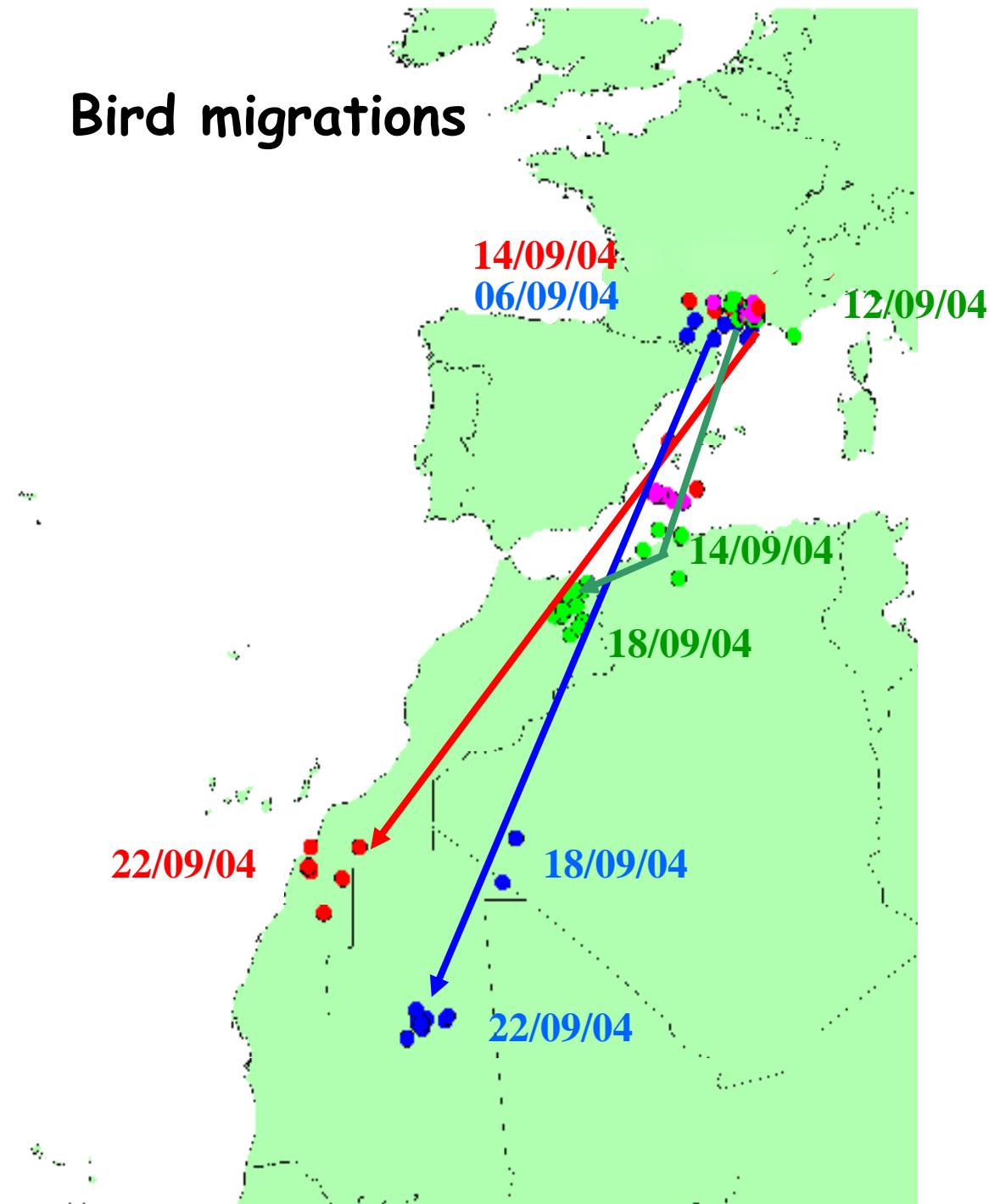
No abnormal population  
reduction

No abnormal  
mortalities

# Local movements during winter



## Bird migrations



Juvenile Purple  
herons with  
