



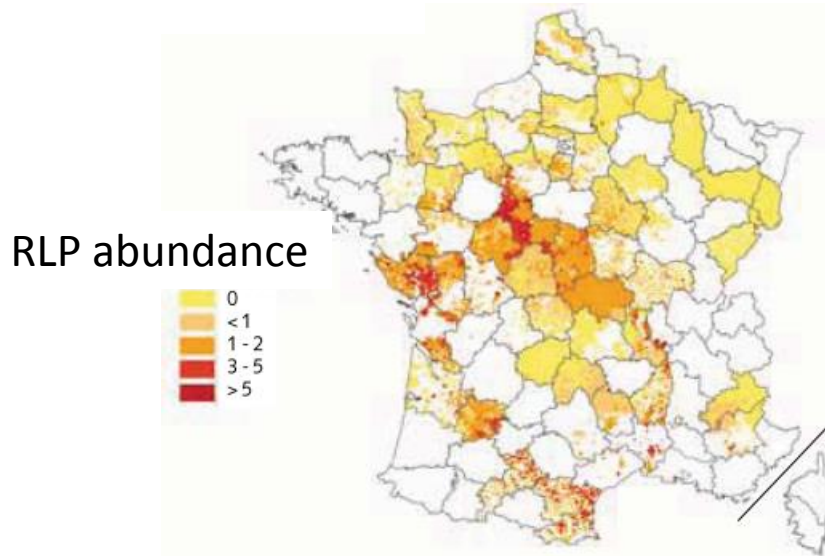
Investigating survival of wild and hand-reared red-legged partridges in Southern France



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Red-legged partridge

- Native species of Mediterranean area
- Top 5 of small game in France
(~1.3 M hunted birds in 2013/2014)



Ponce-Boutin et al. 2012

Hunting management

- Existing tool: hunting bag limit estimation
 - Spring density survey
 - Breeding success survey
 - Survival estimates

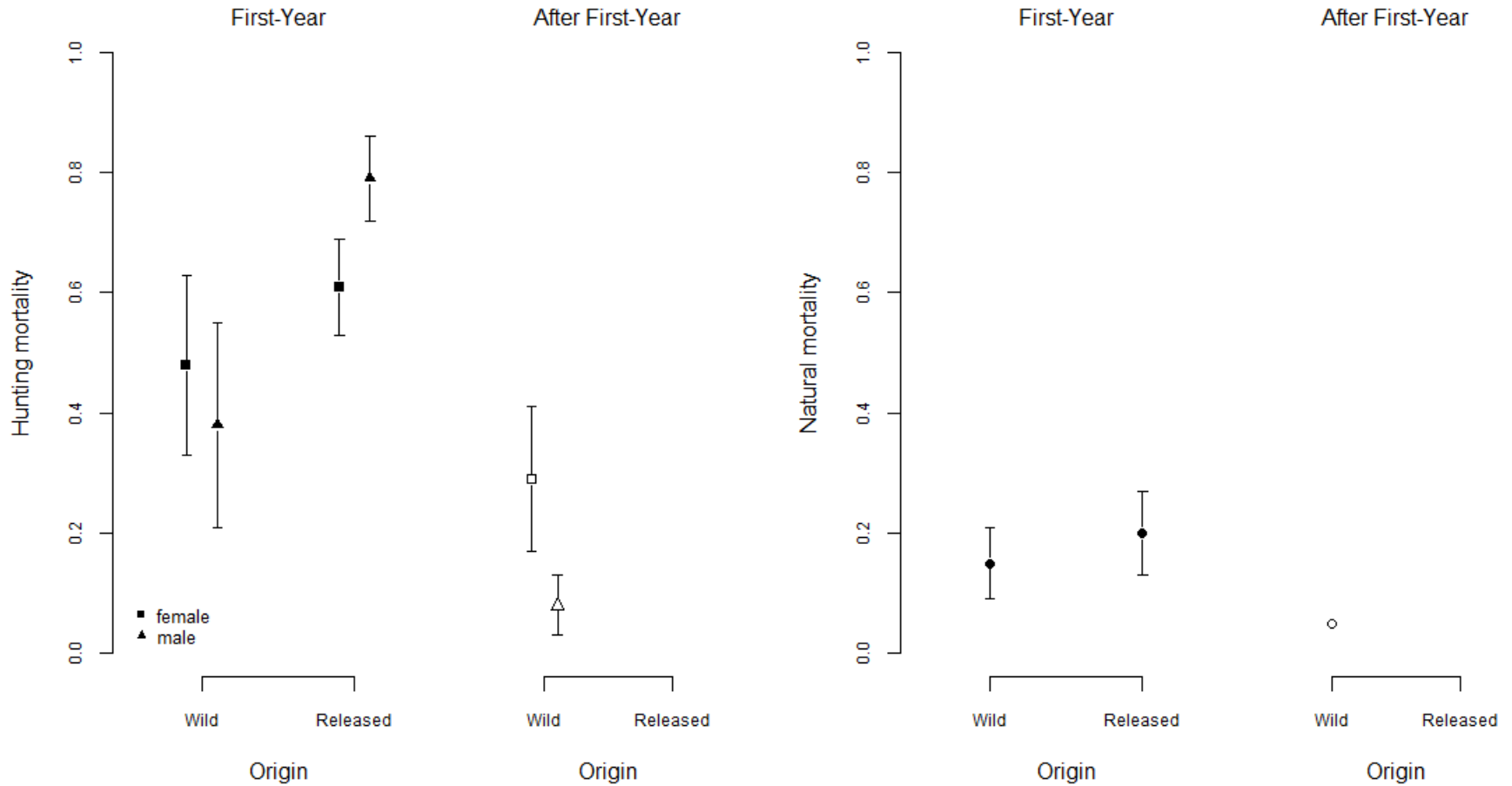
Hunting management

- Common practice: restocking
 - hunting bag
 - Spring density
- But several questions:
 - Impact on wild population?
 - Viability?

Experiment

- Radio-tracking experiment in Southern France (Pailhès, 34) with both wild (N=200) and released (100) birds equipped
- Estimation of survival parameters
 - Wild vs. released
 - Cause of death: hunting vs natural
 - Monthly & annual scale

Survival parameter



Survival parameter

Age	Origin	Sex	Estimate (\pm SE)
First-year	Released	Female	0.02 \pm 0.01
		Male	< 0.01 \pm 0.00
	Wild	Female	0.11 \pm 0.07
		Male	0.23 \pm 0.08
After first-year	Wild	Female	0.17 \pm 0.09
		Male	0.36 \pm 0.07

Discussion - Released

- Poor survival performance
 - Captivity, rearing environment,...
 - Few individuals left after hunting season
 - E.g. for 300 released birds, < 10 are alive in Spring
- => Effect on whole population, contribution of released birds to breeding population ?

Discussion – Wild

- Average survival higher than in Spain
 - Effect of habitat and/or landscape management
- Higher hunting mortality for female
 - Biased sex-ratio after hunting season?
 - Effect on productivity?
 - Assumption of 1:1 ratio in management tools?

Thanks for your attention



Many thanks to all people on the field
and to contributors to the Red-Legged
partridge Network

