

THE STATE OF THE BIRDS 2014

United States of America

WATCH LIST



AS PART OF THE 2014 STATE OF THE BIRDS REPORT, a team of scientists from the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI) identified the 233 U.S. bird species most in need of conservation action—these species make up the 2014 Watch List. Although most of the Watch List species are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and more than one-third of them already receive extra protections under the U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA), the non-ESA species need urgent conservation attention to keep them from becoming threatened or endangered. The goals of the Watch List are to promote proactive conservation for species and to highlight the species most in danger of extinction without significant action.

The Watch List contains four main sections: Hawai'i and U.S. Pacific Island Territories (including Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands); Oceanic (species that nest on oceanic islands or occur primarily at sea); Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands; and continental U.S. (including Alaska). We assessed

the entire U.S. avifauna using the Partners in Flight Species Assessment Database (www.rmbo.org/pifassessment/), which ranks species according to their vulnerability due to population size, range size (breeding and non-breeding), population trend, and future threats (breeding and non-breeding). Species are included on the Watch List if they exhibit a threshold of high combined vulnerability across all these factors (<http://rmbo.org/pubs/downloads/PIFHandbook2012.pdf>).

Each regional list is divided into a *Red Watch List*—species with extremely high vulnerability due to small population, small range, high threats, and rangewide declines—and *Yellow Watch List*—species that are either range restricted (small range and population), or are more widespread but with troubling declines and high threats. Although the Partners in Flight process was originally developed for landbirds, this 2014 Watch List represents the first consistent application of this species assessment approach to all U.S. birds.



GUAM KINGFISHER

HAWAI'I AND PACIFIC ISLANDS

■ RED WATCH LIST ■ YELLOW WATCH LIST

Hawaiian Goose (Nēnē)^E
 Hawaiian Duck (Koloa)^E
 Laysan Duck^E
 Guam Rail^E
 Hawaiian Coot^E
 Micronesian Megapode^E
 Mariana Fruit-Dove
 White-throated Ground-Dove
 Guam Swiftlet^E
 Guam Kingfisher^E
 Hawai'i Elepaio
 Kaua'i Elepaio

O'ahu Elepaio^E
 Mariana Crow^E
 Hawaiian Crow ('Alalā)^E
 Millerbird (Ulūlu)^E
 Nightingale Reed-Warbler^E
 Rota Bridled White-eye^E
 Bridled White-eye (Guam)^E
 Golden White-eye
 Tinian Monarch
 Kāma'o^{E†}
 Oloma'o^{E†}
 'Ōma'o
 Puaiohi^E
 Kaua'i 'Ō'Ō^{E†}
 Laysan Finch^E
 Nihoa Finch^E
 Ō'ū^{E†}

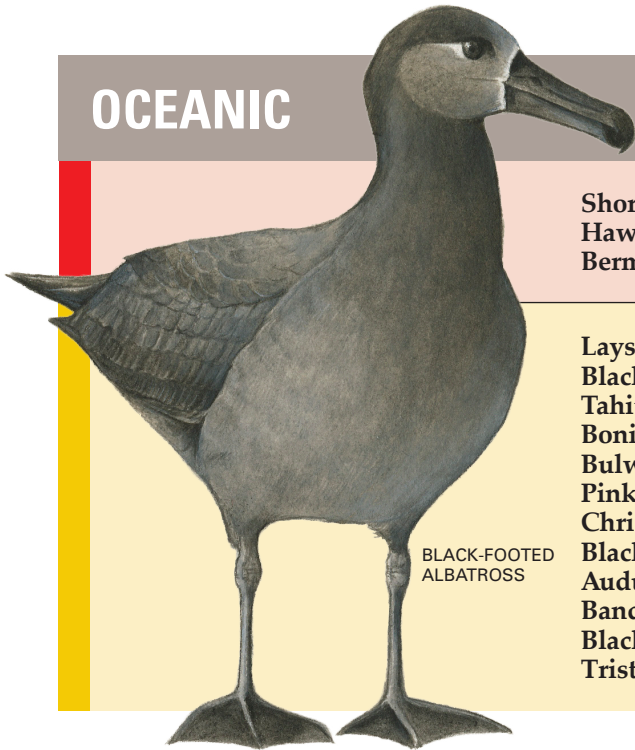
Palila^E
 Maui Parrotbill (Kiwikiu)^E
 'Akiapōlā'au^E
 Anianiau
 Kaua'i 'Akialoa^{E†}
 Nukupū'u^{E†}
 'Akikiki^E
 O'ahu Alauahio^{E†}
 Maui Alauahio
 Hawai'i Creeper^E
 Moloka'i Creeper (Kāwāwahie)^{E†}
 'Akeke'e^E
 Hawai'i Ākepa^E
 'Iwi
 Ākohekohe^E
 Po'ouli^{E†}

