

**Brunswick Harbor Modification Project  
Jekyll Island Fishing Pier Beach Placement  
Glynn County, Georgia  
Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant  
Impact**

**Appendix A**

**Endangered Species Act  
Biological Assessment  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
SAVANNAH DISTRICT  
100 WEST OGLETHORPE AVENUE  
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401  
January 2024**



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**Brunswick Harbor Modification Project  
Jekyll Island Fishing Pier Beach Placement  
Glynn County, Georgia  
Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment and FONSI**

**A.1**

**Correspondence**

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
SAVANNAH DISTRICT  
100 WEST OGLETHORPE AVENUE  
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401  
January 2024**







# United States Department of the Interior



## Fish and Wildlife Service Georgia Ecological Services

FWS.gov/office/Georgia-Ecological-Services/  
GAES\_Assistance@FWS.gov

RG Stephens, Jr. Federal Building  
355 East Hancock Avenue, Room 320  
Athens, Georgia 30601

December 13, 2023

Colonel Ronald J. Sturgeon  
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Savannah District - Regulatory Division  
100 West Oglethorpe Avenue  
Savannah, Georgia 31401-3640  
Attn: Summer Wright

**Subject:** Brunswick Harbor Jekyll Island Shoreline Nourishment project ESA Concurrence,  
FWS Project Code: 2024-0025360

Dear Colonel Sturgeon,

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has reviewed the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Brunswick Harbor Jekyll Island Shoreline Nourishment project located in Glynn County, Georgia. The proposed project will involve placing dredge material from the expansion of the Brunswick Harbor ship channel and from future operations and maintenance dredging of the channel along the degraded shoreline southwest of the Jekyll Island Fishing Pier located on Jekyll Island. Our comments today are submitted in accordance with provisions of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Based on the information provided, the Service concurs with the USACE determination of May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect for the West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*) and the wood stork (*Mycteria americana*). No further action is required under Section 7(a)(2) of the ESA. However, consultation should be resumed if the project changes, a new species is listed, or new data shows impacts to listed species may occur.

We thank you for the opportunity to review this project.

Sincerely,

PETER  
MAHOLLAND  
Digitally signed by PETER  
MAHOLLAND  
Date: 2023.12.12 07:21:19  
-05'00'

Peter Maholland  
Field Supervisor

## **Wright, Summer G CIV USARMY CESAS (USA)**

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**From:** Wikoff, Bill <bill\_wikoff@fws.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 12, 2023 8:22 AM  
**To:** Wright, Summer G CIV USARMY CESAS (USA)  
**Cc:** Hill, Suzanne CIV USARMY CESAS (USA)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Re: [EXTERNAL] Jekyll Island Shoreline Nourishment\_USFWS ESA Consultation\_Final  
**Attachments:** 20210910\_Ltr\_FWS-USACE\_BHMS concur & comments\_signed.pdf; 20200520\_fWCA EvaluationCmts\_BwkHarborModStudy-BHMS.pdf

Suzy and Summer,

You'all requested FWCA comments on the project. Due to other obligations we will not provide any FWCA comments on this project.

We did previously provide FWCA comments on the associated Brunswick Harbor expansion project. Some are attached for your reference.

Best wishes for the holidays,

Bill

Bill Wikoff fish & wildlife biologist  
bill\_wikoff@fws.gov (preferred)  
office 762-250-0613

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Ecological Services - Coastal Georgia Sub Office  
4980 Wildlife Drive, NE  
Townsend, Georgia 31331

Project Planning and Review Procedures: <https://www.fws.gov/office/georgia-ecological-services/project-planning-review>

NOTE: This email correspondence and any attachments to and from this sender is subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and may be disclosed to third parties.

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**From:** Wikoff, Bill <bill\_wikoff@fws.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 12, 2023 7:45 AM  
**To:** Wright, Summer G CIV USARMY CESAS (USA) <Summer.G.Wright@usace.army.mil>  
**Cc:** Hill, Suzanne CIV USARMY CESAS (USA) <Suzanne.Hill@usace.army.mil>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Jekyll Island Shoreline Nourishment\_USFWS ESA Consultation\_Final

Hi Summer and Suzy,

Thanks to both of you. Please find our concurrence attached.

Suzy - I just noticed that you had signed the USACE letter asking for concurrence. I wrote the USFWS concurrence to the attention of Summer. I am sorry for my error. If it is a problem, please let me know. I can re-submit it for signature corrected. If acceptable, you can do nothing and I will leave it as is and please accept my apologies.

Bill

Bill Wikoff fish & wildlife biologist  
bill\_wikoff@fws.gov (preferred)  
office 762-250-0613

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Ecological Services - Coastal Georgia Sub Office  
4980 Wildlife Drive, NE  
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**From:** Wright, Summer G CIV USARMY CESAS (USA) <Summer.G.Wright@usace.army.mil>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 11, 2023 3:16 PM  
**To:** Wikoff, Bill <bill\_wikoff@fws.gov>  
**Cc:** Hill, Suzanne CIV USARMY CESAS (USA) <Suzanne.Hill@usace.army.mil>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Jekyll Island Shoreline Nourishment\_USFWS ESA Consultation\_Final

Hi Bill!

Sorry about the troubles with the document. Attached is the IPaC report as well as the unsigned letter/ESA Section 7 analysis. I have also separated out the Attachment 1 60% Design as that may have been causing issues as well.

Thank you!

Summer

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**From:** Wikoff, Bill <bill\_wikoff@fws.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 11, 2023 3:01 PM  
**To:** Wright, Summer G CIV USARMY CESAS (USA) <Summer.G.Wright@usace.army.mil>  
**Cc:** Hill, Suzanne CIV USARMY CESAS (USA) <Suzanne.Hill@usace.army.mil>  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Re: [EXTERNAL] Jekyll Island Shoreline Nourishment\_USFWS ESA Consultation\_Final

Hi Summer,

Thank you for the request for concurrence. Please provide the IPaC # for the project. Also please provide an unsigned copy of the attachment (Letter & ESA section 7 analysis). The signed copy seems to be very very secure. It freezes up quite often. There seems to be very little danger of it being hacked.

Thanks!

Bill

Bill Wikoff fish & wildlife biologist  
[bill\\_wikoff@fws.gov](mailto:bill_wikoff@fws.gov) (preferred)  
office 762-250-0613

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Ecological Services - Coastal Georgia Sub Office  
4980 Wildlife Drive, NE  
Townsend, Georgia 31331

Project Planning and Review Procedures: <https://www.fws.gov/office/georgia-ecological-services/project-planning-review>

NOTE: This email correspondence and any attachments to and from this sender is subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and may be disclosed to third parties.

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**From:** Wright, Summer G CIV USARMY CESAS (USA) <[Summer.G.Wright@usace.army.mil](mailto:Summer.G.Wright@usace.army.mil)>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 11, 2023 2:09 PM  
**To:** Wikoff, Bill <[bill\\_wikoff@fws.gov](mailto:bill_wikoff@fws.gov)>  
**Cc:** Hill, Suzanne CIV USARMY CESAS (USA) <[Suzanne.Hill@usace.army.mil](mailto:Suzanne.Hill@usace.army.mil)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Jekyll Island Shoreline Nourishment\_USFWS ESA Consultation\_Final

**This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.**

Good afternoon Bill!

We are requesting your concurrence on our effect determination for the attached Jekyll Island Shoreline Nourishment USFWS ESA informal consultation. We are also requesting review of this action under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.

Please reach out if you have any questions. Anticipated public comment period for the Jekyll Island Shoreline Nourishment draft EA/FONSI is January 8-23, 2024.

Thank you,

Summer Wright  
Biologist, Planning Branch  
USACE, Savannah District  
M: (912)-222-8945

**Brunswick Harbor Modification Project  
Jekyll Island Fishing Pier Beach Placement  
Glynn County, Georgia  
Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment and FONSI**

**A.2**

**USFWS Section 7 ESA Consultation**

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
SAVANNAH DISTRICT  
100 WEST OGLETHORPE AVENUE  
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401  
January 2024**





DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SAVANNAH DISTRICT  
100 W. OGLETHORPE AVENUE  
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401-3604

December 7, 2023

Planning Branch

Mr. Pete Maholland  
Field Supervisor  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
RG Stephens Jr. Federal Building  
355 East Hancock Avenue, Room 320, Box 7  
Athens, Georgia 30601

Dear Mr. Maholland:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District (Corps) has evaluated the feasibility of using the Brunswick Harbor Modification Project (BHMP) Cedar Hammock bend widener expansion new work material and the Brunswick Harbor Navigation Project (BHNP) operations and maintenance (O&M) dredged material beneficially to nourish the degraded shoreline southwest of the Jekyll Island Fishing Pier on Jekyll Island, GA.

In accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, the Corps has made a no effect determination for the following species: eastern black rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis ssp. Jamaicensis*), rufa red knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*), the piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*), eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon couperi*), green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), Hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), Kemp's Ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*), leatherback sea turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*), loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*), and Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*). The Corps has made a may affect, not likely to adversely affect determination for the West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*) and the wood stork (*Mycteria americana*). The Corps will include the manatee conditions provided by the USFWS into contract specifications along with the Project Design Criteria in the 2020 National Marine Fisheries South Atlantic Regional Biological Opinion for Dredging and Material Placement Activities. There is no designated critical habitat in the project area.

We request your concurrence on our effect determination for the West Indian manatee and wood stork. We are also requesting review of this action under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act. Questions concerning this request can be directed to Ms. Summer Wright, Biologist, at [Summer.G.Wright@usace.army.mil](mailto:Summer.G.Wright@usace.army.mil) or (912)-222-8945.

Sincerely,

HILL.SUZANNE  
NE.15378094  
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Digitally signed by  
HILL.SUZANNE.153780  
9414  
Date: 2023.12.11  
13:38:34 -05'00'

Suzanne Hill  
Environmental Team Lead, Planning Branch

Enclosure

**Brunswick Harbor Modifications Project  
Jekyll Island Fishing Pier Shoreline Nourishment  
USFWS ESA Consultation**

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**1 Background**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District (the Corps) is seeking to utilize beneficial use of dredged material (BUDM) by placing material along the degraded shoreline south of the Jekyll Island Fishing Pier on the leeward side of Jekyll Island in Glynn County, Georgia. This effort is part of the Brunswick Harbor Modification Project (BHMP). The Brunswick Harbor Modifications Study (BHMS) Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment/Finding of No Significant Impact (BHMS IFREA/FONSI) was completed with the signing of the FONSI on May 25, 2022. The BHMS IFREA/FONSI evaluated the expansion of the Colonel's Island Terminal turning basin and the Cedar Hammock Bend Widener, as well as the creation of a vessel meeting area in the St. Simons Sound. The expansions require the removal of 346,000 cy of material from the turning basin, and 205,000 cy of material from the bend widener.

The Brunswick Harbor Modification Project (BHMP) has been authorized for construction through the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 2022 and is currently in the Pre-construction Engineering and Design (PED) phase. The dredged material from the bend widener is mostly sandy material and is considered suitable for beneficial use. Beneficial use sites were previously evaluated for feasibility during the study; however, no beneficial use sites were identified that were feasible or within the Federal Standard during the development of the BHMS. During the PED phase, in accordance with Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2020, Section 125, the Corps posted a public notice on July 5, 2023, requesting beneficial use site proposals. The Jekyll Island Authority (JIA) submitted a proposal in response to the July 2023 Public Notice (Appendix H). The shoreline nourishment was chosen by the JIA with considerations toward environmental, economic, and recreational resources. Anticipated start date for the construction of the nearshore site is estimated to occur in late 2024-early 2025, depending on contract award of the BHMP.

**2 Description of the Action Being Considered**

The proposed action alternative is to directly place 205,000 cy of primarily sandy dredged material from the Cedar Hammock Bend Widener expansion onto the degraded shoreline southwest of the Jekyll Island Fishing Pier (Figure 1). This location is on the northern, leeward side of Jekyll Island. Returning sediment along actively degrading subtidal to intertidal zones in this area will restore the historic shoreline footprint. Placement of sediment in this area will provide valuable protection and attenuate wave energy along the adjacent shoreline. This will provide additional foraging/nesting habitat for shorebirds. The additional substrate may also encourage natural recruitment of vegetation from the adjacent marsh, allowing for further stabilization of the existing topographic landscape. The material will be placed in

shallow areas that were historically intertidal and sandy mudflat habitat that has been extirpated or degraded due to loss of elevation from tidal and wave-driven erosional forces (Figures 2 and 3).

Initial placement will occur during dredging operations under the BHMP. This site will not receive any hardened structure after sediment placement completion; therefore, material is expected to migrate within the system over time from natural forces. Future maintenance of this site will be required to restore lost sediment within the original design template. Future maintenance will utilize operations and maintenance (O&M) material from the Brunswick Harbor Navigation Project (BHNP). For initial placement, hydraulic cutterhead will be the means of placing the dredged sediment into the proposed shoreline nourishment site. Pipeline will be moved around to achieve design elevation, with the use of heavy machinery to create even grade and design contours if needed.

Future O&M placement may use cutterhead pipeline or hopper dredge for placement of dredged material into the template. Material will be primarily placed above the mean highwater mark (MHW) within the placement template. Adjacent to the inflow/outflow points of a tidal creek within the placement template, two buffer areas will be set at lower elevations to ensure continued tidal fluxes (Attachment 1). The purpose of the shoreline nourishment is to restore lost shoreline, and stabilize and prevent further erosion from coastal impacts, including storm events, tidal extremes, wind-driven wave energy, and sea level rise.





**Figure 1. Jekyll Island nearshore placement site (green polygon).**

The need for the proposed action is due to the erosion of the shoreline that has been observed and quantified using historical aerial imagery and was identified as an area of concern by the JIA. This erosion is causing loss of saltmarsh environment, and the encroaching Brunswick River is threatening the Clam Creek Road and recreational areas located on the northern portion of Jekyll Island. Figures 2 and 3 shows aerial imagery from the Georgia Wetlands Restoration Access Portal (G-WRAP) that shows the extent of the shoreline that has been lost.



**Figure 2. 1988 aerial imagery of the proposed placement location. The proposed placement polygon is in red. The blue line is historical shoreline from 1855, and the yellow is historical shoreline from 1933 (G-WRAP, 2023).**



**Figure 3. June 2023 aerial imagery of the current shoreline with comparisons to the proposed placement and the historical shorelines (blue-1855, yellow-1933) (G-WRAP, 2023).**

Placement of dredged materials at the proposed placement area will temporarily elevate the topography and provide additional substrate to the existing shoreline and intertidal habitat. The additional substrate may also provide more growth opportunity for the adjacent marsh, thus further stabilizing the existing topographic landscape.

**Table 1. Placement Site and Locations**

<b>BU Placement Site</b>	<b>Channel Location (Source Material)</b>	<b>Deci-degree Location</b>	<b>Dimensions/Size (acres)</b>
Jekyll Island Fishing Pier Shoreline Placement	Cedar Hammock Bend Widener; Future O&M material from Brunswick Inner Harbor or Brunswick Entrance Channel	31.112471°N, -81.419019°W	30 acres

**3 Description of the Specific Area that May be Affected by the Action**

The proposed action involves placement activities located along the Brunswick River, adjacent to Jekyll Island, Georgia. The placement area is located south of the Jekyll Island Fishing Pier located on the northern end of the barrier island. The proposed placement area is unconsolidated bottom with saltmarsh on the eastern side with two tidal inlets throughout the saltmarsh.

**4 Description of any listed species or critical habitat that may be affected by the Action**

The USFWS’s Information, Planning, and Consultation System (IPAC) indicated several federally listed species potentially within the project area (USFWS, 2023). The Corps has assessed the listed species and critical habitat that may be present in the action area and made a determination of the effects to listed species and critical habitat in the action area. Effects are summarized in Table 2.

**Table 2. Effects Summary**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Federal Status</b>	<b>Critical Habitat Designated (Yes/No)</b>	<b>Effect Determination</b>
Birds	Eastern Black Rail	<i>Laterallus jamaicensis ssp. jamaicensis</i>	Threatened	No	No Effect; preferred habitat is not located within proposed action area.

