

Data Release Report: Bird Observations in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, Alaska, 1981-1995

National Park Service, Arctic Inventory and Monitoring Network

Scott D. Miller

Information Technology Specialist

U.S. Department of the Interior 240 W. 5th Ave.

Anchorage, AK 99501

April 16, 2026

Summary

This dataset consists of bird lists by individuals who observed birds throughout and adjacent to Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve from 1981 to 1995. It does not include any birds already reported in scientific publications, Park technical reports, or breeding bird surveys and should therefore not be considered a complete list but rather a supplement to these documents.

Key words: bird, alaska, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve

Methods

See Standard Operating Procedure - WRST Bird Records.pdf.

Study Area

Data were collected in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve (Figure 1).

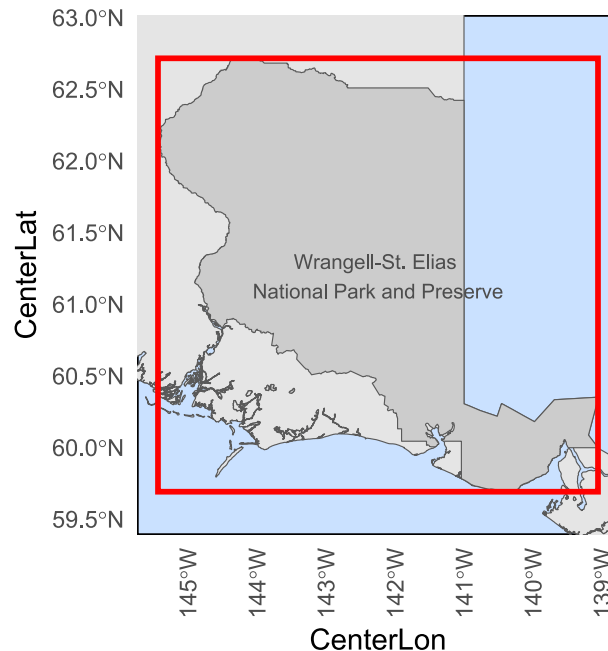


Figure 1. Study sites map.

Files

This data release consists of the following files:

File	Description
1981-1995 WRST Bird Observations.csv	Bird observations data
1981-1995 WRST Bird Observations.csv_Metadata.csv	Columns descriptions
DRR 1981-1995 WRST Bird Observations.pdf	Data Release Report
1981-1995 WRST Bird Observations Data Summary.html	Data summary report
1981-1995 WRST Bird Observations Data Profiling Report.html	Data profiling report
Standard Operating Procedure - WRST Bird Records.pdf	Standard operating procedures
WRST Bird Record Report Form.pdf	Bird reporting form

Columns and Data Types

Data column descriptors appear in Table 1, below.

Table 1. Data column descriptors.

ColumnName	DataType	Units
OBSERVER	factor	
DATE	Date	
SEASON	factor	
EFFORT	numeric	
INCIDENTAL	logical	
SPECIES	factor	
COMMONNAME	factor	

ColumnName	DataType	Units
BIOGEOREG	factor	
MAPNAME	factor	
LOCATION	factor	
ELEVATION_M	integer	Meter
ABUNDANCE	integer	
ACTUALNUMB	integer	
SEX	factor	
AGE	factor	
BREEDING	factor	
HABITAT	factor	
REMARKS	factor	
LONGITUDE	numeric	Decimal degrees
RELIABILITY	factor	
LATITUDE	numeric	Decimal degrees
Year	integer	

Column Description

Observer
SERVER

Date. Some observations span over several months and do not have specific dates. In these cases, enter information in the SEASON field and leave the DATE field blank. Additional information on the dates and the year of the observations can be entered in the REMARKS (memo) field.

Season.
SON

Effort. This is the number of hours spent observing in each area rounded to the 1 decimal place. If effort is not recorded, leave this field blank.

Incidental. This is a logical field. If the bird list you are entering was collected incidental to other information (e.g. the observer wrote down a list of birds he or she saw while collecting other information), enter T for true. If the observer was devoting their entire effort strictly to birding, enter F for false. This will help document how thoroughly an area was covered.

