



A Swift Way to Peace

6 study cases for Swift lovers

Yossi Leshem & Amnonn Hahn, Israel



Photo: Yuval Dax

“A person knows a bird for years...and is still surprised by it”

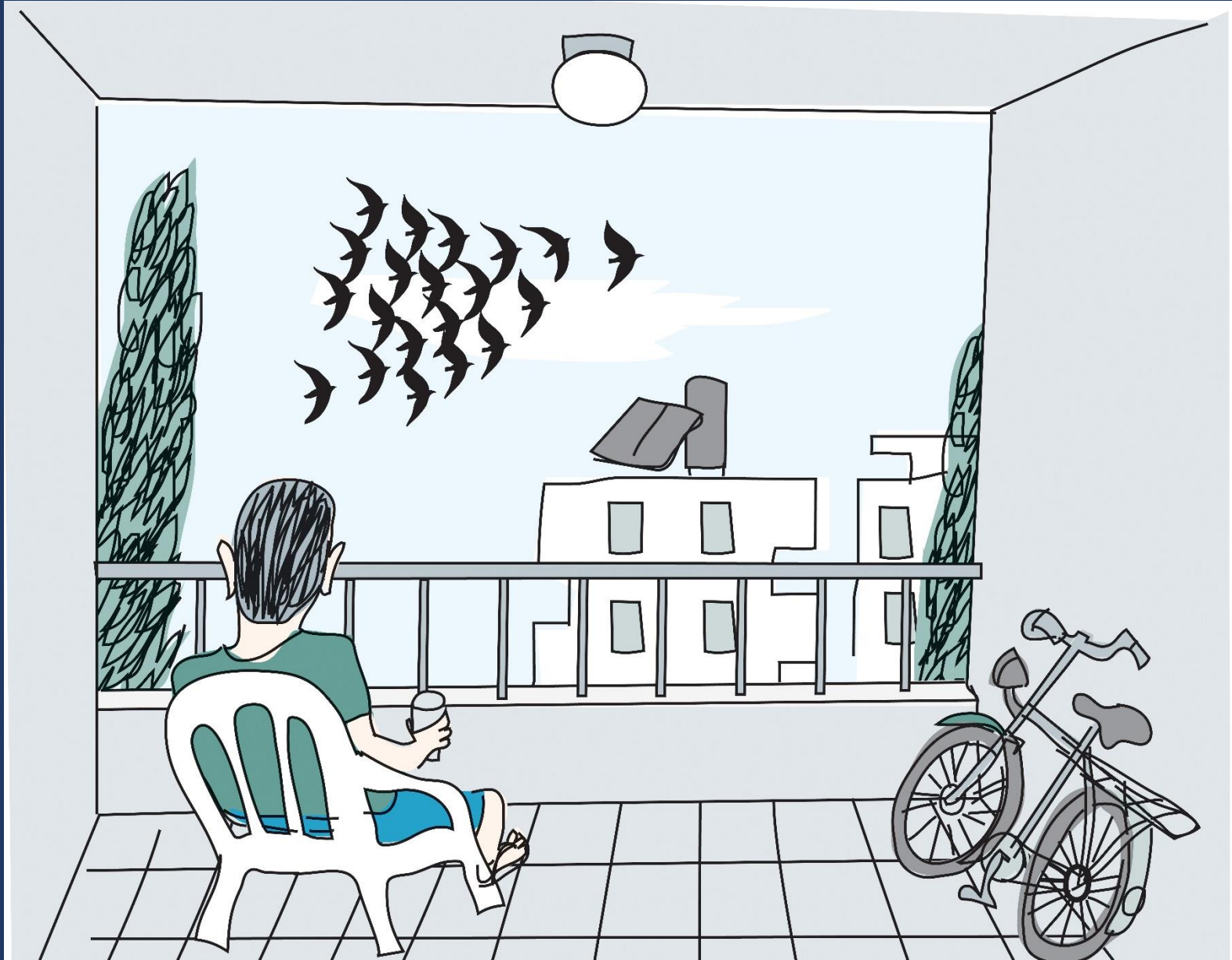


Illustration: Amos Biderman

Quote: Eli Mohar

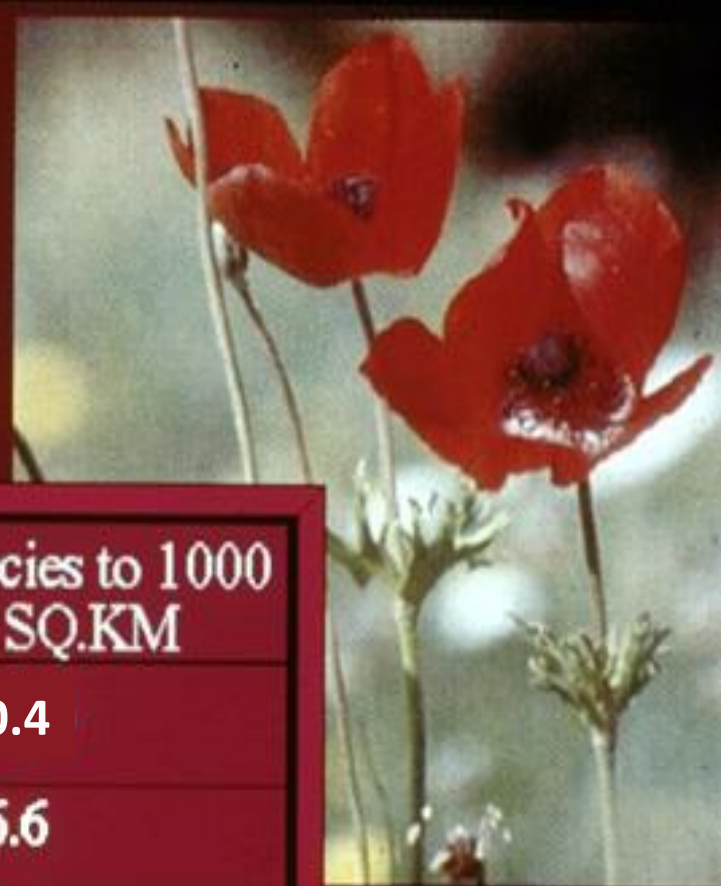
Which way do we choose?!







**500 million
birds migrate
over Israel
twice a year**



Country	Area (SQ.KM)	Number of Plant Species	Species to 1000 SQ.KM
Israel	23,500	2600	90.4
California	63.479	2325	36.6
Italy	301.100	5600	18.6
Greece	132.562	4200	31.7
Holand	43.800	1357	3.1
Great Britain	230.000	1666	7.2
France	551.000	4210	7.6



Country	Area (SQ. KM)	Number of Bird species	Species no. in 1000 SQ. KM
Israel	23,500	540	43.5
Great Britan	244,400	630	38.7
Germany	356,500	460	7.75
U.S.S.R	22,400,000	728	0.03
China	9,800,000	1198	0.12
Egypt	990,000	427	0.43
Sudan	2,500,000	871	0.35



Country	Area (SQ.KM)	Number of Tanks	Tanks no. in 1000 SQ.KM
Israel	29.000	4500	152.3
U.S.A	5.180.000	4000	7.7
Egypt	990.000	3150	3.18
U.S.S.R	22.400.000	25000	1.12

