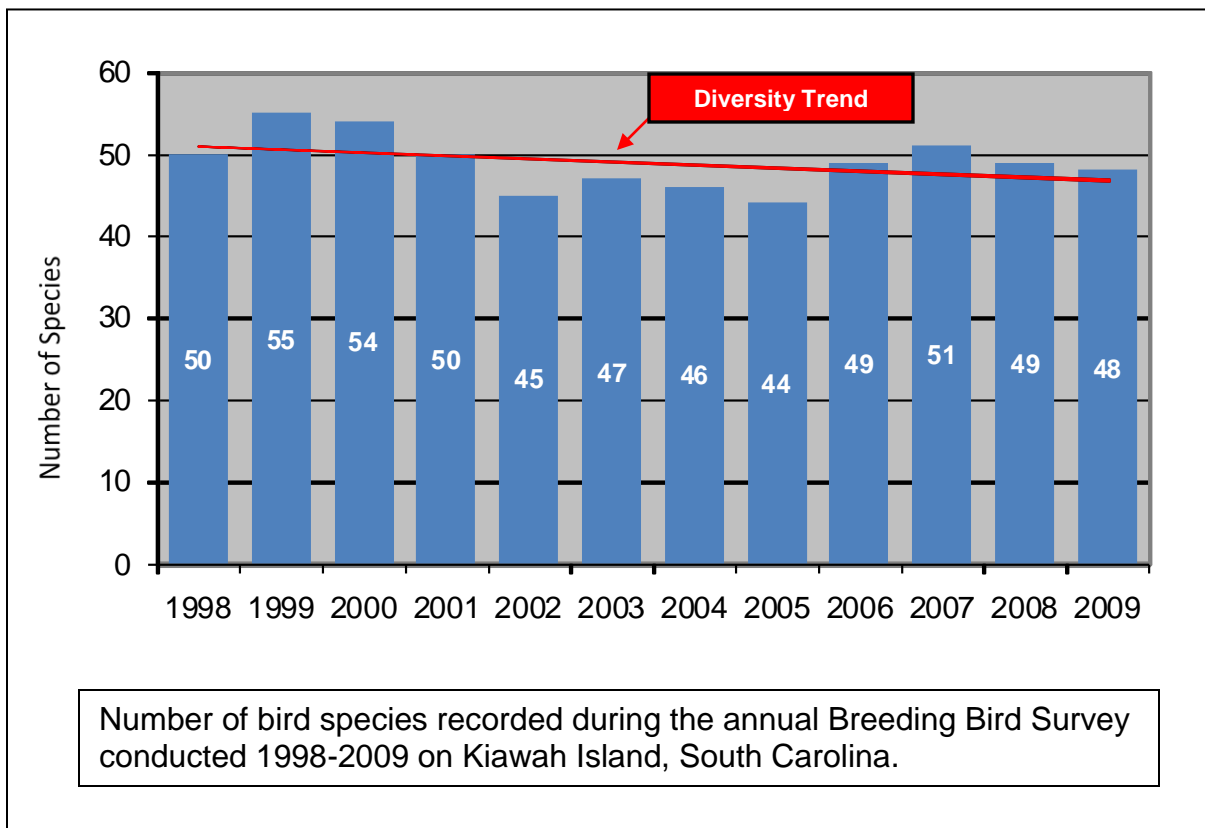


Breeding Bird Survey Information and Results



Professor Dennis Forsythe of the Citadel has conducted the annual Kiawah Island Breeding Bird Surveys each June since 1998. The survey route covers all of Kiawah and includes 50 stops. At each stop, Dr. Forsythe records the number and species of each bird seen or heard. These data are most valuable in evaluating long-term trends in overall species diversity as well as within individual bird species.

Because the Kiawah survey is only conducted once per year, the most valuable data comes from trends in species diversity. Areas that have a variety of good quality habitat will have a greater diversity of species. One expects that the higher the level of development, the lower the species diversity. The figure below shows the total number of bird species recorded each year and the trend in species diversity.



As seen above, there has been a slight decline in species diversity since the survey began in 1998. This is not a cause for concern, but is a trend that should be watched in future years.