Appendix C – Avifauna and Protected Avian Species Information

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Appendix C Contents

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Avifauna and Protected Avian Species Monitoring and Mitigation Plan (*pending*)

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Recommended Best Practices for Communication Tower Design, Siting, Construction, Operation, Maintenance, and Decommissioning, August 2016

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Recommended Best Practices for Communication Tower Design, Siting, Construction, Operation, Maintenance, and Decommissioning

Division of Migratory Bird Management
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Falls Church, Virginia
August 2016

NOTE: These recommendations replace all previous recommendations for communication tower construction and operation. These recommendations have been modified and updated from previous versions to incorporate the state of the science and the 2015 Federal Aviation Administration *Obstruction Marking and Lighting Advisory Circular AC 70/7460-1L.*

Communication towers are some of the tallest structures across the landscape and birds are regularly found dead around these towers (Longcore et al. 2012a). It is not definitively understood why this mortality occurs, but evidence suggests that night-migrating songbirds are either attracted to or disoriented by tower obstruction warning lighting systems, especially during overcast (i.e., low cloud ceiling), foggy, or other low visibility conditions (Cochran and Graber 1958, Avery et al. 1976, Ball et al. 1995, Erickson et al. 2005, Evans et al. 2007, Manville 2014, Gehring et al. 2009 and 2011, Longcore et al. 2012a). Birds aggregate in larger numbers at towers with non-flashing lights compared to those with flashing lights, although birds aggregate at flashing lights during the "on" phase, they disperse during the "off" phase (Larkin and Frase 1988; Gauthreaux and Belser 1999, 2006; Evans et al. 2007; Poot et al. 2008). Additionally, birds moving across the landscape at night (e.g., owls and seabirds) can collide with communication tower wires when they are placed in high movement areas.

Given the height, structural engineering needs (i.e., guy wires), and obstruction lighting requirements, communication towers may cause direct and indirect bird mortality through:

1. Collisions - Birds that are attracted to tower lights and aggregate in the lighting zone, circle the tower and collide with the tower, guy wires, other birds, or fall to the ground from exhaustion (Longcore et al. 2012b, Gauthreaux and Belser 2006, Erickson et al. 2005).
2. Construction, operation, and maintenance activities - Adults, eggs, or nestlings can experience direct mortality through:
    a. Trauma or death during vegetation removal;
    b. Trauma or death during tower maintenance; and
    c. Death of eggs or nestlings when actions or activities cause adults to abandon nests.
3. Significant loss of fat reserves in adults due to the energy expenditure of circling towers, leading to reduced survival during long migrations (Norris and Taylor 2006, Gehring and Walker 2012).

The following avoidance and minimization measures, when used comprehensively, reduce the risk of bird mortality at communication towers:

SITING AND CONSTRUCTION OF NEW TOWERS

1. *Collocation*. Co-locate communications equipment on existing communication towers or other structures (e.g., billboard, water and transmission tower, distribution pole, or building mounts). This recommendation is intended to reduce the number of towers across the landscape.
2. *Contact with USFWS Field Office*. Communicate project plans to nearest USFWS Field Office. www.fws.gov/offices/index.html

3. *Placement*. All new towers should be sited to minimize environmental impacts to the maximum extent practicable.
   a. Place new towers within existing "antenna farms" (i.e., clusters of towers) when possible;
   b. Select already degraded areas for tower placement;
   c. Towers should not be sited in or near wetlands, other known bird concentration areas (e.g., state or federal refuges, staging areas, rookeries, and Important Bird Areas), or in known migratory bird movement routes, daily movement flyways, areas of breeding concentration, in habitat of threatened or endangered species, key habitats for Birds of Conservation Concern, or near the breeding areas ("leks") of prairie grouse;
   d. Towers should avoid ridgelines, coastal areas, wetlands or other known bird concentration areas; and
   e. Towers and associated facilities should be designed, sited, and constructed so as to avoid or minimize habitat loss within and adjacent to the tower "footprint". In addition, several shorter, un-guyed towers may be preferable to one, tall guyed, lit tower.
4. *Construction*. During construction, the following considerations can reduce the risk of take of birds:
   a. Schedule all vegetation removal and maintenance (e.g., general landscaping activities, trimming, grubbing) activities outside of the peak bird breeding season to reduce the risk of bird take. Breeding seasons can be determined using online tools (e.g., Avian Knowledge Network [AKN], Information for Planning and Conservation system [IPaC], Birds of North America Online) or by contacting qualified experts (e.g., local Audubon or birding groups);
   b. When vegetation removal activities cannot avoid the bird breeding season, conduct nest clearance surveys:
      i. Surveys should be conducted no more than five days prior to the scheduled activity to ensure recently constructed nests are identified;
      ii. Timing and dimensions of the area to be surveyed vary and will depend on the nature of the project, location, and expected level of vegetation disturbance; and
      iii. If active nests are identified within or in the vicinity of the project site, avoid the site until nestlings have fledged or the nest fails. If the activity must occur, establish a buffer zone around the nest and no activities will occur within that zone until nestlings have fledged. The dimension of the buffer zone will depend on the proposed activity, habitat type, and species present. The buffer should be a distance that does not elicit a flight response by the adult birds and can be 0.5 – 1 mile for hawks and eagles.
   c. Prevent the introduction of invasive plants during construction to minimize vegetation community degradation by:
      i. Use only native and local (when possible) seed stock for all temporary and permanent vegetation establishment; and
      ii. Use vehicle wash stations prior to entering sensitive habitat areas to prevent accidental introduction of non-native plants.
5. *Tower Design*. Tower design should consider the following attributes:
   a. Tower Height. It is recommended that new towers should be not more than 199 ft. above ground level (AGL). This height increases the mean free airspace between the top of the tower and average bird flight height, even in weather conditions with reduced cloud ceiling;

b. Guy Wires. We recommend using free standing towers such as lattice towers or monopole structures. If guy wires are required for tower design:
   i. The minimum number of guy wires necessary should be used; and
   ii. Guy wired towers that are proposed to be located in known raptor or waterbird concentrations areas, daily movement routes, major daytime migratory bird movement routes, staging areas, or stopover sites should have daytime visual markers or bird flight diverters installed on the guy wires to attempt to prevent daytime collisions.
c. Lighting System. Lights are a primary source of bird aggregation around towers, thus minimizing all light is recommended:
   i. No tower lighting is the preferred option if Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations and lighting standards (FAA 2015, Patterson 2012) permit.
   ii. For some towers, the FAA can permit an Aircraft Detection Lighting System (ADLS), which maintains a communication tower of any height to be unlit until the ADLS radars detect nearby aircraft, at which time the tower lighting system is triggered to illuminate until the aircraft is out of radar range.
   iii. If taller (> 199 ft. AGL) towers requiring lights for aviation safety must be constructed, the minimum amount of pilot warning and obstruction avoidance lighting required by the FAA should be used. Unless otherwise required by the FAA, only white or red flashing lights should be used at night, and these should follow FAA obstruction and marking standards with regards to the minimum number of lights, minimum intensity (< 2,000 candela), and minimum number of flashes per minute (i.e., longest duration between flashes and "dark phase"). Avoid using non-flashing warning lights at night (FAA 2015, Patterson 2012). Owners of existing towers lit with lighting systems that include non-flashing lights should submit plans to the FAA explaining how and when they will transition to the new standards.
   iv. Security lighting for on-ground facilities, equipment, and infrastructure should be motion- or heat-sensitive, down-shielded, and of a minimum intensity to reduce nighttime bird attraction and eliminate constant nighttime illumination while still allowing safe nighttime access to the site.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF ALL TOWERS

1. *Existing Tower Lighting*. We recommend that towers be unlit, when allowed by FAA regulations. Light impacts can be minimized by:
   a. Extinguishing L-810 non-flashing red lights (USFWS 2007, 2011) on towers >350 ft. AGL or reconfiguring L-810 non-flashing red lights to flash at 30 FPM in synchrony with other flashing obstruction lights on towers 150-350 ft. AGL (FAA 2015);
   b. Extinguishing L-810 red lights and reprogramming LED L-810 lights; this can be done from the tower transmission building or remotely and does not require climbing the tower (FCC 2015).

   Currently, an FAA lighting deviation is required to implement both of these proposed light standards, but the abbreviated FAA review and approval process is typically completed within one week (FCC 2015).

2. *Infrastructure Lighting*. We recommend that existing infrastructure be unlit. If associated buildings require security or operational lighting, minimize light trespass using motion sensors and down-shielding with minimum intensity light (USFWS 2011; Poot et al. 2008; Manville 2013; FCC 2014).
3. *Vegetation Management*. When management of facility infrastructure is required:
   a. Schedule all vegetation removal and maintenance (e.g., general landscaping activities, trimming, grubbing, etc.) activities outside of the peak bird breeding season to reduce the risk of bird take. Breeding seasons can be determined using online tools (e.g., Avian Knowledge Network [AKN], Information for Planning and Conservation system [IPaC], Birds of North America Online) or by contacting qualified experts (e.g., local Audubon or birding groups);
   b. When vegetation removal activities cannot avoid the bird breeding season, conduct nest clearance surveys:
      i. Surveys should be conducted no more than five days prior to the scheduled activity to ensure recently constructed nests are identified;
      ii. Timing and dimensions of the area to be surveyed should depend on the nature of the project, location, and expected level of vegetation disturbance; and
      iii. If active nests are identified within or in the vicinity of the project site, the site should be avoided until nestlings have fledged or the nest fails. If the activity must occur, a buffer zone should be established around the nest and no activities should occur within that zone until nestlings have fledged. The dimension of the buffer zone depends on the proposed activity, habitat type, and species present. The buffer should be a distance that does not elicit a flight response by the adult birds and can be 0.5 – 1 mile for hawks and eagles.
4. *Birds Nesting on Towers*: If birds are nesting on communication towers that require maintenance activities, contact the state natural resource protection agency and/or the USFWS for permits, recommendations, and requirements. Schedule construction and maintenance activities around the nesting and activity schedule of protected birds. Minimize excess wires and securely attach wires to the tower structure to reduce the likelihood of birds becoming entangled on the tower. Consider installing a bird nest exclusion device on the towers where birds frequently nest.
5. *Tower Access*: Representatives from the USFWS or researchers should be allowed access to the site to evaluate bird use, conduct dead-bird searches, and conduct other research, as necessary.

DECOMMISSIONING

1. *Tower Removal*. Towers no longer in use, not re-licensed by the FCC for use, or determined to be obsolete should be removed from the site within 12 months of cessation of use, preferably sooner.

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Table C-1: Birds Recorded in Accomack County that Are Likely to Occur at WFF

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Table C-1: Birds Recorded in Accomack County that Are Likely to Occur* at WFF (eBird 2007)

Biological Family		Status[1]	Tier[2]	Watch List[3]	BCC
Common Name	**Scientific Name**				
Anatidae (Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl)					
Snow Goose	*Chen caerulescens*				
Ross's Goose	*Chen rossii*				
Brant	*Branta bernicla*		III		
Cackling Goose	*Branta hutchinsii*				
Canada Goose	*Branta canadensis*				
Mute Swan	*Cygnus olor*				
Tundra Swan	*Cygnus columbianus*				
Wood Duck	*Aix sponsa*				
Gadwall	*Anas strepera*				
American Wigeon	*Anas americana*				
American Black Duck	*Anas rubripes*		II	Yes	
Mallard	*Anas platyrhynchos*				
Blue-winged Teal	*Anas discors*				
Northern Shoveler	*Anas clypeata*				
Northern Pintail	*Anas acuta*		IV		
Green-winged Teal	*Anas crecca*				
Canvasback	*Aythya valisineria*				
Redhead	*Aythya americana*				
Ring-necked Duck	*Aythya collaris*				
Greater Scaup	*Aythya marila*		IV		
Lesser Scaup	*Aythya affinis*				
King Eider	*Somateria spectabilis*			Yes	
Common Eider	*Somateria mollissima*			Yes	
Harlequin Duck	*Histrionicus histrionicus*				
Surf Scoter	*Melanitta perspicillata*			Yes	
White-winged Scoter	*Melanitta fusca*			Yes	
Black Scoter	*Melanitta americana*			Yes	
Long-tailed Duck	*Clangula hyemalis*				
Bufflehead	*Bucephala albeola*				
Common Goldeneye	*Bucephala clangula*				
Hooded Merganser	*Lophodytes cucullatus*				
Common Merganser	*Mergus merganser*				
Red-breasted Merganser	*Mergus serrator*				
Ruddy Duck	*Oxyura jamaicensis*				
Odontophoridae (New World Quail)					
Northern Bobwhite	*Colinus virginianus*		III		

Biological Family		Status[1]	Tier[2]	Watch List[3]	BCC
Common Name	**Scientific Name**				
Phasianidae (Pheasants, Grouse, and Allies)					
Ring-necked Pheasant	*Phasianus colchicus*				
Wild Turkey	*Meleagris gallopavo*				
Gaviidae (Loons)					
Red-throated Loon	*Gavia stellata*		IV		Yes
Common Loon	*Gavia immer*				
Podicipedidae (Grebes)					
Pied-billed Grebe	*Podilymbus podiceps*				Yes
Horned Grebe	*Podiceps auritus*			Yes	Yes
Red-necked Grebe	*Podiceps grisegena*				
Sulidae (Boobies and Gannets)					
Northern Gannet	*Morus bassanus*		IV		
Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants)					
Great Cormorant	*Phalacrocorax carbo*				
Double-crested Cormorant	*Phalacrocorax auritus*				
Pelecanidae (Pelicans)					
American White Pelican	*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*				
Brown Pelican	*Pelecanus occidentalis*				
Ardeidae (Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns)					
American Bittern	*Botaurus lentiginosus*				Yes
Least Bittern	*Ixobrychus exilis*		III		Yes
Great Blue Heron	*Ardea herodias*				
Great Egret	*Ardea alba*				
Snowy Egret	*Egretta thula*		II		Yes
Little Blue Heron	*Egretta caerulea*		II	Yes	
Tricolored Heron	*Egretta tricolor*				
Cattle Egret	*Bubulcus ibis*				
Green Heron	*Butorides virescens*		IV		
Black-crowned Night-Heron	*Nycticorax nycticorax*		III		
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	*Nyctanassa violacea*		II		
Threskiornithidae (Ibises and Spoonbills)					
White Ibis	*Eudocimus albus*				
Glossy Ibis	*Plegadis falcinellus*		I		
Cathartidae (New World Vultures)					
Black Vulture	*Coragyps atratus*				
Turkey Vulture	*Cathartes aura*				
Pandionidae (Osprey)					
Osprey	*Pandion haliaetus*				

Biological Family		Status[1]	Tier[2]	Watch List[3]	BCC
Common Name	**Scientific Name**				
Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles, and Kites)					
Northern Harrier	*Circus cyaneus*		III		
Sharp-shinned Hawk	*Accipiter striatus*				
Cooper's Hawk	*Accipiter cooperii*				
Bald Eagle	*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*				Yes
Red-shouldered Hawk	*Buteo lineatus*				
Broad-winged Hawk	*Buteo platypterus*				
Red-tailed Hawk	*Buteo jamaicensis*				
Rough-legged Hawk	*Buteo lagopus*				
Rallidae (Rails, Gallinules, and Coots)					
Yellow Rail	*Coturnicops noveboracensis*			Yes	
Black Rail	*Laterallus jamaicensis*	SE	I	Yes	Yes
King Rail	*Rallus elegans*		II	Yes	
Clapper Rail	*Rallus crepitans*		IV		
Virginia Rail	*Rallus limicola*		IV		
Sora	*Porzana carolina*				
Common Gallinule	*Gallinula galeata*				
American Coot	*Fulica americana*				
Gruidae (Cranes)					
Sandhill Crane	*Antigone canadensis*				
Recurvirostridae (Stilts and Avocets)					
Black-necked Stilt	*Himantopus mexicanus*				
American Avocet	*Recurvirostra americana*				
Haematopodidae (Oystercatchers)					
American Oystercatcher	*Haematopus palliatus*		II	Yes	Yes
Charadriidae (Plovers)					
Black-bellied Plover	*Pluvialis squatarola*		IV		
American Golden-Plover	*Pluvialis dominica*				
Wilson's Plover	*Charadrius wilsonia*	SE	I	Yes	Yes
Semipalmated Plover	*Charadrius semipalmatus*				
Piping Plover	*Charadrius melodus*	FTST	II	Yes	
Killdeer	*Charadrius vociferus*				
Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and Allies)					
Upland Sandpiper	*Bartramia longicauda*				Yes
Whimbrel	*Numenius phaeopus*		IV		Yes
Hudsonian Godwit	*Limosa haemastica*			Yes	Yes
Marbled Godwit	*Limosa fedoa*		IV	Yes	Yes
Ruddy Turnstone	*Arenaria interpres*				
Red Knot	*Calidris canutus*	FTST	I		Yes

Biological Family		Status[1]	Tier[2]	Watch List[3]	BCC
Common Name	**Scientific Name**				
Stilt Sandpiper	*Calidris himantopus*				
Sanderling	*Calidris alba*		IV		
Dunlin	*Calidris alpina*		IV		
Purple Sandpiper	*Calidris maritima*		IV		Yes
Baird's Sandpiper	*Calidris bairdii*				
Least Sandpiper	*Calidris minutilla*				
White-rumped Sandpiper	*Calidris fuscicollis*				
Pectoral Sandpiper	*Calidris melanotos*			Yes	
Semipalmated Sandpiper	*Calidris pusilla*			Yes	Yes
Western Sandpiper	*Calidris mauri*				
Short-billed Dowitcher	*Limnodromus griseus*		IV	Yes	Yes
Long-billed Dowitcher	*Limnodromus scolopaceus*				
Wilson's Snipe	*Gallinago delicata*				
American Woodcock	*Scolopax minor*		II	Yes	
Wilson's Phalarope	*Phalaropus tricolor*				
Spotted Sandpiper	*Actitis macularius*				
Solitary Sandpiper	*Tringa solitaria*				Yes
Greater Yellowlegs	*Tringa melanoleuca*				
Willet	*Tringa semipalmata*		III	Yes	
Lesser Yellowlegs	*Tringa flavipes*			Yes	Yes
Stercorariidae (Skuas and Jaegers)					
Pomarine Jaeger	*Stercorarius pomarinus*				
Parasitic Jaeger	*Stercorarius parasiticus*				
Laridae (Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers)					
Bonaparte's Gull	*Chroicocephalus philadelphia*				
Laughing Gull	*Leucophaeus atricilla*		IV		
Ring-billed Gull	*Larus delawarensis*				
Herring Gull	*Larus argentatus*				
Iceland Gull	*Larus glaucoides*				
Lesser Black-backed Gull	*Larus fuscus*				
Glaucous Gull	*Larus hyperboreus*				
Great Black-backed Gull	*Larus marinus*				
Least Tern	*Sternula antillarum*		III	Yes	Yes
Gull-billed Tern	*Gelochelidon nilotica*	ST	I		Yes
Caspian Tern	*Hydroprogne caspia*				
Black Tern	*Chlidonias niger*				
Roseate Tern	*Sterna dougallii*	FESE		Yes	
Common Tern	*Sterna hirundo*		II		
Arctic Tern	*Sterna paradisaea*				

