

Gray-headed Chickadee

Poecile cinctus

Class: Aves
Order: Passeriformes

Conservation Status

NatureServe: Agency:

G Rank: G5 BLM: Sensitive IUCN: Least Concern Audubon AK: Red

S Rank: S3 USFWS: ADF&G: Species of Greatest Conservation Need

Final Rank		
Conservation category: II. Red		
II = high status and either high biological vulnerability or high action need		
<u>Category</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>Score</u>
Status:	-20 to 20	12
Biological:	-50 to 50	-20
Action:	-40 to 40	40
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
<i>Population Trend (-10 to 10)</i>	6
Suspected to be declining in Alaska (Warnock 2017a; T. Booms, pers. comm.). This species is also declining throughout its Eurasian range (BirdLife International 2016b).	
<i>Distribution Trend (-10 to 10)</i>	6
Compared to historical distribution records, their range is thought to be decreasing (T. Booms, pers. comm.).	
Status Total:	12

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
<i>Population Size (-10 to 10)</i>	6
According to Audobon Alaska, population is <5000 (Warnock 2017a). Travis Booms (ADF&G, pers. comm.) estimates a few hundred to a few thousands individuals. Given the uncertainty in population size, we rank this question as B- Unknown, but suspected small.	
<i>Range Size (-10 to 10)</i>	-8
Breeds and overwinters in western and central Alaska (Armstrong 2008). Its distribution in Alaska is uncertain, but it is thought to occur along the southern edge of the Brooks Range east to Canada (Hailman and Haftorn 1995). Older records suggest it may also occur in interior Alaska between the upper Tanana and Yukon rivers (Hailman and Haftorn 1995). May range as far south as the Nulato Hills (T. Booms, qtd. in Woodford 2012). Estimated range size is ~340,000 sq. km, calculated in GIS and based on range map from ACCS (2017a).	
<i>Population Concentration (-10 to 10)</i>	-10
Does not concentrate. Stays in small flocks in the winter (Hailman and Haftorn 1995).	
<i>Reproductive Potential</i>	
<u>Age of First Reproduction (-5 to 5)</u>	-5

Can likely breed within their first year (Hailman and Haftorn 1995).

Number of Young (-5 to 5) 1

Few data available. Females lay one clutch per year with 6 to 10 eggs (Hailman and Haftorn 1995). Replacement clutches are possible, but tend to be smaller than the initial clutch (Hailman and Haftorn 1995).

Ecological Specialization

Dietary (-5 to 5) -5

Few data available. Eats conifer seeds and a variety of invertebrates such as flies, beetles, larval moths, spiders, and snails (Hailman and Haftorn 1995).

Habitat (-5 to 5) 1

Few data available for Alaska. Across its range, inhabits boreal, and particularly spruce, forests near the treeline (Hailman and Haftorn 1995). Appears to be most common in open canopy forests and tall shrub thickets (Hailman and Haftorn 1995). Nests are constructed in natural or abandoned tree cavities, and nest boxes where available (Hailman and Haftorn 1995).

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

Management Plans and Regulations (-10 to 10) 10

No management plans are in place for this species.

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

This species is very infrequently detected during surveys (Tibbitts et al. 2006; Woodford 2012). Consequently, there is very little knowledge on its distribution and only anecdotal information on habitat associations in Alaska (Hailman and Haftorn 1995; Booms, qtd. in Woodford 2012).

Knowledge of Population Trends (-10 to 10) 10

Not currently monitored.

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

Very little is known about this species in Alaska. In northern Europe, habitat loss due to logging and competition with other tit species have been proposed to explain the decline in populations (Jarvinen 1982; Virkkala and Liehu 1990; Dale and Andreassen 2016). Logging is not a problem within its Alaskan range (Hailman and Haftorn 1995).

Action Total: 40

Supplemental Information - variables do not receive numerical scores. Instead, they that are used to sort taxa to answer specific biological or management questions.

Harvest: None or Prohibited
Seasonal Occurrence: Year-round
Taxonomic Significance: Monotypic species
% Global Range in Alaska: >10%
% Global Population in Alaska: Unknown
Peripheral: No

References

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