



# Population Trends and Distribution of Rusty Blackbird in the Northeast

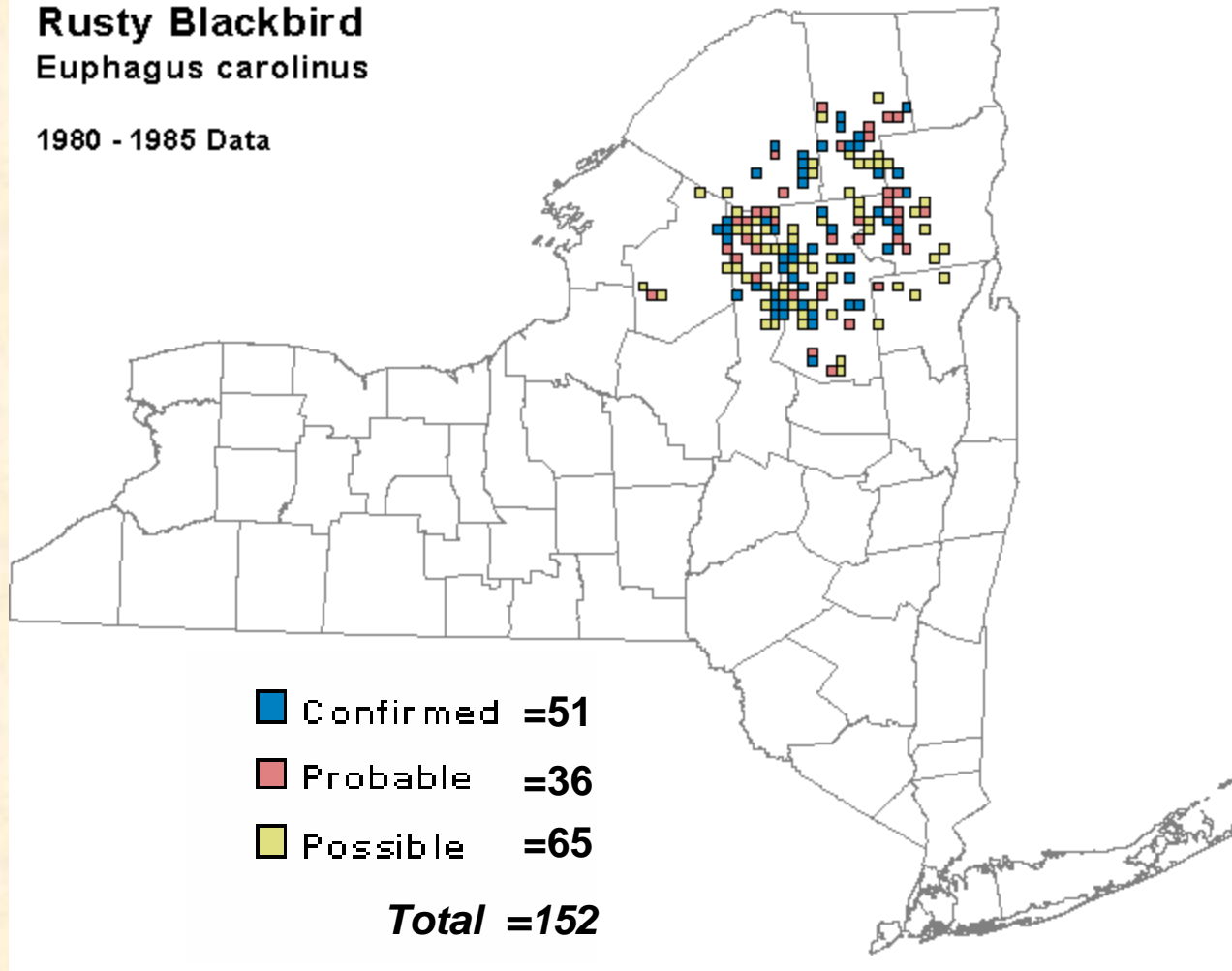
Luke Powell  
University of Maine

# Old New York BBA



## Rusty Blackbird *Euphagus carolinus*

1980 - 1985 Data

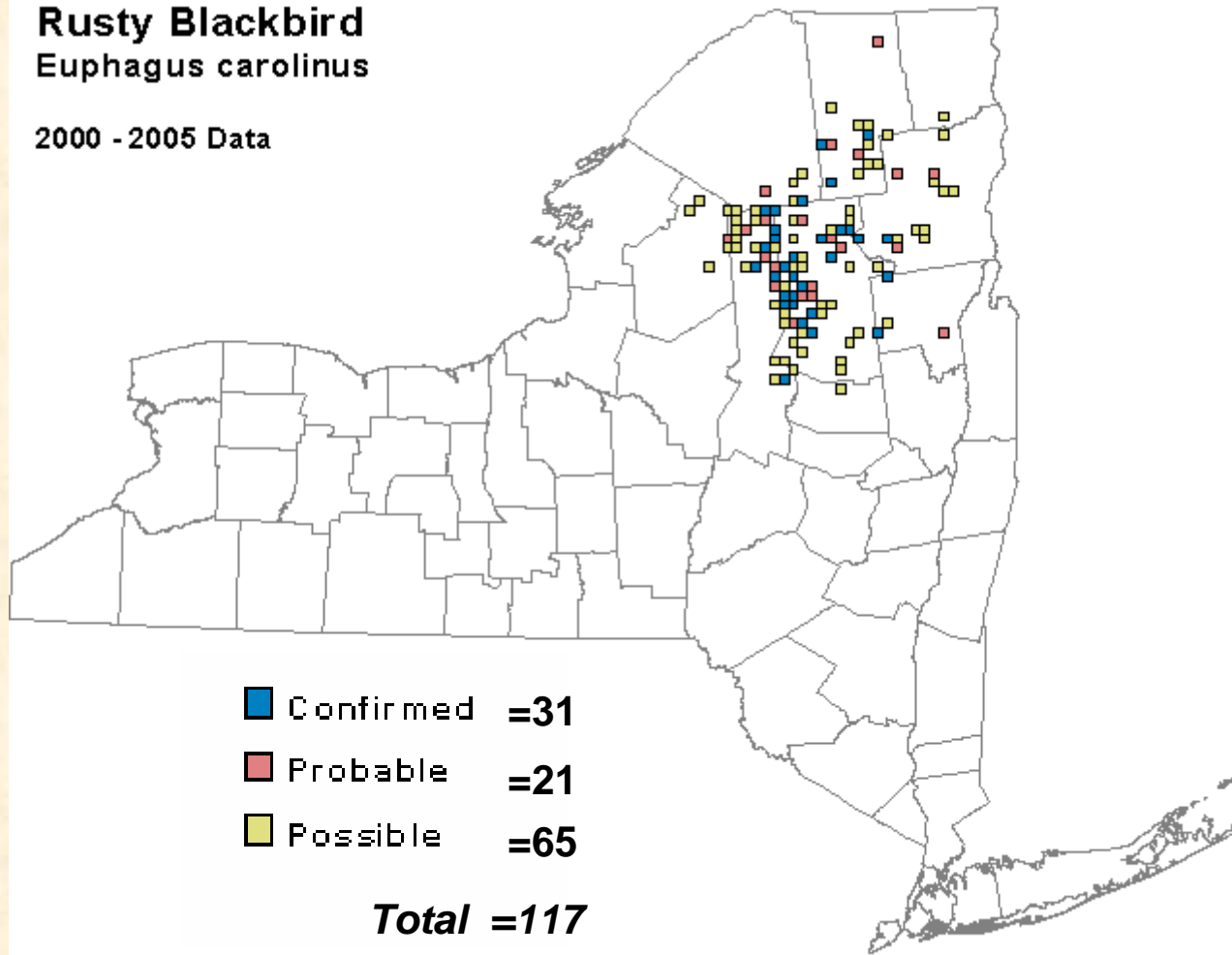


# Recent New York BBA



## Rusty Blackbird *Euphagus carolinus*

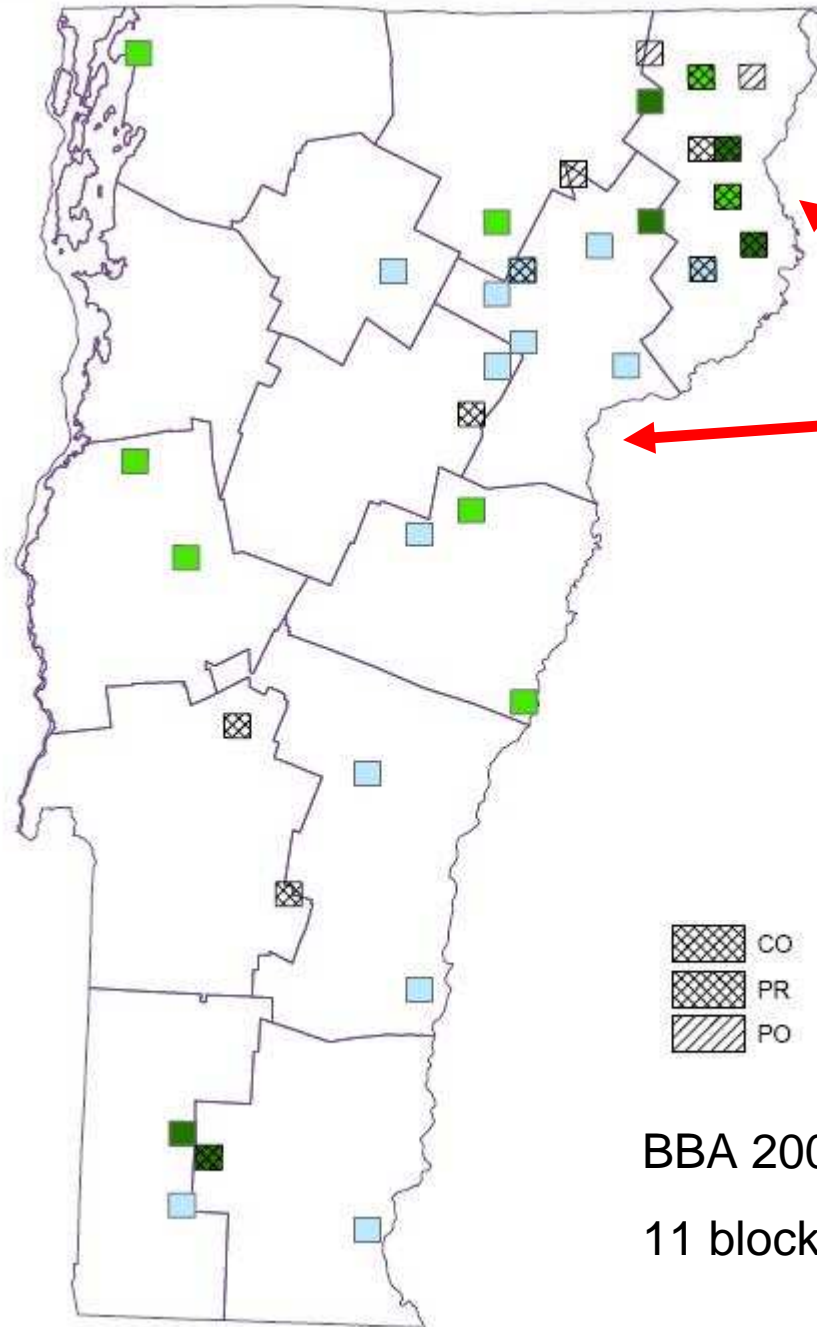
2000 - 2005 Data



**23% decrease overall**

**40% decrease in Confirmed and Probable**

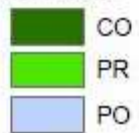
