The Partners in Flight

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Version 2020



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The Partners in Flight

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Arvind O. Panjabi¹ – Bird Conservancy of the Rockies

Wendy E. Easton – Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment and Climate Change Canada

Peter J. Blancher – Emeritus, Environment and Climate Change Canada

Allison E. Shaw -- Bird Conservancy of the Rockies

Brad Andres – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Carol J. Beardmore – Emerita, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Alaine F. Camfield -- Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment and Climate Change Canada

Dean W. Demarest – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Randy Dettmers – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Rebecca H. Keller -- Appalachian Mountains Joint Venture

Kenneth V. Rosenberg – Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology

Tom Will – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Marcel A. Gahbauer -- Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment and Climate Change Canada

and the Partners in Flight Science Committee

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¹ primary contact: arvind.panjabi@birdconservancy.org

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Background

<u>Partners in Flight (PIF)</u> is a cooperative venture of federal, state, provincial and territorial agencies, industry, non-governmental organizations, researchers, and many others whose common goal is the conservation of North American birds. While PIF has traditionally focused primarily on landbirds, it works in conjunction with other bird partners to promote coordinated conservation of all birds, and now includes all North American bird species in its conservation status assessment database.

PIF follows an iterative, adaptive planning approach that develops a sound scientific basis for decision-making and a logical process for setting, implementing, and evaluating conservation objectives (Pashley et al. 2000, Rich et al. 2004, Berlanga et al. 2010). The steps include:

- 1. Assessing conservation vulnerability of all bird species;
- 2. Identifying species most in need of conservation attention at continental and regional scales;
- 3. Setting of numerical population objectives for species of continental and regional importance;
- 4. Identifying conservation needs and recommended actions for species and habitats of importance:
- 5. Implementing strategies for meeting species and habitat objectives at continental and regional scales; and
- 6. Evaluating success, making revisions, and setting new objectives for the future.

One of the principal tools supporting this approach is the Avian Conservation Assessment Database (ACAD). ACAD represents a compendium of raw data and derived scores intended to permit a consistent, transparent, and credible evaluation of the relative vulnerability of all North American birds—i.e., species assessment. Based on thresholds representing unique individual or aggregate vulnerabilities, information from ACAD is used to identify species most in need of conservation attention—i.e., species prioritization. ACAD supports these types of evaluations at regional (e.g., Bird Conservation Region, Joint Venture) as well as larger (e.g. continental) levels. ACAD is a joint product of PIF and other major North American bird initiatives including the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan, and North American Waterbird Conservation Plan.

The 2020 Avian Conservation Assessment Database Handbook documents the rationale, rules and scores underlying the species assessment and species prioritization processes that ACAD captures. As described herein, these processes were instrumental in supporting the Partners in Flight Landbird Conservation Plan: 2016 Revision for Canada and Continental United States (Rosenberg et al. 2016) and The State of North America's Birds 2016 (NABCI 2016). Previous versions of the handbook (Panjabi et al. 2001, 2005, 2012, 2017) document past iterations of ACAD, which supported other PIF applications including Saving Our Shared Birds: Partners in Flight Tri-National Vision for Landbird Conservation (Berlanga et al. 2010), and the North American Landbird Conservation Plan (Rich et al. 2004). All current and past ACAD scores, data sources, handbook versions, and other related information are maintained or archived by the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies. ACAD scores and data can be viewed online and downloaded as Excel files.

The handbook is presented in two principal sections. Part I details species assessment, the factors and scoring used by PIF to assess the vulnerability of species at continental and regional scales (i.e., step 1 of the planning approach above). Each assessment factor is based on biological criteria intended to evaluate distinct components of vulnerability throughout the annual cycle of each species. Part II describes species prioritization, the use of the factors and corresponding scores to highlight conservation importance (i.e., step 2 of the planning approach above). Both the scores and the process have evolved over time (Hunter et al. 1993; Carter et al. 2000; Panjabi et al. 2001, 2005, 2012, 2017) and have been updated in response to external review (Beissinger et al. 2000), broad partner expertise, and the emergence of new data and analytical tools (e.g. Rosenberg et al. 2019, Stanton et al. 2019).

Scope of ACAD

ACAD comprises assessment scores and associated data for nearly 1600 native and 20 entirely nonnative bird species occurring in North America, defined as mainland, islands and waters of Canada south through Panama (excluding Greenland, the West Indies and Hawaii). Presence, taxonomy and nomenclature follow the American Ornithological Society (AOS) Checklist of North and Middle American Birds, 7th Edition, 60th supplement (Chesser et al. 2019).

ACAD treats only those species believed to be extant in the wild in North America. Likewise, for regional level assessments, ACAD only treats species determined to be extant within a given Bird Conservation Region (BCR). Because the underlying vulnerability assessment is rooted in characteristics (e.g. relative abundance, threats) that require a species be present to be evaluated, ACAD is not readily applicable to extinct or extirpated species. So, for example, ACAD does not treat Heath Hen (extinct), nor does it include Swallow-tailed Kite within the regional assessment for BCR 22 (where it is extirpated). However, it remains within PIF's general interests to recognize components of the historical North American avifauna that have been lost (regionally, or entirely) so as to not forget what is ultimately at stake as we work to conserve birds going forward. The following list comprises those native species omitted from ACAD on the basis of scientific consensus regarding their status as extinct or extirpated from the wild in North America:

Labrador Duck Heath Hen Atitlan Grebe Passenger Pigeon Great Auk Guadalupe Storm-Petrel Guadalupe Caracara Carolina Parakeet Slender-billed Grackle Bachman's Warbler

We consulted AOS (Chesser et al. 2019; http://checklist.aou.org/taxa/) as the primary source for the above determinations, but other sources were consulted or a cumulative assessment of evidence was made in a few instances. For species where status remains somewhat equivocal, or where conservation programs continue to treat them as potentially extant, we erred on the side of caution, continuing to include them within ACAD (e.g. Socorro Dove, Eskimo Curlew).

In the regional ACAD assessments, determining whether to omit species from a given BCR on the basis of regional extirpation required a degree of judgement that a species was no longer present

and that its exclusion would not jeopardize attention where it was truly warranted. In certain instances, this resulted in regional ACAD assessments retaining species that otherwise would not be considered extant. For example, although Swallow-tailed Kite is no longer believed to be a breeding species in BCR 24, it is included in the regional assessment for this BCR due to general conservation concern in the U.S. and recent prospects for breeding expansion into this portion of the former range. We do not provide here a summary of species determined to be regionally extirpated from specific BCRs, and instead refer users directly to ACAD.

Although ACAD has traditionally included approximately 20 Old World species that are clearly established as introduced (non-native) in North America (e.g. Ring-necked Pheasant), its emphasis is on the status of taxa native to North America. Assessment of native status can be confounded, however, in species that are native to a part of North America yet also are known or present potential to exist elsewhere on the continent as non-native "populations" resulting from human intervention (e.g. Muscovy Duck, Red-crowned Parrot). We did not attempt to decipher all such cases, but rather prioritized making appropriate distinctions where conservation implications seemed to clearly exist and warrant. For example, we did not address Muscovy Duck as a feral entity except to help ascertain the true status of native populations in regions where believed to be extant, and we treated Red-crowned Parrot as a native species in the U.S. due to uncertainty regarding origins of populations in Texas, which may include native birds from neighboring Tamaulipas.

Overview of the Species Assessment Process

Each species is assigned scores for 6 factors, assessing largely independent aspects of vulnerability: Population Size (PS), Breeding (BD) and Non-breeding Distribution (ND), Threats during Breeding (TB) and Non-breeding (TN) seasons, and Population Trend (PT). Each score reflects the degree of vulnerability for the species (i.e., risk of significant population decline, major extirpation or extinction) due to that factor, ranging from "1" for low to "5" for high vulnerability. Scores are combined in various ways to produce an overall assessment of vulnerability, determine Watch List status and identify other categories of concern.

PS, BD and ND are always scored at the global scale, as these vulnerabilities are defined by and inherent to the population as a whole. However, PT, TB and TN are scored at the continental scale and at regional scales (i.e. PT-r, TB-r, TN-r) to reflect "local" variability in trends and threats within a species' range. All regional scores in the USA and Canada presently use Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) as the scoring unit. In Mexico and Central America, regional scores have been assigned at biome or country levels.

To further depict local or regional conservation importance in the context of sustaining global/continental populations, PIF also provides two measures of "area importance" for each species in each region: 1) the density of the species relative to other regions, and 2) the percent of the species global population encompassed. This information helps emphasize the importance of local or regional conservation attention in core population areas and highlights regions with high stewardship responsibility for characteristic species. Area importance measures are currently only available for breeding-season avifaunas in each region, but these measures will be added for non-breeding avifaunas in the future

PIF Vulnerability Factors:

Population Size (PS) assesses vulnerability due to the total number of adult individuals in the global population.

Distribution (BD/ND) assesses vulnerability due to the geographic extent of a species' range on a global scale, in breeding (BD) and non-breeding (ND) seasons.

Threats (TB/TN) assess vulnerability due to the effects of current and probable future extrinsic conditions that threaten the ability of North American populations to survive and successfully reproduce in breeding (TB) and to survive over the non-breeding season (TN).

Population Trend (PT) indicates vulnerability as reflected by the direction and magnitude of changes in North American population size since 1970.

PIF Area Importance Factors:

Relative Density (RD or RF) compares the relative density or frequency of reporting of a species amongst regions to highlight regions of highest numbers. It is independent of region size or absolute species abundance.

Percent of Population (%Pop) indicates the proportion of the global population of a species in the region and is influenced by the size of the region.

Steps 1 and 2 of the PIF planning approach encompass separate but related elements for identifying bird conservation needs at regional, continental and greater scales: status assessment and determining relative conservation importance. *Assessment* refers to the process of compiling and evaluating data on the biological vulnerability of each species using a standardized approach, whereas *determining level of conservation importance* describes the process for using these data to determine which individual species, species guilds, and habitats warrant attention, and at what

level, in order to support PIF goals to maintain native birds in their natural numbers, natural habitats, and natural geographic ranges (Rich et al. 2004).

'Prioritization' is often mistakenly used as short-hand for step 2, but it is a more appropriate term applied to step 4 in the PIF planning process where action plans outline priorities for intervention based on biological criteria and may incorporate factors such as feasibility, cost-effectiveness, and political considerations along with the interests and capabilities of partners. Species are assessed for continental or regional conservation importance due to multiple biologically-based criteria, not all of which require immediate intervention. Although it is not the focus of the PIF Species Assessment Process and ACAD, they are valuable tools for setting conservation priorities based on sound, biologically-based information where all bird species are considered using equal and standardized criteria.

PART I. PIF ASSESSMENT FACTORS

Vulnerability Factors

Population Size (PS-g)

Population Size (PS-g) indicates vulnerability due to the total number of breeding-aged adult individuals in the global population. Evaluation of population size is based on the assumption that species with small breeding populations are more vulnerable to extirpation or extinction than species with large breeding populations.

PS-g Score	Criterion
1	Global breeding population ≥50,000,000
2	Global breeding population <50,000,000 and ≥5,000,000
3	Global breeding population <5,000,000 and ≥500,000
4	Global breeding population <500,000 and ≥50,000
5	Global breeding population <50,000

For landbird species occurring in Canada and the continental U.S., scores were assigned using population estimates derived primarily from count data collected by the North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) with adjustments for species detectability, then extrapolated to range size outside of BBS coverage (per Rosenberg and Blancher 2005); other data were used when appropriate (Rosenberg et al. 2016) with details in the *Handbook to the PIF Landbird Population Estimates Database* (Will et al. 2019). For the first time, these updated BBS-derived estimates include measures of uncertainty, as estimated by Stanton et al. (2019). For shorebirds, population estimates are mostly from the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan (2016), which is not limited to U.S. populations. Estimates for waterfowl are primarily from the *North American Waterfowl Management Plan* (NAWMP 2012, 2018), Wetlands International (2017), Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna International Secretariat (2018), or <u>Birdlife International's Data Zone</u>. Estimates for waterbird species are primarily from Birdlife International (2016), IUCN (IUCN 2016), Partners in

Flight 2016 Central America Workshop, Rosenberg et al. 2019, Birds of North America (now integrated into Birds of the World), or Wetlands International (2017). For waterbirds and waterfowl, we multiplied estimates by 2/3 where it was likely they were based on non-breeding season surveys and thus represented total population (including adults and juveniles), as per instructions in the *Waterbird Population Estimates Database v.5* (Wetlands International 2017) to approximate breeding population size.

