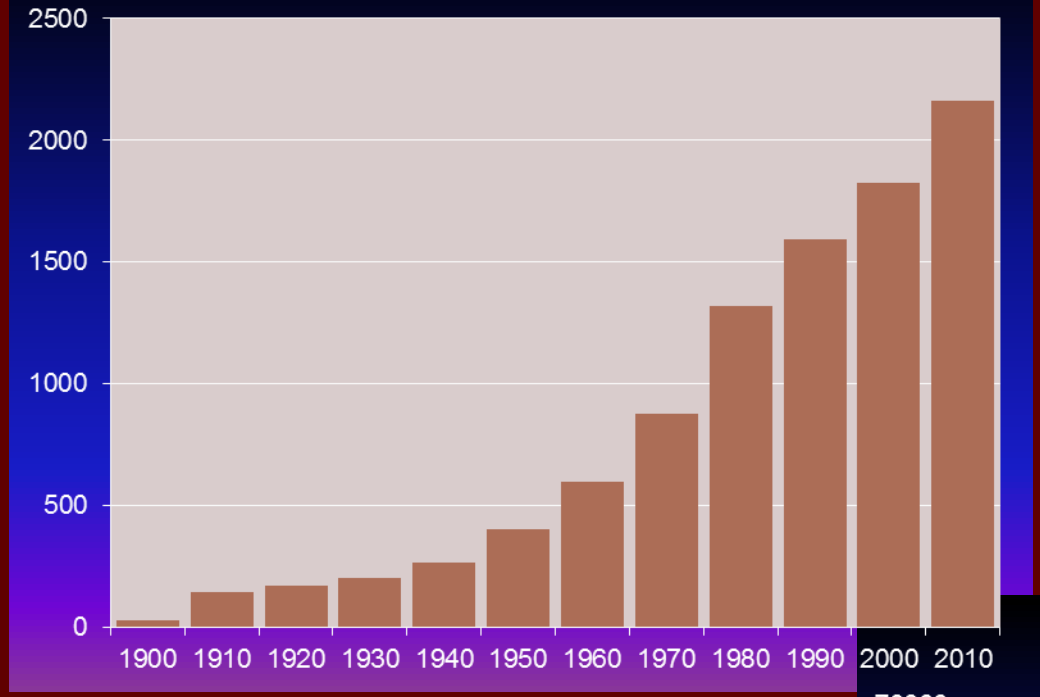
A Brief History of Edmonton's 65 CBCs

by
Geoff Holroyd
with help from
a cast of thousands

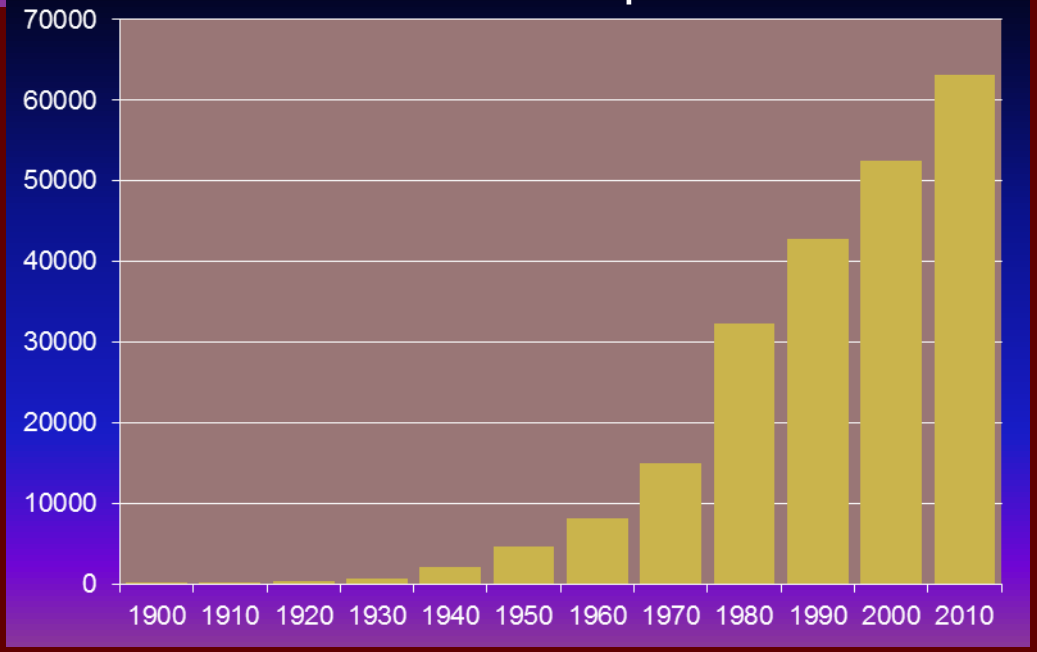
History of CBC

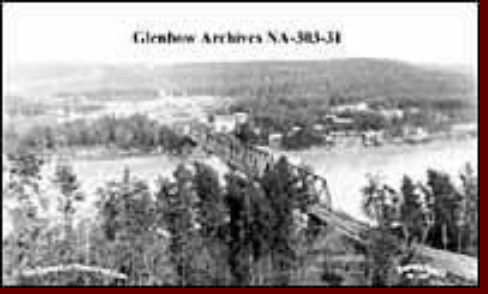
- Started Frank Chapman in 1900 in response to ‘side hunt’
- Few rules at the start.
- 15 mile diameter circle, one calendar day in a two week+ period that includes Christmas and New Year’s Day

Number of Christmas Bird Counts



Number of Participants



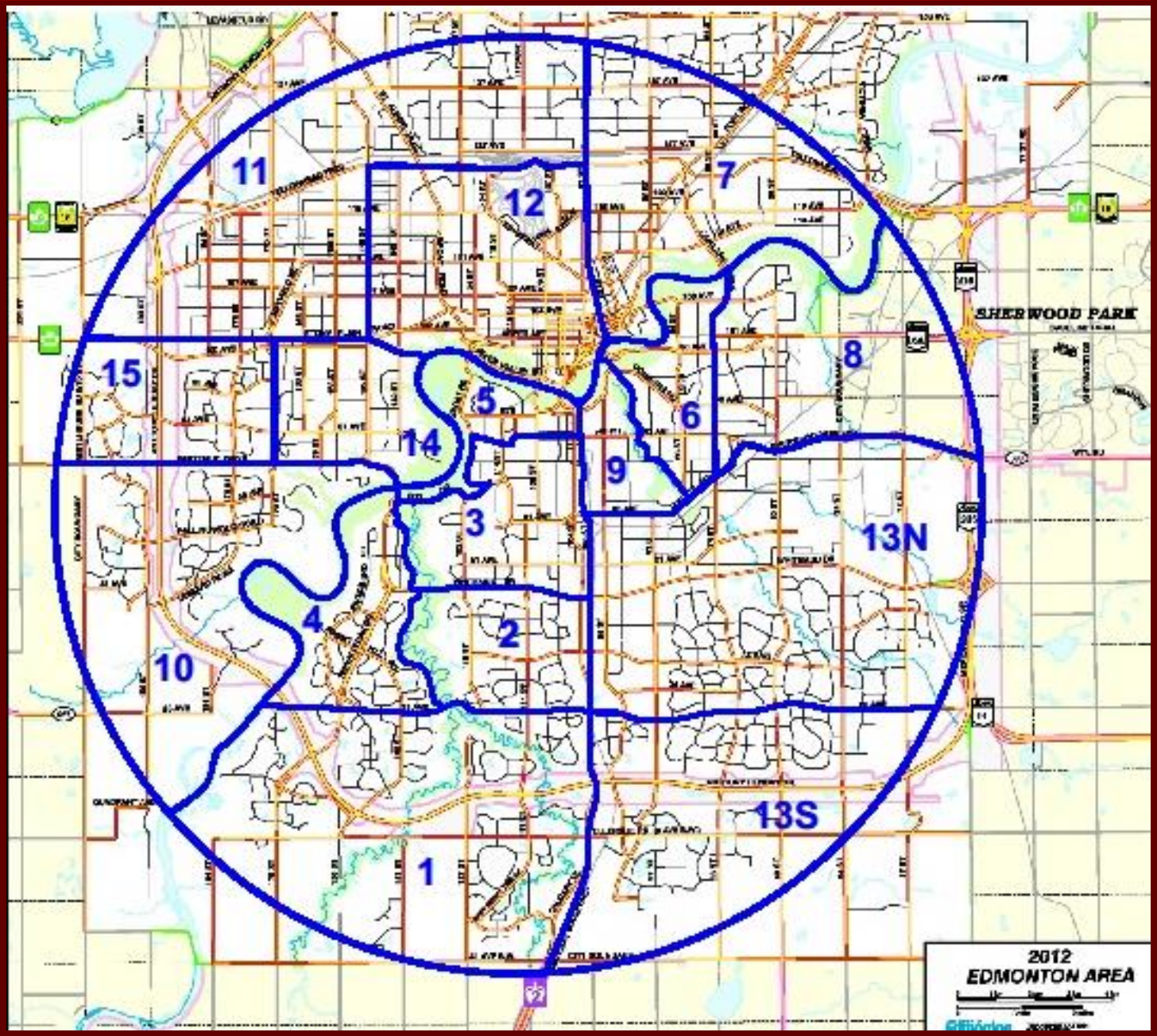


First Edmonton Count in 1906 by Sidney Stansell

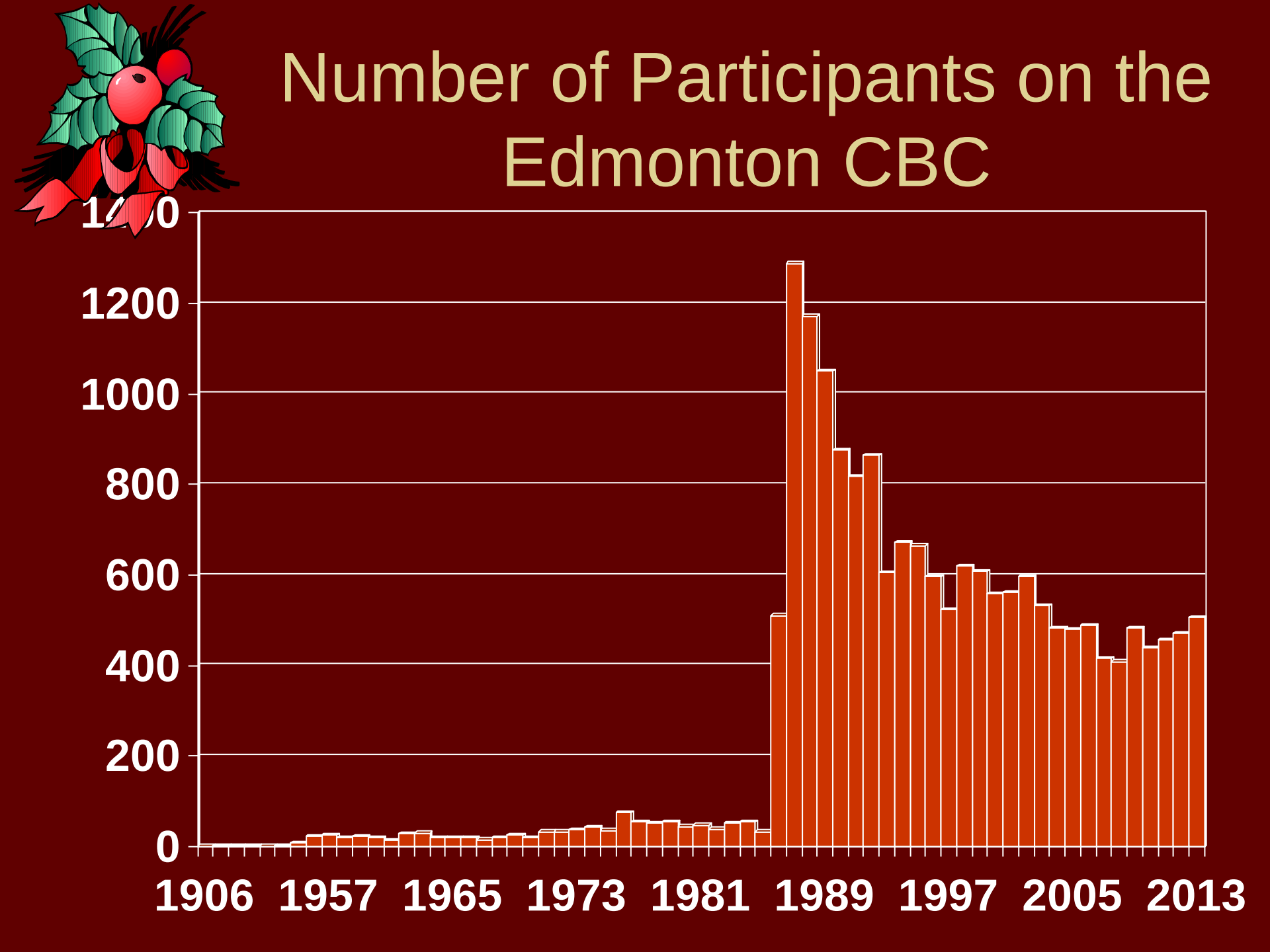
A Brief History of Edmonton's 65 CBCs

- First count in 1906 by Sidney Stansell
- He repeated in 1907 and 1909
- Next counts 1938, 45, 46
- Continuous from 1955 to present
- 2014 will be the 60th consecutive year!

EDMONTON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT CIRCLE



Number of Participants on the Edmonton CBC



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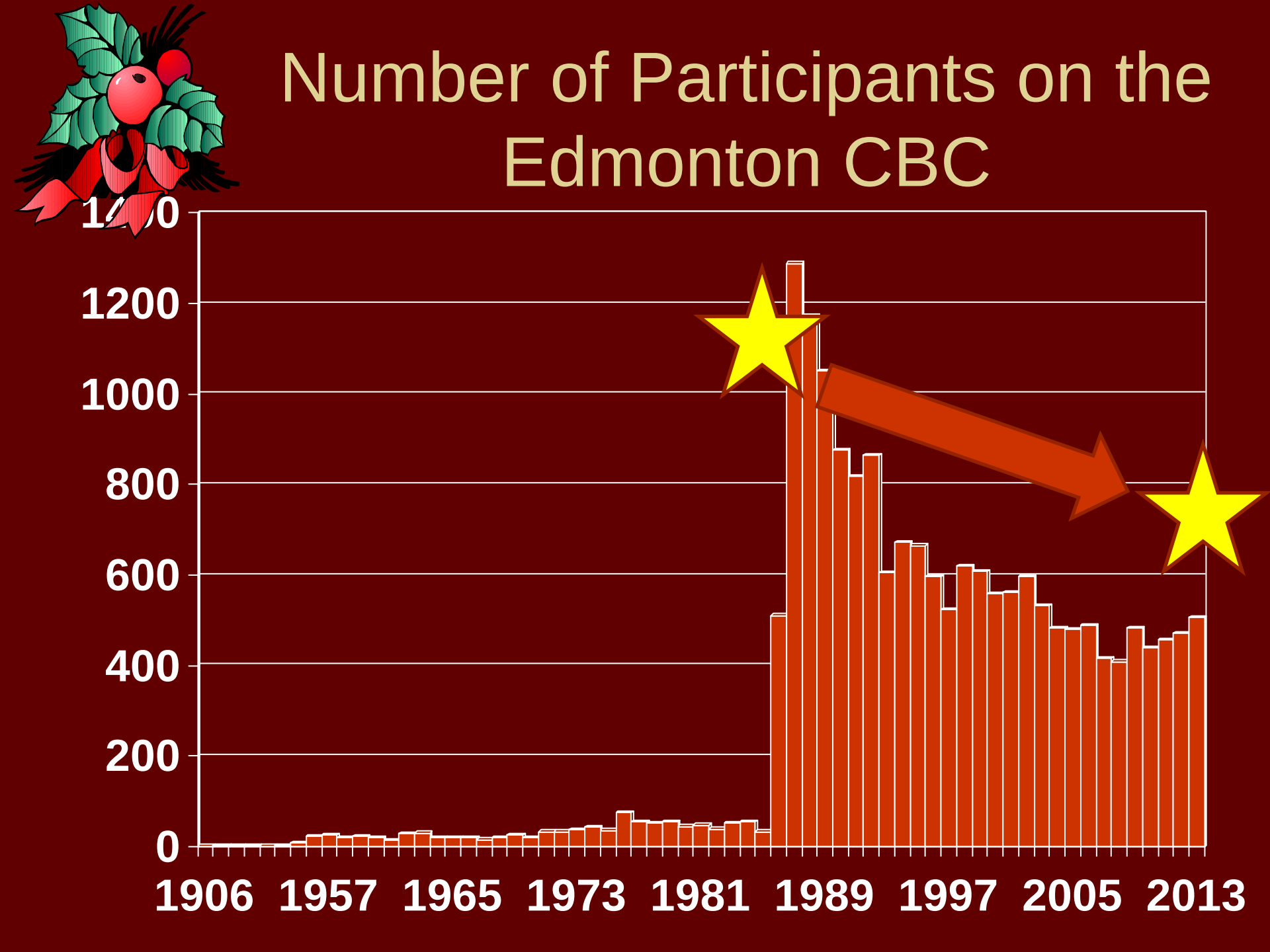


SUNDAY- Pot Luck Supper and Count Tally at Lions Center

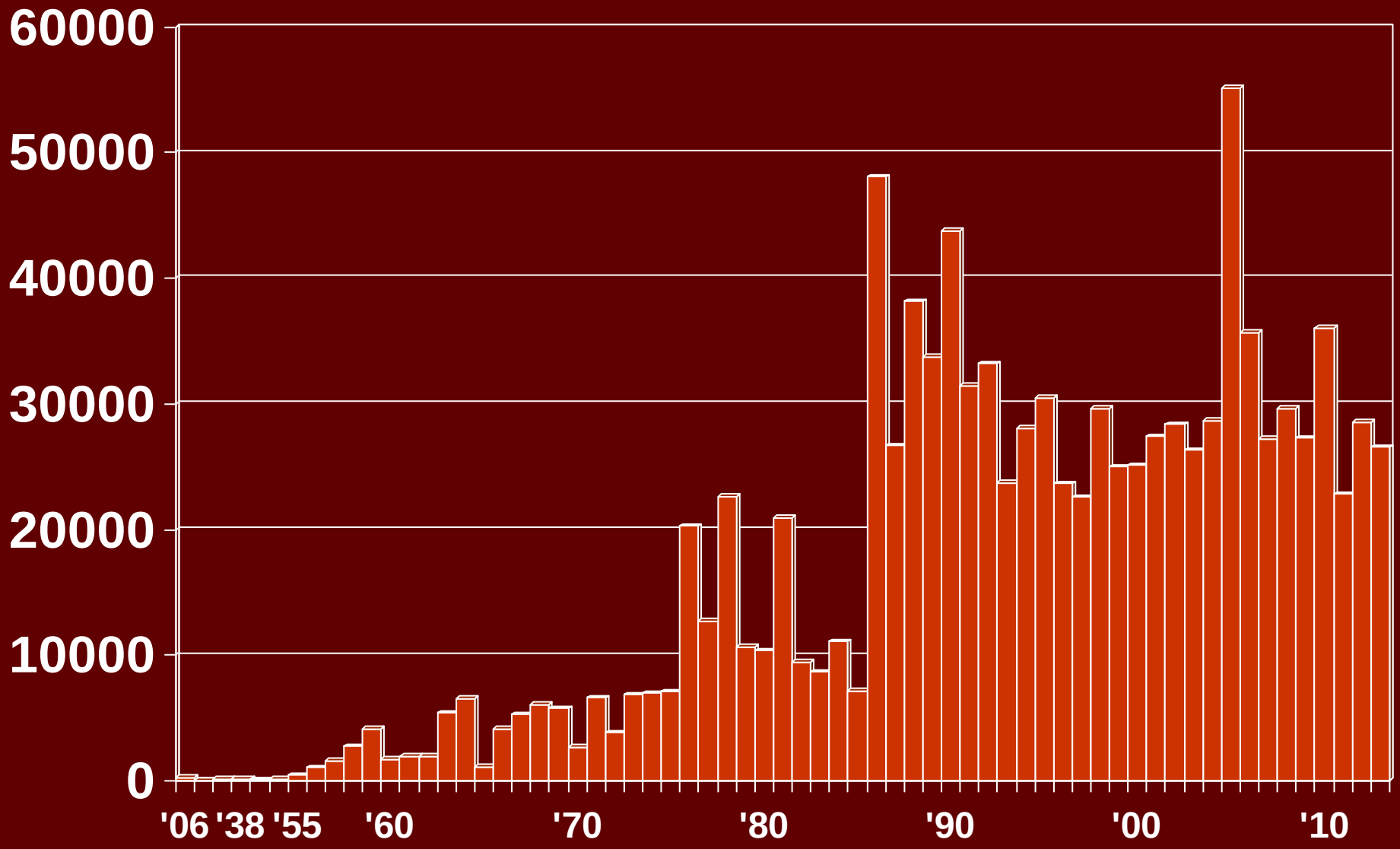
Edmonton's CBC hold three WORLD records

- Merlin: 91 in 1986
- Black-billed Magpie: 3374 in 2001
- Bohemian Waxwing: 35,298 in 2005

Edmonton's CBC holds five CANADIAN records

- Boreal Owl: 8 in 2005
- Downy Woodpecker: 474 in 2013
- Pileated Woodpecker: 65 in 2012 and 2013
- Blue Jay: 1,598 in 1088
- Black-capped Chickadee: 6,239 in 2003

The number of individual birds on the Edmonton CBC



A total of 1,055,147 individual birds have been counted on the Edmonton CBC since 1906.

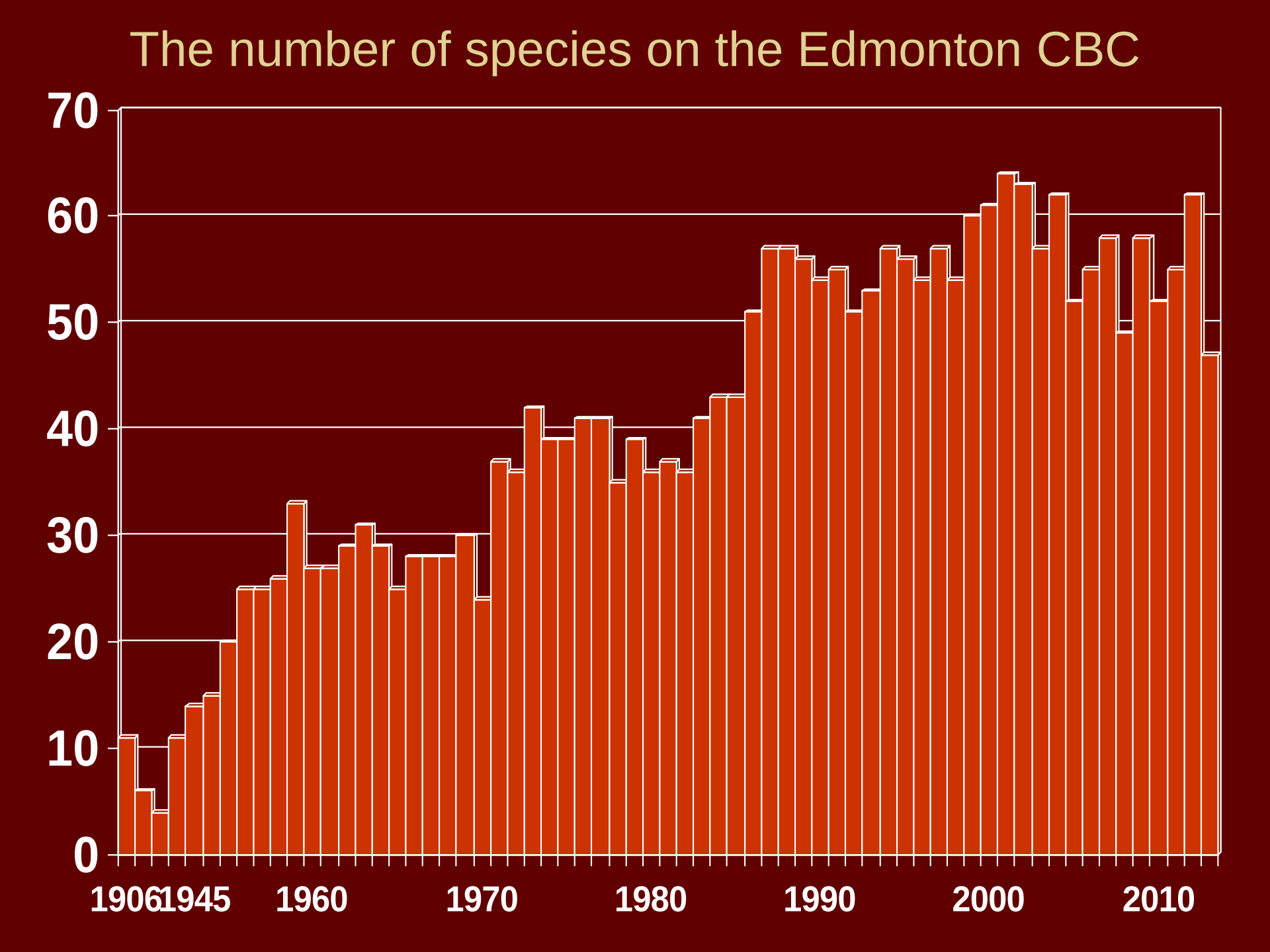
Which Species has been most often?

- House Sparrow
- Rock Pigeon
- Black-capped Chickadee
- Bohemian Waxwing

A total of 1,055,147 individual birds have been counted on the Edmonton CBC since 1906.

Which Species has been most often?

- Bohemian Waxwing – 341,956


The number of species on the Edmonton CBC
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
1906
1945
1960
1970
1980
1990
2000
2010

How Many Species have been Recorded on the Edmonton CBC?

- 93
- 107
- 119
- 123

How Many Species have been Recorded on the Edmonton CBC?

- 119

How Many Species have been Recorded only once on the Edmonton CBC?

- 5
- 15
- 25
- 35

How Many Species have been Recorded only once on the Edmonton CBC?

- 25

One Species has been seen on all 65 counts ??

Which Is it:

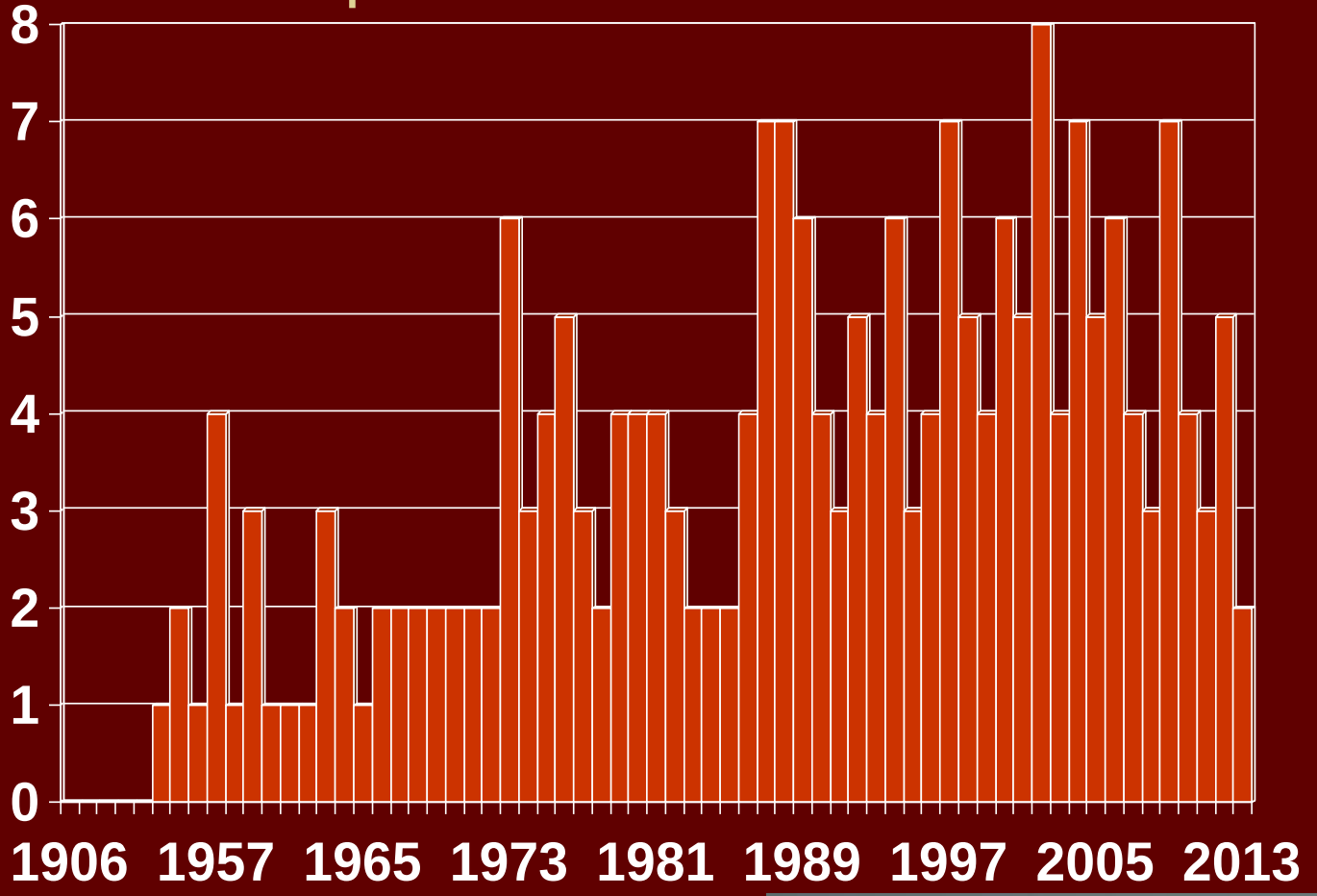
- House Sparrow
- Black-billed Magpie
- Black-capped Chickadee
- Downy Woodpecker

One Species has been seen on all 65 counts ??

