

Fox Sparrow, Valdez

Class: Aves
Order: Passeriformes

Passerella iliaca sinuosa

Note: This assessment refers to this subspecies only. A species level report, which refers to all associated subspecies, is also available.

Review Status: Peer-reviewed

Version Date: 28 March 2019

Conservation Status

NatureServe: Agency:

G Rank: ADF&G:

IUCN:

Audubon AK:

S Rank: USFWS:

BLM:

Final Rank		
Conservation category: V. Orange		
unknown status and either high biological vulnerability or high action need		
<u>Category</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>Score</u>
Status	-20 to 20	0
Biological	-50 to 50	-20
Action	-40 to 40	24
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)

0

Unknown.

Distribution Trend in Alaska (-10 to 10)

0

Unknown.

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).

Score

Population Size in Alaska (-10 to 10)

0

Unknown.

Range Size in Alaska (-10 to 10)

-2

Breeds on the Kenai Peninsula (Gabrielson 1944, Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959), Middleton Island (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959, Gibson and Withrow 2015), and Cook Inlet (Gibson and Withrow 2015) east through Prince William Sound (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959, Gibson and Withrow 2015) to Cape Yakataga (Gibson and Withrow 2015). Breeding range is approximately 43,000 sq. km (calculated in GoogleMaps). Overwinters in southern California (Weckstein et al. 2002).

<i>Population Concentration in Alaska (-10 to 10)</i>	-10
No subspecies specific information, likely same as species: Does not concentrate during breeding and is not known to gather in large flocks during migration (Weckstein et al. 2002).	
<i>Reproductive Potential in Alaska</i>	
<u>Age of First Reproduction (-5 to 5)</u>	-5
No subspecies specific information, likely same as species: Unknown, but assumed to be <2 years (Johnson and Anderson 2004).	
<u>Number of Young (-5 to 5)</u>	1
No subspecies specific information, likely same as species: Little information available, but clutch sizes of 3 to 4 eggs are commonly reported in Alaska (Willett 1920; Bailey 1927; Petersen et al. 1991; Rogers 1994) and elsewhere (Weckstein et al. 2002). Double-brooding was reported in Juneau by Rogers (1994), but this behavior has not been well-documented in Alaska. Double-brooding does occur on Mandarte Island in southern B.C. (Vistry et al. 2018).	
<i>Ecological Specialization in Alaska</i>	
<u>Dietary (-5 to 5)</u>	-5
No subspecies specific information, likely same as species: Few data available for Alaska. Elsewhere in its range, fox sparrows are omnivorous and their diet changes with availability (reviewed in Weckstein et al. 2002). Consumes a variety of invertebrates (e.g. beetles, millipedes, spiders), seeds, and berries (Weckstein et al. 2002).	
<u>Habitat (-5 to 5)</u>	1
Tall shrubs; dense growth near bluffs (Rausch 1958).	
Biological Total:	-20

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
Habitat associations and distribution generally known (Weckstein et al. 2002). Range limits are poorly known.	
<i>Knowledge of Population Trends in Alaska (-10 to 10)</i>	10
Not currently monitored.	
<i>Knowledge of Factors Limiting Populations in Alaska (-10 to 10)</i>	10
No subspecies specific information, likely same as species: Very little is known about the factors that limit its population dynamics in Alaska or elsewhere. Potential factors include heavy snow on breeding grounds, inclement weather during migration or winter, nest predation, and competition (Johnson and Anderson 2004; Johnson et al. 2018c; Vistry et al. 2018), but few data exist to support or refute these suggestions. Analyses of long-term data (1995- 2013) from Denali National Park found that fox sparrows have expanded their distribution to include both lower and higher elevation areas (Mizel et al. 2016), which may account for the observed increased in fox sparrow abundance in the park (Schmidt et al. 2013; Mizel et al. 2016). Using a related dataset, Mizel et al. (2017) also noticed that there was less variation between individuals in the timing of arrival on breeding grounds. Additional research is needed to understand what is driving this pattern. One explanation proposed	

by the authors is that population increases may have intensified competition for breeding territories. Several papers have considered the evolution and genetics of fox sparrow species and subspecies (e.g. Burns and Zink 1990; Zink 1994; Zink and Weckstein 2003).

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:	Subspecies
% Global Range in Alaska:	>10%
% Global Population in Alaska:	Endemic
Peripheral:	No

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