For species in Mexico and Central America where no population data were available, we assigned species to PS categories by converting the PS criteria in the table above into range-wide density criteria unique to each species based on the extent of its breeding distribution:

PS-g criterion _{Density} = PS-g criterion / Area (km²) of species' breeding range

and then selected the most appropriate order-of magnitude PS-density category for each species, considering published estimates or expert knowledge of the species' density within suitable habitat, availability of habitat across the range and habitat plasticity within the species. (In some cases the geometric midpoint (2×10^x) of the range of population size within a PS category was assigned as the global population estimate, in which case the suffix "-PS-g midpoint" was added to the source field PS-g_s.) This process was also applied to familiar species with independent population estimates in order to compare PS-density categories among better-known species to the PS-density categories of the lesser known species.

Breeding and Non-breeding Distributions (BD-g and ND-g)

The breeding distribution (BD-g) and non-breeding distribution (ND-g) scores indicate a species' vulnerability due to the geographic extent of its range in either the breeding or non-breeding seasons separately. The underlying assumption is that species with narrowly distributed populations are more vulnerable to individual risks and threats than species with widely distributed populations, and that this vulnerability can vary seasonally as migratory populations re-distribute. Distribution scores are assessed at a global scale.

BD-g or ND-g Score	Criterion (Extent of Occurrence)
1	≥4,000,000 km²
2	≥1,000,000 and <4,000,000 km ²
3	≥300,000 and <1,000,000 km ²
4	≥80,000 and <300,000 km ²
5	<80,000 km ²

Distribution scores reflect the areal extent of occurrence (km²) of adult individuals during the breeding season (BD-g), and the analogous extent of occurrence of all individuals during the portion of the non-breeding season when birds are relatively sedentary (ND-g). For resident species with largely sedentary, year-round populations, BD and ND are the same and scored identically. BD-g and ND-g are calculated using digital range maps available from NatureServe (Ridgely et al. 2007) and Birdlife International (year specified in data source). Range maps were reviewed for accuracy

by the international PIF Science Committee and other taxonomic experts, and adjusted based on other data sources or expert knowledge concerning species distributions. The scoring criteria for BD-g and ND-g are complementary to Extent of Occurrence (EOO) criteria applied by the IUCN (2016) in their assessment of extinction risk for the IUCN Red List; the threshold for a PIF score of 5 (<80,000 km²) is purposely set larger than the IUCN EOO threshold for 'Vulnerable' species (<20,000 km²) in order to include a slightly broader suite of species in the top tier.

Both the breeding and non-breeding distribution scoring categories were developed primarily with landbirds in mind, but have been applied equally to all species distributed across the continental land masses of the planet. Seabirds nesting primarily on widespread oceanic islands require a slightly different approach due to the small areas occupied during the breeding season relative to their overall range extent including foraging areas. Although BD-g and ND-g do not attempt to measure habitat or portion of range occupied (they are coarse measures of range extent during the respective seasons), additional consideration can be given to the number and geographic distribution of nesting sites with the breeding ranges of island nesting seabirds when assigning BD scores. More work is needed in this area to refine rulesets.

Threats to Breeding (TB-c, TB-r) and Non-breeding (TN-c, TN-r)

Threats to breeding and non-breeding are scored separately and assess vulnerability due to the effects of current and probable future extrinsic conditions that threaten the ability of populations to survive and successfully reproduce during the breeding season (TB) or to survive over the non-breeding season (TN). The "continental" (in lieu of global) frame of reference for TB-c and TN-c reflects the intent to consider threats faced by populations relevant to North America only (i.e. Panama and north). Thus, for the majority of species, TB-c considers threats occurring to populations within their breeding range in North America, and TN-c considers threats faced by these same populations throughout their entire non-breeding range. For oceanic seabirds, the relationship gets complicated, but the intent is to emphasize threats (breeding and non-breeding seasons) to the population segments that spend time in North America.

Threats are also scored regionally for species breeding (TB-r) or remaining in North America between breeding seasons (TN-r). Here the logic is similar to that described above for TB-c and TN-c, but the frame of reference for evaluating threats becomes those populations relevant to the regional unit (e.g. BCR, biome). We used the same criteria and thresholds to score continental and regional threats. Absent any evidence that regional threats differ from those evaluated continentally, the continental scores were adopted.

Evaluation of TB includes threats to breeding habitats, as well as other factors that interfere with reproduction (e.g., competition with exotic species) or survival (e.g., predators). Evaluation of TN includes threats to habitat as well as other factors affecting survival outside the breeding season. Migration season threats are included, especially for birds facing significant known threats at critical migration concentration sites (e.g., many shorebirds). For most birds and especially landbirds, TN largely considers threats faced during the portion of the non-breeding season where birds are relatively sedentary (i.e. "temperate winter").

To score threats, an assessment is made regarding the expected change in the suitability of breeding or non-breeding conditions necessary for maintaining healthy populations of a species

over the next 30 years. Threats are defined as any extrinsic factor that reduces the likelihood of the persistence of a population, and can include predation, poaching, parasitism, poisoning from pesticides or other environmental contaminants, habitat fragmentation/deterioration/loss, hybridization, collisions with power lines or other hazards, predicted impacts of climate change or any other factor that reduces the suitability of breeding or non-breeding conditions.

Threats scores for U.S. and Canadian birds were assigned by members of the PIF Science Committee, with review and input from other formal and informal regional or taxonomic working groups, such as the (Trial) Unified Science Team of the U.S. Joint Ventures, the NAWMP National Science Support Team, the Sea Duck Joint Venture, the Waterbird Working Group, and the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Partnership. Sources of all data and scores are maintained in the database. In Mexico and Central America, threat scores for all birds were assigning by taxonomic experts in various national and regional workshops with a facilitator trained in PIF assessment to ensure calibration and consistency in scoring. Although threat scores are the most subjective of the species assessment criteria, the scoring thresholds are robust, and individual scores are calibrated among taxa and across geographic scales within species to promote consistency among species and regions facing similar threats. In practice, PIF has found close agreement among experts on the most appropriate threat scores.

The categorical variables TB-c and TN-c were assigned by placing each species into one of the broad, relative threats categories in the table below. For a species to be given a particular score, it must meet the relevant definition and at least one of the associated scenarios. Although not quantified explicitly, the scope (i.e., proportion of population affected), severity, and timing of threats are implicit considerations in evaluation of threats and assignment of scores. For a species to be assigned a given score, one or more of the example conditions listed *must actually be significantly affecting a majority of the species' population at present, or be expected to do so within the next 30 years*. In other words, simply being *susceptible* to threats, without actually being affected by such threats in the foreseeable future, is not enough to warrant a high threat score.

TB or TN Score	Definition	Scenarios	Examples
1	Future conditions for breeding (TB) or non-breeding (TN) populations are expected to significantly improve for the majority of the population.	Species that benefit substantially from human activity such as habitat fragmentation, urbanization, bird-feeding, etc.	Canada Goose (Branta canadensis), American Crow (Corvus brachyrhynchos), American Robin (Turdus migratorius), European Starling (Sturnus vulgaris), American Goldfinch (Spinus tristis).
2	Future conditions for breeding (TB) or non-breeding (TN) populations	a) no known threats of major significance to population or habitatsb) species relatively tolerant of future changes likely to result from human	a) Spruce Grouse (Falcipennis canadensis), Common Merganser (Mergus merganser), Greater Roadrunner

TB or TN Score	Definition	Scenarios	Examples
	are expected to remain stable; no significant threats.	activities or land-use trends (i.e., breeds or survives in altered landscapes, c) potential threats exist, but management or conservation activities have stabilized or increased populations d) threats are assumed to be low	(Geococcyx californianus), Ruddy Turnstone (Arenaria intepris). b) Mallard (Anas platyrhychos), Gambel's Quail (Callipela gambelli), Song Sparrow (Melospiza melodia). c) Wood Duck (Aix sponsa), Osprey (Pandion haliaetus), Great Blue Heron (Ardea herodias), Eastern Bluebird (Sialia sialia). d) Ruby-throated Hummingbird
	CI: L. I		(Archilochus colubris)
3	Slight to moderate decline in the future suitability of breeding (TB) or non-breeding (TN) conditions is expected for the majority of the	a) Moderately vulnerable to human activities and land-use trends, with increased human activity expected b) does not occur in highly altered landscapes, with some expectation of increased landscape alteration within breeding or non-breeding range	a) American Avocet (Recurvirostra americana), Common Tern (Sterna hirundo), American Kestrel (Falco sparverius), Brown- headed Nuthatch (Sitta pusilla).
	This is a broad category that implies anything amounting to	c) area-sensitive species, or sensitive to habitat fragmentation (with fragmentation expected to increase within the area for which scores are being assigned)	b) Blue-winged Teal (Spatula discors), Eastern Whip-poor-will (Antrostomus vociferous).
	"moderate threats."	d) relatively specialized on sensitive habitats (e.g., native grasslands) or successional stages that are limiting populations, or expected to become limiting, due to human activity or natural changes	c) White-tailed Ptarmigan (<i>Lagopus leucura</i>), Audubon's Oriole (<i>Icterus graduacauda</i>). d) Eastern Meadowlark

TB or TN Score	Definition	Scenarios	Examples
33310		e) requires relatively specialized conditions within habitats that are limiting populations, or expected to become limiting, due to human activity or natural changes	(Sturnella magna), American Woodcock (Scolopax minor), Blue- winged Warbler (Vermivora cyanoptera).
		f) relatively sensitive to biotic factors that are being exacerbated by human activities, such as cowbird parasitism,	e) Vaux's Swift (<i>Chaetura</i> vauxi).
		predation, overgrazing, climate change, and other phenomena that are limiting populations	f) Lazuli Bunting (<i>Passerina amoena</i>), Wood Thrush (<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>), Brewer's
		g) demographic factors (low productivity, single-brooded) may contribute to limiting populations, especially when combined with other	Sparrow (Spizella breweri), Verdin (Auriparus flaviceps).
		h) concentration or coloniality increases	g) Some seabirds (e.g. Short-tailed Albatross [Phoebastria albatrus]).
		i) threats potentially increasing if present trends/conditions continue	h) Aleutian Tern (Onychoprion aleuticus).
			i) Clark's Nutcracker (<i>Nucifraga columbiana</i>).
4	Severe deterioration in the future suitability of	a) highly vulnerable to human activities and land-use trends, with increased human activity expected	a) Grasshopper Sparrow (Ammodramus savannarum).
	breeding (TB) or non-breeding (TN) conditions is	b) highly area sensitive or intolerant of fragmentation (with fragmentation a significant factor within the area for	b) Swallow-tailed Kite (Elanoides forficatus).
	expected to significantly affect a majority	which scores are being assigned) c) highly specialized/dependent on	c) Bachman's Sparrow (<i>Peucaea aestivalis</i>), Seaside Sparrow
	of the population.	sensitive or undisturbed habitats (e.g., old-growth forest, upper margins of saltmarsh, etc.) that are in short supply,	(<i>Ammospiza maritima</i>). d) Spotted Owl (<i>Strix</i>
	This is essentially a "high threats" category, with	are under threat, or expected to come under threat	occidentalis), American Flamingo (Phoenicopterus ruber).