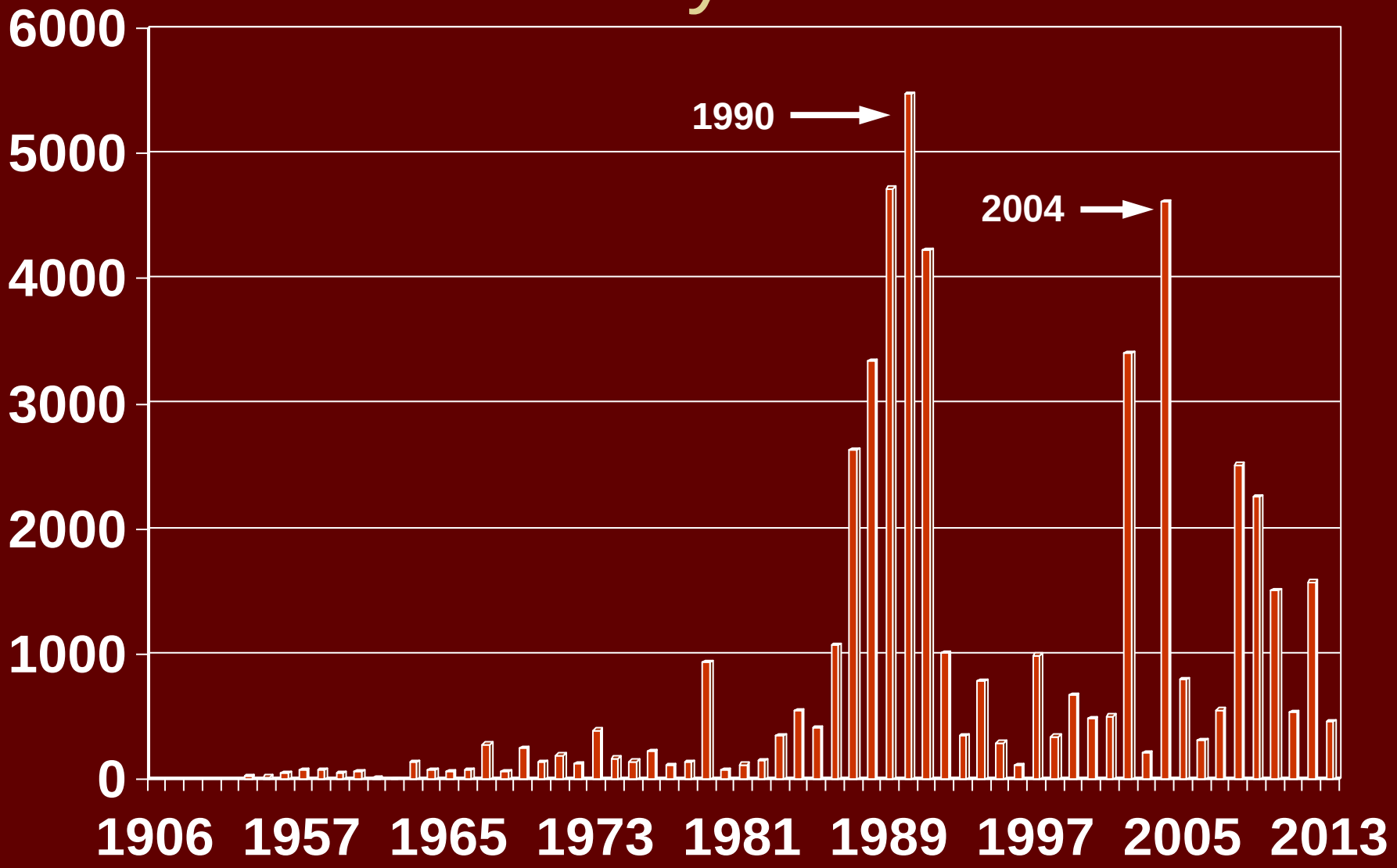
Which Is it:

- Black-capped Chickadee

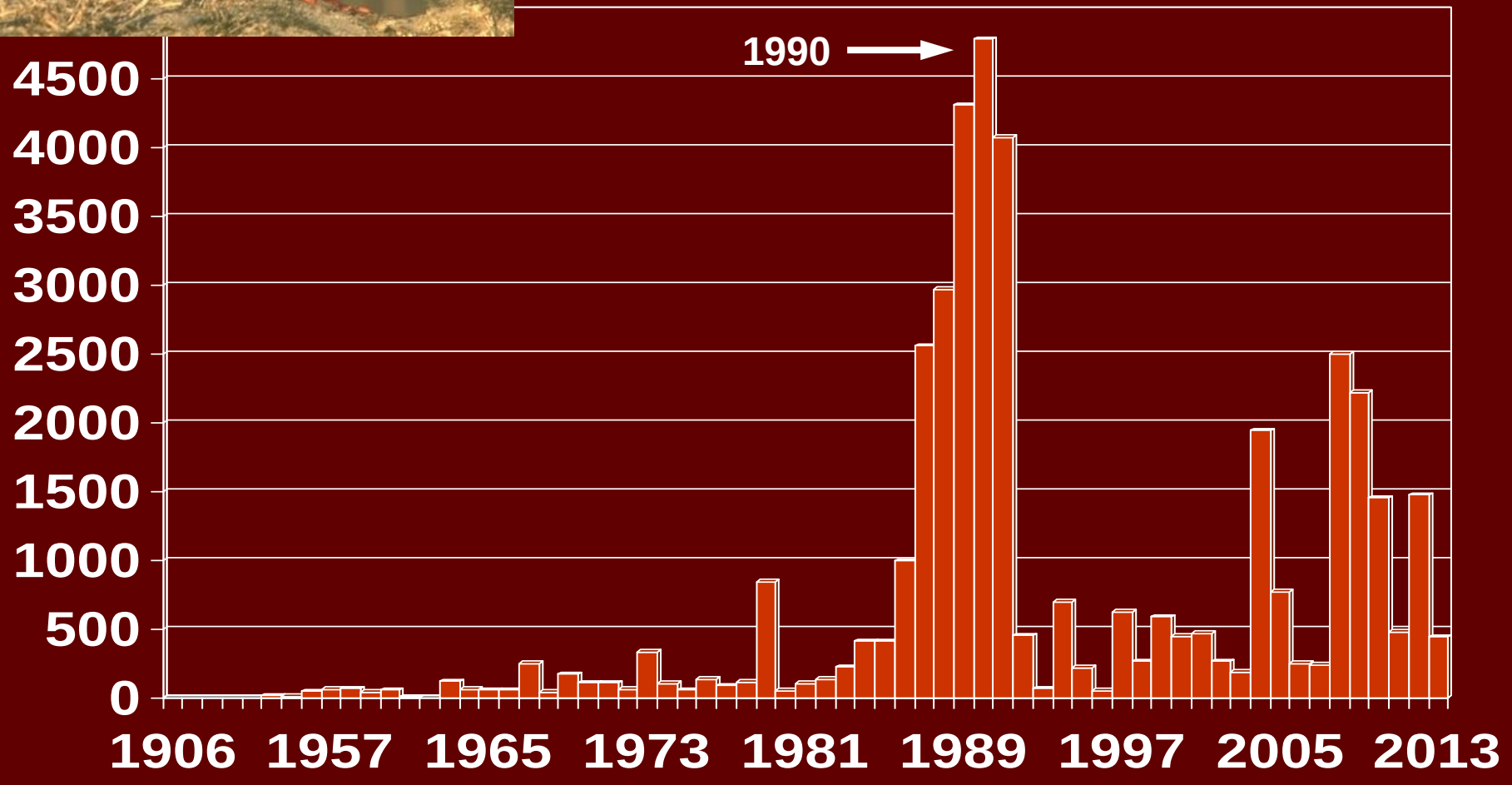
The number of species of waterfowl

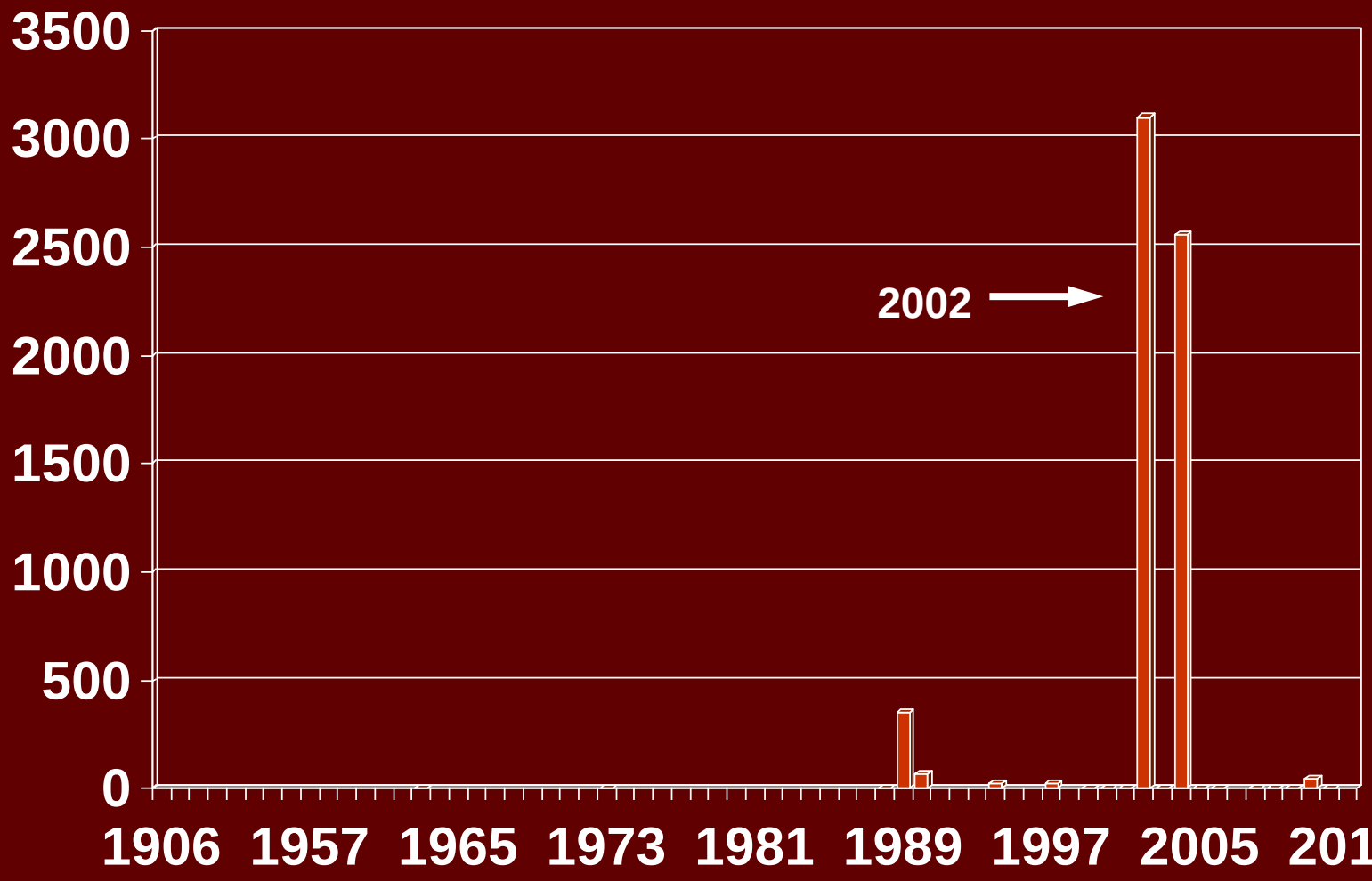


The number of individual ducks each year

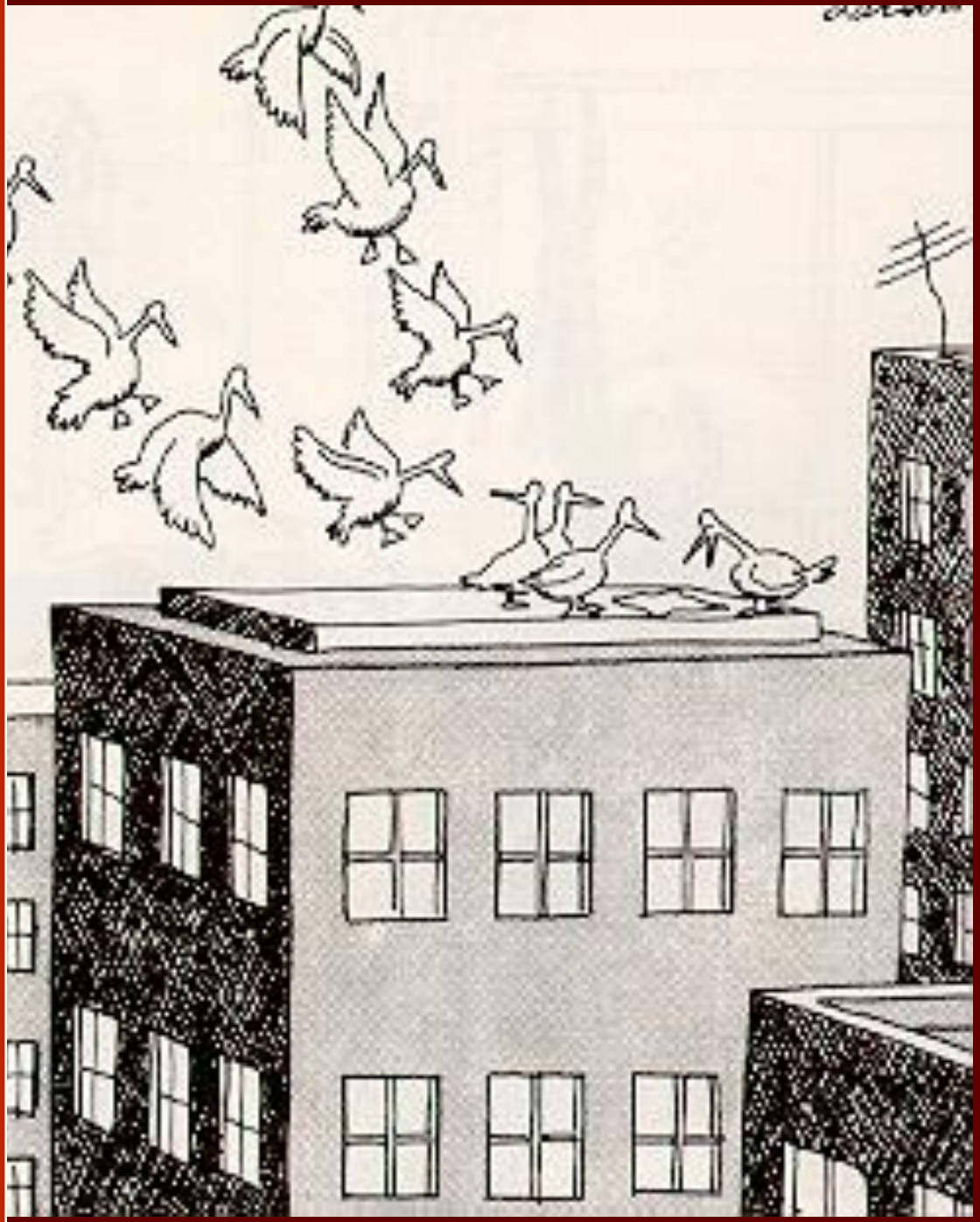


Mallard numbers rose, peaked then dropped





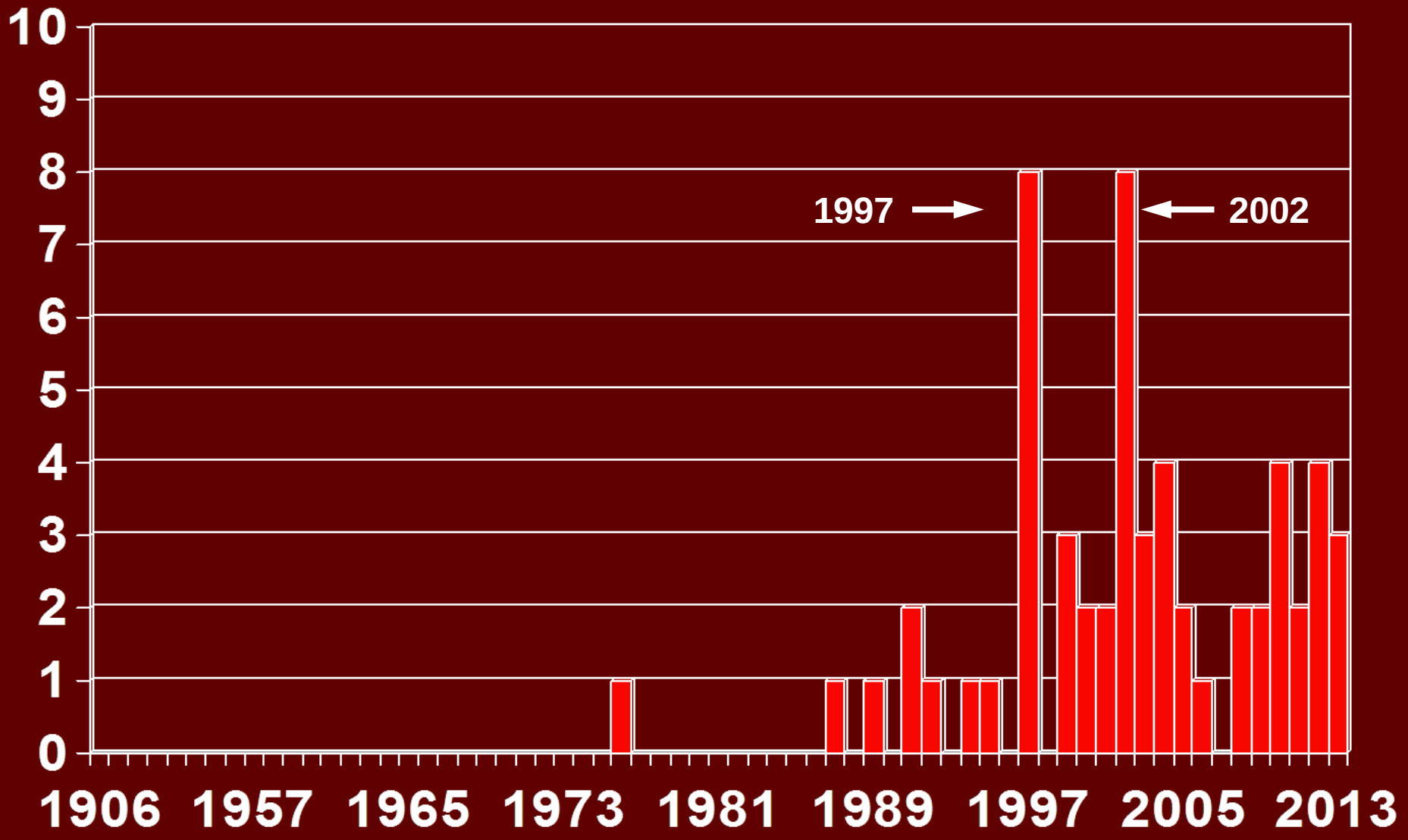
Canada Geese



“For crying out loud!…. We were supposed to turn south after that last mountain range”

Gary Larson

Bald Eagles


10
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8
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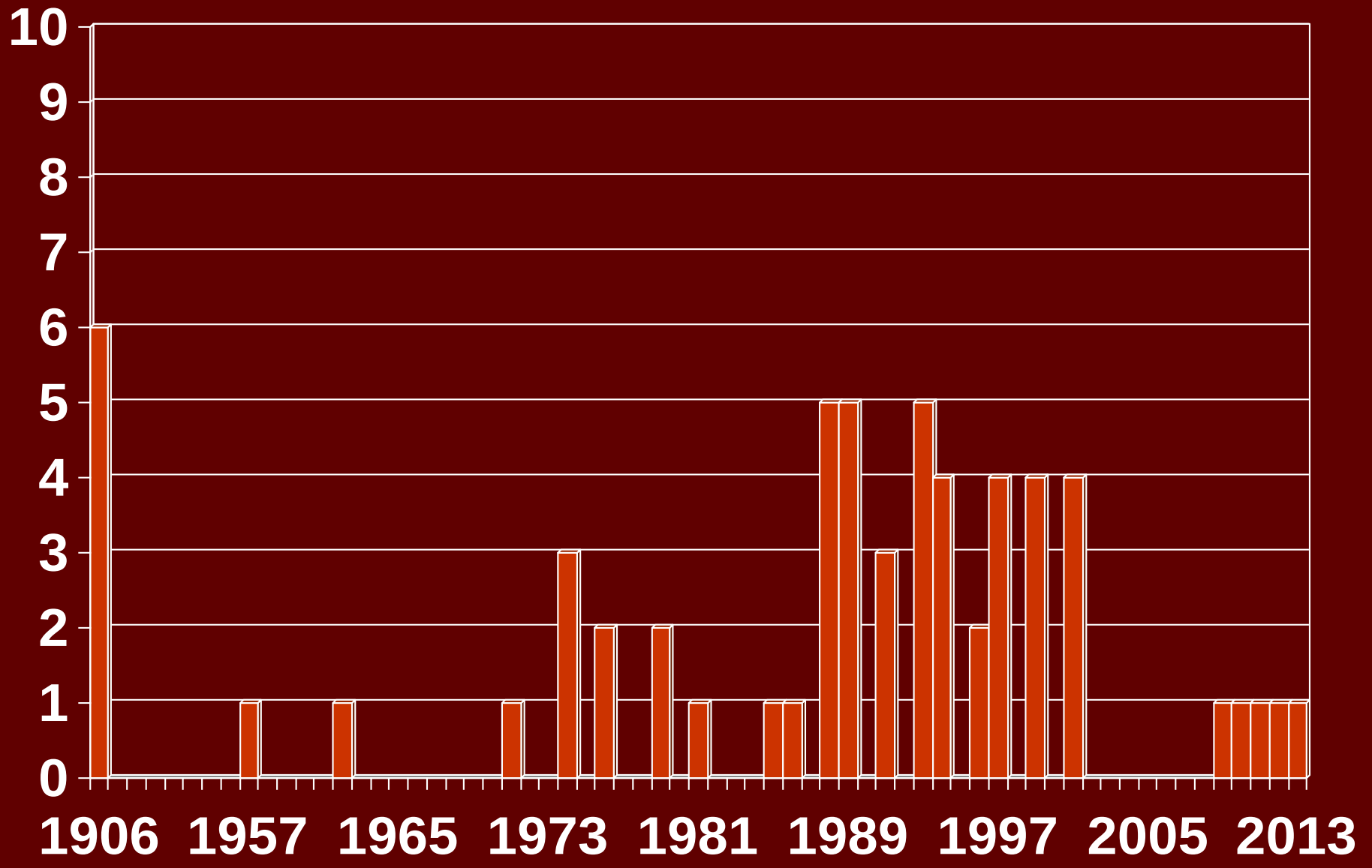
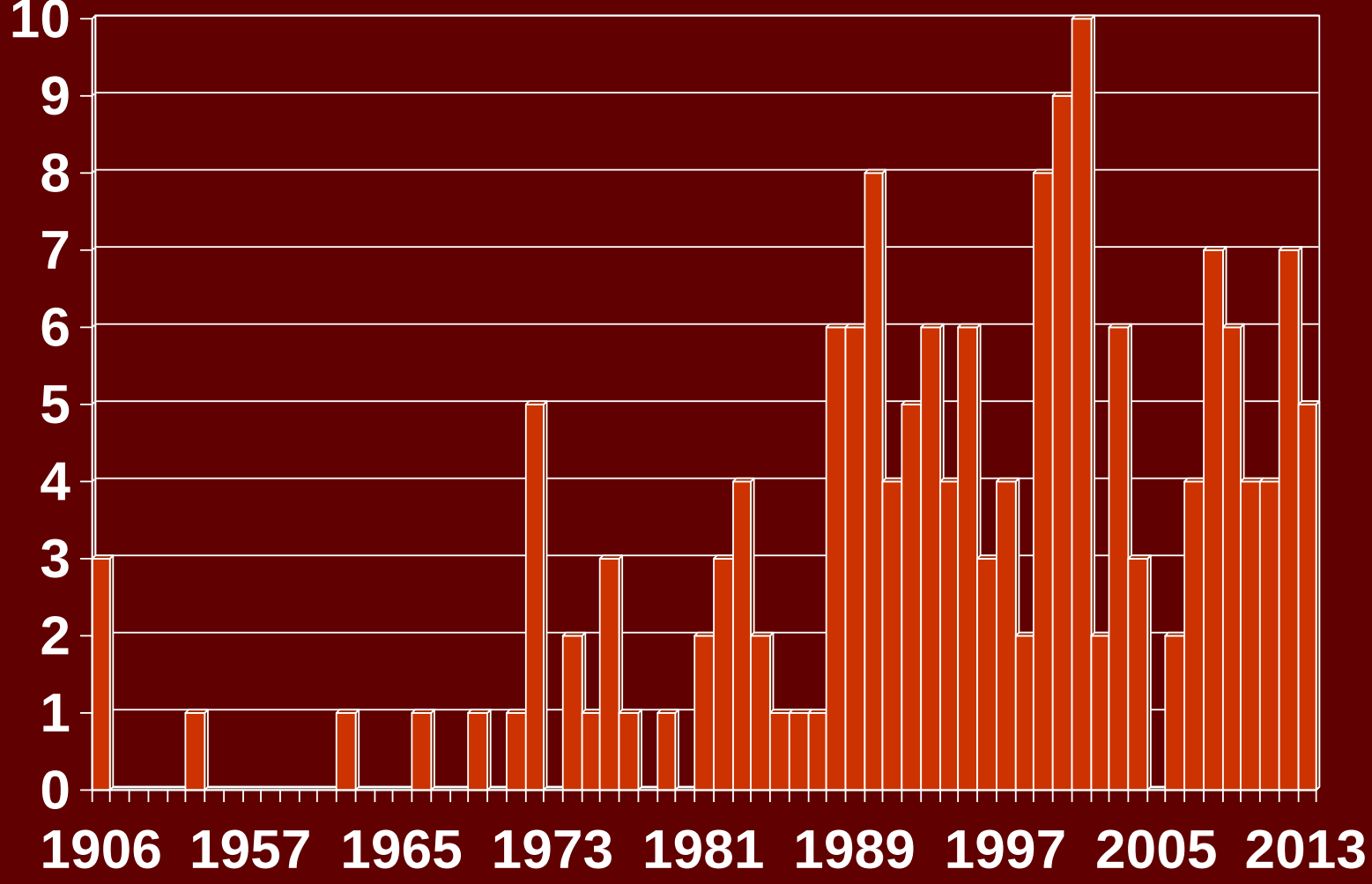
1997
2002
1906
1957
1965
1973
1981
1989
1997
2005
2013

