

Common Raven (kamtschaticus)

Class: Aves
Order: Passeriformes

Corvus corax kamtschaticus

Note: This assessment refers to this subspecies only. A species level report, which refers to all associated subspecies, is also available.

Review Status: Peer-reviewed

Version Date: 06 February 2019

Conservation Status

NatureServe: Agency:

G Rank: ADF&G:

IUCN:

Audubon AK:

S Rank: USFWS:

BLM:

Final Rank		
Conservation category: V. Orange		
unknown status and either high biological vulnerability or high action need		
<u>Category</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>Score</u>
Status	-20 to 20	0
Biological	-50 to 50	-18
Action	-40 to 40	16
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

Unknown.

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)

0

Unknown.

Range Size in Alaska (-10 to 10)

-2

Year-round resident in southwest Alaska, from the Aleutian Islands east to Chignik (central Alaska Peninsula) and north to Cape Newenham (northern Bristol Bay; Gibson and Withrow 2015). Estimated range size is >10,000 sq. km but <100,000 sq. km.

Population Concentration in Alaska (-10 to 10)

-10

Does not concentrate.

*Reproductive Potential in Alaska*Age of First Reproduction (-5 to 5)

-3

Unknown, but likely between 2-4 years (Jollie 1976, qtd. in Boarman and Heinrich 1999).

Number of Young (-5 to 5)

1

Clutch sizes of 4 and 6 eggs have been reported on the Aleutian Islands (Gibson and Byrd 2007). On the North Slope (subspecies *C. c. principalis*), average clutch size was 3.9 ± 1.4 young, with a range from 0 to 7 (Backensto 2010). Common ravens typically lay a single clutch per year, though replacement clutches are possible (Boarman and Heinrich 1999; Backensto 2010).

*Ecological Specialization in Alaska*Dietary (-5 to 5)

-5

Generalist omnivore and scavenger (Kessel 1989). Consumes plant matter, small mammals (lemmings, voles), birds and eggs, fish, insects, and human food (Temple 1974; Kessel 1989; Boarman and Heinrich 1999; Powell and Backensto 2009; Lafferty et al. 2016). On the Aleutian Islands, forages on beaches year-round, but diet likely changes seasonally to take advantage of seabird eggs in the summer and anthropogenic food sources in the winter (Gibson and Byrd 2007).

Habitat (-5 to 5)

1

On the Aleutian Islands, forages on beaches and near human settlements (Gibson and Byrd 2007). Habitat on the mainland has not been described, but likely diverse: the mainland subspecies, *C. c. principalis*, inhabits a variety of habitats including tundra, alpine, forests, and shrublands (Boarman and Heinrich 1999; Cotter and Andres 2000a; Ruthrauff et al. 2007). Common ravens require tall structures for nesting. On the Aleutian Islands, nests on tall structures such as cliffs and sea caves (Gibson and Byrd 2007). On the mainland, nests in trees and cliffs, as well as on anthropogenic structures such as telephone poles, buildings, and bridges (Kessel 1989; Boarman and Heinrich 1999; Gibson and Byrd 2007; Backensto 2010). The availability of nest sites is believed to have limited the distribution of Common Ravens on the North Slope prior to industrial development (Powell and Backensto 2009).

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

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

2

Protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA 1918).

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

2

Occasionally recorded during seabird and shorebird surveys on the Aleutian Islands and southwestern Alaska (e.g. MacDonald 2000 and subsequent surveys; Byrd and Williams 2002a; Savage 2009; Kaler et al. 2011; Mallek and Dau 2011), though subspecies name is rarely mentioned. Habitat associations have been described from opportunistic sightings (e.g. Gibson and Byrd 2007 for the Aleutian Islands), but specific studies are lacking. Additional surveys are needed to study range limits and contact zones between *C. c. kamtschaticus* and *C. c. principalis*.

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

10

Not currently monitored.

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

2

On Alaska's North Slope, industrial development may have contributed to population increases by

creating suitable nest sites (tall structures) and increasing food availability (Powell and Backensto 2009). Other researchers have noted similar increases in local abundance in response to increased food availability (e.g. landfills, roadkill) in human-occupied areas (White 2006; Baltensperger et al. 2013). The availability of human food may benefit populations by increasing juvenile (Webb et al. 2004; Kristan and Boarman 2007) or overwinter survival (Preston 2005; Peebles and Conover 2017). At the same time, these "food bonanzas" can be detrimental to a population if they are monopolized by non-breeding individuals (Heinrich 1988; Bijlsma and ten Seldam 2013 and references therein). Little is known about factors that limit raven populations in remote areas with little human influence.

Action Total: 16

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:	Subspecies
% Global Range in Alaska:	<10%
% Global Population in Alaska:	<25%
Peripheral:	Yes

References

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