

# Do you know the northern bald ibis?

Pupils acting as multipliers by interviewing people about the critically endangered avian species

## Introduction

Communicating science to the public is useful to reduce the communication gap between scientists and lay people. Citizen science, having evolved over the past decades, actively involves the public in scientific research and monitoring.



## Aim

We assessed the knowledge of local people on the northern bald ibis and hence: the **feasibility** of involving local people in monitoring the whereabouts & the **quality** of the information obtained.

## Methods

**2 different years:** 2012 (pilot project) and 2016

**questionnaire:** total number of questions was 14 (2012)/15 (2016)

**2 main foci:**

**specific knowledge**

*on the NBI population of the Konrad Lorenz Research Station*

**general knowledge**

*on their biology*

**interviewers:** 61 pupils (primary school)

**subject group:**  
156 children (♀=90, ♂=66)  
231 adults (♀=126, ♂=105)

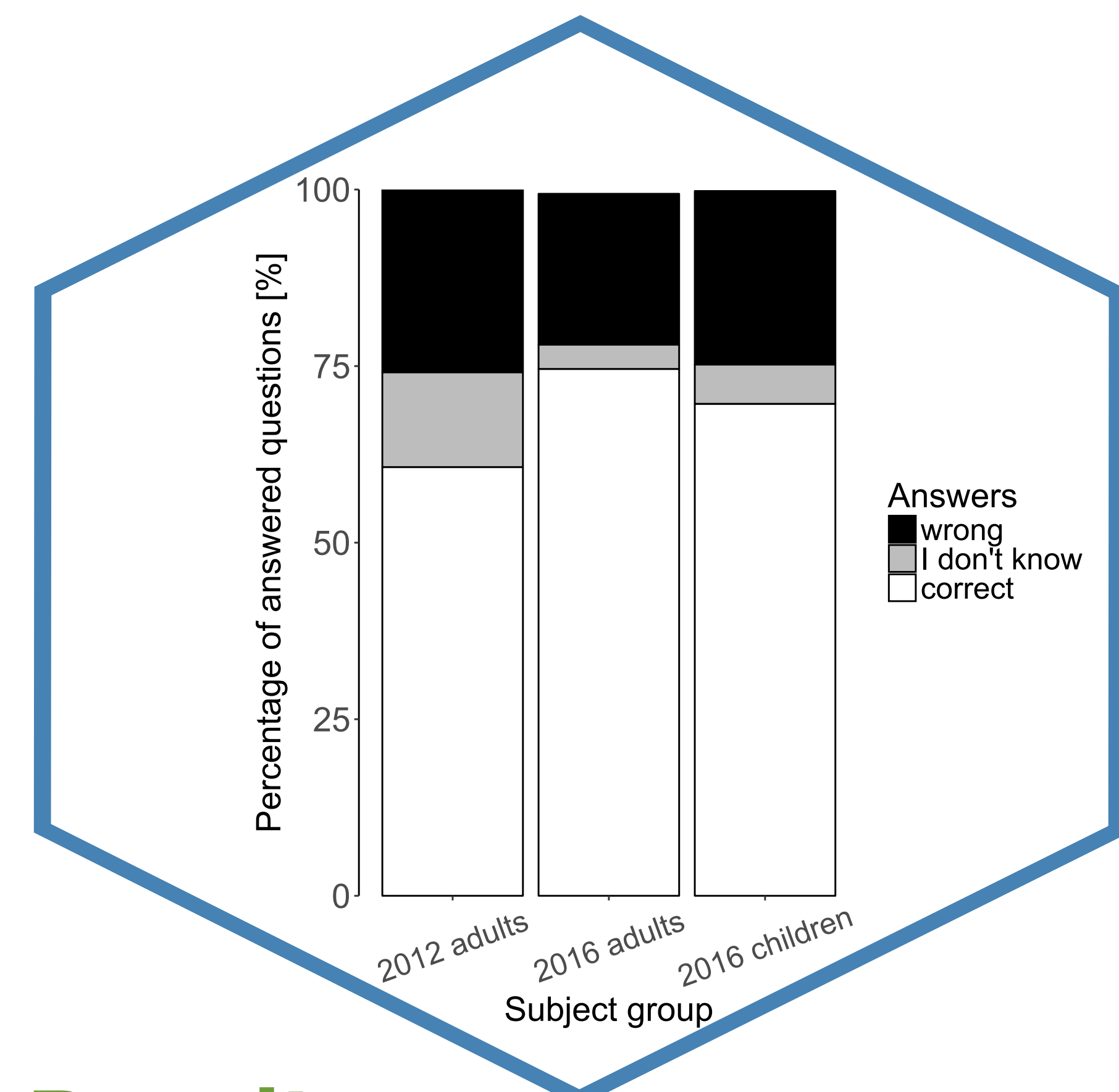
3 questions/category

**possible answers:**  
"yes", "no", "I do not know"

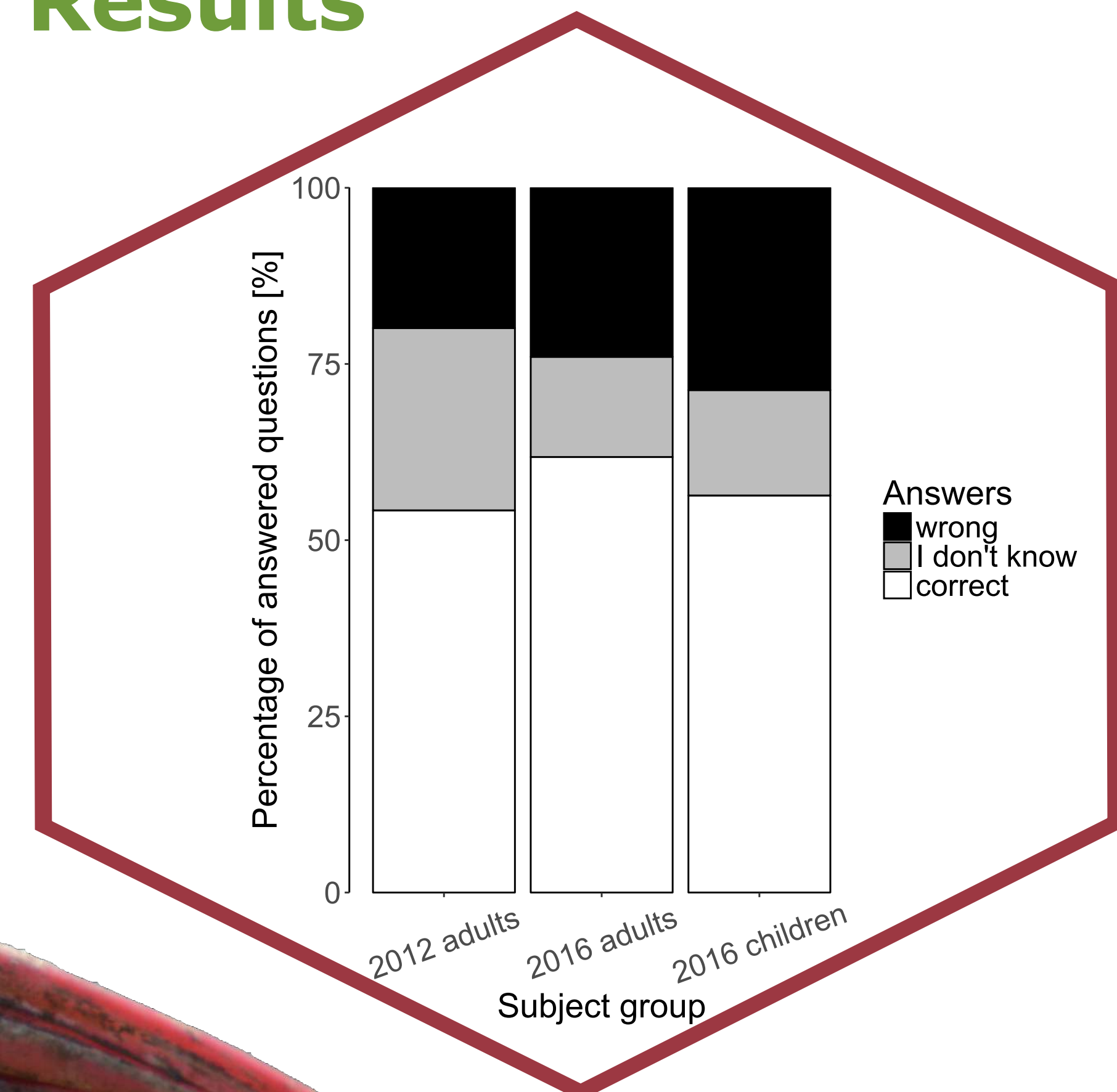
**analysed as:**  
"correct", "I do not know", "wrong"

## Discussion

The number of correct answers increased over the two years, suggesting a growing interest for the northern bald ibis and a proficient communication via the research institution. Children were not involved in 2012; however they answered a high number of questions correctly, suggesting that they have a great potential as multipliers.



## Results



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