Alaska Natural Heritage Program
Conservation Status Report

*Cupido amyntula* - Boisduval, 1852

**Common Name:** Western Tailed-Blue

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<tr>
<th>ELCODE: IILEPF9020</th>
<th>Taxonomic Serial No.: 777890</th>
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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**

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<th>G5 S4</th>
<th>ASRS: not yet ranked</th>
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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 km²
- **Occupancy 4 km² 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**


