

Dovekie

Alle alle

Class: Aves

Order: Charadriiformes

Review Status: Peer-reviewed

Version Date: 23 December 2020

Conservation Status

Table 1 Conservation status according to state, national, and international organizations and agencies.

Organization	Rank
NatureServe	G5/S1S2B
ADF&G	Species of Greatest Conservation Need
IUCN	Least Concern

Final Rank

Conservation Category: **IV. Orange**

Unknown status and high biological vulnerability and action need

Table 2 ASRS categorical scores. Higher numerical scores denote greater concern.

Category	Range	Score
Status	-20 to 20	0
Biological	-50 to 50	18
Action	-40 to 40	4

Status

Variables measure the trend in a taxon’s population status or distribution. Higher status scores denote taxa with known declining trends. Status scores range from -20 (increasing) to 20 (decreasing).

Population Trend in Alaska (-10 to 10)

Unknown.

Score: 0

Distribution Trend in Alaska (-10 to 10)

Unknown.

Score: 0

Status Total: 0

Biological

Variables measure aspects of a taxon's distribution, abundance and life history. Higher biological scores suggest greater vulnerability to extirpation. Biological scores range from -50 (least vulnerable) to 50 (most vulnerable).

Population Size in Alaska (-10 to 10)

Peripheral population only. The most current estimate is 60 birds (Denlinger 2006).

Score: 10

Range Size in Alaska (-10 to 10)

Casual summer visitor to northern and southwest Alaska (Kessel and Gibson 1978), including the Aleutian Islands and islands of the Bering Sea (Day et al. 1988; Gibson and Byrd 2007). Breeding is unconfirmed, but thought to breed on Little Diomedede Island, St. Lawrence Island, King Island, Cooper Island, St. Matthew Island, and the Pribilof Islands (Day et al. 1988 Pollom et al. 2018; Mong et al. 2019). Breeding range estimated to be 5,300 sq. km., based on range map from ACCS (2017a).

Score: 4

Population Concentration in Alaska (-10 to 10)

Breeding colonies thought to be on less than 10 islands (Kessel and Gibson 1978; Day et al. 1988).

Score: 2

Reproductive Potential in Alaska

Age of First Reproduction (-5 to 5)

Unknown, but thought to be 2-3 years (Montevecchi and Stenhouse 2002).

Score: -3

Number of Young (-5 to 5)

Lays a single egg per year (Montevecchi and Stenhouse 2020).

Score: 3

Ecological Specialization in Alaska

Dietary (-5 to 5)

Little is known about the diet in Alaska. Elsewhere in its breeding range, it specializes on copepods during pre-hatching, and on amphipods and small fish during chick-rearing (Roby et al. 1981; Montevecchi and Stenhouse 2020). Other prey items include euphausiids and mollusks. Dovekie appear to preferentially consume the largest, most energy-rich species and the largest age classes within its prey spectrum (Montevecchi and Stenhouse 2020).

Score: 1

Habitat (-5 to 5)

Little is known about the breeding habitat in Alaska since breeding has not been confirmed. Elsewhere in its range, it typically nests in crevices and tunnels on the talus and scree slopes of

ocean cliffs (Roby et al. 1981; Montevecchi and Stenhouse 2020). May also nest on nunataks or on rubble at the foot of coastal cliffs (Montevecchi and Stenhouse 2020).

Score: 1

Biological Total: 18

Action

Variables measure current state of knowledge or extent of conservation efforts directed toward a given taxon. Higher action scores denote greater information needs due to lack of knowledge or conservation action. Action scores range from -40 (lower needs) to 40 (greater needs).

Management Plans and Regulations in Alaska (-10 to 10)

Protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA 1918). Closed to subsistence harvest (AMBCC 2020).

Score: -10

Knowledge of Distribution and Habitat in Alaska (-10 to 10)

Although breeding has not been confirmed, their distribution is somewhat known, but not throughout their range (see Range Size).

Score: 2

Knowledge of Population Trends in Alaska (-10 to 10)

Observed as part of biological monitoring programs on the Pribilof Islands (Pollom et al. 2018; Mong et al. 2019). These observations would be enough to detect a large change (R. Orben, Oregon State University, pers. comm.).

Score: 2

Knowledge of Factors Limiting Populations in Alaska (-10 to 10)

Little is known about the ecology of this species and the factors that limit its population in Alaska. In other parts of its range, this species is highly susceptible to chronic oil pollution (Wiese and Robertson 2004; Montevecchi and Stenhouse 2020). Because Dovekie appear to prefer nesting in areas of early snowmelt, the lack of breeding colonies in North America is thought to be related to availability of open water early in breeding season (Montevecchi and Stenhouse 2020). Nest predators (e.g., Glaucous Gulls) and prey availability may affect reproductive success (Roby et al. 1981; Jakubas et al. 2020; Montevecchi and Stenhouse 2020). Prey availability may be partially governed by ocean temperatures; Jakubas et al. (2020) noted that the peak body mass of chicks was lower in warmer years, presumably because prey items from warmer waters are smaller and less energy-rich. Research is needed to determine which of these factors are most important for Alaska's population. Breeding colonies thought to be on less than 10 islands (Kessel and Gibson 1978; Day et al. 1988).

Score: 10

Action Total: 4

Supplemental Information

Variables do not receive numerical scores. Instead, they are used to sort taxa to answer specific biological or management questions.

Harvest: None or Prohibited

Seasonal Occurrence: Year-round

Taxonomic Significance: Monotypic genus

% Global Range in Alaska: <10%

% Global Population in Alaska: <25%

Peripheral: Yes

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