
Space Based Ornithology: On the Wings of Migration and Biophysics



Hydrospheric and Biospheric Sciences Laboratory

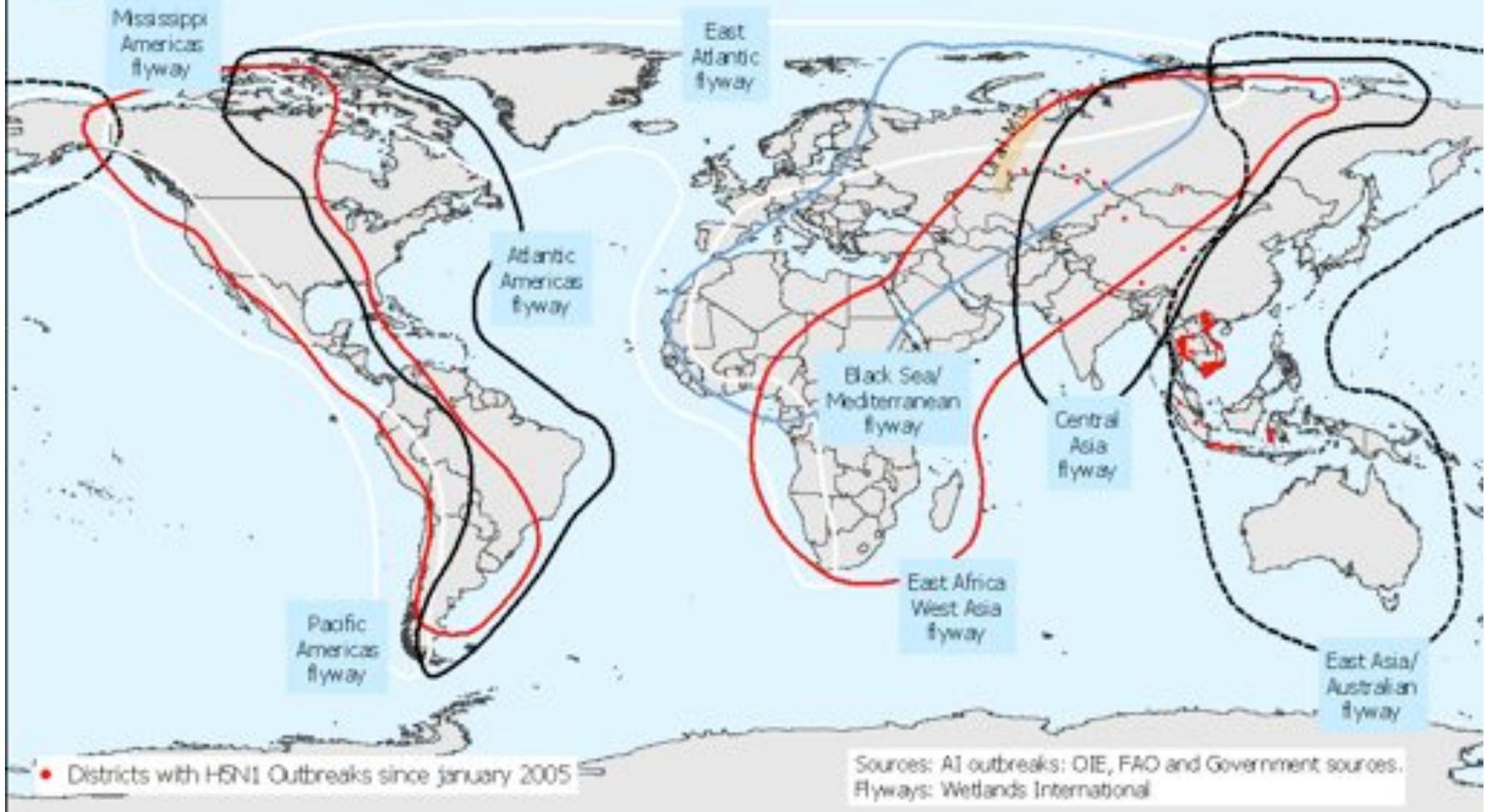
James.A.Smith@nasa.gov





H5N1 outbreaks in 2005 and major flyways of migratory birds

Situation on 30 August 2005



Outline

Background

- Individual bird energy models*
- Climate space niche*

Examples - Virtual Birds

- Summer breeding ground*
- Migration patterns*

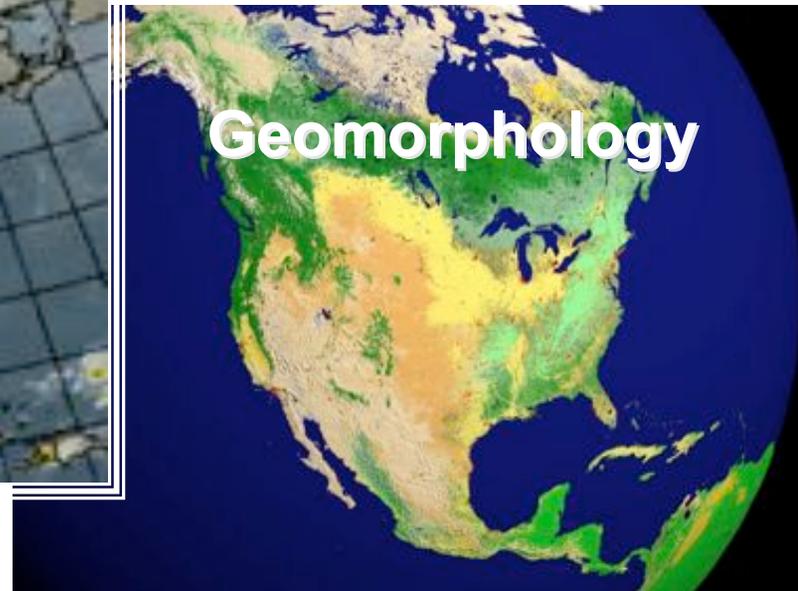
Real Birds, Observations--

Decision Support Systems

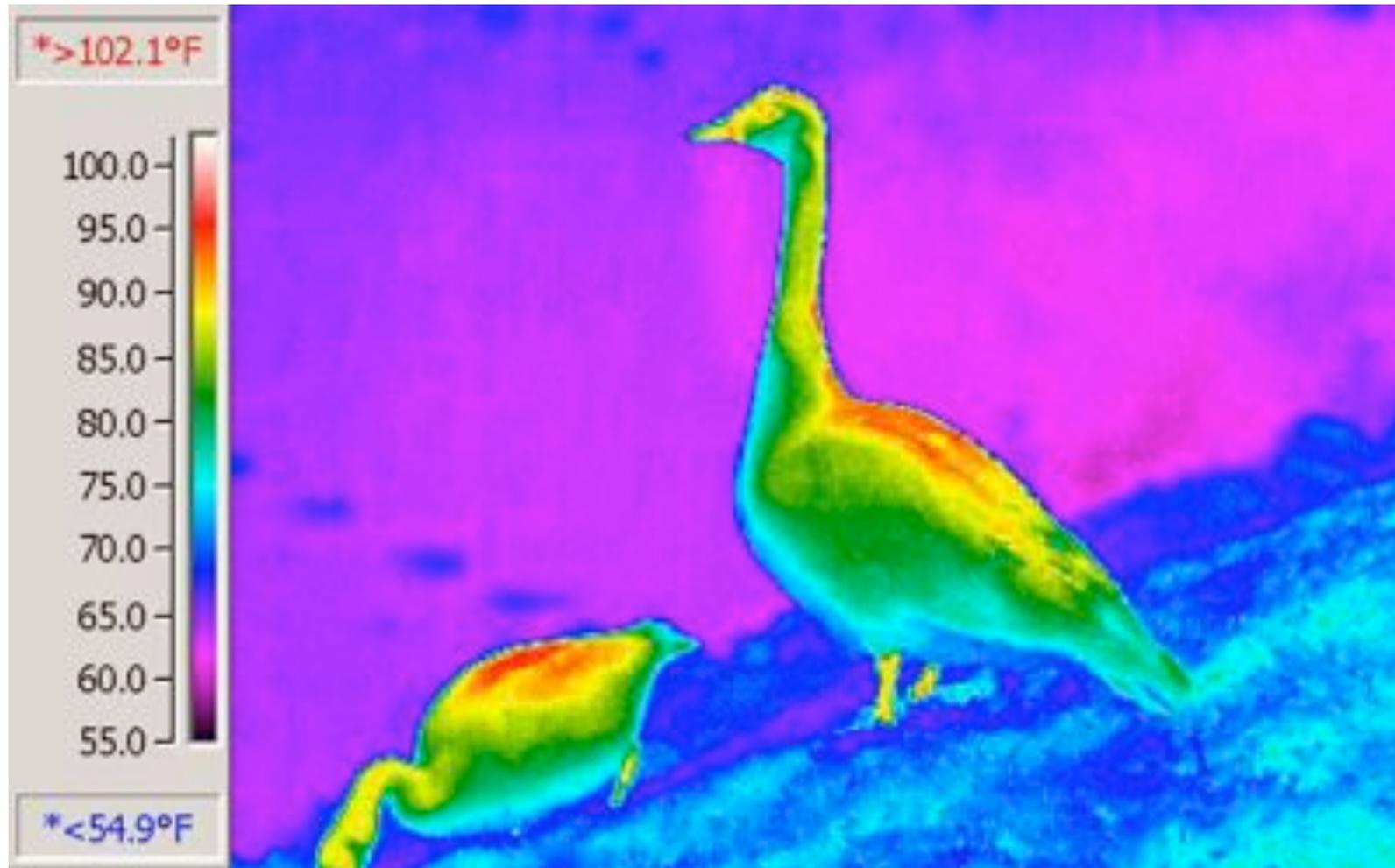


Basic Idea

Thermal and water-relation environments of birds, as estimated from satellite data and biophysical models, can define the constraints on their occurrences and richness (“Holdridge for the Birds”)

