

White-tailed Eagle (WTE) monitoring in Estonia 2012-2013

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WTE monitoring

- Adjusting of methodology;
- Monitoring of breeding population and searching for new nests;
- Ringing and ring readings;
- Equipping 2 birds in each country with GPS/GSM transmitters;
- Winter feeder



New nest of Linda and Sulev, found in late 2011



New WTE nest in Läänemaa - nest was found 24th of May 2012 by Janis Kuze. Juvenile Sillu was equipped with GPS transmitter in this nest.

Exceptional new nest-site from Saaremaa



2012

Contr. nests in LV: 52

Contr. nests in EST: 207

ESTLAT total: 259

Data from Latvia:

Janis Kuze, LDF



2013

Contr. nests in LV: 57

Contr. nests in EST: 171

ESTLAT total: 228

Data from Latvia:

Janis Kuze, LDF



WTE breeding results on the ESTLAT project area

Productivity 2012

LV: 1,08

EST: 0,97

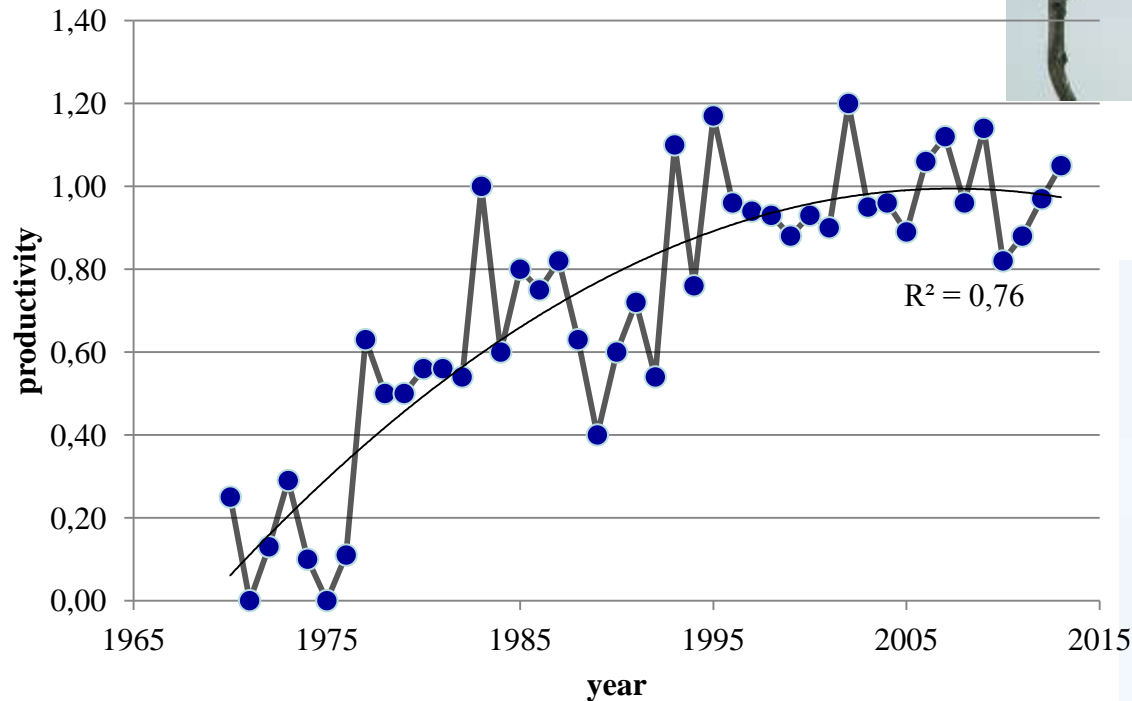
ESTLAT: 1,02

Productivity 2013

LV: 1,04

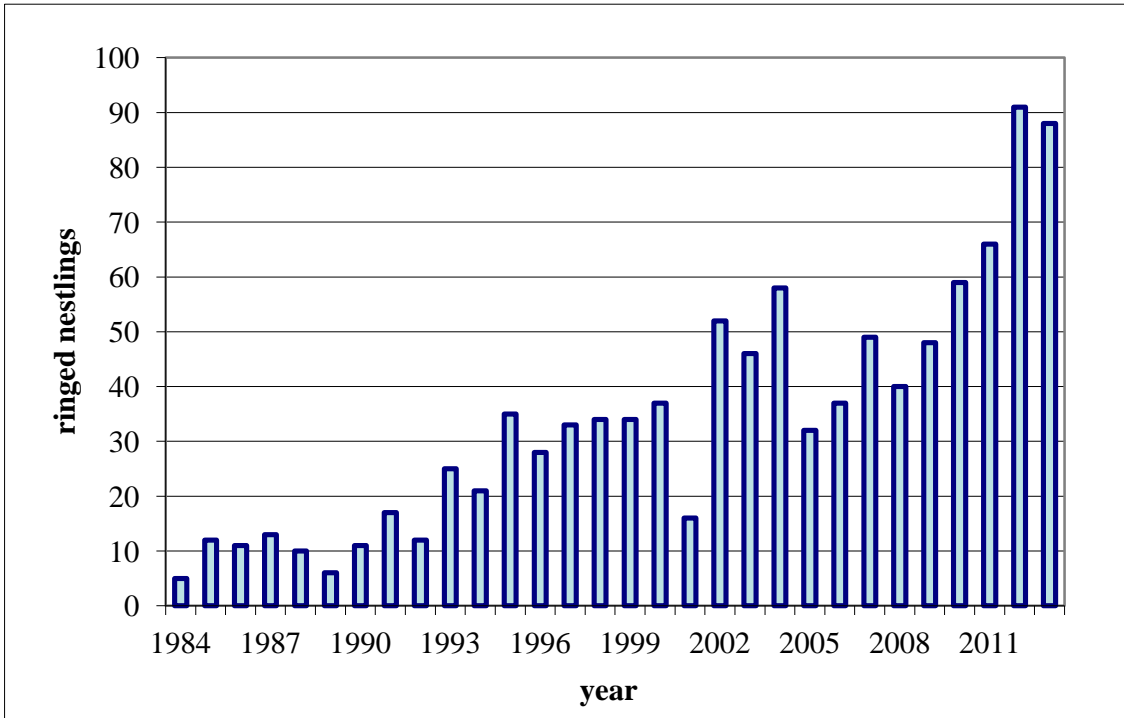
EST: 1,05

ESTLAT : 1,05

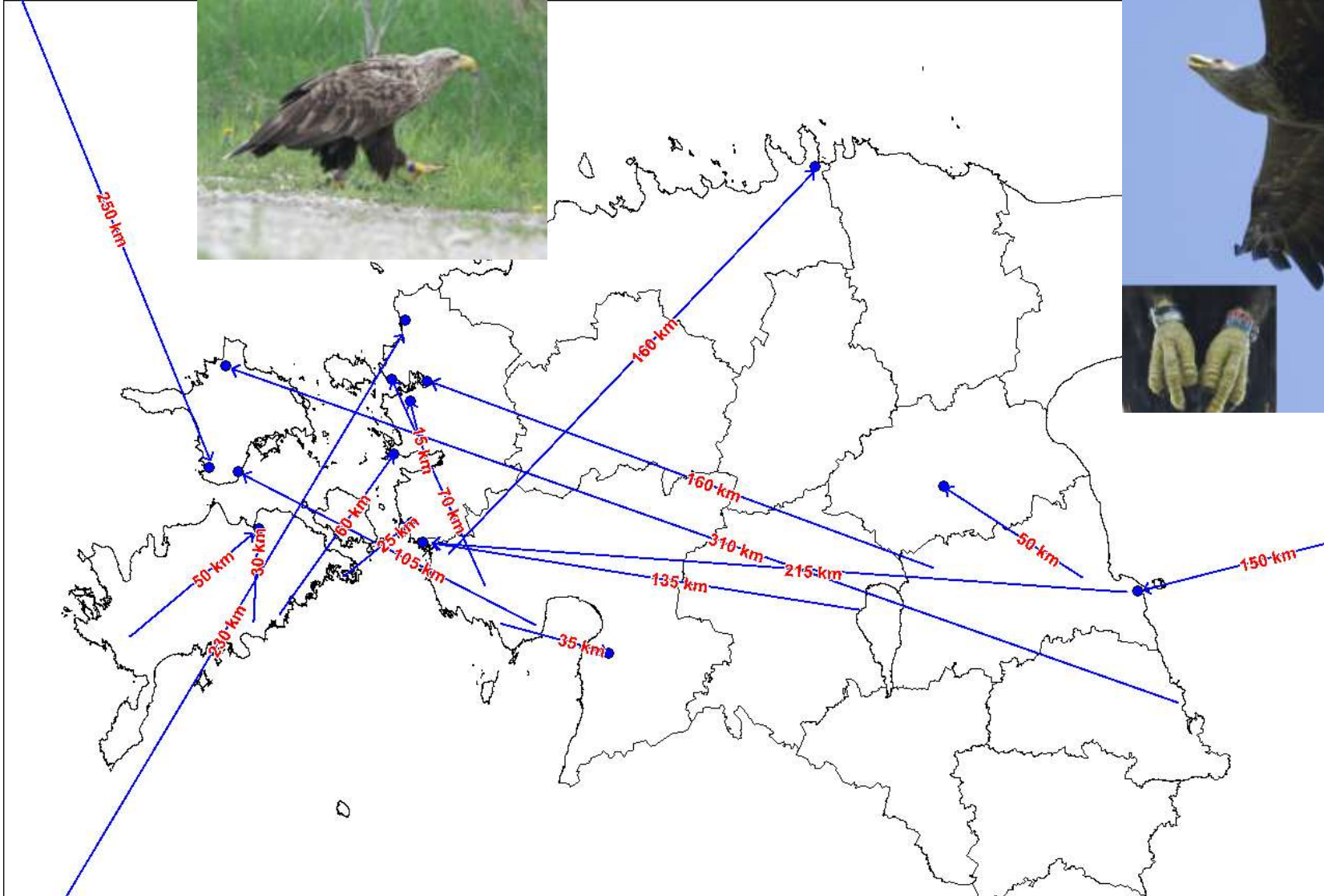
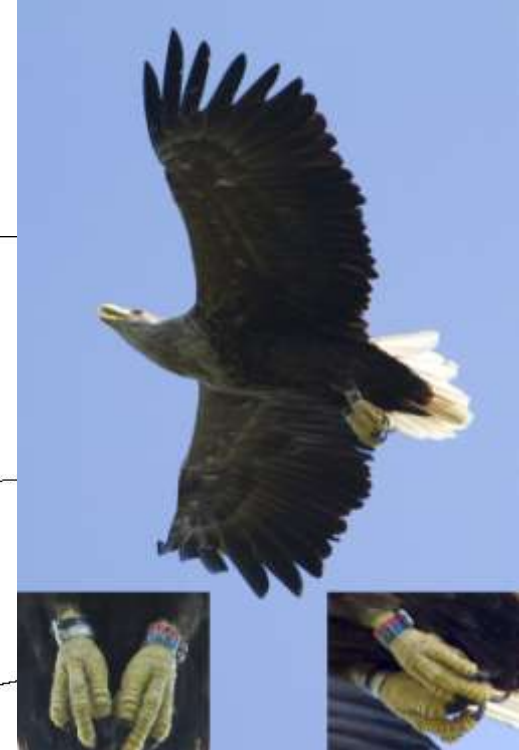