Hawaiian Hawk ('Io)^E
 Many-colored Fruit-Dove
 Friendly Ground-Dove
 Blue-crowned Lorikeet
 White-rumped Swiftlet

Fiji Shrikebill
 Samoan Starling
 Polynesian Starling
 Micronesian Starling
 Cardinal Myzomela

Micronesian Myzomela
 O'ahu 'Amakihi
 Kaua'i 'Amakihi
 Hawai'i 'Amakihi
 'Apapane

OCEANIC



BLACK-FOOTED ALBATROSS

Short-tailed Albatross^E
Hawaiian Petrel^E
Bermuda Petrel (Cahow)^E

Black-capped Petrel
Townsend's Shearwater (Newell's^T)
Ashy Storm-Petrel

Laysan Albatross
Black-footed Albatross
Tahiti Petrel
Bonin Petrel
Bulwer's Petrel
Pink-footed Shearwater
Christmas Shearwater
Black-vented Shearwater
Audubon's Shearwater
Band-rumped Storm-Petrel
Black Storm-Petrel
Tristram's Storm-Petrel

Least Storm-Petrel
Masked Booby
Brown Booby
Red-tailed Tropicbird
White-tailed Tropicbird
Red-billed Tropicbird
Magnificent Frigatebird
Great Frigatebird
Blue-gray Noddy
Black Noddy
Gray-backed Tern

WATCH LIST AT A GLANCE

Among the 233 species that qualify for the Watch List, Hawaiian landbirds stand out as the group most in need of urgent conservation attention. All native Hawaiian birds are threatened by introduced species and continued loss of native habitats; most are already listed under ESA. Hawai'i also boasts one of the highest rates of modern bird extinction on earth, with at least seven species blinking out since receiving ESA protection; immediate action is needed to prevent further loss of this unique U.S. bird assemblage.

A high proportion of other native island species on U.S. territories in the Pacific and Caribbean also are of high conservation concern. Nearly the entire avifauna of Guam, for example, was decimated by introduced brown tree snakes, prompting heroic conservation efforts to safeguard the remaining populations. Albatrosses, petrels, and other oceanic birds face high threats worldwide from over-fishing, pollution (especially

plastics), and introduced predators on nesting islands; a majority of seabirds that occur in U.S. waters are Watch List species.

Among continental U.S. bird species, more than half of all shorebirds (sandpipers and plovers) are on the Watch List because of their small global populations and tendency to concentrate in small, threatened habitats during their long-distance migrations. Both sage-grouse and both prairie-chicken species, famous for their spectacular spring courtship dances, are at dangerously low population levels and are in danger of being the next U.S. bird species to be lost to extinction without significant action. Many other, less spectacular, birds of grasslands and aridland habitats face similar threats including urban sprawl, intensifying agriculture, and energy development. The remaining Watch List species occur in every U.S. habitat, from alpine mountaintops to coastal saltmarsh; more than 20 are forest-breeding species that migrate south of the U.S. in winter.

