



Singing from North to South: Latitudinal Variation of the Effects of ALAN on Timing of Dawn Song

Arnaud Da Silva

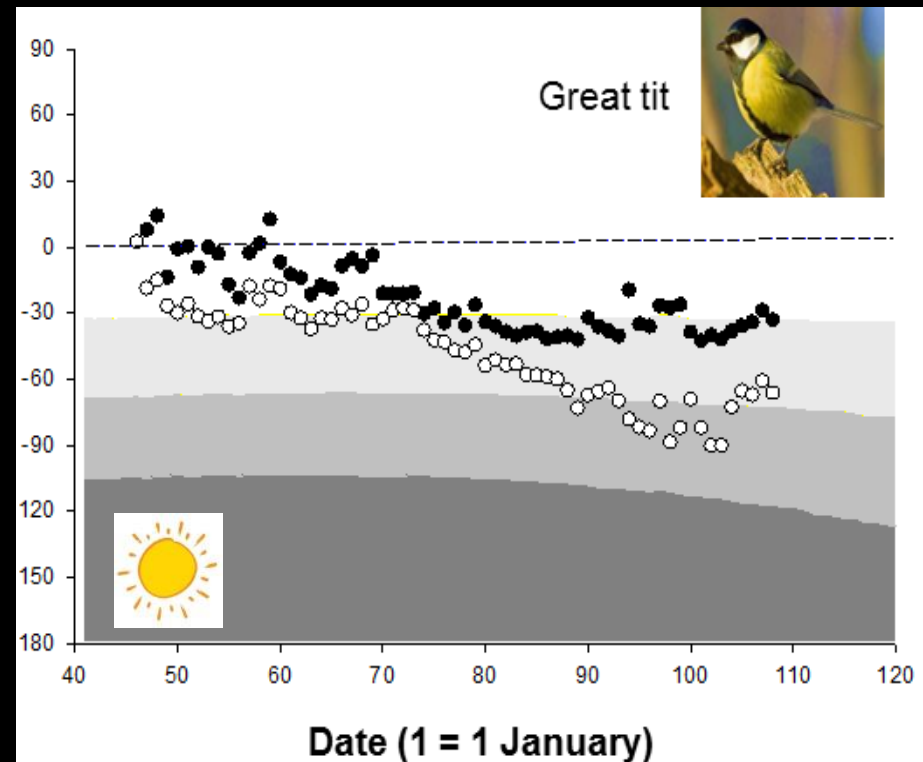
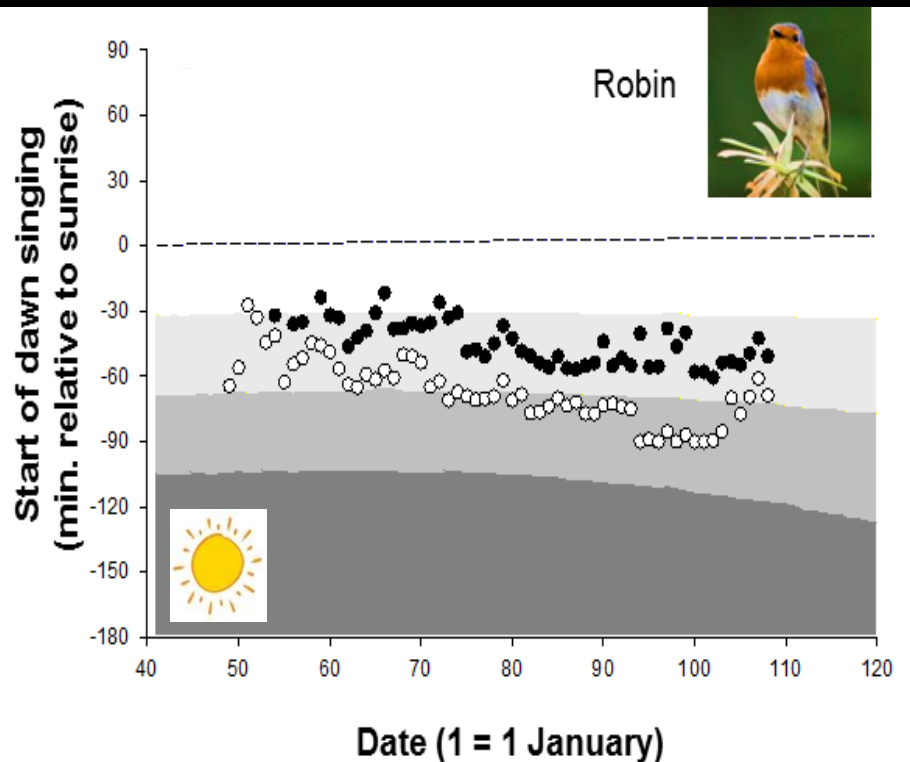
PhD student