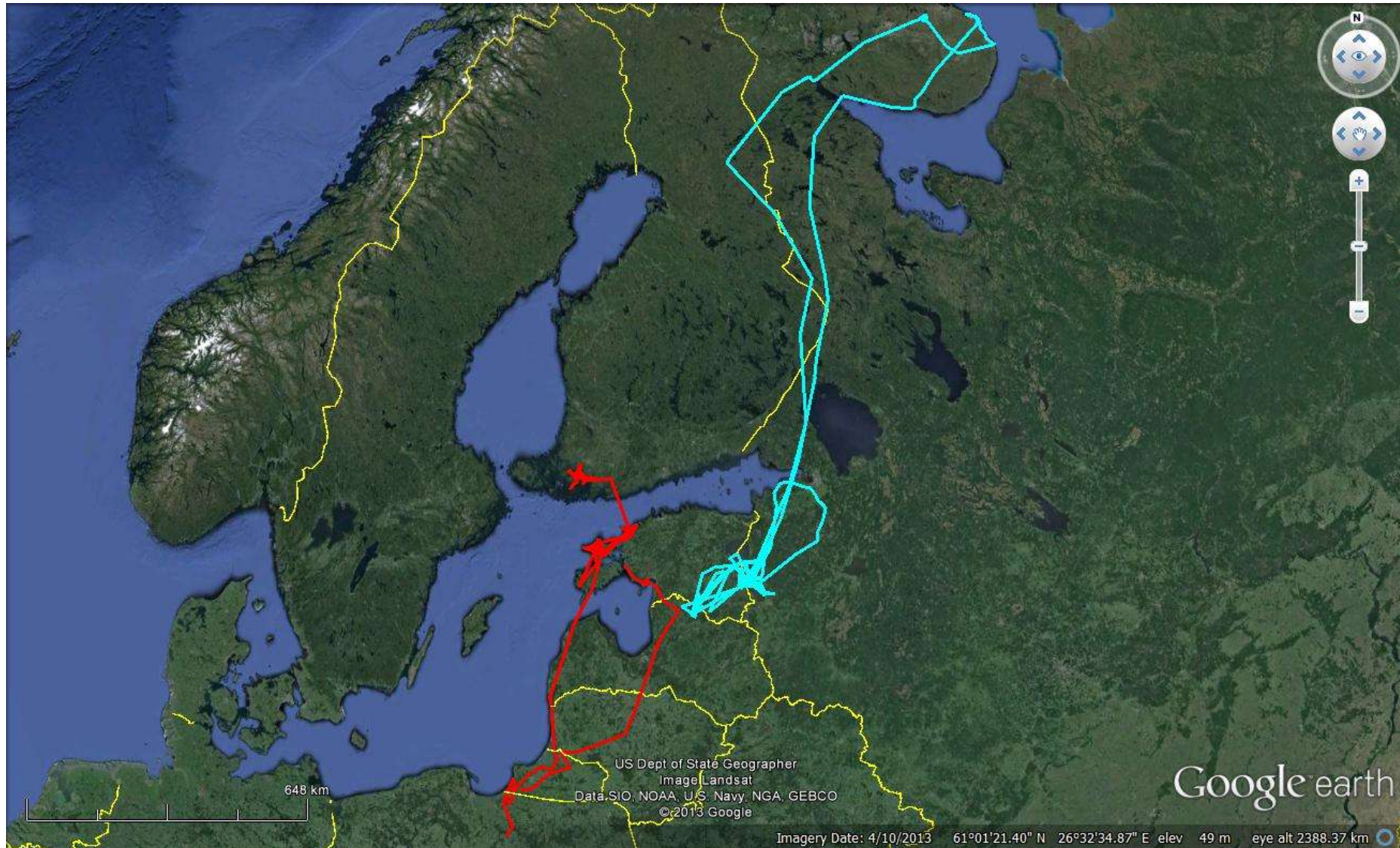
Ringling of WTE nestlings increased rapidly during the ESTLAT project