satellite  
transmitters

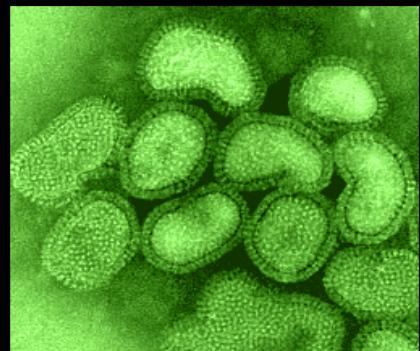


N=70 000 ringed teals

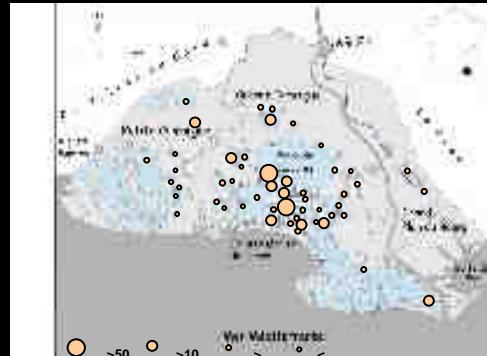


# Modelisation

AI



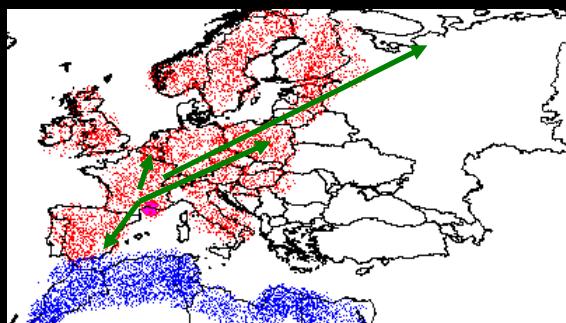
