

Catharus bicknelli (Bicknell's Thrush)

Priority 1 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)

Class: Aves (Birds)

Order: Passeriformes (Perching Birds)

Family: Turdidae (Thrushes)

General comments:

Northeast Endemic; limited evidence of decline and possible range contraction from south; also threats from climate change, but too many sites, and population far too large to list above SC

Species Conservation Range Maps for Bicknell's Thrush:

Town Map: [Catharus bicknelli_Towns.pdf](#)

Subwatershed Map: [Catharus bicknelli_HUC12.pdf](#)

SGCN Priority Ranking - Designation Criteria:

Risk of Extirpation:

IUCN Red List Status: **Vulnerable**

State Special Concern or NMFS Species of Concern:

Catharus bicknelli is listed as a species of Special Concern in Maine.

Recent Significant Declines: NA

Regional Endemic:

Catharus bicknelli's global geographic range is at least 90% contained within the area defined by USFWS Region 5, the Canadian Maritime Provinces, and southeastern Quebec (south of the St. Lawrence River).

Notes: 100% see BNA account

High Regional Conservation Priority:

Northeast Endangered Species and Wildlife Diversity Technical Committee:

Risk: Yes, Data: Yes, Area: No, Spec: No, Warrant Listing: Yes, Total Categories with "Yes": 3

Northeast Regional Synthesis (RSGCN):

Responsibility: High, Concern: Very High

Partners In Flight:

Regional Species of Concern: No, United States and Canada Species of Concern: Yes, Regional Stewardship Species: Yes

United States Birds of Conservation Concern:

Bird of Conservation Concern in Bird Conservation Regions 14 and/or 30: Yes

High Climate Change Vulnerability: NA

Understudied rare taxa: NA

Historical: NA

Culturally Significant: NA

Habitats Assigned to Bicknell's Thrush:

Formation Name **Alpine**

Macrogroup Name **Alpine**

Habitat System Name: Acadian-Appalachian Subalpine Woodland and Heath-Krummholz

Formation Name **Boreal Upland Forest**

Macrogroup Name **Boreal Upland Forest**

Habitat System Name: Acadian Low Elevation Spruce-Fir-Hardwood Forest **Notes:** occasionally when stem density is high often resulting from regeneration after harvest and before PCT

Habitat System Name: Acadian-Appalachian Montane Spr-Fir-Hwd Forest **Notes:** when stem density is high

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Stressors Assigned to Bicknell's Thrush:

Stressor Priority Level based on Severity and Actionability		Moderate Severity	High Severity
	Highly Actionable	Medium-High	High
	Moderately Actionable	Medium	Medium-High
	Actionable with Difficulty	Low	Low

IUCN Level 1 Threat Climate Change and Severe Weather

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Habitat Shifting or Alteration

Severity: Moderate Severity **Actionability:** Highly actionable

Notes: Loss of mountaintop habitat

IUCN Level 1 Threat Energy Production and Mining

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Renewable Energy

Severity: Moderate Severity **Actionability:** Highly actionable

Notes: Loss and fragmentation of habitat by wind power development; potential collision with structures

IUCN Level 1 Threat Pollution

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Air-Bourne Pollutants

Severity: Moderate Severity **Actionability:** Moderately actionable

Notes: HG and acid deposition

Species Level Conservation Actions Assigned to Bicknell's Thrush:

**Only species specific conservation actions that address high (red) or medium-high (orange) priority stressors are summarized here.*

Conservation Action **Category:** Habitat Management **Biological Priority:** high **Type:** new
Encourage landowners to manage the amount and timing of pre-commercial thinning in areas occupied by this species, and to leave residual patches in areas that are thinned

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Habitat Shifting or Alteration

Conservation Action **Category:** Habitat Management **Biological Priority:** high **Type:** new
Encourage land managers to rotate harvests and create a mixed distribution of stand ages, which might undergo pre-commercial thinning and cutting at different times, thus temporally balancing the amount of habitat available at a given time.

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Habitat Shifting or Alteration

Conservation Action **Category:** Policy **Biological Priority:** high **Type:** new
For suitable/occupied habitat on public lands (BPL) incorporate stand management BMPs into public land management policy.

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Habitat Shifting or Alteration

Conservation Action **Category:** Research **Biological Priority:** high **Type:** new
Determine how this species responds to specific forestry practices on the landscape.

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Habitat Shifting or Alteration

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Conservation Action	Category: Research	Biological Priority: high	Type: new
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Assess the effects of climate change on habitat loss, occupancy, and predicted range shift.

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Habitat Shifting or Alteration

Conservation Action	Category: Survey and Monitoring	Biological Priority: high	Type: on-going
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Support Mountain Birdwatch 2.0, an international, volunteer-based program to track Bicknell's Thrush populations across their breeding range.

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Habitat Shifting or Alteration

Air-Bourne Pollutants

Conservation Action	Category: Species Management	Biological Priority: high	Type: on-going
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Participate in work of International Bicknell's Thrush Conservation Group (IBTCG) to track progress on conservation and research actions, discuss funding needs and revise the action plan as appropriate to ensure that emerging information is used to inform

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Habitat Shifting or Alteration

Air-Bourne Pollutants

Conservation Action	Category: Species Management	Biological Priority: critical	Type: new
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Work to ensure that developments at high elevation that entail land clearing, specifically permanent conversion of forest to non-forest (road, gravel, grass) avoid areas occupied by Bicknell's Thrush

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Renewable Energy

Guild Level Conservation Actions:

This Species is currently not attributed to a guild.

Broad Taxonomic Group Conservation Actions:

Additional relevant conservation actions for this species are assigned within broader taxonomic groups in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-1.

Habitat Based Conservation Actions:

Additional conservation actions that may benefit habitat(s) associated with this species can be found in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-15. Click on the Habitat Grouping of interest to launch a habitat based report summarizing relevant conservation actions and associated SGCN.

The Wildlife Action Plan was developed through a lengthy participatory process with state agencies, targeted conservation partners, and the general public. The Plan is non-regulatory. The species, stressors, and voluntary conservation actions identified in the Plan complement, but do not replace, existing work programs and priorities by state agencies and partners.