TB or TN Score	Definition	Scenarios	Examples
	basically more severe versions of the above list for TB =3, but for	d) extremely specialized on specific conditions within a habitat (e.g., requires large snags or specific water conditions) that are in short supply,	e) Mottled Duck (<i>Anas</i> fulvigula).
	species that are not quite in danger of	under threat, or expected to decrease in availability	f) Red Knot (<i>Calidris</i> canutus).
	extinction or extirpation from significant portions of range (TB =5).	e) biotic factors (parasitism, hybridization) currently are having or are expected to have a strong adverse effect on a majority of the breeding population	g) Bell's Vireo (Vireo bellii]).
		f) concentration or coloniality leads to high vulnerability	
		g) population highly likely to decline and may be in danger of major range contraction if threats continue	
5	Extreme deterioration in the future	a) Species that are in danger of extinction	a) Saltmarsh Sparrow (Ammospiza caudacuta).
	suitability of breeding (TB-c) or non-breeding	b) Species that are at risk of extirpation from substantial portions of range within the area for which scores are	b) Black Rail (<i>Laterallus jamaicensis</i>).
	(TN-c) conditions is expected.	being assigned	c) Aplomado Falcon (<i>Falco femoralis</i>) in the
		c) Species with a low probability of successful reintroduction across a substantial former range.	Chihuahuan Desert region.

Note: derivation of threat scores differs from that described in Carter et al. (2000) in that past conditions are no longer considered and a semi-quantitative matrix of conditions has been abandoned in favor of the more descriptive list of scenarios shown above.

Population Trend (PT-c, PT-r)

Population trend indicates vulnerability due to the direction and magnitude of recent changes in population size. Like the threat scores, population trend scores reflect trends for North American populations only, even for species with ranges that extend beyond the continent. We scored median population trend for a species across the North American continent (PT-c) and within each region (PT-r). Species declining by 50% or more since 1970 are considered most vulnerable, whereas species with increasing trends over this period are least vulnerable. In contrast to previous PIF assessments, historical trends are no longer considered.

For U.S. and Canadian landbirds, we used the BBS as the primary source of trends. However, we also used Christmas Bird Count (CBC) or other specialized data sources where these are the best available breeding or non-breeding data for North American bird population trends. For shorebirds and waterbirds, taxonomic experts considered a variety of surveys and analyses, ranging from BBS and CBC to the International Shorebird Survey (https://www.manomet.org/iss-focal-site-prismbackground-information) and others. For waterfowl, experts evaluated trends from several surveys including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) mid-continent waterfowl survey (USFWS 2016), BBS and CBC, and selected the most suitable survey for each species. In Mexico and Central America, where population trend data are lacking for nearly all species, scores for PT were assigned by consensus during workshops involving dozens of ornithologists and other wildlife experts using surrogate data on land cover trends combined with expert knowledge of the species' affinity for certain land cover types and conditions in order to assess population trends. This process included land cover trend data from CONAFOR in Mexico (www.cnf.gob.mx:8090/snif/portal/infys), and from CATHALAC in Central America (www.cathalac.int/) and forest cover data from Global Forest Watch (2016) (www.globalforestwatch.org/), combined with expert knowledge of the birds and lands in question. Where empirical data did not exist, population trends scores were assigned by expert opinion, using the qualitative definitions below as guidelines.

In this update, we considered BBS trends from a special analysis provided by John Sauer of USGS (personal communication, 2018) that differs from that presented on the BBS website (https://www.mbr-pwrc.usgs.gov/bbs/). Whereas the published BBS analysis uses the end points of the trend period to determine the overall trend, the PIF analysis applies a linear fit to the log-scale annual abundance indices, thus diminishing the influence of the end points and providing greater stability in trend scores across updates.

A similar custom linear fit CBC analysis (Meehan et al. 2018) was utilized where abundance trend is calculated for each species as the geometric-mean rate of change in the abundance index between two time points, 1970 and 2017. Calculation methods for a PIF trend are different from those described in Soykan et al. (2016) in that, in the latter case, start and end abundance indices are the actual hierarchical model predictions, whereas in the former case, start and end abundance indices are fitted values from a linear regression of the full time series of hierarchical model predictions.

We analyzed a linear fit analysis of the period of BBS data of 1970-2015 for the regional trend score (PT-r) of most birds where the BBS survey covered their core distribution. However for a handful of species in BCRs 2 and 4, we used the expanded BBS dataset spanning 1993-2017 to take advantage of the BBS expansion in Alaska, Yukon Territory, Northwest Territories, Newfoundland and Labrador. Here we used the endpoint analysis, as a linear fit analysis was not available.

For the continental trend score (PT-c), linear fit BBS trends from 1970-2017 were analyzed for most birds. We chose 1970 as the starting date over 1966 used in previous PIF population trend assessments due to relatively poor geographic coverage of BBS data collected during the first few years of the survey. Expanded BBS from 1993-2017 was used for several northern breeders, and at this continental scale, a linear fit analysis was used. CBC continental trends were calculated over the period 1970-2017. USFWS waterfowl trends were estimated from 1970-2016. International Shorebird Survey trends were estimated from 1974-2014. Other trend sources varied in the years of data available but the years used are specified in the trend source field (e.g. CAFF6116 spans from 1961 to 2016).

To standardize species' comparisons, we converted annual rates of population change to total change over the period of 1970 to the most recent year available, by extrapolating the annual rate to all years ($\Delta N= (1+AnnTr)^nYrs-1$). PT scores were determined based on total population size change since 1970, and the precision and reliability of the annual trend estimate as presented in the table below.

PT Scores and Criteria					
% total population change	90% CI excludes 0 ($P \le 0.1$) and df ≥ 14	67% CI excludes 0 (P ≤ 0.33) and df = 6-13	67% CI excludes 0, 90% CI includes 0 $(0.1 < P \le 0.33)$ and df ≥ 14	67% CI includes 0 (P > 0.33) and Trend is Reliable	67% CI includes 0 (P > 0.33) and Trend is Not Reliable
<u><</u> -50%	5	4	4	3	3
-50% to -15%	4	4	4	3	3
-15% to 0%	3	3	3	2	3
0% to +50%	2	3	2	2	3
<u>></u> +50%	1	2	2	2	3

Details on PT Scores. CI = credible interval for annual trend estimate used to calculate % total population change over the period of consideration. Criteria for degrees of freedom (df) were defined for BBS and CBC analyses and may differ for other data sources.

All of the following criteria must be met for a trend to be considered "Reliable" in the 2 columns at right:

- 1. Trend Precision: 90% Credible Interval ≤ 3 % / yr above or below trend
- 2. Sample size: degrees of freedom \geq 14 (for BBS and CBC, df = # of Routes # of Strata 1)
- 3. Count Abundance: Average count ≥ 0.1

Species for which trend direction and magnitude are both uncertain, either because of highly variable data or poor sample size (df < 6), receive a score of 3 and the source "insufficient data." This intermediate score is assigned on the reasoning that uncertain trends should invoke more concern than stable trends (for which PT =2). Any species with a PT score of 3 because of an uncertain trend is reviewed by experts to determine if a more appropriate score can be assigned.

In the absence of long-term, quantitative, species-specific trend data, PT scores can be assigned using the qualitative descriptions provided below using the same timeframe (1970-present).

PT score	Qualitative description
1	Significant large increase
	Significant small increase
2	Possible increase
	Stable
	Uncertain population change
3	Possible small decrease
	Significant small decrease
4	Moderate decrease
4	Possible large decrease
5	Significant large decrease

Area Importance Factors

The assessment factors described above are all indicators of a species' vulnerability. However, species are not distributed evenly over the continent, and using vulnerability alone to identify species of conservation interest will produce regional lists that include many species at the periphery of their range. Given the limited resources for conservation, the large number of competing needs among species, and the need to coordinate actions across broad scales, the PIF regional assessment process gives additional weight to species in areas supporting core populations, where the ecological importance and likelihood of success are greatest. PIF includes two additional criteria in the regional assessment process, which reflect the importance of the area of interest to each species.

Relative Density (RD)

Relative density (RD) scores reflect the mean density of a species within a given region (e.g., a BCR) relative to density in the single region in which the species occurs in its highest density. The underlying assumption of this score is that conservation action taken in regions where the species occurs in highest density will affect the largest number of birds per unit area. Because the score is one of *relative* density, it is unaffected by the size of the region or the absolute density of the species. For species that are extirpated (ER) or nearing extirpation (NE) from a region, letter codes may be assigned in lieu of an RD score to ensure they are not overlooked in conservation planning. Species that occur in the region outside of the breeding season receive a non-breeding code (NB).

Scores in the current database are for the breeding season only (RD-b), but non-breeding scores (RD-n) will be added soon. RD-b scores for most species were derived from BBS raw data from the period 2005-2014 (Pardieck et al. 2015), based on the mean birds/route/year within the region vs. the same measure in other comparable regions. Other sources of data and expert opinion were used for species with few range-wide abundance data. In particular, eBird relative frequency data for the month of June & 1st week of July period (eBird 2017) were used to estimate relative density for many species with poor abundance data. A comparison of BBS relative density vs. eBird relative frequency for birds with at least 90% of population covered well by both BBS and eBird found very good correspondence and was used to estimate equivalent criteria for RD scores based on eBird frequencies (see table below). eBird relative frequency data were also used to adjust RD values where the region with maximum eBird frequency for the species was outside of BBS coverage, e.g., for a species with highest density outside of North America. In those cases, BBS-based relative abundances within continental U.S. and Canada were adjusted downward by the ratio of eBird maximum frequency in all regions versus eBird maximum frequency in continental U.S. and Canada.

Scoring by expert opinion was also an option for species judged to be poorly sampled by both BBS and eBird – this scoring was based on estimation of mean density across entire BCRs (including both suitable and unsuitable areas), to make scores comparable to those based on BBS and eBird data.

RD-b	Quantitative definitions			
score	Relative abundance data (BBS etc)	Relative frequency data (eBird)*	Equivalent qualitative definition	
P/0		BCR relative frequency < 1.5% of the maximum relative frequency	Peripheral: has bred only irregularly, or strong evidence of regular breeding is lacking	
1	BCR relative abundance < 1% of the maximum relative abundance	BCR relative frequency 1.5-3.6% of maximum relative frequency	Breeds regularly but in very small numbers or in only a very small part of the region in question	
2	BCR relative abundance 1-10% of maximum relative abundance	BCR relative frequency 3.6-21.7% of maximum relative frequency	Breeds in low mean abundance relative to the region(s) in which the species occurs in maximum density	
3	BCR relative abundance 10-25% of maximum relative abundance	BCR relative frequency 21.7- 44.6% of maximum relative frequency	Breeds in moderate mean abundance relative to the region(s) in which the species occurs in maximum density	
4	BCR relative abundance 25-50% of maximum relative abundance	BCR relative frequency 44.6-68.1% of maximum relative frequency	Breeds in moderately high mean abundance relative to the region(s) in which the species occurs in maximum density	
5	BCR relative abundance > 50% of maximum relative abundance	BCR relative frequency > 68.1% of maximum relative frequency	Breeds in high mean abundance, similar to the region(s) in which the species occurs in maximum density	

^{*} relative frequency criteria are those that best mirrored relative abundance criteria, based on a comparison of BBS relative abundance (2005-2014 data) vs eBird relative frequency (1970-2016 data) for 224 landbirds with at least 90% of global population in U.S./Canada excluding poorly covered regions (BCRs 1, 2, 3 and 7); Maximum relative frequencies included regions outside of North America, with regions typically being countries, sometimes split into groups of BCRs (Mexico) or states (Brazil, Australia) within a country, sometimes amalgamations of countries when country sample sizes were small (e.g., Lesser Antilles in Caribbean was treated as a single region).

Percent of Population (%Pop)

Percent of Population (%Pop) values reflect the proportion of the global population of a species that is contained within a region during a given season. Currently, %Pop values are available only for species breeding in Canada and the USA. Values for the non-breeding season will be added later. The underlying assumption of this value (a continuous variable, unlike the scores discussed thus far) is that regions with high proportions of a species' global population have a high responsibility for the species as a whole, and actions taken in those regions will affect the largest number of that species. Unlike RD, %Pop is influenced by the size of a region (e.g. BCR). Thus, large regions may have high population percentages but relatively low densities, or vice versa. Percent of population complements the relative density score¹.