Bird number and spatial distribution



Local movements of birds



Bird movements between wetlands



Modelisation

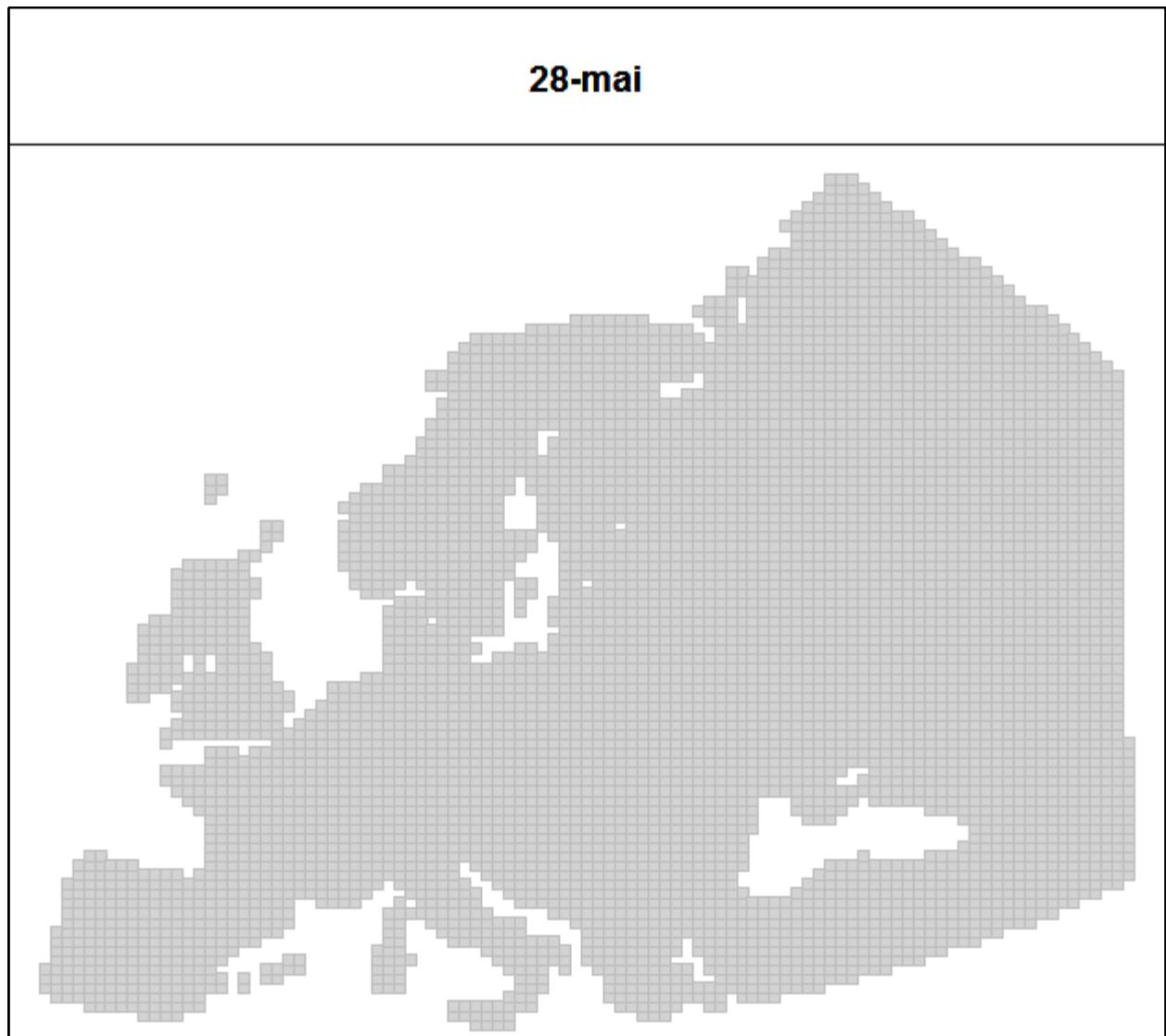
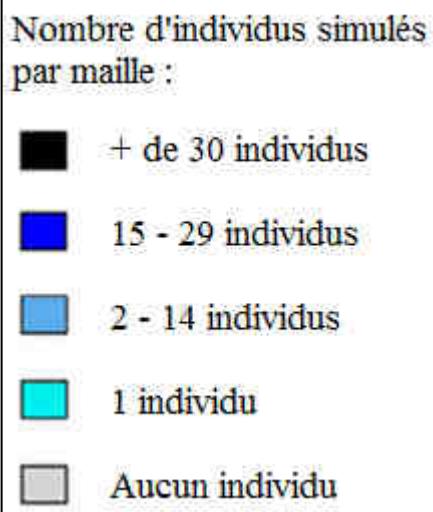


