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**BIRDS OF  
CONSERVATION CONCERN  
2002**

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**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Division of Migratory Bird Management  
Arlington, Virginia**

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Prepared by

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Division of Migratory Bird Management  
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 1988 amendment to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act mandates the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to “identify species, subspecies, and populations of all migratory nongame birds that, without additional conservation actions, are likely to become candidates for listing under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.” *Birds of Conservation Concern 2002 (BCC 2002)* is the most recent effort to carry out this mandate. The overall goal of this report is to accurately identify the migratory and non-migratory bird species (beyond those already designated as Federally threatened or endangered) that represent our highest conservation priorities and draw attention to species in need of conservation action. The geographic scope of this endeavor is the United States in its entirety, including island “territories” in the Pacific and Caribbean. It is more comprehensive than previous versions. *BCC 2002* encompasses three distinct geographic scales—North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI) Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs), USFWS Regions, and National—and is primarily derived from assessment scores from three major bird conservation plans: Partners in Flight, the United States Shorebird Conservation Plan, and the North American Waterbird Conservation Plan.

Bird species considered for inclusion on lists in this report include nongame birds, gamebirds without hunting seasons, subsistence-hunted nongame birds in Alaska; and Endangered Species Act candidate, proposed endangered or threatened, and recently delisted species. Assessment scores from all three bird conservation plans are based on several factors, including population trends, threats, distribution, abundance, and area importance. These assessment scores serve as the foundation on which we built the *BCC 2002* lists. Although the different bird conservation plans use somewhat different methods for determining the highest priority species, the scores from each represent true conservation priorities for each of the three species groups (landbirds, shorebirds, and waterbirds). We therefore view the conservation priorities within each plan as approximately equivalent. After creating BCR lists, we developed specific criteria for including species on USFWS Region and National lists. BCR lists include 8 to 48 species, USFWS Region lists include 28 to 88 species, and the National list contains 131 species. In virtually all cases, priority species make up 9 to 12 percent of all bird species in any given geographic unit.

While all of the bird species included in *BCC 2002* are priorities for conservation action, this list makes no finding with regard to whether they warrant consideration for ESA listing. Our goal is to prevent or remove the need for additional ESA bird listings by implementing proactive management and conservation actions. We recommend that these lists be consulted in accordance with Executive Order 13186, “Responsibilities of Federal Agencies To Protect Migratory Birds.” This report should also be used to develop research, monitoring, and management initiatives. *BCC 2002* is intended to stimulate coordinated and collaborative proactive conservation actions among Federal, State, and private partners. We hope that, by focusing attention on these highest priority species, this report will promote greater study and protection of the habitats and ecological communities upon which these species depend, thereby ensuring the future of healthy avian populations and communities.

Table 9. BCR 9 (Great Basin) BCC 2002 List.

Swainson's Hawk  
Ferruginous Hawk  
Golden Eagle  
*Peregrine Falcon*  
Prairie Falcon  
[Greater Sage-Grouse (Columbia Basin population)]  
Yellow Rail  
American Golden-Plover  
Snowy Plover  
American Avocet  
Solitary Sandpiper  
Whimbrel  
Long-billed Curlew  
Marbled Godwit  
Sanderling  
Wilson's Phalarope  
Yellow-billed Cuckoo  
Flammulated Owl  
Burrowing Owl  
Black Swift  
Lewis's Woodpecker  
Williamson's Sapsucker  
White-headed Woodpecker  
Loggerhead Shrike  
Gray Vireo  
Virginia's Warbler  
Brewer's Sparrow  
Sage Sparrow  
Tricolored Blackbird

NOTE: Please refer to Table 3 for descriptions of the stylized conventions used to indicate the Federal protective status of species on this list.

Table 41. USFWS Region 1 (Pacific Region)<sup>1</sup> BCC 2002 List.

	<u>a</u>	<u>b</u>	<u>c</u>		<u>a</u>	<u>b</u>	<u>c</u>
Black-footed Albatross	X	X	X	{Mariana Fruit-Dove}			X
{Tahiti Petrel}			X	<u>Yellow-billed Cuckoo</u>	X		
{Phoenix Petrel}			X	Flammulated Owl	X		
{Polynesian Storm-Petrel}			X	Burrowing Owl	X		
Ashy Storm-Petrel	X			Black Swift	X		
<u>Band-rumped Storm-Petrel</u>	X			Lewis's Woodpecker	X		
Tristram's Storm-Petrel	X			Williamson's Sapsucker	X		
Swainson's Hawk	X			Red-naped Sapsucker	X		
<i>Peregrine Falcon</i>	X			White-headed Woodpecker	X		
Prairie Falcon	X			Olive-sided Flycatcher	X		
Greater Sage-Grouse	X			Loggerhead Shrike	X		
(Columbia Basin population only)				(except where Endangered)			
Yellow Rail	X			Gray Vireo	X		
Black Rail	X			[Rufous Fantail]			X
{ <u>Spotless Crake</u> }			X	[Elepaio]	X		
Pacific Golden-Plover	X	X		(except where Endangered)			
Snowy Plover	X			[Fiji Shrikebill]			X
(except where Endangered)				<u>Horned Lark</u> ( <i>strigata</i> ssp. only)	X		
<u>Mountain Plover</u>	X			Omao		X	
Black Oystercatcher	X			[ <u>Bridled White-eye</u> ( <i>rotensis</i> ssp. only)]			X
Whimbrel	X			[Golden White-eye]			X
Bristle-thighed Curlew		X	X	Crissal Thrasher	X		
Long-billed Curlew	X			Le Conte's Thrasher	X		
Marbled Godwit	X			Brewer's Sparrow	X		
Black Turnstone	X			Tricolored Blackbird	X		
Red Knot	X			Lawrence's Goldfinch	X		
Short-billed Dowitcher	X			[Hawaii Amakihi]		X	
Gull-billed Tern	X			[Oahu Amakihi]		X	
Elegant Tern	X			[Kauai Amakihi]		X	
Blue-gray Noddy			X	[Anianiau]		X	
Black Skimmer	X			[ <u>Akikiki</u> ]		X	
Xantus's Murrelet	X			[Maui Alauahio]		X	
{White-throated Ground-Dove}			X	[Akekee]		X	
{ <u>Friendly Ground-Dove</u> }			X	[Iiwi]		X	
{ <u>Many-colored Fruit-Dove</u> }			X	[Apapane]		X	

<sup>1</sup> a = mainland U.S. portion of Region, b = Hawaiian Islands portion of Region, and c = Pacific Island "trust territories."

NOTE: Please refer to Table 3 for descriptions of the stylized conventions used to indicate the Federal protective status of species on this list.