

The 2007 WatchList for United States Birds

# WatchList



**Immature Red-headed Woodpecker  
(*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*).  
Photo/Ardith Bondi**

Here we present the 2007 WatchList for United States birds. We present this list in hopes that it will help prioritize conservation efforts in the United States and in other countries that also host these species. Our WatchList includes three related lists (see Appendix 1): 1) Species of Highest National Concern (or Red WatchList; 59 species), 2) Declining Species (or Yellow WatchList, in part; 49 species), and 3) Rare Species (or Yellow WatchList, in part; 70 species). Species are assessed on the basis of four factors: population size, range size, threats, and population trend (for more detail, see below under Species Assessment). Species that score high in all four categories are of highest national concern, species that score high for threats and population trend go on the list of declining species, and species that score high for population and range size are categorized as rare. Our main list consists of species found in the 49 continental states; we maintain separate lists for Hawaii and for Puerto Rico/Virgin Islands, but these are not presented here.

Lists of birds of conservation concern have been created for decades. Perhaps the best known of such lists is the United States

**Gregory S. Butcher<sup>1</sup>, Daniel K. Niven<sup>2</sup>, Arvind O. Panjabi<sup>3</sup>,  
David N. Pashley<sup>4</sup>, and Kenneth V. Rosenberg<sup>5</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> National Audubon Society, 1150 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20036; [gbutcher@audubon.org](mailto:gbutcher@audubon.org)

<sup>2</sup> National Audubon Society and Illinois Natural History Survey, 607 East Peabody Drive, Champaign, IL 61820; [DNIVEN@audubon.org](mailto:DNIVEN@audubon.org)

<sup>3</sup> Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, 230 Cherry Street, Fort Collins, CO 80521; [arvind.panjabi@rmbo.org](mailto:arvind.panjabi@rmbo.org)

<sup>4</sup> American Bird Conservancy, P.O. Box 249, The Plains, VA 20198; [dpashley@abcbirds.org](mailto:dpashley@abcbirds.org)

<sup>5</sup> Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, NY 14850; [kvr2@cornell.edu](mailto:kvr2@cornell.edu)

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**Gregory S. Butcher** is Director of Bird Conservation for the National Audubon Society. He has a Ph.D. in Zoology from the University of Washington. Butcher previously served as Director of Bird Population Studies at Cornell University's Laboratory of Ornithology and is an elective member of the American Ornithologists' Union.

**Daniel K. Niven** is Audubon's Senior Scientist for Bird Conservation. Previously he directed Audubon's Important Bird Program, where he guided the development of IBA criteria and helped launch state IBA programs. Niven, who received his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois, brings to Audubon a lifelong interest in birds and conservation, having participated in CBCs since he was a toddler.

**Arvind O. Panjabi** is director of the International Program at the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory in Colorado, where he focuses on grassland and forest bird conservation in Mexico. He also manages the Partners in Flight Species Assessment Database, an international online database of conservation status assessment scores and related information for U.S., Canadian, and Mexican birds.

**David N. Pashley** is Vice-President for Conservation Programs at American Bird Conservancy. Previously, he received a Ph.D. in Wildlife and Fisheries from Louisiana State University and worked for several years for The Nature Conservancy in Louisiana. He was National Coordinator for Partners in Flight for six years and United States Coordinator for the North American Bird Conservation Initiative for four years.

**Kenneth V. Rosenberg** is Director of Conservation Science at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and is also Chair of Partners in Flight's International Science Committee. With a Ph.D. from Louisiana State University, Ken is a lifelong birder and has studied birds in Peru, Mexico, and throughout the United States.

Endangered Species List (<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/wildlife.html>), which carries the force of law. Most such lists, including this WatchList, are merely advisory. We have long been concerned that there are too many different lists with similar purposes, so here we combine the efforts of two organizations that formerly published separate lists—National Audubon Society (<http://www.audubon.org/bird/watchlist/>) and American Bird Conservancy (ABC) (<http://www.abcbirds.org/greenlist.htm>). In addition, we propose steps to unify our list with other U.S. lists and to adopt a process by which international, continental, national, regional, and state lists can relate to each other appropriately.

This list is based primarily on the Partners in Flight (PIF) approach to species assessment for several reasons: because the authors know it best, because it has been peer-reviewed (Carter et al. 2000, Beissinger et al. 2000) and improved as a result of that peer review (Panjabi et al. 2005), and because we have been able to score all U.S. species using this system. However, we know that there are experts who prefer modifications to this system, and we hope to work with them to obtain a consensus approach prior to the next edition of the WatchList. Although heavily influenced by the PIF process, this is not an official exercise of PIF or the PIF Science Committee.

### Red WatchList: Highest National Concern

The Red WatchList, the list of species of highest national concern, is essentially a list of globally threatened birds that occur in the United States. The World Conservation Union (IUCN) is responsible for creating Red lists of globally threatened species; they have delegated the authority for the bird list to BirdLife International (<http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/species/index.html>). Categories for globally threatened birds include Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable, and Near Threatened. Of the 59 Red WatchList birds, 42 are in one of the four IUCN categories (Table

1): five critical, 10 endangered, 15 vulnerable, and 12 near threatened. Seventeen of our Red WatchList species are considered of least concern by BirdLife. On the other hand, 25 species listed by BirdLife (17 of them near threatened, the least-threatened category) are not on our Red WatchList; all but three of them are listed in one of our other two categories.



**Bathing Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus sasin*). Photo/Jackie Allison**

Only Northern Bobwhite, Ferruginous Hawk, and Cassin's Finch are considered as near threatened by BirdLife but remain unlisted by us. (Northern Bobwhite was the number one common bird in decline in a recent article in *Audubon* magazine [Butcher 2007], showing that we share with IUCN/BirdLife a major concern for its population decline.) CBC data show stable populations for Cassin's Finch, lending a little less weight to the population declines shown on the Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) (Butcher and Niven 2007). Both BBS and CBC show increasing populations for Ferruginous Hawk, suggesting that it should be delisted at this time (Sauer et al. 2005; Butcher and Niven 2007).