# Vermont



1990 - Essex & Caledonia County  
Re-surveys (Ellison):

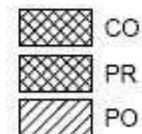
No significant decline  
since last BBA

## First Atlas



BBA 1977-1981

26 blocks occupied



BBA 2003-2006 \*one year remains

11 blocks occupied

# New Hampshire

## BBA 1981-86

### Priority Blocks

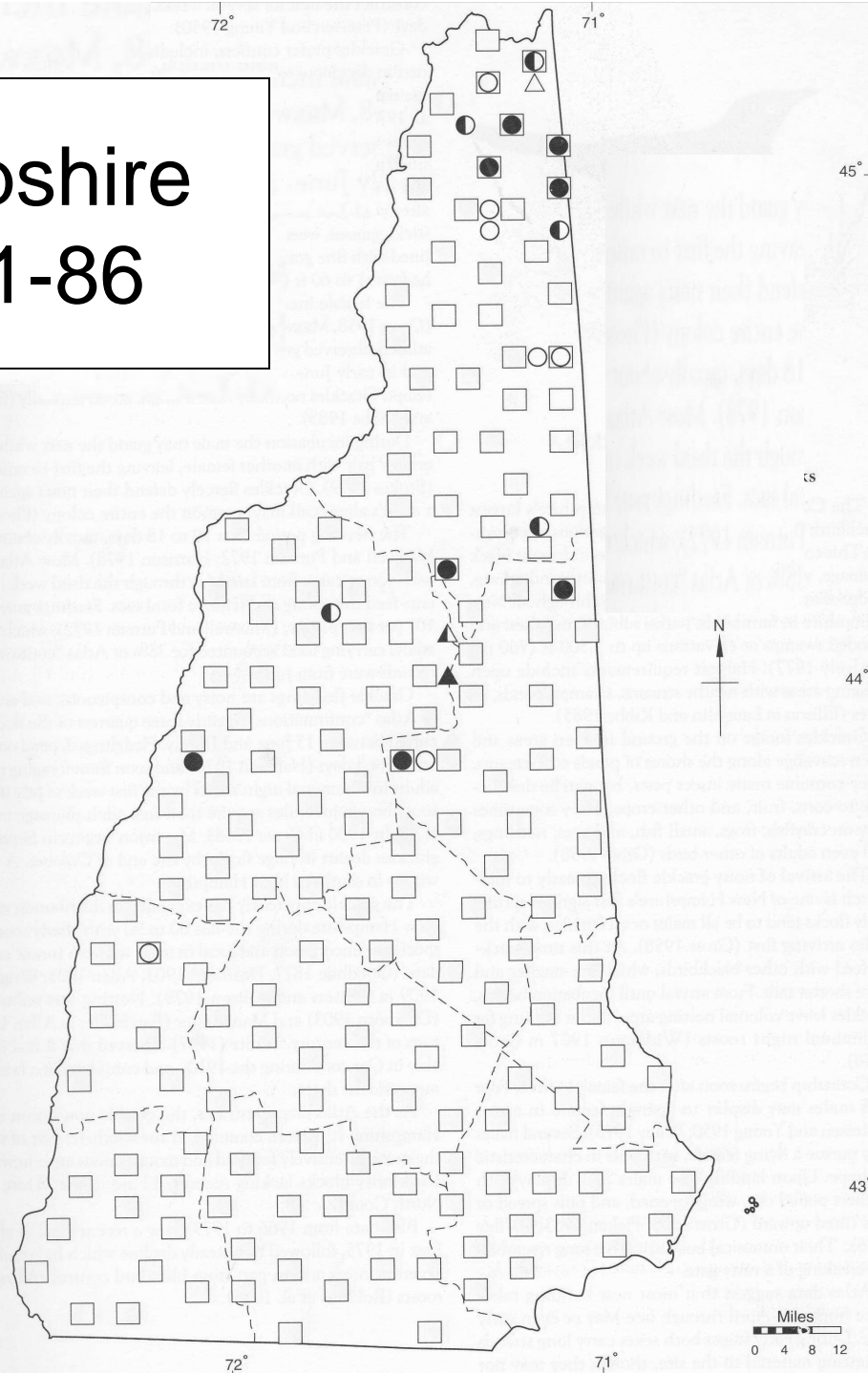
- Confirmed =7
- ◐ Probable =1
- Possible =3
- Not Recorded

