

DRAFT - For Review Only

# Nevada Comprehensive Bird Conservation Plan

Version 1.0

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**Prepared by:**

GREAT BASIN BIRD OBSERVATORY  
1755 E. Plumb Lane #256  
Reno, NV 89502  
[ammon@gbbo.org](mailto:ammon@gbbo.org)  
[www.gbbo.org](http://www.gbbo.org)

**Cover photo:** The state bird of Nevada, Mountain Bluebird, *Sialia mexicana*. Photo by Martin Meyers.

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## Preparers of the Nevada Comprehensive Bird Conservation Plan

The preparation of the draft document was a team effort involving the following individuals (in alphabetical order):

- Elisabeth Ammon, Great Basin Bird Observatory ([ammon@gbbo.org](mailto:ammon@gbbo.org)): overall document, habitat accounts
- John Boone, Great Basin Bird Observatory ([boone@gbbo.org](mailto:boone@gbbo.org)): overall document, species accounts, population estimates
- Shawn Espinosa, Nevada Department of Wildlife ([sespinosa@ndow.org](mailto:sespinosa@ndow.org)): upland game bird species accounts
- Dana Hartley, Great Basin Bird Observatory ([hartley@gbbo.org](mailto:hartley@gbbo.org)): Nevada Bird Count and Nevada Breeding Bird Atlas project data management and queries
- Craig Mortimore, Nevada Department of Wildlife ([cmort@ndow.org](mailto:cmort@ndow.org)): waterfowl species accounts
- Larry Neel, Nevada Department of Wildlife ([neel@ndow.org](mailto:neel@ndow.org)): shorebird/waterbird species accounts, species range maps, population objectives, population estimates, species lists
- Ralph Phenix, Nevada Department of Wildlife and Great Basin Bird Observatory ([ralphphenix@yahoo.com](mailto:ralphphenix@yahoo.com)): synthesized habitat map, species range maps, presentation maps, spatial data
- Robin Powell, Audubon Society ([rpowell@audubon.org](mailto:rpowell@audubon.org)): threats and IBAs
- Jock Young, Great Basin Bird Observatory ([young@gbbo.org](mailto:young@gbbo.org)): statistical analyses

A larger set of scientists and conservation planners, most of them members of the Nevada Partners-in-Flight (NVPIF) group, made invaluable contributions to this plan. In particular, this group was responsible for overall conceptualization of the plan, determining priority bird species, determining focal habitat types, and identifying conservation threats and strategies. Additionally, these individuals reviewed early drafts of plan materials, and provided insight, information, and Nevada-specific details and context about the ecology and conservation needs of Nevada's birds that was often unavailable from other sources. The NVPIF collaborative process involved a series of working meetings that began in November 2007. Five 2-day meetings of the full NVPIF group were held over the next 21 months, along with 10 full or half-day meetings of subcommittees assigned to evaluate priority species and threats. The people that contributed in a substantive way to this process were (in alphabetical order):

Susan Abele, The Nature Conservancy  
Aaron Ambos, Southern Nevada Water Authority  
Elisabeth Ammon, Great Basin Bird Observatory  
Anna Laura Averill-Murray, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Nevada Field Office  
Jennifer Ballard, Great Basin Bird Observatory  
Brad Baumann, Nevada Department of Wildlife, Winnemucca Office  
John Boone, Great Basin Bird Observatory  
Kevin DesRoberts, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Las Vegas Office  
Maureen Easton, U.S. Forest Service, Humboldt-Toiyabe District  
Shawn Espinosa, Nevada Department of Wildlife, State Office  
Paul Greger, Nevada Test Site, NSTEC  
Derek Hall, Nevada Test Site, NSTEC  
Matt Hamilton, Clark County Desert Conservation Program  
Amy Leist, Great Basin Bird Observatory  
Elroy Masters, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Nevada Field Office  
Rachel Mazur, U.S. Forest Service, Humboldt-Toiyabe District  
Craig Mortimore, Nevada Department of Wildlife  
Larry Neel, Nevada Department of Wildlife, State Office  
Jennifer Newmark, Nevada Natural Heritage Program  
Robin Powell, Audubon Society  
Adam Ryba, U.S. Forest Service Humboldt-Toiyabe District  
John Swett, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Lower Colorado Region  
Leilani Takano, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Las Vegas Office  
Cris Tomlinson, Nevada Department  
of Wildlife, Las Vegas Office  
Debbie VanDooremolen, Southern  
Nevada Water Authority  
Genny Wilson, U.S. Forest Service,  
Humboldt-Toiyabe District  
[should plan preparers be listed in  
this NV PIF section, or omitted?]