Habitats

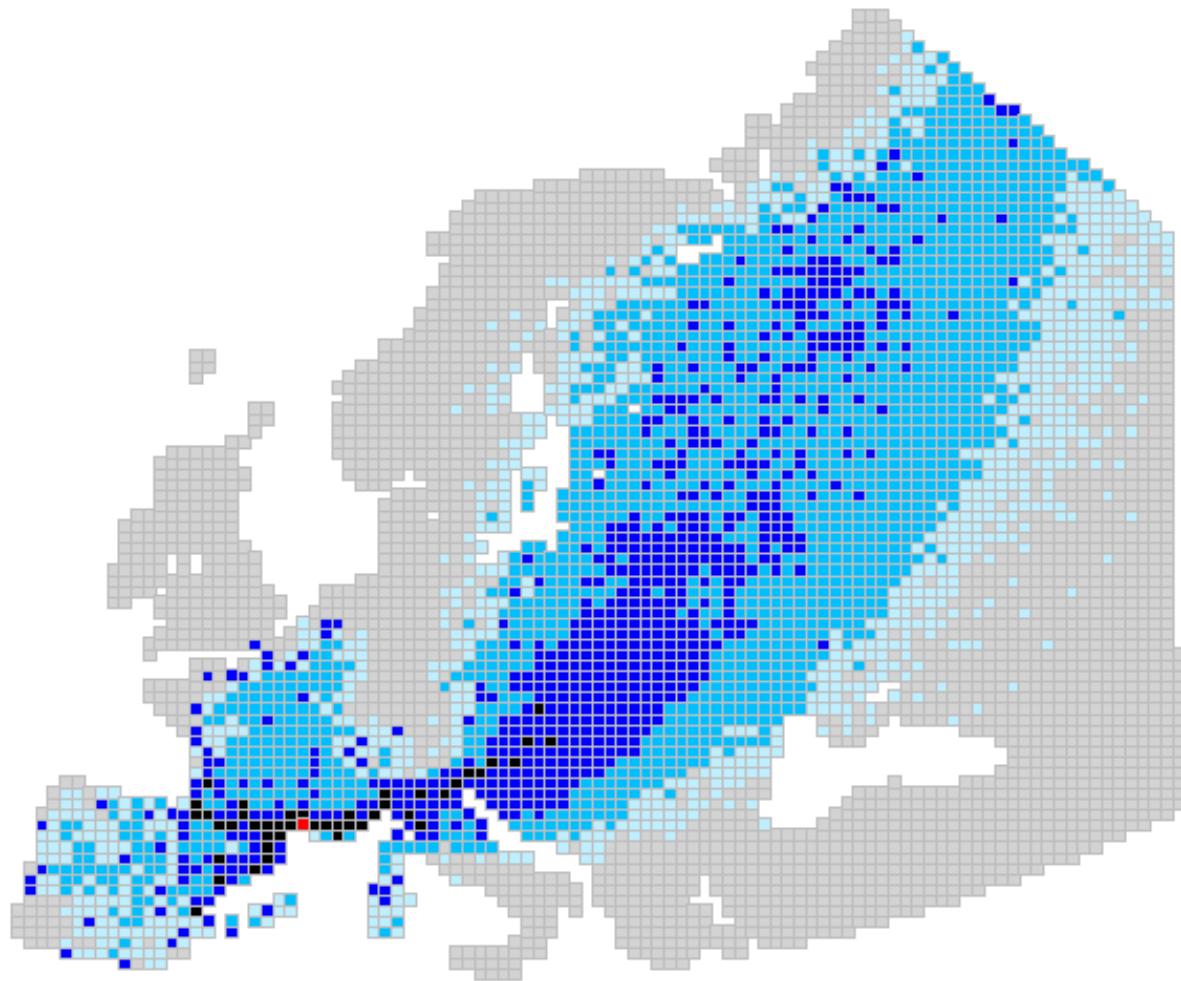
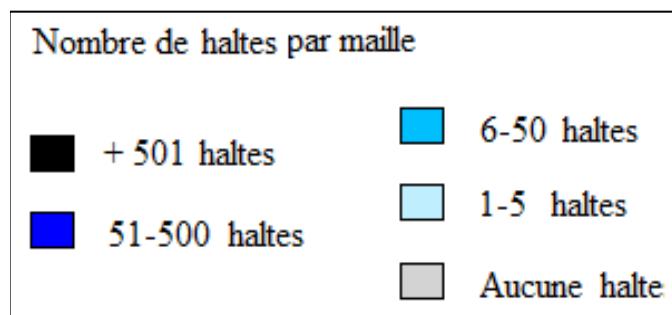


