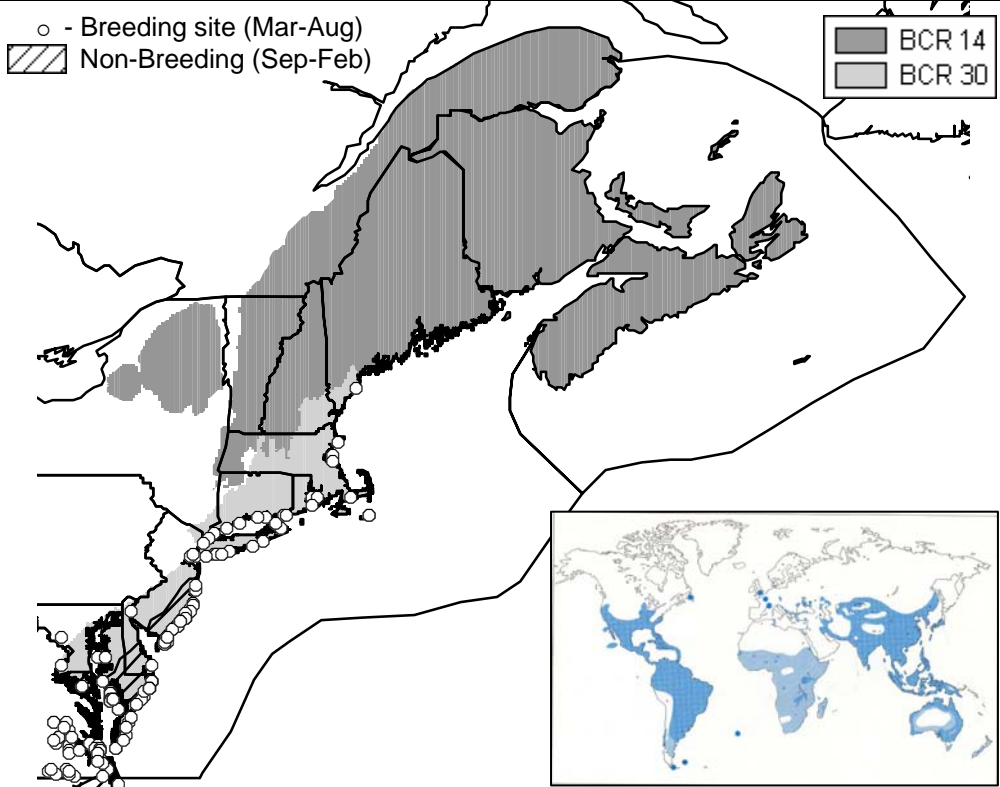


GREAT EGRET (*Ardea alba egretta*)

Conservation Status: 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
550,000 – 1,900,000t	>180,000b (14-49% global)	4b (<1% NA)	9,142b (5% NA)	8,222b (90% MANEM)	818b (9% MANEM)	106b (1% MANEM)	0b (0% MANEM)
IUCN- Least Concern	NAWCP- Lowest Concern	Lowest Concern	Lowest Concern	NJ- S4B; DE-S1B; MD-S4B; VA-SCS2B, S3N MANEM Focal Species State SGCN-NJ,DE,MD	NY-S2; CT-TS1B,SZN; RI-SCS1B,SZN; MA-S1; VT-S2N State SGCN-NY,CT,RI	MA-S1; NH-SZN; ME- S1?B; NB, NS- no info State SGCN-ME	QC-S3; PE- no info; NB, NS- no info



Regional Occurrence

- Distribution: breeds and winters in BCR 30; migrates in BCR 14
- Habitats used: breeds in marshes, swampy woods, tidal estuaries, lagoons, mangroves, and along streams; typically forages <10 km from colony; feeds in wide variety of wetland habitats: marshes, swamps, streams, rivers, ponds, lakes, lagoons, tidal flats, canals, ditches, fish-rearing ponds, flooded agricultural fields, shallow water near shore, dry habitat

NAWCP BD=?; NAWCP ND=?

Regional Abundance

- 1990s: US—9,146b (101 colonies); CAN—0b
- 1970s: US—4,384b (52 colonies)
- 109% increase in regional population

NAWCP PS=2; NAWCP PT=1

Regional Threats/Limiting Factors

- Reduction in quantity and quality of foraging and nesting habitat
- Predation and disturbance at nesting colonies
- Pesticides/chemical contamination causes eggshell thinning and loss; mercury ingestion causes reduced survival and impaired reproduction
- Can abandon colonies with little notice

NAWCP TB=2; NAWCP TN=2

Conservation Needs: *Sustainability:* 2.9 chicks/nest/yr. *Conservation Actions:* Populations respond well to protection of nesting and foraging sites and restoration of wetland habitats. Monitoring of nesting colonies important to determine population status. *Needs:* monitor, ID potential nesting areas and key foraging areas for historical and current colonies, and productivity at nesting colonies; monitor colonies for predator activity; institute predator control regimes at early signs of predator pressure; need potential indicator for estuarine mercury contamination. *Population Goals:* maintain (above minimum) at 8,200-10,000b. *Habitat Goals:* Restore/protect breeding habitat in the following priority complexes: VA-Mason Cr, Hampton Group; MD-Chincoteague Bay; DE-Pea Patch Group; NJ-Atlantic Co Coast. Protect non-breeding habitat in BCR 30. *Conservation Projects:* 11, 31, 32, 34, 38, 40, 41, 42, 45, 46, 75.