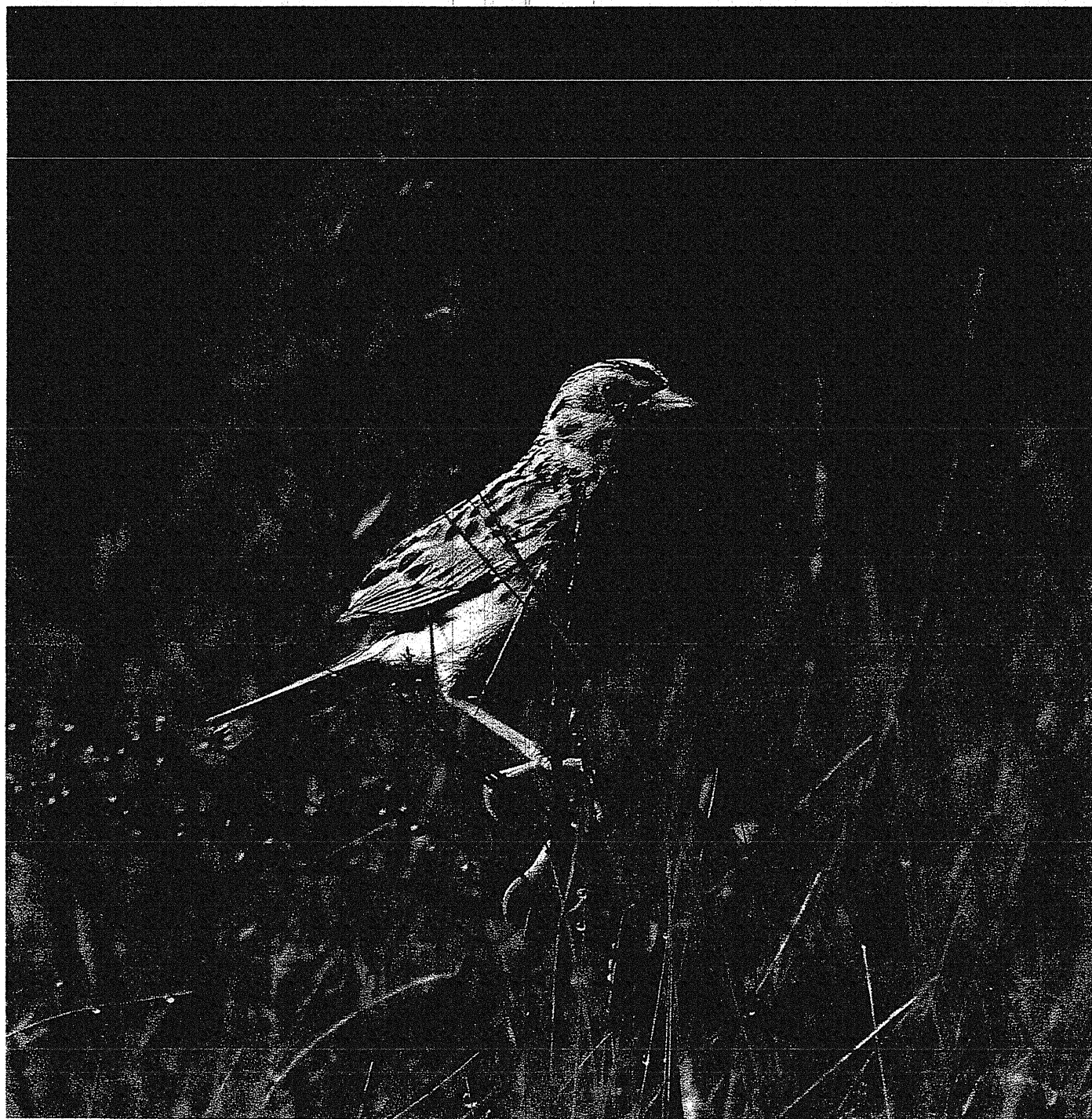


U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Birds of Conservation Concern 2021

Migratory Bird Program



Executive Summary

The 1988 amendment to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act mandates the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to identify species, subspecies and populations (hereafter taxa) of all migratory nongame birds that without additional conservation action are likely to become candidates for listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973. The Birds of Conservation Concern 2021 (BCC 2021) is the most recent effort to carry out this mandate. The overall goal of this report is to identify those bird taxa (beyond those already designated as federally threatened or endangered) that represent the highest conservation priorities of the USFWS. The BCC 2021 is intended to stimulate coordinated, collaborative and proactive conservation actions among international, federal, state, tribal and private partners.

