

**Abundance and Trend of Waterbirds on
Alaska's Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Coast based on
1988 to 2014 Aerial Surveys**

**Robert M. Platte and Robert A. Stehn,
Waterfowl Management Branch
Division of Migratory Bird Management
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1011 East Tudor Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99503**

Data and conclusions presented here are not for publication without permission from the authors.

The findings and conclusions in this article are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

February 25, 2015

Abstract: We summarize 1988 to 2014 (no survey in 2011) aerial survey waterbird sightings that index the abundance and trend of populations in the Yukon-Kuskokwim delta coastal zone. The threatened spectacled eider (*Somateria fischeri*) population index for 2014 was 5,879 birds. Traditionally, a visibility correction factor of 3.58 has been applied for spectacled eiders yielding a population estimate of 21,047 which was 70% above its 1988-2013 long-term average (LTA) size. However, we calculated a new estimate of visibility rate for spectacled eiders in 2010 using the ratio of the aerial index of indicated breeding birds to the estimated population of nests (Fischer et al. 2010). The ratio was 0.425 nests per aerial indicated pair or, expressed as the inverse, 2.351 birds per aerial index. Using this correction, the population estimate for spectacled eiders was 13,822 breeding birds.

In 2014, the three most numerous waterfowl species were northern pintail (*Anas acuta*) with a visibility-corrected estimate of 103,642 birds, greater scaup (*Aythya marila*) with 54,750 birds, and spectacled eider. The estimated population sizes for species of special interest were 7,239 common eiders (*Somateria mollissima*), 8,099 long-tailed ducks (*Clangula hyamelis*), 11,602 black scoters (*Melanitta nigra*), and 2,644 red-throated loons (*Gavia stellata*). The estimated number of common eiders was above the LTA. Numbers of most other duck species were substantially below their LTAs.

Of the non-waterfowl species in 2014, glaucous gulls (*Larus hyperboreus*) were most numerous with an estimated 72,570 birds (90% above LTA), followed by 56,050 Sabine's gulls (*Xema sabini*) (+168%) and 23,147 Arctic terns (*Sterna paradisaea*) (+14%). The index for Sabines' gulls was the highest in the history of the survey. Pacific loons (*Gavia pacifica*) were estimated at 13,720 birds (-17%).

Long term trends based on log-linear regression showed significant population increases ($p < 0.10$) for spectacled eider, common eider, greater scaup, red-breasted merganser (*Mergus serrator*), mew gull, Sabine's gull, and arctic tern. Populations declined for American wigeon (*Anas americana*), northern shoveler (*Anas clypeata*), and canvasback (*Aythya valisineria*).

Previous analysis showed a strong correlation between the thaw-degree-day index of spring warming temperatures and average cackling goose (*Branta hutchinsii minima*) clutch initiation date. We used this relationship to predict an appropriate start date for the 2014 survey consistent with average survey timing of the last several years. Due to weather, we were unable to begin the survey till 2 June, 17 days after predicted average nest initiation of 16 May. Later examination of nesting data showed the average cackling goose initiation date was 18 May (MBM unpub data). Therefore, the 2014 survey started 15 days after average nest initiation which is about 6 days late relative to survey timing in recent years. All survey transects were flown in 2014.

We continued to compile individual geographic locations for sightings of 21 major species of waterbirds based on the aircraft global positioning system and now have over 150,000 bird locations in a geographic information system useful for research and management.

Key words: aerial survey, Alaska, geographic information system, GIS, population index, *Somateria fischeri*, spectacled eider, trend, waterbird, waterfowl, Yukon-Kuskokwim delta.

Annual aerial survey observations of birds on the Yukon-Kuskokwim delta (YKD) coastal zone in western Alaska provide indices to population abundance, trend, and distribution for many species of breeding waterbirds. This information is used by the Pacific Flyway Council, the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management Council, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) refuge managers, and other biologists. The survey was initiated in 1985 to monitor populations of Cackling and White-fronted geese that had shown substantial declines in fall counts. The initial YKD surveys were flown with a pilot/observer in the left front seat and an observer in the right front seat, each counting geese, swans, and cranes (Eldridge 2003). Data on these species are reported in July each year in the Pacific Flyway Data Book (USFWS, Portland, Oregon). The high density of geese on the YKD makes it too difficult for front seat observers to also observe and record other species of waterbirds. Therefore, in 1988, an additional observer in the right back seat began to monitor populations of other waterbird species. The objective for the back seat observer was to document the relative abundance, trend, and distribution of ducks, loons, grebes, gulls, terns, and jaegers. These survey data have become a primary source for monitoring the threatened population of spectacled eider and other species of concern including common eider, black scoter, long-tailed duck, and red-throated loon. The objective in this report is to present details on the survey methods, and summarize the population estimates and trends for all species recorded from 1988 to 2014 by the back seat observer. No survey data were collected in 2011 due to a shortage of personnel.

METHODS

Survey Design

We modified the survey area and transect design slightly in 2012 to omit areas surrounding villages from the survey excluding a total of 212.7 square kilometers. The survey area originally encompassed 12,832 km² of tundra wetlands from Norton Sound to Kuskokwim Bay, extending about 50 km inland from the west coast. The area was divided into 18 strata with generally homogeneous physiographic features visible on an unclassified LANDSAT image mosaic at 1:250,000 scale (Fig. 1). We used custom True BASIC programs and ArcGIS[®] (Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc., Redlands, California) geographic information system (GIS) software to generate systematic transects from a random coordinate within the survey area. Transects were oriented east west along great circle routes. Strata with higher densities of geese and generally higher variances were allocated transects at 1.61 km spacing. Intervals were expanded to 3.22, 6.44, or 12.88 km spacing for strata with fewer geese. Flight distance in 2014 totaled about 2,350 km on 235 transects with a 200 m wide observed area of 470 km². The survey design has changed slightly over the years in the number and placement of transects. In 1998 we started a 4-year rotating panel of transects spaced at 1.6, 3.2, 6.4, or 12.8 km within the various strata. Intermediate transects were flown each year from 1998 to 2001, allowing 50% coverage of the habitat at the 1.6 km intervals by combining samples from four years. We began a second rotation of the same set of transects by replicating the same lines flown in 1998 again in 2002. In 2014, we flew the first year of the fifth replicate set of rotations by flying the same transects as in 2002, 2006, and 2010.

Data Collection

Survey methods followed the standard protocol for waterfowl breeding ground surveys in North America (USFWS and Canadian Wildlife Service 1987). For all surveys prior to 2012, a Cessna 206 amphibious aircraft was used. In 2012, a Quest Kodiak amphibious aircraft was used. In 2013 we used a Cessna 206 float plane. In 2014 we resumed using a Cessna 206 amphibious aircraft. The aircraft was flown at 145-170 km per hour, 30-46 m of altitude, with wind speed <24 km per hour, ceilings >152 m, and visibility >16 km. The pilot used a LORAN (1985-1991) or global positioning system (GPS, 1992-2014) to maintain the correct course while flying transects. Data collection prior to 1998 used voice recording of observations to a cassette tape recorder running continuously while on transect (Butler et al. 1995). Geographic point locations were interpolated based on the proportion of elapsed time between the start and end coordinates for each transect. Since 1998, the observer used a computerized data collection program called Survey Recording Program written by John Hodges (retired USFWS, Migratory Bird Management, Juneau, Alaska). This system consisted of a notebook computer connected to the aircraft's GPS receiver and a remote microphone/mouse. The observer voice recorded each transect number, transect start and end points, and bird sighted within the 200 m wide strip to the right side of the aircraft to the computer using the remote microphone/mouse (.WAV file format). The observer identified birds to species or species group and recorded group size as a single, pair, or number of birds in flocks. The mouse click for each sighting caused the latitude/longitude coordinates (WGS84 datum) from the GPS to be written to a computer file (.POS). We then used a computer transcription program to replay the .WAV format sound files, enter header information (year, month, day, observer initials, and transect number.), species and group size, and combine these with the geographic coordinates in the .POS position file to produce a final data file.

Leslie Slater was the observer in 1988 and Karen Bollinger observed in 1989 and 1990. Bob Platte has collected the data every year since 1991, except 2011 when he collected geese, swan, and crane sightings from the right front seat and there was no rear seat observer. We now have twenty-six years of counts on duck species. Observations on other waterbird species were added with jaegers recorded in 1989, and 1993 to 2014, loons counted beginning in 1989, and gulls and terns added in 1992.

Due to a variety of circumstances data discrepancies have occurred, but none have greatly altered the observations or data analysis on over 100 transects (not subdivided by strata) flown each year. In 1997, the back seat observer was unable to collect data on 13 transects north of the Askinuk Mountains, therefore, we duplicated the data from the 1996 survey for those transects. Twenty-three transects were not flown in 1999 causing population indices to be calculated with fewer transects in some strata. Because the survey is generally flown without covering every adjacent transect in sequence (some transects were skipped early in the survey and flown later to geographically spread the survey observation effort over time), the completed transects still sampled each stratum at systematic intervals and provided adequate data for analysis. In 2001, the back seat observer was unable to fly 13 transects in the central coastal zone and 23 transects north of the Askinuk Mountains. For the missing northern transects, William Eldridge, the right front seat observer, was able to record observations for all species because of the relatively low density of geese, swans, and cranes north of the Askinuk Mountains. In 2003, eleven transects north of the Askinuk Mountains had no data due to a microphone malfunction. In

2004, two short transects in the Scammon Coast stratum and one transect crossing the South Yukon and North Yukon strata were skipped due to wind. In 2006, transect numbers 81 and 83 were inadvertently flown twice on different days and transects 82 and 84 were skipped. We included both replicates in the data analysis. In 2007, data were lost for transect 2, most of 15, and some of 16 due to computer malfunction. In 2008, a 10.4 km section of transect 74 in the eastern coastal upland stratum had no data recorded due to a computer malfunction. In 2012, 4 transects (82, 96, 97, and 98) were truncated on the west ends from 0.3 – 1.6 miles due to fog along the coast. In 2013 several transects were not flown due to limited hours on the aircraft and logistics (transects 55, 59, 63, 72, 87, 100, 102-105, 107, and 109). The observer also lost data for Transect 56 and a small portion of the east end of Transect 67 due to computer problems. All transects were flown in 2014, however, a small amount of data was lost on Transect 29 due to computer malfunction.

The survey has been flown 1988 to 2014 (except no duck survey in 2011) within a maximum range of dates from 29 May to 24 June. The average annual dates ranged from 2 June to 16 June. The goal for timing the survey was to coincide with laying and early incubation of nesting geese because geese are the primary focus of the survey. Prior to 1993, the average survey date was 10 June or later, and surveys were of slightly longer duration, however in those years the timing of nesting was later as well. We considered that consistent survey timing relative to nesting would reduce variation in visibility rate linked to normal shifts in nesting behaviors such as constancy of nest attendance, departure of males in some species, and the flocking and departure of failed breeders. In 2010, we set an objective for beginning the survey each year at about 9 days after average clutch initiation for cackling geese, corresponding to survey timing in 2007-2009.

We examined ways to predict average clutch initiation date for cackling geese because nesting data from the present year are not available until after the aerial survey is completed. A nesting survey has been conducted each spring on a portion of the central coastal zone since 1982 (Fischer et al. 2014). Clutch initiation date has been determined each year by backdating from the stage of incubation indicated by egg floatation angle, adding a laying period equal to clutch size minus one, and averaging all nests found on plots searched by ground crews. The 1993-2011, 19-year average cackling goose clutch initiation date was 24 May (SD= \pm 4.1 days). This date would correspond to a start for the aerial survey on 2 June, nine days later.

However, the weather conditions in the current year also affect nesting phenology. We downloaded from the Weather Underground web site (<http://www.wunderground.com/>) all years of available Meteorological Terminal Air Report (METAR) temperature data for Bethel, Cape Romanzof, Emmonak, Hooper Bay, Mekoryuk, and St Marys. We found a good correlation between clutch initiation date and day-of-year (DOY = Julian date) when warming temperatures measured by thaw-degree-days (TDD) reached 25. Thaw-degree-days are the daily accumulation of degrees of daily mean temperature above 32F. The average anomaly, defined as the departure in days from the 1993-2013 average date at TDD >25, was calculated for 6 weather stations (Fig. 3) and showed a high correlation ($r = 0.78$) with clutch initiation date. In 2014, the 6-station average anomaly for TDD warming was about 2 days earlier than the average date over all years and predicted clutch initiation was DOY = 136, 16 May. The target survey start date was around 25 May. However, we began the survey on 2 June due to weather-related delays in flying the aircraft to Bethel.

In addition to temperature data, we obtained satellite imagery data after the survey to

determine the approximate timing of snowmelt over the survey area as a general indicator of timing of nest site availability. We obtained sequential 8-day mosaics (mid-April to June) of snow extent from the Terra satellite's Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) sensor with a 500m grid cell resolution (Hall et al. 2008).

Data Analysis

With unequal length transect units sampling each strata, we used a ratio estimator (Cochran 1977) to calculate the mean density of observations for each species. The stratum population index total (= density * stratum area) and variance were added across all 18 strata. Duck population indices were based on indicated total birds, $2 * (nsg + npr) + bflk$, where nsg = number of single birds, npr = number of pairs, and $bflk$ = number of birds in flocks. A flock was defined as a group of 5 or more ducks occurring together. A single male duck was assumed to represent a breeding pair because the nesting hen was usually not observable, and therefore a single male duck was doubled for all species except scaup. Scaup tend to have an unbalanced sex ratio with an excess of males in the population, therefore a single male scaup does not reliably indicate an unseen female. We did not double single birds for other waterbird species such as grebes, loons, terns, and gulls where the sexes are not obviously dimorphic. For these species the aerial population index was the total birds sighted, $nsg + 2*npr + bflk$.

We plotted the species population index for each year as a column shaded to indicate single, indicated single, pair, and flock components. The standard error of the total population divided by the total was the coefficient of variation (CV). The average of all annual CVs provided a measure of survey precision. For nearly all species, the data analysis with 18 strata had a smaller CV compared to analysis using the minimum of only four sampling intensity strata.

Log-linear least squares regression determined the average slope of annual population indices across years. By exponentiation, we converted the log-linear slope to the rate of annual change or the population growth rate. Annual % change is the $(\text{growth rate} - 1) * 100$. The estimated standard error of growth rate is the residual mean square error in the log scale multiplied by the growth rate (Taylor series approximation, see Bart et al. 1998).

The residuals around the log-linear regression line provided another estimate related to the precision of the survey. The CV of the residuals after regression included components of both the regression model lack-of-fit error and the sampling error, and it was usually larger than the estimated sampling error CV based only on variation among transects within strata. We calculated a standardized measure of power to detect trend for each species using the approximate formula of Gerrodette (1987) that links sample size, slope, CV, and probabilities for Type 1 and Type 2 errors. The number of years needed to detect a slope significantly different from zero was calculated for each species. Under standard conditions (alpha set at 0.10, beta at 0.20, population change with a slope of 0.0341 equating to 50% change in 20 years), the expected number of data years necessary to show a significant slope provided a useful way to compare species. Each species had estimates using both observed sampling error CV and regression residual error CV. We also calculated the growth rates for each species using only the last 10 years of data.

RESULTS

Spring phenology and survey conditions

The Yukon Delta coast was warmer than normal with an extremely early breakup during the spring of 2014. Thawing degree days at Bethel were 244% of normal on 27 May, 2014. The April 1 snow pack analysis by the Natural Resources Conservation Service indicated a snowpack less than 50% of normal in the Kuskokwim Basin and the lower Yukon River. Most of the low elevation snow in southwest Alaska melted off in April due to warmer than normal temperatures. April ice thickness data indicated below normal ice thickness in western Alaska. The Kuskokwim River at Bethel broke up on 2 May, 10 days earlier than the 33-year average of 12 May (National Weather Service Pacific River Forecast Center, Anchorage, Alaska). Yukon River breakup at Alakanuk/Emmonak in 2014 was on 10 May, 13 days earlier than the 29-year average of 23 May.

The predicted average Cackling goose clutch initiation date of 16 May based on thaw-degree-days was 2 days earlier than 18 May, the date based on the 2014 nest plot data. Thus the aerial survey start should have been around 27 May to be consistent with previous years survey timing. This indicated that the 2 June aerial survey start date was about 6 days late relative to previous years timing and could have had substantial effects on population indices.

The 2014 survey transects (Fig. 2) were flown on a total of 6 survey days from 2 June to 8 June (no survey on 7 June due to pilot flight rules). Weather conditions recorded during the 2014 survey at the village of Chevak, centered in the survey area, are given in Figure 4.

Satellite imagery indicated 2014 snowmelt began around the third week of April on the coastal zone and was completed by about the first week of May (Fig. 5). The date when the coastal zone became snow-free has varied by as much as 5 weeks (Fig. 6) based on 15 years of MODIS satellite data. The 2014 snowmelt was the earliest in the 15 years between 2000-2014.

Relative abundance and distribution

Number of birds sighted, the area observed, and the sampling effort in each strata provided the data to calculate total aerial population indices for each species. Indices for 2014, and where available, the visibility-corrected population estimates are tabulated (Table 1). The aerial population indices, with no correction for visibility bias, showed the relative contribution by group size category for all survey years (Figs. 7 to 25). Caution in interpretation is necessary for species with relatively low numbers of sightings such as canvasbacks and red-breasted mergansers because sampling error alone may cause the apparently large fluctuations in estimated population size.

The spectacled eider population index for 2014 was 5,879 indicated total birds. To convert the aerial indices to estimated populations, we used the standard visibility correction factors determined by the ratio of helicopter to fixed-wing aircraft observations for tundra Alaska species (Conant et al. 2000). The spectacled eider population estimate of 21,047 birds was less than the 2013 estimate but up 70% from the LTA (Table 2). This estimate was calculated using a visibility correction factor of 3.58 which may be too large. If a new ratio of 2.35 is used, derived as twice the number of nests per indicated birds aerial index in the plot-sampled area of 716 km², the estimate would be 13,822 spectacled eiders. Pintails

(103,642 birds), scaup (54,750), and spectacled eiders were the most numerous waterfowl species in 2014.

The estimates for common eiders was also higher than the long-term average (Table 2). All other duck species estimates were below their LTAs. Population indices for American wigeon and green-winged teal were the lowest in the history of the survey. Sabine's gulls, glaucous gulls, mew gulls, arctic terns, and red-throated loons were above their LTAs whereas Pacific loons and jaegers were below their LTAs.

The geographic locations of over 150,000 sightings of 21 species of waterbirds have been collected in 26 years of surveys. Average location accuracy of the observations when the surveys were flown using LORAN for navigation was estimated as within 367 meters along transect compared to 214 meters when using the GPS (Butler et al. 1995). Locations from GPS in recent years are expected to be more accurate. These spatial data are incorporated into a GIS database for potential use in research or management.

Population trends

American wigeon, northern shoveler, and canvasback showed decreasing trends (Figs. 12, 16, and 21 and Table 3) over all years of the survey. Increasing trends over all years occurred for spectacled eider, common eider, greater scaup, red-breasted merganser, mew gull, Sabine's gull, and arctic tern. Trends were significantly increasing over the last 10 years for spectacled eider, glaucous gull, mew gull, and Sabine's gull. Mallard, green-winged teal, northern shoveler, canvasback, scaup, and long-tailed duck showed significant declines over the past 10 years. The rest of the species showed relatively stable trends over the history of the survey and during the last 10 years.

For spectacled eiders, the population growth rate from 1988 to 2014 for the aerial indicated total bird index was 1.065 (Fig. 7). The 2005-2014 growth rate of 1.040 was less than 2 times higher than the nest population growth rate of 1.026 from the ground studies 2005-2014 (MBM unpub data). However the overlap in the 90% confidence intervals for these estimated growth rates indicated no real difference.

