

The common eider

Everywhere along the coasts of Greenland we find throughout the winter vast flocks of eiders. The brown females and the handsome males. The male is easy to recognize with the beautiful colours of the plumage.

The common eiders found in Greenland are both breeding birds and winter visitors.

During the breeding season, there are around 80-90,000 breeding pairs on the west coast of Greenland. In addition, the new young birds and the young birds from the year are found along the coasts. All these birds stay in the winter, but here they are joined by eiders from Canada. There can be up to half a million eiders on the west coast of Greenland during the winter.

Today eider the population of eiders is growing in Greenland. It is yet another result of climate change in Greenland, but it is also the result of a regulated hunting pressure.

The eider is a beloved bird in Greenlandic cooking, but in the past was the birds were primarily hunted because of the eiderdown. The down were exported to Denmark. It is estimated that 150 years ago there were collected eiderdown from about 110,000 nests of the eider in West Greenland.



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