



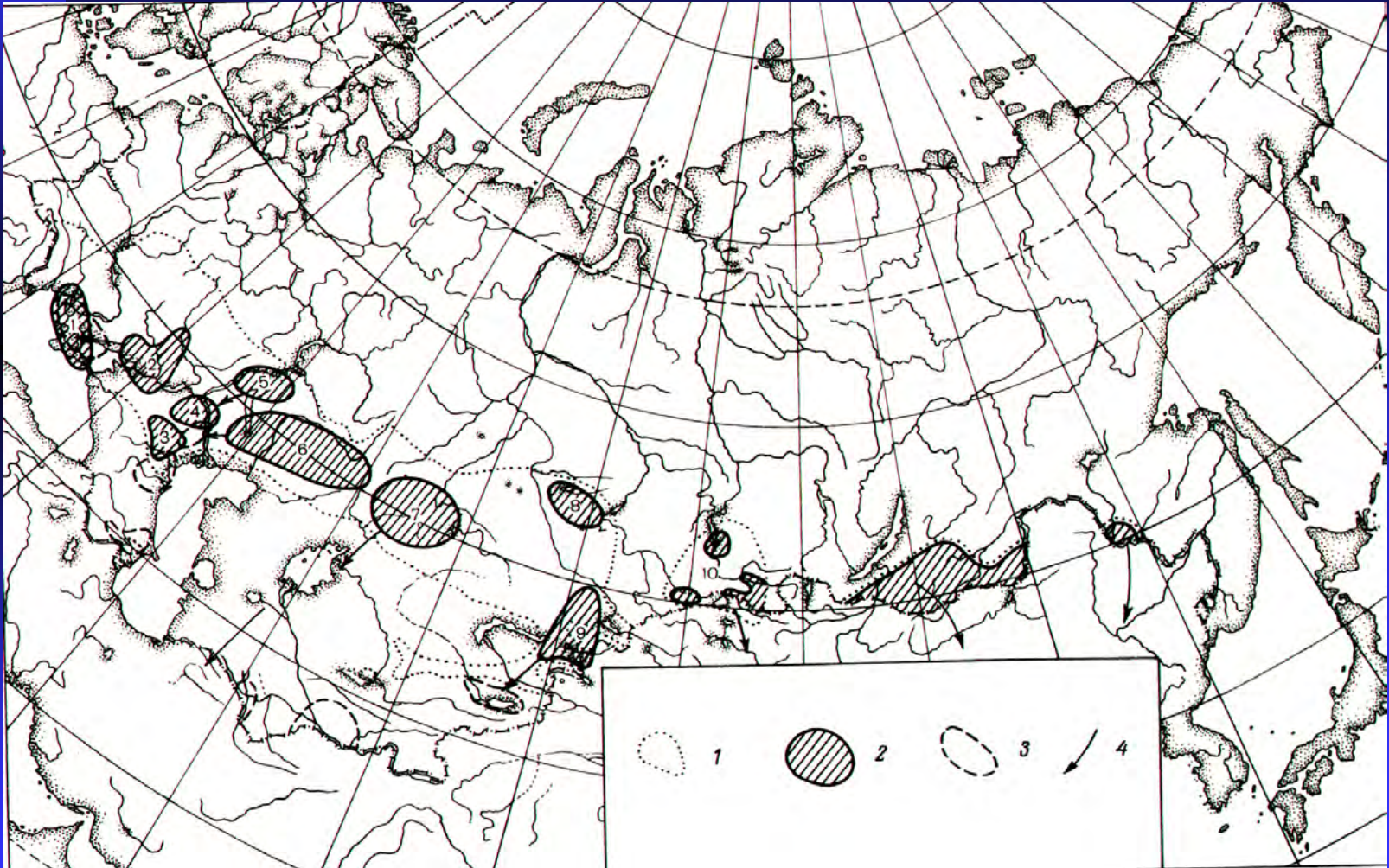
Russian Bird Conservation Union
(Saratov Branch)

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Great bustard in European Russia

