

0025327

From: [Cyndy Holda](#)
To: [stuart mcrae](#)
Bcc: [Mike Murray](#)
Subject: Re: Fw: From NPS.gov: 2009 Piping Plover Annual report
Date: 02/04/2010 02:47 PM

Stuart,
Breeding behavior and successful chick rearing results can vary year-to-year based on a variety of factors, including weather, predation, and different levels of human disturbance. A single year's results do not necessarily constitute a trend and even three years is a very short time to draw definitive conclusions about results with wildlife populations. In wildlife population dynamics, one does not expect to see a perfect linear year-to-year progression, whether declining or increasing; it is the general trend over a number of years that is of interest.

In summary, there is no simple answer or theory as to specific events that led to the severe decline during the period in question. Likely it was the cumulative results of a number of factors mentioned above. All of these factors are present within Cape Hatteras National Seashore and the villages within, making it a challenging place for wildlife, and sometimes people!, to live and play. But that too is part of the "wildness" of this great national seashore that brings so many visitors and so much wildlife to our shores!

Thank you for your interest in Cape Hatteras National Seashore!

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To: Cyndy_Holda@nps.gov
cc

02/04/2010 12:30 PM

Subject: Re: Fw: From NPS.gov: 2009 Piping Plover Annual report

Cyndy

I had another question on the Piping Plover annual report that I was hoping to understand.

Looking at the period of 1997 to 2000 there was a very dramatic reduction in nesting at CAHA that has never recovered. Is there any theories on what happened during that time to cause such a decline in nesting.

Thanks
Stuart McRae

On Wed, Feb 3, 2010 at 4:52 PM, stuart mcrae <stumac123@gmail.com> wrote:

Cyndy
Thank you for the quick response.
I do realize that practice is not unique to CAHA, and I understand the reasons for that practice.

Thank you,
Stuart McRae

On Wed, Feb 3, 2010 at 4:18 PM, <Cyndy_Holda@nps.gov> wrote:

Stuart,
The National Seashore Resource Management Division staff, responsible for predator control management practices inside the park boundaries, (which are fairly commonplace in national parks of any size), advise that all of the animals listed were exterminated except the 64 feral cats which were transported live to the SPCA facility in Manteo, NC.

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Visitor information request
----- Forwarded by Beau Brehm/CAHA/NPS on 02/03/2010 02:32 PM -----
-

stumac123@gmail.c
om

02/03/2010 02:19
PM

To
caha_information@nps.gov
cc

Subject
From NPS.gov: 2009 Piping Plover
Annual report

Email submitted from: stumac123@gmail.com at /caha/contacts.htm

Hello

I had a question on the 2009 Piping Plover Report.

Regarding the following predator removal of 464 animals, were all of these animals killed/exterminated.

Thanks

Stuart McRae

25 red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*),
1 gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*),
152 raccoon (*Procyon lotor*),
102 opossum and 105 opossum kits (*Didelphis virginiana*),
10 nutria (*Myocastor coypus*),
3 coyote (*Canis latrans*),
1 mink (*Mustela vison*),
64 feral cats were
captured.