

Varied Thrush

Ixoreus naevius

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: S5B USFWS: BLM:

Final Rank		
Conservation category: VII. Yellow		
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	-35
Action	-40 to 40	12
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

Stable population trend, based on 2003-2015 data from roadside and off-road surveys in northwestern interior and southeast Alaska (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

>25,000. PIF (2019) estimates a population size of 23 million (95% CI: 15 to 32 million).

Range Size in Alaska (-10 to 10)

-8

Breeds throughout Alaska south of the Brooks Range, excluding the Aleutian Islands, and parts of the Seward Peninsula, the Alaska Peninsula, and coastal western Alaska (Kessel 1989; George 2000). Winters in coastal areas of southcentral Alaska, from the Kenai Peninsula and Prince William Sound to southeast Alaska (Isleib and Kessel 1973; George 2000). Wintering range is most restricted and is likely >100,000 sq. km. but <400,000 sq. km.

<i>Population Concentration in Alaska (-10 to 10)</i>	-10
Does not concentrate (George 2000).	
<i>Reproductive Potential in Alaska</i>	
<u>Age of First Reproduction (-5 to 5)</u>	-3
Breeds during second year (George 2000).	
<u>Number of Young (-5 to 5)</u>	1
Usually 3-4 eggs, but ranges from 1 to 5 (Kessel 1989; George 2000). Can have two broods per year (George 2000), but it is unknown whether this happens in Alaska.	
<i>Ecological Specialization in Alaska</i>	
<u>Dietary (-5 to 5)</u>	0
Few data available. In the summer, feeds on ground-dwelling arthropods and berries (George 2000). During winter, feeds on nuts, arthropods, fruits, and berries (George 2000). To our knowledge, dietary preferences have not been studied in Alaska and very few data are available elsewhere. We feel that the information available is too scant to assess dietary specialization and we therefore rank this question as 0- Unknown.	
<u>Habitat (-5 to 5)</u>	-5
During breeding, found in a variety of forest types including coastal rainforests, spruce forests, and tall shrub thickets (Kessel 1989; George 2000; Matsuoka and Handel 2007). Varied thrushes have been detected in a range of forest age stands, from succession to old-growth (Quinlan 1978; Kessler and Kogut 1985). Little is known about habitat use during the non-breeding season.	
Biological Total:	-35

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
<i>Management Plans and Regulations in Alaska (-10 to 10)</i>	2
Protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA 1918).	
<i>Knowledge of Distribution and Habitat in Alaska (-10 to 10)</i>	2
Distribution captured throughout its range by multi-species bird surveys, during which it is often commonly sighted (e.g. Spindler and Kessel 1980; Kessler and Kogut 1985; Andres et al. 2004; Tibbitts et al. 2006; Van Hemert et al. 2006; Ruthrauff et al. 2007). Additional studies are needed to determine fine-scale habitat associations in Alaska.	
<i>Knowledge of Population Trends in Alaska (-10 to 10)</i>	-2
Monitored by the Breeding Bird Survey and the Alaska Landbird Monitoring Survey in northwestern interior and southeast Alaska. Data are adequate for assessing population trends (Handel and Sauer 2017) and surveys capture a large portion of this species' range.	
<i>Knowledge of Factors Limiting Populations in Alaska (-10 to 10)</i>	10
Very little is known about the factors that regulate this population in Alaska. Because this species inhabits mature forests, it may be negatively affected by logging (George 2000). On Prince of Wales Island, Sperry et al. (2008) found that nest success was 14% lower in narrow forest buffers compared to wide ones, but this difference was not statistically significant. The Varied Thrush also had the lowest rates of nest survival of all the six songbird species that were studied. This species may be especially susceptible to nest predation by avian predators (Willson and Gende 2000; Sperry et al. 2008), and this predation may be higher in fragmented landscapes with narrower forest strips (Sperry	

et al. 2008).

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:	Year-round
Taxonomic Significance:	Monotypic genus
% Global Range in Alaska:	>10%
% Global Population in Alaska:	25-74%
Peripheral:	No

References

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