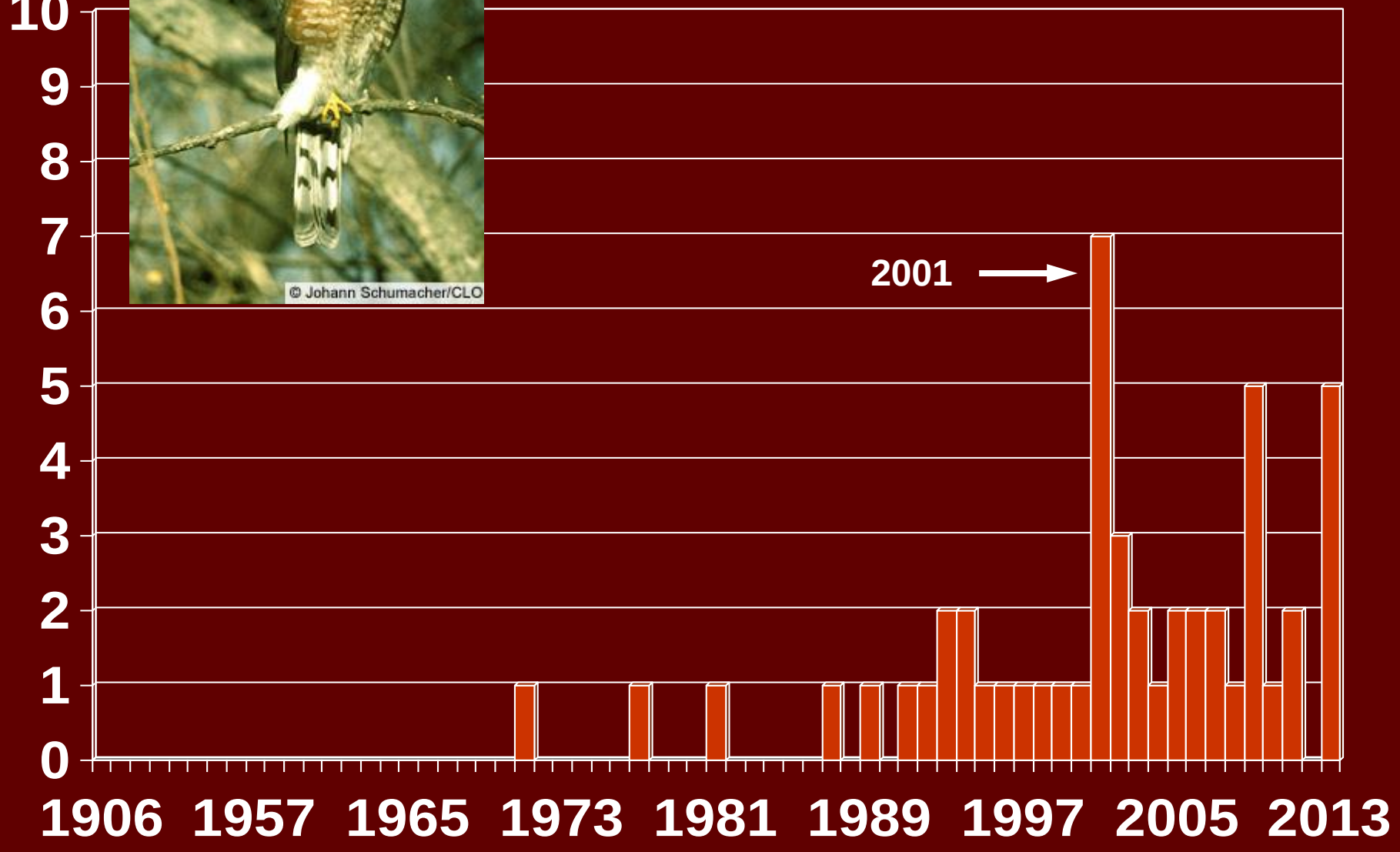
Rough-legged Hawk



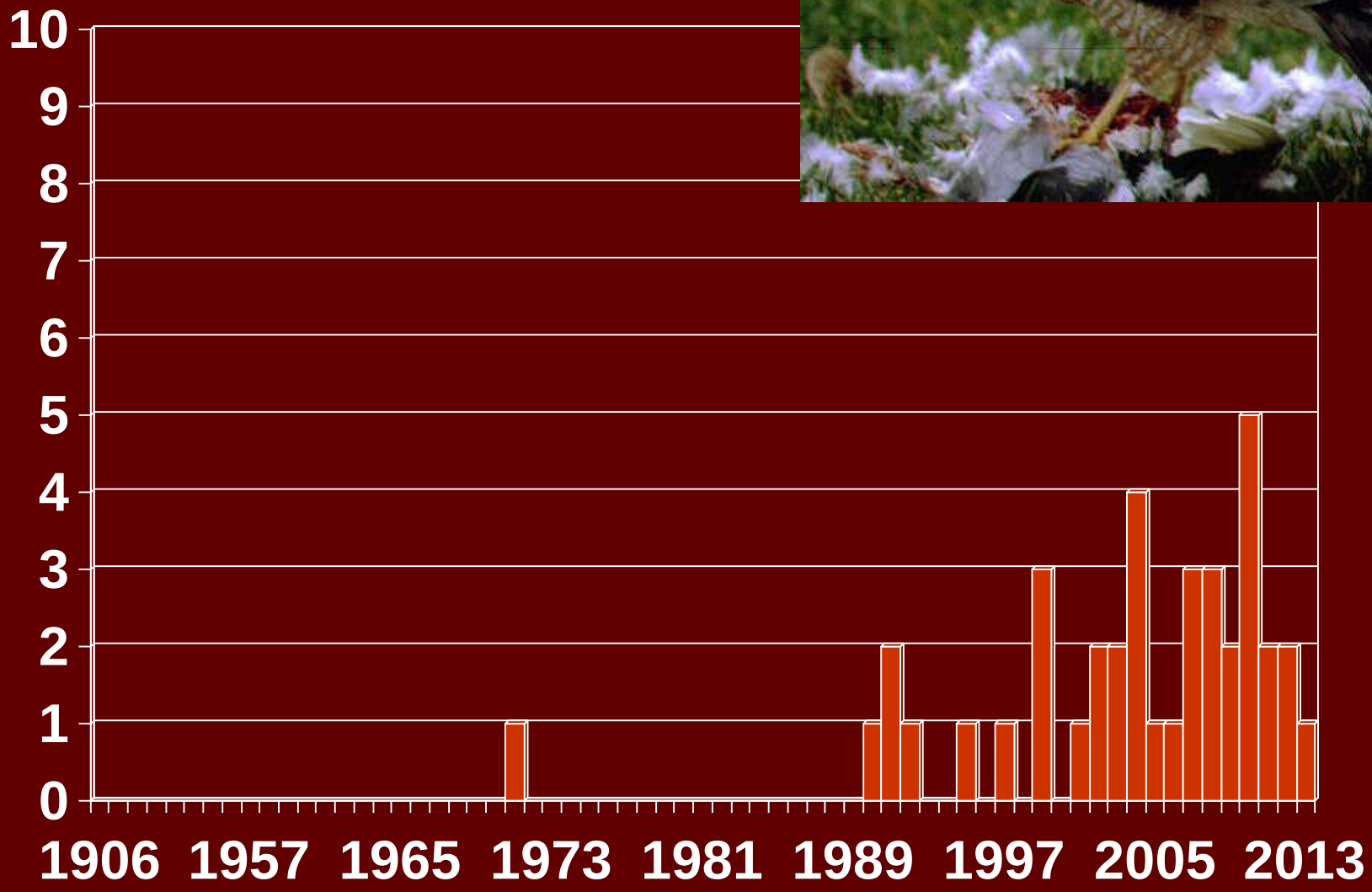
Northern Goshawk



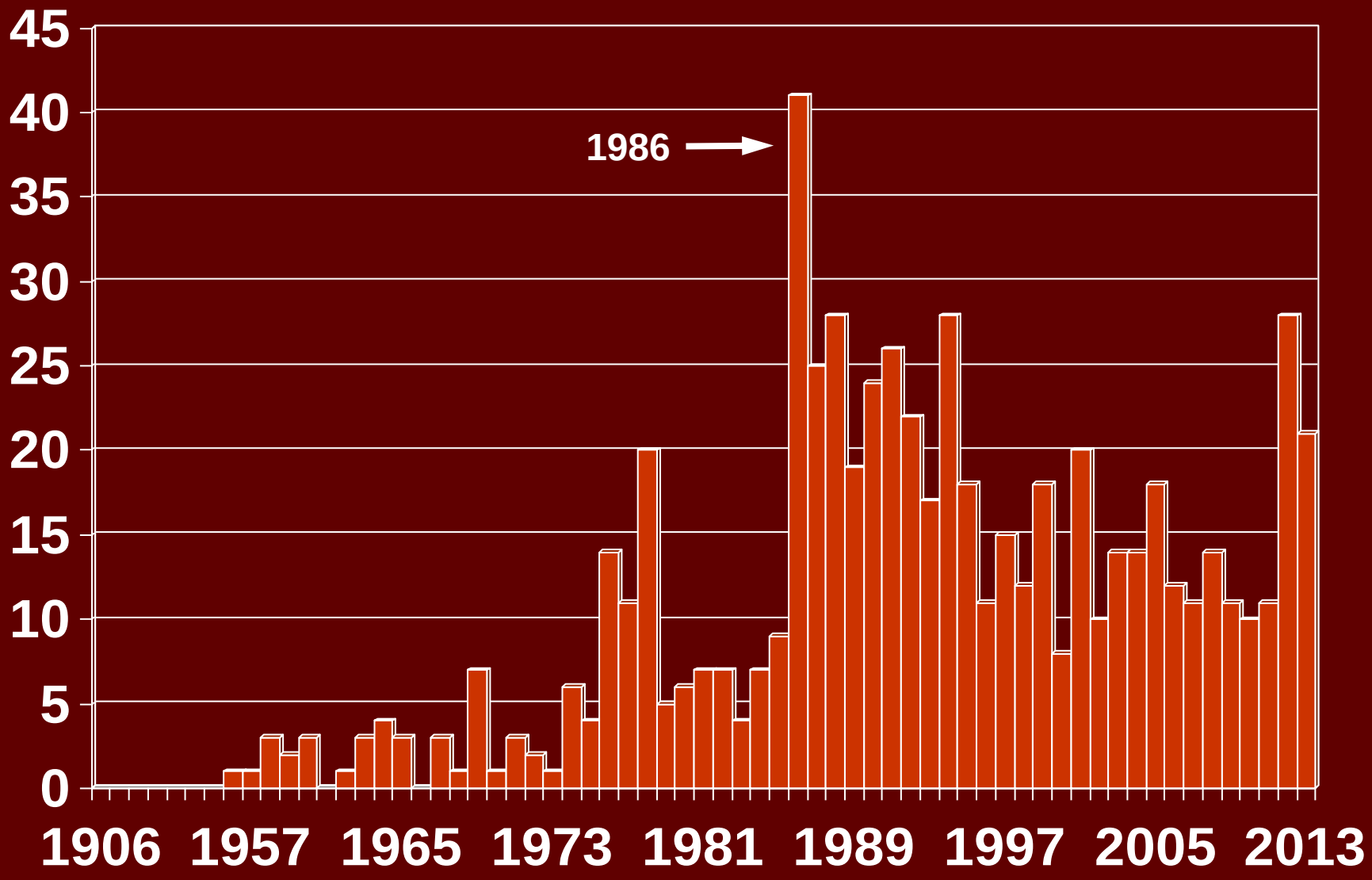
Sharp-shinned Hawk



Cooper's Hawk



Merlin


45
40
35
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1986
1906
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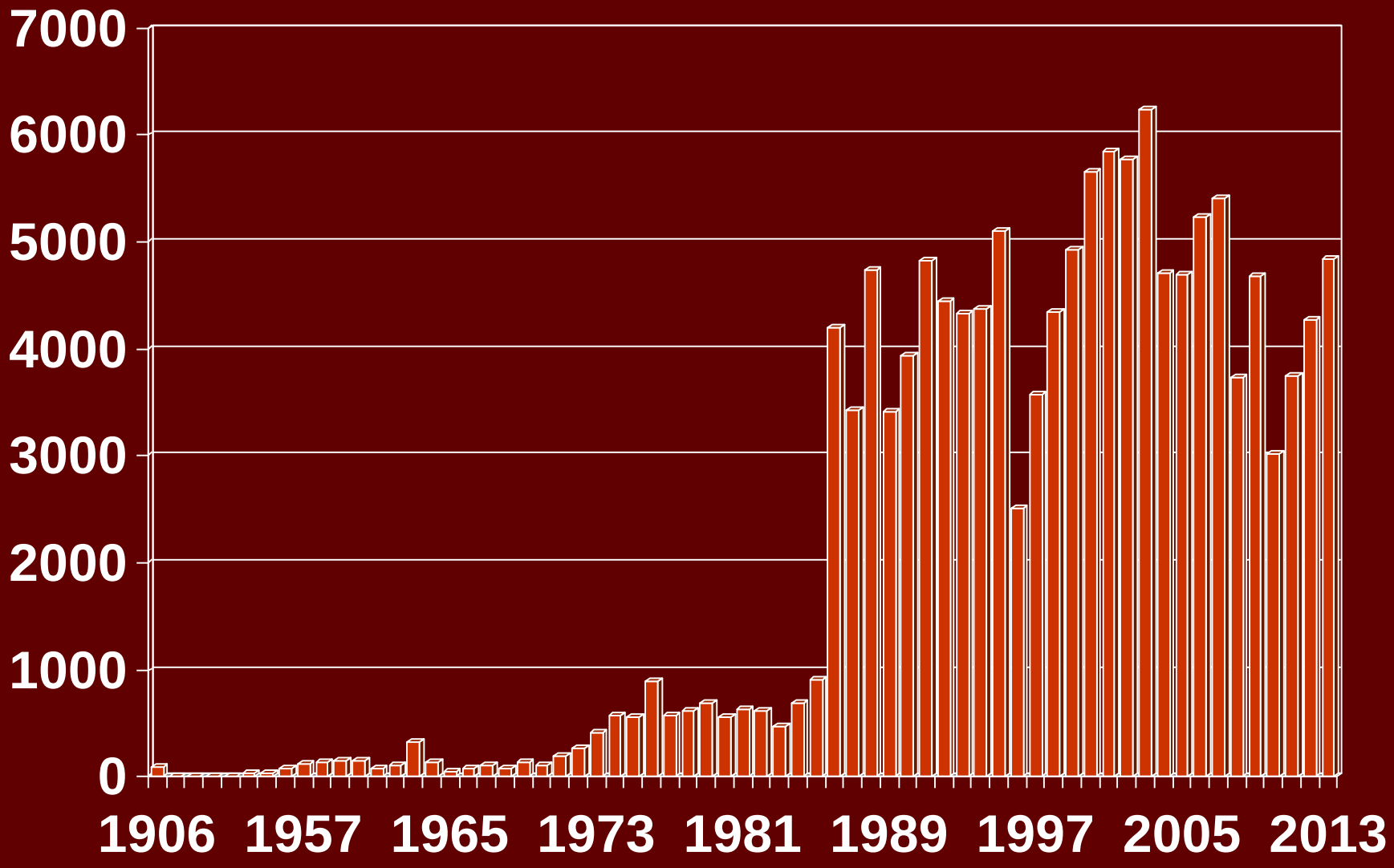
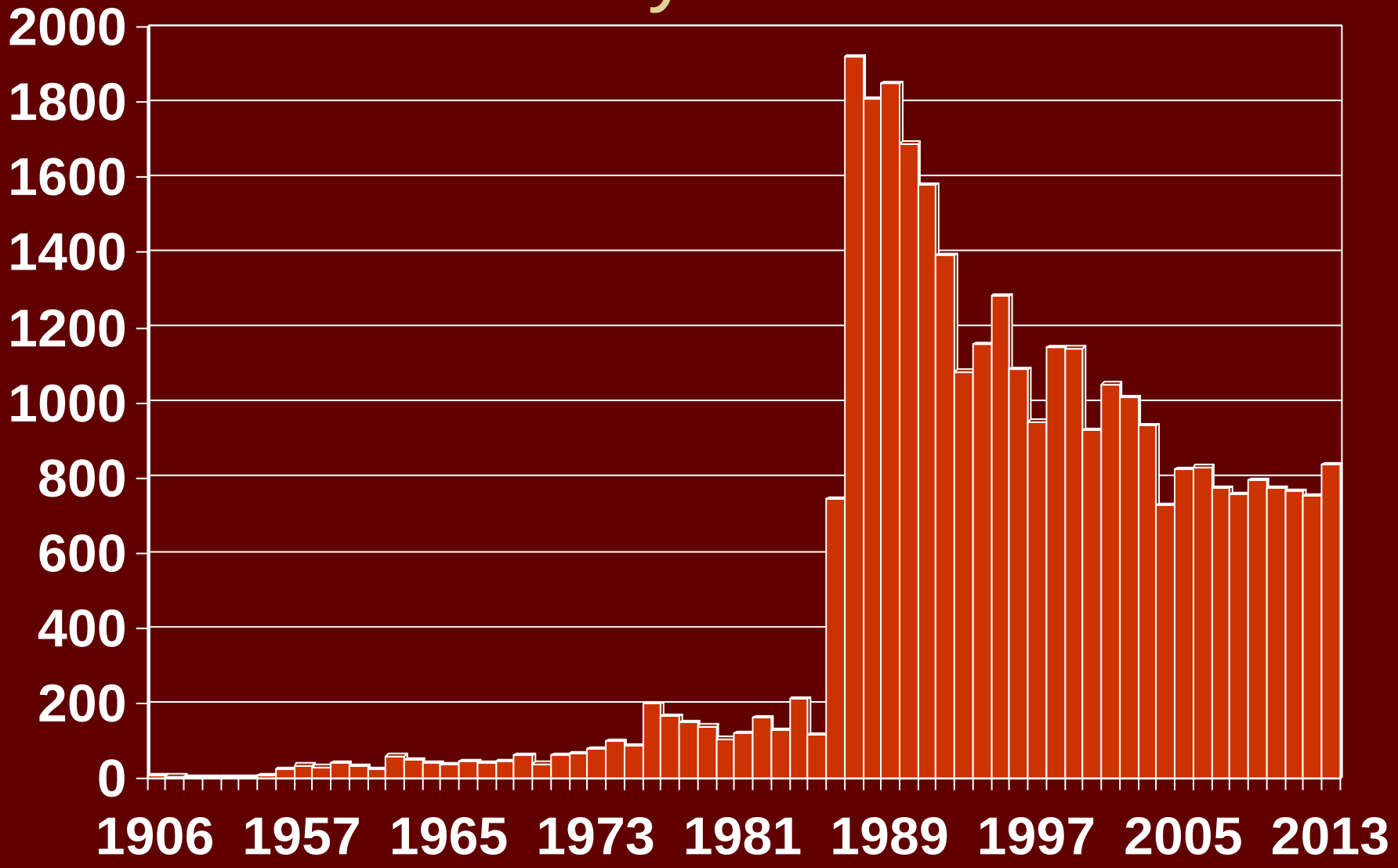
1965
1973
1981
1989
1997
2005
2013

Black-capped Chickadee



Effort on CBC
Number of Party+Feeder Hours



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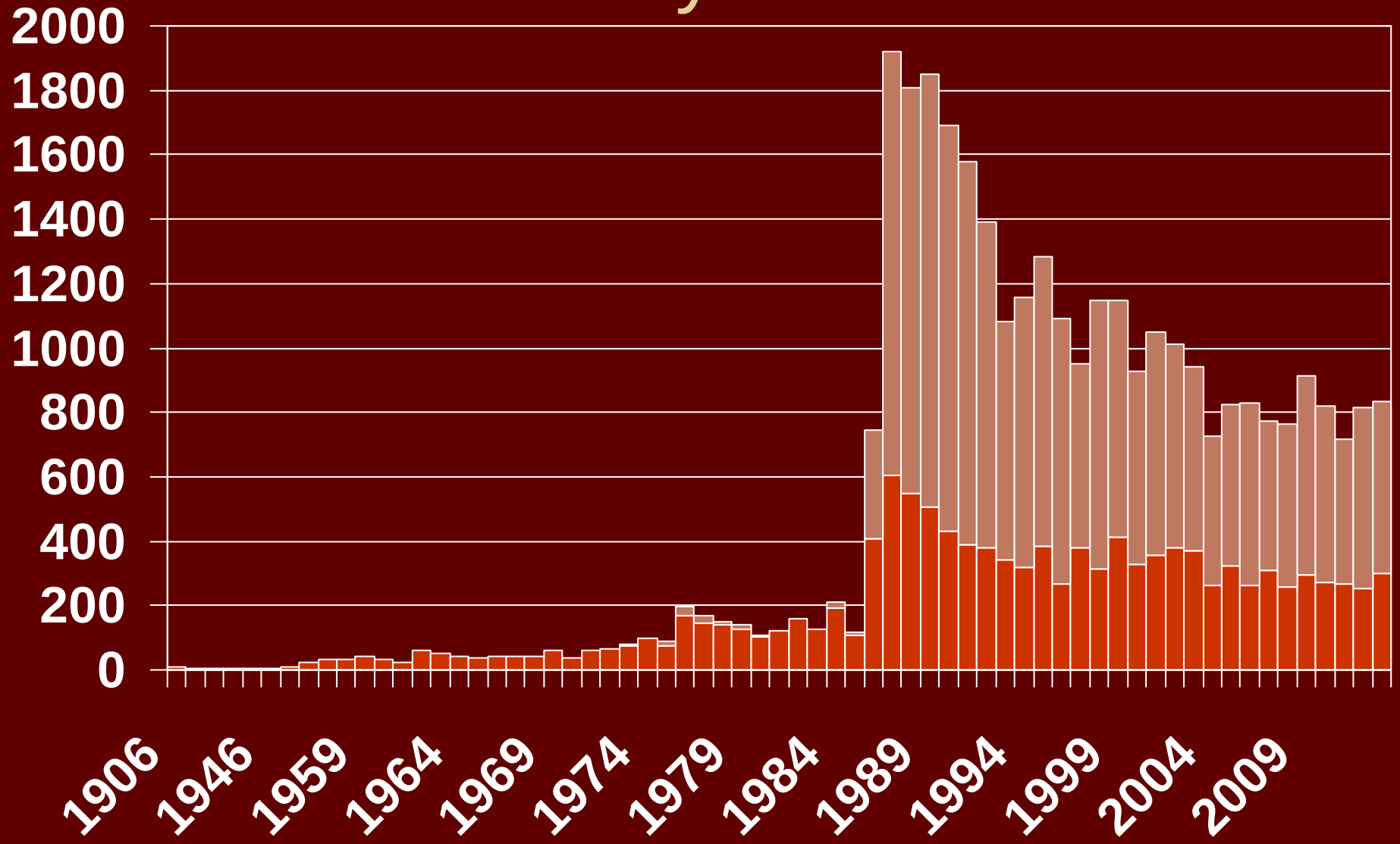
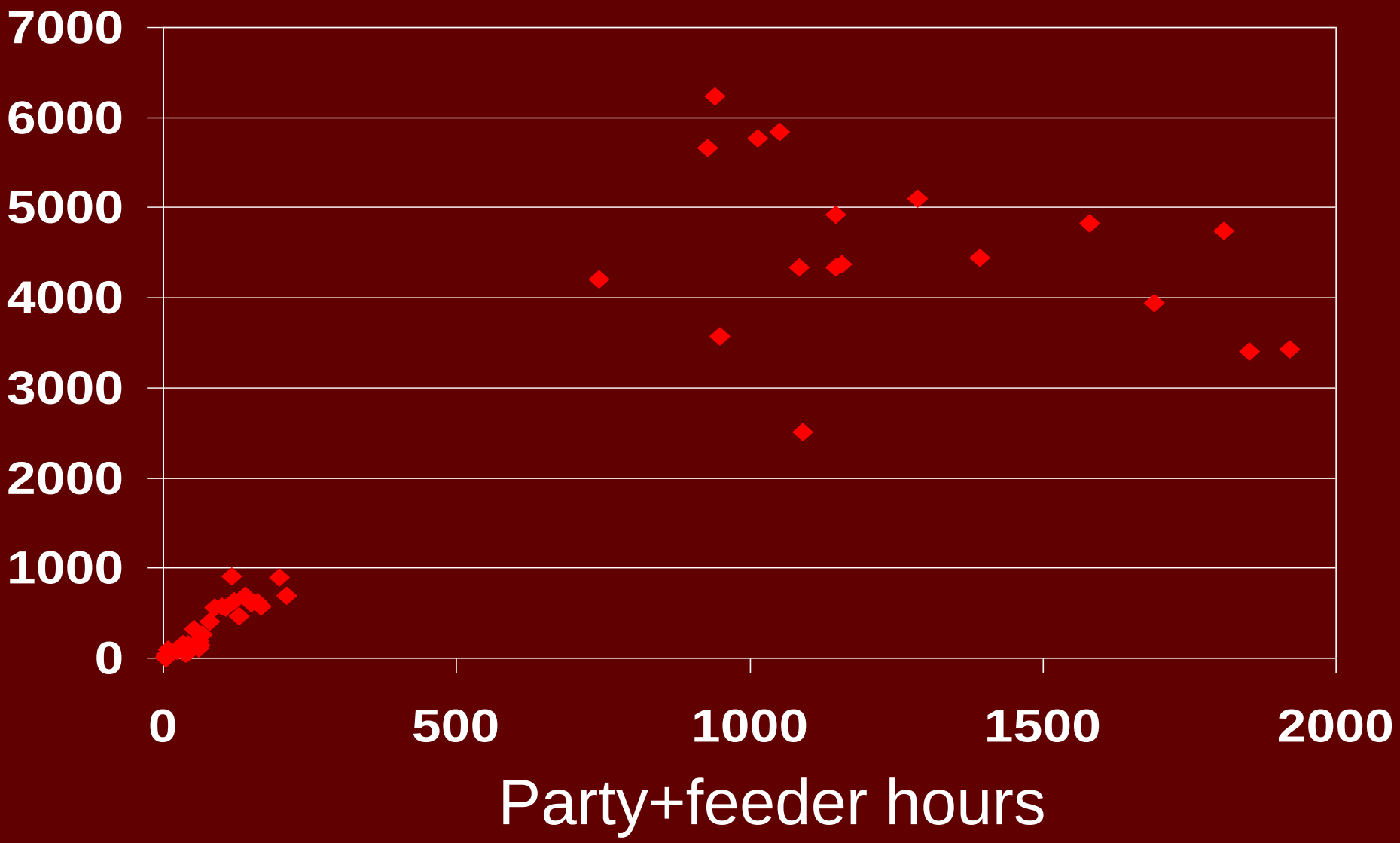
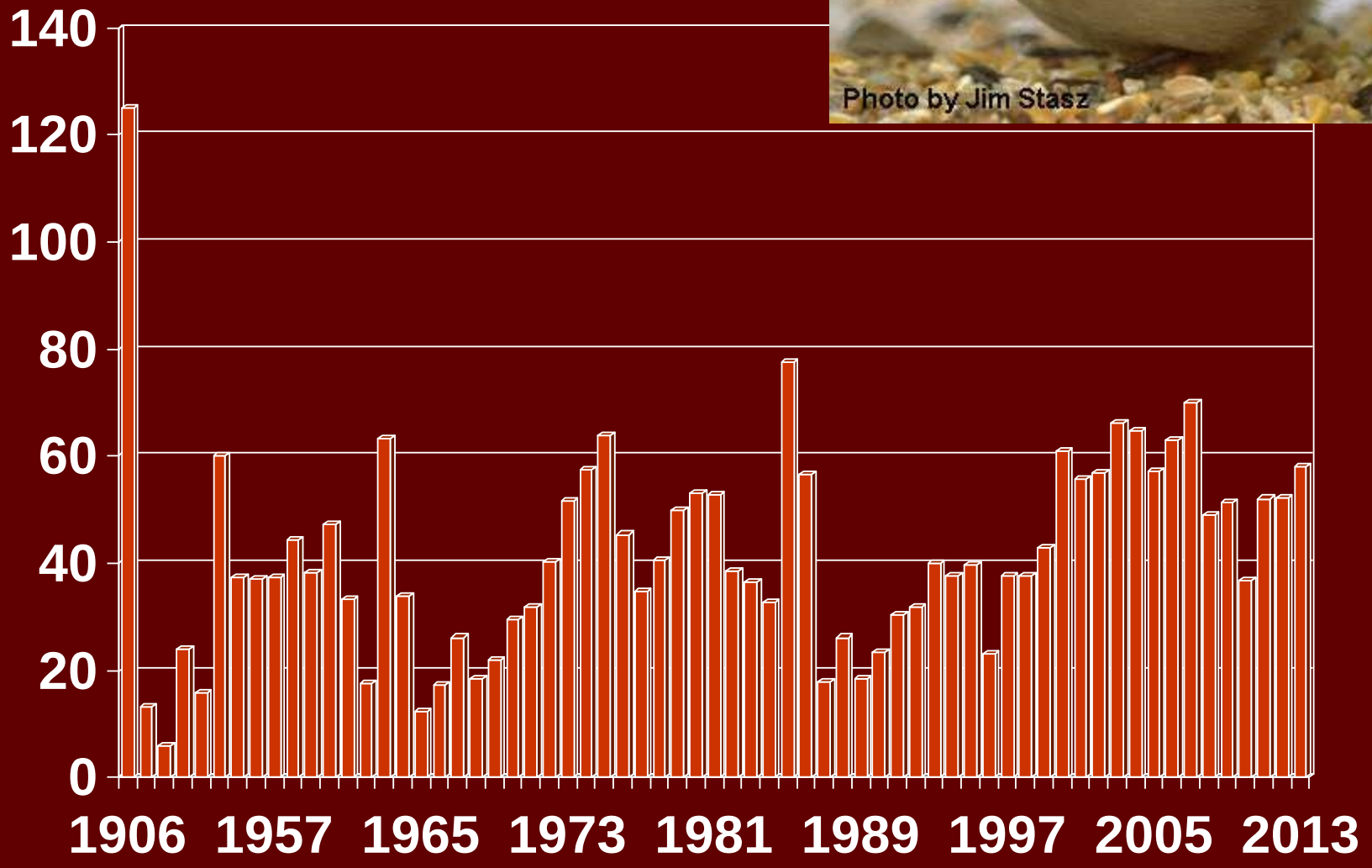


Number of Black-capped Chickadees versus field party+feeder hours

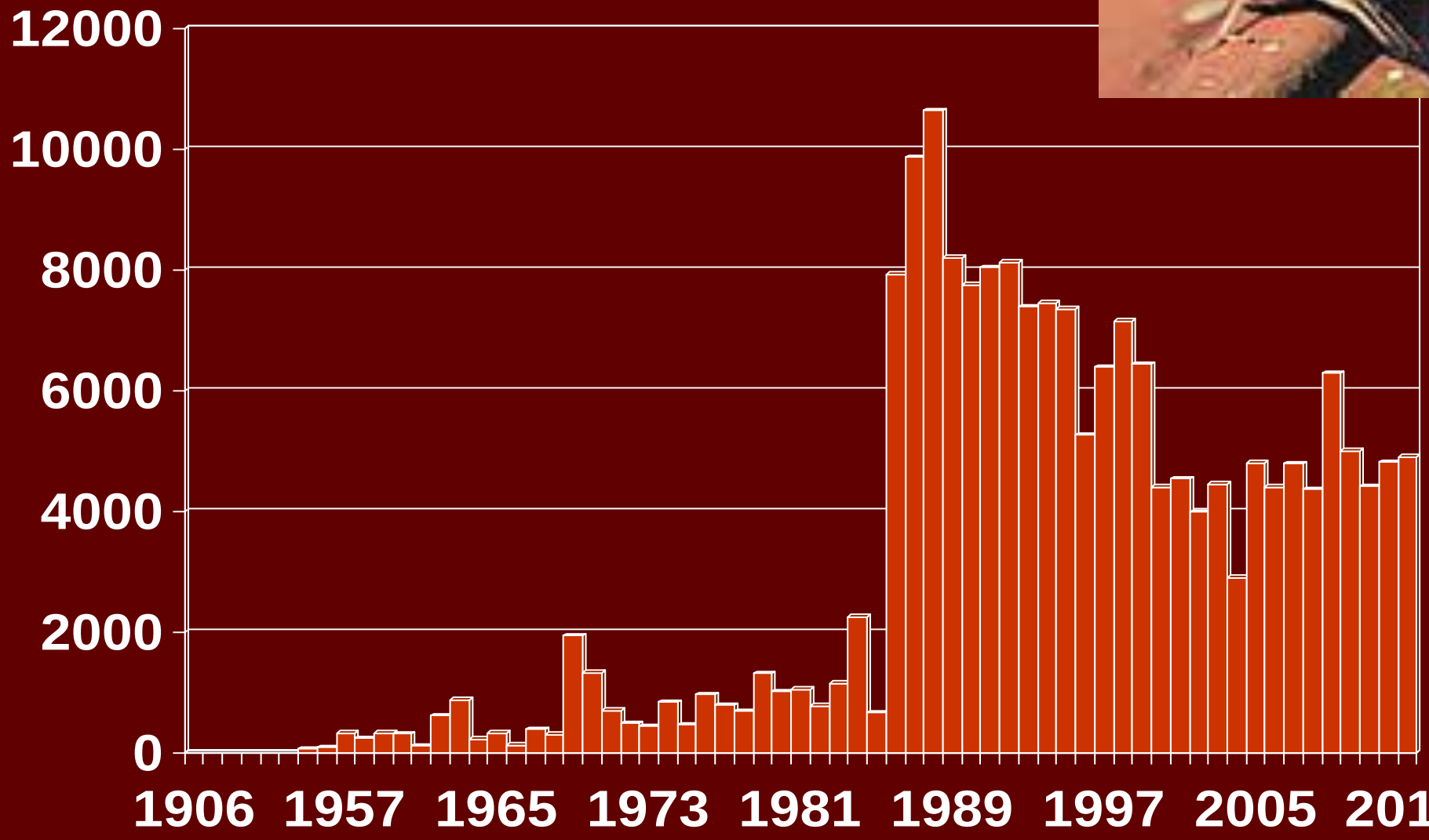


Black-capped Chickadees

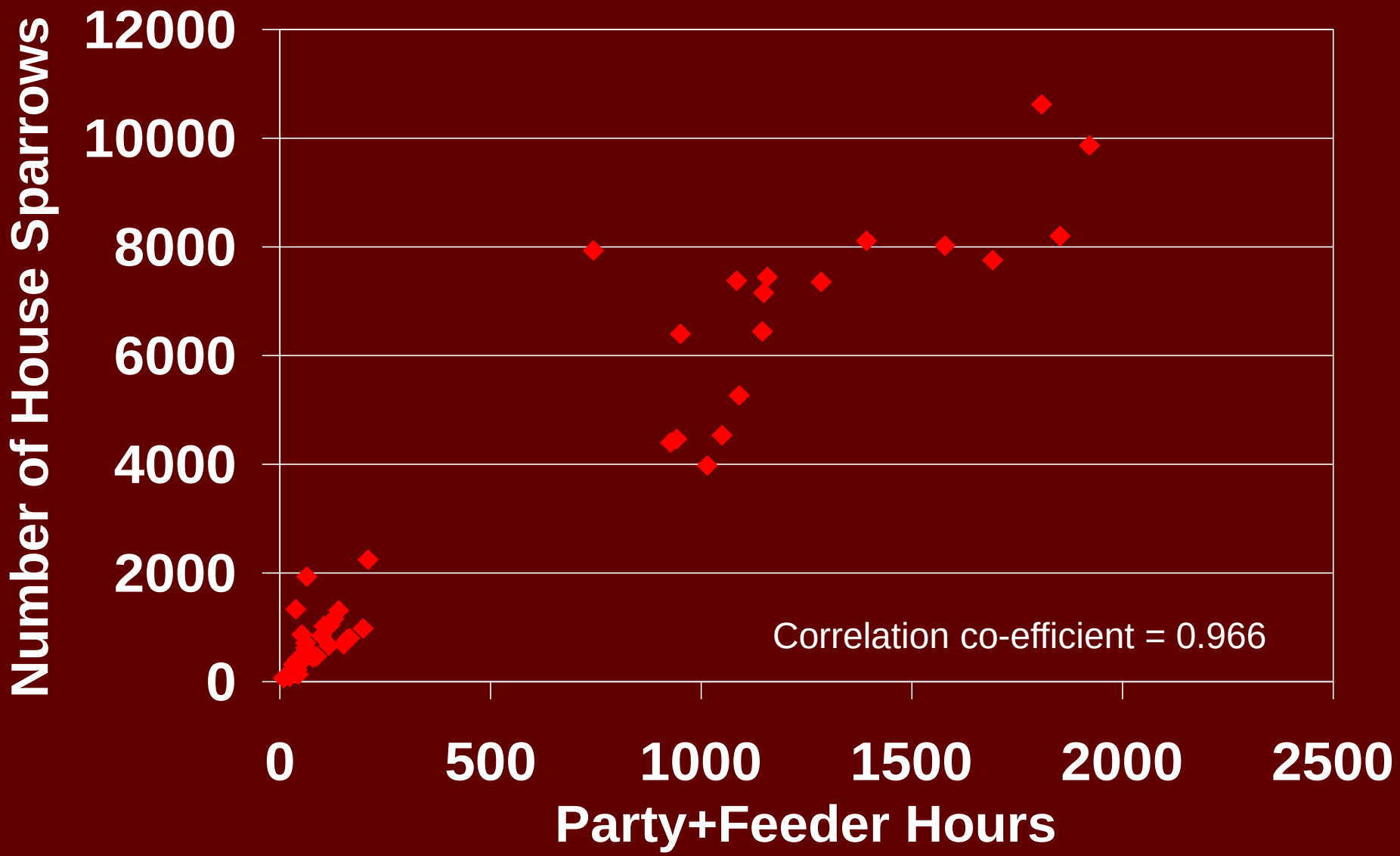
per 10 party+feeder hours



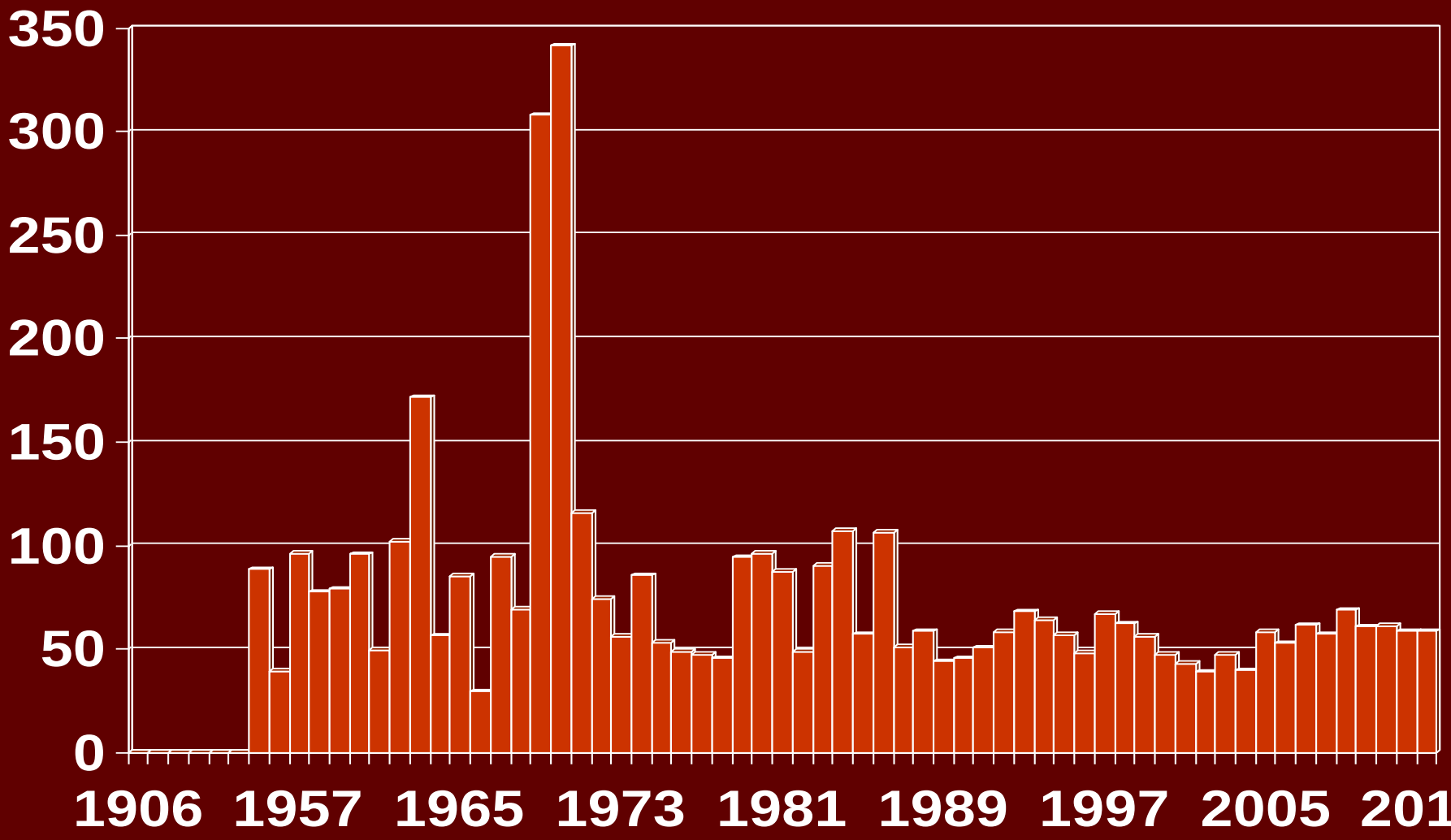
House Sparrow



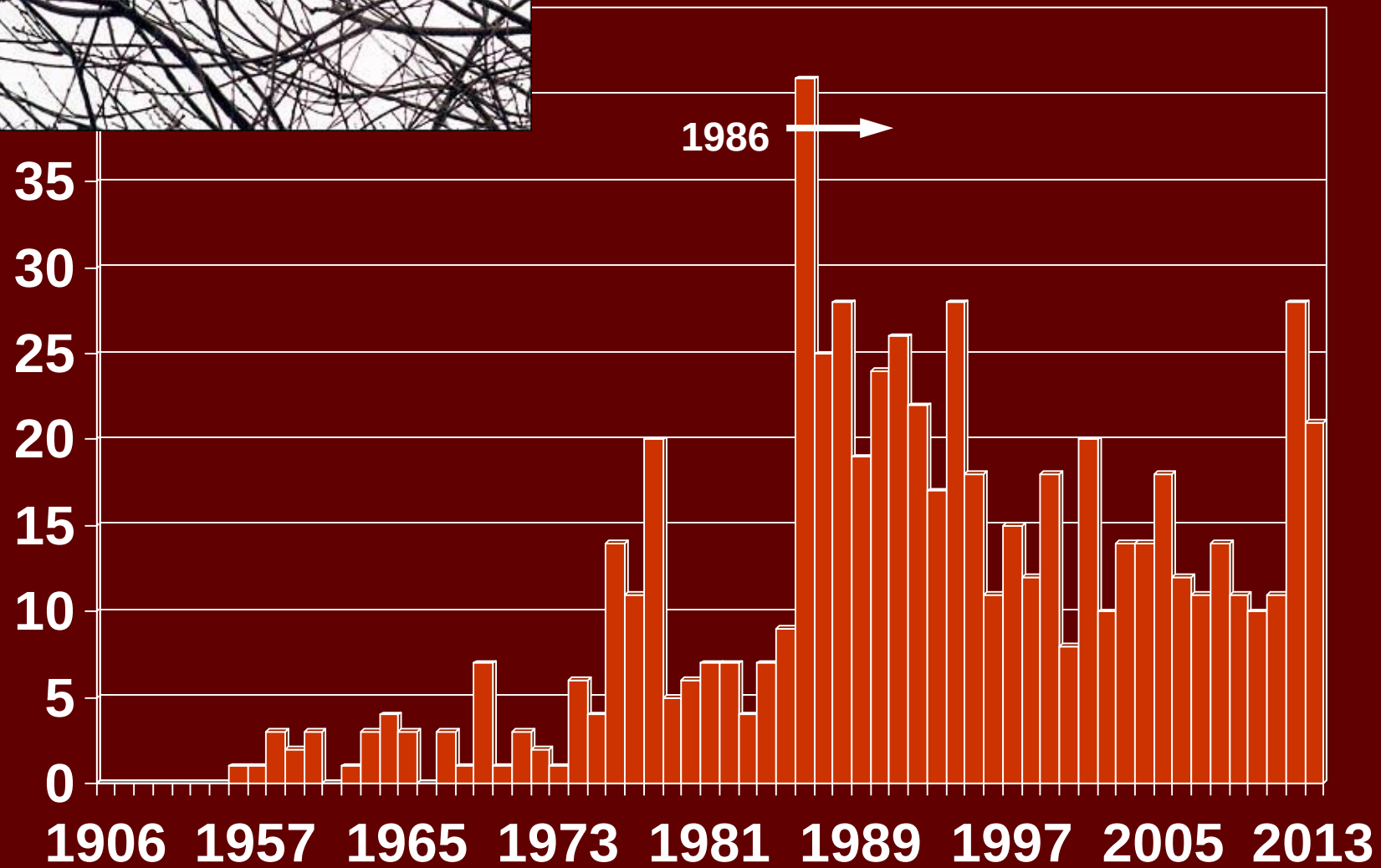
Number of House Sparrows versus Party+Feeder Hours



