Alaska Natural Heritage Program
Alaska Center for Conservation Science
University of Alaska Anchorage

Alaska Natural Heritage Program Conservation Status Report

Pyrgus centaureae - Rambur, 1842

Common Name: Grizzled Skipper

ELCODE: IILEP38010	**Taxonomic Serial No.:** 188605

Synonyms:

Taxonomy Notes: A number of subspecies have been referenced for North America: *Pyrgus centaureae centaureae* (Rambur, 1842), *Pyrgus centaureae freija* (B. Warren, 1924), *Pyrgus centaureae loki* Evans, 1953, *Pyrgus centaureae wyandot* (W. H. Edwards, 1863). Two of these subspecies are described from the Rocky Mountains and eastern North America. Most specimens in Alaska correspond with *Pyrgus centaureae freija*, though specimens from northwestern Alaska may be best described as the Eurasian subspecies *Pyrgus centaureae centaureae* (Philip and Ferris 2016). Barcoding results for *Pyrgus centaureae* at the subspecific level are inconclusive (see Ratnasingham and Hebert 2007). 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 – 16 May 2017

Conservation Status

G5 S4	ASRS: not yet ranked

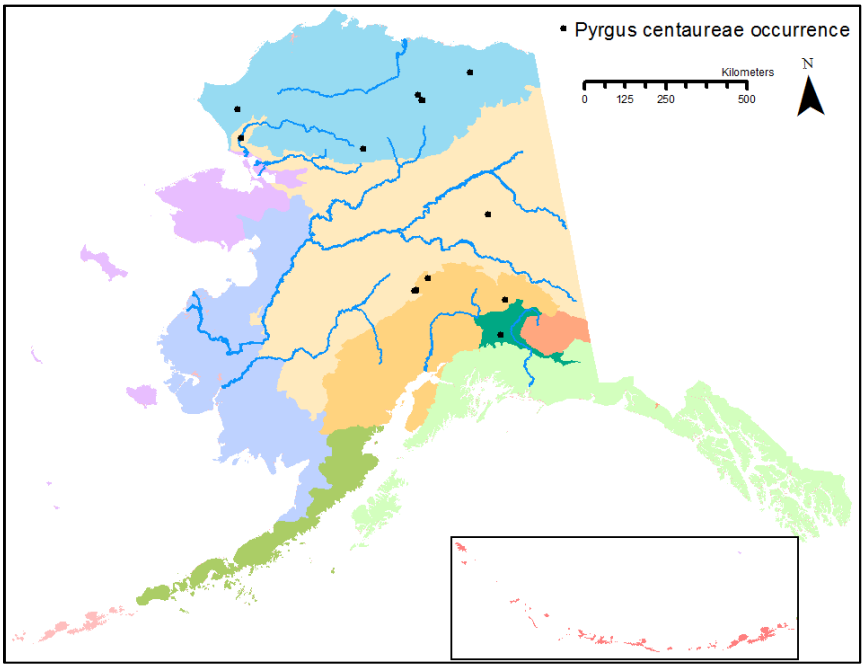
Occurrences, Range

Number of Occurrences: number of museum records: 25 (KWP 2017, UAM 2017), number of EOs: 15

