

Red Fox Impacts to Beach-nesting Birds

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American Oystercatcher



Least tern



Common Tern



Piping Plover



Black Skimmer



Willet



Wilson's Plover



Beach-nesting Bird Ecology

Beach-nesting birds are vulnerable to many factors

- Predation
- Human disturbance
- Weather



Beach-nesting Bird Ecology

- Natural Defenses
 - Colonial Nesting
 - Semi-precocial chicks
 - Solitary Nesting
 - Broken-wing displays
 - Cryptic nests



Effects on nesting bird populations

- Short-term effects
- Long-term effects
 - Site abandonment
 - Population decline



Effects on nesting bird populations

- Foxes will eat anything!
 - Omnivores
 - Will cache food
 - May take eggs or chicks
 - Prey remains at den
- correlate to nearest colony



Management Implications

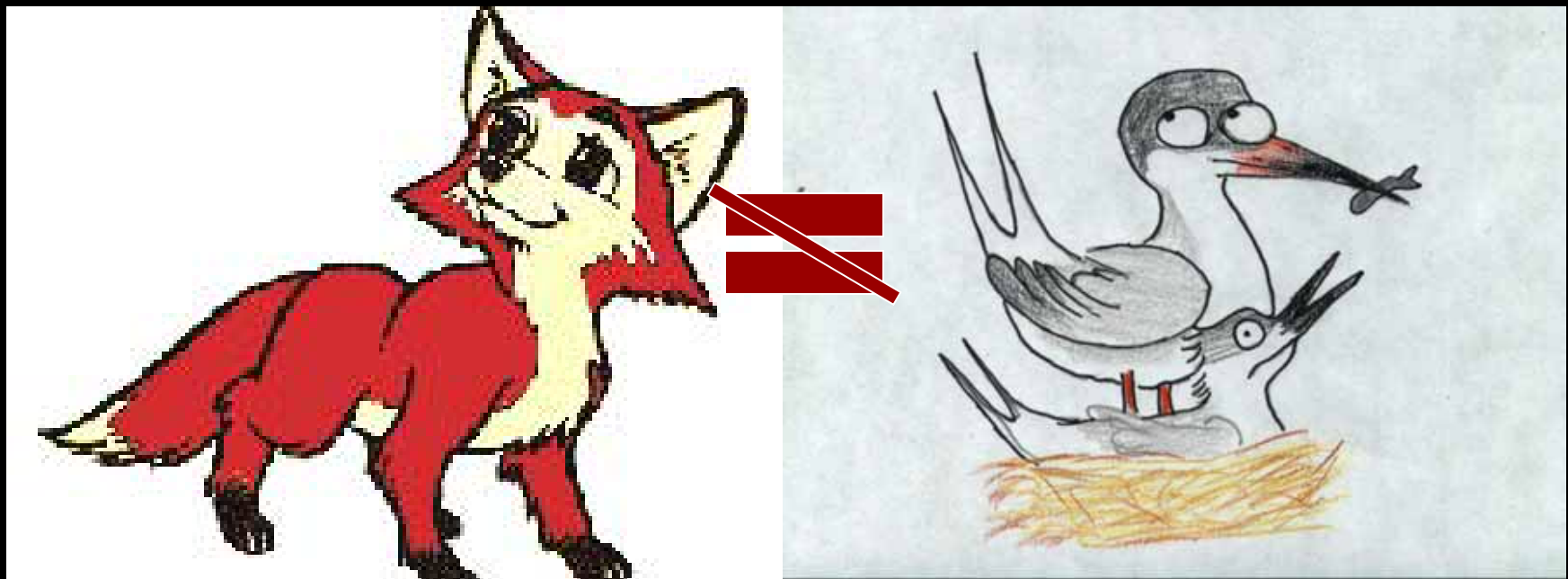
- Minimizing our impacts
- Predator exclusion methods
 - Nest exclosures
 - Effective for smaller shorebirds
 - Electric fencing
 - Can prove effective for protecting chicks in a colony



Management Implications

- Predator removal
 - Management should be on a site by site basis
 - 100% removal of the threat may not be possible
 - Natural removal-Rabies
 - Urine scent as possible deterrent
- Education
 - On barrier island communities
 - On undeveloped barrier islands





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interested in finding funding to continue research

Red Fox Threat Abatement Management Plan
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