Supervisor: Bart Kempenaers

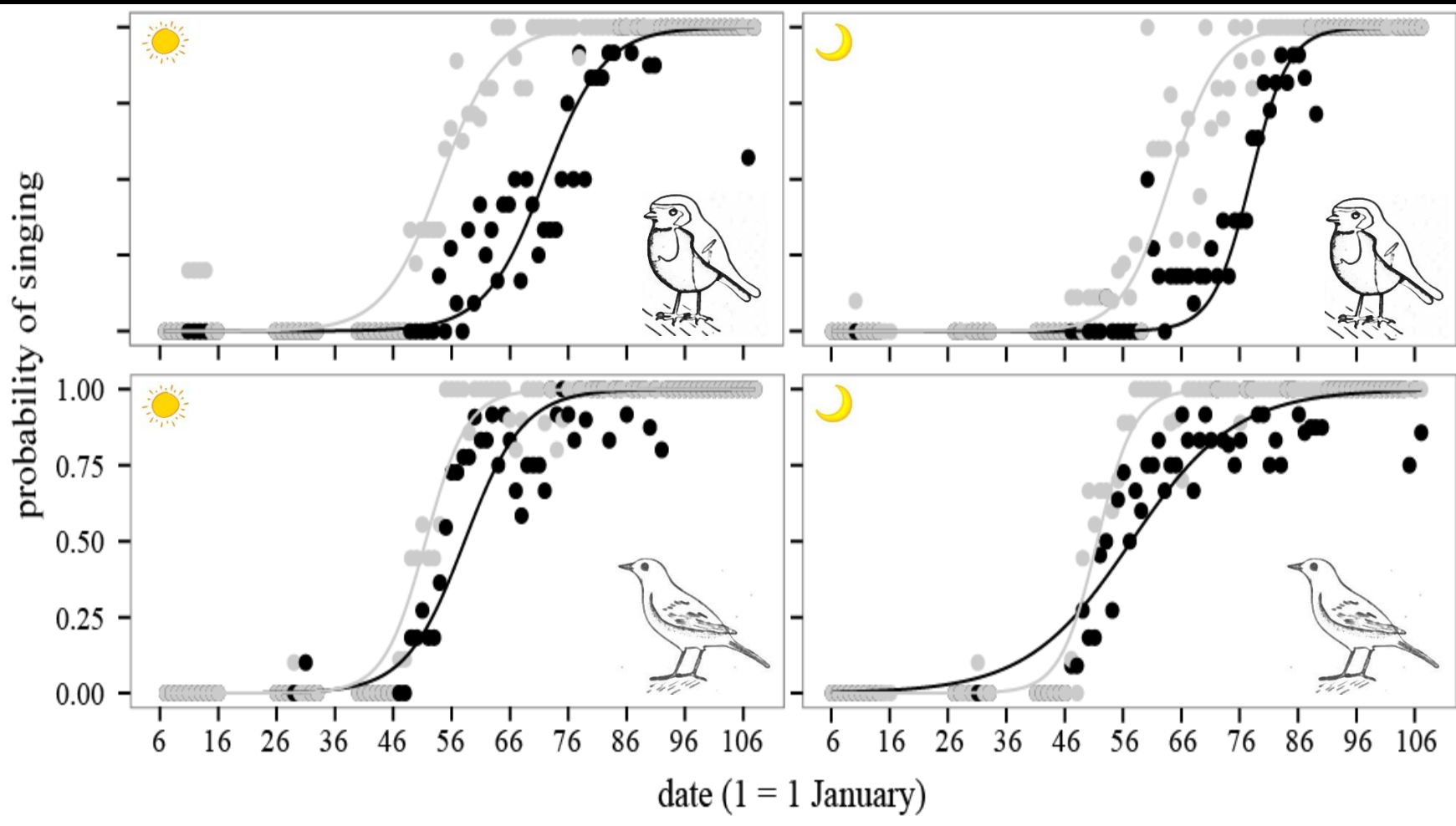
Max Planck Institute for Ornithology

Seewiesen, Germany





Light pollution (rather than noise pollution)
 → Earlier **daily** start of dawn song



