

Agenda Item 10

**WAC 220-200-100 and
220-610-110**

Periodic Status Review: Yellow-billed Cuckoo



Washington Department of
FISH and WILDLIFE

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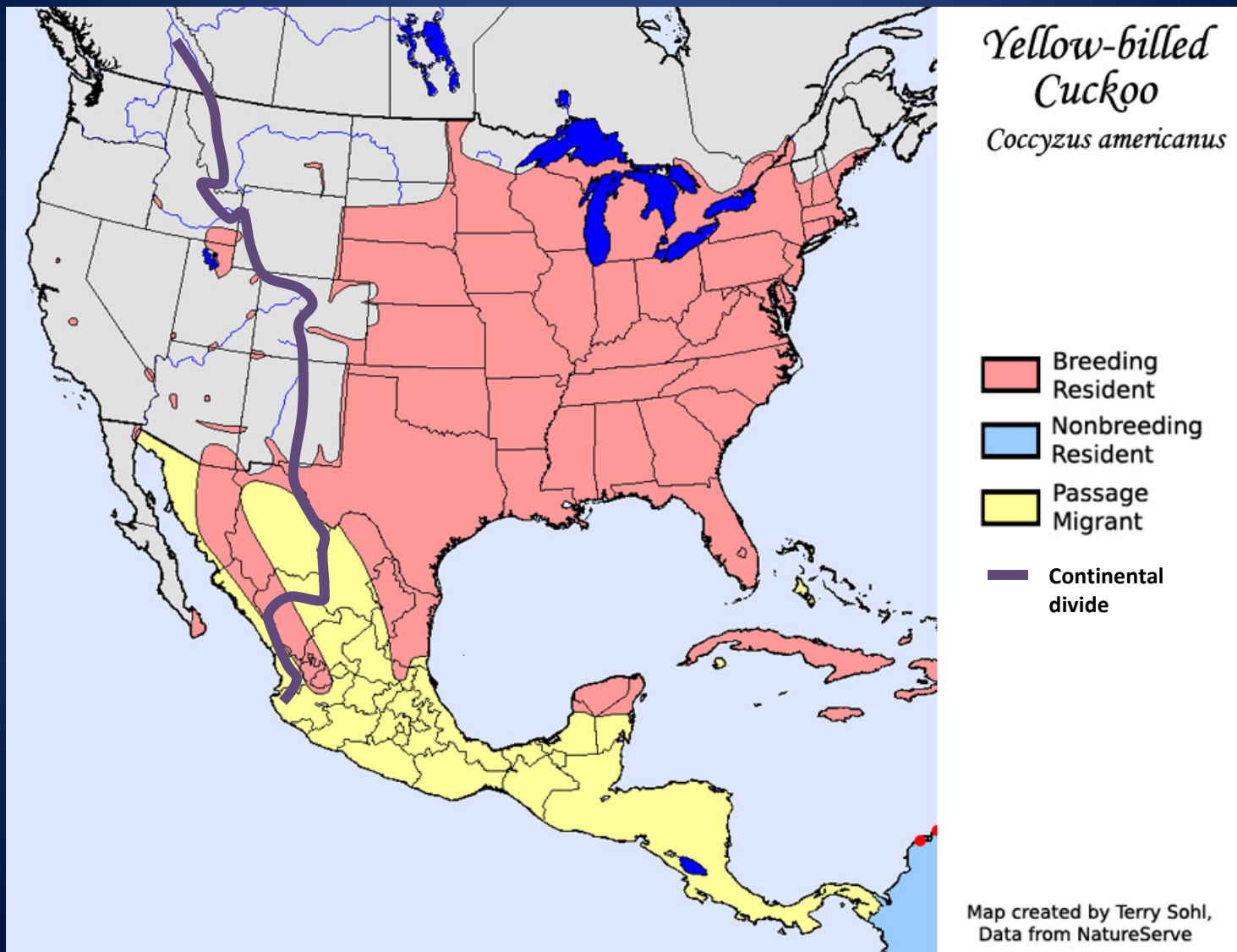


Natural History



- Migrant to western North America from June to Sept
- Nests in riparian forest, prefers areas >90 ac
- Clutch of 2-3 eggs
- Very short time to fledging
- Not a nest parasite
- Diet: mainly large insects, especially caterpillars