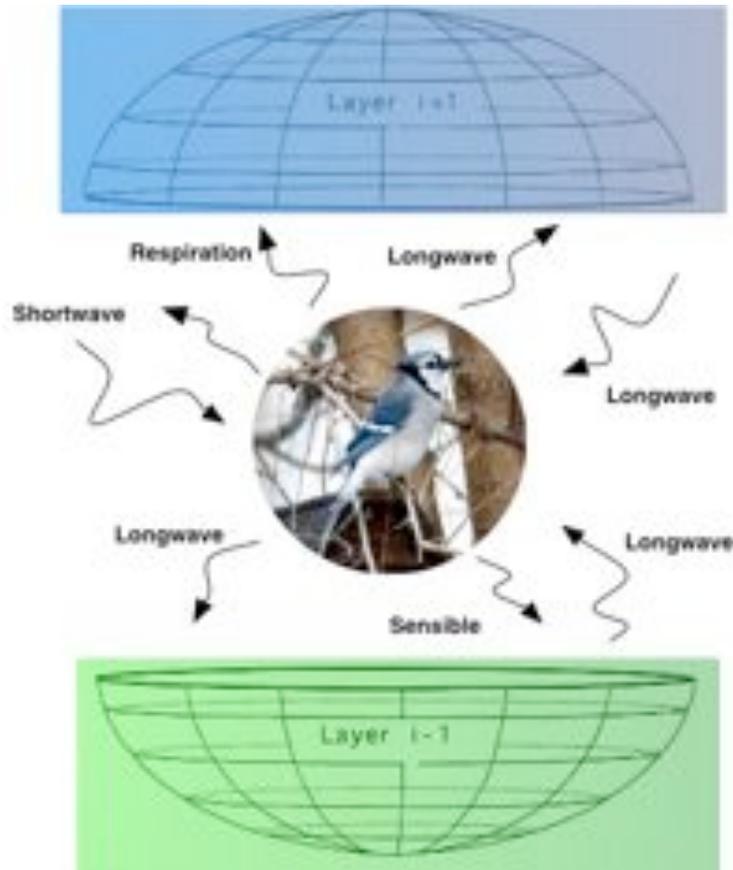


Thermal Infrared Image

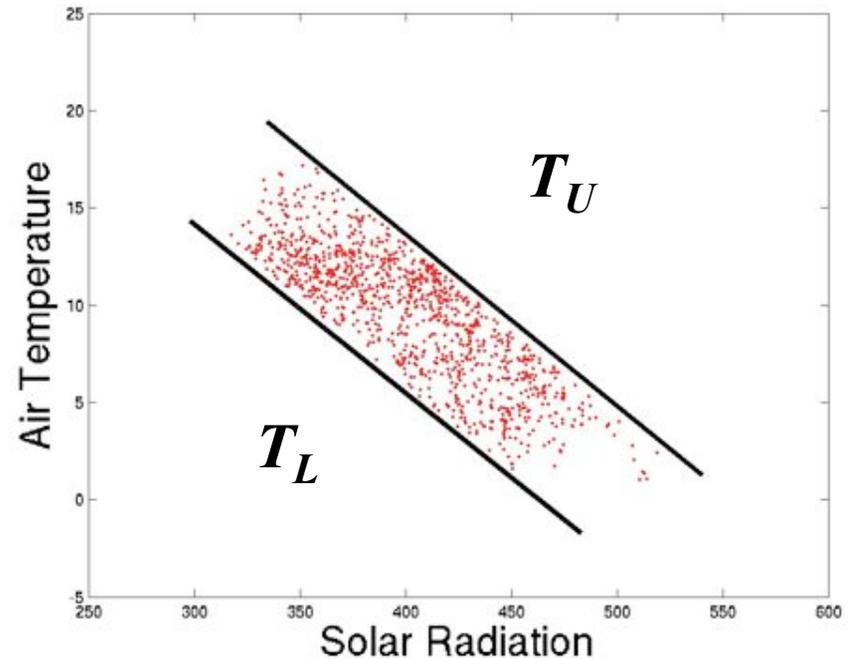


Avian Energetics

Metabolism



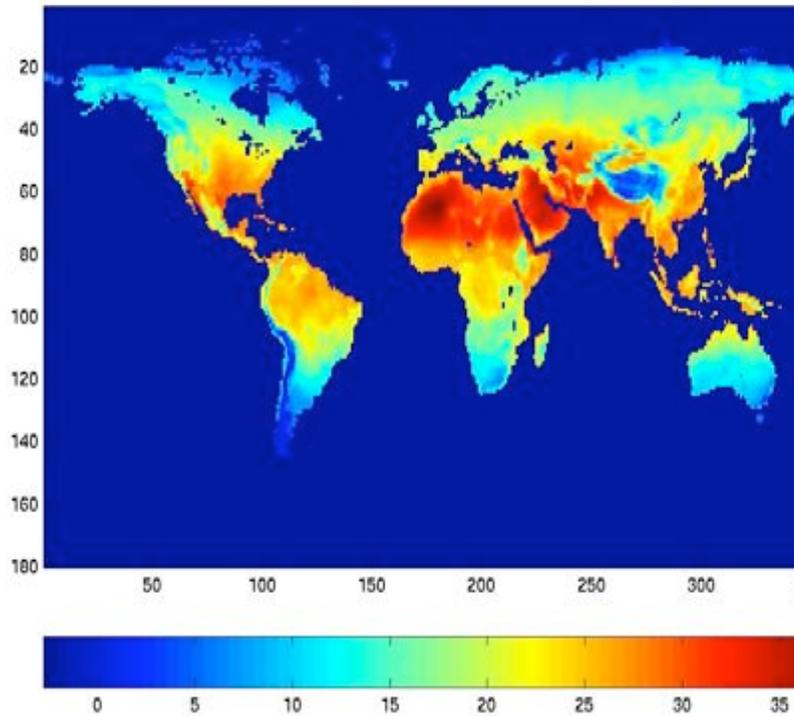
Climate space



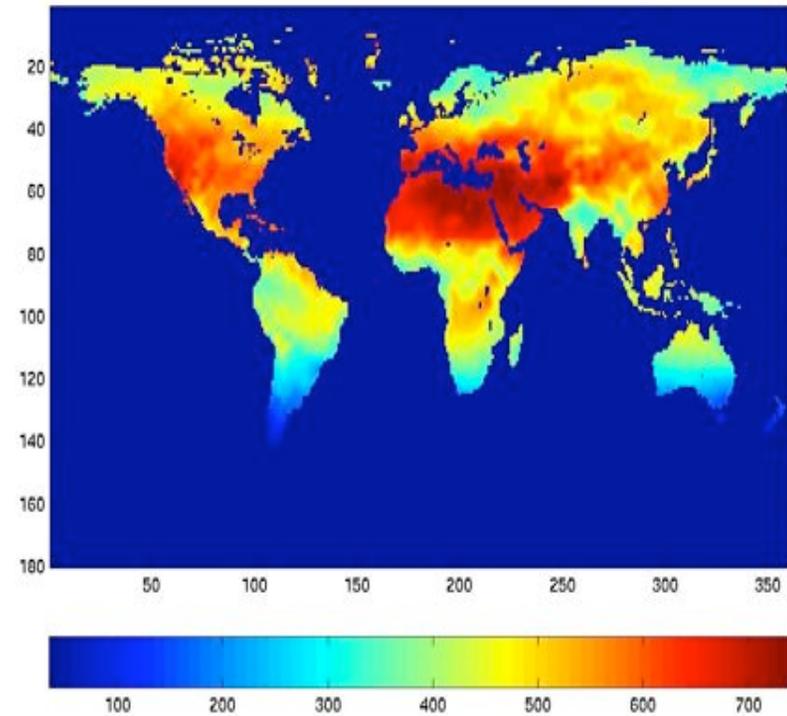
Find all $\{T_a, S\}$ that satisfy
 $T_L < T_b < T_U$



Example -- Summer (July)



