



University of  
South-Eastern Norway



NORWEGIAN BEAVER PROJECT

# A home for the many?

Beaver lodges as hotspots for bird and mammal diversity

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# Beavers as ecosystem engineers





A large, chaotic pile of driftwood, consisting of numerous thin sticks and thicker branches, is situated in a calm lake. The pile is partially submerged, with some sticks protruding above the water's surface. In the background, a dense forest of green trees covers a hillside that slopes down towards the water. The sky is bright and clear. The overall scene suggests a natural, undisturbed environment.

What about the  
lodges?









29.91 inHg ↑



15°C



04/03/2024

12:19PM

CAMERA13





29.79 inHg ↓

14°C

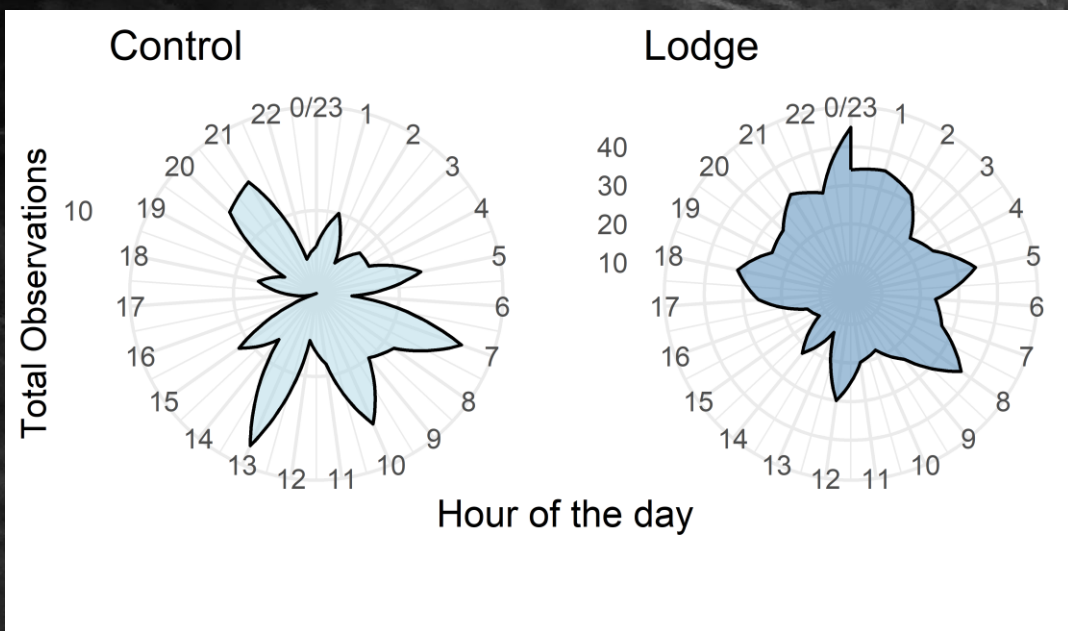


04/23/2024

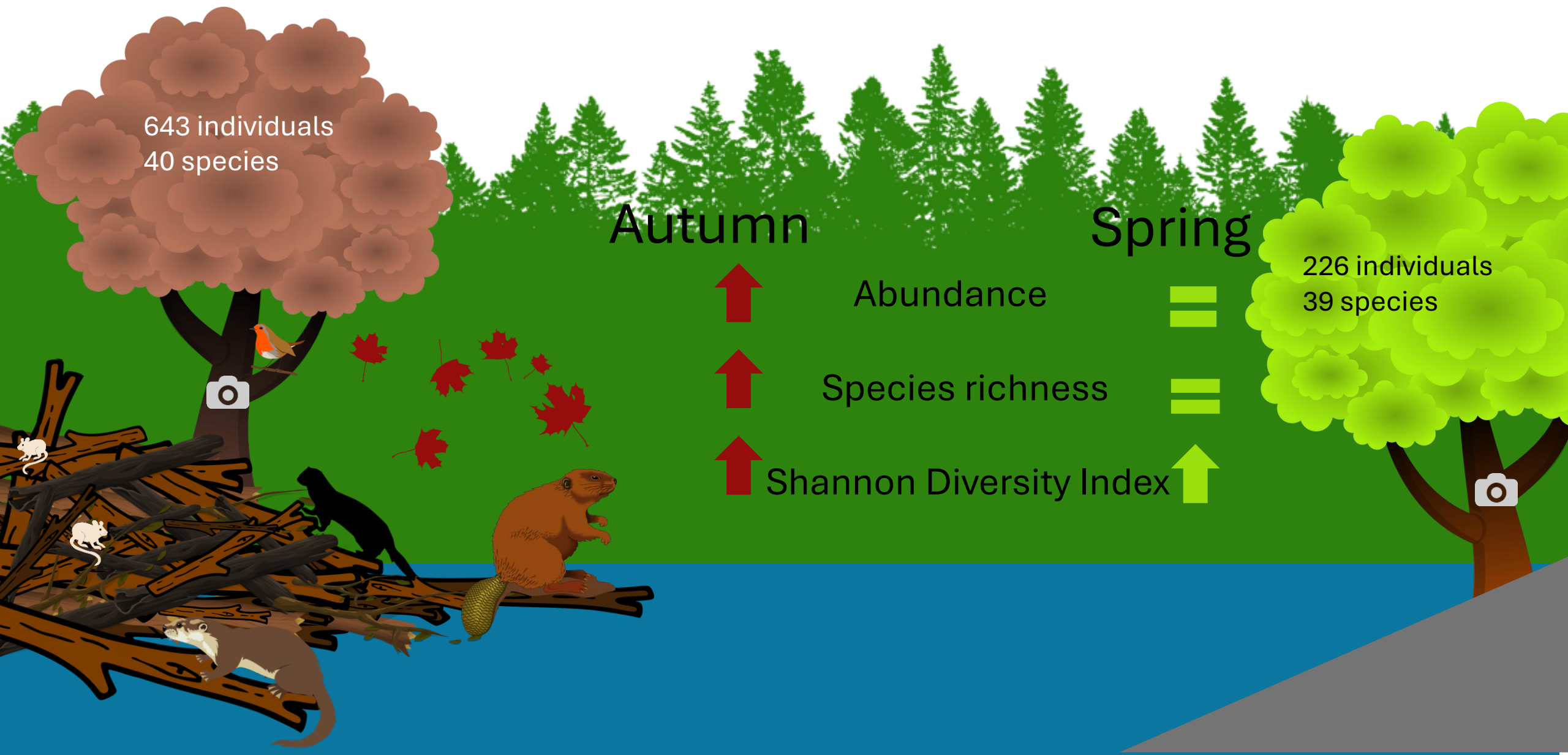
05:48PM

CAMERA14





30.18 inHg ↑ 0°C 10/19/2023 10:00PM CAMERA4



643 individuals  
40 species

Autumn



Abundance



Species richness



Shannon Diversity Index



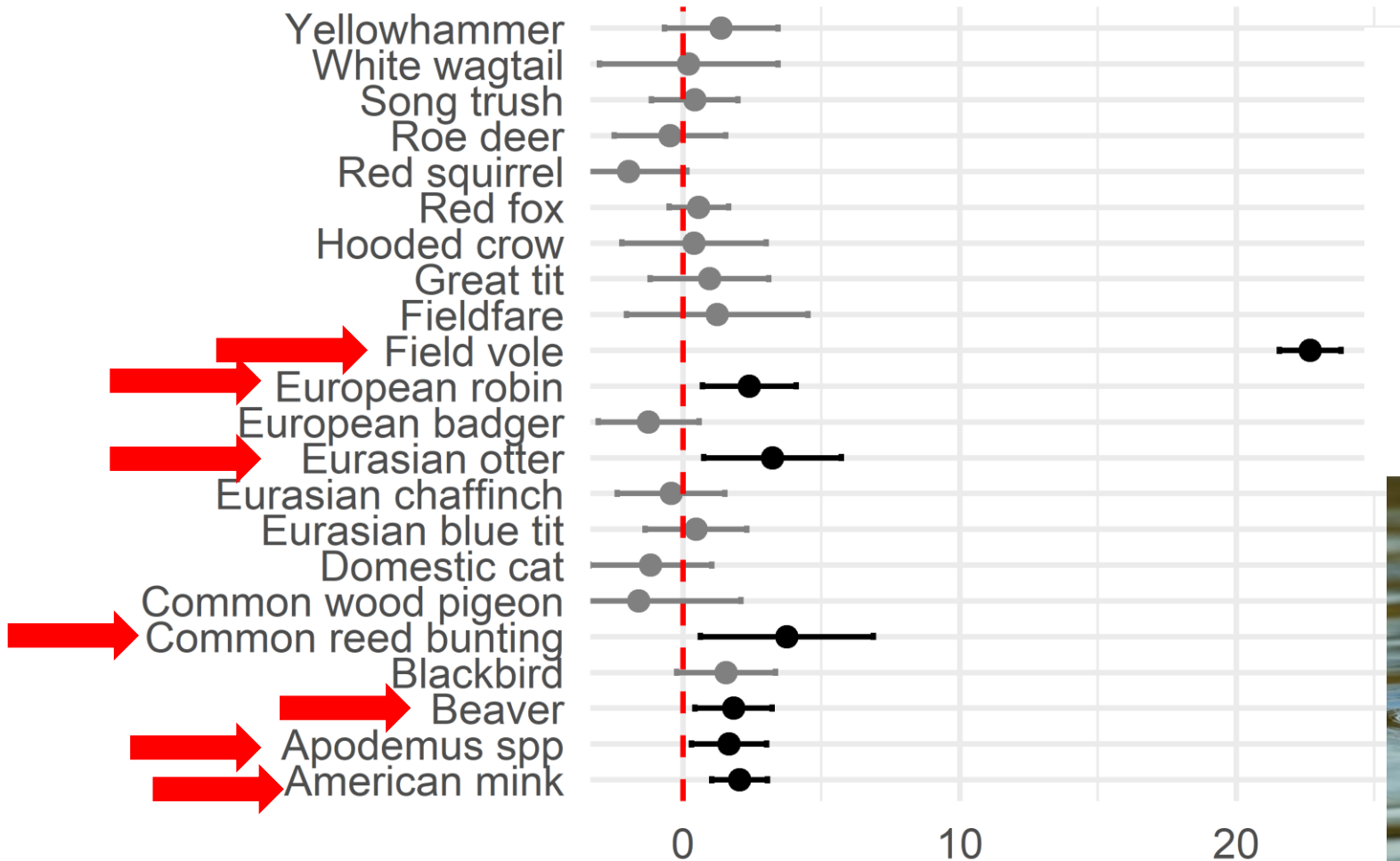
Spring

226 individuals  
39 species





# Which species likes beaver lodges the most?





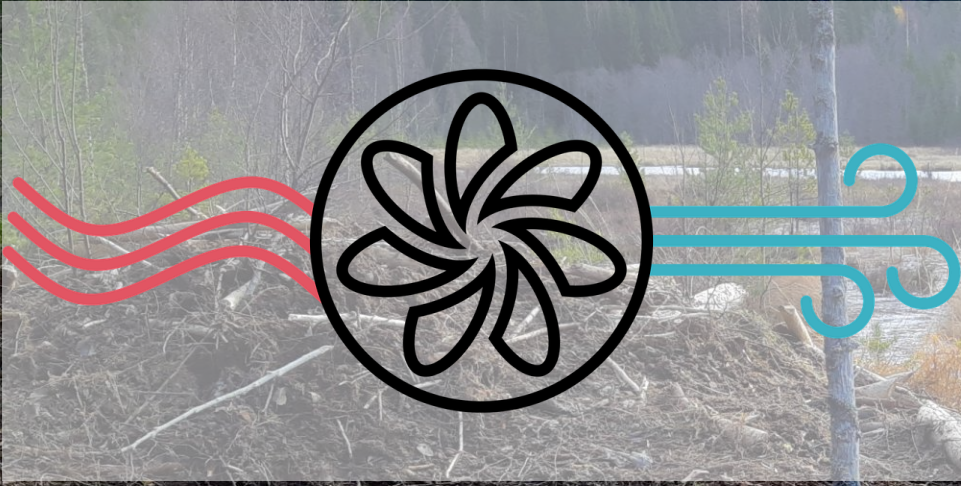


Photo: Hanna K.  
Lodberg-Holm





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## A home for the many? Beaver lodges as hotspots for bird and mammal diversity

