Genetic patterns of Black-tailed Godwit populations and their implications for conservation

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Thesis:

Genetic patterns of Black-tailed Godwit populations and their implications for conservation

by Krijn Trimbos

propositions

1. Eggshell membranes provide a good alternative for blood samples as a DNA source in population genetic research (Chapter 2).
2. Black-tailed Godwits, breeding in The Netherlands, show signs of positive selective pressures in the chicks towards having a high body mass and in the adult females towards laying earlier clutches (Chapter 3).
3. Breeding sites of the Black-tailed Godwit in The Netherlands can be treated as one panmictic population (Chapter 4).
4. Using different kinds of genetic markers simultaneously improves the chance of getting a picture of the genetic structure of a species which represents its current reality (Chapter 6).
5. Black-tailed Godwits and other meadow birds can still have a future in The Netherlands if we could only start by making biodiversity values part of the economic gain, through social and legal instruments.
6. In the long distance migratory Black-tailed Godwit, the present level of habitat fragmentation of breeding areas is probably not a big threat to the survival of breeding populations.
7. The population genetic and population dynamic questions we can answer are limited by the shortcomings of the presently used DNA markers and the unknown properties of DNA (for instance the functions of intronic and junk DNA).
8. Focusing management efforts at meadow bird core areas which have the highest chance of stable or growing population numbers, thereby excluding other areas with breeding meadow birds without the prospect of stable or growing populations, can only be successful if a-biotic prerequisites like water table and openness are optimized for meadow birds at these core areas.
9. Do not try and bend the spoon. That's impossible. Instead only try to realize the truth. There is no spoon. Then you'll see it is not the spoon that bends, it is only yourself (The Matrix, 1999).
10. The only true wisdom is in knowing you know nothing (Socrates). This statement partly refers to Chapter 3.