Light pollution

→ Earlier **yearly** start of song production



Light effect on dawn song across latitudes

- Most studies carried out at same intermediate latitudes: Germany, Netherlands, England, USA¹
- Lack an understanding of the impact of light pollution in relation to variation in natural light conditions
- 3 study sites in Europe that differ in natural daylength variation

¹ Miller 2006, Nordt & Klenke 2013, Da Silva et al. 2014, Dominoni et al. 2014,





Light effect on dawn song across latitudes

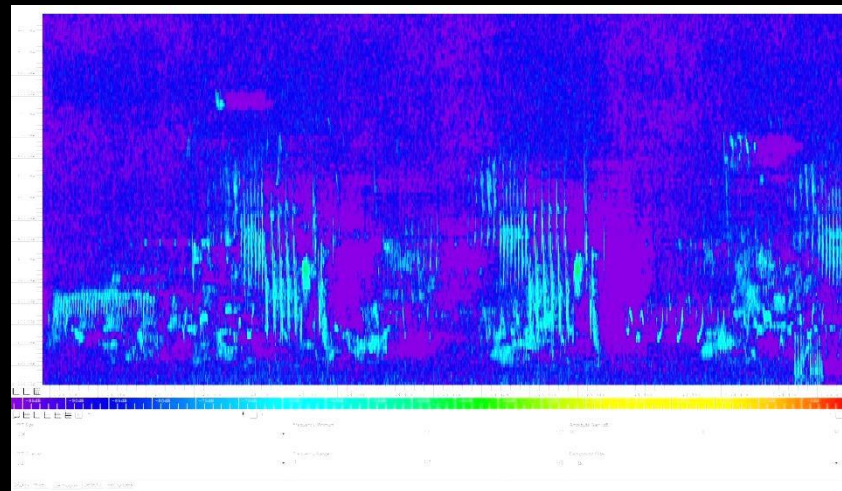
- 10 peri-urban forest patches: 5 with and 5 without light pollution (street lights)





Light effect on dawn song across latitudes

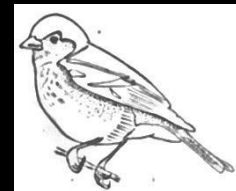
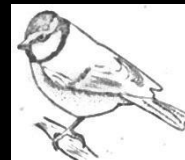
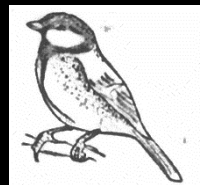
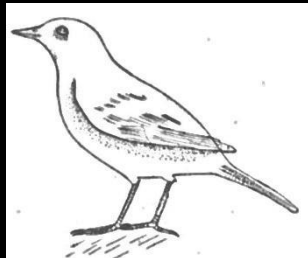
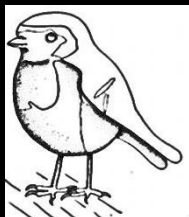
- 10 peri-urban forest patches: 5 with and 5 without light pollution (street lights)
- From 25 March to 18 April in Germany and Spain
- From 2 to 26 May in Finland





Light effect on dawn song across latitudes

- 10 peri-urban forest patches: 5 with and 5 without light pollution (street lights)
- From 25 March to 18 April in Germany and Spain
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Statistical analysis

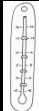
- Dependent Variable

Onset of dawn song (min before sunrise)

- Explanatory Variables

Light (yes/no)  * **Latitude** (F/G/S)  * **Standardized date** 

Rain (yes/no) 

Temperature (residuals) 

- Random Variable

Site

- Model selection according to AIC criterion



Onset of singing (min before sunrise)

~ Light * Latitude + Latitude * Date + Rain + Temperature (residuals)