Biological Family		Status[1]	Tier[2]	Watch List[3]	BCC
Common Name	**Scientific Name**				
Forster's Tern	*Sterna forsteri*		III		
Royal Tern	*Thalasseus maximus*		IV		
Sandwich Tern	*Thalasseus sandvicensis*				
Black Skimmer	*Rynchops niger*		II		Yes
Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)					
Rock Pigeon	*Columba livia*				
Eurasian Collared-Dove	*Streptopelia decaocto*				
Mourning Dove	*Zenaida macroura*				
Cuculidae (Cuckoos)					
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	*Coccyzus americanus*		III		
Black-billed Cuckoo	*Coccyzus erythropthalmus*		II	Yes	
Tytonidae (Barn-Owls)					
Barn Owl	*Tyto alba*		III		
Strigidae (Owls)					
Eastern Screech-Owl	*Megascops asio*				
Great Horned Owl	*Bubo virginianus*				
Snowy Owl	*Bubo scandiacus*			Yes	
Barred Owl	*Strix varia*				
Long-eared Owl	*Asio otus*			Yes	
Short-eared Owl	*Asio flammeus*				Yes
Northern Saw-whet Owl	*Aegolius acadicus*		I		
Caprimulgidae (Nightjars and Allies)					
Common Nighthawk	*Chordeiles minor*				
Chuck-will's-widow	*Antrostomus carolinensis*				
Eastern Whip-poor-will	*Antrostomus vociferus*		III	Yes	Yes
Apodidae (Swifts)					
Chimney Swift	*Chaetura pelagica*		IV		
Trochilidae (Hummingbirds)					
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	*Archilochus colubris*				
Alcedinidae (Kingfishers)					
Belted Kingfisher	*Megaceryle alcyon*		III		
Picidae (Woodpeckers)					
Red-headed Woodpecker	*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*			Yes	Yes
Red-bellied Woodpecker	*Melanerpes carolinus*				
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	*Sphyrapicus varius*				
Downy Woodpecker	*Picoides pubescens*				
Hairy Woodpecker	*Picoides villosus*				
Northern Flicker	*Colaptes auratus*		IV		
Pileated Woodpecker	*Dryocopus pileatus*				

Biological Family		Status[1]	Tier[2]	Watch List[3]	BCC
Common Name	**Scientific Name**				
Falconidae (Falcons and Caracaras)					
American Kestrel	*Falco sparverius*				
Merlin	*Falco columbarius*				
Peregrine Falcon	*Falco peregrinus*	ST	I		Yes
Tyrannidae (Tyrant Flycatchers)					
Olive-sided Flycatcher	*Contopus cooperi*			Yes	
Eastern Wood-Pewee	*Contopus virens*		IV		
Acadian Flycatcher	*Empidonax virescens*				
Willow Flycatcher	*Empidonax traillii*				
Least Flycatcher	*Empidonax minimus*				
Eastern Phoebe	*Sayornis phoebe*				
Great Crested Flycatcher	*Myiarchus crinitus*				
Eastern Kingbird	*Tyrannus tyrannus*		IV		
Laniidae (Shrikes)					
Loggerhead Shrike[4]	*Lanius ludovicianus*	ST	I		Yes
Vireonidae (Vireos)					
White-eyed Vireo	*Vireo griseus*				
Yellow-throated Vireo	*Vireo flavifrons*				
Blue-headed Vireo	*Vireo solitarius*				
Philadelphia Vireo	*Vireo philadelphicus*				
Warbling Vireo	*Vireo gilvus*				
Red-eyed Vireo	*Vireo olivaceus*				
Corvidae (Crows and Jays)					
Blue Jay	*Cyanocitta cristata*				
American Crow	*Corvus brachyrhynchos*				
Fish Crow	*Corvus ossifragus*				
Alaudidae (Larks)					
Horned Lark	*Eremophila alpestris*				
Hirundinidae (Swallows)					
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*		IV		
Purple Martin	*Progne subis*				
Tree Swallow	*Tachycineta bicolor*				
Bank Swallow	*Riparia riparia*		III		
Barn Swallow	*Hirundo rustica*				
Cliff Swallow	*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*				
Cave Swallow	*Petrochelidon fulva*				
Paridae (Chickadees, and Titmice)					
Carolina Chickadee	*Poecile carolinensis*				
Tufted Titmouse	*Baeolophus bicolor*				

Biological Family		Status[1]	Tier[2]	Watch List[3]	BCC
Common Name	**Scientific Name**				
Sittidae (Nuthatches)					
Red-breasted Nuthatch	*Sitta canadensis*				
White-breasted Nuthatch	*Sitta carolinensis*				
Brown-headed Nuthatch	*Sitta pusilla*				Yes
Certhiidae (Treecreepers)					
Brown Creeper	*Certhia americana*				
Troglodytidae (Wrens)					
House Wren	*Troglodytes aedon*				
Winter Wren	*Troglodytes hiemalis*				
Sedge Wren	*Cistothorus platensis*				Yes
Marsh Wren	*Cistothorus palustris*		IV		
Carolina Wren	*Thryothorus ludovicianus*				
Polioptilidae (Gnatcatchers)					
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	*Polioptila caerulea*				
Regulidae (Kinglets)					
Golden-crowned Kinglet	*Regulus satrapa*				
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	*Regulus calendula*				
Turdidae (Thrushes and Allies)					
Eastern Bluebird	*Sialia sialis*				
Veery	*Catharus fuscescens*				
Gray-cheeked Thrush	*Catharus minimus*				
Swainson's Thrush	*Catharus ustulatus*				
Hermit Thrush	*Catharus guttatus*				
Wood Thrush	*Hylocichla mustelina*		IV	Yes	Yes
American Robin	*Turdus migratorius*				
Mimidae (Mockingbirds and Thrashers)					
Gray Catbird	*Dumetella carolinensis*		IV		
Brown Thrasher	*Toxostoma rufum*		IV		
Northern Mockingbird	*Mimus polyglottos*				
Sturnidae (Starlings)					
European Starling	*Sturnus vulgaris*				
Motacillidae (Pipits)					
American Pipit	*Anthus rubescens*				
Bombycillidae (Waxwings)					
Cedar Waxwing	*Bombycilla cedrorum*				
Calcariidae (Longspurs and Snow Buntings)					
Lapland Longspur	*Calcarius lapponicus*				
Snow Bunting	*Plectrophenax nivalis*				

Biological Family		Status[1]	Tier[2]	Watch List[3]	BCC
Common Name	**Scientific Name**				
Parulidae (New World Warblers)					
Ovenbird	*Seiurus aurocapilla*				
Worm-eating Warbler	*Helmitheros vermivorum*				Yes
Louisiana Waterthrush	*Parkesia motacilla*				
Northern Waterthrush	*Parkesia noveboracensis*				
Golden-winged Warbler	*Vermivora chrysoptera*			Yes	Yes
Blue-winged Warbler	*Vermivora cyanoptera*				Yes
Black-and-white Warbler	*Mniotilta varia*		IV		
Prothonotary Warbler	*Protonotaria citrea*			Yes	
Tennessee Warbler	*Oreothlypis peregrina*				
Orange-crowned Warbler	*Oreothlypis celata*				
Nashville Warbler	*Oreothlypis ruficapilla*				
Connecticut Warbler	*Oporornis agilis*			Yes	
Kentucky Warbler	*Geothlypis formosa*		III	Yes	Yes
Common Yellowthroat	*Geothlypis trichas*				
Hooded Warbler	*Setophaga citrina*				
American Redstart	*Setophaga ruticilla*				
Cape May Warbler	*Setophaga tigrina*			Yes	
Cerulean Warbler[3]	*Setophaga cerulea*		II	Yes	Yes
Northern Parula	*Setophaga americana*				
Magnolia Warbler	*Setophaga magnolia*				
Bay-breasted Warbler	*Setophaga castanea*				
Blackburnian Warbler	*Setophaga fusca*				
Yellow Warbler	*Setophaga petechia*				
Chestnut-sided Warbler	*Setophaga pensylvanica*				
Blackpoll Warbler	*Setophaga striata*				
Black-throated Blue Warbler	*Setophaga caerulescens*				
Palm Warbler	*Setophaga palmarum*				
Pine Warbler	*Setophaga pinus*				
Yellow-rumped Warbler	*Setophaga coronata*				
Yellow-throated Warbler	*Setophaga dominica*				
Prairie Warbler	*Setophaga discolor*			Yes	Yes
Black-throated Green Warbler	*Setophaga virens*				
Canada Warbler	*Cardellina canadensis*		IV	Yes	
Wilson's Warbler	*Cardellina pusilla*				
Yellow-breasted Chat	*Icteria virens*		IV		
Emberizidae (New World Sparrows)					
Grasshopper Sparrow	*Ammodramus savannarum*		IV		
Henslow's Sparrow	*Ammodramus henslowii*	ST	I	Yes	Yes

Biological Family		Status[1]	Tier[2]	Watch List[3]	BCC
Common Name	**Scientific Name**				
Nelson's Sparrow	*Ammodramus nelsoni*		III	Yes	Yes
Saltmarsh Sparrow	*Ammodramus caudacutus*		III	Yes	Yes
Seaside Sparrow	*Ammodramus maritimus*		IV	Yes	Yes
American Tree Sparrow	*Spizelloides arborea*				
Chipping Sparrow	*Spizella passerina*				
Field Sparrow	*Spizella pusilla*		IV		
Fox Sparrow	*Passerella iliaca*				
Dark-eyed Junco	*Junco hyemalis*				
White-crowned Sparrow	*Zonotrichia leucophrys*				
White-throated Sparrow	*Zonotrichia albicollis*				
Vesper Sparrow	*Pooecetes gramineus*				
Savannah Sparrow	*Passerculus sandwichensis*				
Song Sparrow	*Melospiza melodia*				
Lincoln's Sparrow	*Melospiza lincolnii*				
Swamp Sparrow	*Melospiza georgiana*				
Eastern Towhee	*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*		IV		
Cardinalidae (Cardinals and Allies)					
Summer Tanager	*Piranga rubra*				
Scarlet Tanager	*Piranga olivacea*				
Northern Cardinal	*Cardinalis cardinalis*				
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	*Pheucticus ludovicianus*				
Blue Grosbeak	*Passerina caerulea*				
Indigo Bunting	*Passerina cyanea*				
Dickcissel	*Spiza americana*				
Icteridae (Troupials and Allies)					
Bobolink	*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*			Yes	
Red-winged Blackbird	*Agelaius phoeniceus*				
Eastern Meadowlark	*Sturnella magna*		IV		
Rusty Blackbird	*Euphagus carolinus*				Yes
Common Grackle	*Quiscalus quiscula*				
Boat-tailed Grackle	*Quiscalus major*				
Brown-headed Cowbird	*Molothrus ater*				
Orchard Oriole	*Icterus spurius*				
Baltimore Oriole	*Icterus galbula*				
Fringillidae (Finches and Allies)					
House Finch	*Haemorhous mexicanus*				
Purple Finch	*Haemorhous purpureus*				
Red Crossbill	*Loxia curvirostra*		III		
White-winged Crossbill	*Loxia leucoptera*				

Biological Family		Status[1]	Tier[2]	Watch List[3]	BCC
Common Name	**Scientific Name**				
Common Redpoll	*Acanthis flammea*				
Pine Siskin	*Spinus pinus*				
American Goldfinch	*Spinus tristis*				
Passeridae (Old World Sparrows)					
House Sparrow	*Passer domesticus*				

[1]FE=Federal Endangered; FT=Federal Threatened; SE=State Endangered; ST=State Threatened; FP=Federal Proposed; FC=Federal Candidate; CC=Collection Concern

[2]I=VA Wildlife Action Plan - Tier I - Critical Conservation Need; II=VA Wildlife Action Plan - Tier II - Very High Conservation Need; III=VA Wildlife Action Plan - Tier III - High Conservation Need; IV=VA Wildlife Action Plan - Tier IV - Moderate Conservation Need. Birds on this list not necessarily special-status species.

[3]North American Bird Conservation Initiative 2016. Birds on this list not necessarily special-status species.

[4]Not recorded in Accomack County in eBird through January 2017

*Birds that could be considered vagrants to the mid-Atlantic (e.g., that do not normally occur there, such as those from the western US, or Europe) and truly pelagic species (e.g., bird that do not normally forage within sight of shore) are excluded from this list. Bird ranges based on range maps in Rodewald (2015).

Table C-2: Landbird Species Expected to Overlap with the Alternative Sites Evaluated in the EA

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Table C-2: Landbird Species Expected to Overlap with the Alternative Sites Evaluated in the EA (Adapted from Appendix 5 from Paxton and Wilson 2015)

Common Name	Species/subspecies	B[1]	W[1]	M[1]	Conservation Concern[2]	Population Exposure[3]	Population Vulnerability
Acadian Flycatcher	*Empidonax virescens*			x		High	Low
Alder Flycatcher	*Empidonax alnorum*			x		High	Low
American Crow	*Corvus brachyrhynchos*	x	x	x		High	Low
American Goldfinch	*Spinus tristis*	x	x	x		High	Low
American Redstart	*Setophaga ruticilla*			x		High	Moderate-High
American Robin	*Turdus migratorius*	x	x	x		High	Low
American Tree Sparrow	*Spizelloides arborea*		x	x		High	Low
Baltimore Oriole	*Icterus galbula*			x		High	Low
Bank Swallow	*Riparia riparia*			x		High	Low
Barn Swallow	*Hirundo rustica*	x		x		High	Low
Bay-breasted Warbler	*Setophaga castanea*			x	14	High	Low
Belted Kingfisher	*Megaceryle alcyon*	x	x	x		High	Low
Bicknell's Thrush	*Catharus bicknelli*			x	14	High	High
Black-and-white Warbler	*Mniotilta varia*			x		High	Low
Black-billed Cuckoo	*Coccyzus erythropthalmus*			x		High	Low
Blackburnian Warbler	*Setophaga fusca*			x		High	Low
Blackpoll Warbler	*Setophaga striata*			x		High	Low
Black-throated Blue Warbler	*Setophaga caerulescens*			x		High	Moderate-High
Black-throated Green Warbler	*Setophaga virens*			x		High	Low
Blue Grosbeak	*Passerina caerulea*	x		x		High	Low
Blue Jay	*Cyanocitta cristata*	x	x	x		High	Low
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	*Polioptila caerulea*	x		x		High	Low

Common Name	Species/subspecies	B[1]	W[1]	M[1]	Conservation Concern[2]	Population Exposure[3]	Population Vulnerability
Blue-headed Vireo	*Vireo solitarius*			x		High	Low
Blue-winged Warbler	*Vermivora cyanoptera*			x	14, 28, 29, 30	High	High
Boat-tailed Grackle	*Quiscalus major*		x			High	Low
Bobolink	*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*			x		High	Low
Brown Creeper	*Certhia americana*		x	x		High	Low
Brown Thrasher	*Toxostoma rufum*	x	x	x		High	Low
Brown-headed Cowbird	*Molothrus ater*	x		x		High	Low
Brown-headed Nuthatch	*Sitta pusilla*	x	x		29	Low	Low
Canada Warbler	*Cardellina canadensis*			x	14, 28	High	Low
Cape May Warbler	*Setophaga tigrina*			x		High	Low
Carolina Chickadee	*Poecile carolinensis*	x	x			Low	Low
Carolina Wren	*Thryothorus ludovicianus*	x	x			Low	Low
Cedar Waxwing	*Bombycilla cedrorum*	x	x	x		High	Low
Cerulean Warbler	*Setophaga cerulea*			x	28, 29, 30	High	Low
Chestnut-sided Warbler	*Setophaga pensylvanica*			x		High	Low
Chimney Swift	*Chaetura pelagica*			x		High	Low
Chipping Sparrow	*Spizella passerina*	x	x	x		High	Low
Chuck-will's-widow	*Antrostomus carolinensis*	x		x	30	High	High
Cliff Swallow	*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*			x		High	Low
Coastal Plain Swamp Sparrow	*Melospiza georgiana nicgrescens*		x	x	30	High	High
Common Grackle	*Quiscalus quiscula*	x	x	x		High	Low
Common Nighthawk	*Chordeiles minor*	x		x		High	Low
Common Redpoll	*Acanthis flammea*			x		Low	Low
Common Yellowthroat	*Geothlypis trichas*	x	x	x		High	Low
Connecticut Warbler	*Oporornis agilis*			x		High	Low

Common Name	Species/subspecies	B[1]	W[1]	M[1]	Conservation Concern[2]	Population Exposure[3]	Population Vulnerability
Dark-eyed Junco	*Junco hyemalis*		x	x		High	Low
Dickcissel	*Spiza americana*			x		Low	Low
Downy Woodpecker	*Picoides pubescens*	x	x			Low	Low
Eastern Bluebird	*Sialia sialis*	x	x	x		High	Low
Eastern Kingbird	*Tyrannus tyrannus*	x		x		High	Low
Eastern Meadowlark	*Sturnella magna*	x	x			High	Low
Eastern Phoebe	*Sayornis phoebe*	x	x	x		High	Low
Eastern Towhee	*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*		x			Low	Low
Eastern Whip-poor-will	*Antrostomus vociferus*			x	29, 30	High	Low
Eastern Wood-Pewee	*Contopus virens*	x		x		High	Low
European Starling	*Sturnus vulgaris*	x	x	x		Low	Low
Evening Grosbeak	*Coccothraustes vespertinus*			x		Low	Low
Field Sparrow	*Spizella pusilla*	x	x	x		High	Low
Fish Crow	*Corvus ossifragus*	x	x	x		High	Low
Fox Sparrow	*Passerella iliaca*		x	x		High	Low
Golden-crowned Kinglet	*Regulus satrapa*		x	x		High	Low
Golden-winged Warbler	*Vermivora chrysoptera*			x	28, 30	High	High
Grasshopper Sparrow	*Ammodramus savannarum*			x		High	Low
Gray Catbird	*Dumetella carolinensis*	x	x	x		High	Low
Gray-cheeked Thrush	*Catharus minimus*			x		High	Low
Hairy Woodpecker	*Picoides villosus*	x	x			Low	Low
Henslow's Sparrow	*Ammodramus henslowii*	x	x	x	28, 29	High	High
Hermit Thrush	*Catharus guttatus*			x		High	Low
Hooded Warbler	*Setophaga citrina*			x		High	Low
Horned Lark	*Eremophila alpestris*	x	x	x		High	Low
House Finch	*Haemorhous mexicanus*		x			Low	Low

