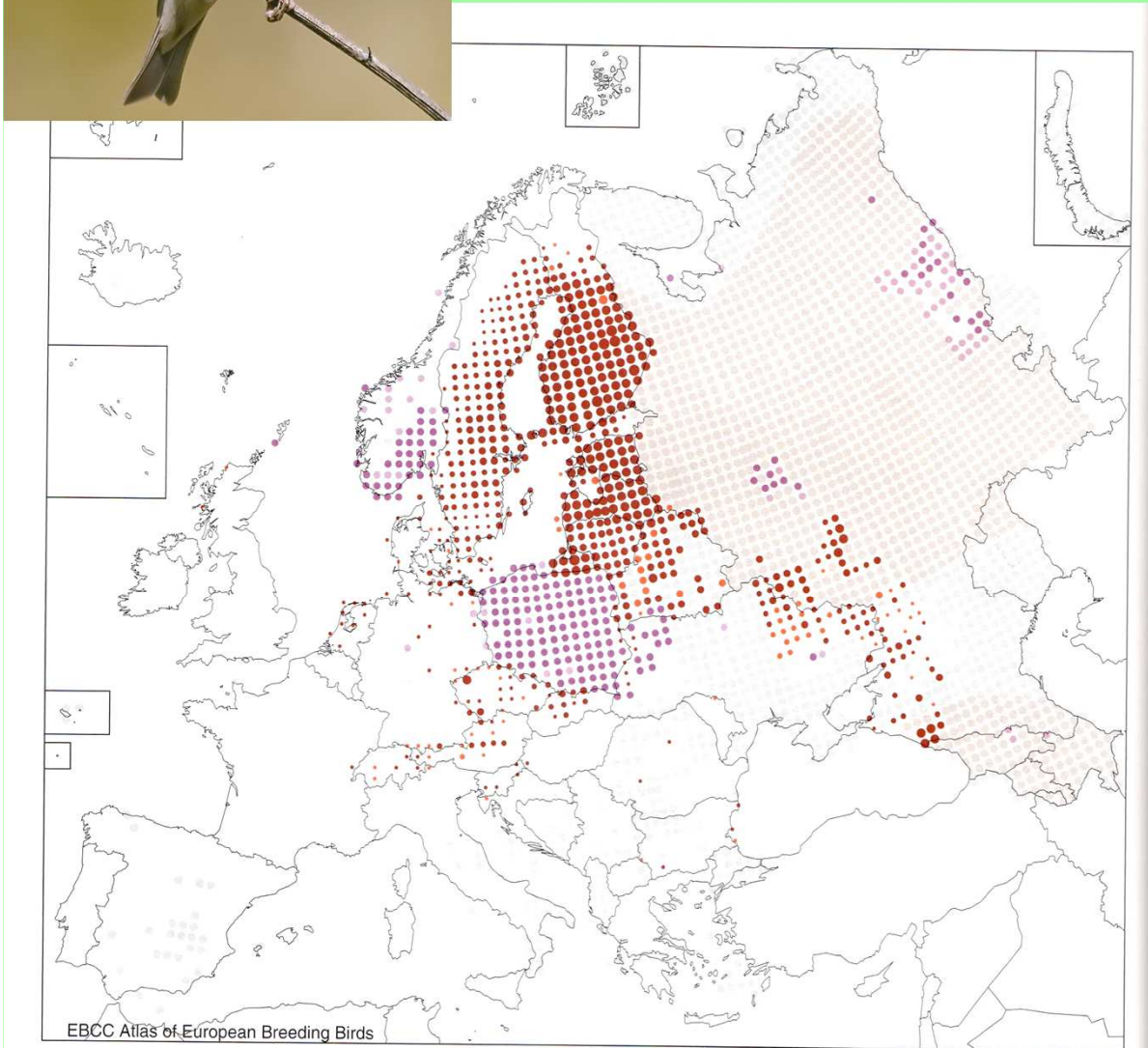


ATLAS OF BREEDING BIRDS OF EUROPEAN PART OF RUSSIA

Mikhail Kalyakin, Olga Voltzit

Russian Atlas is an important part of Second European breeding birds Atlas, because its territory forms c. 40% of the area of rest Europe.





