

Olive-sided Flycatcher

Contopus cooperi



Photo by Martin Meyers

Conservation Profile

Priority Status	Conservation Target
Reasons for Priority Status	Declines Threats
Other Rankings	Continental PIF: Watch List Audubon Watchlist: Yellow Natural Heritage: S2B USFWS: Bird of Conservation Concern (Sierra Nevada), Migratory Bird BLM: None NDOW: Conservation Priority
Trends	Historical: Significant range contractions [p1] Recent: Declining ~ 3% annually in West [i1, p1]
Population Size Estimates	Nevada (NBC): 5,600 Nevada (PIF): 1,000 Global: 1,200,00 [p5] Percent of Global: < 1%
Population Objective	TBD
Monitoring Coverage	Source: Nevada Bird Count Coverage and Adequacy: Very Good
Key Conservation Areas	Carson Range, Toiyabe and Monitor Ranges, Pine Nut and nearby ranges

Habitat Use Profile

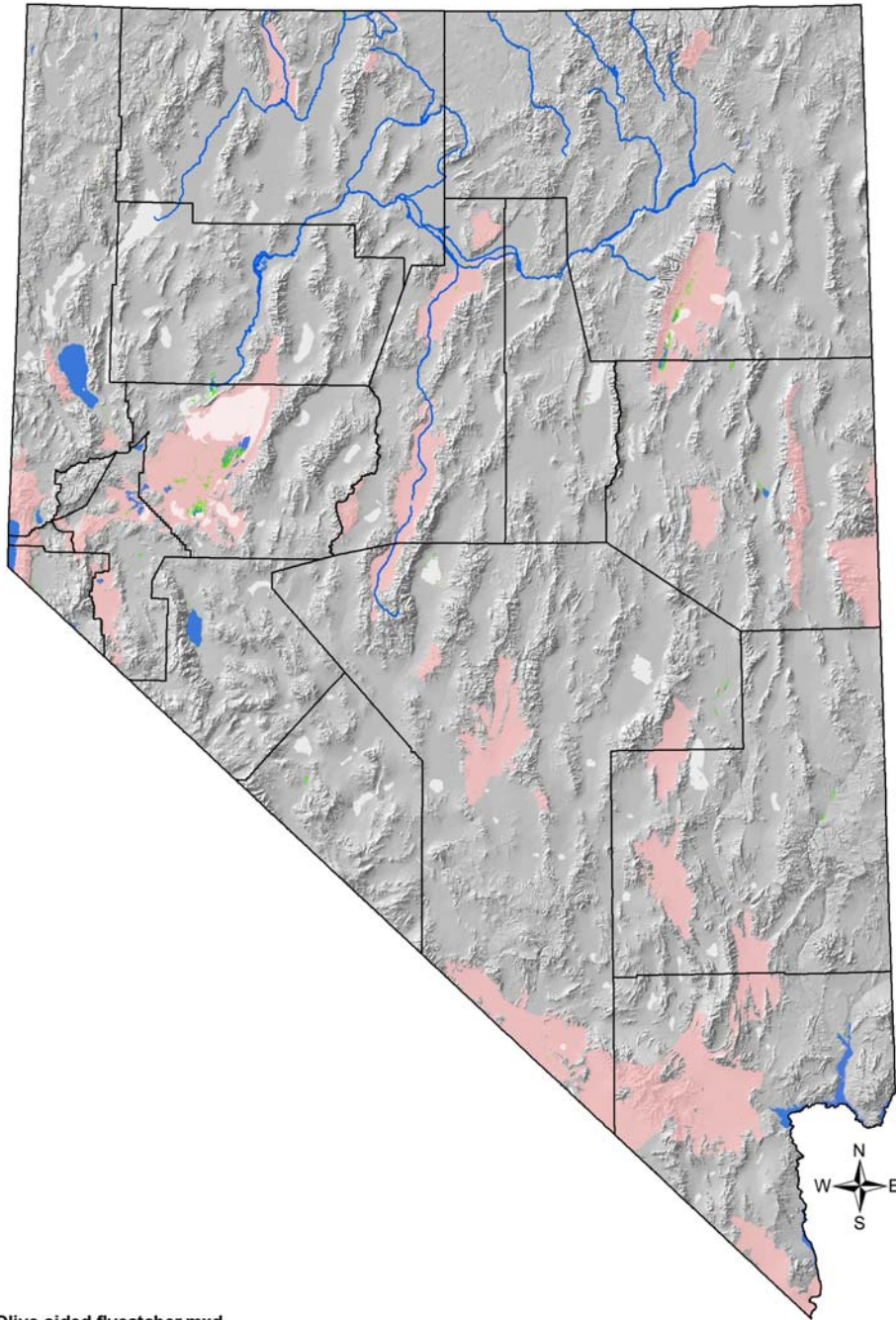
Main Habitats Used in Nevada	Coniferous Forest Aspen
Key Habitat Use Parameters	In Nevada, usually inhabits ponderosa and Jeffrey pine forests, also red fir forest [EO] Requires availability of unobstructed forest openings with good shrub layer for foraging [p1] In Sierra Nevada, often associated with mature coniferous forests that have been opened up by a fire mosaic [p1] Prefers average canopy cover 39% or less [Verner 1980] Late successional forest stages preferred [p1] Most often occurs relatively close to water sources [p1] Uses Lowland Riparian habitat during migration
Minimum Patch Size	Territory sizes up to 45 ha in Sierra Nevada, smaller (10-20 ha) in most other parts of range [p1]

