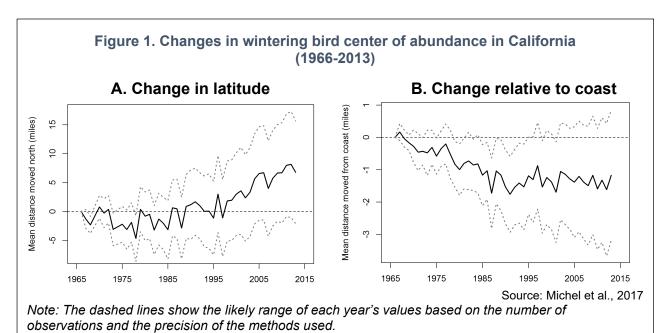
BIRD WINTERING RANGES (NO UPDATE)

Over the past 48 years, wintering bird species have collectively shifted their range northward and closer to the coast in California.



What does the indicator show?

This indicator examines changes in the ranges of 234 migratory and resident wintering California bird species between 1966 and 2013 and shows, in aggregate, a shift northward. Data for this indicator are the California subset of observations from the Christmas Bird Count (CBC), managed by the National Audubon Society. The CBC consists of observations recorded from December 14 to January 5 each year by over 50,000 volunteers across the Western Hemisphere, following a specified methodology. It is the longest-running census of birds that relies on public participation and collaboration (often referred to as "citizen science").

The graphs show the position of the center of abundance (the center of the population distribution) for each year relative to the winter of 1965-1966, averaged across the species for latitude (Figure 1A) and for distance from the coast (Figure 1B). An overall northward movement of about seven miles was observed between 1966 and 2013, as birds moved a farther distance north than south (Figure 1A). Over the same time period, a shift of approximately 1 mile toward the coast occurred (Figure 1B).

The center of abundance is a common way to characterize the general location of a population. In terms of latitude, half of the individuals in the population live north of the center of abundance and the other half live to the south. Similarly, in terms of distance to coast, half of the individuals live closer to the coast than the center of abundance, and the other half live further from the coast.

Why is this indicator important?

Monitoring changes in the geographic distribution of birds provides scientists with a way to track which birds may be responding to a changing climate — one of many factors that are threatening bird populations. A better understanding of these responses will help inform conservation strategies. As the climate continues to change, its pace may exceed many bird species' capacities to migrate to more favorable habitats (La Sorte and Jetz, 2012). The predicted increase in extreme weather events, such as severe storms, might also impact the ability of birds to make these range shifts. Birds that cannot adapt to changing conditions could experience a population decline as a result.

Birds are a particularly good indicator of environmental change for several reasons:

- Each species of bird has adapted or evolved to favor certain habitat types, food sources, and temperature ranges. In addition, the timing of certain events in their life cycles such as migration and reproduction is driven by cues from the environment. For example, many North American breeding birds follow a regular seasonal migration pattern; moving north to feed and breed in the summer, then moving south to spend the winter in warmer areas. Changing conditions can influence the distribution of both migratory and non-migratory birds as well as the timing of important life cycle events (La Sorte and Thompson, 2007). Birds are relatively easy to identify and count, and thus there is a wealth of scientific knowledge about their distribution and abundance. People have kept detailed records of bird observations for more than a century.
- There are many different species of birds living in a variety of habitats, including water birds, coastal birds, and land birds. If a change in behavior or range occurs across a range of bird types, it suggests that a common external factor might be the cause.

When bird wintering ranges shift, human and ecological communities lose not just the birds themselves, but also the valuable functions and services they provide. For example, western bluebirds eat insects that damage crops, nectar-eating birds like hummingbirds pollinate flowers, and birds like woodpeckers build roosting cavities in trees that other bird and mammal species use (Kearns et al., 1998; Sekercioglu, 2006; Jedlicka et al., 2011). The movement of a species to places where it was not previously present, or where it was present in lower numbers, may also disrupt complex ecosystem interactions. For example, a newcomer species may compete for food or other resources with species that already inhabit the area (Kearns and Inouye, 1997).