Given that the lists are quite similar in intent, why do there remain so many differences in the final result? One answer is timing. Each list uses the most up-to-date information available. BirdLife updates some species every year and all species every four years, which is more frequent than most other lists. Nonetheless, we expect that there is some new information relied upon for this report (especially on population trends) that will justify changes in the

next BirdLife list. Another reason for differences is that BirdLife puts strong stress on population trend (especially 10-year trends) and threats and less on population and range size. Several species with tiny ranges and populations have been recently downlisted (but *not* delisted) by BirdLife because conservation efforts have resulted in recent population trends that are stable or increasing. (However, these species remain on both their list and ours.) Similarly, several species with moderately large ranges and population sizes have shown steep declines and are thus listed by BirdLife despite these relatively large range and population sizes; these include one Endangered and seven Vulnerable species that occur on our Yellow WatchList (Appendix 1), plus the Northern Bobwhite, which we do not list and they consider Near Threatened.

### Yellow WatchList: Declining or Rare Species

The Yellow WatchList is an early warning list that includes two groups of birds that might easily join the Red WatchList. The Declining list includes 70 species that would join the Red WatchList should their declines continue long enough to cause their population or range sizes to fall below certain thresholds. The Rare list includes 49 species that would join the Red WatchList should they begin to decline in population (or accelerate declines that have already begun).

### Species Assessment

As mentioned previously, determining the placement of a bird on or off the WatchList is based on the assessment of four factors: population size, range size, threats, and population trend (Panjabi et al. 2005). Each of these factors is scored on a scale of one to five, where one means low vulnerability to extinction due to that factor and five means high vulnerability. For range size and threats, separate scores are calculated for breeding and nonbreeding seasons; to create a combined national score, only the

highest of the respective breeding and nonbreeding scores is used. Thus, the combined score is a sum of four scores and ranges from 4 to 20.

To be on the WatchList, a species needs a combined score of 14 (or 13 if the population trend score is 5). To be on the list of species of Highest National Concern (Red WatchList), a species needs a combined score of 16, plus a score of 8 or more for threats plus trend, and a score of 8 or more for range size plus population size. To be on the Rare list (Yellow WatchList, in part), a species needs a combined score of 14, a score of 8 or more for range size plus population size, and a score of 7 or less for threats plus trend. To be on the Declining list (Yellow WatchList, in part), a species needs a combined score of 14 (or 13 if the trend score is 5), a score of 7 or more for threats plus trend, and a score of 7 or less for range size plus population size.

Global population size estimates came from a variety of sources: waterbirds (Delany and Scott 2006); waterfowl (North American Waterfowl Management Plan Committee 2004; Delany and Scott 2006); shorebirds (Morrison et al. 2006); seabirds (Kushlan et al. 2002); landbirds (Rosenberg and Blancher 2005); and occasionally other sources that were considered more reliable for specific species than the above general references (e.g., U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recovery plans). For consistency, score thresholds for all four factors use Partners in Flight thresholds (Panjabi et al. 2005).

Global range size estimates were all calculated from the NatureServe maps (Ridgely et al. 2005). (NatureServe represents an international network of biological inventories—known as natural heritage programs or conservation data centers—operating in all 50 U.S. states, Canada, Latin America, and the Caribbean.) They are adjusted to include range outside the western hemisphere and corrected for major inaccuracies or errors in the maps. NatureServe maps tend to be drawn more generally than are some other map sources, so many species are given larger ranges based on



**Roosting Marbled Godwits**  
**(*Limosa fedoa*). Photo/Denny Granstrand**

NatureServe, resulting in some species receiving lower range size scores (corresponding to less conservation concern).

Threats were evaluated by the various North American bird conservation initiatives (Brown et al. 2001, Kushlan et al. 2002, Rich et al. 2004) then calibrated to the PIF definitions (Panjabi et al. 2005) to ensure comparable scores across bird groups. Only threats pertinent to North American populations were considered.

North American population trends were derived from the Breeding Bird Survey (Sauer et al. 2005), the Audubon Christmas Bird Count, or a combination of the two, if reliability scores for the surveys were high enough (Butcher and Niven 2007). For species that are not well covered by the BBS or CBC, trend information is available from the same sources with population size information: waterbirds (Delany and Scott 2006); waterfowl (North American Waterfowl Management Plan Committee 2004); shorebirds (Morrison et al. 2006); seabirds (Kushlan et al. 2002); landbirds (Rich et al. 2004); BirdLife data zone (<http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/species/index.html>); and, occasionally, other sources that were felt more reliable for specific species than the above general references.

### **Change in Status**

It is a major goal of species conservation assessments to determine if a change in status between versions of lists is due to a change in conservation status, changes in information about the species, or a change in status assessment rules. Given how dynamic our information is, and

how much evaluation schemes have evolved over time, it is often difficult to determine when a change in assessment is due to an actual improvement or deterioration of a species' conservation condition. We hope to put more emphasis on this in the near future.

To begin the process of comparing assessments, we compared this WatchList with the previous Audubon and American Bird Conservancy lists. Among the species of highest national concern (Red WatchList), 41 of 59 species remained the same compared to Audubon's previous list (Table 2), and 32 of 59 species stayed the same compared to ABC's previous list (previously their highest concern category was shorter; Table 3). Only Ivory Gull was not on either list previously; recent studies have shown a dramatic decline in the Canadian nesting population (<http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/species/index.html>). Only one species that was on Audubon's Red WatchList five years ago is no longer listed: McCown's Longspur, which shows a lower distribution score now due to analysis of the NatureServe maps (Ridgely et al. 2005).

Of the 49 species on the 2007 Declining list (Yellow WatchList, in part), 22 species had a similar listing on both previous lists, and eight species were absent on both previous lists (Tables 2 and 3). King Rail was listed as highest concern by ABC, but unlisted by Audubon. Much of the data on population trends is new for this report, including updated BBS analyses (Sauer et al. 2005), a new CBC analysis (Butcher and Niven 2007), new waterbird trend estimates (Delany and Scott 2006), new waterfowl trend estimates (North American Waterfowl Management Plan Committee 2004), and new shorebird trend estimates (Morrison et al. 2006).

