

COMMON BIRDS IN DECLINE

*A State of the Birds Report
Summer 2007*

Many of our most common and characteristic birds are experiencing precipitous population declines. By analyzing forty years of bird population data collected by citizen scientists for Audubon's Christmas Bird Count and the Breeding Bird Survey data from the U.S. Geological Survey, Audubon has identified our nation's most vulnerable common birds. Additional analyses focused on state level trends. Some mirror the national picture, while others reveal local and regional differences. The birds below are suffering the most serious population declines in Colorado. Along with their national *Common Birds in Decline* list mates, they showcase the need for protecting local habitats and the health of our environment. With education and involvement, we can make both happen. Visit <http://stateofthebirds.audubon.org/CBID> for the national findings.

COLORADO'S VULNERABLE COMMON BIRDS

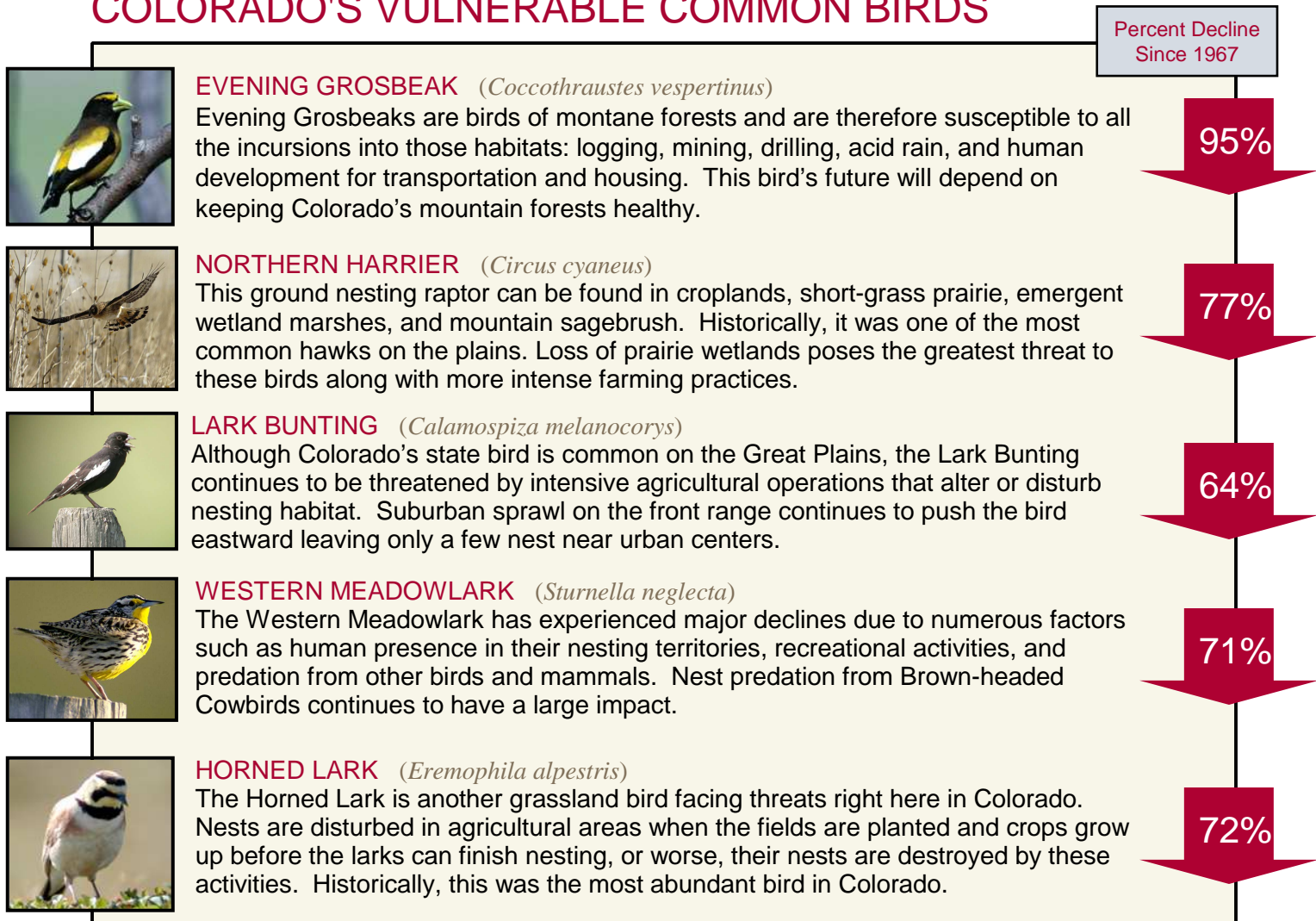
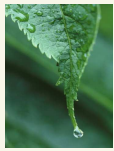


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COLORADO HABITATS AT RISK

Colorado's sagebrush, prairies, mountain forests, and rivers host some of the highest diversity of breeding birds in the interior United States. Diverse species of birds are attracted to Colorado because of the variety of habitats found in the state, from the short prairie grasslands of the eastern plains to montaine forests to the sagebrush ecosystems on the Western Slope. However, Colorado's critical bird habitats face a number of threats. Prairie habitat is being degraded from increased development and intensive agriculture. Increased energy development and mismanaged grazing puts sagebrush in jeopardy.



WHAT AUDUBON COLORADO IS DOING

Coloradans care deeply about birds and their habitat. Audubon Colorado is working with individuals and groups across the state to monitor bird populations, protect valuable habitat and educate people on critical issues impacting birds.

Under our Important Bird Areas (IBA) program, we have used research to identify 55 critical bird habitats across the state. We have been working directly with our chapters, through our Adopt-an-IBA program, to promote local conservation of these areas. Audubon and its members use the information from IBA designation to inform future land management and development decision making.

Audubon Colorado also works with the Colorado state legislature to promote the protection of valuable bird species and habitat. We are the only environmental organization in the state that works specifically on policy issues related to birds and wildlife at the Capitol. Also, in conjunction with our statewide membership and 11 local chapters, we are able to activate a large network of members to take action on critical political issues, greatly increasing our ability to promote legislation protective of birds and their habitat..

Audubon Colorado works with state and federal agencies and organizations to promote important initiatives that will protect birds and habitat on a regional scale. We have advocated nationwide for support of an update of the Farm Bill that is fully funded and more protective of birds and habitat. We have worked cooperatively with the Division of Wildlife to create statewide plans that are more protective of birds and habitat. We continue to collaborate with landowners, industries, and government agencies to create plans and policies that protect wildlife.

Finally, through our Audubon At Home "Wildscapes" program, Audubon works with individual landowners, developers and businesses to promote smaller-scale landscaping that is bird friendly.



WHAT YOU CAN DO

Coloradans can help keep common birds common in a variety of ways.

Probably the most critical thing you can do is to get informed about issues and policies that impact critical bird species and habitats in Colorado. Our website offers a wealth of up-to-date information on critical issues impacting wildlife.

The next step you can take is to get involved. You can make a difference by supporting agencies and organizations like Audubon that protect birds and habitat. You can personally impact birds and habitat in Colorado by becoming involved in campaigns that impact state and local conservation policies. You can learn about local birding issues and activities through involvement in our statewide network of 11 chapters. For more information on the chapter nearest to you, go to our website at www.auduboncolorado.org.

Volunteers can play a critical role in helping us determine bird population trends by taking part in bird monitoring projects. Participating in the Christmas Bird Count and the Great Backyard Bird Count are important ways to help ornithologists track bird populations. Additionally, volunteers can participate locally by "adopting an IBA," providing on the ground protection of critical bird habitats.

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