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¹ If an RD score disagrees with a %Pop (e.g., where there is an RD value but no %Pop), users should rely on the RD score (the latter were reviewed by regional experts and sometimes revised, whereas %Pop scores have not been thoroughly reviewed).

For species with regional and global population estimates calculated in the same way, %Pop is simply the regional population estimate divided by the global population estimate. Since this is a relative measure, relative abundances can also be used if population estimates are not available. For example, for a species sampled by the BBS, relative abundance (mean birds/route/year) is calculated for each BCR. This value is multiplied by the size of the BCR (km²), and the area-weighted value is then divided by the sum of area-weighted values from all the BCRs in which the species occurs. The concept is as follows:

BCRs are broken down into individual state, province, and territory portions of BCRs before applying the above formula, and results from these geo-political regions are then summed up to full BCR %Pop.

Additional sources of population data beyond the data source cited for RD-b were used to estimate %Pop when this data source did not provide sufficient geographic coverage for the full range of the species. For example, checklist counts were combined with Breeding Bird Census data in arctic Canada, Rich et al. 2004. eBird frequencies per region were weighted by region size to approximate %Pops per Region (%Freqs) for species with poor BBS data or for regions without BBS data. Note that eBird proportions outside the Western Hemisphere were replaced with other values, such as percent of range as a surrogate for %Pop, where the geographic area had poor eBird coverage (e.g. Asia).

Even if BBS greatly underestimates the absolute abundance of a species, relative abundance values and %Pop estimates should be valid as long as the detectability of a species on BBS routes is reasonably constant across the species' range. The percentage of population based on BBS is more questionable for species occupying very patchy habitats (e.g., wetlands) in regions where BBS routes do not adequately sample these habitats, or where BBS sampling is limited to only a small part of the area of interest, or for species not well detected by the BBS protocol, e.g. nocturnal species. However, compared with trend estimates, relative abundance (and subsequent %Pop) estimates are not as sensitive to problems of low detection rate along routes.

Estimates of %Pop may differ between the ACAD and PIF Population Estimates Database (PED). The main reason for this discrepancy is that in the ACAD Regionals, we relied more on eBird frequencies within USA/Canada for species poorly detected by BBS surveys, thereby providing data in many more regions than was possible using only BBS in the PED. We also used the decade 2005–2014 to calculate %Pop in the Regional ACAD vs. 2006–2015 for Version 3.0 of the PED. In the ACAD, %Population and Relative Density (RD) are used at the Regional scale to indicate conservation responsibility. When the source in the ACAD for RD and %Pop in a BCR was BBS, differences in %Pop between ACAD and PED are minor; when the source in ACAD was eBird, then the differences in % values may be more substantial.

For a few poorly surveyed species (e.g., some seabirds) in remote regions lacking quantitative %Pop estimates, PIF has assigned a %Pop of >25% where additional information suggests the species may have at least 25% of its global population in that region. These instances have no %Pop value displayed, but include a source of "PIFSC-19-%Pop".

PART II. USING THE ASSESSMENT SCORES TO IDENTIFY SPECIES OF CONSERVATION IMPORTANCE

Since its inception, PIF has explored various means of combining assessment scores to highlight the current vulnerability and stewardship responsibility of species and their habitats. It is a pro-active approach to bird conservation where we move to highlight and address the threats and needs of both well-dispersed species and those with limited, smaller populations across their full life-cycle and before they become endangered or species at risk.

Species of Continental Importance

PIF recognizes several categories of species of continental conservation importance. The U.S.-Canada 'Watch List' was established in the North American Landbird Conservation Plan (Rich et al. 2004. Panjabi et al. 2005). 'Common Birds in Steep Decline' was established in <u>Saving Our Shared Birds: a Tri-National Vision for Landbird Conservation</u> (Berlanga et al. 2010). Both of these categories are retained in the current ACAD, whereas the 'U.S.-Canada Continental Stewardship' species (Rich et al. 2004) and 'Tri-National Concern' species (Berlanga et al. 2010) are archived. Here we update the Watch List and the list of Common Birds in Steep Decline, expand their scope to encompass all North and Central American birds, and differentiate between causes of concern among species. Together the species on these two lists reflect a diversity of reasons for recognizing continental importance, including high vulnerability, high stewardship responsibility, steep declines and high threats. This diversity of reasons for conservation importance reflects the large shared avifauna across a large continent and Partners in Flight's mission of helping species at risk, keeping common birds common, and engaging in voluntary partnerships to implement bird conservation.

Watch List Species

The Watch List comprises extant species of greatest conservation concern and includes those most vulnerable due to a combination of small and declining populations, limited distributions, and high threats throughout their ranges. Some of these species are already recognized as Threatened or Endangered at federal levels.

To determine which species are most vulnerable, we summed global scores pertinent to each season to arrive at Combined Scores for breeding (CS-b) and non-breeding (CS-n) seasons, as follows:

Combined Score for breeding (CS-b) = TB-c + BD-g + PT-c + PS-g

Combined Score for non-breeding (CS-n) = TN-c + ND-g + PT-c + PS-g

The overall Maximum Combined Score (CS-max) for each species is simply the larger of the two seasonal combined scores:

Maximum Combined Score (CS-max) = maximum of CS-b or CS-n

The Maximum Combined Score can range from 4 for a widespread, numerous, and increasing species which is expected to face even more favorable conditions in the future to 20 for a species of the very highest conservation concern. Species were included in the Watch List if they had a Maximum Combined Score ≥14, or 13 in combination with PT-c = 5. Species that meet these thresholds are considered to exhibit high vulnerability across multiple factors. We categorized species on the Watch List into three groups to help provide some understanding regarding why they are species of conservation concern:

Red Watch List: Highly vulnerable and in urgent need of special attention.

Maximum Combined Score > 16 OR

Maximum Combined Score = 16 AND [PT-c + (Maximum of TB-c or TN-c) = 9 or 10]

Yellow Watch List "R": Range restricted and small populations in need of constant care.

On Watch List but not considered Red AND have either:

[PS-g + (Maximum of BD-g or ND-g) > PT-c + (Maximum of TB-c or TN-c)] OR

[PS-g + (Maximum of BD-g or ND-g) = PT-c + (Maximum of TB-c or TN-c) AND PT-c <5]

Yellow Watch List "D": Steep declines and major threats.

On Watch List but not considered Red AND have either:

[PT-c + (Maximum of TB-c or TN-c) > PS-g + (Maximum of BD-g or ND-g)] OR

[PT-c + (Maximum of TB-c or TN-c) = PS-g + (Maximum of BD-g or ND-g) AND PT-c = 5]

Common Birds in Steep Decline (CBSD)

PIF also highlights a list of Common Birds in Steep Decline. While these birds do not exhibit broad levels of vulnerability warranting Watch List designation, their populations have declined continentally by an estimated 50% or more since 1970. Together these Common Birds in Steep Decline have lost roughly a billion or more breeding birds during this period, raising concern for the vital ecosystem services that they provide. Species in this category are native species not on the Watch List, but with PT-c = 5.

Species of Regional Importance

Species of Continental Importance should receive appropriate conservation attention within regions where significant populations occur, but these are not the only species that regional planners should consider. Many species that have moderate or even low Combined Scores may be declining steeply within certain regions, or face higher threats than elsewhere. Species that are concentrated within a region also merit stewardship, even if they are not Watch List Species. Here we describe the categories of species that PIF considers to be important at the regional scale and how those are determined. Note that the area importance criteria, RD and %Pop, are used in various ways to help define these groups.

Designated due to Continental Importance in Region -2 Categories

A) Watch List: Species must meet all of the following criteria:

• Meet criteria for PIF Watch List (see above)

- Occur regularly in the region, i.e., RD > 0
- Future conditions are not expected to improve, i.e., Threat Score > 1
- B) Common Birds in Steep Decline (CBSD): species must meet all of the following criteria:
 - Meet criteria for Common Bird in Steep Decline (see above, also Rosenberg et al. 2016)
 - Occur regularly in significant numbers in the BCR, i.e., RD > 1

Designated due to Regional Importance – 3 Categories

Regional Combined Scores (RCS) are calculated for each species according to which season(s) they are present in the region with RD>0. The formulae include a mix of global and regional scores pertinent to each season. The Regional Combined Score for the breeding season (RCS-b) is a simple total of 5 scores:

$$RCS-b = BD-g + PS-g + PT-r + TB-r + RD-b$$

Note that RD-b has not yet been scored within Central America and therefore RCS-b has not been calculated for Central American regions.

Regional Combined Scores for non-breeding residents (RCS-n, soon to be added to the database) are calculated by replacing breeding season values with non-breeding values:

$$RCS-n = ND-g + PS-g + PT-c + TN-r + RD-n$$

An exception is made for permanent, non-migratory residents in the region; breeding season trends and RD scores are retained in the calculation of the Regional Combined Scores for the non-breeding season for these species, as their scores should not change seasonally:

Future versions of the database will include a column indicating seasonal residency status. As more non-breeding information becomes available, for instance where regional trends from Christmas Bird Counts are available, or where RD values are calculated for migratory periods, these will be used to refine non-breeding Regional Combined Scores.

Regional Combined Scores for each season can range from 5 to 25. Note that the Regional Combined Scores differ from the Continental Combined Scores in that they incorporate an area importance score (RD). Regional scores therefore include an element of stewardship responsibility, giving greater weight to those species in a group of equal vulnerability that are also concentrated in the planning region.

The three categories of Regional Importance are:

- C) Regional Concern (RC): Species must meet all criteria in the seasons for which they are listed:
 - Regional Combined Score > 13
 - High Regional Threats (> 3), or Moderate Regional Threats (3) combined with moderate or large regional population declines (PT-r > 3)

- Occur regularly in significant numbers in the BCR, i.e., RD > 0
- Native to North America (not "Introduced" as listed in AOS checklist)

D) Regional Stewardship (RS) – species must meet all criteria in the season(s) for which they are listed:

- High importance of the BCR to the species; %Pop> 25%
- Future conditions are not expected to improve, i.e., TB-r or TN-r > 1
- Native to North America (not "Introduced" as listed in AOS checklist)
- E) Near Extirpated (NE) or Extirpated (ER) assigned by regional reviewers
 - Native species assigned 'NE' or 'ER' instead of a numeric RD score

Note that Continental Importance in Region, Regional Concern, Regional Stewardship, and Near Extirpated/Extirpated designations have not been applied to Central American regions because RD-b scores, %Pop estimates, and NE/ER designations are not available yet.

For Mexican regions, %Pop estimates are not yet available so species have not been assigned Regional Stewardship designations. The option of scoring RD as NE/ER was not considered during the 2005 Mexican Regional Assessment, so species do not qualify for Regional Importance via category E.

It is critical to note that while many species of conservation importance require immediate conservation effort, not every species highlighted from the assessment process should receive the same level of management attention or conservation action in every region. A few species are highlighted, at least in part, because of their relatively high concentration in a region and may be quite common and abundant. These species of "stewardship responsibility" are often missed when assessments consider only local conditions without the context of the global criteria. Partners in Flight identifies these species to support these birds, characteristic of a region, staying common.

Using Species Assessment Data to Set Priorities for Action

While conservation assessment and planning happens at international, national and ecoregional scales, action is best taken locally by those who know how the lands, water, human, and natural communities will respond. The PIF Avian Conservation Assessment Database (www.pif.birdconservancy.org/acad) contains all BCR scores for categories A-E above and can be used to generate a pool of regionally important species based on uniformly applied biological criteria. Regional planners may wish to add certain species to the pool, such as listed species at risk, species of cultural significance or economically important species (such as hunted species or targets of eco-tourism and birders) that do not meet the PIF criteria for a particular region. While these additional species should not be the main targets of regional conservation plans, their needs may often be addressed simultaneously with those of the regionally important species if all are considered together during conservation planning.

Action Codes

Additional information derived from biologically based criteria can be used to provide some guidance on priorities for taking action. For example, the PIF tables for preliminary BCR pools of important species also include codes for general categories of action most needed for improving or maintaining current population status of each species, defined from the PIF scores as described below.