The Rare list (Yellow WatchList, in part) includes 70 species. Thirty of those species had a similar ranking on both previous lists (Tables 2 and 3). Two species—Island Scrub-Jay and Colima Warbler—had been ranked in the highest category on both previous lists. Both

may deserve the higher red list ranking, but population trends are unknown for both species. Estimates of both population and range size have changed a lot since these previous lists, leading to many of the ranking shifts.

### Comparison to Federal Lists

Twenty-four species that are on the federal endangered species list (<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/wildlife.html>) as either threatened or endangered (or with populations that are threatened or endangered) are also on the WatchList (Table 4); 19 of the 24 are on the Red WatchList. The 111 species on the 2002 national list of Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2002) do not correlate well with the WatchList (Table 4); the largest group (34 species) is not on the WatchList at all, although almost half the species (52) are on either the declining or rare lists (Yellow WatchList). One difference between the WatchList and BCC is that game birds are not eligible for BCC; 10 game birds are on the WatchList. A major difference between BCC and WatchList is that BCC appears to focus more on declining species. Many of the 34 species on the BCC but not on the WatchList are declining; 40 of the 67 species on the WatchList but not on BCC are rare. Fish and Wildlife Service lists birds of concern for Bird Conservation Regions and for Fish and Wildlife Service Regions; many of the species we list as rare show up on these regional lists but not on the national list.

### Previously Unlisted Species

Twelve species were added to the Yellow WatchList that had not previously shown up on any of the lists considered here (Table 5). Appropriately, four of the five species added to the Declining list were added because of increased population trend scores. Three species—Varied Thrush, Sage Sparrow, and Lark Bunting—were added because of negative CBC trends (Butcher and Niven 2007). White-rumped Sandpiper was added because of the re-evaluation by

**Table 1. WatchList 2007 versus IUCN/BirdLife's Red List of Globally Threatened Birds**  
IUCN/BirdLife:

	CR	EN	VU	NT	LC	Totals
<b>WatchList 2007:</b>						
Red	5	10	15	12	17	<b>59</b>
Yellow - Declining	0	1	4	8	36	<b>49</b>
Yellow - Rare	0	0	3	6	61	<b>70</b>
Unlisted	0	0	0	3	x	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>29</b>		

**Table 2. WatchList 2007 versus WatchList 2002**

	WatchList 2002:			Totals
	Red	Yellow	Unlisted	
<b>WatchList 2007:</b>				
Red	41	14	4	<b>59</b>
Yellow - Declining	5	22	22	<b>49</b>
Yellow - Rare	20	31	19	<b>70</b>
Unlisted	1	26	x	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>93</b>		

**Table 3. WatchList 2007 versus ABC's Green List**

	ABC's Green List:				Totals
	HCC	Declining	Rare	Unlisted	
<b>WatchList 2007:</b>					
Highest National Concern	32	7	15	5	<b>59</b>
Declining	4	30	7	8	<b>49</b>
Rare	2	7	51	10	<b>70</b>
Unlisted	0	27	6	x	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>79</b>		

**Table 4. WatchList 2007 versus Federal Lists**

	Federal Lists:				Totals
	End/Thr	BCC	Ineligible	Unlisted	
<b>WatchList 2007:</b>					
Red	19	25	3	12	<b>59</b>
Yellow - Declining	3	27	4	15	<b>49</b>
Yellow - Rare	2	25	3	40	<b>70</b>
Unlisted	0	34	x	x	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>111</b>			

See appendices to see which species are included on each list

- ABC American Bird Conservancy
- BCC Federal list of birds of conservation concern
- CR Critically Endangered, the highest global concern category
- EN Endangered, the second-highest global concern category
- End/Thr Threatened or Endangered on the U.S. federal Endangered Species List
- HCC Highest Continental Concern, ABC's highest concern category previously
- Ineligible Game birds are not eligible for the federal list of Birds of Conservation Concern
- IUCN World Conservation Union, responsible for global lists of conservation concern
- LC Least Concern
- NT Near Threatened, a global category between VU and LC
- VU Vulnerable