The geographic scope of this endeavor is the United States of America (USA) in its entirety, including island states, commonwealths and territories in the Pacific Ocean and Caribbean Sea and the marine areas delineated as territorial sea, contiguous zone and exclusive economic zone. The BCC 2021 encompasses four distinct geographic scales: 1) the Continental USA, including Alaska; 2) Pacific Ocean islands, including Hawaii; 3) Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Navassa; and 4) continental Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) and Marine Bird Conservation Regions (MBCRs), as defined by Bird Studies Canada and NABCI (2014). New to the BCC 2021 is the explicit inclusion of MBCRs.

Bird taxa considered for the BCC 2021 lists include nongame birds, gamebirds without hunting seasons or where harvest is minimal, and subsistence-hunted nongame birds in Alaska. Excluded from consideration for the BCC 2021 are bird species not protected under the Migratory Bird Treaties (Federal Register 2020a), taxa already listed as threatened or endangered under the ESA, or taxa that only occur irregularly or peripherally in the USA. Our conservation assessment was based on several factors, including population abundance and trends, threats on breeding and nonbreeding grounds, and size of breeding and nonbreeding ranges. The factor scores and associated thresholds used for identifying birds of conservation concern in the 2014 State of the Birds Watch List (Rosenberg et al. 2014) and the Avian Conservation Assessment Database (Partners in Flight 2019, Punjabi et al. 2019) served as the foundation on which we developed the BCC 2021 lists. Thus, we sought consistency of the BCC 2021 with priorities

identified through these other efforts, noting that appropriate differences do occur due to the unique scope and mandate of the Birds of Conservation Concern. The BCC 2021 also represents the first time we tried to unify the assessment system among waterbirds, shorebirds and landbirds.

