

Downy Woodpecker

Dryobates pubescens

Class: Aves

Order: Piciformes

Review Status: Peer-reviewed

Version Date: 31 July 2020

Note: Previously known as *Picooides pubescens*.

Conservation Status

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

Organization	Rank
NatureServe	G5/S5
ADF&G	Species of Greatest Conservation Need
IUCN	Least Concern

Final Rank

Conservation Category: **VII. Yellow**

Low status and either high biological vulnerability or high action need

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

Category	Range	Score
Status	-20 to 20	-6
Biological	-50 to 50	-20
Action	-40 to 40	16

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)

Long-term data (1993-2015) for the Northwestern Interior Forest Bird Conservation Region suggest stable population trends (Handel and Sauer 2017). Data elsewhere in this species' range are insufficient to estimate trends.

Score: -6

Distribution Trend in Alaska (-10 to 10)

Unknown.

Score: 0

Status Total: -6

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)

Unknown. This species is considered rare or uncommon throughout its range in Alaska (Handel et al. 2021). PIF (2019) estimates for this species are highly uncertainty; moreover, because PIF data are based on road surveys, they do not necessarily reflect off-road densities. To our knowledge, more robust data for estimating population size are not available.

Score: 0

Range Size in Alaska (-10 to 10)

Occurs year-round in forests across Alaska from Southeast Alaska to the Seward Peninsula (Jackson and Ouellet 2018). Considered uncommon or rare throughout its range in Alaska (Handel et al. 2021). Range size is estimated to be >400,000 sq. km, based on range map from ACCS (2017a).

Score: -10

Population Concentration in Alaska (-10 to 10)

Does not concentrate (Jackson and Ouellet 2018).

Score: -10

Reproductive Potential in Alaska

Age of First Reproduction (-5 to 5)

Unknown in Alaska. Elsewhere in its range, it breeds at two years old (Jackson and Ouellet 2018).

Score: -3

Number of Young (-5 to 5)

Unknown in Alaska. Elsewhere in North America, clutch size ranges from 3 to 8 eggs (Edworthy et al. 2011; Jackson and Ouellet 2018).

Score: 1

Ecological Specialization in Alaska

Dietary (-5 to 5)

Mainly consumes insects found in trees, including larvae and eggs. Seasonally consumes fruits and grain (Jackson and Ouellet 2018).

Score: 1

Habitat (-5 to 5)

Generally found in deciduous forests, mixedwood forests, and shrub thickets, often near rivers and streams (Petersen et al. 1991; Armstrong 2008; Johnson et al. 2008b; Jackson and Ouellet 2018).

Score: 1

Biological Total: -20

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).

Score: 2

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

General distribution and habitat associations known from multi-species surveys across its range (Johnson et al. 2008b; Ruthrauff and Tibbitts 2009; Guers 2013). Because this species is not commonly detected, it is difficult to use these data to study specific habitat associations.

Score: 2

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

Monitored across parts of its range as part of the Breeding Bird Survey. However, statewide trend data are unavailable and data are insufficient for estimating decadal trends (Handel and Sauer 2017).

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 size and distribution in Alaska.

Score: 10

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: Monotypic species

% Global Range in Alaska: >10%

% Global Population in Alaska: <25%

Peripheral: No

References

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