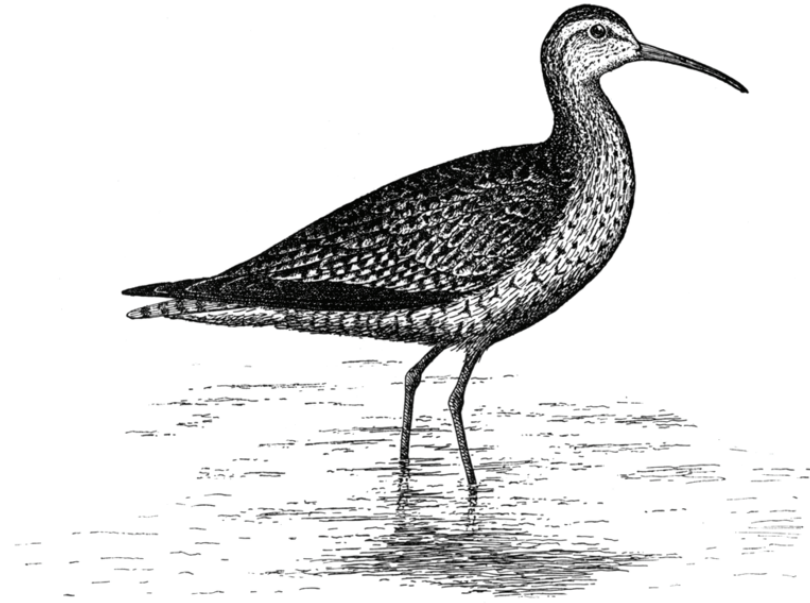


Eskimo Curlew

(*Numenius borealis*)

- The Eskimo Curlew is a pigeon-sized shorebird.
- It has long legs and a fairly long, thin, slightly down-curving bill.
- Its upper parts are brown, its breast and abdomen are rusty-yellow or buff, and it has solid brown/cinnamon under-wings.



Provincial Distribution



Habitat/ Range

Eskimo Curlew nest in the Northwest Territories. During their fall migration, they use coastal barrens on the coasts of Newfoundland and Labrador before a non-stop flight to their wintering ground in South America.

Population Trends

The Eskimo Curlew once numbered in the hundreds of thousands, but declined rapidly after the 1870s. Sightings, even unconfirmed sightings, of the Eskimo Curlew are extremely rare and no specimen has been collected since the 1960s. Many people believe that this bird may be extinct.

Limiting Factors and Threats

Historically this bird was shot in large numbers. Currently, their extremely low population size puts them at risk from stochastic events.

Special Significance

The Eskimo Curlew was similar to the Passenger Pigeon in that it was the subject of a large commercial hunt which was not stopped until 1916. Thousands were shot each fall providing a source of food and income.

You can help protect the Eskimo Curlew:

- Report any sightings to the Wildlife Division.
- Learn something new about a species at risk in Newfoundland and Labrador and tell a friend!

Department of Environment & Conservation

Wildlife Division

Endangered Species & Biodiversity

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