Breeding Distribution in North America



Listing Status

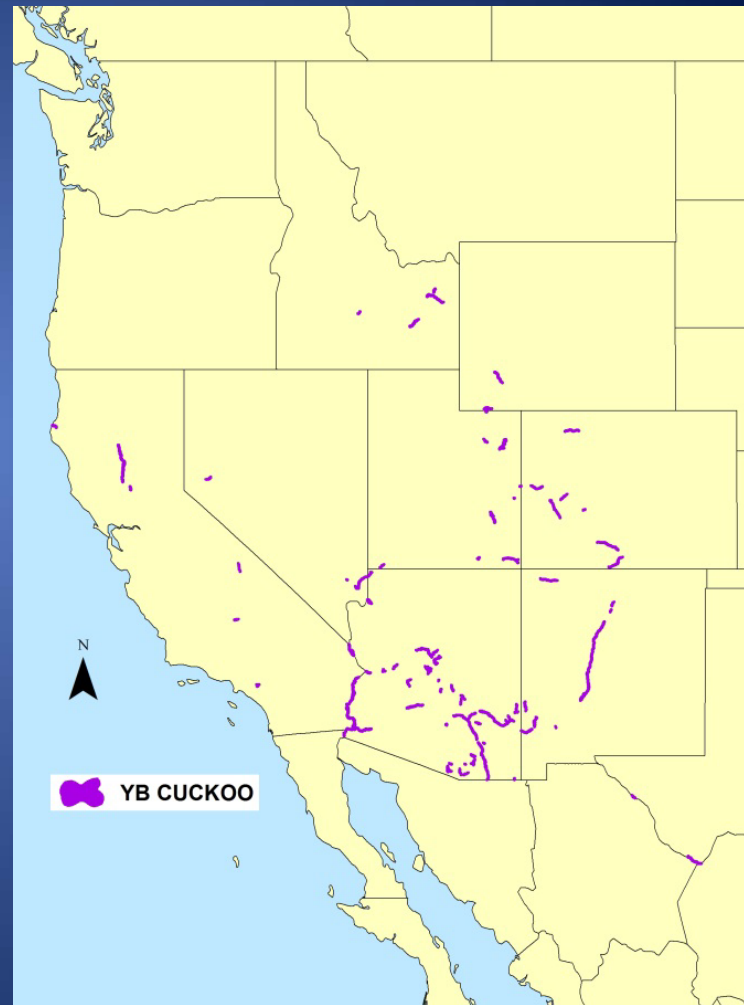
- WA: candidate, 1991
- Federal: western popn, threatened, 2014
- Federal: critical habitat, proposed, but will exclude WA