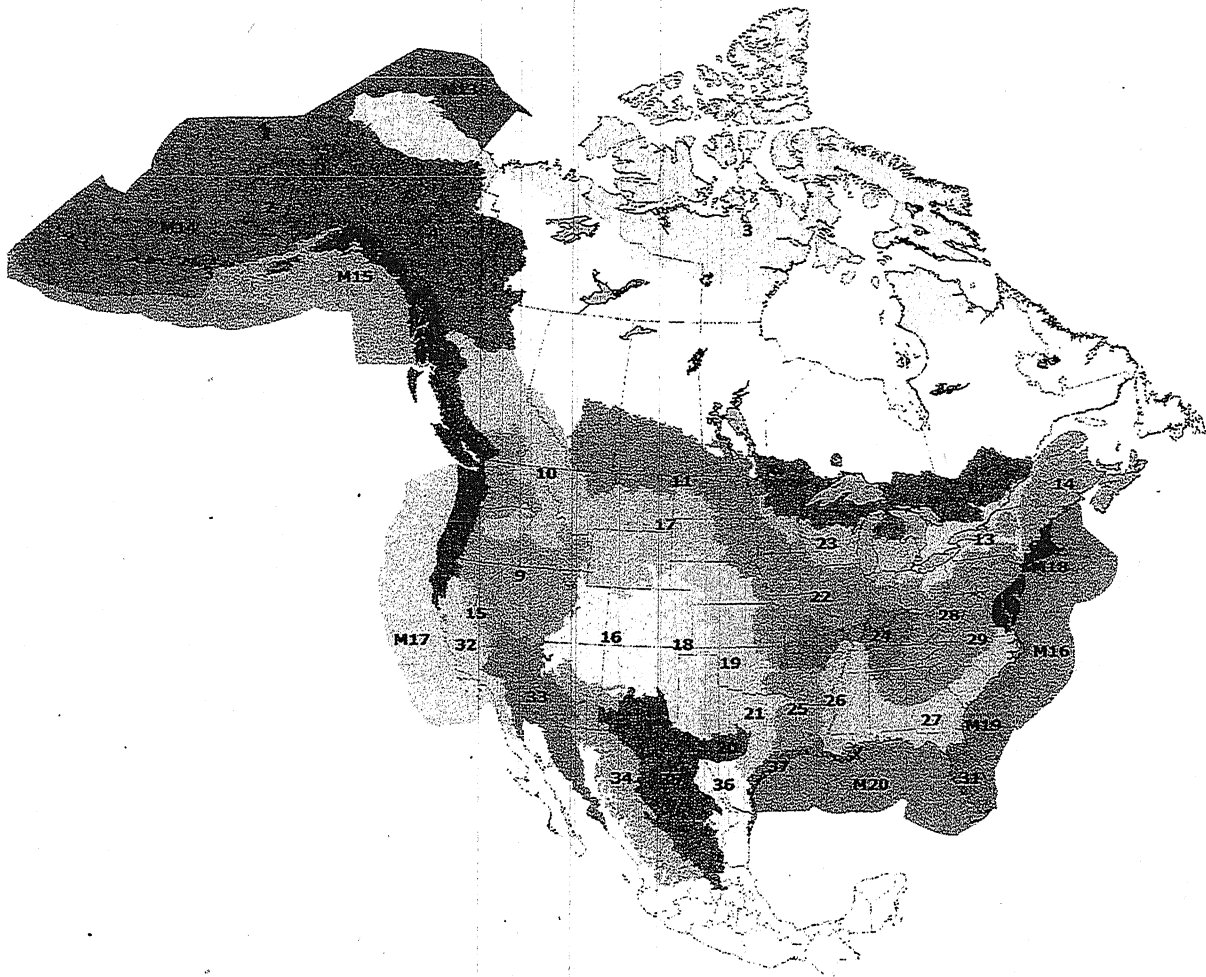
The BCC 2021 identifies 269 individual bird taxa of conservation concern. Of these, 135 taxa are of conservation concern at the Continental scale, 88 taxa at the BCR scale, 29 taxa on Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, and 35 taxa on Hawaii and the Pacific Islands; 18 taxa identified on the Continental/BCR lists are shared with either Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands or Hawaii and the Pacific Islands. The number of taxa on the Hawaii/Pacific Island list appears deceptively low, because a high number of birds there are already listed under the ESA. The number of taxa listed within a BCR, which includes those identified as conservation concern at the Continental or BCR scales, ranges from 12 taxa in the Arctic Plains and Mountains to 49 taxa in Coastal California, with an average of 25.4 taxa per BCR. Among MBCRs, the number of taxa ranged from two taxa in the Chuckchi and Beaufort Seas to 13 taxa in the California Current, with an average of 7.4 taxa per MBCR.

Although the bird taxa included in the BCC 2021 are priorities for conservation action, this list makes no finding with regard to whether they warrant consideration for ESA listing. Our goal is to eliminate the need for additional ESA bird listings by implementing proactive management and conservation actions that sustain populations well above thresholds of endangerment. We recommend that these lists be consulted in accordance with Executive Order 13186, Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds. Many of the taxa identified herein are targets of ongoing conservation attention by national and international initiatives (e.g., Partners in Flight, U.S. Shorebird Conservation Partnership), Migratory Bird Joint Ventures, state and federal natural resource agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other partnerships.

Figures

Figure 1.

Map of terrestrial Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) Marine Bird Conservation Regions (MBCRs) of North America (Bird Studies Canada and NABCI 2014). See Table 2 for BCR and MBCR names.



10, 16, 18

Cashley = 16

Table 2.

Terrestrial Bird Conservation Regions (BCR) and Marine Bird Conservation Regions (MBCR) either wholly or partially within the jurisdiction of the Continental USA, including Alaska, used in the Birds of Conservation Concern 2021.