Russians took part in first European breeding birds Atlas, but due to several reasons this participation was quite low, as it is visible from published Atlas (1997).

The recent Atlas Project was initiated in 2010 in cooperation with EBCC Board, the pilot studies were done in 2011 and the big Project had started in 2012.

We will use data on bird distribution, status and abundance for the period 2005–2017.

Russian version of the Atlas have to be published in 2019, all data will be also used in Second European Atlas.

The area of European part of Russia includes more than 1800 squares 50 on 50 kms.

We will say that the Project was justified if we will cover more than 600 squares, and it will be absolutely perfect if we can cover more than 900 squares.

Main problems which have to be solved for successful atlas preparation include:

- necessity to cover a huge territory,
- bad road infrastructure,
- rather low number of professional ornithologists,
- quite low number of volunteers, both experienced or inexperienced,
- poor opportunities for financial support in country and out of country.

HOW WE WILL DO RUSSIAN ATLAS?

A secretariat was formed in Zoological museum of Moscow Lomonosov State University from two its staff members (me and Olga Voltzit) and previously two, but now one officer. Impute of two first ones are in-kind, the last one needs in salary.

Consortium of several scientific institutes and scientific societies was established under my coordination.

Main source of data will be collated from observers visiting squares.

First of all we ask observers about **complete survey** of squares and preparing of the report which has to include **list of breeding bird species**, **their status** and **estimation of abundance**.

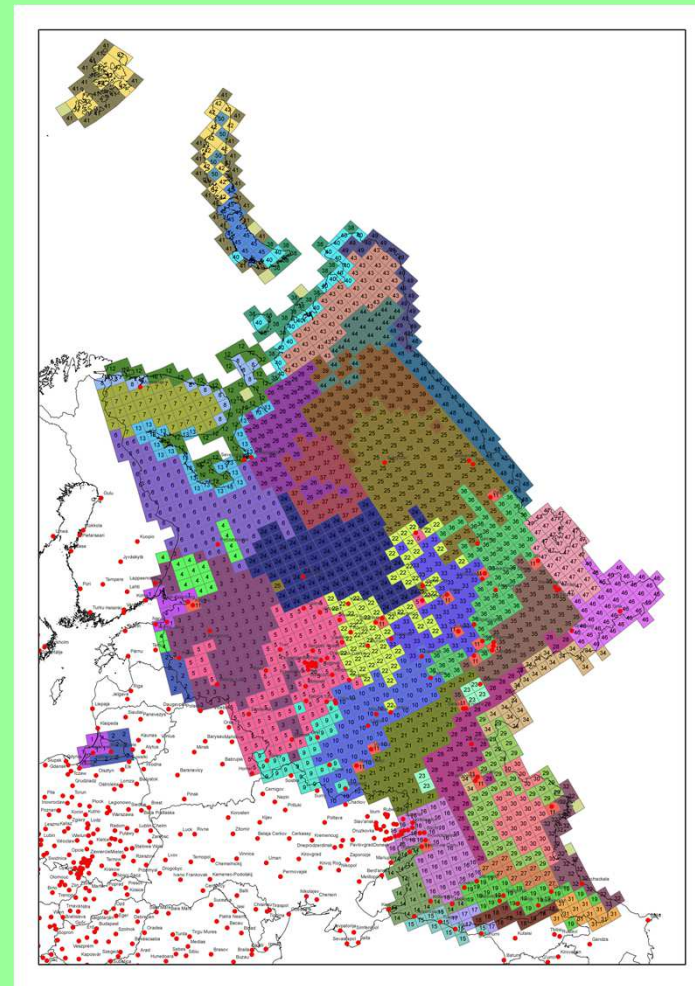
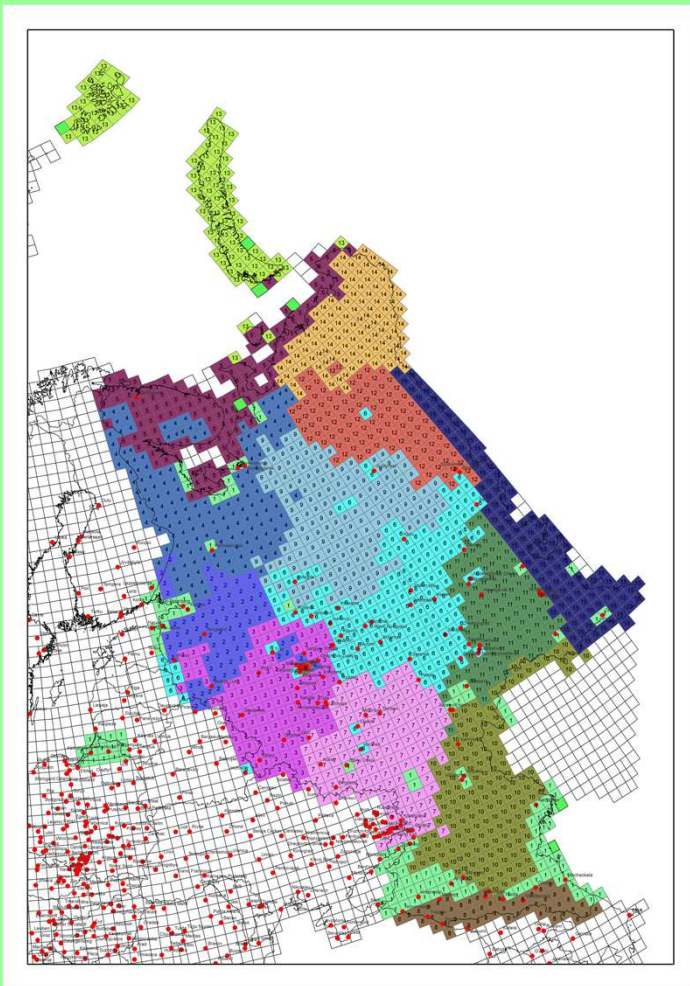
Data of untargeted surveys are less useful, their collating seems effective if we will have an easy-accessible web-site for on-line registration of them.