DISCUSSION

Three different observers have collected data for this survey, although the same observer has collected 23 years of data. All observers were experienced at identifying and counting birds from aircraft, however especially for the less common species, a "learning curve" effect is likely during the first 2 or 3 years for each observer and the first 5 years in this data set. Observers become more skilled over time resulting in increasingly more reliable information. As observers gain experience with a specific survey, we expect that improvements were possible in several aspects of aerial observations. First, accuracy of species identification improves with development of "search images" for each species seen in various distance, light, behavior, and habitat conditions. Second, skill in counting large flocks increases. Third, complete coverage of a 200 m strip width becomes less variable, both within a survey and between years, even though survey flights did include some training by flying over known-width marks or checking sight angles with an inclinometer. Fourth, with more practice, observers improve in their ability to quickly detect, identify, and record each observation and then mentally switch back to all possible search images over the full width of the transect. It is possible that less-experienced observers account for the

relatively lower counts in the first years of this survey, however, because a single observer completed 22 years of surveys, the magnitude of possible bias in long-term trends becomes very small.

Some variation in detection rate occurs each day due to weather conditions, with higher wind speed and bright sun causing glare likely to be the most detrimental factors. The average of all conditions experienced over the multi-day survey is much less variable among years than are the day-to-day changes. We assumed no long-term trend in detection rate. Preliminary analysis of 8 years of double-count data where the front-seat observer independently recorded spectacled eiders showed little variation and no significant trend in the detection rate for the back-seat observer (Platte, Eldridge, and Stehn, unpubl. data). The average spectacled eider detection rate for the 8 years of double-count data for the right-back seat observer was 68%. A non-significant increase of 1.6% per year was noted, however based on this preliminary analysis, the small magnitude of change in detection rate strengthens the validity of the observed trend index for eiders and probably other species.

Timing of snowmelt and warming temperatures can affect the breeding chronology of waterfowl (Batt et al. 1992) and this variation, in combination with differences in survey timing, may influence observed population indices. Different stages of nesting may correlate with changes in the flocking behavior, single:pair ratio, and tendency to hide or flush from the aircraft. To get the best population trend information, surveys should be timed consistently relative to nesting chronology. The intended survey timing was within the first half of incubation for nesting geese. Better prediction of nesting chronology by using the correlation with warming temperatures will help standardize timing, although weather, pilot flight hours, and aircraft mechanical problems can also have an influence.

For most species both birds of a nesting pair remain in the nesting area, but for spectacled eider, the more visible male eiders depart from the breeding grounds returning to marine foraging habitat shortly after hens begin incubation. Depending on survey timing, a variable portion of the males may have already departed and thus are not available for observation. Late survey timing is expected to lower the population index for eiders. An example of possible timing effect occurred when both spring chronology and nesting were very early in 2004 yet the survey was flown close to average timing, possibly causing the eider index to be lower. Conversely, in 2006, the survey was flown earlier relative to average hatch date and this may have caused a larger population index for eiders that year. Earlier reports analyze and discuss these influences (Platte et al. 1999, Stehn et al. 2006). It is possible the late timing of the 2014 survey relative to nesting chronology resulted in the lower population index for spectacled eiders.

In this report, we include additional data on survey timing and nesting chronology, however further analysis remains necessary to best account for the confounding between timing, nesting, index ratios, and other changes in detection rate that may contribute to bias in trend from aerial population indices. When completed, this work will be reported separately. Similarly, further details and exploration of relationships among various measures of spring warming and timing of nest initiation, snowmelt, and river breakup will be presented in a separate report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Currently there are two survey efforts to monitor the spectacled eider population on the Yukon Delta, the coastal zone aerial survey and the ground plot sampling for nests. Because it is impractical for the nest plot survey to sample the entire coast, it is necessary to continue the aerial survey to gather data to expand the nest population to the entire YKD coast. The combined data provide unique and detailed information at two scales of geographic extent and intensity of coverage. Both are better than either one alone for monitoring the spectacled eider and other populations.

The aerial survey also provides information on many other species of interest, although caution in generalization is needed if a significant part of the range of those species extends beyond the coastal zone. Long-tailed ducks, scoters, and scaup are abundant in the more inland strata that had low sampling fractions and these species occur even further inland where we did not sample at all. For better information on seaduck species, we could expand coverage and add transects in inland areas. Because we base the survey aircraft from Bethel, much of this area must be crossed anyway, just to reach the coast. With the considerable change in populations of some geese since the late 1980s, a re-examination of the allocation of sampling effort might reveal that a moderate decrease in the number of transects in the high-intensity strata would cause only a minimal decrease in precision for geese and eiders.

The geographic point locations of birds collected over the 26 years of this survey have been used for a number of purposes. Interpolated density polygons have been developed for most species as one method to show species distribution. These can be used as baseline to detect future changes in distribution due to such factors as alteration of habitat, disturbance, or climate change. Distribution information was essential in evaluation of YKD coastal zone areas for delineation as critical habitat for spectacled eiders. Relative density distribution maps have been used to illustrate and evaluate patterns of land ownership and impacts of potential land exchanges. Survey information was incorporated into the Birds of North America species account for Sabine's gulls. Loon information has contributed to the Loon Working Group for baseline monitoring and in plans for red-throated loon sampling. Population trends were used to compare with other information in a review of seaduck population status.

Although originally justified and designed just to monitor geese, this survey has expanded to a multi-species effort to collect accurate data on distribution, trend, and abundance for all large waterbird species. This broader ecological or community-based approach not only provides information on these other species but it also provides essential data for understanding the population dynamics of geese. For example, depredation on goose nests and broods has been related to Glaucous gull population size and distribution. The multi-species data collection approach proactively provided five years of population data on spectacled eider even before there was direct support or recognition of the need to monitor eiders. This survey provides continuing annual data for USFWS focal species and species of special concern including common eider, black brant, emperor geese, black scoter, long-tailed duck, and red-throated loon.

The extensive coverage with the aerial transect survey allows an objective procedure for expansion of the ground-based sampling by nest plots. Conversely, the data from the more intensive plot sampling contributes to understanding the aerial observation process.

We calculated index ratios between the aerial indices and the population of nests and evaluated confounding factors such as survey timing, observer experience, visibility rate, availability, nesting success, and nesting chronology. Although it was feasible to collect sufficient data on such factors for only certain species, these variables may influence all species and appropriate adjustments will improve the monitoring process.

A good example of linking aerial and ground sampling is the ongoing work on black brant that has used plot estimates of nesting density to validate that the aerial index accurately monitors nesting brant, indicates a shifting distribution of nesting birds, and shows stability in total number of brant nests (Stehn et al. 2011). Multi-species, multi-scale, designed sampling surveys also provide unique and important data essential to detect and quantify population level responses among species. For example, such data are needed to establish if Cackling geese are a buffer prey species key to increasing nest success for spectacled eider, common eider, and other ducks, or if numbers of cackling geese are beneficial to goslings in emperor geese and brant perhaps due to expansion of grazing-lawn habitat. Extensive, long-term, multi-species surveys provide the data to link population change to variation in species habitat, a key precursor for landscape-level conservation practices and management to preserve species abundance and diversity. The North American Waterfowl Breeding Pair and Habitat Survey also has some similar attributes and objectives, but it is designed for duck species and flyway-scale harvest management. As such, it does not need high statistical precision in both aerial and ground estimates, it does not directly estimate nests, and therefore cannot hope to resolve such issues as are mentioned above. To our knowledge, the YKD survey initiated in 1985 for geese, has grown to provide the longest duration, most precise, multi-species, multi-scale monitoring survey for nesting waterfowl and other waterbirds in North America.

LITERATURE CITED

- BART, J., M.A. FLIGNER, AND W.I. NOTZ. 1998. *Sampling and Statistical Methods for Behavioral Ecologists*. Cambridge University Press. 330pp.
- BATT, B. D. J., ET AL. EDS. 1992. *Ecology and management of breeding waterfowl*. Minneapolis and London: University of Minnesota Press.
- BUTLER, W.I., JR., J.I. HODGES, AND R. A. STEHN. 1995. Locating waterfowl observations on aerial surveys. *Wildl. Soc. Bull.* 23:148-154.
- COCHRAN, W. G. 1977. *Sampling techniques*. 3rd ed. John Wiley and Sons, New York.
- CONANT, B., J. I. HODGES, AND D. J. GROVES. 2000. Alaska - Yukon waterfowl breeding population survey. Unpub. Report. U.S. Fish and Wildl. Serv., Juneau AK.
- ELDRIDGE, W. 2003. Population indices, trends and distribution of geese, swans, and cranes on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta from aerial surveys, 1985-2002. Unpub. Report. U.S. Fish and Wildl. Serv. Anchorage, AK
- FISCHER, J.B., AND R.A. STEHN. 2014. Nest population size and potential production of

- geese and spectacled eiders on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, Alaska, 1985-2013. Unpub. Report. U.S. Fish and Wildl. Serv. Anchorage, AK
- GERRODETTE, T. 1987. A power analysis for detecting trends. *Ecology* 68:1364-1372.
- HALL, D. K., G. A. RIGGS, AND VINCENT V. SALOMONSON. 2014, updated weekly. *Modis/Terra Snow Cover 8-day L3 Global 500m Grid V005*, April 2014 to June 2014. Boulder, CO National Snow and Ice Data Center.
- PLATTE, R.M., R.A. STEHN, AND C.P. DAU. 1999. Timing of Spectacled eider aerial surveys on Yukon Kuskokwim Delta, Alaska. Unpub. Report. U.S. Fish and Wildl. Serv. Anchorage, AK
- STEHN, R.A., W. LARNED, R.M. PLATTE, J. FISCHER, AND T.D. BOWMAN. 2006. Spectacled eider population status and trend in Alaska. Unpub. Report. U.S. Fish and Wildl. Serv. Anchorage, AK
- STEHN, R.A., R.M. PLATTE, H.M. WILSON, AND J.B. FISCHER. 2011. Monitoring the nesting population of Pacific black brant. Unpub. Report. U.S. Fish and Wildl. Serv. Anchorage, AK
- U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE AND CANADIAN WILDLIFE SERVICE. 1987. Standard operating procedures for aerial breeding ground population and habitat surveys in North America. Unpub. Manual. U.S. Fish and Wildl. Serv. & Canadian Wildl. Serv., Laurel, MD, 103pp.

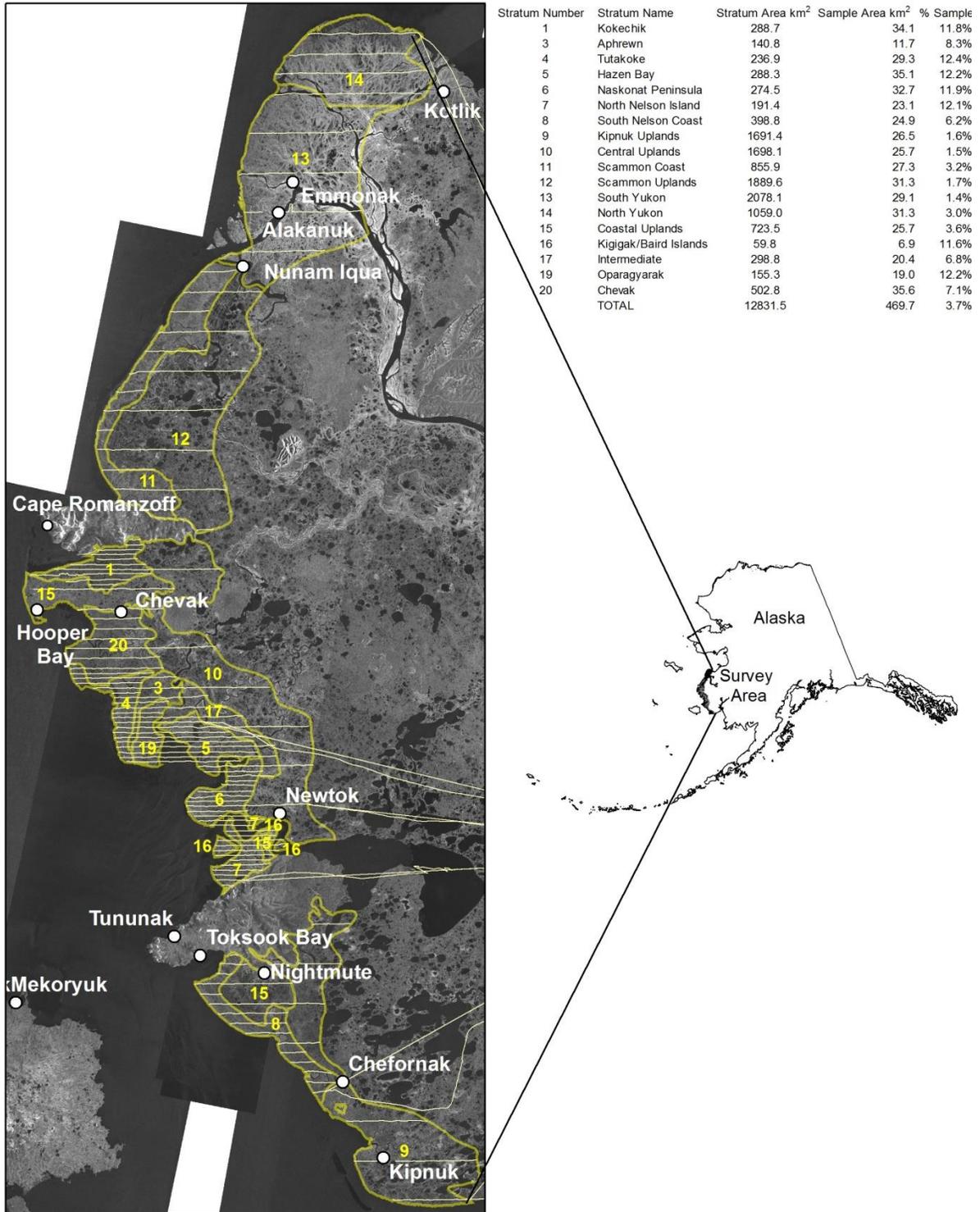


Figure 1. Transects and strata for aerial waterbird survey, June 2-8, 2014, Yukon Delta coastal zone, Alaska. Transects were spaced at 1-mile intervals in strata 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 16, and 19; 2-mile intervals in strata 3, 8, 17, and 20; 4-mile intervals in strata 11, 14, and 15; and 8-mile intervals in strata 9, 10, 12, and 13.

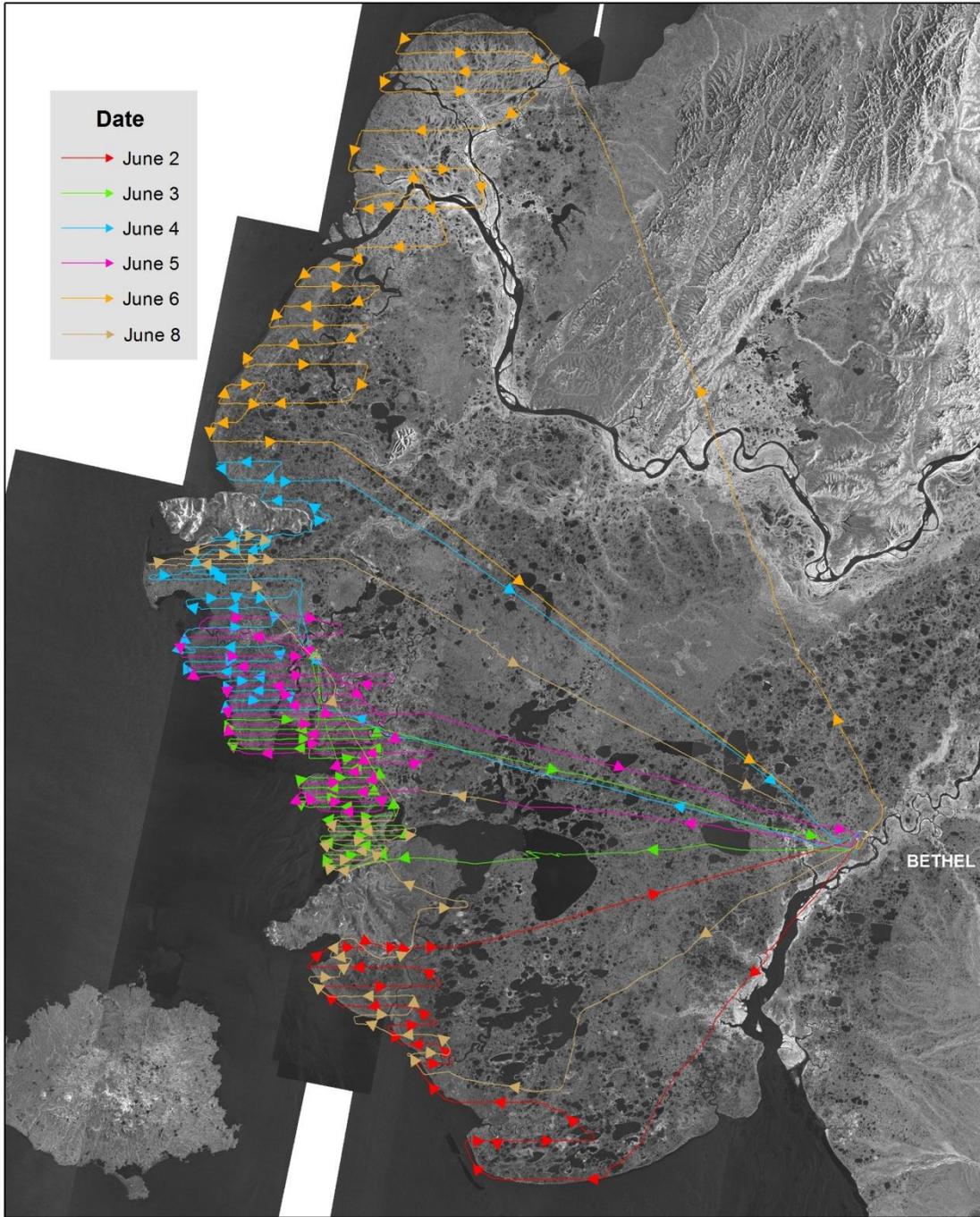


Figure 2. Transects color-coded by date flown in 2014 showing progression of survey by date. We skip every other transect in the 1-mile strata so as not to double-count flushing birds and to spread the sample temporally.

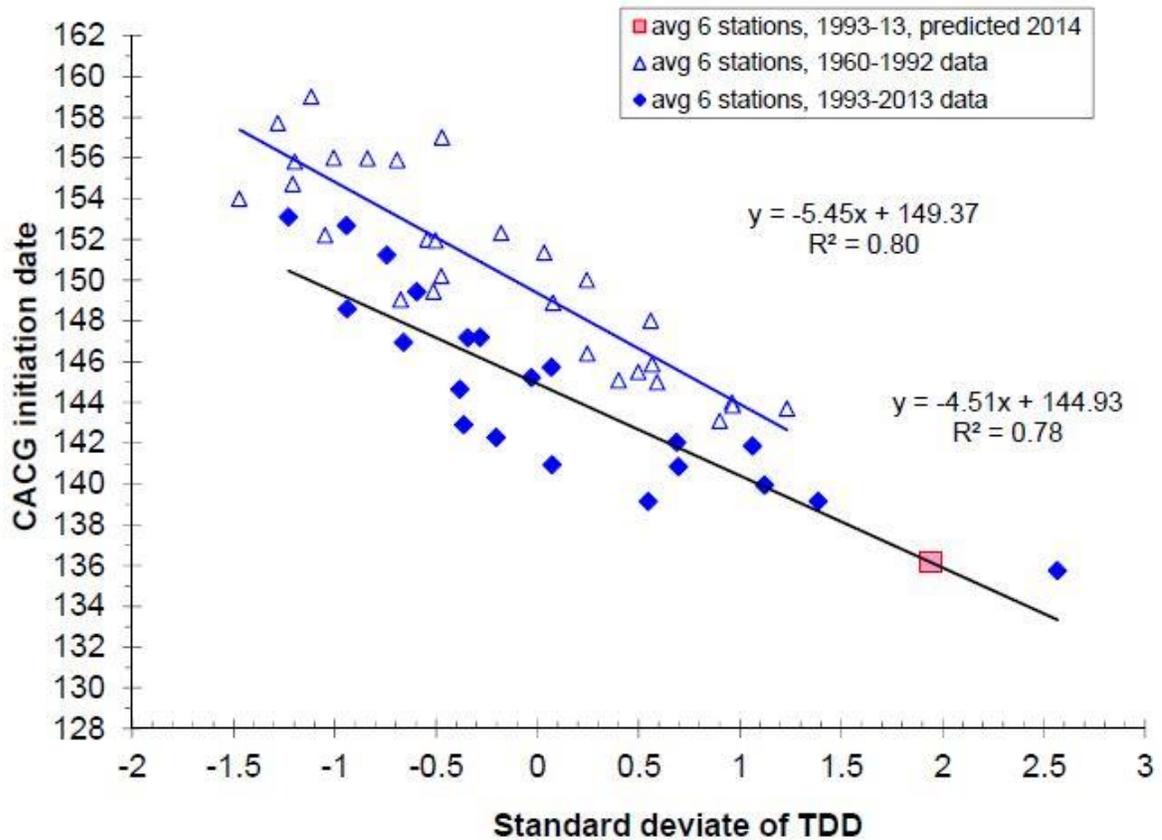


Figure 3. 2014 predicted cackling goose average clutch initiation date based on the linear regression relationship of the standard deviates from 6-station average date at thaw-degree-days>25 criterion. Analysis conducted on May 15, 2014 and predicted initiation on 16 May.

