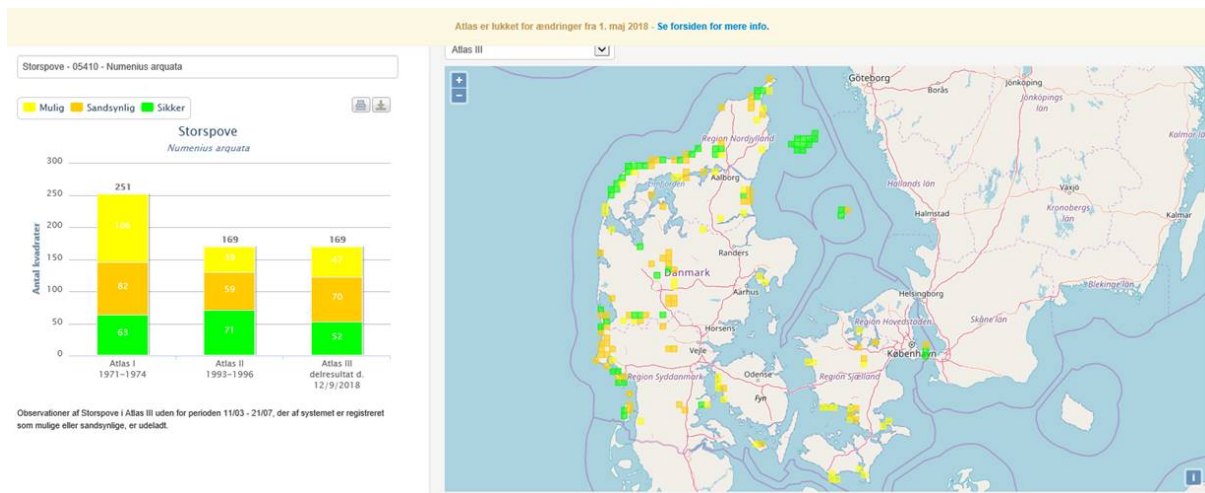
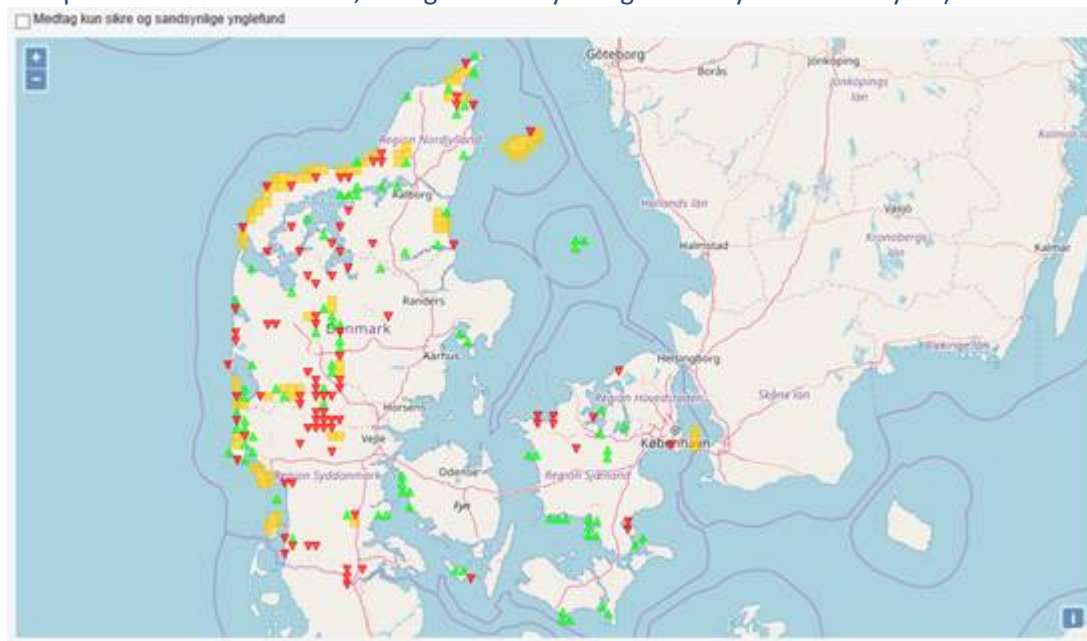


Our breeding birds are now becoming almost entirely confined to the coast and are not that many. These are the latest Atlas data, comparing the last 3 atlas periods illustrated to the right and with this latest data mapped to the right:

