



Identify Birds of Concern



IMBCR trends can support SWAP revision by identifying new SGCN birds in decline, confirming the status of current SGCN birds, and de-listing those with increasing trends.

Why? Every 10 years, state wildlife agencies must revise their State Wildlife Action Plans (SWAP) and consider Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN). To do so, agencies need accurate information on population trends, but this information is often lacking, especially for non-game species. Federal agencies also update priority species lists to prioritize their management efforts.

What? Bird Conservancy and partners created the Integrated Monitoring in Bird Conservation Regions (IMBCR) program in 2008 to provide accurate information on bird populations at multiple scales. IMBCR produces state and regional trends for hundreds of species in the western United States (Fig. 1). Within ecologically distinct Bird Conservation Regions (BCR), we create strata across public and private land based on fixed attributes, like state borders or management unit boundaries.



Figure 1. IMBCR extent in 2024.

Declining Trends for Lark Bunting & Scaled Quail in CO-BCR18



How? Trends (ie, the % population change/yr), are posted on the Rocky Mountain Avian Data Center (RMADC). Estimates are available for numerous areas of interest, so use the “Species” and “Superstratum” filters to find trends for species and states or regions (e.g., CO-BCR18). Sort trends based on higher f values (ie, $f > 0.9$), which ensures you’re using robust trends—those for which we are >90% certain of the population change. Trends would also inform priority species selection for the BLM and USFS management plans.

"We relied heavily on IMBCR trend data because we felt this was the most robust data available. Several species came off our SGCN list because their trend appears stable, other species were added as Species of Greatest Information Need due to alarming trend data. IMBCR data were invaluable throughout our SGCN revision process."

— Liza Rossi, Bird Conservation Coordinator, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Where? The RMADC is available at: <https://app.bcr.eco/rmadc/>

Who? For more information about IMBCR trends, please contact Jen at jennifer.timmer@birdconservancy.org.