

Alder Flycatcher

Empidonax alnorum

Class: Aves

Order: Passeriformes

Review Status: Reviewed (general)

Version Date: 09 June 2022

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
Audubon Alaska	Watch
IUCN	Least Concern

Final Rank

Conservation Category: **II. Red**

High 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	-32
Action	-40 to 40	12

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)

Uncertain, but suspected to be declining. Negative long-term (1993-2015) trends were noted for the Northwestern Interior Bird Conservation Region (BCR; roughly equivalent to central Alaska), while long-term trends were stable in the Northern Pacific BCR (Southeast and southcoastal Alaska) (Handel and Sauer 2017). Short-term (2003-2015) trends were declining, but not statistically significant in both BCRs. The Alder Flycatcher is also listed as "suspected to be declining) on the Alaska Audubon Watchlist and has experienced a 37% decline in the U.S. from 1970 to 2014 (Warnock 2017c).

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)

Likely >25,000, based on estimates from PIF (2019) and Handel et al. (2009).

Score: -10

Range Size in Alaska (-10 to 10)

Breeds from Southeast Alaska to central and southwestern Alaska (Kessel and Gibson 1978; Lowther 1999). Estimated range size is >400,000 sq. km., based on range map from ACCS (2017a). Migrates to South America for the non-breeding season (Lowther 1999).

Score: -10

Population Concentration in Alaska (-10 to 10)

Does not concentrate.

Score: -10

Reproductive Potential in Alaska

Age of First Reproduction (-5 to 5)

Uncertain, but assumed to be breed at 1 year of age (Lowther 1999).

Score: -5

Number of Young (-5 to 5)

Unknown in Alaska. Elsewhere in its range, clutch size is typically 3 to 4 eggs and they are believed to only lay one clutch per year (Lowther 1999).

Score: 1

Ecological Specialization in Alaska

Dietary (-5 to 5)

Little information available. Diet consists primarily of aerial insects or insects gleaned from leaves; based on a stomach analysis, common insect orders included Hymenoptera, Coleoptera, and Diptera (Lowther 1999). Because invertebrates are an ephemeral and potentially unpredictable food source (e.g. Nebel et al. 2010), we rank this question as B-Moderately adaptable with key requirements common.

Score: 1

Habitat (-5 to 5)

Typically found in alder, willow, and other shrub thickets in riparian areas or wetlands (Spindler and Kessel 1980; Lowther 1999; Cotter and Andres 2000a; Johnson et al. 2008b). Less frequently found in spruce and mixedwood forests (Isleib and Kessel 1973; Lowther 1999).

Score: 1

Biological Total: -32

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 bird surveys conducted across large parts of its range in Alaska (e.g., Andres et al. 2004; Savage and Johnson 2013; Phillips et al. 2017; references in Habitat Specialization section). Additional research is needed to determine migratory routes and non-breeding range.

Score: 2

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

Data from on-road and off-road surveys are adequate for estimating short- and long-term 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 or the factors that limit its population in Alaska. Its distribution is closely tied to its habitat associations i.e., does not extend past shrubline. The factors contributing to its continental and regional declines are unknown.

Score: 10

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 species

% Global Range in Alaska: >10%

% Global Population in Alaska: <25%

Peripheral: No

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