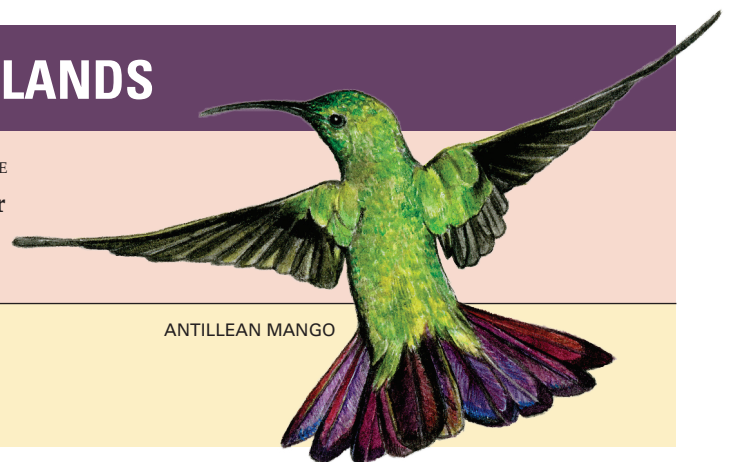
PUERTO RICO AND U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

Caribbean Coot
Plain Pigeon (Puerto Rican)^E
Puerto Rican Parrot^E
Puerto Rican Nightjar^E

White-necked Crow^E
Elfin-woods Warbler
Yellow-shouldered Blackbird^E

West Indian Whistling-Duck
Bridled Quail-Dove
Antillean Mango

Puerto Rican Vireo
Puerto Rican Oriole



ANTILLEAN MANGO

U.S. CONTINENTAL

Mottled Duck
 Steller's Eider^T
 Spectacled Eider^T
 Gunnison Sage-Grouse
 Lesser Prairie-Chicken^T
 Greater Prairie-Chicken
 (Attwater's^E)
 Reddish Egret
 California Condor^E
 Yellow Rail
 Black Rail
 Ridgway's Rail^E
 Whooping Crane^E
 American Oystercatcher
 (N. Am. pop)

Piping Plover
 (Great Lakes)^E, Great Plains and Atlantic^T
 Snowy Plover
 (Pacific Coast and interior^E)
 Wilson's Plover (N. Am. pop)
 Mountain Plover
 Eskimo Curlew^{E†}
 Bristle-thighed Curlew
 Red Knot (N. Am. pop)
 Marbled Murrelet
 (WA, OR, CA^T)
 Kittlitz's Murrelet
 Guadalupe Murrelet
 Scripps's Murrelet
 Craveri's Murrelet
 Ivory Gull

Aleutian Tern
 Ivory-billed Woodpecker^{E†}
 Red-cockaded Woodpecker^E
 Red-crowned Parrot
 Black-capped Vireo^E
 Island Scrub-Jay
 Florida Scrub-Jay^T
 Bicknell's Thrush
 Le Conte's Thrasher
 Bendire's Thrasher
 Bachman's Warbler^{E†}
 Golden-cheeked Warbler^E
 Kirtland's Warbler^E
 Bachman's Sparrow
 Tricolored Blackbird
 Brown-capped Rosy-Finch

Emperor Goose
 Greater Sage-Grouse
 Sooty Grouse
 Red-throated Loon (N. Am. pop)
 Yellow-billed Loon
 Clark's Grebe
 Red-faced Cormorant
 Swallow-tailed Kite
 King Rail
 Black Oystercatcher
 American Golden-Plover
 Lesser Yellowlegs
 Willet
 Long-billed Curlew
 Whimbrel (N. Am. pop)
 Hudsonian Godwit
 Bar-tailed Godwit (N. Am. pop)
 Marbled Godwit
 Short-billed Dowitcher
 Black Turnstone
 Purple Sandpiper (N. Am. pop)
 Buff-breasted Sandpiper
 Pectoral Sandpiper
 Dunlin
 Semipalmated Sandpiper
 American Woodcock
 Red-legged Kittiwake
 Ross's Gull
 Roseate Tern (N. Am. pop,
 northern^E, southern^T)
 Gull-billed Tern (N. Am. pop)
 Black Skimmer (N. Am. pop)
 White-crowned Pigeon
 Band-tailed Pigeon
 Mangrove Cuckoo

Black-billed Cuckoo
 Flammulated Owl
 Whiskered Screech-Owl
 Spotted Owl (Northern
 and Mexican^T)
 Chuck-will's-widow
 Eastern Whip-poor-will
 Mexican Whip-poor-will
 Black Swift
 Lucifer Hummingbird
 Rufous Hummingbird
 Allen's Hummingbird
 Elegant Trogon
 Lewis's Woodpecker
 Red-headed Woodpecker
 Arizona Woodpecker
 Gilded Flicker
 Green Parakeet
 Olive-sided Flycatcher
 Gray Vireo
 Pinyon Jay
 Yellow-billed Magpie
 Tamaulipas Crow
 Mexican Chickadee
 Oak Titmouse
 California Gnatcatcher^T
 Black-capped Gnatcatcher
 Wrenit
 Wood Thrush
 California Thrasher
 Sprague's Pipit
 Chestnut-collared Longspur
 McCown's Longspur
 McKay's Bunting
 Golden-winged Warbler