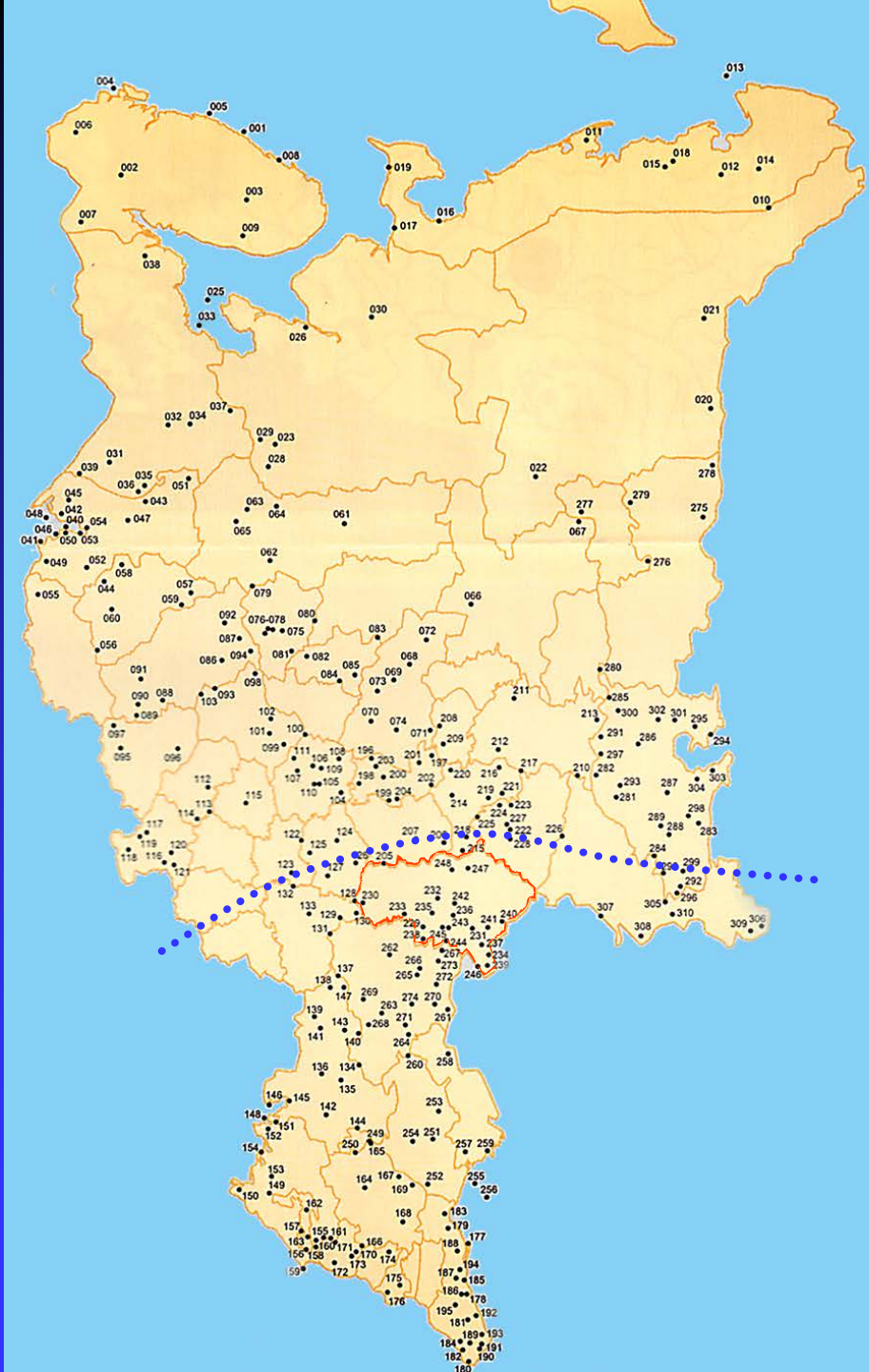


Former distribution of great bustard in USSR (1987, Flint & Isakov)