Common Name	Species/subspecies	B[1]	W[1]	M[1]	Conservation Concern[2]	Population Exposure[3]	Population Vulnerability
House Sparrow	*Passer domesticus*	x	x			Low	Low
House Wren	*Troglodytes aedon*	x		x		High	Low
Indigo Bunting	*Passerina cyanea*	x		x		High	Low
Ipswich Sparrow	*Passerculus sandwichensis princepeps*		x	x		High	High
Kentucky Warbler	*Geothlypis formosa*			x	28, 29, 30	High	Moderate-High
Kirtland's Warbler	*Setophaga kirtlandii*			x		Low	Low
Le Conte's Sparrow	*Ammodramus leconteii*			x		High	Low
Least Flycatcher	*Empidonax minimus*			x		High	Low
Loggerhead Shrike	*Lanius ludovicianus*		x	x	7, 29, 30	Low	High
Louisiana Waterthrush	*Parkesia motacilla*			x	28	High	Moderate-High
Magnolia Warbler	*Setophaga magnolia*			x		High	Low
Marsh Wren	*Cistothorus palustris*	x	x	x		High	Low
Mourning Dove	*Zenaida macroura*	x	x	x		High	Low
Mourning Warbler	*Geothlypis philadelphia*			x		High	Low
Nashville Warbler	*Oreothlypis ruficapilla*			x		High	Low
Nelson's Sparrow	*Ammodramus nelsoni*		x	x	14, 30	High	Low
Northern Bobwhite	*Colinus virginianus*	x	x			Low	Low
Northern Cardinal	*Cardinalis cardinalis*	x	x			Low	Low
Northern Flicker	*Colaptes auratus*	x	x	x		High	Low
Northern Mockingbird	*Mimus polyglottos*	x	x			Low	Low
Northern Parula	*Setophaga americana*			x		High	Low
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*			x		High	Low
Northern Waterthrush	*Parkesia noveboracensis*			x	30	High	Low
Olive-sided Flycatcher	*Contopus cooperi*			x		Low	Low
Orange-crowned Warbler	*Oreothlypis celata*		x	x		High	Low

Common Name	Species/subspecies	B[1]	W[1]	M[1]	Conservation Concern[2]	Population Exposure[3]	Population Vulnerability
Orchard Oriole	*Icterus spurius*	x		x		High	Low
Ovenbird	*Seiurus aurocapilla*			x		High	Low
Painted Bunting	*Passerina ciris*			x		Low	Low
Palm Warbler	*Setophaga palmarum*		x	x		High	Low
Philadelphia Vireo	*Vireo philadelphicus*			x		High	Low
Pileated Woodpecker	*Dryocopus pileatus*	x	x			Low	Low
Pine Siskin	*Spinus pinus*		x	x		Low	Low
Pine Warbler	*Setophaga pinus*	x	x	x		High	Low
Prairie Warbler	*Setophaga discolor*	x		x	28, 29, 30	High	Low
Prothonotary Warbler	*Protonotaria citrea*			x		High	Low
Purple Finch	*Haemorhous purpureus*		x	x		High	Low
Purple Martin	*Progne subis*	x	x	x		High	Low
Red Crossbill	*Loxia curvirostra*			x	28	Low	Low
Red-bellied Woodpecker	*Melanerpes carolinus*	x	x			Low	Low
Red-breasted Nuthatch	*Sitta canadensis*		x	x		High	Low
Red-eyed Vireo	*Vireo olivaceus*	x		x		High	Low
Red-headed Woodpecker	*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*	x	x	x	28, 30	High	Low
Red-winged Blackbird	*Agelaius phoeniceus*	x	x	x		Low	Low
Rock Pigeon	*Columba livia*		x			High	Low
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	*Pheucticus ludovicianus*			x		Low	Low
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	*Regulus calendula*		x	x		High	Low
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	*Archilochus colubris*			x		High	Low
Rusty Blackbird	*Euphagus carolinus*		x	x	14, 28, 29, 30	High	Low
Saltmarsh Sparrow	*Ammodramus caudacutus*	x	x	x	14, 30	High	Low
Savannah Sparrow	*Passerculus sandwichensis*		x	x		High	Low

Common Name	Species/subspecies	B[1]	W[1]	M[1]	Conservation Concern[2]	Population Exposure[3]	Population Vulnerability
Scarlet Tanager	*Piranga olivacea*			x		High	Low
Seaside Sparrow	*Ammodramus maritimus*	x	x	x	30	High	Low
Sedge Wren	*Cistothorus platensis*	x	x	x	28, 29, 30	High	Low
Song Sparrow	*Melospiza melodia*	x	x	x		High	Low
Summer Tanager	*Piranga rubra*	x		x		High	Low
Swainson's Thrush	*Catharus ustulatus*			x		High	Low
Swainson's Warbler	*Limnothlypis swainsonii*			x	28, 29	High	Low
Swamp Sparrow	*Melospiza georgiana*		x	x		High	Low
Tennessee Warbler	*Oreothlypis peregrina*			x		High	Low
Tree Swallow	*Tachycineta bicolor*	x		x		High	Low
Tufted Titmouse	*Baeolophus bicolor*	x	x			Low	Low
Veery	*Catharus fuscescens*			x		High	Low
Vesper Sparrow	*Pooecetes gramineus*		x	x		High	Low
Warbling Vireo	*Vireo gilvus*			x		High	Low
White-breasted Nuthatch	*Sitta carolinensis*	x	x			Low	Low
White-eyed Vireo	*Vireo griseus*	x		x		High	Low
White-throated Sparrow	*Zonotrichia albicollis*		x	x		High	Low
White-winged Crossbill	*Loxia leucoptera*			x		Low	Low
Wild Turkey	*Meleagris gallopavo*	x	x			Low	Low
Willow Flycatcher	*Empidonax traillii*	x		x		High	Low
Wilson's Warbler	*Cardellina pusilla*			x		High	Low
Winter Wren	*Troglodytes hiemalis*		x	x		High	Low
Wood Thrush	*Hylocichla mustelina*	x		x	14, 28, 29, 30	High	High
Worm-eating Warbler	*Helmitheros vermivorum*			x	28, 30	High	Moderate-High
Yellow Warbler	*Setophaga petechia*			x		High	Low
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	*Empidonax flaviventris*			x		High	Low

Common Name	Species/subspecies	B[1]	W[1]	M[1]	Conservation Concern[2]	Population Exposure[3]	Population Vulnerability
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	*Sphyrapicus varius*		x	x		High	Low
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	*Coccyzus americanus*	x		x		High	Low
Yellow-breasted Chat	*Icteria virens*	x		x		High	Low
Yellow-rumped Warbler	*Setophaga coronata*		x	x		High	Low
Yellow-throated Vireo	*Vireo flavifrons*			x		High	Low
Yellow-throated Warbler	*Setophaga dominica*	x		x		High	Low

[1] B = breeding, W = winter, M = migration

[2] Bird Conservation Regions: 7 = Taiga Shield and Hudson Plains, 14 = North Atlantic Forest, 28 = Appalachian Mountains, 29 = Piedmont, 30 = Mid-Atlantic Coastal Plain

[3] Population exposure indicates the relative level a population is expected to overlap with the proposed sites and population vulnerability indicates the level in which a population may respond negatively to a demographic disturbance.

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Table C-3: Collision and Population Risk Assessment for All Threatened, Endangered and Species of Special Concern in the North American Bird Conservation Initiative's (NABCI) Bird Conservation Region (BCR) 30 New England/Mid-Atlantic Coast

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Table C-3: Collision and Population Risk Assessment for All Threatened, Endangered and Species of Special Concern in the North American Bird Conservation Initiative's (NABCI) Bird Conservation Region (BCR) 30 New England/Mid-Atlantic Coast
(Adapted from Appendix 4 from Paxton and Wilson 2015)

Common Name	Species/Subspecies (population)	Collision Risk	Population Risk	Specific Information for Risk Class
American Bittern	*Botaurus lentiginosus*	Medium	Low	Very little information. Ungraceful flight. Often active at night. Likely uses rivers and coats lines for migration routes. Broad range across North America. Likely migrates over a broad range. Typically uses fresh water habitats but occasionally uses brackish coastal marshes. Lowther 2009
American Oystercatcher	*Haematopus palliatus*	High	Medium	Form large tight flocks. Immediate vicinity is and important breeding, stopover, and wintering site. 525 breeding pairs on the seaside of Virginia in 2005. 3,600 wintering individuals counted in December, 2015. Populations from the northern Atlantic breeding range by bypass the mid-Atlantic to winter on the northwest coast of Florida. Migrant populations from the mid-Atlantic that winter on the southeast Atlantic and Florida gulf coast use a coastal migratory route. Nol and Humphrey 2012, Watts 2006, Wilke 2015
Audubon's Shearwater	*Puffinus lherminieri*	Low	Low	Pelagic species. Very uncommon on the coast. eBird 2012

Common Name	Species/Subspecies (population)	Collision Risk	Population Risk	Specific Information for Risk Class
Bald Eagle	*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*	Low	Low	Five nests located on island and the peninsula within 10km of the hazard during the last comprehensive survey in 2011. Two small roosts located on the peninsula within 10km of the hazard. Complex migration pattern. Maximum season total for Kiptopeke Hawkwatch is 462 south bound migrants in 2009. Diurnal migrant. Buehler 2000, CCB Mapping Portal 2015, HMANA Hawkcount.org 2015
Black Rail	*Laterallus jamaicensis*	High	High	High load/low aspect wings. Known to strike towers and other objects. Migrates at night. Coastal populations have declined dramatically. One of the most imperiled bird species on the Atlantic coast. Little migration information. Tower kills indicate a broad migration front. If migration is concentrated along the coast a significant portion of the population could be exposed to this hazard. Eddleman 1994, Wilson et al 2015
Black Skimmer	*Rynchops niger niger*	High	Medium	Often forages at night. Migrates in flocks along the coast and offshore. Breeds in the immediate vicinity of this hazard (1135 pairs on the seaside of Virginia in 2013). With many breeding populations to the south of Virginia, a moderate proportion of the North American population could be exposed to this hazard. Gochfeld and Burger 1994, Watts and Paxton 2014
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	*Tryngites subruficollis*	Low	Low	Most migration occurs through the central part of the continent. Small numbers may move east towards the Atlantic coast during fall migration. Mainly associated with short grass pastures and damp margins of freshwater bodies. Not typically associated with beaches or saltmarshes. Lancton and Laredo 1994, eBird 2012

Common Name	Species/Subspecies (population)	Collision Risk	Population Risk	Specific Information for Risk Class
Greater Shearwater	*Puffinus gravis*	Low	Low	Pelagic species. Very uncommon on the coast. eBird 2012
Gull-billed Tern	*Gelochelidon nilotica aranea*	Medium	Low	Agile flyers with high aspect/low loading wings. Breeds in the immediate vicinity of this hazard (255 pairs on the seaside of Virginia in 2013). Virginia is near the northern limit of the breeding range. With most breeding populations to the south of Virginia, a relative small proportion of the North American population could be exposed to this hazard. Bevanger 1998, Molina et al 2014, Raynor 1988, Watts and Paxton 2014
Horned Grebe	*Podiceps auritus cornutus*	Medium	Low	Migrates at night in flocks. High load/High aspect wings. Migrates over a broad front across the continent. Migrates and winters in moderate number in the immediate vicinity (recent reports of hundreds of individual wintering near Chincoteague NWR). Relative small portion of the North American population would be exposed to this hazard. Bevanger 1998, Raynor 1988, Stedman 2000, eBird 2012
Hudsonian Godwit	*Limosa Haemastica (James Bay)*	Low	Low	Most individual migrate non-stop from James Bay to South America. Not a species commonly found in Virginia. Walker et al 2011, eBird 2012
Least Bittern	*Ixobrychus exilis exilis*	High	Medium	Little information. Low ungraceful flight. Known to strike fences, and power lines. Often active at night. Most of the breeding range is associated with the Mississippi Valley. Low density breeding population in the east. May use brackish marshes more frequently that American bittern. With much of the breeding populations to the west of Virginia, a moderate proportion of the North. American population could be exposed to this hazard. Poole 2009

Common Name	Species/Subspecies (population)	Collision Risk	Population Risk	Specific Information for Risk Class
Least Tern	*Sternula antillarum antillarum*	Medium	Medium	Agile flyers with high aspect/low loading wings. Breeds in the immediate vicinity of this hazard (533 pairs on the seaside of Virginia in 2013). Coastal population uses Atlantic coast a migration route. Species often migrates over open water. With many breeding populations to the south and west of Virginia, a moderate proportion of the North American population could be exposed to this hazard. Bevanger 1998, Thompson et al 1997, Raynor 1988, Watts and Paxton 2014
Lesser Yellowlegs	*Tringa flavipes*	Medium	Low	Broad migration front. Primary migration corridors are within the middle of the continent. Most common on the Atlantic coast during fall migration. Fall migrants often make short flight south to stopover areas along Atlantic coast. Nocturnal migrant. Forms small tight flocks. Tibbitts and Moskogg 2014
Marbled Godwit	*Limosa fedoa fedoa* (James Bay)	Medium	High	Small population of James Bay subspecies of about 2000 individuals. Little known about migration for this small population. Likely similar to other James/Hudson bay population, using mid-Atlantic as a terminal stopover area. Winter in small numbers along the coast in Virginia, more common to the south. Gratto-Trevor 2000

Common Name	Species/Subspecies (population)	Collision Risk	Population Risk	Specific Information for Risk Class
Peregrine Falcon	*Falco peregrinus*	Low	Medium	Ten active nest located the seaside of Virginia in 2015, including one associated with Wallops Island. Widespread migration. Clearly defined migratory route along the barrier islands. Maximum season total for Kiptopeke Hawkwatch is 1640 south bound migrants in 1997. Significant proportion of the *tundrius* and eastern *anatum* populations are likely to migrate down the Atlantic coast. Known to strike building and wires, recently fledged young are particularly susceptible. Diurnal Migrant. HMANA Hawkcount.org 2015, Watts and Mojica 2015, White et al 2002
Pied-billed Grebe	*Podilymbus podiceps podiceps*	High	Low	Migrates at night. High load/ Lower aspect than other grebes. Migrates over a broad front across the continent. Migrates and winters in low number in the immediate vicinity. Relative small portion of the North American population would be exposed to this hazard. Known to strike towers, and light houses. Bevanger 1998, Muller and Storer 1999, Raynor 1988, eBird 2012
Piping Plover	*Charadrius melodus melodus*	Medium	High	Federally threatened. Breeds in the immediate vicinity of this hazard (151 pairs on the seaside of Virginia in 2005). Can form large migratory flocks. Uses the Atlantic coast as a migratory route in both spring and fall. Often make short flights to multiple stopover areas along the Atlantic coast during migration. Utilizes a variety of beach habitats. Excellent vision and will forage at night, especially during the pre-nesting and fledging stages of breeding. While localized during breeding season, migrating piping plover populations in Virginia and to the north be could be exposed to this hazard. Elliott-Smith and Haig 2004, Staine and Burger 1994, Watts 2006

Common Name	Species/Subspecies (population)	Collision Risk	Population Risk	Specific Information for Risk Class
Purple Sandpiper	*Calidris maritima belcheri*	High	Low	Migrate in large tight flocks. Known to strike power lines. May become confused by bright lights and inclement weather. Winters mainly to the north of Virginia. The small portion of the population that winters in Virginia and to the south may use Atlantic coast as a migratory route. Payne and Pierce 2002
Red Knot	*Calidris canutus rufa*	High	High	Federally threatened. Migration can occur at night. Can form flocks larger than other shorebird species. Uses immediate vicinity as a stopover area (direct use by up to 30% of the rufa population). Flights between Delaware Bay and Virginia barrier islands documented during stopover. Forages at night during stopover. Uses mid-Atlantic region as a terminally stopover area prior to migrating to the breeding area. Utilizes outer beach as foraging habitat. Baker et al 2013, Cohen 2009, Watts 2006, Watts and Truitt 2015
Red-throated Loon	*Gavia stellata*	Low	Medium	Migrates in flocks. Major migration route down the Atlantic coast, with single day counts of over 8,000 individuals in Virginia. Moderate proportion of the North American population could be exposed to this hazard. Typically migrates over open water, reducing exposure to this hazard. Barr et al 2000, National Audubon Society 2010, eBird 2012
Semipalmated Sandpiper	*Calidris pusilla*	High	Low	Migrates along the Atlantic coast and interior continental US. Nocturnal migration. Greater numbers of individual along the Atlantic coast in the spring. Can form very large flocks. Peak numbers in the mid-Atlantic can reach 115,000 in Delaware Bay. Lower numbers use immediate vicinity as a stopover area. Migration orientation can be confused during inclement weather. Hicklin and Gratto-Trevor 2010, Watts 2006

Common Name	Species/Subspecies (population)	Collision Risk	Population Risk	Specific Information for Risk Class
Short-billed Dowitcher	*Limnodromus griseus griseus* (Hudson Bay)	High	High	Day and night time migration in large flocks. Migrates in calm and inclement weather. Atlantic coast migration route. Uses immediate vicinity as a stopover area (projected use by 46,000 individuals). Nocturnal foraging. Uses mid-Atlantic region as a terminally stopover area prior to migrating to the breeding area. A significant portion of the Hudson Bay population could be exposed to this hazard. Jehl 2001, Watts 2006
Short-eared Owl	*Asio flammeus*	Low	Low	Broad range. Little migration data. Occasionally winters on barrier islands, probably annually in very low numbers. Wiggins et al 2006, eBird 2012
Snowy Egret	*Egretta thula thula*	High	Low	Active at night. Nocturnal migration documented. Heron species document as being susceptible to line strikes. North Atlantic coast breeding populations migratory. Breeds in the immediate vicinity of this hazard (755 pairs on the seaside of Virginia in 2013). Much of the North American breeding populations to the south and west of Virginia, a relative small proportion of the North American population could be exposed to this hazard. APLIC 2006, Parsons and Masters 2000, Watts and Paxton 2014
Solitary Sandpiper	*Tringa solitaria solitaria*	Low	Low	Nocturnal migrant. Forms small flocks. Broad migration front. Small numbers may follow Atlantic coast. Mainly associated with freshwater habitats. Moskoff 2011
Upland Sandpiper	*Bartramia longicauda*	Low	Low	Most migration occurs through the Great Plains. Grassland species not associated with coastal habitats. Houston et al 2011

Common Name	Species/Subspecies (population)	Collision Risk	Population Risk	Specific Information for Risk Class
Whimbrel	*Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus*	High	High	Form large migratory flocks. Nocturnal migration. Uses immediate vicinity as a stopover area (projected use by up to 40,000 individuals). Forages at night during stopover. Major proportion of the James/Hudson Bay population use the mid-Atlantic region as a terminally stopover area prior to migrating to the breeding area. Skeel and Mallory 1996, Smith et al 2011, Watts 2006
Wilson's Plover	*Charadrius wilsonia*	Low	Low	Virginia is at the northern edge of the breeding range. Small population breeds in the immediate vicinity of this hazard (24 pairs on the seaside of Virginia in 2005). Utilizes a variety of beach habitats. Excellent vision and will forage at night. Corbat and Bergstrom 2000, Watts 2006

Assessment of Potential Impacts to Avian Species from a Proposed 750-foot Guyed Tower
(Paxton and Wilson 2015)

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Assessment of potential impacts to avian species from a proposed 750 foot guyed tower at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center's Wallops Flight Facility on Wallops Island, Virginia

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The Center for Conservation Biology is an organization dedicated to discovering innovative solutions to environmental problems that are both scientifically sound and practical within today's social context. Our philosophy has been to use a general systems approach to locate critical information needs and to plot a deliberate course of action to reach what we believe are essential information endpoints.