House Sparrow per 10 field+feeder hours



Merlin


1986
35
30
25
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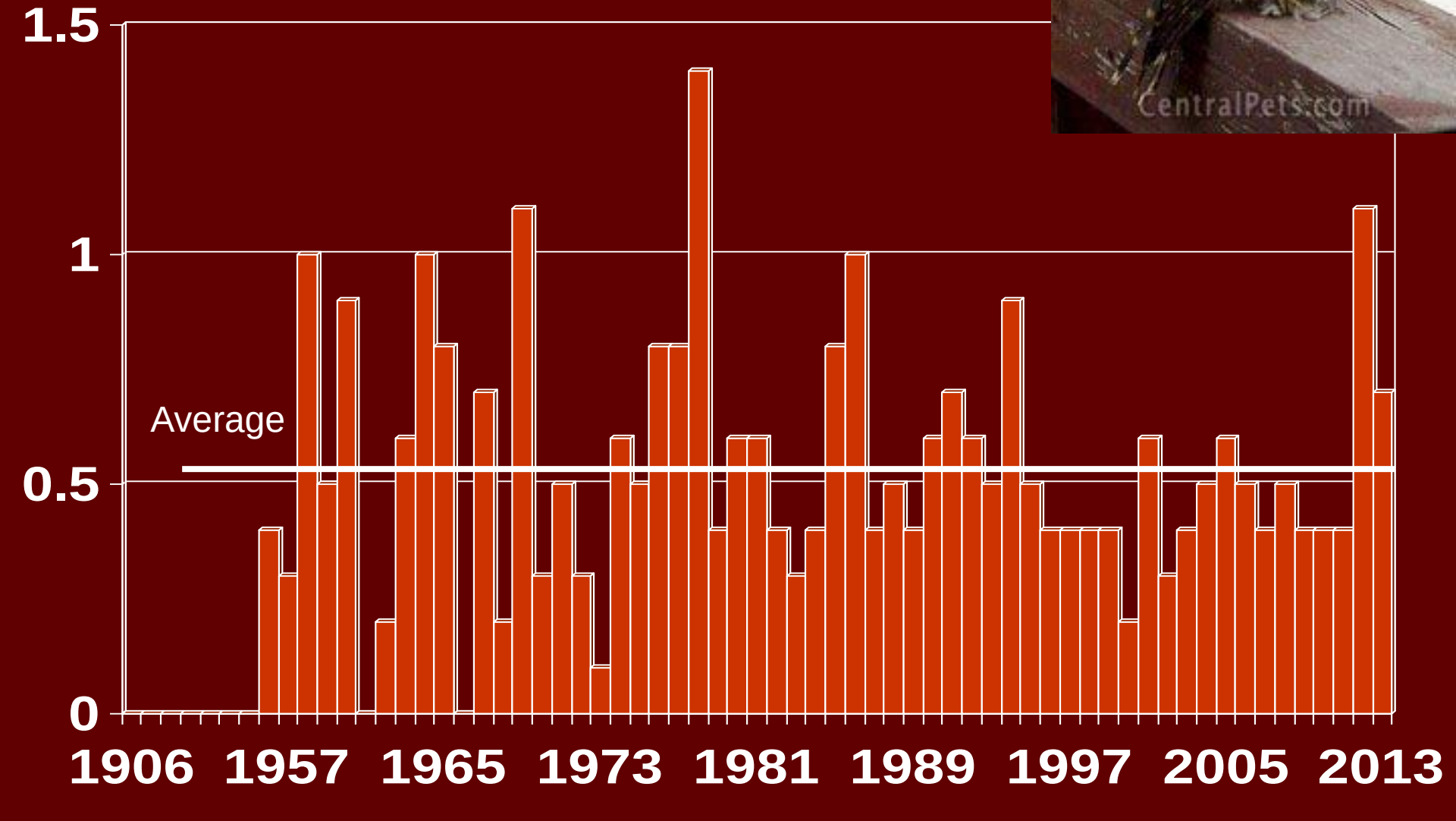
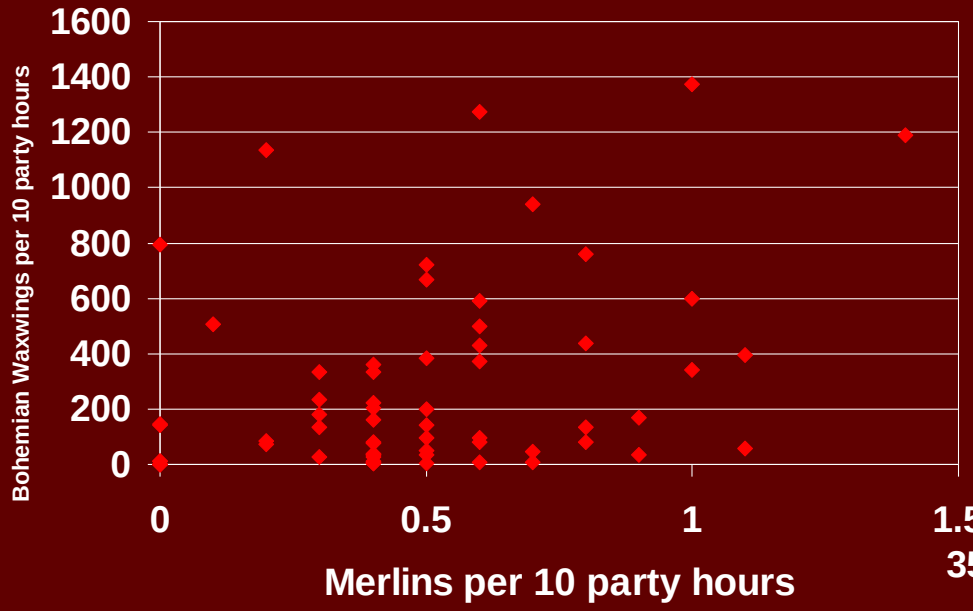
1906
1957
1965
1973
1981
1989
1997
2005
2013

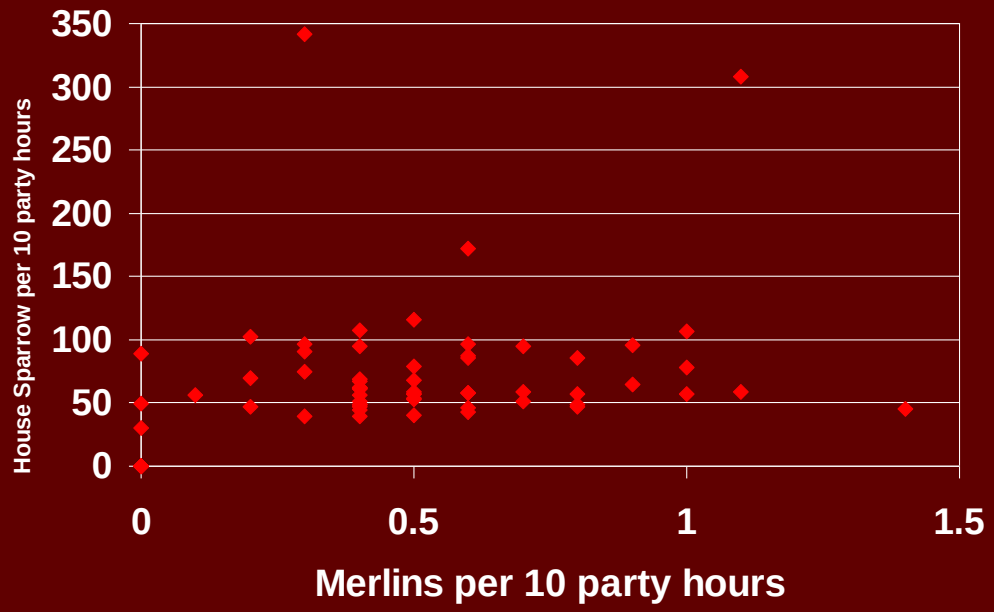
Merlin per 10 party hours



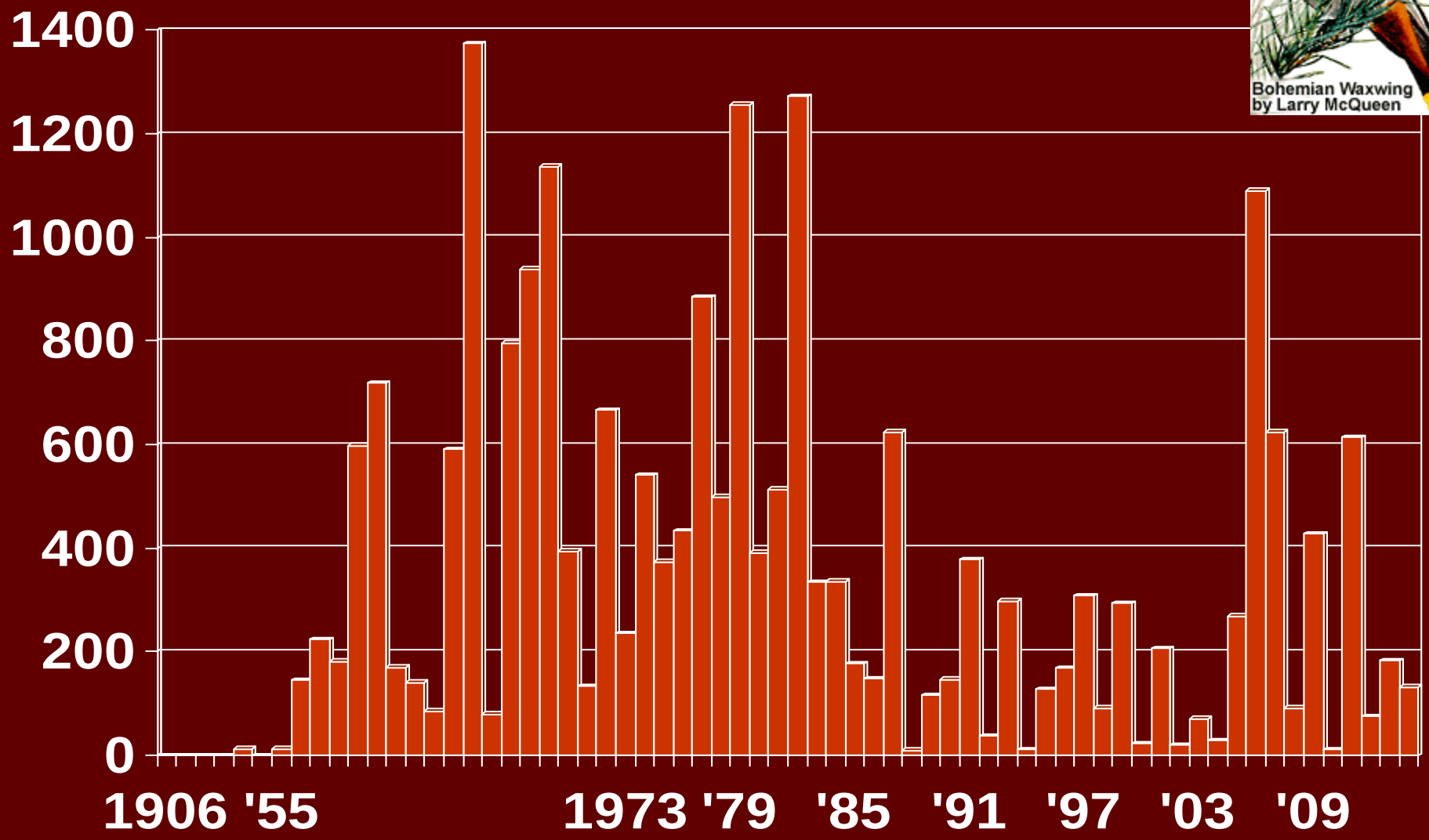
Merlins versus Bohemian Waxwing per 10 party hours



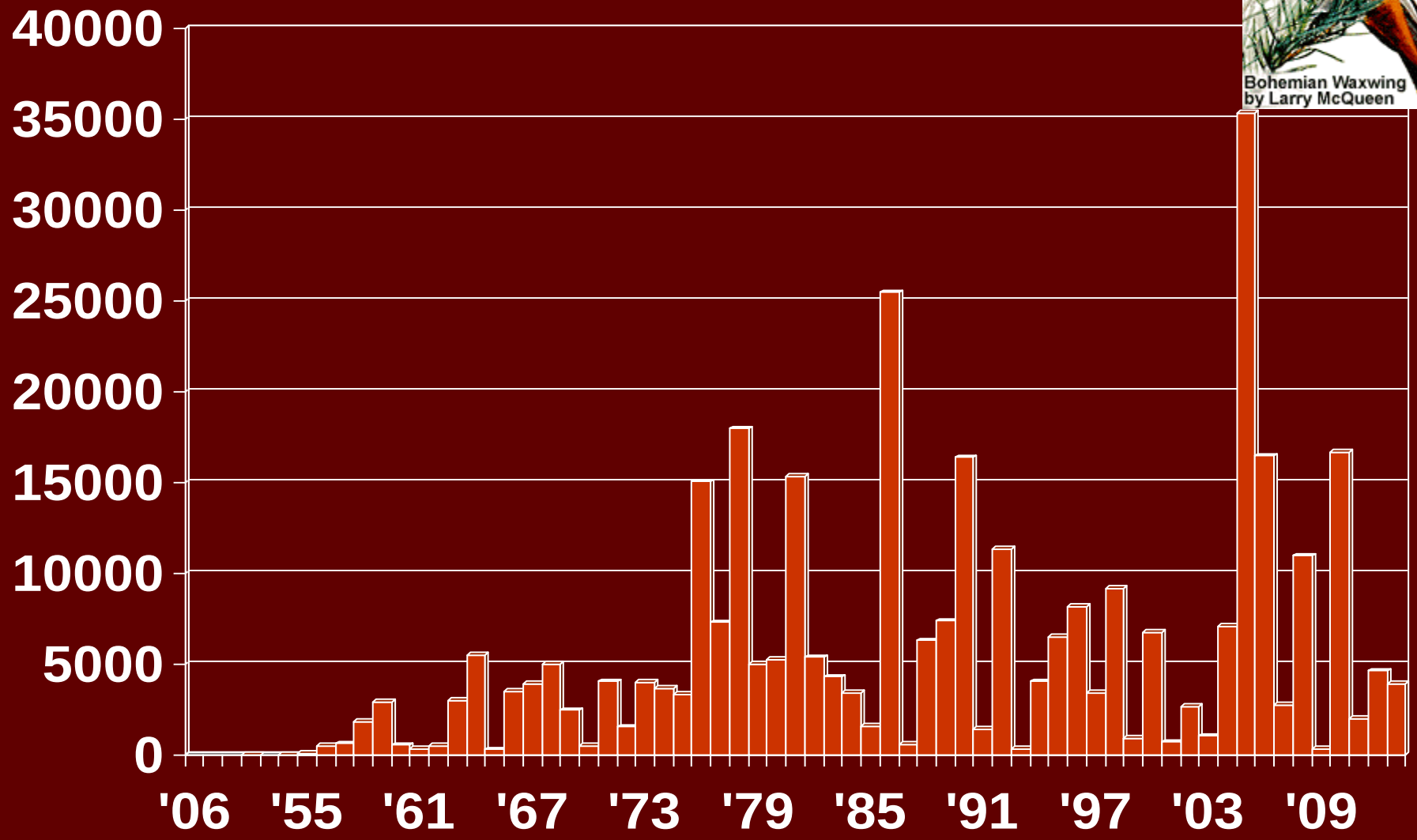
Merlins versus House Sparrows per 10 party hours