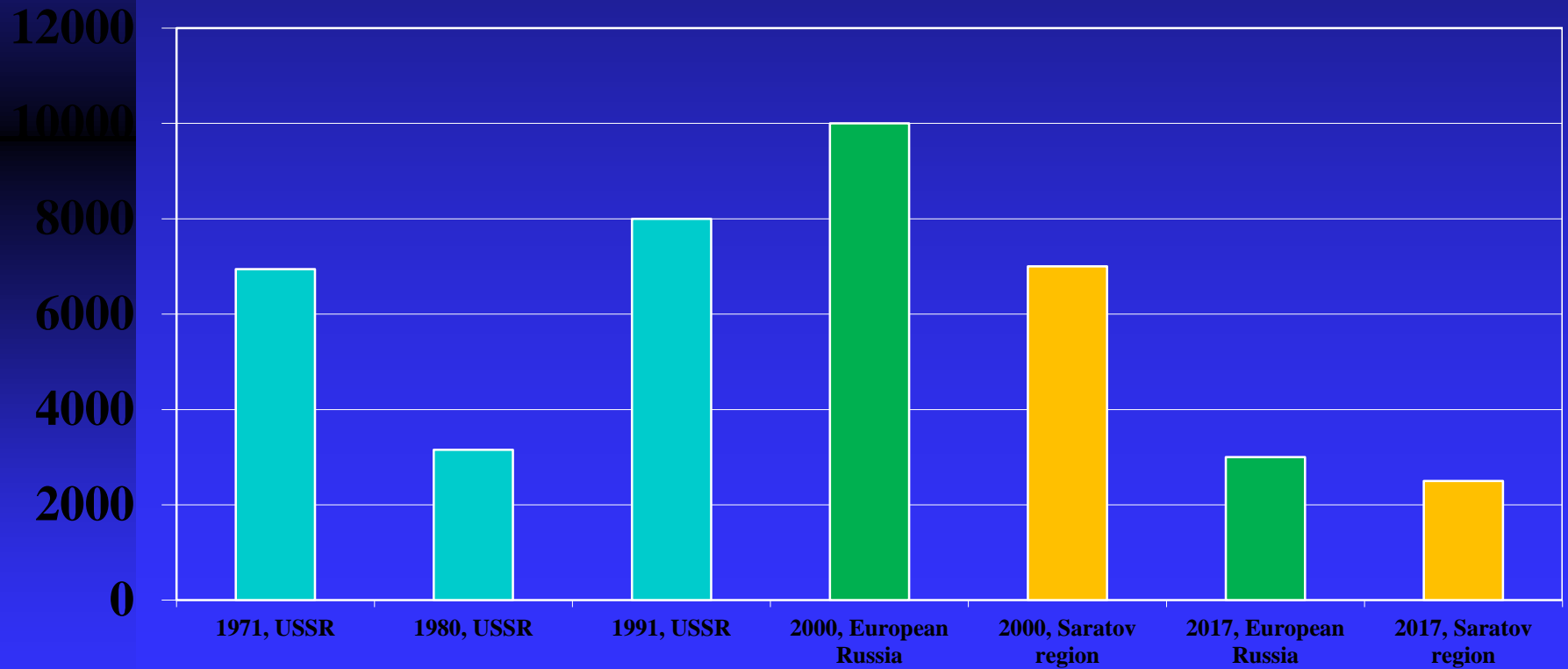
Distribution in European Russia in 2000

- Border of breeding distribution
- Saratov region – 80-85% of the population in European Russia



Number of great bustards

- 1971, USSR
- 1980, USSR
- 1991, USSR
- 2000, European Russia
- 2000, Saratov region