F-value

p-value

11.9

0.003



43.9

<.0001



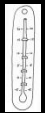
28.3

<.0001



5.1

0.02



0.4

0.5



*



3.0

0.08



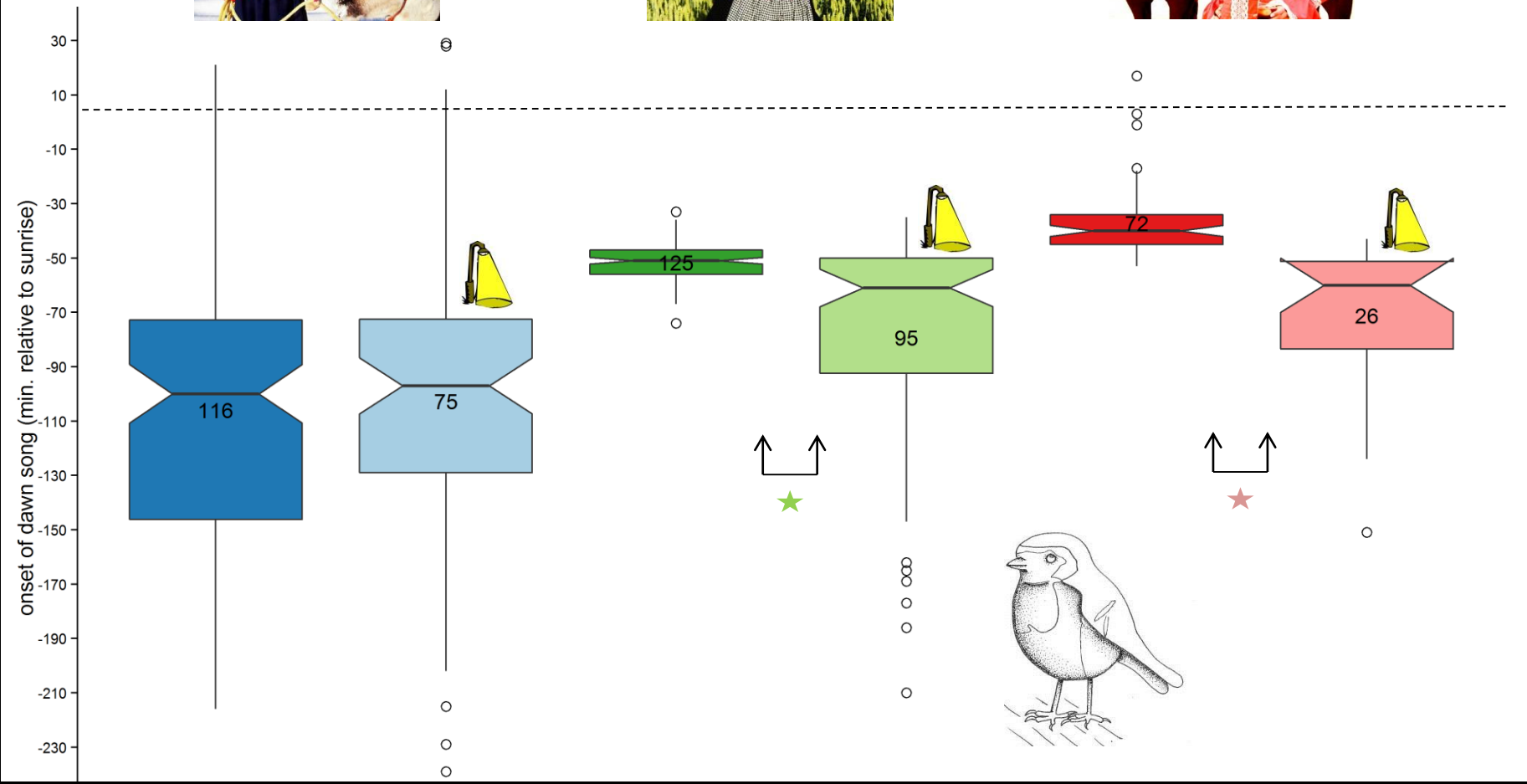
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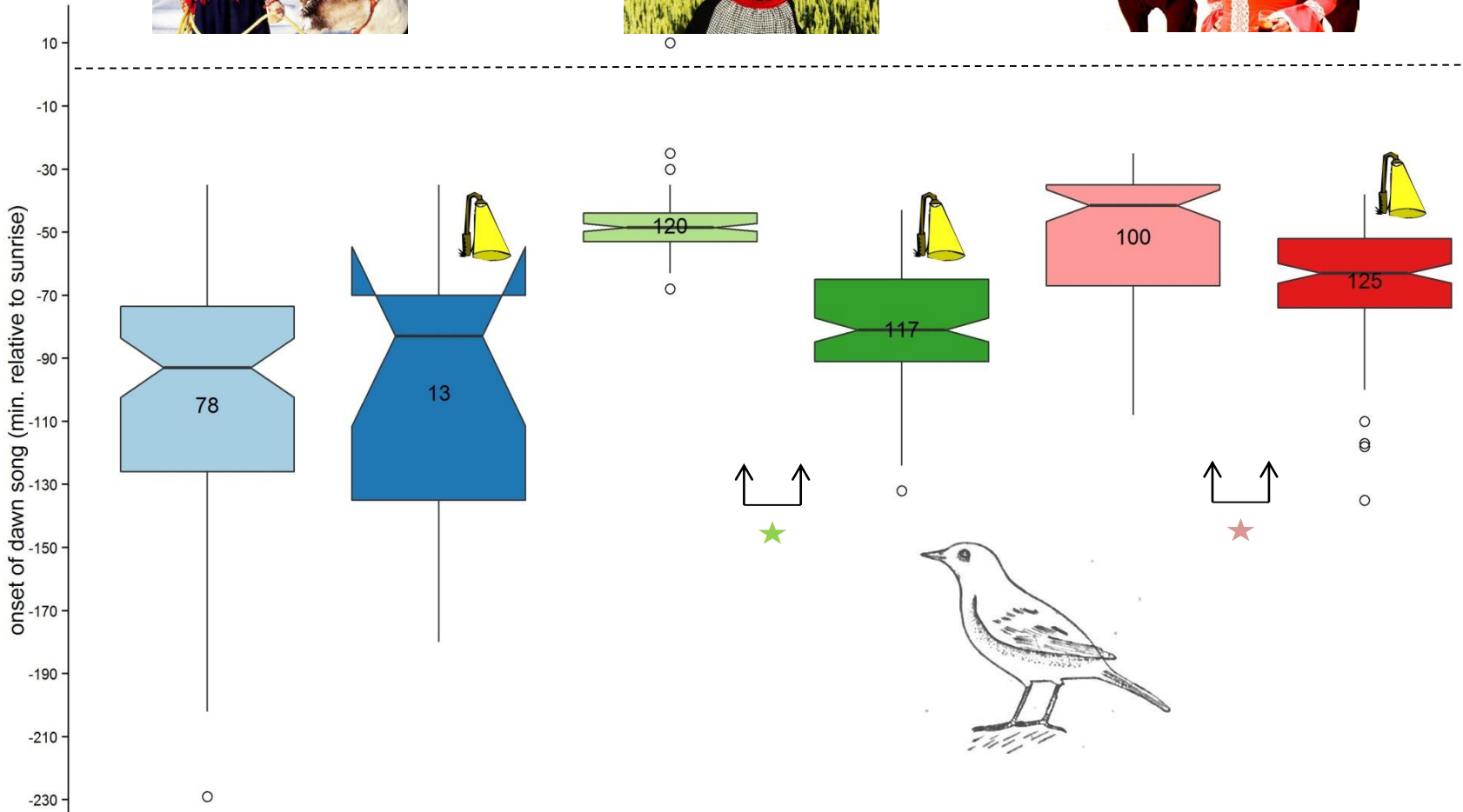
20.7