The “Schiff House”, one of “The White City Tel Aviv” UNESCO World Heritage Sites

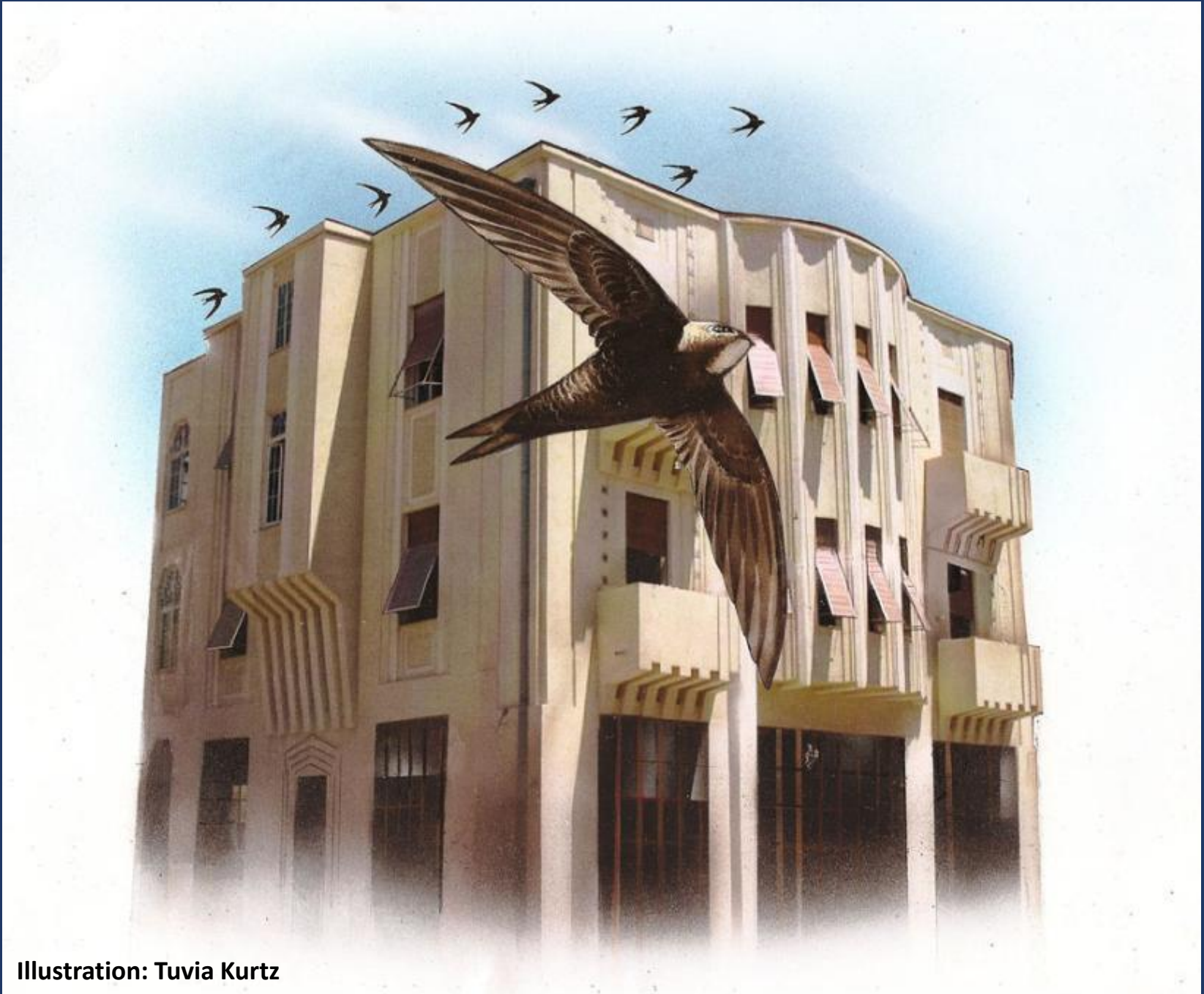


Illustration: Tuvia Kurtz

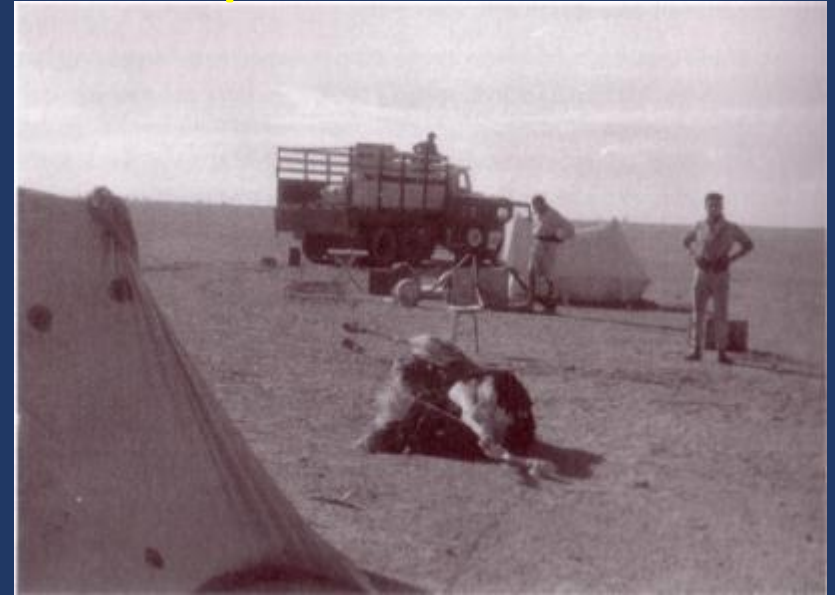
Swift populations in urban areas have declined by over 50%



Swifts over the walls of Jerusalem's Old City

Photo: Amir Ezer

In Algeria and Morocco, when they were French colonies, ostriches, leopards, lions and addaxes were pushed into extinction



Do we want to relate to Barn Owls as in the right-hand photo from Indonesia, or as biological pest control agents in agriculture as in the left-hand photo



Barn Owl in flight with vole (Photo: Amir Ezer)



Selling Barn Owls in an Indonesian market (Photo from the Internet)

The entire world population - 120,000 (!) Lesser Spotted Eagles



2015: Striped Scops Owl (*Otus brucei*) - about 100 pairs were found along the Dead Sea and Jordan Valley



Photo: Amir Ben Dov



About 100 pairs of the Desert Owl (*Strix hadorami*)
breed in the desert in Israel



Migrating Birds Know No Boundaries



Martin Rinik
1999

Example #1

March 1987 – WWGBP Conference,
Eilat – 450 participants



November 2015: Shimon Peres setting off the runners in "The Crane Race"





The National Bird Campaign – Israel's 60th anniversary



AMAZING SURPRISE!! January 2018 – the national bird of India hugs the national bird of Israel as a symbol of friendship

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Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister of INDIA



H.E. Mr. Benjamin Netanyahu
Hon'ble Prime Minister of ISRAEL

LONG LIVE INDIA ISRAEL FRIENDSHIP
לחיי הידידות ארוכת השנים בין הודו לישראל



LONG LIVE INDIA ISRAEL FRIENDSHIP

לחיי הידידות ארוכת השנים בין הודו לישראל

2008: Israel's 60-year anniversary events – 12 Israelis were awarded a prestigious prize for their contribution to nature and environmental conservation in Israel



With Vice President Al Gore



**1998: Meeting with Dr. Angela Merkel,
then Minister for the Environment, Germany**



2011: Dr. Angela Merkel with the President of the Tel Aviv University, Joseph Klafter

