Population Objectives Regional Trends for PIF Watch List Species

A Quick Guide for Using the PORT Tool

1. Select a ***Species*** from the drop-down menu (PIF Watch List landbird species only).
2. Click ***Load table***. The table will load in the first tab of the tool.

   Rows provide data by physio-political region (Province/State x BCR): estimated *Population Size* and *Trend*.

   10 and *30*-year *Trend.Goal columns* are pre-populated with regional trend objectives which cumulatively approximate the PIF goals for the species.
3. Especially for species with numerous physio-political entries, select ***Plot Option Filters*** (by State/Province or BCR) from the drop-down menus so that Trajectory plot and BCR plot graphics appear less cluttered.
4. View the resulting *Trajectory plot*, *BCR plot*, and output *Summary table*s.
5. Return to the ***Input table*** tab. While current *Pop.Size* and *Trend* columns are locked, the 10- and 30-year *Trend.Goal* columns accept user input. A conservation planner or manager can adjust these trend goals based on their sense of what might represent a reasonable target for a physio-political region of interest and then view the resulting population trajectories in the *Plot* and *Summary table* tabs. Physio-political regions with larger estimated populations will of course have a more pronounced effect on resulting total trends and population size.
6. Use the tool to work collaboratively with your colleagues in neighboring regions or Joint Ventures to coordinate population objectives and conservation actions in order to strive to achieve range-wide conservation recovery for a species of interest.

What Is the Source of the Estimation Data?

Population estimates are derived from the PIF Population Objectives Database based on data collected from the North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS). See the Population Objectives Database Handbook for an explanation of approach and methods.

Trend estimates (for the decade 2009–2018) were also based on BBS data, but as there is no analysis on the BBS website at the physio-political scale. Trends at this scale were estimated by John Sauer using the PIF regression method (see Rosenberg, K. V., P. J. Blancher, J. C. Stanton, and A. O. Panjabi. 2017. Use of North American Breeding Bird Survey data in avian conservation assessments. Condor 119:594-607. http://dx.doi. org/10.1650/CONDOR-17-57.1)

Except in the case of species with small range-wide populations or very limited distribution, we omitted physio-political regions for a species with estimated populations of <50 individuals or where either trends or population size estimates were missing.

A Note of Caution

Given our current uncertainty around both population and trend estimates at regional scales, conservation practitioners should view the tool's species trajectories as provisional

explorations. As new methods of estimating avian population size are constantly evolving, we expect that future versions of the PORT tool will display more accurate and precise estimates. Nonetheless, it is our hope that the current version of the tool will facilitate an understanding of how much work may be needed to stabilize populations or even just to slow rates of decline—and how important it will be for neighboring conservation jurisdictions to collaborate in order to achieve range-wide population conservation gains. For examples of how one might translate population trend goals into habitat objectives, please see pp. 78–86 in the Bobolink Plan or work by Barry Robinson.