What factors influence this indicator?

In the Northern Hemisphere, a changing climate has been associated with shifts in the habitat ranges of certain animals toward more northern latitudes and higher elevations (Field et al., 2014; Ralston et al., 2016; Moritz et al., 2008). Warming temperatures may cause species to expand their wintering ranges further north into regions that were, until recently, too cold to support populations, and away from regions that are now too hot.



A continental-scale analysis of 305 bird species found that their wintering ranges moved approximately 40 miles north between 1966 and 2013, and that this change was related to warming winter temperatures (National Audubon Society, 2009; USEPA, 2013). The movement of species toward the coast in California is the opposite of both what was expected and what was observed in the continental-scale study. The latter analysis found that bird wintering ranges moved about 13 miles away from the coast — a shift associated with a warming climate and a decrease of extreme cold inland. In California, in contrast, birds moved closer to the coast as temperatures increased. The California trend may be the result of the combined influence of climate and topography. Inland areas of the state, already drier compared to the coast, are further drying due to warming temperatures, causing birds to move towards the coast to seek wetter conditions.

Both the continental and the California analysis found no significant longitudinal movement. This is not surprising given that there are no clear longitudinal gradients in temperature or precipitation, which instead vary in response to topographical features (e.g., elevation or location relative to mountain ranges).

Latitudinal range movement varied among the California species: 87 species (37 percent) moved northward, 74 species (32 percent) moved southward, and 73 (31 percent) showed no significant change. Some bird species moved farther than others. Snow goose showed the greatest northward shift of 326 miles, while Ross' goose showed the greatest southward shift of 242 miles. Similarly, distance shifted relative to the coast ranged from 84 miles towards the coast by Canada goose to 60 miles inland by Barrow's goldeneye. Eighty-six species (37 percent) moved towards the coast, while 86 other species moved inland and 62 (26 percent) showed no significant change. While equal numbers of species moved inland and towards the coast, the range shifts towards the coast involved greater distances than inland, resulting in an overall shift toward the coast. These differences in range shifts are not surprising. Species have been found to respond to environmental change in a highly variable and idiosyncratic fashion, reflecting the complex interplay between land cover, climate, species interactions, and other factors.

Many factors can influence bird ranges, including food availability, habitat alteration, and interactions with other species, and these factors may also be influenced by climate change. Some of the birds covered in this indicator might have moved northward or inland for reasons other than changing temperatures. Responses to climate change may also vary among different types of birds. However, within California, there were no differences in average movements north or towards the coast between birds differing in habitat use, diet, body size, life expectancy, clutch size, age at sexual maturity, or urban affiliation. Though moderate- and short-distance migrants moved slightly further north than year-round residents, migratory status did not influence movement towards the coast.

Technical considerations

Data characteristics

This indicator is based on data collected by the annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC), managed by the National Audubon Society. Data are collected in a citizen science activity by volunteer birdwatchers who systematically survey certain areas and identify and count all bird species they encounter within a specified area. Bird surveys take place each year in approximately 2,000 different locations throughout the contiguous 48 states and the southern portions of Alaska and Canada. This indicator used only data from CBC circles within the state of California. All local counts take place between December 14 and January 5 of each winter. Each local count takes place over a 24-hour period in a defined "count circle" that is 15 miles in diameter. A variable number of volunteer observers separate into field parties which survey different areas of the count circle and tally the total number of individuals of each species observed (National Audubon Society, 2009).

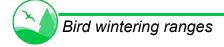
CBC data starting in 1966 are used, as data prior to 1966 lack sufficient quality and quantity for a North American-scaled analysis. At the end of the 24-hour observation period, each count circle tallies the total number of individuals of each species seen in the count circle. Audubon scientists then run the data through several levels of analysis and quality control to determine final count numbers from each circle and each region. Data processing steps include corrections for different levels of sampling effort — for example, if some count circles had more observers and more person-hours of effort than others. Population trends over the 48-year period of this indicator and annual indices of abundance were estimated for the entire survey area with hierarchical models in a Bayesian analysis using Markov chain Monte Carlo techniques (Soykan et al., 2016).