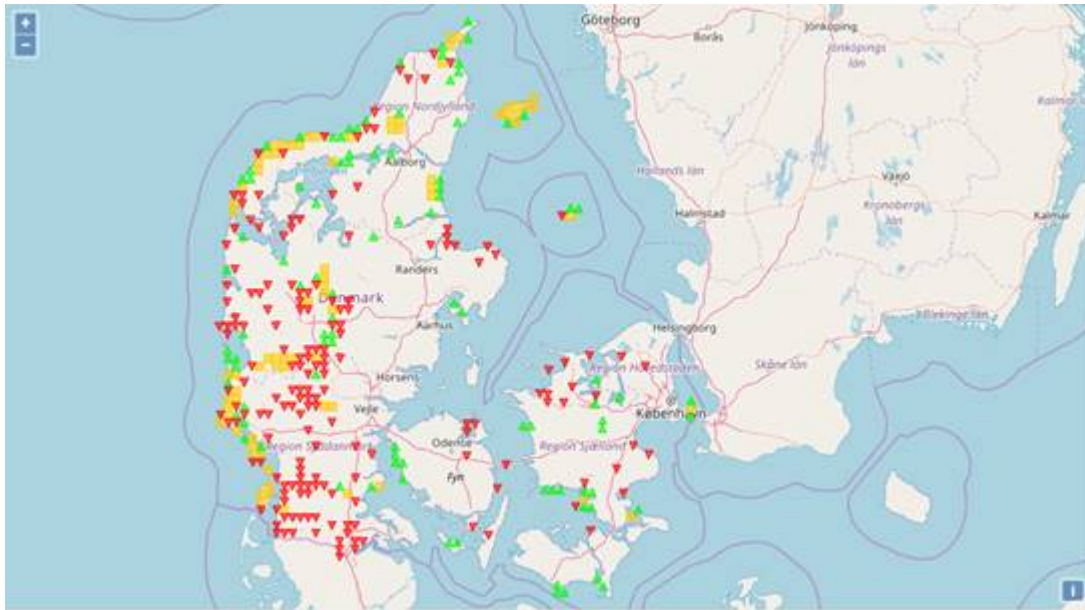


Mulig = possible, sandsynlig = probable, sikker = confirmed; you can see there has been little change in number between the last two atlases.

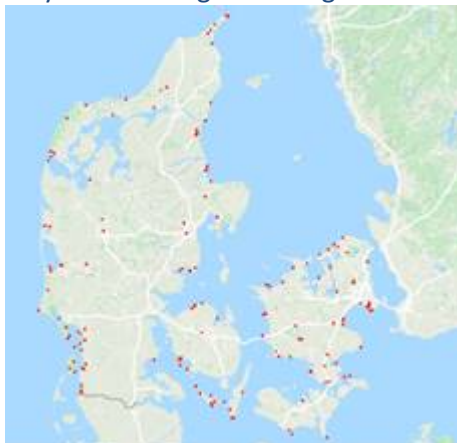
BUT: if you look at the changes in distribution between the two periods, the truth jumps out (red = occupied in Atlas II but not III, orange in both years green only in the later year):



We are very rapidly losing our inland breeding curlews, which is a terrible crime and analogous to your lowland declines. The difference is even more evident when you look at losses from atlas squares between the first and last atlases, big losses in the central part of Jutland from the heaths and wetlands, but also wet grasslands:



As for your passage birds, the Danish bird portal DOFbasen reports relatively few in the period 01-20 June in most recent years. Very few counts greater than 10 and almost none over 100 and those few of the latter are all from the Wadden Sea where they will be feeding far out on the mudflats and only visible at highest of high tides. Distribution entirely coastal, these from 01-20 June 2018:



They are more concentrated in February, March and April (shown in 2018 below left to right), gradually moving out from their core wintering area in the Wadden Sea:



...by which time you are getting thousands in the Wadden Sea and some hundreds at a few other favoured resorts. In my part of the world, we tend to get odd birds at very low densities along very long stretches of coast, which frankly are not conducive to seeing vast numbers of curlew legs I am afraid! This tends to be true for much of our Baltic coastlines too. A far better bet would be to wind up observers in the Wadden Sea to look at high tide roosts, but to just try and encourage folk to look everywhere.

Anyway, I am copying this to Preben Clausen, who is linked in with the Curlew initiative via the AEWA process and to Thomas Bregnballe, who coordinates the Wadden Sea monitoring as they will have far better insight than me. However, having been unfortunate to have lived to see the loss of breeding Curlew on Cors Fochno on the Dyfi, I have a deep sympathy for the species, so promise to squint at Curlew legs next time I am fortunate enough to see one!

I have been speaking to friends who love nothing more than to read Sanderling colour rings and tern metal rings for sport, and they all confirm that they have never seen rings on Curlew, BUT all confirm my feeling, namely that they are incredibly difficult in Denmark. In the Wadden Sea there are large numbers, but they are only accessible for looking for rings at high tide when they are highly clumped, often very jittery and legs not easy to see. Everywhere along Danish shores they tend to feed at incredibly low densities (hence little incentive to look) and usually at incredibly long distance (even less reason to go look!). I know these are poor excuses, but the reality.

We will try and think creatively about how we might show a wave of Curlew passing through in March/April.