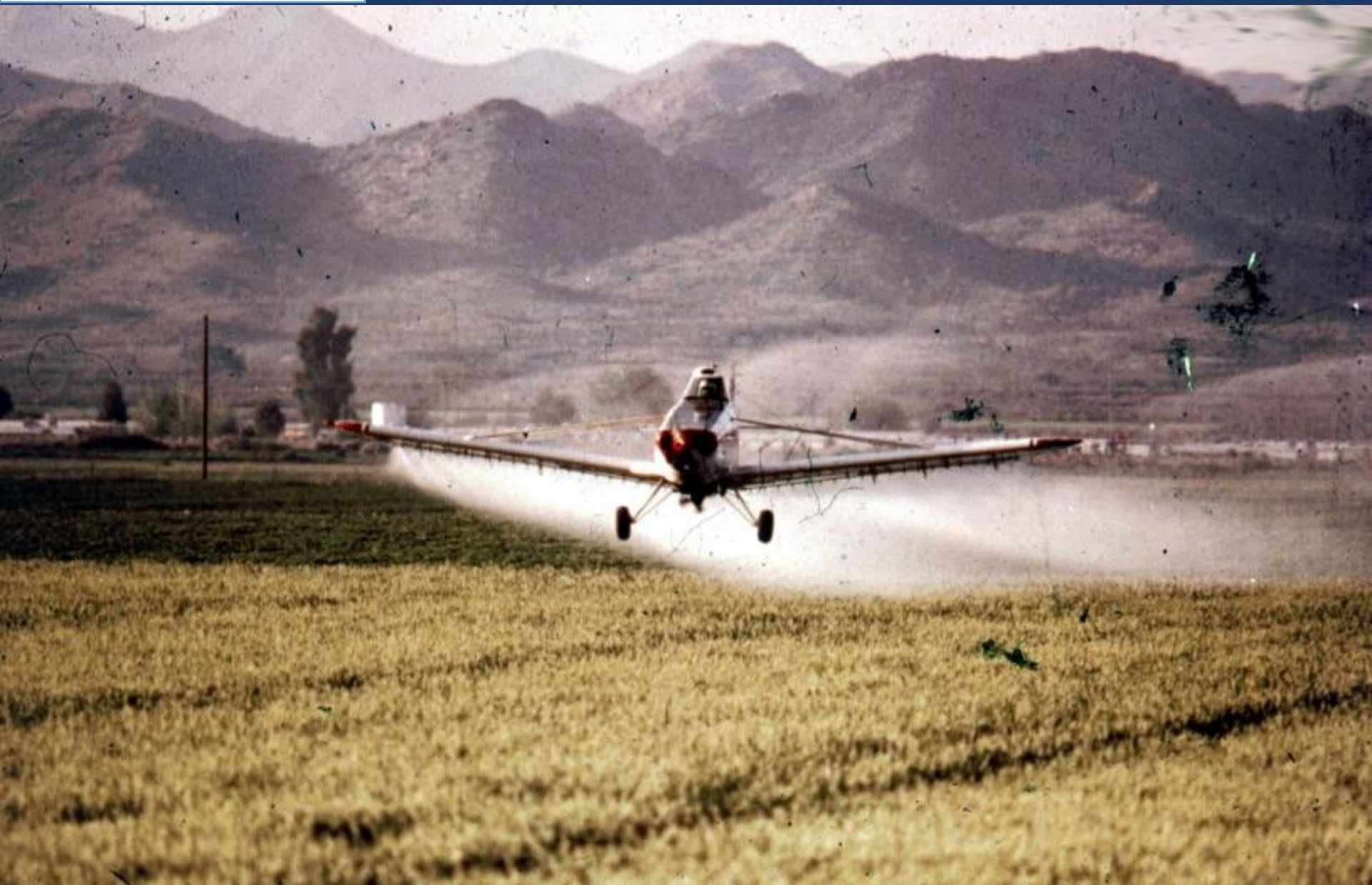


Pope Francis, with the journalist, Henrique Cymerman



Example #2

Reducing the use of pesticides



The use of
pesticides -
a disaster
for
migrating
birds



Imperial
Eagle
poisoned
in the
fields

Photo: Yossi Eshbol

Barn Owl project at Great Rift Valley

**Israeli-Palestinian-Jordanian
cooperation**



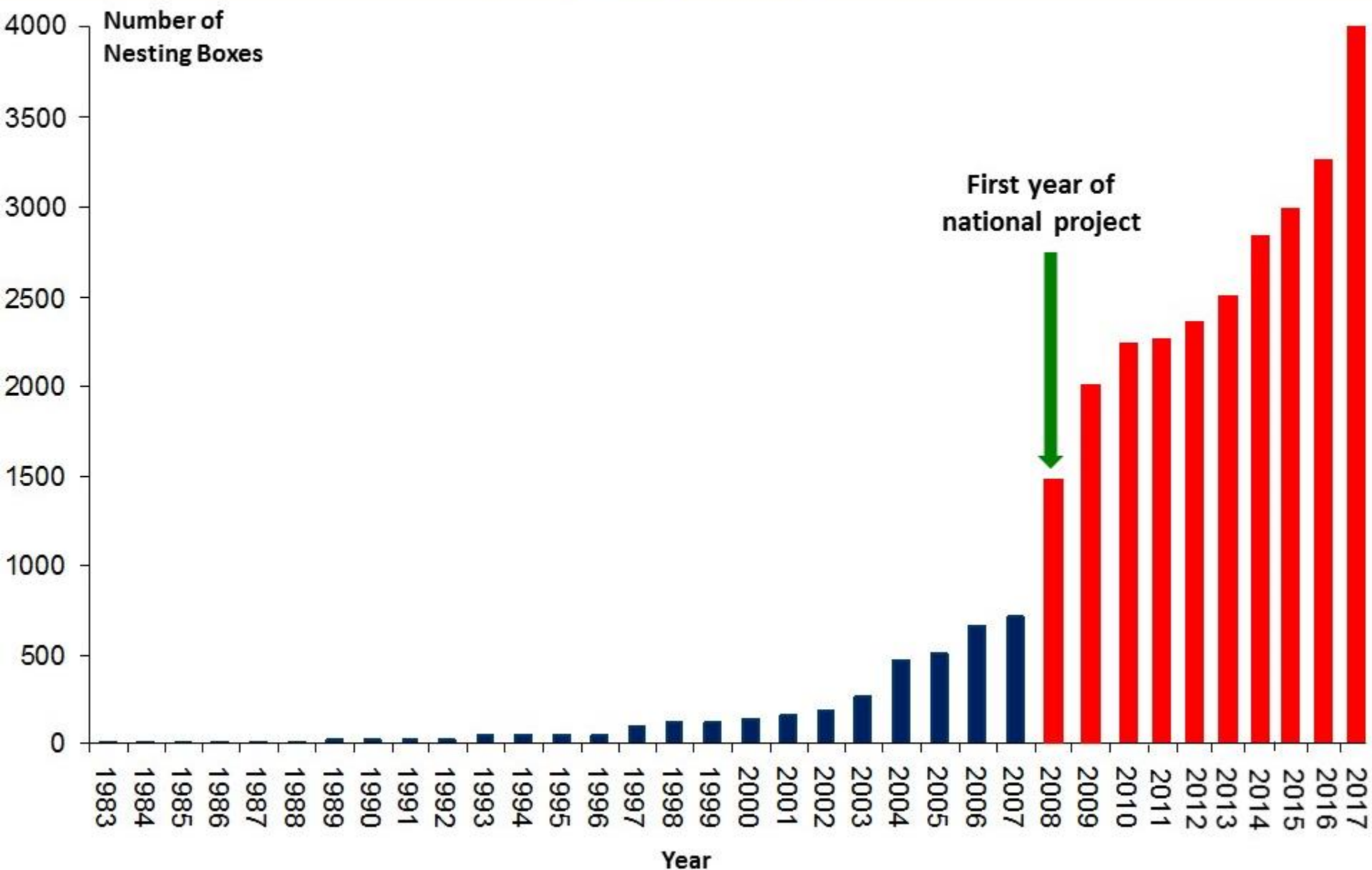
Barn Owls eat 2,000-6,000 rodents per year



Photo: Amir Ezer

National project – Barn Owls as biological pest agents

2017 – 4,000 nesting boxes



December 2002: Cooperation between Israeli, Jordanian, Palestinian and Tunisian farmers







**From bad luck to good luck!
Palestinian farmers**



General Mansour at the Knesset (Israel Parliament)



An audience of 400 in the Knesset auditorium for the festive event



**In the Knesset with the speaker Rubi Rivlin
and Minister of Environment Gilad Erdan**



البومة والعوسق أصدقاء الفلاح



تعتبر البومة والعوسق من الطيور الأكثر شيوعاً في الشرق الأوسط، يتواجدان بالأخص بالقرب من مسكن الإنسان، داخل المدن، القرى والحقول الزراعية. هناك الكثير من يعتبر البومة بمثابة شبح وجشبة ساحرة كما يبدو بسبب أصواتها في الليل، أحياناً جسمها ورأسها المستدير والألساني وأيضاً بسبب عيائها، ولهذا تتم مطاردة البومة بشدة حتى يومنا هذا من قبل شعوب عديدة واعتبارها فال سوء.

تعتبر البومة من غير شك مفيدة جداً للإنسان وللحاصل لكونها المبيد الحيوي الأكثر نجاعة للقوارض الحشرية للحاصل على اختلافها. بمقدرة زوج من البوم وزوج من العوسق الثمين يقتومون بترية الشراخ أسطيداً مايقارب الـ ٢٠ قارش في اليوم الواحد و ٢٠٠٠ في السنة، التهديد الدائم للأقتراس في ساعات اليوم (على يد العوسق) وفي ساعات الليل (على يد البومة)، يجعل المنطقة كلها ذات تهديد وغير مريحة للقوارض. تلك البومة حواس المتطورة بالأخص، مطالها الحادة ومطيراتها السمات يحولها إلى الصياد الكامل والمذهل في الليل.

تم اسكان صناديق تعشيش مبنية بتجاح وادى هذا إلى تكاثر اعداد طائر العوسق في مناطق طبيعية التي بها نقص في أماكن التعشيش الطبيعية وأيضاً في أماكن تخلو من مواقع تعشيش طبيعية.

■ بومة تحلير وتحمل فأر الزرع في منقارها.

تم استعمال البومة والعوسق كمبيد حيوي للقوارض في الحقول الزراعية في إسرائيل منذ ١٩٨٢، الآن نحن نأمل ان يستعمل المزارعين الادرثيون أيضاً البومة والعوسق كمبيدات حيوية، وأن يقللوا من استعمال لبيدات الكيمياء.



■ عوسق (ذكر) في طيران اسطياد



■ زوج من البوم في مراقبة للعث



٢-٢ أنواع من القوارض، من اليمين: فأر الزرع، في الوسط، فأر البيت ومن اليسار، مريون شائع



■ عوسق (ذكر من اليسار وأنثى من اليمين) في وشعية مراقبة



■ بومة تحلير فأر في منقارها في قسمة صندوق التعشيش



■ فراخ البومة في العش



■ عوسق (ذكر) يحمل فأر في منقاره



■ فراخ طائر العوسق قبل مطيراتهم من صندوق التعشيش

Israeli male, Jordanian female



Learning from the Bedouin in Kiryat Gat – a male and two females – Bigamy



20 eggs were laid, 19 hatched and fledged out the nest





Birds as Peacemakers in the Middle East



November 2013: Israelis, Palestinians and Jordanians dancing at the end of a seminar in Jordan



2008: Prof. Alexandre Roulin, UNIL, joined the project



IDF ammunition boxes
“They shall beat their swords into ploughshares...”
(Isaiah 2:4)





**"They shall beat their swords into ploughshares
and their spears into pruning hooks." (Isaiah 2:4)**

It works!



And it works!!!