This indicator covers 234 bird species, listed in Table 1 (Appendix). These species were included because they are widespread, occur within California, and meet specific criteria for data availability. Information on study methods is available on the National Audubon Society website at: http://web4.audubon.org/bird/bacc/techreport.html and in Soykan et al. (2016). Methods are largely based on those used for an earlier analysis, which is documented in the National Audubon Society (2009) report: *Northward Shifts in the Abundance of North American Birds in Early Winter: A Response to Warmer Winter Temperatures?*. For additional information on CBC survey design and methods, see Soykan et al. (2016) and the reports classified as "Methods" in the list at: http://www.audubon.org/conservation/christmas-bird-count-bibliography.

Strengths and limitations of the data

Although the indicator relies on human observation rather than precise measuring instruments, the people who collect the data are skilled observers who follow strict protocols that are consistent across time and space. These data have supported many peer-reviewed studies, a list of which can be found on the National Audubon Society's website at http://www.audubon.org/christmas-bird-count-bibliography.

Uneven effort between count circles, such as inconsistent level of effort by volunteer observers, could lead to data variations. However, these differences are carefully corrected in Audubon's statistical analysis (Soykan et al., 2016). Rare or difficult-to-



observe bird species could lead to increased variability. Gregarious species (i.e., species that tend to gather in large groups) can also be difficult to count, and they could be either overcounted or undercounted, depending on group size and the visibility of their roosts. These species tend to congregate in known and expected locations along CBC routes, however, so observers virtually always know to check these spots. Locations with large roosts are often assigned to observers with specific experience in estimating large numbers of birds. For this analysis, the National Audubon Society included only 234 widespread bird species that met criteria for abundance and the availability of data to enable the detection of meaningful trends.

The tendency for saltwater-dependent species to stay near coastlines could impact the change in distance to coast calculation for species living near the Pacific Ocean. By integrating these species into the distance to coast calculation, Figure 2 may understate the total extent of coastward or inland movement of species.

This indicator is based solely on shifts in the center of abundance of birds observed within the state of California. As a result, it represents only a small portion of the wintering range of many species, and may either overestimate or underestimate distances moved across the species' entire wintering ranges.

Figures 1 and 2 show average distances moved north and towards the coast, based on an unweighted average of all species. Thus, no adjustments are made for population differences across species. No attempt was made to estimate trends prior to 1966 (i.e., prior to the availability of complete spatial coverage and standardized methods), and no attempt was made to project trends into the future. The entire study description, including analyses performed, can be found in National Audubon Society (2009), Soykan et al. (2016), and references therein. Information on this study is also available on the National Audubon Society website at: http://web4.audubon.org/bird/bacc/techreport.html.

OEHHA acknowledges the expert contribution of the following to this report:



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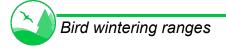
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APPENDIX

Table 1. Bird species included in the California wintering bird range shift climate change indicator analysis.

