Marbled Godwit

Limosa fedoa

Photo by Larry Neel

Habitat Use Profile

Habitats Used in Nevada
Marsh Lakes (shorelines) Ephemeral Wetlands/Playas

Key Habitat Parameters ●	
Plant Composition	Bulrush, sedges, rushes, cattail [1]
Plant Density	Variable [1]
Mosaic	Variety of types and sizes of marsh, open shoreline, and mudflats [1]
Water Depth	≤ 13 cm (6") [1]
Hydrology	Unknown
Water Quality	Unknown
Response to Vegetation Removal	Unknown

Area Requirements ●	
Minimum Patch Size	Unknown; often seen at smaller marshes and water bodies
Recommended Patch Size	≥10 ha (22 ac) [EO]
Home Range	Unknown

Conservation Profile

Priority Status	
Conservation Species	
Species Concerns	
Habitat threats	
Other Rankings	
Continental PIF	None
Audubon Watchlist	None
NV Natural Heritage	S3M
USFWS	Migratory Bird; Species of Conservation Concern
BLM	None
USFS	Stewardship Species
NDOW	Very Important
IW Shorebird Plan	
Trends	
Historical ●	Probable declines, but patterns in Nevada unclear [1]
Recent ●	Probably declining in Nevada [2, EO]
Population Size Estimates	
Nevada ●	350 [EO]
Global ●	340,000 [3]
Percent of Global ●	< 1%
Population Objective	
Maintain / increase [EO]	
Monitoring Coverage	
Source	WMA and NWR counts, Aquatic Bird Count
Coverage in NV ●	Fair in WMAs and NWRs, Poor elsewhere
Key Conservation Areas	
Protection	Lahontan Valley, Upper Walker River
Restoration	Great Basin marshes and ephemeral wetlands