General Mansour, Brig. Gen. (Res.) Baruch Spiegel, Yossi Leshem and Alex Roulin lectured together at the WEF at Davos in 2016, on the topic of regional cooperation using Barn Owls



COMMITTED TO
IMPROVING THE STATE
OF THE WORLD

Annual Meeting 2016



COMMITTED TO
IMPROVING THE STATE
OF THE WORLD



Extending the Regional Initiation:

Barn Owls as Pest Control Agents in Agricultural Fields

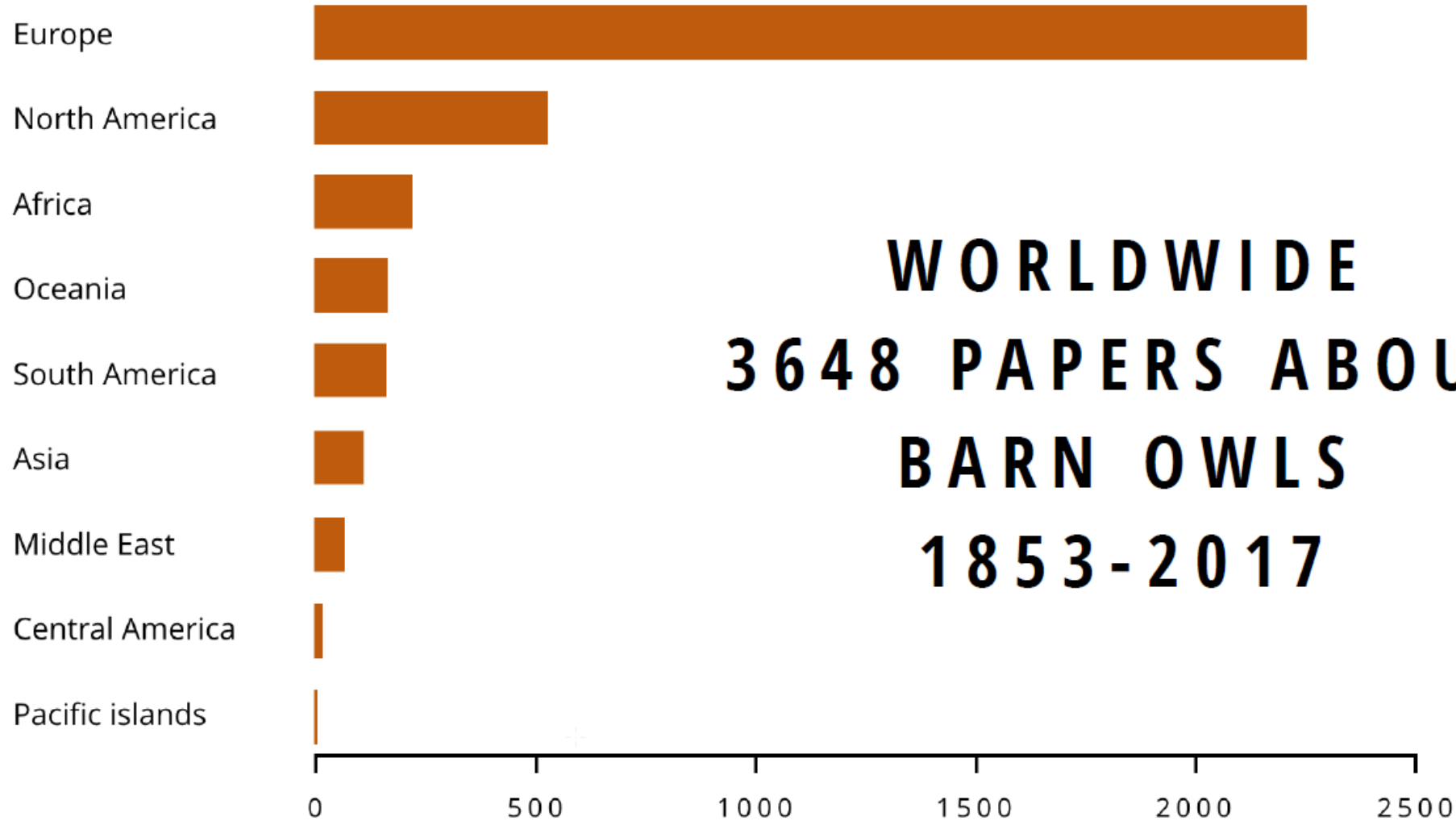
21st – 25th January 2018, Crowne Plaza Dead Sea Resort & Spa

Jordan



**January 21st 2018: After dinner first meeting to introduce new friends
from the Middle East and around the Mediterranean**





179 PAPERS ABOUT BARN OWLS IN TOTAL IN MAGHREB AND MIDDLE EAST

ALGERIA: 25 PAPERS

BAHREIN: 1

CRETE: 6

CORFU: 1

CYPRUS: 1

EGYPT: 3

ISRAEL/PALESTINE: 62

GREECE: 15

IRAQ: 2

IRAN: 6

LEBANON: 1

JORDAN: 3

MALTA: 4

MAROCCO: 16

PAKISTAN: 11

SYRIA: 9

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: 1

TUNISIA: 3

TURKEY: 9

Example #3

Art & Music



Satellite photo of the Dead Sea (Courtesy of NASA)



The Bearded Vulture went extinct as a breeding species in the Middle East as of 1982; in that year the last pair nested next to the Dead Sea in the Great Rift Valley (Artist: Martin Rinik)

Artists for Nature

Bringing the Dead Sea to Life Through Art and Music

March 16th - 27th, 2017



Artists for Nature Foundation



Artist: Tuvia Kurtz

120 schoolchildren from Amman, Azrak and the Jordan Valley came to paint with the artists and learn about the regional cooperation



A group of Palestinian students from Jericho, the Palestinian Authority, at the seminar "Artist for Nature" with the artists in Ein Gedi, Israel



Ibex next to the Dead Sea; Artist: Rosanne Guille, Isle of Sark



TREE OF HOPE by Mark Coreth

St. John Eye Hospital, The Old City of Jerusalem



Photo: Baruch Gian

March 2017 - Paul Winter Concert "Flyways" at YMCA, Jerusalem



Example #4

Fly Safely

IAF last 3 decades:

- 11 aircraft crashed
- 3 pilots killed
- 75 collisions ~10 million \$ each
- 258 collisions per year



