Early stages of the common myna (Acridotheres tristis) invasion in Kruger National Park

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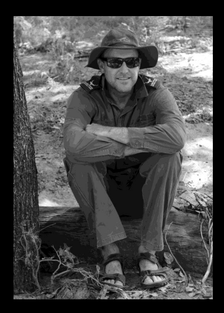
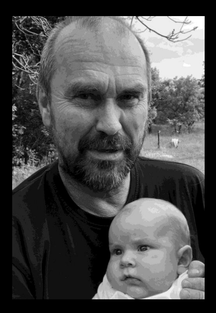
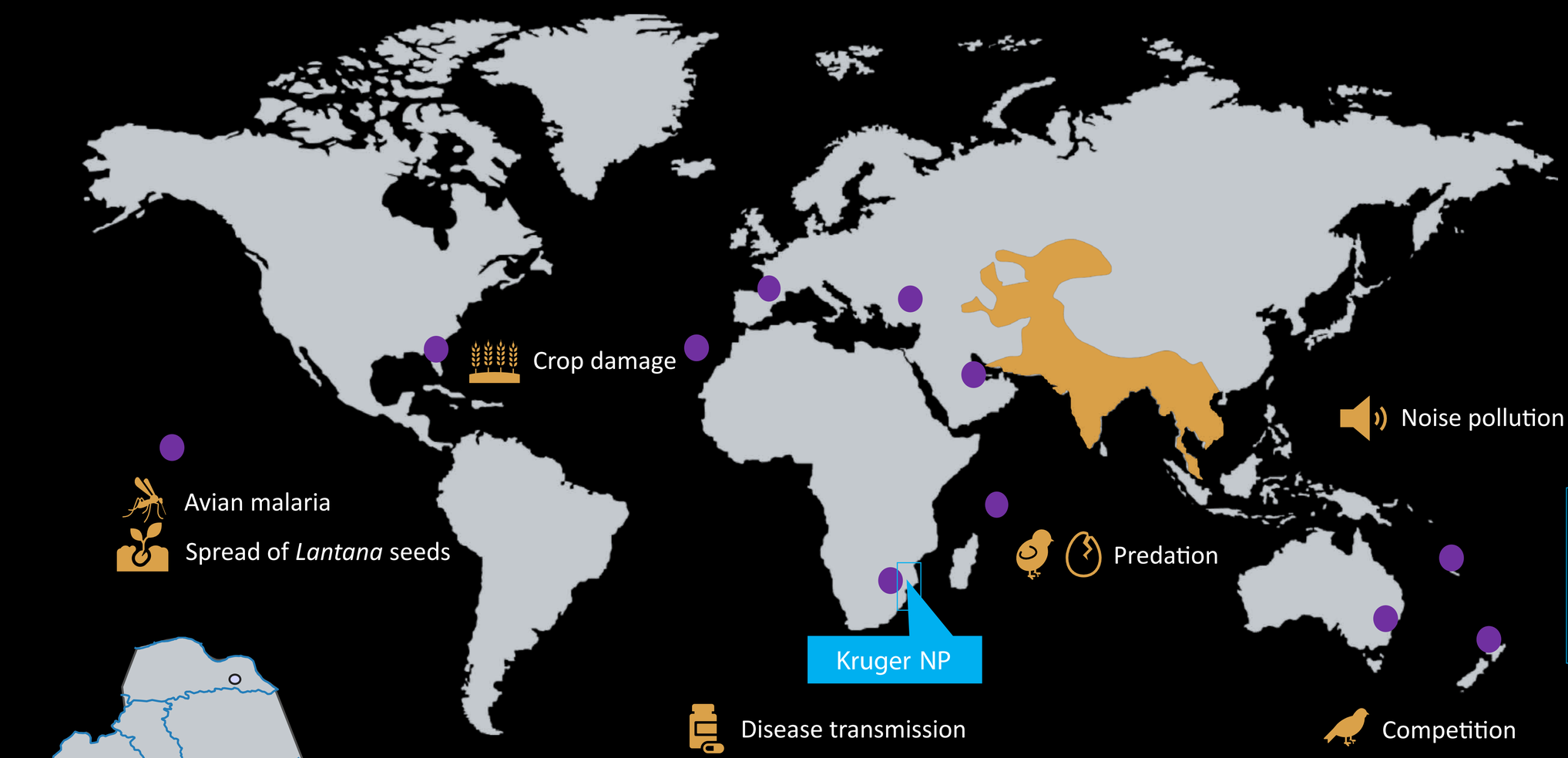
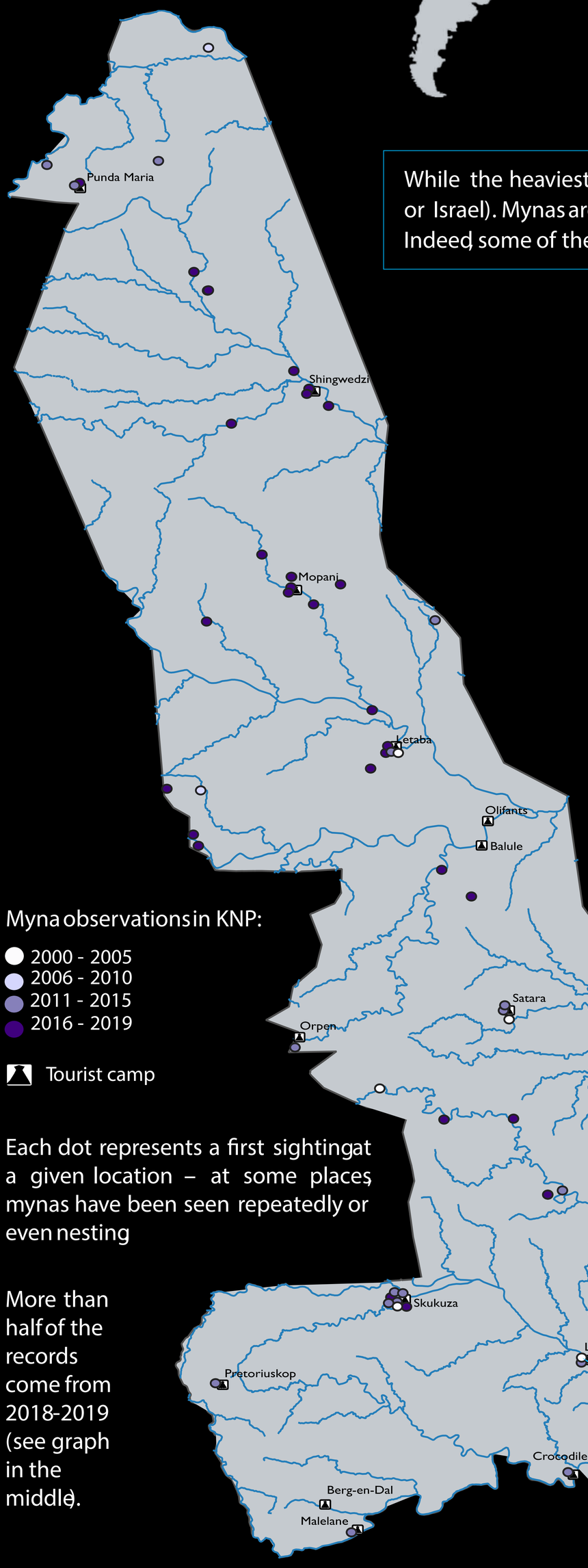