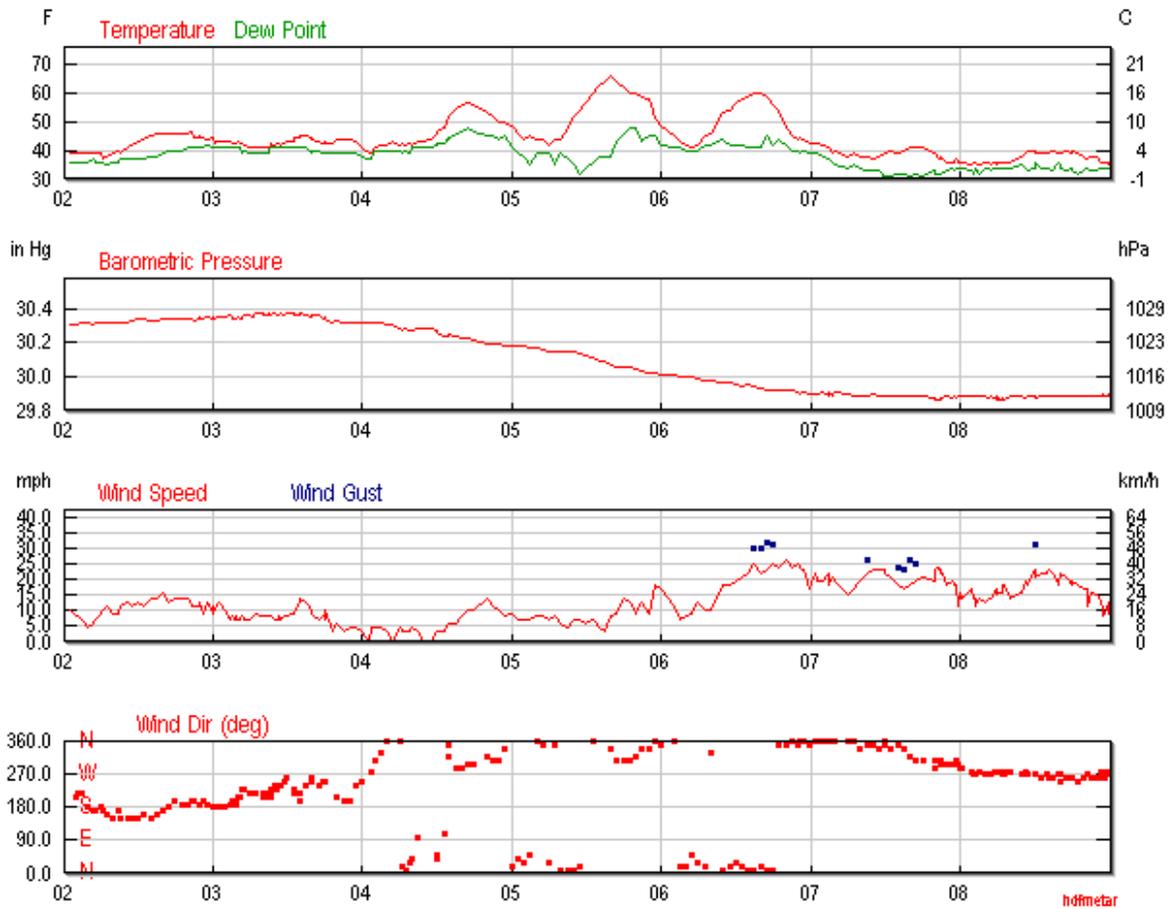


Figure 4. Weather data during the aerial survey, June 2-8, 2014 from Chevak in the central coastal zone (from <http://www.wunderground.com/history/airport/PAVA/2014/6/2/CustomHistory.html>).

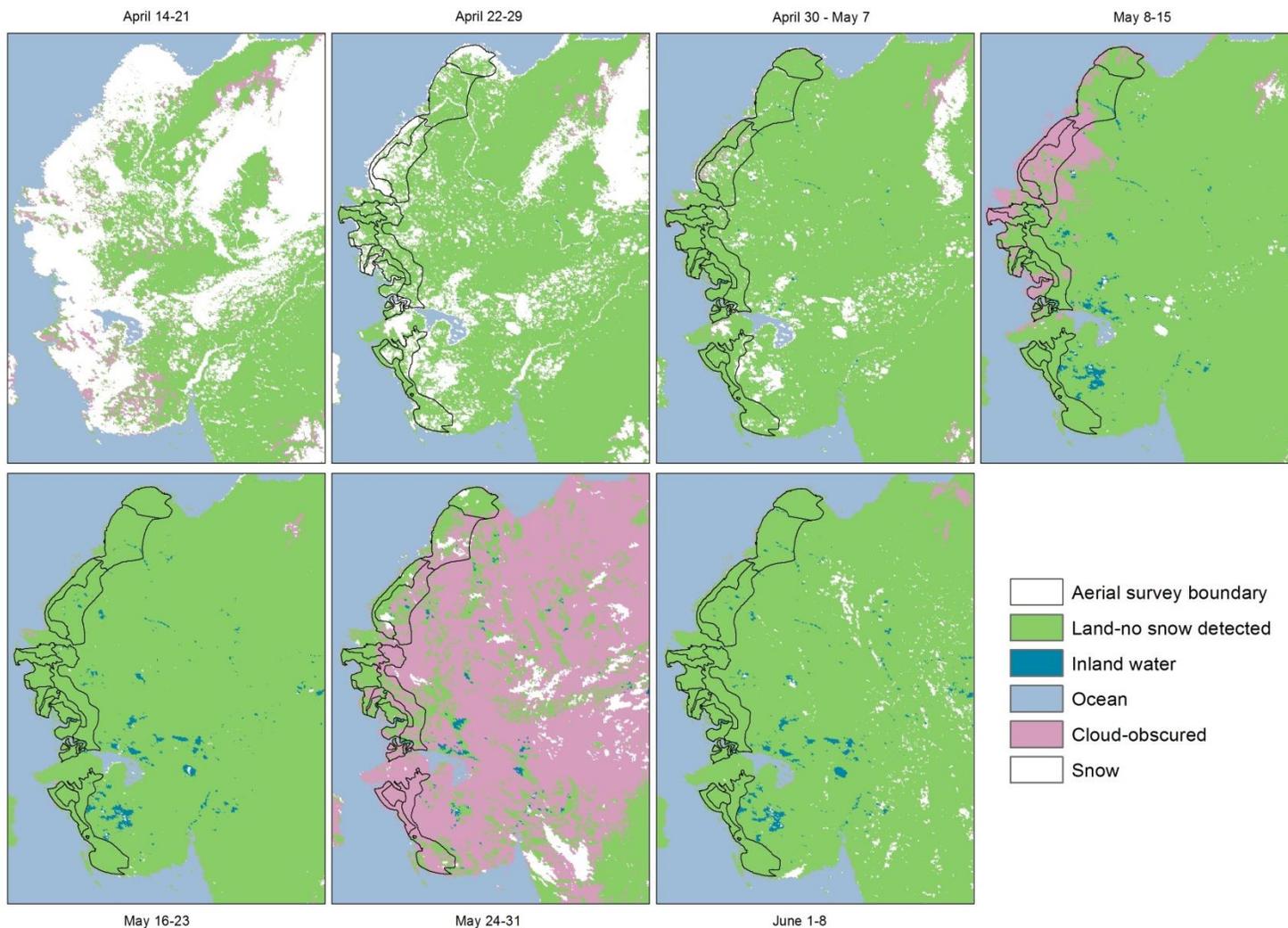


Figure 5. Snow melt chronology from Terra satellite MODIS 8-day composite maximum snow extent, 2014, Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska. Data from Hall, D.K., G.A. Riggs, and V.V. Salomonson. 2014, updated daily. MODIS/Terra Snow Cover Daily L3 Global 500m Grid V005, April to June 2014. Boulder, CO, USA: National Snow and Ice Data Center. Digital media

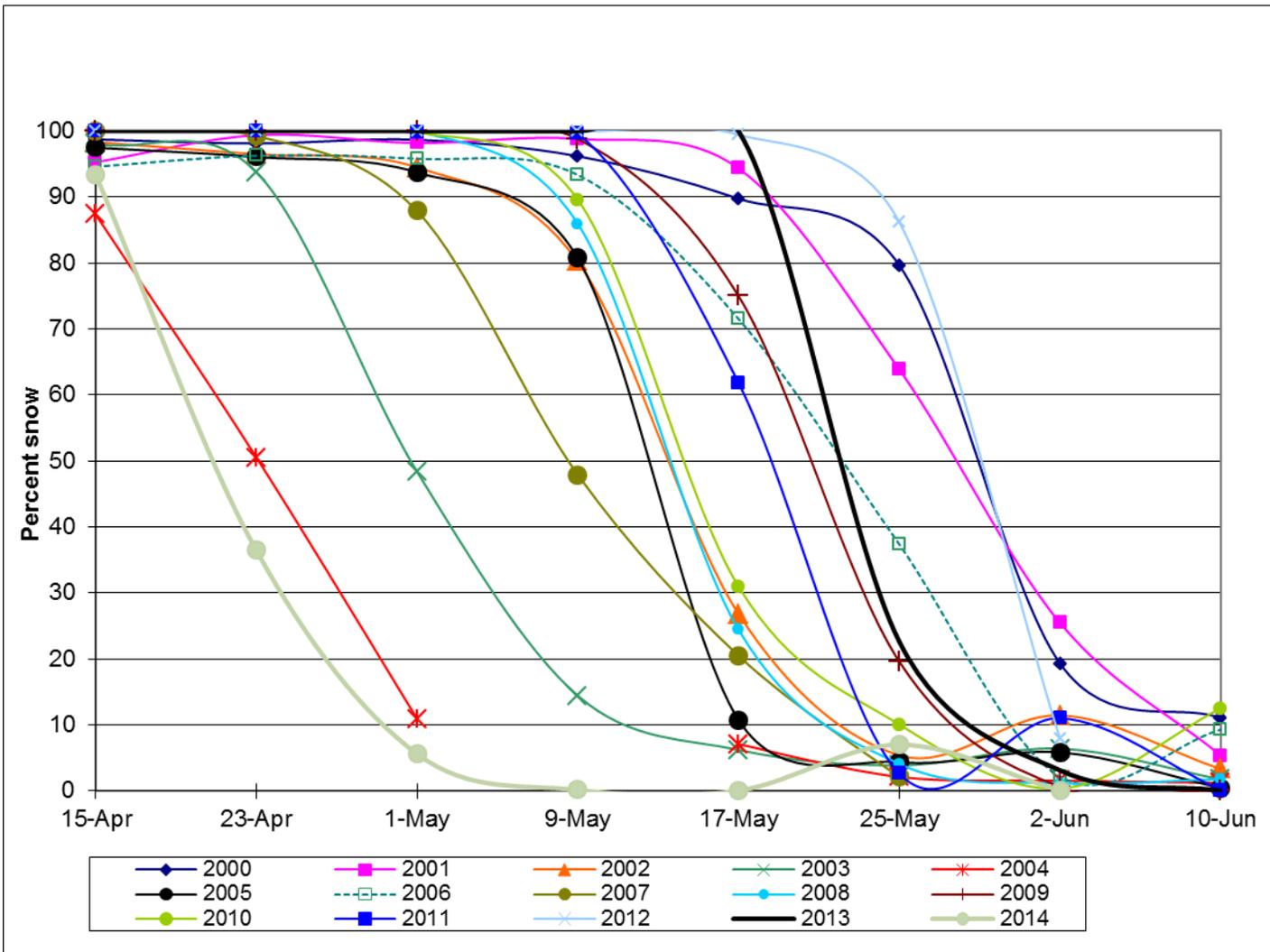
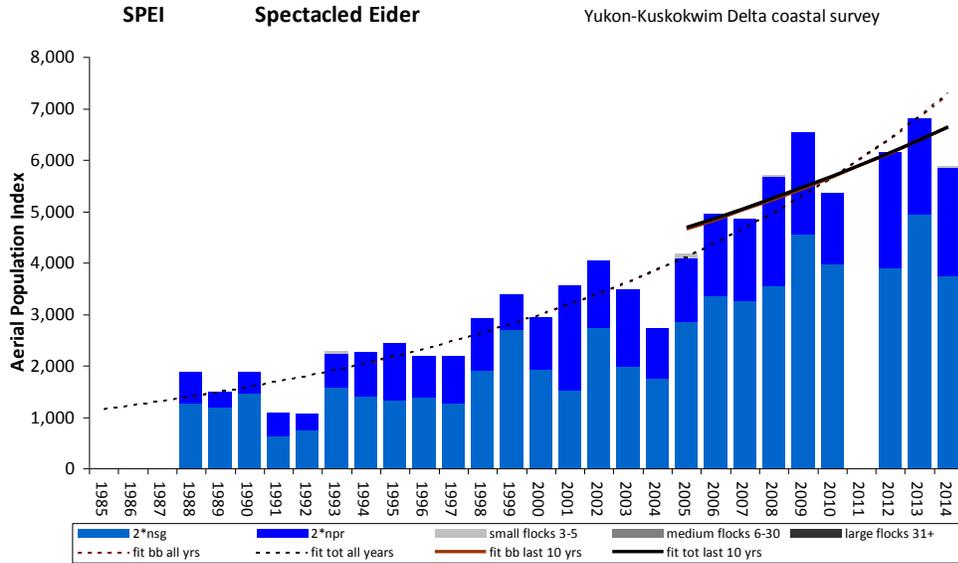
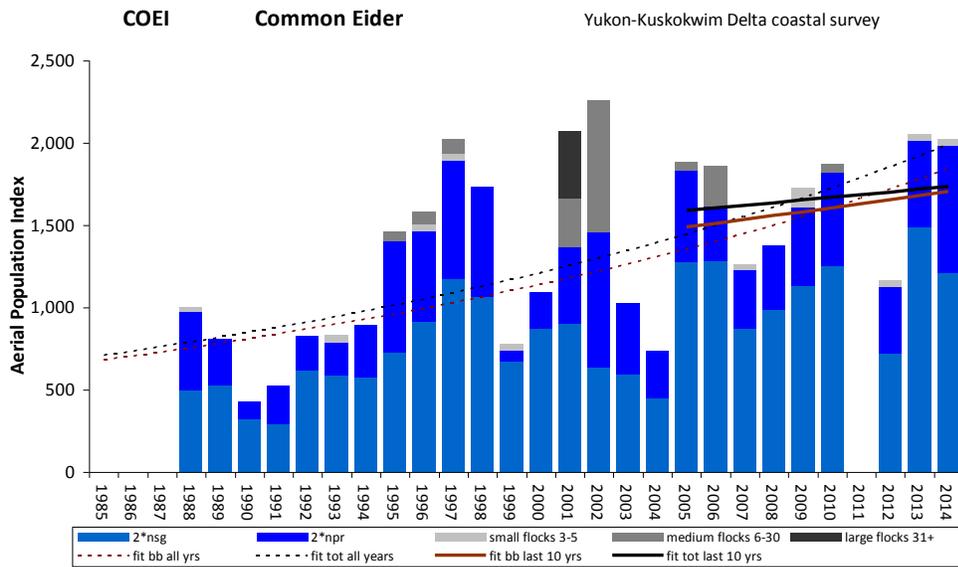


Figure 6. Percent snow cover for coastal zone survey area in spring from MODIS imagery (Hall et al. 2014) .



18 strata = 12,832 km ²										SPEI	
Aerial Index with singles doubled											
0	2*nsg	2*npr	s flks	m flks	l flks	bb	SE bb	total	SE tot	bb	total
1985										over all years :	
1986										n yrs =	26 26
1987										average index =	3537 3545
1988	1272	603	0	0	0	1874	349	1874	349	std dev =	1738 1742
1989	1187	303	0	0	0	1490	222	1490	222	std err mean =	341 342
1990	1451	421	0	0	0	1872	284	1872	284	lo 90% ci mean=	2977 2983
1991	629	446	0	0	0	1075	222	1075	222	hi 90% ci mean=	4098 4107
1992	747	319	0	0	0	1066	180	1066	180	loglinear slope =	0.063 0.063
1993	1589	640	42	0	0	2229	347	2272	347	SE ln slope =	0.005 0.005
1994	1387	865	0	0	0	2252	331	2252	331	Growth Rate =	1.065 1.065
1995	1334	1092	0	0	0	2426	366	2426	366	lo 90% ci GR =	1.056 1.056
1996	1373	803	0	0	0	2176	324	2176	324	hi 90% ci GR =	1.075 1.075
1997	1262	930	0	0	0	2192	334	2192	334	regr resid CV =	0.204 0.204
1998	1907	1014	0	0	0	2921	326	2921	326	sampl err CV =	0.126 0.126
1999	2703	690	0	0	0	3393	493	3393	493	n yrs to detect -.034 =	10.0 10.0
2000	1937	1008	0	0	0	2945	305	2945	305	last 10 years:	
2001	1500	2048	0	0	0	3549	413	3549	413	n yrs =	9 9
2002	2739	1310	0	0	0	4049	362	4049	362	average index =	5582 5601
2003	1985	1502	0	0	0	3487	399	3487	399	std dev =	867 852
2004	1737	991	0	0	0	2728	340	2728	340	std err mean =	289 284
2005	2843	1244	83	0	0	4087	421	4170	429	lo 90% ci mean=	5107 5133
2006	3340	1609	0	0	0	4949	501	4949	501	hi 90% ci mean=	6058 6068
2007	3248	1601	0	0	0	4849	516	4849	516	loglinear slope =	0.040 0.039
2008	3534	2139	39	0	0	5673	546	5713	548	SE ln slope =	0.012 0.012
2009	4568	1969	0	0	0	6537	527	6537	527	Growth Rate =	1.040 1.040
2010	3976	1386	0	0	0	5362	527	5362	527	lo 90% ci GR =	1.020 1.020
2011										hi 90% ci GR =	1.061 1.060
2012	3892	2246	0	0	0	6138	504	6138	504	regr resid CV =	0.108 0.105
2013	4936	1872	0	0	0	6808	576	6808	576	sampl err CV =	0.094 0.094
2014	3739	2098	41	0	0	5838	538	5879	541	n yrs to detect -.034 =	8.2 8.2

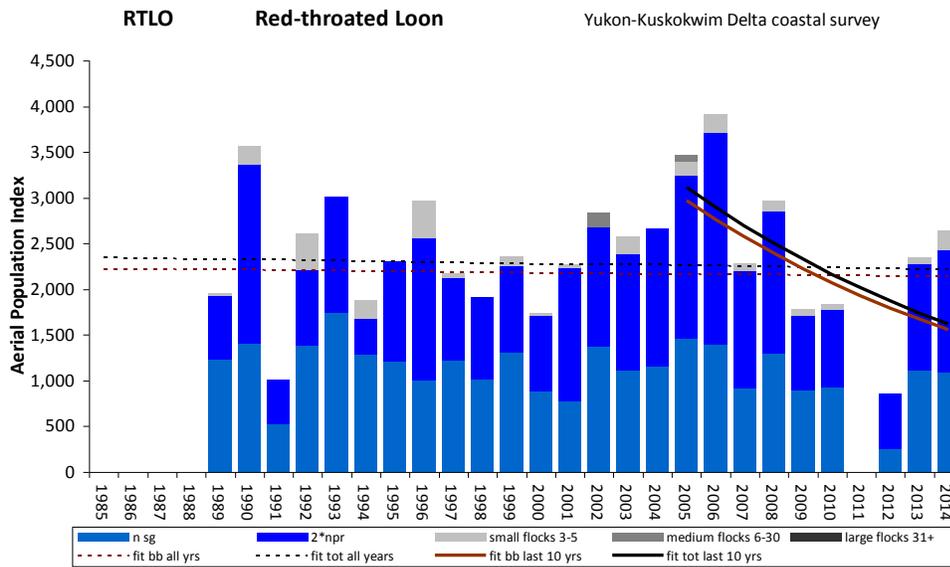
Figure 7. Population trend for Spectacled Eiders (*Somateria fischeri*) observed on aerial transects sampling 12,832 km² of the coastal Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. The indicated total aerial index is the sum of birds observed as singles, an equal number of unseen single birds, birds in pairs, and all birds in flocks of 3-5, 6-30, and 31 or more. Average annual growth rate was calculated by log-linear regression. The power to detect a significant growth rate of -0.034, a 50% decline in 20 years, if it were to occur, used alpha set at $p=0.10$, beta set at $p=0.20$, and a coefficient of variation based on regression residuals or average annual sampling error.