Summary and Conclusions

- NASA has proposed A 750 foot guyed instrumentation tower to be constructed on Wallops Island, VA at one of two locations.

- Wallops Island is embedded within a critical location along the Atlantic Flyway that supports millions of avian species annually, many of which are of conservation concern. Since this tower has the potential to act as a collision hazard for birds, NASA has requested a synthesis of existing information on the species exposure and relative vulnerability to the proposed construction.

- The proposed tower site and its alternative are relatively identical with respect to location from shoreline or other natural habitats use by birds and are only separated by 2,300 feet. There is no indication from known information that one site or the other poses any greater or lesser risk to collision by birds.

- While the construction of an instrumentation tower on Wallops Island may result in bird mortality collisions, a central question from a population perspective, is not how many individuals would be killed annually but if the focal population would be able to sustain the mortality incurred and still reach conservation and management objectives.

- Information required to make a full assessment on an expected mortality rate from the proposed tower does not exist. Information required for this type of assessment would include full understanding of the distribution of migrant corridors, breeding populations, winter populations and the flight altitudes of many species. In many cases this is only possible through post-construction monitoring. Because this monitoring data does not exist, the best assessment, based on the information available, was undertaken to provide relative levels of risk based on characteristics of broad population overlap with the tower site and species flight and behavioral characteristics.

Introduction

In North America, current estimates of anthropogenic bird mortality total 1 billion birds annually (Banks 1979, Klem 1990, Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center 1997, Manville 2005). In addition to millions killed by power line strikes, vehicle strikes, building strikes, and pesticides, it is estimated that 40-50 million bird deaths occur due to the striking of communication towers and the associated guy lines (Manville 2005). The majority of bird deaths from tower strikes are made up of passerines, due to their high population and large geographic range. However, other groups of birds may by at higher risk of strike due to their breeding, migration, flocking, and feeding habits in relation to tower sites as well as their morphological structure.

Based on current Federal Communications Commissions (2009) data, there are 113,000 towers equal to or greater than 299.9 feet in the United States. Of these towers, 1,800 reach a height of 655.5 ft or greater. Predictably, mortality increases with tower height and the presence of guy lines (Longcore et al., 2012). With the most frequent mortality events occurring when nocturnal passerine migrants are attracted by tower lights (Gauthreaux and Belser 2006).

The purpose of this report is to review current literature and assess, using the current level of understanding, the potential risk of population exposure and vulnerability for avian species to a proposed 750 foot guyed instrumentation tower at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center's Wallops Flight Facility in Wallops Island, Virginia.

The Proposed Wallops Instrumentation Tower Siting

Construction of a 750 foot tall, guyed, instrumentation tower has been proposed on Wallops Island, Accomack County, Virginia. The tower, as currently proposed, would be constructed on the barrier island between the Atlantic Ocean and the lagoon/saltmarsh complex. The remaining two viable locations for tower construction are located at approximately 37.84300, -75.47858 (Flagpole site) and 37.84793, -75.47374 (Pad 3 site) (figures 1 and 2). These two locations are essentially similar with respect to their positioning on the barrier island and separated by only 2,300 ft. Both sites would require tower guy lines that extend to, or very close to the existing beach. The two proposed sites are so similar that they would not be expected to vary in the relative collision risk to birds.

Potential Population Impacts for Birds Associated with the Wallops Instrumentation Tower

While the construction of an instrumentation tower on Wallops Island may result in bird mortality collisions, from a population perspective, the central question is not how many individuals are anticipated to be killed annually but if the focal population would be able to sustain the mortality incurred and still reach conservation and management objectives. If mortality becomes substantially greater than established limits then the population may be vulnerable to mortality-driven declines and further monitoring, analysis and possible management intervention would be needed to prevent declines. If mortality becomes substantially lower than established limits then it is unlikely that the mortality would be a dominant force in population trends.

Figure 1. Aerial view of remaining tower sites after NASA's site review process.

Figure 2. Three-dimensional rendering of potential tower sites. Guy wires depicted are worst-case and would likely be fewer per tower leg.

At the population level, probability of impact from a specific hazard is determined by the two independent factors 1) exposure and 2) vulnerability. Population exposure to a hazard is the extent to which the population is expected to interact with and be impacted by the hazard. Population vulnerability is the susceptibility of a population to perturbations in vital demographic rates. In the case of the Wallops Instrumentation tower, population exposure includes the extent to which the population spatially overlaps with the hazard and the conditional probability that if it overlaps with the hazard that it will be impacted by the hazard. If a population has no spatial overlap with the hazard, then the likelihood of impact is expected to be 0. There are little to no data available to determine a quantitative level of spatial overlap with the Wallops Instrumentation Tower. Moreover, there is less evidence to provide any indication how a species will be impacted by the Wallops Tower site even if the amount of spatial overlap is entirely known. Information required for this type of assessment would include a full understanding of the distribution of migrant corridors, breeding populations, winter populations and the flight altitudes of many species. Flight altitude is inherently difficult to study in nocturnal migrants without the use of sophisticated radar to determine heights of passing migrants. Because of this, it is impossible to provide explicit guidelines that predict the rate of bird collisions or population impacts that would ensue with the construction of the Wallops Instrumentation Tower at either proposed location. However, it is possible to provide

a summary of the populations that are anticipated to interact with the Wallops Tower and to provide a relative ranking of what populations would be more at risk due to any exposure to a newly constructed hazard. This overall assessment can be best achieved by providing more explicit details on populations of bird species included by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service on the list of Birds of Conservation Concern (USFWS 2008) that are expected to broadly overlap with the proposed Wallops Instrumentation Tower sites being proposed. The Birds of Conservation Concern list is an assessment of the species of greatest conservation need across each of the Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) based on factors of population trend, threats, distribution, abundance, and density.

Waterbird Description

The Virginia barrier island/lagoon system is a critical breeding, migration corridor, and stopover area for numerous waterbird species. The area supports 25-30% of the federally listed *rufa* subspecies of the red knot (*Calidris canutus*) during spring migration. In addition to the proportion of the population supported by the Virginia barrier islands, a much greater proportion of the *rufa* population passes through the Virginia barrier islands during spring migration on their way to the largest stopover area on the Atlantic Coast, Delaware Bay (Watts and Truitt 2015, Watts 2006). Recent telemetry and re-sight studies have shown movement of red knots between Delaware Bay and the Virginia barrier island during spring stopover (Cohen et al 2009). The region also supports nearly the entire Atlantic migrating population of whimbrels (*Numenius phaeopus husonicus*), with a projected 40,000 individuals using the Virginia barrier island/lagoon system in the spring. The population of whimbrels using the Virginia barrier island/lagoon system in the spring is a projection based on 10 aerial transects flown weekly in the springs of 1994-1996. It is believed that this site supports virtually all individuals moving along the Atlantic Coast in spring. The continental estimate for this species was derived from this set of aerial surveys (Watts 2006). Recent satellite tracking has shown that many whimbrels use the barrier island/lagoon system as a terminal staging area during both spring and fall migration to refuel prior to making direct flights to breeding and wintering grounds (Figure 3) (Smith et al 2011).

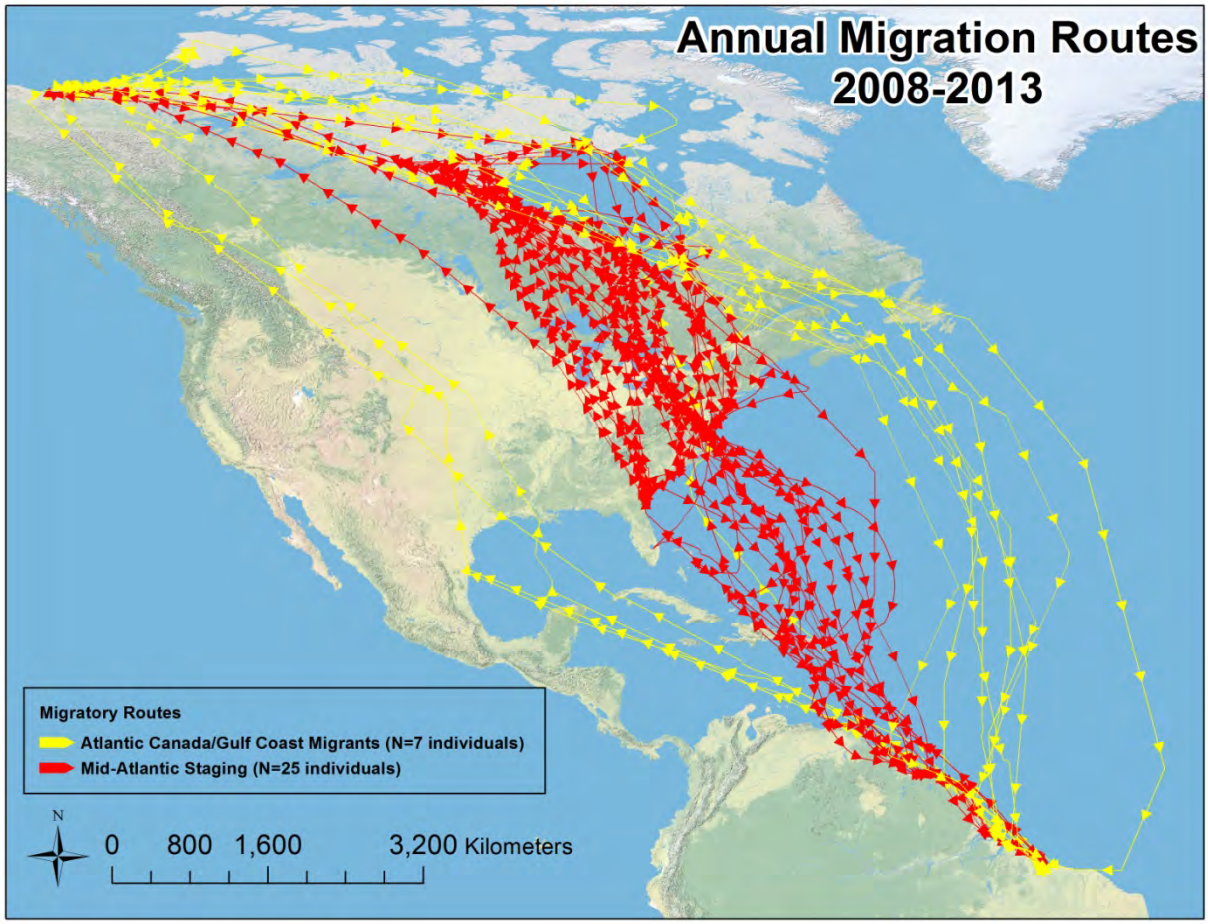

Figure 3. Annual migration routes of whimbrels equipped with satellite tracking units.

In addition to migration, the region is the most important breeding area for waterbirds and shorebirds in Virginia. The barrier island/lagoon system supports over 54% of all breeding colonial waterbirds in Virginia. Including 100% of the Virginia breeding population of white ibis and caspian terns, and over 75% of the Virginia breeding population of glossy ibis, snowy egret, tricolored heron, little blue heron, cattle egret, black-crowned night heron, herring gull, laughing gull, gull-billed tern, and black skimmer (Watts and Paxton 2014). The barrier island/lagoon system supports 100% of the Virginia breeding population of Wilson's plovers and the federally listed piping plover, and 90% of the Virginia breeding population of American oystercatchers (Watts 2006).

The coastal habitats immediately adjacent to the proposed tower site are utilized by numerous birds of multiple species at all times of the year (Table 1). Within 15km of the proposed tower site, there are over 20,000 colonial water bird nests comprised of 16 different species (Watts and Paxton 2014). Red knots, a federally threatened species, use the area as a staging during migration, especially during the spring (Cohen et. al. 2009). Multiple pairs of

piping plovers, a federally threatened species, nest in close proximity to the proposed tower site (Boettcher et. al. 2007)

Species specific data is listed it the following appendices:

Appendix 1: List of all species of waterbirds that regularly occur near the proposed tower site during the winter, breeding or migration seasons. Each species is designated if it falls into the categories of wing/body morphology, fast flight characteristics, flocking habits, nocturnal movements, and high population near hazards that may make the species more susceptible to collisions.

Appendix 2: List of all species of raptors that regularly occur near the proposed tower site during the winter, breeding or migration seasons are listed. Each species is designated if it falls into the categories of wing/body morphology, fast flight characteristics, flocking habits, nocturnal movements, and high population near hazards that may make the species more susceptible to collisions.

Appendix 3: Population estimates for all threatened, endangered and species of special concern in the North American Bird Conservation Initiative's (NABCI) Bird Conservation Region (BCR) 30 New England/Mid-Atlantic Coast (Watts 2010).\

Appendix 4: Collision and population risk assessment for all threatened, endangered and species of special concern in the North American Bird Conservation Initiative's (NABCI) Bird Conservation Region (BCR) 30 New England/Mid-Atlantic Coast.

Landbird Description

Landbirds on the lower Delmarva Peninsula and Virginia barrier island lagoon system includes those that use upland habitats such as grasslands, shrublands, and forest and wetland habitats such as emergent marsh. This area is of high conservation importance for breeding and wintering marsh birds such as saltmarsh sparrows and seaside sparrows, and for all landbirds during the migratory seasons. Although the region does support upland breeding and wintering landbirds, most species are considered a relatively lower conservation concern compared to their marsh dwelling counterparts. Within this focal region, there are approximately 65 breeding species of landbirds including 9 species of conservation concern (Appendix 5). In winter, there are approximately 70 landbird species that are regularly found with 10 species considered of high conservation concern. Marsh breeding landbirds overlap the region in all seasons and are composed of populations that are of high conservation concern in this region, year round, as well as populations from northern latitudes that winter here.

Table 1. Summary of colonial waterbird colonies within the barrier island/lagoon system from the 2013 colonial waterbird survey (Watts and Paxton 2014)

Species	Colonies	Pairs	% of Virginia Population
Waders			
White Ibis	2	369	100.0
Glossy Ibis	4	384	79.3
Great Blue Heron	1	52	0.7
Great Egret	9	692	23.9
Snowy Egret	7	755	83.6
Tricolored Heron	7	688	95.8
Little Blue Heron	4	150	84.3
Cattle Egret	2	48	85.7
Green Heron	-----	-----	-----
Black-crowned Night Heron	5	277	77.4
Yellow-crowned Night Heron	1	2	0.7
Gulls			
Great Black-backed Gull	20	868	74.1
Herring Gull	19	2945	88.5
Laughing Gull	30	21414	88.6
Terns			
Gull-billed Tern	8	255	86.7
Caspian Tern	2	9	100.0
Royal Tern	4	62	1.2
Sandwich Tern	1	5	17.9
Forster's Tern	45	1137	46.8
Common Tern	22	694	35.0
Least Tern	25	533	57.6
Others			
Black Skimmer	14	1135	75.4
Double-crested Cormorant	4	67	2.3
Brown Pelican	3	597	24.3
Total	**135**	**33138**	**54.7**

The Atlantic Flyway and the Importance of the Region to Avian Species

The Atlantic Flyway supports hundreds of millions of birds annually including 233 species of landbirds and 135 species of waterbirds, many of which are of conservation concern. The Flyway represents one of the largest near shore movement corridors of birds in the world. Much of the bird activity along the flyway occurs within a thin ribbon along the coastline. Birds funnel through the flyway from a broad geographic area and their relationships to the Atlantic Coast are diverse. In addition to using the coastline as a movement corridor, many species use portions of the Atlantic Coast as migratory staging areas, breeding grounds or wintering grounds. Of particular conservation significance are taxonomic forms or populations that depend exclusively on the Atlantic Coast for some portion of their life cycle.

Waterbirds regularly found in the Atlantic Flyway include species such as herons, terns, gulls, shorebirds such as plovers/sandpipers/oystercatchers and others. Landbirds regularly found in the Atlantic Flyway include 78 species of raptors (vultures, owls, hawks, falcons, and eagles), 155 species of passerines (warblers, vireos, swallows, sparrows, and others), and a smaller proportion of other species (e.g., woodpeckers, doves, nightjars). The vast majority of these species are believed to be declining and 52 species (25 waterbirds and 27 landbirds) are specifically listed under the United States Fish and Wildlife Species of Special Concern (USFWS 2008). The assemblage of birds that utilize the flyway is diverse and their relationships to the Atlantic Coast are varied. The diversity of habitats supported in the flyway provides breeding, wintering, and migratory habitats by species that require open water, tidal mudflats, beaches, dunes, marshes, grasslands, shrublands, and/or forests.

The greatest volume of birds uses the flyway as a movement corridor between breeding and wintering grounds. Birds funnel through the flyway from a broad geographic area ranging from the high latitudes of the boreal zone of North America, the Northeastern Atlantic slope, the Great Lakes, the Appalachian Mountains, the Piedmont, and the Mid-Atlantic Coastal Plain. Avian species using the region are represented by three functional groups: 1) Neotropical migrants, 2) Temperate migrants, and 3) Resident species. Neotropical migrants are species that breed in northern latitudes of North America and winter in the Caribbean and South America. Temperate migrants include species that also breed at northern latitudes but migrate short distance in winter to have the bulk of their populations remain in North America. Finally, resident species are those that do not migrate and typically breed and winter in the same location. All individuals from entire populations or species may move through the flyway or be maintained throughout the entire annual cycle in one location making the area particularly significant for their survival. In addition to using the coastline as a movement corridor, many species use portions of the Atlantic Coast as migratory staging areas, breeding grounds or wintering grounds. Of particular conservation significance are taxonomic forms or populations that depend exclusively on the Atlantic Coast for some portion of their life cycle.

