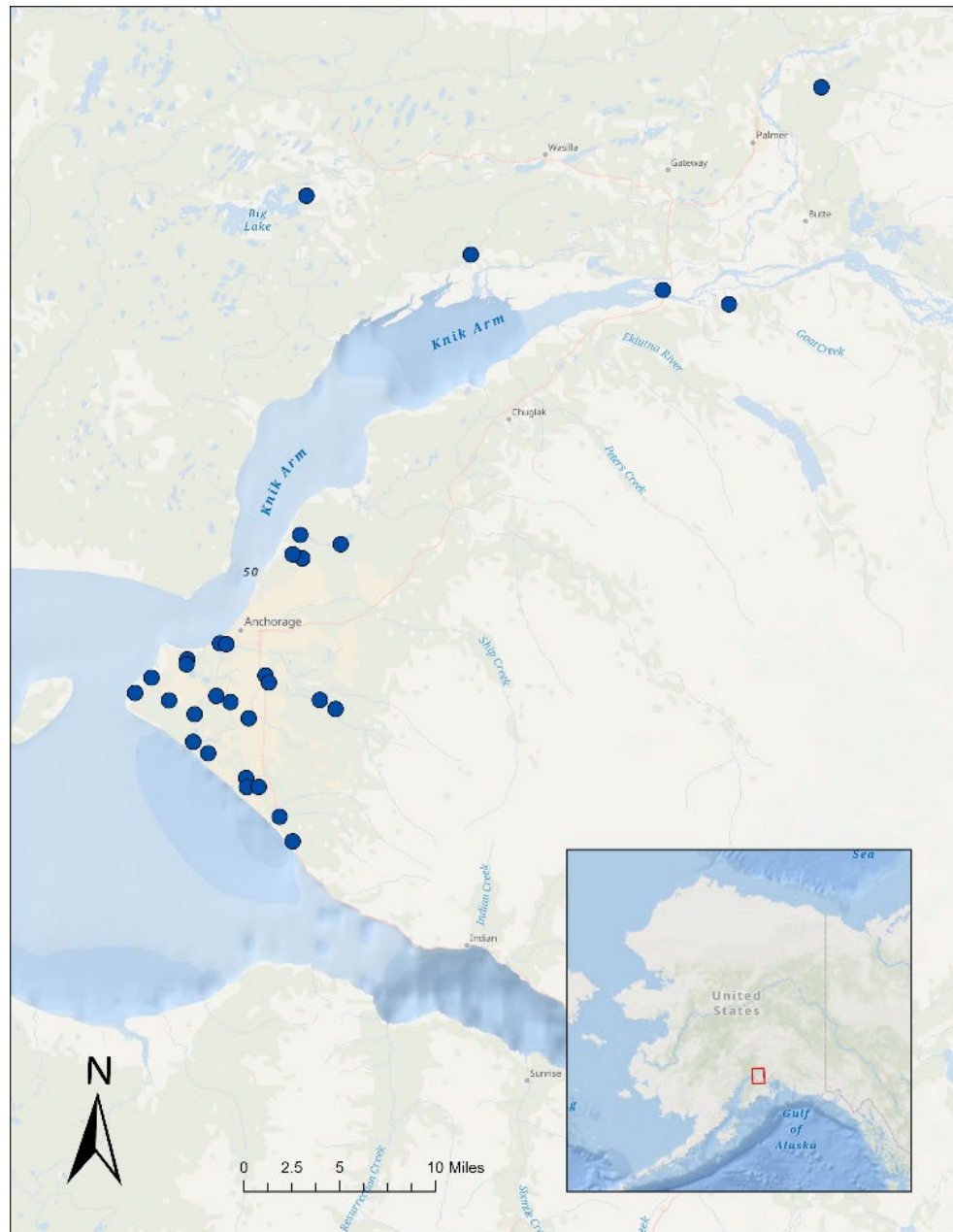


Trends in Boreal Wetland Birds and the Value of Citizen Science in Southcentral Alaska

Arin Underwood, ADF&G



The Birds 'n' Bogs Project



- Background
 - 2014-2025 citizen science wetland bird data
 - eBird and volunteers
- Questions
 - Lesser Yellowlegs abundance trend?
 - What influences bird abundance/detection?
 - Best practices for small citizen science projects