### Special Areas

- ▲ Confirmed
- ◄ Probable
- △ Possible

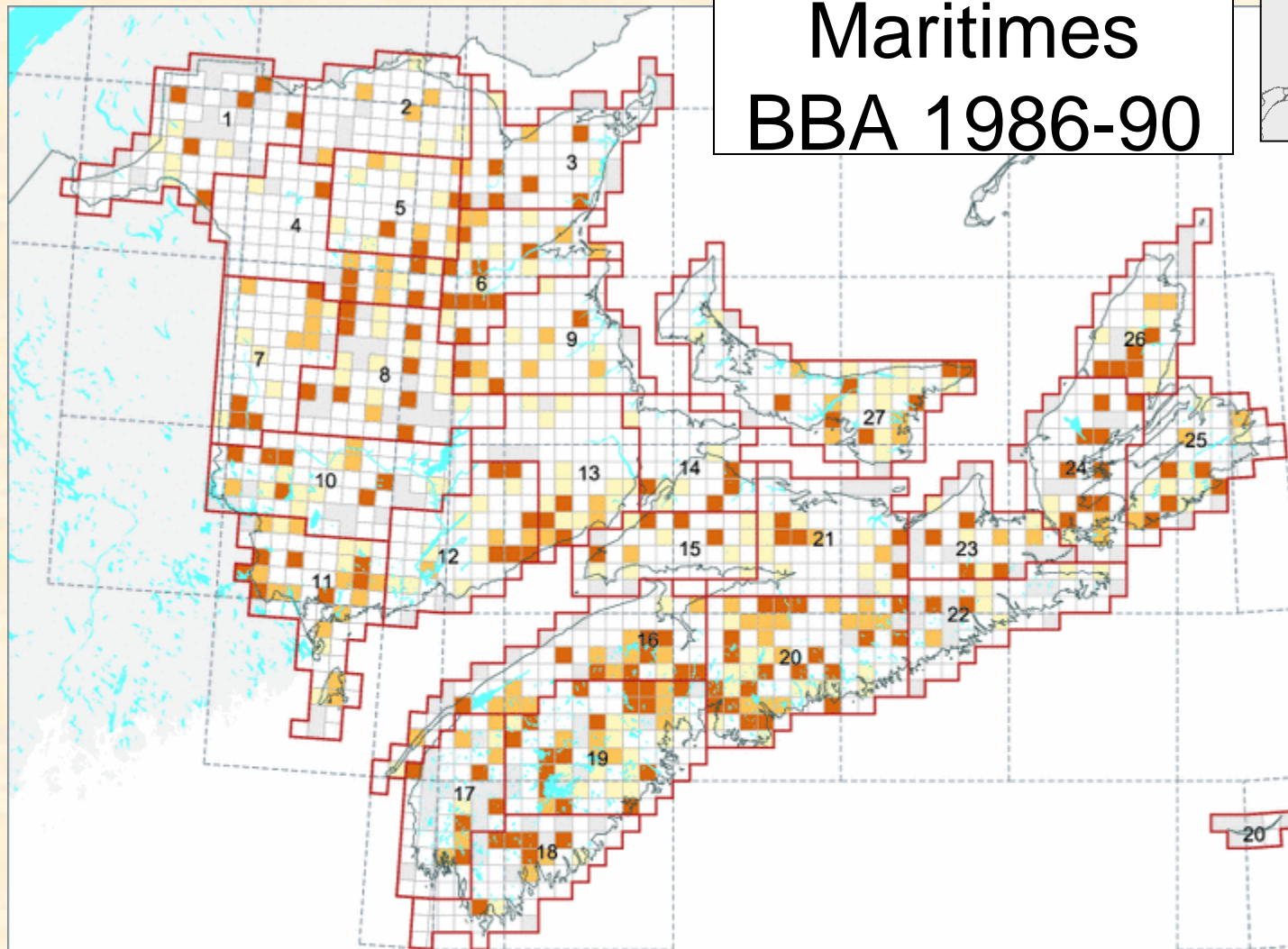
### Non-priority Blocks

- Confirmed
- ◐ Probable
- Possible





# Maritimes BBA 1986-90



## Rusty Blackbird Quiscale rouilleux

Breeding Evidence / Indices de nidification 1986-1990

- Possible
- Probable
- Confirmed / Confirmé
- Not Observed / Pas observé
- Not Surveyed / Pas recensé

