

# Northern Pintail

*Anas acuta*



Photo by Martin Meyers

## Habitat Use Profile

<b>Main Habitats Used in Nevada</b>	Marsh Open Water
<b>Key Habitat Use Parameters</b>	Shallow, seasonal, or ephemeral wetlands, usually located within surrounding shrubland, grassland, or agricultural areas [p1] Shallow areas (<30 cm) with emergent and submerged vegetation for foraging [p1] Large, shallow wetlands with little emergent vegetation in winter [p1] High fidelity to post-breeding habitat [p1]
<b>Minimum Patch Size</b>	Home range up to 500 ha or more [p1]

## Conservation Profile

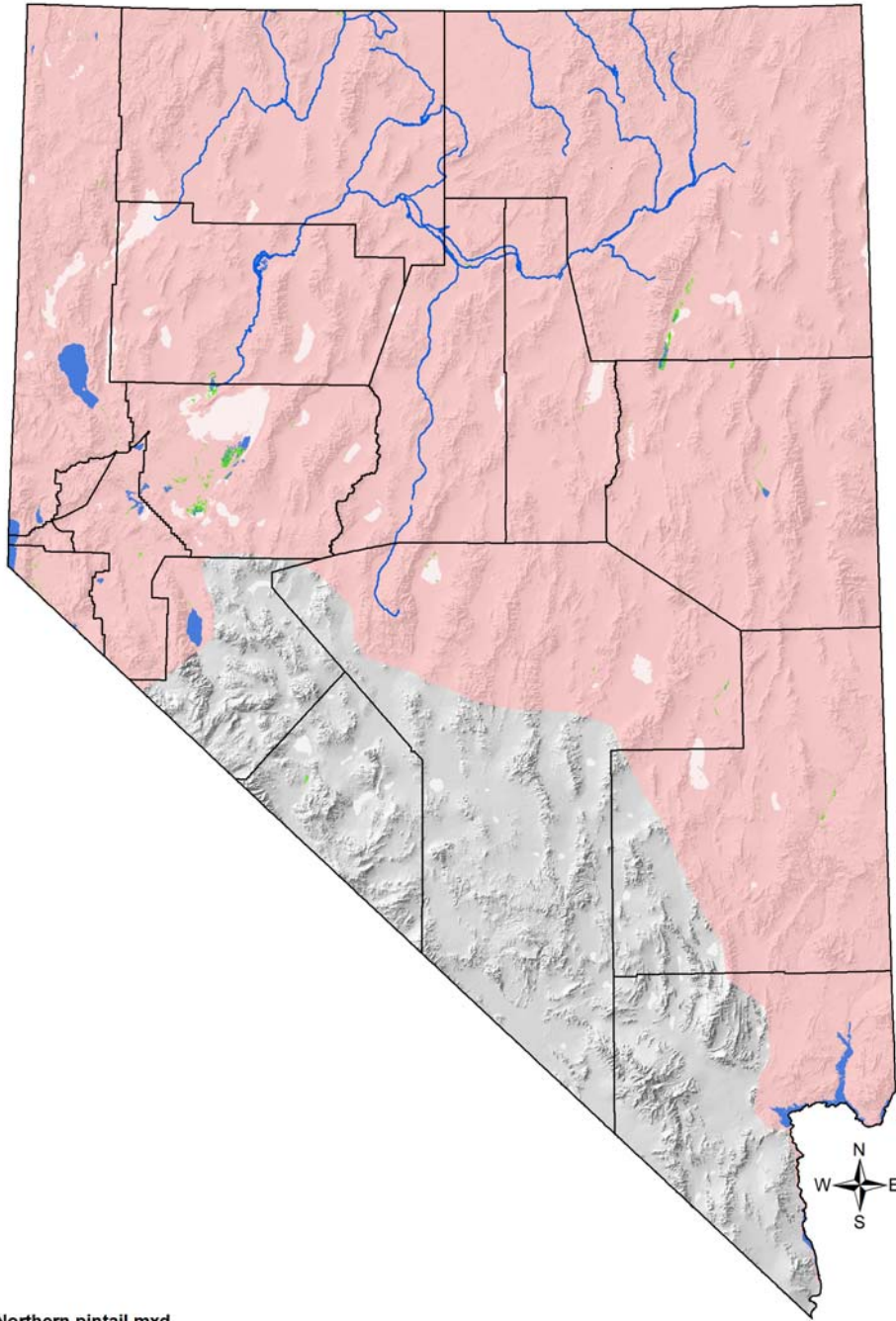
<b>Priority Status</b>	Conservation Priority
<b>Reasons for Priority Status</b>	Declines Threats
<b>Other Rankings</b>	Audubon Watchlist: None Natural Heritage: S5 Pacific Flyway Council: High USFWS: Migratory Bird BLM: None NDOW: Conservation Priority
<b>Trends</b>	Historical: Declined range-wide by half (6 million to 3 million) 70s – 90s [p1] Recent: Declines continue range-wide, in West, and likely NV, though may be stabilizing [p1, i1]
<b>Population Size Estimates</b>	Nevada: ~ 5,000, subject to substantial annual fluctuation [p3] Global: ~ 3 million range-wide, subject to substantial annual fluctuation; [ ] in Pacific Flyway [p1] Percent of Global: < 1 %
<b>Population Objective</b>	TBD
<b>Monitoring Coverage</b>	Source: NDOW aerial surveys, refuge counts and WMA counts, harvest counts, Aquatic Bird Count Coverage and Adequacy: Excellent
<b>Key Conservation Areas</b>	TBD