Birds	Piping Plover	<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	Threatened	Yes; placement area is outside of critical habitat.	No Effect; preferred habitat is not located within proposed action area.
Birds	Rufa Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus rufa</i>	Threatened	Yes Proposed Listing: 86 FR 37410 July 15, 2021; placement area is outside of critical habitat.	No Effect; preferred habitat is not located within proposed action area.
Birds	Wood Stork	<i>Mycteria americana</i>	Threatened	No	MANLAA; no rookeries in the proposed placement area.
Mammals (Marine)	West Indian Manatee	<i>Trichechus manatus</i>	Threatened	No	MANLAA; manatee conditions included in specifications.
Reptiles	Eastern Indigo Snake	<i>Drymarchon couperi</i>	Threatened	No	No Effect, preferred habitat is not located within proposed action area.
Reptiles	Green Sea Turtle*	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	Threatened	Yes	No Effect, no known nesting areas located within project area
Reptiles	Hawksbill Sea Turtle*	<i>Eretmochylis imbricata</i>	Endangered	Yes	No Effect, no known nesting areas located within project area
Reptiles	Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle*	<i>Lepidochelys kempii</i>	Endangered	Yes	No Effect, no known nesting areas located

					within project area
Reptiles	Leatherback Sea Turtle*	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	Endangered	No	No Effect, no known nesting areas located within project area
Reptiles	Loggerhead Sea Turtle*	<i>Caretta caretta</i>	Threatened	Yes Placement Areas are outside designated critical habitat	No Effect, no known nesting areas located within project area
Insects	Monarch Butterfly	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	Candidate	No	No Effect, preferred habitat is not located within proposed placement sites.

Please note: abbreviations used in Table 1: MANLAA = may affect, not likely to adversely affect

\* asterisks - NOAA has jurisdiction for species when in the water and the USFWS has jurisdiction on land.

## 5 Discussion of Potential Impacts

### 5.1 Listed Species with No Effect Determination

The proposed placement activity adjacent to the Jekyll Island saltmarsh on the northern Brunswick River side is outside known nesting sea turtle habitat as all activity will occur on the leeward side of the island and nesting only occurs on the eastern, ocean facing side (M. Dodd, 2023). Therefore, no impacts to nesting sea turtles are expected from either the dredging or placement activities associated with the proposed action. No effect determination has been made to the Eastern Indigo Snake as well as the proposed placement area is not suitable habitat for the species.

No effect determination has been made for the Eastern Black Rail, as no Eastern Black Rails were identified on the Georgia coast during surveys conducted by the USFWS in 2017 and 2018. Also, Eastern Black Rails tend to occupy higher areas of emergent wetland with or near very shallow water, with overhead cover that permits little to no view of bare ground. The placement area has no overhead coverage, and the adjacent saltmarsh is low elevation.

No effect determination has been made for the Rufa red knot as preferred foraging/resting and nesting habitat outside of the proposed action area. Preferred habitat for Rufa red knot along the eastern U.S. coastline includes dynamic and

ephemeral features, including sand spits, islets, shoals, and sandbars, features often associated with inlets. Preferred wintering and migration habitats are muddy or sandy coastal areas, specifically, bays and estuaries, tidal flats, and unimproved tidal inlets. Because rufa red knots typically prefer sandy habitat, the proposed action will not have any effect to rufa red knot or their nesting and foraging habitat.

No effect determination has been made for the piping plover as preferred foraging/resting and nesting habitat is outside of the proposed action area (Wikoff, 2023). Piping plover utilizes similar habitat as the Rufa red knot, including the front and ends of barrier islands, and wet tidal bars in and just outside of sounds. The piping plover do not utilize the back side of Jekyll Island where the placement site is located.

No effect determination has been made for the Monarch Butterfly as there is no suitable habitat in the placement area. There is also no milkweed in or around the placement area.

## **5.2 West Indian Manatee**

The West Indian manatee inhabit rivers and coastal waters where they feed on sea grass, algae, marsh grass, and other aquatic plants. In Georgia, this species can be found in March to October in any tidally influenced waters (coastal, tidal creeks, estuaries, and lower portions of rivers). During the winter months manatees move to warm water refuges including warm springs, warm water discharges from power plants, and subtropical waters of south Florida.

The proposed shoreline nourishment southwest of the Jekyll Island fishing pier may affect manatees because the species does occur in the general vicinity of the action area but are not likely to adversely affect manatees because any construction contract issued would include the following Savannah District In-Water Construction Manatee Conditions as agreed upon between the USACE Savannah District and the USFWS:

- Personnel associated with dredging activities shall be advised of the civil and criminal penalties for harming, harassing, or killing manatees, or other species protected under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 and the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972. The Contractor may be held responsible for manatees, whales, sea turtle, or sturgeon harmed, harassed, or killed as a result of project activities.
- A minimum of 2 temporary manatee awareness construction signs that are 3 feet by 4 feet will be provided and maintained at prominent locations within the construction area prior to initiation of construction/dredging and removed upon completion of the project. Signs shall be posted prior to and during construction and dredging activities to remind personnel to be observant for manatees during active construction/dredging operations and within vessel movement zones (i.e., the work area), and at least one sign shall be placed where it is visible to the vessel operator. One additional temporary sign will be installed in a location prominently visible to water-related construction crews.

- To prevent a crushing hazard to manatees or other protected species, pipelines used to transport dredged material shall be secured to the river bottom or to a fixed object along their length to prevent movement with tides or wave action.
- Vessels associated with dredging projects shall operate at “no wake/idle” speed while in the immediate project area and while in water where the draft of the vessel provides less than four feet of clearance from the bottom. Vessels shall follow routes of deep water when possible.
- If a manatee is sighted within 100 yards of the active work zone, special operating conditions shall be implemented, including: In-water operations, including vessels and moving equipment, shall be shut down if one or more manatees comes within 50 feet of the operation; vessels shall operate at no wake/idle speeds within 100 yards of the work area. In-water operations shall not resume until the manatees have moved beyond the 50-foot radius of the project operation, or until 30 minutes elapses if the manatees have not reappeared within 50 feet of the operation. Animals shall not be herded away or harassed into leaving. Once the manatee has left the 100-yard buffer zone around the work area of its own accord, special operating conditions are no longer necessary, but careful monitoring shall resume.
- Collisions with manatees or other Federally listed species shall be immediately reported to the Corps of Engineers, Corps (912-652-6086 or 912- 652-5020) and the USFWS Coastal Suboffice (912-832-8739). The above offices shall be notified upon locating a dead, injured, or sick endangered or threatened species specimen. Care shall be taken in handling dead specimens to preserve biological materials for later analysis of cause of death. Dead manatees found in the project area shall be secured to a stable object to prevent the carcass from being moved by the current. The finder shall ensure that evidence intrinsic to the specimen is not unnecessarily disturbed. In the event of injury or mortality of any protected species, aquatic activity in the project area shall cease, pending Section 7 consultation under the Endangered Species Act between the USFWS and the Corps.
- A log shall be kept detailing sightings, collisions, and injury to manatees, sea turtles, sturgeons, and whales which have occurred during the Contract period. Within 15 days following project completion, a report shall be submitted to the Contracting Officer or Contracting Officer Representative summarizing sightings and incidents. Reports shall be signed by the Contractor or its representative and shall include the name of the person making each sighting.

By requiring the contractor to follow the standard in-water work conditions as outlined above, it is anticipated that the proposed in-water placement of sediment associated with shoreline nourishment south of the Jekyll Island fishing pier “**may affect but not likely to adversely affect**” this species.

### 5.3 Wood Storks

Wood storks are known to frequent the more protected estuarine areas of the region for both feeding and nesting. Wood stork rookeries and nesting areas are located on



hammocks and along the edges of the marsh behind the barrier islands. These birds have a unique feeding technique and require higher prey concentrations than other wading birds. Optimal water regimes for the wood stork involve periods of flooding, during which prey (fish) populations increase, alternating with drier periods during which receding water levels concentrate fish at high densities. Within coastal Georgia, GADNR has identified approximately 23 coastal colonies that have been active at least one year within the last ten years. This is consistent with how USFWS defines active colonies.

It is anticipated that the proposed shoreline nourishment south of the Jekyll Island fishing pier would not impact nesting wood storks as there are no known active wood stork rookeries present within 2,500 feet of the project area. No rookeries were observed during two sites visits taken on September 16 and 26, 2023. However, during construction activities, there is a potential for short-term interruptions of wood stork foraging within the core foraging habitat for the coastal wood stork colonies (13-mile radius around active wood stork colonies), and therefore **“may affect but not likely to adversely affect”** wood storks. As there is there are large quantities of higher quality foraging habitat in proximity to the project area, any impacts would be insignificant, short-term and minor, and would only occur during construction activities. During that timeframe there will be other suitable foraging/roosting habitat available for wood storks in adjacent areas. Once construction activities are completed, it is anticipated that wood storks would resume their normal foraging/roosting activities with no long-term impacts. The proposed beneficial use of dredged material to restore eroded shoreline may also have benefits for bird species’ foraging habitat. Therefore, it is expected to provide long term benefits for woods storks within the action area by adding to and enhancing existing suitable foraging habitat.

