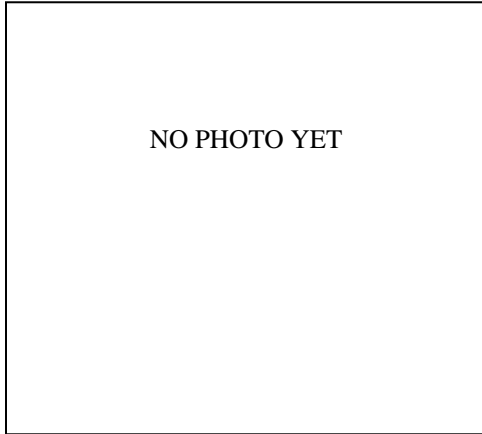


Clapper Rail

Rallus longirostris

Conservation Profile



Habitat Use Profile

Main Habitats Used in Nevada	Marsh
Key Habitat Use Parameters	<p>Freshwater marshes with extensive emergent vegetation Emergent vegetation usually comprised of cattail, bulrush, and/or sedges [p1] Ideal mosaic has emergent plant stands of different ages interspersed with shallow pools of open water [p1] Tend to occur in patches where emergent vegetation is taller than surrounding areas, with dense overhead cover [p1] Newly formed marshes tend to offer best combination of habitat features [p1] Stable water levels are important [p3] Habitat use probably varies outside breeding season, but few details available [EO]</p>
Minimum Patch Size	<p>Breeding territory 0.12 – 3.6 ha [p1] Home ranges up to 24 ha in winter, but much smaller during breeding season; home ranges of individuals overlap greatly [p1]</p>

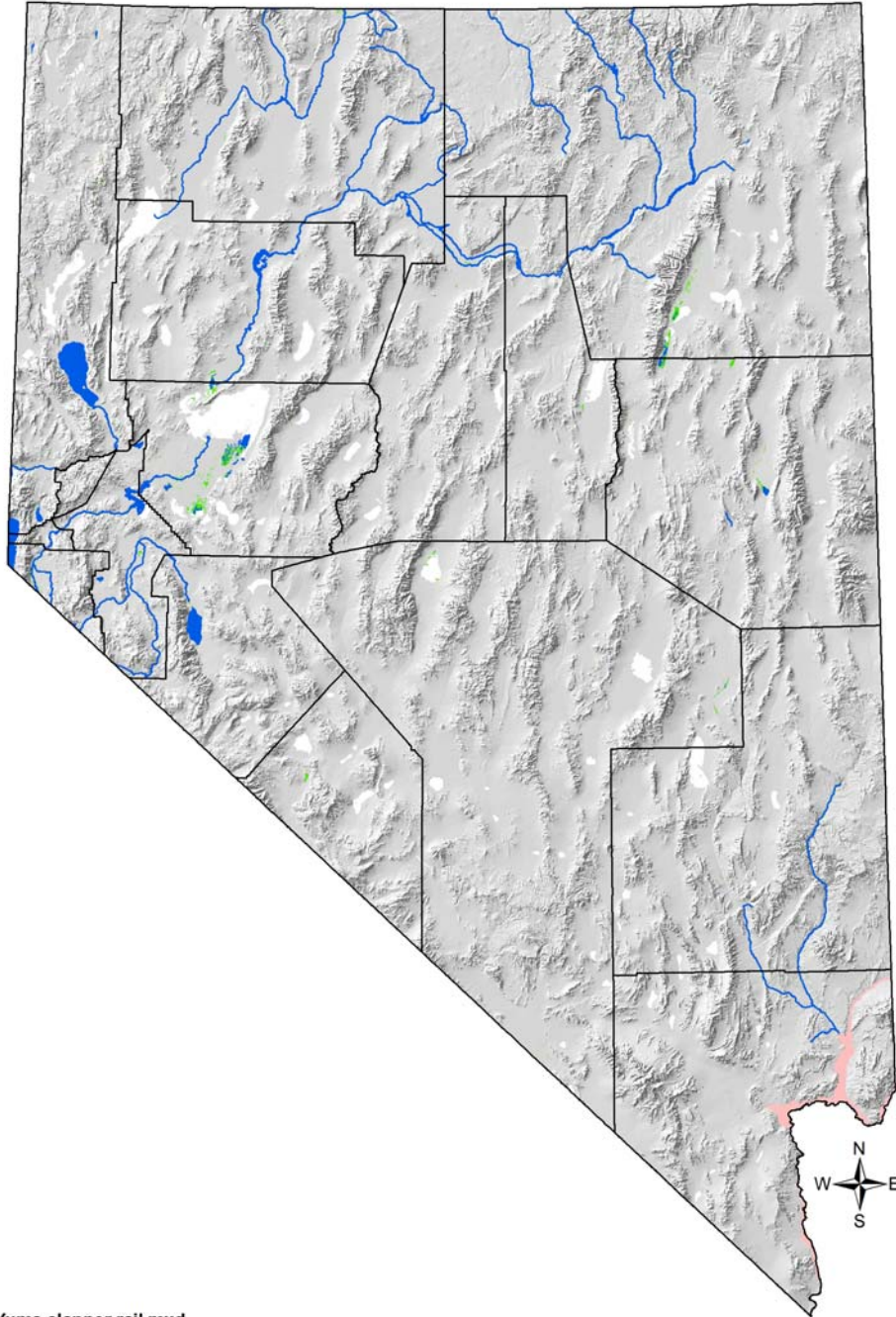
Priority Status	Conservation Target
Reasons for Priority Status	Small population size Threats Possible declines
Other Rankings	Continental PIF: None Audubon Watchlist: None Natural Heritage: S1 USFWS: Endangered subspecies, Migratory Bird BLM: None NDOW: Endangered Also priority species under CC MSHCP and LCR MSCP
Trends	Historical: Serious declines since 1900, though pattern in Nevada unclear [p1] Recent: Uncertain in Nevada, possibly stable or increasing
Population Size Estimates	Nevada: 20 – 30 [USFWS] Global: 1,100 [USFWS] Percent of Global: 3%
Population Objective	Maintain at least 30 breeding birds
Monitoring Coverage	Source: Focused surveys contracted by BOR and SNWA Coverage and Adequacy: Excellent
Key Conservation Areas	Muddy River valley Virgin River valley