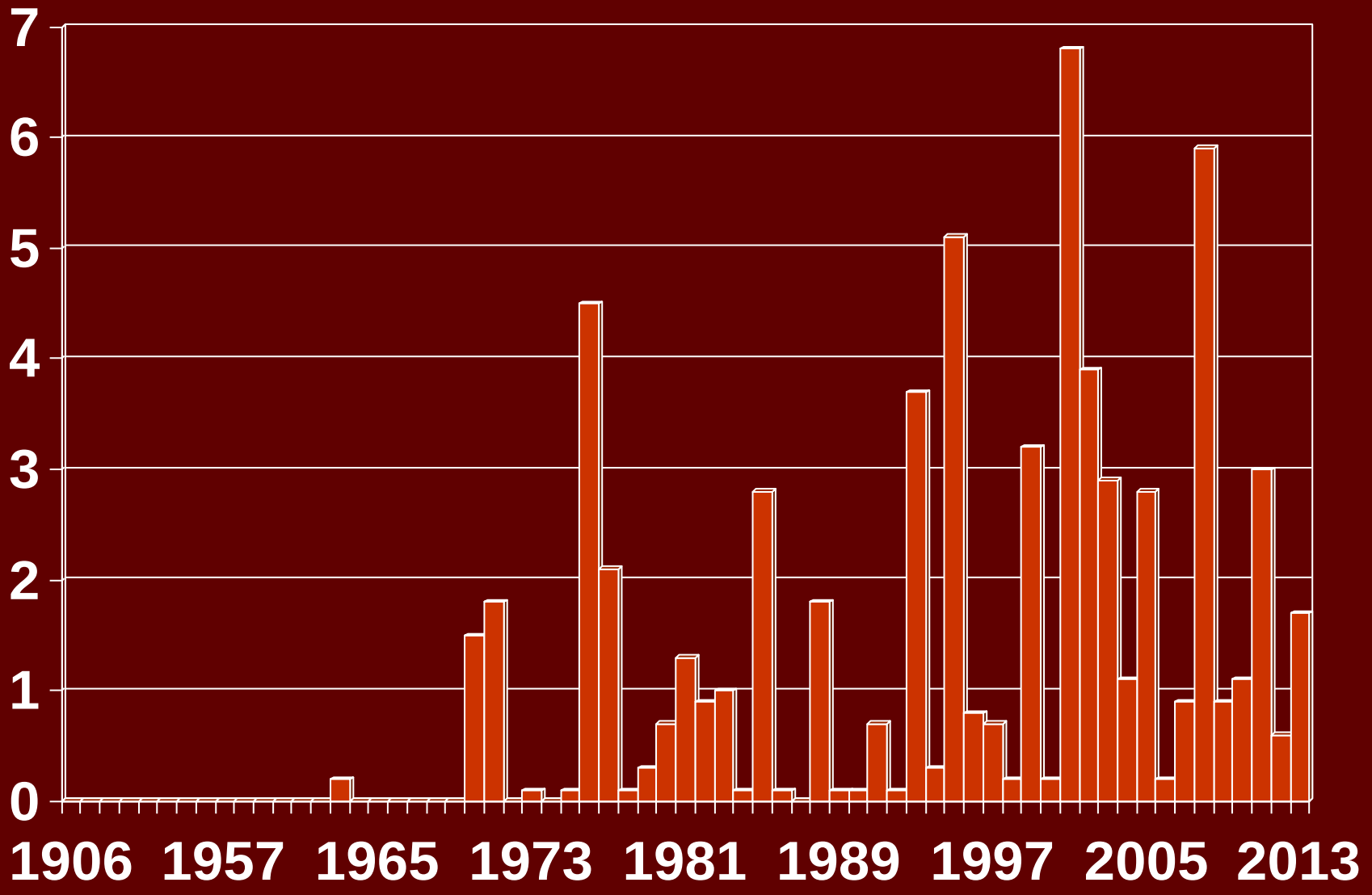
Bohemian Waxwing per 10 party hours



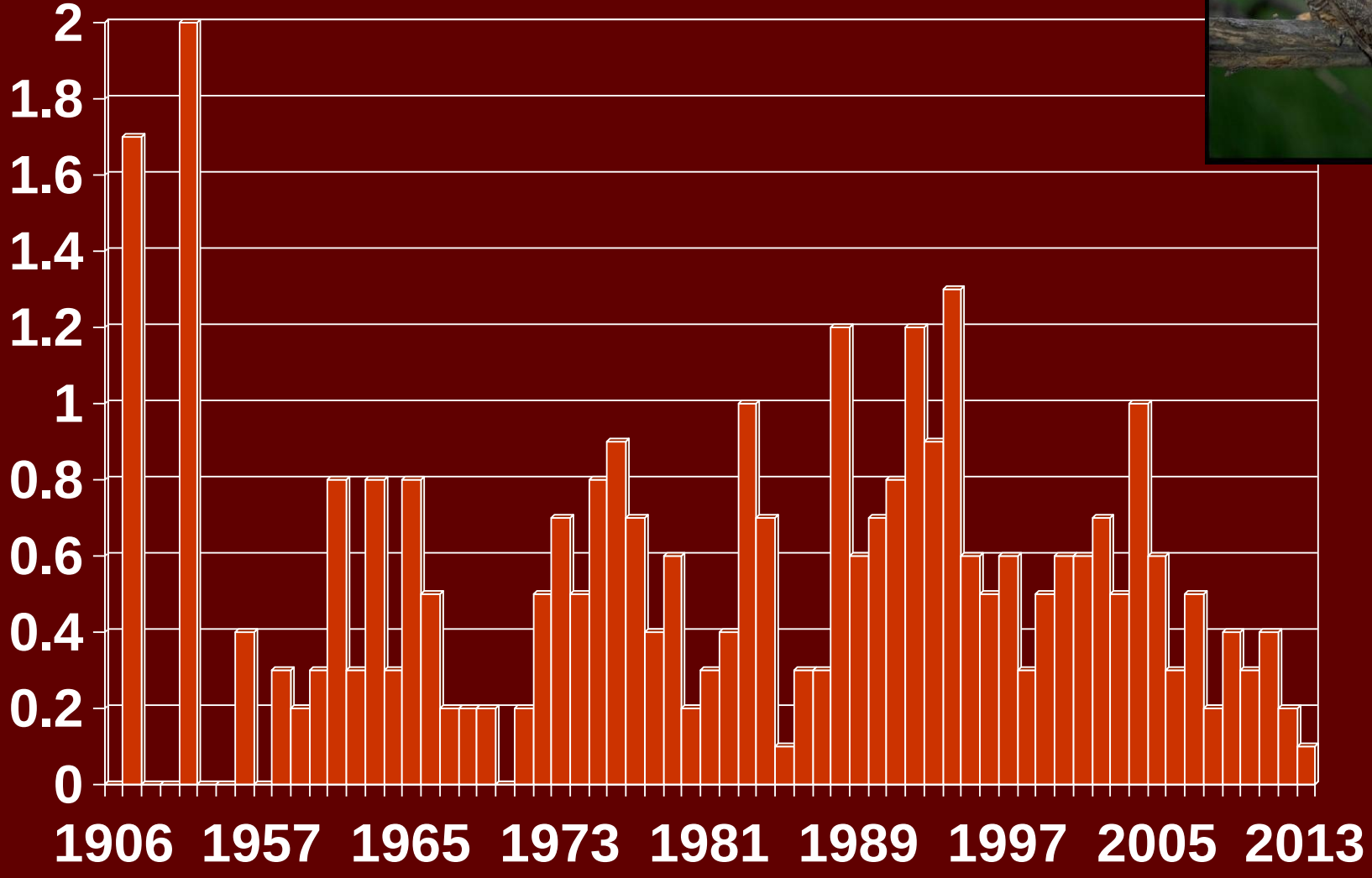
Bohemian Waxwing



Cedar Waxwing per 10 party hours

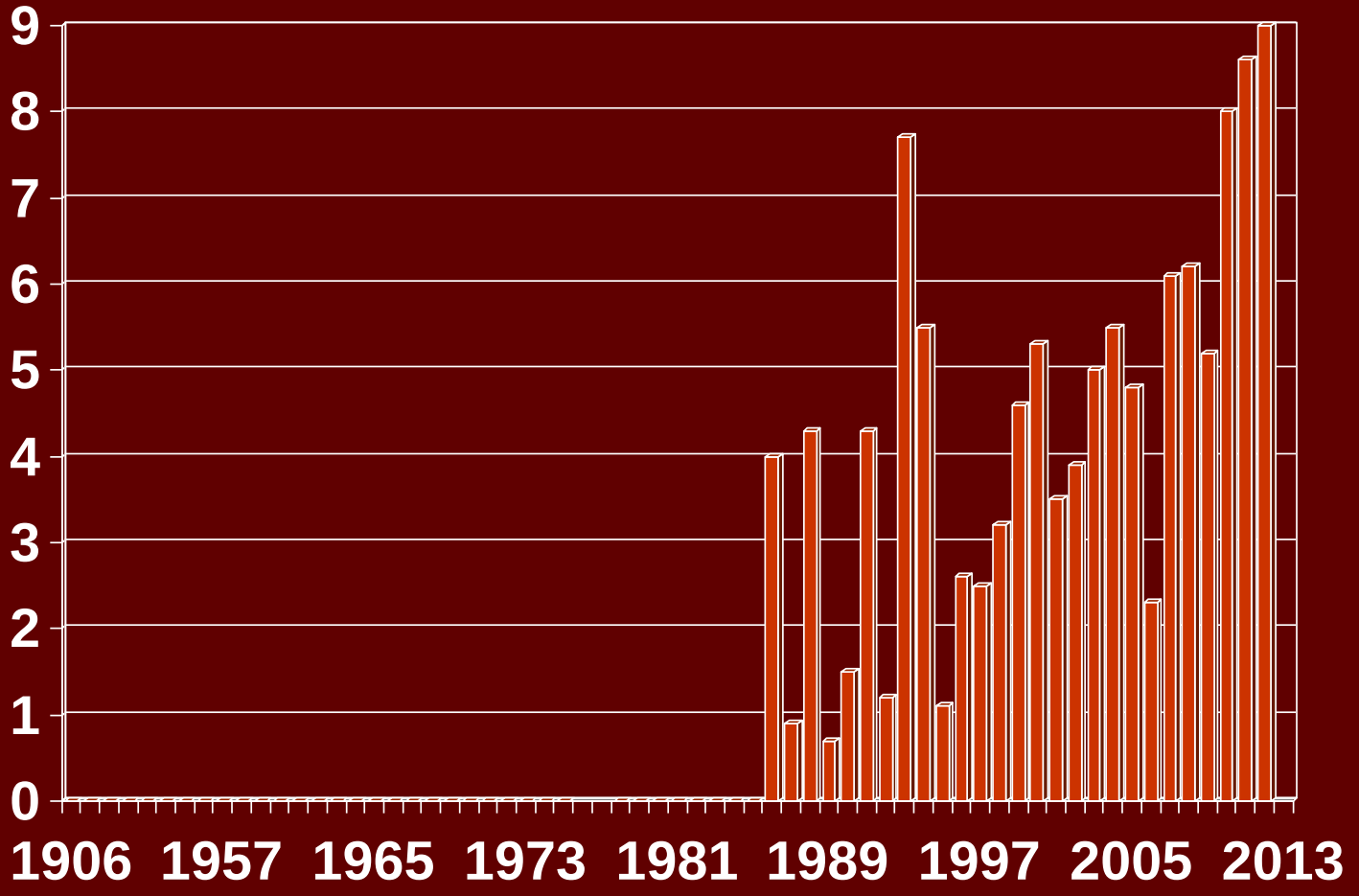


Great Horned Owl per 10 party-hours



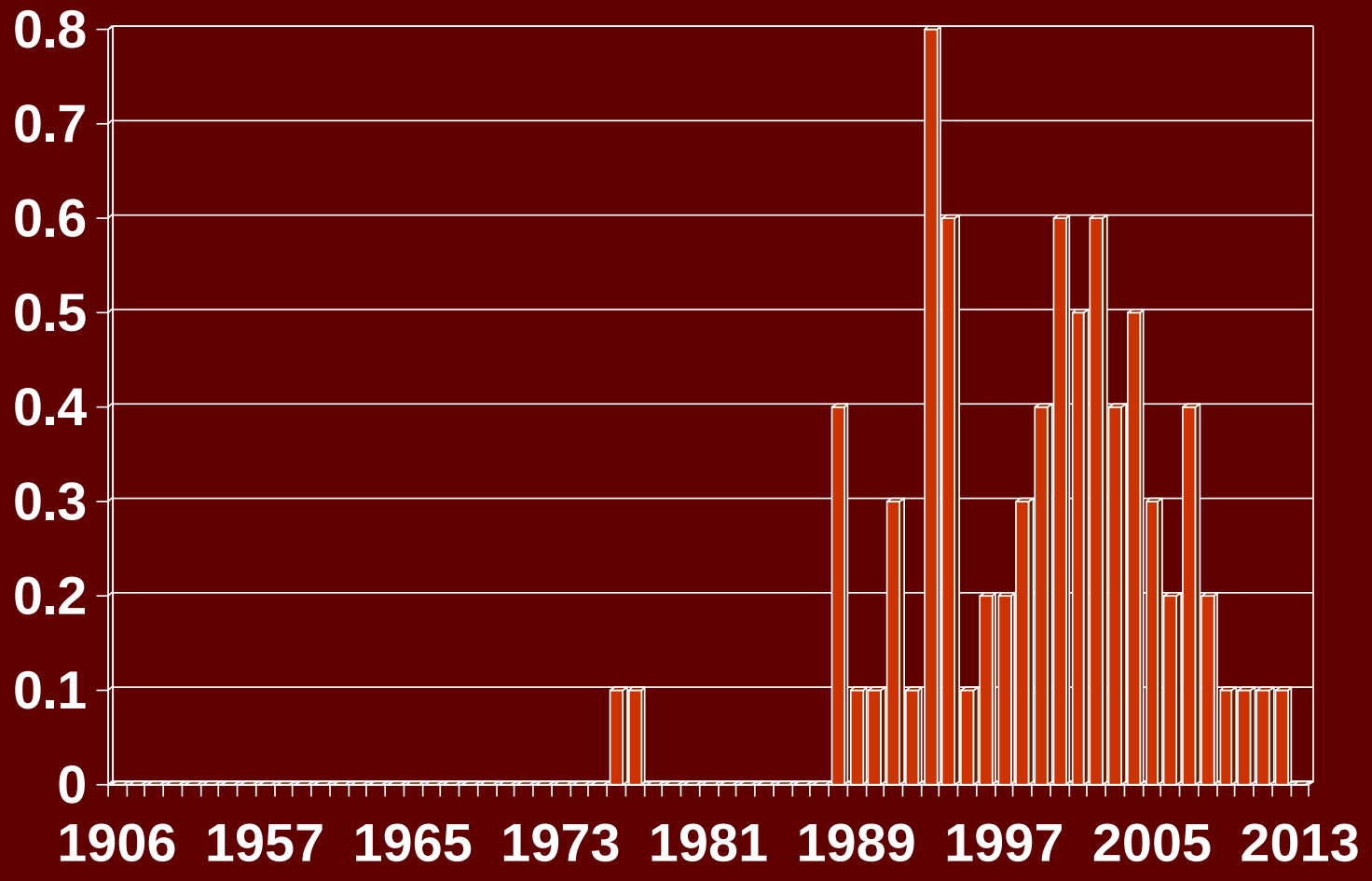
Saw-whet Owl

per owling hour



Saw-whet Owl

per 10 party hours

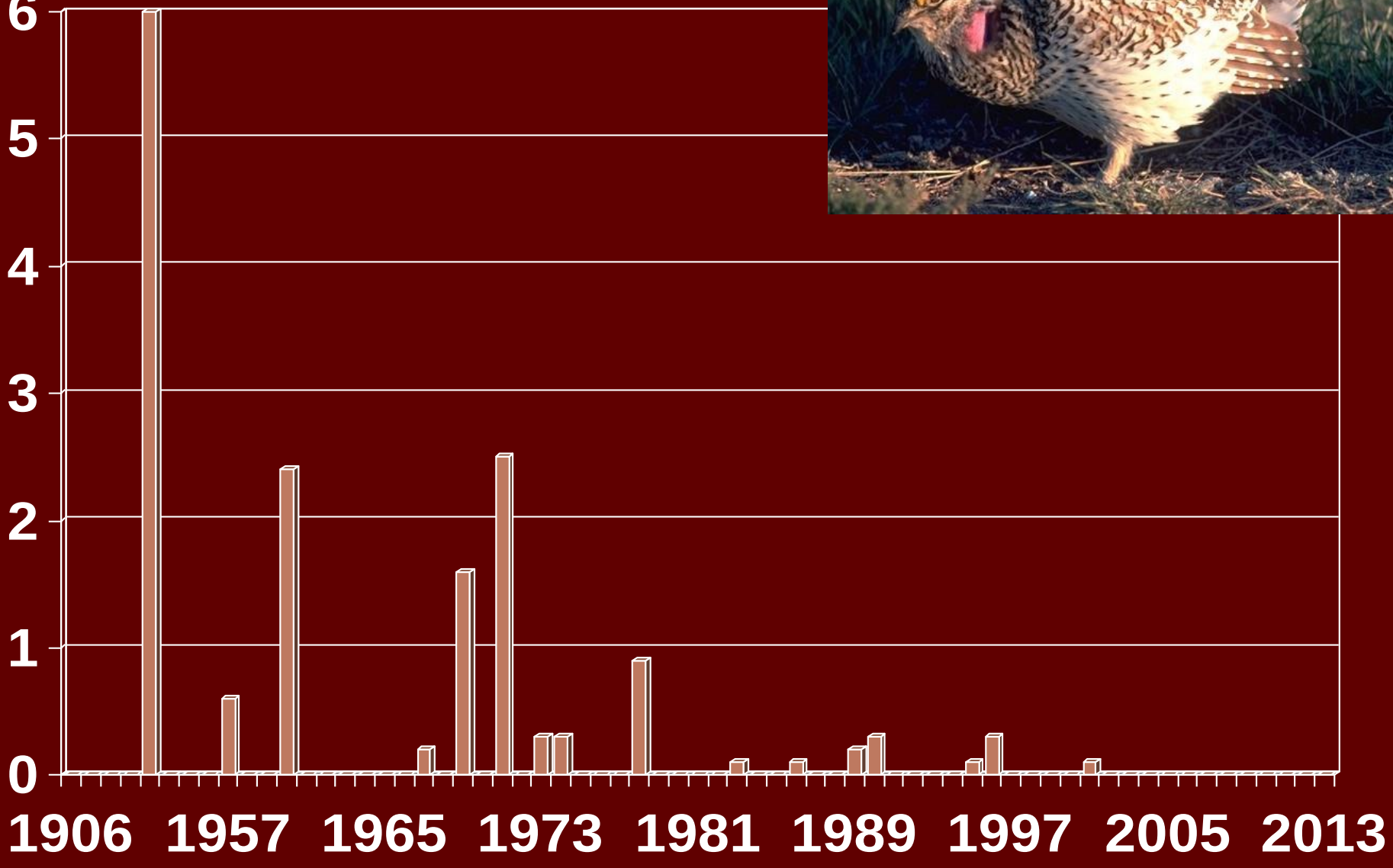


Decliners

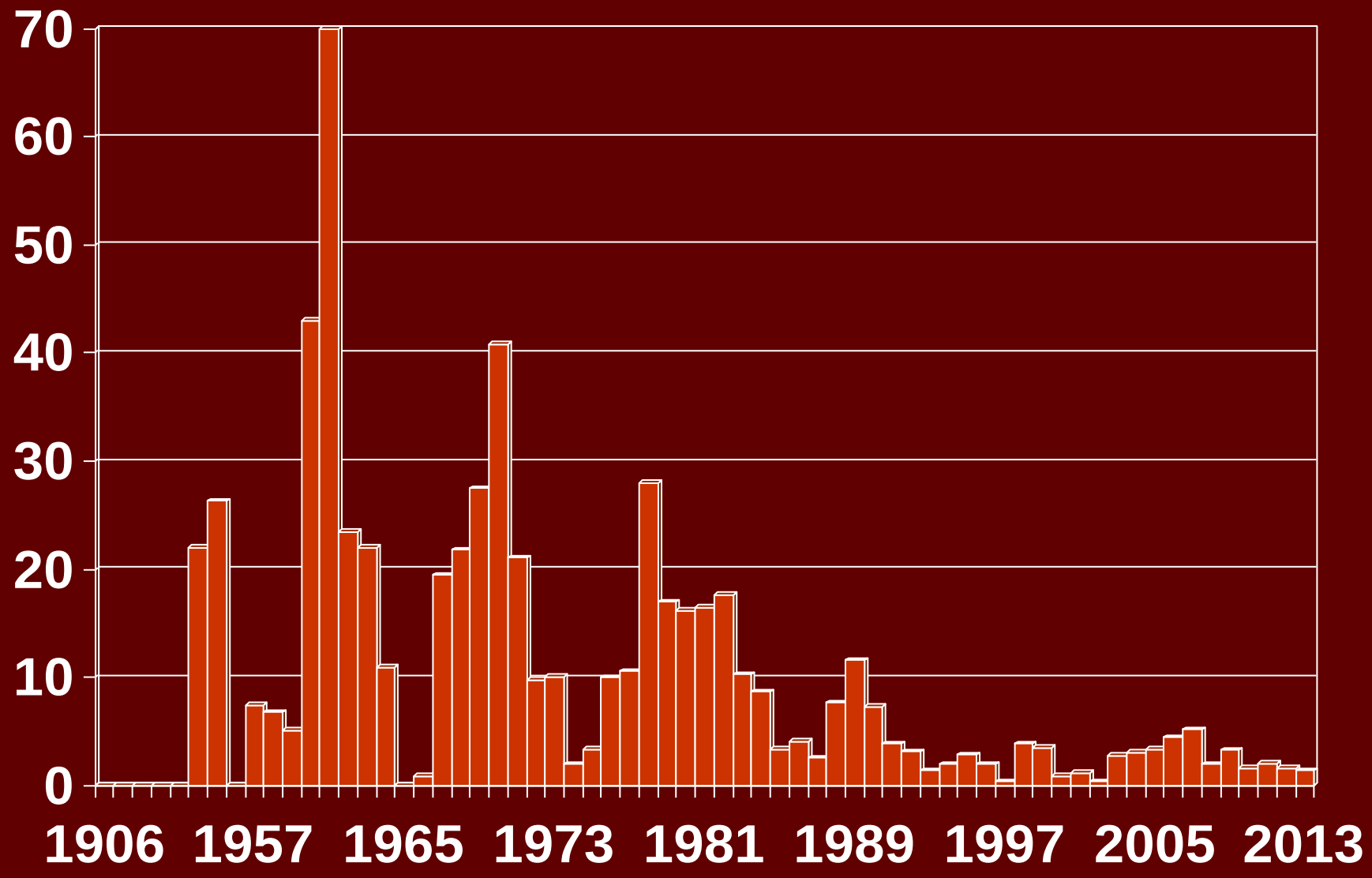
About thirteen species have declined in abundance in the past century