Common Name

SPECIES. This is the 4 letter AOU code from the North American Bird Banding Manual (Appendix 1). If these codes are changed in the future, individual species records may need to be changed.

COMMON NAME. This is the common name of each species listed next to the AOU code in Appendix 1. The common name will help those people not familiar with AOU codes enter data records more quickly and should also help reduce AOU code errors when proofing data.

BIOGEOGRAPHICAL REGION. C=Central SC=Southcoastal (Kessel's biogeographic regions for birds).

REG

MAP. 1:63,360 scale topographic map. If only a general location is recorded (e.g. May Creek) and the area spans over several maps, enter only the 1:250,000 scale map name (e.g. McCarthy instead of McCarthy A-4)

LOCATION. Describe location of observation either generally if covering a large area (e.g. May Creek) or specifically if covering a small area, describing a nest, or rare species.

LOCATION

ELEVATION in meters.

E-

VA-

LOCATION_M

ABUNDANCE Description

DANCE

Rare 1 individual per day (8 person-hours) Uncommon 2 - 4 individuals per day, <1 individual per hour Fairly common 5 - 9 individuals per day, 1 individual per hour Common 10 - 49 individuals per day, 2 - 5 individuals per hour Abundant >=50 individuals per day, >=6 individuals per hour | | ACTUALNUMB | Actualnumb. Record the actual number sighted. (Please justify your entry to the right) | | SEX | Sex. M=Male F=Female G=Mixed Group U=Unknown | | AGE | Age. A=Adult J=Juvenile I=Immature G=Mixed Group U=Unknown

Juvenile refers to young of the year. Immature is mainly used to describe raptors which often don't reach adulthood for several years and can be identified as "immature" by feather plumages and/or other characteristics. | | BREEDING | Breeding. This refers to the breeding status. The Breeding Bird Atlas Codes should be used (Laughlin et al 1990)(Appendix 2). Birds observed during non-breeding periods (e.g. winter or migration) should be coded as O for Observed. | | HABITAT | Habitat. Use Kessel's avian habitat types (Kessel 1979) (Appendix 3) | | REMARKS | Remarks. This is a memo field. Any additional remarks about the observation should be entered in this field. | | LONGITUDE | Longitude. Decimal degrees. | | RELIABILITY | Reliability. F=Fair G=Good E=Excel-

lent U=Unconfirmed. The reliability can vary among observers and between observations by the same observer. Rare birds, for example, may be considered unconfirmed until more information can be documented. | |LATITUDE |Latitude. Decimal degrees. | |Year |Year |

Spatial Distribution of Observations

Spatial distribution of bird observations appears in Figure 2. Note that the majority of observations in this dataset have no spatial coordinates and are not represented in Figure 2.

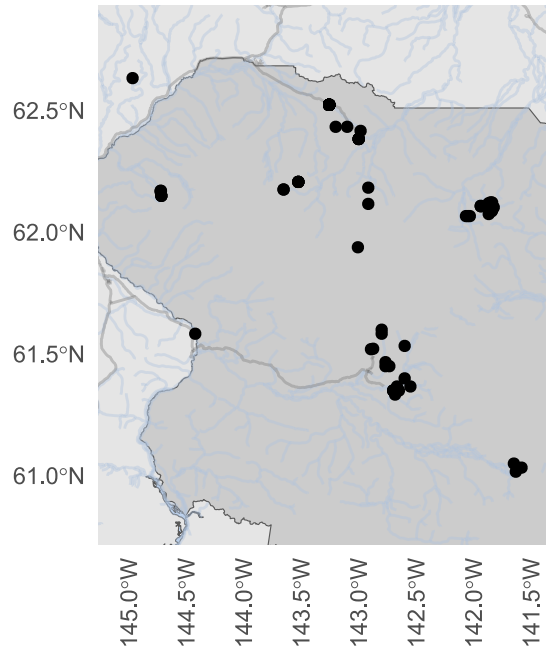


Figure 2. Spatial distribution of observations. Only observatings having spatial coordinates are represented.

License

U.S. Government Works. Data and content created by government employees within the scope of their employment are not subject to domestic copyright protection under 17 U.S.C. 105. Government works are by default in the U.S. Public Domain.