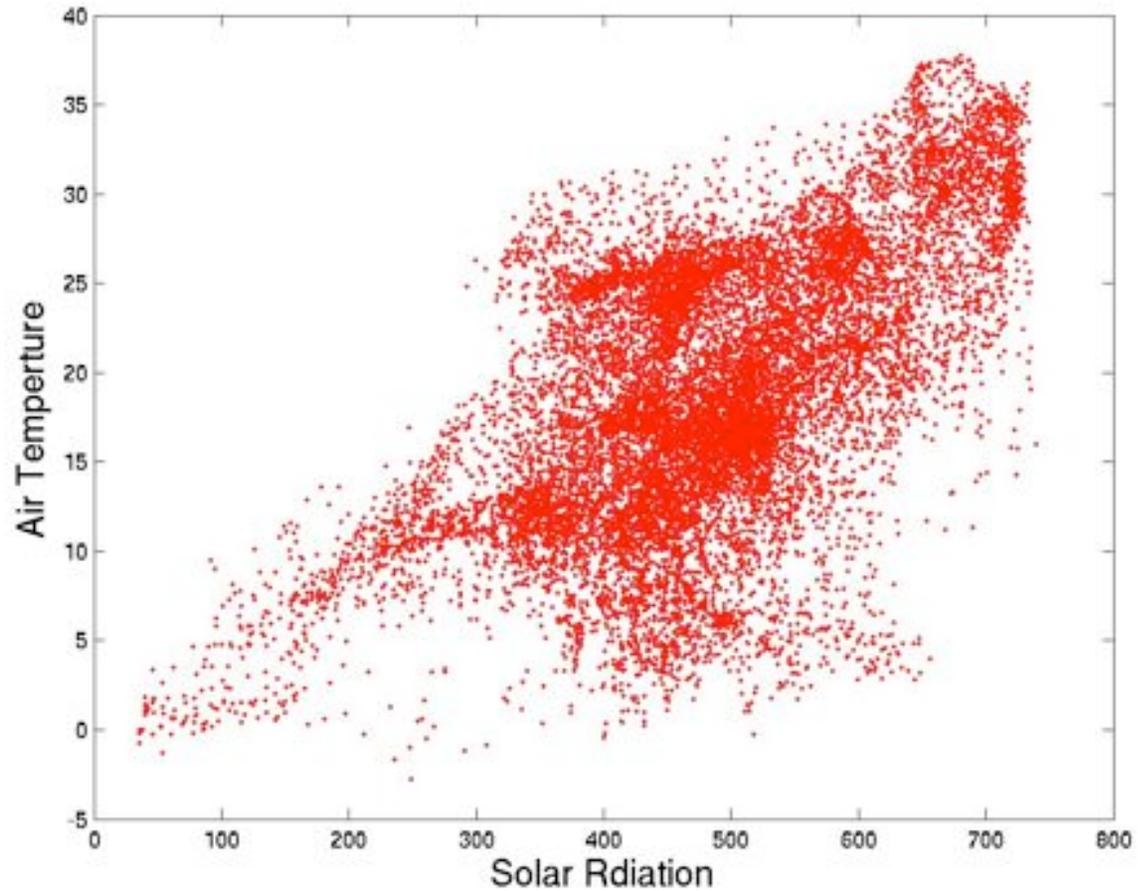
Air Temperature



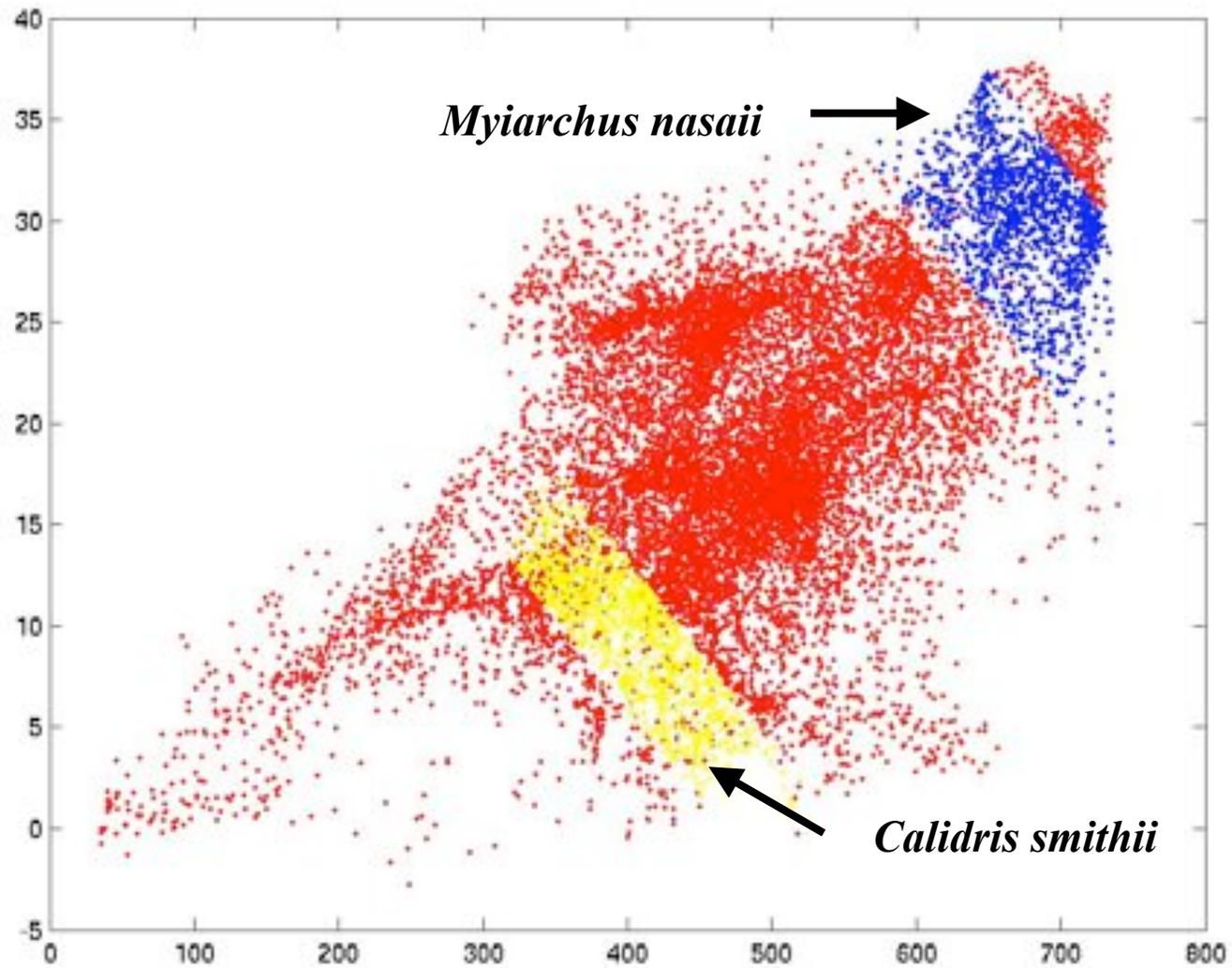
Solar Radiation



Northern Hemisphere in July

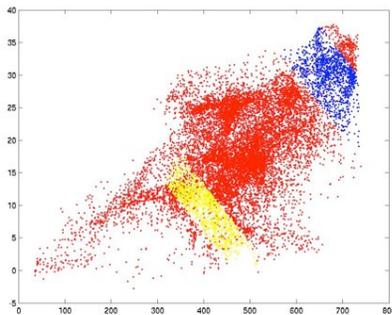
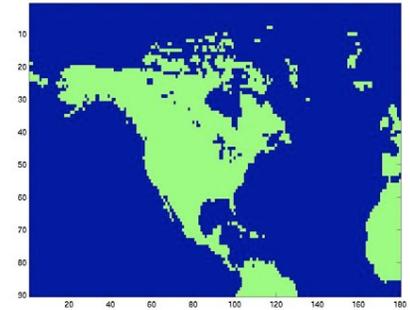
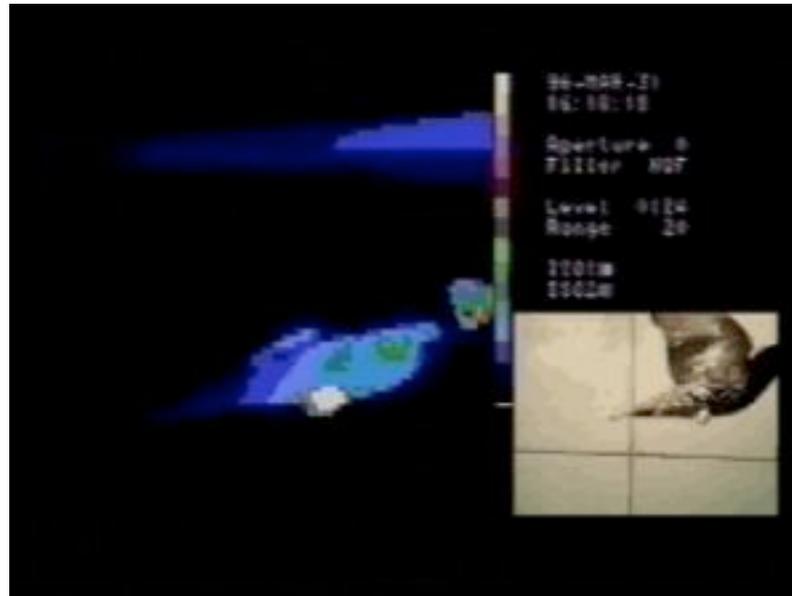


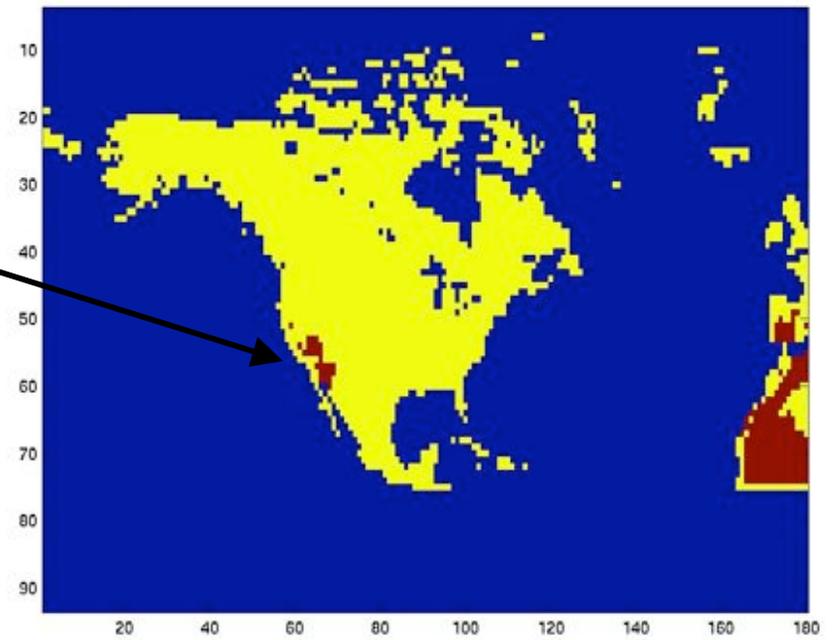
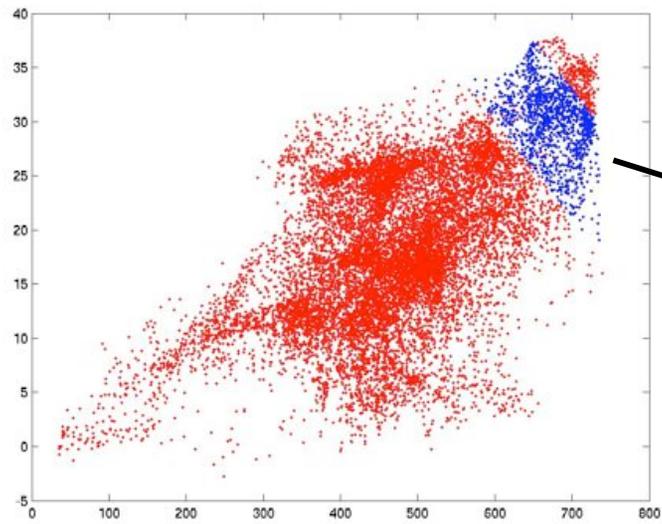
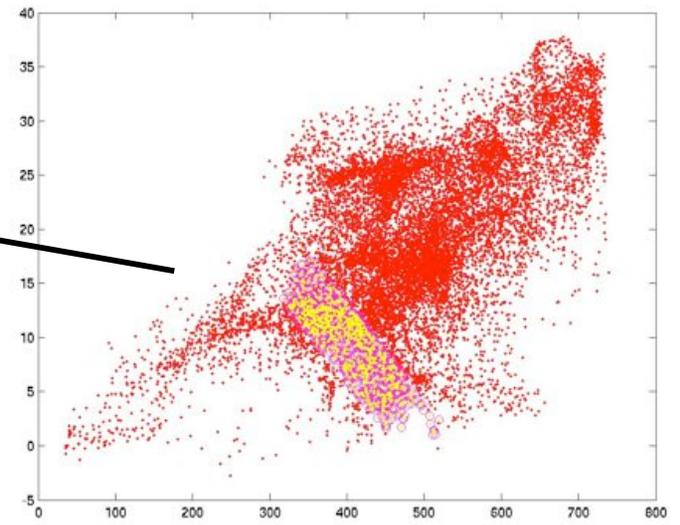
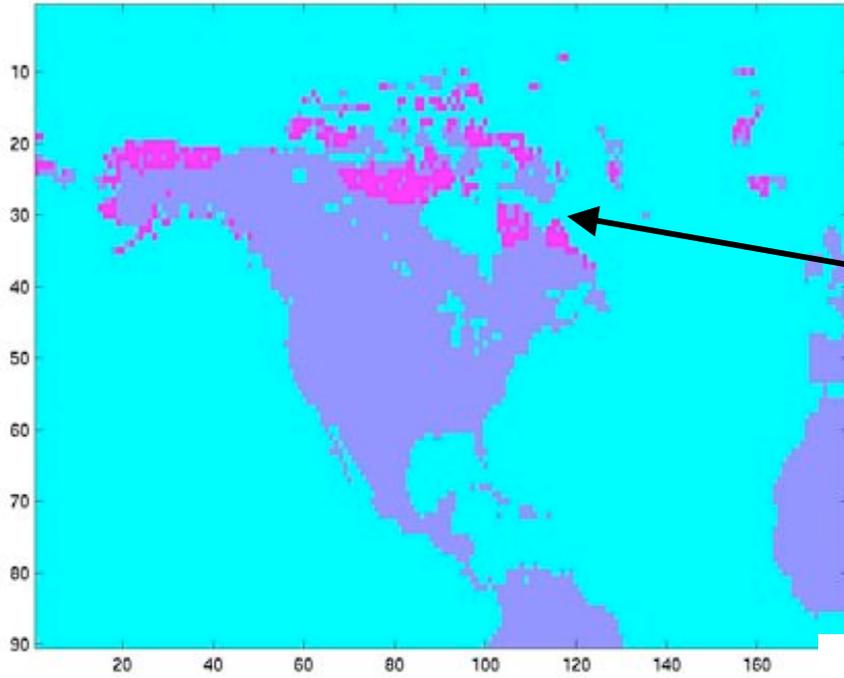
Virtual Birds



From climate to geographical space

*(Jeremy Rayner
Leeds)*





Close Relatives

Semipalmated Sandpiper

Calidris pusilla



Habitat: Summers on tundra; winters on tidal flats.

