

Common Yellowthroat

Geothlypis trichas

Class: Aves

Order: Passeriformes

Conservation Status

NatureServe: Agency:

G Rank: G5 BLM: IUCN: Least Concern Audubon AK:

S Rank: S4B USFWS: ADF&G: Species of Greatest Conservation Need

Final Rank		
Conservation category: VIII. Yellow		
VIII = low status and either high biological vulnerability or high action need		
<u>Category</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>Score</u>
Status:	-20 to 20	-6
Biological:	-50 to 50	-24
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
<i>Population Trend (-10 to 10)</i>	-6
Few data available. Analysis of long-term data (1993-2015) from Breeding Bird Surveys (BBS) indicate a stable trend (Handel and Sauer 2017). Data are insufficient for determining short-term (2003-2015) trends (Handel and Sauer 2017).	
<i>Distribution Trend (-10 to 10)</i>	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
<i>Population Size (-10 to 10)</i>	-10
Population size in Alaska is estimated at 96,000 individuals (95% CI: 33,000-180,000; PIF 2013).	
<i>Range Size (-10 to 10)</i>	-2
Found on mainland and islands from Glacier Bay south to British Columbia (Gibson and Withrow 2015). Although it has also been reported in the interior and southcoastal Alaska (Isleib and Kessel 1973; Kessel and Gibson 1978), breeding has not been confirmed. Overwintering range is unknown, but thought to be in the western U.S. and Mexico (Guzy and Ritchison 1999). Breeding range is ~41,000 sq. km., calculated in GIS and based on range maps from ACCS (2017a).	
<i>Population Concentration (-10 to 10)</i>	-10
Does not concentrate (Guzy and Ritchison 1999).	
<i>Reproductive Potential</i>	
<u>Age of First Reproduction (-5 to 5)</u>	-5
Few data available. In Texas, females can breed at 1 year old (Guzy and Richardson 1999).	

<u>Number of Young (-5 to 5)</u>	1
Few data available. A 5 egg clutch was found in Glacier Bay (Kessel and Gibson 1978). Elsewhere in its range, clutch size is typically 4 eggs, but ranges from 1 to 6 (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959; Guzy and Ritchison 1999).	
<i>Ecological Specialization</i>	
<u>Dietary (-5 to 5)</u>	1
Unknown for Alaska. Elsewhere in North America, eats adult and larval invertebrates obtained through gleaning (Guzy and Ritchison 1999). Main food items includes ants, spiders, flies, beetles, and bees (Guzy and Ritchison 1999).	
<u>Habitat (-5 to 5)</u>	1
In Alaska, distribution is restricted to riparian habitats (Smith et al. 2001; Johnson et al. 2008b). It is typically found in graminoid marshes and meadows near rivers, ponds, lakes, and estuaries (Webster 1950; Kessel and Gibson 1978; Johnson et al. 2008b; Heint and Piston 2009). The presence of shrub thickets seems to be an important habitat requirement (Webster 1950; Heint and Piston 2009) and is where nests are located (Johnson et al. 2008b).	
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
<u>Management Plans and Regulations (-10 to 10)</u>	2
Protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA 1918).	
<u>Knowledge of Distribution and Habitat (-10 to 10)</u>	2
Little is known about breeding distribution, though this species has been occasionally reported from multi-species surveys in southeast Alaska (e.g. Webster 1950; Smith et al. 2001; Johnson et al. 2008b; Heint and Piston 2009). Habitat associations have been described and are consistent across surveys (idem). Additional information is needed to determine the extent of its breeding distribution and its presence on islands, and to investigate subspecies designation and ranges. Information is also needed on migratory routes, which might explain sightings in southcoastal and interior Alaska (Isleib and Kessel 1973; Johnson et al. 2008b; Gibson and Withrow 2015).	
<u>Knowledge of Population Trends (-10 to 10)</u>	2
Detected in parts of its range on BBS routes. These data were used to assess long-term trends, but sample size was insufficient for conducting short-term analyses (Handel and Sauer 2017).	
<u>Knowledge of Factors Limiting Populations (-10 to 10)</u>	10
Little is known about the ecology of this species in Alaska and the factors that limit its population in Alaska or elsewhere. Factors that may potentially influence its population include inclement weather, nest predation, and brood parasitism (Guzy and Ritchison 1999).	
Action Total:	16

Supplemental Information - variables do not receive numerical scores. Instead, they that 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:	Yes

References

- Alaska Center for Conservation Science (ACCS). 2017a. Wildlife Data Portal. University of Alaska Anchorage. Available online: <http://aknhp.uaa.alaska.edu/apps/wildlife>
- Gabrielson, I. N., and F. C. Lincoln. 1959. *The Birds of Alaska*. The Stackpole Company, Harrisburg, PA, USA.
- Gibson, D. D., and J. J. Withrow. 2015. Inventory of the species and subspecies of Alaska birds, second edition. *Western Birds* 46(2):94–185.
- Guzy, M. J. and G. Ritchison. 1999. Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*), version 2.0. In Poole, A. F., and F. B. Gill, eds. *The Birds of North America*, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. DOI: 10.2173/bna.448
- Handel, C. M. and Sauer, J. R. 2017. Combined analysis of roadside and off-road breeding bird survey data to assess population change in Alaska. *The Condor* 119(3):557-575. DOI: 10.1650/CONDOR-17-67.1
- Heinl, S. C., and A. W. Piston. 2009. Birds of the Ketchikan area, southeast Alaska. *Western Birds* 40(2):54–144.
- Isleib, M. E., and B. Kessel. 1973. Birds of the north Gulf Coast- Prince William Sound region, Alaska. *Biological Papers of the University of Alaska* no. 14. University of Alaska Fairbanks, AK, USA.
- Johnson, J. A., B. A. Andres, and J. A. Bissonette. 2008b. Birds of the major mainland rivers of Southeast Alaska. General Technical Report PNW-GTR-739. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station, Portland, OR, USA.
- Kessel, B., and D. D. Gibson. 1978. Status and distribution of Alaska birds. *Studies in Avian Biology* No. 1. Allen Press, Lawrence, KS, USA.
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). 1918. U.S. Code Title 16 §§ 703-712 Migratory Bird Treaty Act.
- Partners in Flight (PIF). 2019. Population Estimates Database, version 3.0. Available online: <http://pif.birdconservancy.org/PopEstimates>. Accessed 09-April-2019.
- Smith, W. P., M. J. Stotts, B. A. Andres, J. M. Melton, A. Garibaldi, and K. Boggs. 2001. Bird, mammal, and vegetation community surveys of research natural areas in the Tongass National Forest. Research paper PNW-RP-535, U.S. Department of Agriculture, F
- Webster, J. D. 1950. Notes on the birds of Wrangell and vicinity, southeastern Alaska. *The Condor* 52(1):32-38. DOI: 10.2307/1364746

Review status: Peer-reviewed

Version date: 21 May 2019

Alaska Center for Conservation Science
Alaska Natural Heritage Program
University of Alaska Anchorage
Anchorage, AK