The common myna is native to southern Asia and was introduced to South Africa in 1902 to Durban (Peacock et al. 2007). The IUCN ISSG considers common myna one of the worst 100 invasive species.



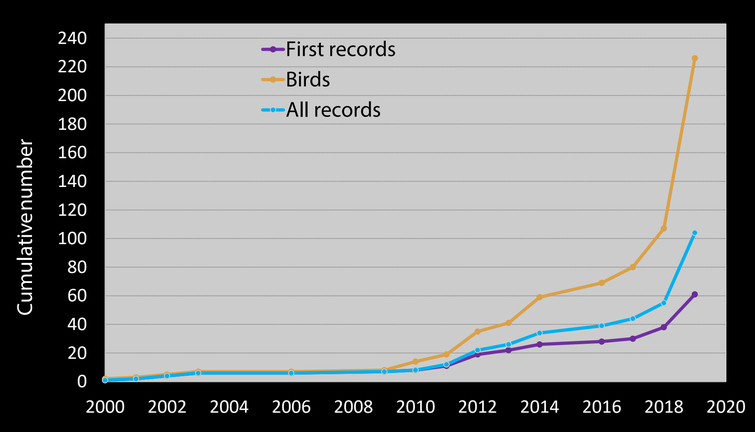
While the heaviest damage has been recorded on invaded islands, there is growing evidence for impacts on mainland (e.g. Australia or Israel). Mynas are synantropic and urban dwelling species, yet there is evidence that they do sometimes wander into natural areas. Indeed, some of the Kruger records are from places dozens of kilometers from nearest camps or towns (see map on the left).



