

WASHOE VALLEY IMPORTANT BIRD AREA *Fact Sheet*

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



Photo Courtesy of Robin Powell

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Washoe Valley IBA lies entirely within Washoe Valley with the Carson Range of the Sierra Nevada on the west and the Virginia Range on the east. Little Washoe Lake, Washoe Lake, and Scripps Wildlife Management Area comprise most of the 3,700 hectares of public lands that make up the IBA. Remaining portions of the IBA are private lands in varying parcel sizes.

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

- Open water
- Arid West emergent marsh vegetation
- Agriculture: irrigated meadows and pastures
- Semi-desert grasslands
- Foothill and lower montane riparian woodland and shrubland

REASONS FOR IBA RECOGNITION

1. The Washoe Valley IBA supports species identified as high conservation priorities: American Avocet, Black-necked Stilt, White-faced Ibis, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, and Clark's Grebe. These species all breed within Washoe Valley.
2. The Washoe Valley IBA supports a significant congregation of wading birds. Washoe Valley has high numbers of Great Egret, Snowy Egret, and White-faced Ibis.

What is an IBA?

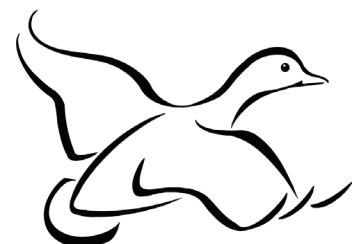
IBAs are areas that are important places for bird populations and where conservation efforts are focused. Within NV, there are 39 recognized IBAs which are sites that provide essential breeding, migration, or wintering habitat for one or more species of birds.

What is a rookery? A rookery is a site where many birds come together to nest and breed. The only heron rookery in Washoe Valley is in Scripps Wildlife Management Area!

For more information, contact

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BIRD SPECIES OF FOCUS FOR THE WASHOE VALLEY IBA

- White-faced Ibis
- American Avocet
- Black-necked Stilt
- Clark's Grebe
- Black-crowned Night Heron
- American White Pelican
- Short-eared Owl
- Great Egret
- Snowy Egret
- Wilson's Phalarope
- Virginia & Sora rails
- Wilson's Snipe
- Many waterfowl species such as Ruddy Duck, Cinnamon Teal, Gadwall, Northern Pintail, and Northern Shoveler
- Loggerhead Shrikes



Snowy Egret

Photo Courtesy of D. McIvor

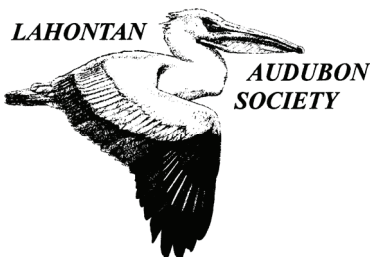
The NV IBA Program is supported through the cooperative efforts of:



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IMPACTS TO THE IBA

- Land Conversion: There is an enormous amount of development pressure on the private ranches in Washoe Valley. The addition of more homes would decrease the amount of wet meadow, pasture, and grassland habitats that the birds rely on for breeding, nesting, and feeding.
- Invasive Plants (a.k.a. weeds): Washoe Valley has several noxious weed species that are degrading the quality of the habitat. Noxious weeds, such as tall whitetop or Perennial pepperweed and Musk thistle, are commonly found in Washoe Valley.

Did You Know??

When weeds take over an area, birds can be prevented from building nests and breeding!

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

1. Keep an eye on the area for new weed infestations or new weed species. Early detection and quick response is the best treatment.
2. Support conservation easements of private lands to prevent additional residential development and loss of habitat.
3. Raise public awareness of the high wildlife and habitat values of Washoe Valley.
4. Visit the Washoe Valley Wetlands frequently and help monitor the bird species through your local citizen science group