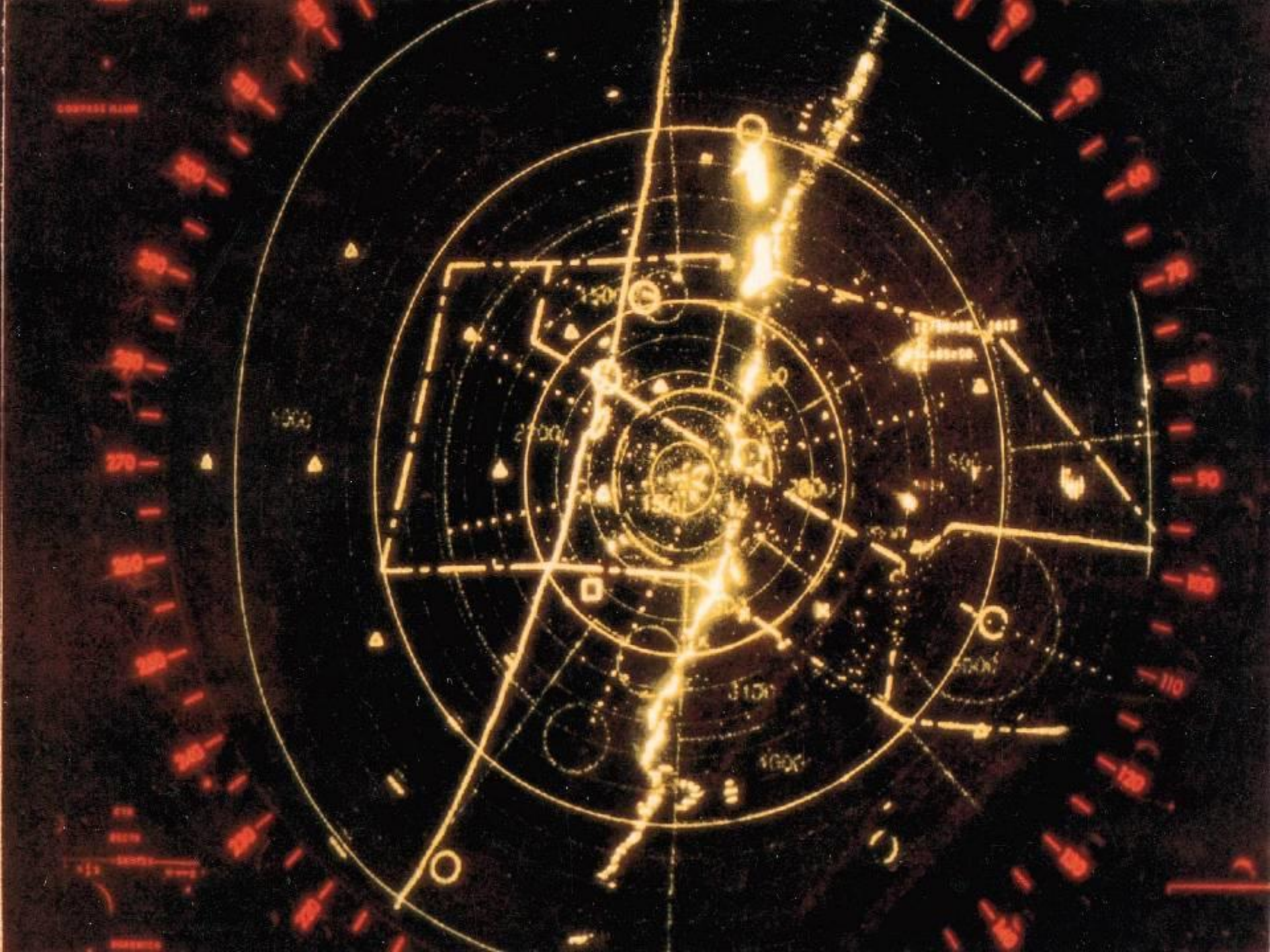
The conflict with the Israeli Air Force



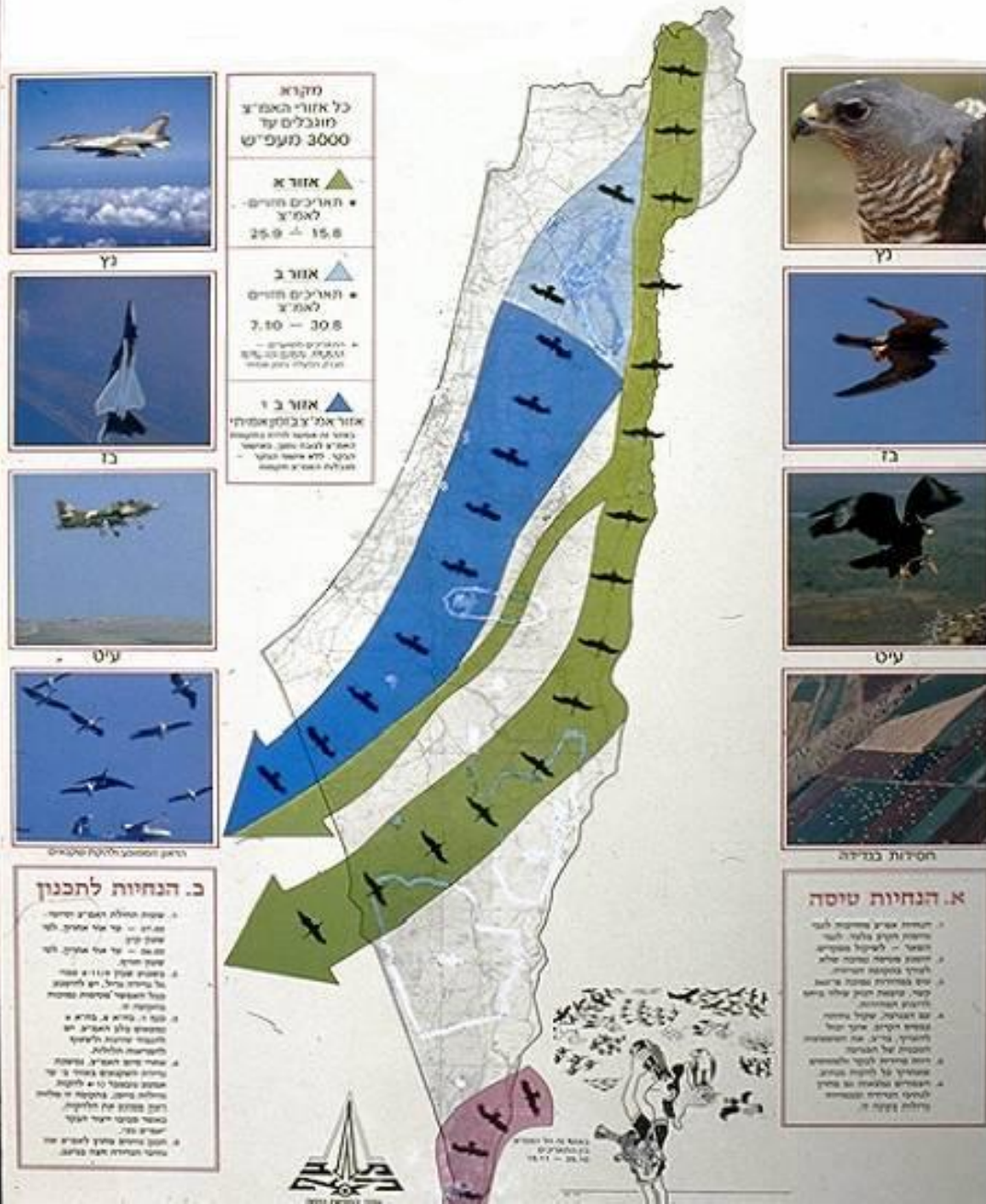
**December 1988,
Judean Desert**

Lt. General Rami Ben-Ephraim

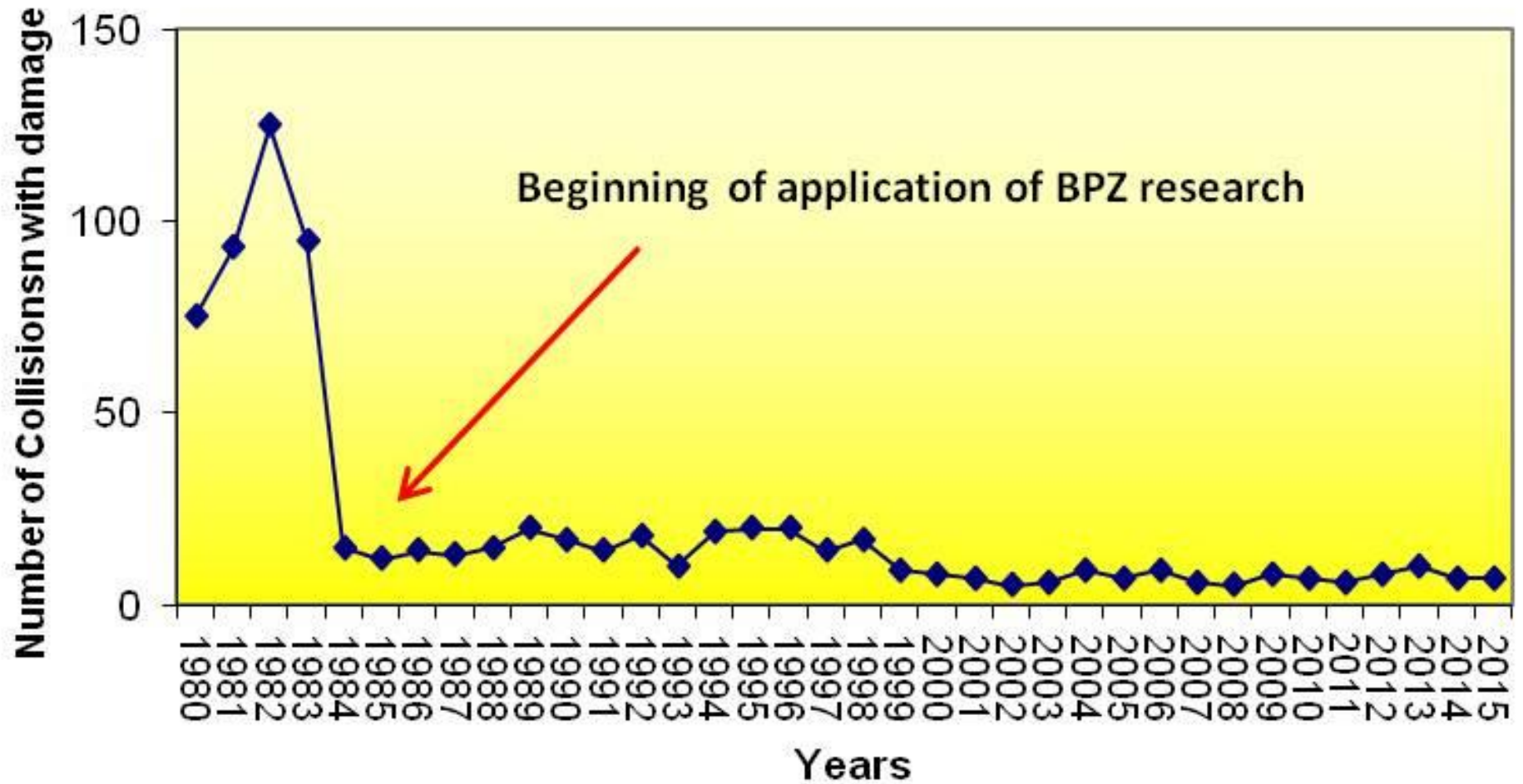




Bird Plagued Zone (BPZ) Map



Collisions (that caused damage) with birds in the IAF before and after the BPZ research 1980 - 2015