## 6 Conclusion

The Corps has reviewed the proposed action and made a determination of the effects to ESA-listed species and designated critical habitat. Based on the analysis above, and by following the proposed construction conditions for the West Indian manatee as outlined in Section 5.2, the Corps has determined that proposed beneficial use of dredged material activity as outlined in this assessment is not likely to adversely affect any listed species under USFWS jurisdiction. Therefore, informal consultation sufficiently addresses Section 7 ESA requirements for the proposed action. We have used the best scientific and commercial data available to complete this analysis. We request your concurrence with this determination.

## 7 References.

Georgia Tech University. G-WRAP. <https://geospatial.gatech.edu/G-WRAP/>. Accessed October 1, 2023.

Mark Dodd. “JIA BU Site.” Email communication from GADNR to USACE on 15 September 2023.



Peterson, C.H., M.J. Bishop, G.A. Johnson, L.M. D'Anna, and L.M. Manning. 2006. Exploiting beach filling as an unaffordable experiment: benthic intertidal impacts propagating upwards to shorebirds. *Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology* 338: 205-221.

USACE. 2022. Brunswick Harbor Navigation Project Modifications and Harbor Dredging Operations and Maintenance, Glynn County, Georgia. FINAL Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact.

USFWS. 2018. Species Status Assessment Report for the Eastern Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis jamaicensis*). Version 1.2 June 2018. Atlanta, GA.

USFWS. Information for Planning and Consultation.  
<https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/location/OBTK534W3ZGCXKZWDH7VM5JLZM/resources> accessed 21 September 2023.

**Brunswick Harbor Modifications Project, Jekyll Island Fishing Pier  
Shoreline Nourishment  
USFWS ESA Consultation  
Attachment 1**



**Brunswick Harbor Modification Project  
Jekyll Island Fishing Pier Beach Placement  
Glynn County, Georgia  
Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment and FONSI**

**A.3**

**IPaC Species List**

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
SAVANNAH DISTRICT  
100 WEST OGLETHORPE AVENUE  
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401  
January 2024**



# IPaC resource list

This report is an automatically generated list of species and other resources such as critical habitat (collectively referred to as *trust resources*) under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) jurisdiction that are known or expected to be on or near the project area referenced below. The list may also include trust resources that occur outside of the project area, but that could potentially be directly or indirectly affected by activities in the project area. However, determining the likelihood and extent of effects a project may have on trust resources typically requires gathering additional site-specific (e.g., vegetation/species surveys) and project-specific (e.g., magnitude and timing of proposed activities) information.

Below is a summary of the project information you provided and contact information for the USFWS office(s) with jurisdiction in the defined project area. Please read the introduction to each section that follows (Endangered Species, Migratory Birds, USFWS Facilities, and NWI Wetlands) for additional information applicable to the trust resources addressed in that section.

## Location

Glynn County, Georgia



## Local office

Georgia Ecological Services Field Office

☎ (706) 613-9493

📅 (706) 613-6059

355 East Hancock Avenue  
Room 320  
Athens, GA 30601-2523

NOT FOR CONSULTATION

# Endangered species

**This resource list is for informational purposes only and does not constitute an analysis of project level impacts.**

The primary information used to generate this list is the known or expected range of each species. Additional areas of influence (AOI) for species are also considered. An AOI includes areas outside of the species range if the species could be indirectly affected by activities in that area (e.g., placing a dam upstream of a fish population even if that fish does not occur at the dam site, may indirectly impact the species by reducing or eliminating water flow downstream). Because species can move, and site conditions can change, the species on this list are not guaranteed to be found on or near the project area. To fully determine any potential effects to species, additional site-specific and project-specific information is often required.

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act **requires** Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of such proposed action" for any project that is conducted, permitted, funded, or licensed by any Federal agency. A letter from the local office and a species list which fulfills this requirement can **only** be obtained by requesting an official species list from either the Regulatory Review section in IPaC (see directions below) or from the local field office directly.

For project evaluations that require USFWS concurrence/review, please return to the IPaC website and request an official species list by doing the following:

1. Draw the project location and click CONTINUE.
2. Click DEFINE PROJECT.
3. Log in (if directed to do so).
4. Provide a name and description for your project.
5. Click REQUEST SPECIES LIST.

Listed species<sup>1</sup> and their critical habitats are managed by the [Ecological Services Program](#) of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the fisheries division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA Fisheries<sup>2</sup>).

Species and critical habitats under the sole responsibility of NOAA Fisheries are **not** shown on this list. Please contact [NOAA Fisheries](#) for [species under their jurisdiction](#).

- 
1. Species listed under the [Endangered Species Act](#) are threatened or endangered; IPaC also shows species that are candidates, or proposed, for listing. See the [listing status page](#) for more information. IPaC only shows species that are regulated by USFWS (see FAQ).



2. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

The following species are potentially affected by activities in this location:

## Mammals

NAME	STATUS
<p><b>Tricolored Bat</b> <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i> Wherever found No critical habitat has been designated for this species. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10515">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10515</a></p>	Proposed Endangered
<p><b>West Indian Manatee</b> <i>Trichechus manatus</i> Wherever found There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4469">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4469</a></p>	Threatened Marine mammal

## Birds

NAME	STATUS
<p><b>Eastern Black Rail</b> <i>Laterallus jamaicensis ssp. jamaicensis</i> Wherever found No critical habitat has been designated for this species. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10477">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10477</a></p>	Threatened
<p><b>Piping Plover</b> <i>Charadrius melodus</i> There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6039">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6039</a></p>	Threatened
<p><b>Rufa Red Knot</b> <i>Calidris canutus rufa</i> Wherever found There is <b>proposed</b> critical habitat for this species. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1864">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1864</a></p>	Threatened
<p><b>Wood Stork</b> <i>Mycteria americana</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8477">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8477</a></p>	Threatened

## Reptiles



NAME	STATUS
<p><b>Eastern Indigo Snake</b> <i>Drymarchon couperi</i></p> <p>Wherever found</p> <p>No critical habitat has been designated for this species.  <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/646">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/646</a></p>	Threatened
<p><b>Green Sea Turtle</b> <i>Chelonia mydas</i></p> <p>There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat.  <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6199">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6199</a></p>	Threatened
<p><b>Hawksbill Sea Turtle</b> <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i></p> <p>Wherever found</p> <p>There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat.  <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3656">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3656</a></p>	Endangered
<p><b>Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle</b> <i>Lepidochelys kempii</i></p> <p>Wherever found</p> <p>There is <b>proposed</b> critical habitat for this species.  <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5523">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5523</a></p>	Endangered
<p><b>Leatherback Sea Turtle</b> <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i></p> <p>Wherever found</p> <p>There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat.  <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1493">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1493</a></p>	Endangered
<p><b>Loggerhead Sea Turtle</b> <i>Caretta caretta</i></p> <p>There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat.  <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1110">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1110</a></p>	Threatened

## Insects

NAME	STATUS
<p><b>Monarch Butterfly</b> <i>Danaus plexippus</i></p> <p>Wherever found</p> <p>No critical habitat has been designated for this species.  <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743</a></p>	Candidate

## Critical habitats

Potential effects to critical habitat(s) in this location must be analyzed along with the endangered species themselves.

There are no critical habitats at this location.

You are still required to determine if your project(s) may have effects on all above listed species.

## Bald & Golden Eagles

Bald and golden eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act<sup>1</sup> and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act<sup>2</sup>.

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to bald or golden eagles, or their habitats<sup>3</sup>, should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described in the links below.

Specifically, please review the "[Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles](#)".

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management <https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management>
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds  
<https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incident-take-migratory-birds>
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds  
<https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf>
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC  
<https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action>

**There are bald and/or golden eagles in your project area.**

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, see the PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY below to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME

BREEDING SEASON

**Bald Eagle** *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*

Breeds Sep 1 to Jul 31

This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.

## Probability of Presence Summary

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read ["Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles"](#), specifically the FAQ section titled "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

### Probability of Presence (■)

Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. (A year is represented as 12 4-week months.) A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey effort (see below) can be used to establish a level of confidence in the presence score. One can have higher confidence in the presence score if the corresponding survey effort is also high.