18 strata = 12,832 km ²										COEI	
Year	2*nsg	2*npr	s flks	m flks	l flks	bb	SE bb	total	SE tot	bb	total
1985											
1986											
1987											
1988	497	476	33	0	0	972	272	1005	275		
1989	530	280	0	0	0	810	267	810	267		
1990	325	103	0	0	0	428	122	428	122		
1991	293	232	0	0	0	525	143	525	143		
1992	619	209	0	0	0	829	180	829	180		
1993	588	198	42	0	0	787	173	829	184		
1994	577	311	0	0	0	888	190	888	190		
1995	725	680	0	58	0	1404	271	1463	291		
1996	910	555	41	74	0	1465	264	1580	272		
1997	1172	721	42	85	0	1893	437	2019	447		
1998	1065	663	0	0	0	1728	278	1728	278		
1999	670	69	43	0	0	739	195	783	207		
2000	869	222	0	0	0	1091	213	1091	213		
2001	905	459	0	297	410	1364	262	2070	751		
2002	637	818	0	801	0	1455	322	2255	893		
2003	594	432	0	0	0	1026	205	1026	205		
2004	447	289	0	0	0	736	174	736	174		
2005	1275	554	0	51	0	1829	346	1880	369		
2006	1287	327	0	248	0	1613	420	1861	481		
2007	869	354	39	0	0	1222	231	1261	227		
2008	985	389	0	0	0	1374	248	1374	248		
2009	1131	474	122	0	0	1606	265	1728	275		
2010	1255	564	0	50	0	1819	458	1869	464		
2011											
2012	719	406	41	0	0	1125	206	1166	211		
2013	1485	524	43	0	0	2008	336	2051	340		
2014	1212	767	42	0	0	1979	496	2022	499		

over all years :	
n yrs =	26
average index =	1258
std dev =	465
std err mean =	91
lo 90% ci mean =	1108
hi 90% ci mean =	1534
loglinear slope =	0.034
SE ln slope =	0.008
Growth Rate =	1.035
lo 90% ci GR =	1.021
hi 90% ci GR =	1.049
regr resid CV =	0.327
sampl err CV =	0.232
nyrs to detect -.034 =	14.5
last 10 years:	
n yrs =	9
average index =	1619
std dev =	321
std err mean =	107
lo 90% ci mean =	1443
hi 90% ci mean =	1796
loglinear slope =	0.015
SE ln slope =	0.024
Growth Rate =	1.015
lo 90% ci GR =	0.975
hi 90% ci GR =	1.057
regr resid CV =	0.218
sampl err CV =	0.204
nyrs to detect -.034 =	13.8

Figure 8. Population trend for Common Eiders (*Somateria mollissima*) observed on aerial transects sampling 12,832 km² of the coastal Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. The indicated total aerial index is the sum of birds observed as singles, an equal number of unseen single birds, birds in pairs, and all birds in flocks of 3-5, 6-30, and 31 or more. Average annual growth rate was calculated by log-linear regression. The power to detect a significant growth rate of -0.034, a 50% decline in 20 years, if it were to occur, used alpha set at $p=0.10$, beta set at $p=0.20$, and a coefficient of variation based on regression residuals or average annual sampling error.

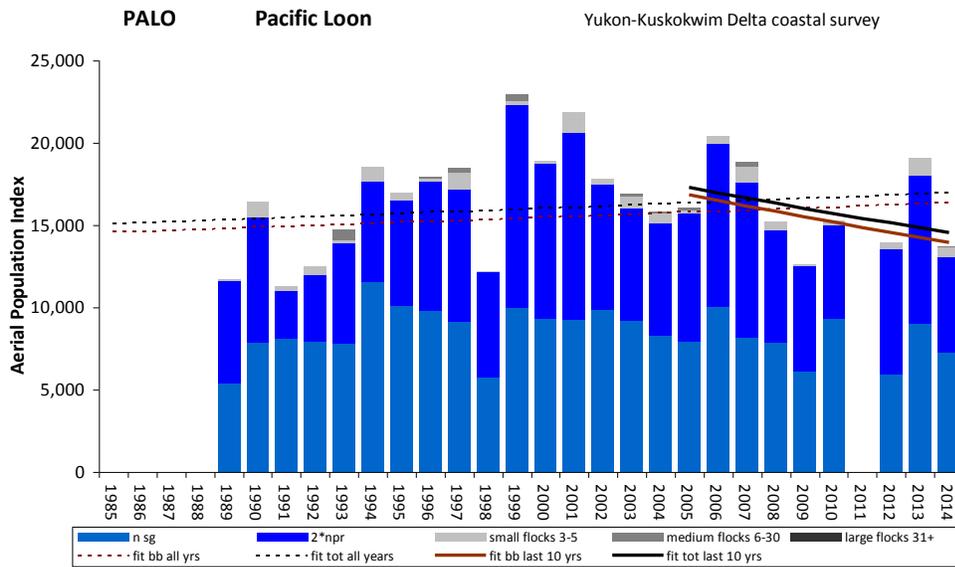


18 strata = 12,832 km²

Year	Aerial Index with singles =1						RTLO		
	n sg	2*npr	s flks	m flks	l flks	bb	SE bb	total	SE tot
1985									
1986									
1987									
1988									
1989	1231	693	26	0	0	1923	414	1949	415
1990	1400	1967	194	0	0	3367	548	3560	582
1991	522	486	0	0	0	1008	207	1008	207
1992	1385	825	398	0	0	2210	332	2608	469
1993	1737	1266	0	0	0	3002	452	3002	452
1994	1288	394	202	0	0	1682	234	1884	312
1995	1212	1092	0	0	0	2304	402	2304	402
1996	1008	1560	404	0	0	2568	544	2972	597
1997	1227	893	51	0	0	2121	361	2171	363
1998	1014	904	0	0	0	1919	262	1919	262
1999	1307	953	100	0	0	2260	345	2360	358
2000	879	828	32	0	0	1707	253	1739	254
2001	775	1456	34	0	0	2231	359	2265	362
2002	1369	1302	0	163	0	2671	347	2834	381
2003	1117	1264	194	0	0	2381	342	2575	352
2004	1150	1509	0	0	0	2659	415	2659	415
2005	1461	1785	151	65	0	3246	448	3462	459
2006	1399	2311	200	0	0	3709	710	3909	750
2007	921	1280	81	0	0	2201	329	2282	328
2008	1295	1555	122	0	0	2850	395	2971	399
2009	888	818	79	0	0	1706	252	1785	247
2010	931	842	67	0	0	1773	253	1839	260
2011									
2012	250	609	0	0	0	860	211	860	211
2013	1113	1162	76	0	0	2276	522	2352	523
2014	1088	1343	213	0	0	2431	421	2644	428

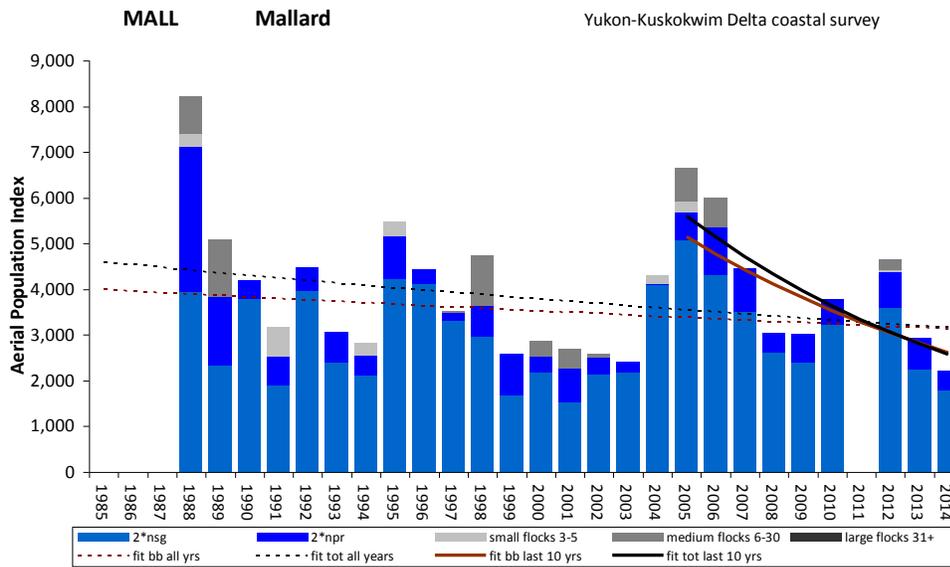
over all years :	
n yrs =	25
average index =	2283
std dev =	665
std err mean =	133
lo 90% ci mean =	2064
hi 90% ci mean =	2501
loglinear slope =	-0.001
SE ln slope =	0.009
Growth Rate =	0.999
lo 90% ci GR =	0.984
hi 90% ci GR =	1.014
regr resid CV =	0.340
sampl err CV =	0.167
nyrs to detect -.034 =	12.1
last 10 years:	
n yrs =	9
average index =	2339
std dev =	859
std err mean =	286
lo 90% ci mean =	1868
hi 90% ci mean =	2810
loglinear slope =	-0.072
SE ln slope =	0.044
Growth Rate =	0.931
lo 90% ci GR =	0.866
hi 90% ci GR =	1.000
regr resid CV =	0.393
sampl err CV =	0.173
nyrs to detect -.034 =	12.4

Figure 9. Population trend for Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*) observed on aerial transects sampling 12,832 km² of the coastal Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. The total aerial index is the sum of birds observed as singles, birds in pairs, and all birds in flocks of 3-5, 6-30, and 31 or more. Average annual growth rate was calculated by log-linear regression. The power to detect a significant growth rate of -0.034, a 50% decline in 20 years, if it were to occur, used alpha set at $p=0.10$, beta set at $p=0.20$, and a coefficient of variation based on regression residuals or average annual sampling error.



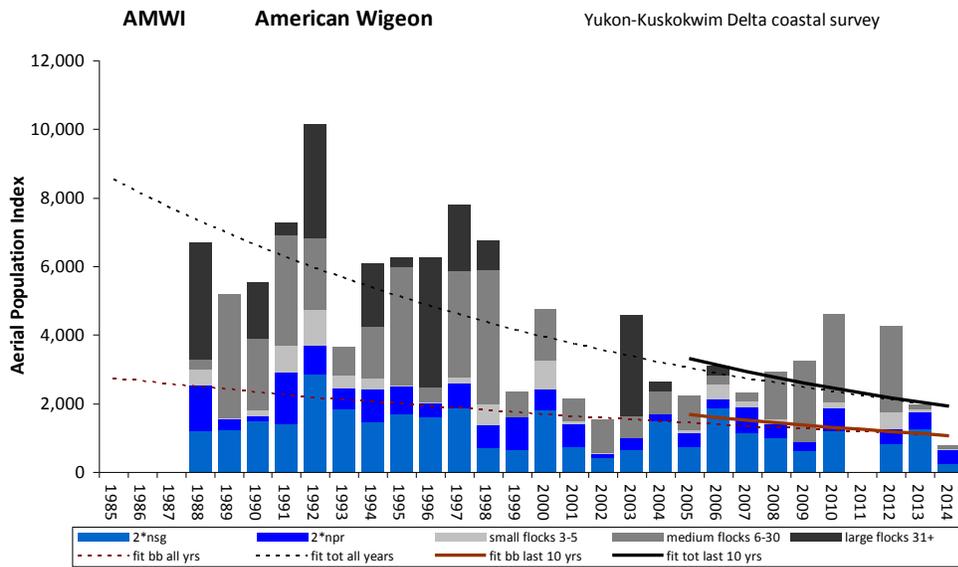
18 strata = 12,832 km ²										PALO	
Aerial Index with singles =1										bb	total
0	n sg	2*npr	s flks	m flks	l flks	bb	SE bb	total	SE tot		
1985										over all years :	
1986										n yrs =	25 25
1987										average index =	15815 16401
1988										std dev =	2950 3135
1989	5408	6215	90	0	0	11623	1313	11712	1317	std err mean =	590 627
1990	7861	7628	943	0	0	15489	1593	16432	1710	lo 90% ci mean=	14845 15370
1991	8096	2928	257	0	0	11024	887	11281	969	hi 90% ci mean=	16786 17433
1992	7925	4069	500	0	0	11994	918	12495	979	loglinear slope =	0.004 0.004
1993	7849	6037	222	652	0	13886	1027	14759	1298	SE ln slope =	0.005 0.005
1994	11527	6104	855	0	0	17630	1467	18485	1517	Growth Rate =	1.004 1.004
1995	10088	6402	440	0	0	16489	1380	16929	1389	lo 90% ci GR =	0.996 0.995
1996	9808	7820	220	98	0	17628	1419	17945	1427	hi 90% ci GR =	1.013 1.013
1997	9148	7986	1088	301	0	17134	1592	18523	1871	regr resid CV =	0.190 0.196
1998	5728	6403	82	0	0	12130	984	12212	1004	sampl err CV =	0.088 0.089
1999	10004	12304	219	443	0	22308	1711	22970	1770	nyrs to detect -.034 =	7.9 8.0
2000	9295	9445	151	0	0	18741	1656	18891	1673	last 10 years:	
2001	9248	11366	1229	0	0	20614	2346	21842	2346	n yrs =	9 9
2002	9826	7628	337	0	0	17455	1533	17792	1553	average index =	15565 16120
2003	9224	6779	751	133	0	16003	1181	16886	1331	std dev =	2500 2705
2004	8313	6837	568	88	0	15150	1202	15807	1373	std err mean =	833 902
2005	7938	7774	192	148	0	15712	2008	16052	2029	lo 90% ci mean=	14194 14636
2006	10045	9908	451	0	0	19953	1485	20403	1606	hi 90% ci mean=	16936 17603
2007	8148	9429	957	292	0	17576	1504	18825	1731	loglinear slope =	-0.021 -0.019
2008	7832	6877	471	0	0	14710	1283	15181	1299	SE ln slope =	0.017 0.018
2009	6107	6371	142	0	0	12478	936	12620	939	Growth Rate =	0.979 0.981
2010	9364	5642	280	0	0	15006	1271	15286	1317	lo 90% ci GR =	0.952 0.952
2011										hi 90% ci GR =	1.007 1.011
2012	5954	7600	392	0	0	13554	1336	13946	1311	regr resid CV =	0.153 0.165
2013	9026	8980	1037	0	0	18006	1514	19043	1609	sampl err CV =	0.090 0.090
2014	7269	5823	577	51	0	13092	1211	13720	1268	nyrs to detect -.034 =	8.0 8.0

Figure 10. Population trend for Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*) observed on aerial transects sampling 12,832 km² of the coastal Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. The total aerial index is the sum of birds observed as singles, birds in pairs, and all birds in flocks of 3-5, 6-30, and 31 or more. Average annual growth rate was calculated by log-linear regression. The power to detect a significant growth rate of -0.034, a 50% decline in 20 years, if it were to occur, used alpha set at $p=0.10$, beta set at $p=0.20$, and a coefficient of variation based on regression residuals or average annual sampling error.



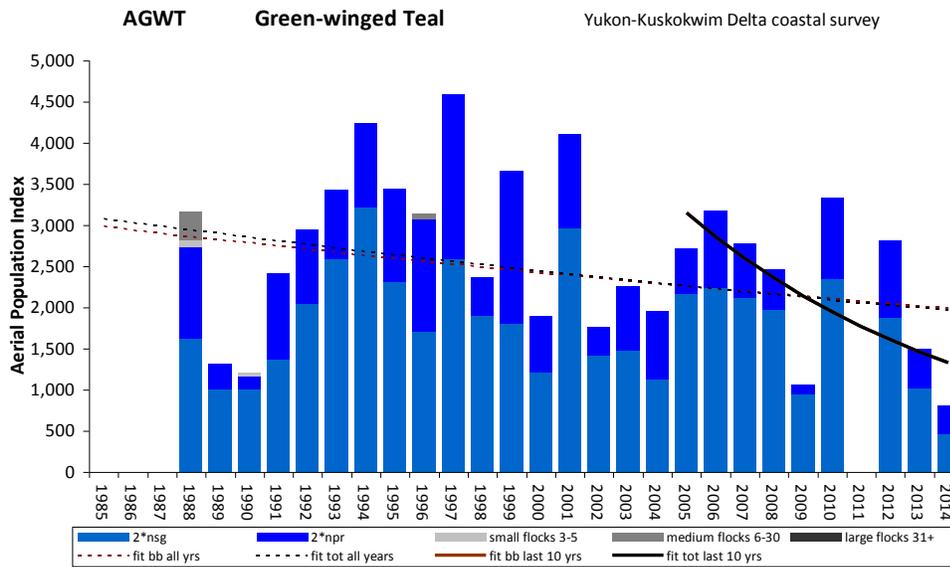
18 strata = 12,832 km ²										Aerial Index with singles doubled		MALL	
0	2*nsg	2*npr	s flks	m flks	l flks	bb	SE bb	total	SE tot	bb	total		
1985										over all years :			
1986										n yrs =	26 26		
1987										average index =	3684 3978		
1988	3936	3200	266	800	0	7136	784	8202	1205	std dev =	1231 1452		
1989	2334	1498	0	1258	0	3832	995	5090	1593	std err mean =	241 285		
1990	3790	401	0	0	0	4191	1091	4191	1091	lo 90% ci mean=	3287 3510		
1991	1907	615	649	0	0	2522	492	3171	574	hi 90% ci mean=	4081 4447		
1992	3976	501	0	0	0	4477	867	4477	867	loglinear slope =	-0.008 -0.013		
1993	2403	658	0	0	0	3061	698	3061	698	SE ln slope =	0.008 0.008		
1994	2111	453	262	0	0	2565	637	2827	767	Growth Rate =	0.992 0.987		
1995	4214	946	337	0	0	5160	1030	5496	1117	lo 90% ci GR =	0.979 0.974		
1996	4098	334	0	0	0	4432	1070	4432	1070	hi 90% ci GR =	1.005 1.001		
1997	3313	153	0	50	0	3467	718	3517	719	regr resid CV =	0.317 0.329		
1998	2965	671	0	1096	0	3635	831	4731	1113	sampl err CV =	0.212 0.217		
1999	1697	904	0	0	0	2602	573	2602	573	n yrs to detect -.034 =	14.2 14.4		
2000	2179	335	0	356	0	2513	556	2870	628	last 10 years:			
2001	1538	723	0	441	0	2261	489	2702	547	n yrs =	9 9		
2002	2136	384	0	74	0	2520	439	2593	444	average index =	3876 4085		
2003	2179	233	0	0	0	2412	697	2412	697	std dev =	1183 1495		
2004	4083	32	181	0	0	4115	1151	4296	1337	std err mean =	394 498		
2005	5085	598	232	727	0	5683	994	6642	1182	lo 90% ci mean=	3228 3265		
2006	4304	1069	0	647	0	5373	722	6020	988	hi 90% ci mean=	4525 4905		
2007	3518	951	0	0	0	4470	642	4470	642	loglinear slope =	-0.075 -0.086		
2008	2607	441	0	0	0	3047	562	3047	562	SE ln slope =	0.024 0.028		
2009	2386	641	0	0	0	3028	740	3028	740	Growth Rate =	0.927 0.917		
2010	3231	545	0	0	0	3776	688	3776	688	lo 90% ci GR =	0.891 0.875		
2011										hi 90% ci GR =	0.965 0.961		
2012	3592	780	41	231	0	4372	1073	4644	1073	regr resid CV =	0.218 0.254		
2013	2257	674	0	0	0	2931	697	2931	697	sampl err CV =	0.193 0.195		
2014	1803	404	0	0	0	2207	425	2207	425	n yrs to detect -.034 =	13.3 13.4		

Figure 11. Population trend for Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) observed on aerial transects sampling 12,832 km² of the coastal Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. The indicated total aerial index is the sum of birds observed as singles, an equal number of unseen single birds, birds in pairs, and all birds in flocks of 3-5, 6-30, and 31 or more. Average annual growth rate was calculated by log-linear regression. The power to detect a significant growth rate of -0.034, a 50% decline in 20 years, if it were to occur, used alpha set at $p=0.10$, beta set at $p=0.20$, and a coefficient of variation based on regression residuals or average annual sampling error.



