

4.11. LAPWING INVESTIGATIONS ON BEAUVECHAIN AIRPORT.
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LAPWING investigations on Beauvechain airport.

Paper to be presented at the 9th meeting BSCE at Frankfurt by Dr. M. Louette.

At Beauvechain (Central Belgium) vast numbers of Lapwings can stay during the months September-January. As the birds prefer low grass above long grass an experiment started using isles of long grass near the main runway in 1973.

That autumn only two minor groups of birds were seen in that part but many occurred on the farmland nearly as well on the airport as outside. A weekly count was performed (fig. 1) and the distribution of birds recorded (fig. 2).

The 28th November a heavy and early snowcover started for about seven days, enough to drive away all the Lapwings for that winter; no one was seen later on.

New investigations should give answer on the following questions:

- a. is the "treatment" (long grass in isles) effective as a whole?
- b. do the Lapwing favour the same fields every year and if so how can we change those in order to move the birds out of an airfield area?

Numbers of Lapwings (weekly counts) 197

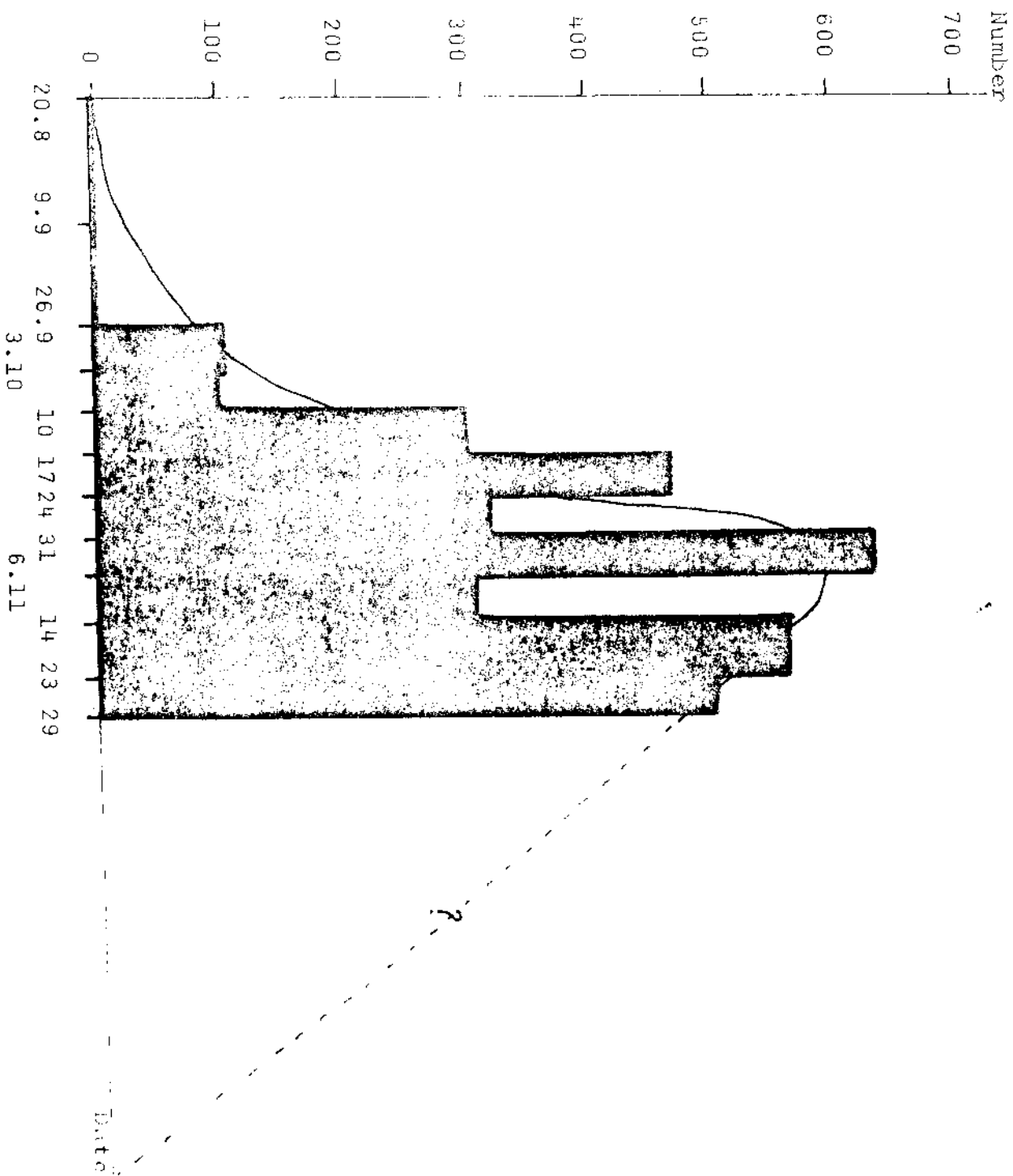


Fig. 2 : Localisation des divisions de l'habitat pour un quartier d'hab.

X	29.09
+	19.09
○	25.09
⊙	03.10
⊗	12.10
⊕	17.10
⊖	24.10
⊗	31.10
□	06.11
▣	14.11
▤	23.11

