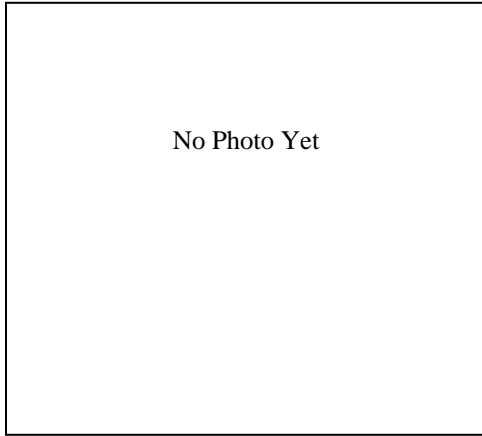


Gilded Flicker

Colaptes chrysoides

Conservation Profile



Priority Status	Conservation Target
Reasons for Priority Status	Small population size Dependence on limited habitat distribution Potential threats
Other Rankings	Continental PIF: None Audubon Watchlist: Red Natural Heritage: S1 USFWS: Bird of Conservation Concern (Mojave), Migratory Bird BLM: None NDOW: None Also a priority species under the LCR MSCP
Trends	Historical: Unknown Recent: Appears stable overall, but possibly declining in Mojave Desert; Nevada trends unknown [i1]
Population Size Estimates	Nevada (Breeding Bird Atlas): < 100 Global: 1,000,000 [p5] Percent of Global: < 1%
Population Objective	TBD
Monitoring Coverage	No systematic monitoring
Key Conservation Areas	Joshua Tree stands in and around Eldorado Valley and Searchlight, Clark County