AK Range Extent: 359,583 km^2

Occupancy 4 km^2 grid cells: 14

Nowacki Ecoregions: Wide distribution of disjunct, high



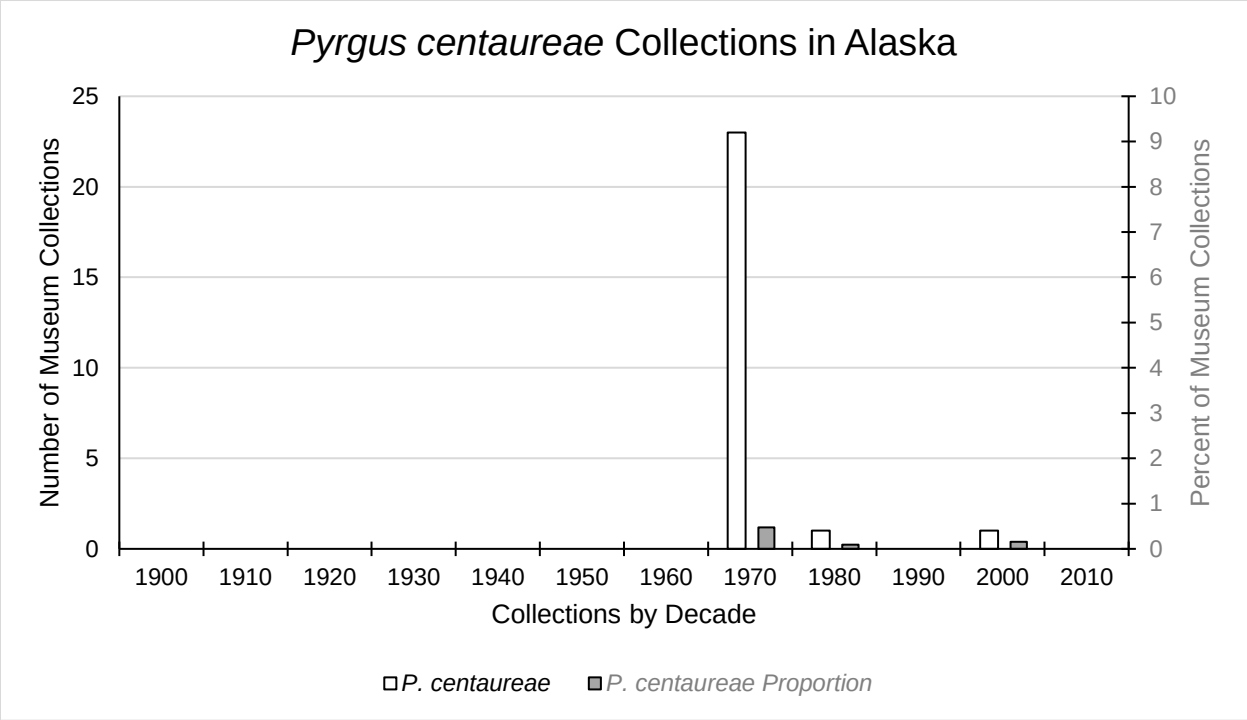
elevation, sites in Alaska: Brooks Range, White Mountains, Alaska Range and Copper River Basin, encompassing Arctic Tundra, Intermontane Boreal, Alaska Range Transition, Copper River Basin Ecoregions.

North American Distribution: Alaska, all Canadian provinces and territories except Nunavut, south along the Rocky Mountains to New Mexico; subspecies *wyandot* Michigan-New York and North Carolina.

Trends

Short-term: Few collections make estimation of changes through time uncertain. Proportion collected has remained relatively stable (<10% change).

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



Threats

Scope and Severity: Climate change and severe weather has the potential to affect populations of this high elevation, tundra and alpine ridge associated species across the majority of sites (Scope: large – small); we cannot anticipate that severity of impacts (unknown).

Comments: Highly uncertain how changing climates may directly or indirectly (via changes in habitats, communities, and ecosystems) may impact populations in Alaska.

Ecology

Habitat: In Alaska this species is found on open tundra and rocky ridges from 1,700 – 3,200 feet in elevation (Philip & Ferris 2016); elsewhere the species is associated with barrens, meadows, grassy hillsides and other forest openings (BAMONA 2017)

Host Plants: Members of the rose family (Rosaceae), including: *Fragaria*, *Potentilla*, *Rubus* (BAMONA 2017); and *Vaccinium* (Ericaceae) (Philip & Ferris 2016).

Life History: Males patrol close to the ground and occasionally perch for long periods in open areas in search of females. Single eggs are deposited on host plant leaves. Larvae feed in shelters of webbed leaves. Flight period is from late June to mid-July; biennial and mostly flying in odd years (Philip & Ferris 2016, BAMONA 2017).

Intrinsic Vulnerability: Unknown

Literature

BAMONA. 2017. Butterflies and Moths of North America. Attributes of *Pyrgus centaureae*. http://www.butterfliesandmoths.org/species/Pyrgus-centaureae. Accessed 16 May 2017.

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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.

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.

Ratnasingham, S. and Hebert, P. D. N. 2007. BOLD: The Barcode of Life Data System (www.barcodinglife.org). Molecular Ecology Notes 7, 355-364. DOI: 10.1111/j.1471-8286.2006.01678.x

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