Most are open country species

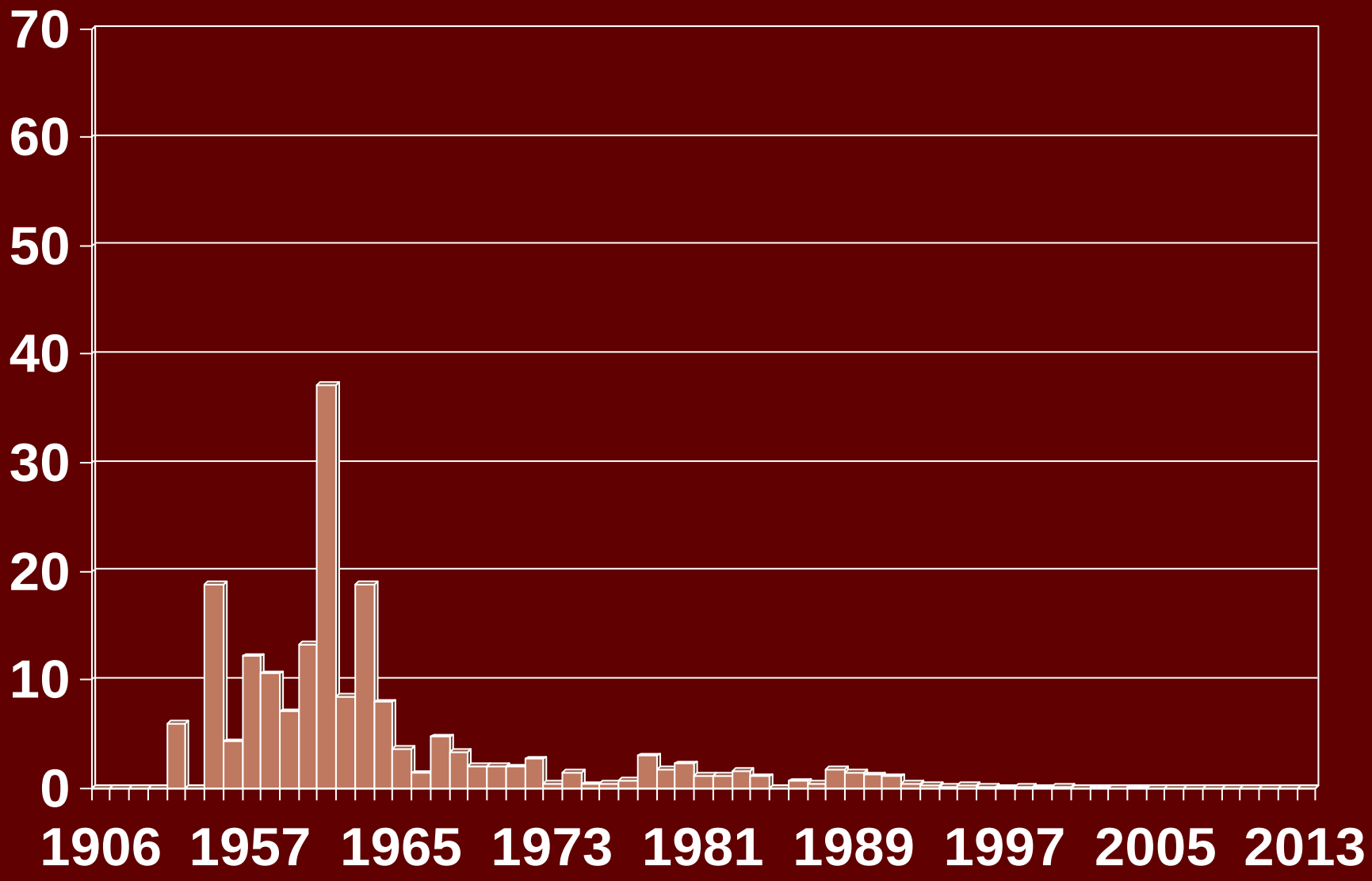
Sharp-tailed Grouse per 10 party-hours



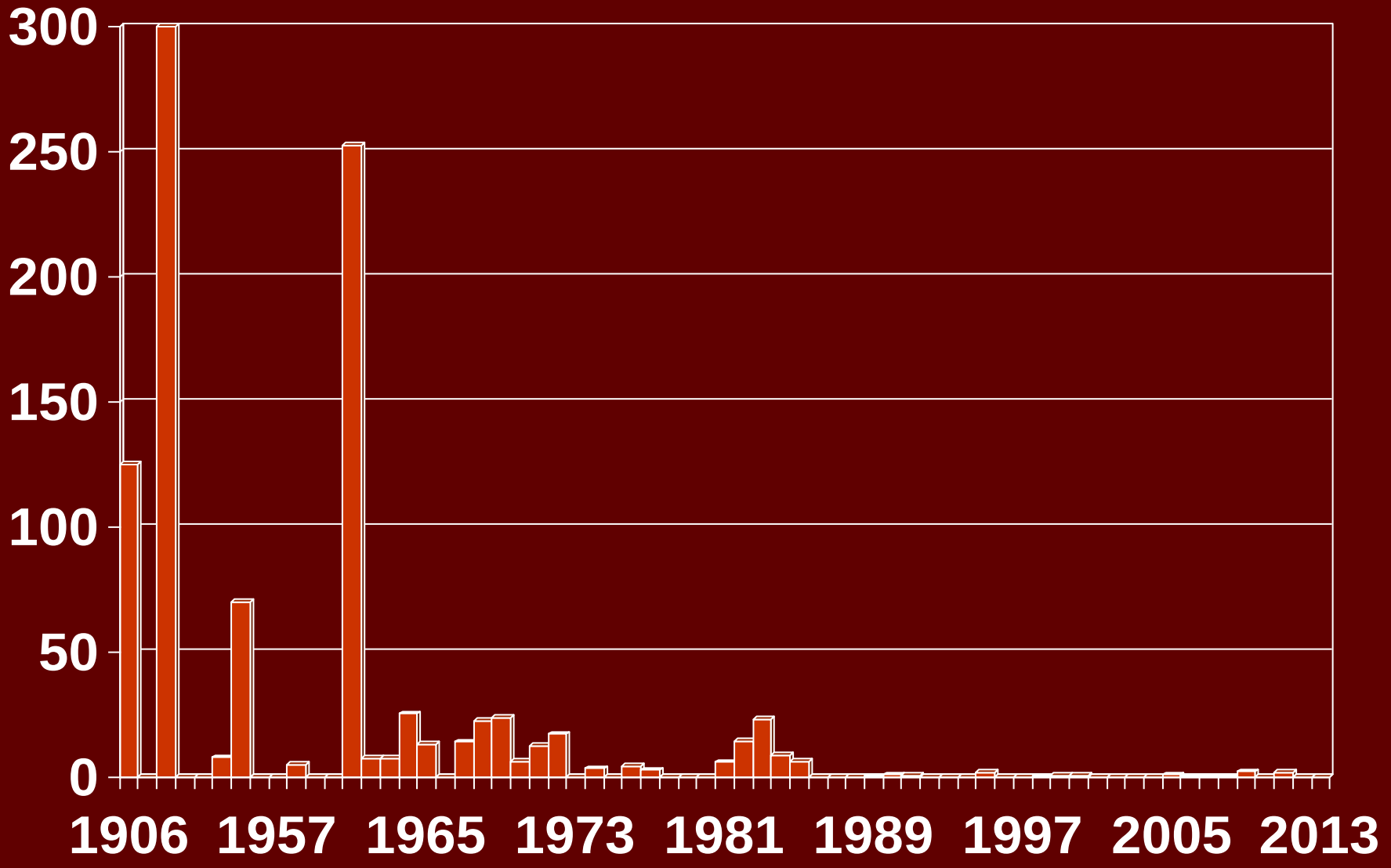
Gray Partridge per 10 party-hours



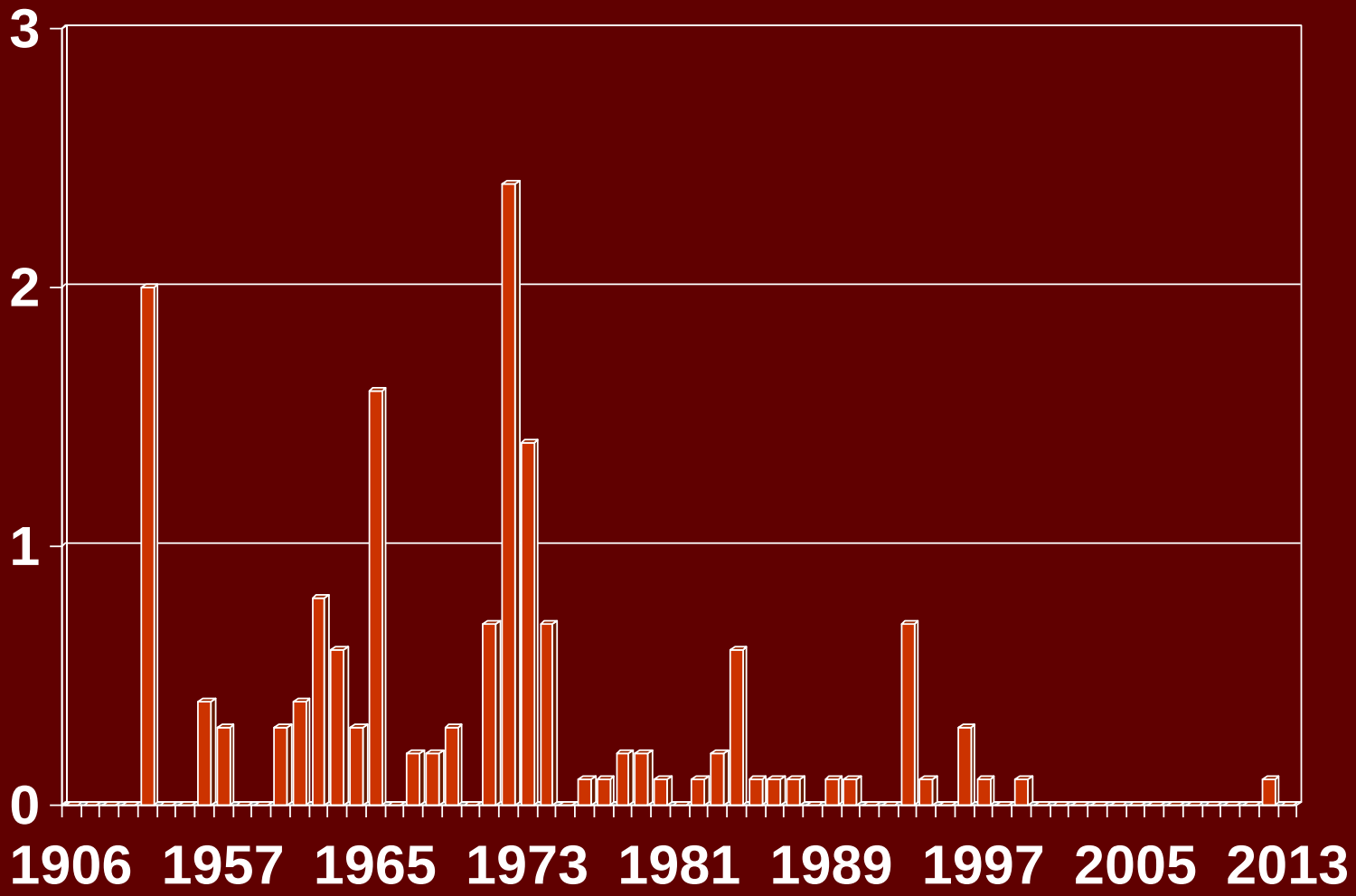
Ring-necked Pheasant per 10 party-hours



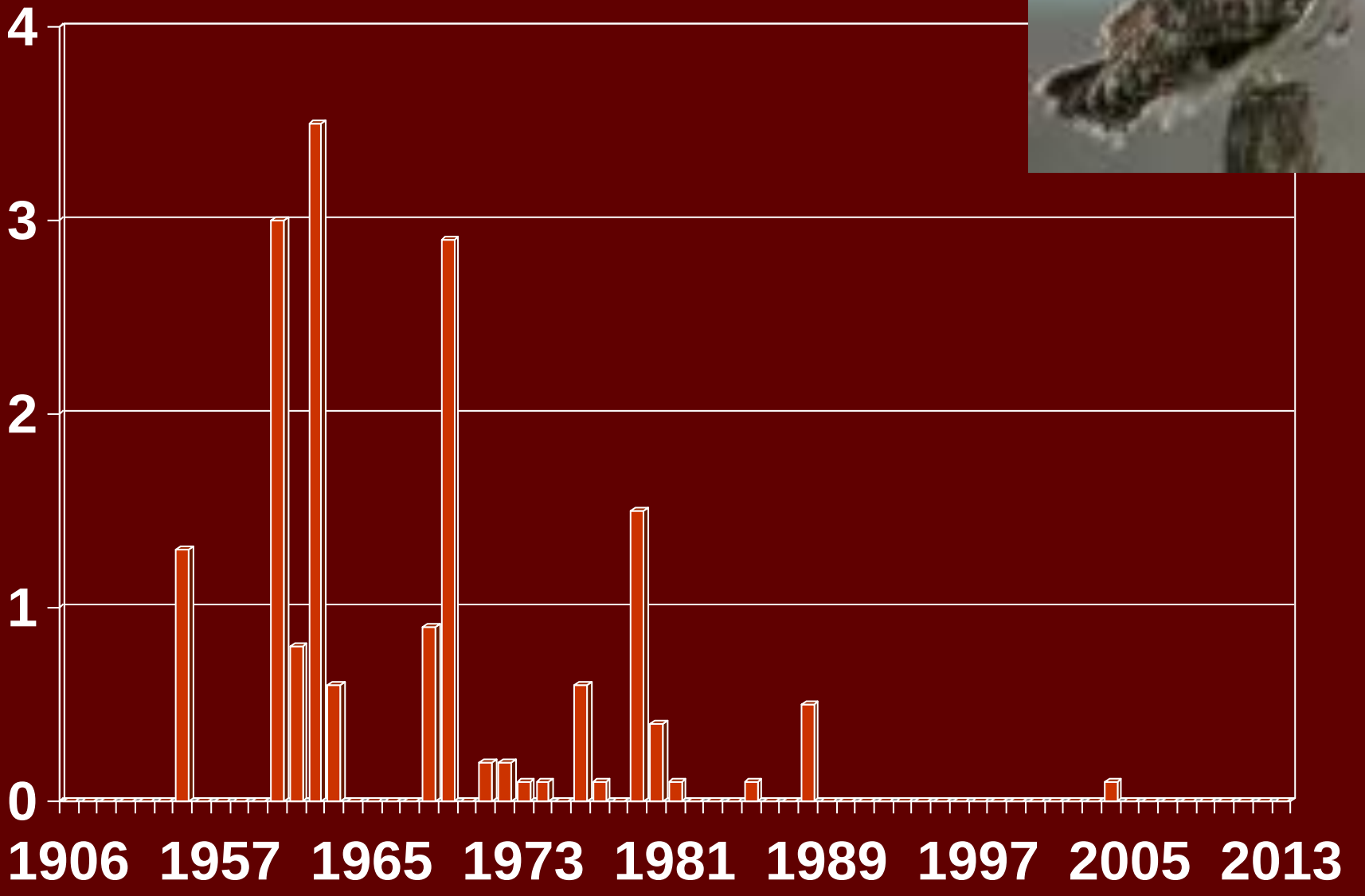
Snow Bunting per 10 party-hours



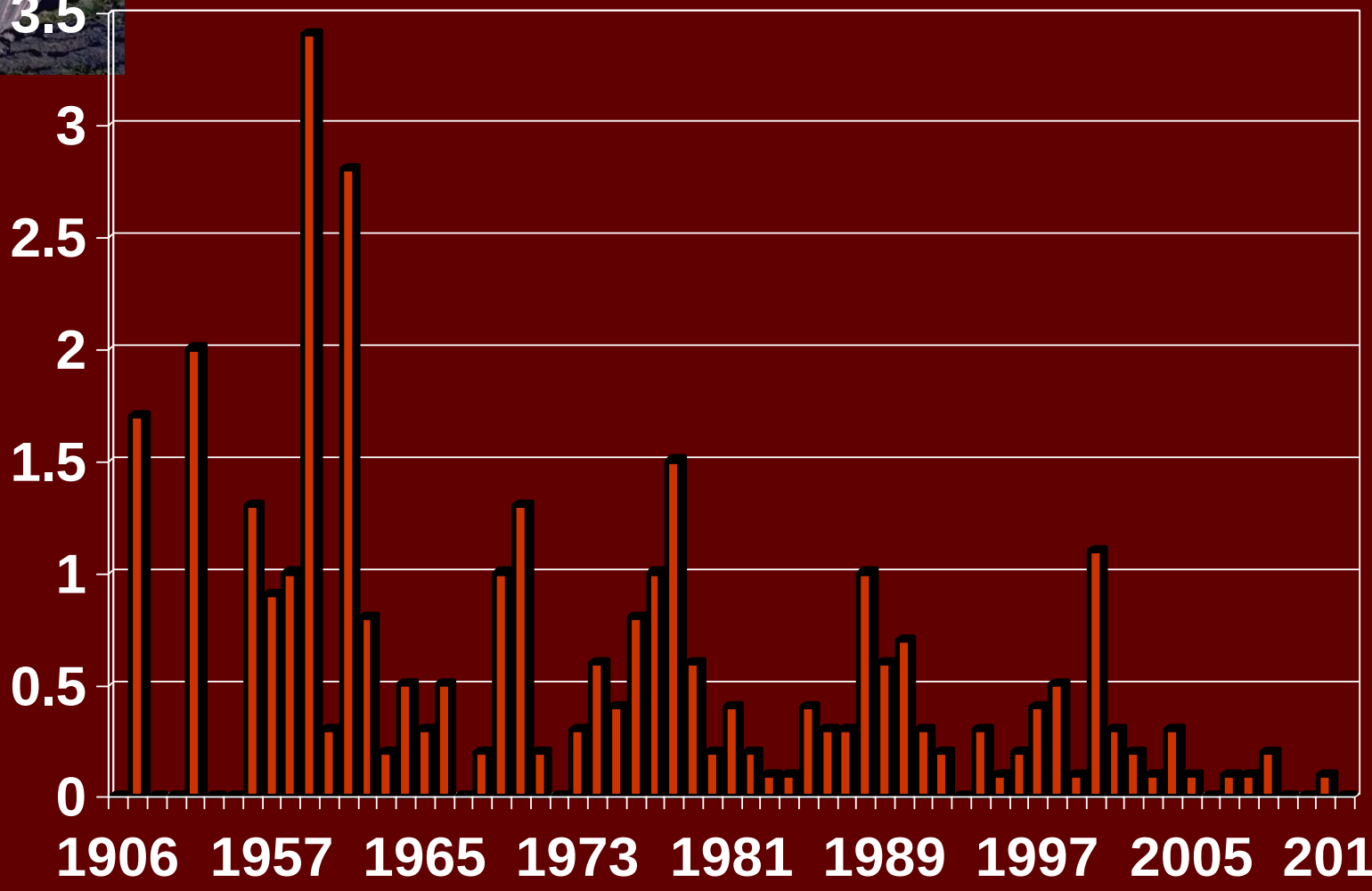
Snowy Owl per 10 party-hours



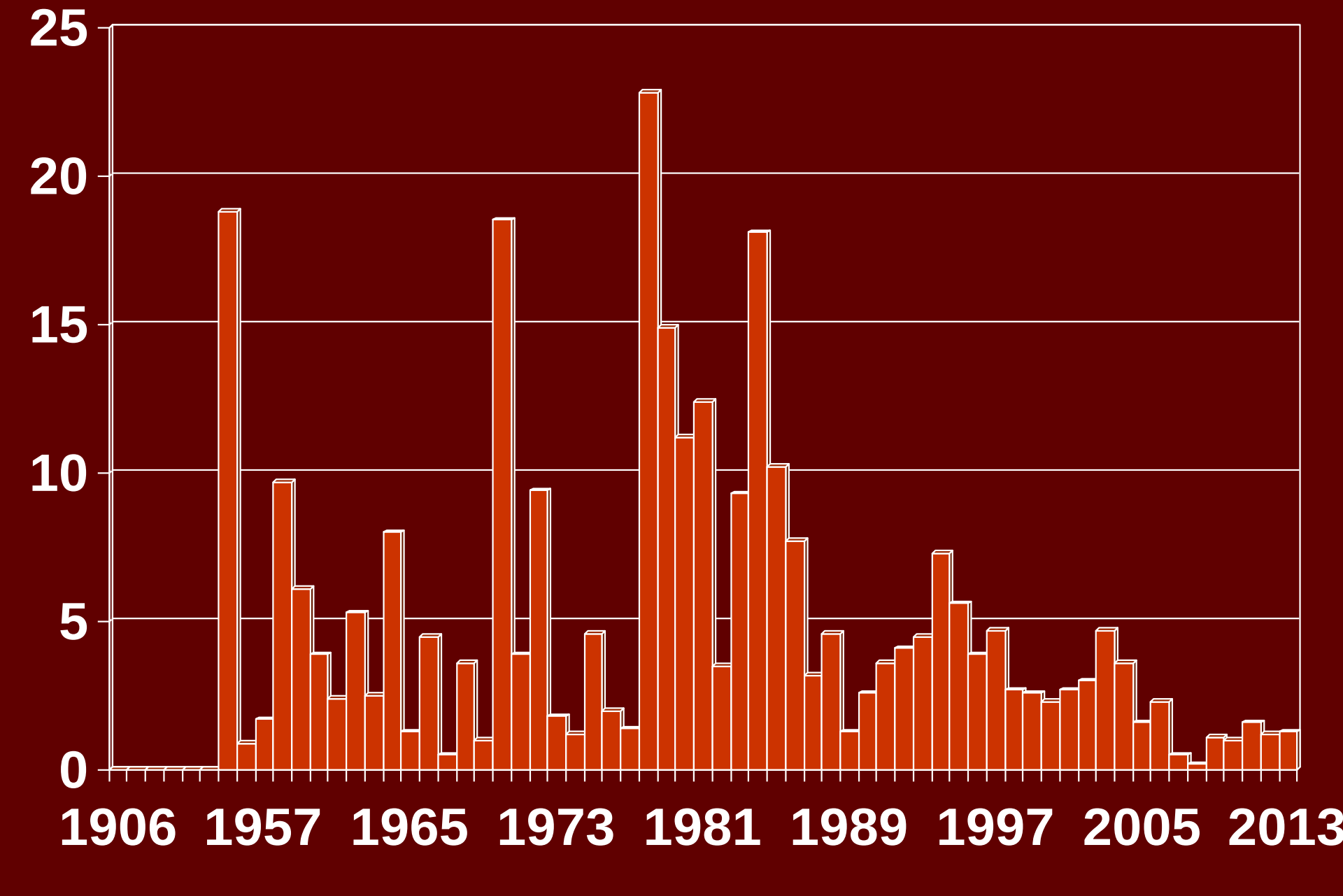
Short-eared Owl per 10 party-hours



Ruffed Grouse per 10 party-hours

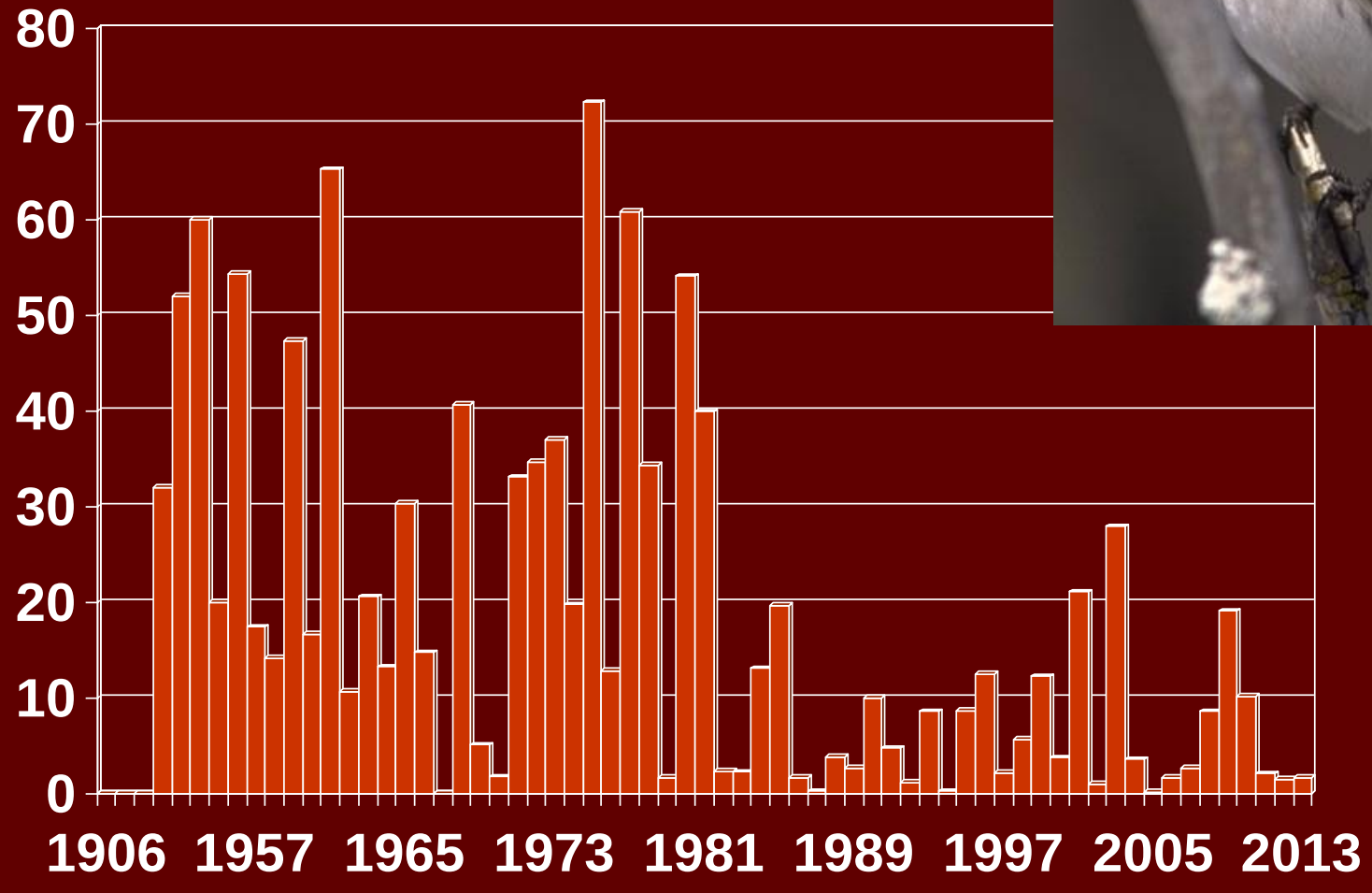


European Starling per 10 party+feeder hours



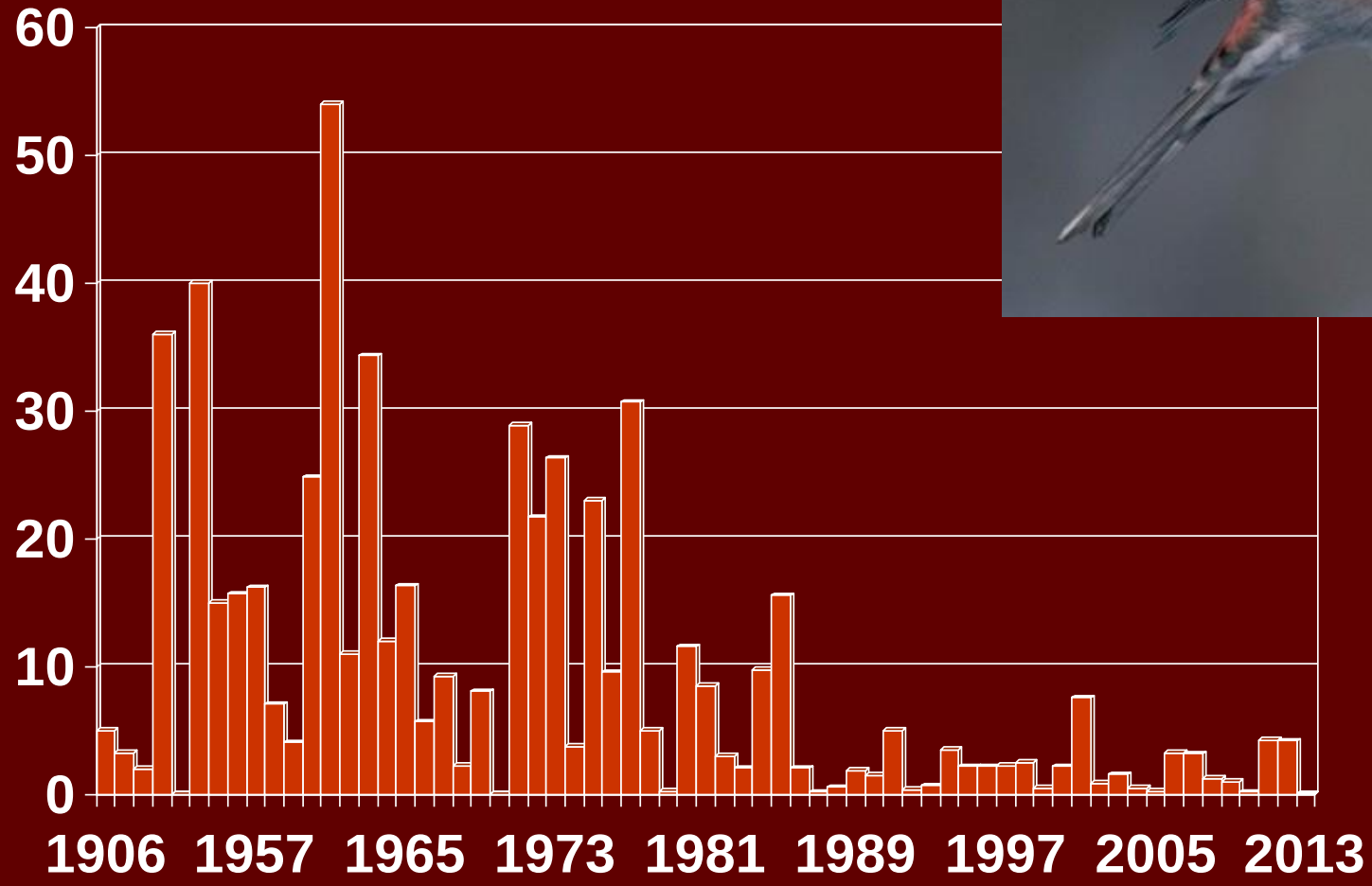
Common Redpoll

per 10 party+feeder hours



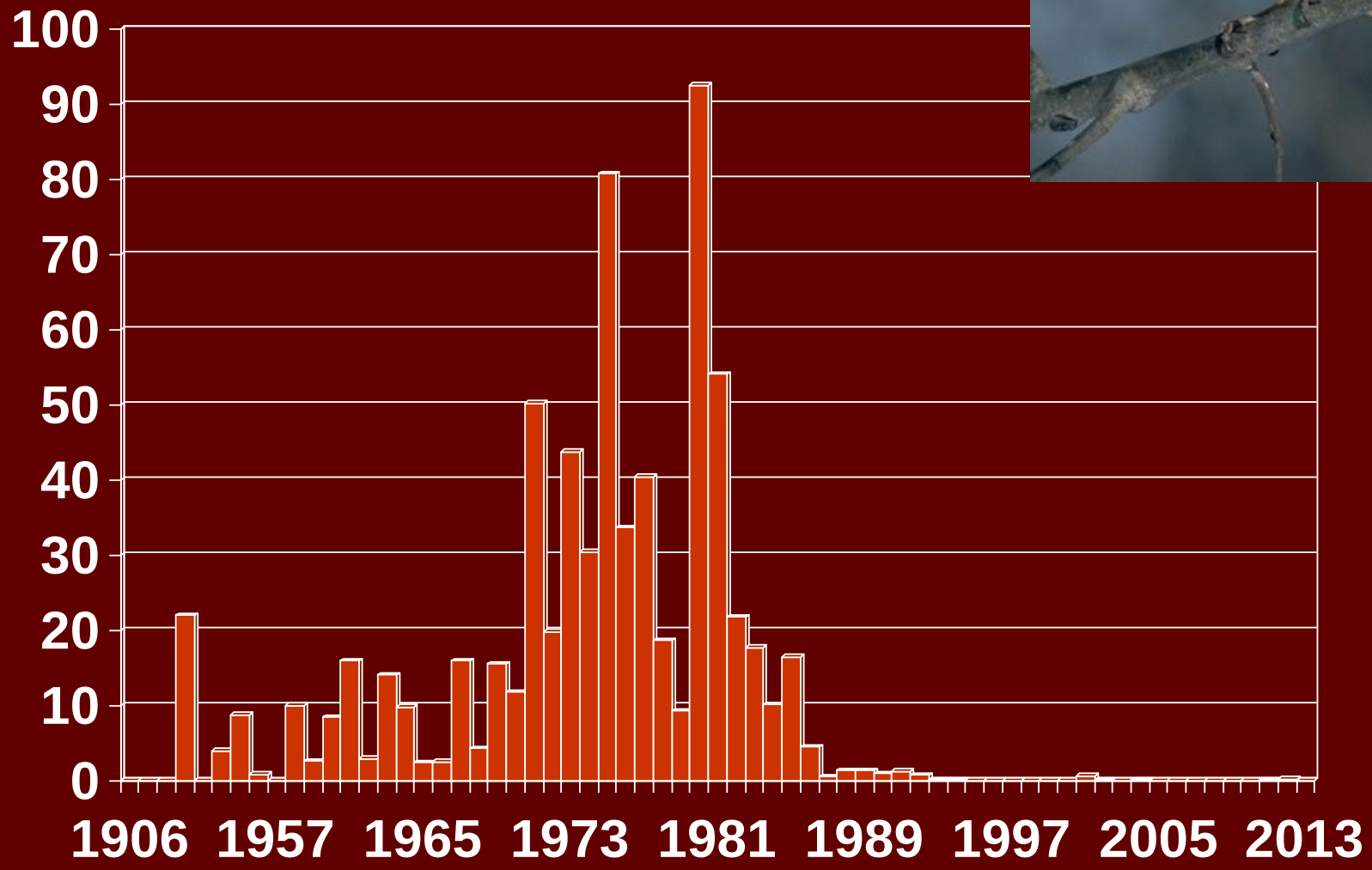
Pine Grosbeak

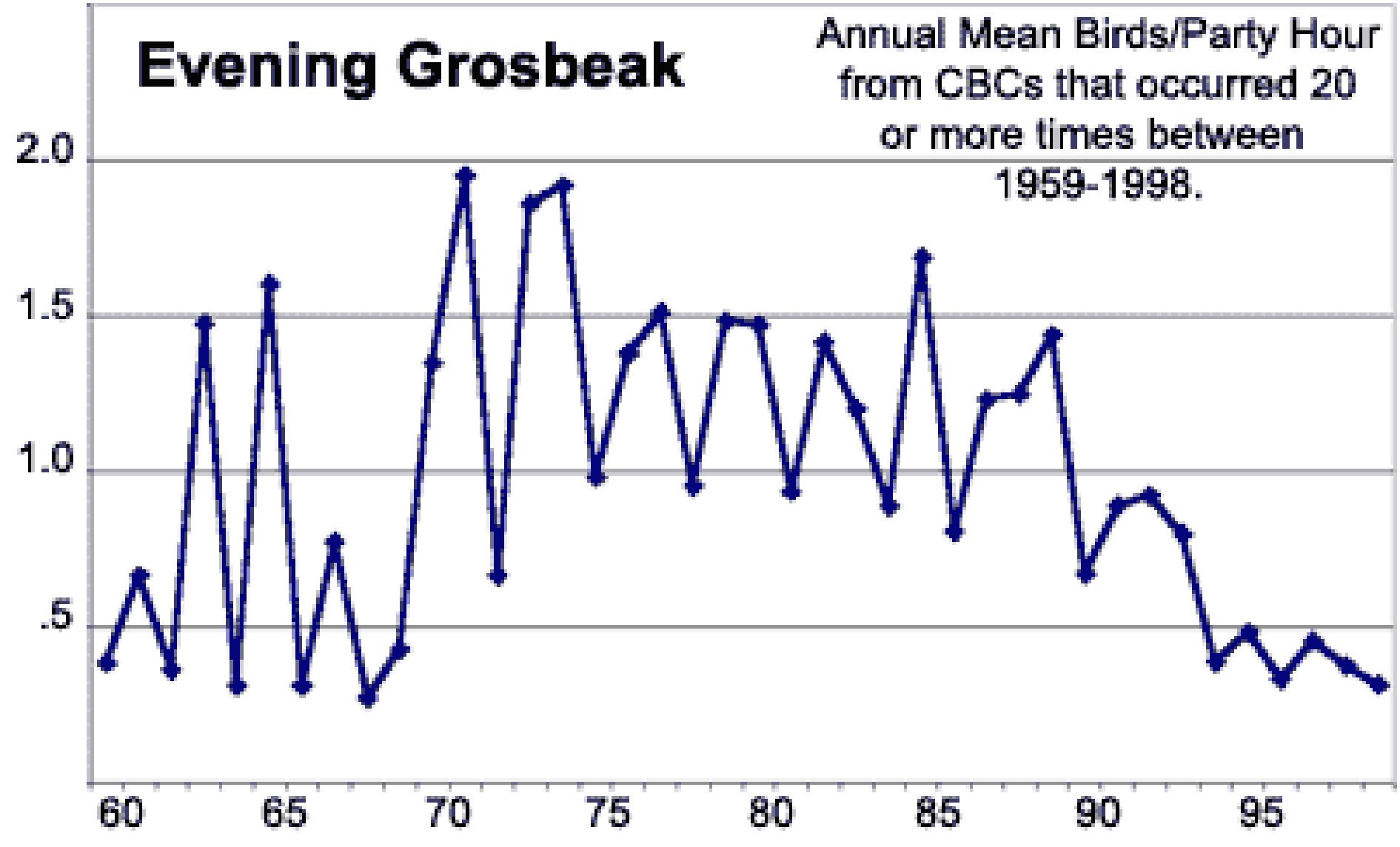
per 10 party+feeder hours



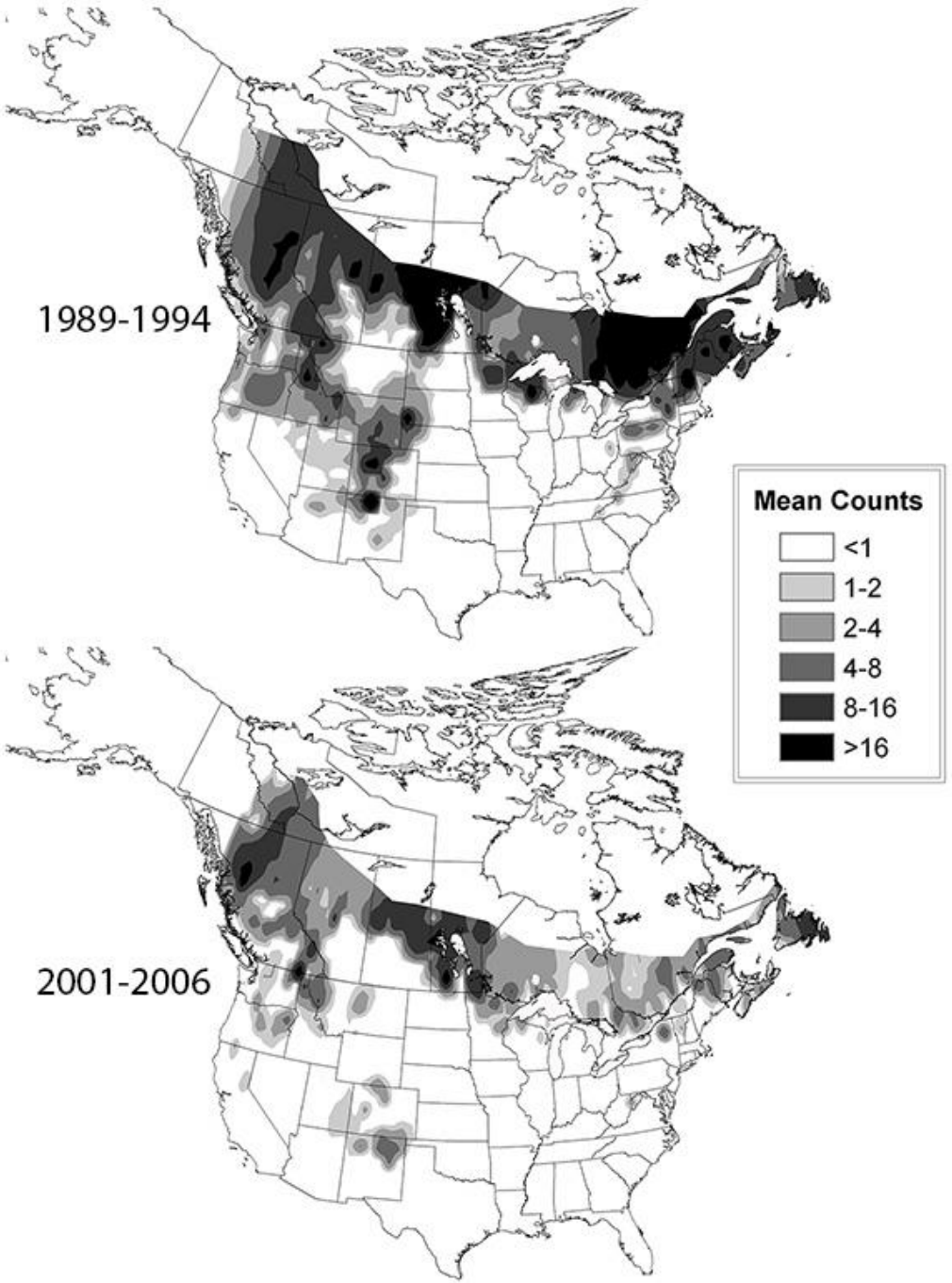
Evening Grosbeak

per 10 party+feeder hours



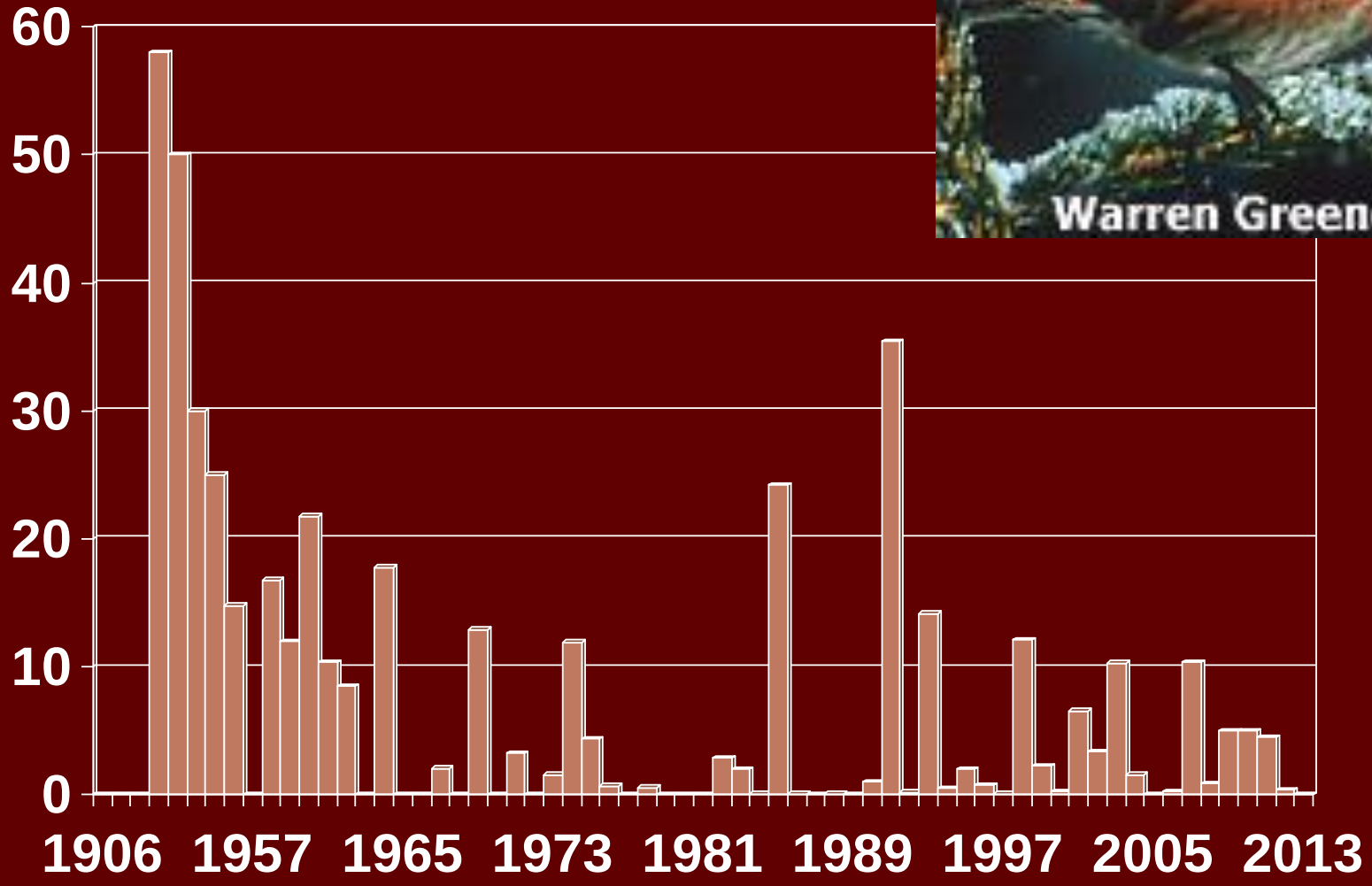

Evening Grosbeak
Annual Mean Birds/Party Hour from CBCs that occurred 20 or more times between 1959-1998.
2.0
1.5
1.0
.5
60
65
70
75
80
85
90
95

Declines in Evening Grosbeak counts at Project FeederWatch sites.