**Displaying Greater Sage-Grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*). Photo/Ted Schroeder**

**Appendix 1. The 2007 WatchList for United States Birds**

Species	IUCN/ BirdLife	Previous WatchList (2002)	ABC Greenlist	Federal lists	Population size	Breeding Distribution	Nonbreeding Distribution	Maximum distribution score (breeding or non)	Threats Breeding	Threats Nonbreeding	Maximum threats score (breeding or non)	Population trend	Combined score
<b>Highest National Concern = Red WatchList</b>													
Mottled Duck	LC	YWL	RARE		3	5	5	5	4	3	4	4	16
Steller's Eider	VU	RWL	HCC	THR	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	17
Spectacled Eider	LC	RWL	HCC	THR	4	5	5	5	4	4	4	5	18
Gunnison Sage-Grouse	EN	RWL	HCC	BCC	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	20
Sooty Grouse	LC*	YWL*	DECL*		3	5	5	5	3	3	3	5	16
Greater Prairie-Chicken	VU	RWL	DECL		3	5	5	5	4	4	4	5	17
Lesser Prairie-Chicken	VU	RWL	HCC	BCC	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	20
Laysan Albatross	VU	YWL	RARE		3	5	2	5	4	4	4	4	16
Black-footed Albatross	EN	RWL	RARE	BCC	4	5	2	5	4	4	4	4	17
Short-tailed Albatross	VU	RWL	HCC	END	5	5	2	5	5	5	5	5	20
Bermuda Petrel	EN	RWL	HCC	END	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	20
Black-capped Petrel	EN	RWL	HCC	BCC	5	5	3	5	5	3	5	5	20
Pink-footed Shearwater	VU	RWL	HCC		5	5	3	5	4	3	4	4	18
Black-vented Shearwater	NT	RWL	RARE		4	5	4	5	4	3	4	4	17
Ashy Storm-Petrel	EN	RWL	HCC	BCC	5	5	4	5	4	3	4	5	19
Band-rumped Storm-Petrel	LC		DECL	BCC	4	5	2	5	3	2	3	5	17
Black Storm-Petrel	LC	YWL	RARE		3	5	3	5	4	3	4	4	16
Least Storm-Petrel	LC	YWL	RARE		3	5	4	5	4	2	4	4	16
Magnificent Frigatebird	LC		RARE		4	4	3	4	4	3	4	4	16
Reddish Egret	LC	YWL	RARE	BCC	5	4	4	4	4	3	4	5	18
California Condor	CR	RWL	HCC	END	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	20
Yellow Rail	LC	YWL	HCC	BCC	5	2	5	5	4	4	4	4	18
Black Rail	NT	RWL	HCC	BCC	4	5	5	5	4	4	4	5	18
Whooping Crane	EN	RWL	HCC	END	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	20
Piping Plover	NT	RWL	HCC	END	5	3	5	5	5	4	5	5	20
Mountain Plover	VU	RWL	HCC	BCC	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	17
Eskimo Curlew	CR	RWL	HCC	END	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	20
Rock Sandpiper	LC	YWL		BCC	4	5	4	5	3	4	4	4	17
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	NT	RWL	RARE	BCC	5	4	3	4	3	4	4	5	18
Ivory Gull	NT				5	4	2	4	4	2	4	5	18
Least Tern	LC		DECL	BCC/END	4	3	4	4	4	3	4	4	16
Kittlitz's Murrelet	CR	RWL	RARE	BCC	5	4	4	4	5	4	5	5	19
Xantus's Murrelet	VU	RWL	HCC	BCC	5	5	5	5	4	3	4	4	18
Craver's Murrelet	VU	RWL	HCC		5	5	5	5	4	3	4	4	18
White-crowned Pigeon	NT	YWL	DECL		3	5	5	5	4	4	4	5	17
Green Parakeet	LC	RWL		THR	4	5	5	5	4	4	4	4	17
Thick-billed Parrot	EN	RWL	HCC		5	5	5	5	5	4	5	5	20
Red-crowned Parrot	EN	RWL			5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	20
Spotted Owl	NT	RWL	RARE		5	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	16
Lewis's Woodpecker	LC	YWL	RARE	BCC	4	3	4	4	4	3	4	4	16
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	VU	RWL	HCC	END	5	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	19
Gilded Flicker	LC	YWL		BCC	3	5	5	5	3	3	3	5	16
Ivory-billed Woodpecker	CR	RWL	HCC	END	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	20
Bell's Vireo	NT	RWL	DECL	BCC/END	3	2	5	5	4	3	4	5	17
Black-capped Vireo	VU	RWL	HCC	END	5	5	5	5	5	3	5	5	20
Florida Scrub-Jay	VU	RWL	HCC	END	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	20
Bicknell's Thrush	VU	RWL	HCC	BCC	5	5	5	5	3	5	5	3	18
Bendire's Thrasher	VU	RWL	RARE	BCC	4	4	5	5	3	3	3	5	17
Bachman's Warbler	CR	RWL	HCC	END	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	20
Golden-winged Warbler	NT	RWL	HCC	BCC	4	3	4	4	4	3	4	5	17
Golden-cheeked Warbler	EN	RWL	HCC	END	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	20
Kirtland's Warbler	NT	RWL	HCC	END	5	5	5	5	4	5	5	5	20
Bachman's Sparrow	NT	RWL	HCC	BCC	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	16
Black-chinned Sparrow	LC	YWL	RARE	BCC	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	5	16
Baird's Sparrow	LC	RWL	DECL	BCC	3	3	5	5	4	4	4	5	17
Henslow's Sparrow	NT	RWL	HCC	BCC	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	5	17
Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow	VU	RWL	HCC	BCC	4	5	5	5	4	4	4	5	18
Seaside Sparrow	LC	YWL	RARE	BCC/END	4	5	5	5	3	3	3	5	17
Tricolored Blackbird	EN	YWL	HCC	BCC	4	5	5	5	4	3	4	5	18
<b>Declining = Yellow WatchList, in part</b>													
Greater Sage-Grouse	NT	YWL	DECL		4	3	3	3	4	4	4	5	16
Scaled Quail			DECL		3	3	3	3	4	3	4	5	15
Montezuma Quail		YWL	RARE		3	4	4	4	3	3	3	4	14
Sooty Shearwater	NT				3	4	1	4	2	3	3	5	15
Audubon's Shearwater			DECL		4	3	3	3	4	3	4	5	16
<b>Masked Booby</b>													
Swallow-tailed Kite			DECL	BCC	4	1	3	3	4	3	4	5	16
King Rail			HCC		4	2	3	3	4	3	4	5	16
American Golden-Plover		YWL	DECL	BCC	4	2	3	3	3	4	4	4	15
Snowy Plover		RWL	HCC	BCC/THR	4	1	1	1	4	4	4	5	14
Wilson's Plover		YWL	RARE	BCC	5	2	2	2	4	4	4	3	14
Long-billed Curlew	NT	RWL	HCC	BCC	4	2	3	3	4	4	4	4	15
Bar-tailed Godwit		YWL	RARE	BCC	3	1	1	1	4	4	4	5	13
Marbled Godwit		YWL	DECL	BCC	4	3	2	3	4	4	4	4	15
Red Knot		YWL	RARE	BCC	3	3	1	3	3	4	4	5	15
Sanderling			DECL		3	3	1	3	3	3	3	5	14
Semipalmated Sandpiper			DECL		3	2	3	3	3	3	3	5	14
<b>White-rumped Sandpiper</b>													
Bridled Tern			RARE		4	3	3	3	3	2	3	4	14
Gull-billed Tern			DECL	BCC	4	2	1	2	4	2	4	4	14
Roseate Tern			DECL	END/THR	5	2	2	2	4	3	4	4	15
Black Skimmer			DECL	BCC	4	2	2	2	4	3	4	4	14
Razorbill			DECL	BCC	4	3	2	3	3	4	4	3	14
Marbled Murrelet	EN	RWL	HCC	BCC/THR	4	3	3	3	4	3	4	5	16
Ancient Murrelet			RARE		3	3	3	3	4	3	4	4	14

Morrison et al. (2006). Masked Booby was added because recent evaluations of its population size place it in a category of greater concern.