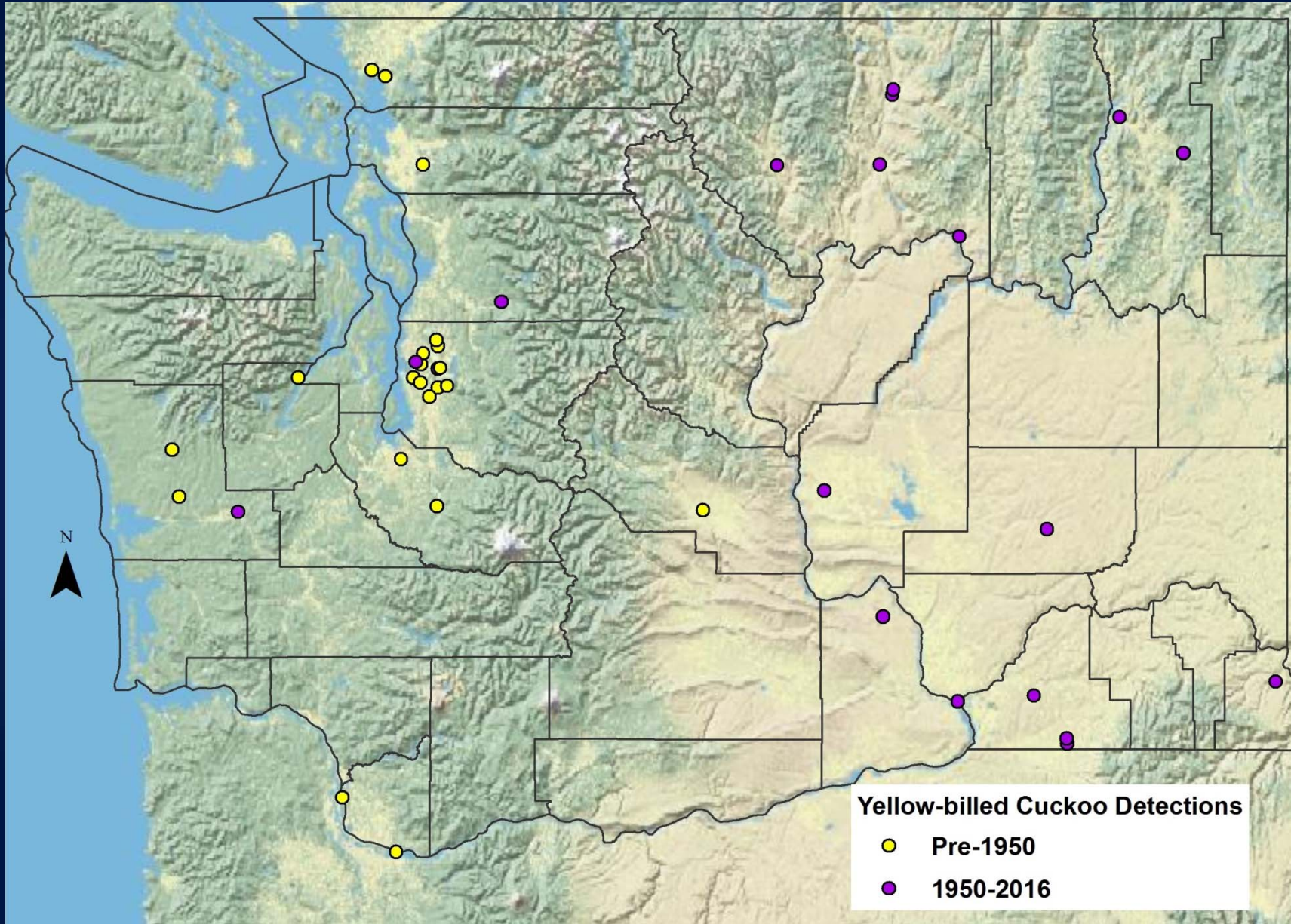


Seth Peterson

Population Status of Western YBCU

- Major range contraction
- declines in numbers since early 1900s
- Remnant distribution
- Current estimate:
 - ~350-500 pairs in U.S.
 - ~250-500 pairs in Mexico





Status of Yellow-billed Cuckoos in Washington (pre-1950)

- Formerly locally rare to uncommon in western WA, except along the lower Columbia River
- Likely nested in at least 6 areas of lowland western WA
 - Bellingham, Marietta
 - Lake Washington, Seattle
 - Vancouver, Ridgefield
 - Mount Vernon
 - Tacoma
 - Grays Harbor
- Declines probably underway by 1900
- Breeding last confirmed in 1923, but likely continued until at least the early 1940s
- Two records from Ellensburg

Status of Yellow-billed Cuckoos in Washington (after 1950)

- 20 sightings statewide since 1950s
- Most recent in 2012, 2015
- Mostly in eastern WA
- None have involved confirmed or probable breeding
- Nearly all in riparian habitats
- No dedicated surveys



Factors Affecting Cuckoos

- Loss and degradation of riparian habitat
 - Dams, flood control, land conversion, urbanization, grazing, non-native plants
 - Lake Washington and Seattle
- Pesticide use
- Climate change

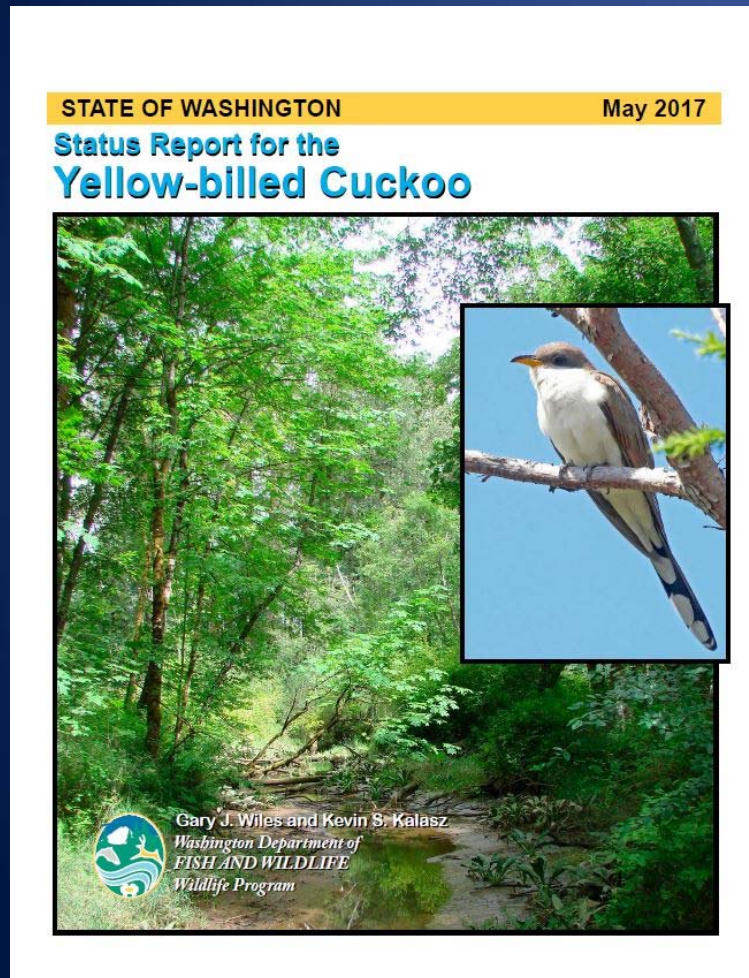


Recent Conservation Actions

- None in Washington, but riparian protections may help
 - Salmon recovery
- Elsewhere,
 - Habitat restoration
 - Research



Recommendation



Classify the Yellow-billed Cuckoos as a state endangered species.

Public Comment

- Support for listing as endangered (9)
- Opposed (4)



Questions?