Natural History Profile

Seasonal Presence in Nevada	Spring – summer
Known Breeding Dates in Nevada	Mid-June – early August [p4, EO]
Nesting Habits	Nests placed near tip of horizontal tree branch, relatively high off ground [p1, i6, Shuford and Gardali 2008] May exhibit significant fidelity to breeding sites and territories [p3]
Food Requirements	Flying insects exclusively [p1]

Olive-sided Flycatcher

Contopus cooperi



File: Olive-sided flycatcher.mxd

Olive-sided Flycatcher

Contopus cooperi

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

This long-distance migrant breeds in Coniferous Forest habitat across Nevada, though its distribution is notably patchy. Fire probably plays an important role in creating the Olive-sided Flycatcher's preferred landscape mature coniferous forest interspersed with brush-filled openings for foraging [Meehan and George 2003, p1, i6]. This bird is declining steadily and the causes for the decline are still not fully understood [p1], although changes in fire regime have been suggested as a leading factor. Within their U.S. range, the Sierra Nevada region has the highest breeding density according to BBS (12.4 birds / route) [p1]. Breeding populations in central, eastern, and southern Nevada are less dense and less studied than populations in the core of the range.

ABUNDANCE AND OCCUPANCY BY HABITAT

- NBC data

	Primary Habitat Type Present at Transect	No. Transects with Sightings	Nevada Bird Count Sightings per 40 ha			
			average	95% confidence interval**	% transects occupied	
Great Basin	Aspen	3	1.1	0.1 - 2.0	0.17 (3/13)	
	Coniferous Forest	6	3.1	-0.2 - 6.3	0.42 (8/19)	
	Lowland Riparian	2	1.5	-12.0 - 15.0	0.03 (2/66)	
	Montane Riparian	2	1.0	-3.1 - 5.0	0.02 (2/88)	
	Pinyon-Juniper	2	0.6	n/a	0.03 (2/61)	
Mojave	Coniferous Forest	2	0.5	-1.5 - 2.5	0.75 (3/4)	
	Joshua Tree	1	0.4	n/a	0.05 (1/20)	
	Lowland Riparian	3	1.1	0.1 - 2.0	0.11 (4/36)	
	Mesquite-Catclaw	1	0.3	n/a	0.07 (1/14)	
	Pinyon-Juniper	1	0.4	n/a	0.08 (1/12)	