Due to the fact that the region is of such great avian and ecological importance, it has been given special designations by several organizations. In 1979 the region was designated as a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Biosphere Reserve, in 1990 it was added to the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network, and in 2006 it was designated as an Audubon Important Bird Area.

The greatest diversity of landbirds within the lower Delmarva Peninsula region can be found in the Atlantic Flyway during migration. Approximately 136 species regularly use the area for stopover during migration including 25 species that are of high conservation concern (Appendix 5). These may include species where a dominant portion of their global population pass through this coastal region, such as Bicknell's thrush, and other species where much smaller portions of their global population pass through.

Much of the bird activity along the Atlantic Flyway occurs within a thin ribbon of space along the coastline with landbirds using a wide corridor between the shoreline and tens of kilometers inland. During migration, landbirds may overlap with land or water and extend out considerable distances but the highest volume and diversity is centered on the shoreline. During the breeding and winter season, the distribution of landbirds is constrained by nesting or wintering substrate along the immediate coast or on offshore islands. This may include forests, grasslands, marshes, and open dunes.

The lower Delmarva is one of the most significant migration bottlenecks in eastern North America, concentrating large numbers of birds within relatively small land areas. Habitats on these peninsulas receive extremely high use by migrant landbirds during the fall months and are considered to have some of the highest conservation values on the continent. Along the lower Delmarva Peninsula, fall migrants "fall out" in the early morning hours as they reach the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay and form a steep density gradient extending south to north within the lower 20 km (Watts and Mabey 1993, 1994). A typical pattern of nocturnal migration is for birds to be distributed over the peninsula land surface, near shore over the water of the barrier island lagoon, and over the Atlantic Ocean. During this time migrants may be equally distributed over land or water. As daylight nears, birds pushed out over the water will re-orient themselves on a heading towards land (Figure 4). The Chesapeake Bay acts as a migration barrier to concentrate birds near the tip of the Delmarva Peninsula. Birds near the peninsula tip are often reflected with short northward flights before they settle in their respective habitats to rest or refuel by foraging. When birds settle, they become distributed along a strong density gradient where birds are more concentrated near the tip and on the bayside compared to the seaside. Overall, this pattern suggests that lands on the Delmarva Peninsula are of very high conservation value. Research has documented significant levels of resource depression within this concentration area (Watts et al., unpublished) suggesting that habitat availability/quality may directly influence the condition of migrants during stopover periods and presumably their likelihood of surviving migration. Because of its unique geographic position, the lower Delmarva contains some of the most critical habitats for migrant birds within the Atlantic Flyway.

The daily number of migrants observed on the lower Delmarva varies greatly between during autumn. Migration is an episodic event where a string of many days with a low migrant bird presence can suddenly be punctuated by large volume fall outs of birds. The turnover in migrant bird density during fall out events is a result of a favorable weather and wind that essentially push birds to the shore. Migrant birds often rely on the passage of cold fronts to take advantage of tail winds to help reduce energy expenditure of flight. In the case of the lower Delmarva, moderate northwest winds following the passage of cold fronts produce the largest migrant fall out events as these winds push birds to the coast. The implications of this weather induced migration phenomena is that migration numbers, and hence, the number of dead birds detected at communication towers can fluctuate remarkably between nights.

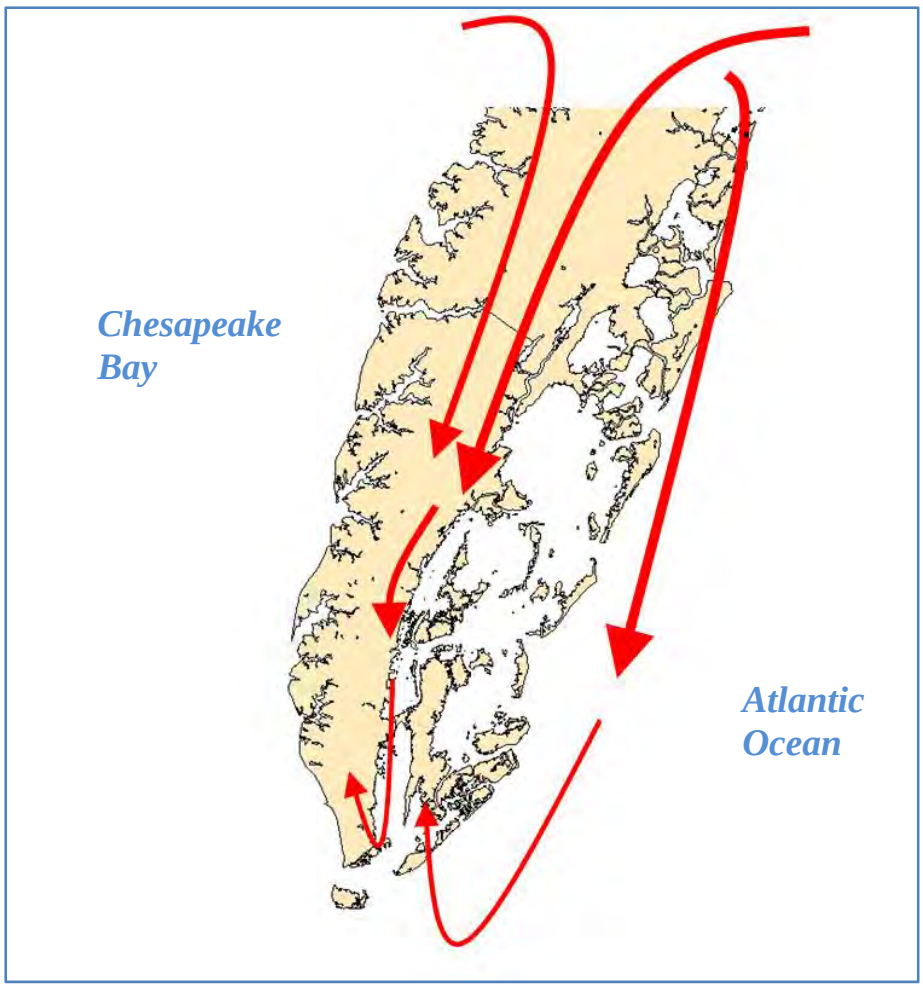

Figure 4. General flight patterns of nocturnal landbird migrants that are funneled southward on the lower Delmarva Peninsula. Birds will discontinue migratory flight as daylight approaches to "fallout" into habitats used for resting and refueling. The Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Ocean act as a migration barrier and reflects birds northward near the tip during fallout creating a distribution pattern where a greater density of birds is found near the tip and bayside of the peninsula.

Most species of migrant landbirds during autumn migration on the lower Delmarva Peninsula are dominated by hatch year (young of the year) birds (Kiptopeke Banding Station 1963-2012, unpublished data). Age-related differences in distribution patterns between inland and coastal sites are common phenomena throughout North America (Sykes 1986). Although the reason for this general pattern is unknown, it has often been suggested that adult birds maintain a more inland route after one or more years' experience with migration to avoidPeninsula that subsequently lead to greater mortality rates of hatch year birds may have far reaching demographic consequences for most migratory songbirds and less so for species like raptors.

Collision Risk of Birds and Towers and other Aerial Obstructions

Collisions with aerial obstructions such as communication towers, wind turbines, and buildings are considered to contribute a significant source of mortality for landbirds. Among these, communication towers may specifically contribute to the death of 6.6 million birds annually (Longcore et al. 2012). Migratory landbirds are particularly susceptible to collisions with communication towers and other obstructions because they actively migrate at night and are assumed to have difficulty recognizing and avoiding an obstruction. Moreover, pilot warning lights are often required for tall communication towers and are believed to attract birds thereby acting as a trap (PNAWPPM-IV, 2001, Longcore et al. 2008). There are several factors that specifically influence the risk of collision for migratory landbirds that primarily include; 1) Location, 2) Height, 3) Lighting, and 4) Guy wires. Additional factors such as wind and other weather patterns can have influence the disposition of migrant birds' use of space on geographic and altitudinal levels to vary their risk of mortality in relation to the aforementioned principal factors.

Large concentrations of birds in the immediate vicinity of hazardous sites increase the risk of strike. The rarity of tower sites adjacent to beaches and wetlands, and in proximity of large waterbird concentrations, results in very little information for tower strikes of these species. However power lines are often found bisecting these habitats and could be used as an analog to tower guy lines. A study in Australia observing power lines adjacent to a colonial water bird breeding site, documented collision rates of 0.53 collisions/1000 flights transecting power lines. Collision mortality rates ranged from 0.103 deaths/1000 flights for cattle egrets to 0.63 deaths/1000 flights for little black cormorant (Winning and Murray 1997).

Nearly all species of migratory landbirds have been documented to collide with communication towers along their migratory path (Shire et al 2000, Longcore et al., 2012). The vast majority of tower mortality events involve passerines, due to their high population, large geographic range and attraction to lights during nocturnal migration (Gauthreaux and Belser, 2006). The species collected represent nearly all forms of landbirds such as warblers, vireos, tanagers, flycatchers, thrushes, and sparrows. There is not likely any species among these groups that are less susceptible to collision compared to others. A general review of migrant landbird collisions with communication towers describes a relationship where the proportion of individuals collected is relatively commensurate with their migration volume through that area. In other words, species migrating through a geographic area with the greatest density are among those most represented in samples of birds found dead under towers. Similarly, the number of migrant birds collected under towers is positively correlated with nightly migrant volume. Bird migration can be episodic, with many low volume nights during the season punctuated by large movement nights after the passage of cold fronts. Many birds embark on migratory trips after cold front passage to take advantage of favorable tail winds. Taken together, the correlation between bird mortality with location and nightly migration volume indicates that the location of communication towers can significantly influence the number of collisions in relation to the numbers of migrants. Towers placed in high volume migrant

corridors are expected to kill many more birds than towers places in lower volume migrant corridors. Moreover, towers placed in areas where large portions of single species populations pass during migration represent significant population threats. Annual average mortality of birds at communication towers can range from a few birds to several thousand birds (summarized in Longcore et al. 2006). Although some of the variation in bird mortality can be attributed to the physical characteristics of the tower (e.g., height, lighting), there would be pronounced variation in relation to migratory bird volume.

Tower height and the presence of tower guy wires are positively correlated with the number of bird collision moralities (Gehring et al, 2011, Longcore et al. 2012). Taller towers take additional vertical space compared to smaller towers and the use of guys on larger towers can increase collision rates by orders of magnitude compared to smaller towers without guys. Gehring et al (2011) demonstrated guyed towers > 305 m can cause increase mortality rates up to 5 times the number detected for smaller towers. Longcore et al. (2012) showed a positive exponential relationship between tower height and bird mortality. Longcore et al. (2008) also considered the inter-relationship with taller towers, guy wires and tower lighting. Most tall towers have guy wires and a large number of bird collisions may likely be with the guy wires rather than the tower itself. Also, taller towers are guyed and equipped with different lighting systems compared to smaller towers. Smaller towers were generally found to utilize constant burning lights and taller towers use blinking lights. Longcore et al suggested that the guy wires supporting larger towers were responsible for greater mortality rates than the tower itself. Kruse (1996) supported this notion by suggesting that the locations of dead birds near communication towers were more likely a result of collisions with guy wires. Towers with guy wires in close vicinity to towers without guy wires have also been shown to produce greater numbers of dead birds by collision (Weise 1971).

Guy wires may also increase collision risk in combination with tower lighting due to the effect of lights on towers attracting circling behavior in birds that eventually collide with guy wires (Gathreaux and Besler 2006). Tower lighting may be considered by some as the most important factor influencing collision rates of birds. Burning lights are believed to aggregate or disorient nocturnal migrants (PNAWPPM-IV, 2001, Longcore et al. 2008). Birds are also believed to be particularly attracted to tower lights during fog or other inclement weather. General observations at lighthouses suggest that birds may be more attracted to continuously illuminated lights compared to pulsing ("blinking") lights. Avery and Gauthreax suggested that pulsing lights with relatively longer dark phases were less likely to attract birds (PNAWPPM-IV, 2001). However, this hypothesis has never been scientifically tested. The use of white strobes compared to red strobe lights has also been suggested but it is unclear at this time of how lighting color actually influences bird attraction.

Risk of collision is greater when visibility is reduced especially due to darkness and inclement weather conditions. Neotropical passerine migrants are especially vulnerable when their navigation systems are confused by lighted towers (Shire 2000, Longcore et al 2012). Nearly all species or waterbirds, especially shore birds during migration, are active at night to

take advantage of tide dependent foraging opportunities or undergo migration flights (Burger and Gochfeld 1991, Alerstam et al 1992, McNeil and Rompre 1995, Dougan 1981). Even shore birds with good night vision are less likely to avoid hazards such as mist nets on dark nights Burger et al 2010). For this reason, most researchers capture shorebirds at night when they are less likely to avoid nets. Many tower kills are associated with inclement weather when visibility is reduced (Longcore et al 2013). While not considered especially prone to extreme reduced visibility conditions, Wallops Island does experience foggy conditions. WFF's air traffic control tower tracks various events on the airfield. From 1997 through 2012 a total of 252 instrument flight rule (IFR) aircraft events occurred. IFR events occur with the greatest frequency from late fall through the spring, with 18.8% of IFR events occurring during the spring migration months of April and May (Bundick 2015)

Of the 1,800 towers registered with the FCC that are 655.5 ft or greater, the proposed 750 ft guyed tower, at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center's Wallops Flight Facility in Wallops Island, Virginia, would be in the top 1.3% in terms of height. The location of the proposed tower on Wallops Island would require guy lines extending very close to both the current Atlantic beach coastline and the saltmarsh.

With the placement of this tower being unique (i.e., no current towers are placed on a barrier island adjacent to a beach and wetland [FCC 2009]), and complex factors that make tower kill comparisons difficult to quantify (Shire et al 2000), it is not possible to project mortality events or numbers for this proposed tower. However, it is well documented that towers kill birds. Shire (2000) summarized documents describing tower kills in the United States and found that in the 121 reports that provided mortality numbers, 545,250 bird mortalities were documented; 47 of the 121 studies provided data on both numbers and species of birds killed and documented 184,797 birds of 230 different species, including 10 on the Partners in Flight "Extremely High Priority" list. While the majority of birds killed in these studies were neotropical migratory songbirds, 54 species of waterbirds and raptors accounted for 1,452 deaths. The 5 most commonly encounter species other than passerines were sora rails (657 killed), Virginia rail (144), pied-billed grebe (123), yellow rail (67) and ring-necked duck (61).

While the placement of the proposed tower along the coast, in the heart of the Atlantic Flyway, would add a hazard to migration by itself, multiple biological and morphological aspects of several bird species that utilize this region increase the risk of tower or guy line strikes. Factors such as wing/body morphology, flight characteristics, flocking habits, nocturnal movements, and high population near hazards add to strike risk. Comparing the numbers of birds killed by striking power lines to their relative population size, birds in the orders of Galliformes (grouse, pheasant, etc.), Gruiformes (rails and cranes), Pelecaniformes (pelicans, herons, ibis, etc.), and Ciconiiformes (storks) are often over represented in the mortality count. This disproportionate number of mortalities is likely due to wing morphology making many species in these orders "poor flyers" Typically birds that have high load/low aspect wings are much less agile than bird species with low load/high aspect wings. Rails, coots, and cranes,

which have high load/low aspect wings, are among the most common collision victims in North America and Europe. Many ducks have high load wings and are frequently killed by collision. Herons and egrets typically have lower loading large wings; however, they are still quite low aspect resulting in the species being more susceptible to collision (Bevanger 1997, Rayner 1988). However power lines are often found bisecting these habitats and could be used as an analog to tower guy lines. A combination of over 50 studies worldwide lists grebes, ducks, wading birds, shorebirds, raptors, and upland game birds as most vulnerable to power line collision mortality (SAIC 2000).

Flight characteristic is another factor that plays into relative risk of strike. Fast flying birds (birds with strong, fast, direct flight) such as ducks and shorebirds are much more susceptible to striking towers than slower flying birds. This is even further compounded by the fact that many "fast flyers" also aggregate in large flocks. Species of birds that move in large flocks are at greater risk of strike (Winning and Murry 1997). While the lead birds in the flock may successfully avoid hazards, there is a steady lag in the avoidance maneuvers toward the back of the flock. Often individuals in the back of the flock will not be able to avoid hazards (Savereno et. al. 1996). In addition, some species of ducks and shorebird have longer bills and eyes set higher on the skull that result in excellent vision above the hemisphere of the head, but results in blind spots below (Martin and Shaw 2010), thereby increasing the risk of collision.

While large numbers of raptors frequent the proposed tower site, overall collision risk is deemed low. Raptors typically have low load wing and are more maneuverable in flight. Raptors are much more susceptible to electrocution on lines that have not been constructed or retrofitted with devices to minimize bird electrocution (Bevanger 1997). Most literature suggests that raptors are generally more prone strikes with wind turbines than stationary structures (Erickson et al 2005)

Assessment of Breeding Populations

In general, landbirds maintain territories throughout the breeding season and are relatively sedentary within that territory space. Depending on the species, territory size may range from a few hectares to a few hundred hectares. Landbirds such as songbirds, flycatchers, and others will move about their territory during daylight hours and roost at night. They often remain in the same habitat type throughout daily activities (e.g., remain in marsh, or remain in forest). Because of this limited space use, territorial species of landbirds are less likely to collide with a tower hazard during the breeding season compared to any other time in their annual cycle. This pattern is in stark contrast to waterbirds that often forage at night and use much greater amounts of space including traversing across multiple different habitats. There are a few species that breed within the vicinity of the proposed Wallops Tower sites that are of high conservation concern. However, population risks for these breeding species are more likely to occur for individuals during their migratory phase, such as when first arriving in the spring or departing in autumn. Migratory individuals of these species that emanate from breeding and wintering populations outside of those than the vicinity of Wallops Island could be at a higher

risk of collision in one nocturnal migration night than over many months of exposure for a sedentary breeding population.