Common name	Scientific name
Acorn Woodpecker	Melanerpes formicivorus
American Avocet	Recurvirostra americana
American Bittern	Botaurus lentiginosus
American Coot	Fulica americana
American Crow	Corvus brachyrhynchos
American Dipper	Cinclus mexicanus
American Goldfinch	Spinus tristis
American Kestrel	Falco sparverius
American Pipit	Anthus rubescens
American Robin	Turdus migratorius
American Wigeon	Anas americana
Anna's Hummingbird	Calypte anna
Arctic and Pacific Loon [¶]	Gavia arctica and G. pacifica
American Tree Sparrow	Spizelloides arborea
American White Pelican	Pelecanus erythrorhynchos
Bald Eagle	Haliaeetus leucocephalus
Baltimore Oriole	lcterus galbula
Band-tailed Pigeon	Patagioenas fasciata
Barrow's Goldeneye	Bucephala islandica
Barn Owl	Tyto alba
Bell's and Sagebrush Sparrow ^{††}	Amphispiza belli and A. nevadensis
Belted Kingfisher	Megaceryle alcyon
Bewick's Wren	Thryomanes bewickii
Black-and-white Warbler	Mniotilta varia
Black-bellied Plover	Pluvialis squatarola
Black-billed Magpie	Pica hudsonia
Black-capped Chickadee	Poecile atricapillus
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Nycticorax
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Polioptila caerulea
Blue-headed, Cassin's, and	Vireo solitarius, V. cassini, and
Plumbeous Vireo ^{‡‡‡}	V. plumbeus
Blue-winged Teal	Anas discors
Brown-headed Cowbird	Molothrus ater
Black Brant	Branta b. nigricans
Black Phoebe	Sayornis nigricans
Black Rail	Laterallus jamaicensis
Black Scoter	Melanitta americana
Black Turnstone	Arenaria melanocephala
Black-necked Stilt	Himantopus mexicanus
Bonaparte's Gull	Chroicocephalus philadelphia
Brewer's Blackbird	Euphagus cyanocephalus



Common nameScientific nameBrown CreeperCerthia americanaBuffleheadBucephala albeolaBurrowing OwlAthene cuniculariaBushtitPsaltriparus minimusCackling and Canada GooseBranta hutchinsii and B. canadensisCactus WrenCampylorhynchus brunneicapillus

California and Canyon/Brown Towhee[#]
California Gull
California Quail
Canvasback
Canyon Wren
Caspian Tern
Cassin's Finch

Melozone crissalis and M. fuscus
Larus californicus
Callipepla californica
Aythya valisineria
Catherpes mexicanus
Hydroprogne caspia
Haemorhous cassinii

Cattle Egret Bubulcus ibis

Cedar Waxwing
Chestnut-backed Chickadee
Chipping Sparrow
Chukar
Chukar
Cinnamon Teal

Bombycilla cedrorum
Poecile rufescens
Spizella passerina
Alectoris chukar
Anas cyanontera

Cinnamon Teal

Clapper Rail

Clark's Nutcracker

Anas cyanoptera
Rallus crepitans
Nucifraga columbiana

Clark's and Western Grebe§§§ Aechmophorus clarkii and A. occidentalis

Common Goldeneye Bucephala clangula
Common Ground-Dove Columbina passerina

Common Loon

Common Merganser

Common Moorhen

Common Murre

Common Raven

Common Vallouthreat

Common Vallouthreat

Common Control Vallouthreat

Common Control Vallouthreat

Common Vallouthreat

Control Vallouthreat

Common Yellowthroat
Cooper's Hawk
Dark-eyed Junco
Double-crested Cormorant
Downy Woodpecker
Dunlin

Geothlypis trichas
Accipiter cooperii
Junco h. hyemalis
Phalacrocorax auritus
Picoides pubescens
Calidris alpina