BCR/ MBCR	BCR/MBCR Name
1	Aleutian/Bering Sea Islands
2	Western Alaska
3	Arctic Plains and Mountains
4	Northwestern Interior Forest
5	Northern Pacific Rainforest
9	Great Basin
10	Northern Rockies
11	Prairie Potholes
12	Boreal Hardwood Transition
13	Lower Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Plain
14	Atlantic Northern Forest
15	Sierra Nevada
16	Southern Rockies/Colorado Plateau
17	Badlands and Prairies
18	Shortgrass Prairie
19	Central Mixed-grass Prairie
20	Edwards Plateau
21	Oaks and Prairies
22	Eastern Tallgrass Prairie
23	Prairie Hardwood Transition
24	Central Hardwoods
25	West Gulf Coastal Plain/Ouachitas
26	Mississippi Alluvial Valley
27	Southeastern Coastal Plain
28	Appalachian Mountains
29	Piedmont
30	New England/Mid-Atlantic Coast
31	Peninsular Florida
32	Coastal California
33	Sonoran and Mohave Deserts
34	Sierra Madre Occidental
35	Chihuahuan Desert
36	Tamaulipan Brushlands
37	Gulf Coastal Prairie
M13	Chukchi and Beaufort Seas
M14	East Bering Sea
M15	Gulf of Alaska
M17	California Current
M18	Northeast U.S. Continental Shelf and U.S. waters (M16) beyond the shelf
M19	Southeast U.S. Continental Shelf and U.S. waters (M16) beyond the shelf
M20	Gulf of Mexico

*Northern
Rockies*

Table 6.

Birds of Conservation Concern 2021 designated within BCRs 5, 10, 15, 32 and MBCR 17. See Table 2 for descriptions of BCRs and MBCRs. Scientific names of species, subspecies and populations are provided in Appendix 1. Breeding (X) and nonbreeding (nb) status are indicated for each BCR or MBCR; breeding BCRs may also support passage or wintering birds.

Taxon Common Name	BCR/MBCR				
	5	10	15	32	M17
Western Grebe	X	X	X	X	
Clark's Grebe	X	X	X	X	
Black Swift	X	X	X	X	
Vaux's Swift	X				
Calliope Hummingbird		X	X		
Rufous Hummingbird	X	X			
Allen's Hummingbird	X			X	
Broad-tailed Hummingbird		X			
Yellow Rail		X		nb	
Black Oystercatcher	X			X	
Mountain Plover		X		nb	
Snowy Plover (Interior/Gulf Coast)				X	
Marbled Godwit	nb			nb	
Red Knot (Pacific)	nb			nb	
Rock Sandpiper (Pribilof)	nb				
Short-billed Dowitcher	X			nb	
Lesser Yellowlegs	nb	nb			
Willet	nb	X	X	nb	
Marbled Murrelet (Alaska)	X				
Kittlitz's Murrelet	X				
Scripps's Murrelet				X	nb
Guadalupe Murrelet					nb
Craveri's Murrelet					nb
Ancient Murrelet	X				
Cassin's Auklet	X				
Tufted Puffin	X				nb
Franklin's Gull		X			
Heermann's Gull				X	
Western Gull	X			X	
California Gull	X	X	X	X	
Aleutian Tern	X				
Gull-billed Tern				X	
Black Tern		X		X	
Elegant Tern				X	
Black Skimmer				X	
Laysan Albatross					nb
Black-footed Albatross					nb
Ashy Storm-Petrel				X	nb
Black Storm-Petrel				X	nb
Murphy's Petrel					nb
Cook's Petrel					nb

Northern
Rockies
↓

Taxon Common Name	BCR/MBCR				
	5	10	15	32	M17
Buller's Shearwater					nb
Pink-footed Shearwater					nb
Black-vented Shearwater					nb
Brandt's Cormorant	X			X	
Red-faced Cormorant	X				
Northern Harrier				X	
Flammulated Owl	X	X	X	X	
Western Screech-Owl (Northern Pacific)	X			X	
Burrowing Owl (Western)				X	
Spotted Owl (California)			X	X	
Long-eared Owl		X	X	X	
Short-eared Owl				X	
Lewis's Woodpecker		X	X		
Williamson's Sapsucker (Rocky Mountain)		X			
Nuttall's Woodpecker				X	
White-headed Woodpecker (California)				X	
Olive-sided Flycatcher	X	X	X	X	
Pinyon Jay		X	X	X	
Island Scrub-Jay				X	
Yellow-billed Magpie				X	
Chestnut-backed Chickadee (Northern)	X				
Oak Titmouse	X		X	X	
White-breasted Nuthatch (Slender-billed)	X				
American Dipper			X		
Wrentit	X		X	X	
Varied Thrush (Pacific)	X				
California Thrasher			X	X	
LeConte's Thrasher				X	
Evening Grosbeak	X	X	X		
Black Rosy-Finch		X			
Cassin's Finch	X	X	X	X	
Lawrence's Goldfinch			X	X	
Thick-billed Longspur		X			
Black-chinned Sparrow				X	
Vesper Sparrow (Oregon)	X				
Savannah Sparrow (Belding's)				X	
Song Sparrow (Alameda/Samuels)				X	
Song Sparrow (Channel Island)				X	
Bobolink		X			
Bullock's Oriole				X	
Tricolored Blackbird				X	
Common Yellowthroat (San Francisco)				X	
Black-throated Gray Warbler			X		
Hermit Warbler			X		
Totals	34	24	21	49	13

Table 7.

