

Correction factors for hatching success rates of meadow birds not derived by the Mayfield method

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The traditional way of estimating hatching success by the crude proportion of nests found that were successful often gives misleading results. I compared the results of the traditional method with the results of the Mayfield method in 139 datasets of meadow birds (Eurasian Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, Dunlin *Calidris alpina*, Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*, Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*, Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata* and Redshank *Tringa totanus*). On average the traditional method considerably over-estimated hatching success. I propose the following equation to correct the hatching success data of meadow birds:

$$H_M = 0.0073 H_T^2 + 0.2367 H_T + 3.8016$$

(where H_M = Hatching success estimated according Mayfield and H_T = Hatching success estimated according the traditional method).