One or may be just two independent schemes are already elaborated and will be tested in 2013.

Full covering of the territory will be impossible, so we planning to refer to help of Modeling group acting in contact with EBCC in the final stage of the Project.

It means that finally we will have two sorts of map for each species: real (with many small gaps) and modeled one.

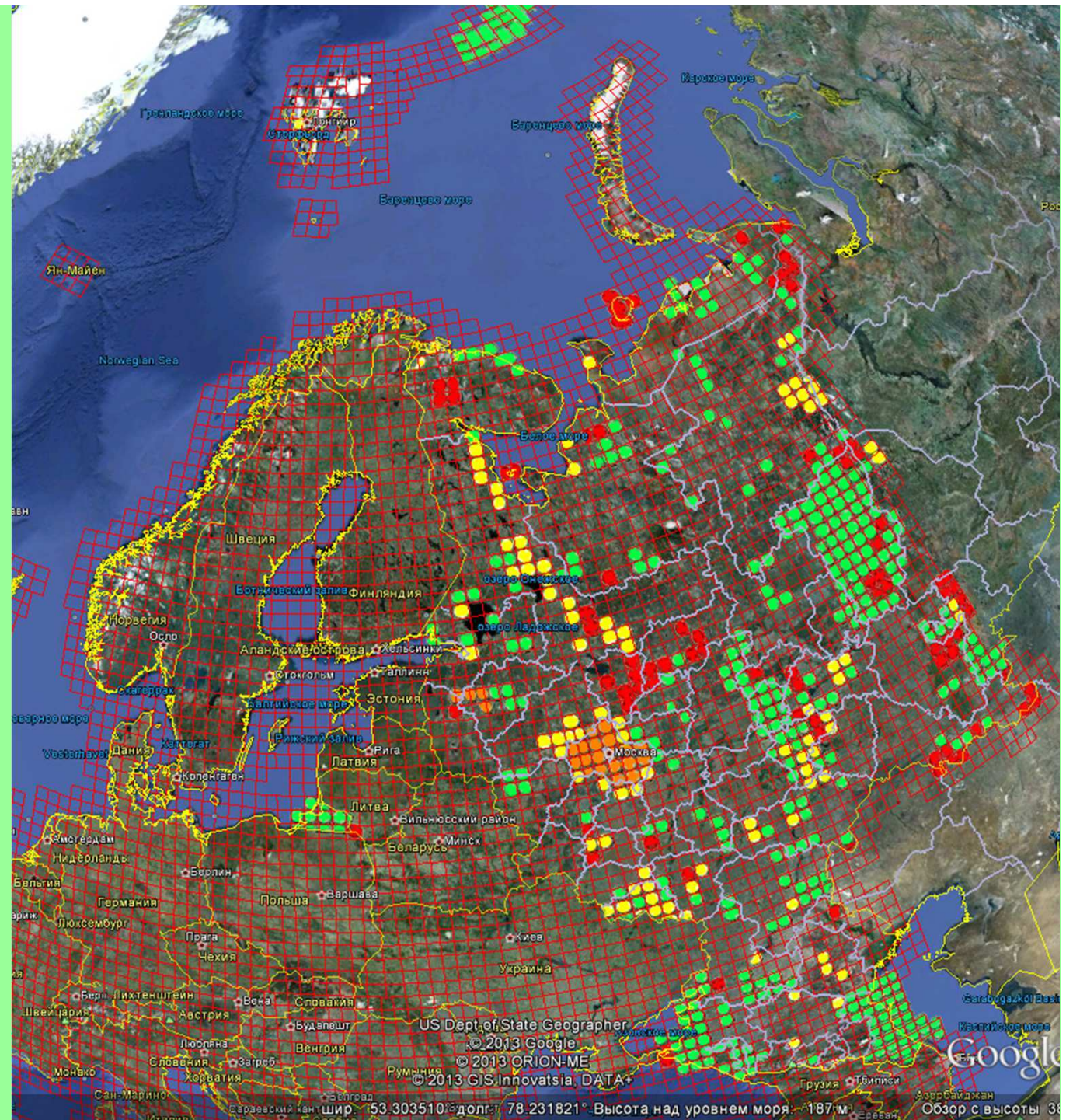
The area of European Russia was separated on 15 and 50 clusters due to similarity of their landscape and vegetation parameters (thanks to Henk Sierdsema), which we will try to cover in equal proportion.



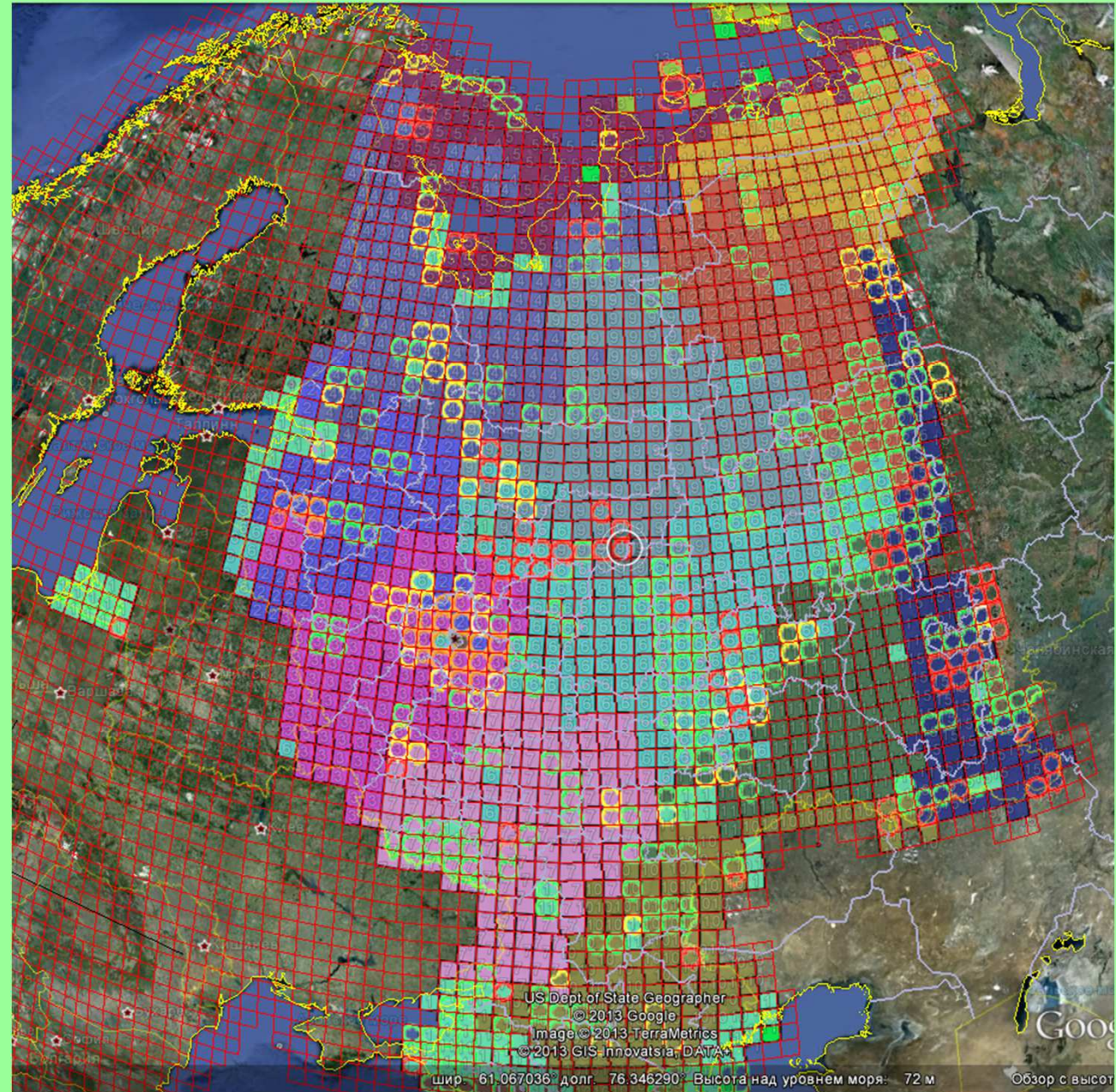
Now we have
already c. 150
studied
squares,