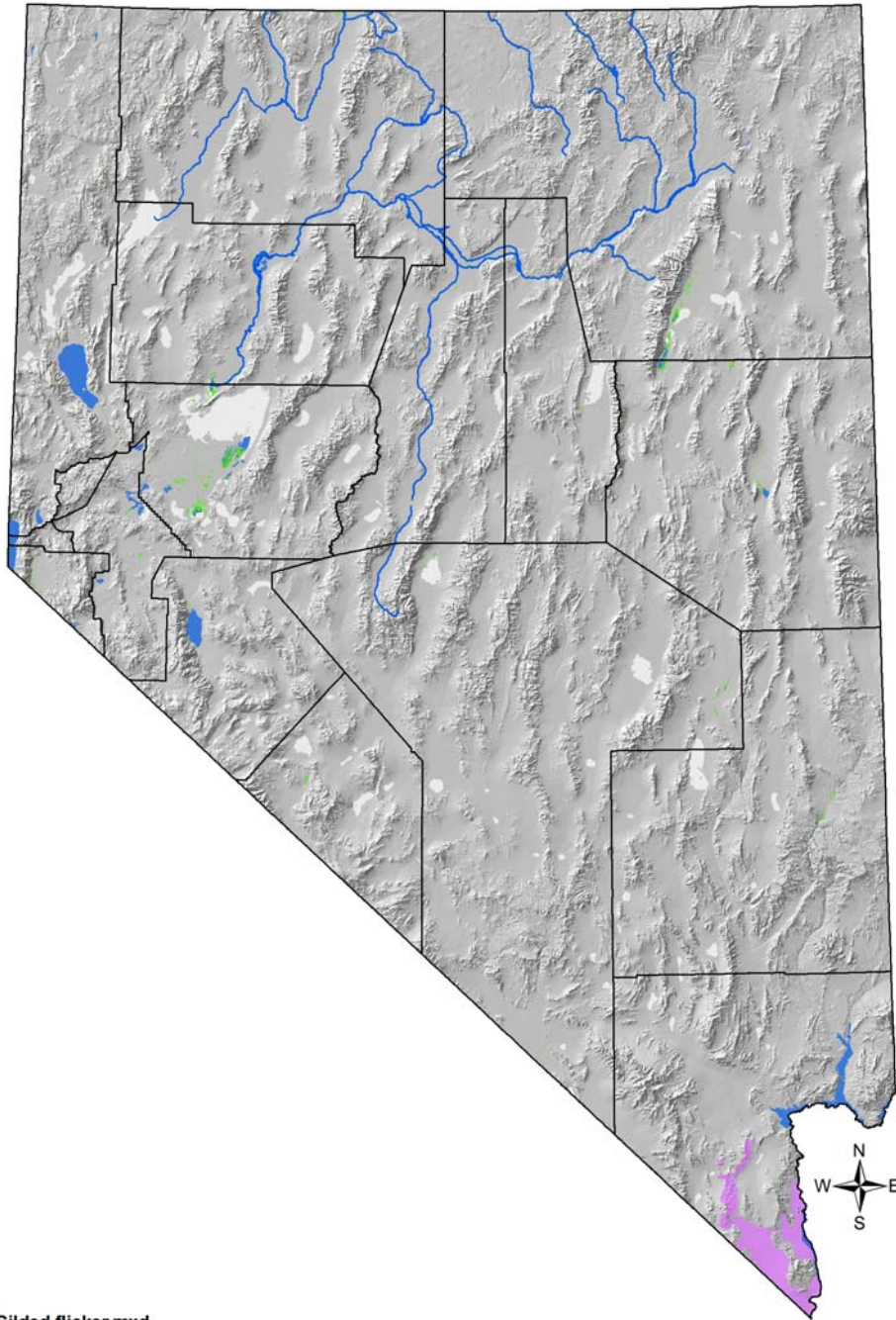
Habitat Use Profile

Main Habitats Used in Nevada	Joshua Tree Mojave Scrub
Key Habitat Use Parameters	Joshua trees or tall yuccas required in Nevada Joshua trees / yuccas must be large enough for flicker cavity (DBH 30 – 50 cm) [p1] Other specific habitat preferences and requirements for Nevada populations not yet determined
Minimum Patch Size	Unknown; estimated home range 50 – 100 ha [p1]

Natural History Profile

Seasonal Presence in Nevada	Probably year-round
Known Breeding Dates in Nevada	Early April – mid-July [s4, p1]
Nesting Habits	In Nevada, excavates nesting cavity in Joshua Trees or other <i>Yuccas</i> [p1]
Food Requirements	Ground-forager: mainly insects, some fruits and seed [p1]

Gilded Flicker
Colaptes chrysoides



File: Gilded flicker.mxd

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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

Prior to the Nevada Breeding Bird Atlas project, Gilded Flickers were not known to breed within the state. During atlas surveys, however, a small but persistent breeding population was discovered in southern Nevada not far from Searchlight. It is unknown whether Gilded Flickers have had a long-term presence here, or whether these birds are the result of a recent colonization event [EO]. Gilded Flickers in Nevada are clearly associated with Joshua Trees and other tall *Yuccas* that provide a substrate for nest cavities, but it is possible that they historically used Lowland Riparian habitat in the Lower Colorado River area of Nevada. Flickers along the Colorado River, where present in the 1980s, were also often found to be Gilded x Red-shafted hybrids [p1]. Continued monitoring and additional research are needed to better understand the status and needs of this bird, but in the meantime, its limited habitat in Nevada should be protected from development or heavy disturbances.

ABUNDANCE AND OCCUPANCY BY HABITAT

- No data for Nevada; 20 birds / 40 ha in AZ [p1]

NEVADA-SPECIFIC STUDIES AND ANALYSES

- None

MAIN THREATS AND CHALLENGES

- Urban / suburban development in occupied habitat
- Energy development in or near occupied habitat
- Habitat-destroying fire
- Off-road vehicles
- Invasive weeds [investigate further]
- Fragmentation of existing habitat through any of the preceding mechanisms

Gilded Flicker
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CONSERVATION STRATEGIES

Habitat Strategies

- General Joshua Tree conservation strategy
- Protect critical occupied habitat from development and heavy OHV use

Research, Planning, and Monitoring

- Search for additional Nevada breeding locations in areas with suitable habitat, including Wee Thump Joshua Tree Wilderness Area
- Conduct research to determine habitat needs, patch size, seasonal movements
- Monitor status of existing populations

Other

- Aggressively attack fires that threaten this habitat

OTHER PRIORITY SPECIES WITH SIMILAR CONSERVATION STRATEGIES

- Bendire's Thrasher
- Le Conte's Thrasher

FURTHER READING

- TBD

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)
- [i5] Brad Andres IMJV Shorebird / Waterbird data set

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[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