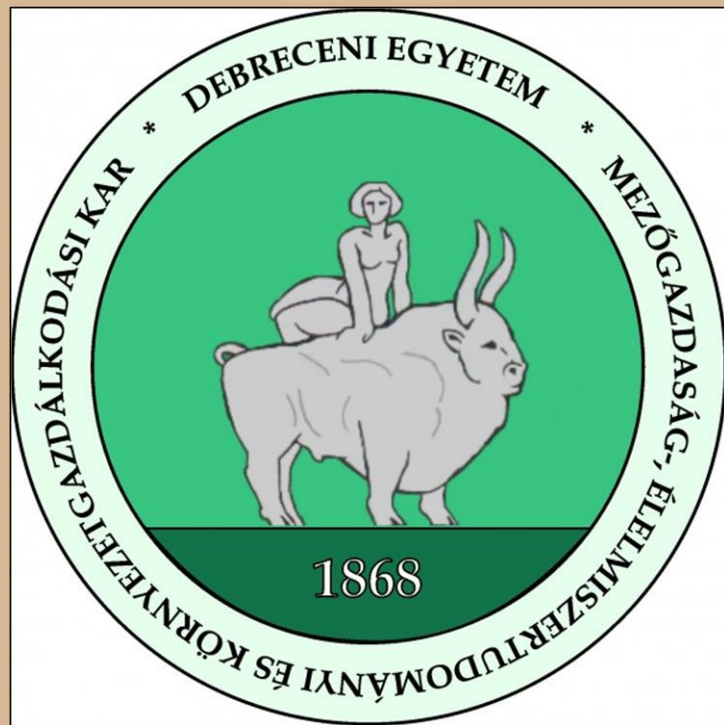




CONTROL POSSIBILITY OF CORVIDS IN URBAN ENVIRONMENT – A TRAPPING EXPERIMENT

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Several problems with urbanized Corvids worldwide → probably control will be needed in many cases (urban wildlife management)



spilling trash



nest predation



predation



aggression towards pets and people

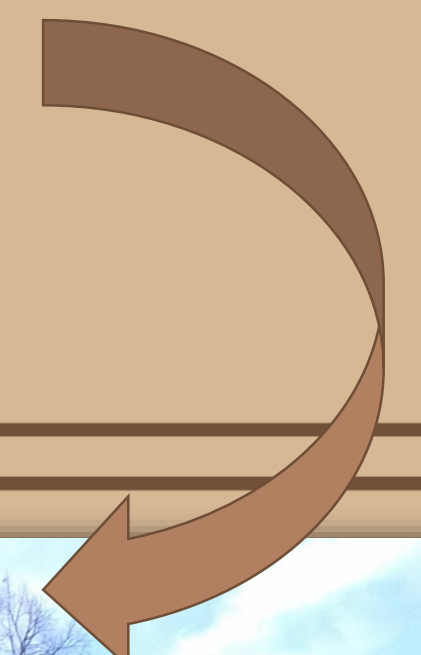


The aim of the study:

Testing, compare the effectiveness of different trap types for urban Corvids, especially for Hooded Crow (*Corvus cornix*) in an urban environment (Debrecen – Hungary).

We tested four type of traps:

- Larsen trap (side door version)
- Larsen trap (upper door version)
- Swedish trap
- Ladder trap



Material and methods:

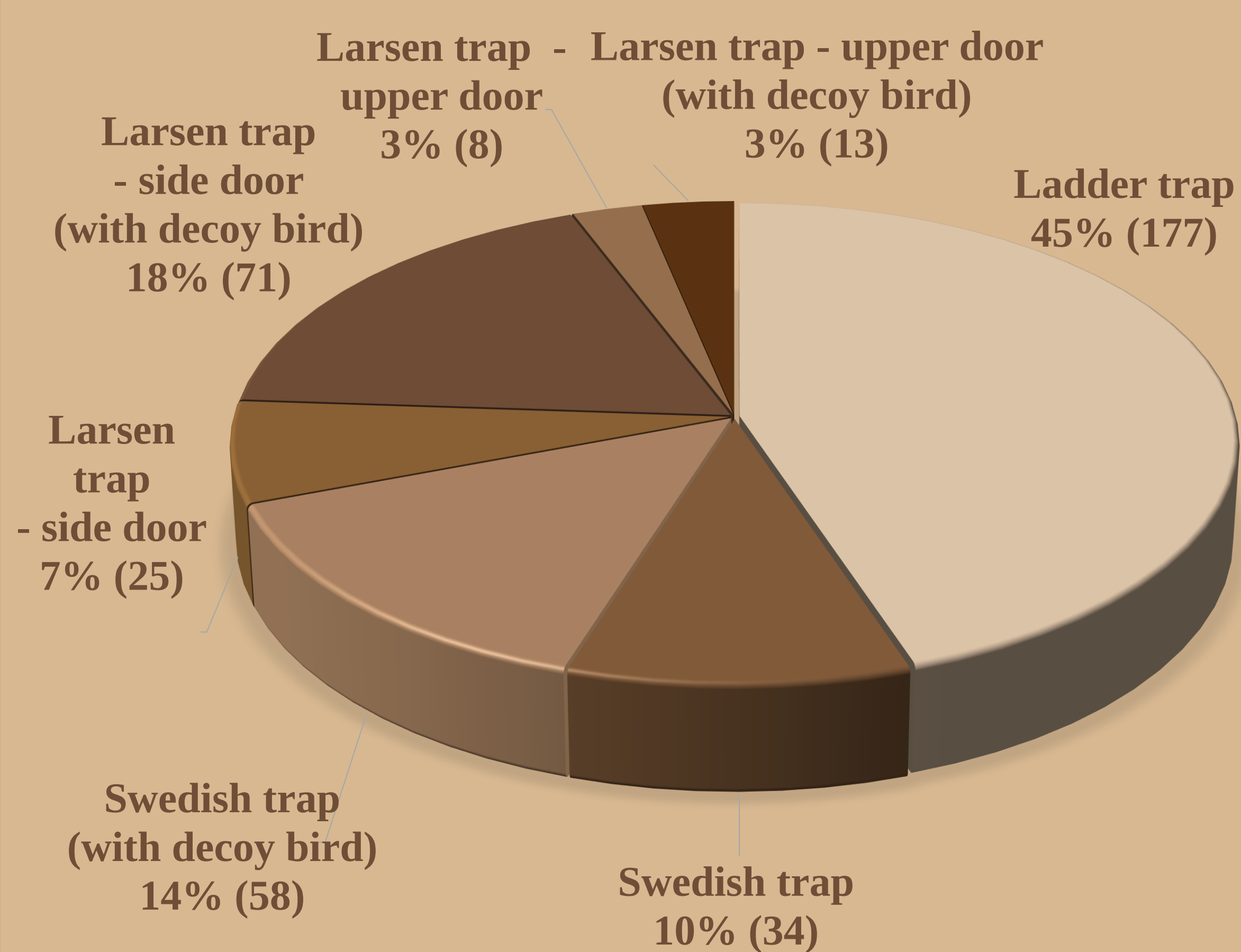
The experiment was carried out from November 2016 until February 2017 at a Campus of UD. We had two adjustments per a trap type: #1 bait (bread), #2 bait and a live decoy bird. The traps were set 25 m from each other and were rotated randomly every week. We checked the traps only in the evening hours when it was dark in order to avoid being recognised by the crows. The caught crows were banded and relased for other research purposes. We noted the weather conditions.



Results:

During 104 trap days, we captured 28 Hooded Crows (with 11 birds recaptured 98 times), and 239 Rooks (with 11 birds recaptured 30 times). Our results indicate that the ladder trap, the side-open Larsen trap and the Swedish trap were the most effective. Every trap types gave better results if we used decoy bird. The temperature showed neutral effect while the snow cover was positive influence regarding the success of cathing.

EFFECTIVENESS OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF TRAPS (N=386)



THE CAUGHT SPECIES & OCCURRENCE (THE NUMBER OF RECAPTURES IS GIVEN IN BRACKETS)

Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	126 (98)
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	269 (30)
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	2
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	2
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	5
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	3
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	2
Blue Tit	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>	1
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	1
Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>	1

Conclusion:

- The trapping could be a useful method to reduce/control the urban crow population.
- Attention must be paid to:
 - timing of trap checking!
 - location selection of traps
 - vitality of decoy birds
 - maintenance of traps
- Results could be useful to urban management & wildlife management.
- Good method for any research purpose.