N=70 000 ringed teals

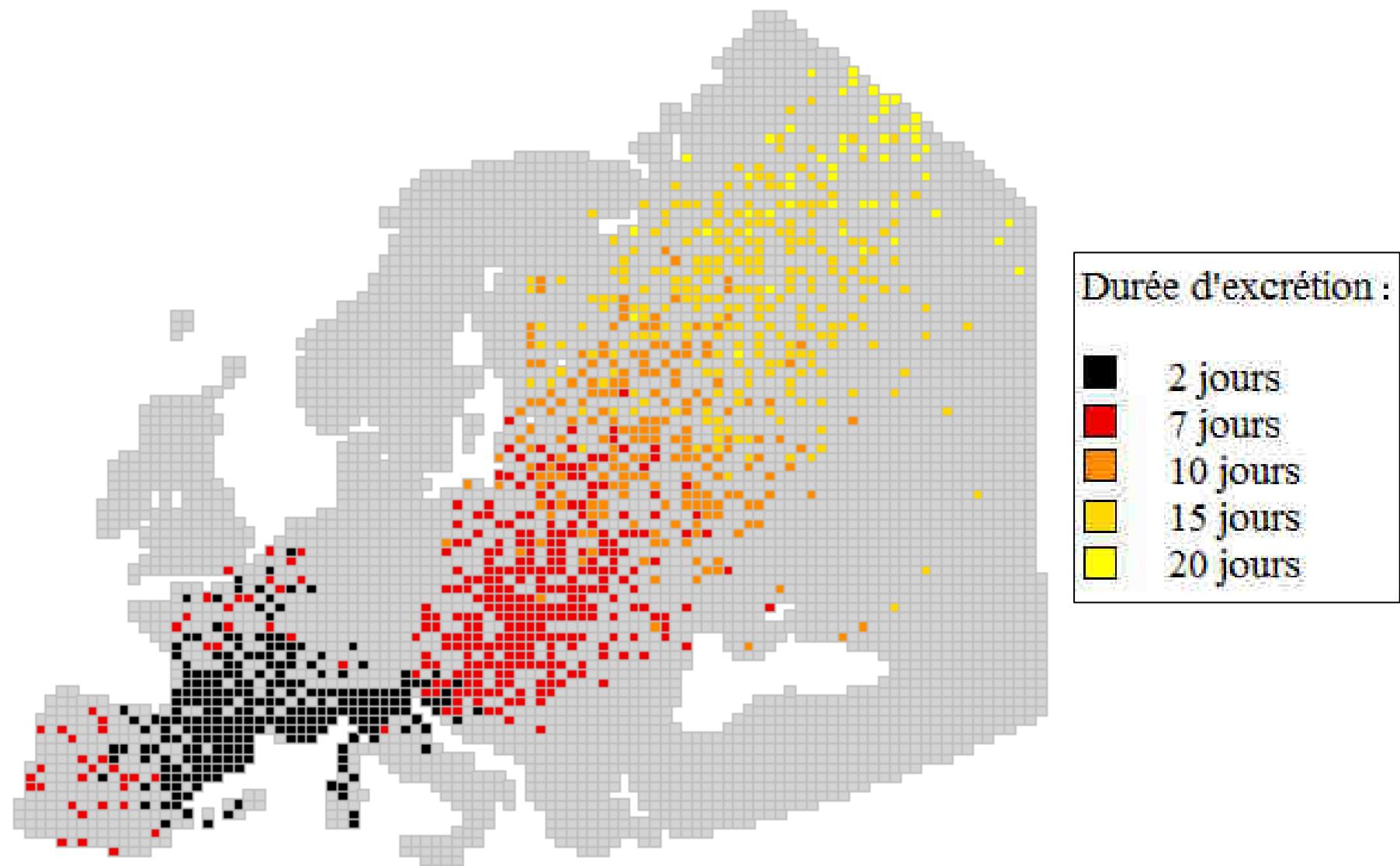
## Results of simulation of migration



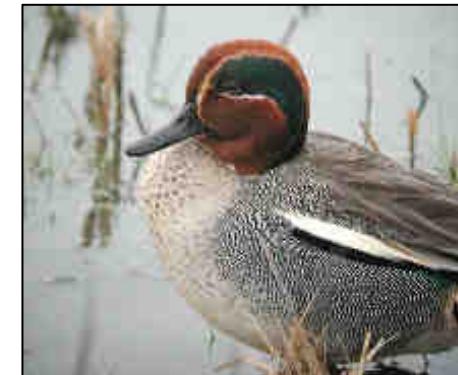