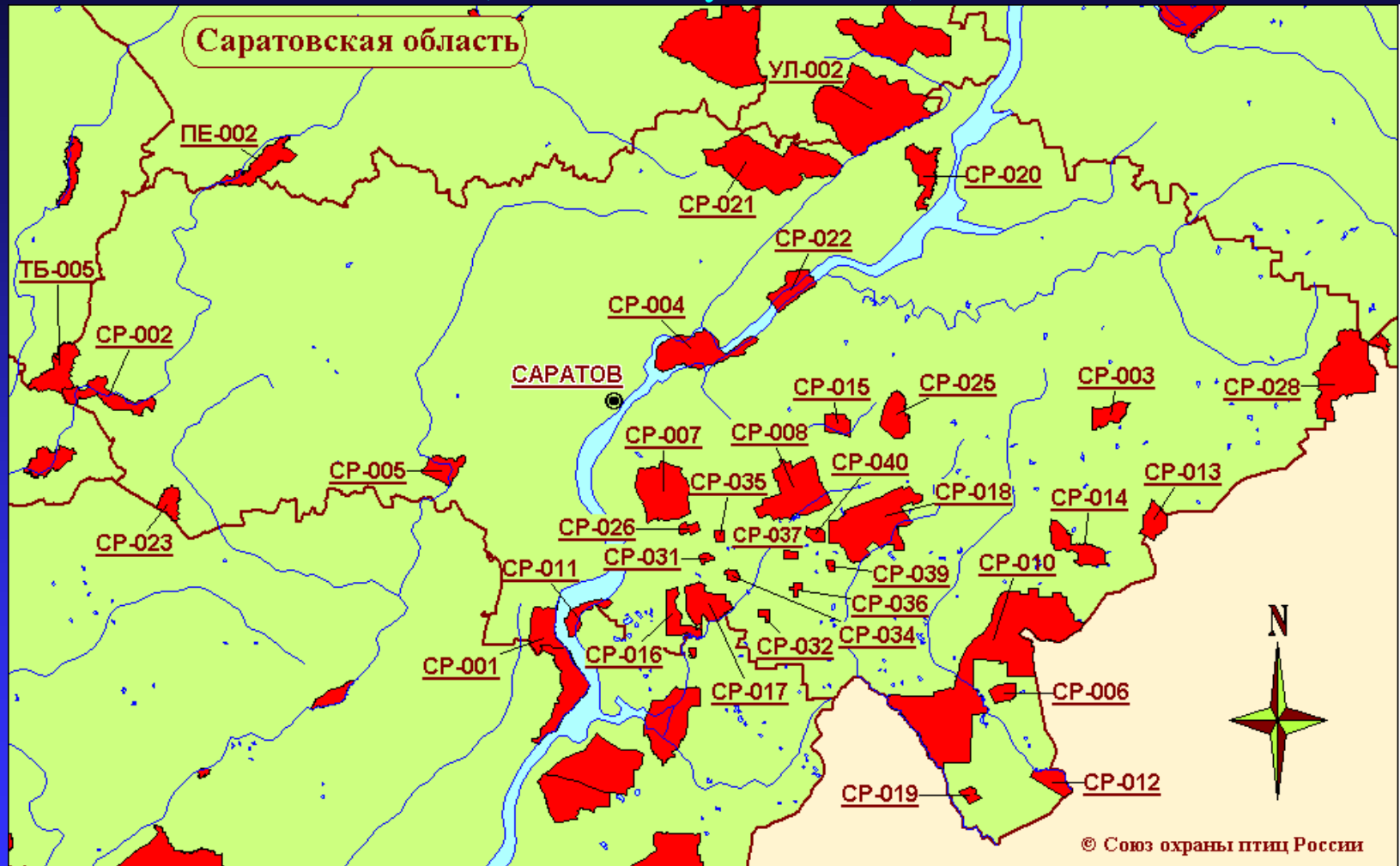
Number in European Russia in 2013 – 2500-3000 (Mischenko et al., 2017)

- Saratov region – 2000-2500 (Antonchikov, 2013); 1800-2400 (Oparin et al. 2015)
- Volgograd region – 550-600 (Volgograd red book, 2017); - 240 (Antonchikov & Varlamov, 2010)
- Rostov region – 160 – 300 (Rostov red book, 2014)
- Voronezh region – 50-70 (Voronezh red book, 2011)

Modern number in European Russia

- Krasnodar region – 20 (Krasnodar red book, 2007)
- Stavropol region – 4-6 (Stavropol red book, 2012)
- Orenburg region – 2-4 (Kornev & Morozov, 2008, Antonchikov et al., 2015)
- Kalmykia – 2-6 (Kalmyk red book, 2013)

Saratov Region, Important Bird Areas (IBAs) and the Protected Area (“Saratovskiy Zakaznik”)



Great bustard number in the Protected Area – only 5-7 female (no leks)
(Belyachenko et al., 2015)

The great bustard in Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in Saratov region (Russia)

Year	Bird numbers in the region	Birds numbers in IBAs, % of subpopulation	Number of IBAs	Area of IBAs (km ²)
1994-2000	7000	1221 – 1559 (17-22%)	25	5133.2
2013	2000-2500	Approx 300 (12-15%)	25	5133.2

Conservation measures:

- 1978 – Red book of the USSR
- 2000 – Red book of Russia (II-III category)
- Since 1995 - Regional red books (I-V category)
- 2013 – Attempt to exclude the species from new edition of the Russian red book
- 2018 – Preparing Russian red book (II-III category)
- 1997, 2006, 2013 – Attempts to create and approve Great Bustard Conservation Strategy (Flint, Antonchikov, Hrustov)
- Great bustard is protected under the Russian–Japanese, Russian–Indian and Russian–North Korean conventions on migratory birds.

Main threats

- Agriculture activity
- Predators (rooks, mainly for clutches)
- Illegal hunting
- Disturbing
- Declarative conservation status
- Eggs harvesting / agriculture workers mentality (Antonchikov, 2004, 2006, 2008; Oparin et al., 2015)
- Migration and wintering conditions

Migration and wintering