Eared Grebe

Calidris alpina

Podiceps nigricollis

Eastern and Spotted Towhee^{‡‡} Pipilo erythrophthalmus and P. maculatus

Eastern and Western Screech-Owl Megascops asio and M. kennicottii

European Starling Sturnus vulgaris

Evening Grosbeak Coccothraustes vespertinus

Ferruginous Hawk

Forster's Tern

Fox Sparrow

Gadwall

Gambel's Quail

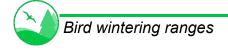
Buteo regalis

Sterna forsteri

Passerella iliaca

Anas strepera

Callipepla gambelii

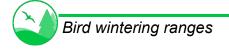


Scientific name Common name Glaucous Gull Larus hyperboreus Glaucous-winged Gull Larus glaucescens Golden Eagle Aquila chrysaetos Golden-crowned Kinglet Regulus satrapa Golden-crowned Sparrow Zonotrichia atricapilla Perisoreus canadensis Gray Jay **Great Blue Heron** Ardea herodias **Great Egret** Ardea alba **Great Horned Owl** Bubo virginianus Greater Roadrunner Geococcyx californianus **Greater Scaup** Aythya marila **Greater White-fronted Goose** Anser albifrons Greater Yellowlegs Tringa melanoleuca Green Heron Butorides virescens Green-tailed Towhee Pipilo chlorurus Green-winged Teal Anas crecca Hairy Woodpecker Picoides villosus Harlequin Duck Histrionicus histrionicus Harris's Sparrow Zonotrichia guerula Hermit Thrush Catharus guttatus Herring Gull Larus argentatus Hooded Merganser Lophodytes cucullatus Horned Grebe Podiceps auritus Horned Lark Eremophila alpestris House Finch Haemorhous mexicanus House Sparrow Passer domesticus House Wren Troglodytes aedon Hutton's Vireo Vireo huttoni Iceland and Thaver's Gull § Larus glaucoides and L. thayeri Inca Dove Columbina inca Juniper and Oak Titmouse## Baeolophus ridgwayi and B. inornatus Killdeer Charadrius vociferus Ladder-backed Woodpecker Picoides scalaris Calcarius Iapponicus Lapland Longspur Lark Sparrow Chondestes grammacus Least Bittern Ixobrychus exilis Calidris minutilla Least Sandpiper Lesser Goldfinch Spinus psaltria Lesser Scaup Aythya affinis Lesser Yellowlegs Tringa flavipes Lewis's Woodpecker Melanerpes lewis Lincoln's Sparrow Melospiza lincolnii Little Blue Heron Egretta caerulea Loggerhead Shrike Lanius Iudovicianus Long-billed Dowitcher Limnodromus scolopaceus

Common name	Scientific name
Long-eared Owl	Asio otus
Long-tailed Duck	Clangula hyemalis
Marbled Godwit	Limosa fedoa
Marbled Murrelet	Brachyramphus marmoratus
Marsh Wren	Cistothorus palustris
Merlin	Falco columbarius
Mew Gull	Larus canus
Mountain Bluebird	Sialia currucoides
Mountain Chickadee	Poecile gambeli
Mourning Dove	Zenaida macroura
Nashville Warbler	Oreothlypis ruficapilla
Northern Cardinal	Cardinalis cardinalis
Northern Goshawk	Accipiter gentilis
Northern Harrier	Circus cyaneus
Northern Flicker	Colaptes a. cafer
Northern Mockingbird	Mimus polyglottos
Northern Pintail	Anas acuta
Northern Pygmy-Owl	Glaucidium gnoma
Northern Saw-whet Owl	Aegolius acadicus
Northern Shoveler	Anas clypeata
Northern Shrike	Lanius excubitor
Orange-crowned Warbler	Oreothlypis celata
Osprey	Pandion haliaetus
Palm Warbler	Setophaga palmarum
Pelagic Cormorant	Phalacrocorax pelagicus
Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus
Pied-billed Grebe	Podilymbus podiceps
Pileated Woodpecker	Dryocopus pileatus
Pine Siskin	Spinus pinus
Pinyon Jay	Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus
Prairie Falcon	Falco mexicanus
Purple Finch	Haemorhous purpureus
Pygmy Nuthatch	Sitta pygmaea
Red Crossbill	Loxia curvirostra
Redhead	Aythya americana
Red Knot	Calidris canutus
Red-breasted Merganser	Mergus serrator
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Sitta canadensis
Red-necked Grebe	Podiceps grisegena
Red-shouldered Hawk	Buteo lineatus
Red-winged Blackbird	Agelaius phoeniceus
Ring-billed Gull	Larus delawarensis
Ring-necked Duck	Aythya collaris
Ring-necked Pheasant	Phasianus colchicus
Rock Sandpiper	Calidris ptilocnemis



