



GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK IMPORTANT BIRD AREA *Fact Sheet*

Protecting and conserving bird habitats in Nevada one area at a time.



Wheeler Peak

Photo Courtesy of D. Melvor

What is an IBA?

IBAs are areas that are important places for bird populations and where conservation efforts are focused. Within NV, there are 39 recognized IBAs which are sites that provide essential breeding, migration, or wintering habitat for one or more species of birds.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

The Great Basin National Park (GBNP) Important Bird Area (IBA) is located in east-central Nevada and includes the entire national park which is managed by the National Park Service.

The Snake Range runs through the IBA with Wheeler Peak being the highest point (13,063 feet above sea level) within the IBA and second highest in the state.

The overall size of the IBA is about 119 square miles or 76,160 acres. Because of the size and the broad elevation range, there is a high diversity of habitat types that are unique within Nevada.

The habitat types found in GBNP that are important to birds include:

- Great Basin juniper woodland
- Alpine bedrock
- Montane mixed conifer forest & woodland
- Aspen-mixed conifer forest & woodland
- Subalpine bristlecone pine and spruce-fir forests
- Mountain mahogany woodland & shrubland



Black Rosy-finches nest in tree-less mountain tops in the alpine zone of the tallest peaks in the Park which makes finding a nest a rare event.

This species winters in the sagebrush lowlands which makes it easier to view them.

REASONS FOR IBA RECOGNITION

1. The GBNP IBA supports species identified as high conservation priorities. Out of the 51 bird species listed by the NV Partners in Flight, 28 species have range distributions within this IBA.
2. The GBNP IBA contains rare, threatened, or unusual habitats. The high-elevation habitats (alpine & sub-alpine) are unusual in Nevada.
3. This site is exceptional in the natural or near-natural habitat within the state meaning that there is little to no human disturbances.

BIRD SPECIES OF FOCUS FOR THE GBNP IBA

- Calliope Hummingbird
- Olive-sided Flycatcher
- Sage Sparrow
- Virginia's Warbler
- Loggerhead Shrike
- Sage Thrasher
- Black-throated Gray Warbler
- MacGillivray's Warbler
- Black Rosy-finch
- Pinyon Jay
- Yellow-breasted Chat
- Three-toed Woodpecker
- Northern Goshawk
- Red-naped Woodpecker
- Cooper's Hawk
- Swainson's Hawk
- Prairie Falcon
- Greater Sage-Grouse

Loggerhead Shrike



Photo Courtesy of G. Jamison

Did You Know??

Based on a USGS survey, GBNP has 4 watersheds, 9 miles of streams, 18 wetland areas, 25 perennial springs, 156 acres of riparian habitat, and 23 cave systems!!!

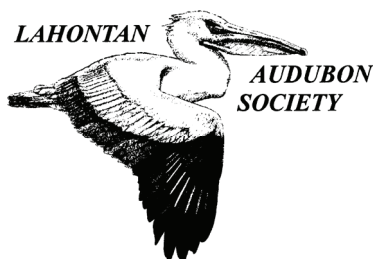
The NV IBA Program is supported through the cooperative efforts of:



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IMPACTS TO THE IBA

- Pinyon-Juniper Expansion: The shrub-steppe habitats are impacted by the expanding pinyon-juniper (PJ) woodlands. The stands of PJ and mountain mahogany are also increasing in density which is crowding out the understory plants. Historically, fire would limit the density and the distribution of the woodlands. But fire suppression has shifted the fire regime.
- Invasive Plants (a.k.a. weeds): The Park has 43 weed species present in the park however, there are four noxious weeds of concern which are Musk thistle, Spotted knapweed, Bull thistle, and Field bindweed.
- Groundwater Pumping: There have been some effort to pump and transport water down to southern Nevada which would negatively affect the water quantity and wildlife habitat within the Park.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

1. Monitor and participate in the public process of the water withdrawals from the area. Be active by contributing input against water deportation.
2. Raise public awareness of the high wildlife and habitat values of the Park.
3. Visit the Park frequently and help monitor the bird species through the local citizen science group or park sanctioned activities.