Brown-crested Flycatcher

Myiarchus tyrannulus



Habitat: Arid or semiarid brush with saguaro cactus, streamsides, subtropical woodlands.



Bird Migration

*“One morn the wind blowed cold and strong, And the
Leaves went whirling away; The birds prepared for their
journey long, that raw and gusty day.”*

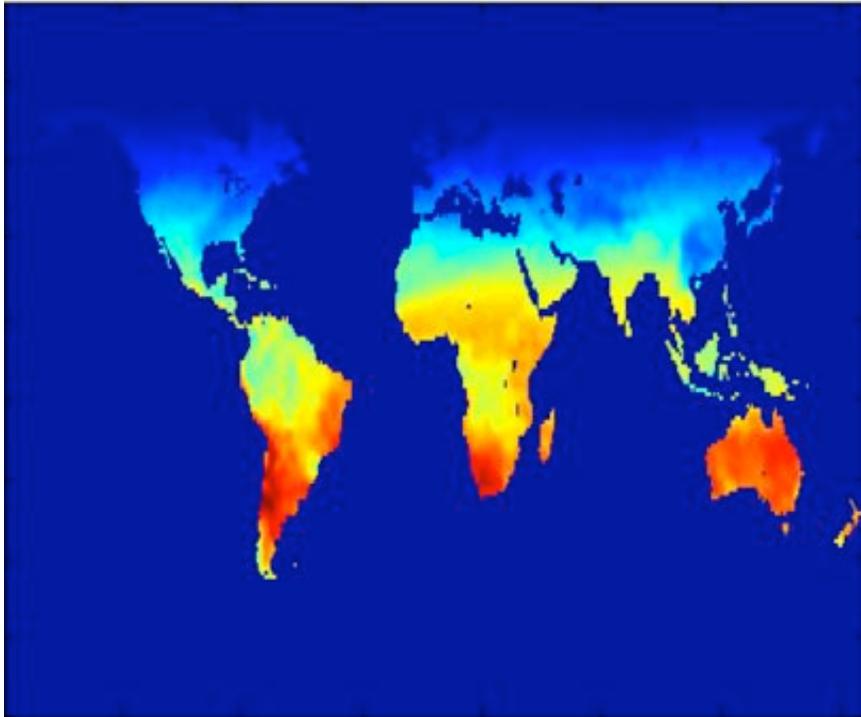


--Henry D. Thoreau

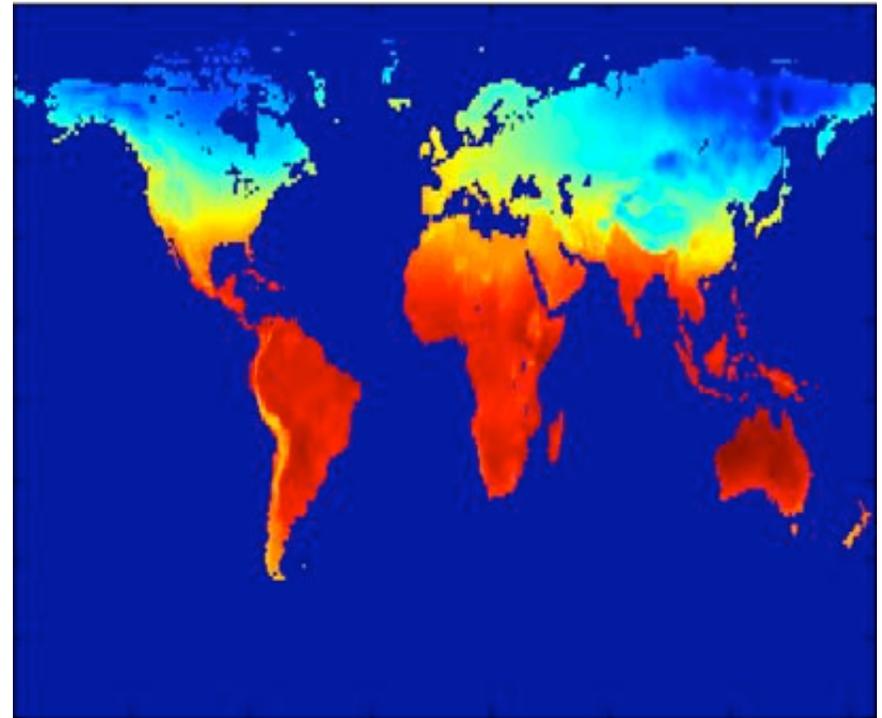
(National Geographic)



