

Natural Heritage Ranking Form - Oregon State Rank

Oregon Ranking Form Snowy egret (*Egretta thula*)

Oregon Biodiversity Information Center

SPECIES ASSESSED

Scientific Name	<i>Egretta thula</i>	ELCODE	ABNGA06030
Common Name	Snowy egret	Element ID	6339

Species Concept Reference Citation

American Ornithologists' Union (AOU). 1998. Check-list of North American birds. Seventh edition. American Ornithologists' Union, Washington, D.C. [as modified by subsequent supplements and corrections published in *The Auk*]. Also available online: <http://www.aou.org/>.

CONSERVATION STATUS RANK

Assigned Rank	S2B		
Rank Assignment Author	Pahl, Cameron and E. Gaines	Rank Review Date	3/17/2016
Rank Factors Author	Pahl, Cameron and E. Gaines	Rank Factors Date	03/17/2016
Calculated Rank	S2	Rank Change Date	09/19/1995
Rank Methodology Used	Rank calculator v.3.1x - 2011-2015 rank factors		

Assigned Rank Reasons

More information is required. Snowy Egret breeding information in Oregon is scarce, but limited distribution, loss of wetlands, and competition with other species pose magnified risks to the taxon because of its low population .

Rank Adjustment Reasons

Rank for breeding population in Oregon

RANGE/DISTRIBUTION

Range Extent

Rating	20,000-200,000 square km (about 8000-80,000 square miles)
Comments	21,468 sqkm.

Area of Occupancy

Grid Cell Size	
Rating (as Number of 4 km² Grid Cells)	F = 126-500
Comments	237 4km ² grid cells occupied.

ABUNDANCE AND CONDITION

Number of Occurrences

Rating	6 - 20
Comments	14 occurrences since 1994.

Population Size

Rating	250 - 1000 individuals
Comments	

Population is unknown, but 167 breeding pairs were recorded at Malheur NWR in the early 1980's, reaching a peak of 227 breeding pairs in 1985. Since then, populations have declined precipitously, consistent with declines in Snowy Egret numbers nationwide (Parsons and Master, 2000), and zero breeding pairs were recorded in 1997, and 5 in 1998 at Malheur NWR. No surveys within the last 15 years imply that more research is necessary to assess the current health of the species in Oregon.

Good Viability/Ecological Integrity**Number of Occurrences with Good Viability/Ecological Integrity****Rating** None (zero)**Comments**

While there are 14 recent occurrences in Oregon, none have been assessed for viability.

THREATS**Calculated Overall Threat Impact** D = Low**Assigned Overall Threat Impact** C = Medium**Overall Threat Impact Adjustment Reasons**

Wetland loss and pesticides are primary threats to this taxon, however its limited distribution and competition with similar species are also important to consider. More information is necessary.

TRENDS**Short-Term Trend****Rating** U = Unknown**Long-Term Trend****Rating** E = Decline of 30-50%**Comments**

Significant declining trend since mid-1980's (Parsons and Master, 2000).

ADDITIONAL SPECIES INFORMATION**Oregon Habitat Comments**

Nests in a mixed colony with other species at Crump Lake.

RANKING REFERENCES

<u>Short Citation</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
Parsons and Master		2000	Parsons, K. C. and T. L. Master. 2000. Snowy Egret (<i>Egretta thula</i>). In <i>The Birds of North America Online</i> (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology [Online resource] Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/489
			Marshall, D.B., M.G. Hunter, and A.L. Contreras, Eds. 2003. <i>Birds of Oregon: A General Reference</i> . Oregon State University Press, Corvallis, OR. 768Pp.

RESOURCESOregon Biodiversity Information Center, Institute for Natural Resources
Portland State University, Mail Stop: INR, PO Box 751, Portland, OR 97207-0751 Phone: 503-725-9950Additional ORBIC species ranking forms posted at
<https://inr.oregonstate.edu/orbic/rare-species/ranking-documentation>Information on Natural Heritage ranking methodology is available at
<http://www.natureserve.org/biodiversity-science/publications/natureserve-conservation-status-assessments-methodology-assigning>The Conservation Rank Calculator is developed and maintained by NatureServe and is available from
<http://www.natureserve.org/conservation-tools/conservation-rank-calculator>**ASSESSMENT CITATION**Oregon Biodiversity Information Center. 2016. Oregon state rank assessment for Snowy egret (*Egretta thula*). Institute for Natural Resources, Portland State University, Portland, OR.