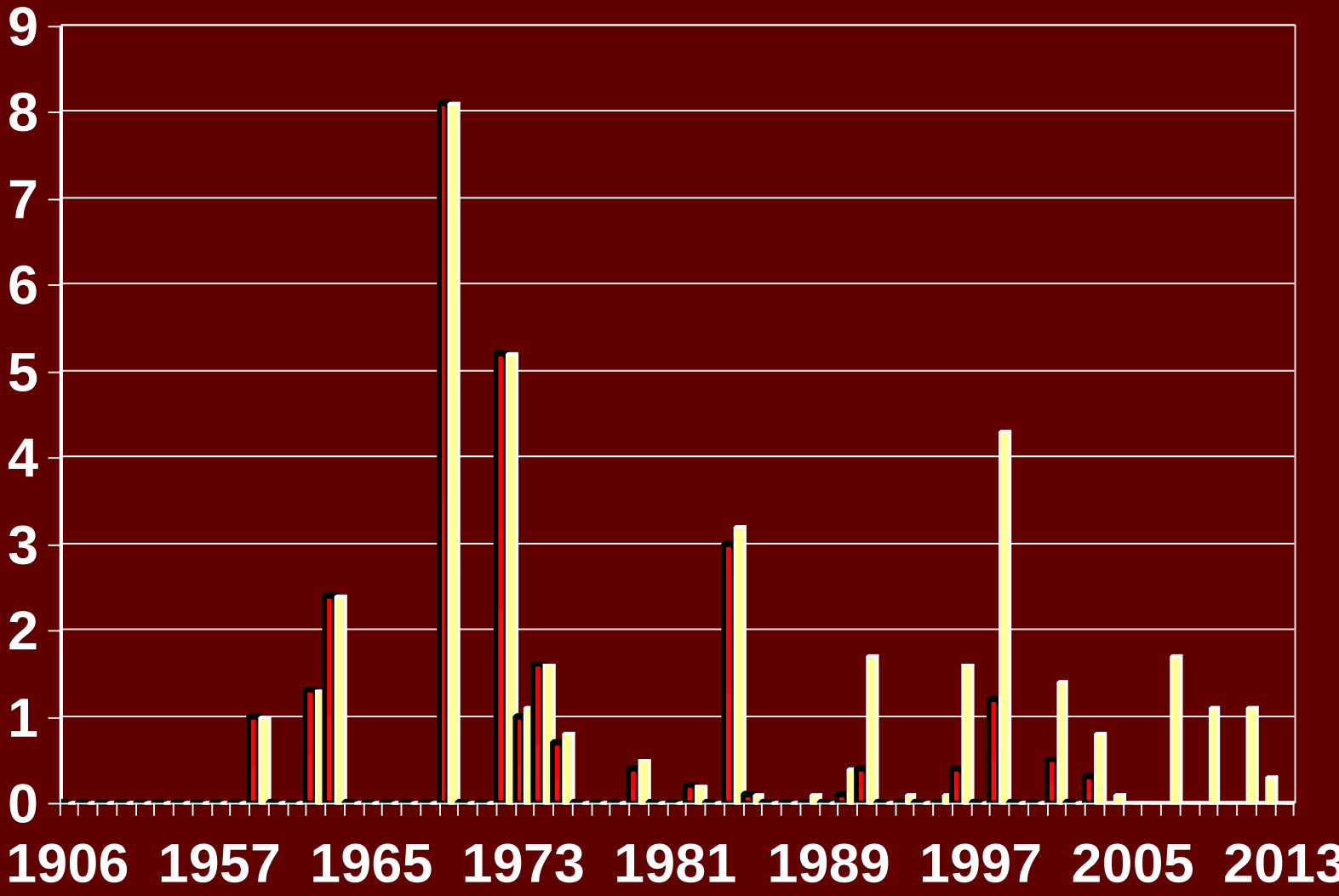


White-winged Crossbill

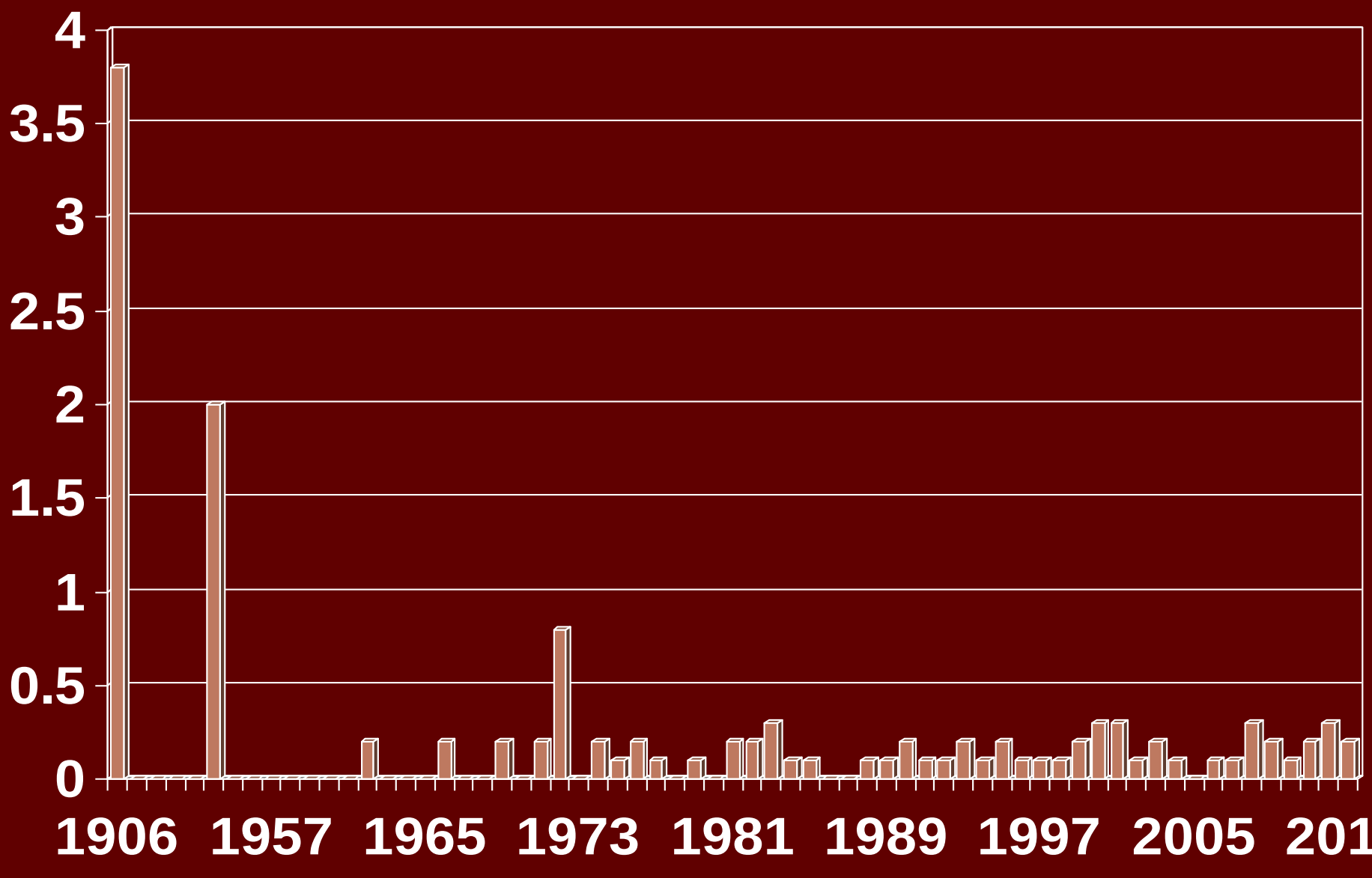
per 10 party hours



Red Crossbill per 10 party hours



Northern Goshawk per 10 party-hours



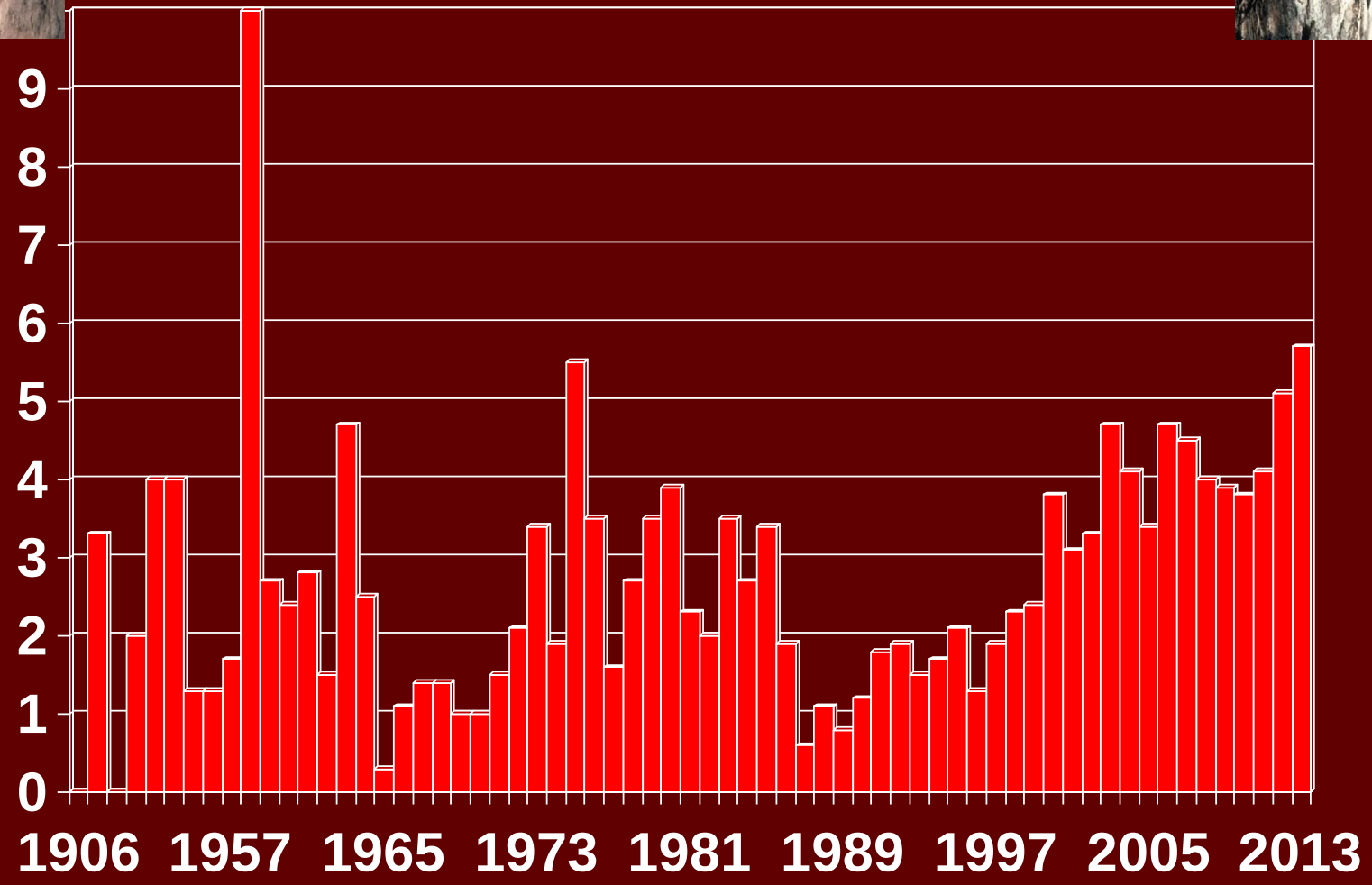
Little Changers

Some species have not changed in abundance in the past century

Most are resident species that depend on feeders

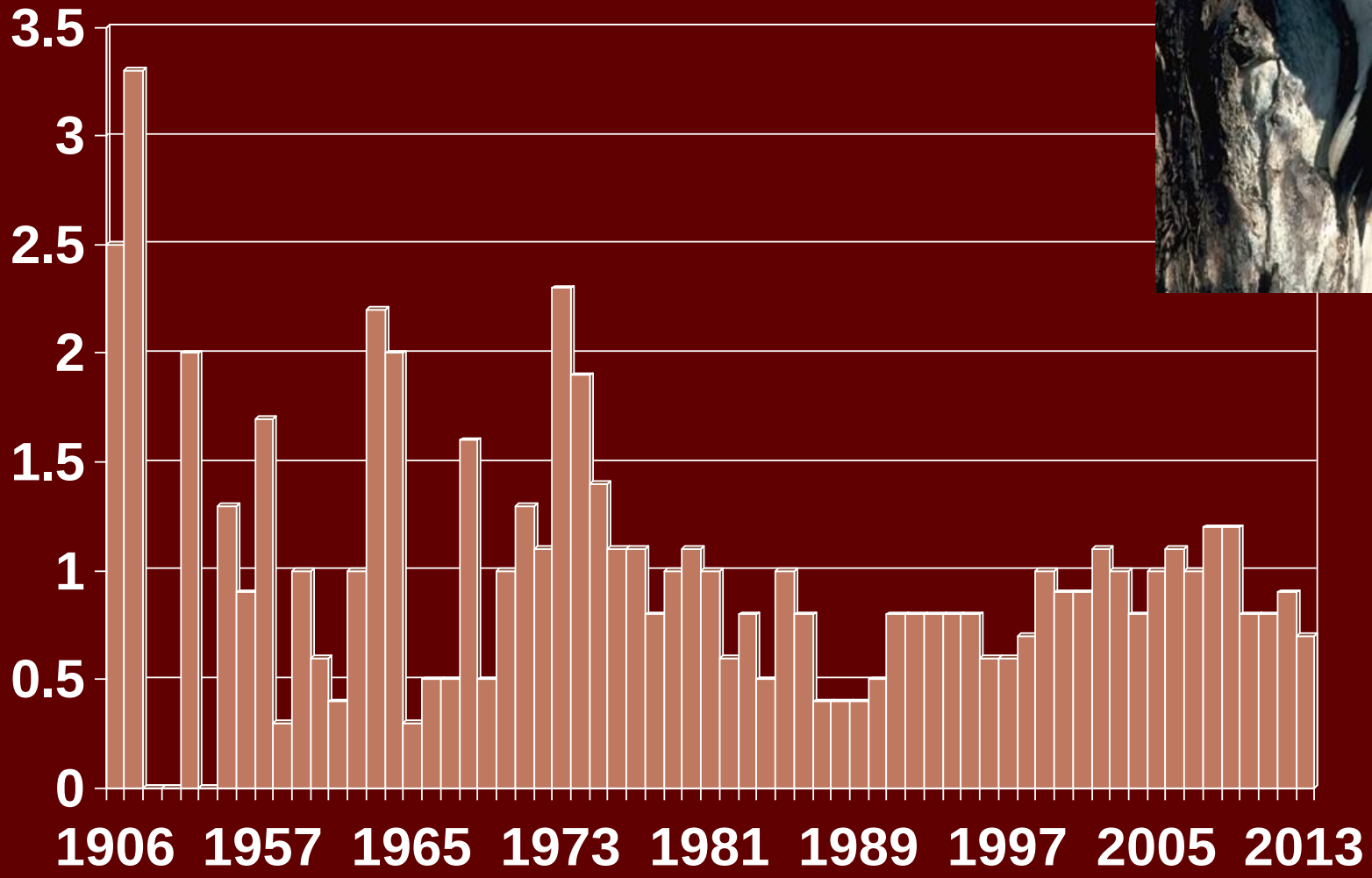
Downy Woodpecker

per 10 party+feeder hours



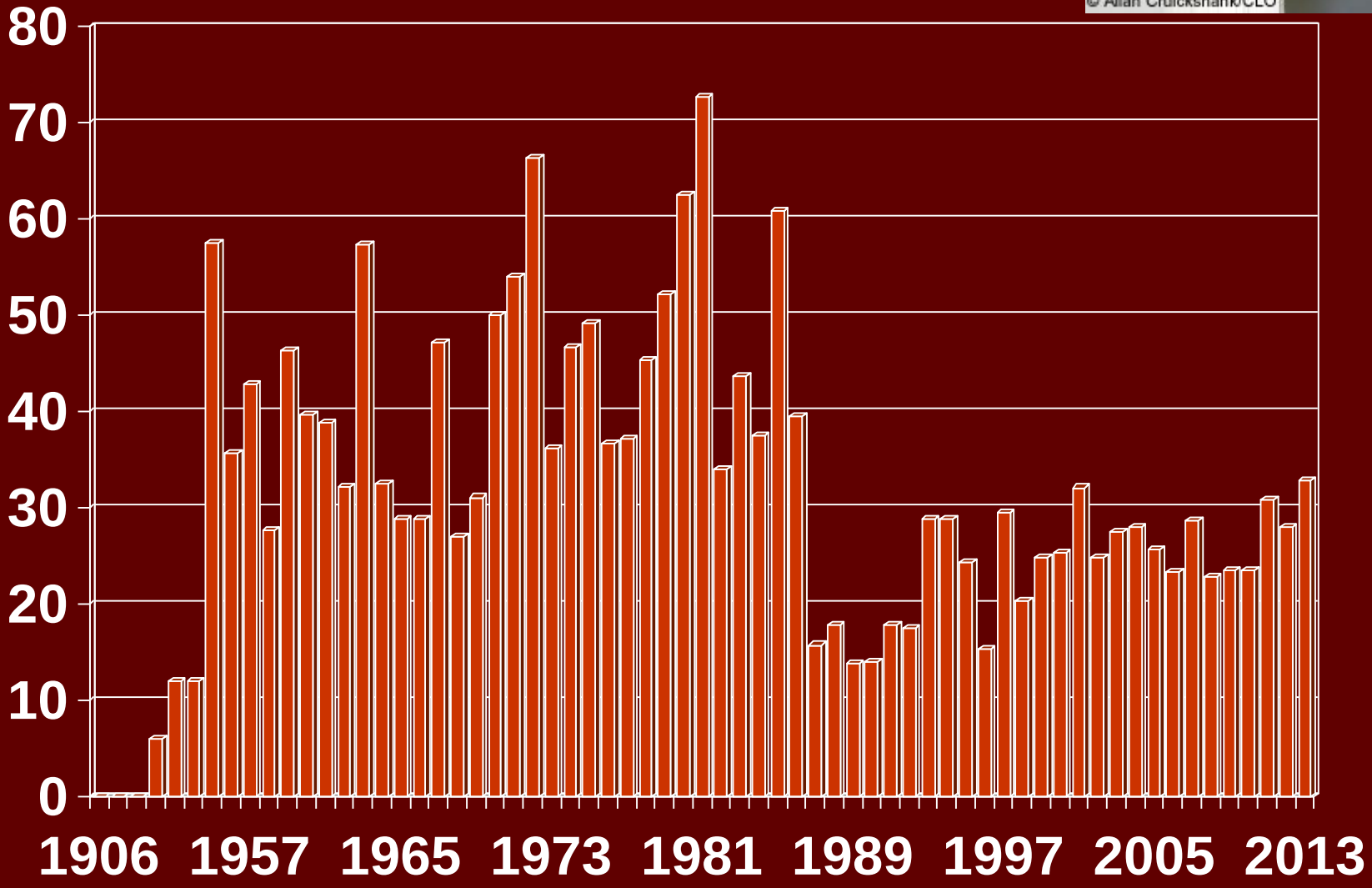
Hairy Woodpecker

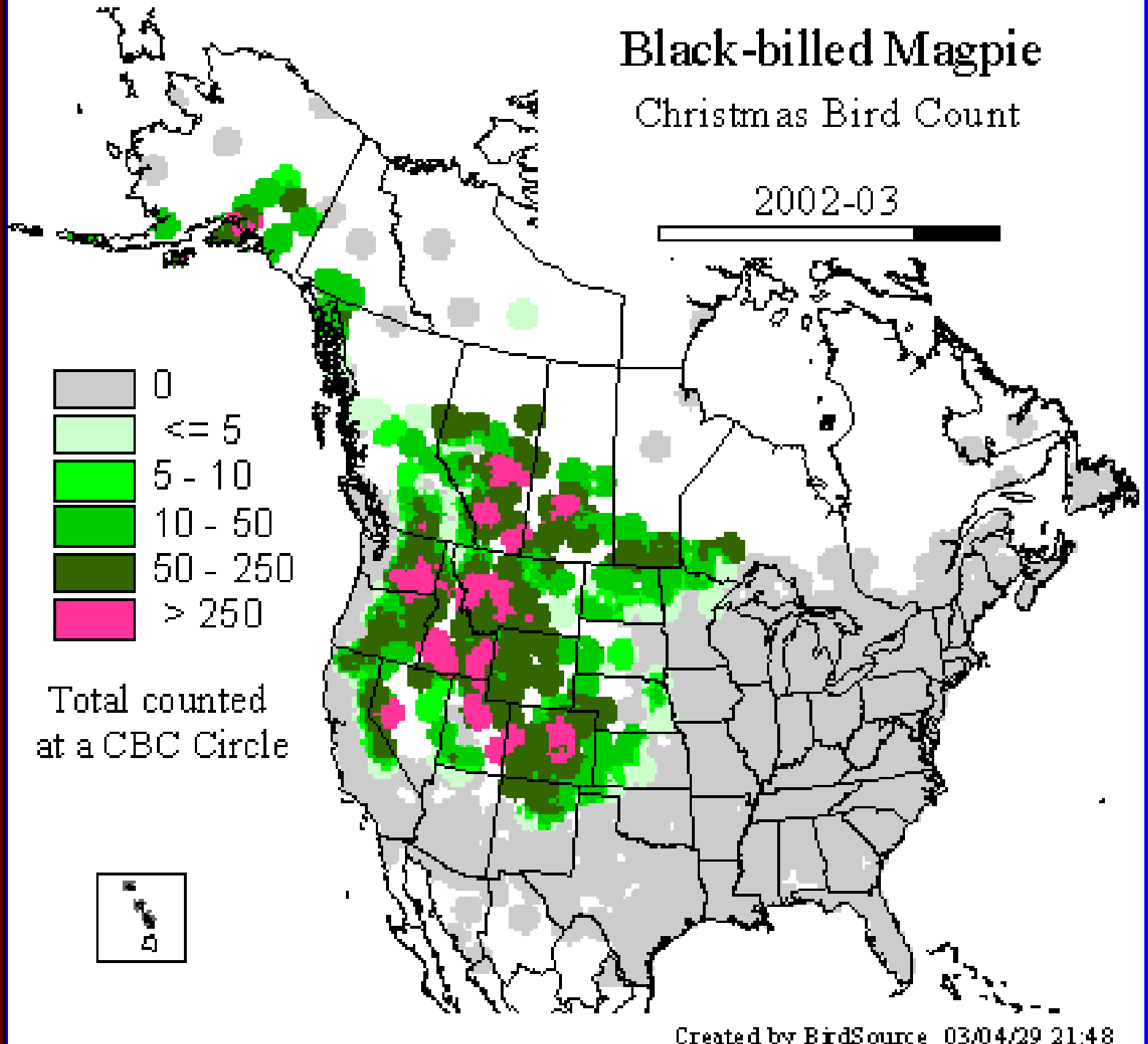
per 10 party+feeder hours



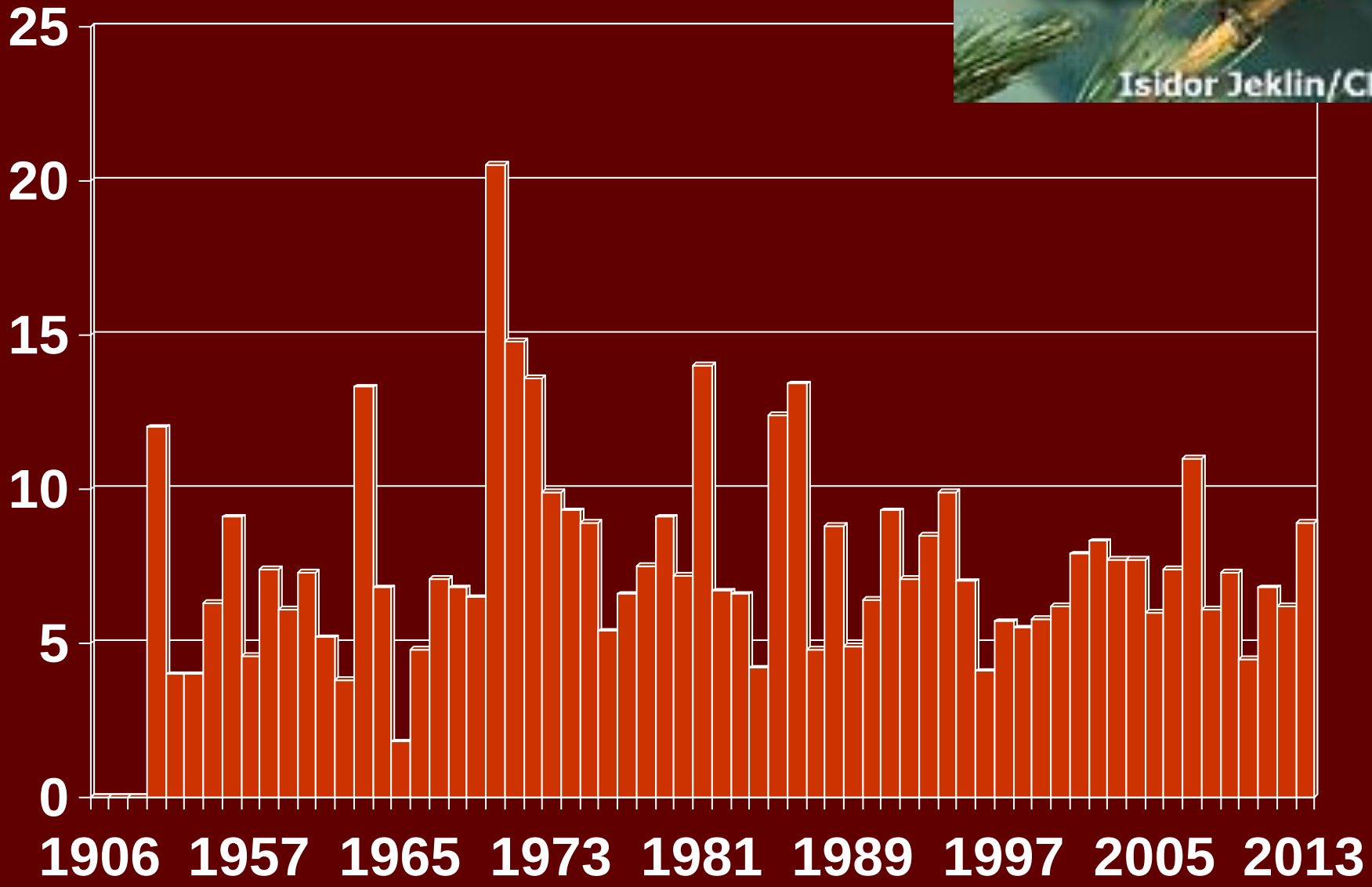
Black-billed Magpie

per 10 party-hours

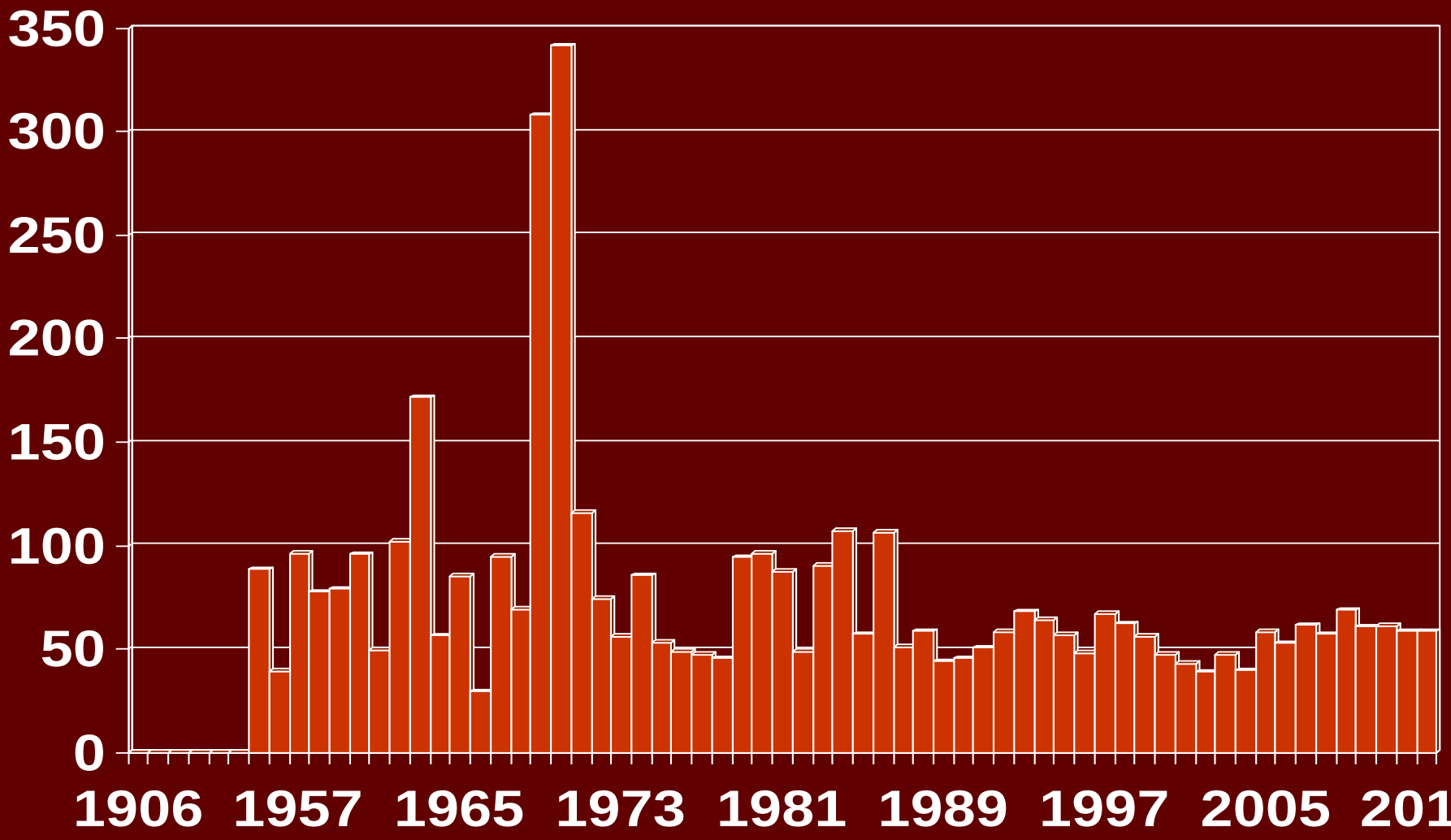



Black-billed Magpie
Christmas Bird Count
2002-03
0
<= 5
5 - 10
10 - 50
50 - 250
> 250
Total counted
at a CBC Circle
Created by BirdSource 03/04/29 21:48

Blue Jay per 10 party+feeder hours



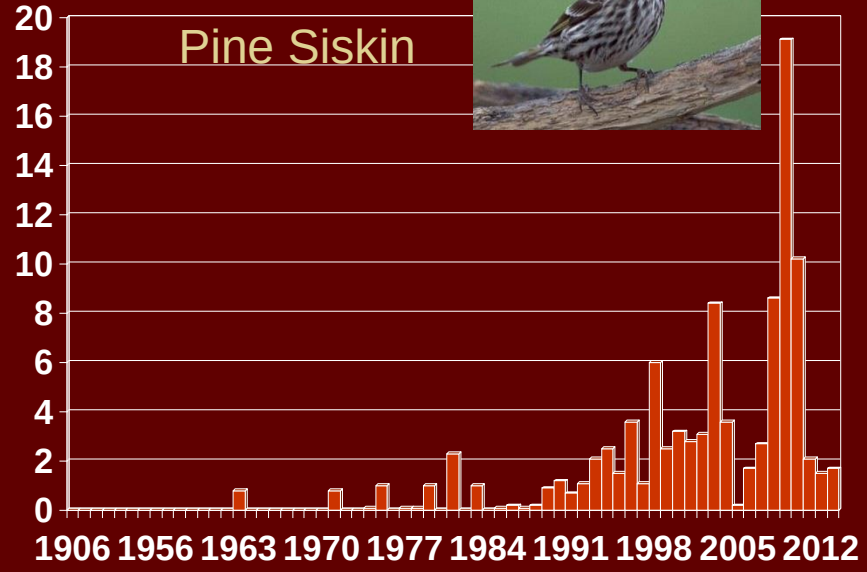
House Sparrow per 10 field+feeder hours

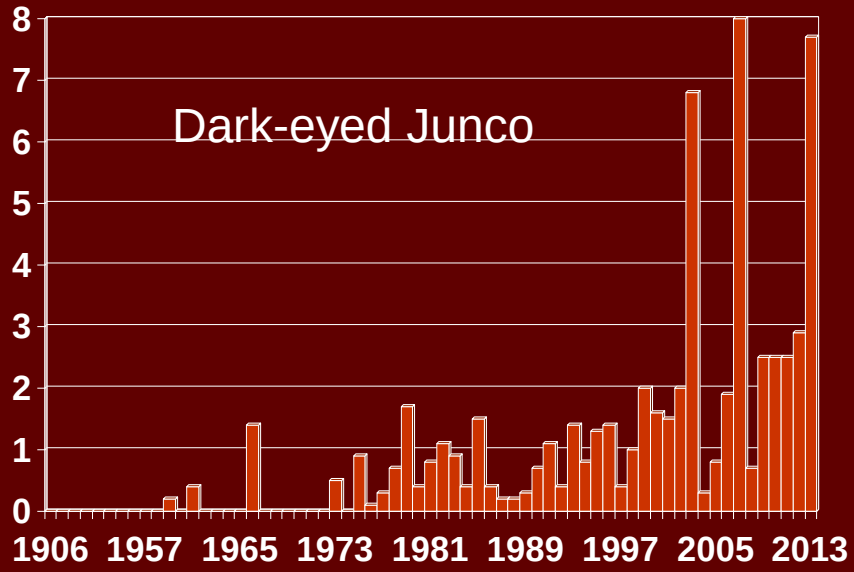


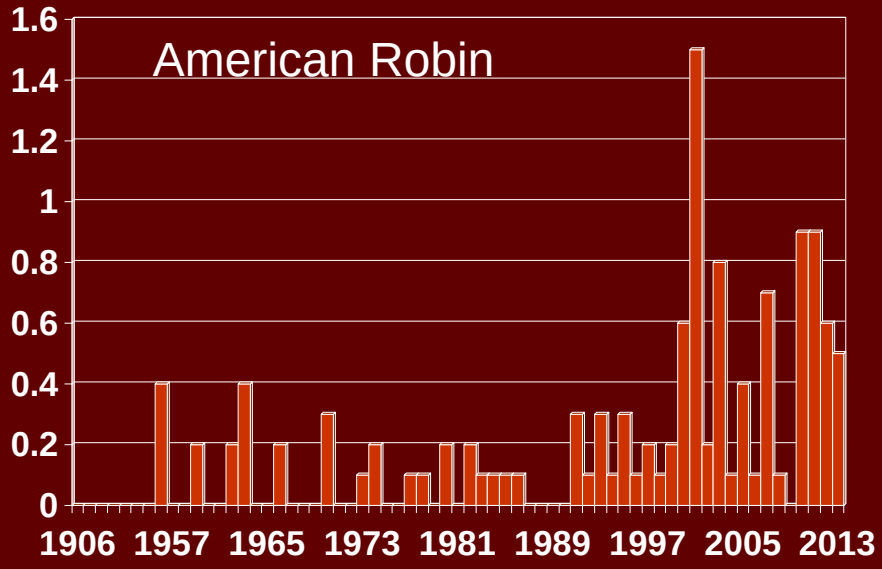
Increasers

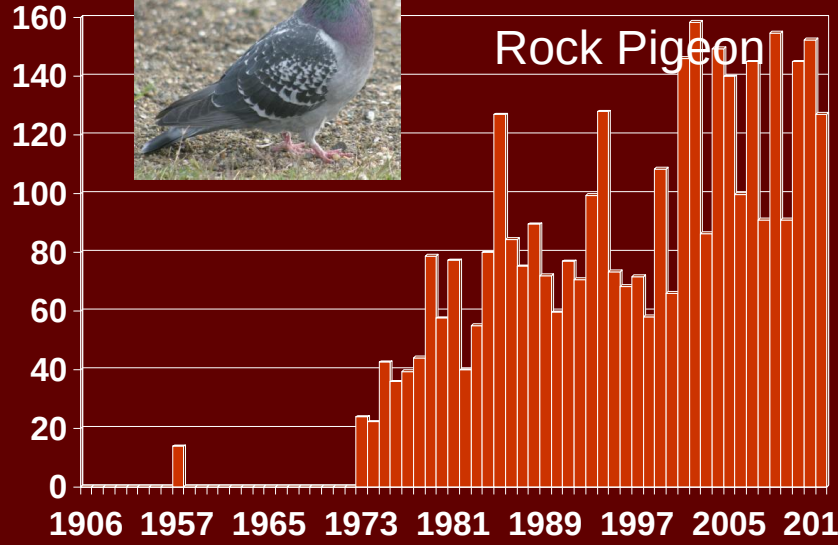
About thirteen species have declined in abundance in the past century

Most are open country species


Pine Siskin
20
18
16
14
12
10
8
6
4
2
0
1906 1956 1963 1970 1977 1984 1991 1998 2005 2012

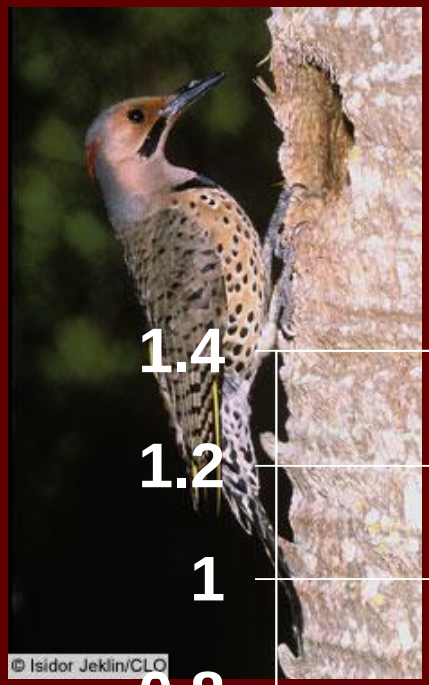

Dark-eyed Junco
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
0
1906 1957 1965 1973 1981 1989 1997 2005 2013


American Robin
1.6
1.4
1.2
1
0.8
0.6
0.4
0.2
0
1906 1957 1965 1973 1981 1989 1997 2005 2013

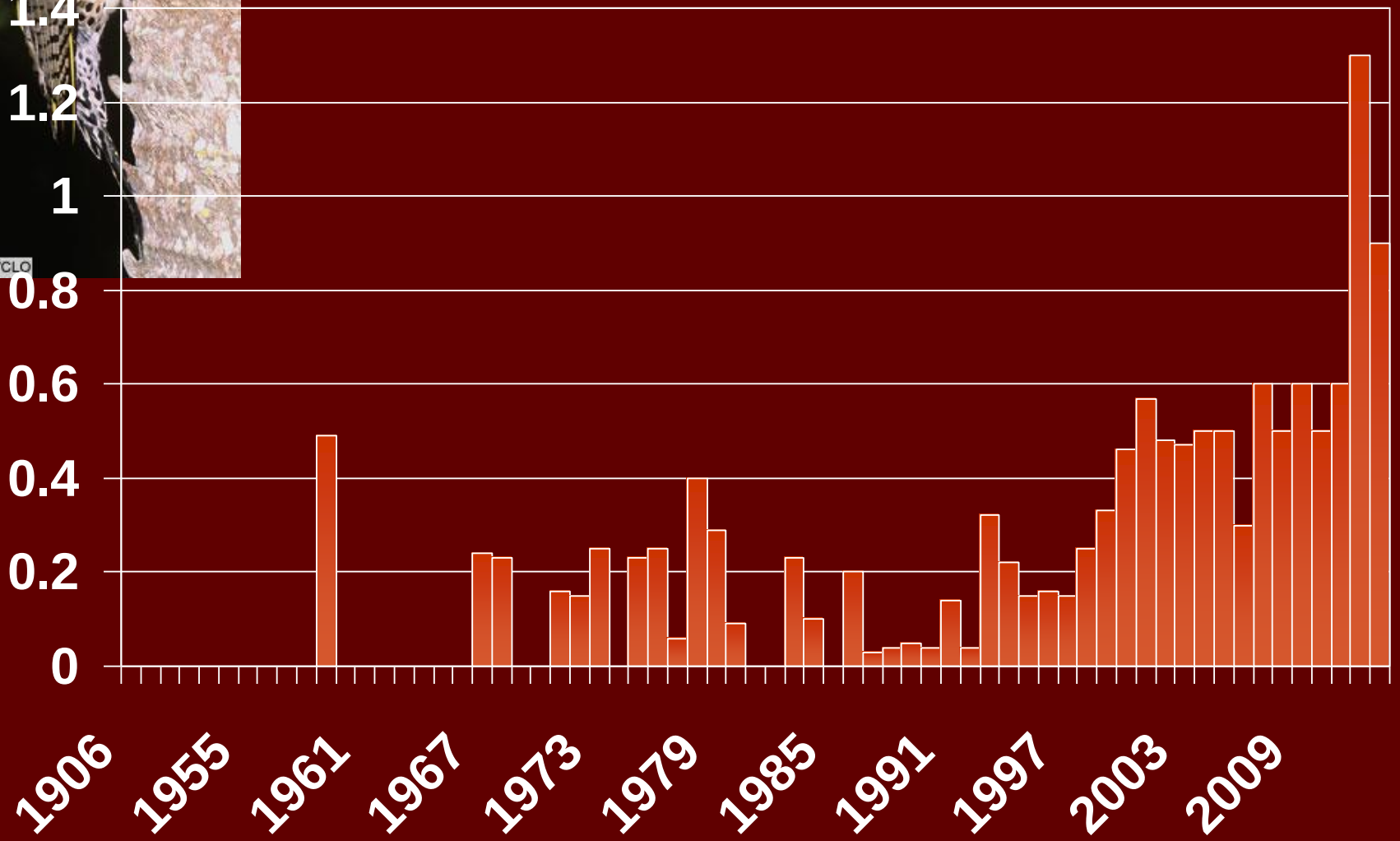

Rock Pigeon
160
140
120
100
80
60
40
20
0
1906 1957 1965 1973 1981 1989 1997 2005 2013

“I’ve got an idea…. How many here have ever seen Alfred Hitchcock’s *The Birds*?”

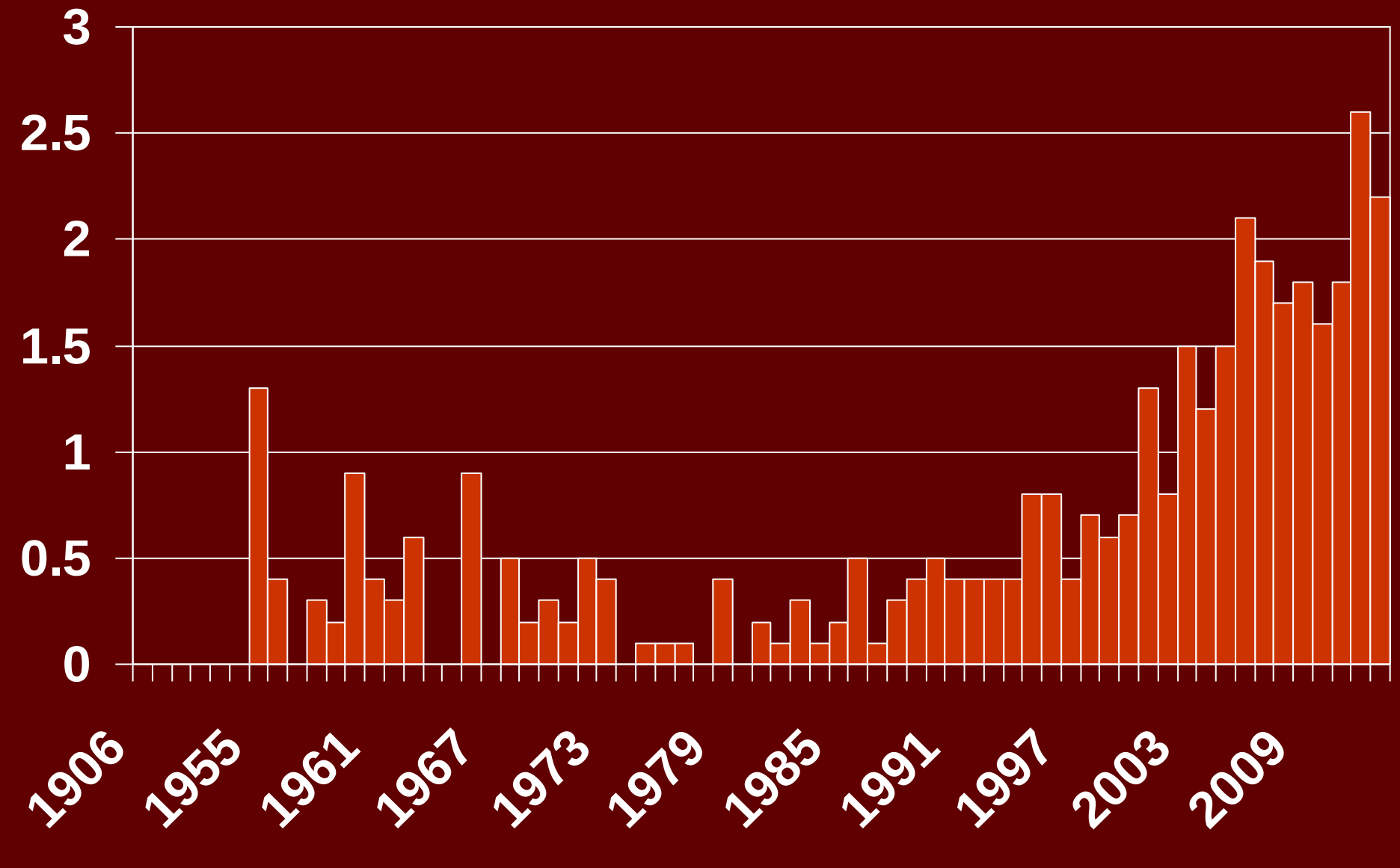
Gary Larson



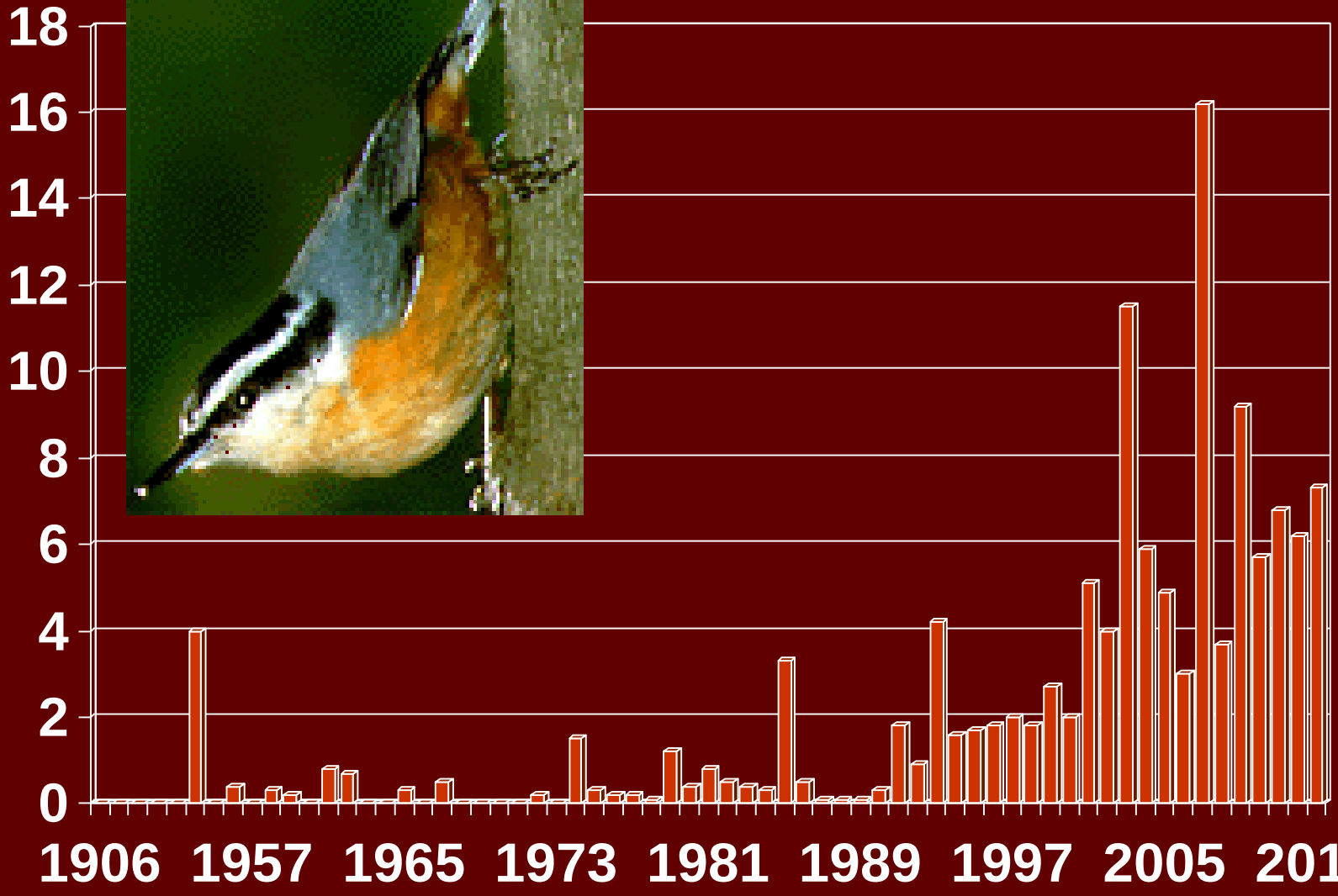
Northern Flicker per 10 party+feeder hour



