

Marine Birds – Bonaparte’s Gull Spring Surveys

description

This atlas page illustrates the best available data that identifies Bonaparte’s Gull habitat, which falls within the months of April through to May. During this time, the Bonaparte’s Gull (*Chroicocephalus philadelphia*) migrates to its summer breeding grounds: to lakes and marshes in boreal forests, where it feeds primarily on insects. During breeding season, adults have a black head with an incomplete white eye-ring. The Bonaparte’s Gull is the smallest gull found in North America, distinguished by its narrow wings, black bill and slate-grey back.

Source data used to develop this map consisted of a range of shoreline-based, ground, boat and aerial surveys, which were focused on identifying, counting and recording marine birds. The majority of the surveys were collected at sites with defined boundaries and areas. Surveys collected along transects from each dataset were buffered depending upon observation width described within the source survey methodology in order to generate a survey area.

Observations of the listed species were totalled for each survey location and divided by the area surveyed to generate a density value for each survey location. The densities of all of the survey locations within a single planning unit were averaged and adjusted for survey effort to calculate the illustrated metric, average density of Bonaparte’s Gull in the spring by planning unit. The values were then classified and symbolized using 5 quantiles, meaning that each class consisted of 20% of the non-zero planning units. (A quantile is established by dividing the frequency distribution of a variable into equal groups: that is, each quantile contains the same fraction of the total number of values being measured.)



data sources

- Environment Canada (Canadian Wildlife Service) - BC Ferry Surveys
- Environment Canada (Canadian Wildlife Service) – Coastal Waterbird Inventory
- Bird Studies Canada - BC Coastal Waterbird Survey
- Capital Regional District – Harbours Atlas

data resolution

- Weighted averages were calculated for each 2 kilometre x 2 kilometre planning unit.

data collected

- 1974-2007

date compiled

- 2010

reviewers

- Peter Davidson, Bird Studies Canada)
- James Kenyon, Ducks Unlimited Canada
- Representatives from Environment Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service

reviewer comments

- None provided.

caveats of use

- Survey effort is not consistent across all planning units, across all areas of the coast or across all seasons. Areas with no data may not have been surveyed and these data gaps are not necessarily indicative of an absence of Bonaparte’s Gull.
- The density values in an area can change over time in response to natural population fluctuations and changes in habitat conditions (natural or anthropogenic).
- The precision of the average density values displayed in the legend is not indicative of the original precision of the survey counts.
- This feature is a compilation of data collected by many people, for different purposes, using different survey techniques with different methodologies within each technique and, therefore, considerable care must be taken when using the data.
- Surveys performed in different seasons will produce different results.
- Recommended date of expiry for use of these data in a marine planning context: None provided.

map, feature data and metadata access

- Visit www.bcmca.ca/data for more information.

references

Species description contains material from:

- B.C. Conservation Data Centre. *Species Summary: Chroicocephalus philadelphia*. BC Ministry of Environment (MoE) 2010. [21 Sep. 2010 http://a100.gov.bc.ca/pub/eswp/](http://a100.gov.bc.ca/pub/eswp/)
- The Cornell Lab of Ornithology. *All about Birds*. 2009. www.allaboutbirds.org/guide
- Seattle Audubon Society. *BirdWeb – Seattle Audubon’s Guide to the Birds of Washington*. Revised 2008. www.seattleaudubon.org/birdweb