## Natural History Profile

<b>Seasonal Presence in Nevada</b>	Year-round in northern Nevada Winter in central and southern Nevada Spring and fall migration throughout
<b>Known Breeding Dates in Nevada</b>	Late April – mid-August [s4]
<b>Nesting Habits</b>	Nests on ground in upland areas, usually under vegetation cover [p1] Nest may be up to 3 km away from water [p1]
<b>Food Requirements</b>	Mostly aquatic invertebrates during breeding season Variety of aquatic plants and invertebrates fall – winter [p1]

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File: Northern pintail.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

The Northern Pintail is one of the West's most conspicuous and numerous ducks, but has also suffered substantial and sustained declines for many decades. Harvest rates are not believed to impact population trends, and the underlying causes of declines are currently not well understood.

## ABUNDANCE AND OCCUPANCY BY HABITAT TYPE

- Breeding density varies with wetland size [p1]
- TBD

## NEVADA-SPECIFIC STUDIES AND ANALYSIS

- TBD

## MAIN THREATS AND CHALLENGES

- Loss and degradation of suitable marsh habitat [p1]
- Cultivation and agricultural disturbances in upland breeding sites [p1]
- Predation of nesting females can be substantial [p1]
- Susceptible to avian botulism and cholera [p1]

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## CONSERVATION STRATEGIES

### Proscribed Strategies

- Pacific Flyway Council and NDOW monitor populations

### Habitat Strategies

- General Marsh and Open Water conservation strategies
- Hunting mortality not assumed to have impact on populations [p1], so habitat-based management tools especially important for Northern Pintails
- Northern Pintails readily use restored wetlands

### Public Outreach

- Where nesting occurs in agricultural uplands, seek to prevent nest disturbances by farm machinery during vulnerable period

### Research, Planning, and Monitoring

- Additional monitoring or research is needed to determine underlying causes of declines, or whether they are the result of shifts in regional densities [EO]
- Additional research is needed to determine whether Nevada breeding populations adhere to the patterns of habitat use described for the broader Pacific Flyway region
- Need to better determine location of any key wintering sites for roosting or feeding in central / southern Nevada

## OTHER PRIORITY SPECIES WITH SIMILAR CONSERVATION STRATEGIES

- Tundra Swan
- Trumpeter Swan
- Lesser Scaup

## 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

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[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  
[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