How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:

1. The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25.
2. To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05, and that the probability of presence at week 12 (0.25) is the maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is  $0.25/0.25 = 1$ ; at week 20 it is  $0.05/0.25 = 0.2$ .
3. The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

To see a bar's probability of presence score, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

### Breeding Season (■)

Yellow bars denote a very liberal estimate of the time-frame inside which the bird breeds across its entire range. If there are no yellow bars shown for a bird, it does not breed in your project area.

### Survey Effort (|)

Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps. The number of surveys is expressed as a range, for example, 33 to 64 surveys.

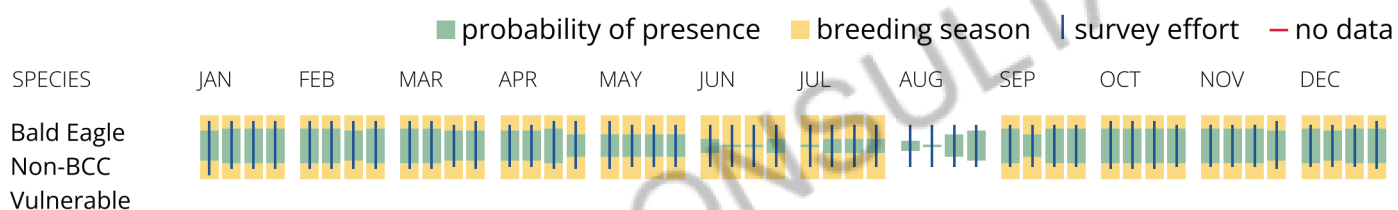
To see a bar's survey effort range, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

### No Data (—)

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

### Survey Timeframe

Surveys from only the last 10 years are used in order to ensure delivery of currently relevant information. The exception to this is areas off the Atlantic coast, where bird returns are based on all years of available data, since data in these areas is currently much more sparse.



### What does IPaC use to generate the potential presence of bald and golden eagles in my specified location?

The potential for eagle presence is derived from data provided by the [Avian Knowledge Network \(AKN\)](#). The AKN data is based on a growing collection of [survey, banding, and citizen science datasets](#) and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) which your project intersects, and that have been identified as warranting special attention because they are a BCC species in that area, an eagle ([Eagle Act](#) requirements may apply). To see a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, please visit the [Rapid Avian Information Locator \(RAIL\) Tool](#).

### What does IPaC use to generate the probability of presence graphs of bald and golden eagles in my specified location?

The Migratory Bird Resource List is comprised of USFWS [Birds of Conservation Concern \(BCC\)](#) and other species that may warrant special attention in your project location.

The migratory bird list generated for your project is derived from data provided by the [Avian Knowledge Network \(AKN\)](#). The AKN data is based on a growing collection of [survey, banding, and citizen science datasets](#) and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) which your project intersects, and that have been identified as warranting special attention because they are a BCC species in that area, an eagle ([Eagle Act](#) requirements may apply), or a species that has a particular vulnerability to offshore activities or development.

Again, the Migratory Bird Resource list includes only a subset of birds that may occur in your project area. It is not representative of all birds that may occur in your project area. To get a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, please visit the [Rapid Avian Information Locator \(RAIL\) Tool](#).

### What if I have eagles on my list?

If your project has the potential to disturb or kill eagles, you may need to obtain a permit to avoid violating the [Eagle Act](#) should such impacts occur. Please contact your local Fish and Wildlife Service Field Office if you have questions.

## Migratory birds

Certain birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act<sup>1</sup> and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act<sup>2</sup>.

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to migratory birds, eagles, and their habitats<sup>3</sup> should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described in the links below. Specifically, please review the "[Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles](#)".

1. The [Migratory Birds Treaty Act](#) of 1918.
2. The [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) of 1940.

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management <https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management>
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incident-take-migratory-birds>
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds <https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf>
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC <https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action>

**The birds listed below are birds of particular concern either because they occur on the [USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern](#) (BCC) list or warrant special attention in your project location.** To learn more about the levels of concern for birds on your list and how this list is generated, see the FAQ [below](#). This is not a list of every bird you may find in this location, nor a guarantee that every bird on this list will be found in your project area. To see exact locations of where birders and the general public have sighted birds in and around your project area, visit the [E-bird data mapping tool](#) (Tip: enter your location, desired date range and a species on your list). For projects that occur off the Atlantic Coast, additional maps and models detailing the relative occurrence and abundance of bird species on your



list are available. Links to additional information about Atlantic Coast birds, and other important information about your migratory bird list, including how to properly interpret and use your migratory bird report, can be found [below](#).

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, see the PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY below to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
<p><b>American Kestrel</b> <i>Falco sparverius paulus</i>            This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA  <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9587">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9587</a></p>	Breeds Apr 1 to Aug 31
<p><b>American Oystercatcher</b> <i>Haematopus palliatus</i>            This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.  <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8935">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8935</a></p>	Breeds Apr 15 to Aug 31
<p><b>Bald Eagle</b> <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>            This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.</p>	Breeds Sep 1 to Jul 31
<p><b>Black Scoter</b> <i>Melanitta nigra</i>            This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.</p>	Breeds elsewhere
<p><b>Black Skimmer</b> <i>Rynchops niger</i>            This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.  <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5234">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5234</a></p>	Breeds May 20 to Sep 15
<p><b>Brown Pelican</b> <i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>            This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.</p>	Breeds Jan 15 to Sep 30

- Brown-headed Nuthatch** *Sitta pusilla* Breeds Mar 1 to Jul 15  
This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA
- Cerulean Warbler** *Dendroica cerulea* Breeds Apr 26 to Jul 20  
This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.  
<https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2974>
- Chimney Swift** *Chaetura pelagica* Breeds Mar 15 to Aug 25  
This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.
- Coastal (wayne s) Black-throated Green Warbler** Breeds May 1 to Aug 15  
*Setophaga virens waynei*  
This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA
- Common Eider** *Somateria mollissima* Breeds Jun 1 to Sep 30  
This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.
- Common Loon** *gavia immer* Breeds Apr 15 to Oct 31  
This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.  
<https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4464>
- Gull-billed Tern** *Gelochelidon nilotica* Breeds May 1 to Jul 31  
This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.  
<https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9501>
- Kentucky Warbler** *Oporornis formosus* Breeds Apr 20 to Aug 20  
This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.

<b>King Rail</b> <i>Rallus elegans</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8936">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8936</a>	Breeds May 1 to Sep 5
<b>Lesser Yellowlegs</b> <i>Tringa flavipes</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9679">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9679</a>	Breeds elsewhere
<b>Long-tailed Duck</b> <i>Clangula hyemalis</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7238">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7238</a>	Breeds elsewhere
<b>Marbled Godwit</b> <i>Limosa fedoa</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9481">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9481</a>	Breeds elsewhere
<b>Painted Bunting</b> <i>Passerina ciris</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA	Breeds Apr 25 to Aug 15
<b>Pectoral Sandpiper</b> <i>Calidris melanotos</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds elsewhere
<b>Prairie Warbler</b> <i>Dendroica discolor</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds May 1 to Jul 31
<b>Prothonotary Warbler</b> <i>Protonotaria citrea</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds Apr 1 to Jul 31
<b>Purple Sandpiper</b> <i>Calidris maritima</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds elsewhere



**Razorbill** *Alca torda*

Breeds Jun 15 to Sep 10

This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.

**Red-breasted Merganser** *Mergus serrator*

Breeds elsewhere

This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.

**Red-headed Woodpecker** *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*

Breeds May 10 to Sep 10

This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.

**Red-necked Phalarope** *Phalaropus lobatus*

Breeds elsewhere

This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.

**Red-throated Loon** *Gavia stellata*

Breeds elsewhere

This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.

**Ring-billed Gull** *Larus delawarensis*

Breeds elsewhere

This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.

**Royal Tern** *Thalasseus maximus*

Breeds Apr 15 to Aug 31

This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.

**Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres morinella*

Breeds elsewhere

This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA

- Saltmarsh Sparrow** *Ammodramus caudacutus* Breeds May 15 to Sep 5  
This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.  
<https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9719>
- Short-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus griseus* Breeds elsewhere  
This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.  
<https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9480>
- Surf Scoter** *Melanitta perspicillata* Breeds elsewhere  
This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.
- Swallow-tailed Kite** *Elanoides forficatus* Breeds Mar 10 to Jun 30  
This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.  
<https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8938>
- White-winged Scoter** *Melanitta fusca* Breeds elsewhere  
This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.
- Willet** *Tringa semipalmata* Breeds Apr 20 to Aug 5  
This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.
- Wilson's Plover** *Charadrius wilsonia* Breeds Apr 1 to Aug 20  
This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.
- Wood Thrush** *Hycocichla mustelina* Breeds May 10 to Aug 31  
This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.

# Probability of Presence Summary

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read ["Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles"](#), specifically the FAQ section titled "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

## Probability of Presence (■)

Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. (A year is represented as 12 4-week months.) A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey effort (see below) can be used to establish a level of confidence in the presence score. One can have higher confidence in the presence score if the corresponding survey effort is also high.

How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:

1. The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25.
2. To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05, and that the probability of presence at week 12 (0.25) is the maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is  $0.25/0.25 = 1$ ; at week 20 it is  $0.05/0.25 = 0.2$ .
3. The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

To see a bar's probability of presence score, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

## Breeding Season (■)

Yellow bars denote a very liberal estimate of the time-frame inside which the bird breeds across its entire range. If there are no yellow bars shown for a bird, it does not breed in your project area.

## Survey Effort (|)

Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps. The number of surveys is expressed as a range, for example, 33 to 64 surveys.

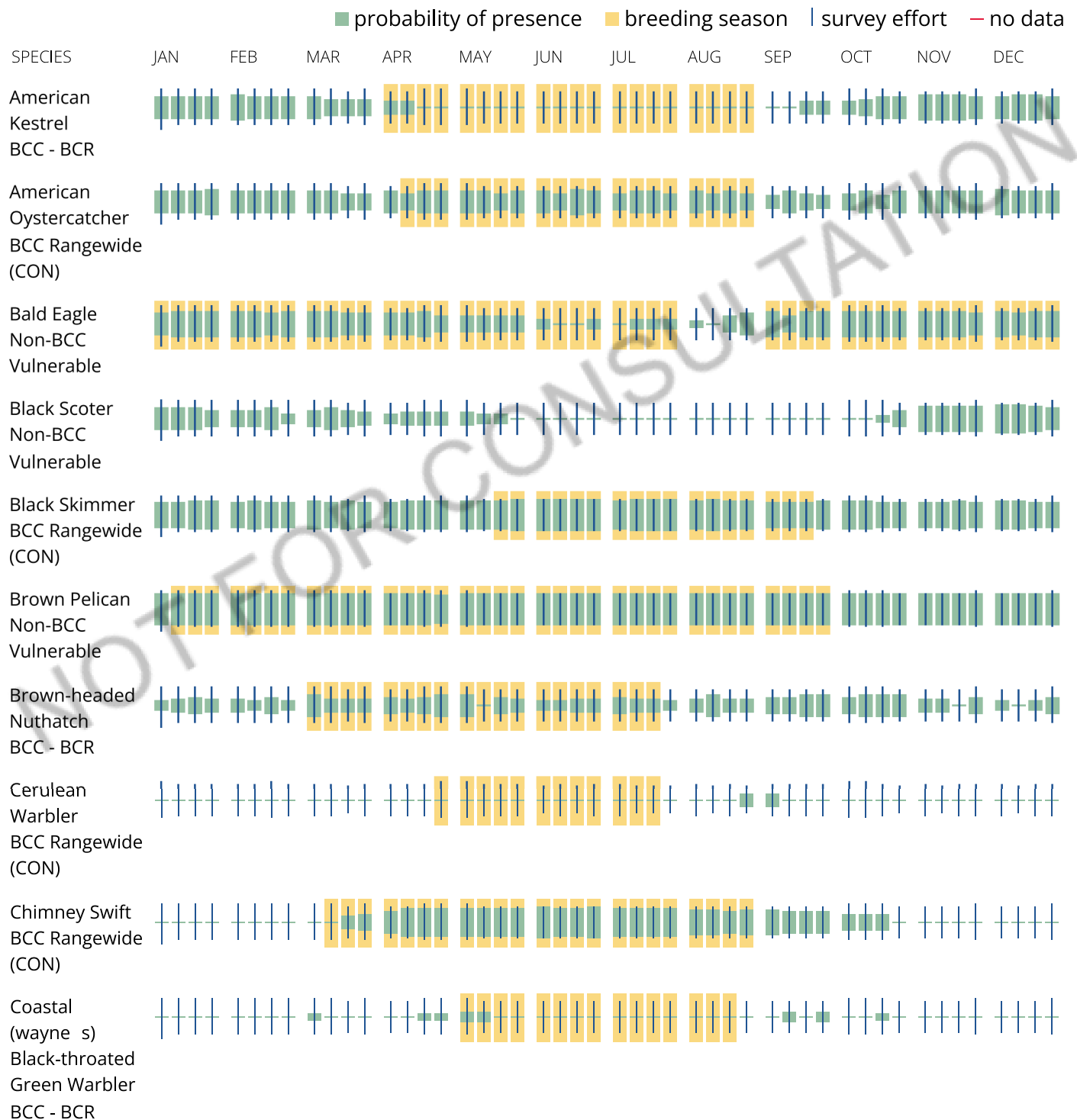
To see a bar's survey effort range, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

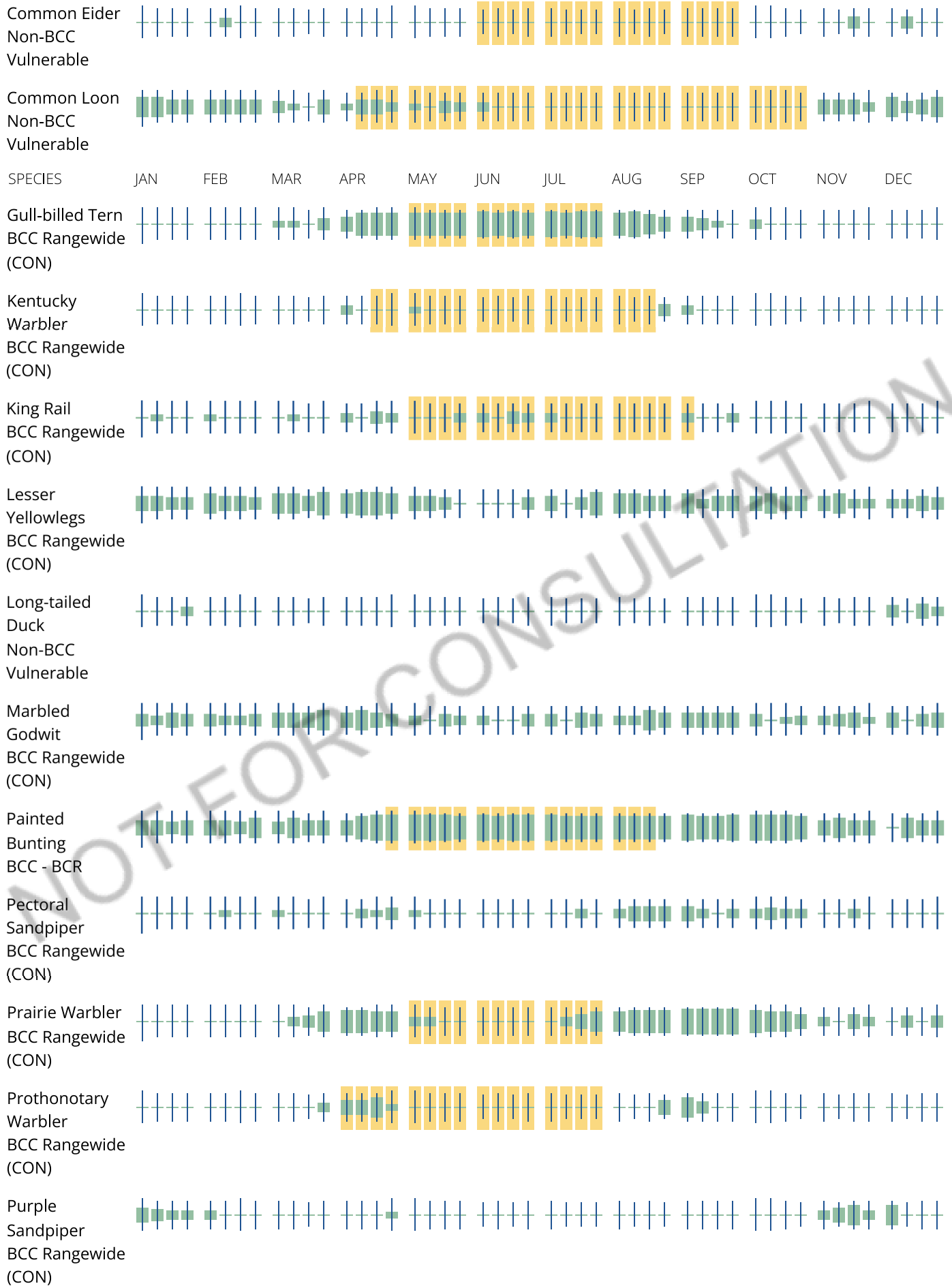
### No Data (-)