18 strata = 12,832 km ²										AMWI	
Year	2*nsg	2*npr	s flks	m flks	l flks	bb	SE bb	total	SE tot	bb	total
1985										over all years :	
1986										n yrs =	26 26
1987										average index =	1816 4427
1988	1201	1311	480	297	3419	2512	501	6709	3445	std dev =	739 2282
1989	1229	318	41	3605	0	1546	529	5192	3102	std err mean =	145 447
1990	1493	141	171	2075	1644	1634	354	5524	2261	lo 90% ci mean=	1578 3691
1991	1403	1493	794	3211	369	2897	532	7270	2235	hi 90% ci mean=	2055 5163
1992	2841	864	1032	2111	3293	3706	457	10141	2503	loglinear slope =	-0.032 -0.052
1993	1830	624	382	823	0	2454	813	3658	932	SE ln slope =	0.010 0.011
1994	1431	995	305	1516	1850	2425	727	6096	2211	Growth Rate =	0.968 0.950
1995	1702	803	42	3442	285	2506	560	6275	1825	lo 90% ci GR =	0.952 0.932
1996	1619	384	42	432	3794	2003	506	6271	3470	hi 90% ci GR =	0.984 0.967
1997	1854	743	163	3124	1907	2597	592	7790	3121	regr resid CV =	0.393 0.442
1998	732	644	599	3924	862	1376	300	6761	1916	sampl err CV =	0.288 0.366
1999	640	970	0	744	0	1610	428	2354	606	n yrs to detect -.034 =	17.4 20.4
2000	1798	592	877	1496	0	2390	601	4763	1992	last 10 years:	
2001	733	666	80	653	0	1400	473	2133	548	n yrs =	9 9
2002	401	125	40	973	0	526	211	1540	581	average index =	1439 2824
2003	649	331	0	648	2955	980	420	4583	2690	std dev =	505 1178
2004	1488	224	0	634	283	1712	741	2629	1261	std err mean =	168 393
2005	712	436	82	995	0	1149	298	2225	758	lo 90% ci mean=	1162 2178
2006	1862	261	437	254	290	2123	585	3104	746	hi 90% ci mean=	1716 3470
2007	1137	755	162	258	0	1892	535	2312	571	loglinear slope =	-0.050 -0.060
2008	1009	406	120	1371	0	1415	354	2906	856	SE ln slope =	0.044 0.059
2009	616	247	0	2375	0	863	266	3238	1124	Growth Rate =	0.951 0.942
2010	1203	650	190	2575	0	1853	383	4619	1513	lo 90% ci GR =	0.884 0.855
2011										hi 90% ci GR =	1.022 1.038
2012	814	440	495	2520	0	1254	530	4268	1941	regr resid CV =	0.394 0.527
2013	1242	521	82	122	0	1762	484	1966	508	sampl err CV =	0.305 0.324
2014	252	385	42	101	0	637	297	780	314	n yrs to detect -.034 =	18.1 18.8

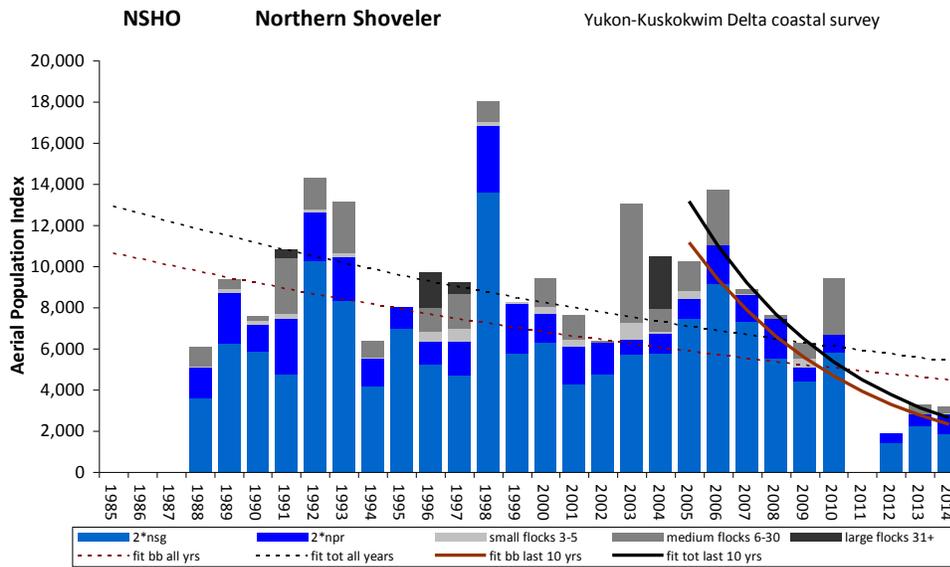
Figure 12. Population trend for American Wigeon (*Anas americana*) observed on aerial transects sampling 12,832 km² of the coastal Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. The indicated total aerial index is the sum of birds observed as singles, an equal number of unseen single birds, birds in pairs, and all birds in flocks of 3-5, 6-30, and 31 or more. Average annual growth rate was calculated by log-linear regression. The power to detect a significant growth rate of -0.034, a 50% decline in 20 years, if it were to occur, used alpha set at $p=0.10$, beta set at $p=0.20$, and a coefficient of variation based on regression residuals or average annual sampling error.



18 strata = 12,832 km ²										AGWT	
Aerial Index with singles doubled										AGWT	
0	2*nsg	2*npr	s flks	m flks	l flks	bb	SE bb	total	SE tot	bb	total
1985											
1986											
1987											
1988	1623	1105	82	354	0	2728	465	3163	554		
1989	1002	312	0	0	0	1313	328	1313	328		
1990	1007	164	41	0	0	1171	365	1212	367		
1991	1370	1042	0	0	0	2412	470	2412	470		
1992	2037	908	0	0	0	2945	472	2945	472		
1993	2595	836	0	0	0	3431	579	3431	579		
1994	3216	1023	0	0	0	4240	754	4240	754		
1995	2308	1128	0	0	0	3436	904	3436	904		
1996	1709	1371	0	59	0	3081	555	3140	560		
1997	2589	2003	0	0	0	4592	938	4592	938		
1998	1898	462	0	0	0	2360	528	2360	528		
1999	1798	1853	0	0	0	3652	946	3652	946		
2000	1211	678	0	0	0	1889	444	1889	444		
2001	2960	1142	0	0	0	4102	590	4102	590		
2002	1410	347	0	0	0	1758	557	1758	557		
2003	1483	775	0	0	0	2258	680	2258	680		
2004	1127	836	0	0	0	1963	453	1963	453		
2005	2166	557	0	0	0	2722	674	2722	674		
2006	2244	924	0	0	0	3168	608	3168	608		
2007	2119	658	0	0	0	2778	717	2778	717		
2008	1970	491	0	0	0	2460	590	2460	590		
2009	945	117	0	0	0	1061	287	1061	287		
2010	2353	975	0	0	0	3328	620	3328	620		
2011											
2012	1880	937	0	0	0	2818	686	2818	686		
2013	1025	480	0	0	0	1505	460	1505	460		
2014	460	354	0	0	0	814	339	814	339		

over all years :	
n yrs =	26 26
average index =	2615 2635
std dev =	1000 1005
std err mean =	196 197
lo 90% ci mean =	2292 2311
hi 90% ci mean =	2938 2960
loglinear slope =	-0.014 -0.015
SE ln slope =	0.011 0.011
Growth Rate =	0.986 0.985
lo 90% ci GR =	0.968 0.967
hi 90% ci GR =	1.005 1.003
regr resid CV =	0.441 0.439
sampl err CV =	0.237 0.236
nyrs to detect -.034 =	15.3 15.2
last 10 years:	
n yrs =	9 9
average index =	2295 2295
std dev =	928 928
std err mean =	309 309
lo 90% ci mean =	1786 1786
hi 90% ci mean =	2804 2804
loglinear slope =	-0.096 -0.096
SE ln slope =	0.050 0.050
Growth Rate =	0.908 0.908
lo 90% ci GR =	0.837 0.837
hi 90% ci GR =	0.986 0.986
regr resid CV =	0.443 0.443
sampl err CV =	0.262 0.262
nyrs to detect -.034 =	16.3 16.3

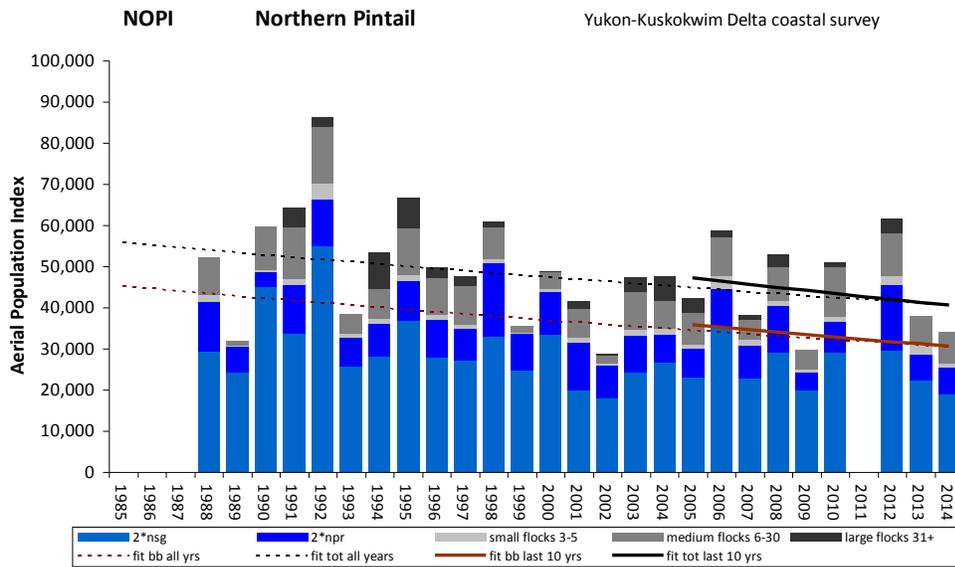
Figure 13. Population trend for Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca*) observed on aerial transects sampling 12,832 km² of the coastal Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. The indicated total aerial index is the sum of birds observed as singles, an equal number of unseen single birds, birds in pairs, and all birds in flocks of 3-5, 6-30, and 31 or more. Average annual growth rate was calculated by log-linear regression. The power to detect a significant growth rate of -0.034, a 50% decline in 20 years, if it were to occur, used alpha set at $p=0.10$, beta set at $p=0.20$, and a coefficient of variation based on regression residuals or average annual sampling error.



18 strata = 12,832 km ²										NSHO	
Year	2*nsg	2*npr	s flks	m flks	l flks	bb	SE bb	total	SE tot	bb	total
1985											
1986											
1987											
1988	3620	1442	42	982	0	5061	730	6085	1180		
1989	6250	2485	205	434	0	8735	1228	9374	1363		
1990	5883	1260	205	226	0	7143	1179	7574	1210		
1991	4755	2739	184	2704	410	7494	1015	10791	2136		
1992	10233	2389	138	1502	0	12622	1593	14263	1951		
1993	8326	2164	164	2458	0	10491	1875	13112	2286		
1994	4162	1357	42	797	0	5519	836	6358	927		
1995	6952	1066	0	0	0	8018	1174	8018	1174		
1996	5249	1078	480	1205	1703	6327	793	9716	1504		
1997	4695	1653	602	1693	571	6348	1130	9213	1525		
1998	13586	3270	166	1038	0	16856	1494	18060	1551		
1999	5755	2418	48	0	0	8173	850	8221	853		
2000	6273	1396	373	1367	0	7669	1479	9409	1644		
2001	4252	1888	320	1190	0	6140	1210	7650	1464		
2002	4753	1541	0	48	0	6294	1613	6342	1614		
2003	5721	704	869	5762	0	6425	1682	13056	4810		
2004	5776	927	119	1146	2527	6703	1183	10495	3061		
2005	7447	1007	348	1443	0	8454	1074	10245	1310		
2006	9112	1929	0	2673	0	11041	1659	13713	1951		
2007	7329	1277	81	200	0	8606	1222	8887	1239		
2008	5522	1911	0	187	0	7433	1395	7620	1403		
2009	4421	675	433	747	0	5097	941	6277	1032		
2010	5814	856	0	2716	0	6670	996	9386	1808		
2011											
2012	1445	422	0	0	0	1867	495	1867	495		
2013	2259	565	0	466	0	2823	661	3289	598		
2014	1860	942	42	314	0	2802	680	3158	848		

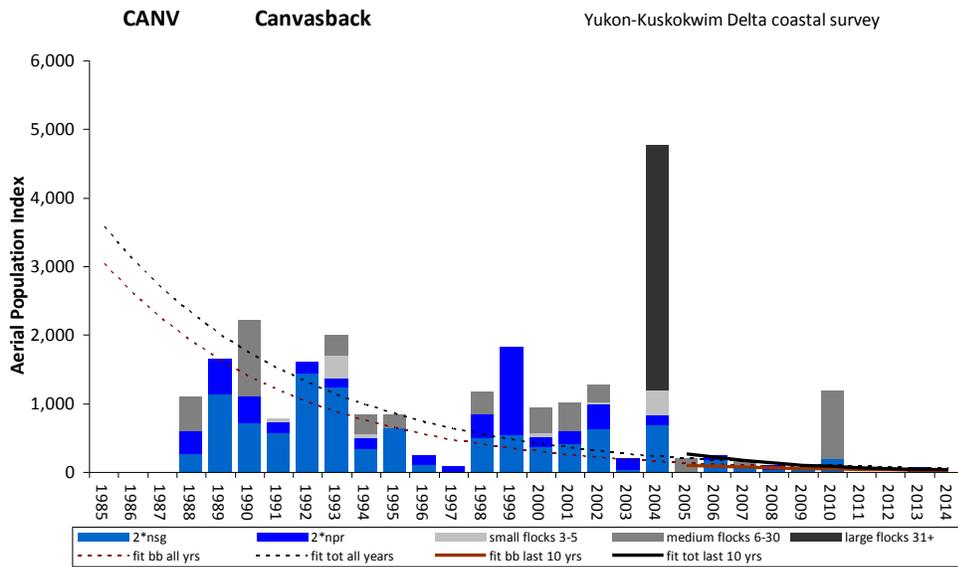
over all years :	
n yrs =	26 26
average index =	7339 8930
std dev =	3091 3623
std err mean =	606 711
lo 90% ci mean =	6342 7761
hi 90% ci mean =	8336 10099
loglinear slope =	-0.030 -0.030
SE ln slope =	0.010 0.011
Growth Rate =	0.971 0.970
lo 90% ci GR =	0.954 0.952
hi 90% ci GR =	0.987 0.989
regr resid CV =	0.408 0.446
sampl err CV =	0.171 0.183
nyrs to detect -.034 =	12.3 12.9
last 10 years:	
n yrs =	9 9
average index =	6088 7160
std dev =	3140 3880
std err mean =	1047 1293
lo 90% ci mean =	4366 5033
hi 90% ci mean =	7810 9287
loglinear slope =	-0.174 -0.179
SE ln slope =	0.033 0.041
Growth Rate =	0.840 0.836
lo 90% ci GR =	0.795 0.781
hi 90% ci GR =	0.887 0.894
regr resid CV =	0.297 0.368
sampl err CV =	0.187 0.185
nyrs to detect -.034 =	13.0 13.0

Figure 14. Population trend for Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*) observed on aerial transects sampling 12,832 km² of the coastal Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. The indicated total aerial index is the sum of birds observed as singles, an equal number of unseen single birds, birds in pairs, and all birds in flocks of 3-5, 6-30, and 31 or more. Average annual growth rate was calculated by log-linear regression. The power to detect a significant growth rate of -0.034, a 50% decline in 20 years, if it were to occur, used alpha set at $p=0.10$, beta set at $p=0.20$, and a coefficient of variation based on regression residuals or average annual sampling error.



18 strata = 12,832 km ²										NOPI	
Year	2*nsg	2*npr	s flks	m flks	l flks	bb	SE bb	total	SE tot	bb	total
1985										over all years :	
1986										n yrs =	26 26
1987										average index =	37628 48695
1988	29350	12109	1621	8972	0	41459	3072	52052	5916	std dev =	9477 13291
1989	24168	6325	322	1148	0	30492	2751	31962	2842	std err mean =	1859 2607
1990	44941	3638	708	10377	0	48578	3895	59663	6490	lo 90% ci mean=	34570 44407
1991	33658	11813	1486	12570	4724	45470	3632	64250	8719	hi 90% ci mean=	40685 52983
1992	55085	11049	3819	14084	2235	66134	3420	86272	6082	loglinear slope =	-0.014 -0.011
1993	25554	7122	1167	4537	0	32676	2440	38379	3644	SE ln slope =	0.006 0.007
1994	28293	7989	1012	7361	8682	36281	3005	53336	8254	Growth Rate =	0.986 0.989
1995	36893	9571	1547	11223	7325	46464	3802	66560	7133	lo 90% ci GR =	0.977 0.978
1996	27708	9591	876	8947	2726	37299	2600	49847	4055	hi 90% ci GR =	0.996 1.000
1997	27284	7671	899	9386	2236	34955	3069	47476	5128	regr resid CV =	0.219 0.261
1998	33010	17789	1010	7686	1369	50799	2995	60863	3861	sampl err CV =	0.085 0.113
1999	24751	8775	288	1567	0	33527	3944	35382	4025	n yrs to detect -.034 =	7.7 9.3
2000	33328	10489	852	3843	278	43817	4836	48790	6474	last 10 years:	
2001	19949	11493	1256	6888	1866	31442	2394	41452	3727	n yrs =	9 9
2002	17703	8322	444	1879	402	26025	2260	28750	2547	average index =	34033 45129
2003	24199	8980	1324	9220	3513	33179	3437	47236	9108	std dev =	8054 11224
2004	26546	6870	1365	7043	5804	33417	2898	47628	9766	std err mean =	2685 3741
2005	22948	7081	935	7921	3474	30030	2059	42360	4037	lo 90% ci mean=	29617 38975
2006	35063	9619	2898	9679	1538	44682	3478	58797	4245	hi 90% ci mean=	38449 51283
2007	22749	8144	1227	4974	1136	30893	2944	38230	3978	loglinear slope =	-0.017 -0.017
2008	29119	11243	1225	8173	3137	40361	3096	52896	5159	SE ln slope =	0.027 0.029
2009	19829	4293	889	4838	0	24122	1948	29849	2901	Growth Rate =	0.983 0.983
2010	29079	7333	1484	11957	1029	36411	4058	50880	5962	lo 90% ci GR =	0.939 0.937
2011										hi 90% ci GR =	1.028 1.032
2012	29526	16091	2158	10295	3237	45618	4305	61307	11225	regr resid CV =	0.245 0.264
2013	22184	6505	2311	6861	0	28689	2582	37862	3923	sampl err CV =	0.088 0.110
2014	19097	6397	886	7600	0	25495	2374	33981	4016	n yrs to detect -.034 =	7.9 9.1

Figure 15. Population trend for Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*) observed on aerial transects sampling 12,832 km² of the coastal Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. The indicated total aerial index is the sum of birds observed as singles, an equal number of unseen single birds, birds in pairs, and all birds in flocks of 3-5, 6-30, and 31 or more. Average annual growth rate was calculated by log-linear regression. The power to detect a significant growth rate of -0.034, a 50% decline in 20 years, if it were to occur, used alpha set at $p=0.10$, beta set at $p=0.20$, and a coefficient of variation based on regression residuals or average annual sampling error.

