

# Alaska Natural Heritage Program

## Conservation Status Report

### *Cupido amyntula* - Boisduval, 1852

**Common Name:** Western Tailed-Blue

<b>ELCODE:</b> IILEPF9020	<b>Taxonomic Serial No.:</b> 777890
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*Synonyms:* *Everes amyntula* (Boisduval, 1852)

*Taxonomy Notes:* Numerous subspecies of *Cupido amyntula* are referenced for North America (Pelham 2008). The majority of butterfly records were determined only to species. We therefore only treat this butterfly at the species level for conservation assessment while recognizing that currently Alaskan specimens are considered to fall under (name of subspecies) - as treated by Ferris 2016. NatureServe concept reference: Opler & Warren (2002).

*Report last updated – 21 May 2017*

### Conservation Status

G5 S4	ASRS: not yet ranked
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### Occurrences, Range

*Number of Occurrences:*

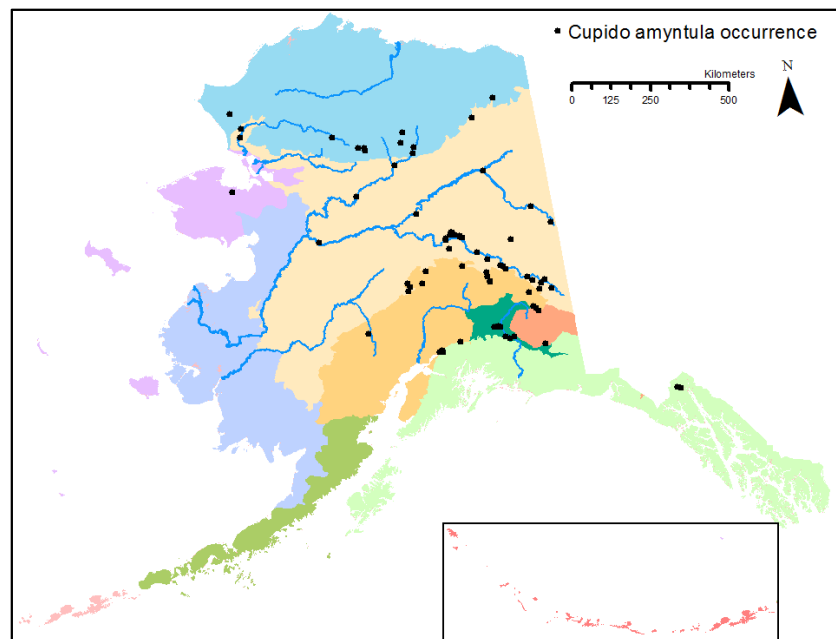
number of museum records:  
397 (KWP 2017, UAM 2017),  
number of EOs: 79

*AK Range Extent:* 771,016  
km<sup>2</sup>

*Occupancy 4 km<sup>2</sup> grid cells:*  
80

*Nowacki Ecoregions:* Brooks  
Range and northern Seward  
Peninsula through interior  
Alaska to Cook Inlet and  
Lynn Canal in southern

Alaska; encompassing Arctic Tundra, Bering Tundra, Intermontane Boreal, Alaska Range Transition, Coast Mountain Transition, and Coastal Rainforest Ecoregions.

