



30-Year Trends in Distributions of Water and Migratory Shorebirds in the Intermountain West

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Key Partners



Point Blue
Conservation
Science



Audubon



Research Objectives

1. Comprehensively survey shorebird sites of the Intermountain West (210+ sites)
2. Compare current distributions to surveys from 30 years ago ¹ (162 sites)
3. Identify environmental- and human-related factors driving shorebird distributions

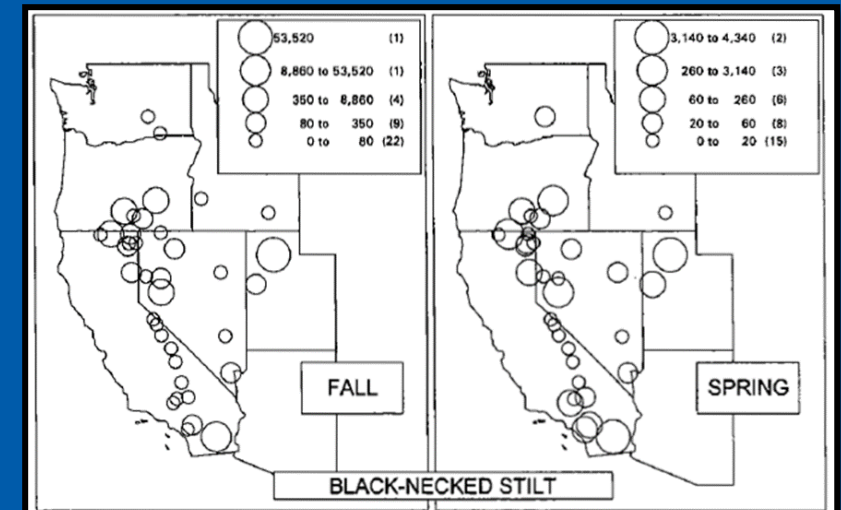


Figure 3. Distribution and abundance of the Black-necked Stilt at 38 key wetlands in the Intermountain West in fall and spring from median counts, 1989–1995.