c. 100 of them
are fully
surveyed,

c. 400 squares
are promised
from more
than 150
observers.



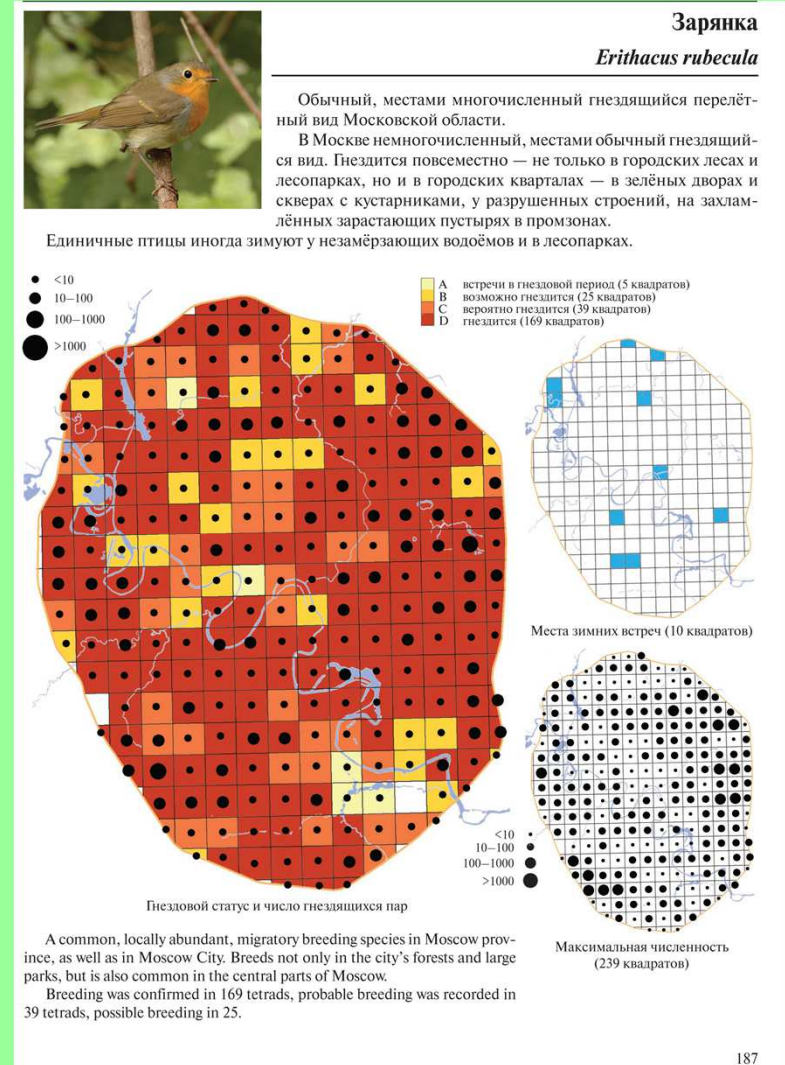
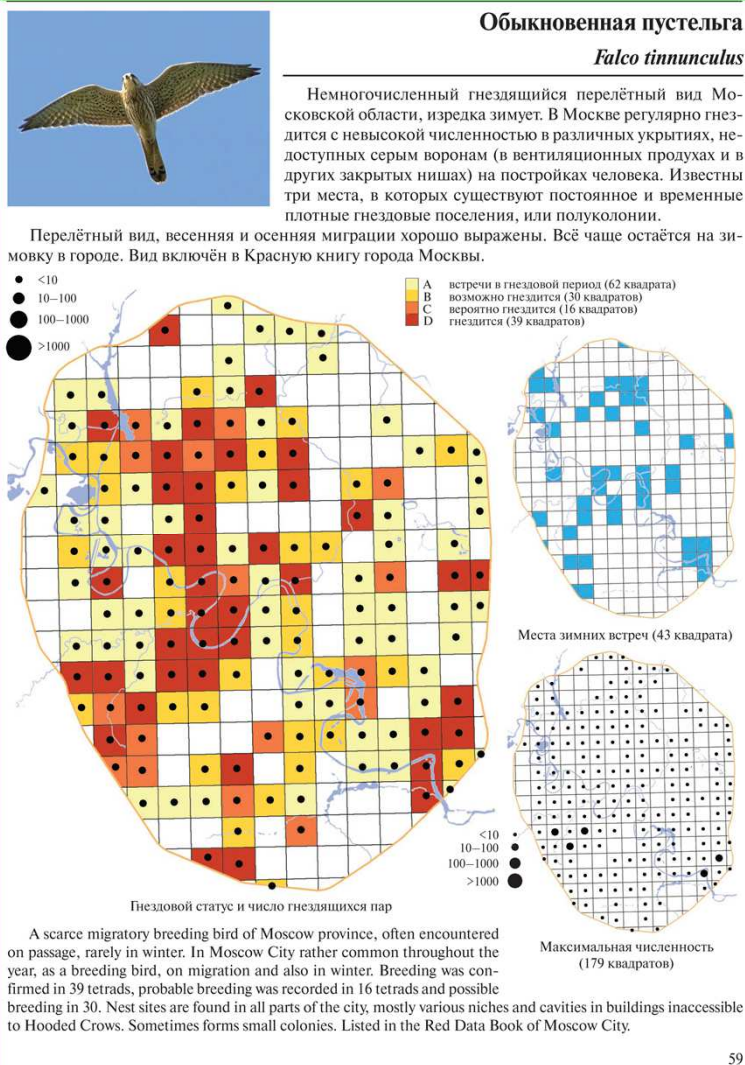
Studied squares are already distributed between 15 clusters rather proportionally; for 50 clusters we need in some else studied ones.



We propose that till now we have some reserves between both professional ornithologists and volunteers, so now we sure that the Project will be finished with positive result.

Our Project seems not realistic but we hope to make it more real, based on experience collected during work on several big projects and our authority between ornithologists and birdwatchers in Russia:

preparation of Atlas of birds of Moscow City (2006–2013), which will be published in this year;



compilation and publication of Complete Photo-guide of birds of European Russia (2007–2012): all three volumes were published in 2012;



establishing in 1999 and maintenance of the Program “Birds of Moscow City and the Moscow Region” – first Russian club of birdwatchers:

www.birdsmoscow.net.ru

(Russian and English versions).