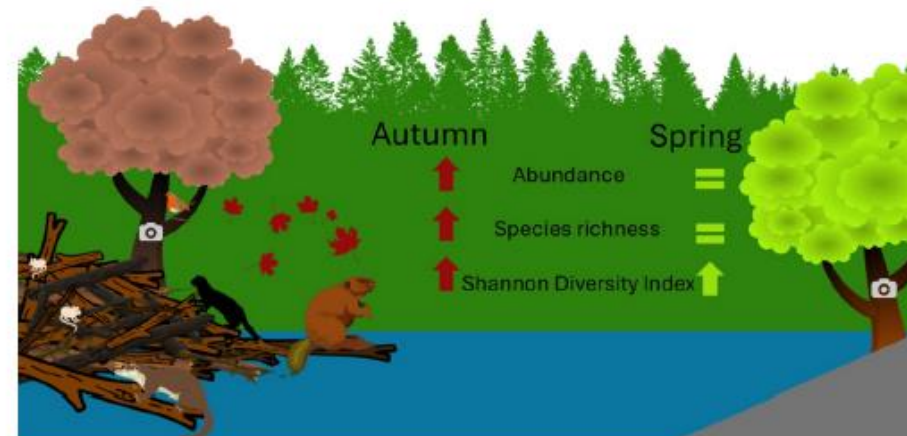
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### HIGHLIGHTS

- Ecosystem engineers play a crucial role in maintaining and enhancing diversity.
- Higher species abundance, richness and diversity were found at beaver lodges in autumn.
- Beaver lodges were hotspots for six species/genus, i.e. two birds and four mammals.
- Beavers create resources such as food, shelter and warm microclimates on the lodge exterior.
- Beaver lodges are diversity hotspots and show the role of beavers as an ecosystem engineer.

### GRAPHICAL ABSTRACT





Thank you!



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