Rhythm of the Seasons



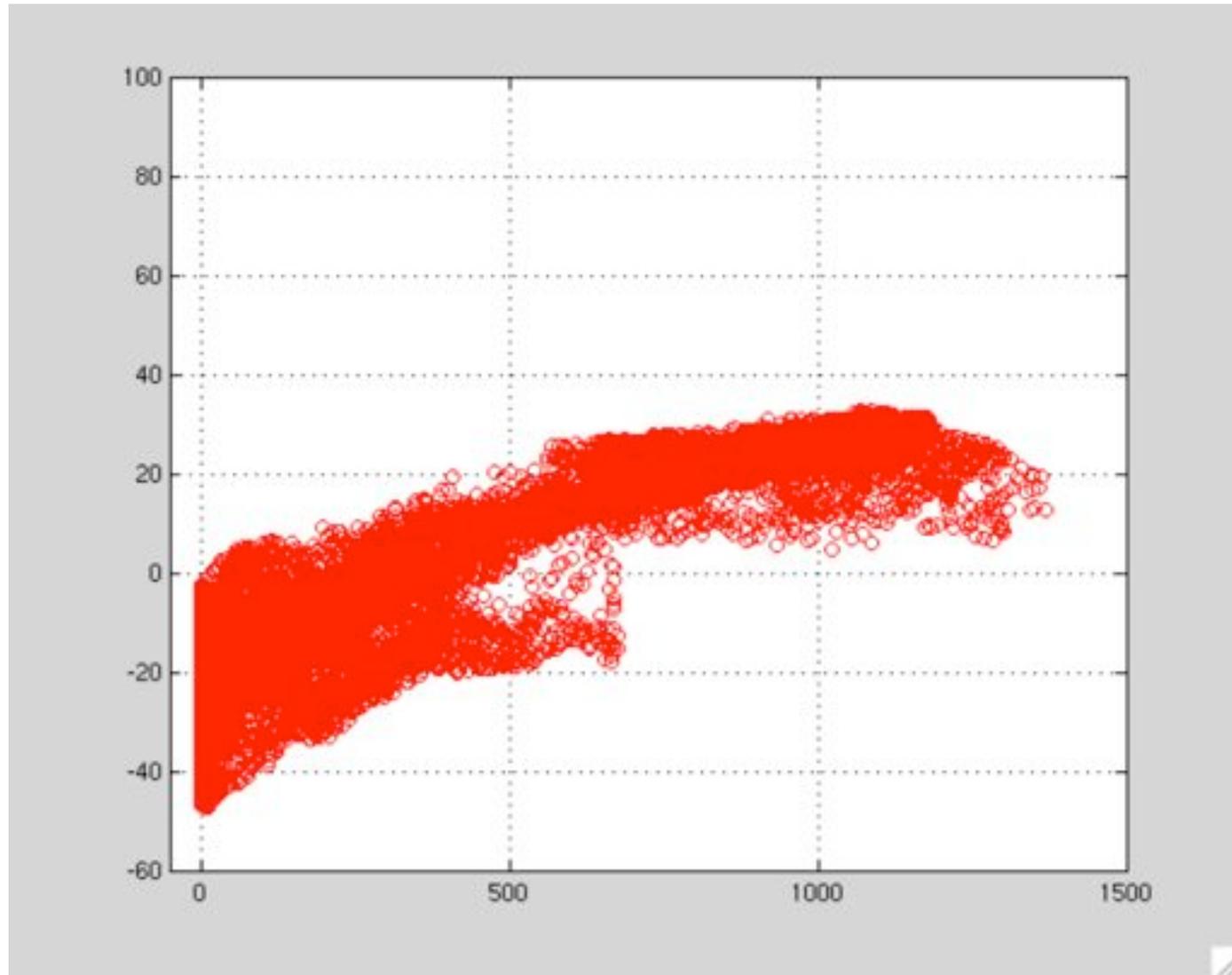
Solar Flux



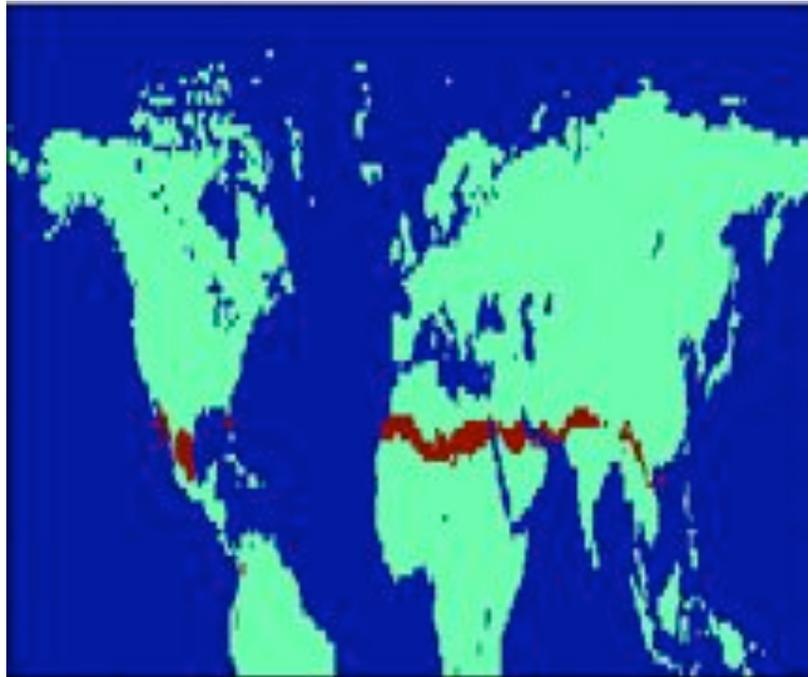
Air Temperature



Climate Space Dynamics



Bird Migration Example



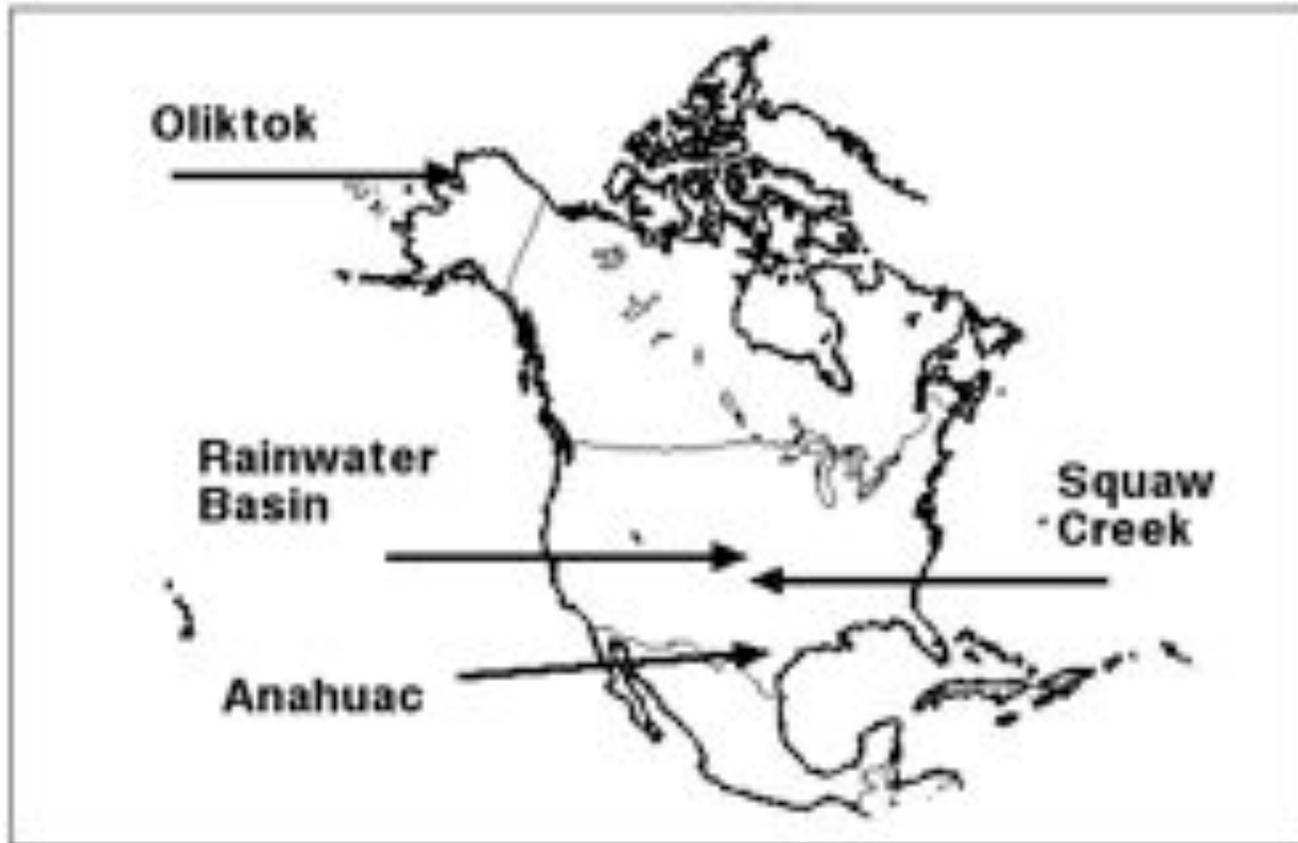
Real Birds, Observations--Decision Support

- Migratory shorebirds
 - Wetlands (Ramsar Convention)
 - Trans Gulf Express (Meso America)
 - Avian Influenza
- Observations
 - Arrival time distributions
 - Residence time distributions
 - Fat distribution levels

Dynamic State Variable Modeling with Various Optimization Landscapes



Pectoral Sandpiper



Avian Energetics - “Let Them Eat Cake”

*Daily Energy Budget =
f(time budget, habitat quality, ingestion
and climatic factors)*

*Daily Time Budget =
f(time migrating, time resting,
and time feeding)*



*Time and Energy budgets determine
bird state--latitude and energy reserves*



Current USGS 'DSS' Status

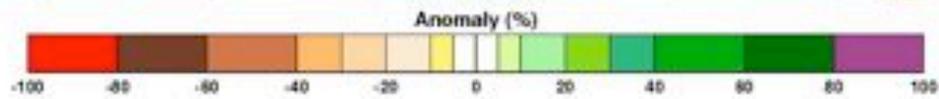
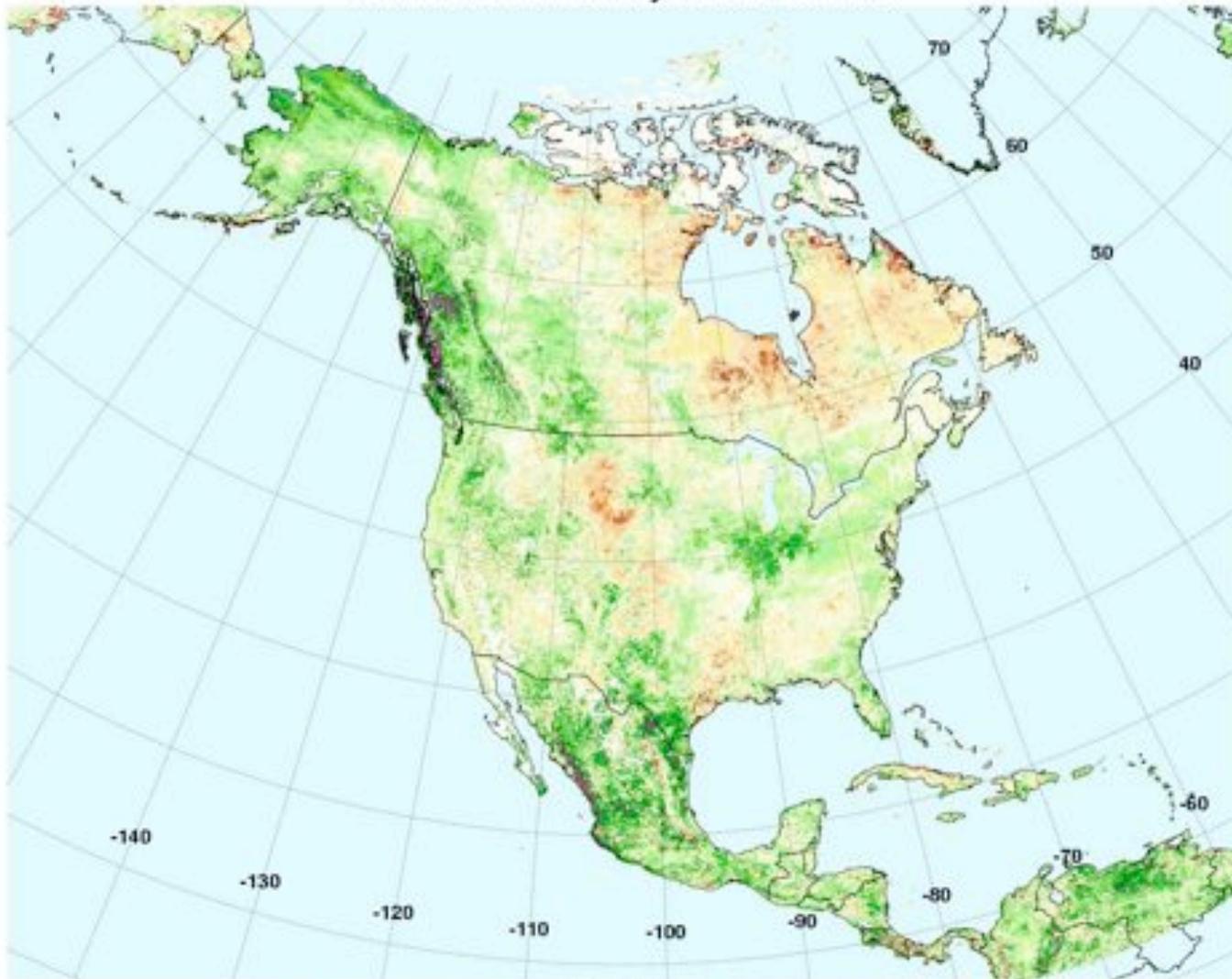
- Derive driving climatic/weather variables from met stations
- Have hooks for ingest “quality”, but no gis/real time
- Has been run used at stop-over/refuge way-stations
- Relys on National Wetlands Inventory

(Computational Challenges)

(Farmer and Wiens)