Six of the seven species added to the Rare list were added because of a revision of their distribution score based on the NatureServe maps (Ridgely et al. 2005). All six of these species—Thayer's, Iceland, and Ross's gulls; Great Skua; Blue-throated Hummingbird; and Mexican Chickadee—now qualify for the smallest category of breeding range size. Wandering Tattler now qualifies for the Yellow WatchList because of strong declines on the Christmas Bird Count (Butcher and Niven 2007); it qualifies for the Rare list because its population size plus range size score (8) is higher than its threats plus population trend score (7; Table 5).

**Newly Delisted Species**

Fourteen species appeared on three of the four comparison lists, but not on the 2007 WatchList (Table 6). Ten of the 14 delisted species have lower population trend scores now compared to previous evaluations. Six have lower distribution scores, and three have lower population size scores. New distribution scores are based on the NatureServe maps (Ridgely et al. 2005). Four species—Wilson's Phalarope, Rufous Hummingbird, Worm-eating Warbler, and Dickcissel—show improved status on the BBS; and three species—Black Oystercatcher, Brown-headed Nuthatch, and Harris's Sparrow—were assigned more favorable status because of trend information from the CBC (Butcher and Niven

\*Sooty Grouse was considered to be part of the Blue Grouse species; previous categories apply to Blue Grouse

- ABC American Bird Conservancy
- BCC Federal list of birds of conservation concern
- CR Critically Endangered, the highest global concern category
- EN Endangered, the second highest global concern category
- End/Thr Threatened or Endangered on the U.S. federal Endangered Species List
- HCC Highest Continental Concern, ABC's highest concern category previously
- IUCN World Conservation Union, responsible for global lists of conservation concern
- LC Least Concern
- NT Near Threatened, a global category between VU and LC
- RWL Red WatchList
- YWL Yellow WatchList

2007). Ferruginous Hawk is increasing on both the BBS and CBC. Whimbrel's population trend score was changed because of information in Morrison et al. (2006), and Short-billed Dowitcher's score was changed because of information in Bart et al. (2007).

Two changes deserve further comment. Estimates of Short-billed Dowitcher trends include many suggestions of decline, so the results of Bart et al. (2007) may not be fully representative (Morrison et al. 2006; Delany and Scott 2006). Wilson's Phalarope has a large winter range, but the nonbreeding distribution score of five from the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan relates to its high concentration during migration. Such a high score due to concentration during migration is perhaps well justified.

### Next Steps in Species Assessment

As mentioned earlier in this paper, we would like to increase agreement on how to assess vulnerability to extinction among bird species. Thus, the senior author is convening a session at the upcoming Partners in Flight Conference on the topic and inviting speakers who conduct status assessment for a variety

