



# Hunters' involvement in meadow bird conservation

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# A bit about me

- Iben Hove Sørensen, biologist and birdwatcher
- Migratory Birds Officer at the Danish Hunters' Association
- Working mainly on issues of international cooperation regarding waterbird management
- Have a tendency to get involved in projects involving catching and ringing birds



# Conservation of breeding waders in Denmark

Populations of wet grassland birds have been declining for decades

The 8 IMSAP-species:

- All are experiencing short-term decline
- Marked reduction in number of good breeding localities
- Three are very rare breeders in Denmark

Main efforts carried out at core breeding localities:

- Monitoring
- Habitat management
- Predator control





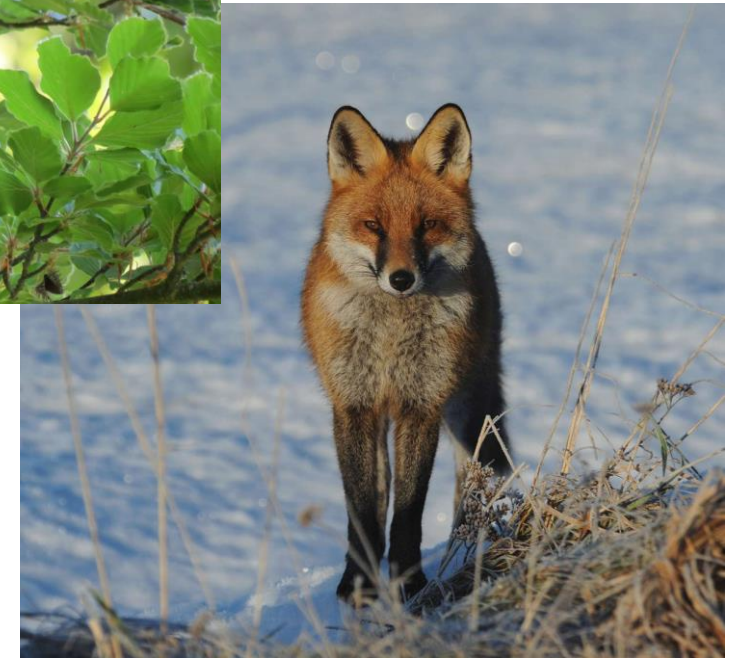
# The influence of predators

Number of predators important

- Survival of eggs
- Survival of chicks
- (Survival of adults)

Native species - Red fox, corvids, raptors

Invasive alien species - Raccoon dog, American mink



# The influence of predators

## An example - Tipperne 2018

**Tabel 2.** Andel (%) af reder af undersøgte vadefugle, hvor æggene blev spist af fugle eller rovpattedyr. Beregnet ud fra kontrollerede reders gennemsnitlige daglige overlevelse i 1986-2018. "-" angiver at der var for få data til beregning.

	1986-1990	1991-1995	1996-2000	2001-2005	2006-2010	2011-2015	2016	2017	2018
Strandskade	33	59	96	100	98	97	-	-	-
Vibe	39	52	84	74	60	80	97	90	52
Stor kobbersneppe	34	54	94	69	74	76	-	-	39
Brushane	34	51	87	72	63	64	-	-	-
Engryle	31	48	72	51	43	68	53	95	-
Rødben	21	54	87	77	66	82	81	43	63



## Ynglefuglene på Tipperne 2018

Notat fra DCE - Nationalt Center for Miljø og Energi

Dato: 27. november 2018

Ole Thorup<sup>1</sup> & Thomas Bregnballe<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Amphi Consult