CR (Critical Recovery)	Regional Concern species ² subject to very high regional threats (TB-r or TN-r=5). Critical recovery actions are needed to prevent likely extirpation or to reintroduce a species that has been extirpated.
IM (Immediate Management)	Regional Concern species ² subject to high regional threats (TB-r or TN-r =4) combined with a large population decline (PT-r=5). Conservation action is needed to reverse or stabilize significant, long-term population declines in species where lack of action may put species at risk of extirpation.
MA (Management Attention)	Regional Concern species ² with moderate threats (TB-r or TN-r = 3) and undergoing moderate to large declines (PT-r=4 or 5), OR has high regional threats (TB-r or TN-r = 4) but no large decline (PT-r<5). Management or other on-the-ground conservation actions are needed to reverse or stabilize significant, long-term population declines where threats are moderate, or to reverse high threats in species that are not currently experiencing steep long-term declines.
PR (Planning and Responsibility)	Species of Continental Importance but not Regional Concern ² , OR Regional Stewardship ³ species that are neither of Continental Importance nor Regional Concern. Long-term Planning actions are needed to ensure that sustainable populations are maintained in regions with high responsibility for these species. Actions often target many species at once, for example long-term multi-species monitoring programs, or broad plans/programs targeting suites of species sharing a habitat.

These codes indicate that not all species require immediate conservation attention, even though they may appear high on the BCR list, and for some species it may be sufficient to continue monitoring or periodic assessment to ensure that populations remain stable. Other species require more direct conservation action to identify and remedy factors causing population declines or limiting population growth. Sorting the pool of species by action codes can help planners identify groups of species with similar needs, promoting comprehensive planning to address many needs

 2 Many, although not all, Species of Continental Importance that occur in a BCR may also qualify as species of regional concern.

³ Species may not qualify for the PR action code via Regional Stewardship designation in Mexican regions, qualifying only through Continental Importance status, because of the present lack of %Pop data to designate regions for Regional Stewardship of a species.

simultaneously.

Conservation Urgency Metric

Central to maintaining a healthy avifauna is maintaining the abundance of birds fundamental for healthy habitats and functioning ecosystems in all regions and terrestrial habitats. As birds are excellent indicators of overall environmental health and their loss signals danger, we developed a new Conservation Urgency Metric, a species' 'half-life', for U.S. and Canadian landbirds to reflect the urgency for species predicted to experience rapid declines in the near future if current trends continue. The overall assessment process identifies species and habitats in greatest conservation need. While it includes a population trend score that reflects population trends observed over the past several decades (PT-c and PT-r) to highlight species with long-term declines, it does not necessarily capture species that may be experiencing more recent rapid declines. This new urgency metric is expressed as the number of years until a population size that is half of the current abundance is likely to be observed (i.e. a species' 'half-life'). These predictions are based on the assumption that recent population trends observed over the past decade will continue and thus is an indication of the size of the window of opportunity for which to take conservation action. Data used for this estimation are from North American Breeding bird survey time series' of indices of abundance (Sauer et al. 2014). These data were used to fit a multivariate state-space model for each species. Future population trajectories are forecast based on estimates of the population trend and year-to-year variability. Additional details are available in Stanton et al. (2016).

Primary Habitat

Because the largest factor causing declines and high concern for species is the loss, degradation, and threats to habitat, grouping species by habitat is an important component of conservation planning at continental and regional scales. Although information on general habitat and other ecological requirements (e.g., food supply, nest site) can be compiled from the literature for each species, no standardized terminology exists to describe avian habitats for all species.

To address this need, *Primary Breeding Habitat* and *Primary Winter Habitat* assignments were adapted from the *State of North America's Birds* report that included "major" habitats for all species in Canada, U.S., and Mexico (NABCI 2016). These broad habitat categories (e.g. forests, grasslands, oceans, etc.) were used to compare levels of concern across groups of species at the continental scale and were derived from similar categories used to develop habitat indicators based on composite species trends in previous State of the Birds reports in the U.S. and Canada (e.g. NABCI 2009, 2014, NABCI-Canada 2012, 2019). Also adapted from the 2016 State of North America's Birds report were more specific sub-categories within each major habitat called *Primary Breeding and Wintering Habitat Descriptions* (e.g. Temperate Eastern Forests, Chihuahuan Grasslands, Freshwater Marshes) to facilitate similar comparisons at finer scales. For Central American species not also found in Mexico, we assigned Primary Breeding and Wintering Habitats to species using the same categories as NABCI (2016); *Primary Breeding/Winter Habitat Descriptions* were adapted from classifications based on Stotz et al. (1996), both of which are available in the downloadable ACAD.

For species that use two primary habitats in roughly equal importance, both are listed; species that

use three or more habitats are considered habitat generalists. Note that for space reasons, only *Primary Breeding Habitat* is listed in the web version of the ACAD; all habitat categories are available in the downloadable version. Also note that a combination of primary and sub-habitat categories most relevant to U.S. and Canadian landbirds was presented in the 2016 Landbird Conservation Plan; these are also available in the downloadable ACAD.

Determining the significant habitats for each species in the pool of regionally important species, and developing specific conservation actions to protect or improve those habitats, are key elements in regional and continental bird conservation plans developed by Partners in Flight, Joint Ventures and state bird initiatives (http://www.partnersinflight.org/resources). Species can be grouped into suites that share habitats or other ecological needs, either using the broad categories assigned to species at range-wide scales or using locally important habitat designations. These ecological suites serve to identify habitats that are a priority because they are used by many species of regional importance and where conservation actions can efficiently meet the needs of many species at once (Rosenberg 2016).

The following Primary Habitat and Habitat Descriptions currently used in the ACAD are defined as follows:

<u>Primary Habitat: Wetlands</u> = freshwater, inland wetlands; does not include coastal marshes

- Wetland generalist = uses a wide variety of freshwater wetlands, over a wide geographic area; birds may have a specific nesting requirement, but can nest in a variety of nesting substrates (e.g. trees, shorelines)
- Freshwater marshes = permanent or semi-permanent freshwater wetlands with emergent aquatic vegetation (cattails, etc.); often embedded within other "parent" habitats; species often widespread geographically
- Prairie wetlands = ephemeral or seasonal wetlands, usually dominated by grasses (as opposed to cattails, etc.); primarily within Prairie biome of U.S. and Canada
- Boreal forests, Arctic tundra, etc. = indicates wetlands within forested or tundra biomes; implies both geography and forested wetland type (i.e. not typically freshwater marsh)
- Freshwater lakes and rivers = primarily used for wintering water birds that mostly use open freshwater bodies (as opposed to marshes)
- <u>Primary Habitat: Coasts</u> = all habitats associated with the Coastal zone, including saltmarsh, beach and tidal estuary, inshore marine waters (but not mangrove swamps, see below)
 - Arctic coastal = intertidal and saline tundra habitats along immediate Arctic coastline (i.e. to be distinguished geographically from other temperate zone coastlines, including coastal areas of western and southern Alaska, Labrador, etc.)

- Arctic polynyas = unique areas of Arctic Ocean that are ice-free in winter
- Coastal marine = littoral zone; area of marine influenced by continental coastline; includes bays and deep estuaries
- Coastal saltmarshes = emergent marsh in the upper coastal intertidal zone dominated by salttolerant grasses, herbs and/or low shrubs that is regularly flooded by the tides
- Beaches and estuaries = sandy beaches and bars, and tidally influenced adjacent shallow waters
- Rocky intertidal = intertidal zone dominated by rocks (including rock jetties) rather than beaches
- Coastal cliffs and islands = refers to nesting sites on rocky cliffs or on nearshore islands that could include cliffs or flatter vegetated areas
- <u>Primary Habitat: Mangroves</u> = mangrove swamps from Florida and Mexico south; although part of coastal ecosystems, mangroves have a uniquely associated avifauna
- <u>Primary Habitat: Oceans</u> = marine zones not influenced by continental coastlines, plus oceanic islands and surrounding waters
 - Pelagic = marine zone beyond the littoral zone; not influenced by continental coastlines
 - Oceanic islands = islands beyond continental shelf of N. America; includes any habitats on those islands used for nesting
- <u>Primary Habitat: Tundra</u> = Arctic tundra or Alpine tundra not associated with wetlands or coastal tidal influence
- <u>Primary Habitat: Grasslands</u> = native grassland, pasture, and agriculture that supports grassland birds
 - Temperate grasslands = includes Shortgrass, Tall and mixed-grass prairie, other grassland areas in U.S. and Canada including agricultural areas that support grassland birds (e.g. pasture)
 - Chihuahuan grasslands = arid grasslands of northern Mexico and southwestern U.S., centered on the Mexican state of Chihuahua
 - Tropical grasslands = all grasslands south of the Tropic of Cancer, including high-elevation grasslands in the Mexican sierras and tropical savannahs in the lowlands of Mexico and farther south
- Primary Habitat: Aridlands = all arid shrub-dominated communities; primarily in southwestern U.S.

and northwestern Mexico

- Sagebrush = Great Basin sage-dominated desert and steppe region of western U.S. and southwest Canada
- Chaparral = unique shrub community, primarily in coastal California and Baja (including coastal sage), but also similar shrub habitats in interior Southwest
- Desert scrub = a broad range of desert communities including Mojave, Sonoran, and Chihuahuan deserts, and deserts of Mexico's Central Plateau
- Rocky cliffs = barren rocky areas within aridland regions and also forested mountains
- <u>Primary Habitat: Forests</u> = very broad category for all forest types, from old-growth conifers and tropical rainforests to arid thorn forests (many forest birds may also be found in urban/suburban and agroforestry landscapes)
 - Boreal forests = "True" boreal forest of Canada and Alaska, and also the boreal zone (primarily spruce-fir) of high mountains in the western and northeastern U.S.
 - Temperate eastern forests = all forest types of eastern U.S. and southeastern Canada (below the boreal), including northern hardwoods, oak-hickory, pine-oak, southern pine, and bottomland hardwood associations
 - Temperate western forests = all forest types of western U.S. and Canada (below the boreal) and extending in high mountains south into northwestern Mexico; includes Pacific northwestern rainforest, all western conifer, oak-dominated, and riparian forests, pinyon-juniper, juniper-oak woodlands of Edward's Plateau, and high-elevation conifer forests of northwestern Mexico (above pine-oak)
 - Mexican highland forests = high-elevation conifer and hardwood forests from central Mexico south to Honduras, above pine-oak forest zone, including "tropical" elements (e.g. epiphytes) not present in western temperate (and not including true Cloud forest)
 - Cloud forests = high elevation tropical evergreen forest that is wet throughout the year and typically covered with epiphytes, from southern Mexico southward)
 - Mexican pine-oak forests = distinctive pine-oak forests of Mexican mountains, including similar forests in "sky island" mountains from southeastern Arizona to western Texas, and extending south in northern Central America to Honduras, northern Nicaragua, and El Salvador.
 - Tropical dry forests = broad array of deciduous and semi-deciduous forests, including arid thorn forest; primarily on Pacific slope from northwestern Mexico to northwestern Costa

Rica, but also including Tamaulipan "thornscrub" and dry forests of Yucatan and other transitional areas

Tropical evergreen forests = wet forests of lowland ('rainforests') and lower montane (upper tropical) regions from southern Mexico southward

Forest generalist = occurs in roughly equal abundance in three or more forest types

<u>Primary Habitat: Generalist</u> = occurs in roughly equal abundance in three or more major habitat types, usually including forest and non-forest categories (Habitat sub-category also = Generalist)

Primary Wintering Geography

To address the challenge of full life-cycle conservation for migratory birds, we need to know the geographic regions that species occupy year-round. For birds that migrate to the Neotropics, our knowledge of important nonbreeding areas is often imperfect, and for some species we don't even know where most individuals migrate to in winter. Nevertheless, we are able to assign every species to a broad geographic region where the majority of the population spends the stationary nonbreeding period during the boreal winter. Grouping species by their wintering geography also can give us insights into threats faced by migratory species away from the breeding grounds that could be major drivers of population declines—for example, a higher proportion of species that winter in Central and South American highlands are declining than species that winter in Mexico or the Caribbean, even if these species share similar breeding areas and habitats.

