

# Glossary

## Glossary of Terms Frequently Used in the Nevada Comprehensive Bird Conservation Plan

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Aerial	In this plan, refers to the foraging habit of catching prey items on the wing (e.g., Common Poorwill catching moths in the air)
Aquatic	In this plan, usually refers to plants or prey items that are fully submerged under water (or birds dependent on open water)
Area Requirements	These include all known data on minimum patch size, recommended patch size, and territory or home range sizes to provide a scale for effective conservation action
Arthropod	Invertebrate with hard exoskeleton, including insects, spiders, centipedes, millipedes, crabs, and others, and includes their soft immature stages
Benthic	In this plan, refers to prey items that are buried in the soil substrates of wetlands or wet meadows
Clonal; Clone	Refers to plants that spread vegetatively, usually through the root system (e.g., aspen)
Colonial	Refers to birds (or other biota) that occur in clusters during all or part of their life stage; e.g., colonial waterbirds that nest in close proximity to one another
Conservation Priority	In this plan, all bird species defined as either Conservation Species or Stewardship Species
Conservation Species	In this plan, all species that are targeted by conservation efforts because of regional concerns, such as population declines, habitat threats, or restricted population sizes
Crepuscular	Describes animals that are primarily active during the twilight hours of dawn and dusk (e.g., Common Poorwills)
Dabbler	Refers to waterbirds that feed on aquatic prey or plant material while floating at the water surface, without diving; these species are often associated with shallow waterbodies
Diurnal	Describes animals that are primarily active during the daylight hours (e.g., Lewis's Woodpecker)
Diver	Refers to waterbirds that acquire aquatic prey and plant material by diving under water; these species are often associated with intermediate or deep water depths
Emergent	Refers to vegetation that is rooted under water but has significant growth above the water surface

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Forb	Broadleaved herbaceous plant species, including typical wildflower species and other, less showy cousins
Gleaning	Refers to foraging habit of picking prey items from the surface of a substrate (usually foliage)
Graminoid	Non-broadleaved herbaceous species, including grasses, sedges, and rushes
Granivorous	Feeds primarily or exclusively on seeds
Habitat	Term describing environmental requirements or suitable environments of one or more species of birds (including, but not restricted to, vegetation parameters); in this plan, often used interchangeably with “habitat type”
Habitat type	Bird habitat type, loosely defined as a major land cover type or local setting providing the basis for a unique bird assemblage; in this plan, often used interchangeably with “habitat”
Hemi-marsh	A marsh with 30 - 60% cover of emergent vegetation, large open water areas, and areas where small patches of emergent vegetation and open water are interspersed; ideal for many Priority bird species
Herbivory	Feeds primarily or exclusively on plant material
Herbaceous	All non-woody plants, including graminoids, forbs, and emergent aquatic plants such as cattail and bulrushes
Home Range	Area of activity by one breeding pair or vagrant during their stay in Nevada; home ranges are not actively defended against intruders
Important Bird Area	Nationally recognized hotspot for bird conservation, featuring a variety and abundance of conservation priority species; program administered by Audubon Society
Indicator species	Bird species that are not themselves conservation priorities, but only occur in intact habitat conditions that are presumed to be suitable for a majority of the native bird community; species selected based on expert opinion
Insectivorous	Feeds primarily on invertebrates, including insects, spiders, other arthropods and worms
Invasive plants	All plant species that have a tendency to colonize and dominate native plant communities in disturbed states, including noxious weeds, exotics, and some native species
Invertebrate	All animals that are not vertebrates, including insects, spiders, worms, clams, and crustaceans

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Key Conservation Area	Regions or sites that are known to be particularly important to the species and in which conservation action is likely most effective; areas for protection are important for preserving existing populations, and areas for restoration are those regions where populations may be recovered through conservation and restoration
Landscape	The wider area beyond the habitat patch an organism occurs in; the mixture of cover types and other elements in this area, the ways an organism uses them, or the ways in which they affect the organism
Mesic	A relative term referring to plants or plant communities with greater access to water; although usually referring to conditions between xeric deserts and hydric wetlands, in this plan it is often used to refer to the entire wetter part of the continuum, including riparian and wetland habitats
Mosaic	In this plan, refers to habitat patchiness within a major land cover type; for instance, a grebe may use dense marsh vegetation for breeding, but it is important that open water is available for foraging within the same waterbody; the term can also refer to the arrangement of land cover types in the wider landscape
Nevada Bird Count	Statewide landbird monitoring program administered by GBBO since 2002; addresses long-term trend monitoring for all birds, but is most effective for diurnal landbirds
Nocturnal	Describes animals that are primarily active at night (e.g., Flammulated Owl)
Patch Size	Area of land in appropriate habitat required by a breeding pair or migrant; minimum patch size refers to the area required to attract at least one individual or pair; recommended patch size refers to the area estimated to be minimally necessary for achieving conservation effectiveness
Phenology	Particular pattern of a sequence of events; for instance, nesting phenology can be described with seasonal timing of onset, timing of peaks, and duration of breeding activities
Phreatophyte	A deep-rooted plant that obtains its water from the water table or the layer of soil immediately above it
Piscivorous	Feeds primarily or exclusively on fish
Predatory	In this plan, refers to birds that hunt primarily for terrestrial vertebrates
Probing	Refers to retrieving prey or other food items by inserting the bill into substrate (usually soil or bark)
Riparian	Associated with streams and rivers; usually short for “riparian habitat”, which refers to plant and insect communities and physical conditions associated with streambanks or river floodplains with direct access to water

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Seral stage	Refers to successional stage of particular plant or plant assemblage
Special Status Species	These include species that are not included as conservation species, but for which at least a moderate conservation concern, major research needs, or written agency policies exist
Species Concerns	Refers to reasons why the species was ranked as a Conservation Priority or Special Status species
Site Fidelity	Estimated degree of dependence on historically occupied sites; if ranked high, birds are unlikely to use alternate sites if their historic location is destroyed; if ranked low, birds are not particularly tied to any location on the landscape and readily colonize new sites if appropriate habitat becomes available
Stewardship Species	In this plan, Priority species that are not ranked as Conservation Species, but for which Nevada has a significant responsibility for maintaining populations because $\geq 20\%$ of their global population occurs in the state
Stressor	Process or activity that can have negative effects on bird populations or bird habitats
Territory Size	Area used and defended by a breeding pair, or by a migrant during its stopover in Nevada; differs from home range in that territory only refers to the actively defended area, usually around the nest or an important food resource
Uplands	Refers in this plan to non-mesic habitat types, such as salt desert, Mojave scrub, Joshua tree, coniferous forest, pinyon-juniper, etc.; the distinction is made to distinguish from wetland, riparian, open water, or aspen, which display vegetation that either directly or indirectly accesses water most of the time