

State Status of Mountain Plovers

Arizona

Species of Greatest Conservation Need

(Arizona Game and Fish Department. 2006. Arizona's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy: 2005-2015)

Strategy also notes that some breeding and wintering plovers in Apache Co. and wintering plovers also in Cochise, Pinal, Mohave, and Yuma counties.

California

Species of Special Concern

(UC Davis Wildlife Health Center. 2005. California Wildlife Action Plan)

Colorado

Species of Greatest Conservation Need

(Colorado Division of Wildlife. 2006. Colorado's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy and Wildlife Action Plans)

Strategy also notes that in CO the population status is low and the population trend is stable. Habitat types include dryland crops, irrigated crops, and short-grass prairie. Threats include habitat conversion (urbanization), habitat degradation (altered native vegetation, altered animal communities-loss of pd, and fragmentation), indirect mortality (farm equipment), and resource extraction (energy development). Fragmentation and energy development were low priorities; the other threats were medium priorities.

Species of Special Concern

(Colorado Division of Wildlife. 2010.

<http://wildlife.state.co.us/WildlifeSpecies/Profiles/Birds/MountainPlover1htm?Print=true>

Accessed 06/04/2010)

Profile notes that more than half of the world's mp population nests in CO. The mp is listed as a species of special concern in CO. Threats are noted to include: conversion of native prairie

grasslands to cultivation, possibly the loss of prairie dog colonies, predation from expanding swift fox populations, oil & gas exploration on NG, and increasing recreation on NG.

The Conservation Plan for Grassland Species in Colorado (2003) has a goal “to ensure, at a minimum, the viability of the btpd and associated species (Mountain Plover, Burrowing Owl, swift fox and Ferruginous Hawk) and provide mechanisms to manage for populations beyond minimum levels, where possible, while addressing the interests and rights of private landowners.” The Conservation Plan includes a species account for mp. The species account notes that when mp were at a peak in PNG there were relatively few pd, but that currently more pd are present (~1,000 ac) while mp populations are very low. (60) Reasons for decline include: habitat conversion, agricultural practices (tall crops, pesticides), rangeland mgt (domestic cattle in pasture allotments result in a more homogenous cover that is taller and with less bare ground), and decline of burrowing mammals. Other possible factors include oil and gas development (low density development is probably compatible) and road development.

Kansas

Species In Need of Conservation

(Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. 2005.

www.kdwp.state.ks.us/news/content/search?SearchText=mountain+plover Accessed 06/04/2010)

Noted that mp occurs only on dry upland short-grass prairie during the breeding season; however during the nonbreeding season it may be found in wetter areas. Plowing has left little breeding habitat. Most recent records are from Hamilton Co.

Tier I Species of Greatest Conservation Need

(Wasson, T., L. Yasui, K. Brunson, S. Amend, V. Ebert. 2005. A Future for Kansas Wildlife, Kansas' Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy. Dynamic Solutions, Inc. in cooperation with Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. 170 pp.)

MP in the Shortgrass Prairie conservation Region in the western third of KS.

Montana

Species of Concern

(Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks. www.fwp.mt.gov/wildthings/concern/birds.html Accessed 06/04/2010)

“Species of Concern” is not a statutory or regulatory classification, but intended to guide resource managers in making proactive decisions regarding species conservation and data collection priorities. MP arrive Montana in April and may remain until Sept. Size of btpd town used was 3-57.5 ha. Commonly associated with Great Plains mixed-grass prairie, big sagebrush steppe, mat saltbush shrubland, Great Plains Badlands, Greasewood flat, and Great Plains saline depression wetland. Brood usually moved 1-2 km from the nest site in the first 2-3 days. More than half of the clutches lost to predators, mainly coyote and swift fox. Chicks also experience high rates of predation. **No management activities in Montana specific to mountain plover are regulated.** State rank is S2B (At risk because of very limited and/or potentially declining population numbers, range and/or habitat, making it vulnerable to extirpation in the state during the breeding season)

Tier I Species of Greatest Conservation Need

(Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks. 2005. Montana’s Comprehensive Fish and Wildlife Conservation Strategy)

Primary breeding habitat in the north-central portion of state in Phillips, Blaine, and northern Fergus and Petroleum counties. MP utilize wtpd and btpd towns. Conservation concerns include loss of livestock grazing, invasive non-native plant species, conversion to cropland, and decrease in pd colonies.

Nebraska

Threatened Species

(Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. .
www.outdoornebraska.ne.gov/wildlife/programs/nongame/list.asp Accessed 06/04/2010)

About 1900, mp were abundant and heavily market hunted in CA and probably throughout its range. MBTA of 1916 protected the mp from hunting. Most recent sightings in NE in Kimball and Box Butte counties. Listed as threatened in NE in 1976. Original limiting factor was market hunting. Later habitat loss and environmental contaminants were factors.

Typical range management practices such as rotational grazing, limited grazing, and improving soil moisture designed to promote taller grasses limit mp. The extermination of pd, human & vehicular disturbance, oil & gas development, and pesticides may also limit mp.

Tier I Species of Greatest Conservation Need

(Schneider, R., M. Humpert, K. Stoner, and G. Steinauer. 2005. The Nebraska Natural Legacy Project A Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy)

Tier I species are globally or nationally most at-risk of extinction and which occur in NE. **This list is used to prioritize conservation planning and actions and does not have legal or regulatory ramifications.** Criteria for selection of mp as Tier I: state listed, GS. Range in NE: Kimball and Cheyenne, possibly Sioux counties. Threats: ag practices, predation, grazing mgt that maintains higher vegetation structure, habitat conversion and fragmentation.

New Mexico

Species of Greatest Conservation Need

State Status: Sensitive Species

(New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. 2006. Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy for New Mexico. 526 pp. + appendices)

MP state status categorized as “imperiled.” Specific factors threatening are: loss or alteration of prairie breeding areas from ag conversion, energy development, surface mining, exotic vegetation, loss of native grazers including pd, loss or fragmentation of migration and wintering areas from conversion, urbanization, environmental contamination.

North Dakota

MP noted as extirpated from state.

(North Dakota Game and Fish Department.

www.nd.gf.nd.gov/multimedia/ndoutdoors/issues/articles-brochures/nd-birds-check-list/docs/nd-birds-check-list.pdf Accessed 06/04/2010)

Oklahoma

Tier I Species of Greatest Conservation Need

(Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation. 2005. Oklahoma Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy)

Category I Species of Special Concern

(Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation. www.wildlifedepartment.com/endanger2.htm Accessed 06/04/10)

South Dakota

MP noted as extirpated from state.

(South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks. www.gfp.sd.gov/wildlife/threatened-endangered/rare-animal.aspx#BIRDS Accessed 06/04/2010)

Texas

Tier I Species of Greatest Conservation Need

Species of Concern

(Texas Parks & Wildlife. 2005. Texas Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy 2005-2010)

Wyoming

Species of Greatest Conservation Need

(Wyoming Game and Fish Department. 2005.

<http://gf.state.wy.us/wildlife/nongame/LIP/Grasslands/index.asp> Accessed 06/04/10)

Avian Species of Special Concern

(Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

<http://gf.state.wy.us/wildlife/nongame/SpeciesofSpecialConcern/index.asp> Accessed 06/04/10)