Primary Wintering Geography was first assigned for U.S. and Canadian Watch List species and formed the basis for organizing conservation business planning workshops at the PIF V conference in Snowbird, Utah, in 2013. We subsequently assigned Primary Wintering Geography for all migratory species in the U.S., Canada and Mexico, as part of the *State of North America's Birds* report in 2016. These designations were expanded to all North American birds for the current version of this database.

For migratory species that winter primarily within the U.S. and Canada, we describe the broad geography within which most individuals occur (e.g. western U.S. and Canada). For species that winter south of the U.S., we use a modified version of the regions identified for the PIF V conference. These were then expanded to include coastal and oceanic regions, as defined below. Species that are non-migratory are designated as 'Resident.'

Southwestern Aridlands = aridland region of southwestern U.S., northwestern Mexico and Mexican Plateau.

Chihuahuan Grasslands = distinctive arid grassland region of northern Mexico and extreme southwestern U.S.

- Pacific Lowlands = Pacific slope from northwestern Mexico to northwestern Costa Rica; including inland drainages (e.g. Balsas watershed); Primarily tropical dry forest regions, including thornscrub.
- Gulf-Caribbean Lowlands = Atlantic slope region from northeastern Mexico to Panama (based on avifauna, potentially also including lowlands of Panama from Canal Zone south, and low areas of northern Colombia north and west of Andes)
- Mexican Highlands = Pine-oak, Cloud forest, and Mexican highland forest zone from northern Mexico through Guatemala and Honduras to northern Nicaragua and El Salvador
- Central and South American Highlands = subtropical and Cloud forest zones of mountain regions from Honduras south though Central America to the northern Andes and other mountains of northern South America
- South American Lowlands = all lowland areas east and south of the Andes, including Amazonia, Pantanal, dry forest types, and grasslands
- Southern Cone = far southern South America, including coastal and inland habitats (grasslands and wetlands)
- Widespread Neotropical = occurs in roughly equal numbers in 3 or more regions within the Neotropics

Palearctic = occurs primarily in Europe and Asia

Paleotropical = Old world tropical regions in Africa, Asia, and Australia

Arctic Coast = coastline from Alaska across northern Canada

Atlantic Coast = coastline from eastern Canada to South America

Pacific Coast = coastline from Alaska to South America (for species wintering in coastal habitats)

Tropical Coasts = coastal areas within tropical regions; often occurs across hemispheres

Widespread coastal = winters on coastlines in many parts of Western Hemisphere, both Pacific and Atlantic

Pacific Ocean = for Pacific seabirds that travel from breeding islands in non-breeding seasons

Atlantic Ocean = for Atlantic seabirds that travel from breeding islands in non-breeding seasons

Tropical Oceans = oceanic areas within tropical regions; often occurs across hemispheres

Widespread Ocean = for species that are widespread pelagic species in both Atlantic and Pacific

oceans

Widespread = occurs in roughly equal abundance in 3 or more geographic regions

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Appendix A. Database Dictionary

The following list explains the field headings (in alphabetical order) in the Partners in Flight Avian Conservation Assessment Database (www.pif.birdconservancy.org/acad), including fields found only in the downloadable table. The database should be used in consultation with this Handbook, which further defines the terms listed below.

field	Definition
%Breeding Pop in US & Canada %Breeding Pop in US	% of global breeding population found in U.S. and Canada in text format to include signs. Note that eBird coverage is spotty in Asia, so estimates for any species listing "eBrd17" as the "Glob" source should be used cautiously if the species occurs in Asia. We did not calculate this value for species whose breeding phenology was not effectively captured by the breeding season window applied to eBird data (June 1 - July 7), or where global and North American estimates were deemed incompatible, including several wide-ranging waterfowl species like mallard, gadwall, etc. % of global breeding population found in U.S. and Canada in numeric format. Note that eBird coverage is spotty in Asia, so estimates for any species listing "eBrd17" as
& Canada#	the "Glob" source should be used cautiously if the species occurs in Asia. We did not calculate this value for species whose breeding phenology was not effectively captured by the breeding season window applied to eBird data (June 1 - July 7), or where global and North American estimates were deemed incompatible, including several wide-ranging waterfowl species like Mallard, Gadwall, etc.
%GL_WH	Percent of global population in Western Hemisphere. Note that eBird coverage is spotty in Asia, so estimates for any species listing "eBrd17" as the "Glob" source should be used cautiously if the species occurs in Asia.
%Pop	Estimate of percent of species' global breeding population in region
%Pop_s	Data source(s) for %Pop estimates. In case of BCR Breeding Scores/Regional ACAD: data source for estimate of percent of global population in region. In case of Global ACAD Scores: population estimate sources for USA/Canada ("UsCa"), for the Western Hemisphere ("WHem"), and globally ("Glob") used to calculate the fields: (1) %GL_WH (2) %WH_US-Ca (3) % Breeding Pop in US/Canada Note that eBird coverage is spotty in Asia, so any species listing "eBrd17" as the "Glob" source should be used cautiously if the species occurs in Asia.
%WH_UsCa	% of Western Hemisphere population found in U.S. and Canada
Action Code	The type of conservation action most needed for improving or maintaining current population status of each species of Regional Concern: CR=Critical Recovery; IM=Immediate Management; MA=Management Attention; PR=Planning and Responsibility
AOS 60	Taxonomic order according to the American Ornithological Society (AOS) 7th edition checklist, 60th supplement
BBS Half-Life	Projected timeframe (in years) until 50% of remaining population is lost, as published in PIF North American Landbird Plan 2016

Bird Conservation Region, with map available at http://nabci-us.org/resources/bird-
conservation-regions-map/
Area estimate (in km²) of global breeding distribution
Assessment score for global breeding distribution
Comments for global breeding distribution score
Source for global breeding distribution score
Primary Breeding Habitat description, adapted from State of North America's Birds
2016 Report, assigned post-hoc to Central American species.
Occurs in Central America
Occurs in Canada
Continental combined score for breeding season (PS-g + BD-g + TB-c + PT-c)
The higher of CCSb and CCSn
Continental combined score for non-breeding season (PS-g + ND-g + TN-c + PT-c)
Common English name according to AOS 7th edition checklist, 60th supplement
Category of Continental Importance: Watch List (Red, Yel-d, Yel-r) or CBSD
(Common Bird in Steep Decline). See handbook for more detailed definitions.
(Watch List AND RD-b > 0 AND TB-r > 1) OR (CBSD AND RD-b > 1)
degrees of freedom: (# of BBS routes - # of strata - 1) OR (# of CBC circles - # of
strata - 1)
Family according to AOS 7th edition checklist, 60th supplement
Estimate of global population size (breeding-aged individuals) in text format to include signs
Estimate of global population size (breeding-aged individuals) in numeric format
Type of bird (waterbird, waterfowl, shorebird, landbird)
1=Introduced species in North America, according to AOS 7th edition checklist, 60th supplement
Conservation status according to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species (2018)
Lower Confidence Limit, 67% Credible Interval
Lower Confidence Limit, 90% Credible Interval
Major Habitat type in Central America (assigned using classification scheme by Stotz
et al. 1996)
Occurs in Mexico
Migratory status in North America (R=resident, M=migratory, PM=partial migrant)
Area estimate (in sq. km) of global non-breeding distribution
Assessment score for global non-breeding distribution
Comments for global non-breeding distribution score
Source for global non-breeding distribution score
Occurs only as a non-breeder (N) in North America, according to AOS 7th edition checklist, 60th supplement

pop change	Cumulative % change in population size over the trend period listed in trend source. Note that this metric is not comparable between trend sources spanning different lengths of time, e.g. BBS9317 only spans 24 years, vs. BBS7017 spans 46 years, so more change would occur over the longer period given identical trends.
pop change 90% lcl	90% lower credible limit for cumulative % change in population size, available for species where the trend source is the same source used by Rosenberg et al. 2019
pop change 90% ucl	90% upper credible limit for cumulative % change in population size, available for species where the trend source is the same source used by Rosenberg et al. 2019
Pop Size_US-Ca	Current population size estimate (breeding-aged individuals) for U.S. and Canada in text format to include signs. Note that occasionally other geographies are included in the estimate due to the lack of a U.S./Canada-only estimate or due to populations breeding elsewhere that winter in the U.S. or Canada, in which case this will be noted in the field "Pop Size_US-Ca_com."
Pop Size_US-Ca#	Current population size estimate (breeding-aged individuals) for U.S. and Canada in numeric format to allow sorting. Note that occasionally other geographies are included in the estimate due to the lack of a U.S./Canada-only estimate or due to populations breeding elsewhere that winter in the U.S. or Canada, in which case this will be noted in the field "Pop Size_US-Ca_com."
Pop Size_US-Ca_com	Comments regarding U.S. and Canada population size
Pop Size_US-Ca_s	Source for US and Canada population estimate
PopYr	Year associated with Pop Size_US-Ca population size estimates, or primary year or average year if many years involved; note that in most cases this indicates the year(s) the survey was conducted, but in some cases (e.g. USSCP 2016) it indicates the year of publication of estimates (e.g. Andres et al. 2012).
Primary Breeding Habitat	Primary breeding habitat, adapted from State of North America's Birds 2016 Report, assigned post-hoc to Central American species
Primary Breeding Habitat_PIF16	Primary breeding habitat for U.S. and Canada landbird species from PIF Landbird Plan update (Rosenberg et al. 2016)
Primary Habitats_PIF16	Primary breeding / winter habitats for U.S. and Canada landbird species on Watch List from PIF Landbird Plan update (Rosenberg et al. 2016)
Primary Winter Habitat	Primary wintering habitat, adapted from State of North America's Birds 2016 Report, assigned post-hoc to Central American species
Primary Wintering Geography	Winter Geographic Area from PIF Landbird Plan update (Rosenberg et al. 2016)
PS-g	Assessment score for global population size (breeding-aged individuals)
PS-g_com	Comments regarding global population size and score
PS-g_s	Source of global population size estimate (breeding-aged individuals)
PT-c	Assessment score for continental population trend
PT-c_com	Comments for continental population trend score
PT-c_s	Source for continental population trend score
PT-r	Assessment score for regional population trend in text format to include the value "N" (non-breeding only)
PT-r#	Assessment score for regional population trend in numeric format
PT-r_com	Comments for current regional population trend score
PT-r_latest_review	Year in which PT-r was last reviewed (if reviewed)
PT-r_s	Source for current regional population trend score
	, · · ·

RA	This value is the annual index for the region from mid-year of the interval
	represented by the trend estimate. The Relative Abundance estimate is model-
	based, produced as part of the hierarchical model analysis, and is adjusted for
	observer and other effects.
RCS-b	Regional Combined Score for breeding season
RD-b	Assessment score for Relative Density of breeding population in region in text
	format to include the codes for Perpheral (P), Extirpated Regionally (ER), Nearing
DD 1 #	Extirpation (NE) or non-breeding (NB).
RD-b#	Assessment score for Relative Density of breeding population in region in numeric
	format, where Peripheral is represented as a 0 and other non-numeric codes appear blank
RD-b_com	Comments for Relative Density breeding score
RD-b_latest_review	Year in which RD-b was last reviewed
RD-b_s	
	Source for Relative Density score in region
Region	Geographic scope of regional conservation assessment
Regional Concern	Regional Concern designation (1=yes)
Regional Importance	Species of Regional Importance (1=yes)
Regional Stewardship	Regional Stewardship designation (1=yes)
Scientific Name	Scientific name according to AOS 7th edition checklist, 60th supplement
taxonomic notes	Annotations on taxonomy and recent changes from AOU 7th edition checklist, 60th
	supplement, with additions
TB-c	Assessment score for continental threats-breeding
TB-c_com	Comments for continental threats-breeding score
TB-c_s	Source for continental threats-breeding score
TB-r	Assessment score for regional threats-breeding
TB-r_com	Comments for regional threats-breeding score
TB-r_latest_review	Year in which TB-r was last reviewed (if reviewed)
TB-r_s	Source for regional threats-breeding score
TN-c	Assessment score for continental threats-non-breeding
TN-c_com	Comments for continental threats-non-breeding score
TN-c_s	Source for current continental threats-non-breeding score
TN-r	Assessment score for regional threats-non-breeding
TN-r_com	Comments for regional threats-non-breeding score
TN-r_s	Source for current regional threats-non-breeding score
trend source	Data source for "trend (%/yr)", associated metadata fields (Cl's, df, RA), and "pop
	change". Trend sources marked with an asterisk were rejected as a valid source to
	assign PT-c, but are still included here for reference. For those species included in
	Rosenberg et al. 2019, the trend source is that used in that publication except for a
	handful of species where CBC was selected as the population treend score source
	due to better survey coverage for that species than the BBS used by Rosenberg et
	al. 2019.
trend (%/yr)	Annual trend estimate from long-term survey data, if available. This data is limited
	to the USA and Canada, due to a lack of comparable surveys in other geographies,
1	such that the rangewide trend for a species may differ from that presented here.
	See trend source (above) for the data source displayed.

