

American Golden-Plover*Pluvialis dominica*Class: Aves
Order: Charadriiformes**Review Status:** Peer-reviewed**Version Date:** 09 February 2018**Conservation Status***NatureServe:**Agency:*

G Rank: G5

ADF&G: Species of Greatest Conservation Need

IUCN: Least Concern

Audubon AK: Red

S Rank: S5B

USFWS:

BLM: Watch

Final RankConservation 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	-33
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)*

0

Unknown for Alaska. Suspected to be declining in eastern North America (Andres et al. 2012a).

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)*

-10

>25,000. The size of the Alaskan breeding population is estimated at 282,249 (95% CI: 116,287-448,211) (Bart and Smith 2012, qtd. in Andres et al. 2012a).

Range Size in Alaska (-10 to 10)

-10

Widely distributed in Alaska. Breeds from the central Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta north to the North Slope and east to the Canadian border (Johnson et al. 2018a). A disjunct population also breeds in southwestern Alaska north of Lake Clark National Park (Bennett 1996; Johnson et al. 2018a). Estimated breeding range >400,000 sq. km. Overwinters in South America.

Population Concentration in Alaska (-10 to 10)

-10

In most cases, individuals are dispersed on the landscape and are only seen singly or in small groups

(Kessel 1989; Gill and Handel 1990; Taylor et al. 2010; Yezerinac et al. 2013). However, individuals can concentrate in large numbers during migration (Kessel 1989; Clay et al. 2010). For example, 1,000 individuals have been observed in the Mendenhall Wetlands in southeast Alaska during migration (Clay et al. 2010). Other sites that support high concentrations of birds have not been identified. Given the plover's large range, large population size, and comparatively small group size, the number of sites is likely >250. We therefore rank this question as D.

Reproductive Potential in Alaska

Age of First Reproduction (-5 to 5)

0

May be able to breed in their first year (like the Pacific golden-plover, *Pluvialis fulva*), but data are lacking (Johnson et al. 2018a).

Number of Young (-5 to 5)

1

Typically lays one 4-egg clutch per year (Kessel 1989; Yezerinac et al. 2013; Johnson et al. 2018a; Weiser et al. 2018a). A clutch containing fewer than four eggs probably indicates partial depredation or a replacement clutch (Johnson et al. 2018a). Replacement laying in this species and in Pacific Golden-Plover has been documented (see Johnson et al. 2008d; Naves et al. 2008).

Ecological Specialization in Alaska

Dietary (-5 to 5)

-5

Few data are available for Alaska. On breeding grounds, feeds mainly on terrestrial insects, but also on freshwater and marine invertebrates, and berries (Kessel 1989; Johnson et al. 2018a).

Habitat (-5 to 5)

1

Breeds on the tundra on dry, well-drained lowlands and uplands including slopes, hills, and ridges (Kessel 1989; Johnson et al. 2007a; Liebezeit et al. 2011; Johnson et al. 2018a). Vegetation is usually sparse and low-lying e.g. grasslands, dwarf-shrub meadows, and rocky slopes (Kessel 1989; Bennett 1996; Johnson et al. 2001b; Johnson et al. 2018a). After breeding, they move to wetter habitats such as moist dwarf-shrub tundra, tidal flats, salt marshes, and estuaries (Kessel 1989; Taylor et al. 2010; Johnson et al. 2018a).

Biological Total: -33

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 harvesting (ADFG 2018e; AMBCC 2018).

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

2

Distribution and habitat associations are well-known in northern Alaska (e.g. Johnson et al. 2001b; Brown et al. 2007; Johnson et al. 2007a; Liebezeit et al. 2011; Andres et al. 2012b; Saalfeld et al. 2013b; Cunningham et al. 2016), but less understood in southwestern and interior Alaska (Bennett 1996; Johnson et al. 2018a). During migration, this species has been reported from Yakutat (Andres and Browne 1998), upper Cook Inlet (Gill and Tibbits 1999), the central YKD (Gill and Handel 1990), and the Arctic coast (Taylor et al. 2010). However, additional data are needed to identify migration patterns, including important stop-over and staging sites.

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

10

There is currently no monitoring program in place in Alaska that can provide data on population trends. Recent efforts such as PRISM surveys are promising, but this program is still in its infancy

and multi-year trend data are not available (Bart et al. 2012). Until such data become available, we rank this question as A- Not currently monitored.

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

10

Little is known about the factors that limit population dynamics. While some data on survival rates are available, the factors influencing survival are unknown. As a proxy for annual survival, return rates of 57% and 80% have been reported for the North Slope and the Seward Peninsula, respectively (Moitoret et al. 1996, qtd. in Johnson et al. 2001b; Johnson et al. 2001b), but no further data are available. Hunting and habitat loss on migration and overwintering grounds may pose a threat, but additional data are needed (Clay et al. 2010; Watts et al. 2015; Reed et al. 2018a). With respect to reproductive success, Weiser et al. (2018b) estimated a nest survival rate of 52% on breeding grounds across the Alaskan and Canadian Arctic. Clutch size and daily nest survival showed no relationship to temperature, timing of snowmelt, or abundance of foxes or small mammals (Weiser et al. 2018b). In another study, nest survival was also not related to nest re-use by adults and additional studies are needed to determine whether nest sites are limited (Herzog et al. 2018). Although organic and inorganic contaminants have been detected in eggs, levels are not thought to have an adverse effect on individuals or populations (Saalfeld et al 2016), with the possible exception of mercury (Perkins et al. 2016).

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:	25-74%
Peripheral:	No

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