**1998: Meeting with the Royal
Jordanian Air Force Commander,
Major General Ababneh**

600,000 White Storks twice a year

THOMAS KRUMENACKER



1996

**Entering the
satellite era**



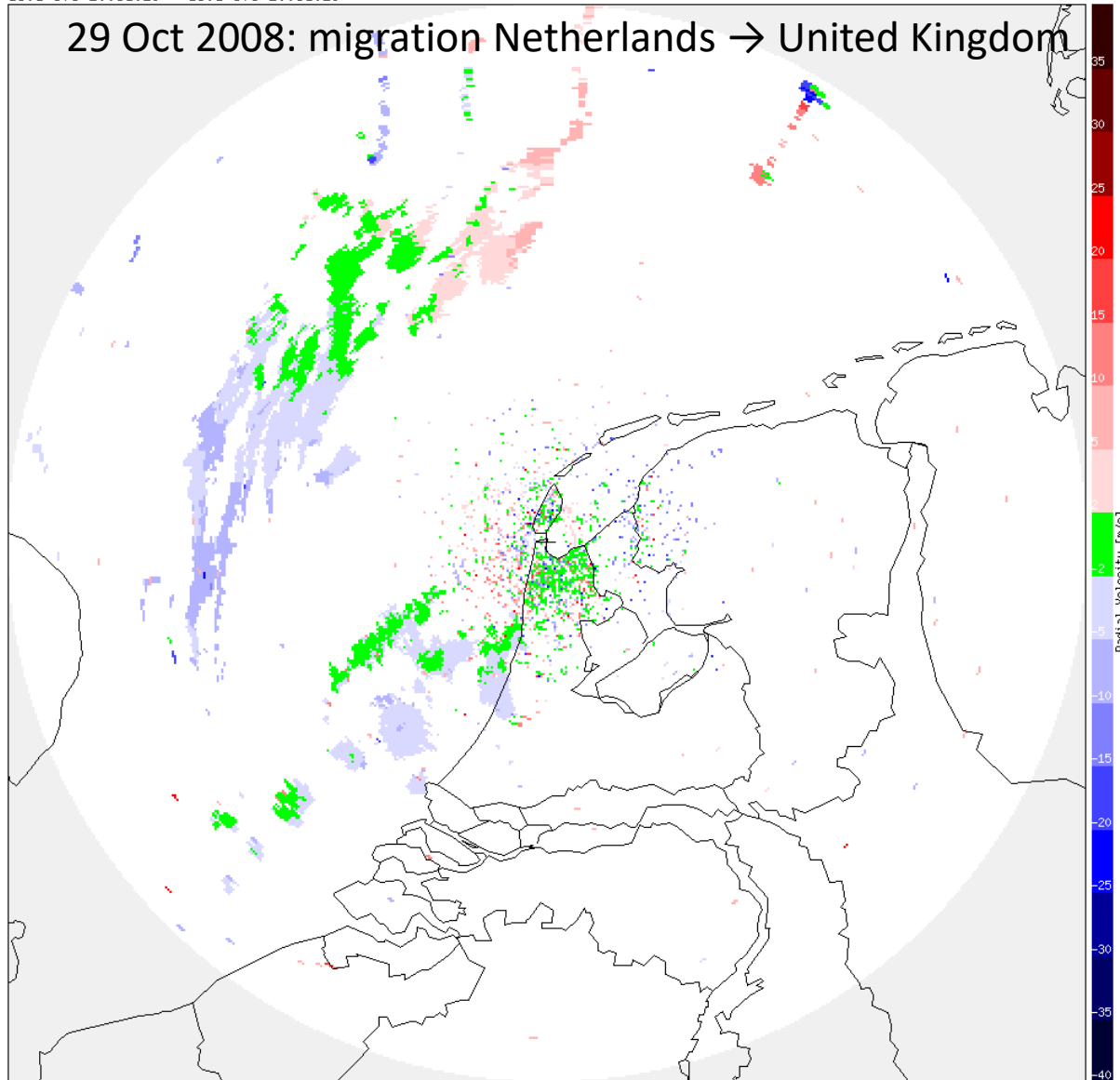
Storks migration animation



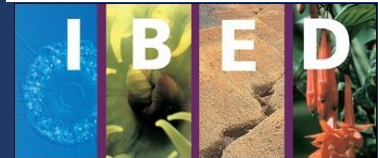
COST-ENRAM Project

1601 UTC 20081029 - 1601 UTC 20081029

29 Oct 2008: migration Netherlands → United Kingdom



UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM



KNMI



Koninklijk Nederlands
Meteorologisch Instituut
Ministerie van Verkeer en Waterstaat



vogelwarte.ch



METEO
FRANCE

Example #5

Education



الطيور المهاجرة لا تعرف الحدود
Migrating Birds Know No Boundaries
הציפורים הנודדות אינן יודעות גבולות



MERC



الجمعية الملكية لحماية الطبيعة
The Royal Society for the Conservation
of Nature / Jordan (RSCN)



Tel Aviv University
The International Center for the Study
of Bird Migration at Latrun, Israel



جمعية الحياة البرية في فلسطين
Palestine Wildlife Society





Netherlands



Italy



Spain



Finland



UK



Scotland



Estonia



USA



Germany



Jordan



Israel



Palestine



ICBP, The "Mother" Organization of



FLYWAYS - SATELLITE TRACKING OSPREY MIGRATION AS A GLOBAL EDUCATION AND CONSERVATION TOOL

A brainstorming seminar, February 3th - 6th, 2013
Kfar Blum, Pastoral Hotel, Hula Valley, Israel



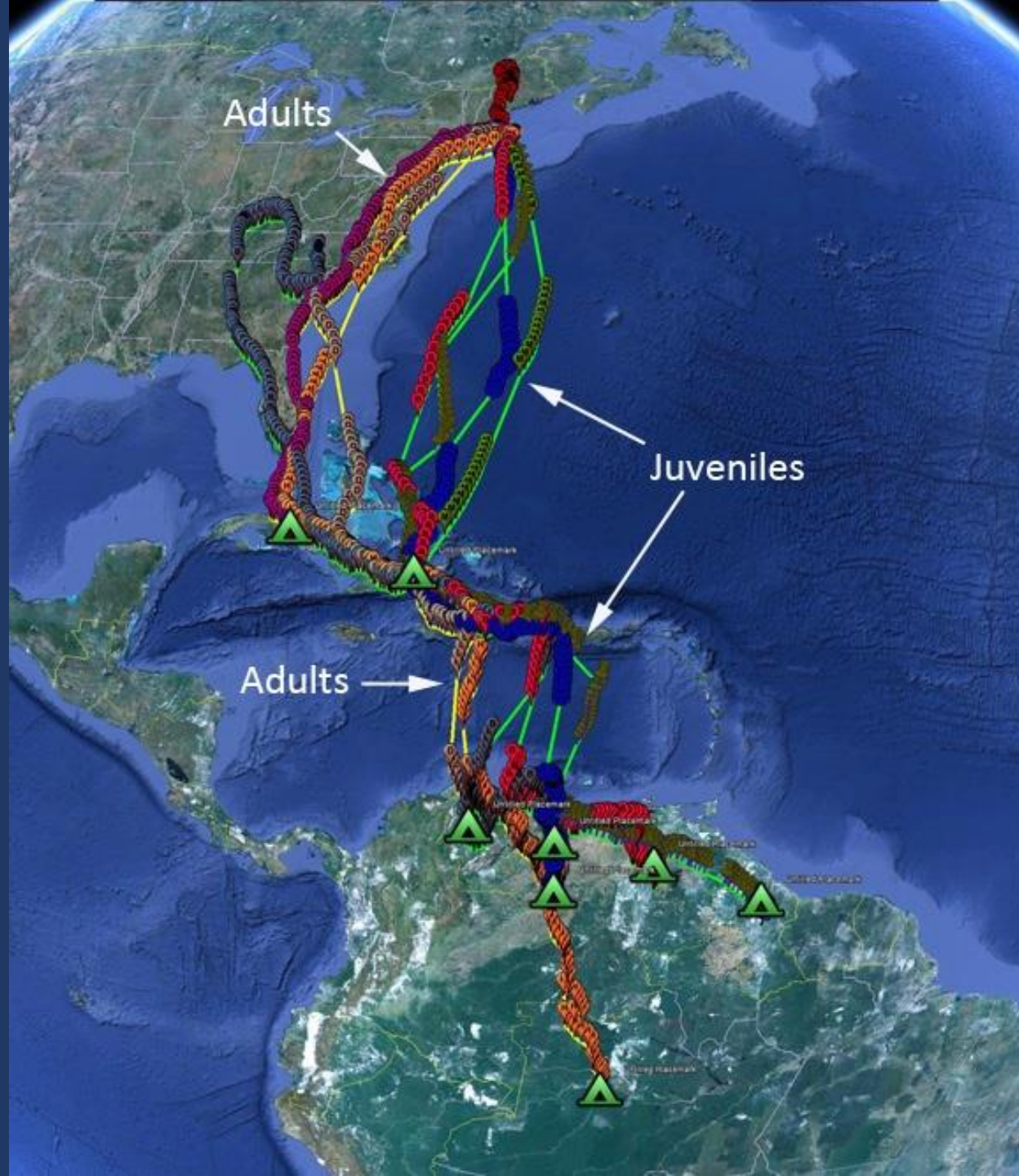
Society for the
Protection of Nature in Israel
P.O. Box 120, Tel Aviv 6100
Israel Ornithological Center







Rutland water, UK



The Next Goal!



