

Glaucous-winged Gull

Larus glaucescens

Class: Aves
Order: Charadriiformes

Conservation Status

<i>Heritage</i>	<i>Agency</i>		
G Rank: G5	USFWS/NOAA:	BLM:	AA:
S Rank: S5	SOA:	USFS:	IUCN: Least Concern

Final Rank		
Conservation category: VIII. Yellow		
VIII = 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	-37
Action:	-40 to 40	4
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).

<i>Population Trend (-10 to 10)</i>	Score
	-6
<p>Population trends in Alaska poorly documented (Verbeek 1993). On Middleton Island (largest colony in Alaska), increased (+13.6% per annum) from the mid-1980s to the mid-1990s, then declined and increased in 2007 (Dragoo et al. 2010, USFWS 2006a). Declining (-21.3% per annum) on Buldir Island since 1992. No trends are evident at other monitored colonies (USFWS 2006a). Populations increased at most islands following removal of foxes. At sites without foxes, numbers between mid-1970s and early 21st century during breeding season fairly stable in eastern and central Aleutians (Gibson and Byrd 2007).</p>	
<i>Distribution Trend (-10 to 10)</i>	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).

<i>Population Size (-10 to 10)</i>	Score
	-10
Based on colony counts, there are approximately 252,000 Glaucous-winged Gulls at 825 colonies in Alaska (USFWS 2006a).	
<i>Range Size (-10 to 10)</i>	-10
Year-round resident in coastal areas from Cape Romanzof south through southeast Alaska. Generally farther from shore in the winter than the summer. Breeds on inland lakes in southwest mainland and on the entire Alaska Peninsula. Casually on St. Lawrence Island and Cape Denbigh in Norton Sound (Verbeek 1993). ~631,600 square kilometers.	
<i>Population Concentration (-10 to 10)</i>	-10
There are 825 colonies (USFWS 2006a).	
<i>Reproductive Potential</i>	
<u>Age of First Reproduction (-5 to 5)</u>	1
Age at first breeding is 5.4 years (Verbeek 1993).	

<u>Number of Young (-5 to 5)</u>	2
Average clutch size of 2-3 eggs (NatureServe 2007b). At Glacier Bay, 2.9 eggs, Semidi Islands 2.6 eggs and on Kodiak Island 2.5 and 2.3 eggs (Verbeek 1993).	
<i>Ecological Specialization</i>	
<u>Dietary (-5 to 5)</u>	-5
Omnivorous, eats a wide variety of fish, marine invertebrates, garbage, and carrion (Verbeek 1993).	
<u>Habitat (-5 to 5)</u>	-5
Near salt and brackish water (rarely freshwater) in bays, estuaries, harbors, city parks, and on beaches, mud flats, dumps, barren islands, and open ocean (Verbeek 1993).	
Biological Total:	<u>-37</u>

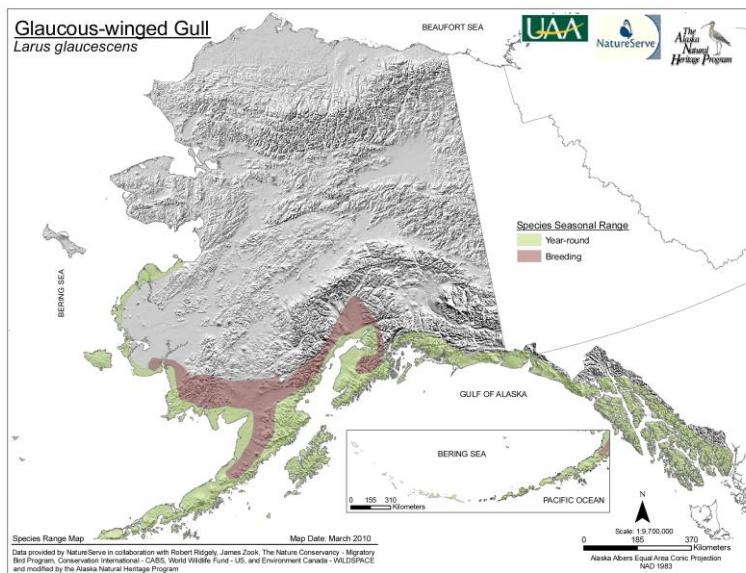
Action - variables measure current state of knowledge or extent of conservation efforts directed toward a given taxon. Higher action scores denote greater information needs due of lack of knowledge or conservation action. Action scores range from -40 (lower needs) to 40 (greater needs).

	Score
<i>Management Needs (-10 to 10)</i>	2
Protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA 1918).	
<i>Monitoring Needs (-10 to 10)</i>	2
Monitored at some sites, including Buldir, Kasatochi, Bogoslof, Aiktak, Middleton, and St. Lazaria islands (Dragoo et al. 2010). Trends are not evident at most monitored colonies in Alaska (USFWS 2006a).	
<i>Research Needs (-10 to 10)</i>	10
Second most frequently taken species group as bycatch in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands demersal groundfish longline fisheries and the third most frequently caught species group in the Gulf of Alaska. Effects of subsistence harvest on populations are not directly known, but not thought to be severe (USFWS 2006a). Predation by river otter in British Columbia and by red fox on Shaiak Island in Alaska has been documented (Verbeek 1993).	
<i>Survey Needs (-10 to 10)</i>	-10
Occurrences in North Pacific Seabird Colony Database (USFWS 2006b). Surveyed annually on several islands (Dragoo et al. 2010). Recorded in southeast waterbird survey (Hodges et al. 2002) and many other localized bird surveys (Arimitsu 2008, Coletti et al. 2008, Bailey 1977, Handel 2010, Kozie 1992, etc.).	
Action Total:	<u>4</u>

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

Harvest:	Substantial, regulations
Seasonal Occurrence:	Year-round
Taxonomic Significance:	Monotypic species
% Global Range in Alaska:	>10%
% Global Population in Alaska:	>25%
Peripheral:	No

Range Map



References

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- Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of July 3, 1918, Ch. 128, 40 Stat. 755 (1918) (current version at 16 U.S.C. §§ 703-712).
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Verbeek, N. A. M. 1993. Glaucous-winged Gull (*Larus glaucescens*. In *Birds of North America*, No. 59 (A. Poole and F. Gills, eds.). Philadelphia: The Academy of Natural Sciences; Washington, D.C.: The American Ornithologists' Union.

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For details on the development of the ASRS and criteria, please see: Gotthardt, T. A., K. M. Walton, and T. L. Fields. 2012. *Setting Conservation Priorities for Alaska's Wildlife Action Plan*. Alaska Natural Heritage Program, University of Alaska Anchorage, AK.