Ring readings of breeding adults



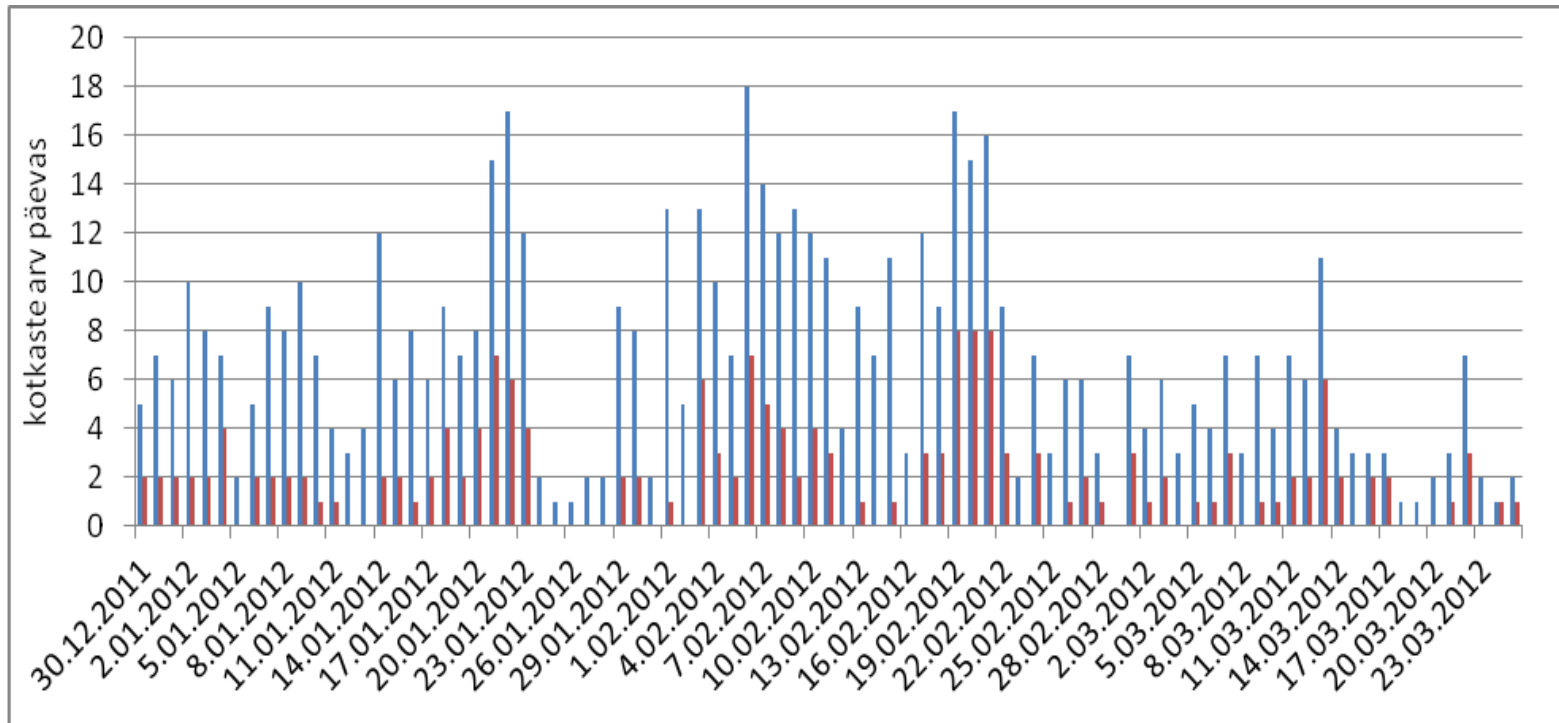
Two Estonian WTE juveniles with transmitters



