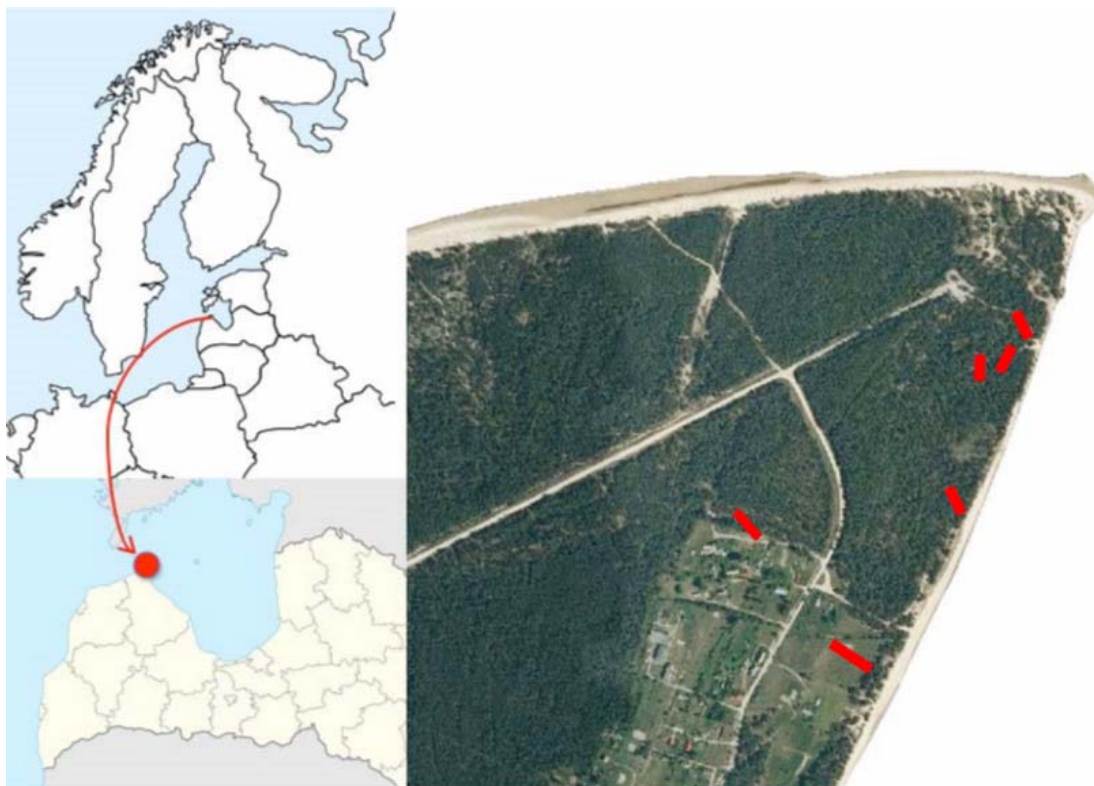


Summary about researches on
Owls in the Cape Kolka in spring 2013
done by members of Latvian Owl Research Society:
Gaidis Grandāns and Andris Avotiņš junior.



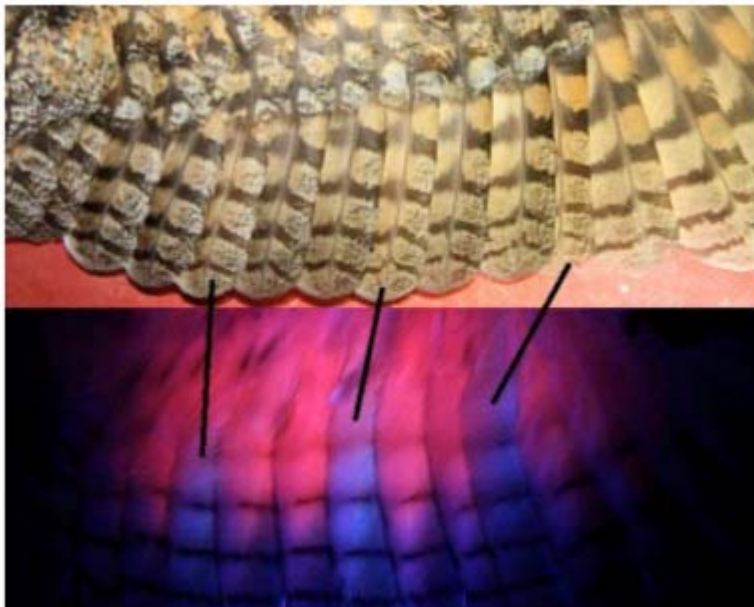
Starting from 2011 Latvian Owl Research Society in spring each year does migrating owl catching and ringing at the Cape Kolka.

Year	Timing	Method
2011	01.04-15.05.	Nets 84 m
2012	15.03.-30.04.	Nets 84 m
2013	26.03.-10.05.	Nets 130 m

To increase the number of Boreal Owl (Tengmalm's Owl) under one of nets there were replay of male's lacking call done. Migrating owls were attracted using mp3 player and small speakers and replaying calls of Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla*. Owls were caught only in good weather conditions from the dusk till dawn. Nets were systematically checked (in average every each 2 hours), owls ringed, wing, weight, tail measurement taken, for some birds also DNA samples were taken too.

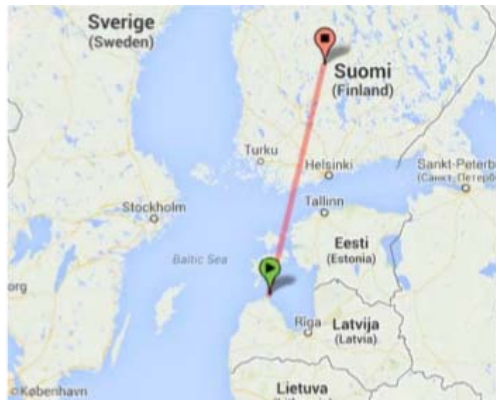


In 2013 first time ultraviolet light were used – it makes easier and more precise telling the age of birds. It was very helpful with Boreal Owls, as for this bird it is hard to see differences in feather moulting pattern.



Long-eared Owl (*Asio Otus*) was the most common trapped and ringed – 45 birds were caught but since 2011 – 220 birds. 35% or 16 birds of 45 birds were 2 years old females, followed by 9 two years old male birds. Although there is an opinion that the adult males chooses to overwinter closer to their nesting area, there were 9 such males caught.

33 **Boreal Owls** (Tengmalm's Owl) (*Aegolius funereus*) were caught. This proves that Boreal Owls are concentrating at the Baltic Sea Cost line. In all years 72 Boreal Owls were caught. 2013.04.11. Konrad Lisowski (Poland) caught the third Boreal Owl for Latvia ringed abroad (ringed as nestling in Finland).



Tawny Owl (*Strix aluco*) is a rare guest in Cape Kolka - in all these 3 years only 6 migrating birds have been caught. We can only guess how many Tawny Owls are migrating over Cape Kolka.



Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*): the same as Long-eared Owls, female birds dominate during the migration period. In these three years 17 Owls have been caught.

Latvian Owl Research Society plans to keep these researches going also this year.