Methodology

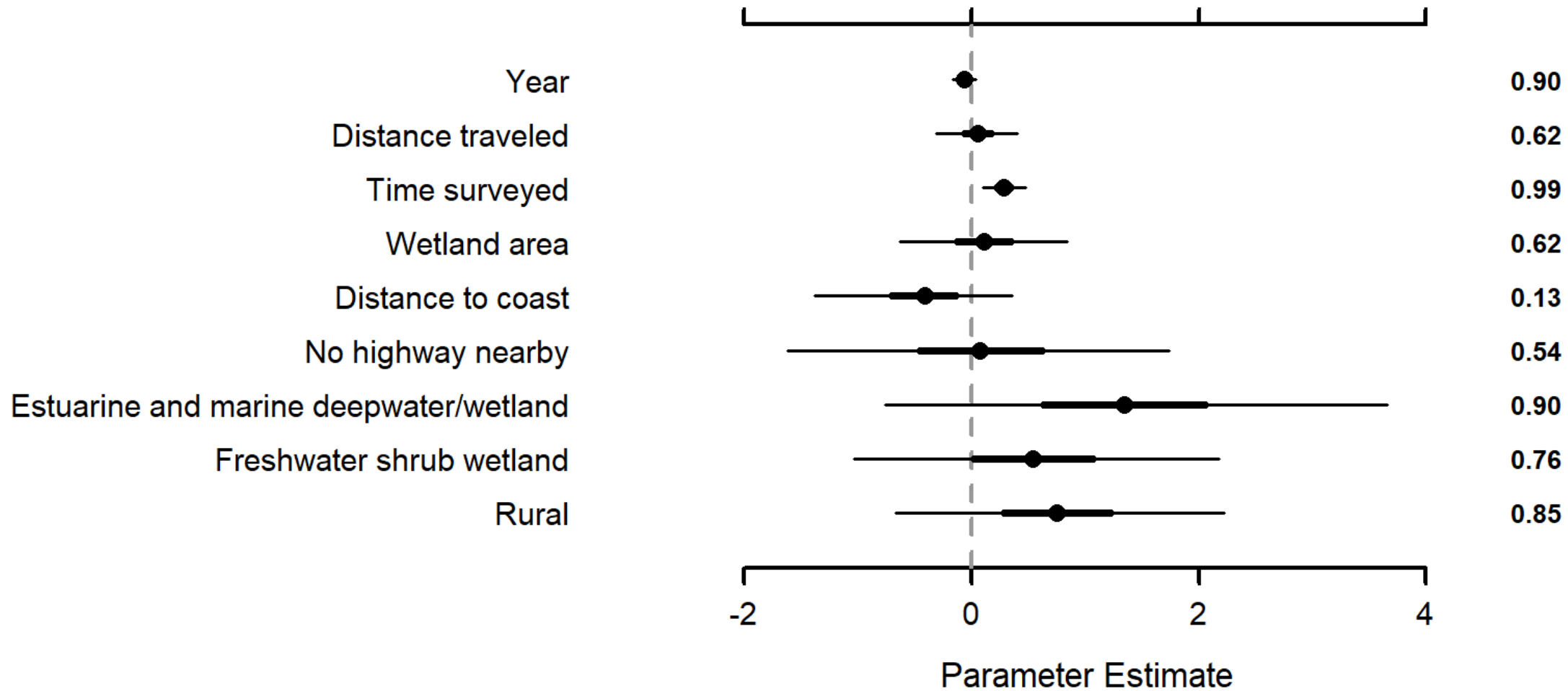
- Annual volunteer training and surveys
- Double observer surveys
- Bayesian approach with GLMM
- Abundance trend
- Effects of parameters
- Social science survey