<.0001





Earliest onset of dawn song in the northern latitude
 Light effect only in the intermediate and southern latitude



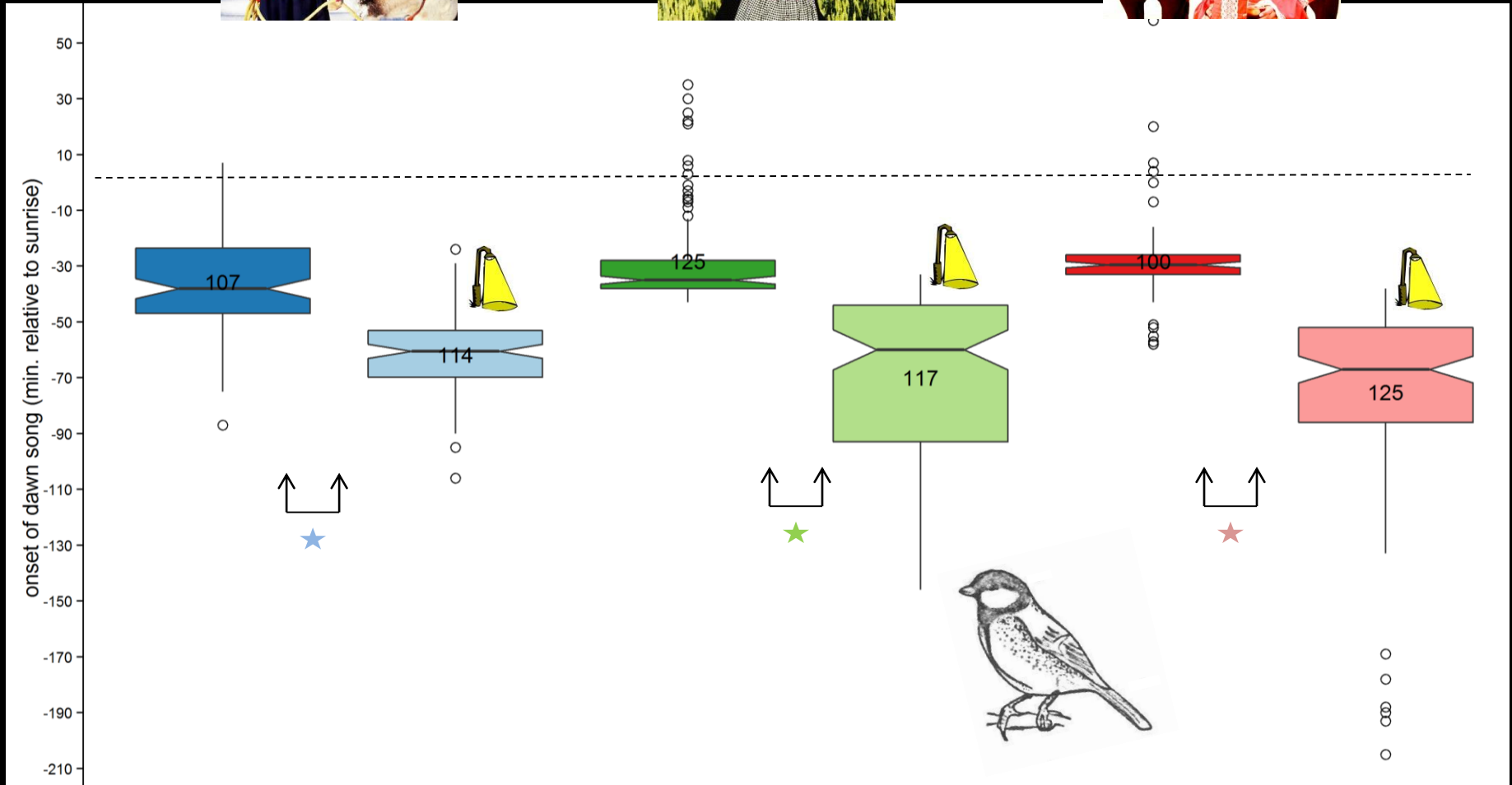
Earliest onset of dawn song in the northern latitude
Light effect only in the intermediate and southern latitude



Onset of singing (min before sunrise)
~ Light + Latitude + Date + Rain + Temperature

