Clark's Grebe (*Aechmophorus clarkii*)
Conservation Status Rank Summary

December 2, 2024

For details on assessment and ranking methodology, see: *Conservation Status Assessment Definitions, Process, Rank Factors, and Calculation of State Ranks for Montana Species*

Rarity and Trends

Rank Factor	Date Assessed	Value	Score	Data Source	Comments
Rarity					
Range Extent	2024-10-04	S: 2412.7 km²	2.360	MTNHP Range Maps	None
Area of Occupancy			-		**Factor not used in ranking.**
Number of Occurrences	2024-10-04	3	0.000	MTNHP Databases	None
Population Size			-		**Factor not used in ranking.**
# of Occurrences in Good Condition	2024-10-04		1.100		None
% of Area Occupied in Good Condition			-		**Factor not used in ranking.**
Environmental Specificity	2008-09-15	Very narrow	-	MTNHP Species Rank Data Table	**Factor not used in ranking.** Breeding colonies very specific to larger water bodies and wetlands | Methodology: NS (2003) | Original Score: A
Rarity is calculated by averaging weighted factor scores: **((2.36 × 1) + (0.00 × 1) + (1.10 × 2)) / 4 = 1.14**					
Trends					
Short-term Trend	2024-10-04		0.000		None
Long-term Trend	2024-10-04		0.070	Expert Opinion	Larger water bodies they are dependent on were probably stable since European arrival. Breeding habitat may have increased with the creation of reservoirs
Trends score is calculated by summing weighted short and long-term trend scores: **((0.00 × 2) + (0.07 × 1)) = 0.07**					

Threats

Rank Factor	Date Assessed	Value	Score	Data Source	Comments
Threats					
Overall Threat Impact		Low/No Threats	5.500		Habitat Loss, Pollution
Intrinsic Vulnerability	2008-09-15	Moderately vulnerable	-	MTNHP Species Rank Data Table	**Factor not used in ranking.** Methodology: NS (2003) | Original Score: B
Threat score is calculated from Overall Threat Impact when available or Intrinsic Vulnerability if not: **(5.50) = 5.50**					

Individual Threats Data

Threat Category	Date Assessed	Impact Score	Scope	Severity	Immediacy	Comments
Human Intrusions & Disturbance	2024-10-04	Low	Small	Slight	High	Species breeds in protected areas managed to reduce potential disturbance to nesting pairs
Climate Change & Severe Weather	2024-10-04	Low	Pervasive	Slight	High	Reduced water at breeding sites is a threat, but as sites occur in reservoirs and other managed wetlands features this threat can be mitigated to some degree
Threat Tally: 0 - Very High, 0 - High, 0 - Medium, 2 - Low Overall Threat Impact* = Low/No Threats						

*See Conservation Status Assessment Definitions, Process, Rank Factors, and Calculation of State Ranks for Montana Species for calculation of Overall Threat Impact based on the number and impact of individual threats.

Conservation Status Rank Calculation

Raw score

Rarity: (1.14 × 70%) + Threats: (5.50 × 30%) + Trends: (0.07) = 2.52

Calculated Rank: S3

Accepted Rank	S3B
Date Approved	1993-05-01
Approval Authority	Montana Species of Concern Committee
Rank Justification	Species is a rare breeding resident found within northern Montana. Populations are believed to be stable and it faces low threats, but it only known from 3 populations in the state.

Supplementary Information

Montana Natural Heritage Program. 2021. Conservation Status Assessment Definitions, Process, Rank Factors, and Calculation of State Ranks for Montana Species. 18 p.
https://mtnhp.mt.gov/docs/Montana_State_Rank_Criteria_20211201.pdf

Montana Field Guide Species Account:
https://fieldguide.mt.gov/speciesDetail.aspx?elcode=ABNCA04020

Predicted Suitable Habitat Model:
https://mtnhp.mt.gov/resources/models/?elcode=ABNCA04020

Information Needs

Information needs are assessed by considering the availability of factors used to assess species status as well as the quality of these assessments. Current information availability and quality to inform Conservation Status Rank for this species are highlighted.

Rank Factor	Assessment Category	Value	Criteria
General Status	Status Quality	Adequate	Calculated rank has low uncertainty and is represented by a single rank (e.g. S3); accepted rank may be adjusted to a range rank (e.g. S2S3)
		Poor	Rank assessed as SU or calculated rank has notable uncertainty and corresponds to a range rank with 2 or more values (e.g. S2?, S1S3, or S4S5)
Rarity	Range Quality	Adequate	Range polygon adequately represents area of probable occupancy and does not include substantial unoccupied areas; range may be adequately defined and still include areas of unsuitable habitat (e.g. mountain ranges for plains species)
		Marginal	Range polygon defined, but may include or exclude notable areas where the species may or may not occur on the landscape
		Poor	Range polygon not defined
	Habitat Quality	Adequate	Species-habitat relationship is well-defined (e.g. relevant literature or robust habitat model available)
		Marginal	Understanding of species-habitat relationship is adequate among some but not all habitats (e.g. literature covers similar habitats outside of Montana or habitat model performance is only somewhat adequate)
		Poor	Species-habitat relationship is not well understood
Threats	Threat Quality	Adequate	Threat Impact is a single value (including "Unthreatened")
		Marginal	Threat Impact assessed at more than one value (e.g. "High - Medium")
		Poor	Threat Impact is Unknown but Intrinsic Vulnerability is assessed
		Unknown	Threat Impact is Unknown and Intrinsic Vulnerability is not assessed
Trends	Recency	Current	Short-term Trend assessment date less than 10 years old
		Out of Date but Adequate	Short-term Trend assessment date is more than 10 years old or Unknown, but species is Unthreatened
		Out of Date	Short-term Trend assessment date more than 10 years old
		Not Available	Short-term Trend data are not available
	Trend Quality	Sufficient	Short-term Trend assessed at a single value or multiple values with a minimum trend greater than -10% (stable or increasing)
		Unknown but Sufficient	Short-term Trend is Unknown, but species is Unthreatened
		Poor	Short-term Trend is less than -10% (in decline) with two or more values selected
		Unknown	Short-term Trend is Unknown

Summary of Information Availability

No additional information is needed to calculate a robust status rank.

Summary of Information Needs

Short-term trend is based on observational data submitted by birders at the known breeding sites. Formal surveys of these breeding populations would help ensure trends in abundance or occupancy are adequately assessed.

Additional Threat Details

The table below contains the complete threats assessment for this species. While the Conservation Status Rank Calculation is based on cumulative, broadly categorized (Level 1) threats data, threats are assessed and tracked for more specifically categorized (Level 2) threats when available.

Threat Category	Date Assessed	Assessed By	Data Source	Scope	Severity	Imme-diacy	Comments
Human Intrusions & Disturbance - 6.1 - Recreational Activities	2024-10-04	Dan Bachen	Expert Opinion	Small	Slight	High	Species breeds in protected areas managed to reduce potential disturbance to nesting pairs
Climate Change & Severe Weather - 11.2 - Droughts	2024-10-04	Dan Bachen	Expert Opinion	Pervasive	Slight	High	Reduced water at breeding sites is a threat, but as sites occur in reservoirs and other managed wetlands features this threat can be mitigated to some degree