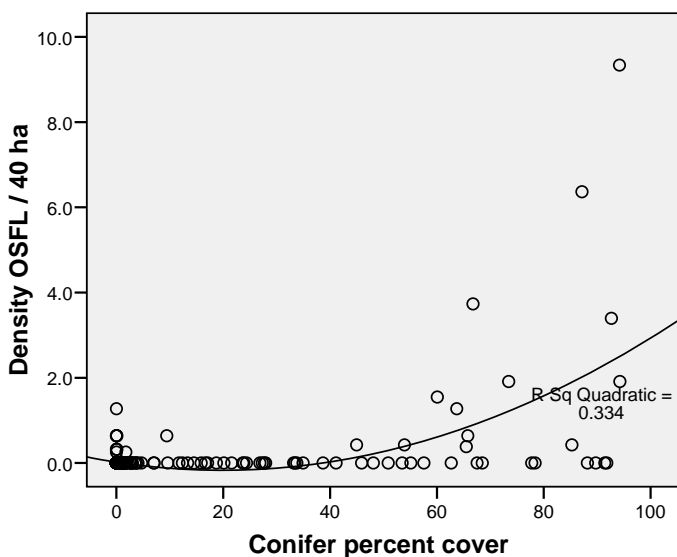
Olive-sided Flycatcher

Contopus cooperi

NEVADA-SPECIFIC STUDIES AND ANALYSES

Landscape Associations (NBC data)

- As shown in the following graph, NBC data indicate that Olive-sided Flycatchers require a landscape characterized by > 50% cover of coniferous forest.



- Examination of raw NBC occurrence data (table below) suggests that outside of western Nevada, breeding populations may sometimes occur on landscapes dominated by Pinyon-Juniper woodlands, in the absence of other coniferous forest. Densities in these alternative habitat types, however, are noticeably lower than they are in coniferous forest dominated habitat.

TRANSECTID	HABITAT	REGION	OSFL	Conifer	Pinyon-Juniper	Montane Riparian
CF-2634	Coniferous	West	9.3	94.2	.3	1.3
CF-TUNNELCREEK	Coniferous	West	6.4	87.1	.1	7.5
CF-2732	Coniferous	West	3.7	66.7	.8	7.1
CF-NORTHCANYON	Coniferous	West	3.4	92.7	.0	3.5
CF-5205	Coniferous	West	1.9	94.2	.0	3.3
CF-2178	Coniferous	West	1.9	73.4	.3	.4
MR-27978	Montane Rip	West	1.5	60.1	1.5	6.1
CF-1665	Coniferous	West	1.3	63.7	3.3	.0
LR-18922	Lowland Rip	East	1.3	.0	.0	6.4
AS-CONEPEAK	Aspen	West	.6	65.8	.1	2.3
LR-PINECREEK	Lowland Rip	South	.6	.1	1.3	.0
AS-20062	Aspen	North	.6	9.4	.1	5.0
PJ-80	Pinyon-Juni	East	.6	.0	93.2	2.9
MR-19247	Montane Rip	East	.6	.0	1.6	6.8
PJ-559	Pinyon-Juni	Central	.6	.0	49.4	.1
CF-2018	Coniferous	West	.4	53.9	1.3	12.8
CF-560	Coniferous	South	.4	85.3	13.0	.0

Olive-sided Flycatcher

Contopus cooperi

CF-MUD	Coniferous	South	.4	45.0	50.1	4.0
CF-584	Coniferous	South	.4	65.5	11.5	11.0
LR-75349	Lowland Rip	South	.3	.1	.1	.0
MR-CRYSTALRESE	Lowland Rip	South	.3	.0	.0	.0
JT-425	Joshua Tree	South	.3	.0	.0	.0
PJ-636	Pinyon-Juni	South	.3	1.8	26.7	16.9
CORNCREEK2	Lowland Rip	South	.3	.0	.0	.0

MAIN THREATS AND CHALLENGES

- Important habitat impacts on wintering grounds have been suggested [p1]
- Possible causes of decline in Nevada not clear; forest harvest practices are not an issue; changes in fire regime may play a role [p1, EO]

CONSERVATION STRATEGIES

Habitat Strategies

- General Coniferous Forest and Aspen conservation strategies
- Until better information becomes available, it is likely that allowing a pattern of small-scale low-intensity fires that create forest openings might be beneficial

Research, Planning, and Monitoring

- Additional study of role of fire regime, intensity, and scale in creating suitable Olive-sided Flycatcher habitat
- Additional study of birds in central, southern, and eastern Nevada, which are less studied than birds in the Sierra Nevada
- Continue monitoring to determine if Nevada population trends reflect regional trends, and to improve estimate of population size

OTHER PRIORITY SPECIES WITH SIMILAR CONSERVATION STRATEGIES

- Williamson's Sapsucker

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

Olive-sided Flycatcher

Contopus cooperi

[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
[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