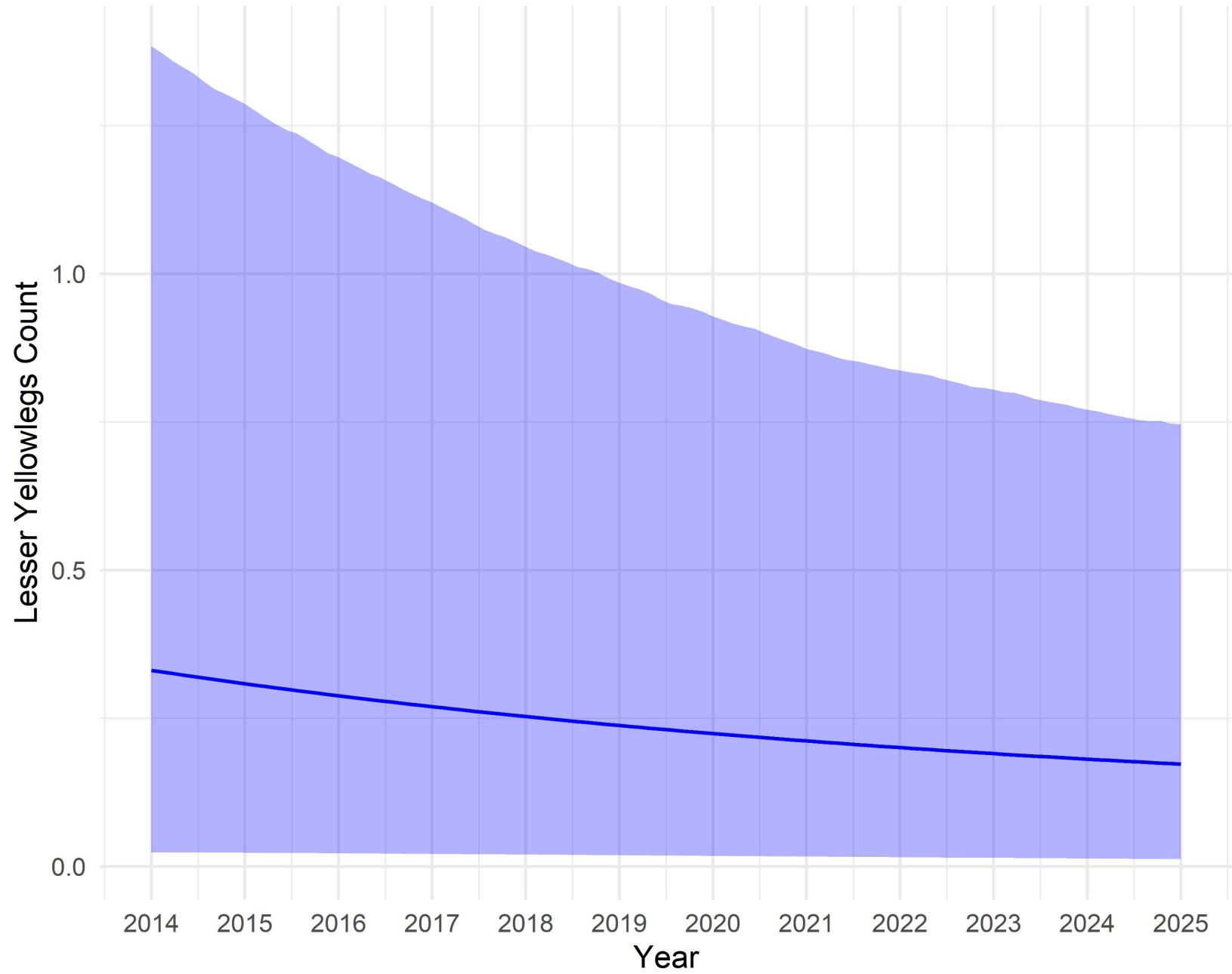


Detection Probability

- Are the detections across volunteer skill level comparable?
- Detection probability
 - 2024: 0.98
 - 2025: 0.93







Social Science

“I was avoiding using eBird until I started volunteering, but now that I used it for this, I use it all the time.”

“Definitely use eBird more than before”

“I have become a more active birder and participate with eBird.”

“The program has made me a stronger advocate for conservation and wildlife education. It makes me want to use eBird more and improve the quantity and quality of the data I provide.”

“I liked having a reason to go birding and knowing that my birding was doing something useful for Alaska.”

“I feel more motivated to get others interested in birding and offer advice on how to help protect wildlife.”

Question	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
My participation in the Birds 'n Bogs program has improved my confidence in sharing information about bird identification with others.	0%	7%	17%	28%	48%
I am worried about the future of the natural world	0%	0%	3%	0%	97%
I feel hopeful about the future of the natural world (Regardless of your answer to the previous question)	17%	35%	31%	7%	10%
I feel a sense of responsibility to care for natural spaces and wildlife	0%	0%	0%	7%	93%



Next steps

- Rule out alternative explanations of decline
- Abundance trends for additional species
- Further surveys for volunteers
 - Stewardship
- 2026 field season

Thank you!

- 35+ Birds 'n' Bogs volunteers from 2013-2025
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