

NEVADA'S

IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS PROGRAM



Snowy Plover

The Important Bird Areas Program is an international effort that will benefit birds for generations to come.

The NV IBA Program is a collaboration of the following partners:



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Audubon IMPORTANT BIRD AREA

WHAT IS THE IMPORTANT BIRD AREA PROGRAM?

The Important Bird Areas, or IBAs, Program is a world-wide effort to identify the most important places for bird populations and to focus conservation efforts. Within Nevada, there are 39 recognized IBAs which are sites that provide essential breeding, migration, or wintering habitat for one or more species of birds.

All Nevada IBAs have met at least one of the following criteria to be recognized as an IBA:

- Sites important to NV species of concern (primarily the NV Partners in Flight Priority List).
- Sites harboring species restricted to unique/threatened habitat types.
- Sites where significant numbers of birds congregate.
- Sites supporting long-term avian research.
- Sites providing outstanding educational opportunities.

With the IBA designation, these sites have high conservation priority. IBAs are beneficial for birds because of.....

- Increased monitoring & research
- Prioritized open space
- Easements & acquisitions
- Conservation planning
- Public outreach and education

Habitat is the key.

Habitat destruction and degradation contribute to a large percentage of avian species decline. The NV IBA program is focused on monitoring and conserving the unique habitats that make these sites Important Bird Areas.

IBA Program Goals

The NV IBA Program is focused on setting conservation priorities for the IBAs and developing partnerships for the ongoing protection and conservation of these sites.

- ⇒ Setting conservation priorities plays a vital role in the protection, enhancement, and restoration of an IBA. Through monitoring, project implementation, advocacy, and public outreach, conservation will have a greater chance at success.
- ⇒ Partnerships include all land managers (public and private), land stewards, and anyone with a general interest in the IBA.
- ⇒ Coordination and communication with all stakeholders on avian conservation needs are vital for the long term success of any conservation action.



Least Bittern

Photo Courtesy of D.Melvor

AN OVERVIEW OF THE IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS OF NEVADA

The following is an overview of the recognized IBAs in Nevada. The listings are separated into four regions in Nevada. In addition, information regarding the site's qualification as an IBA is also provided.

MAP OF THE IBAS IN NEVADA



NORTHWESTERN NEVADA IBAS

- Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge:** Greater Sage-Grouse & other sage obligate avian species
- Bilk Creek-Montana Mountains:** Large Greater Sage-Grouse populations
- Gridley Lake:** Highest breeding Snowy Plover population
- High Rock Canyon:** Greater Sage-Grouse & cliff nesters

Pyramid Lake/Anaho Island: Breeding colony of American White Pelicans

Swan Lake: Tundra Swans & other waterbirds

Lahontan Valley Wetlands: Canvasbacks & many other shorebird species

Washoe Valley: Heron rookery & waterbird density

Carson Range: High diversity of Sierra Nevada avian species and Winter Wren population

Carson Valley: Only colony of Tri-colored Blackbirds

Carson River Delta: Yellow-billed Cuckoos & Willow Flycatchers

NORTHEASTERN NEVADA IBAS

- Jarvis Mountains:** High montane bird species
- Mary's River:** Exceptional habitat for many species
- Goshute Mountains:** Raptor species migratory corridor
- North Ruby Valley:** Highest density of breeding Long-billed Curlews

Goshute Mtns IBA

- Ruby Mountains:** Alpine habitat & alpine bird species
- Boyd Humboldt Wetlands:** Mixed species of waterbirds
- Franklin Lake Wildlife Mgmt Area:** High density of waterbirds
- Ruby Lake:** Largest concentration of nesting Canvasbacks



Carson Valley IBA



CENTRAL NEVADA IBAS

Walker Lake: High density of waterbirds & Common Loons

Mount Grant: Exceptional habitat for upland birds

Wellington Pine Grove Hills: High quality habitat for sagebrush obligate species

Toiyabe Range: Greater Sage-Grouse

Monitor Valley: Large Greater Sage-Grouse breeding population

Northern Snake Range: High quality habitat

D.E. Moore Bird & Wildlife Sanctuary: Large Long-billed Curlew population

Great Basin National Park: Rosy finch complex & alpine species

SOUTHERN NEVADA IBAS

Pahrnanagat Valley Complex: High density of migratory birds

Meadow Valley Wash: Migratory corridor and Southwest Willow Flycatcher nesting area

Oasis Valley: Migrating corridor between Great Basin and Mojave Deserts

Sheep Range: Northernmost occurrence of Mexican Whip-poor-will

Ash Meadows: Highest density of warblers and breeding habitat for Southwest Willow Flycatcher

Moapa Valley: Breeding population of Southwest Willow Flycatcher

Virgin River: Good habitat and important migration corridor

Spring Mountains: Highest density of breeding Flammulated Owls & migrating Rufous Hummingbirds

Lake Mead: Migration & wintering habitat for waterbirds

Wee Thump Joshua Tree: Best habitat for cavity nesters

Catclaw Washes: Highest Phainopepla densities

THREATS TO THE IBAS

All of the Nevada IBAs have resource challenges and issues ranging from low to high risk to the IBA. Some of the most prevalent concerns include the following:

Invasive plants

Habitat degradation

Development

Fire management

Water quantity & quality

The IBA Program is a proactive program. The goal of the program is to address these issues *before* the IBA is at high risk. Therefore, conservation strategic planning is crucial in the long term sustainability and protection of the IBAs of Nevada.

If you would like more information regarding the IBA program and sites, please look for our book at your local bookstore or at

www.nevadaudubon.org/bookstore



Phainopepla