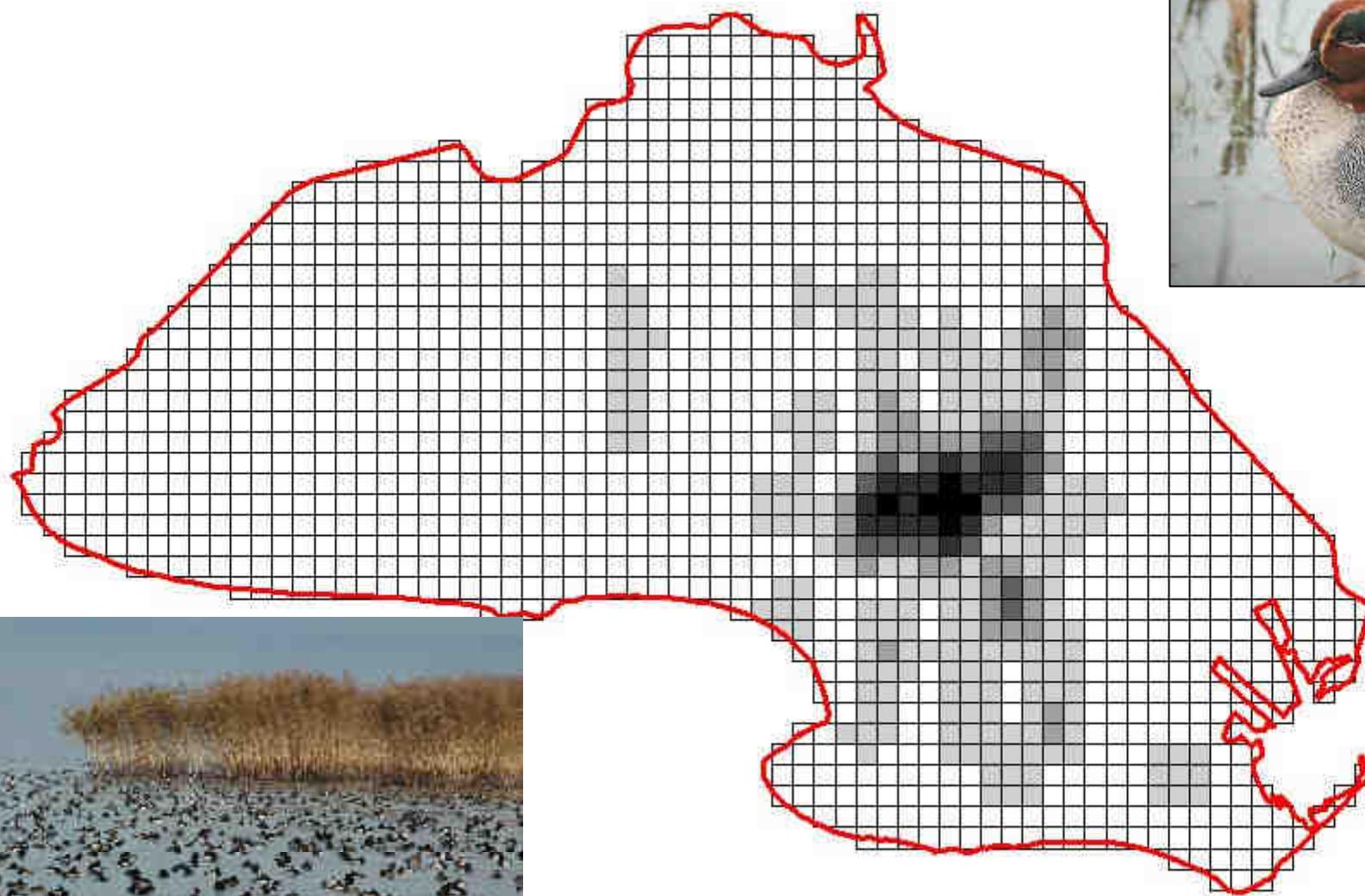
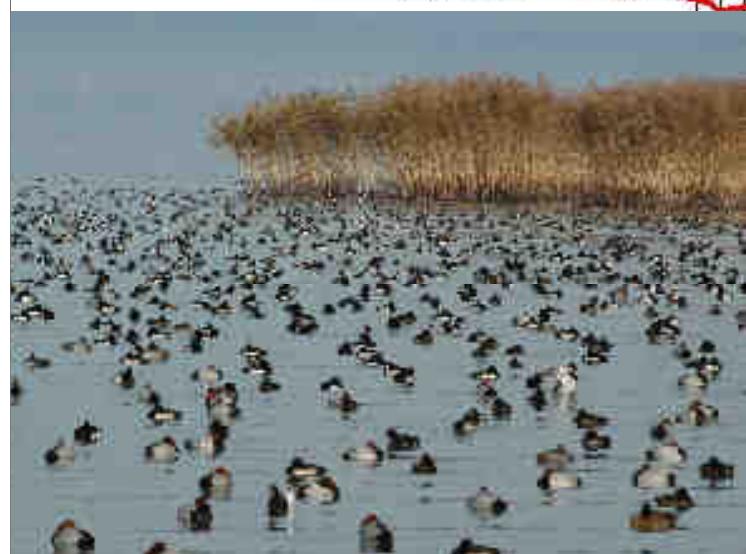
## Map of stop-over probabilities