<sup>2</sup>Institut for Bioscience



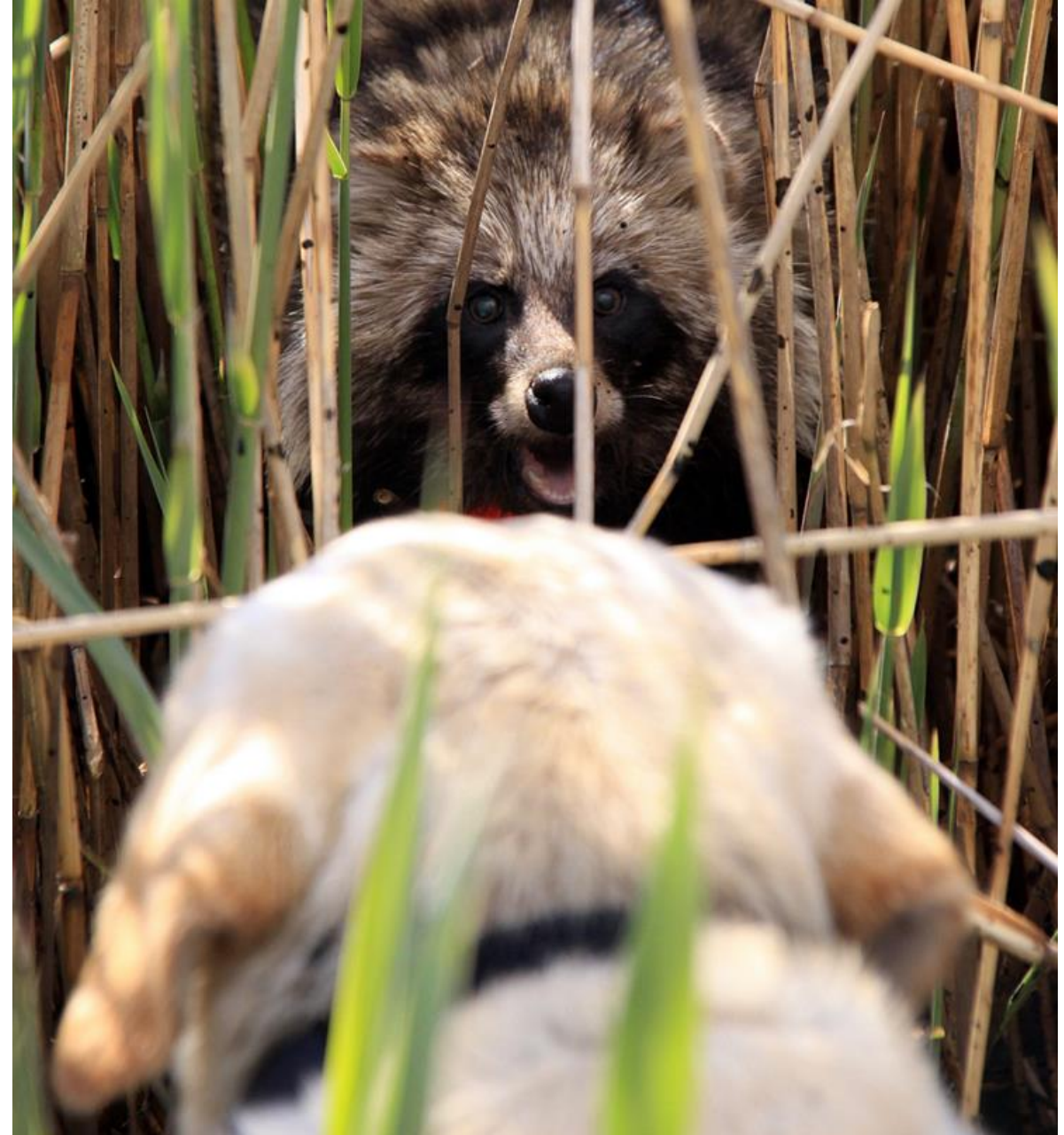
# Hunters' involvement

Predator management

Volunteers

Working with

- BirdLife Denmark
- Private landowners
- Municipalities
- Authorities



# Challenges

- Emotional relations to wildlife
- Resistance towards interfering with nature
- Unfamiliarity with management issues
- Lack of confidence in data
- Stakeholders experience the world in different ways
- And one more...





# The cuteness factor





# Motivation

Goal: Increasing breeding populations of waders

Common goals do not require shared motivation

- Actions beneficial to wildlife and/or nature
- Contribute to solving problems
- Education or training
- New and different experiences in nature
- Exclusive hunting opportunities



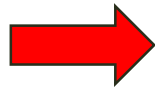
# The way forward

For successful conservation cooperation to take place, communication is key.

At least make sure everyone's aware:

- **Why** this is necessary?
- **Who** is doing **what** (and **when**)?

For example: **Who** let the dog out???





# A good example



# Hunters' involvement in meadow bird conservation

- Lots of good examples - potential for many more
- Main motivation may differ, even when aiming for the same goal
- Challenges need to be acknowledged and dealt with
- Communication between stakeholders is a key element in conservation

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