

COSEWIC Assessment Summary

Assessment Summary – April 2007

Common name

Red Knot

Scientific name

Calidris canutus rufa

Status

Endangered

Reason for designation

This subspecies is a medium-sized shorebird that breeds only in Arctic Canada and migrates thousands of kilometres between its Arctic breeding grounds and wintering areas at the tip of South America. The subspecies has shown a 70% decline in abundance over the past three generations (15 years). It is threatened by a depletion of horseshoe crab eggs, a critical food source used during northern migration. There is no potential for rescue from other populations.

Occurrence

Northwest Territories, Nunavut, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland

Status history

Designated Endangered in April 2007. Assessment based on a new status report.

Assessment Summary – April 2007

Common name

Red Knot

Scientific name

Calidris canutus islandica

Status

Special Concern

Reason for designation

This subspecies is a medium-sized Arctic breeding shorebird that migrates to wintering grounds in Europe. Forty percent of the breeding population of this subspecies occurs in Canada. This subspecies has declined by 17% over the last three generations (15 years). There are no identified threats to individuals in Canada. Habitat on the Canadian breeding grounds is likely stable, but shellfish harvesting on the wintering grounds in Europe presents an ongoing threat.

Occurrence

Northwest Territories, Nunavut

Status history

Designated Special Concern in April 2007. Assessment based on a new status report.