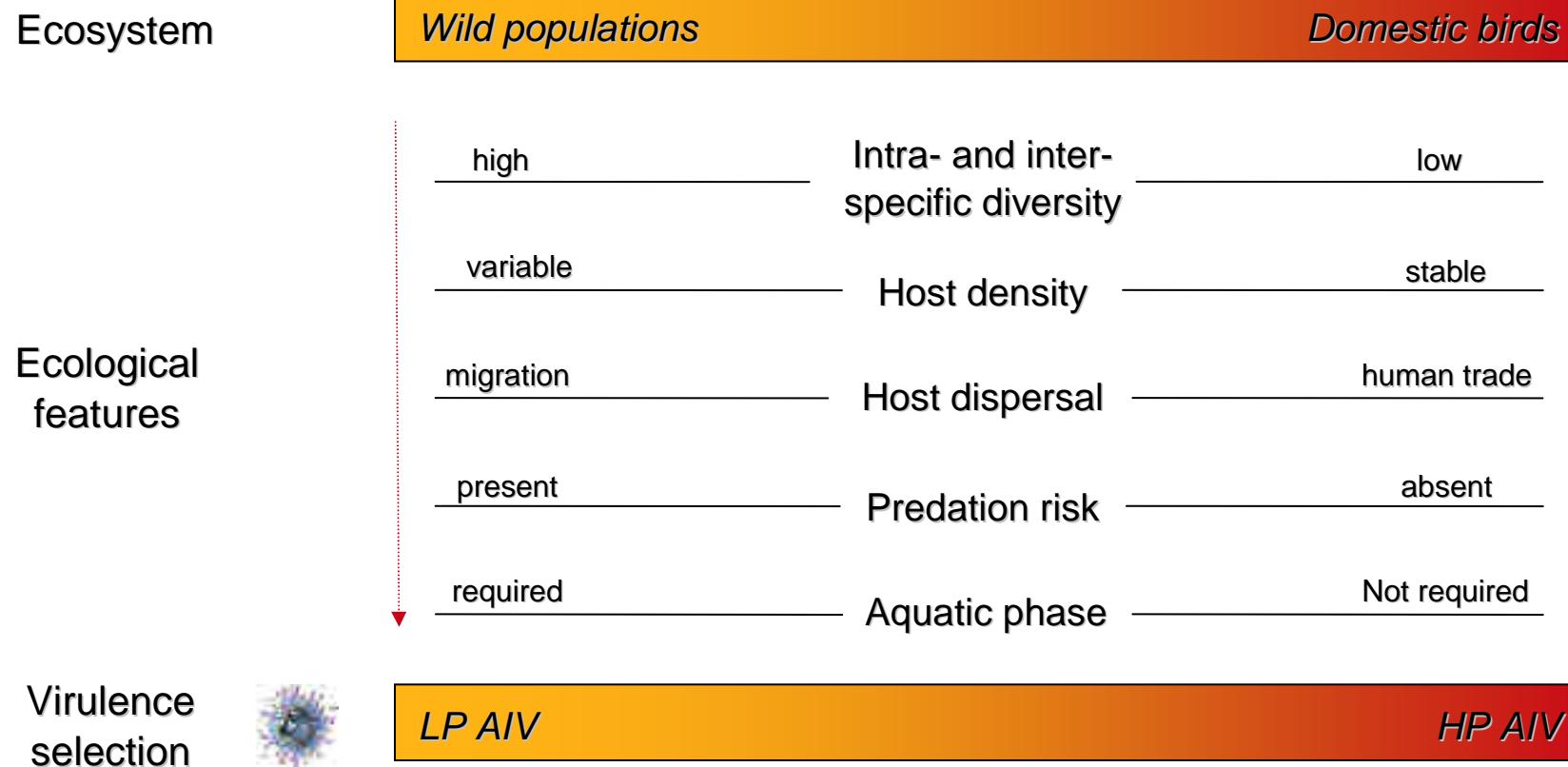
## Virus dispersal according to time of excretion