Scientific name Common name Rock Wren Salpinctes obsoletus Ross's Goose Chen rossii Rough-legged Hawk Buteo lagopus Royal Tern Thalasseus maximus Ruby-crowned Kinglet Regulus calendula Ruddy Turnstone Arenaria interpres Rufous-crowned Sparrow Aimophila ruficeps Calidris alba Sanderling Sandhill Crane Antigone canadensis Savannah Sparrow Passerculus sandwichensis Say's Phoebe Sayornis saya Semipalmated Plover Charadrius semipalmatus Sharp-shinned Hawk Accipiter striatus Limnodromus griseus Short-billed Dowitcher Asio flammeus Short-eared Owl **Snow Goose** Chen caerulescens Snowy Egret Egretta thula **Snowy Plover** Charadrius nivosus Song Sparrow Melospiza melodia Porzana carolina Sora Actitis macularius Spotted Sandpiper Steller's Jay Cyanocitta stelleri Surfbird Calidris virgata Surf Scoter Melanitta perspicillata Swamp Sparrow Melospiza georgiana Townsend's Solitaire Myadestes townsendi Townsend's Warbler Setophaga townsendi Tree Swallow Tachycineta bicolor Egretta tricolor Tricolored Heron Tundra Swan Cygnus columbianus **Turkey Vulture** Cathartes aura Varied Thrush Ixoreus naevius Verdin Auriparus flaviceps Vermilion Flycatcher Pyrocephalus rubinus Vesper Sparrow Pooecetes gramineus Virginia Rail Rallus limicola Western Bluebird Sialia mexicana Western Meadowlark Sturnella neglecta Aphelocoma californica Western Scrub-Jay Whimbrel Numenius phaeopus White-breasted Nuthatch Sitta carolinensis White-crowned Sparrow Zonotrichia leucophrys White-tailed Kite Elanus leucurus White-throated Sparrow Zonotrichia albicollis White-winged Dove Zenaida asiatica



Common name	Scientific name
White-winged Scoter	Melanitta fusca
Wild Turkey	Meleagris gallopavo
Willet	Tringa semipalmata
Williamson's Sapsucker	Sphyrapicus thyroideus
Wilson's Snipe	Gallinago delicata
Wilson's Warbler	Cardellina pusilla
Winter Wren	Troglodytes hiemalis
Wood Duck	Aix sponsa
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Sphyrapicus varius
Yellow-headed Blackbird	Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus
Yellow-rumped Warbler	Setophaga coronata

Notes:

- Since the Cackling and Canada Goose (*Branta hutchinsii* and *B. canadensis*) were not distinguished in CBC counts until after 1966, the two species were lumped for trend analyses.
- § Since the Iceland and Thayer's Gull (*Larus glaucoides and L. thayeri*) were not distinguished in CBC counts until after 1966, the two species were lumped for trend analyses.
- ¶ Since the Arctic and Pacific Loon (*Gavia arctica* and *G. pacifica*) were not distinguished in CBC counts until after 1966, the two species were lumped for trend analyses.
- # Since the California and Canyon/Brown Towhee (*Melozone crissalis* and *M. fuscus*) were not distinguished in CBC counts until after 1966, the two species were lumped for trend analyses.
- \$\frac{1}{2}\$ Since the Eastern and Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus* and *P. maculatus*) were not distinguished in CBC counts until after 1966, the two species were lumped for trend analyses.
- †† Since the Bell's and Sagebrush Sparrow (*Amphispiza belli* and *A. nevadensis*) were not distinguished in CBC counts until after 1966, the two species were lumped for trend analyses.
- ## Since the Juniper and Oak Titmouse (*Baeolophus ridgwayi* and *B. inornatus*) were not distinguished in CBC counts until after 1966, the two species were lumped for trend analyses.
- ‡‡‡ Since the Blue-headed, Cassin's, and Plumbeous Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*, *V. cassini*, and *V. plumbeus*) were not distinguished in CBC counts until after 1966, the three species were lumped for trend analyses.
- §§§ Since the Clark's and Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus clarkii* and *A. occidentalis*) were not distinguished in CBC counts until after 1966, the two species were lumped for trend analyses.
- Since the Eastern and Western Screech-Owl (*Megascops asio* and *M. kennicottii*) were not distinguished in CBC counts until after 1966, the two species were lumped for trend analyses.