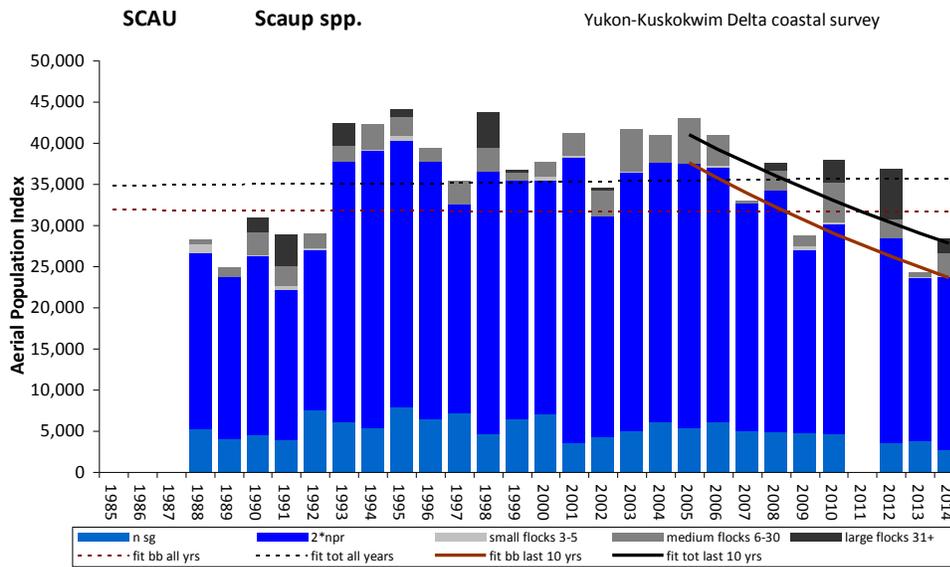


18 strata = 12,832 km²

Year	Aerial Index with singles doubled					CANV					
	2*nsg	2*npr	s flks	m flks	l flks	bb	SE bb	total	SE tot	bb	total
1985	0	0	0	0	0						
1986											
1987											
1988	268	333	0	502	0	601	215	1103	561		
1989	1124	517	0	0	0	1641	512	1641	512		
1990	719	386	0	1111	0	1105	382	2215	1314		
1991	567	169	46	0	0	735	350	781	352		
1992	1437	172	0	0	0	1609	1066	1609	1066		
1993	1237	136	325	289	0	1374	681	1988	768		
1994	332	178	42	289	0	510	212	841	340		
1995	649	0	0	194	0	649	337	843	408		
1996	104	144	0	0	0	249	153	249	153		
1997	0	89	0	0	0	89	73	89	73		
1998	503	341	0	320	0	844	327	1164	466		
1999	546	1276	0	0	0	1823	521	1823	521		
2000	363	159	40	369	0	522	180	931	329		
2001	407	199	0	397	0	606	258	1002	449		
2002	623	356	41	248	0	979	365	1268	513		
2003	33	169	0	0	0	202	136	202	136		
2004	684	144	361	0	3581	829	440	4771	3447		
2005	18	0	0	184	0	18	18	202	203		
2006	184	53	0	0	0	238	134	238	134		
2007	98	0	0	57	0	98	73	155	113		
2008	31	66	0	0	0	97	51	97	51		
2009	34	0	0	0	0	34	37	34	37		
2010	187	0	0	1001	0	187	130	1187	966		
2011											
2012	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
2013	0	68	0	0	0	68	68	68	68		
2014	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		

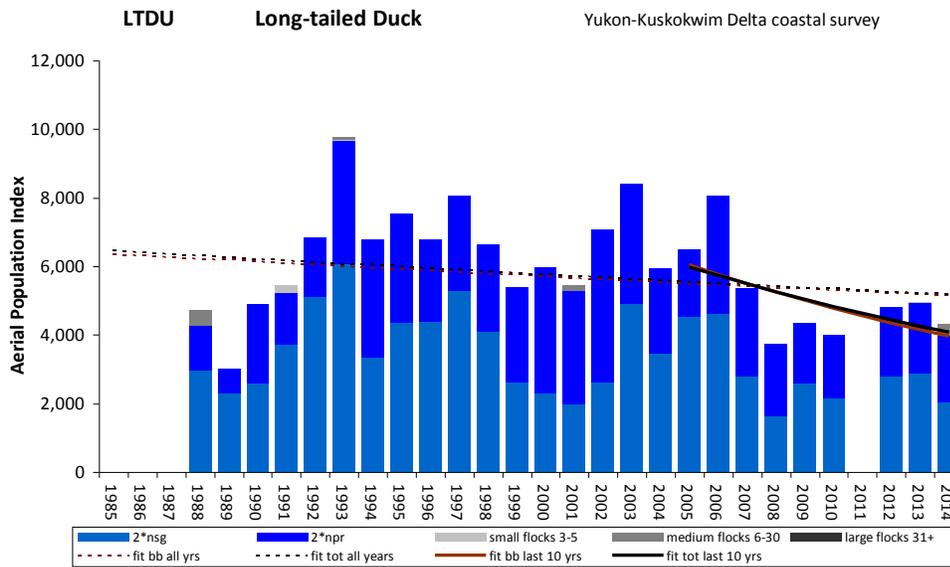
over all years :	
n yrs =	26
average index =	581 942
std dev =	557 1037
std err mean =	109 203
lo 90% ci mean =	401 608
hi 90% ci mean =	761 1277
loglinear slope =	-0.155 -0.144
SE ln slope =	0.027 0.035
Growth Rate =	0.856 0.866
lo 90% ci GR =	0.820 0.818
hi 90% ci GR =	0.895 0.917
regr resid CV =	1.044 1.361
sampl err CV =	0.569 0.594
nyrs to detect -.034 =	27.4 28.2
last 10 years:	
n yrs =	9
average index =	82 220
std dev =	84 372
std err mean =	28 124
lo 90% ci mean =	36 16
hi 90% ci mean =	128 424
loglinear slope =	-0.171 -0.241
SE ln slope =	0.133 0.137
Growth Rate =	0.843 0.785
lo 90% ci GR =	0.677 0.627
hi 90% ci GR =	1.049 0.983
regr resid CV =	1.191 1.225
sampl err CV =	0.802 0.818
nyrs to detect -.034 =	34.4 34.8

Figure 16. Population trend for Canvasback (*Aythya valisineria*) observed on aerial transects sampling 12,832 km² of the coastal Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. The indicated total aerial index is the sum of birds observed as singles, an equal number of unseen single birds, birds in pairs, and all birds in flocks of 3-5, 6-30, and 31 or more. Average annual growth rate was calculated by log-linear regression. The power to detect a significant growth rate of -0.034, a 50% decline in 20 years, if it were to occur, used alpha set at $p=0.10$, beta set at $p=0.20$, and a coefficient of variation based on regression residuals or average annual sampling error.



18 strata = 12,832 km ²										SCAU	
Aerial Index with singles =1										bb	total
0	n sg	2*npr	s flks	m flks	l flks	bb	SE bb	total	SE tot		
1985										over all years :	
1986										n yrs =	26 26
1987										average index =	32227 35842
1988	5191	21435	1035	688	0	26625	2584	28348	2573	std dev =	5702 6181
1989	3999	19673	0	1108	0	23673	3238	24780	4076	std err mean =	1118 1212
1990	4500	21698	72	2980	1644	26199	3942	30895	5652	lo 90% ci mean=	30387 33848
1991	3900	18230	579	2304	3740	22130	1886	28753	3541	hi 90% ci mean=	34066 37836
1992	7536	19475	339	1623	0	27010	2197	28973	2673	loglinear slope =	0.000 0.001
1993	6074	31655	0	1933	2735	37730	3560	42398	5421	SE ln slope =	0.005 0.005
1994	5330	33779	82	3113	0	39109	3401	42304	4289	Growth Rate =	1.000 1.001
1995	7782	32557	462	2428	854	40339	3335	44084	3965	lo 90% ci GR =	0.992 0.993
1996	6500	31167	0	1590	0	37667	2340	39256	2581	hi 90% ci GR =	1.008 1.009
1997	7180	25313	0	2788	0	32493	2322	35280	2791	regr resid CV =	0.190 0.186
1998	4746	31765	83	2777	4345	36511	3660	43715	4863	sampl err CV =	0.094 0.104
1999	6400	29075	0	936	301	35475	2672	36712	2934	n yrs to detect -.034 =	8.2 8.8
2000	7059	28473	404	1695	0	35533	2673	37631	3018	last 10 years:	
2001	3526	34639	317	2730	0	38164	3975	41211	4203	n yrs =	9 9
2002	4333	26745	0	3123	280	31078	2851	34481	3371	average index =	30468 34508
2003	4993	31396	83	5113	0	36390	4075	41585	4078	std dev =	5240 6313
2004	6134	31424	0	3351	0	37558	3298	40909	4170	std err mean =	1747 2104
2005	5270	32188	0	5586	0	37459	4736	43044	3154	lo 90% ci mean=	27594 31046
2006	6144	30841	333	3697	0	36985	2728	41015	2946	hi 90% ci mean=	33341 37969
2007	5047	27630	40	258	0	32677	3958	32975	3963	loglinear slope =	-0.052 -0.043
2008	4909	29336	0	2388	833	34245	2578	37465	3366	SE ln slope =	0.008 0.016
2009	4705	22321	443	1345	0	27026	2433	28814	2607	Growth Rate =	0.950 0.958
2010	4608	25493	160	4928	2712	30102	2345	37902	4635	lo 90% ci GR =	0.938 0.933
2011										hi 90% ci GR =	0.962 0.983
2012	3566	24855	82	2226	6036	28421	2482	36764	5451	regr resid CV =	0.068 0.144
2013	3802	19807	80	533	0	23610	2349	24223	2375	sampl err CV =	0.093 0.102
2014	2714	20972	115	2879	1689	23686	2056	28368	2820	n yrs to detect -.034 =	8.2 8.7

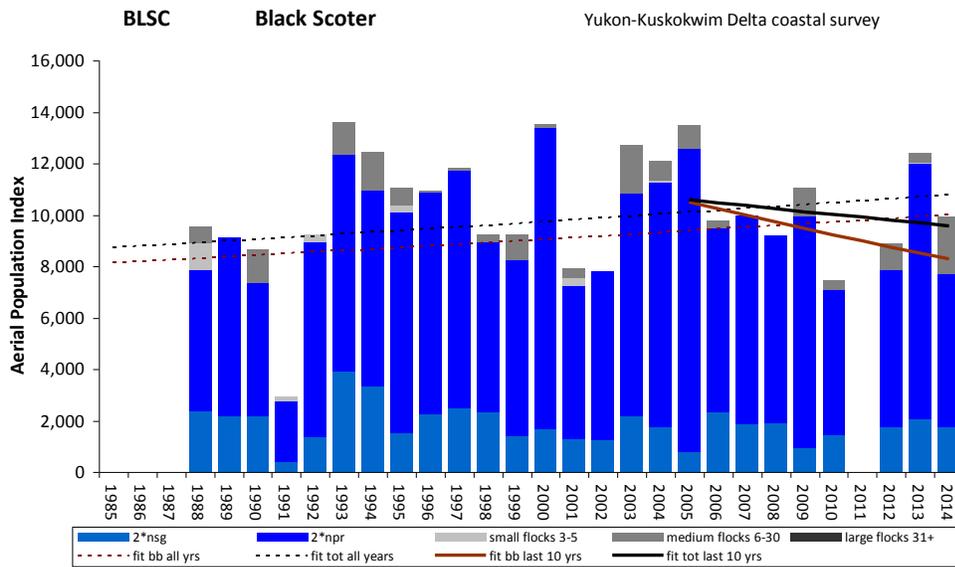
Figure 17. Population trend for Unidentified Scaup, predominantly Greater Scaup (*Aythya marila*), observed on aerial transects sampling 12,832 km² of the coastal Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. The total aerial index is the sum of birds observed as singles, birds in pairs, and all birds in flocks of 3-5, 6-30, and 31 or more. Average annual growth rate was calculated by log-linear regression. The power to detect a significant growth rate of -0.034, a 50% decline in 20 years, if it were to occur, used alpha set at $p=0.10$, beta set at $p=0.20$, and a coefficient of variation based on regression residuals or average annual sampling error.



18 strata = 12,832 km ²										Aerial Index with singles doubled		LTDU	
Year	2*nsg	2*npr	s flks	m flks	l flks	bb	SE bb	total	SE tot	bb	total		
1985													
1986													
1987													
1988	2941	1331	0	451	0	4272	812	4723	882				
1989	2316	704	0	0	0	3019	660	3019	660				
1990	2592	2305	0	0	0	4897	757	4897	757				
1991	3720	1513	211	0	0	5232	544	5443	643				
1992	5121	1713	0	0	0	6834	690	6834	690				
1993	6062	3598	42	58	0	9659	1193	9759	1199				
1994	3343	3433	0	0	0	6776	833	6776	833				
1995	4364	3161	0	0	0	7525	838	7525	838				
1996	4388	2401	0	0	0	6789	939	6789	939				
1997	5306	2747	0	0	0	8053	801	8053	801				
1998	4099	2550	0	0	0	6650	1148	6650	1148				
1999	2607	2762	0	0	0	5370	827	5370	827				
2000	2311	3671	0	0	0	5982	801	5982	801				
2001	2003	3267	0	169	0	5270	702	5439	675				
2002	2622	4445	0	0	0	7068	825	7068	825				
2003	4927	3483	0	0	0	8409	2181	8409	2181				
2004	3450	2474	0	0	0	5924	779	5924	779				
2005	4502	1979	0	0	0	6482	869	6482	869				
2006	4604	3441	0	0	0	8044	917	8044	917				
2007	2774	2567	0	0	0	5340	773	5340	773				
2008	1626	2112	0	0	0	3736	708	3736	708				
2009	2601	1750	0	0	0	4351	824	4351	824				
2010	2163	1849	0	0	0	4012	567	4012	567				
2011													
2012	2783	2010	0	0	0	4793	823	4793	823				
2013	2891	2032	26	0	0	4923	544	4948	545				
2014	2041	1951	0	338	0	3993	549	4331	666				

over all years :	
n yrs =	26
average index =	5900
std dev =	1635
std err mean =	321
lo 90% ci mean =	5373
hi 90% ci mean =	6428
loglinear slope =	-0.007
SE ln slope =	0.007
Growth Rate =	0.993
lo 90% ci GR =	0.981
hi 90% ci GR =	1.005
regr resid CV =	0.284
sampl err CV =	0.146
nyrs to detect -.034 =	11.1
last 10 years:	
n yrs =	9
average index =	5075
std dev =	1396
std err mean =	465
lo 90% ci mean =	4310
hi 90% ci mean =	5840
loglinear slope =	-0.047
SE ln slope =	0.024
Growth Rate =	0.954
lo 90% ci GR =	0.917
hi 90% ci GR =	0.992
regr resid CV =	0.214
sampl err CV =	0.148
nyrs to detect -.034 =	11.2

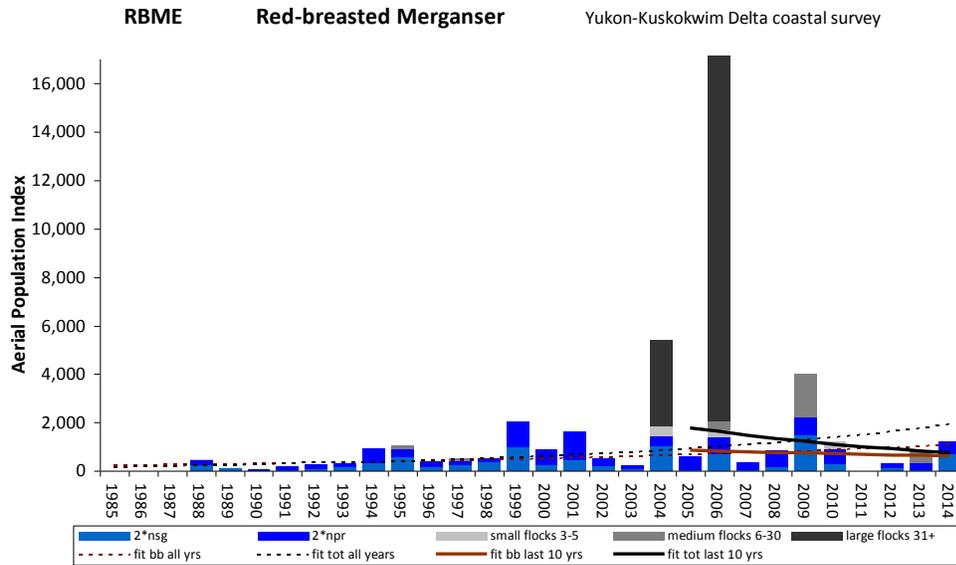
Figure 18. Population trend for Long-tailed Duck (*Clangula hyemalis*) observed on aerial transects sampling 12,832 km² of the coastal Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. The indicated total aerial index is the sum of birds observed as singles, an equal number of unseen single birds, birds in pairs, and all birds in flocks of 3-5, 6-30, and 31 or more. Average annual growth rate was calculated by log-linear regression. The power to detect a significant growth rate of -0.034, a 50% decline in 20 years, if it were to occur, used alpha set at $p=0.10$, beta set at $p=0.20$, and a coefficient of variation based on regression residuals or average annual sampling error.



