



Birds

Pied-billed Grebe

Podilymbus podiceps

Priority 3 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)

Class: Birds (*Aves*)

Order: Grebes (*Podicipediformes*)

Family: Grebes (*Podicipedidae*)



General comments:

The Pied-billed Grebe is a small, chunky waterbird with a large blocky head and practically no tail. Breeding birds are dark brown above and tawny brown below and have a thick whitish bill with a vertical black stripe. They inhabit large wetland complexes with dense stands of emergent vegetation as well as water deep enough to dive for their preferred food of crustaceans and fish. Often hidden among vegetation, the Pied-billed Grebe's loud, far-reaching calls signal its presence. The Pied-billed Grebe typically constructs its open bowl nest on a platform of floating vegetation. They are locally common in central, northern, and eastern Maine. While their population appears stable in Maine, they are listed as endangered in New Hampshire and Massachusetts and considered at risk in Canada. Threats include habitat loss and degradation, contamination from pollution and pesticides, and disturbance from human activities.

Species Conservation Range Maps:

Town Map: [Podilymbus podiceps Towns.pdf](#)

Subwatershed Map: [Podilymbus podiceps_HUC12.pdf](#)

SGCN Priority Ranking - Designation Criteria:

High Regional Conservation Priority:

North American Waterbird Conservation Plan:
High Concern

Habitat Associations:

Formation: Freshwater Aquatic

Macrogroup: Lentic

Habitat System: Lentic Macrogroup - Unknown Habitat System

Often nest in marshes on periphery of lakes and ponds. Need some depth of water for feeding.

Macrogroup: Lotic

Habitat System: Lotic Macrogroup - Unknown habitat system

Inhabit slow-moving rivers, especially where bordered by marsh vegetation.

Formation: Freshwater Marsh

Macrogroup: Atlantic & Gulf Coastal Plain Wet Prairie & Marsh

Macrogroup: Eastern North American Marsh, Wet Meadow & Shrubland

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps***Priority 3 SGCN****Threats**

No Threats Currently Assigned to Pied-billed Grebe or other Priority 3 SGCN.

Species Level Conservation Actions:

No Species Specific Conservation Actions Currently Assigned to Pied-billed Grebe or other Priority 3 SGCN.

Conservation Actions Associated with the Marsh birds Guild:

Conservation Action	Category	Biological Priority	Type
Implement targeted surveys and regular monitoring to better understand the distribution and status of secretive marsh birds and to help direct conservation actions to newly documented populations. Explore innovative methods such as autonomous recording units (ARUs).	Survey and Monitoring	high	new

Threat(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

- Lack of knowledge

Conservation Action	Category	Biological Priority	Type
Work with landowners to maximize hemi-marsh conditions and maintain stable water levels.	Habitat Management	high	new

Threat(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

- Dams and Water Management-Use

Conservation Action	Category	Biological Priority	Type
Work with landowners to develop and post signs or other strategies for discouraging recreational users from disturbing nesting birds.	Species Management	moderate	new

Threat(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

- Recreational Activities

Conservation Action	Category	Biological Priority	Type
Develop outreach tools for promoting ethical wildlife observation and share with boaters and birders.	Public Outreach	moderate	new

Threat(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

- Recreational Activities

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps***Priority 3 SGCN**

Conservation Action	Category	Biological Priority	Type
Develop Best Management Practices that are compatible with the needs of the marsh birds and other wetland wildlife, distribute to landowners and via ER and Beginning with Habitat, and make readily available on IFW website.	Habitat Management	high	new

Threat(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

- Invasive Non-native-Alien Species-Diseases
- Dams and Water Management-Use
- Roads and Railroads
- Commercial and Industrial Areas
- Housing and Urban Areas

Conservation Action	Category	Biological Priority	Type
For marsh birds that are hunted in the Atlantic Flyway, work with other states, provinces, and territories to support development of population models to ensure sustainable harvest. This may involve implementing a flyway monitoring program; improving the Harvest Information program; improving the rails and snipe parts collection survey; and determining breeding origin of species that are harvested at high-harvest locations.	Species Management	high	new

Threat(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

- Lack of knowledge
- Hunting and Collecting Terrestrial Animals

Broad Taxonomic Group Conservation Actions:

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

Habitat Based Conservation Actions:

Additional conservation actions that may benefit habitat(s) associated with this species can be found in Maine's Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4. 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, threats, and voluntary conservation actions identified in the Plan complement, but do not replace, existing work