ucl_67%Cl	Upper Confidence Limit, 67% Credible Interval
ucl_90%Cl	Upper Confidence Limit, 90% Credible Interval
USA	Occurs in USA
Winter Habitat	Primary Wintering Habitat description, adapted from State of North America's Birds
Description	2016 Report, assigned post-hoc to Central American species

Appendix B: Key to Data Sources

2017 PIPL Regional Summary for Eastern Canada	2017 Piping Plover Regional Summary for Eastern Canada
2018 PF Databook	Olson, S. M. Compiler. 2018. Pacific Flyway Data Book, 2018. U.S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Migratory Bird Management, Vancouver, Washington.
AFWA Sage- and Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse Tech Cmte, 2008	Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Sage and Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse Technical Committee, 2008
Alaska seabird information series 2006	Denlinger, L.M. 2006. Alaska Seabird Information Series. Unpubl. Rept., U.S. Fish and Wildl. Serv., Migr. Bird Manage., Nongame Program, Anchorage, AK. Available at https://www.fws.gov/alaska/mbsp/mbm/seabirds/pdf/asis_complete.pdf
Alaska shorebird conservation plan 2018	Alaska Shorebird Group. 2019. Alaska Shorebird Conservation Plan. Version III. Alaska Shorebird Group, Anchorage, AK.
Alisauskas et al. 2011 (1971-06)	Alisauskas RT, Rockwell RF, Dufour KW, Cooch EG, Zimmerman G, Drake KL, et al. Harvest, survival and abundance of midcontinent lesser snow geese relative to population. Wildlife Monogr. 2011;179:1–42. http://canuck.dnr.cornell.edu/research/pubs/pdf/lsgo-survival.pdf.
Altman	Bob Altman, American Bird Conservancy
AMG	Allisyn Gillet, Indiana Department of Natural Resources
AMJV 2018	Appalachian Mountain Joint Venture, 2018
Ammon 2018	Elisabeth Ammon, Great Basin Bird Observatory, 2018
AMOY Working Group 2018	American Oystercatcher Working Group (amoywg.org)
Andres	Brad Andres, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Andres et al. 1999	Andres, B.A., D.L. Brann, and B.T. Browne. 1999. Inventory of breeding birds on Local Training Areas of the Alaska Army National Guard. Unpublished report, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Anchorage, Alaska. 104 pp.
Andres et al. 2012	Andres, B.A., P.A. Smith, R.I.G. Morrison, C.L. Gratto-Trevor, S.C. Brown, and C.A. Friis. 2012. Population estimates of North American shorebirds, 2012. Wader Study Group Bulletin 119: 178–194. http://www.shorebirdplan.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/ShorePopulationAndresEtAl2012.pdf
AOU	American Ornithologists' Union (AOU). 1998. Check-list of North American Birds, 7th ed. American Ornithologists' Union, Washington, D.C.
AOU Checklist 57th	Chesser, R.T., K.J. Burns, C. Cicero, J.L. Dunn, A.W. Kratter, I.J. Lovette, P.C.
Suppl.	Rasmussen, J.V. Remsen, Jr., J.D. Rising, D.F. Stotz, and K. Winker. 2016. Fifty-seventh Supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list of North American Birds. Auk 133: 544–560.
Atlantic Coast shorebird experts 2018	David Mizrahi, Caleb Spiegel, Dan Catlan

AWCP-08	American Woodcock Conservation Plan. 2008. A summary of and
	recommendations for woodcock conservation in North America. J.R. Kelley
	and S.J. Williamson, editors. Compiled by woodcock task force, migratory
	shore and upland game bird working group, Association of Fish and Wildlife
	Agencies. Wildlife Management Institute, Washington, D. C., USA.
AZ Game & Fish	Arizona Department of Game and Fish
AZBBA	Corman, T. E., & Wise-Gervais, C. 2005. The Arizona breeding bird atlas.
/ \ZBB/\	Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press.
AZ-PIF	Arizona Partners in Flight
Baldassarre 2014	Baldassarre, G. 2014. Ducks, geese, and swans of North America (4th
Buildussaire 2014	edition). John Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, MD.
Ball et al. 2016	Ball, J. R., P. Sólymos, F. K. A. Schmiegelow, S. Hache, J. Schieck, and E.
buil ct di. 2010	Bayne. 2016. Regional habitat needs of a nationally listed species, Canada
	Warbler (<i>Cardellina canadensis</i>), in Alberta, Canada. Avian Conservation
	and Ecology 11(2):10. http://dx.doi.org/10.5751/ACE-00916-110210.
Ballou 2015	Ballou, B. (2015, June 6.) Feed 'em or fight 'em: the Muscovy duck wars
Bullou 2015	rage on. Sun Sentinel. Retrieved from https://www.sun-
	sentinel.com/local/broward/fl-pines-muscovy-ducks-20150604-story.html.
Balshi et al. 2009	Balshi MS, et al. (2009) Assessing the response of area burned to changing
Baisin Ct al. 2005	climate in western boreal North America using a Multivariate Adaptive
	Regression Splines (MARS) approach. Glob Change Biol 15(3):578–600.
Bank Swallow Tech.	Bank Swallow Technical Advisory Committee. 2013. Bank Swallow (<i>Riparia</i>
Advisory Comm. 2013	riparia) Conservation Strategy for the Sacramento River Watershed,
Advisory Commi. 2015	
Barrett et al. 2011	California. Version 1.0. www.sacramentoriver.org/bans Barrett, K., McGuire, A. D., Hoy, E. E. & Kasischke, E. S. (2011). Ecological
Darrett et al. 2011	Applications 21, 2380–2396;
Bart and Johnston 2012	Bart, J. & V. Johnston, Eds. 2012. Arctic shorebirds in North America: A
Dart and Johnston 2012	
hhcOF14/DDC)	decade of monitoring. Studies in Avian Biology 44.
bbs0514(BBS)	BBS counts from 2005-2014 were averaged across routes within BCRs
	(weighted by size of provinces/states in BCRs), for the continental US &
	Canada, including some extrapolations to range uncovered by BBS, but did
	not include non-BBS sources; %Pops for species in BCRs 1, 3 and 7 were
	based on eBird frequencies due to sparse BBS coverage; this source for non-
-	landbirds only
bbs0514(UsCa)	BBS counts from 2005-2014 were averaged across routes within BCRs
	(weighted by size of provinces/states in BCRs), for the continental US &
	Canada, including some extrapolations to range uncovered by BBS, and
	some other data sources in the north (atlases, NWT checklists & censuses);
DDC 00	this source for landbirds only
BBS-08	Hierarchical linear regression analysis of Breeding Bird Survey data (1966-
h h = 4.4	2008) provided by John Sauer to Partners In Flight, BCR-level results
bbs14	RD-b score based on BBS average counts from 2005 to 2014, standardized
	to BCR with highest average count. RD=5 if relative density ("rdens14"
	below) was 50% or more, else RD=4 if rdens14 > 25%, else RD=3 if rdens14
	> 10%, else RD=2 if rdens14 > 1.0%, else RD=1 if rdens14 > 0

bbs14adj When eBird indicated that a commonly encoutered species was found mot frequently in region(s) outside US / Canada, adjusted BBS values (rdens14 times max eBird frequency in US/Canada divided by max eBird frequency any region) were used to account for lower global importance of regions within US / Canada (Area Importance measures such as RD and %Pop are assessed globally) BBS7015 Hierarchical linear regression analysis of Breeding Bird Survey data (1970-2015) provided by John Sauer to Partners In Flight, BCR-level results BBS7017 Hierarchical linear regression analysis of Breeding Bird Survey data (1970-2017) provided by John Sauer to Partners In Flight, BBS core survey area-wide results Hierarchical linear regression analysis of Breeding Bird Survey data (1993-2017) provided by John Sauer to Partners In Flight, expanded BBS coverage area-wide results. Includes BBS routes added in Alaska, Yukon Territory, Northwest Territory, and Newfoundland in 1993 as well as the core BBS area of southern Canada and lower 48 United States. BBS9317-endpt Endpoint analysis (based on start year and end year) of Breeding Bird Survey data from the expanded BBS coverage area (see BBS9317 above), BCR-level results. Only the 95% CI was provided, so we used these to calculate LCL and UCL-specific Standard Deviation using the equations: LCL = trend + (critical value x SD _{LCL}) UCL = trend + (critical value x SD _{LCL}) and used these SD's to estimate the 90% and 67% CI's using appropriate critical values for the purpose of scoring TB-r, but they are not reported since rough estimates. For this reason and because endpoint analysis is more susceptible to annual population fluctuations than hierarchical linear regression, TB-r scores with this source should be taken with a grain of sal BC BBA Davidson, P.J.A., R.J. Cannings, A.R. Couturier, D. Lepage, and C.M. Di Corrado (eds.). 2015. The Atlas of the Breeding Birds of British Columbia, 2008-2012. Bird Studies Canada, Delta, B.C. Available at http://www.birdatlas.bc.ca.
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UCL = trend + (critical value x SD _{UCL}) and used these SD's to estimate the 90% and 67% Cl's using appropriate critical values for the purpose of scoring TB-r, but they are not reported since rough estimates. For this reason and because endpoint analysis is more susceptible to annual population fluctuations than hierarchical linea regression, TB-r scores with this source should be taken with a grain of sal BC BBA Davidson, P.J.A., R.J. Cannings, A.R. Couturier, D. Lepage, and C.M. Di Corrado (eds.). 2015. The Atlas of the Breeding Birds of British Columbia, 2008-2012. Bird Studies Canada, Delta, B.C. Available at http://www.birdatlas.bc.ca .
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regression, TB-r scores with this source should be taken with a grain of sal BC BBA Davidson, P.J.A., R.J. Cannings, A.R. Couturier, D. Lepage, and C.M. Di Corrado (eds.). 2015. The Atlas of the Breeding Birds of British Columbia, 2008-2012. Bird Studies Canada, Delta, B.C. Available at http://www.birdatlas.bc.ca .
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http://www.birdatlas.bc.ca.
BCR 11 review team Scott Somershoe, Sean Fields, Alaine Camfield with additional CWS staff
2018 input
BCR 13 Review Team Canadian experts: Mike Cadman, Christian Roy, François Shaffer, Josée
2018 Tardif, Bruno Drolet, Christine Lepage, Josée Lefebvre, Jean-François Rail,
Yves Aubry. US experts: Randy Dettmers, Ken Rosenberg, Doug Gross,
Caleb Spiegel.
BCR 1-3 Review Team Brad Andres and Natalie Savoie
2018
BCR 14 Review Team Canadian experts: Christian Roy, Sabine Whilhelm, Greg Campbell, Julie
2018 Paquet, François Shaffer and Josée Tardif, Bruno Drolet, Christine Lepage,
Josée Lefebvre, Jean-François Rail, Yves Aubry. US experts: Randy
Dettmers, Pam Hunt, Danielle D'Auria, Linda Welch, Lindsay Tudor, Caleb
Spiegel, Ken Rosenberg, Adrienne Leppold, Jenny Dickson.
1
BCR 16 Review Team Edwin Juarez, Troy Corman, Carol Beardmore, Russell Norvell, Adam

