

**Short-billed Dowitcher**Class: Aves  
Order: Charadriiformes*Limnodromus griseus caurinus*Note: Only one subspecies, *L. g. caurinus*, occurs in Alaska.**Review Status:** Peer-reviewed**Version Date:** 28 March 2019**Conservation Status***NatureServe:*      *Agency:*

G Rank: G5      ADF&amp;G: Species of Greatest Conservation Need      IUCN: Least Concern      Audubon AK: Yellow

S Rank: S4S5B      USFWS: Bird of Conservation Concern      BLM: Watch

<b>Final Rank</b>		
Conservation category: <b>II. Red</b>		
high 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	-36
Action	-40 to 40	12
<b>Higher numerical scores denote greater concern</b>		

**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

Unknown, but suspected to be declining (ASG 2019).

*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

&gt;25,000. The global population is estimated at 75,000 individuals, of which 80% (~60,000) breed in Alaska (Andres et al. 2012a; ASG 2019).

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

-8

Breeds on the Alaska Peninsula and Lake Clark National Park (Gill et al. 1981; Amundson et al. 2018; Savage et al. 2018), through southcentral Alaska e.g. Cook Inlet, Kodiak Island (Gill and Tibbitts 1999; Jehl et al. 2001), Prince William Sound and the Copper River Delta (Isleib and Kessel 1973; Murphy 1981), south to Yakutat (Jehl et al. 2001; Gibson and Withrow 2015). Distribution in southeast Alaska (Johnson et al. 2008b) and southwestern Alaska north of the Alaska Peninsula

(Petersen et al. 1991) requires clarification. Overwinters in California and Central America (Jehl et al. 2001; Reed et al. 2018a). Estimated breeding range is ~200,000 sq. km., calculated in GIS.

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

-10

Concentrates in large flocks during migration. Thousands of individuals have been reported from Prince William Sound (Isleib and Kessel 1973), Yakutat (Andres and Browne 1998), and sites along Cook Inlet (Gill and Tibbitts 1999). Kachemak Bay historically supported a few hundreds to >1,000 individuals (Matz et al. 2011). Other sites supporting very large numbers of individuals have not been reported, and we therefore assume that number of sites >250.

*Reproductive Potential in Alaska*

Age of First Reproduction (-5 to 5)

-5

Unknown, but probably between 1 and 2 years old (Jehl et al. 2001).

Number of Young (-5 to 5)

1

Lays a single, 4-egg clutch per year (Murphy 1981; Jehl et al. 2001).

*Ecological Specialization in Alaska*

Dietary (-5 to 5)

1

Little is known about its diet in Alaska during breeding. Elsewhere in North America, diet consists primarily of freshwater invertebrates such as fly eggs and larvae, snails, and spiders; seeds and plant matter are occasionally consumed (Baker 1977; Jehl et al. 2001). Post-breeding, individuals in Alaska have been observed foraging on tidal flats and eating benthic organisms (Gibson 1970; Gill et al. 1981; Murphy 1981).

Habitat (-5 to 5)

-5

Found in tundra biomes and tundra-taiga ecotones (Jehl et al. 2001). During breeding, associated with wetlands including forested bogs, sloughs, shrub-dominated marshes, and graminoid wetlands (Murphy 1981; Gill and Tibbitts 1999; Savage et al. 2018). During migration, found in intertidal habitats such as mud and sand flats, islands, beaches, and rocky shorelines (Gibson 1970; Isleib and Kessel 1973; Gill et al. 1981; Gill and Tibbitts 1999).

Biological Total: -36

**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)*

-10

Protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA 1918). Closed to recreational and subsistence harvest (ADFG 2018e; AMBCC 2018). Although outside the scope of this question, data from Central America suggests that short-billed dowitchers are heavily harvested on wintering grounds (Ottema and Spaans 2008; Wege et al. 2014; Reed et al. 2018a); some of these individuals are suspected to come from Alaska (Reed et al. 2018a).

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

2

Distribution and habitat associations are somewhat known from multi-species surveys (Isleib and Kessel 1973; Gill and Tibbitts 1999; Amundson et al. 2018) and habitat studies (Murphy 1981; Savage et al. 2018). However, there are important gaps in our knowledge of the northern and southern limits of its breeding range. There is little documentation north of the Alaska Peninsula (Petersen et al. 1991) and its distribution in southeast Alaska is assumed (e.g. Johnson et al. 2008b), but requires clarification. Additional research is also needed to document migration routes (Jehl et al. 2001; Warnock et al. 2001; Ulman 2012).

<i>Knowledge of Population Trends in Alaska (-10 to 10)</i>	10
Although this species is occasionally detected during bird surveys (e.g. Ruthrauff and Tibbitts 2009; Savage et al. 2018, Breeding Bird Survey routes), multi-year data for assessing trends are unavailable. This species is difficult to distinguish from the long-billed dowitcher.	
<i>Knowledge of Factors Limiting Populations in Alaska (-10 to 10)</i>	10
To our knowledge, the factors that limit this population have not been identified in Alaska or elsewhere in its range.	
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.

<b>Harvest:</b>	None or Prohibited
<b>Seasonal Occurrence:</b>	Breeding
<b>Taxonomic Significance:</b>	Monotypic species
<b>% Global Range in Alaska:</b>	>10%
<b>% Global Population in Alaska:</b>	≥75%
<b>Peripheral:</b>	No

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