Species that breed in tidal marshes are among the highest conservation concern among all breeding species within the vicinity of the proposed Wallops Instrumentation Tower. Among these species, the saltmarsh sparrow and the seaside sparrow (Paxton 2007) rely exclusively on tidal saltmarsh and brackish marsh for breeding, wintering, and migration; therefore, spending their entire annual cycle within the thin ribbon of marsh habitats directly along the Atlantic coast or coastal Bays (Wilson et al., 2007). Both of these species are declining throughout their range due to loss and degradation of their required breeding habitat. Marsh habitats are geographically constrained within tidal areas and cannot exist elsewhere. Therefore, the construction of a hazard that causes direct bird mortality through collision or degrades marsh habitat has no alternative management solution. However, the Wallops Instrumentation tower does not likely represent a significant collision hazard to the populations during the breeding season due to the sedentary behavior of breeding individuals. The greater risk to breeding populations at the proposed tower sites could be destruction or degradation of their breeding habitat from tower construction. This can include direct take of their habitat or possible alteration of hydrology that degrades the marsh. Collision risk for these breeding populations is greatest when these birds are actively migrating at night to arrive in the spring or depart in the autumn. Populations of the saltmarsh sparrow and the seaside sparrow that breed to the north of Wallops Island are also among the highest conservation concern species along the Atlantic Coast. Migratory populations of both species overlap greatly with any collision hazard constructed within the salinity zones of tidal salt and brackish marshes whether they are located on Wallops Island, somewhere else in the barrier island or lagoon system, or elsewhere in the Chesapeake Bay.

Other habitats embedded within Wallops Island include scrub/shrub thickets, open dune, and secondary forest. There are several species which are considered of conservation concern that likely breed within these habitats on Wallops Island including the brown-headed nuthatch, prairie warbler and the chuck-will's-widow. The brown-headed nuthatch is a non-migratory permanent resident species that breeds within maritime pine forests that contain snags for nest cavity excavation (Wilson and Watts 1999). Prairie Warblers require dense shrub habitats for breeding and the chuck-will's-widow requires forest habitats for breeding but open habitats such as marshes, dunes, or scrub for foraging. Like other breeding species, tower construction is not likely to cause a significant collision hazard for breeding individuals. Unlike species that require marsh habitats, forest and shrub bird species are using habitats that are not geographically limited and exist elsewhere. Therefore, tower construction does not represent a situation of high population vulnerability due to either collision mortality or habitat loss or degradation. Both prairie warbler and chuck-will's-widow populations are at a much greater risk to collision mortality during spring and autumn migration than during the breeding season.

Assessment of Autumn Migratory Populations

The autumn migration period represents the greatest collision risk for landbirds at the proposed tower sites on Wallops Island due to the high volume of migrant birds passing through and the fact that most are migrating at night and have difficulty avoiding collision hazards. There are a number of species with high conservation concerns that could be expected to overlap with the proposed Wallops tower during migration. These species can be functionally divided into qualitative ranked groups based on risk and vulnerability that summarizes the relative conservation concern of their populations and the degree to which these populations might overlap with a coastal collision hazard. These functional groups can be divided into; 1) Species with the highest risk of collision and population vulnerability because they are represented by species with small populations of high conservation concern that are expected to greatly overlap with the proposed tower, 2) Species with high collision risk but lower population vulnerability because they consist of large populations of high conservation concern and also are expected to greatly overlap with the proposed tower, 3) Species with low risk of collision but high population vulnerability because the species has small populations of high conservation concern but are not expected to overlap greatly with the proposed tower, and 4) Species with low collision risk and low vulnerability because of large populations that are not expected to overlap greatly with the proposed tower. It is important to understand that the term, "expected to overlap", is a broad description that does not define a spatially explicit relationship with the exact geographic coordinates of a tower location, but rather describes the extent that a migrant bird population will be found along the coastline of the Delmarva Peninsula. It is likely that many places selected for tower construction would have equal probability of overlapping the migratory corridors of landbirds because birds are distributed widely along the peninsula and are not focused in any one specific location. The first three functional groups are discussed in more detail below.

Migratory Species with a high risk of collision and greatest population vulnerability

A special subgroup of species in this risk and vulnerability category are species that have a broad geographic distribution but contain subpopulations that remain spatially segregated during all phases of breeding, migration, and wintering. For these species, distinct subpopulations vary in the level of population exposure and population vulnerability to a collision hazard at any one location. For many species, a global population estimate is assumed to represent the underlying resilience to population vulnerability when in reality the population being exposed to a hazard may be much smaller and less resilient to population loss.

Establishing migratory connectivity is fundamental for assigning an appropriate level or exposure and vulnerability to species with distinct subpopulations. Connecting populations for hazard assessment is the greatest challenge and demand for bird conservation (Hobson et al. 2014). Despite this importance, there is very little information to actually connect populations of landbirds between their breeding and wintering grounds. However, there are a number of species that are believed to contain populations that remain spatially segregated between

breeding and wintering grounds and likely undertake different migration routes. Among these are the group of species that have populations that winter in the Caribbean and populations that winter in either Central or South America. The lower Delmarva Peninsula supports a large volume of migrants that are known to winter in the Caribbean. There is no supporting evidence where many of the populations that pass along the Atlantic Flyway and then eventually winter in the Caribbean may emanate from during the breeding season. However, there has been a general, anecdotal belief that many of the Neotropical Migrants that winter in the Caribbean may emanate from Northeastern U.S. breeding populations, and that populations of these same species that winter in Central or South America may emanate from their breeding populations further west. This notion suggests that northeastern breeding individual may take an Atlantic coastal route towards Caribbean wintering grounds while more westerly breeding individuals may take a more central or inland continental route to Central and South America. Obviously, scientifically derived data are needed to support this notion, but is a critical concept to introduce for the call of such information to support hazard assessments.

Landbirds that migrate to the Caribbean for winter dominate the total number of all neotropical migrants found on the lower Delmarva Peninsula (Watts and Mabey 1994, Kiptopeke Banding Station 1963-2012, unpublished data). The two most prevalent neotropical migratory songbirds detected within this group are the American redstart and the black-throated blue warbler. These species can be found in high densities throughout late August to early October. Both of these species have broad geographic distributions during both the breeding season and wintering seasons and have migration corridors along both the Atlantic Coast and Appalachian Mountains. However, the possibility that different subpopulations utilize separate migratory routes signifies the need to connect populations before a final assessment can be made. Other species of conservation concern with large breeding populations in decline that may exhibit patterns of northeast U.S. to Caribbean connectivity and are found with relative abundance on the lower Delmarva during migration include the wood thrush, worm-eating warbler, Kentucky warbler, Louisiana waterthrush, and prairie warbler.

Species with the greatest overall risk and vulnerability to a collision hazard includes those with relatively small populations of high conservation concern that are expected to overlap greatly with the proposed Wallops Tower. The bicknell's thrush ranks very high among the most at risk and most vulnerable within this category. The bicknell's thrush is represented by a population of less than 125,000 birds that breeds in the northeastern United States and southeastern Canada, and then migrates exclusively along the Atlantic Coast to its wintering grounds in the Caribbean (Oullet 1993, Wilson and Watts 1997, Townsend et al, 2006). The bicknell's Thrush is considered one of the greatest conservation priorities among land birds within its breeding range due to its small population size that is declining by several reports (Lambert and King 2008). This species appears to be geographically restricted during all portions of its annual cycle. It is believed that 90 % of its winter population is centered in the island of Hispanolia (Townsend et al, 2006). It is also likely that nearly 100% of the entire Bicknell's Thrush global population can be found within the outermost coastal portion of the Atlantic Flyway during autumn migration with birds rarely found inland (Wilson and Watts

1997). This is consistent with a direct route between its breeding and winter biogeography. Population hazards within the narrow migration corridor place this species at high risk of collision that could also accumulate for a high level of population vulnerability.

Species that rely on tidal salt marsh and brackish marsh habitats have a high collision risk during their migration because their movement corridor is so spatially restricted with a narrow longitudinal range. Due to their small, declining populations, species such as the saltmarsh sparrow, nelson's sparrow, and seaside sparrow are of high conservation concern over their breeding grounds and throughout their breeding range in the Mid-Atlantic and Atlantic Forest Bird Conservation Regions (Wilson and Watts 2006). These species spend most of their annual life cycle within the narrow ribbon of available habitat along the Atlantic Coast. Nearly 100% of their populations that migrate southward from areas to the north of Virginia pass over marshes of the Virginia barrier island lagoon system and salt and brackish portions of the Chesapeake Bay. An unknown proportion of these populations remain within the Mid-Atlantic throughout the winter period while others continue to the South Atlantic region. Populations of the saltmarsh sparrow, nelson's sparrow, and seaside sparrow do remain relatively high throughout winter in the barrier island lagoon system and lower Chesapeake Bay indicating the value of this region to all phases of their annual cycle (Center for Conservation Biology, unpublished data).

The coastal plain swamp sparrow is a unique form of swamp sparrow that breeds in brackish to fresh water marshes in the mid-Atlantic region (Beadell et al. 2003). This species has undergone dramatic declines and has reached low population sizes. This short-distant migrant breeds from Delaware south to Virginia and winters from Virginia to North Carolina (Greenberg et al. 2007) so its entire life history is spent within the mid-Atlantic coastal zone. Individuals of this geographically restricted species are at a high risk of collision because of spatial overlap and a high level of vulnerability due to the species small population size.

Both the golden-winged warbler and blue-winged warbler are of high conservation concern across multiple bird conservation regions. These species are found in relatively small numbers during autumn migration on the lower Delmarva Peninsula (Kiptopeke Banding Station 1963-2012, unpublished data). The breeding distribution of golden-winged warblers is primarily supported in the Appalachian Mountains but sparsely distributed populations in eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York (Confer et al. 2011) may contribute individuals found on the lower Delmarva Peninsula. Likewise, blue-winged warblers are sparsely distributed across the northeastern U.S. but may represent populations of high vulnerability from a coastal hazard.

Waterbirds that are considered to have a high risk of collision and greatest population vulnerability include black rail, and the rufa subspecies of the red knot. The black rail is one of the most imperiled bird species on the Atlantic Coast. It has a very small declining population and is a candidate for threatened and endangered listing (Wilson et al 2015). It utilizes coastal habitats, migrates at night and is highly prone to striking artificial structures (Eddleman 1994)

The rufa subspecies of the red knot is a federally threated species. The beach habitat, along the Virginia Barrier Islands, has been shown to support a significant portion of the overall population of red knots known to stage along the Atlantic Coast. Proportions of the Atlantic red knot population supported by the Virginia Barrier Islands have declined from approximately 32%, from 2007 to 2010, to approximately 17%, from 2011 to 2014 (USFWS 2013, USFWS 2014). In addition to the proportion of the population directly using the immediate habitat, a much larger proportion of the population would be exposed to the tower while migrating north to stopover at Delaware Bay on their way to the breeding grounds. Red knots are agile fliers but may form large migration flocks, and are known to migrate at night.

Migratory species with a high risk of collision but low population vulnerability

Species with a high conservation concern in this category have a high spatial overlap with the lower Delmarva Peninsula during migration but potentially low population vulnerability due to their relatively larger population sizes. This group could potentially include some of the Caribbean migrants previously mentioned including the American redstart, black-throated blue warbler, worm-eating warbler, Kentucky warbler, Louisiana waterthrush, and prairie warbler, depending on the origination of the populations that use the lower Delmarva as a migration corridor. Additional species to include here are the chuck-will's-widow and whip-poor-will. Both of these species are nocturnally active nightjars (Caprimulgiformes) that likely have moderate to high population sizes that are expected to be in decline. Despite the fact that both species are nocturnal, they are still represented in samples of communication tower kills (Shire et al. 2000). The proposed Wallops tower is located near the northern end of the range limit for chuck-will's-widow. This species likely migrates southward into Virginia on or near the coast so the tower has the potential to affect this species range limits. Whip-poor-will populations are more broadly distributed in areas north of Wallops Island so would have lower overlap with the tower.

Several species of waterbirds that are of conservation concern fall into this class of high collision risk/low population vulnerability. Pied-billed grebes are a species that are typically over represented in tower kill studies. This species migrates at night and its wing morphology makes it extremely vulnerable to striking artificial objects (Bevanger 1998). However, pied-billed grebes migrate over an extremely large area across the continent; therefore, only a small proportion of the population would be exposed to the hazard (Muller and Storer 1999)

Snowy egrets and purple sandpipers are also examples of waterbirds of special concern that may be at higher risk of strike due to morphological features and behaviors but whose range limits exposure to this particular hazard. While 755 pairs of snowy egrets bred on the seaside of Virginia in 2013 (Watts and Paxton 2014), the vast majority of the population occurs to the south and west of Virginia (Parsons and Masters 2000). The purple sandpiper is a regular winter resident and migrant down the coast. However, only a small proportion of the population ventures this far south. Most of the population winters to the north of Virginia and would never be exposed to the proposed tower (Payne and Pierce 2002)

Migratory species with a low risk of collision but high population vulnerability

This group contains species that have very low populations that are of high conservation concern but not believed to migrate regularly though the Lower Delmarva Peninsula. The Kirtland's warbler is an endangered species with one of the highest conservation concerns among neotropical migratory landbirds. This species breeds in Michigan and winters throughout the Bahamas (Mayfield 1992). Despite this connection it is generally believed that this species may take an Appalachian route from breeding to wintering grounds. However, all three historical records of this species in Virginia are from the central piedmont (Rottenborn and Brinkley 2005). The loggerhead shrike is another species of conservation concern throughout the northeastern U.S. Although it is possible for migrants to be found on the lower Delmarva, the species breeding and non-breeding distribution in Virginia is primarily found in the ridge and valley and the piedmont (Rotternborn and Brinkley 2005) so the level of overlap with the tower is low.

The red-throated loon could be considered in this risk class. While this species in not threated or endangered, it is a species of concern and has experienced population declines (Watts 2010). This species migrates down the coast in great numbers, but typically migrates over open water (Barr et al 2000). Migration routes over the Atlantic would not typically expose this species to hazards on land.

USFWS Recommendations for tower siting

The fact that towers are a great risk to birds prompted the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to recommend guidelines for tower siting, construction, operation, and decommissioning in 2000. Current recommended guidelines include, but are not limited to: 1) collocation of devices on existing towers; 2) limit tower height to 199 feet; 3) construction techniques that do not require guy lines; 4) if lights are required, use the minimum required by the Federal Aviation Administration; 5) if guy lines are required, mark with daytime visual markers, especially near raptor, waterbird, and migrant concentration areas, movement routes, and stopover sites; and 5) avoid construction near breeding, feeding, and roosting areas (USFWS 2000). Manville (2001) states that a worst case scenario would be an 1000+ foot tower, multiple-guyed, with multiple solid or pulsating lights, in a bird migratory corridor, near or next to a wetland.

The proposed tower fits many criteria of the worst case scenario. If built it should be equipped with the minimum number and intensity of white strobe lights (Gehring et al 2009). Guy wires should be well marked with daytime visual markers/bird diverter devices (APLIC 2006). Research and monitoring of the tower site is strongly encouraged.

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Appendix 1. All species of waterbirds that regularly occur near the proposed tower site during the winter, breeding or migration seasons. Each species is designated if it falls into the categories of wing/body morphology, fast flight characteristics, flocking habits, nocturnal movements, and high population near hazards that may make the species more susceptible to collisions.

		Seasonal Occurrence					Additional Risk Factors				
Species/Subspecies	**Common Name**	**Breeding**	**Summering**	**Wintering**	**Fall Migration**	**Spring Migration**	**Wing Morphology**	**Fast Flight Characteristics**	**Flocking Habits**	**Nocturnal Movement**	**High Population Near Hazard**
Podiceps grisegena holboellii	Red-necked Grebe			X	X	X		X	X	X	
Podiceps auritus cornutus	Horned Grebe			X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Podilymbus podiceps podiceps	Pied-billed Grebe	X		X	X	X		X		X	X
Gavia immer	Common Loon			X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Gavia stellata	Red-throated Loon			X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Larus hyperboreus leucereles	Glaucous Gull			X	X	X				X	
Larus glaucoides kumlieni	Iceland Gull			X	X	X				X	
Larus marinus	Great Black-backed Gull	X	X	X	X	X				X	X
Larus fuscus fraellsii	Lesser Black-backed Gull			X	X	X				X	
Larus argentatus smithsoniaunus	Herring Gull	X	X	X	X	X				X	X
Larus delawarensis	Ring-billed Gull		X	X	X	X				X	X
Larus ridibundus ridibundus	Black-headed Gull	X	X	X	X	X				X	
Larus atricilla megalopterus	Laughing Gull	X	X	X	X	X				X	X
Larus philadelphia	Bonaparte's Gull			X	X	X				X	
Gelochelidon nilotica aranea	Gull-billed Tern	X			X	X				X	X
Hydroprogne caspia	Caspian Tern	X	X	X	X	X				X	

		Seasonal Occurrence					Additional Risk Factors				
Species/Subspecies	**Common Name**	**Breeding**	**Summering**	**Wintering**	**Fall Migration**	**Spring Migration**	**Wing Morphology**	**Fast Flight Characteristics**	**Flocking Habits**	**Nocturnal Movement**	**High Population Near Hazard**
Thalasseus maximus maxima	Royal Tern	X	X	X	X	X				X	X
Thalasseus sandvicensis acuflavidus	Sandwich Tern	X	X	X	X	X				X	X
Sterna forsteri litoricola	Forster's Tern	X		X	X	X				X	X
Sterna hirundo hirundo	Common Tern	X			X	X				X	X
Sternula antillarum antillarum	Least Tern	X			X	X				X	X
Chlidonias niger surinamensis	Black Tern		X		X	X				X	
Rynchops niger niger	Black Skimmer	X		X	X	X			X	X	X
Morus bassanus	Northern Gannet	X	X	X	X	X					X
Phalacrocorax carbo carbo	Great Cormorant	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X
Phalacrocorax auritus auritus	Double-crested Cormorant	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X
Pelecanus occidentalis carolinensis	Brown Pelican	X	X	X	X	X			X		X
Mergus merganser americanus	Common Merganser	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	
Mergus serrator	Red-breasted Merganser	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Lophodytes cucullatus	Hooded Merganser	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos	Mallard	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Anas rubripes	American Black Duck	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Anas strepera	Gadwall	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Anas americana	American Wigeon			X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Anas discors	Blue-winged Teal	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Anas crecca carolinensis	Green-winged Teal			X	X	X		X	X	X	X

