

Brood counts of common eider in Breiðafjörður 2007-2021

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Introduction

- Eider females with broods were counted annually 2007-2021 in Breiðafjörður, i.e. along the coast from Brjánslækur west to Reykhólar, the north side of Snæfellsnes from Stykkishólmur to Hellissandur, and nearby Stykkishólmur.
- The broods were counted twice, at the end of June (7-10 days after peak hatch) and end of July when ducklings are half grown.



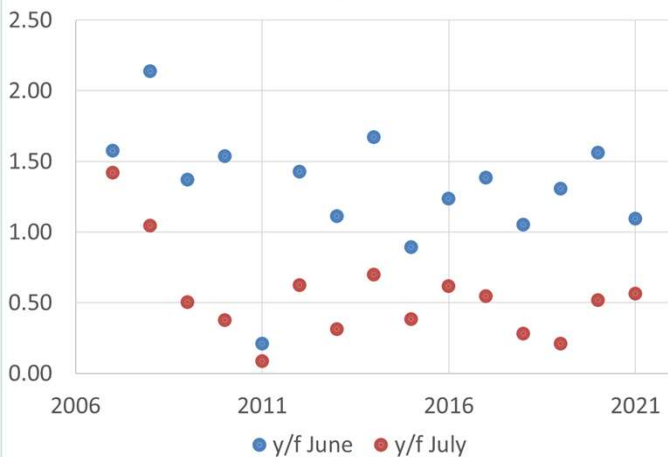
Ducklings/female and their numbers

- Data from June and July are presented as 1) the ratio of ducklings per female, 2) numbers of females and 3) number of ducklings.
- Ducklings/female declined over the study period, particularly in July. There were negative year trends in no. of females and ducklings.

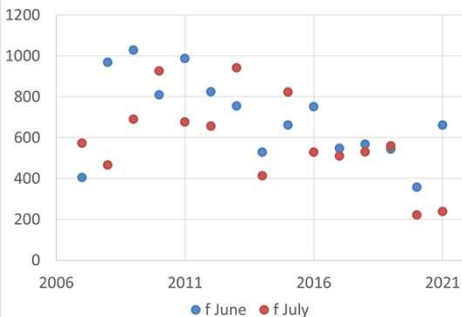
Female tenders grouped from 1 to 3+

- For June data, number of eider females per brood were grouped as lone-female tenders (1 female), two-female tenders, multi-tenders (3 or more females accompanying a merged brood) and females without ducklings. The first year 2007 was not included.
- Number of ducklings had no relationship to no. of females without ducklings. There were similar, positive relationships between ducklings and no. of lone-female tenders, two-female tenders, and multi-tenders, i.e. these groups occurred with equal frequencies across years.

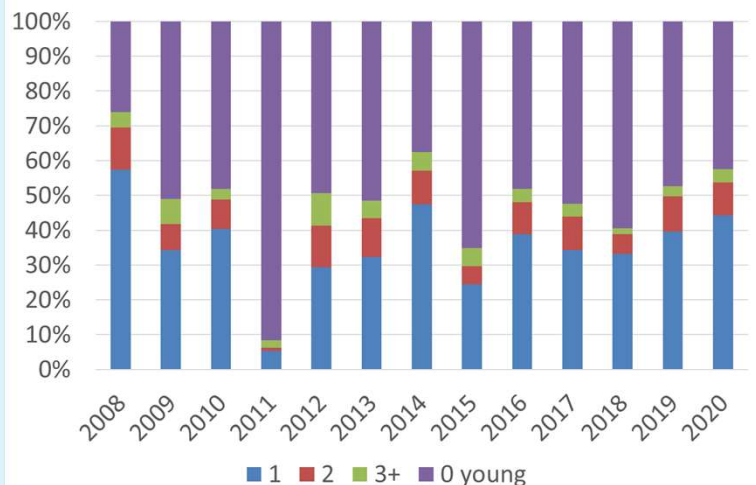
Young/female



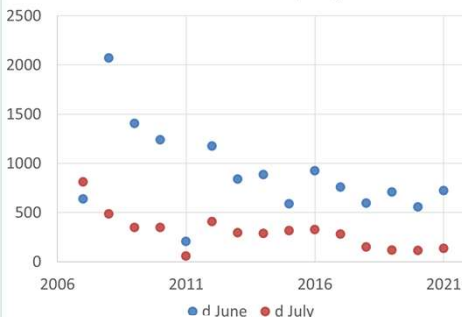
Total number of females



No. of female tenders per brood



Total number of young



Discussion

- Two years were influential values, i.e. 2008, which was a year with high number of females and broods, and 2011 was an all-time low in duckling numbers and record-high in number of females without broods (92% in June).
- Of the 6 year trends, 5 were either near or barely significant based on regression coefficients.
- A low July duckling/female ratio and concurrently declining female numbers suggest low breeding success in the last decade.
- There were fewer females seen in the last 2 years but number of young have been stable for the last 4-5 years.