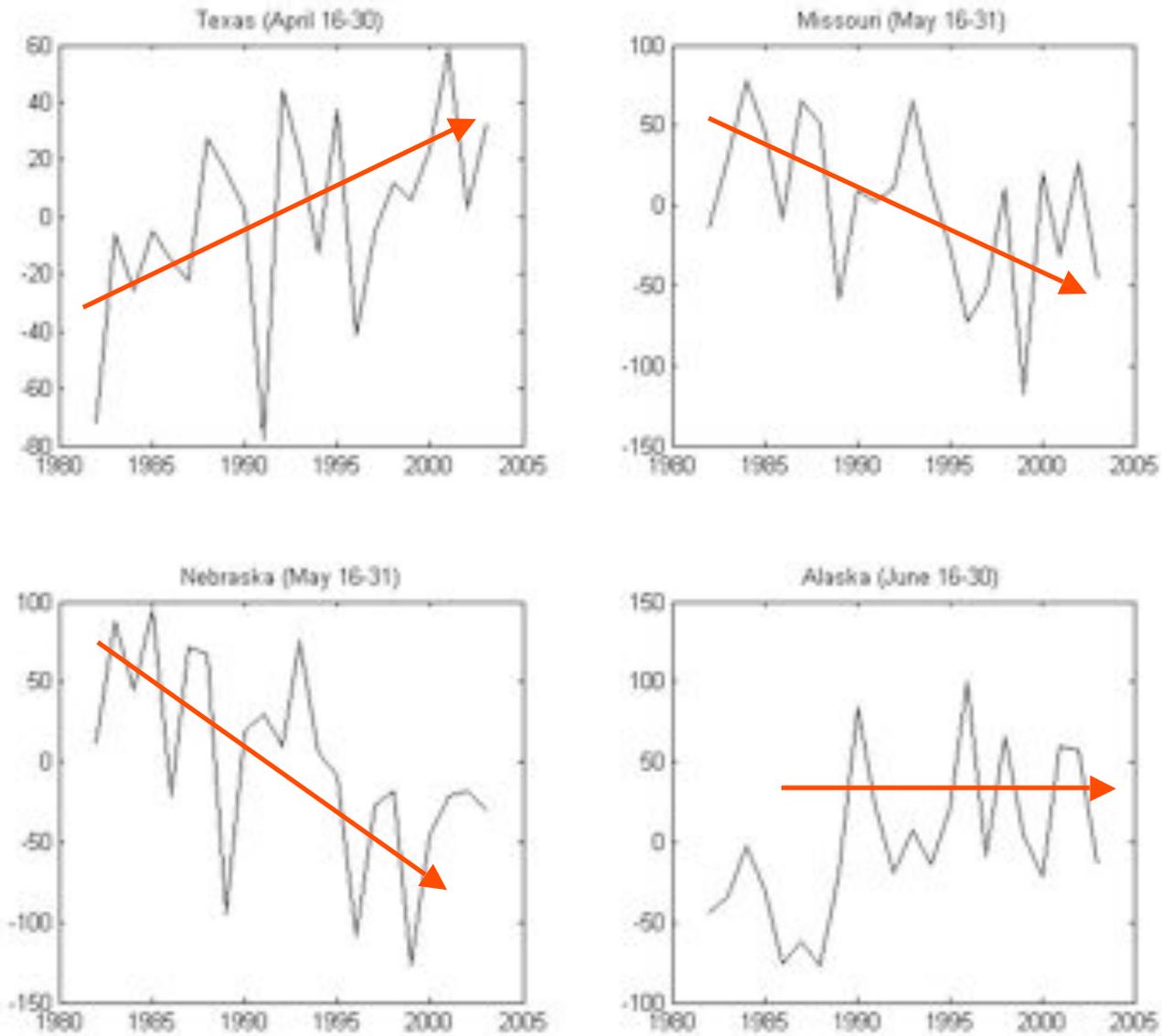


AVHRR NDVI Anomaly June 16-30 2004



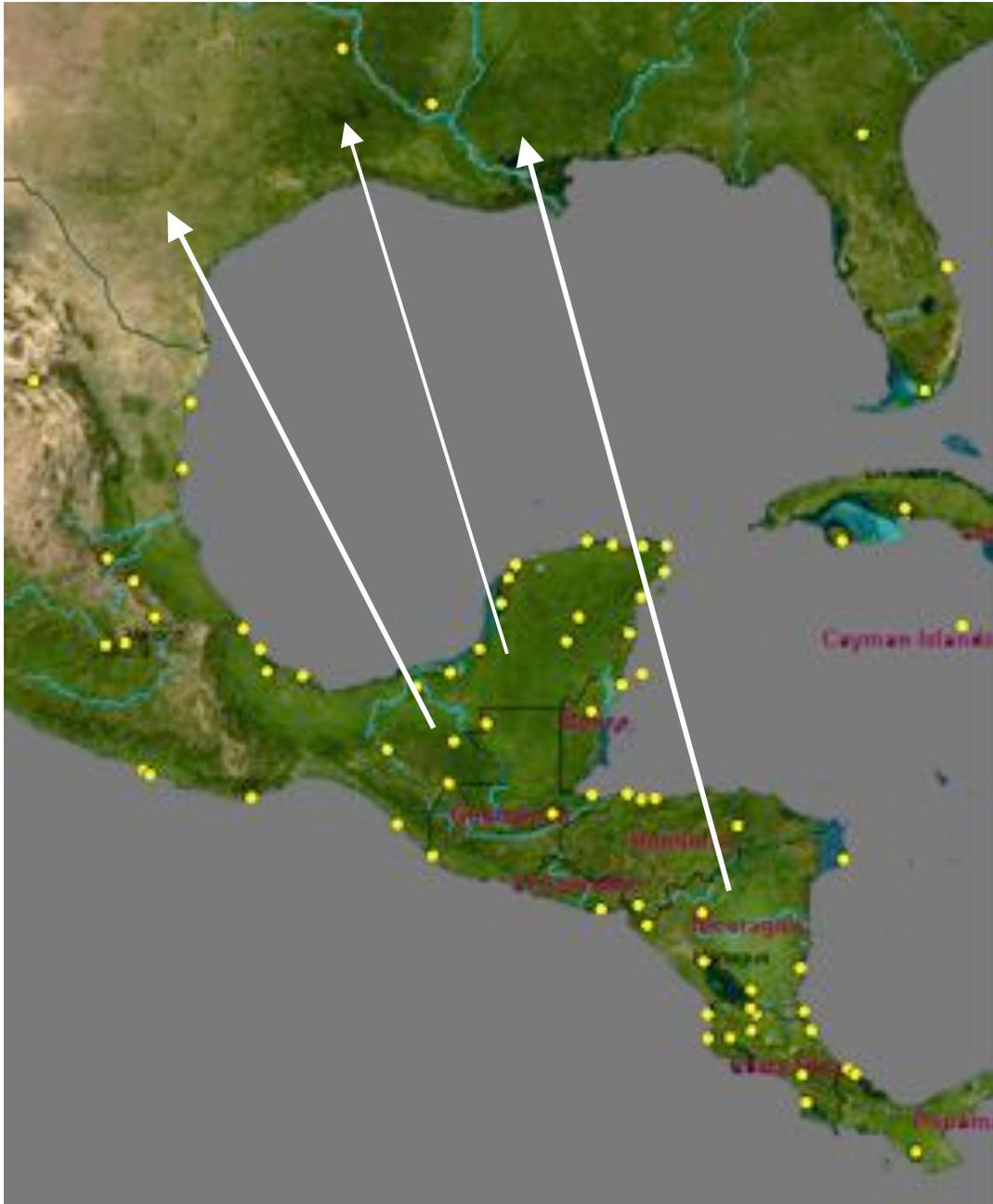
Stop-Over Sites

Site Quality



(Molly Brown)

