

## Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*grinnelli*)

Class: Aves  
Order: Passeriformes

*Regulus calendula grinnelli*

Note: This assessment refers to this subspecies only.

**Review Status:** Peer-reviewed

**Version Date:** 09 May 2019

### Conservation Status

NatureServe: Agency:

G Rank: ADF&G:

IUCN:

Audubon AK:

S Rank: USFWS:

BLM:

Final Rank		
Conservation category: <b>VII. Yellow</b>		
low status and either high biological vulnerability or high action need		
<u>Category</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>Score</u>
Status	-20 to 20	-6
Biological	-50 to 50	-20
Action	-40 to 40	12
<b>Higher numerical scores denote greater concern</b>		

**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)*

-6

Data from both Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) and off-road surveys suggest the short-term (2003-2015) trend is stable (Handel and Sauer 2017). Long-term trends (1993-2015) based only on BBS data also indicate a stable population (Handel and Sauer 2017).

*Distribution Trend in Alaska (-10 to 10)*

0

Unknown.

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).

**Score**

*Population Size in Alaska (-10 to 10)*

0

Unknown. Two subspecies occur in the state, *R. c. calendula* and *R. c. grinnelli*. PIF (2019) estimates the statewide population at 9.7 million (95% CI: 7 to 13 million), but population size is unknown at the subspecies level and *R. c. grinnelli* is restricted to southeast Alaska (see Range section).

*Range Size in Alaska (-10 to 10)*

-8

Breeds from southeast Alaska to Cook Inlet (Swanson et al. 2008; Gibson and Withrow 2015). Most of the population overwinters further south, though it has been infrequently observed in the winter in

southern Alaska (Kessel and Gibson 1978). Breeding range is ~130,000 sq. km.

*Population Concentration in Alaska (-10 to 10)* -10

Does not concentrate (Swanson et al. 2008).

*Reproductive Potential in Alaska*

Age of First Reproduction (-5 to 5) -5

Breeds within its first summer (Swanson et al. 2008).

Number of Young (-5 to 5) 1

Unknown for Alaska, and limited information available elsewhere. Average clutch size for *R. c. grinnelli* was 9.8 +/- 1.2 eggs (n=15), with a range from 7-12 (Swanson et al. 2008). Lays a single clutch per year (Swanson et al. 2008).

*Ecological Specialization in Alaska*

Dietary (-5 to 5) 1

Largely insectivorous. Few data available for Alaska. Consumes mainly invertebrates such as spiders, beetles, ants, wasps, and caterpillars; fruits and seeds are also consumed, but only in small amounts (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959; Swanson et al. 2008).

Habitat (-5 to 5) 1

Found in a variety of coniferous and mixedwood forests, including wetlands and edge habitats (Isleib and Kessel 1973; Spindler and Kessel 1980; Cotter and Andres 2000a; Johnson et al. 2008b; Heinl and Piston 2009). Occasionally found in shrublands (Johnson et al. 2008b; Heinl and Piston 2009). Appears to prefer open and mature spruce forests (Cotter and Andres 2000a; Lance and Howell 2000; Matsuoka and Handel 2007; Handel and Sauer 2017).

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 in Alaska (-10 to 10)* 2

Protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA 1918).

*Knowledge of Distribution and Habitat in Alaska (-10 to 10)* 2

Detected during multi-species surveys in southeast (e.g. Cotter and Andres 2000a; Johnson et al. 2008b; Heinl and Piston 2009; Handel and Sauer 2017) and southcoastal Alaska (Isleib and Kessel 1973; Matsuoka et al. 2001; Matsuoka and Handel 2007), with knowledge of habitat associations (see Habitat section). However, additional surveys and specimens are needed to determine range delineation. Ranges likely overlap in southcentral near Cook Inlet.

*Knowledge of Population Trends in Alaska (-10 to 10)* -2

Monitored along BBS routes and off-road surveys (Handel and Sauer 2017). Data are adequate for estimating short-term and long-term trends in Alaska's Northern Pacific Rainforest Bird Conservation Region (Handel and Sauer 2017).

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

Little is known about the ecology of this species and the factors that limit its population dynamics in Alaska or elsewhere. Willson and Gende (2000) reported high rates of nesting success in southeast Alaska, and significant differences between egg and fledgling survival rates, but their study did not allow them to identify factors that may influence reproductive success. Lower densities in forest

stands infested by spruce bark beetles were observed on the Kenai Peninsula (Lance and Howell 2000) and the Copper River Delta (Matsuoka et al. 2001). Other disturbances leading to the loss of mature, coniferous forests, including wildfires, logging, and urbanization, may similarly affect densities of ruby-crowned kinglets on breeding and wintering grounds (Kissling and Garton 2008; Swanson et al. 2008; Kalinowski and Johnson 2010; MacGregor-Fors et al. 2010). Additional research is needed on the effects of weather and climate change, which may affect migration phenology (Mizel et al. 2017) and increase suitable breeding habitat at the northern edge of its range (Marcot et al. 2015). The kinglet's distribution in Denali National Park has remained relatively stable from 1995 to 2013, despite shrub habitats expanding into higher latitudes (Mizel et al. 2016). On wintering grounds, severe winter weather have been linked to lower abundances at local and continental scales (Lepthien and Bock 1976; Laurenzi et al. 1982).

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.

<b>Harvest:</b>	None or Prohibited
<b>Seasonal Occurrence:</b>	Breeding
<b>Taxonomic Significance:</b>	Subspecies
<b>% Global Range in Alaska:</b>	>10%
<b>% Global Population in Alaska:</b>	25-74%
<b>Peripheral:</b>	No

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