BCR 24 Review Team	Kate Slankard, Sarah Kendrick, David Hanni, Doreen Mengel, Heath Hagy,
2018	Chuck Hunter, Dean Demarest, Tom Will, Allisyn Gillet, John Brunjes, Jane
DCD 25 mariant taken	Fitzgerald, Allison Fowler
BCR 25 review team	Anne Mini, Dean Demarest, Bill Holliman, Mark Howery, Chuck Hunter, Dale
2018	James, Karen Rowe, Cliff Shackelford, and Michael Seymour
BCR 26 Review Team	Anne Mini, Dean Demarest, Chuck Hunter, Dale James, Mark Woodrey
2018	
BCR 27 Review Team	Dean Demarest, Chuck Hunter
2018	
BCR 28 Review Team	Dean Demarest, Randy Dettmers, Becky Keller, Rich Bailey, Sergio Harding,
2018	Dan Brauning, Chris Kelly, David Hanni, Sharon Petzinger, Carol Croy, Suzanne Treyger, Gwen Brewer, Laura Kearns, Petra Wood, Kate Slankard
BCR 29 Review Team 2018	Dean Demarest, Chuck Hunter, Randy Dettmers
BCR 31 Review Team	Dean Demarest, Chuck Hunter
2018	Drawt Ortogo Michael Courses and Oliff Charlis Land Charles Land
BCR 37 Review Team	Brent Ortego; Michael Seymour; Cliff Shackelford; Clay Green; Erik Johnson;
2017	Paul Leberg; David Newstead; Susan Heath; Donna Dittmann; Steven W
	Cardiff; Mary Gustafson; Matt Brady; Jesús Franco; Jim Giocomo; Barry
DCD 4 Daview Team	Wilson; Anne Mini; Mike Brasher; Dean Demarest
BCR 4 Review Team 2018	Pam Sinclair
BCR 6 Review Team	Steve Van Wilgenburg, Samuel Hache, Christian Roy
2018	
BCR 8 Review Team	Christian Friis, Steve Van Wilgenburg, Christian Roy, François Shaffer and
2018	Josée Tardif, Bruno Drolet, Christine Lepage, Josée Lefebvre, Jean-François
	Rail, Yves Aubry
Beardmore	Carol Beardmore, retired from Sonoran Joint Venture
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	within IMBCR (https://birdconservancy.org/what-we-
	do/science/monitoring/imbcr-program/) 2017-2018 survey area of WY,
	MT, UT, and USFS land + some BLM land in S. ID, but no surveys in OR, NV,
	or rest of ID, so a min. estimate. For Brown-capped Rosy-Finch, estimate is
	mean from RMBO's Monitoring Colorado's Birds surveys of alpine habitat
	from 1999-2005.
Bird Conservancy of	Custom calculations to adjust prior scores to taxonomic changes based on
the Rockies 2019	· ·
	geographic range of split taxa

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	January 2017 (downloaded Jan 17, 2017). RF=5 if relative frequency
	("rfreq17" below) was 68.1% or more, else RF=4 if rfreq17 > 44.6%, else
	RF=3 if rfreq17 > 21.7%, else RF=2 if rfreq17 > 3.6%, else RF=1 if rfreq17 >
	1.5%. These RF score cutoffs were chosen to maximize relationship
	between BBS-based relative density and eBird-based relative frequency
a Dind[vaan]	values across landbirds with 90%+ population in US/Canada.
eBird[year]	ebird Data Explorer from all years (as of the year listed) filtered by May-July
oPrd17/UcCa or WHom	or June-July depending on migration phenology
eBrd17(UsCa or WHem	eBird frequencies per region were weighted by region size to approximate
or Glob)	%Pops per Region (%Freqs), generally for species with poor BBS data, or for regions without BBS data; UsCa indicates BCRs 1 to 37 without Mexican
	portions of border BCRs, WHem indicates regions outside of BBS coverage
	in the Western Hemisphere, Glob indicates parts of range outside the
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based on the midpoint of the ACAD PS-g category range.		
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PIF(Glob)	proportion of global range outside of the Western Hemisphere was
PIF(GIOD)	estimated by the PIF Science Committee (most done in 2007, with some
	updates when taxonomy changed)
PIFcalc19	Partners in Flight (PIF) population estimate from Stanton et al. (2019)
TH Calcis	calculated using BBS data from the years 2006-2015 and/or other data sets.
PIF-ON	Ontario Partners in Flight
PIFSC	Partners in Flight Science Committee, YEAR
PIFTC	Partners in Flight Technical Committee (now Partners in Flight Science
71110	Committee), YEAR
PIFTC-NBCI	6.7M in 1999 from Dimmick, R., M. Gudlin and D. McKenzie. The Northern
	Bobwhite Conservation Initiative: A Plan for Quail Population Recovery. PIF
	Technical Committee adjusted to 5.8M in 2007 based on declining BBS
	trend.
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RWBJV 2018	Rainwater Basin Joint Venture, 2018
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Sea Duck JV	Sea Duck Joint Venture
SE-PIF	Southeast Partners in Flight
Sergio Harding (Virginia DGIF) 2018	Sergio Harding, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, 2018
SGS-15	American Woodcock Singing Ground Survey, 1970-2015see
	https://migbirdapps.fws.gov/mbdc/databases/awsgs/aboutwcsgs.htm
SGS-17	American Woodcock Singing Ground Survey, 1970-2017 (Sauer-17)see
	https://migbirdapps.fws.gov/mbdc/databases/awsgs/aboutwcsgs.htm
SGS-17_adj	Converted SGS-17 RD values to BCR-wide density indices by multiplying RA
	by the proportion of the BCR within American Woodcock breeding range
	(since counts included in the trend RAs came only from within breeding
	range, and did not account for lack of breeding elsewhere in the BCR). The
	reason for doing this, and not relying on the SGS 2008 population sizes by
	BCR, is that the latter excluded BCRs 6 and 8, and used a relatively small
	part of BCR 11.
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- -	https://www.tidalmarshbirds.org/

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	(2017)
UMJVWBS-17	Upper Mississippi River and Great Lakes Region Joint Venture Waterbird
	Strategy (2017) and review team
UMJVWFS-17	Upper Mississippi River and Great Lakes Region Joint Venture Waterfowl
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Wylie	Jim Wylie, US Geological Service

Appendix C: Changes since recent versions of the database

Changes since version 2019.0

- Updated taxonomy and AOS sequence number to AOS 60th supplement (Chesser et al 2019)
- Species listed as extinct or extirpated from North America in Chesser et al. (2019) have been removed from the ACAD.
- Added suffix to PS-g_s to indicate which global population estimates are geometric midpoints of PS-g population range rather than more precise estimates.
- Updated population estimates and trend data and resulting PS-g and PT-g scores, primarily based on sources used by Rosenberg et al. 2019.
- The field PopYr was added to the Global ACAD where population estimates from Rosenberg et al. 2019 were used.
- The years of trend data used were explicitly added to the trend source, e.g. BBS7017.
- Restored "pop change" field with updated estimates
- A handful of a species in BCR's 2 and 4 changed PT-r source to expanded BBS9317 to obtain a score more informative than 3 for insufficient data.
- "Intro in BCR" field dropped from Regional ACAD due to inconsistencies in its application across BCR's.
- The field "%WH_UsCa" was added.
- Values for "%Breeding Pop in US & Canada" for species with breeding phenology significantly different from the June + 1st week of July window used in the Regional ACAD %pop analysis of eBird data were changed from the sum of regional %pop estimates in U.S. and Canada to (a) the US/Canada population estimate divided by the global population estimate where we had greater confidence in these population estimates than in the regional %pop estimates, or (b) null where global and US/Canada estimates were based on different data sources that may not be appropriate to compare and/or we lacked confidence in the global population estimate.
- Corrected "Mig Status" field.
- Eliminated erroneous comments "migrants only" from RD-b com field for BCR 19.
- Truncated comments were restored to full comments.
- Restored comments regarding US/Canada estimates from the 2012 version of the database that were lost when this comment field was eliminated in the 2017 version.
- "_last reviewed" fields were added to the US/Canada Regional ACAD to indicate when a score was last reviewed to alert users to possibly obsolete scores, since not all review teams were able to review all scores.
- Applied changes made to TB-c in calibration process (see explanation in following section) to the TB-r scores that were based on TB-c.
- TB-r scores were copied into gaps in TN-r for species in Guatemala and Costa Rica where known to be residents locally even if partial migrants range-wide.
- Added sources for Mexican and Central American regional scores.
- Corrected PR action code.

Changes since version 2017

- Data sources changed for many species for PS-g, PT-c, RD-b, PT-r, and TB-r based on expert review determining that a more appropriate data set existed for a given species.
- The field "%GL_WH" was updated with new data.
- Population estimates for USA/Canada were added for many species.
- A comment field for US/Canada population estimates, "Pop Size_US-Ca_com", was added.
- Where previous TB-r was based on old TB-c, updated TB-r to current TB-c. TB-c and TB-r scores were calibrated by comparing the weighted mean TB-r (for species where %pop estimates were available to weight by) to TB-c. Those with >0.5 difference between mean TB-r and TB-c were reviewed and in most cases either TB-r or TB-c scores were adjusted based on expert opinion to bring the two scales into agreement.
- Added trend metadata (degrees of freedom, confidence intervals, relative abundance, etc.) to Global ACAD. Trends with decimals truncated were corrected. PT-c scores were updated to include data through 2017. CBC analysis for PT-c scores was clarified to be a custom analysis, not that of Soykan et al. 2016, and the citation for the latest version was added. CBC trends were corrected after an error was discovered in the CBS analysis. PT-r scores generated using erroneous scoring thresholds or precision criteria for BBS trends were corrected. Sister species traditionally lumped by BBS were split by John Sauer to generate species-specific trends and PT-c/PT-r scores.
- Typographic errors in the handbook were corrected. The only significant errors corrected were:
 - Definitions for CCSb and CCSn in Appendix A, the dictionary of database field names.
 - Years used for determining population trend scores
- The term "Continental Concern" was replaced with "Continental Importance" to clarify that Common Birds in Steep Decline (CBSD) are included in this field, not just Watch List species.
 For a species to qualify for Continental Importance in a region, we reduced the criteria for Watch List (but not CBSD) species from RD > 1 to RD > 0 (i.e. not peripheral).
- The criteria for CBSD has been simplified to PT-c = 5, eliminating the criteria that PS-g < 4, BD-g < 4, and ND -g < 4 that were designed to limit this category to common species, but these criteria are unnecessary since any species with PT-c = 5 that is rare or has a restricted range is already on the watch list. Removing these criteria has no effect on which species qualify as CBSD as long as the watch list criteria allow species with CCSmax = 13 and PT-c = 5 to make the watch list.
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List status was updated for each species to the 2018 version of the Red List.
- Non-landbirds were added back to the Regional ACAD.
- Central American and Mexican regional assessments were added via a downloadable spreadsheet.
- Added the codes ER (Extirpated Regionally), and NE (Nearly Extirpated) as options for RD-b and made these species eligible for Regional Importance.
- For both Continental Importance in Region species qualifying via Watch List (as opposed to via CBSD) and for Regional Concern (RC), the threshold for the criteria that a species must occur regularly in significant numbers in the BCR was lowered to RD > 0 instead of >1 to

- address the problem that reviewers would inflate RD scores to ensure that species of interest made it onto these lists.
- The criteria for Regional Stewardship (RS) was simplified to %Pop> 25%, eliminating species with RD=5 and %Pop between 5 and 25% to limit species on this list to those with a higher proportion of their total population in the BCR and focus stewardship efforts on a shorter more relevant list of species.
- Removed the action code CX (possibly extinct) since only relevant to a couple of species.