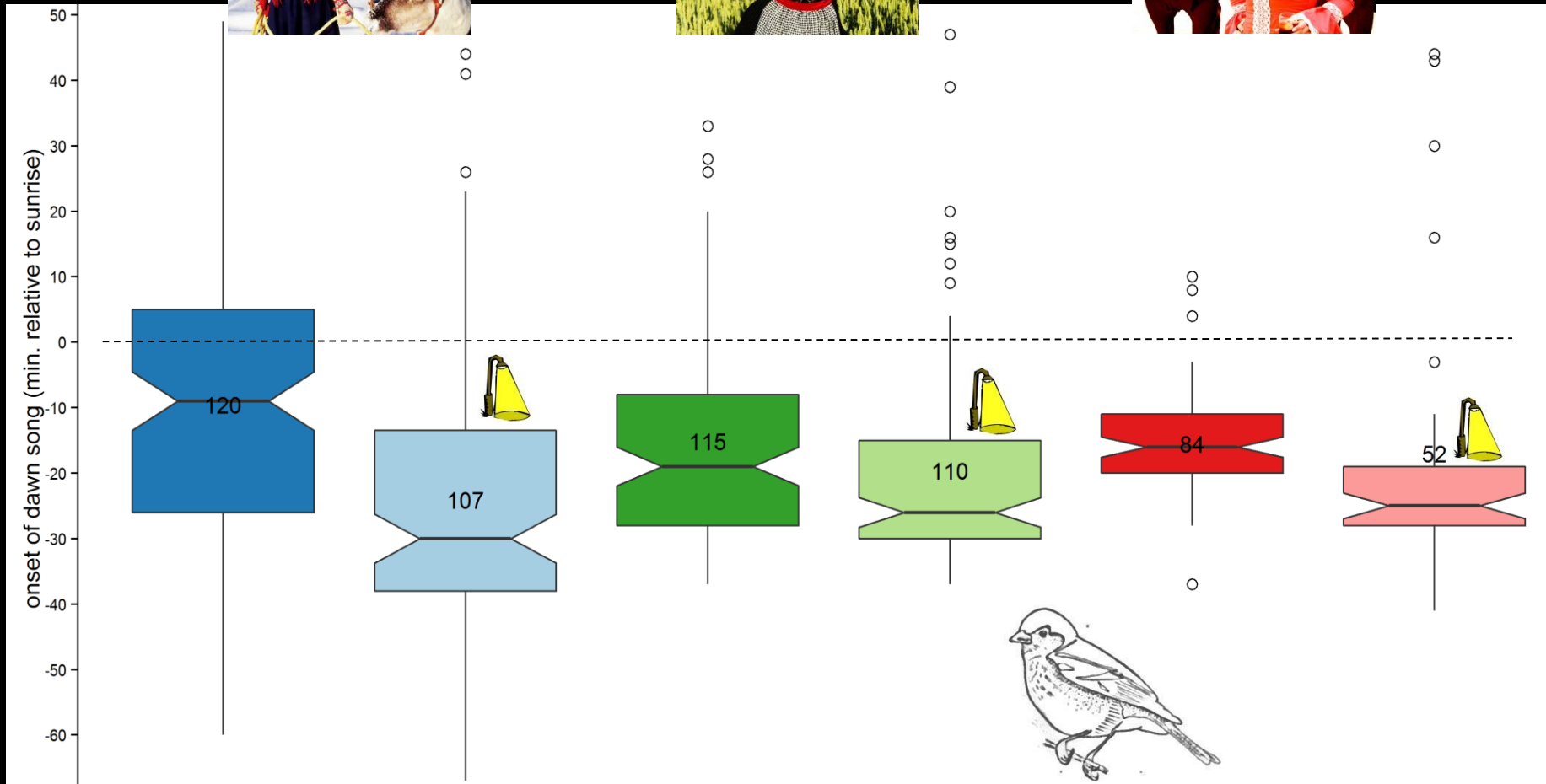
	F-value	p-value
	47.0	<.0001
	0.3	0.8
	0.5	0.5
	1.2	0.3
	0.04	0.8