Example #6

Nature Defense Forces (NDF)

Commanders Take Responsibility for their Environment



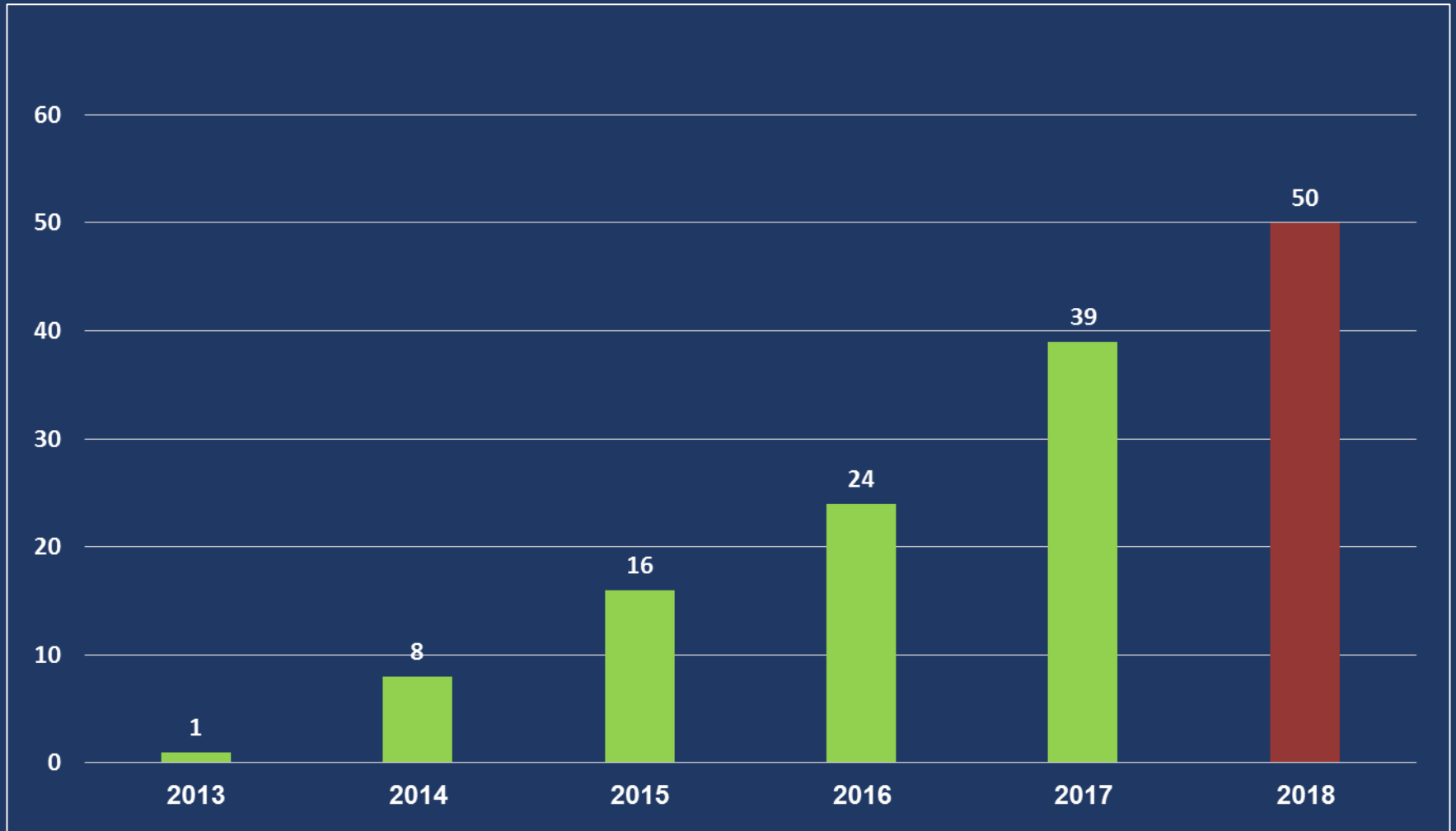
In partnership with:



IDF Chief of General Staff, Lt. General Gadi Eisenkot, viewing the exhibition



2013-2018 NDF growth of projects









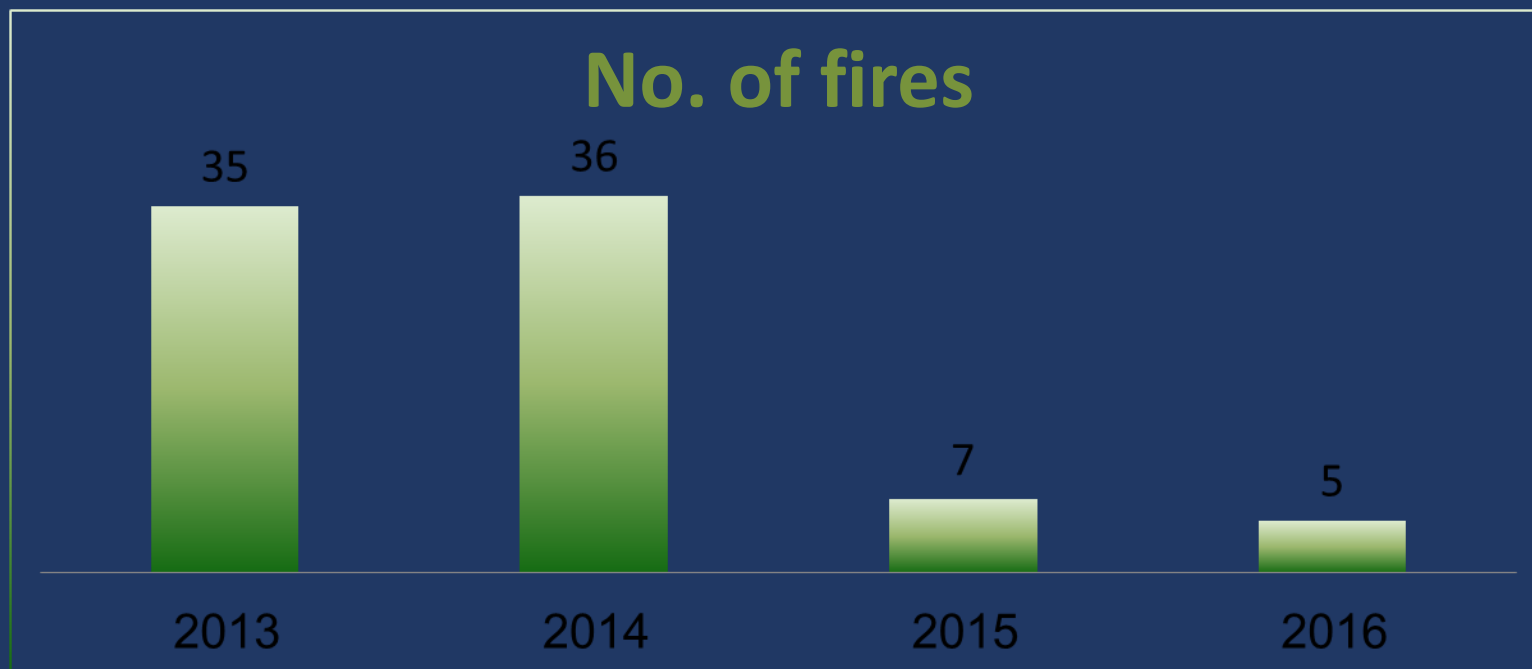




Lachish Training Command Base



Results – Reducing fires



**From 30,000 dunams that were burned in 2013
to 1,100 dunams that were burned in 2016**

May 30th 2016: Chief of General Staff, Lt. General Gadi Eisenkot, just before releasing a Short-toed Eagle back to the wild



Photo: IDF Spokesperson's Unit

Second to release a Honey Buzzard is the Deputy Chief of General Staff, Maj. Gen. Yair Golan; over one million Honey Buzzards migrate in the spring over Israel





Maj. Gen. Kobi Barak, Head of the Technological and Logistics Directorate and IDF leader of the NDF project, prepares to release a Black Kite

The entire General Staff releases Common Kestrels back to the wild at a Nature Defense Forces event