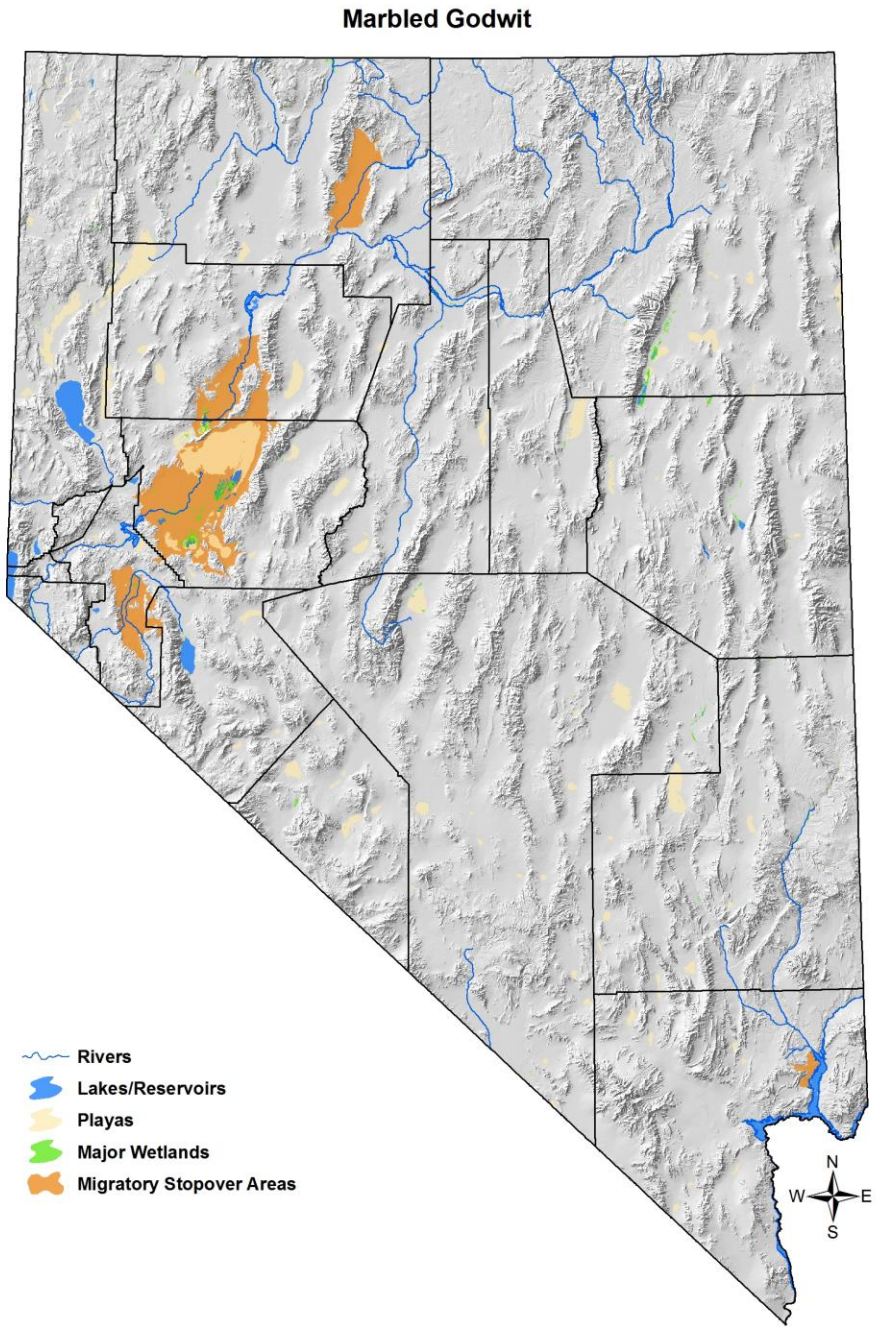
Natural History Profile

Seasonal Presence in Nevada	
Spring (May) and Fall (Aug – Sept) migration	
Known Breeding Dates in Nevada	
Not a breeder	
Nest and Nesting Habits	
Nest Placement	N/A
Site Fidelity	Unknown
Food Habits	
Basic	Invertebrates and plants; probes in sediments
Primary Prey	Invertebrates, usually from sediment [1]
Secondary Prey	Plant tubers, especially during migration [1]

Confidence in Available Data: ● High ● Moderate ● Low

Marbled Godwit

Limosa fedoa



Marbled Godwit

Limosa fedoa

References: [1] Gratto-Trevor (2000), [2] Brown et al. (2001), [3]Morrison et al. (2006), [EO] Expert opinion

Overview

These large shorebirds are primarily present in Nevada during migration stopovers, more commonly in the spring than in the fall. However, the nearby Sacramento Valley in California is a known wintering location, and birds have apparently some overwintered in western Nevada (Gratto-Trevor 2000), though there are no recent records. Although godwits are fairly conspicuous during migration, there is not much information of their specific conservation threats, or their habitat use in Nevada; in fact, the Marbled Godwits is a poorly studied bird in general (Gratto-Trevor 2000). During migration stopovers, they do tend to be seen around smaller water features where they may forage on mudflats or in shallow water with or without emergent vegetation. Apart from simply protecting marshes and ephemeral wetlands, the main conservation need for this species is better information.

Abundance and Occupancy by Habitat

- High count recorded in Nevada was 465 in Lahontan Valley in 1989 (Neel and Henry, 1996)

Nevada-Specific Studies and Analyses

- To be added

Main Threats and Challenges

Habitat Threats

Threats to Marshes and Ephemeral Wetlands apply to this species (see habitat accounts). Because of the lack of specific information about the species' habitat use and conservation issues, more specific threats are not known.

Other Threats

- None known

Species with Similar Conservation Strategies

- Long-billed Dowitcher

Further Reading

Shuford, W.D., Page, G.W., and L.E. Stenzel. 2002. Patterns of distribution and abundance of migratory shorebirds in the Intermountain West of the United States. Western Birds 33(3):134-174.

Conservation Strategies

Habitat Strategies

1. Habitat strategies for Marshes and Ephemeral Wetlands will benefit this species (see habitat accounts)
2. Lakes and marshes with broad shorelines providing substantial areas of mudflat and shallow water may be especially valuable for this bird

Research, Planning, and Monitoring

1. Conduct additional research to better determine habitat requirements and potential threats
2. Develop a shorebird monitoring plan that will provide better data on numbers and trends
3. Additional study to determine whether significant numbers of birds winter in western Nevada