18 strata = 12,832 km ²		Aerial Index with singles doubled							BLSC		
0	2*nsg	2*npr	s flks	m flks	l flks	bb	SE bb	total	SE tot	bb	total
1985											
1986											
1987											
1988	2364	5493	1052	623	0	7856	966	9531	1329		
1989	2187	6937	0	0	0	9124	3225	9124	3225		
1990	2171	5193	0	1267	0	7364	1141	8631	1729		
1991	432	2319	165	0	0	2751	557	2915	599		
1992	1379	7575	286	0	0	8954	1159	9240	1179		
1993	3903	8441	0	1270	0	12344	1855	13614	2285		
1994	3317	7629	0	1482	0	10946	2349	12427	2810		
1995	1516	8607	231	702	0	10124	1672	11057	1855		
1996	2236	8639	0	59	0	10875	1374	10934	1374		
1997	2505	9240	0	81	0	11745	2147	11826	2150		
1998	2332	6599	0	291	0	8930	1303	9221	1308		
1999	1414	6850	0	999	0	8265	1383	9264	1928		
2000	1667	11732	0	142	0	13400	4061	13542	4062		
2001	1297	5945	321	355	0	7242	1071	7917	1155		
2002	1257	6547	0	0	0	7804	2025	7804	2025		
2003	2179	8645	0	1868	0	10825	2500	12692	3468		
2004	1751	9500	84	756	0	11250	1677	12090	1913		
2005	797	11790	0	888	0	12587	1913	13475	1922		
2006	2325	7159	0	290	0	9484	1251	9775	1281		
2007	1855	8089	0	0	0	9943	2564	9943	2564		
2008	1893	7300	0	0	0	9194	2144	9194	2144		
2009	915	9037	0	1086	0	9952	2471	11038	2370		
2010	1449	5656	0	346	0	7104	1098	7450	1140		
2011											
2012	1732	6148	0	1017	0	7879	1651	8896	1740		
2013	2043	9942	55	355	0	11985	1753	12394	1776		
2014	1730	5996	0	2191	0	7725	1077	9916	1382		

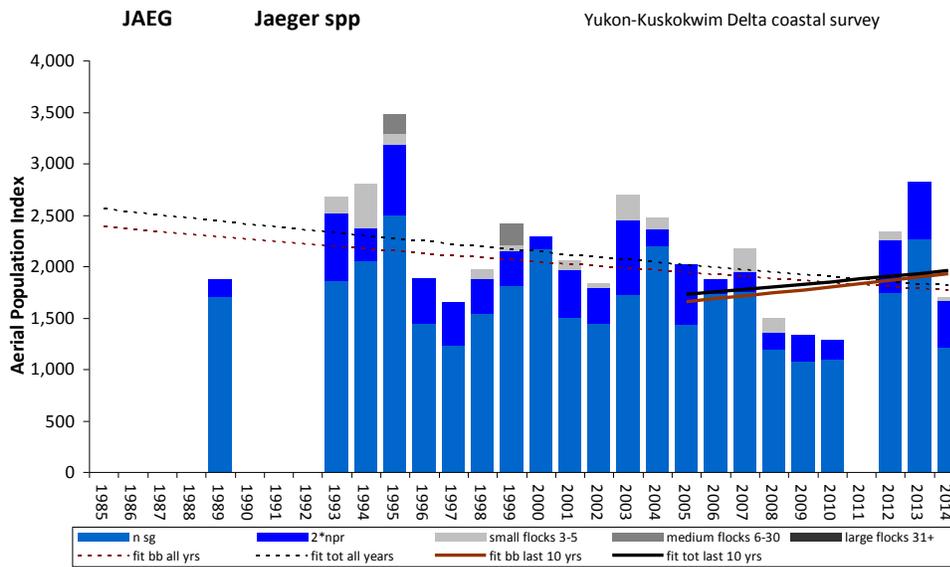
over all years :	
n yrs =	26 26
average index =	9448 10150
std dev =	2265 2359
std err mean =	444 463
lo 90% ci mean=	8717 9389
hi 90% ci mean=	10179 10911
loglinear slope =	0.007 0.007
SE ln slope =	0.008 0.008
Growth Rate =	1.007 1.007
lo 90% ci GR =	0.994 0.994
hi 90% ci GR =	1.020 1.020
regr resid CV =	0.308 0.304
sampl err CV =	0.188 0.192
nyrs to detect -.034 =	13.1 13.3
last 10 years:	
n yrs =	9 9
average index =	9539 10231
std dev =	1861 1831
std err mean =	620 610
lo 90% ci mean=	8519 9227
hi 90% ci mean=	10560 11235
loglinear slope =	-0.026 -0.011
SE ln slope =	0.021 0.021
Growth Rate =	0.974 0.989
lo 90% ci GR =	0.941 0.956
hi 90% ci GR =	1.008 1.023
regr resid CV =	0.187 0.186
sampl err CV =	0.186 0.179
nyrs to detect -.034 =	13.0 12.7

Figure 19. Population trend for Black Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*) observed on aerial transects sampling 12,832 km² of the coastal Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. The indicated total aerial index is the sum of birds observed as singles, an equal number of unseen single birds, birds in pairs, and all birds in flocks of 3-5, 6-30, and 31 or more. Average annual growth rate was calculated by log-linear regression. The power to detect a significant growth rate of -0.034, a 50% decline in 20 years, if it were to occur, used alpha set at $p=0.10$, beta set at $p=0.20$, and a coefficient of variation based on regression residuals or average annual sampling error.



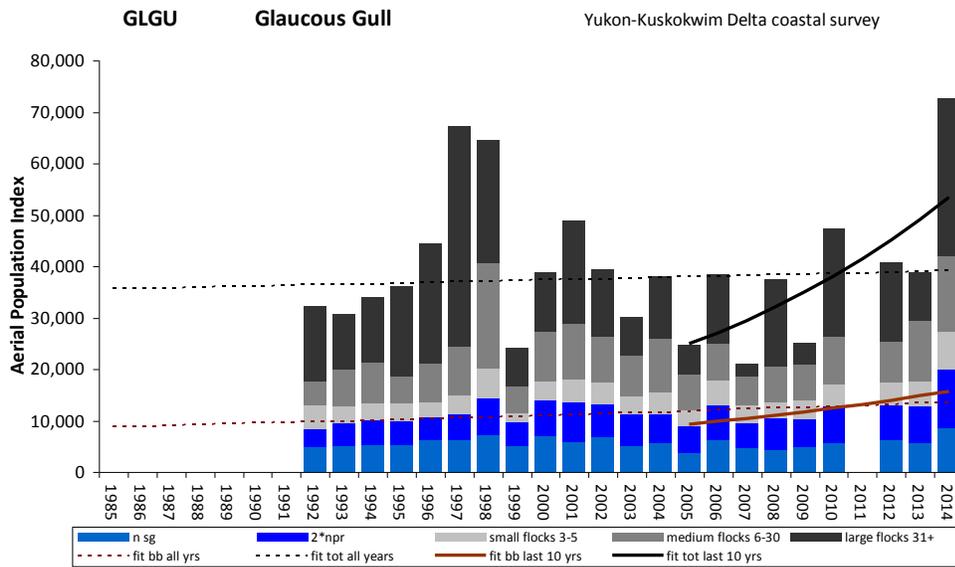
18 strata = 12,832 km ²										RBME	
Aerial Index with singles doubled										bb	total
0	2*nsg	2*npr	s flks	m flks	l flks	bb	SE bb	total	SE tot		
1985										over all years :	
1986										n yrs =	26 26
1987										average index =	743 1614
1988	236	197	41	0	0	433	191	473	195	std dev =	596 3407
1989	104	0	0	0	0	104	73	104	73	std err mean =	117 668
1990	0	66	0	0	0	67	68	67	68	lo 90% ci mean =	550 515
1991	18	164	0	0	0	182	100	182	100	hi 90% ci mean =	935 2713
1992	74	152	0	0	0	226	78	226	78	loglinear slope =	0.053 0.081
1993	164	146	0	0	0	310	131	310	131	SE ln slope =	0.021 0.029
1994	344	572	0	0	0	917	257	917	257	Growth Rate =	1.055 1.084
1995	576	344	0	127	0	920	429	1047	450	lo 90% ci GR =	1.019 1.034
1996	140	239	0	0	0	380	120	380	120	hi 90% ci GR =	1.091 1.137
1997	251	166	0	83	0	417	156	500	175	regr resid CV =	0.811 1.125
1998	358	145	0	0	0	503	180	503	180	sampl err CV =	0.446 0.469
1999	981	1072	0	0	0	2052	690	2052	690	n yrs to detect -034 =	23.3 24.1
2000	249	636	0	0	0	885	600	885	600	last 10 years:	
2001	447	1184	0	0	0	1630	555	1630	555	n yrs =	9 9
2002	206	297	0	0	0	504	180	504	180	average index =	900 2951
2003	79	130	0	0	0	209	143	209	143	std dev =	630 5470
2004	1018	454	361	0	3581	1472	758	5414	3466	std err mean =	210 1823
2005	34	540	0	0	0	574	188	574	188	lo 90% ci mean =	554 -49
2006	667	715	304	365	15178	1381	350	17227	12937	hi 90% ci mean =	1246 5950
2007	35	310	0	0	0	344	155	344	155	loglinear slope =	-0.035 -0.096
2008	155	684	0	0	0	838	228	838	228	SE ln slope =	0.084 0.147
2009	1500	719	0	1784	0	2219	1051	4003	1982	Growth Rate =	0.965 0.909
2010	282	643	306	0	0	925	243	1231	385	lo 90% ci GR =	0.840 0.714
2011										hi 90% ci GR =	1.108 1.157
2012	86	222	0	0	0	308	117	308	117	regr resid CV =	0.753 1.315
2013	34	277	43	476	0	311	176	830	463	sampl err CV =	0.379 0.441
2014	676	524	0	0	0	1200	511	1200	511	n yrs to detect -034 =	20.9 23.1

Figure 20. Population trend for Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*) observed on aerial transects sampling 12,832 km² of the coastal Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. The indicated total aerial index is the sum of birds observed as singles, an equal number of unseen single birds, birds in pairs, and all birds in flocks of 3-5, 6-30, and 31 or more. Average annual growth rate was calculated by log-linear regression. The power to detect a significant growth rate of -0.034, a 50% decline in 20 years, if it were to occur, used alpha set at $p=0.10$, beta set at $p=0.20$, and a coefficient of variation based on regression residuals or average annual sampling error.



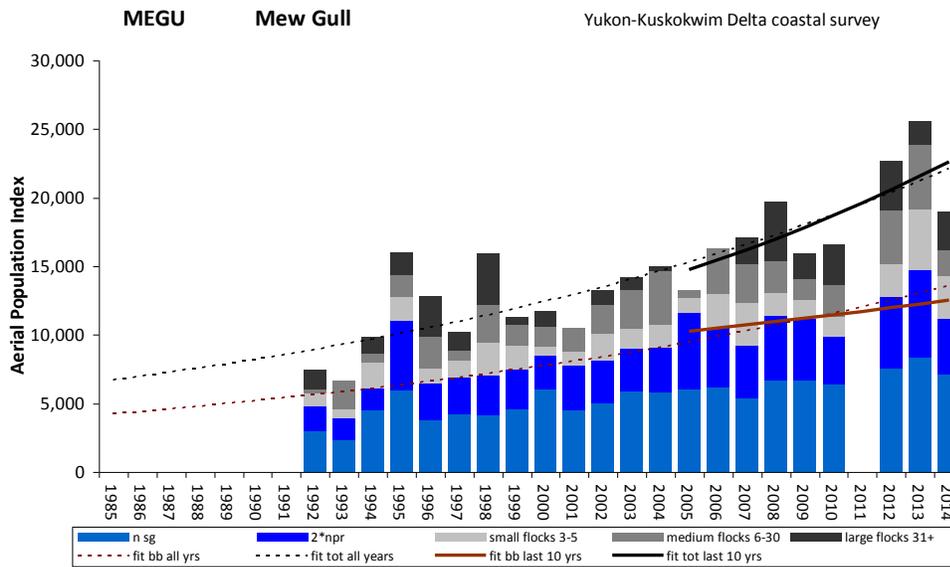
18 strata = 12,832 km ²										JAEG	
Aerial Index with singles =1										bb	total
0	n sg	2*npr	s flks	m flks	l flks	bb	SE bb	total	SE tot		
1985										over all years :	
1986										n yrs =	22 22
1987										average index =	2042 2142
1988										std dev =	471 539
1989	1708	161	0	0	0	1869	271	1869	271	std err mean =	100 115
1990										lo 90% ci mean=	1877 1953
1991										hi 90% ci mean=	2207 2331
1992										loglinear slope =	-0.010 -0.012
1993	1857	663	159	0	0	2521	458	2679	455	SE ln slope =	0.007 0.008
1994	2055	316	426	0	0	2371	342	2797	530	Growth Rate =	0.990 0.988
1995	2498	690	97	192	0	3188	483	3477	536	lo 90% ci GR =	0.978 0.976
1996	1438	440	0	0	0	1878	342	1878	342	hi 90% ci GR =	1.001 1.001
1997	1231	429	0	0	0	1660	388	1660	388	regr resid CV =	0.226 0.244
1998	1539	342	87	0	0	1881	345	1968	348	sampl err CV =	0.174 0.176
1999	1812	338	58	211	0	2150	372	2419	430	n yrs to detect -.034 =	12.5 12.5
2000	2170	120	0	0	0	2290	324	2290	324	last 10 years:	
2001	1505	453	97	0	0	1958	311	2055	341	n yrs =	9 9
2002	1443	353	42	0	0	1796	324	1838	325	average index =	1839 1892
2003	1732	718	246	0	0	2450	471	2696	547	std dev =	500 503
2004	2198	162	109	0	0	2359	364	2468	378	std err mean =	167 168
2005	1434	585	0	0	0	2018	428	2018	428	lo 90% ci mean=	1565 1616
2006	1726	146	0	0	0	1872	289	1872	289	hi 90% ci mean=	2113 2168
2007	1754	190	231	0	0	1944	370	2176	396	loglinear slope =	0.017 0.014
2008	1193	160	141	0	0	1353	198	1494	207	SE ln slope =	0.031 0.031
2009	1079	256	0	0	0	1335	262	1335	262	Growth Rate =	1.017 1.014
2010	1093	194	0	0	0	1287	215	1287	215	lo 90% ci GR =	0.966 0.963
2011										hi 90% ci GR =	1.070 1.067
2012	1747	511	79	0	0	2258	343	2337	352	regr resid CV =	0.277 0.278
2013	2262	553	0	0	0	2815	526	2815	526	sampl err CV =	0.179 0.177
2014	1205	463	25	0	0	1668	350	1693	351	n yrs to detect -.034 =	12.7 12.6

Figure 21. Population trend for Jaeger spp (*Stercorarius parasiticus*, *S. longicauda*, *S. pomarinus*) observed on aerial transects sampling 12,832 km² of the coastal Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. The total aerial index is the sum of birds observed as singles, birds in pairs, and all birds in flocks of 3-5, 6-30, and 31 or more. Average annual growth rate was calculated by log-linear regression. The power to detect a significant growth rate of -0.034, a 50% decline in 20 years, if it were to occur, used alpha set at $p=0.10$, beta set at $p=0.20$, and a coefficient of variation based on regression residuals or average annual sampling error.



18 strata = 12,832 km ²										GLGU	
0	Aerial Index with singles =1									bb	total
	n sg	2*npr	s flks	m flks	l flks	bb	SE bb	total	SE tot		
1985										over all years :	
1986										n yrs =	22 22
1987										average index =	11729 39758
1988										std dev =	2536 13695
1989										std err mean =	541 2920
1990										lo 90% ci mean=	10840 34955
1991										hi 90% ci mean=	12618 44560
1992	4881	3480	4619	4636	14606	8361	1132	32221	6858	loglinear slope =	0.015 0.003
1993	4938	4726	3215	7136	10672	9664	797	30688	5275	SE ln slope =	0.006 0.011
1994	5243	4790	3438	7730	12746	10032	896	33947	5663	Growth Rate =	1.015 1.003
1995	5336	4633	3529	5284	17400	9969	832	36183	6691	lo 90% ci GR =	1.005 0.986
1996	6283	4384	2918	7501	23299	10667	735	44384	9110	hi 90% ci GR =	1.024 1.021
1997	6170	4960	3858	9273	42928	11129	876	67188	12002	regr resid CV =	0.176 0.333
1998	7180	7177	5775	20544	23815	14358	1877	64493	13138	sampl err CV =	0.105 0.175
1999	5101	4442	2005	5080	7363	9544	985	23992	4084	n yrs to detect -.034 =	8.9 12.5
2000	7082	7043	3433	9804	11572	14125	1090	38934	5455	last 10 years:	
2001	5798	7728	4629	10835	19960	13525	1318	48950	11358	n yrs =	9 9
2002	6697	6648	4028	9070	13080	13346	1931	39524	7978	average index =	12308 38434
2003	5148	6158	3400	7936	7452	11306	1142	30094	4064	std dev =	3265 15498
2004	5734	5503	4332	10518	12072	11237	1042	38158	5892	std err mean =	1088 5166
2005	3733	5161	3032	6950	5819	8894	826	24694	3800	lo 90% ci mean=	10518 29936
2006	6194	6732	5056	6918	13421	12926	1973	38321	7207	hi 90% ci mean=	14099 46933
2007	4641	4923	3627	5372	2420	9565	762	20984	2226	loglinear slope =	0.058 0.085
2008	4329	6194	3043	6974	16923	10523	724	37463	6024	SE ln slope =	0.018 0.032
2009	4782	5600	3470	7096	4164	10382	1059	25111	4390	Growth Rate =	1.060 1.089
2010	5727	7102	4080	9484	20939	12830	1866	47334	9182	lo 90% ci GR =	1.029 1.033
2011										hi 90% ci GR =	1.092 1.148
2012	6267	6691	4476	8008	15303	12958	1072	40744	5462	regr resid CV =	0.163 0.287
2013	5714	7066	4810	11870	9229	12781	1434	38689	5917	sampl err CV =	0.114 0.165
2014	8417	11501	7497	14533	30623	19917	3707	72570	15748	n yrs to detect -.034 =	9.4 12.0

Figure 22. Population trend for Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*) observed on aerial transects sampling 12,832 km² of the coastal Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. The total aerial index is the sum of birds observed as singles, birds in pairs, and all birds in flocks of 3-5, 6-30, and 31 or more. Average annual growth rate was calculated by log-linear regression. The power to detect a significant growth rate of -0.034, a 50% decline in 20 years, if it were to occur, used alpha set at $p=0.10$, beta set at $p=0.20$, and a coefficient of variation based on regression residuals or average annual sampling error.

