

The Audubon Alaska WatchList 2017

Common species suspected to be declining

The WatchList identifies Alaska birds that are declining or vulnerable, therefore warranting special conservation attention. We graded all regularly occurring bird species in Alaska (and some subspecies) based on four criteria (see Appendix 1 below for more details):

- Global population size (5 possible points): small populations are more vulnerable than large populations;
- Minimum range occupied seasonally (5 possible points): populations concentrated in a small area are more vulnerable than populations spread over large areas;
- Area importance (percent of global population occurring in Alaska) (5 possible points): our stewardship responsibility is greater for species that have a large percentage of their population in Alaska than for species with a small percentage of their population in Alaska.
- Population trend (5 possible points weighted x3): Declining populations are at greater risk than stable or increasing populations.

If a species or subspecies that qualified for the WatchList (≥ 20 points) has populations that are either declining or depressed (PT ≥ 4 points), they appear on the Red list. Non-declining species (trend score ≤ 3 points) scoring ≥ 20 points are deemed vulnerable; these are the Yellow list species.

Some species scored less than 20 points (and therefore are not on the Red or Yellow Watchlist) but still had population declines. Most of these species are relatively common ones (large population sizes but relatively small percentage of the population in Alaska), but they still merit close attention. The table below lists each species that scored less than 20 total points but had a trend score of ≥ 4 points indicating a possible decline, and includes percent of that population dependent on Alaska and population status.

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Species	Population(s)	Percent in Alaska	Population Status
LOONS			
Red-throated Loon	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	4	Declines in recent years on Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta (YKD) and suggestions of declines on the Arctic Coastal Plain (ACP).
Pacific Loon	<i>Gavia pacifica</i>	13	Possible declines on the YKD and the ACP.
GREBES			
Horned Grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus cornutus</i>	7	Recent declines noted from Alaska Christmas Bird Count (CBC) data.
SHEARWATERS AND PETRELS			
Sooty Shearwater	<i>Ardenna grisea</i>	6	Declines detected on breeding grounds in Southern Hemisphere
Short-tailed Shearwater	<i>Ardenna tenuirostris</i>	15+	Declines detected on Australian breeding grounds
WATERFOWL			
Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	3	Possible decline on the YKD; stable on the ACP
Surf Scoter	<i>Melanitta perspicillata</i>	33	Breeding population declines in Alaska
HAWKS AND OWLS			
American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	0.3	Decline detected on Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) western routes; 48% decline in US from 1970-2014.
Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	4	65% decline in US from 1970-2014.
PLOVERS AND SANDPIPERS			
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	0.1	Decline detected on Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) western routes; decline in lower 48 state population.

Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	9	Western Hemisphere population suspected to be declining.
Stilt Sandpiper	<i>Calidris himantopus</i>	8	Population suspected to be declining.
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	19	Recent declines noted from Alaska Christmas Bird Count (CBC) data
GULLS AND TERNS			
Glaucous-winged Gull	<i>Larus glaucescens</i>	44	Variable but declines detected in various Alaska areas including CBC data from Alaska and in Bird Conservation Region (BCR) 4.
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	10	Declines in breeding birds on the ACP, but increases noted on the YKD.
ALCIDS			
Cassin's Auklet	<i>Ptychoramphus aleuticus</i>	14	Declines in Canada and possibly Alaska.
KINGFISHERS			
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megasceryle alcyon</i>	13	Decline detected on Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) western routes; 49% decline in US from 1970-2014.
FLYCATCHERS			
Alder Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax alnorum</i>	20	Decline detected in BCR4; 37% decline in US from 1970-2014.
SHRIKES			
Northern Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>	3	14% decline in US from 1970-2014.
LARKS			
Horned Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	0.1	65% decline in US from 1970-2014.
SWALLOWS			

Tree Swallow	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	11	Decline detected in BCR5; 40% decline in US from 1970-2014.
Cliff Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i>	1	Decline detected in BCR4; 37% increase in US from 1970-2014.
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	0.01	Decline detected in BCR5; 38% decline in US from 1970-2014.
PIPITS			
American Pipit	<i>Anthus rubescens</i>	3	Recent declines noted from Alaska Christmas Bird Count (CBC) data; 30% decline in US from 1970-2014.
WARBLERS			
Wilson's Warbler	<i>Cardellina pusilla</i>	43	Decline detected in BCR4; 57% decline in US from 1970-2014.
BUNTINGS, SPARROWS, LONGSPURS			
Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	12	Possible 38% decline in US from 1970-2014.
American Tree Sparrow	<i>Spizelloides arborea</i>	32	53% decline in US from 1970-2014.
Savannah Sparrow	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>	23	Decline detected in BCR4 and 5; 40% decline in US from 1970-2014.
White-crowned Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>	40	Decline detected in BCR4; 18% decline in US from 1970-2014.
Lapland Longspur	<i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>	6	50% decline in US from 1970-2014.
BLACKBIRDS AND FINCHES			
Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	0.01	Decline detected on Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) western routes; 36% decline in US from 1970-2014.
Rusty Blackbird	<i>Euphagus carolinus</i>	12	Stable population in BCR4; 89% decline in US from 1970-2014 (mostly due to eastern population).