- Atlas Regions / Régions d'Atlas
- Atlas Blocks / Blocs d'Atlas

Map / Carte:  
BIRD STUDIES CANADA  
ÉTUDES D'OISEAUX

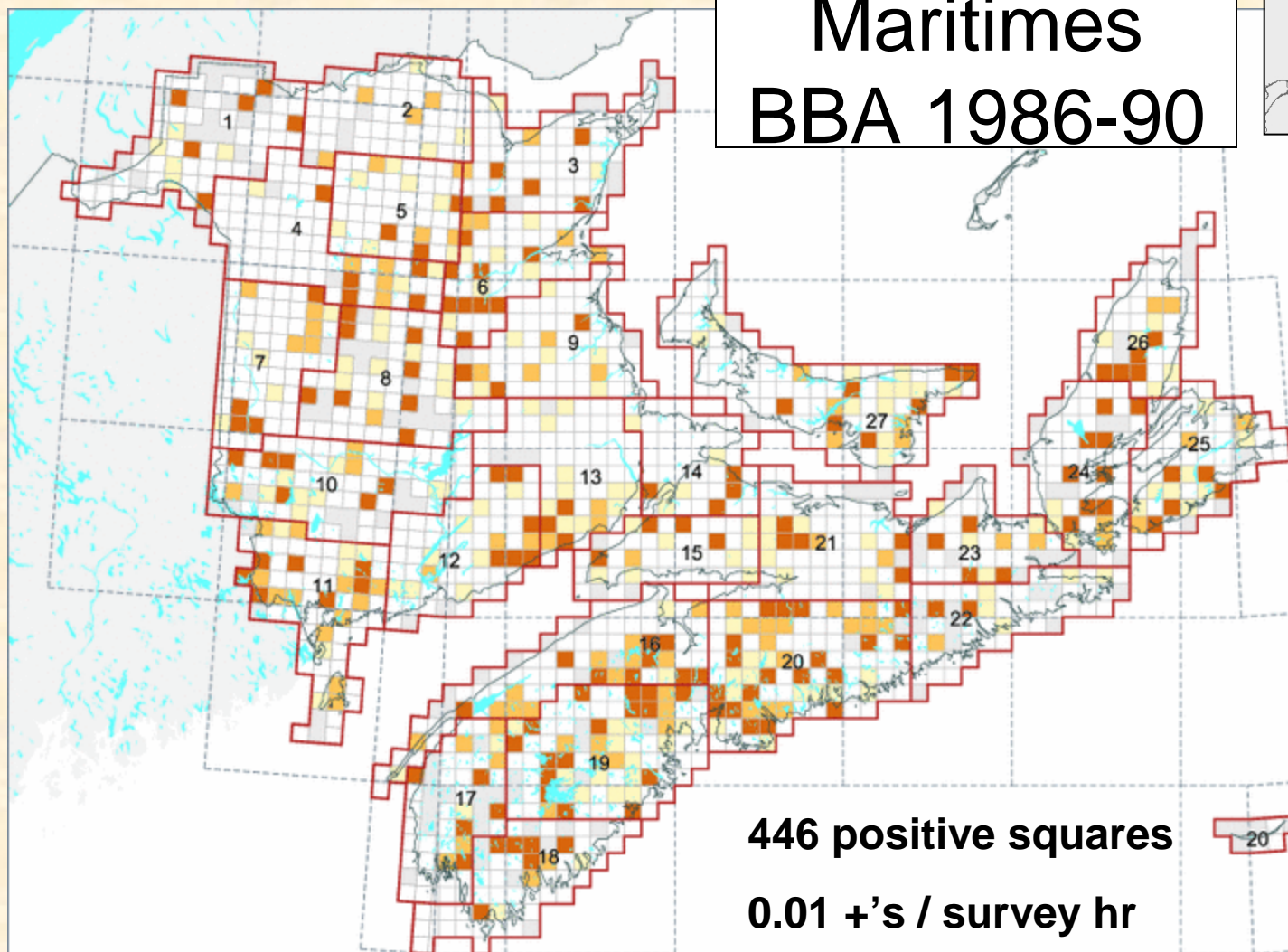
 ATLAS DES  
OISEAUX NICHEURS DES  
**MARITIMES**  
BREEDING BIRD ATLAS

## Erskine 1990:



*“Forecasts of global warming may imply further declines in the future for this as well as other species in our area that are near the southern limits of their ranges here. As long as the ocean keeps parts of our region cool, Rusty Blackbirds are unlikely to disappear completely, but we may find them scarcer birds than in the past”.*

# Maritimes BBA 1986-90

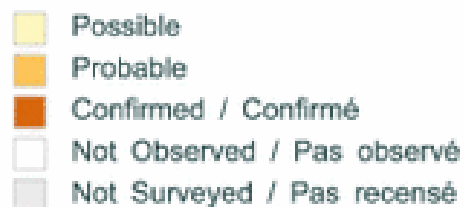


446 positive squares

0.01 + 's / survey hr

## Rusty Blackbird Quiscale rouilleux

Breeding Evidence / Indices de nidification 1986-90



— Atlas Regions / Régions d'Atlas  
--- Atlas Blocks / Blocs d'Atlas

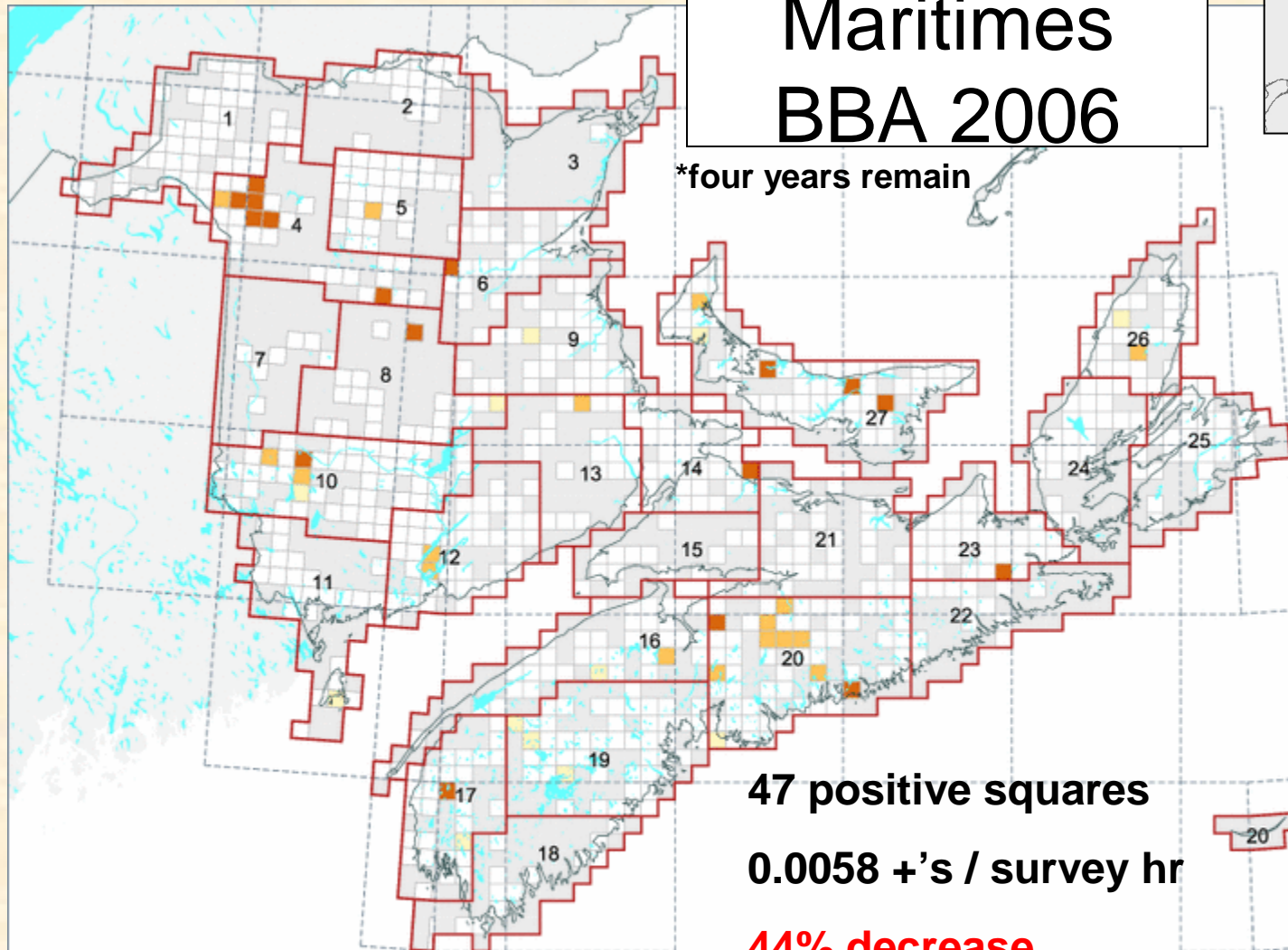
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MARITIMES  
BREEDING BIRD ATLAS