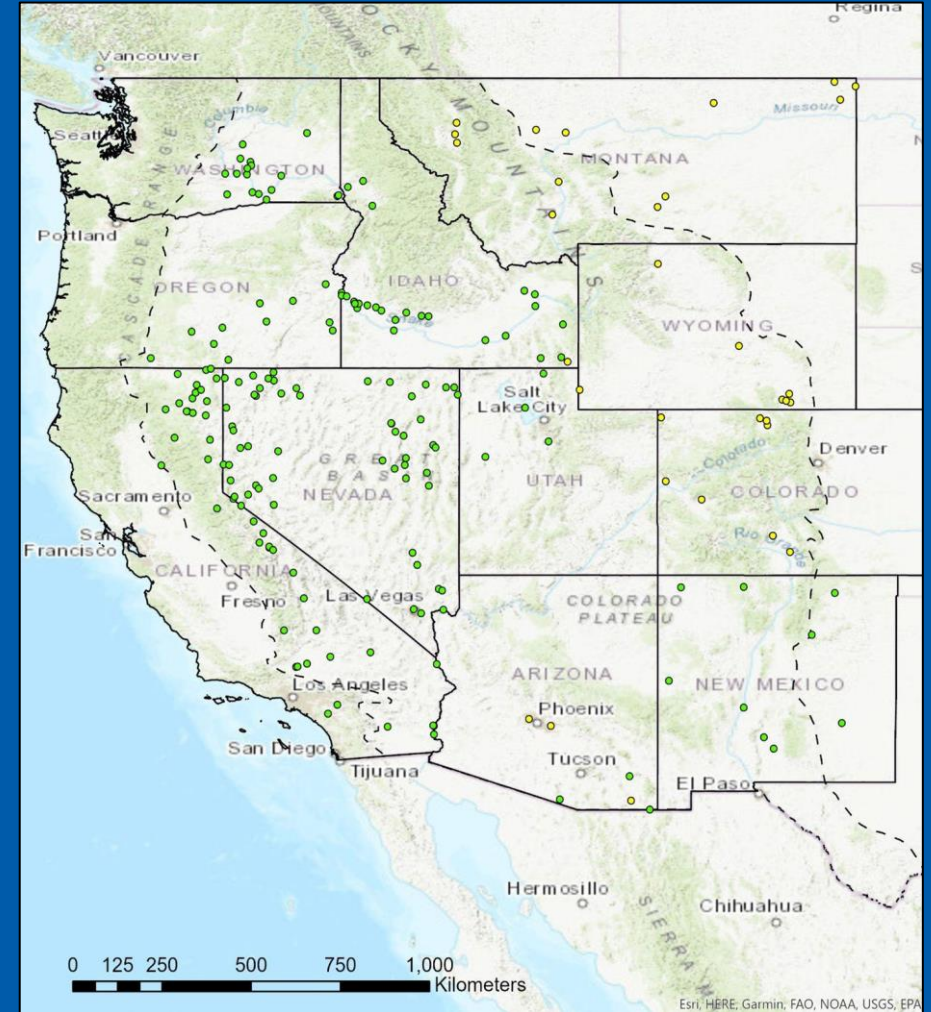
Interior US Pacific Flyway

- **Sample wetland types:** Saline