Finally, the following individuals made valuable contributions to various sections of the plan (in alphabetical order):

Bob Altman  
Janet Bair  
Dawn Fletcher  
John Hiatt  
Gary Ivey  
Jeri Krueger  
Cameron McQuivey  
Martin Meyers  
Terry Rich  
Laura Richards



Sandhill Cranes. Photo by Larry Neel

Adam Ryba  
Greg Scyphers  
Teri Slatauski  
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Anne Thomas  
Donna Withers

[Any omissions from these draft acknowledgments are entirely unintentional, and we encourage anyone who was accidentally left off, and any new reviewers of the plan to not be shy about reminding us of their much-appreciated services!]

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The data generated by the Nevada Bird Count program and the Nevada Breeding Bird Atlas project (Floyd et al. 2007) were heavily used in the preparation of this plan. The following entities have been major funding and in-kind supporters of these two projects: Bureau of Land Management; Clark County Desert Conservation Program; Lahontan and Red Rock Audubon Societies; National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; National Park Service; Nevada Department of Wildlife; Otis Bay Environmental Consultants; Southern Nevada Water Authority; The Nature Conservancy; University of Nevada, Reno; U.S. Bureau of Reclamation; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; U.S. Forest Service; U.S. Geological Survey.

## **Glossary of Terms and Acronyms**

BBS	Breeding Bird Survey (national bird monitoring program administered by USGS)
BLM	U.S. Bureau of Land Management (Department of Interior)
BOR	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Department of Interior)
CC MSHCP	Clark County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (administered by Clark County Desert Conservation Program)
Forb	Broadleaved herbaceous species, including typical wildflower species and other, less showy, cousins
GBBO	Great Basin Bird Observatory
Graminoid	Non-broadleaved herbaceous species, including grasses, sedges, and rushes
Habitat	Term describing environmental requirements or suitable environments of one or more species of birds (including, but not restricted to vegetation parameters)
Habitat type	Bird habitat type, loosely defined as major landcover type or local setting as the basis for a unique bird assemblage



Snowy Plovers. Photo by Zachary Smith

Herbaceous	All non-woody plants, including graminoids, forbs, and emergent aquatic plants such as cattail and bulrushes
Indicator species	Bird species that are not themselves conservation priorities, but are indicators of intact habitat conditions that promote suitability for the native bird community; species selected based on expert opinion
Invasive plants	All plant species that have a tendency to colonize and dominate native vegetation in disturbed states, including noxious weeds, exotics, and some native species
IBA	Important Bird Area (program administered by Audubon Society)
LCR MSCP	Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (administered by BOR)
Mesic	Water-loving; usually referred as plants or plant communities that require year-round access to water
NBC	Nevada Bird Count Program (administered by GBBO)
NDOW	Nevada Department of Wildlife (State of Nevada)
NNHP	Nevada Natural Heritage Program (State of Nevada)
NPS	National Park Service (Department of Interior)
NRA	National Recreation Area (managed by NPS or USFS)
NVPIF	Nevada chapter of Partners-in-Flight (PIF)
NWAP	Nevada Wildlife Action Plan (NDOW)
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge (managed by USFWS)
OHV	Off-highway-vehicle (popular tool for recreation in Nevada)

PIF	Partners in Flight (multi-organizational bird conservation initiative)
Riparian	Associated with streams and rivers; often short for “riparian habitat”, which refers to plant and insect communities and physical conditions associated with streambanks
SNWA	Southern Nevada Water Authority
USFS	U.S. Forest Service (Department of Agriculture)
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Department of Interior)
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
WMA	Wildlife Management Area (managed by NDOW)

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