### Appendix 1. The 2007 WatchList for United States Birds *continued*


Mangrove Cuckoo		DECL		4	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	14	
Short-eared Owl	YWL	DECL	BCC	3	1	1	1	3	4	4	5	13	
Black Swift	YWL	RARE	BCC	4	3	3	3	3	2	3	4	14	
Red-headed Woodpecker	NT	YWL	DECL	BCC	3	2	2	2	3	3	3	5	13
Olive-sided Flycatcher	NT	YWL	DECL	BCC	3	1	2	2	3	4	4	5	14
Willow Flycatcher		YWL	DECL	BCC	3	1	4	4	3	2	3	4	14
Pinyon Jay	VU	YWL	DECL		3	3	3	3	4	3	4	5	15
Wood Thrush		YWL	DECL	BCC	2	2	4	4	3	4	4	4	14
<b>Varied Thrush</b>				2	2	4	4	3	2	3	5	14	
Sprague's Pipit	VU	RWL	DECL	BCC	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	5	15
Prairie Warbler		YWL	DECL	BCC	3	3	4	4	3	2	3	4	14
Bay-breasted Warbler		YWL	DECL	BCC	3	2	4	4	3	3	3	5	15
Cerulean Warbler	VU	RWL	DECL	BCC	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	5	16
Prothonotary Warbler		YWL	DECL	BCC	3	2	4	4	3	4	4	4	15
Kentucky Warbler		YWL	DECL	BCC	3	3	4	4	3	3	3	4	14
Canada Warbler		YWL	DECL	BCC	3	2	3	3	3	4	4	4	14
Brewer's Sparrow	NT	YWL	DECL	BCC	2	3	3	3	3	2	3	5	13
<b>Sage Sparrow</b>				3	3	4	4	4	3	4	3	4	14
<b>Lark Bunting</b>				2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	5	13
Le Conte's Sparrow			BCC	3	2	4	4	3	3	3	3	4	14
Chestnut-collared Longspur	NT		BCC	2	4	3	4	3	3	3	3	5	14
Varied Bunting		DECL		3	3	4	4	3	3	3	3	4	14
Painted Bunting	NT	YWL	DECL	BCC	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	14
Rusty Blackbird	VU	YWL	DECL		3	1	2	2	2	3	3	5	13
<b>Rare = Yellow WatchList, in part</b>													
Emperor Goose	NT	RWL	RARE		4	5	5	5	3	3	3	3	15
Trumpeter Swan		YWL			5	3	5	5	4	4	4	1	15
Mountain Quail		YWL	RARE		4	5	5	5	3	3	3	3	15
Yellow-billed Loon		RWL	RARE	BCC	5	3	3	3	4	3	4	3	15
Clark's Grebe		RARE			5	2	4	4	3	2	3	3	15
Cory's Shearwater		RARE			3	5	2	5	3	2	3	3	14
Flesh-footed Shearwater		RARE			3	5	3	5	3	3	3	3	14
Greater Shearwater		DECL			3	5	2	5	3	3	3	3	14
Buller's Shearwater	VU	YWL	RARE		3	5	1	5	4	2	4	3	15
Manx Shearwater		RARE			4	5	2	5	3	2	3	3	15
Red-faced Cormorant		RWL	RARE		4	5	4	5	3	3	3	4	16
Swainson's Hawk		YWL	DECL	BCC	4	2	4	4	3	4	4	3	15
Clapper Rail			subsp END		4	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	14
<b>Wandering Tattler</b>					5	3	2	3	2	2	2	5	15
Bristle-thighed Curlew	VU	RWL	RARE	BCC	5	5	3	5	4	4	4	3	17
Hudsonian Godwit		YWL	RARE	BCC	4	5	3	5	3	4	4	3	16
Black Turnstone		YWL	RARE	BCC	4	5	3	5	4	4	4	3	16
Surfbird		YWL	RARE	BCC	4	4	1	4	2	4	4	3	15
Western Sandpiper		DECL			3	5	2	5	3	3	3	4	15
Stilt Sandpiper		DECL	BCC		3	5	2	5	3	4	4	3	15
Heermann's Gull	NT	RWL	RARE		4	5	4	5	4	2	4	3	16
<b>Thayer's Gull</b>					5	5	4	5	2	1	2	3	15
<b>Iceland Gull</b>					4	5	3	5	2	1	2	3	14
Yellow-footed Gull		YWL	RARE		5	5	5	5	3	2	3	3	16
Red-legged Kittiwake	VU	RWL	RARE	BCC	4	5	3	5	3	3	3	4	16
<b>Ross's Gull</b>					4	5	2	5	2	2	2	3	14
Aleutian Tern		RARE	BCC		5	3	3	3	3	2	3	4	15
Elegant Tern	NT	RWL	RARE		5	5	4	5	4	3	4	3	17
<b>Great Skua</b>					4	5	2	5	2	2	2	3	14
Whiskered Auklet		YWL	RARE	BCC	5	5	4	5	4	3	4	3	17
Flammulated Owl		YWL	RARE	BCC	5	3	5	5	3	3	3	3	16
Elf Owl		YWL	RARE	BCC	4	4	5	5	3	3	3	3	15
Antillean Nighthawk		YWL	RARE		4	5	2	5	2	2	2	3	14
<b>Blue-throated Hummingbird</b>					3	5	5	5	3	2	3	3	14
Costa's Hummingbird		YWL	RARE		3	4	5	5	3	2	3	3	14
Calliope Hummingbird		YWL	RARE		3	3	5	5	3	2	3	3	14
Allen's Hummingbird		YWL	RARE		3	5	5	5	3	2	3	4	15
Elegant Trogon		DECL			4	4	4	4	3	3	3	4	15
Williamson's Sapsucker			BCC		4	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	14
Nuttall's Woodpecker		RWL	RARE		4	5	5	5	4	4	4	1	14
Arizona Woodpecker		RWL	RARE		4	5	5	5	3	3	3	3	15
White-headed Woodpecker		YWL	RARE	BCC	4	5	5	5	4	3	4	3	16
Thick-billed Kingbird		YWL	RARE		3	5	5	5	3	3	3	3	14
Gray Vireo		YWL	RARE	BCC	4	5	5	5	4	4	4	3	16
Island Scrub-Jay	NT	RWL	HCC	BCC	5	5	5	5	4	3	4	3	17
Yellow-billed Magpie		YWL	RARE		4	5	5	5	3	3	3	3	15
<b>Mexican Chickadee</b>					3	5	5	5	3	3	3	3	14
Oak Titmouse		YWL	DECL	BCC	3	5	5	5	3	3	3	3	14
California Gnatcatcher		RWL	RARE	THR	4	5	5	5	3	3	3	2	14
Wrentit		YWL	RARE		3	5	5	5	3	3	3	3	14
California Thrasher		YWL	RARE		4	5	5	5	3	3	3	4	16
Le Conte's Thrasher		YWL	RARE	BCC	4	5	5	5	3	3	3	3	15
Blue-winged Warbler		YWL	RARE		4	3	4	4	3	3	3	4	15
Virginia's Warbler		YWL	RARE		4	5	5	5	3	3	3	4	16
Colima Warbler	NT	RWL	HCC		5	5	5	5	4	3	4	3	17
Lucy's Warbler		YWL	RARE		3	5	5	5	4	3	4	3	15
Hermit Warbler		YWL	RARE		3	5	4	5	4	3	4	3	15
Grace's Warbler		YWL	DECL	BCC	3	3	5	5	3	3	3	4	15
Swainson's Warbler		RWL	RARE	BCC	4	3	5	5	4	4	4	1	14
Red-faced Warbler		YWL	RARE		4	5	5	5	3	3	3	3	15
Abert's Towhee		YWL	RARE		4	5	5	5	3	3	3	2	14
Rufous-winged Sparrow		RWL	RARE	BCC	4	5	5	5	3	3	3	3	15
Five-striped Sparrow		RWL	RARE		4	5	5	5	3	3	3	4	16
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow		RWL	RARE	BCC	3	3	5	5	3	4	4	2	14
Smith's Longspur		RARE	BCC		4	4	4	4	2	3	3	3	14
McKay's Bunting	NT	RWL	RARE	BCC	5	5	5	5	3	2	3	3	16
Audubon's Oriole		RWL	RARE		4	5	5	5	4	3	4	3	16
Black Rosy-Finch		YWL	RARE		5	5	4	5	3	2	3	3	16
Brown-capped Rosy-Finch		RWL	RARE		5	5	5	5	3	2	3	3	16
Lawrence's Goldfinch		RWL	RARE	BCC	4	5	5	5	3	2	3	3	15