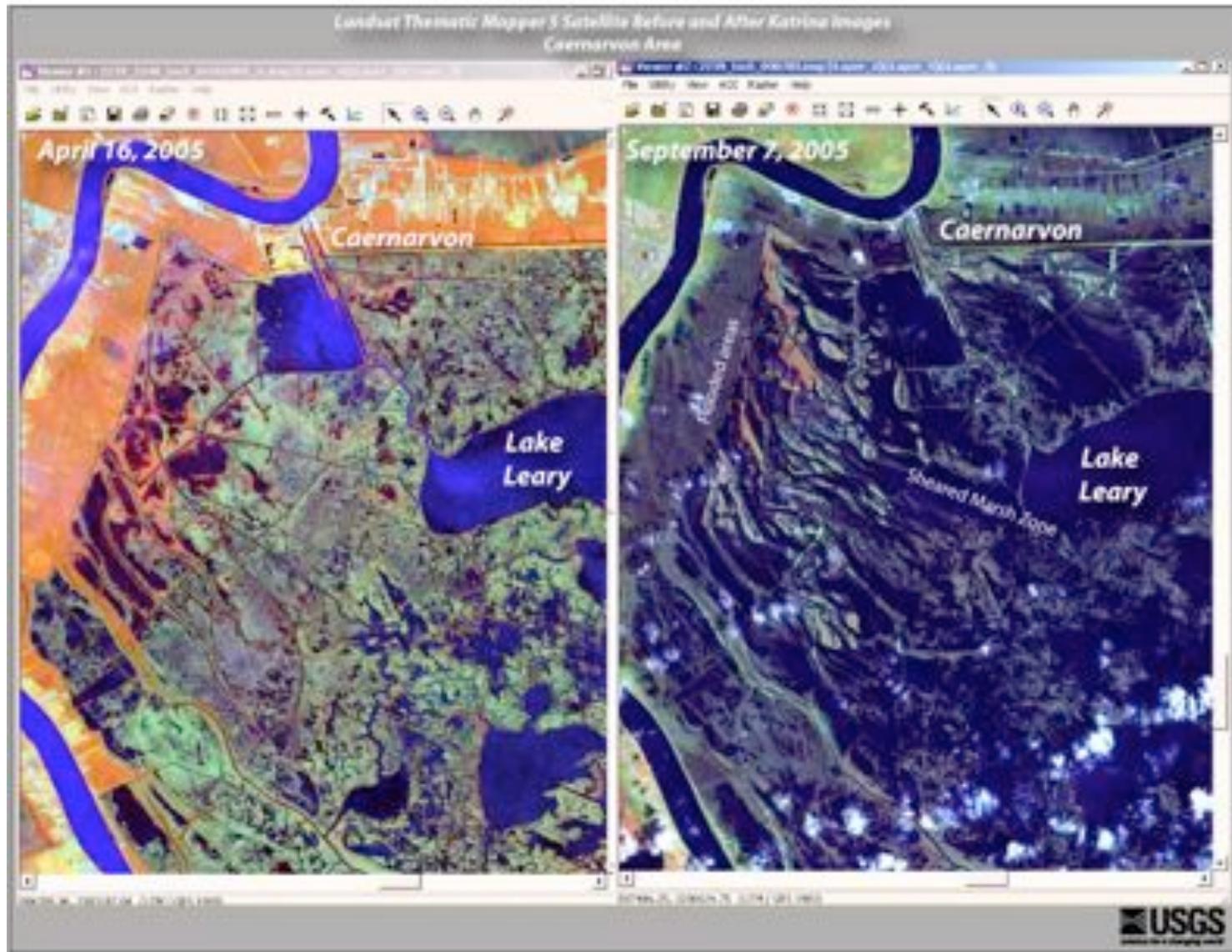
Inter-Annual Variation



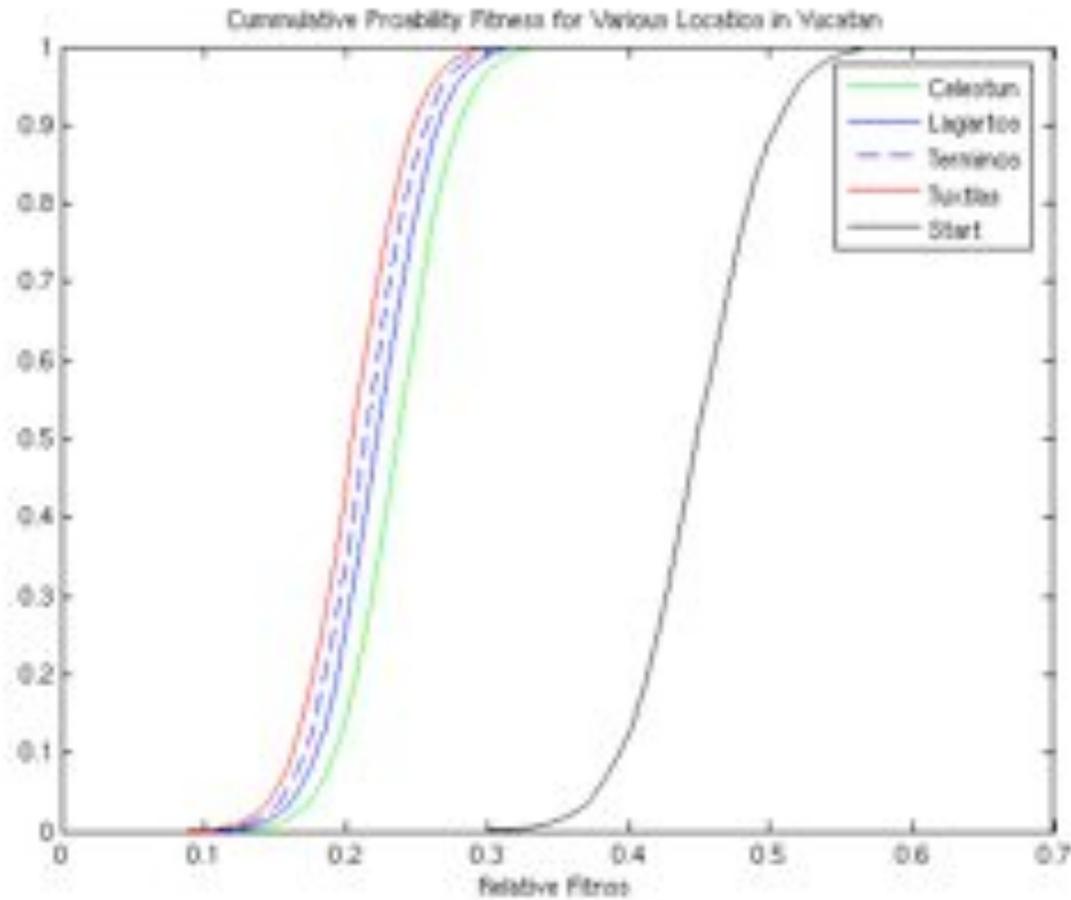
Trans Gulf Express

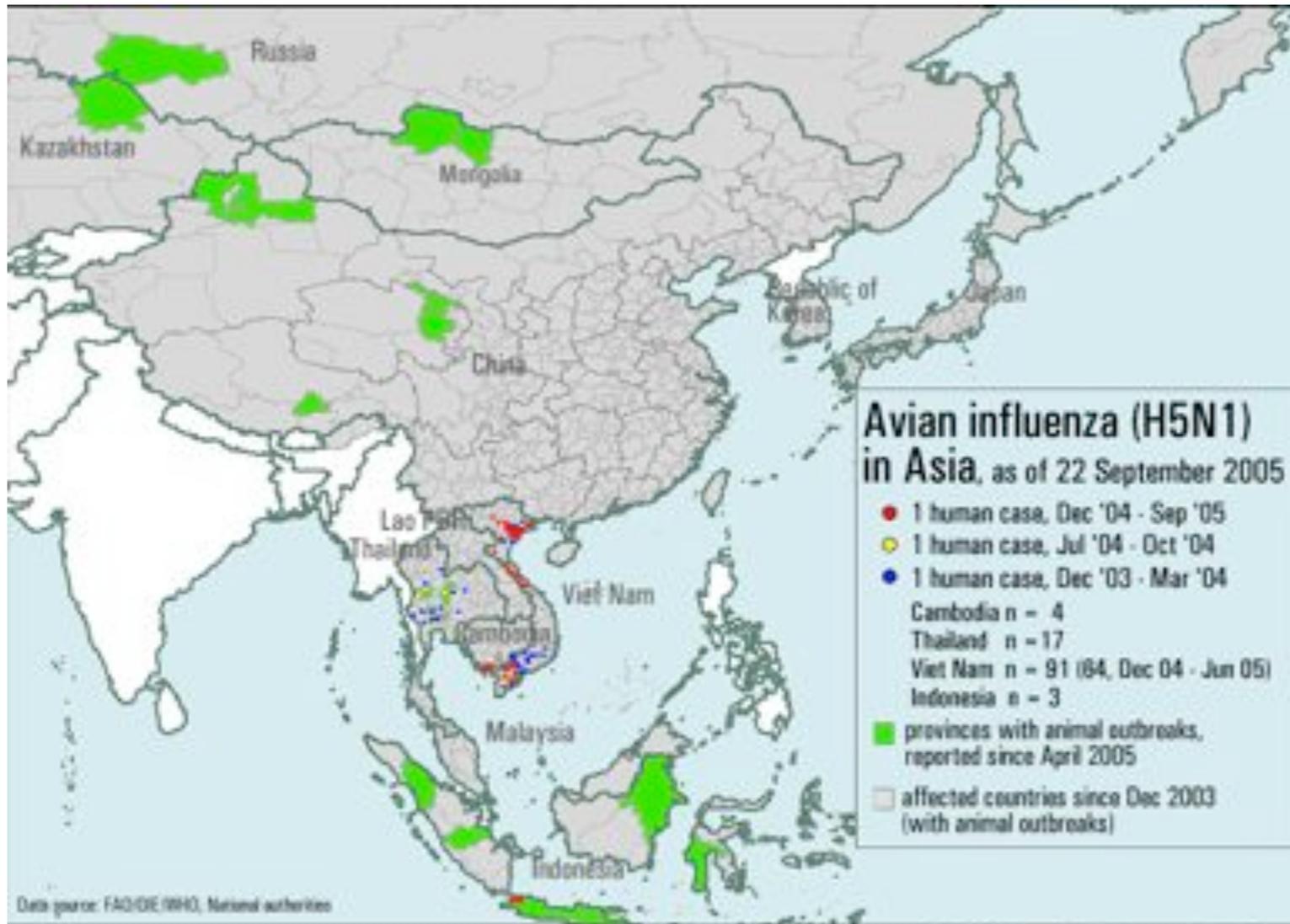


Fire Escape -- Manage to Variability



Identify “Full-Service -- Fire Escape”