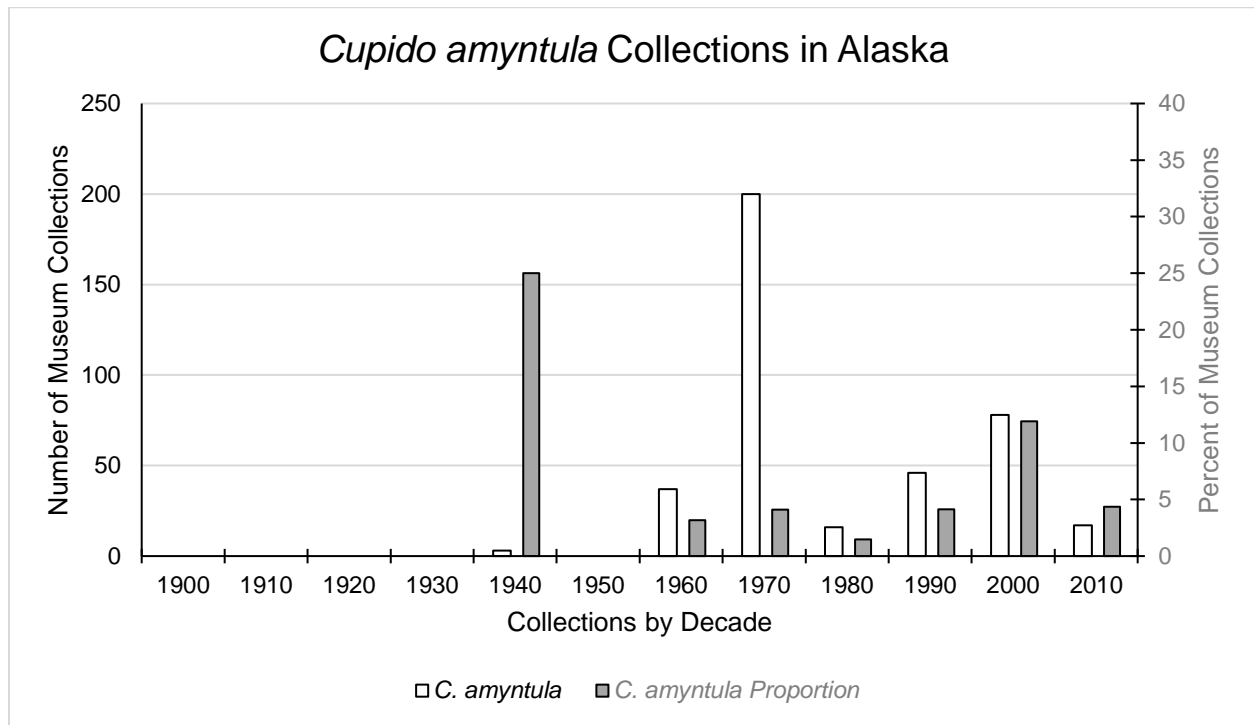


*North American Distribution:* Alaska south through the Cascade and Rocky mountains to Baja California, west through southern Canada to Hudson Bay and Gaspé Peninsula (BAMONA 2017).

## Trends

*Short-term:* Proportion collected has remained stable (<10% change).

*Long-term:* Proportion collected has remained stable (<10% change) since the 1950's. The peak in proportion collected during the 1940's is likely a byproduct of small butterfly collection size (12 collections) during that decade.



## Threats

*Scope and Severity:* Most threats (including development, pollution, biological resource use, etc.) are anticipated to be negligible in scope and unknown in severity. Climate change and severe weather has the potential to affect populations; however we cannot anticipate the scope or severity of such impacts.

*Comments:*

## Ecology

*Habitat:* Open areas, including roadsides, powerline cuts, and meadows with low shrubs; often at low elevations (Philip & Ferris 2016, BAMONA 2017).

*Host Plants:* Members of the Fabaceae, including *Astragalus*, *Oxytropis*, *Vicia*, and *Lathyrus*.

*Life History:* Flight period is in June in Alaska. Males patrol and perch during the day to intercept females. Females lay eggs on flowers or immature fruits of host plants. Larvae feed on seeds inside the fruit and seal up the entrance hole with silk; they overwinter and pupate in the fruits (Philip & Ferris 2016, BAMONA 2017).

*Intrinsic Vulnerability:*

## Identification

See Philip & Ferris (2016). Add illustration and photo

## Literature

BAMONA. 2017. Butterflies and Moths of North America. Attributes of *Cupido amyntula*.  
<http://www.butterfliesandmoths.org/species/Cupido-amyntula>. Accessed 21 May 2017.

KWP, Kenelm W. Philip Lepidoptera Collection. 2017. Date Accessed 24 April 2017.

Opler, P. A., and A. D. Warren. 2002. Butterflies of North America. 2. Scientific Names List for Butterfly Species of North America, north of Mexico. C.P. Gillette Museum of Arthropod Diversity, Department of Bioagricultural Sciences and Pest Management, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado. 79 pp.

Pelham, J. P. 2008. A catalogue of the butterflies of the United States and Canada with a complete bibliography of the descriptive and systematic literature. *Journal of Research on the Lepidoptera*, vol. 40. xiv + 658.

Philip, K. W. and C. D. Ferris. 2016. Butterflies of Alaska: A Field Guide. Second Edition. Alaska Entomological Society. Clifford D. Ferris. Laramie, Wyoming. 110 pp.

UAM Arctos Museum of the North 2017. Date Accessed 24 April 2017.