# Maritimes BBA 2006

\*four years remain



## Rusty Blackbird Quiscale rouilleux

Breeding Evidence / Indices de nidification

Updated / Mise à jour: 04-04-2007

- Possible
- Probable
- Confirmed / Confirmé
- Not Observed / Pas observé
- Not Surveyed / Pas recensé

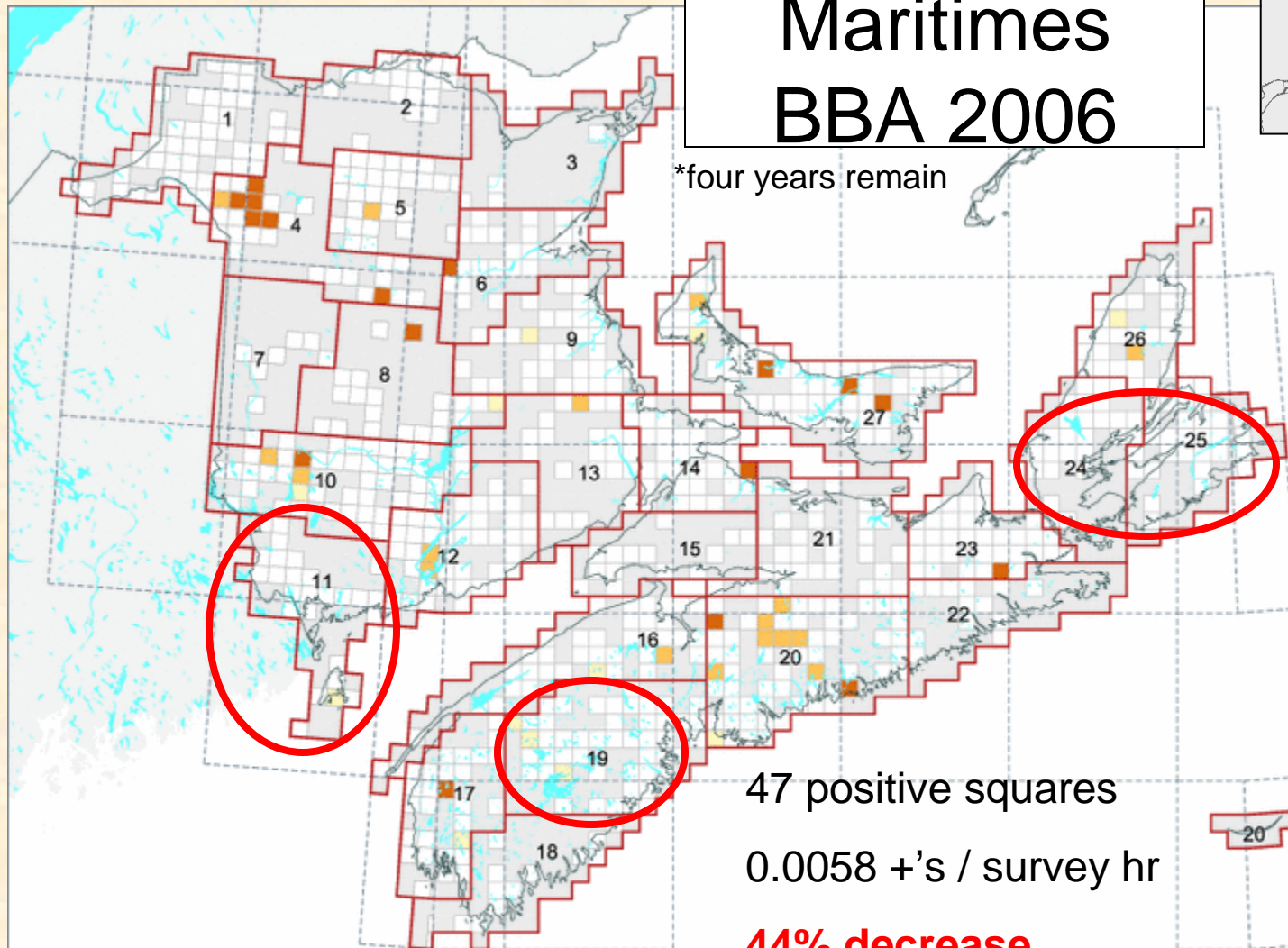
- Atlas Regions / Régions d'Atlas
- Atlas Blocks / Blocs d'Atlas

Map / Carte:  
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**MARITIMES**  
BREEDING BIRD ATLAS

