

Upland Sandpiper

Bartramia longicauda

Class: Aves
Order: Charadriiformes

Review Status: Peer-reviewed

Version Date: 29 November 2018

Conservation Status

NatureServe:

Agency:

G Rank: G5

ADF&G: Species of Greatest Conservation Need

IUCN: Least Concern

Audubon AK:

S Rank: S4B

USFWS: Bird of Conservation Concern

BLM:

Final Rank		
Conservation category: V. Orange		
unknown status and either high biological vulnerability or high action need		
Category	Range	Score
Status	-20 to 20	0
Biological	-50 to 50	-30
Action	-40 to 40	12
Higher numerical scores denote greater concern		

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).

Score

Population Trend in Alaska (-10 to 10)

0

Suspected to be increasing in North America (Andres et al. 2012a; ASG 2019). However, no trend data are available for the Alaskan population (C. Harwood, USFWS, pers. comm.).

Distribution Trend in Alaska (-10 to 10)

0

Unknown.

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).

Score

Population Size in Alaska (-10 to 10)

-6

Uncertain, but estimated to be 22,500 individuals or fewer (<3% of global population; ASG 2019).

Range Size in Alaska (-10 to 10)

-8

Breeding range includes disjunct sections of interior and western Alaska, roughly from the Wrangell Mountains north to the Brooks Range (Murie 1946; Williamson et al. 1965; Kessel and Gibson 1978; Houston et al. 2011), and from Porcupine (Houston et al. 2011) and Eagle Summit (C. Harwood, USFWS, pers. comm.) west to the Noatak National Preserve (Tibbitts et al. 2006). Overwinters in South America (Houston et al. 2011). Breeding range is estimated to be between 150,000 - 200,000 sq. km.

<i>Population Concentration in Alaska (-10 to 10)</i>	-10
Does not concentrate (Vickery et al. 2010; Houston et al. 2011).	
<i>Reproductive Potential in Alaska</i>	
<u>Age of First Reproduction (-5 to 5)</u>	-3
Age at first breeding is largely unknown, but most individuals probably breed when they are 2 to 3 years old (C. Harwood, USFWS, pers. comm.). Annual breeding has been observed in individuals 2 years and older (Houston et al. 2011).	
<u>Number of Young (-5 to 5)</u>	1
Unknown in Alaska, but in northwest Yukon (Miller et al. 2014) and elsewhere in North America (Houston et al. 2011) average clutch size is 4.	
<i>Ecological Specialization in Alaska</i>	
<u>Dietary (-5 to 5)</u>	-5
Very little information available. Elsewhere in its North American range, consumes a large variety of invertebrates including grasshoppers, beetles, flies, weevils, and worms (Houston et al. 2011). Diet in their non-breeding range in South America suggests that upland sandpipers are generalist and opportunistic insectivores (Alfaro et al. 2015).	
<u>Habitat (-5 to 5)</u>	1
In Alaska, inhabits grassy, open areas within the boreal forest ecosystem. Habitats include grassy fields, clearings, regenerating burns, subalpine shrublands, and subalpine sedge meadows (Murie 1946; Armstrong 2008; Mason and Neipert 2011). In the Yukon, it is similarly found in low alpine and upper subalpine tundra meadows, and in drier portions of wet sedge meadows (Buss 1951; Nouvet et al. 2008; Miller et al. 2014).	
Biological Total:	-30

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 of lack of knowledge or conservation action. Action scores range from -40 (lower needs) to 40 (greater needs).

Score

<i>Management Plans and Regulations in Alaska (-10 to 10)</i>	-10
Protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA 1918). Closed to recreational and subsistence harvest ((ADFG 2018e; AMBCC 2018).	
<i>Knowledge of Distribution and Habitat in Alaska (-10 to 10)</i>	2
Broad distribution is known from multi-species bird surveys and inventories (e.g. Kessel and Gibson 1978; Tibbitts et al. 2006; Mason and Niepert 2011; Harwood and Powell 2014), but relatively little is known about habitat associations and its distribution within the limits of its range. Few specimens are recorded in ARCTOS (2016). Migration routes and stopover sites are unknown. Preliminary habitat models were developed by Marcot et al. (2015).	
<i>Knowledge of Population Trends in Alaska (-10 to 10)</i>	10
There is currently no monitoring program in place for the Upland Sandpiper. The Breeding Bird Survey has been used to estimate population size and trends elsewhere in North America (Andres et al. 2012a), but BBS in Alaska is not statewide and sightings are too infrequent to generate trend estimates even after decades of data collection (Handel and Sauer 2017). Because no monitoring, statewide or local, is able to provide trend data for this species, we rank this question as A- Not currently monitored.	
<i>Knowledge of Factors Limiting Populations in Alaska (-10 to 10)</i>	10

Very little is known about the ecology of this species and the factors that limit its population dynamics in Alaska or elsewhere. Like other grassland species, habitat loss and fragmentation has probably contributed to this species' decline in both its breeding and wintering ranges (Vickery et al. 2010; Houston et al. 2011), but populations in Alaska may not have experienced the same intensity of loss. Nevertheless, suitable habitat in Alaska is expected to decrease by up to 20% by 2100 as a result of climate change (Marcot et al. 2015). In its non-breeding range, the use of pesticides may affect this species directly through contamination or indirectly by affecting its prey base, but additional research is needed (Strum et al. 2010; Vickery et al. 2010; Houston et al. 2011). Little information is available on illegal hunting, but research in Barbados found that the Upland Sandpiper comprised <0.1% of the local shorebird harvest (Reed 2012, qtd. in Wege et al. 2014).

Action Total: 12

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:	Breeding
Taxonomic Significance:	Monotypic genus
% Global Range in Alaska:	<10%
% Global Population in Alaska:	<25%
Peripheral:	No

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