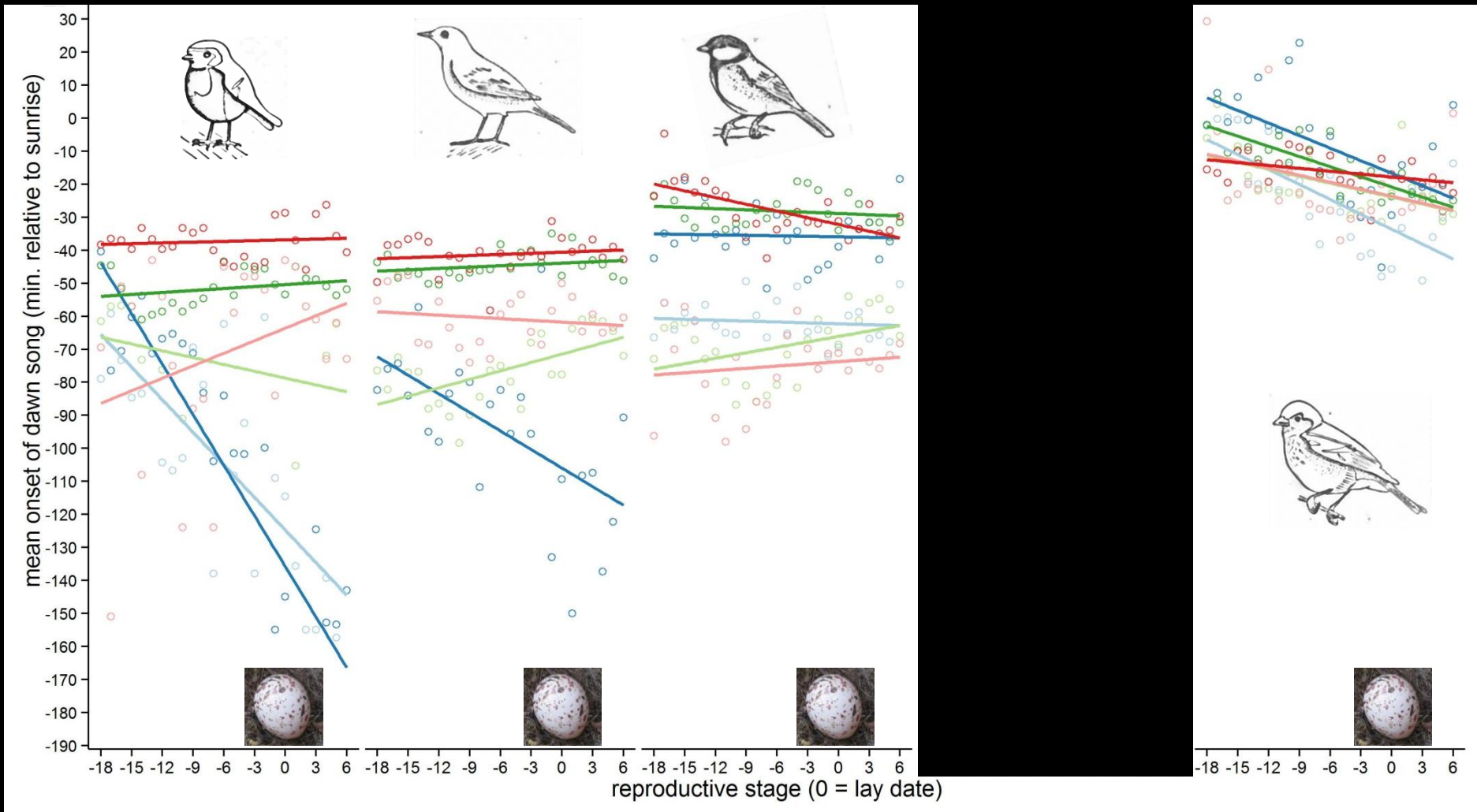
Light effect strong (-36 min) and similar at all latitudes

Onset of dawn song similar at all latitudes



Light effect weak (-6 min) and similar at all latitudes

Onset of dawn song similar at all latitudes



The strength of the effect of ALAN on onset of dawn song depends on the latitude and on the species



Implications

- Singing at night for robins and blackbirds: a natural situation?



- Fitness consequences of early singing for great tits, especially in Northern latitudes?

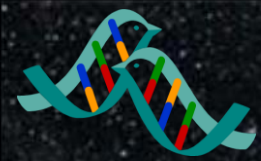


What's next?

- Mechanisms underlying the effect of ALAN on daily timing of singing → plastic reaction to light?



- Compensatory behaviours?
(light avoidance, condition-dependent choice)



Thanks for listening!



Bart Kempnaers



Satu Tolvanen



David Diez

Any questions?