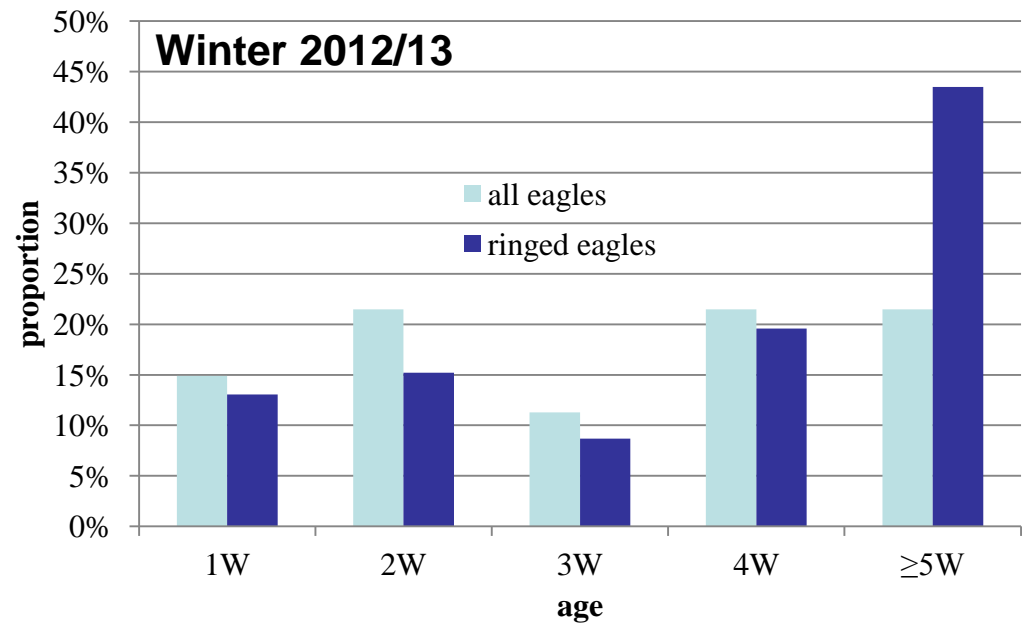
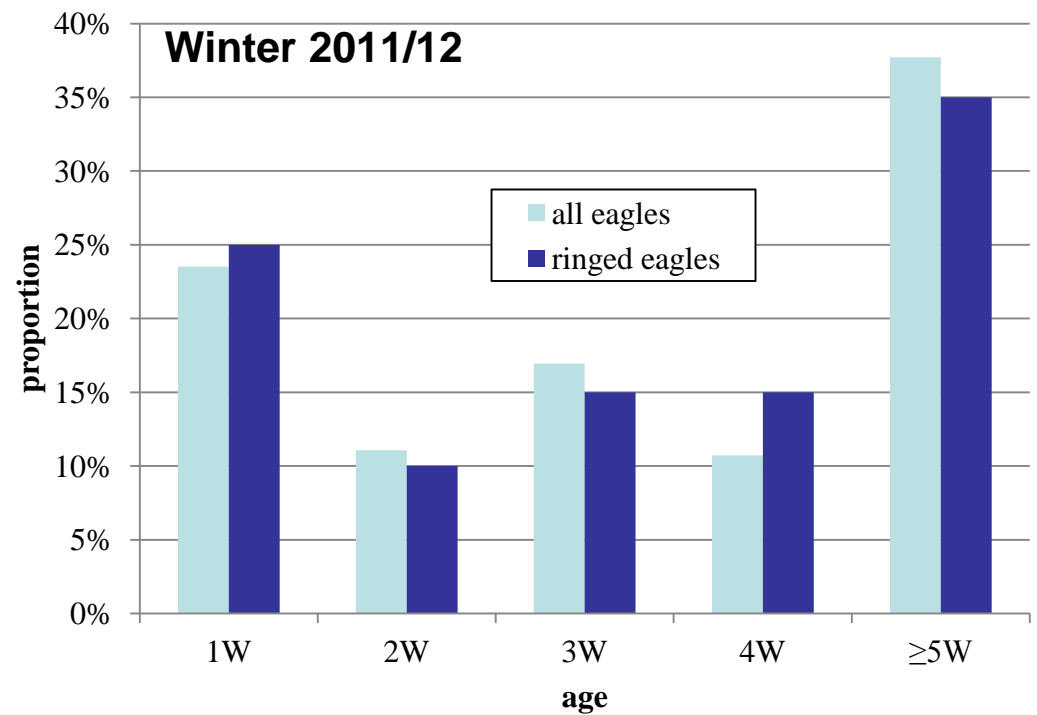
Winter feeding webcam results



