

Northern Wheatear

Oenanthe oenanthe

Class: Aves

Order: Passeriformes

Review Status: Peer-reviewed

Version Date: 13 July 2020

Conservation Status

Table 1 Conservation status according to state, national, and international organizations and agencies.

Organization	Rank
NatureServe	G5/S5B
ADF&G	Species of Greatest Conservation Need
IUCN	Least Concern

Final Rank

Conservation Category: **V. Orange**

High 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	0
Biological	-50 to 50	-28
Action	-40 to 40	24

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)

Unknown.

Score: 0

Distribution Trend in Alaska (-10 to 10)

Unknown.

Score: 0

Status Total: 0

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)

Population in Alaska is estimated at 78,000, with high uncertainty (95% CI: 17,000-190,000; PIF 2019). We therefore rank this question as, "Unknown, but suspected large."

Score: -6

Range Size in Alaska (-10 to 10)

Breeds across much of interior Alaska including the Alaska Range and the Talkeetna Mountains, east to the Yukon border and west to the Askinuk Mountains near Point Romanzof (Kren and Zoerb 2020). Also breeds in the Kenai and Chugach Mountains, and on the Seward Peninsula north through the Brooks Range (Kessel 1989). Despite its large range, Armstrong (2008) lists this species as uncommon in central, western, and northern Alaska, rare in southcoastal, and casual in southwestern Alaska. Estimated range >400,000 sq. km, based on range 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)

Breeding data unavailable for Alaska. Elsewhere in its range, breeds at 1 year (Kren and Zoerb 2020).

Score: -5

Number of Young (-5 to 5)

Clutch size in Alaska ranges from 5-8 eggs (Kessel 1989).

Score: 1

Ecological Specialization in Alaska

Dietary (-5 to 5)

Feeds primarily on insects, which it catches on the ground (Kren and Zoerb 2020). It has been reported eating a wide range of insect families, including beetles, true flies, and hymenopterans (Kren and Zoerb 2020). Its diet in late summer and fall also includes berries. Little data exists for Alaska, though it has been observed consuming insects, grass seeds, and saxifrage fruits (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959). 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)

Inhabits boulder fields, rock outcrops, and ridges above the timberline of foothills and mountain tops. Nests are placed within rock crevices and rubble (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959; Kessel 1989; Tibbitts et al. 2006; Armstrong 2008; Gibson 2011).

Score: 1

Biological Total: -28

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 are only broadly known from a few surveys and descriptions (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959; Kessel 1989; Tibbitts *et al.* 2006).

Score: 2

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

Not currently monitored.

Score: 10

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

Some studies have considered various aspects of its migration (e.g., Bairlein et al. 2012; Schmaljohann *et al.* 2012; Bulte and Bairlein 2013). However, little is known about the factors that limit its population size and distribution in Alaska.

Score: 10

Action Total: 24

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

References

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