PINYON JAY

Prothonotary Warbler
 Colima Warbler
 Virginia's Warbler
 Connecticut Warbler
 Kentucky Warbler
 Cerulean Warbler
 Prairie Warbler
 Canada Warbler
 Rufous-winged Sparrow
 Bell's Sparrow (San Clemente^T)
 Black-chinned Sparrow
 Five-striped Sparrow
 Baird's Sparrow
 Saltmarsh Sparrow
 Seaside Sparrow (Cape Sable^E)
 Harris's Sparrow
 Bobolink
 Audubon's Oriole
 Black Rosy-Finch
 Cassin's Finch
 Lawrence's Goldfinch
 Evening Grosbeak

DISTINCT POPULATIONS OF CONSERVATION CONCERN

THE PRIMARY TAXONOMIC UNIT OF INTEREST to bird conservationists is the species, but taxonomy is ever changing, and distinct populations or subspecies may later be recognized as full species. To conserve the full diversity of birds, we also need to focus on distinct populations of high conservation concern. While the U.S. Endangered Species Act already includes subspecies and “Distinct Population Segments”, until now, there has not been an early-warning list of such taxa that may be heading toward the need for ESA listing.

The list below includes only populations of species not otherwise included on the Watch List as full species. This printed version includes only those taxa that would qualify for the Red Watch List. The yellow Watch List for distinct populations can be found online at www.stateofthebirds.org along with scientific names for the birds included below.



EVERGLADES (SNAIL) KITE

HAWAII AND PACIFIC ISLANDS

American Samoa Spotless Crake
Hawaiian Common Gallinule^E
Mariana Common Moorhen^E
Goodson's Buff-banded Rail
Hawaiian Black-necked Stilt^E
Fasciated Crimson-crowned
Fruit-Dove
Owston's Collared Kingfisher
Or's Collared Kingfisher
Saipan Collared Kingfisher
Rota Rufous Fantail
Saipan Rufous Fantail

PUERTO RICO AND U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

Puerto Rican Sharp-shinned Hawk^E
Puerto Rican Broad-winged
Hawk^E
Hispaniolan-Puerto Rican Limpkin
Virgin Islands Puerto Rican
Screech-Owl

U.S. CONTINENTAL

Masked Northern Bobwhite^E
Magdalen Islands Horned Grebe
Great White Great Blue Heron
Everglades Snail Kite^E
Florida Short-tailed Hawk
Mississippi Sandhill Crane^E
Interior Least Tern^E
California Least Tern^E
Pacific Northwest Western
Screech-Owl
Southern Appalachian Northern
Saw-whet Owl

Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Southwestern Willow Flycatcher^E
California Islands Loggerhead
Shrike (San Clemente^T)
Ontario Loggerhead Shrike
Least Bell's Vireo^E
Streaked Horned Lark^T
Eastern Bewick's Wren
Inyo California Towhee^T
Eastern Henslow's Sparrow
Oregon Vesper Sparrow
Florida Grasshopper Sparrow^E
South Hills Red Crossbill

DEFINITIONS AND FOOTNOTES

N. Am. pop—North American populations only

E—Listed as Endangered under the Endangered Species Act

T—Listed as Threatened under the Endangered Species Act

†—Probably extinct

SUGGESTED CITATION: Rosenberg, K.V., D. Pashley, B. Andres, P. J. Blancher, G.S. Butcher, W.C. Hunter, D. Mehlman, A.O. Panjabi, M. Parr, G. Wallace, and D. Wiedenfeld. 2014. The State of the Birds 2014 Watch List. North American Bird Conservation Initiative, U.S. Committee. Washington, D.C. 4 pages.

ALL ILLUSTRATIONS BY STEF DEN RIDDER