lakes, freshwater wetlands, lakes/reservoirs, rivers, flooded ag

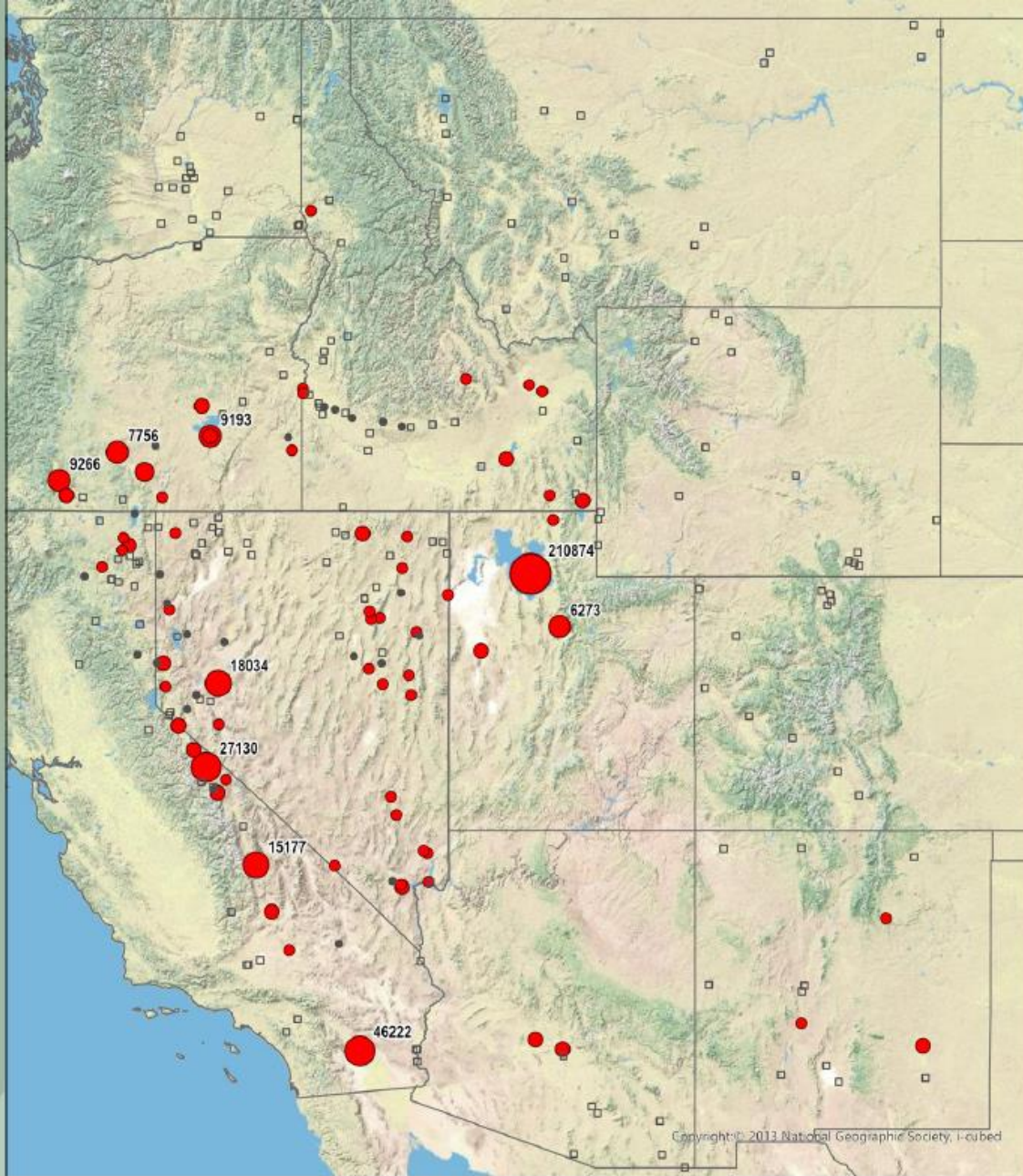
Methods:

2 surveys/year at over 160 sites
April 24-30 & August 9-22

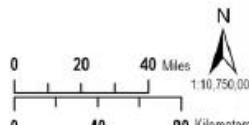
- ~200 biologist and volunteer participants each season



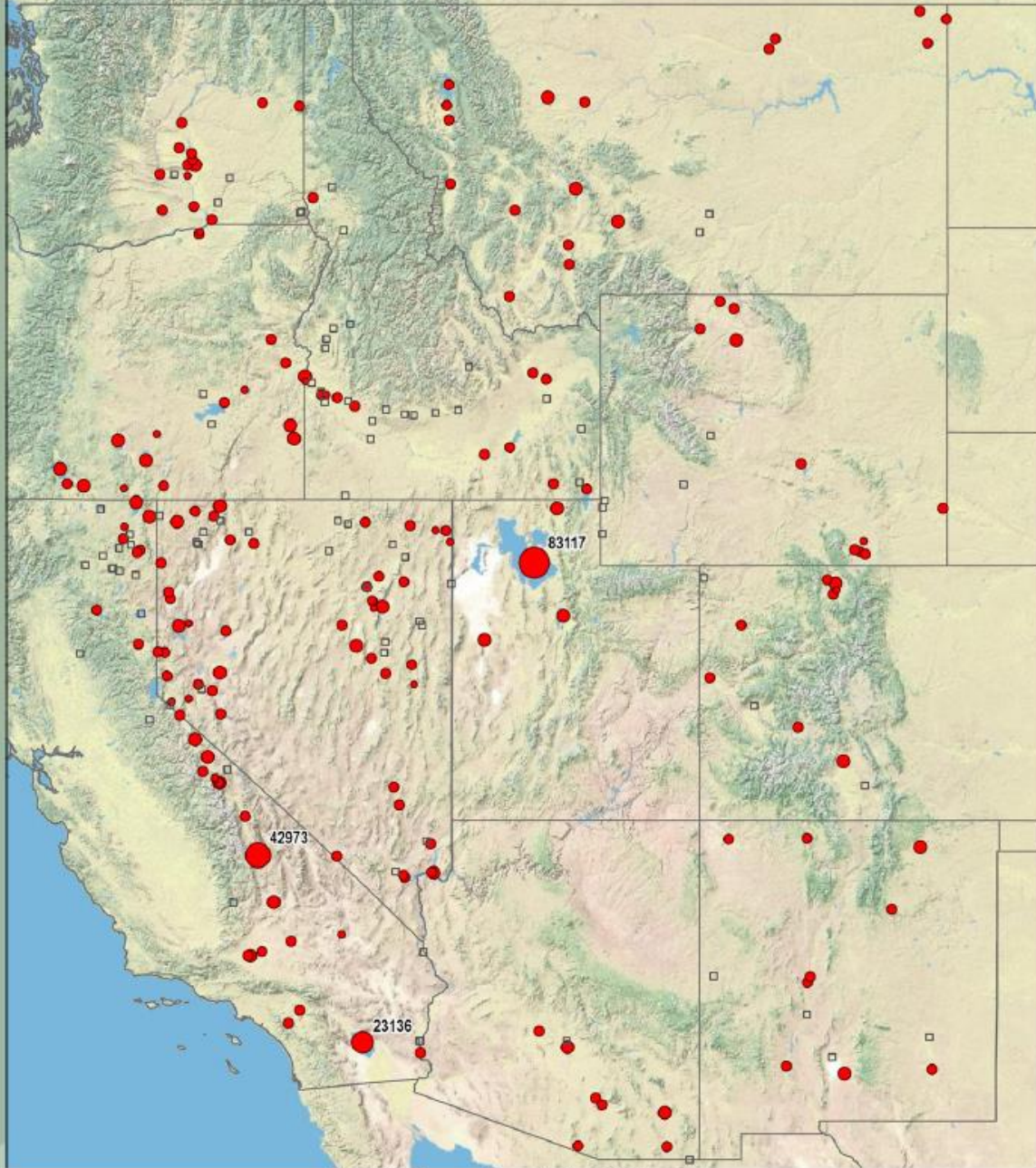
Fall 2022 Regional



Shorebird Survey Sites - Fall 2022



Spring 2023 Regional



Shorebird Survey Sites - Spring 2023



□ Not Surveyed

● 0

● 1 - 99

● 100 - 2499

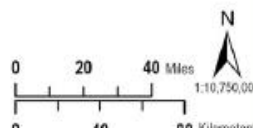
● 2500 - 4999

● 5000 - 9999

● 10000 - 24999

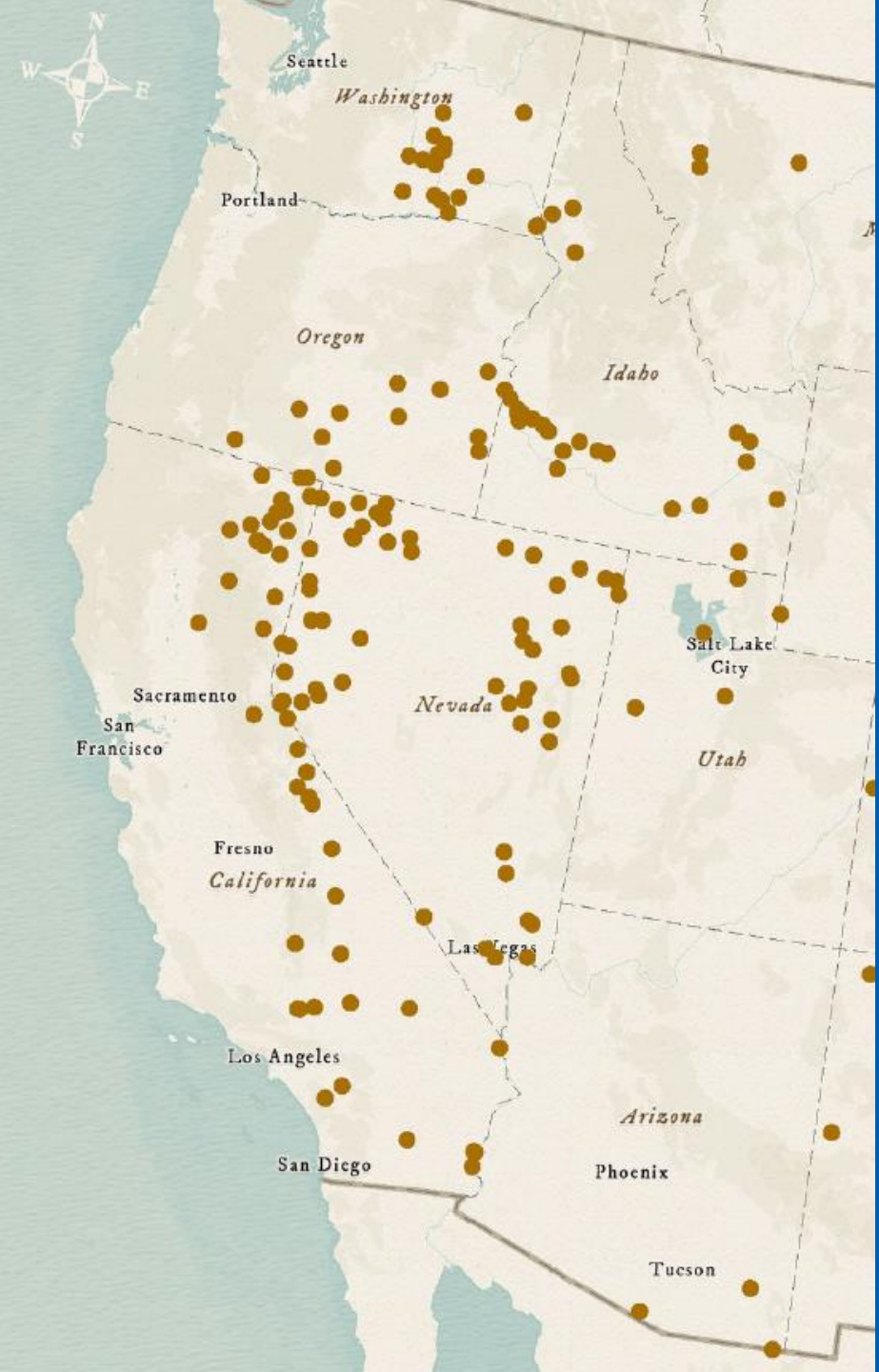
● 25000 - 74999

● 75000 - 83117



Regionwide Comparisons Then vs. Now

Season and Year	Shorebird Counts (All Species)
