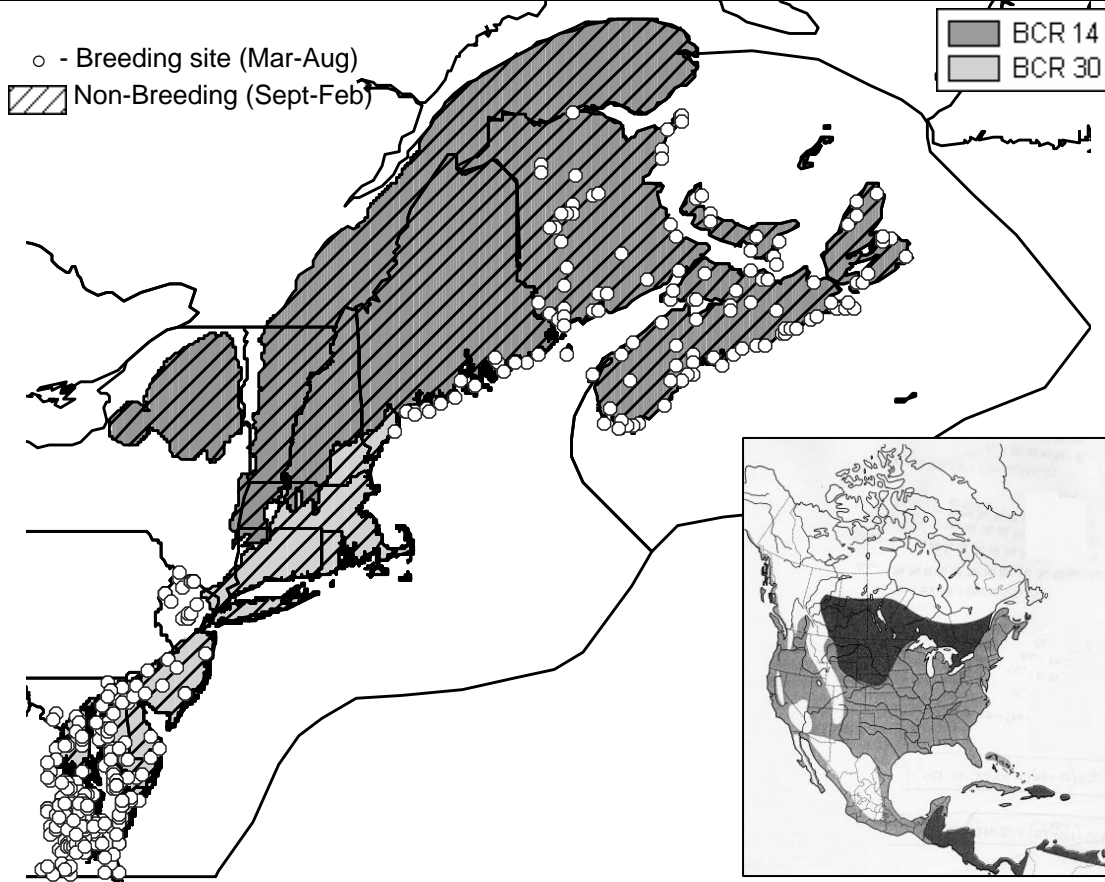


## GREAT BLUE HERON (*Ardea herodias herodias*)

<b>Conservation Status:</b> Abundance (b=breeding, nb=nonbreeding, t=total individuals), Population Importance (% reference population) and Conservation Rank							
Global	North America	BCR 14	BCR 30	Mid-Atlantic	S. New England	Gulf of Maine	Maritimes
?	83,000b (?% global)	11,662b (14% NA)	30,570b (37% NA)	30,570b (72% MANEM)	0b (0% MANEM)	1,268b (3% MANEM)	10,394b (25% MANEM)
IUCN- Least Concern	NAWCP- Lowest Concern	Lowest Concern	Lowest Concern	NJ-SCS2B,S4N; DES2B; MD-S4B, S3S4N; VA-S3S4 State SGCN-NJ,DE,MD	NY-S5; CT-S3B, SZN; RI- SCS2B, SZN; MA-S2; VT- S2S3B,S5N State SGCN-CT,RI,VT	MA-S2; NH-S4B, SZN ME-S4B; NB- S4B ; NS- S5B <b>MANEM Focal Species</b> State SGCN-NH,ME	QC-S5; NB- S4B; PE-S4B;NS-S5B



**Regional Occurrence**

- Distribution: breeds and winters in region
- Habitats used: fresh-water and brackish marshes, lakes, rivers and lagoons; breeding in trees or on rock ledges and coastal cliffs; mean foraging distance 2.3-6.5 km, up to 30 km from colony; grasslands, estuarine marshes, intertidal beaches, riverbanks; mostly in slow moving/calm freshwater, along seacoasts

NAWCP BD=2; NAWCP ND=3

**Regional Abundance**

- 1990s: US coastal—31,838b (232 colonies); CAN—10,394b
- 1970s: US coastal—6,824b (37 colonies)
- 367% increase in US coastal population

NAWCP PS=2; NAWCP PT=1

**Regional Threats/Limiting Factors**

- Pesticide contamination can cause eggshell thinning, reduced growth/development of young and reproductive failure
- Food supply can be a critical limitation
- Certain logging practices and development pressures cause nest site destruction or encroachment; nest/colony abandonment increases with human disturbance
- Eagles as limiting factors
- Susceptible to adverse weather conditions

NAWCP TB=2; NAWCP TN=2

**Conservation Needs:** *Sustainability:* 2.3 young/nest/yr; 62.5% chicks fledged/nest/yr. *Conservation Actions:* Manage and protect preferred feeding areas and breeding habitat. *Needs:* monitor, assess productivity, ID key nesting areas, develop buffer guidelines for nesting and foraging habitat. *Population Goals:* maintain (above minimum). *Habitat Goals:* Restore/protect breeding habitat in the following priority complexes: VA-Mason Cr, Potomac Cr, Pocomoke Sound; MD-Aberdeen, Nanjemoy Cr; NY-Ferd/Stillwater/Moose Area, Four Bros/Ticonderoga Area; ME-Muscongus Bay, Casco Bay, Pleasant Bay; NB-Moncton, Miramichi Bay; NS-Channel Is, Antigonish; PE-Murray Harbour, Charlottetown, Oultons Is Group. *Conservation Projects:* 11, 21, 22, 24, 45, 46, 70, 76.