		Seasonal Occurrence					Additional Risk Factors				
Species/Subspecies	**Common Name**	**Breeding**	**Summering**	**Wintering**	**Fall Migration**	**Spring Migration**	**Wing Morphology**	**Fast Flight Characteristics**	**Flocking Habits**	**Nocturnal Movement**	**High Population Near Hazard**
Anas acuta acuta	Northern Pintail			X	X	X		X	X	X	
Aix sponsa	Wood Duck	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	
Aythya americana	Redhead			X	X	X		X	X	X	
Anas clypeata	Northern Shoveler			X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Aythya valisineria	Canvasback			X	X	X		X	X	X	
Aythya marila mariloides	Greater Scaup			X	X	X		X	X	X	
Aythya affinis	Lesser Scaup			X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Aythya collaris	Ring-necked Duck	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Bucephala clangula americana	Common Goldeneye	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	
Bucephala islandica	Barrow's Goldeneye			X	X	X		X	X	X	
Bucephala albeola	Bufflehead			X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Clangula hyemalis	Long-tailed Duck			X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Histrionicus histrionicus	Harlequin Duck			X	X	X		X	X	X	
Somateria mollissima	Common Eider	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	
Somateria spectabilis	King Eider			X	X	X		X	X	X	
Melanitta nigra americana	Black Scoter			X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Melanitta fusca deglandi	White-winged Scoter			X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Melanitta perspicillata	Surf Scoter			X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Oxyura jamaicensis jamaicensis	Ruddy Duck			X	X	X		X	X	X	
Dendrocygna bicolor	Fulvous Whistling Duck	X	X	X				X	X	X	
Chen caerulescens atlanticus	Snow Goose (Greater)			X	X	X		X	X	X	X

		Seasonal Occurrence					Additional Risk Factors				
Species/Subspecies	**Common Name**	**Breeding**	**Summering**	**Wintering**	**Fall Migration**	**Spring Migration**	**Wing Morphology**	**Fast Flight Characteristics**	**Flocking Habits**	**Nocturnal Movement**	**High Population Near Hazard**
Chen rossii	Ross's Goose			X	X	X		X	X	X	
Anser albifrons gambelli	Greater White-fronted Goose			X	X	X		X	X	X	
Branta canadensis canadensis	Canada Goose	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Branta bernicla hrota	Atlantic Brant			X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Eudocimus albus	White Ibis	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Plegadis falcinellus falcinellus	Glossy Ibis	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Ajaia ajaja	Roseate Spoonbill	X			X	X	X			X	
Cygnus olor	Mute Swan	X	X	X						X	
Cygnus columbianus	Tundra Swan			X	X	X			X	X	X
Botaurus lentiginosus	American Bittern	X		X	X	X	X			X	
Ixobrychus exilis exilis	Least Bittern	X		X	X	X	X			X	
Ardea herodias herodias	Great Blue Heron	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X
Ardea alba egretta	Great Egret	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X
Egretta thula thula	Snowy Egret	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X
Egretta tricolor ruficolis	Tricolored Heron	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X
Egretta rufescens	Reddish Egret	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	
Egretta caerulea	Little Blue Heron	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X
Bubulcus ibis ibis	Cattle Egret	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X
Butorides virescens virescens	Green Heron	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	
Nycticorax nycticorax hoactii	Black-crowned Night Heron	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X
Nyctanassa violacea violacea	Yellow-crowned Night Heron	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X

		Seasonal Occurrence					Additional Risk Factors				
Species/Subspecies	**Common Name**	**Breeding**	**Summering**	**Wintering**	**Fall Migration**	**Spring Migration**	**Wing Morphology**	**Fast Flight Characteristics**	**Flocking Habits**	**Nocturnal Movement**	**High Population Near Hazard**
Porphyrio martinica	Purple Gallinule	X		X	X	X	X			X	
Gallinula chloropus cachinnans	Common Moorhen	X		X	X	X	X			X	
Fulica americana americana	American Coot	X		X	X	X	X			X	
Grus canadensis	Sandhill Crane	X	X	X			X			X	
Rallus elegans	King Rail	X		X	X	X	X			X	
Rallus longirostris	Clapper Rail	X		X	X	X	X			X	X
Rallus limicola	Virginia Rail	X		X	X	X	X			X	
Porzana carolina	Sora	X		X	X	X	X			X	
Coturnicops noveboracensis	Yellow Rail	X		X	X	X	X			X	
Laterallus jamaicensis	Black Rail	X		X	X	X	X			X	
Phalaropus fulicaria	Red Phalarope			X	X	X		X	X	X	
Phalaropus lobatus	Red-necked Phalarope		X		X	X		X	X	X	
Phalaropus tricolor	Wilson's Phalarope				X	X		X	X	X	
Recurvirostra americana	American Avocet			X	X	X		X	X	X	
Himantopus mexicanus	Black-necked Stilt	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	
Scolopax minor	American Woodcock	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	
Gallinago gallinago	Common Snipe	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	
Limnodromus griseus	Short-billed Dowitcher			X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Limnodromus scolopaceus	Long-billed Dowitcher			X	X	X		X	X	X	
Calidrisa himantopus	Stilt Sandpiper			X	X	X		X	X	X	
Calidris canutus	Red Knot			X	X	X		X	X	X	X

		Seasonal Occurrence					Additional Risk Factors				
Species/Subspecies	**Common Name**	**Breeding**	**Summering**	**Wintering**	**Fall Migration**	**Spring Migration**	**Wing Morphology**	**Fast Flight Characteristics**	**Flocking Habits**	**Nocturnal Movement**	**High Population Near Hazard**
Calidris maritima	Purple Sandpiper			X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Calidris melanotos	Pectoral Sandpiper				X	X		X	X	X	
Calidris fuscicollis	White-rumped Sandpiper				X	X		X	X	X	
Calidris bairdii	Baird's Sandpiper				X	X		X	X	X	
Calidris minutilla	Least Sandpiper			X	X	X		X	X	X	
Calidris alpina	Dunlin			X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Calidris pusilla	Semipalmated Sandpiper				X	X		X	X	X	X
Calidris mauri	Western Sandpiper			X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Calidris alba	Sanderling			X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Limosa fedoa	Marbled Godwit			X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Limosa haemastica	Hudsonian Godwit					X		X	X	X	
Tringa melanoleuca	Greater Yellowlegs			X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Tringa flavipes	Lesser Yellowlegs			X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Tringa solitaria	Solitary Sandpiper				X	X		X	X	X	
Tringa semipalmata	Willet	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Bartramia longicauda	Upland Sandpiper	X			X	X		X	X	X	
Tryngites subruficollis	Buff-breasted Sandpiper				X	X		X	X	X	
Actitis macularius	Spotted Sandpiper	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	
Numenius americanus	Long-billed Curlew			X	X	X		X	X	X	
Numenius phaeopus	Whimbrel			X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Pluvialis squatarola	Black-bellied Plover		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X

		Seasonal Occurrence					Additional Risk Factors				
Species/Subspecies	**Common Name**	**Breeding**	**Summering**	**Wintering**	**Fall Migration**	**Spring Migration**	**Wing Morphology**	**Fast Flight Characteristics**	**Flocking Habits**	**Nocturnal Movement**	**High Population Near Hazard**
Pluvialis domimica	American Golden Plover				X	X		X	X	X	
Charadrius vociferus	Killdeer	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	
Charadrius semipalmatus	Semipalmated Plover	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Charadrius melodus	Piping Plover	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Charadrius wilsonia	Wilson's Plover	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Arenaria interpres	Ruddy Turnstone		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Haematopus palliatus	American Oystercatcher	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X

Appendix 2. All species of raptors that regularly occur near the proposed tower site during the winter, breeding or migration seasons. Each species is designated if it falls into the categories of wing/body morphology, fast flight characteristics, flocking habits, nocturnal movements, and high population near hazards that may make the species more susceptible to collisions.

		Seasonal Occurrence					Additional Risk Factors				
Species/Subspecies	**Common Name**	**Breeding**	**Summering**	**Wintering**	**Fall Migration**	**Spring Migration**	**Wing Morphology**	**Fast Flight Characteristics**	**Flocking Habits**	**Nocturnal Movement**	**High Population Near Hazard**
Coragyps atratus	Black Vulture	X	X	X	X	X					X
Cathartes aura	Turkey Vulture	X	X	X	X	X					X
Pandion haliaetus	Osprey	X	X		X	X					X
Elanoides forficatus	Swallow-tailed Kite					X					
Ictinia mississippiensis	Mississippi Kite					X					
Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Bald Eagle	X	X	X	X	X					X
Circus cyaneus	Northern Harrier	X	X	X	X	X					X
Accipiter striatus	Sharp-shinned Hawk			X	X	X					X
Accipiter cooperii	Cooper's Hawk			X	X	X					X
Accipiter gentilis	Northern Goshawk			X	X	X					
Buteo lineatus	Red-shouldered Hawk	X	X	X	X	X					X
Buteo platypterus	Broad-winged hawk				X	X					X
Buteo swainsoni	Swainson's Hawk				X	X					
Buteo jamaicensis	Red-tailed Hawk	X	X	X	X	X					X
Buteo lagopus	Rough-legged Hawk			X	X	X					
Aquila chrysaetos	Golden Eagle			X	X	X					
Falco sparverius	American Kestrel	X	X	X	X	X					X

		Seasonal Occurrence					Additional Risk Factors				
Species/Subspecies	**Common Name**	**Breeding**	**Summering**	**Wintering**	**Fall Migration**	**Spring Migration**	**Wing Morphology**	**Fast Flight Characteristics**	**Flocking Habits**	**Nocturnal Movement**	**High Population Near Hazard**
Falco columbarius	Merlin			X	X	X					X
Falco peregrinus	Peregrine Falcon	X	X	X	X	X					X
Tyto alba	Barn Owl	X	X	X	X	X				X	
Megascops asio	Eastern Screech Owl	X								X	
Bubo virginianus	Great Horned Owl	X								X	
Bubo scandiaca	Snowy Owl			X	X	X				X	
Strix varia	Barred Owl	X								X	
Asio otus	Long-eared Owl			X	X	X				X	
Asio flammeus	Short-eared Owl			X	X	X				X	
Aegolius acadicus	Northern Saw-whet Owl			X	X	X				X	X

Appendix 3. Population estimates for all threatened, endangered and species of special concern in the North American Bird Conservation Initiative's (NABCI) Bird Conservation Region (BCR) 30 New England/Mid-Atlantic Coast (Watts 2010). Units include total individuals (t) and breeding individuals (b). Species in bold indicate unique taxonomic forms

Species/Subspecies (population)	Common Name	AOU	Global Population	N. A . Population	Reference Population	Trend
Podiceps auritus cornutus	Horned Grebe	30	160,000-2,100,000t	>100,000t	100,000t	Declining
Podilymbus podiceps podiceps	Pied-billed Grebe	60	110,000-130,000t	125,000t	125,000t	Declining
Gavia stellata	Red-throated Loon	110	490,000-1,500,000t	375,000t	70,000t	Declining
Gelochelidon nilotica aranea (w.A. breeding)	Gull-billed Tern	630	79,000-310,000t	6,000-8,000b	2,418b	Declining
Sternula antillarum antillarum (w.A. breeding)	Least Tern	740	65,000-70,000t	unknown	16,018b	Declining
Rynchops niger niger (w.A. breeding)	Black Skimmer	800	120,000-210,000t	65,000-70,000b	10,058b	Declining
Puffinus gravis	Greater Shearwater	890	16,500,000t	unknown	unknown	Stable/unknown
Puffinus lherminieri lherminieri	Audubon's Shearwater	920	60,000t	6,000-10,000b	6,000b	Declining
Botaurus lentiginosus	American Bittern	1900	3,000,000t	3,000,000t	3,000,000t	Declining
Ixobrychus exilis exilis	Least Bittern	1910	>130,000t	128,000t	128,000t	Declining
Egretta thula thula	Snowy Egret	1970	unknown	143,555b	15,774b	Declining
Laterallus jamaicensis	Black Rail	2160	unknown	unknown	unknown	Declining
Limnodromus griseus griseus (Hudson Bay)	Short-billed Dowitcher	2310	153,000t	153,000t	78,000t	Declining
Calidris canutus rufa	Red Knot	2340	120,000t	120,000t	20,000t	Declining
Calidris maritima belcheri	Purple Sandpiper	2350	95,000t	15,000t	15,000t	Stable/Unknown
Calidris pusilla	Semipalmated Sandpiper	2460	2,000,000t	2,000,000t	1,500,000t	Declining
Limosa fedoa fedoa (Hudson Bay)	Marbled Godwit	2490	175,000t	175,000t	2,226t	Declining
Limosa Haemastica (James Bay)	Hudsonian Godwit	2510	70,000t	70,000t	10,000t	Declining
Tringa flavipes	Lesser Yellowlegs	2550	400,000t	400,000t	20,100t	Declining

Species/Subspecies (population)	Common Name	AOU	Global Population	N. A . Population	Reference Population	Trend
Tringa solitaria solitaria	Solitary Sandpiper	2560	150,000t	150,000t	21,000t	Declining
Bartramia longicauda	Upland Sandpiper	2610	350,000t	350,000t	350,000t	Declining
Tryngites subruficollis	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	2620	30,000t	30,000t	30,000t	declining
Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus	Whimbrel	2650	2,000,000t	66,000t	40,000t	Declining
Charadrius melodus melodus	Piping Plover	2770	5,945t	5,945t	2,953t	Increasing
Charadrius wilsonia	Wilson's Plover	2800	unknown	6,000t	6,000t	Stable/Unknown
Haematopus palliatus	American Oystercatcher	2860	11,650t	11,000t	11,000t	Stable/unknown

Appendix 4. Collision and population risk assessment for all threatened, endangered and species of special concern in the North American Bird Conservation Initiative's (NABCI) Bird Conservation Region (BCR) 30 New England/Mid-Atlantic Coast. Collision risk based on assessment of wing/body morphology, flight characteristics, flocking habits, nocturnal movements, habitat use, and population exposed to hazard. Population risk based on assessment proportion of population exposed to hazard.

Species/Subspecies (population)	Common Name	Collision Risk	Population Risk	Specific Information for risk class
Podiceps auritus cornutus	Horned Grebe	Medium	Low	Migrates at night in flocks. High load/High aspect wings. Migrates over a broad front across the continent. Migrates and winters in moderate number in the immediate vicinity (recent reports of hundreds of individual wintering near Chincoteague NWR). Relative small portion of the North American population would be exposed to this hazard. Bevanger 1998, Raynor 1988, Stedman 2000, eBird 2012
Podilymbus podiceps podiceps	Pied-billed Grebe	High	Low	Migrates at night. High load/ Lower aspect than other grebes. Migrates over a broad front across the continent. Migrates and winters in low number in the immediate vicinity. Relative small portion of the North American population would be exposed to this hazard. Known to strike towers, and light houses. Bevanger 1998,Muller and Storer 1999, Raynor 1988, eBird 2012
Gavia stellata	Red-throated Loon	Low	Medium	Migrates in flocks. Major migration route down the Atlantic coast, with single day counts of over 8,000 individuals in Virginia. Moderate proportion of the North American population could be exposed to this hazard. Typically migrates over open water, reducing exposure to this hazard. Barr et al 2000, National Audubon Society 2010, eBird 2012
Gelochelidon nilotica aranea	Gull-billed Tern	Medium	Low	Agile flyers with high aspect/low loading wings. Breeds in the immediate vicinity of this hazard (255 pairs on the seaside of Virginia in 2013) Virginia is near the northern limit of the breeding range. With most breeding populations to the south of Virginia, a relative small proportion of the North American population could be exposed to this hazard. Bevanger 1998, Molina et al 2014, Raynor 1988, Watts and Paxton 2014

Species/Subspecies (population)	Common Name	Collision Risk	Population Risk	Specific Information for risk class
Sternula antillarum antillarum	Least Tern	Medium	Medium	Agile flyers with high aspect/low loading wings. Breeds in the immediate vicinity of this hazard (533 pairs on the seaside of Virginia in 2013) Coastal population uses Atlantic coast a migration route. Species often migrates over open water. With many breeding populations to the south and west of Virginia, a moderate proportion of the North American population could be exposed to this hazard. Bevanger 1998, Thompson et al 1997, Raynor 1988, Watts and Paxton 2014
Rynchops niger niger	Black Skimmer	High	Medium	Often forages at night. Migrates in flocks along the coast and offshore. Breeds in the immediate vicinity of this hazard (1135 pairs on the seaside of Virginia in 2013). With many breeding populations to the south of Virginia, a moderate proportion of the North American population could be exposed to this hazard. Gochfeld and Burger 1994, Watts and Paxton 2014
Puffinus gravis	Greater Shearwater	Low	Low	Pelagic species. Very uncommon on the coast. eBird 2012
Puffinus lherminieri lherminieri	Audubon's Shearwater	Low	Low	Pelagic species. Very uncommon on the coast. eBird 2012
Botaurus lentiginosus	American Bittern	Medium	Low	Very little information. Ungraceful flight. Often active at night Likely uses rivers and coats lines for migration routes. Broad range across North America. Likely migrates over a broad range. Typically uses fresh water habitats but occasionally uses brackish coastal marshes. Lowther 2009
Ixobrychus exilis exilis	Least Bittern	High	Medium	Little information. Low ungraceful flight. Known to strike fences, and power lines. Often active at night. Most of the breeding range is associated with the Mississippi Valley Low density breeding population in the east. May use brackish marshes more frequently that American bittern. With much of the breeding populations to the west of Virginia, a moderate proportion of the North

Species/Subspecies (population)	Common Name	Collision Risk	Population Risk	Specific Information for risk class
				American population could be exposed to this hazard. Poole 2009
Egretta thula thula	Snowy Egret	High	Low	Active at night. Nocturnal migration documented. Heron species document as being susceptible to line strikes. North Atlantic coast breeding populations migratory. Breeds in the immediate vicinity of this hazard (755 pairs on the seaside of Virginia in 2013). Much of the North American breeding populations to the south and west of Virginia, a relative small proportion of the North American population could be exposed to this hazard. APLIC 2006, Parsons and Masters 2000, Watts and Paxton 2014
Laterallus jamaicensis	Black Rail	High	High	High load/low aspect wings. Known to strike towers and other objects. Migrates at night. Coastal populations have declined dramatically. One of the most imperiled bird species on the Atlantic coast. Little migration information. Tower kills indicate a broad migration front. If migration is concentrated along the coast a significant portion of the population could be exposed to this hazard. Eddleman 1994, Wilson et al 2015
Limnodromus griseus griseus (Hudson Bay)	Short-billed Dowitcher	High	High	Day and night time migration in large flocks. Migrates in calm and inclement weather. Atlantic coast migration route. Uses immediate vicinity as a stopover area (projected use by 46,000 individuals). Nocturnal foraging. Uses mid-Atlantic region as a terminally stopover area prior to migrating to the breeding area. A significant portion of the Hudson Bay population could be exposed to this hazard. Jehl 2001, Watts 2006
Calidris canutus rufa	Red Knot	High	High	Federally threatened. Migration can occur at night. Can form flocks larger than other shorebird species. Uses immediate vicinity as a stopover area (direct use by up to 30% of the rufa population). Flights between Delaware Bay and Virginia barrier islands documented during stopover. Forages at night during stopover. Uses mid-Atlantic region as a terminally stopover area prior to migrating to the breeding area.