**Appendix 2. Previously listed species not on the 2007 WatchList**

aoou 7_47	Species	IUCN/BirdLife	Previous WatchList (2002)	ABC Greenlist	Federal lists	Population size	Breeding Distribution	Nonbreeding Distribution	Maximum distribution score (breeding or non)	Threats Breeding	Threats Nonbreeding	Maximum threats score (breeding or non)	Population trend	Combined score
18.0	Brant		YWL	DECL		3	2	3	3	3	3	3	2	11
35.0	American Black Duck		YWL	DECL		3	1	2	2	4	3	4	4	13
60.0	Harlequin Duck			RARE		4	2	3	3	3	3	3	2	12
64.0	Black Scoter			DECL		3	1	1	1	2	3	3	4	11
104.0	Dusky Grouse		YWL*	DECL*		4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	13
121.0	Northern Bobwhite	NT				2	1	1	1	3	3	3	5	11
141.0	Horned Grebe			DECL		3	1	1	1	3	3	3	5	12
215.0	Brandt's Cormorant			DECL		4	4	4	4	3	3	3	1	12
220.0	Pelagic Cormorant			DECL		4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	13
240.0	Little Blue Heron			DECL	BCC	3	1	1	1	4	4	3	4	12
283.0	Northern Harrier				BCC	3	1	1	1	3	3	3	4	11
301.0	Harris's Hawk		YWL			4	1	1	1	3	3	3	4	12
314.0	<b>Ferruginous Hawk</b>	NT	YWL		BCC	5	2	2	2	4	3	4	1	12
338.0	Peregrine Falcon				BCC	3	1	1	1	3	3	3	1	8
339.0	Prairie Falcon				BCC	5	2	1	2	3	3	3	2	12
371.0	Limpkin				BCC	3	1	1	1	3	3	3	4	11
381.0	<b>Pacific Golden-Plover</b>		YWL	RARE	BCC	4	2	1	2	3	2	3	3	12
395.0	<b>American Oystercatcher</b>		YWL	RARE	BCC	5	1	1	1	4	4	4	3	13
396.0	<b>Black Oystercatcher</b>		YWL	RARE	BCC	5	3	3	3	4	3	4	1	13
399.0	American Avocet			DECL		4	2	3	3	3	3	3	2	12
406.0	Solitary Sandpiper			DECL	BCC	4	1	1	1	3	2	3	4	12
413.0	Lesser Yellowlegs			DECL		4	1	1	1	2	3	3	4	12
417.0	Upland Sandpiper			DECL	BCC	4	2	3	3	3	4	4	2	13
420.0	<b>Whimbrel</b>		YWL	DECL	BCC	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	4	13
447.0	<b>Purple Sandpiper</b>		YWL	RARE	BCC	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	13
449.0	Dunlin			DECL		2	1	1	1	3	3	3	4	10
456.0	<b>Short-billed Dowitcher</b>		YWL	DECL	BCC	4	3	1	3	2	3	3	3	13
459.0	Wilson's Snipe			DECL		3	1	1	1	3	2	3	3	10
463.0	American Woodcock		YWL	DECL		3	1	3	3	3	3	3	4	13
464.0	<b>Wilson's Phalarope</b>		YWL	DECL	BCC	3	2	1	2	3	4	4	2	11
466.0	Red Phalarope			DECL		3	2	2	2	3	3	3	4	12
517.0	Common Tern				BCC	3	1	1	1	3	3	3	4	11
536.0	Pigeon Guillemot			DECL		4	2	1	2	3	3	3	2	11
560.0	Band-tailed Pigeon		YWL	DECL		3	2	2	2	3	3	3	4	12
665.0	Black-billed Cuckoo				BCC	3	2	2	2	3	3	3	4	12
689.0	Whiskered Screech-Owl		YWL			4	4	4	4	2	2	2	3	13
709.0	Burrowing Owl				BCC	3	1	1	1	4	3	4	4	12
735.0	Chuck-will's-widow				BCC	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	12
741.0	Whip-poor-will				BCC	3	1	3	3	3	3	3	4	13
772.0	White-throated Swift		YWL	DECL		4	2	3	3	2	2	2	4	13
846.0	Buff-bellied Hummingbird		YWL			3	5	5	5	2	2	2	2	12
879.0	Lucifer Hummingbird		YWL			4	5	5	5	2	2	2	2	13
891.0	<b>Rufous Hummingbird</b>		YWL	DECL	BCC	2	3	5	5	2	2	2	4	13
977.0	Red-naped Sapsucker				BCC	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	12
1226.0	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher				BCC	2	3	5	5	2	2	2	3	12
1271.0	Loggerhead Shrike				BCC	3	1	1	1	3	3	3	5	12
1344.0	Tamaulipas Crow		YWL			4	5	5	5	2	2	2	2	13
1392.0	<b>Brown-headed Nuthatch</b>		YWL	DECL	BCC	3	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	13
1432.0	Sedge Wren				BCC	2	1	1	1	3	3	3	1	7
1550.0	Curve-billed Thrasher		YWL			3	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	11
1552.0	Crissal Thrasher				BCC	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	12
1630.0	<b>Worm-eating Warbler</b>		YWL	DECL	BCC	3	3	4	4	3	4	4	2	13
1634.0	Louisiana Waterthrush				BCC	4	2	3	3	3	4	4	2	13
1804.0	Cassin's Sparrow				BCC	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	12
1806.0	Botteri's Sparrow		YWL			3	4	4	4	3	2	3	3	13
1826.0	Grasshopper Sparrow				BCC	2	1	2	2	3	3	3	5	12
1840.0	<b>Harris's Sparrow</b>		YWL	DECL	BCC	3	3	4	4	2	2	2	4	13
1846.0	<b>McCown's Longspur</b>		RWL	RARE	BCC	3	4	4	4	3	2	3	3	13
1884.0	<b>Dickcissel</b>		YWL	DECL	BCC	2	2	4	4	3	4	4	3	13
1966.0	Cassin's Finch	NT				3	3	2	3	3	2	3	4	13

\*Dusky Grouse was considered to be part of the Blue Grouse species; previous categories apply to Blue Grouse  
 ABC American Bird Conservancy  
 BCC Federal list of birds of conservation concern  
 CR Critically Endangered, the highest global concern category  
 EN Endangered, the second highest global concern category  
 End/Thr Threatened or Endangered on the U.S. federal Endangered Species List  
 HCC Highest Continental Concern, ABC's highest concern category previously  
 IUCN World Conservation Union, responsible for global lists of conservation concern  
 LC Least Concern  
 NT Near Threatened, a global category between VU and LC  
 RWL Red WatchList  
 YWL Yellow WatchList

Score thresholds: See Appendix 1  
 Combined score: See text under Species Assessment

of bird groups and at a diversity of levels (international, national, state, and regional). The PIF conference includes discussion time and is focused on creating momentum for tackling outstanding issues in bird conservation. Please contact the senior author if you are interested in being involved in this process. 

