

## Appendix A: Birds

### Purple Finch

*Haemorhous purpureus*

Federal Listing	N/A
State Listing	N/A
Global Rank	G5
State Rank	S5
Regional Status	



Photo by Pamela Hunt

#### Justification (Reason for Concern in NH)

The Purple Finch is one of several still-common forest birds that are experiencing significant population declines across much of their ranges, and as a result is considered a Regional SGCN in the Northeastern United States (USFWS Region 50). It is also on the Partners in Flight Watch. Populations in New Hampshire have declined at -2.96%/year since 1966, and 3.03%/year since 2003. Long term declines are greater in the south: -6.28%/year in BCR 30 vs. -1.51%/year in BCR 30.

#### Distribution

The Purple Finch breeds from the Yukon Territory south in the Pacific mountain ranges to southern California, and southeast across Canada to West Virginia, New England, and Newfoundland (Wootton 1996). It winters from southern British Columbia south through the western breeding range, and east of the Great Plains from southern Manitoba to the Gulf of Mexico. Because of irruptive tendencies, numbers in the eastern winter range can show extensive latitudinal variation from year to year. Breeds statewide in New Hampshire, but uncommon at lower elevations in the southern counties, particularly near the coast (Foss 1994).

#### Habitat

The Purple Finch uses a wide range of forest types, including those of an anthropogenic nature such as orchards, conifer plantations, and suburban yards (Wootton 1996). Densities are probably highest in more northern forest types with significant conifer components.

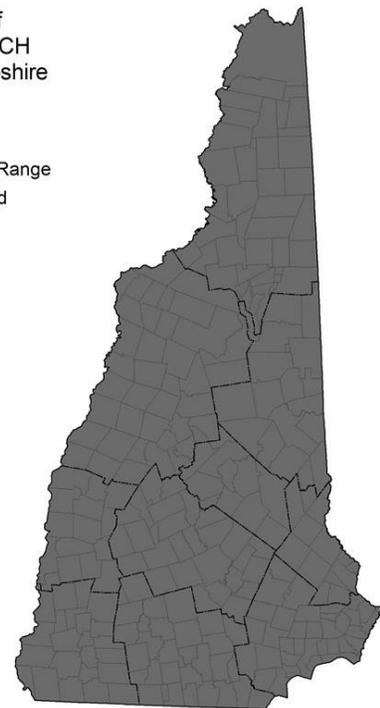
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### NH Wildlife Action Plan Habitats

- Appalachian Oak Pine Forest
- Hemlock Hardwood Pine Forest
- Developed Habitats
- Floodplain Habitats
- High Elevation Spruce-Fir Forest
- Lowland Spruce-Fir Forest
- Northern Hardwood-Conifer Forest
- Northern Swamps

Distribution of  
PURPLE FINCH  
in New Hampshire

■ Current Range  
▨ Localized



Distribution Map

### Current Species and Habitat Condition in New Hampshire

Significant rangewide population declines (see Justification).

### Population Management Status

Management is not currently in place for this species.

### Regulatory Protection (for explanations, see Appendix I)

- Migratory Bird Treaty Act (1918)

### Quality of Habitat

Unknown

### Habitat Protection Status

Highly variable

### Habitat Management Status

Habitat management has not been implemented for this species.

### Threats to this Species or Habitat in NH

*Threat rankings were calculated by groups of taxonomic or habitat experts using a multistep process (details in Chapter 4). Each threat was ranked for these factors: Spatial Extent, Severity, Immediacy, Certainty, and Reversibility (ability to address the threat). These combined scores produced one overall threat score. Only threats that received a “medium” or “high” score have accompanying text in this profile. Threats that have a low spatial extent, are unlikely to occur in the next ten years, or there is uncertainty in the data will be ranked lower due to these factors.*

#### Habitat conversion due to development (Threat Rank: Medium)

Ongoing residential and commercial development results in permanent loss of habitats for wildlife. Many forest birds are area sensitive (e.g., Zuckerberg and Porter 2010) and less likely to occupy habitat patches in landscapes with less forest cover. See the forest habitat profiles for more information.

#### Habitat conversion and fragmentation from tower and turbine development (Threat Rank: Medium)

Towers and turbines and their supporting infrastructure result in both the direct loss of habitat and fragmentation of adjacent non-cleared forest. Both these impacts can affect forest birds as discussed elsewhere. See the forest habitat profiles for more information.

#### Habitat conversion and degradation from timber harvest (Threat Rank: Medium)

To the extent that timber harvest can remove mature forest from the landscape, its short-term effects can be similar to those of residential or commercial development for forest birds. At the same time, if regenerating forest contains a different species composition its suitability for specific forest birds could either increase or decrease.

#### Habitat degradation from insect pests (introduced species) (Threat Rank: Medium)

To the extent that insect pests can alter forest species composition, they may have trickle down effects on the bird that use these habitats, although detailed studies of these effects have yet to be carried out. See the forest habitat profiles for more information.

#### List of Lower Ranking Threats:

Disturbance from noise associated with recreational activity

Habitat impacts from road fragmentation

Habitat degradation from habitat shifting and changes in species composition

### Actions to benefit this Species or Habitat in NH

**No actions identified, but see appropriate forest habitat profile(s) for actions that would likely benefit this species.**

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### References, Data Sources and Authors

#### Data Sources

Trend data from Breeding Bird Survey (Sauer et al. 2014, above).

NH distribution data from NHBR/NH eBird.

#### Data Quality

Because this species is easily detected and identifiable, data on distribution and habitat use are generally well known.

#### 2015 Authors:

Pamela Hunt, NHA

#### 2005 Authors:

John Kanter, NHFG

#### Literature

Foss, C.R. 1994. Atlas of Breeding Birds in New Hampshire. New Hampshire Audubon, Concord, NH.

Sauer, J.R., J.E. Hines, J.E. Fallon, K.L. Pardieck, D.J. Ziolkowski, Jr., and W.A. Link. 2014. The North American Breeding Bird Survey, Results and Analysis 1966 - 2013. Version

Wootton, J.T. 1996. Purple Finch (*Haemorhous purpureus*), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: <http://bna.birds.cornell.edu.bnaproxy.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/208doi:10.2173/bna.208>

Zuckerberg, B. and W.F. Porter. 2010. Thresholds in the long-term responses of breeding birds to forest cover and fragmentation. *Biological Conservation* 143: 952–962.