Pileated Woodpecker per 10 party-hours

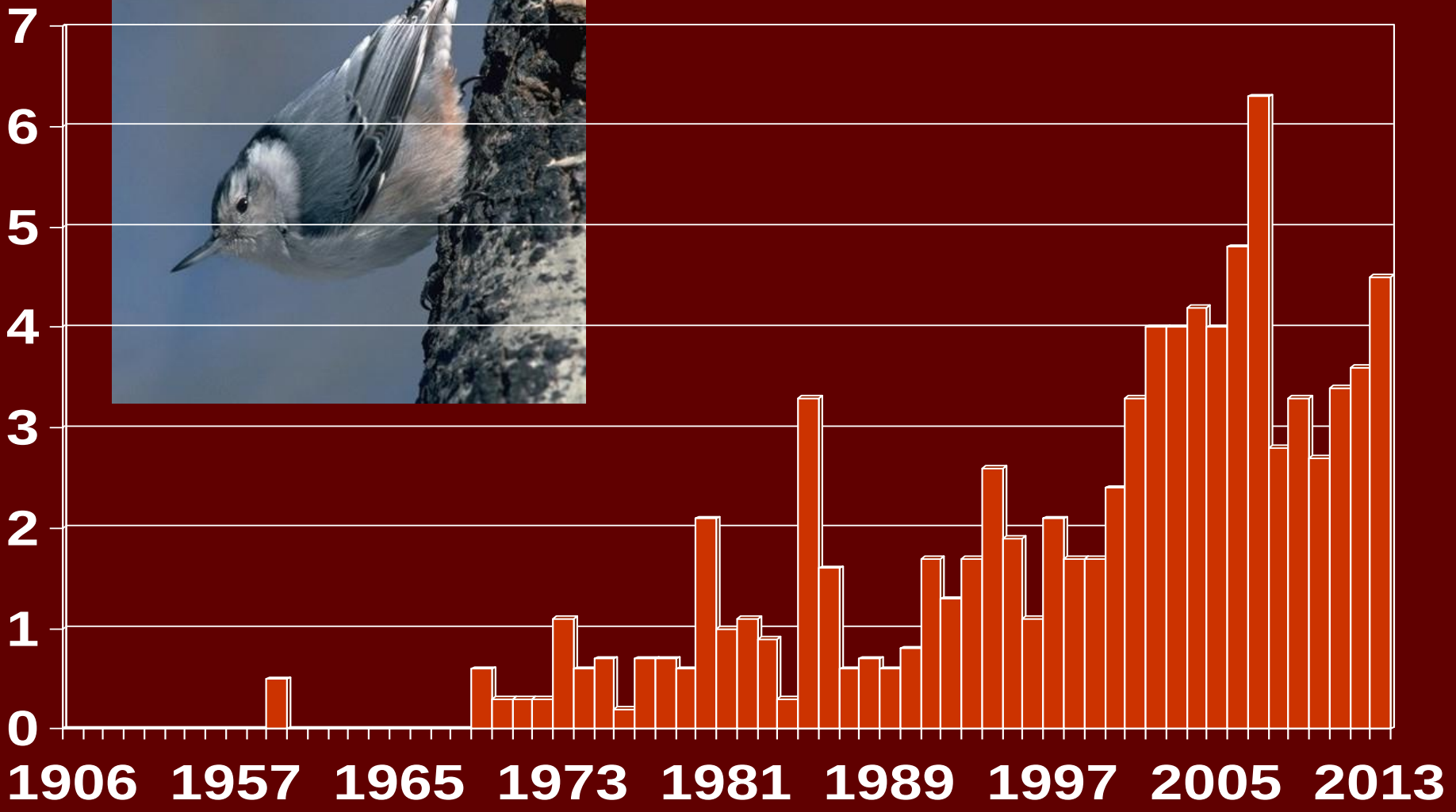


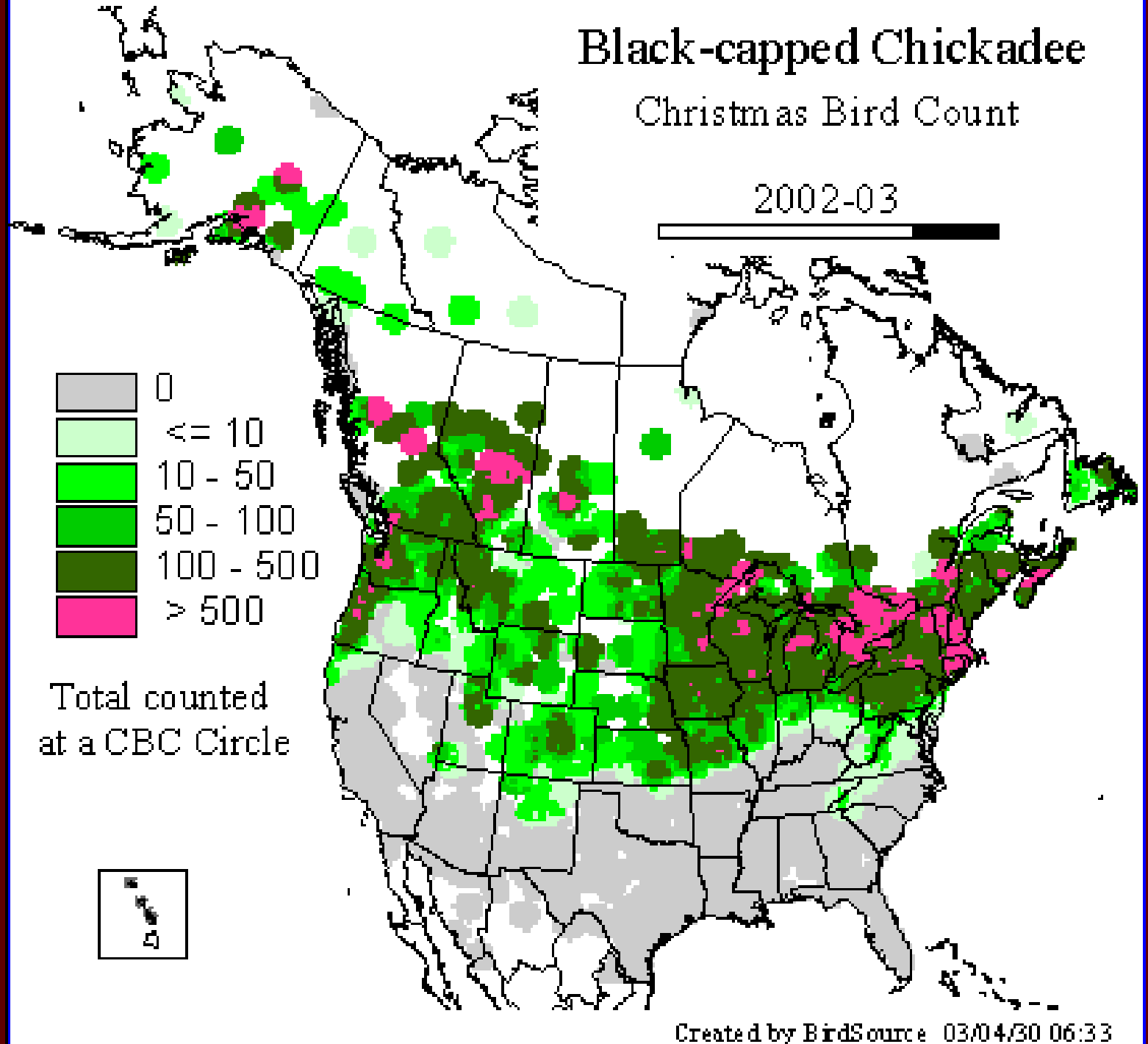
Red-breasted Nuthatch per 10 party+feeder hours



White-breasted Nuthatch

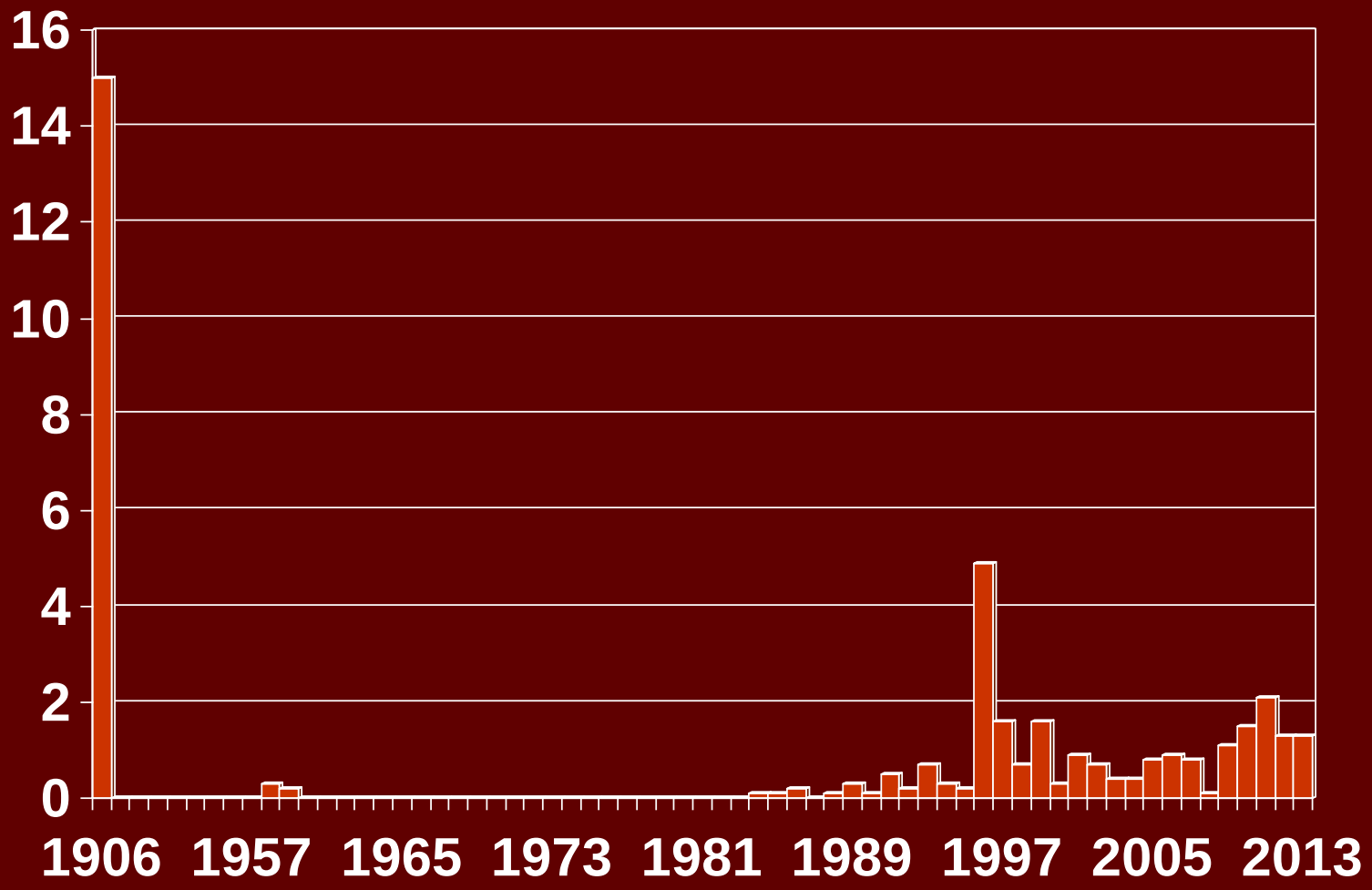
per 10 party+feeder hours




Black-capped Chickadee
Christmas Bird Count
2002-03
0
<= 10
10 - 50
50 - 100
100 - 500
> 500
Total counted
at a CBC Circle
Created by BirdSource 03/04/30 06:33

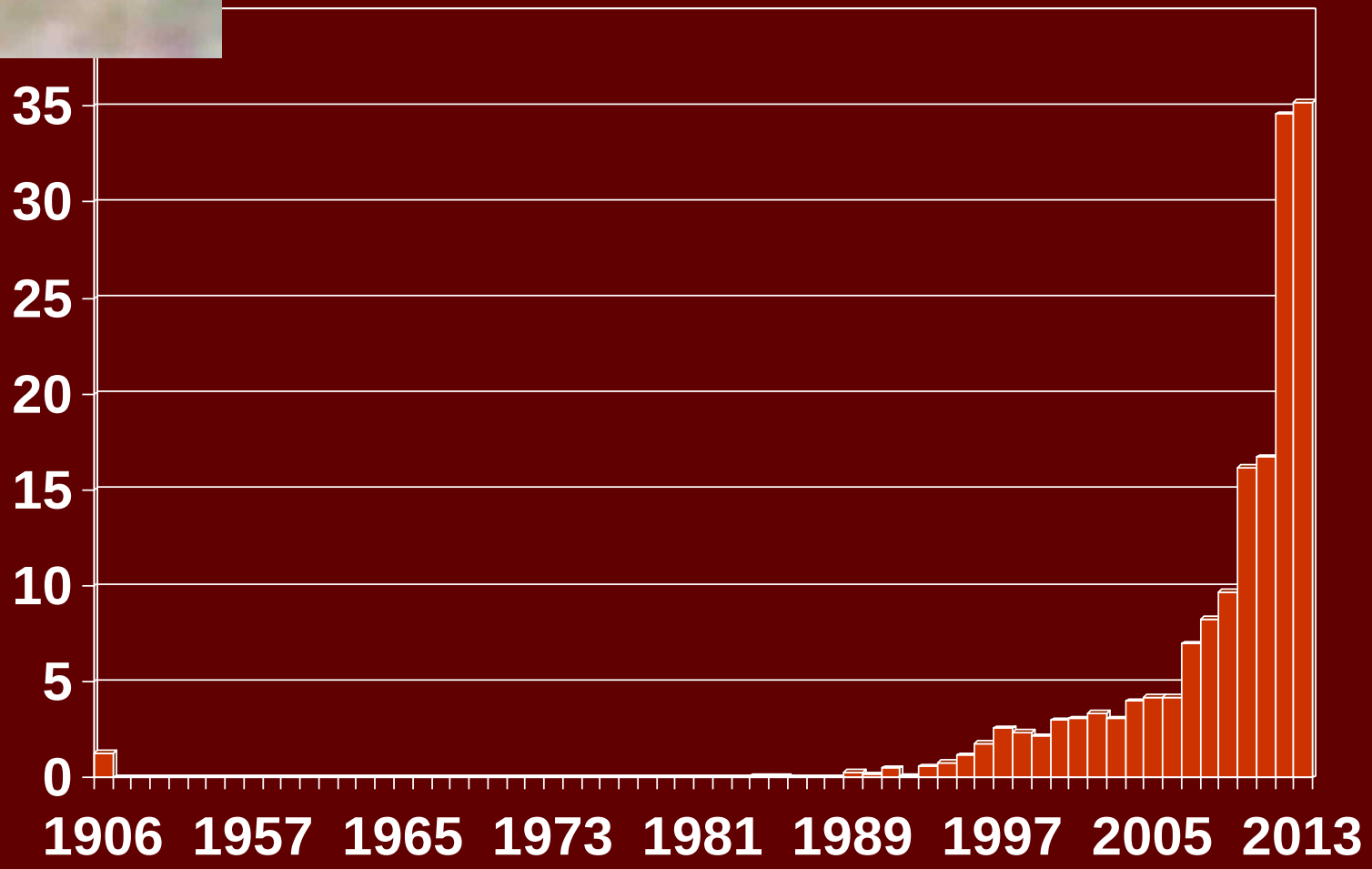
American Crow

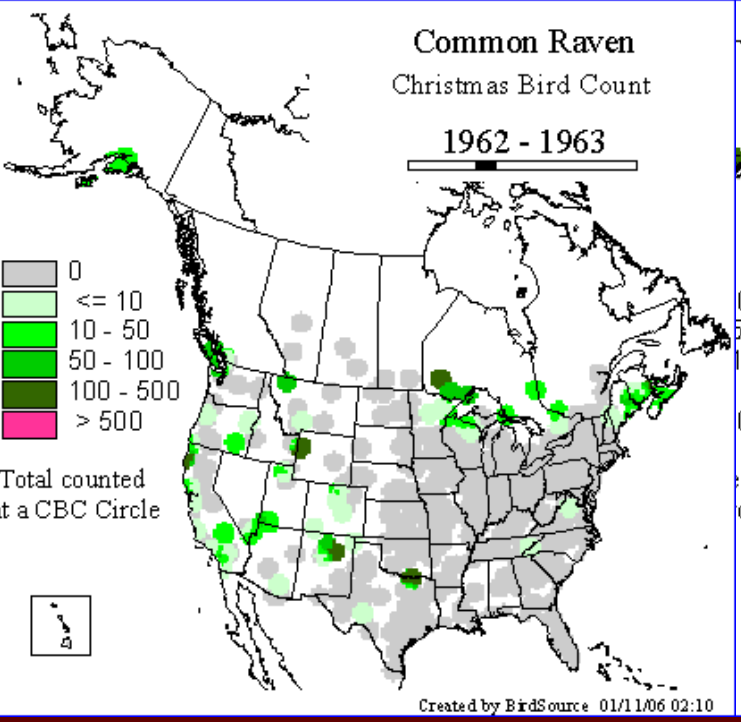
per 10 party-hours

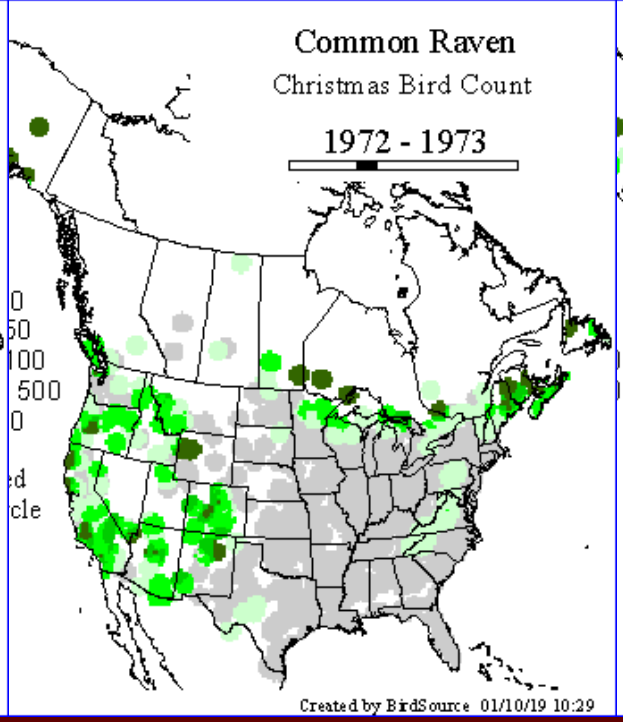


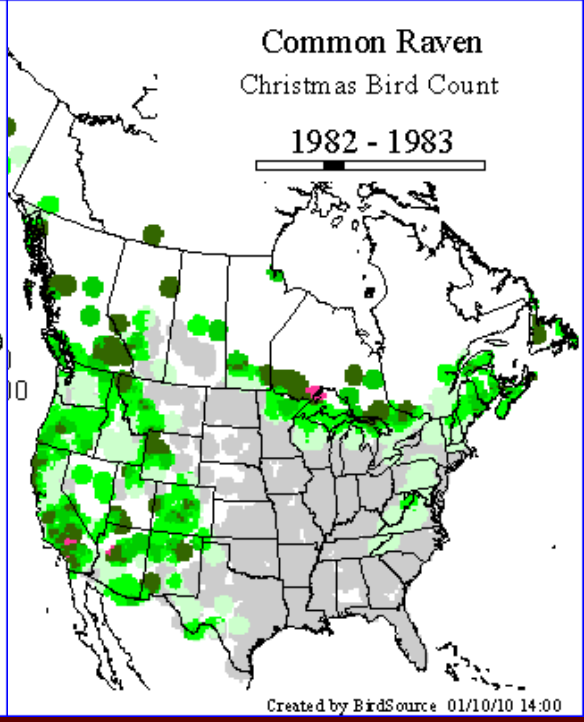
Common Raven

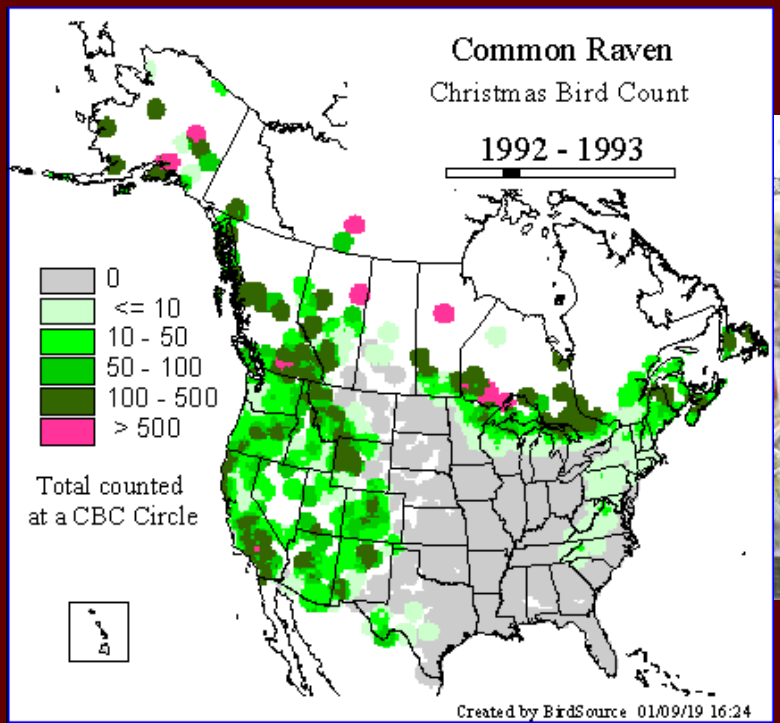
per 10 party-hours

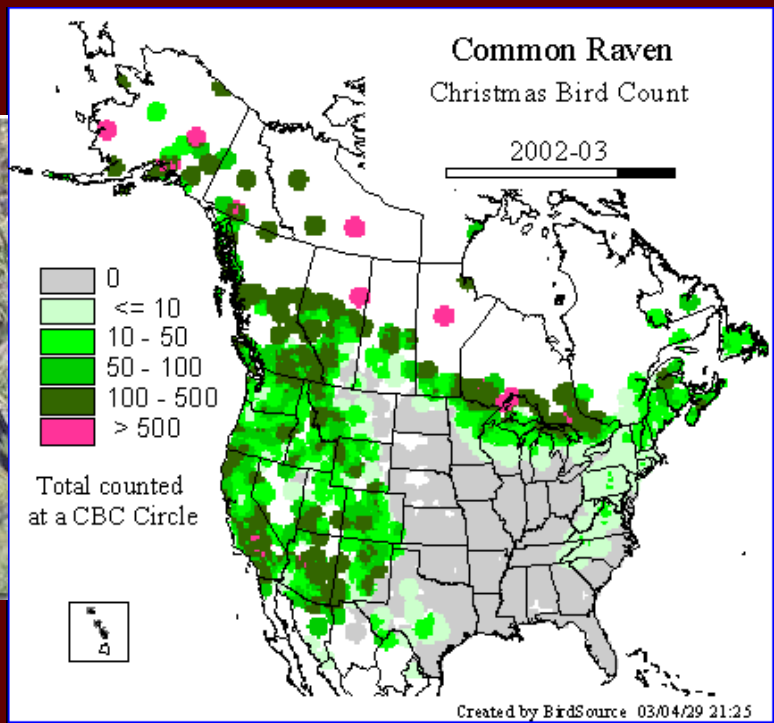



Common Raven
Christmas Bird Count
1962 - 1963
0
<= 10
10 - 50
50 - 100
100 - 500
> 500
Total counted
t a CBC Circle
Created by BirdSource 01/11/06 02:10


Common Raven
Christmas Bird Count
1972 - 1973
Created by BirdSource 01/10/19 10:29

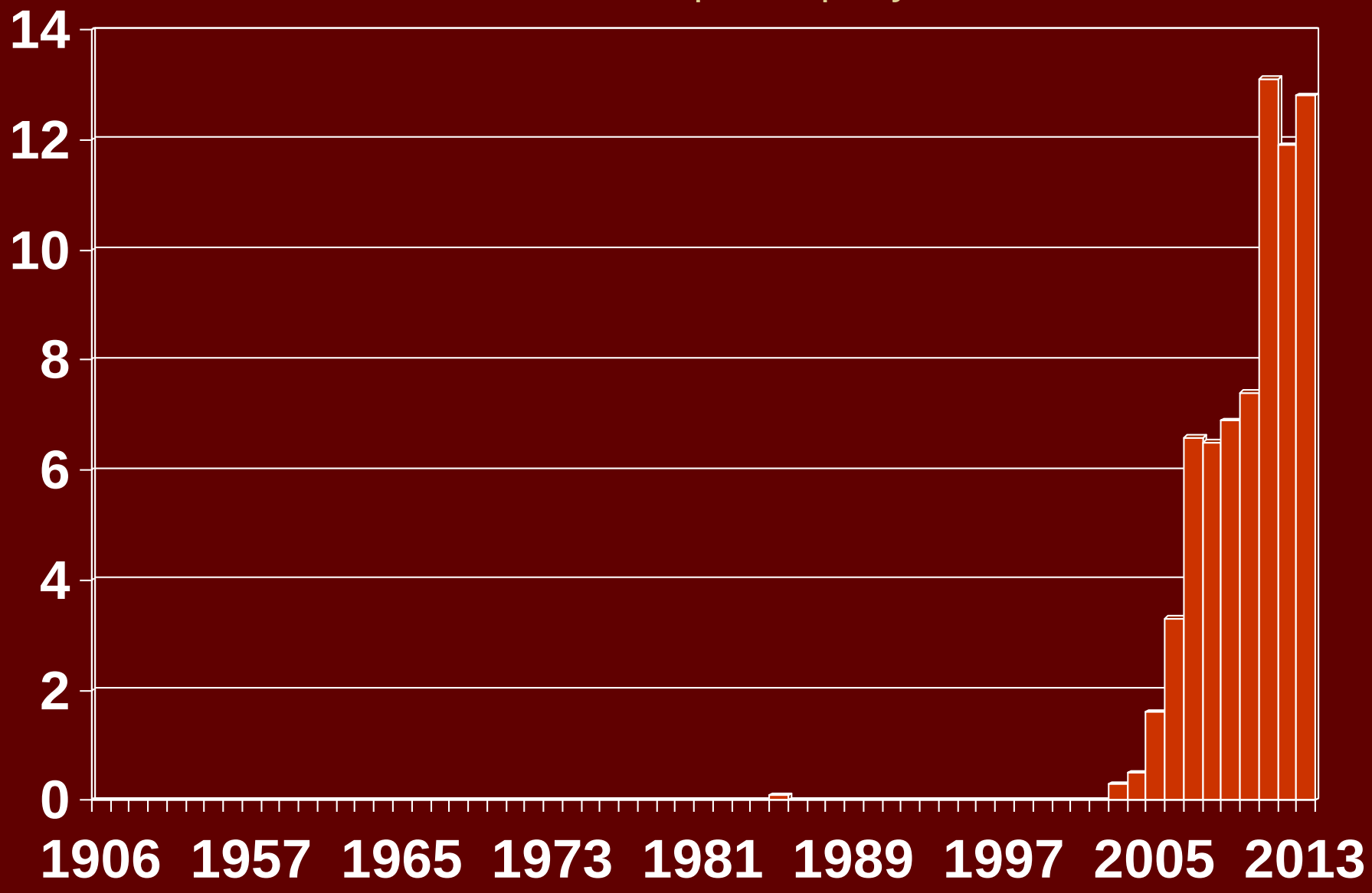

Common Raven
Christmas Bird Count
1982 - 1983
Created by BirdSource 01/10/10 14:00

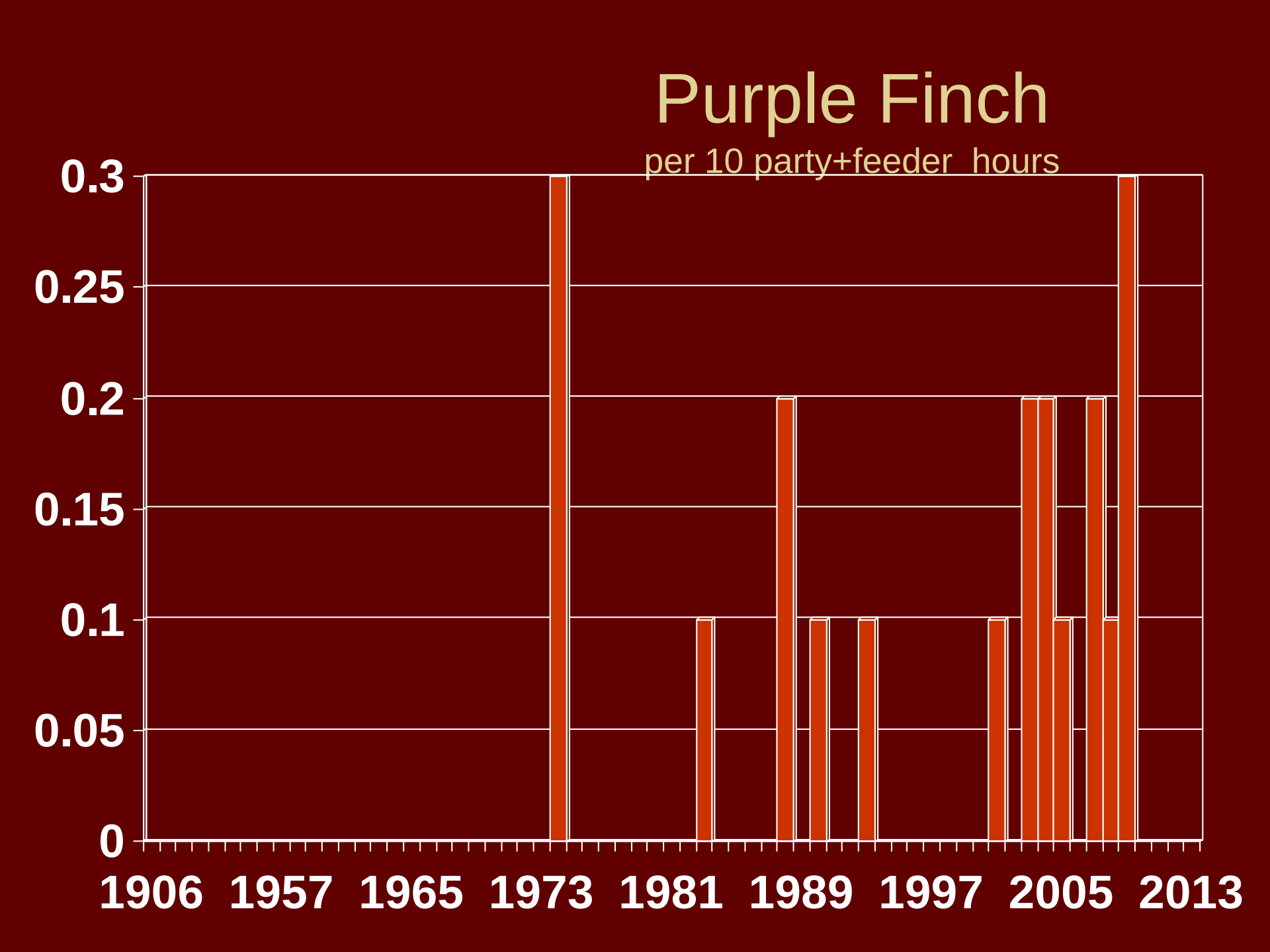

Common Raven
Christmas Bird Count
1992 - 1993
0
<= 10
10 - 50
50 - 100
100 - 500
> 500
Total counted
at a CBC Circle
Created by BirdSource 01/09/19 16:24


Common Raven
Christmas Bird Count
2002-03
0
<= 10
10 - 50
50 - 100
100 - 500
> 500
Total counted
at a CBC Circle
Created by BirdSource 03/04/29 21:25

House Finch

per 10 party+feeder hours




Purple Finch
per 10 party+feeder hours
0.3
0.25
0.2
0.15
0.1
0.05
0
1906
1957
1965
1973
1981
1989
1997
2005
2013

You are all invited back for the next update

20 December 2024 ☺

Do not forget to fill your bird feeders!

Gary Larson

Edmonton
Christmas
Bird Count
2014
Season's Greetings
Thank you for your interest
Kevin E. Smith