

Survival of Redshank nests was low in my study area due to predation, mainly by corvids and foxes. Nest success was not related to habitat characteristics at a local scale. I found no significant effects of distances to habitat edge or to nearest potential lookout for avian predators. Abundance of an aggressive species with active nest-defence did not have significant effects on nest survival rates, nor did vegetation concealment. Furthermore, nest success differed between years and was lower later in the season. On average, only 19% of nests survived until hatching, and only 13% of chicks survived until fledging.

Adult survival of Redshanks on Gotland was higher (80%) than most previous estimates (72–81%).

By using deterministic population matrix modelling, I found evidence of non-viability in the Redshank population

on Gotland suggesting that management actions might have to be taken to prevent population decline. The results of the modelling indicate that it is important to preserve the already high adult survival but also to improve survival of nests and chicks simultaneously.

Finally, I evaluated trends over time of four wader species on the Baltic island of Öland and tested for spatial heterogeneity in population trends. Breeding densities of investigated species were positively related to grazing management and local changes in management affected the local change in wader densities. However, average grazing density increased over time whereas wader numbers generally remained constant or declined; thus, changes in grazing intensity could not explain changes in overall breeding numbers.

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Status of the Kentish Plover, 1984 to 2004, focusing on the Alvor Estuary, the Algarve, Portugal (2004, M.Sc. thesis, University of Glamorgan, Wales, UK)

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The Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus* is a globally distributed shorebird that breeds on coasts and inland saline wetlands. Recent research has reported this species to be in decline with its range contracting over various parts of the world (including Portugal) possibly due to increasing pressure from human factors including development, recreation, tourism and habitat degradation, also other environmental factors such as climate change.

In order to evaluate the current status of the Kentish Plover and make it known and accessible to the wider public, I carried out an international literature review gathering existing information into a monograph of the species.

At the Alvor Estuary, southwest Algarve, Portugal, there is a breeding population of Kentish Plovers estimated at 53 pairs in 2004 (about 4.8% of the Portuguese population), which appears to be threatened and in decline. Breeding surveys from 1991 to 2004 showed a decline from 221 pairs in

1998 to 53 in 2004 and overall hatching success declined from 94% in 1992 to 37% in 1999. High tide counts from 1986 to 2003 also showed a decrease in numbers from the 1980s. Moreover there was a change of distribution between different areas within the estuary ($\chi^2 = 17$, $P < 0.01$).

An experimental human disturbance project was undertaken on Alvor Dunes during the peak of the tourist season to ascertain the effects of disturbance. Daytime disturbance was found to be high, occurring every 25.6 minutes during the study. Signposting applied to the site resulted in a significant reduction in overall potential disturbance to the site ($\chi^2 = 19.05$, $P = 0.01$).

The Kentish Plover population of the Alvor Estuary is threatened and probably still declining. Further long-term research is needed in order to fully understand the impact of human disturbance to facilitate effective management.

Professor Peter Evans Memorial Fund

The School of Biological and Biomedical Sciences at Durham University is launching an appeal to fund a scholarship in memory of a much loved and respected member of the Department: **Professor Peter Evans**. Members of the International Wader Study Group will be familiar with Peter's research on wader population dynamics and know that his research team was intimately concerned with mediating and restoring man's damage to the environment. Peter was an inspiring teacher and leaves a legacy of graduates and post-graduates who are doing their bit to conserve and preserve natural habitats for posterity. An endowment that promotes both education and nature conservation seems the most fitting commemoration of Peter's life and the Memorial Fund is intended to support a doctoral student's research in an applied ecological field. As Peter was passionate about both

increasing educational opportunities in northeast England and conserving the natural habitat, the bursary will be used to fund a student carrying out research with potential ecological benefit to the region. The appeal aims to raise £100,000 over the next four years, making the first award in October 2008.

If you have worked with Peter in the past, or wish to commemorate a good friend, please take this opportunity to make a donation to the Memorial Fund. Cheques should be made out to The University of Durham (PRE Memorial Fund) and sent to the Development and Alumni Relations Office, University of Durham, The University Office, Old Elvet, Durham DH1 3LE. For further information (and Gift Aid forms for UK taxpayers) contact Tusi Butterfield at J.E.L.Butterfield@durham.ac.uk, phone ++44 (0) 191 384 1862.