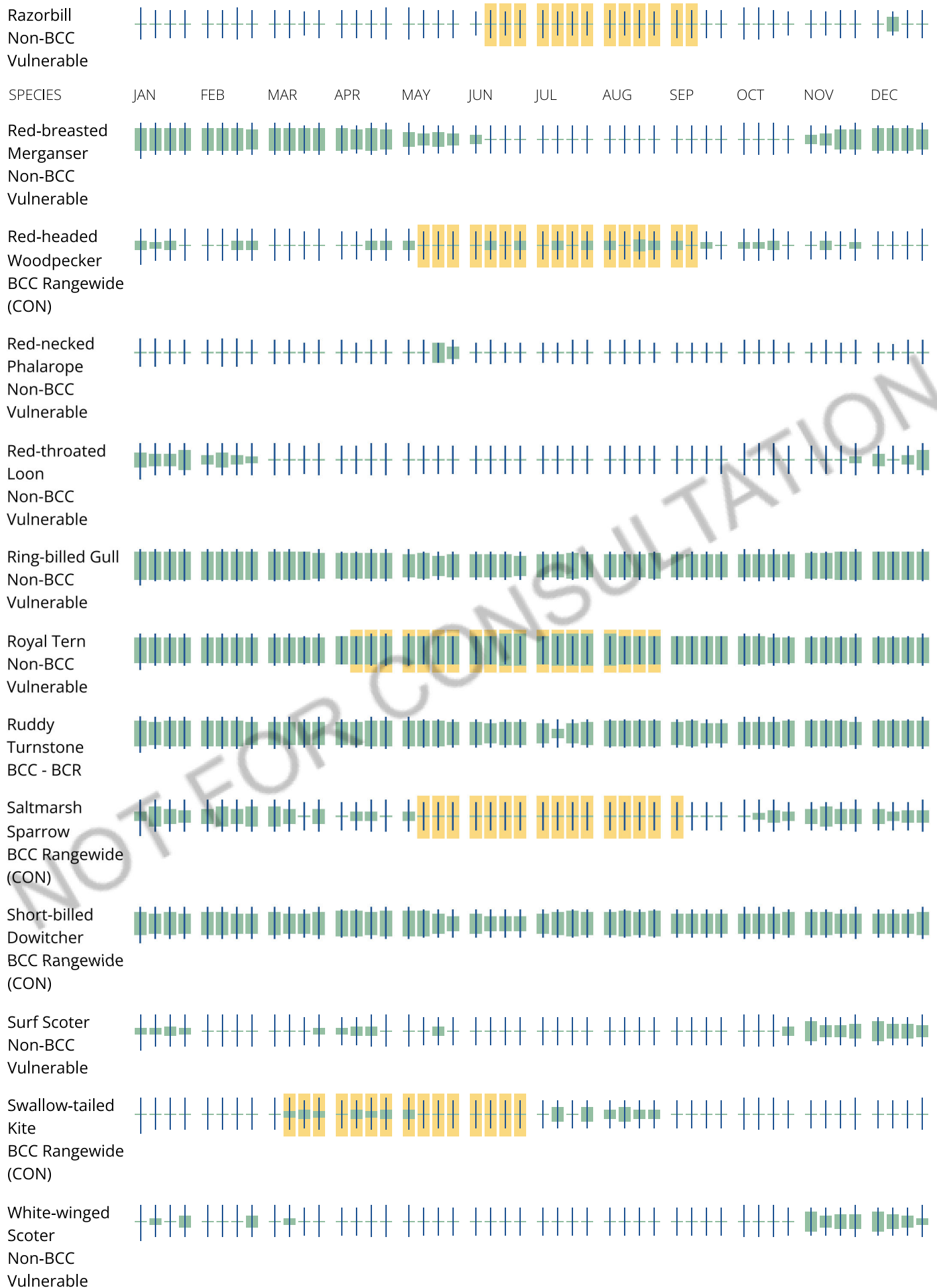
A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

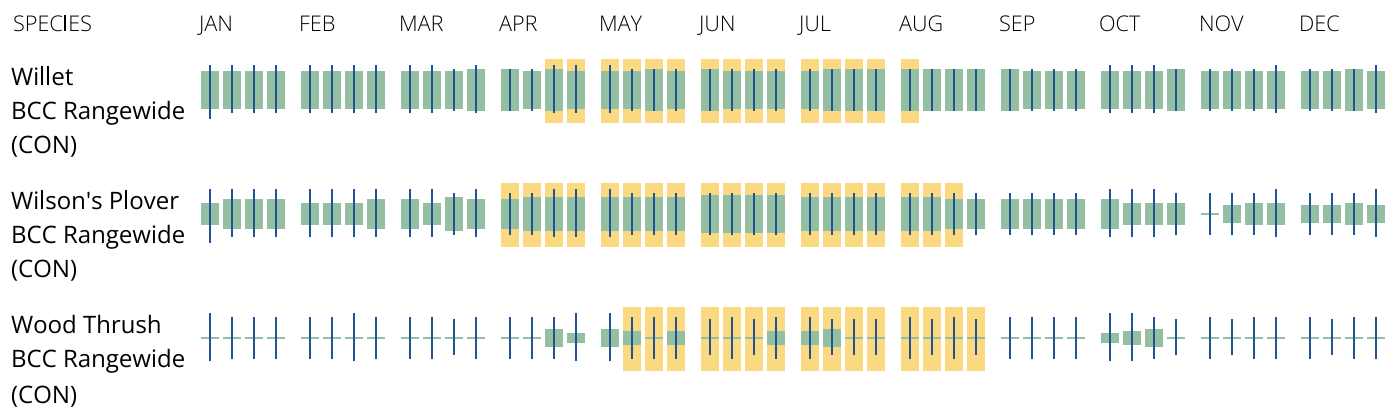
### Survey Timeframe

Surveys from only the last 10 years are used in order to ensure delivery of currently relevant information. The exception to this is areas off the Atlantic coast, where bird returns are based on all years of available data, since data in these areas is currently much more sparse.









## Tell me more about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds.

[Nationwide Conservation Measures](#) describes measures that can help avoid and minimize impacts to all birds at any location year round. Implementation of these measures is particularly important when birds are most likely to occur in the project area. When birds may be breeding in the area, identifying the locations of any active nests and avoiding their destruction is a very helpful impact minimization measure. To see when birds are most likely to occur and be breeding in your project area, view the Probability of Presence Summary. [Additional measures](#) or [permits](#) may be advisable depending on the type of activity you are conducting and the type of infrastructure or bird species present on your project site.

## What does IPaC use to generate the list of migratory birds that potentially occur in my specified location?

The Migratory Bird Resource List is comprised of USFWS [Birds of Conservation Concern \(BCC\)](#) and other species that may warrant special attention in your project location.

The migratory bird list generated for your project is derived from data provided by the [Avian Knowledge Network \(AKN\)](#). The AKN data is based on a growing collection of [survey, banding, and citizen science datasets](#) and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) which your project intersects, and that have been identified as warranting special attention because they are a BCC species in that area, an eagle ([Eagle Act](#) requirements may apply), or a species that has a particular vulnerability to offshore activities or development.

Again, the Migratory Bird Resource list includes only a subset of birds that may occur in your project area. It is not representative of all birds that may occur in your project area. To get a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, please visit the [Rapid Avian Information Locator \(RAIL\) Tool](#).

## What does IPaC use to generate the probability of presence graphs for the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location?

The probability of presence graphs associated with your migratory bird list are based on data provided by the [Avian Knowledge Network \(AKN\)](#). This data is derived from a growing collection of [survey, banding, and citizen science datasets](#).