Birds of Conservation Concern 2021 designated within BCRs 9, 16, 33, 34, 35 and 36. See Table 2 for descriptions of BCRs. Scientific names of species, subspecies and populations are provided in Appendix 1. Breeding (X) and nonbreeding (nb) status are indicated for each BCR; breeding BCRs may also support passage or wintering birds.

Taxon Common Name	BCR/MBCR					
	9	16	33	34	35	36
Western Grebe	X	X	X	X		
Clark's Grebe	X	X	X		X	
Common Nighthawk (Henry's)					X	
Mexican Whip-poor-will				X	X	
Black Swift	X	X				
Chimney Swift						X
Lucifer Hummingbird					X	
Costa's Hummingbird			X			
Calliope Hummingbird	X					
Rufous Hummingbird	X					
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	X	X		X	X	
King Rail						X
Yellow Rail	X					
American Avocet	X		X			
American Golden-Plover						nb
Wilson's Plover						X
Mountain Plover		X	nb		nb	nb
Snowy Plover (Interior/Gulf Coast)	X	X	X		X	X
Long-billed Curlew					nb	nb
Marbled Godwit	nb		nb			
Red Knot (Pacific)	nb					
Buff-breasted Sandpiper						nb
Pectoral Sandpiper	nb	nb				nb
Lesser Yellowlegs	nb	nb				nb
Willet	X		nb			
Franklin's Gull	X					
Yellow-footed Gull			nb			
California Gull	X	X				
Gull-billed Tern			X			X
Black Tern	X					
Forster's Tern	X					
Black Skimmer			X			
American White Pelican	X					
Northern Harrier	X					
Harris's Hawk						X
Ferruginous Hawk					X	
Flammulated Owl	X	X		X	X	
Whiskered Screech-Owl				X		
Burrowing Owl (Western)			X		X	
Long-eared Owl	X	X	X	X		
Short-eared Owl	X	X				

Taxon Common Name	BCR/MBCR					
	9	16	33	34	35	36
Elegant Trogon				X		
Lewis's Woodpecker	X	X		X		
Gila Woodpecker			X			
Arizona Woodpecker				X		
Gilded Flicker			X	X		
Olive-sided Flycatcher	X	X		X		
Cordilleran Flycatcher				X		
Black-capped Vireo					X	
Plumbeous Vireo				X		
Pinyon Jay	X	X	X	X	X	
Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay (Woodhouse's)					X	
Clark's Nutcracker		X				
Chihuahuan Raven						X
Mexican Chickadee				X		
Verdin (Southwest)			X			
Cactus Wren (Speckled)					X	
Curve-billed Thrasher (Palmer's))			X			
Curve-billed Thrasher (Brownsville)						X
Bendire's Thrasher	X	X	X	X	X	
California Thrasher			X			
LeConte's Thrasher			X			
Sage Thrasher	X					
Phainopepla (Southwest)				X		
Sprague's Pipit				nb	nb	nb
Evening Grosbeak	X	X		X	X	
Black Rosy-Finch	X	X				
Brown-capped Rosy-Finch		X				
Cassin's Finch	X	X				
Cassia Crossbill	X					
Lawrence's Goldfinch			X			
Chestnut-collared Longspur				nb	nb	nb
Thick-billed Longspur					nb	
Rufous-winged Sparrow			X	X		
Cassin's Sparrow					X	
Black-chinned Sparrow		X	X	X	X	
Baird's Sparrow				nb	nb	
Yellow-headed Blackbird		X				
Bobolink	X					
Eastern Meadowlark					X	X
Orchard Oriole						X
Scott's Oriole				X	X	
Tricolored Blackbird			X			
Colima Warbler					X	
Virginia's Warbler	X	X		X	X	
Grace's Warbler		X	X	X	X	

Great Basin
Southern Rockies