

# Track & Identify Species of Concern with IMBCR Trends

IMBCR trend estimates can support SWAP revision by identifying new SGCN birds in decline, confirming the status of current SGCN birds, and de-listing those which are increasing.



**Why?** Every 10 years, state wildlife agencies must revise their State Wildlife Action Plans and consider Species of Greatest Conservation Need. To do so, agencies need accurate information on population trends, but this information is often lacking, especially for non-game species. Federal agencies also update priority species lists to prioritize their management efforts.

**What?** Bird Conservancy and partners created the Integrated Monitoring in Bird Conservation Regions (IMBCR) program in 2008 to provide accurate information on bird populations at multiple scales. IMBCR produces state and regional trends for hundreds of species in the western United States (Fig. 1). Within ecologically distinct Bird Conservation Regions (BCR), we create strata across public and private land based on fixed attributes, like state borders or management unit boundaries.

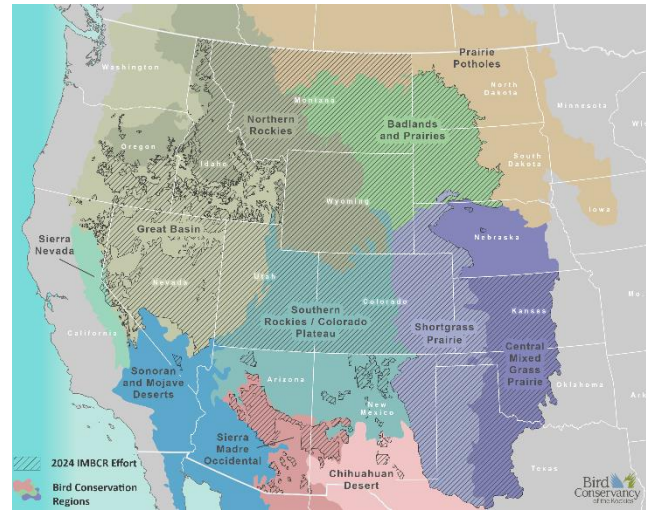
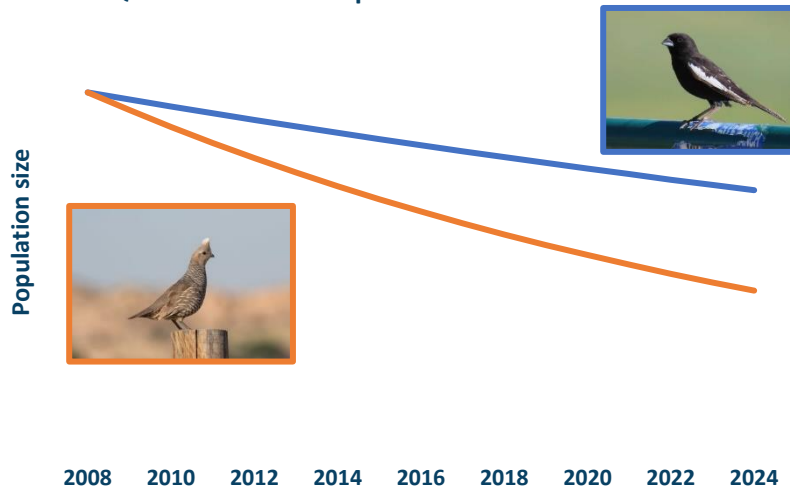


Figure 1. IMBCR extent in 2024.

## Declining IMBCR trends for Lark Bunting and Scaled Quail in the eastern plains of Colorado



**How?** Trend estimates, or the percent population change each year, will be posted on the Rocky Mountain Avian Data Center (RMADC). Because IMBCR estimates are available at numerous strata or areas of interest, we recommend using the “Species” and “Superstratum” filters to find trends for species and states or regions of interest (e.g., Wyoming or the BCR18-portion of Colorado). Then sort estimates based on increasing or decreasing trends and filter with an  $f$  value  $>0.9$ . This ensures you’re only using robust trends to inform your SWAP revision—those for which we are at least 90% certain of the population change. It’s also helpful to look at other available information, such as eBird or BBS trends, when robust IMBCR trends are lacking. This process would also inform sensitive species and species of concern selection for the BLM and USFS management plans.

### Direct from a state wildlife agency:

"We relied heavily on IMBCR trend data because we felt this was the most robust data available. Several species came off our SGCN list because their trend appears stable, other species were added as Species of Greatest Information Need due to alarming trend data. IMBCR data were invaluable throughout our SGCN revision process."

— Liza Rossi, Bird Conservation Coordinator, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

**When?** The RMADC is now available at the below link and Bird Conservancy will host webinars on accessing the data.

<https://bird-conservancy.shinyapps.io/rmadc/>

**Who?** For more information about accessing or using IMBCR trends, please contact Jen at [jennifer.timmer@birdconservancy.org](mailto:jennifer.timmer@birdconservancy.org). If you are interested in receiving updates on the new RMADC and/or upcoming webinars on the site, follow the QR code on the right to sign up on a Google sheet.