# Maritimes BBA 2006

\*four years remain



## Rusty Blackbird Quiscale rouilleux

Breeding Evidence / Indices de nidification

Updated / Mise à jour: 04-04-2007

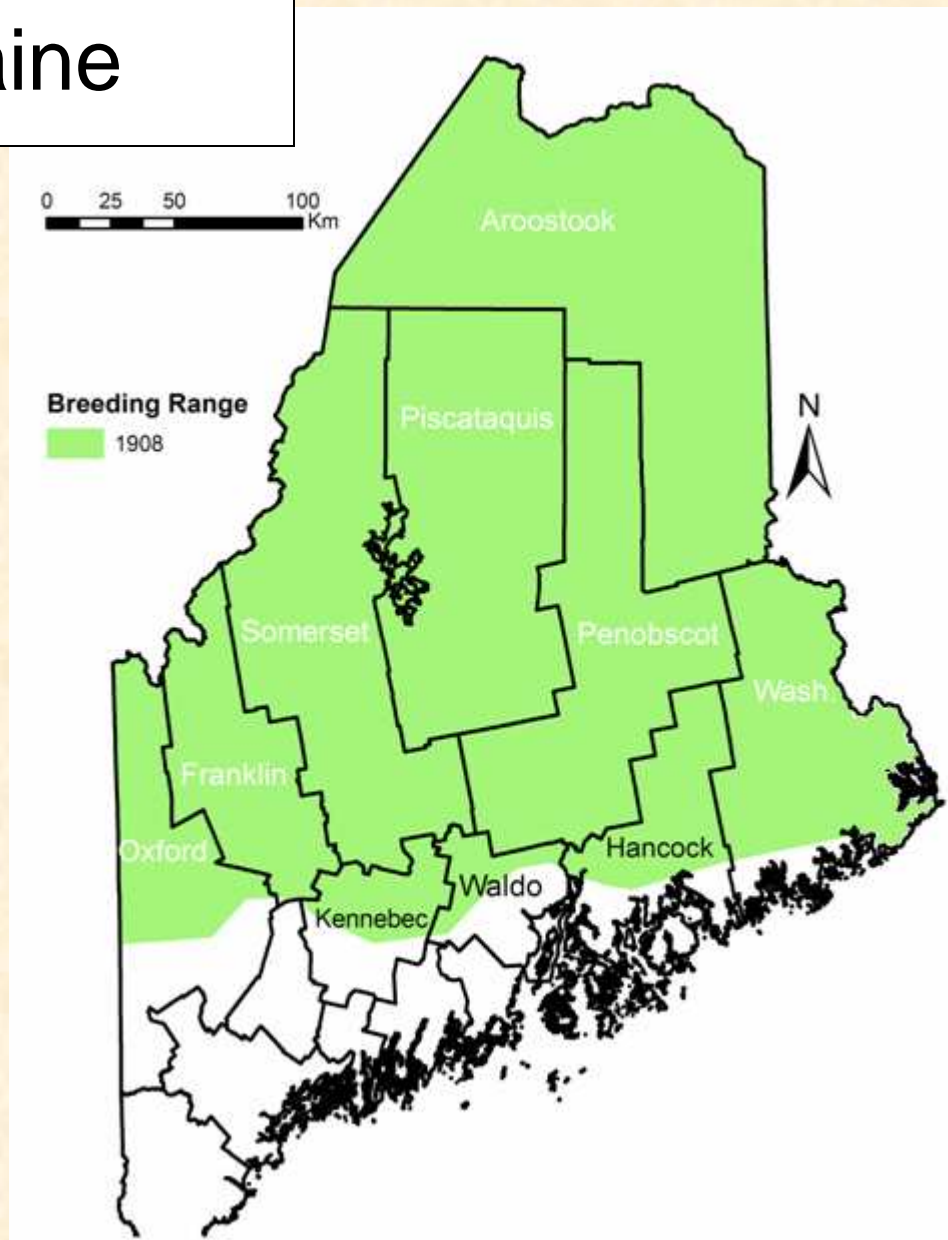
- Possible
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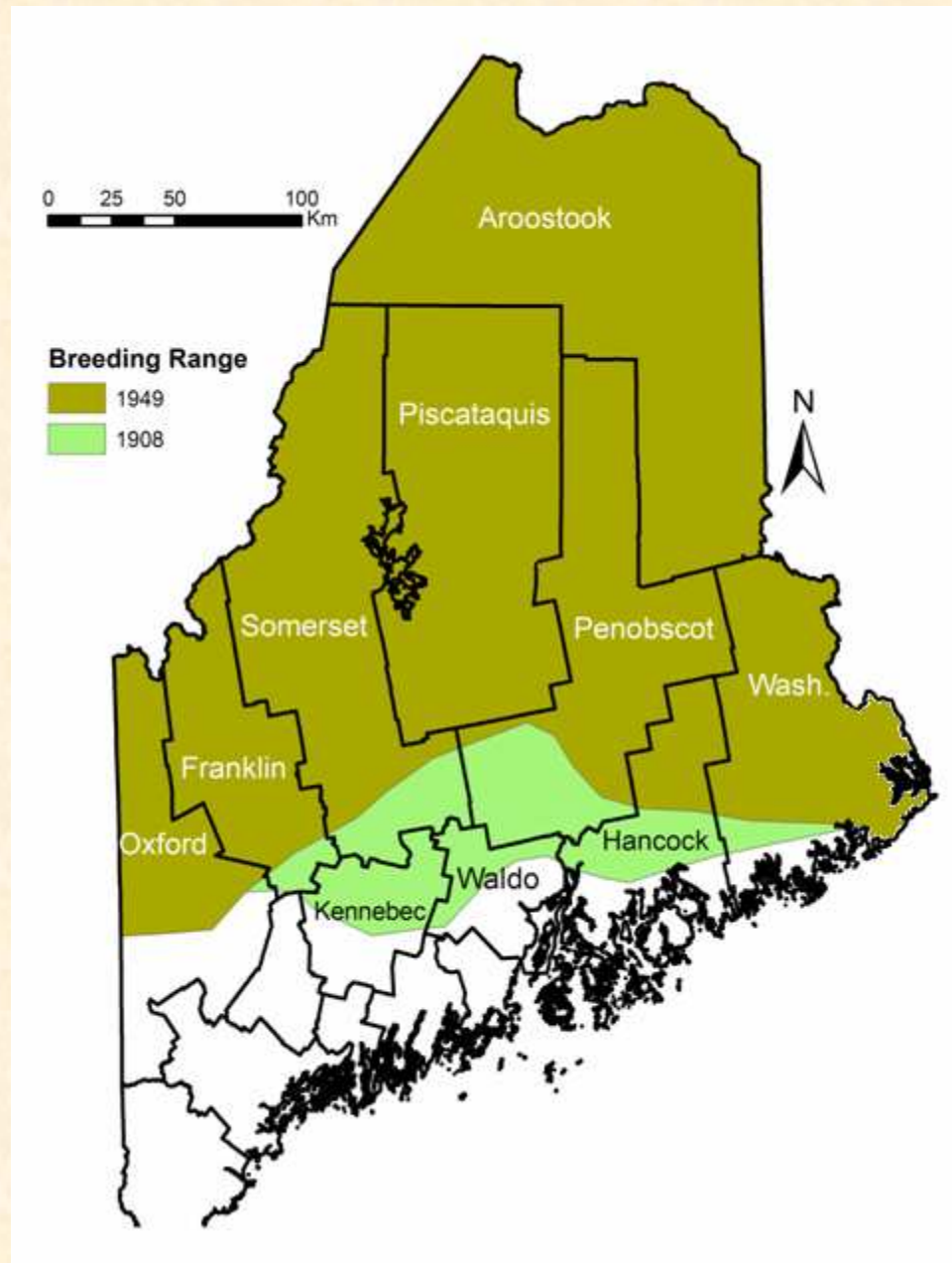
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OISEAUX NICHEURS DES  
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BREEDING BIRD ATLAS

