

Lincoln’s Sparrow

Melospiza lincolnii

Class: Aves

Order: Passeriformes

Review Status: Reviewed (general)

Version Date: 10 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
IUCN	Least Concern

Final Rank

Conservation Category: **VII. Yellow**

Low 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)

Data from on-road and off-road surveys suggest that Lincoln's Sparrows are increasing in the Northwestern Interior Forest Bird Conservation Region (BCR; roughly central Alaska) and stable in the Northern Pacific Rainforest BCR (Southeast and southcoastal Alaska; Handel and Sauer 2017).

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)

>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 north to the edge of the Brooks Range, west to the tip of the Alaska Peninsula, and east to Canada (Ammon 1995). Estimated range size is >400,000 sq. km, based on map from ACCS (2017a).

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)

Unknown, but thought to be 1 year (Ammon 1995).

Score: -5

Number of Young (-5 to 5)

Unknown in Alaska. In Colorado, lays a single clutch per year with an average of 4 eggs and a range from 3 to 5 (Ammon 1995).

Score: 1

Ecological Specialization in Alaska

Dietary (-5 to 5)

Consumes a variety of adult and larval arthropods including beetles, true flies, butterflies, and flies; may also consumes small seeds (Ammon 1995; Stephens and Anderson 2003). 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)

Often found along forest edges and in open areas with high abundances of grasses, mosses, or low willow shrubs. Associated with wet areas and water such as muskegs, swamps, freshwater and saltwater marshes, and riparian areas (Spindler and Kessel 1980; Cotter and Andres 2000a; Van Hemert et al. 2006; Johnson et al. 2008b). Nests on the ground often in tall grass or at the base of shrubs or trees (Ammon 1995).

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)

Distribution and habitat associations generally known from multi-species bird surveys throughout much of its range (e.g., Phillips et al. 2017; Amundson et al. 2018; citations in Habitat Specialization section). Additional research is needed to determine migratory routes and wintering grounds.

Score: 2

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

Data are adequate for estimating short- and long-term population 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 and the factors that limit its population in Alaska. In Juneau, Willson and Gende (2000) reported high levels of nest success compared to other populations outside of Alaska. Ammon (1995) speculated that adult mortality is probably highest during migration and on wintering grounds, but additional demographic data are needed. Research is also needed to determine how wetland drying will affect this species' distribution (Mizel et al. 2016).

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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