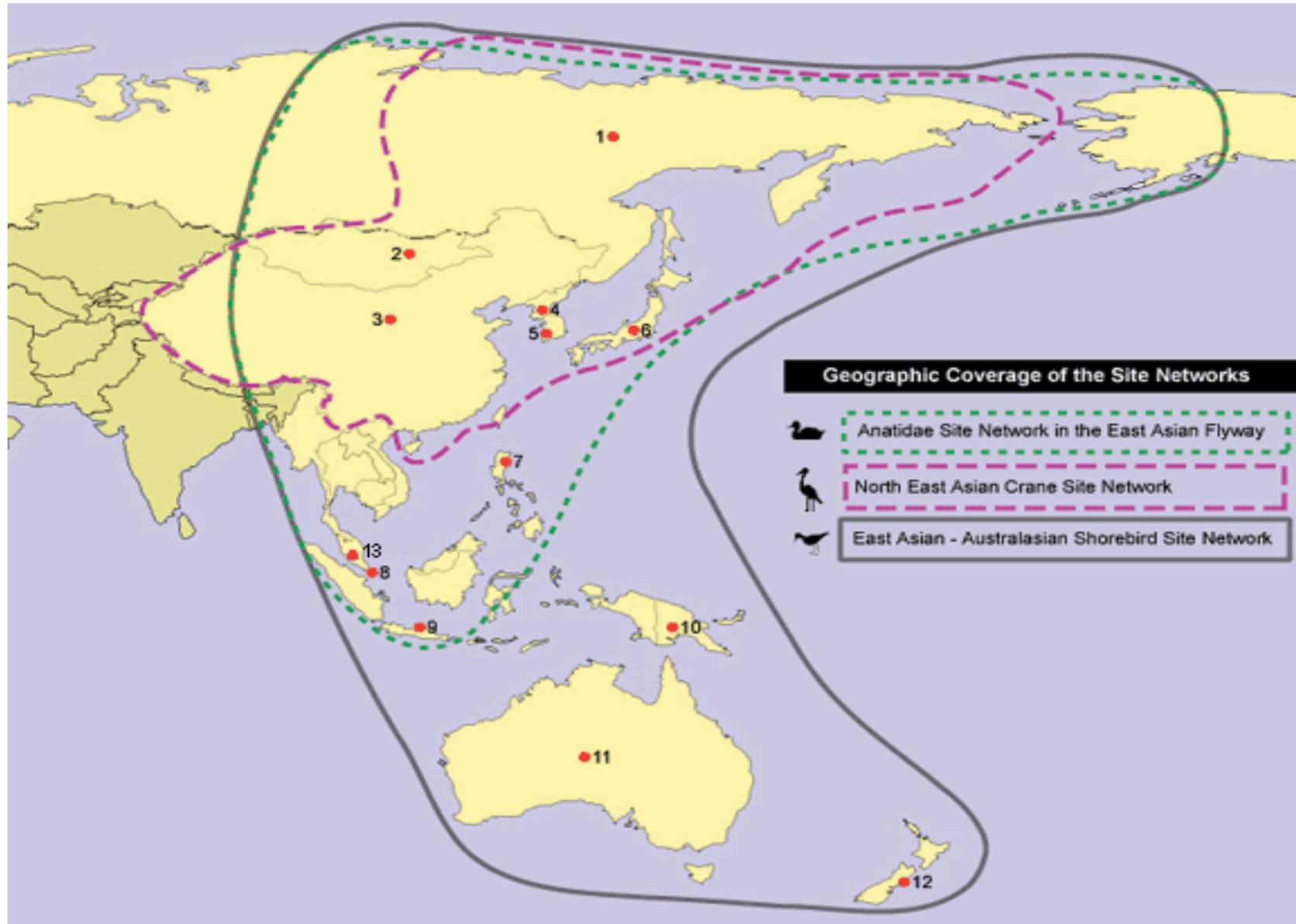


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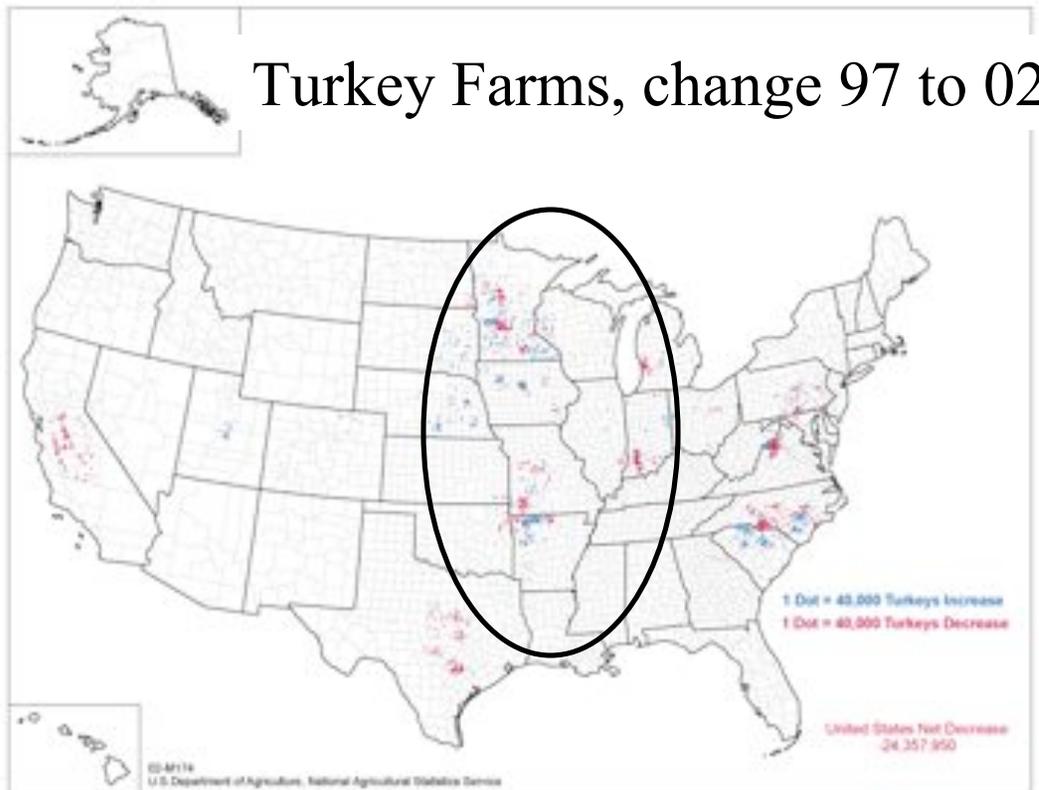
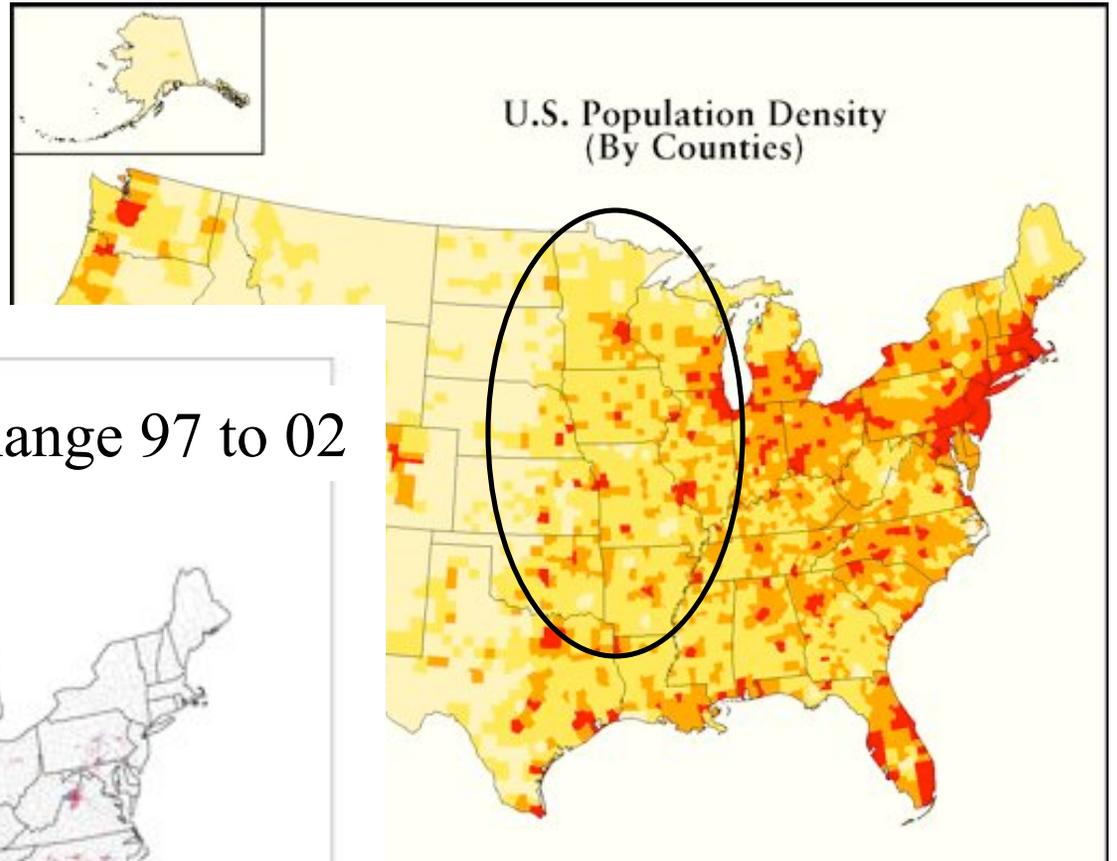
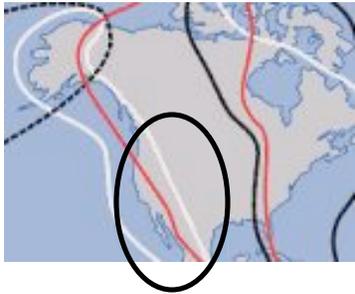


(Wetlands International)

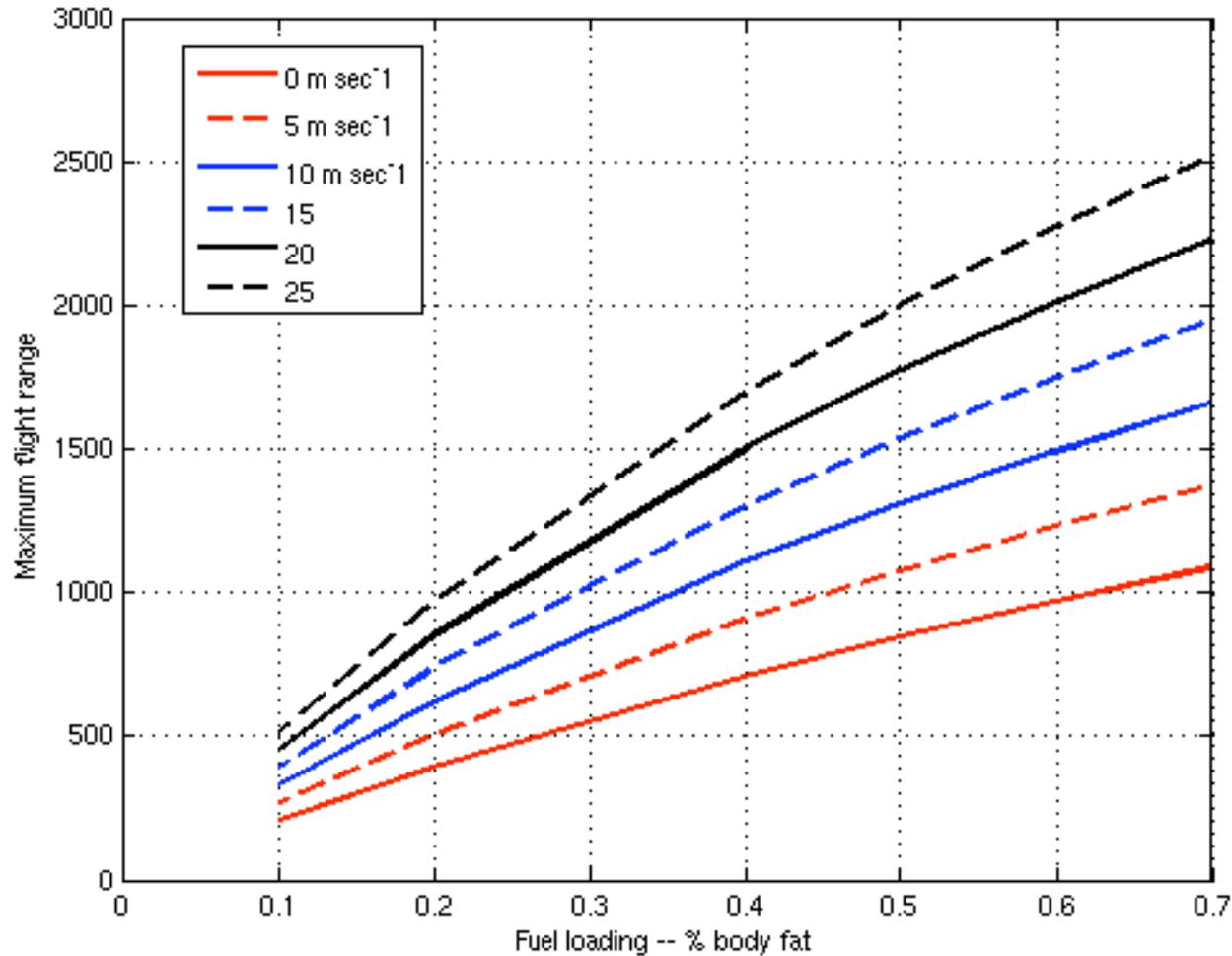
International Site Networks for migratory waterbirds in the East Asian-Australasian Region established under the Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy



Turkey Farm Distributions



3D Wind Fields -- Trajectory Analysis



*Pectoral
Sandpiper*

Pennycuick (1989)



Summary - “Space-Based Biophysical Ornithology”

- Start Simple -- What can we learn?
- Shorebird Migration -- Decision Support

Challenges -- Long distance tracking?

Swenson, George, W., Martin Wikelsi, and James A. Smith.

Tracking very-low-power ground transmitters from near earth orbit.

IGARSS 04