KENTISH PLOVER

2015-2016
WADDEn SEA ISLAND FANOE
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NORTHERNMOST WADDEN SEA ISLAND
THE ISLAND…
56 km² + sandbanks, plenty of good Kentish Plover breeding habitat!
Most breeding birds on northern part with few tourists and large, grazed saltmarsh.
The island is growing, and new Kentish Plover habitat is emerging. Everything could be fantastic…
Tourism is increasing rapidly and human activity changing to more outdoor activity, preventing Kentish Plovers to breed along most of the shores. Mid June 20,000 people join the International Kite Festival.
Wind sports has been a huge problem, but vegetation cover is for the moment preventing people to get in contact with breeding Kentish Plovers.
The island has probably had (has?) the most dense population of Fox in Denmark. This is due to huge numbers of rabbits, plenty of garbage boxes and increased good fox habitat. Most ground breeders has disappeared.
AIM

- Collect information about:
  - Breeding success
  - Factors influencing breeding success
  - The use of the island during the whole stay of Kentish Plovers (April-September).

- In order to:
  - Be able to carry out the necessary protection measurements and improve the numbers of breeding Kentish Plovers.
BACKGROUND

• Population decline and shrinking distribution
  • – something has do be done!

• Some questions I asked:
  • We have no clue of breeding success in Denmark!
  • Is the population self sustainable at all?
  • Is fox predation really important?
  • How much do Kentish Plovers move around during breeding season?
HOW?

• During the stay of Kentish Plover surveying 2-4 times a week, using a car as a hide.

• Detecting the nests, following the youngs, sexing and ageing the birds, photodocumenting every incident of some importance, spotting colour marked birds, counting post breeding birds.
SOME RESULTS
2015 BREEDING SEASON

Hvidbrystet Præstekrave 2015 16-18 par.
Ca. 18 flyvefærdige unger.
2015 COLD AND WINDY
2016 At first no wind, but fox predation. In July wind, sand drift and flooding! Only 7 chicks were reared out of 20 pairs and at least 35 clutches. I presume 17 clutches were taken by fox. 9 clutches were lost in the flooding on July 13th.
DISASTER DAY!
SOME GOOD AND BAD STUFF
SAND DRIFT
FLOODING
HUMAN DISTURBANCE
LOW/SPARSE VEGETATION
FEEDING GROUNDS FOR CHICKS
BODYGUARDS
IN 2015 CASE OF DOUBLE BREEDING
One pair raised one chick and 2-3 chicks, still warming the chick while nest moulding.
FENCES AND SIGNS

In 2015 a cattle fence were put up to avoid trampling, but foxes turned up.
SOME POLES AND SIGNS were put up to avoid human disturbance, with some succes!
PEREGRIN FALCONS

take their toll of breeding shorebirds!
FOX SAFE FENCES IN 2017

To strømførende tråde forhindrer næven i at komme hen til hegnet grave under/springe over.

Jordspyd - skal bankes ned.

Nederste tråd jordes - ikke strømførende.

En sektion på 50 meter tuelles sammen på 2 minutter. Det er nævnt at lætere ind og transportere.
KENTISH PLOVERS CAN DO WITH ONLY LITTLE SPACE
SOME SHELTER, FOOD AND PEACE
THATS ALL!