## Local dispersal of the AIV by wintering wild ducks

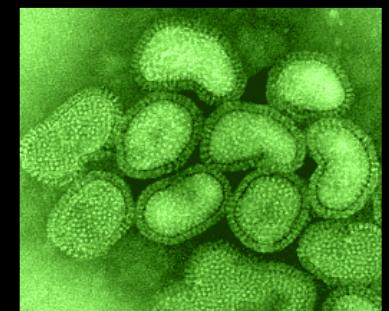


◆ Natural versus artificial ecosystems: different ecological constraints for AIV evolution ?



# ARDIGRIP

## Axe Environnement et Transmission Écologie évolutive et modélisation de la circulation des virus Influenza aviaires dans l'environnement



# Principaux Partenaires scientifiques

## Sud

- École Inter-Etats des Sciences et Médecine Vétérinaires, Sénégal (A. Akokpo)
- Faculté des Sciences de Gabès, Tunisie (S. Selmi)
- Mahidol University, Thaïlande (P. Kittayapong)
- Université d'Annaba, Algérie (Y. Chabi)



## Nord

- CEFE-CNRS (T. Boulinier)
- Centre de Recherche de la Tour du Valat (M. Gauthier-Clerc)
- CNERA Avifaune Migratrice, ONCFS (M. Guillemain)
- CRBPO, MNHN (O. Dehorter et D. Couvet)
- Ecole Nationale Vétérinaire de Lyon (M. Artois, D. Bicout)
- GEMI- UMR CNRS/IRD (F. Renaud, F. Thomas, J.-F. Guégan)
- Génétique Moléculaire des Virus Respiratoires, Institut Pasteur (S. Van der Werf)
- IRD, UR 178 (M. Souris)
- Université de Pau (M. Artzrouni)



## Principaux objectifs

### Objectif 1. Écologie évolutive des virus Influenza aviaires dans l'avifaune sauvage

- Analyse de la dispersion et de la diversité des sous-types de virus Influenza aviaires en fonction des populations hôtes et de leurs origines géographiques
- Immunoécologie dans l'avifaune sauvage
- Transmission des virus Influenza aviaires aux élevages de volailles en plein air



## Principaux objectifs

### Objectif 2. Modélisation épidémiologique de la circulation des virus Influenza aviaires dans l'environnement

- Modélisation des migrations des oiseaux sauvages et conséquences pour la dynamique spatiale des virus Influenza A
- Modélisation épidémiologique de la circulation des souches en zone d'endémie du virus H5N1 HP (Asie du Sud-Est)