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**Table 5. Old and new scores for newly listed species (old/new)**

	Population size	Breeding Distribution	Nonbreeding Distribution	Maximum distribution score (breeding or non)	Threats Breeding	Threats Nonbreeding	Maximum threats score (breeding or non)	Population trend	Combined score
<b>Declining = Yellow WatchList, in part</b>									
Masked Booby	2/4	3/3	2/2	3/3	4/4	2/3	4/4	4/4	13/15
White-rumped Sandpiper	4/3	3/3	4/4	4/4	2/3	2/2	2/3	3/4	13/14
Varied Thrush	2/2	2/2	4/4	4/4	3/3	2/2	3/3	2/5	11/14
Sage Sparrow	3/3	3/3	4/4	4/4	4/4	3/3	4/4	2/3	13/14
Lark Bunting	2/2	3/3	3/3	3/3	3/3	3/3	3/3	4/5	12/13
<b>Rare = Yellow WatchList, in part</b>									
Wandering Tattler	5/5	3/3	2/2	3/3	2/2	2/2	2/2	3/5	13/15
Thayer's Gull	3/5	3/5	2/4	3/5	3/2	3/1	3/2	3/3	12/15
Iceland Gull	2/4	3/5	2/3	3/5	3/2	3/1	3/2	3/3	11/14
Ross's Gull	4/4	4/5	1/2	4/5	2/2	2/2	2/2	3/3	13/14
Great Skua	4/4	3/5	3/2	3/5	2/2	2/2	2/2	3/3	12/14
Blue-throated Hummingbird	3/3	4/5	4/5	4/5	3/3	2/2	3/3	3/3	13/14
Mexican Chickadee	3/3	4/5	4/5	4/5	3/3	3/3	3/3	3/3	13/14

Score thresholds: See Appendix 1  
 Combined score: See text under Species Assessment

**Table 6. Old and new scores for previously listed species not on the 2007 WatchList (old/new)**

Species	IUCN/BirdLife	Previous WatchList (2002)	ABC Greenlist	Federal lists	Population size	Breeding Distribution	Nonbreeding Distribution	Maximum distribution score (breeding or non)	Threats Breeding	Threats Nonbreeding	Maximum threats score (breeding or non)	Population trend	Combined score
Ferruginous Hawk	NT	YWL	BCC	5/5	2/2	3/2	4/4	3/3	4/4	2/1	14/12		
Pacific Golden-Plover		YWL	RARE	BCC	5/4	5/2	4/1	5/2	2/3	2/2	2/3	3/3	15/12
American Oystercatcher		YWL	RARE	BCC	5/5	3/1	4/1	4/1	4/4	4/4	4/4	3/3	16/13
Black Oystercatcher		YWL	RARE	BCC	5/5	3/3	4/3	4/3	4/4	3/3	4/4	3/1	16/13
Whimbrel		YWL	DECL	BCC	4/3	3/3	2/2	3/3	2/3	2/3	2/3	5/4	14/13
Purple Sandpiper		YWL	RARE	BCC	5/4	3/3	3/3	3/3	2/3	3/3	3/3	3/3	14/13
Short-billed Dowitcher		YWL	DECL	BCC	2/4	3/3	2/1	3/3	2/2	4/3	4/3	5/3	14/13
Wilson's Phalarope		YWL	DECL	BCC	1/3	2/2	5/1	5/2	3/3	4/4	4/4	5/2	15/11
Rufous Hummingbird		YWL	DECL	BCC	2/2	3/3	5/5	5/5	2/2	2/2	2/2	5/4	14/13
Brown-headed Nuthatch		YWL	DECL	BCC	3/3	4/4	4/4	4/4	3/3	3/3	3/3	4/3	14/13
Worm-eating Warbler		YWL	DECL	BCC	3/3	3/3	4/4	4/4	3/3	4/4	4/4	3/2	14/13
Harris's Sparrow		YWL	DECL	BCC	3/3	4/3	4/4	4/4	2/2	2/2	2/2	5/4	14/13
McCown's Longspur		RWL	RARE	BCC	3/3	5/4	5/4	5/4	3/3	2/2	3/3	3/3	14/13
Dickcissel		YWL	DECL	BCC	2/2	2/2	4/4	4/4	3/3	4/4	4/4	4/3	14/13

ABC American Bird Conservancy  
 BCC Federal list of birds of conservation concern  
 CR Critically Endangered, the highest global concern category  
 EN Endangered, the second highest global concern category  
 End/Thr Threatened or Endangered on the U.S. federal Endangered Species List  
 HCC Highest Continental Concern, ABC's highest concern category previously  
 IUCN World Conservation Union, responsible for global lists of conservation concern  
 LC Least Concern  
 NT Near Threatened, a global category between VU and LC  
 RWL Red WatchList  
 YWL Yellow WatchList

Score thresholds: See Appendix 1  
 Combined score: See text under Species Assessment

Sauer, J.R., J.E. Hines, and J. Fallon. 2005. *The North American Breeding Bird Survey, Results and Analysis 1966-2005*. Version 6.2.2006. USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, MD. <http://www.mbr-pwrc.usgs.gov/bbs/>.

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