

Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*)

(3 subspecies; all within plan area)

Conservation Concern Category:
High Concern

Population Trend (PT)

P. podiceps podiceps—stable (Delany and Scott 2002; Sauer et al. 2001)

P. podiceps antillarum—unknown (Delany and Scott 2002)

P. podiceps antarcticus—stable (Delany and Scott 2002; Canevari 1993)

“breeding range appears to be expanding into e Quebec but some breeding populations in suitable habitat have disappeared from British Columbia since 1932, and from VT and other parts of ne US since early 1900s...not well sampled by BBS; trend estimates should be viewed with caution...strong numerical decline in US has not been analyzed in detail...breeding population declines noted in several states/provinces...loss of breeding and wintering habitat must have profound effects on population but reports anecdotal...” (Muller and Storer 1999)

“strong numerical decline in eastern US has not been analyzed in detail, but may reflect eutrophication of wetlands...” (O’Donnel and Fjeldsa 1997)

“a vagrant to the Hawaiian Islands, but a small breeding population established itself at a single location on the island of Hawaii (1985). The population declined severely after an outbreak of avian botulism in 1996 and has since disappeared...” (E. Vanderwert, pers.comm.)

Declining populations in several northeastern US states (Gibbs and Melvin 1992).

Although regional, results from the Great Lakes Marsh Monitoring Program show a population decline in the Great Lakes region over the past 10 years (-7.5%/year, $p=0.00$)(Archer and Timmermans 2004).

Preliminary data from the second Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas suggest that this species would be widespread throughout the province and has been located in many more atlas squares that during a similar effort conducted 20 years ago.

BBS trend not reliable for this species (R. Bazin, pers.comm)

PT FACTOR SCORE=4

Population Size (PS)

P. podiceps podiceps—100,000 total individuals (Delany and Scott 2002; Jehl 2001)

P. podiceps antillarum—unknown (Delany and Scott 2002)

P. podiceps antarcticus—10,000-25,000 total individuals (Delany and Scott 2002; Schlatter 2002)

“considered common over much of its range...density in North Dakota prairie wetlands (pairs/km²) varied with wetland type: 1.3 (permanent), 5.4 (seasonal), 11.9 (semi-permanent), 12.2 (fen)...winter CBC counts 22,349 (1993); 21345 (1994); 25,328 (1995)...better and more data over more of species range needed...” (Muller and Storer 1999)

“apparently common over much of its range...” (O’Donnel and Fjeldsa 1997)

PS FACTOR SCORE=2

Threats to Breeding Populations (TB)

“loss of suitable wetland breeding habitat, perhaps in combination with accumulation of pesticide residues during 1950s and 1960s resulted in widespread decline in Kentucky population...availability of suitable nesting habitat regulates population...productivity influenced by nest destruction and egg loss (wind and waves, swamping, drought, predation on adults, eggs and chicks, nest destruction by introduced species)...sometimes shot...significant OCs detected in eggs...also elevated mercury...outdoor recreational activities contribute to disturbances and nest failure...disturbance at nest reduces parent attendance...” (Muller and Storer 1999)

“local impacts could include pollution, habitat loss and degradation, and increased disturbance...” (O’Donnel and Fjeldsa 1997)

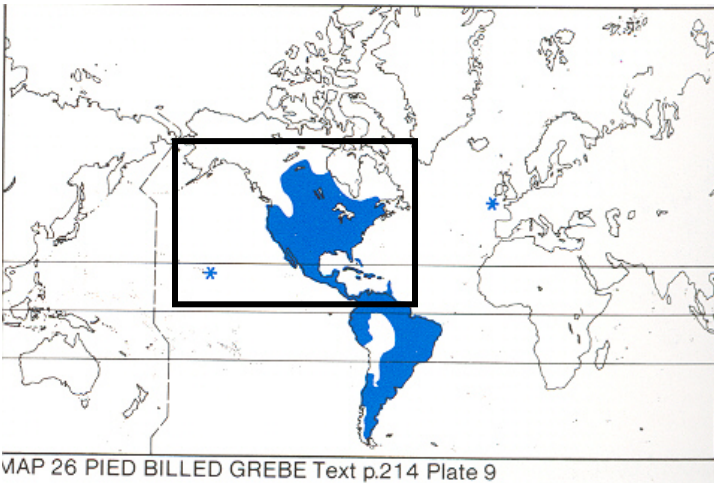
TB FACTOR SCORE=4

Threats to Non-breeding Populations (TN)

“collisions reported at tv towers during nocturnal migration...killed by cars...occasionally entangled in fishing line...” (Muller and Storer 1999)

TN FACTOR SCORE=4

Global Range (Harrison 1983; inset=plan area range)



Breeding Distribution (BD)

P. podiceps podiceps—S & Central Canada to Panama (Delany and Scott 2002)

P. podiceps antillarum—West Indies (Delany and Scott 2002)

P. podiceps antarcticus—E Panama to S South America (Delany and Scott 2002)

7,481,300 km² (plan area distribution; estimated from range maps)

BD FACTOR SCORE=2

Non-breeding Distribution (ND)

P. podiceps podiceps—USA, Central America, W Indies (Delany and Scott 2002)

P. podiceps antillarum—West Indies (Delany and Scott 2002)

P. podiceps antarcticus—E Panama to S South America (Delany and Scott 2002)

7,481,300 km² (plan area distribution; estimated from range maps)

ND FACTOR SCORE=3

Literature Cited:

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O'Donnel, C. and Fjeldsa, J. (compilers). 1997. *Grebes – Status Survey and Conservation Action Plan*. IUCN/SSC Grebe Specialist Group. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK. Pp: 18-19.

Archer, R.W. and S.T.A. Timmermans. 2004. The Marsh Monitoring Program annual report, 1995-2004: annual indices in bird abundance and amphibian occurrence in the Great Lakes basin. Unpublished report by Bird Studies Canada.

Gibbs, J.P. and S. M. Melvin. 1992. Pied-billed Grebe, *Podilymbus podiceps*. Pp. 31–49 in *Migratory nongame birds of management concern in the Northeast* (K. J. Schneider and D. M. Pence, eds.). U.S. Dep. Inter., Fish and Wildl. Serv., Newton Corner, MA.