

# Charadrius vociferus

*This species is complete.*

June 26, 2014 by Amber Lankford

Author(s) Expertise:

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<b>Sensitivity Factor</b>	<b>Sensitivity 1 - 7 (one being least sensitive, seven being most sensitive)</b>	<b>Confidence 1 - 5 (one being least sensitive, five being most sensitive)</b>
Generalist/Specialist	3 Medium	3 Fair
Physiology	2 Medium-Low	3 Fair
Life History	4 Medium-High	5 Very Good
Habitat	7 Extremely High	4 Good
Dispersal Ability	1 Low	1 Very Poor
Disturbance Regimes	3 Medium	3 Fair
Ecology	4 Medium-High	3 Fair
Non-Climatic	3 Medium	3 Fair
Other (weight)		

Sensitivity Score : 48 Medium

## Sensitivity Score

$100 * [(0.5 * (\text{Dispersal Distance} + \text{Dispersal Barriers}) + \text{Disturbance Regimes} + (0.5 * \text{Generalist/Specialist}) + \text{Physiology} + (0.5 * \text{Life History}) + \text{Sensitive Habitats} + \text{Ecology} + \text{Non-Climatic Stressors} + (\text{Other} * \text{Weight}) / 49 + (7 * \text{Weight})]$

Note: if Sensitive Habitats are identified, this factor automatically gets a value of seven, otherwise it remains zero.

Confidence Score : 2 Poor

## Confidence Score

The Confidence Score is an average of the Confidence column above.

Overall User Ranking: 3 Medium

**Common Name:**

Killdeer

**Is this Species completed:**

Yes

Taxonomy

This is a description of the whole group

**Scientific Name:**

Charadrius vociferus

**Geography:**

Western US

**Realm:**

Terrestrial

Freshwater

**Kingdom:**

Animal

**Phylum:**

Chordata

**Class:**

Aves

**Order:**

Charadriiformes

**Family:**

Charadriidae

**Genus:**

Charadrius

**Global Rank:**

G5 (2009)

**Rounded Global Rank:**

G5 - Secure

**IUCN:**

Least Concern ver 3.1 - 2012

**US Endangered Species Act Code:**

Not listed

**Species Element Code:**

ABNNB03090

**Generalist/Specialist****Broadly, where does this species fall on the spectrum of generalist to specialist? :**

3

**Confidence in your assessment of the degree to which the species is a generalist or specialist:**

3 Fair

**Please further describe the relationships that make the species more of a specialist:**

Consumes primarily terrestrial invertebrates, both soft and hard bodied.

**Comments:**

Not as closely tied with shoreline habitat as other plover species, and capable of persisting across a wider variety of habitats.

**Citations:**Jackson, Bette J. and Jerome A. Jackson. 2000. Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*), *The Birds of North America Online* (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: <http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/517>**Physiology****Species' physiological sensitivity:**

2

**Confidence in how physiologically sensitive the species is to climate change:**

3 Fair

**Please specify whether or not this species is physiologically sensitive to one or more of the following:**

temperature

**Please describe any specific physiological sensitivities:**

Sensitive to cold, particularly sudden cold snaps

**Comments:**

Capable of tolerating a wide range of temperatures.

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**Confidence in your assessment of the species' reproductive strategy:**

5 Very Good

**Is the species polycyclic, iteroparous, or semelparous?:**

Iteroparous (reproduces in successive cycles--characteristic of K-strategists)

**Average length of time to reproductive maturity:**

365

**How many surviving young can an individual produce during a single reproductive event under optimal conditions?:**

3-5

**How many reproductive events can an individual undergo in a single year under optimal conditions?:**

2

**Citations:**

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**Sensitive Habitats****Depends on the following sensitive habitat types:**

Coastal Lowlands/Marshes/Estuaries/Beaches

Grasslands/balds

**Confidence in whether the species depends on the listed sensitive habitat types:**

4 Good

**Comments:**

Found across a wide variety of habitats including grasslands, mudflats, shoreline, construction sites, suburban lawns, and sand dunes. Breeds in open areas such as sandbars, mudflats, pastures, cultivated fields, airports, golf courses, parking lots, and occasionally rooftops. Most often found near water of some sort. Where heavy snow is present in winter, individuals migrate to warmer locations. In dry habitats, individuals will remain until water is gone and then relocate to areas with water. During migration, killdeer use mudflats and wetlands (also sewage lagoons and reservoirs) as stopover and feeding sites. Uses both freshwater and saltwater habitats. In non-breeding season uses similar habitats to breeding season.

**Citations:**

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**Maximum annual dispersal distance:**

>100 km

**Confidence in maximum annual dispersal distance:**

1 Very Poor

**Within the context of dispersal distance above, do barriers to dispersal exist?:**

1 None

**Confidence in barriers to dispersal exists:**

1 Very Poor

Disturbance Regimes

**How sensitive is this species to one or more disturbance regimes:**

3 somewhat sensitive

**Confidence in how sensitive is this species on one or more disturbance regimes:**

3 Fair

**Please check all disturbance regimes upon which the species is sensitive:**

Fire

Pollution

Urbanization

**Please describe the disturbance regimes upon which the species is sensitive (frequency, timing, severity, duration):**

Killdeer have expanded in to man-made systems and increased their previous range across North America. When found in grasslands, killdeer may be sensitive to fires depending upon the time of year in which the disturbance occurs.

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Ecological Relationships

**Please specify which of the following (if any) are sensitive to climate change for this species:**

habitat

hydrology

**Confidence in how sensitive the species is to other effects of climate change on its ecology:**

3 Fair

**Which types of climate and climate-driven changes in the environment affect these aspects of the species' ecology?:**

precipitation

**How sensitive is this species? ecological relationships to the effects of climate change?:**

4

**Comments:**

Although not as closely linked with shoreline or moist areas as other plovers, killdeer habitat is still sensitive to fluctuations in annual and seasonal precipitation to produce mudflats or sandbars, grasslands, etc.

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Jackson, Bette J. and Jerome A. Jackson. 2000. Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: <http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/517>

Interacting non-climatic stressors

**To what degree do other, non-climate-related threats, to the species make it more sensitive to climate change?:**

3

**Confidence in the degree to which non-climate-related threats affect the species' sensitivity to climate change:**

3 Fair

**Please check all of the stressors that make the species more sensitive to climate change:**

habitat loss or degradation  
direct human conflict (including harvesting)  
pollution

**Comments:**

Populations that nest in, around, or on human structures, may be sinks as a result of the decreased nesting and fledging success (increased predation, mortality as a result of human activities such as mowing or vehicle collision). Killdeer (and many other species) are also susceptible to certain pesticides used on lawns and gold greens to control sod webworms. The pesticide used to control the worms is also lethal to killdeer. Application of pesticides to agricultural fields has been found to have similar effects.

**Citations:**

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Overall User Ranking

**In your opinion, how would you rank the overall sensitivity of this species to climate change?:**

3

**Confidence in your overall assessment of the sensitivity of this species to climate change:**

3 Fair

**Comments:**

Decreasing snow pack or snow presence may allow for northward/eastward expansion in the range of resident populations into areas previously used only as breeding sites.

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