Seasonal dynamics

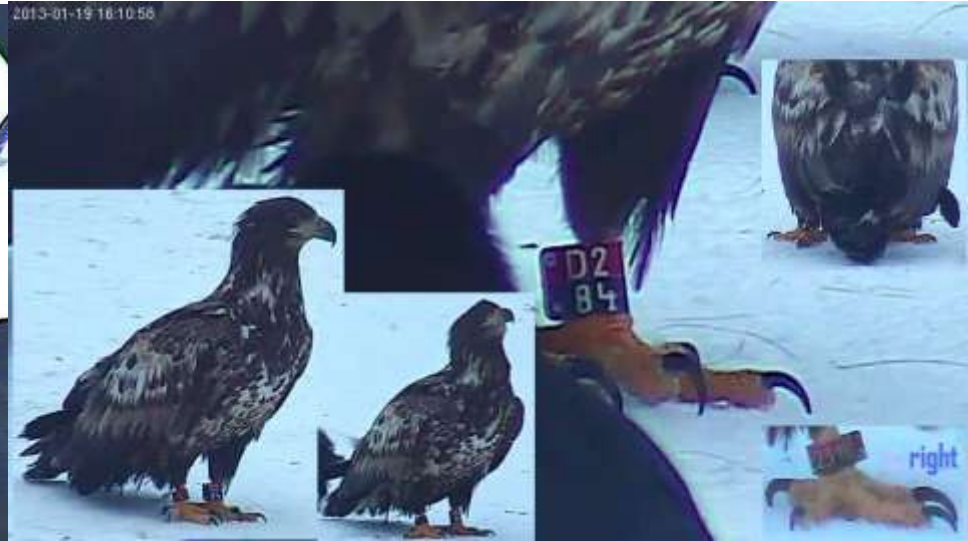


Demographic information



64 ring recoveries during two winters!

- 19 ring recoveries in winter 2011/12
- 45 in winter 2012/13
- 31 Finnish WTEs
- 27 Estonian WTEs
- 5 Swedish WTEs
- 1 Lithuanian WTE



Species action plan for WTE

- WTE numbers and distribution
- WTE biology
- WTE conservation status
- Threats and limiting factors
- Conservation targets and measures
- Conservation actions
- Budget



Threats and limiting factors

Factor	importance
Secondary poisoning from pesticides and other pollutants	potentially big
Secondary poisoning from lead pellets	average
Lack of suitable breeding habitats and loss of nest sites	average
Disturbance	small
Degradation of feeding habitats	small
Illegal killing	small
Accidental killing by collision and electrocution	average



General conservation measures

- Safer electric pylons and preference of cables instead of wires
 - 11 WTEs have been killed in six electric lines
 - Potential threat for juveniles up to 20 nest sites (electric lines are closer than 500m to the nest)
- **Ban of using lead pellets for hunting waterfowls since 1st January 2013 – in frame of AEWA agreement**
- Subsidy for private land owners on species protection sites
- Better knowledges for coastal land exploitation for housing etc.
- Retention trees and retention forestry



Actions

- Designation of species protection sites (microreserves) and nest site protection in frame of other conservation areas
- Searching for unknown nests
 - ESTLAT action in 2012-13
- Subsidy for private land owners on species protection sites
- Monitoring of numbers, productivity and habitats
 - ESTLAT action 2012-13
- Estimating the danger of electric lines close to the nest sites
- Analysing of death causes

Actions

- Study for WTE habitat change since 1950s
- Population genetics
- Ring readings on nest sites and winter feeding grounds
 - ESTLAT actions in 2012-13
- WTE home range and migration
 - ESTLAT transmitters
- International cooperation
 - color ringing, ESTLAT project
- Webcams and other activities for rising public awareness
 - ESTLAT nest and winter-feeding webcam
- Information letters to land owners
- English translation of species action plan and publishing
 - ESTLAT action



Thank You!