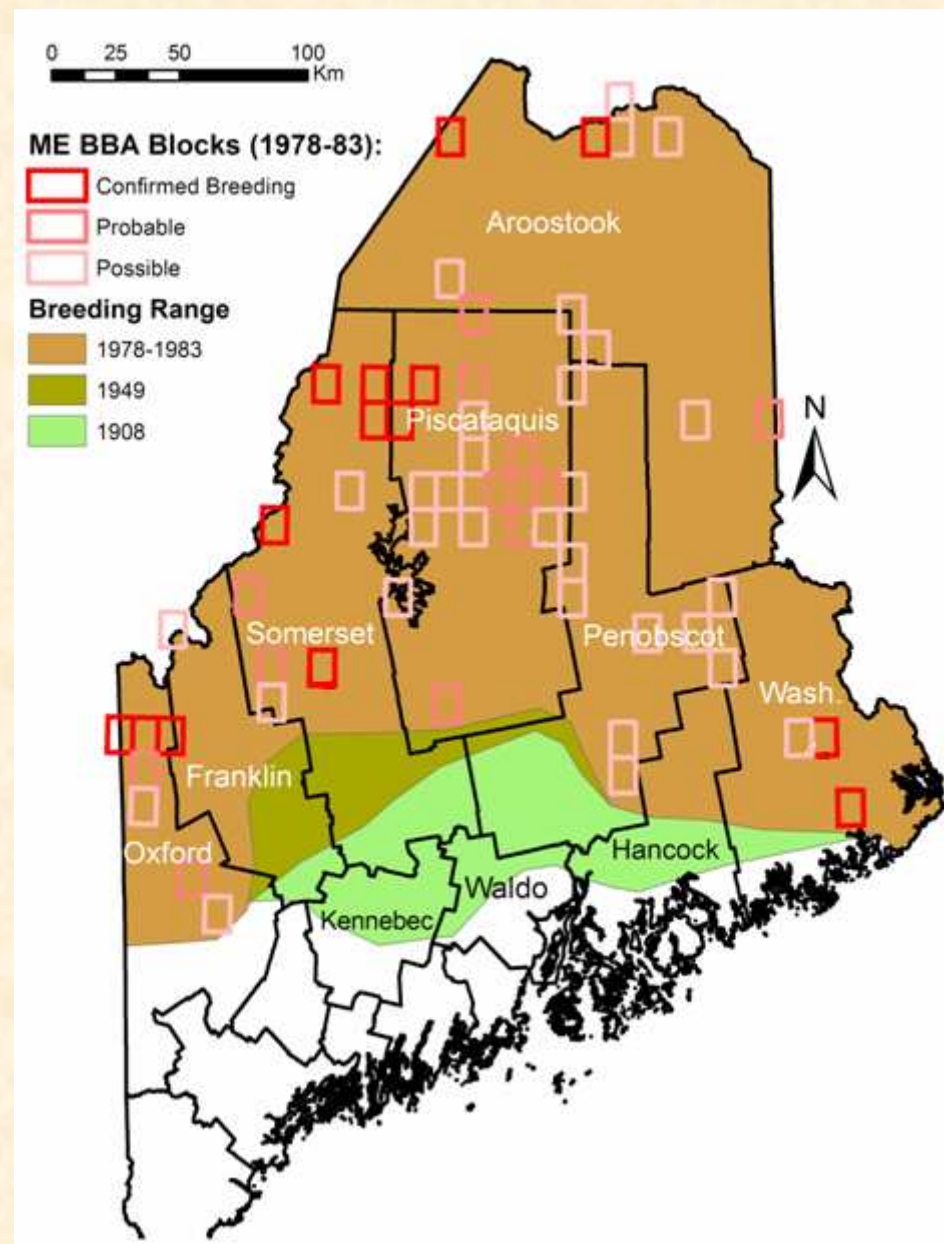
# Maine

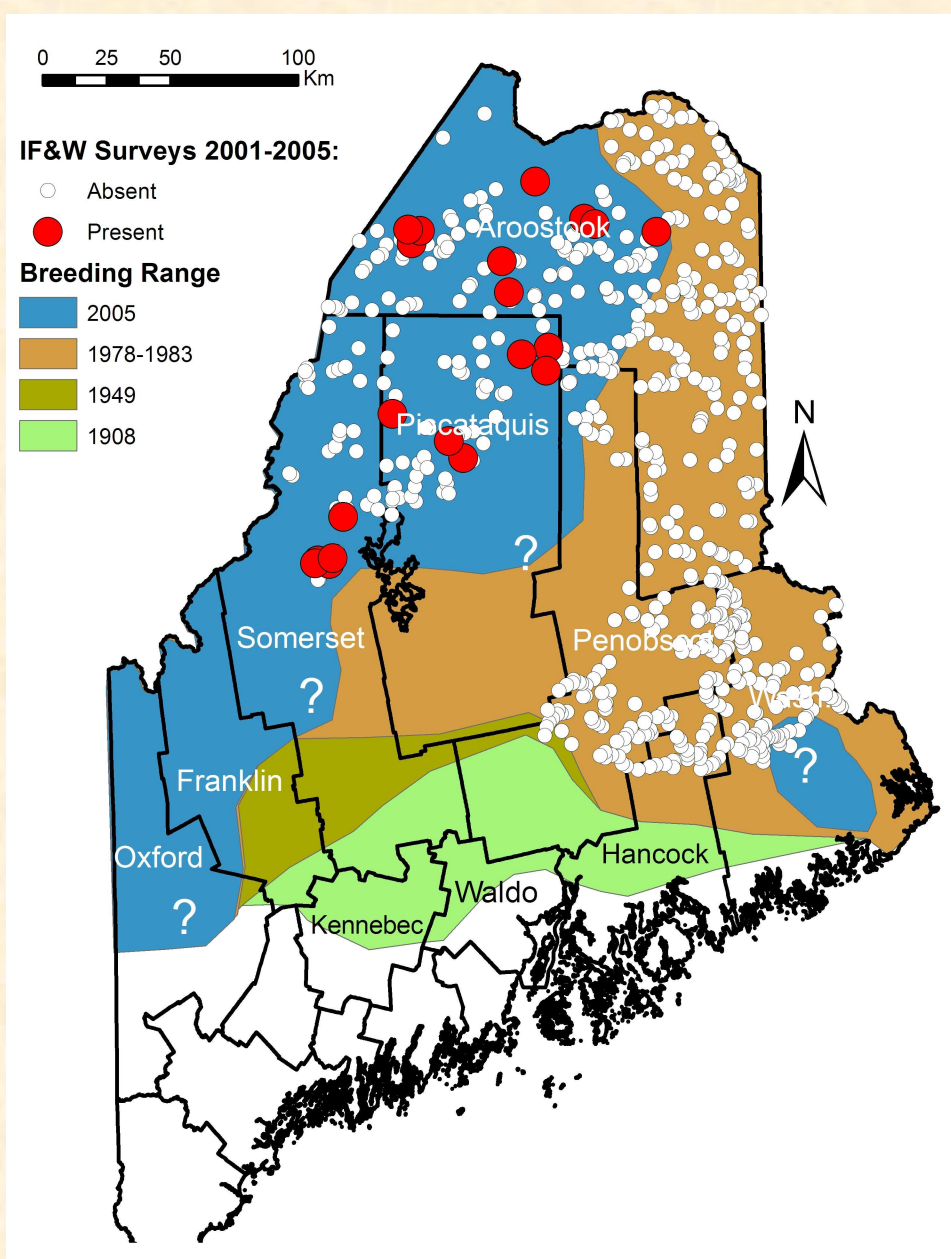


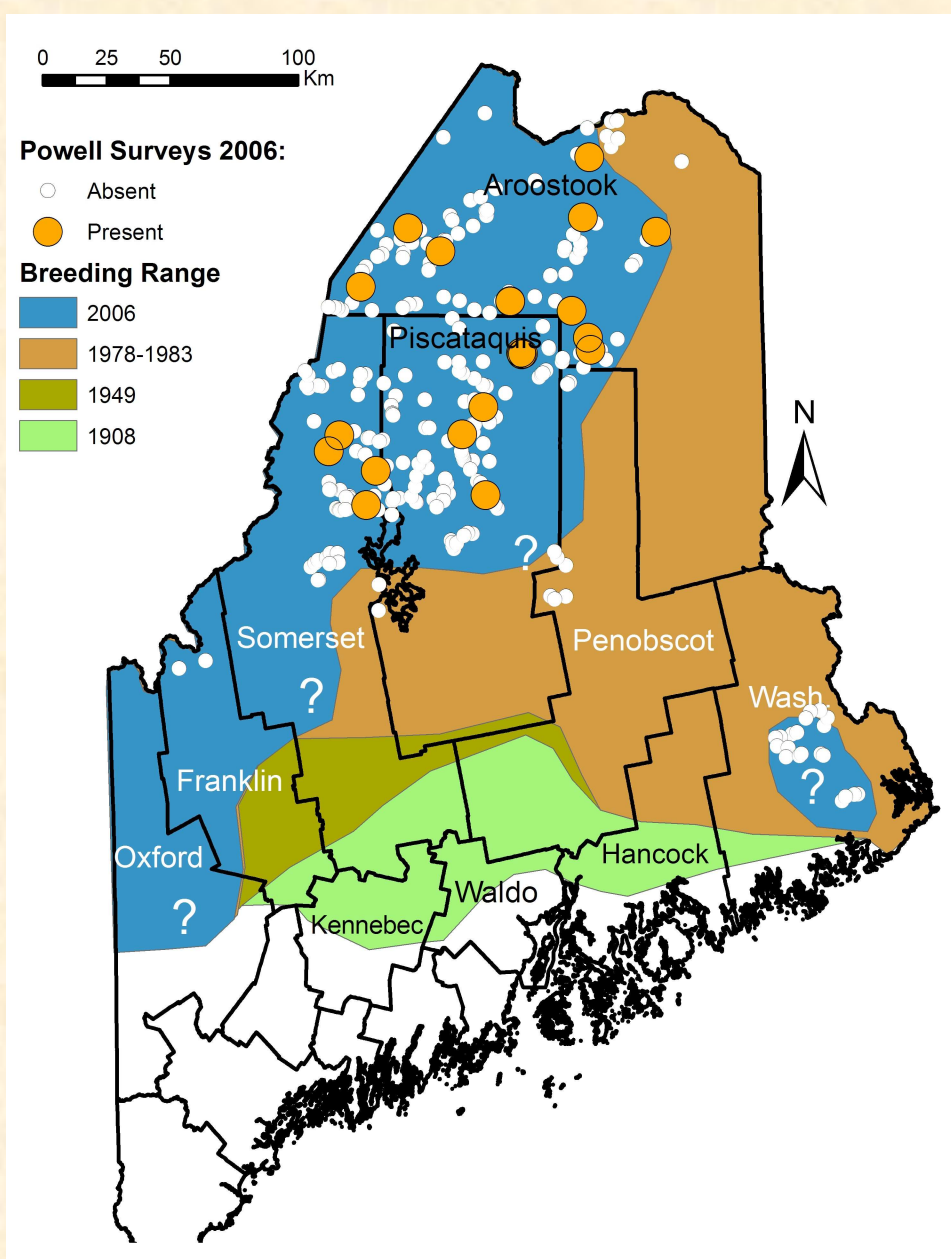














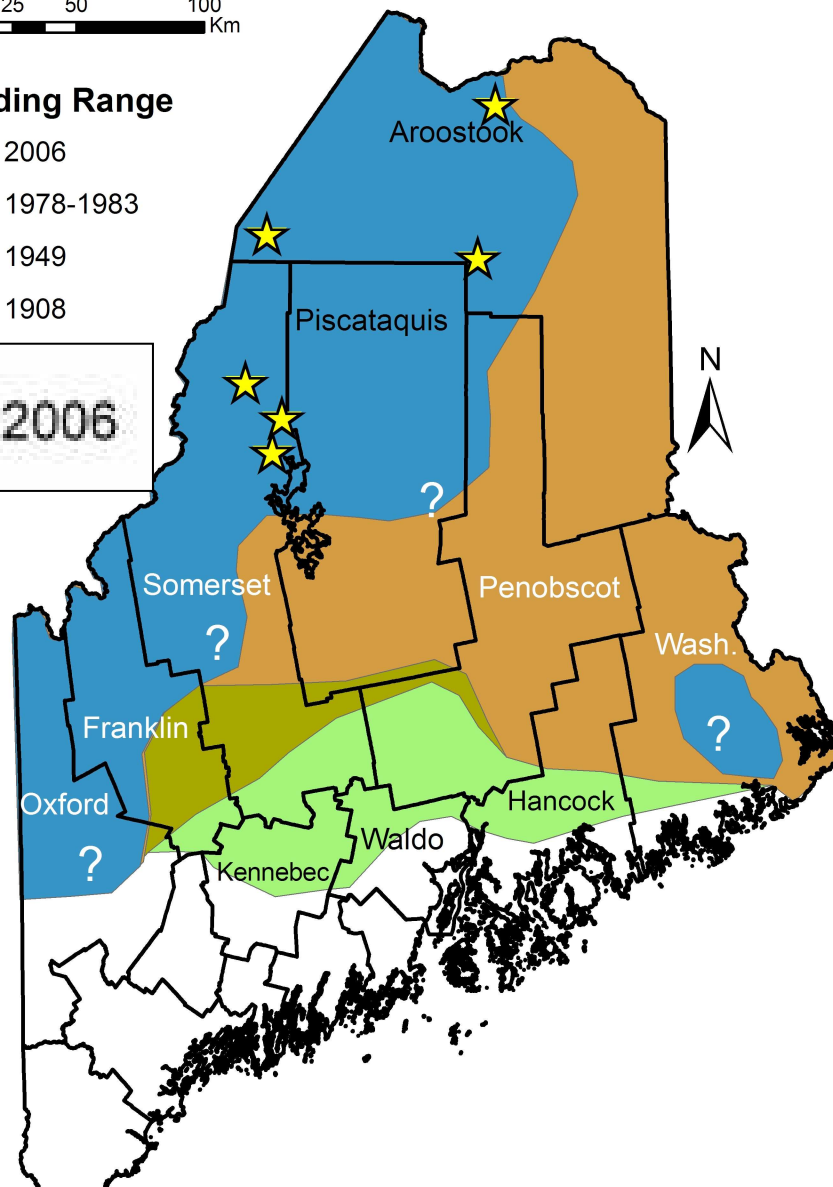
0 25 50 100  
Km

### Breeding Range

- 2006
- 1978-1983
- 1949
- 1908



Nests 2006







# Conservation Status

- “Species of special concern” in all northeast states and Maritime provinces
- E.g. For threatened status in Maine:
  - <500 individuals
  - <200 breeders
  - 25% decline in 5 years
  - 50% decline in 20 years\*
- Difficult to draw conclusions when comparing two different survey types

# Acknowledgements

- Tom Hodgman
  - MEIFW
- Dr. Bill Glanz
  - UMaine Biology
- Dr. Cyndy Loftin
  - UMaine Wildlife Ecology
- James Osenton
  - Gung ho field tech