Each dot represents a first sighting at a given location – at some places, mynas have been seen repeatedly or even nesting

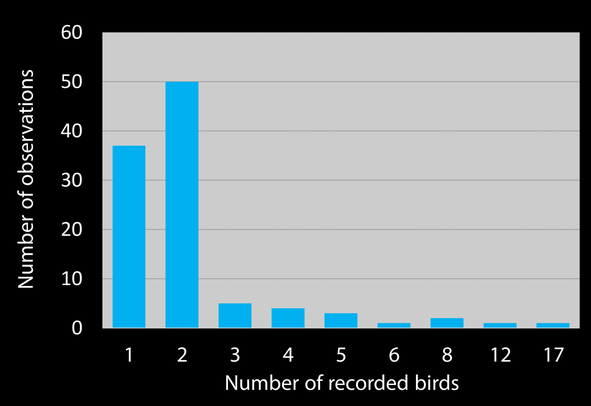
More than half of the records come from 2018-2019 (see graph in the middle).

Invasion curves for common myna in KNP



First records: first observation for a given location
All records: including repeated observations for same location
Birds: all birds recorded in KNP in total

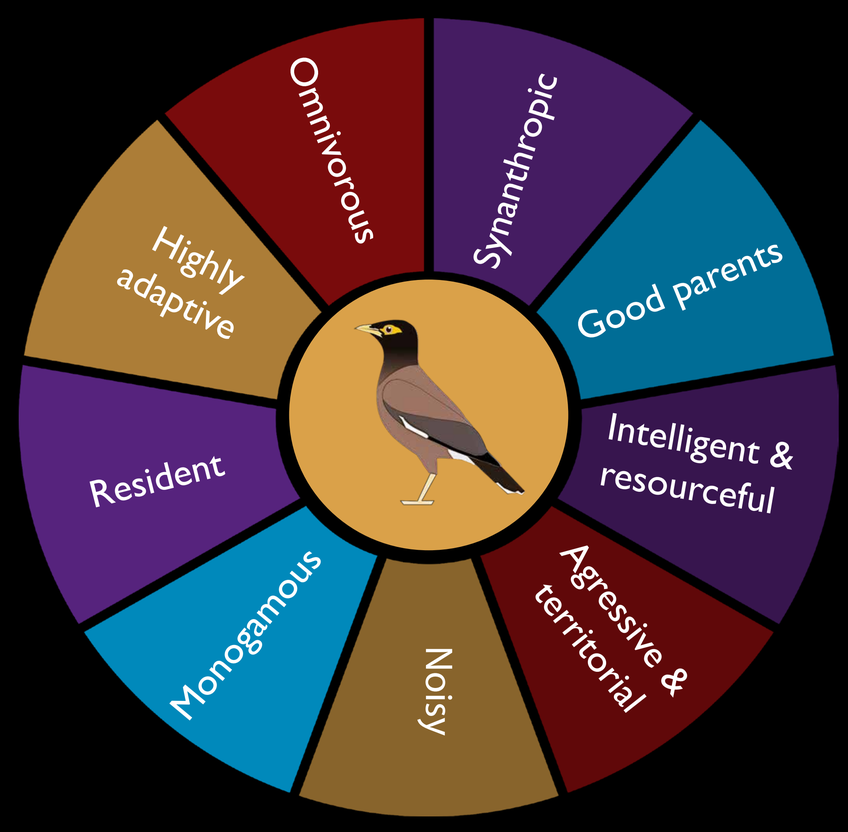
Frequency distribution of the number of birds recorded during individual observations



In the majority of cases only one individual or a pair was recorded, on rare occasions a whole flock was seen

Kruger represents an ideal environment for common mynas and through their agressive behaviour and fairly large body size they can compete with native bird populations; they also become a nuissance to tourists. With the rapidly increasing population in the past couple of years, there is a strong need to take action before the invasion fully develops

Once mynas become established, it is virtually impossible to eradicate them; they are capable of learning from each other, learn to avoid bait or recognise armed shooters and their whereabouts They are succesful because they are…



We thank the KNP rangers and staff for most of the data (some records come from tourists).
And I thank Pavel Pipek for many helpful creative suggestions during the preparations of this poster ☺