Pacific-slope Flycatcher

Empidonax difficilis

Class: Aves
Order: Passeriformes

Review Status: Peer-reviewed **Version Date:** 15 December 2017

Conservation Status

NatureServe:	*Agency:*		
G Rank: G5	ADF&G: Species of Greatest Conservation Need	IUCN: Least Concern	Audubon AK:
S Rank: S4B	USFWS:	BLM:	

Final Rank

Conservation category: **IX. Blue**

low status and low biological vulnerability and action need

Category	Range	Score
Status	-20 to 20	-6
Biological	-50 to 50	-24
Action	-40 to 40	0

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) -6

Data from 2003 to 2015 indicate a stable to increasing trend for southeast Alaska (Handel and Sauer 2017). Long-term (1993-2015) data from the Breeding Bird Survey similarly suggest a small, positive trend (Handel and Sauer 2017).

Distribution Trend in Alaska (-10 to 10) 0

Unknown.

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). **Score**

Population Size in Alaska (-10 to 10) -10

Uncertain, but >25,000 (PIF 2019).

Range Size in Alaska (-10 to 10) -2

Summer resident only. Breeds from extreme southeast Alaska north to Yakutat (Isleib and Kessel 1973; Johnson et al. 2008b). Estimated range is ~85,000 sq. km, calculated in GIS and based on range map from ACCS (2017a).

Population Concentration in Alaska (-10 to 10) -10

Does not concentrate.

Reproductive Potential in Alaska

Age of First Reproduction (-5 to 5) -5

1 year (Lowther et al. 2016).

Number of Young (-5 to 5) 1

Usually 3 to 4 eggs per clutch (range: 1 to 5; Lowther et al. 2016). In more southern regions of its breeding range (e.g. California, Oregon), it can lay several clutches per season (Lowther et al. 2016); however, the degree to which this occurs in Alaska is unknown.

Ecological Specialization in Alaska

Dietary (-5 to 5) 1

Feeds almost exclusively on insects, including Hymenoptera, Diptera, Coleoptera, and Lepidoptera (Lowther et al. 2016). 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.

Habitat (-5 to 5) 1

Inhabits mature, coastal forests of the Pacific Northwest (Christie and Reimchen 2008; Kissling and Garton 2008; Lowther et al. 2016). Within this habitat type, it is common in both coniferous and mixedwood forests (Cotter and Andres 2000a; Andres et al. 2004; Johnson et al. 2008b) and appears to be most abundant in forests that are close to the shore or streams (Kessler and Kogut 1985; Lowther et al. 2016) and is far less abundant in young-growth forests (Kessler and Kogut 1985; Dellasala et al. 1996). Nests along streams on various substrates including cliffs, banks, tree cavities, in the crook of branches, and on building ledges (Lowther et al. 2016).

Biological Total: -24

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) -10

Fairly commonly detected during multi-species bird surveys in southeast Alaska (e.g. Andres et al. 2004; Johnson et al. 2008b; Kissling and Garton 2008; Handel and Sauer 2017). As such, its distribution and habitat associations are well-known (see references in Habitat Specialization section). Little is known about migration patterns (Lowther et al. 2016).

Knowledge of Population Trends in Alaska (-10 to 10) -2

Monitored by the Breeding Bird Survey and the Alaska Landbird Monitoring Survey across most of its range. Data are adequate for assessing population trends (Handel and Sauer 2017).

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

Little is known about the factors that limit this species in Alaska or elsewhere (Lowther et al. 2016). This species may be vulnerable to habitat loss and fragmentation resulting from logging, development, and modification of natural disturbance regimes (Dellasala et al. 1996; Kissling and Garton 2008).). Sperry et al. (2008) monitored daily nest survival in two forest buffer treatments, but small sample sizes preclude data analysis.

Action Total: 0

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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