Probability of presence data is continuously being updated as new and better information becomes available. To learn more about how the probability of presence graphs are produced and how to interpret them, go the Probability of Presence Summary and then click on the "Tell me about these graphs" link.



## How do I know if a bird is breeding, wintering or migrating in my area?

To see what part of a particular bird's range your project area falls within (i.e. breeding, wintering, migrating or year-round), you may query your location using the [RAIL Tool](#) and look at the range maps provided for birds in your area at the bottom of the profiles provided for each bird in your results. If a bird on your migratory bird species list has a breeding season associated with it, if that bird does occur in your project area, there may be nests present at some point within the timeframe specified. If "Breeds elsewhere" is indicated, then the bird likely does not breed in your project area.

## What are the levels of concern for migratory birds?

Migratory birds delivered through IPaC fall into the following distinct categories of concern:

1. "BCC Rangewide" birds are [Birds of Conservation Concern](#) (BCC) that are of concern throughout their range anywhere within the USA (including Hawaii, the Pacific Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands);
2. "BCC - BCR" birds are BCCs that are of concern only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA; and
3. "Non-BCC - Vulnerable" birds are not BCC species in your project area, but appear on your list either because of the [Eagle Act](#) requirements (for eagles) or (for non-eagles) potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities (e.g. offshore energy development or longline fishing).

Although it is important to try to avoid and minimize impacts to all birds, efforts should be made, in particular, to avoid and minimize impacts to the birds on this list, especially eagles and BCC species of rangewide concern. For more information on conservation measures you can implement to help avoid and minimize migratory bird impacts and requirements for eagles, please see the FAQs for these topics.

## Details about birds that are potentially affected by offshore projects

For additional details about the relative occurrence and abundance of both individual bird species and groups of bird species within your project area off the Atlantic Coast, please visit the [Northeast Ocean Data Portal](#). The Portal also offers data and information about other taxa besides birds that may be helpful to you in your project review. Alternately, you may download the bird model results files underlying the portal maps through the [NOAA NCCOS Integrative Statistical Modeling and Predictive Mapping of Marine Bird Distributions and Abundance on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf](#) project webpage.

Bird tracking data can also provide additional details about occurrence and habitat use throughout the year, including migration. Models relying on survey data may not include this information. For additional information on marine bird tracking data, see the [Diving Bird Study](#) and the [nanotag studies](#) or contact [Caleb Spiegel](#) or [Pam Loring](#).

## What if I have eagles on my list?

If your project has the potential to disturb or kill eagles, you may need to [obtain a permit](#) to avoid violating the Eagle Act should such impacts occur.

## Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report



The migratory bird list generated is not a list of all birds in your project area, only a subset of birds of priority concern. To learn more about how your list is generated, and see options for identifying what other birds may be in your project area, please see the FAQ "What does IPaC use to generate the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location". Please be aware this report provides the "probability of presence" of birds within the 10 km grid cell(s) that overlap your project; not your exact project footprint. On the graphs provided, please also look carefully at the survey effort (indicated by the black vertical bar) and for the existence of the "no data" indicator (a red horizontal bar). A high survey effort is the key component. If the survey effort is high, then the probability of presence score can be viewed as more dependable. In contrast, a low survey effort bar or no data bar means a lack of data and, therefore, a lack of certainty about presence of the species. This list is not perfect; it is simply a starting point for identifying what birds of concern have the potential to be in your project area, when they might be there, and if they might be breeding (which means nests might be present). The list helps you know what to look for to confirm presence, and helps guide you in knowing when to implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize potential impacts from your project activities, should presence be confirmed. To learn more about conservation measures, visit the FAQ "Tell me about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds" at the bottom of your migratory bird trust resources page.

NOT FOR CONSULTATION

# Marine mammals

Marine mammals are protected under the [Marine Mammal Protection Act](#). Some are also protected under the Endangered Species Act<sup>1</sup> and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora<sup>2</sup>.

The responsibilities for the protection, conservation, and management of marine mammals are shared by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [responsible for otters, walruses, polar bears, manatees, and dugongs] and NOAA Fisheries<sup>3</sup> [responsible for seals, sea lions, whales, dolphins, and porpoises]. Marine mammals under the responsibility of NOAA Fisheries are **not** shown on this list; for additional information on those species please visit the [Marine Mammals](#) page of the NOAA Fisheries website.

The Marine Mammal Protection Act prohibits the take (to harass, hunt, capture, kill, or attempt to harass, hunt, capture or kill) of marine mammals and further coordination may be necessary for project evaluation. Please contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Field Office shown.

1. The [Endangered Species Act](#) (ESA) of 1973.
2. The [Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora](#) (CITES) is a treaty to ensure that international trade in plants and animals does not threaten their survival in the wild.
3. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

The following marine mammals under the responsibility of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are potentially affected by activities in this location:

NAME

West Indian Manatee *Trichechus manatus*  
<https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4469>

# Coastal Barrier Resources System

Projects within the [John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System](#) (CBRS) may be subject to the restrictions on Federal expenditures and financial assistance and the consultation requirements of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) (16 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.). For more information, please contact the local [Ecological Services Field Office](#) or visit the [CBRA](#)

[Consultations website](#). The CBRA website provides tools such as a flow chart to help determine whether consultation is required and a template to facilitate the consultation process.

## This location overlaps the following CBRS unit(s):

Unknown

[GA-06P](#)

### Data limitations

The CBRS boundaries used in IPaC are representations of the controlling boundaries, which are depicted on the [official CBRS maps](#). The boundaries depicted in this layer are not to be considered authoritative for in/out determinations close to a CBRS boundary (i.e., within the "CBRS Buffer Zone" that appears as a hatched area on either side of the boundary). For projects that are very close to a CBRS boundary but do not clearly intersect a unit, you may contact the Service for an official determination by following the instructions here: <https://www.fws.gov/service/coastal-barrier-resources-system-property-documentation>

### Data exclusions

CBRS units extend seaward out to either the 20- or 30-foot bathymetric contour (depending on the location of the unit). The true seaward extent of the units is not shown in the CBRS data, therefore projects in the offshore areas of units (e.g., dredging, breakwaters, offshore wind energy or oil and gas projects) may be subject to CBRA even if they do not intersect the CBRS data. For additional information, please contact [CBRA@fws.gov](mailto:CBRA@fws.gov).

## Facilities

Wildlife refuges and fish hatcheries

Refuge and fish hatchery information is not available at this time

## Wetlands in the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)

Impacts to [NWI wetlands](#) and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District](#).

## Wetland information is not available at this time

This can happen when the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) map service is unavailable, or for very large projects that intersect many wetland areas. Try again, or visit the [NWI map](#) to view wetlands at this location.

### Data limitations

The Service's objective of mapping wetlands and deepwater habitats is to produce reconnaissance level information on the location, type and size of these resources. The maps are prepared from the analysis of high altitude imagery. Wetlands are identified based on vegetation, visible hydrology and geography. A margin of error is inherent in the use of imagery; thus, detailed on-the-ground inspection of any particular site may result in revision of the wetland boundaries or classification established through image analysis.

The accuracy of image interpretation depends on the quality of the imagery, the experience of the image analysts, the amount and quality of the collateral data and the amount of ground truth verification work conducted. Metadata should be consulted to determine the date of the source imagery used and any mapping problems.

Wetlands or other mapped features may have changed since the date of the imagery or field work. There may be occasional differences in polygon boundaries or classifications between the information depicted on the map and the actual conditions on site.

### Data exclusions

Certain wetland habitats are excluded from the National mapping program because of the limitations of aerial imagery as the primary data source used to detect wetlands. These habitats include seagrasses or submerged aquatic vegetation that are found in the intertidal and subtidal zones of estuaries and nearshore coastal waters. Some deepwater reef communities (coral or tubercid worm reefs) have also been excluded from the inventory. These habitats, because of their depth, go undetected by aerial imagery.

### Data precautions

Federal, state, and local regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over wetlands may define and describe wetlands in a different manner than that used in this inventory. There is no attempt, in either the design or products of this inventory, to define the limits of proprietary jurisdiction of any Federal, state, or local government or to establish the geographical scope of the regulatory programs of government agencies. Persons intending to engage in activities involving modifications within or adjacent to wetland areas should seek the advice of appropriate Federal, state, or local agencies concerning specified agency regulatory programs and proprietary jurisdictions that may affect such activities.