Fall Migrations 1989-1995	670,953 (median)
Fall Migration 2022	366,659
Spring Migration 1989-1995	271,902 (median)
Spring Migration 2023	124,043



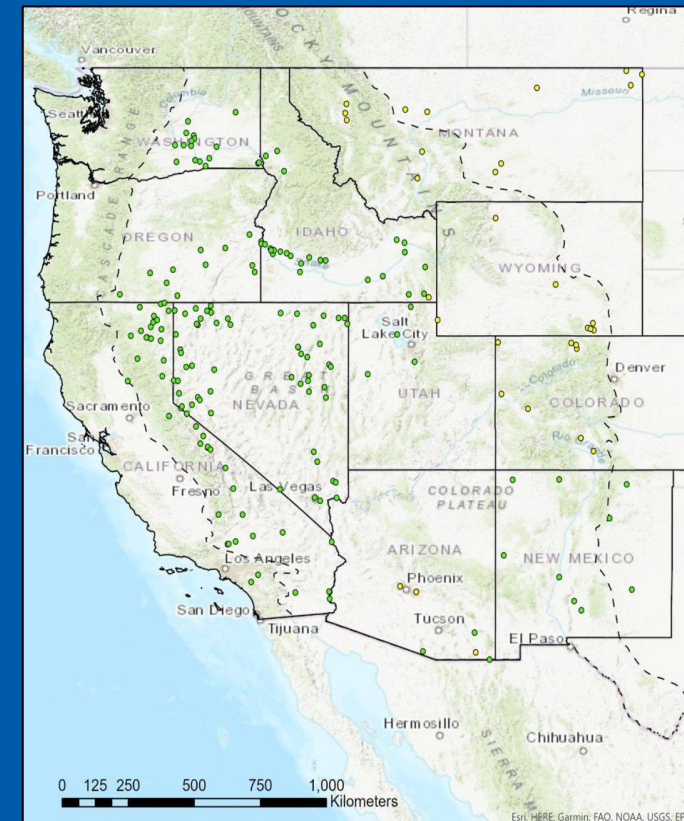
August 2023 – Regional Network Complete

- **~180 sites surveyed in 11 states including ~40 in Nevada**

**Survey season extended –
*tropical storm impacts***

*Preliminary count of total
shorebirds >650,000*

- *>290k Great Salt Lake +
>250k Salton Sea*



**Questions or sign up:
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Mark your calendars to help!
August 9-22
April 24-30