General Mansour's wife talks to Alex's wife (in Lausanne) on Skype during dinner



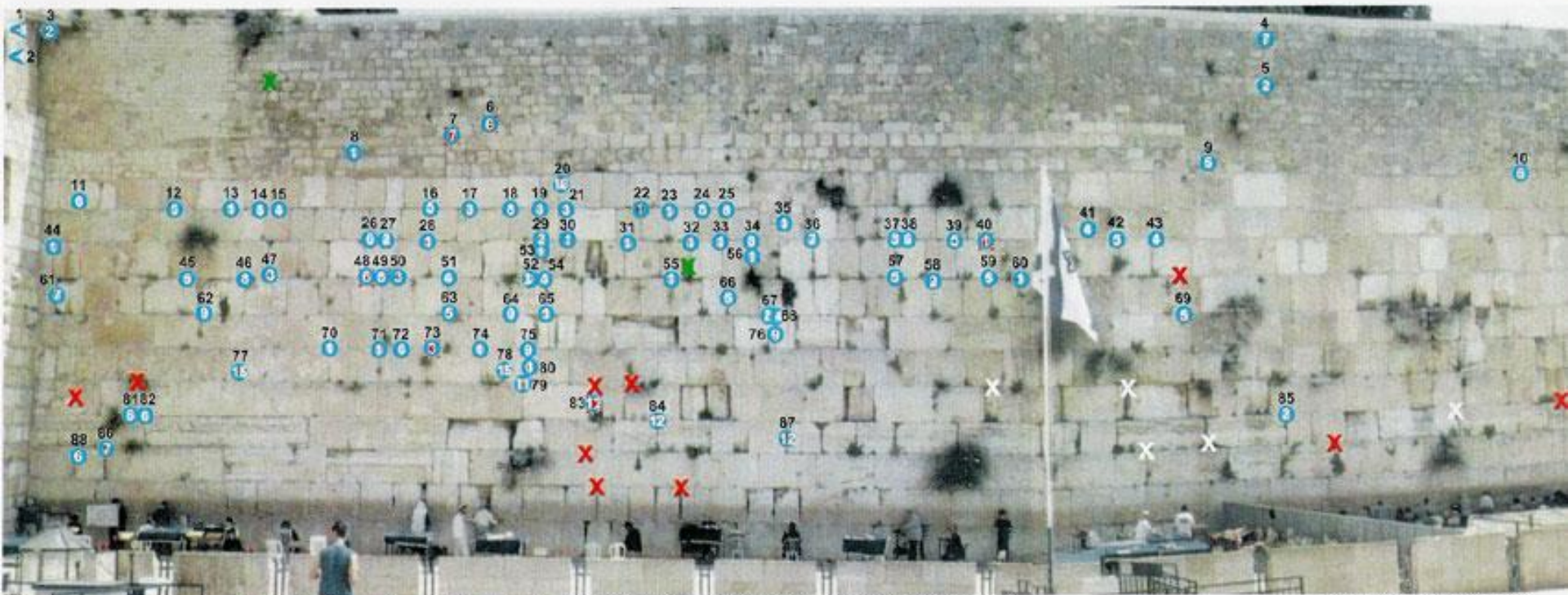




Graham Tatley

The Western Wall – Jerusalem

The potential nesting sites in the Kotel in 2002



http://www.commonswift.org/colony_Jerusalem.html or Sandgrouse 27: 82-87, **APUS**list No. 2854

© Ulrich Tigges 2002

Blue circle = Common Swift (*Apus apus*) no. 1 and 2 are out off sight, red X = House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), green X = Jackdaw (*Corvus monedula*) and white X = Feral Pigeon (*Columba livia* forma *domestica*). Black number = number of holes; white number = count of flight ins. Note that some holes are shared by more than one species.

Most of the holes are situated about nine metres high between the 9th and 10th row of the stones. 16 nesting sites can be found here alone. The fewest can be found in the southern part. It seems that more cracks are filled with mortar here. In some holes (nos. 14 and 15) the Common Swifts entered obliquely, that is, the cavities are at an angle. In nesting site no. 20 the Swifts flew straight into the cavity without touching the entrance hole. In another four nest sites (nos. 41, 76, 77, 87) the Swifts make a 90° turn just before the entrance hole and flew into it in this position, without touching the entrance. One may assume that in such cases, the nesting site is at a certain distance from the entrance hole and that the approach to it is large enough to allow the bird to fly within it. Two holes are behind vegetation (nos. 22 and 63). When the plants grow further, the nesting sites cannot be reached by the Swifts anymore.





ירושלים מברכת את הסיסים
עם שובם לכותל המערבי

Jerusalem Welcomes the Swifts
on their return to the Western Wall

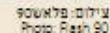




ישראל
ת את
סים
חזרתן
לכותל
המערבי



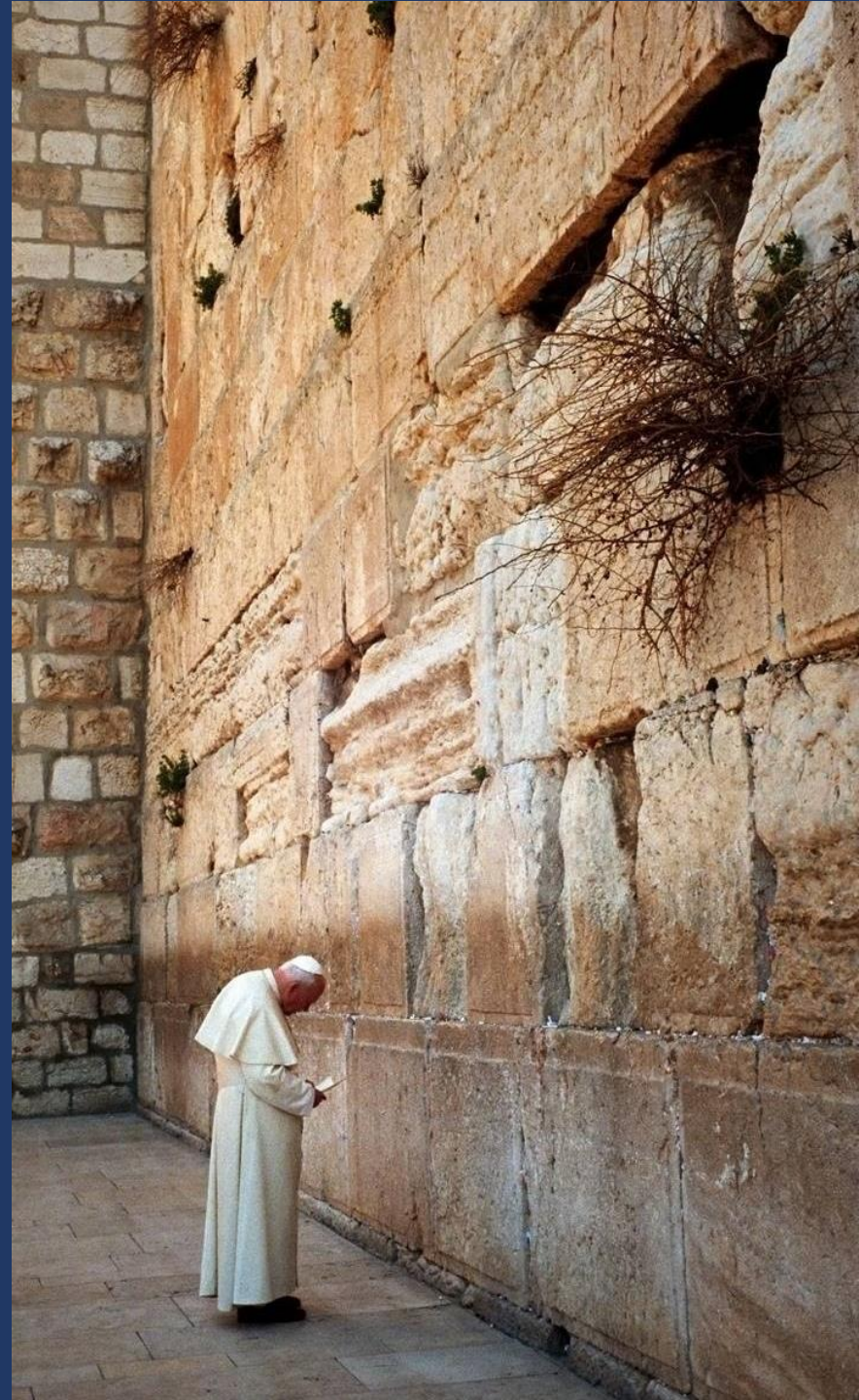
A man in a black suit and kippah is speaking at a white podium. The podium features the Israeli coat of arms, which includes a lion and the word "ירושלים" (Jerusalem) in Hebrew. The background is a stone wall with an arched window.

[illegible]

Over 500 guests attended the event



Swifts and religion in towns



The Church of Nativity in Bethlehem



**H.M. King Abdullah's Mosque,
Amman**



Birds of the City

Regional Cooperation Seminar

May 14th-15th, 2012, Israel



Photo: Amnonn Hann



The Ferrari Scandal

Rabbi of the Western Wall, Rabbi Shmuel Rabinowitz:

"We made a huge mistake with the Ferrari exhibit at the Western Wall" – Ynet



Photo: Ofir Gonen

Source: <https://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-5038907,00.html>

Summary: Swifts as an interdisciplinary concept

- Nature conservation
- Research
- Awareness & actions
- Rehabilitation
- People-to-people activities = Peace process
- Eco-tourism = Economic value
- **Swifts and religion**



Do not move separately – JOIN FORCES !!



Can we “take off” with such an ambitious project?



Birders in the Sahara...



With a little optimism the answer is –Yes!



FOCUS ON YOUR TARGET

