

# Eastern Yellow Wagtail

*Motacilla tschutschensis*

Class: Aves  
Order: Passeriformes

## Conservation Status

Heritage Agency

G Rank: G5      USFWS/NOAA:      BLM:      AA:  
S Rank: S5B      SOA: Species of Greatest Conservation Need      USFS:      IUCN: Least Concern

Final Rank		
Conservation category: <b>VIII. Yellow</b>		
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	-5
Biological:	-50 to 50	-42
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
<i>Population Trend (-10 to 10)</i>	0
According to Dunn et al. (2005), there is little or no information on population status. 1/3 or more of their range is not covered by BBS (Dunn et al. 2005). A decreasing trend at Taiwan wintering areas was attributed to low adult survival and disturbance and harvesting of birds on wintering grounds (McClure 1974). Unknown (Matsuoka, USFWS, personal communication).	
<i>Distribution Trend (-10 to 10)</i>	-5
Logging may have increased habitat in Alaska (Badyaev et al. 1998).	
<b>Status Total:</b>	-5

**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>	-10
~1.4 million in Alaska (Rich et al. 2004).	
<i>Range Size (-10 to 10)</i>	-8
Breeds on mainland western Alaska, St. Lawrence Island, Punuk Island, and northwest Alaska in Brooks Range and foothills (Kessel and Gibson 1978, Thompson 1967). Less abundant as move eastward in northern Alaska (Byrd et al. 1978, Kessel and Gibson 1978). ~318,623 km2 calculated in ARCMAP.	
<i>Population Concentration (-10 to 10)</i>	-10
Does not concentrate during breeding season (Badyaev et al. 1998).	
<i>Reproductive Potential</i>	
<u>Age of First Reproduction (-5 to 5)</u>	-5
Breeds at 1 year (Cramp 1985).	
<u>Number of Young (-5 to 5)</u>	1

Mean clutch size was 5.6 eggs at Cap Romanzof (n=94; Renner and McCaffery 2006).

*Ecological Specialization*

**Dietary (-5 to 5)** -5

Eats terrestrial and aquatic invertebrates (Badyaev et al. 1998).

**Habitat (-5 to 5)** -5

Inhabits open shrubby areas, especially near edges with sedge, grass, or dwarf shrub. Prefers moist areas with tussocks and vegetated hummocks, cut banks along creeks, tops of river bluffs, roadsides, ditches, and mining operations (Badyaev et al. 1998).

Biological Total: -42

**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 Needs (-10 to 10)** 2

Managed and protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

**Monitoring Needs (-10 to 10)** 10

According to Dunn et al. (2005), there is little or no information on population status. 1/3 or more of their range is not covered by BBS (Dunn et al. 2005).

**Research Needs (-10 to 10)** 10

No information on North American population (Badyaev et al. 1998).

**Survey Needs (-10 to 10)** -10

As part of an H5N1 project, Moore (2000a) monitored at Cape Romanzof an average of 26 nesting pairs of Eastern Yellow Wagtails annually from 1996-1999 and captured and banded most nesting adults in 1997 and 1998. Also, McCaffery et al. (1998) captured 43 juvenile Eastern Yellow Wagtails that were staging during fall migration in the same area in 1997. Nesting ecology of this species was also studied at the same location (Renner and McCaffery 2006). ALMS detects this species throughout most of its' range (USGS 2008a). Detected during broad-scale montane and alpine nesting shorebird inventories implemented in 2001 in the Arctic networks (Tibbitts et al. 2006).

Action Total: 12

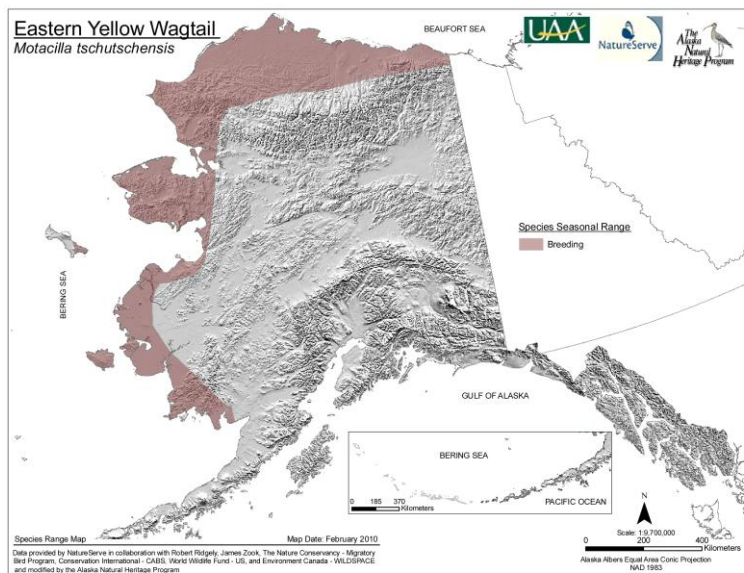
**Supplemental Information** - variables do not receive numerical scores. Instead, they that are used to sort taxa to answer specific biological or managerial questions.

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

**Range Map**

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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.