Natural History Profile

Seasonal Presence in Nevada	Year-round
Known Breeding Dates in Nevada	Late March – August [p1]
Nesting Habits	<p>Nest placed near shoreline in dense emergent vegetation where water depth < 2.5 cm, or shrubs just above high-water line Nests have substantial overhead concealment Moderate fidelity to breeding territories May re-nest multiple times per season if nest fails [p1]</p>
Food Requirements	<p>Omnivorous; crustaceans preferred, especially crayfish, clams, along with small fishes; also small vertebrates, seeds, insects, eggs [p1, p3] Forages in emergent vegetation at water depth up to 8 cm, or on mudflats [p1]</p>

Clapper Rail

Rallus longirostris



File: Yuma clapper rail.mxd

Clapper Rail

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Temporary Map Key

Pink: Breeding range

Hot pink / magenta: For some birds, breeding data was limited, and was supplemented by extrapolation to include likely breeding range. In these cases, hot pink represents known breeding range, and lighter pink the extrapolated breeding range.

Blue: Winter range

Yellow: Important migration stopover areas

Purple: Year-round range

Green: In some maps, wetlands mapped by SWReGAP are shown in green for interpretational purposes

Dot symbols: In cases where breeding records were isolated or very restricted in extent, they are represented by a pink dot symbol rather than a shaded area.

Arrows: Major migration routes. These are shown only for birds for which there are migration-associated conservation issues.

OVERVIEW

As one of only two federally endangered bird species in Nevada, management recommendations for the Yuma Clapper Rail are already well developed. In addition to the breeding areas listed above, other sites where breeding might be confirmed in the future include Big Marsh (Clark County), Ash Meadows NWR, the Las Vegas Wash, and possibly Pahrangat NWR. It is possible that the species has become more common in Nevada in recent decades due to impoundments and subsequent marsh development. With the center of its historic range in the Colorado River delta, this species may respond to climate change with continued northward migration. Our current understanding of recent population trends, threats, and habitat requirements are derived largely from studies of Arizona populations. With a continuation of current research and monitoring programs for the species, a better understanding of Nevada's population will likely emerge.

ABUNDANCE AND OCCUPANCY BY HABITAT

- Population estimate derived from 2006 ESA status review [__]; see also Great Basin Birds]
- Density ranges from 0.09 – 0.79 birds / ha in Arizona [p1]

NEVADA-SPECIFIC STUDIES AND ANALYSES

- TBD in literature review

MAIN THREATS AND CHALLENGES

- Conversion or dewatering of Marsh habitat
- Significant changes in water level during nesting
- Invasive plants that degrade habitat quality

Clapper Rail

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CONSERVATION STRATEGIES

Proscribed Strategies

- Conservation strategies are dictated by the Yuma Clapper Rail Recovery Plan (USFWS 1983, 2006)
- Key elements of the recovery plan include
 - Maintaining consistent water levels in Muddy River and Virgin River valley wetlands, where possible
 - Controlling nest predators in specific areas where unusual predation levels exist
 - Continuing current studies and monitoring to better determine Nevada-specific population trends, threats, and habitat requirements
 - Limit invasive plants in marsh habitats

OTHER PRIORITY SPECIES WITH SIMILAR CONSERVATION STRATEGIES

- Least Bittern
- Snowy Egret

FURTHER READING

- Yuma Clapper Rail Recovery Plan (USFWS 1983, 2006)

Temporary codes for standard references

[p1] Birds of N. America account for this species

[p2] NV Bird Conservation Plan ver. 1 (Neel 1999)

[p3] NV Wildlife Action Plan

[p4] Nevada Breeding Bird Atlas

[p5] PIF N. American Landbird Conservation Plan (Rich et al 2004) (NOTE:

[p6] Intermountain West Regional Shorebird Plan (Oring et al 2003)

[p7] Pacific Flyway reports

[p8] Shrubsteppe Landscapes in Jeopardy (Dobkin and Sauder 2004)

[p9] Birds in a Sagebrush Sea (Paige and Ritter 1999)

[s1] NBC-based population size estimates

[s2, s3] NBC-based habitat relationship analysis

[s4] Breeding Bird Atlas breeding phenology data

[i1] BBS trends analysis (Sauer et al 2005)

[i2] NV Upland Game Management Plan (Espinosa et al in prep.)

[i3] Western Quail Management Plan (Zornes et al 2008)

[i4] NDOW Shorebird and Waterbird monitoring data (Neel)

Clapper Rail

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[i5] Brad Andres IMJV Shorebird / Waterbird data set

[i6] GBBO Technical Report 08-01 (2008)

[EO] Expert opinion from NVPIF group members

[IWWCP] Intermountain West Waterbird Conservation Plan

[NAWCP] North American Waterbird Conservation Plan

[LBCUSACP] Long-billed Curlew Status Assessment and Conservation Plan

[USSCP] U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan

[WHSRN] Western Hemispheric Shorebird Regional Network