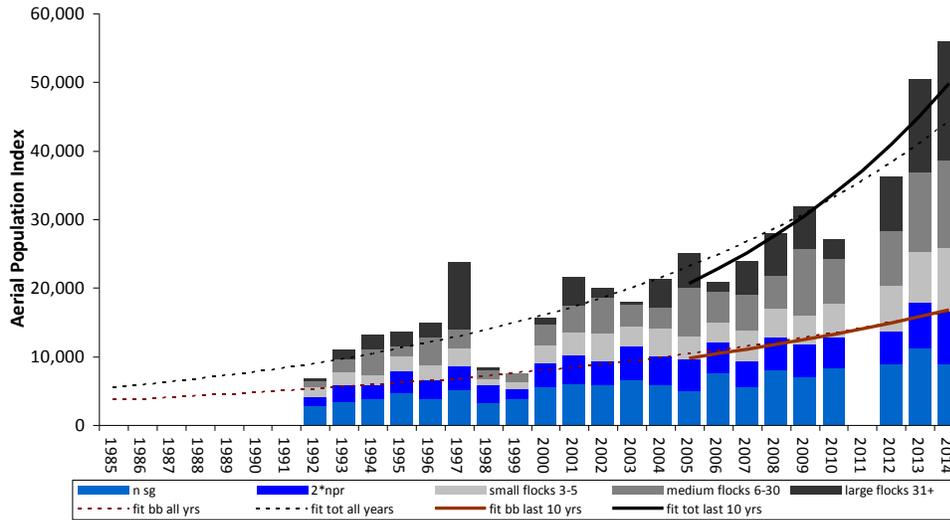


18 strata = 12,832 km ²						Aerial Index with singles =1				MEGU	
0	n sg	2*npr	s flks	m flks	l flks	bb	SE bb	total	SE tot	bb	total
1985											
1986											
1987											
1988											
1989											
1990											
1991											
1992	3025	1792	934	238	1422	4817	591	7411	1359		
1993	2349	1634	591	2088	0	3984	469	6663	1459		
1994	4494	1626	1870	669	1207	6120	609	9866	1368		
1995	5915	5145	1695	1653	1642	11061	1213	16051	2279		
1996	3806	2651	1093	2333	2966	6457	714	12849	2785		
1997	4232	2655	1188	815	1324	6887	615	10213	1266		
1998	4157	2915	2403	2698	3752	7073	589	15926	2691		
1999	4588	2928	1720	1488	560	7517	1105	11284	1997		
2000	6041	2391	724	1385	1164	8431	776	11704	1449		
2001	4499	3251	1074	1687	0	7751	613	10512	1487		
2002	4997	3193	1869	2156	1068	8190	767	13283	1795		
2003	5857	3208	1392	2851	937	9064	832	14244	2323		
2004	5819	3267	1650	3963	285	9086	904	14984	2030		
2005	6082	5497	1130	554	0	11579	2019	13262	2122		
2006	6180	4321	2487	3244	0	10501	1065	16232	2121		
2007	5404	3864	3038	2888	1888	9268	806	17082	2487		
2008	6723	4703	1626	2337	4318	11426	940	19708	3416		
2009	6735	4496	1304	1562	1861	11231	1230	15959	2014		
2010	6424	3425	1496	2305	2894	9849	1050	16544	3601		
2011											
2012	7561	5214	2415	3888	3622	12775	752	22700	3063		
2013	8338	6418	4399	4700	1746	14756	1490	25601	3340		
2014	7125	4099	3083	1823	2839	11223	1139	18968	3289		

over all years :	
n yrs =	22 22
average index =	9048 14593
std dev =	2650 4626
std err mean =	565 986
lo 90% ci mean=	8118 12971
hi 90% ci mean=	9977 16215
loglinear slope =	0.040 0.041
SE ln slope =	0.006 0.006
Growth Rate =	1.041 1.042
lo 90% ci GR =	1.031 1.032
hi 90% ci GR =	1.051 1.053
regr resid CV =	0.177 0.188
sampl err CV =	0.103 0.157
nyrs to detect -.034 =	8.7 11.6
last 10 years:	
n yrs =	9 9
average index =	11401 18451
std dev =	1620 3785
std err mean =	540 1262
lo 90% ci mean=	10512 16375
hi 90% ci mean=	12289 20526
loglinear slope =	0.022 0.048
SE ln slope =	0.014 0.016
Growth Rate =	1.022 1.049
lo 90% ci GR =	0.999 1.022
hi 90% ci GR =	1.046 1.076
regr resid CV =	0.126 0.139
sampl err CV =	0.102 0.155
nyrs to detect -.034 =	8.7 11.5

Figure 23. Population trend for Mew Gull (*Larus canus*) observed on aerial transects sampling 12,832 km² of the coastal Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. The total aerial index is the sum of birds observed as singles, birds in pairs, and all birds in flocks of 3-5, 6-30, and 31 or more. Average annual growth rate was calculated by log-linear regression. The power to detect a significant growth rate of -0.034, a 50% decline in 20 years, if it were to occur, used alpha set at $p=0.10$, beta set at $p=0.20$, and a coefficient of variation based on regression residuals or average annual sampling error.

SAGU Sabine's Gull Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta coastal survey

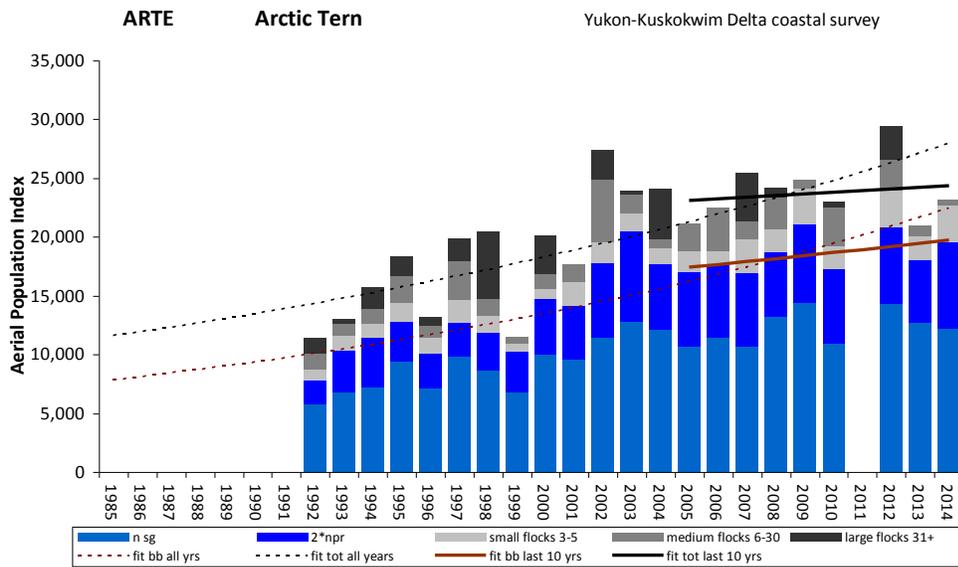


18 strata = 12,832 km²

Year	Aerial Index with singles =1					bb		total		SAGU	
	n sg	2*npr	s flks	m flks	l flks	bb	SE bb	total	SE tot	bb	total
1985											
1986											
1987											
1988											
1989											
1990											
1991											
1992	2847	1404	1288	914	440	4250	439	6893	688		
1993	3327	2560	1872	1888	1340	5887	564	10986	1318		
1994	3847	1859	1626	3652	2052	5707	380	13036	1511		
1995	4651	3212	2071	1600	2011	7862	630	13544	1887		
1996	3863	2622	2317	3899	2172	6486	569	14874	2060		
1997	5108	3532	2482	2933	9699	8640	698	23754	4125		
1998	3218	2503	1009	1329	369	5720	690	8426	909		
1999	3741	1594	1073	1162	0	5336	453	7570	778		
2000	5642	3404	2635	2926	1032	9046	689	15638	1484		
2001	5975	4100	3467	3887	4206	10075	975	21635	3204		
2002	5901	3416	3982	5318	1388	9317	780	20005	2064		
2003	6514	5051	2837	3250	406	11565	1258	18058	1681		
2004	5753	4326	4122	2972	4144	10079	656	21317	1952		
2005	4984	4653	3320	7107	4998	9636	658	25061	4213		
2006	7524	4500	2997	4419	1413	12024	911	20853	1902		
2007	5534	3867	4343	5163	5030	9400	633	23936	2497		
2008	8053	4707	4107	4968	6184	12760	719	28019	2594		
2009	7025	4688	4227	9753	6067	11713	685	31760	5004		
2010	8299	4579	4839	6576	2812	12878	899	27104	2335		
2011											
2012	8912	4718	6650	8004	7939	13630	801	36224	3722		
2013	11106	6746	7504	11458	13539	17852	1116	50352	8748		
2014	8851	7744	9251	12741	17464	16595	1204	56050	9007		

over all years :	
n yrs =	22 22
average index =	9839 22504
std dev =	3601 12612
std err mean =	768 2689
lo 90% ci mean=	8576 18081
hi 90% ci mean=	11102 26928
loglinear slope =	0.052 0.072
SE ln slope =	0.005 0.009
Growth Rate =	1.053 1.075
lo 90% ci GR =	1.044 1.059
hi 90% ci GR =	1.062 1.091
regr resid CV =	0.163 0.279
sampl err CV =	0.079 0.121
nyrs to detect -.034 =	7.4 9.8
last 10 years:	
n yrs =	9 9
average index =	12943 33262
std dev =	2824 12227
std err mean =	941 4076
lo 90% ci mean=	11395 26558
hi 90% ci mean=	14492 39967
loglinear slope =	0.060 0.098
SE ln slope =	0.012 0.016
Growth Rate =	1.062 1.103
lo 90% ci GR =	1.041 1.075
hi 90% ci GR =	1.083 1.132
regr resid CV =	0.108 0.140
sampl err CV =	0.066 0.126
nyrs to detect -.034 =	6.5 10.0

Figure 24. Population trend for Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*) observed on aerial transects sampling 12,832 km² of the coastal Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. The total aerial index is the sum of birds observed as singles, birds in pairs, and all birds in flocks of 3-5, 6-30, and 31 or more. Average annual growth rate was calculated by log-linear regression. The power to detect a significant growth rate of -0.034, a 50% decline in 20 years, if it were to occur, used alpha set at $p=0.10$, beta set at $p=0.20$, and a coefficient of variation based on regression residuals or average annual sampling error.



18 strata = 12,832 km ²		Aerial Index with singles =1								ARTE	
0	n sg	2*npr	s flks	m flks	l flks	bb	SE bb	total	SE tot	bb	total
1985											
1986											
1987											
1988											
1989											
1990											
1991											
1992	5816	1937	1022	1311	1329	7752	614	11414	1865		
1993	6820	3517	1302	1022	370	10337	868	13031	1319		
1994	7226	4241	1220	1208	1754	11467	746	15648	1391		
1995	9347	3424	1644	2246	1711	12771	1115	18372	3301		
1996	7133	2922	1361	1037	708	10055	1022	13161	1696		
1997	9802	2935	1924	3346	1841	12737	944	19848	3866		
1998	8585	3347	1347	1418	5716	11933	1239	20413	5317		
1999	6757	3547	645	547	0	10304	798	11497	952		
2000	10000	4680	845	1277	3318	14680	1018	20120	3584		
2001	9592	4581	1994	1493	0	14173	1153	17659	1577		
2002	11437	6372	1711	5324	2528	17809	1456	27372	3536		
2003	12840	7694	1441	1677	285	20534	1659	23937	2027		
2004	12085	5611	1371	718	4271	17696	1270	24055	3418		
2005	10723	6276	1862	2259	0	17000	1516	21121	2505		
2006	11392	6144	1290	3645	0	17536	1825	22471	3248		
2007	10635	6286	2903	1545	4098	16921	936	25467	2895		
2008	13239	5519	1921	2716	749	18758	1240	24144	2443		
2009	14446	6595	3108	681	0	21041	1432	24829	1798		
2010	10926	6350	1877	3307	499	17275	1468	22958	2624		
2011											
2012	14274	6562	3116	2627	2849	20835	1303	29427	2964		
2013	12735	5285	2055	917	0	18020	927	20993	1722		
2014	12194	7355	3166	433	0	19549	1480	23147	2197		

over all years :	
n yrs =	22 22
average index =	15417 20504
std dev =	3960 5050
std err mean =	844 1077
lo 90% ci mean=	14029 18733
hi 90% ci mean=	16806 22275
loglinear slope =	0.036 0.030
SE ln slope =	0.005 0.006
Growth Rate =	1.037 1.031
lo 90% ci GR =	1.029 1.020
hi 90% ci GR =	1.045 1.041
regr resid CV =	0.145 0.188
sampl err CV =	0.078 0.126
nyrs to detect -.034 =	7.3 10.0
last 10 years:	
n yrs =	9 9
average index =	18548 23840
std dev =	1599 2588
std err mean =	533 863
lo 90% ci mean=	17671 22421
hi 90% ci mean=	19425 25259
loglinear slope =	0.014 0.006
SE ln slope =	0.009 0.012
Growth Rate =	1.014 1.006
lo 90% ci GR =	1.000 0.986
hi 90% ci GR =	1.029 1.026
regr resid CV =	0.077 0.110
sampl err CV =	0.073 0.105
nyrs to detect -.034 =	7.0 8.9

Figure 25. Population trend for Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) observed on aerial transects sampling 12,832 km² of the coastal Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. The total aerial index is the sum of birds observed as singles, birds in pairs, and all birds in flocks of 3-5, 6-30, and 31 or more. Average annual growth rate was calculated by log-linear regression. The power to detect a significant growth rate of -0.034, a 50% decline in 20 years, if it were to occur, used alpha set at p=0.10, beta set at p=0.20, and a coefficient of variation based on regression residuals or average annual sampling error.

Table 1. Number of birds sighted by category and expanded numbers for waterbirds counted by the right-rear-seat observer on the June 2014 Yukon Delta Coastal Zone aerial survey, Alaska. Species sorted in order of decreasing population estimates for ducks, then for other species. Survey area = 12,831.5 km² and sampled area = 469.7 km². Number of transects (n) = 235. Density was calculated using 18 strata and therefore is not simply the indicated total divided by the sampled area.

Species	No. of single birds sighted	No. of pairs sighted	No. of grouped birds sighted ^a	Indicated total birds ^b	Sample density Birds/km ²	Population index (No. of birds)	Standard error	Visibility correction factor	Population estimate (No. of birds)
Northern pintail	550	190	432	1,912	2.65	33,981	4,016	3.05	103,642
Greater scaup	89	360	170	979	2.21	28,368	2,820	1.93	54,750
Spectacled eider	212	116	5	661	0.46	5,879	541	3.58	21,047
Northern shoveler	33	13	15	107	0.25	3,158	848	3.79	11,969
Black scoter	25	86	95	317	0.77	9,916	1,382	1.17	11,602
Mallard	43	8	0	102	0.17	2,207	425	4.01	8,850
Long-tailed duck	40	48	12	188	0.34	4,331	666	1.87	8,099
Common eider	66	39	5	215	0.16	2,022	499	3.58	7,239
American green-winged teal	7	3	0	20	0.06	814	339	8.36	6,805
American wigeon	6	7	17	43	0.06	780	314	3.84	2,995
Red-breasted merganser	9	13	11	55	0.09	1,200	511	1.27	1,524
Canvasback	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	2	0
Glaucous gull	511	330	2,798	3,969	5.66	72,570	15,748	unknown	n/a
Sabine's gull	835	344	2,704	4,227	4.37	56,050	9,007	unknown	n/a
Arctic tern	704	185	152	1,226	1.80	23,147	2,197	unknown	n/a
Mew gull	457	127	615	1,326	1.48	18,968	3,289	unknown	n/a
Pacific loon	337	150	33	670	1.07	13,720	1,268	unknown	n/a
Red-throated loon	70	42	17	171	0.21	2,644	428	unknown	n/a
Jaeger species	44	8	3	63	0.13	1,693	351	unknown	n/a

^a For ducks, groups are 5 or more birds, for other species, groups are 3 or more birds per sighting.

^b For ducks, Indicated total birds = 2 * (singles + pairs) + birds in groups, for other species, observed totals = singles + (2 * pairs) + birds in groups.

^c Greater scaup single drakes are not doubled, scaup number is observed total.

Table 2. Change in population estimates from 2013 and from the long-term average (1988-2013), sorted in decreasing order of percent change from long-term average, first for waterfowl and then for other species.

Species	Population estimate 2013	Population estimate 2014	Change between 2013 and 2014	Long term (1988-2013) average population estimate	Change between 2014 and long term average
Spectacled eider	24,373	21,047	-14%	12,358	70%
Common eider	7,343	7,239	-1%	4,761	52%
Black scoter	14,501	11,602	-20%	11,887	-2%
Greater scaup	46,750	54,750	17%	70,377	-22%
Red-breasted merganser	1,054	1,524	45%	2,070	-26%
Long-tailed duck	9,253	8,099	-12%	11,248	-28%
Northern pintail	115,479	103,642	-10%	150,313	-31%
Mallard	11,753	8,850	-25%	16,236	-45%
Northern shoveler	12,465	11,969	-4%	34,720	-66%
Green-winged teal	12,582	6,805	-46%	22,639	-70%
American wigeon	7,549	2,995	-60%	17,560	-83%
Canvasback	165	0	-100%	2,384	-100%
Sabine's gull	50,352	56,050	-58%	20,907	168%
Glaucous gull	38,689	72,570	-1%	38,195	90%
Mew gull	25,601	18,968	-44%	14,385	32%
Arctic tern	20,993	23,147	-3%	20,378	14%
Red-throated loon	2,352	2,644	1%	2,386	11%
Pacific loon	19,043	13,720	-13%	16,513	-17%
Jaeger spp.	2,815	1,693	-23%	2,163	-22%

Table 3. Summary of trends for waterbird species counted by the right-back-seat observer on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta coastal zone aerial survey Alaska. Ducks have been counted from 1988 to 2014 (except no survey in 2011). Other species have been added to the survey as indicated. Geographic stratification into 18 regions represents a balance determined by sampling intensity, similar physiographic areas, and reasonable gains in precision for most of the species. Green-shaded cells indicate growth rates significantly above 1.0 and yellow-shaded cells indicate significantly declining trends.

species name	Sppn	Meas	N yrs	Mean	Std dev	Log-linear slope	SE slope	Growth Rate	Low 90% CI GR	High 90% CI GR	Regress. resid CV	Sampling error CV	N yrs w/ resid CV	N yrs w/ sampling err CV	GR last 10 yrs	Low 90% CI 10 yr	High 90% CI 10 yr
1985-2014																	
Spectacled Eider	SPEI	ind.total	26	3545	1742	0.0634	0.0052	1.065	1.056	1.075	0.204	0.126	13.8	10.0	1.040	1.020	1.060
Common Eider	COEI	ind.total	26	1357	548	0.0355	0.0095	1.036	1.020	1.052	0.372	0.232	20.6	15.1	1.010	0.969	1.053
Red-throated Loon	RTLO	total	25	2397	719	-0.0019	0.0096	0.998	0.983	1.014	0.355	0.166	20.0	12.1	0.930	0.862	1.003
Pacific Loon	PALO	total	25	16401	3135	0.0040	0.0053	1.004	0.995	1.013	0.196	0.089	13.5	8.0	0.981	0.952	1.011
Mallard	MALL	ind.total	26	3978	1452	-0.0128	0.0084	0.987	0.974	1.001	0.329	0.217	19.0	14.4	0.917	0.875	0.961
American Wigeon	AMWI	ind.total	26	4427	2282	-0.0517	0.0113	0.950	0.932	0.967	0.442	0.366	23.1	20.4	0.942	0.855	1.038
Green-winged Teal	AGWT	ind.total	26	2635	1005	-0.0154	0.0112	0.985	0.967	1.003	0.439	0.236	23.0	15.2	0.908	0.837	0.986
Northern Shoveler	NSHO	ind.total	26	8930	3623	-0.0301	0.0114	0.970	0.952	0.989	0.446	0.183	23.3	12.9	0.836	0.781	0.894
Northern Pintail	NOPI	ind.total	26	48695	13291	-0.0110	0.0067	0.989	0.978	1.000	0.261	0.113	16.3	9.3	0.983	0.937	1.032
Canvasback	CANV	ind.total	26	942	1037	-0.1438	0.0346	0.866	0.818	0.917	1.361	0.594	48.9	28.2	0.785	0.627	0.983
Scaup spp.	SCAU	total	26	35842	6181	0.0009	0.0047	1.001	0.993	1.009	0.186	0.104	13.0	8.8	0.958	0.933	0.983
Long-tailed Duck	LTDU	ind.total	26	5950	1608	-0.0076	0.0070	0.992	0.981	1.004	0.276	0.147	16.9	11.1	0.958	0.921	0.997
Black Scoter Red-breasted	BLSC	ind.total	26	10150	2359	0.0073	0.0078	1.007	0.994	1.020	0.304	0.192	18.0	13.3	0.989	0.956	1.023
Merganser	RBME	ind.total	26	1614	3407	0.0809	0.0287	1.084	1.034	1.137	1.125	0.469	43.1	24.1	0.909	0.714	1.157
Jaeger spp	JAEG	total	22	2142	539	-0.0119	0.0076	0.988	0.976	1.001	0.244	0.176	15.6	12.5	1.014	0.963	1.067
Glaucous Gull	GLGU	total	22	39758	13695	0.0032	0.0108	1.003	0.986	1.021	0.333	0.175	19.2	12.5	1.089	1.033	1.148
Mew Gull	MEGU	total	22	14593	4626	0.0411	0.0061	1.042	1.032	1.053	0.188	0.157	13.1	11.6	1.049	1.022	1.076
Sabine's Gull	SAGU	total	22	22504	12612	0.0721	0.0091	1.075	1.059	1.091	0.279	0.121	17.0	9.8	1.103	1.075	1.132
Arctic Tern	ARTE	total	22	20504	5050	0.0303	0.0061	1.031	1.020	1.041	0.188	0.126	13.1	10.0	1.006	0.986	1.026