Species/Subspecies (population)	Common Name	Collision Risk	Population Risk	Specific Information for risk class
				Utilizes outer beach as foraging habitat. Baker et al 2013, Cohen 2009, Watts 2006, Watts and Truitt 2015
Calidris maritima belcheri	Purple Sandpiper	High	Low	Migrate in large tight flocks. Known to strike power lines. May become confused by bright lights and inclement weather. Winters mainly to the north of Virginia. The small portion of the population that winters in Virginia and to the south may use Atlantic coast as a migratory route. Payne and Pierce 2002
Calidris pusilla	Semipalmated Sandpiper	High	Low	Migrates along the Atlantic coast and interior continental US. Nocturnal migration. Greater numbers of individual along the Atlantic coast in the spring. Can form very large flocks. Peak numbers in the mid-Atlantic can reach 115,000 in Delaware Bay. Lower numbers use immediate vicinity as a stopover area. Migration orientation can be confused during inclement weather. Hicklin and Gratto-Trevor 2010, Watts 2006
Limosa fedoa fedoa (James Bay)	Marbled Godwit	Medium	High	Small population of James Bay subspecies of about 2000 individuals. Little known about migration for this small population. Likely similar to other James/Hudson bay population, using mid-Atlantic as a terminal stopover area. Winter in small numbers along the coast in Virginia, more common to the south. Gratto-Trevor 2000
Limosa Haemastica (James Bay)	Hudsonian Godwit	Low	Low	Most individual migrate non-stop from James Bay to South America. Not a species commonly found in Virginia. Walker et al 2011, EBird 2012
Tringa flavipes	Lesser Yellowlegs	Medium	Low	Broad migration front. Primary migration corridors are within the middle of the continent. Most common on the Atlantic coast during fall migration. Fall migrants often make short flight south to stopover areas along Atlantic coast. Nocturnal migrant. Forms small tight flocks. Tibbitts and Moskogg 2014
Tringa solitaria solitaria	Solitary Sandpiper	Low	Low	Nocturnal migrant.

Species/Subspecies (population)	Common Name	Collision Risk	Population Risk	Specific Information for risk class
				Forms small flocks. Broad migration front. Small numbers may follow Atlantic coast. Mainly associated with freshwater habitats. Moskoff 2011
Bartramia longicauda	Upland Sandpiper	Low	Low	Most migration occurs through the Great Plains. Grassland species not associated with coastal habitats. Houston et al 2011
Tryngites subruficollis	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Low	Low	Most migration occurs through the central part of the continent. Small numbers may move east towards the Atlantic coast during fall migration. Mainly associated with short grass pastures and damp margins of freshwater bodies. Not typically associated with beaches or saltmarshes. Lancton and Laredo 1994, eBird 2012
Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus	Whimbrel	High	High	Form large migratory flocks. Nocturnal migration. Uses immediate vicinity as a stopover area (projected use by up to 40,000 individuals). Forages at night during stopover. Major proportion of the James/Hudson Bay population use the mid-Atlantic region as a terminally stopover area prior to migrating to the breeding area. Skeel and Mallory 1996, Smith et al 2011, Watts 2006
Charadrius melodus melodus	Piping Plover	Medium	High	Federally threatened. Breeds in the immediate vicinity of this hazard (151 pairs on the seaside of Virginia in 2005) Can form large migratory flocks. Uses the Atlantic coast as a migratory route in both spring and fall. Often make short flights to multiple stopover areas along the Atlantic coast during migration. Utilizes a variety of beach habitats. Excellent vision and will forage at night, especially during the pre-nesting and fledging stages of breeding. While localized during breeding season, migrating piping plover populations in Virginia and to the north be could be exposed to this hazard. Elliott-Smith and Haig 2004, Staine and Burger 1994, Watts 2006
Charadrius wilsonia	Wilson's Plover	Low	Low	Virginia is at the northern edge of the breeding range. Small population breeds in the immediate vicinity of this hazard (24 pairs on the seaside of Virginia in 2005). Utilizes a variety of beach habitats. Excellent vision and will forage at night.

Species/Subspecies (population)	Common Name	Collision Risk	Population Risk	Specific Information for risk class
				Corbat and Bergstrom 2000, Watts 2006
Haematopus palliatus	American Oystercatcher	High	Medium	Form large tight flocks. Immediate vicinity is and important breeding, stopover, and wintering site. 525 breeding pairs on the seaside of Virginia in 2005 3,600 wintering individuals counted in December, 2015. Populations from the northern Atlantic breeding range by bypass the mid-Atlantic.to winter on the northwest coast of Florida. Migrant populations from the mid-Atlantic that winter on the southeast Atlantic and Florida gulf coast use a coastal migratory route. Nol and Humphrey 2012, Watts 2006, Wilke 2015
Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Bald Eagle	Low	Low	Five nests located on island and the peninsula within 10km of the hazard during the last comprehensive survey in 2011. Two small roosts located on the peninsula within 10km of the hazard. Complex migration pattern. Maximum season total for Kiptopeke Hawkwatch is 462 south bound migrants in 2009. Diurnal migrant. Buehler 2000, CCB Mapping Portal 2015, HMANA Hawkcount.org 2015
Falco peregrinus	Peregrine Falcon	Low	Medium	Ten active nest located the seaside of Virginia in 2015, including one associated with Wallops Island. Widespread migration. Clearly defined migratory route along the barrier islands. Maximum season total for Kiptopeke Hawkwatch is 1640 south bound migrants in 1997. Significant proportion of the *tundrius* and eastern *anatum* populations are likely to migrate down the Atlantic coast. Known to strike building and wires, recently fledged young are particularly susceptible. Diurnal Migrant HMANA Hawkcount.org 2015, Watts and Mojica 2015, White et al 2002
Asio flammeus	Short-eared Owl	Low	Low	Broad range. Little migration data. Occasionally winters on barrier islands, probably annually in very low numbers. Wiggins et al 2006, eBird 2012

Appendix 5. List of landbird species and season (breeding, wintering, migratory) expected to overlap with the proposed Wallops Instrumentation Tower site. Bird conservation regions listed as conservation concern for as a species taken from the USFWS Bird Species of Concern 2008. Populations of bird species expected to overlap with the proposed site may emanate from these various Bird Conservation Regions. Population exposure indicates the relative level a population is expected to overlap with the proposed sites and population vulnerability indicates the level in which a population may respond negatively to a demographic disturbance.

Species/subspecies	Common Name	Breeding	Wintering	Migratory	Conservation Concern*	Population Exposure	Population Vulnerability
Colinus virginianus	Northern Bobwhite	x	x			Low	Low
Meleagris gallopavo	Wild Turkey	x	x			Low	Low
Columba livia	Rock Pigeon		x			High	Low
Zenaida macroura	Mourning Dove	x	x	x		High	Low
Coccyzus americanus	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	x		x		High	Low
Coccyzus erythropthalmus	Black-billed Cuckoo			x		High	Low
Chordeiles minor	Common Nighthawk	x		x		High	Low
Antrostomus carolinensis	Chuck-will's-widow	x		x	30	High	High
Antrostomus vociferus	Eastern Whip-poor-will			x	29, 30	High	Low
Chaetura pelagica	Chimney Swift			x		High	Low
Archilochus colubris	Ruby-throated Hummingbird			x		High	Low
Megaceryle alcyon	Belted Kingfisher	x	x	x		High	Low
Melanerpes erythrocephalus	Red-headed Woodpecker	x	x	x	28, 30	High	Low
Melanerpes carolinus	Red-bellied Woodpecker	x	x			Low	Low
Sphyrapicus varius	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		x	x		High	Low
Picoides pubescens	Downy Woodpecker	x	x			Low	Low
Picoides villosus	Hairy Woodpecker	x	x			Low	Low
Colaptes auratus	Northern Flicker	x	x	x		High	Low
Dryocopus pileatus	Pileated Woodpecker	x	x			Low	Low

Species/subspecies	Common Name	Breeding	Wintering	Migratory	Conservation Concern*	Population Exposure	Population Vulnerability
Contopus cooperi	Olive-sided Flycatcher			x		Low	Low
Contopus virens	Eastern Wood-Pewee	x		x		High	Low
Empidonax flaviventris	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher			x		High	Low
Empidonax virescens	Acadian Flycatcher			x		High	Low
Empidonax alnorum	Alder Flycatcher			x		High	Low
Empidonax traillii	Willow Flycatcher	x		x		High	Low
Empidonax minimus	Least Flycatcher			x		High	Low
Sayornis phoebe	Eastern Phoebe	x	x	x		High	Low
Tyrannus tyrannus	Eastern Kingbird	x		x		High	Low
Lanius ludovicianus	Loggerhead Shrike		x	x	7, 29, 30	Low	High
Vireo griseus	White-eyed Vireo	x		x		High	Low
Vireo flavifrons	Yellow-throated Vireo			x		High	Low
Vireo solitarius	Blue-headed Vireo			x		High	Low
Vireo gilvus	Warbling Vireo			x		High	Low
Vireo philadelphicus	Philadelphia Vireo			x		High	Low
Vireo olivaceus	Red-eyed Vireo	x		x		High	Low
Cyanocitta cristata	Blue Jay	x	x	x		High	Low
Corvus brachyrhynchos	American Crow	x	x	x		High	Low
Corvus ossifragus	Fish Crow	x	x	x		High	Low
Eremophila alpestris	Horned Lark	x	x	x		High	Low
Progne subis	Purple Martin	x	x	x		High	Low
Tachycineta bicolor	Tree Swallow	x		x		High	Low
Stelgidopteryx serripennis	Northern Rough-winged Swallow			x		High	Low
Riparia riparia	Bank Swallow			x		High	Low
Petrochelidon pyrrhonota	Cliff Swallow			x		High	Low

Species/subspecies	Common Name	Breeding	Wintering	Migratory	Conservation Concern*	Population Exposure	Population Vulnerability
Hirundo rustica	Barn Swallow	x		x		High	Low
Poecile carolinensis	Carolina Chickadee	x	x			Low	Low
Baeolophus bicolor	Tufted Titmouse	x	x			Low	Low
Sitta canadensis	Red-breasted Nuthatch		x	x		High	Low
Sitta carolinensis	White-breasted Nuthatch	x	x			Low	Low
Sitta pusilla	Brown-headed Nuthatch	x	x		29	Low	Low
Certhia americana	Brown Creeper		x	x		High	Low
Troglodytes aedon	House Wren	x		x		High	Low
Troglodytes hiemalis	Winter Wren		x	x		High	Low
Cistothorus platensis	Sedge Wren	x	x	x	28, 29, 30	High	Low
Cistothorus palustris	Marsh Wren	x	x	x		High	Low
Thryothorus ludovicianus	Carolina Wren	x	x			Low	Low
Polioptila caerulea	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	x		x		High	Low
Regulus satrapa	Golden-crowned Kinglet		x	x		High	Low
Regulus calendula	Ruby-crowned Kinglet		x	x		High	Low
Sialia sialis	Eastern Bluebird	x	x	x		High	Low
Catharus fuscescens	Veery			x		High	Low
Catharus minimus	Gray-cheeked Thrush			x		High	Low
Catharus bicknelli	Bicknell's Thrush			x	14	High	High
Catharus ustulatus	Swainson's Thrush			x		High	Low
Catharus guttatus	Hermit Thrush			x		High	Low
Hylocichla mustelina	Wood Thrush	x		x	14, 28, 29, 30	High	High
Turdus migratorius	American Robin	x	x	x		High	Low
Dumetella carolinensis	Gray Catbird	x	x	x		High	Low
Toxostoma rufum	Brown Thrasher	x	x	x		High	Low

Species/subspecies	Common Name	Breeding	Wintering	Migratory	Conservation Concern*	Population Exposure	Population Vulnerability
Mimus polyglottos	Northern Mockingbird	x	x			Low	Low
Sturnus vulgaris	European Starling	x	x	x		Low	Low
Bombycilla cedrorum	Cedar Waxwing	x	x	x		High	Low
Seiurus aurocapilla	Ovenbird			x		High	Low
Helmitheros vermivorum	Worm-eating Warbler			x	28, 30	High	Moderate-High
Parkesia motacilla	Louisiana Waterthrush			x	28	High	Moderate-High
Parkesia noveboracensis	Northern Waterthrush			x	30	High	Low
Vermivora chrysoptera	Golden-winged Warbler			x	28, 30	High	High
Vermivora cyanoptera	Blue-winged Warbler			x	14, 28, 29, 30	High	High
Mniotilta varia	Black-and-white Warbler			x		High	Low
Protonotaria citrea	Prothonotary Warbler			x		High	Low
Limnothlypis swainsonii	Swainson's Warbler			x	28, 29	High	Low
Oreothlypis peregrina	Tennessee Warbler			x		High	Low
Oreothlypis celata	Orange-crowned Warbler		x	x		High	Low
Oreothlypis ruficapilla	Nashville Warbler			x		High	Low
Oporornis agilis	Connecticut Warbler			x		High	Low
Geothlypis philadelphia	Mourning Warbler			x		High	Low
Geothlypis formosa	Kentucky Warbler			x	28, 29, 30	High	Moderate-High
Geothlypis trichas	Common Yellowthroat	x	x	x		High	Low
Setophaga citrina	Hooded Warbler			x		High	Low
Setophaga ruticilla	American Redstart			x		High	Moderate-High
Setophaga kirtlandii	Kirtland's Warbler			x		Low	Low
Setophaga tigrina	Cape May Warbler			x		High	Low
Setophaga cerulea	Cerulean Warbler			x	28, 29, 30	High	Low
Setophaga americana	Northern Parula			x		High	Low

Species/subspecies	Common Name	Breeding	Wintering	Migratory	Conservation Concern*	Population Exposure	Population Vulnerability
Setophaga magnolia	Magnolia Warbler			x		High	Low
Setophaga castanea	Bay-breasted Warbler			x	14	High	Low
Setophaga fusca	Blackburnian Warbler			x		High	Low
Setophaga petechia	Yellow Warbler			x		High	Low
Setophaga pensylvanica	Chestnut-sided Warbler			x		High	Low
Setophaga striata	Blackpoll Warbler			x		High	Low
Setophaga caerulescens	Black-throated Blue Warbler			x		High	Moderate-High
Setophaga palmarum	Palm Warbler		x	x		High	Low
Setophaga pinus	Pine Warbler	x	x	x		High	Low
Setophaga coronata	Yellow-rumped Warbler		x	x		High	Low
Setophaga dominica	Yellow-throated Warbler	x		x		High	Low
Setophaga discolor	Prairie Warbler	x		x	28, 29, 30	High	Low
Setophaga virens	Black-throated Green Warbler			x		High	Low
Cardellina canadensis	Canada Warbler			x	14, 28	High	Low
Cardellina pusilla	Wilson's Warbler			x		High	Low
Icteria virens	Yellow-breasted Chat	x		x		High	Low
Pipilo erythrophthalmus	Eastern Towhee		x			Low	Low
Spizelloides arborea	American Tree Sparrow		x	x		High	Low
Spizella passerina	Chipping Sparrow	x	x	x		High	Low
Spizella pusilla	Field Sparrow	x	x	x		High	Low
Pooecetes gramineus	Vesper Sparrow		x	x		High	Low
Passerculus sandwichensis	Savannah Sparrow		x	x		High	Low
Passerculus sandwichensis princepeps	Ipswich Sparrow		x	x		High	High
Ammodramus savannarum	Grasshopper Sparrow			x		High	Low
Ammodramus henslowii	Henslow's Sparrow	x	x	x	28, 29	High	High

Species/subspecies	Common Name	Breeding	Wintering	Migratory	Conservation Concern*	Population Exposure	Population Vulnerability
Ammodramus leconteii	Le Conte's Sparrow			x		High	Low
Ammodramus nelsoni	Nelson's Sparrow		x	x	14, 30	High	Low
Ammodramus caudacutus	Saltmarsh Sparrow	x	x	x	14, 30	High	Low
Ammodramus maritimus	Seaside Sparrow	x	x	x	30	High	Low
Passerella iliaca	Fox Sparrow		x	x		High	Low
Melospiza melodia	Song Sparrow	x	x	x		High	Low
Melospiza georgiana nicgrescens	Coastal Plain Swamp Sparrow		x	x	30	High	High
Melospiza georgiana	Swamp Sparrow		x	x		High	Low
Zonotrichia albicollis	White-throated Sparrow		x	x		High	Low
Junco hyemalis	Dark-eyed Junco		x	x		High	Low
Piranga rubra	Summer Tanager	x		x		High	Low
Piranga olivacea	Scarlet Tanager			x		High	Low
Cardinalis cardinalis	Northern Cardinal	x	x			Low	Low
Pheucticus ludovicianus	Rose-breasted Grosbeak			x		Low	Low
Passerina caerulea	Blue Grosbeak	x		x		High	Low
Passerina cyanea	Indigo Bunting	x		x		High	Low
Passerina ciris	Painted Bunting			x		Low	Low
Spiza americana	Dickcissel			x		Low	Low
Dolichonyx oryzivorus	Bobolink			x		High	Low
Agelaius phoeniceus	Red-winged Blackbird	x	x	x		Low	Low
Sturnella magna	Eastern Meadowlark	x	x			High	Low
Euphagus carolinus	Rusty Blackbird		x	x	14, 28, 29, 30	High	Low
Quiscalus quiscula	Common Grackle	x	x	x		High	Low
Quiscalus major	Boat-tailed Grackle		x			High	Low
Molothrus ater	Brown-headed Cowbird	x		x		High	Low

Species/subspecies	Common Name	Breeding	Wintering	Migratory	Conservation Concern*	Population Exposure	Population Vulnerability
Icterus spurius	Orchard Oriole	x		x		High	Low
Icterus galbula	Baltimore Oriole			x		High	Low
Haemorhous mexicanus	House Finch		x			Low	Low
Haemorhous purpureus	Purple Finch		x	x		High	Low
Loxia curvirostra	Red Crossbill			x	28	Low	Low
Loxia leucoptera	White-winged Crossbill			x		Low	Low
Acanthis flammea	Common Redpoll			x		Low	Low
Spinus pinus	Pine Siskin		x	x		Low	Low
Spinus tristis	American Goldfinch	x	x	x		High	Low
Coccothraustes vespertinus	Evening Grosbeak			x		Low	Low
Passer domesticus	House Sparrow	x	x			Low	Low

*Bird Conservation Regions: 7 = Taiga Shield and Hudson Plains, 14 = North Atlantic Forest, 28 = Appalachian Mountains, 29 = Piedmont, 30 = Mid-Atlantic Coastal Plain