Red-necked Phalarope

Phalaropus lobatus

Photo by Larry Neel

Habitat Use Profile

Main Habitats Used in Nevada	Open water Marsh
Key Habitat Use Parameters	During migration stopover, can be found in nearly any non-riverine water body, including lakes, ponds, wetlands, flooded fields, ditches, etc. [p1] Found in open water without significant emergent vegetation, over a variety of depth profiles [p1]
Minimum Patch Size	Size of water body apparently not important [p1]

Conservation Profile

Priority Status	Conservation Target
Reasons for Priority Status	Possible declines Possible threats Stewardship of important stopover habitat
Other Rankings	Continental PIF: None Audubon Watchlist: None Natural Heritage: S4M USFWS: Migratory Bird BLM: None NDOW: Conservation Priority IM West Shorebird: Very Important
Trends	Historical: Probable declines [p1] Recent: Uncertain, possibly decreasing [USSSCP, p1]
Population Size Estimates	Nevada: 3,000 [Andres] per migration season, with high annual variation Global: 2,5000,000 [WHSRN, p1] Percent of Global: < 1%
Population Objective	Maintain average stopover population of 3,000
Monitoring Coverage	Source: NDOW Lahontan Valley migration counts, Aquatic Bird Count, refuge and WMA counts Coverage and Adequacy: Very Good in Lahontan Valley, Fair elsewhere
Key Conservation Areas	Lahontan Valley Humboldt River system Sleeper Mine [?]

Natural History Profile

Seasonal Presence in Nevada	Fall migration (August peak) Spring migration (May peak) [p1]
Known Breeding Dates in Nevada	N/A
Nesting Habits	N/A
Food Requirements	Small aquatic invertebrates, some flying insects [p1] Forages at or just below the water surface [p1]

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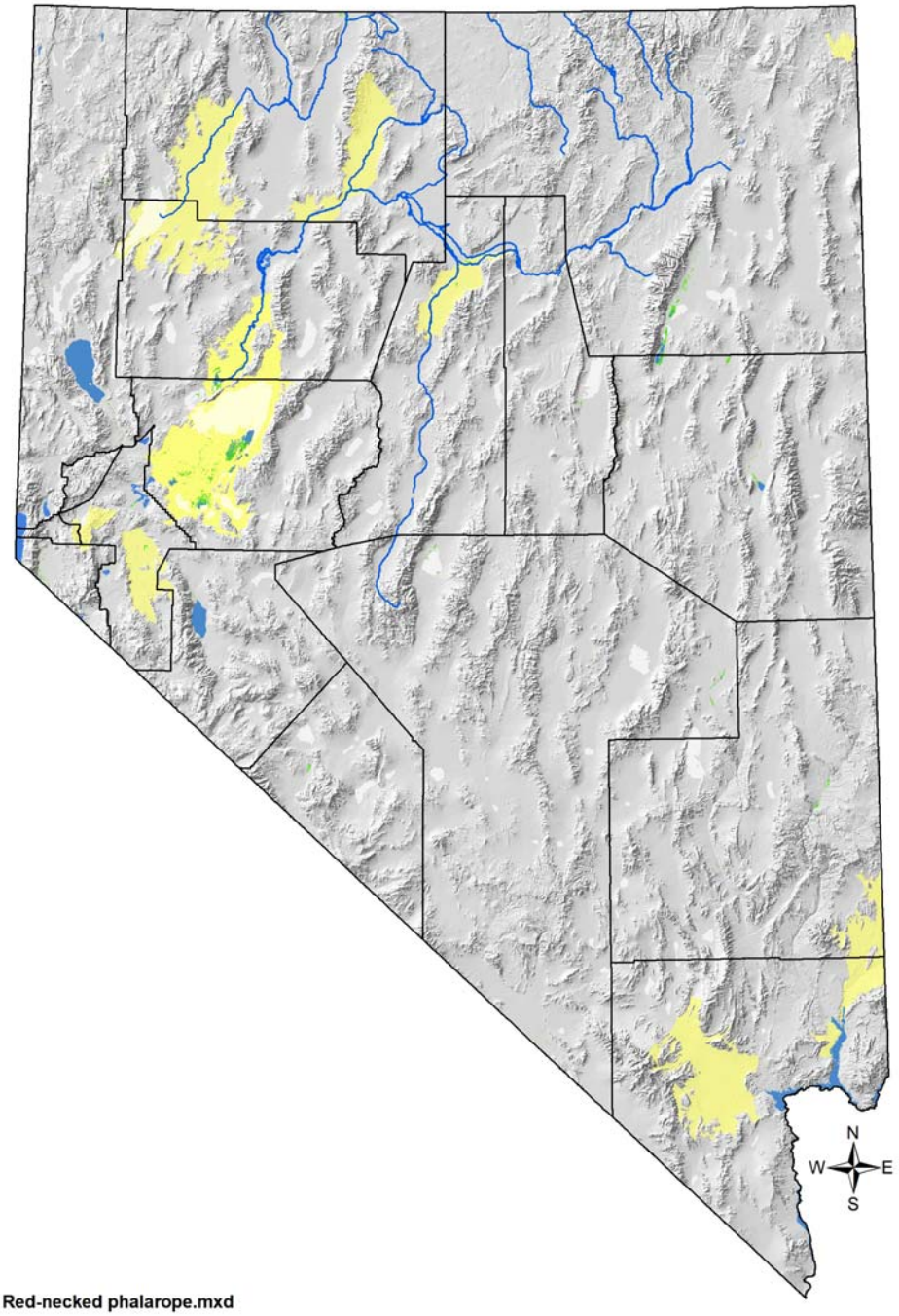

File: Red-necked phalarope.mxd

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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

Though technically a shorebird, Red-necked Phalaropes actually spend most of their life at sea. Significant numbers of these long-distance migrants, however, stop over in Nevada during their spring and fall migration. Here, they typically are observed in flocks of < 50 birds, although much larger congregations are typical of nearby areas such as Great Salt Lake and Mono Lake [p1]. The Red-necked Phalarope is a conservation priority in the state because Nevada provides presumably critical stopover habitat for several thousand (or more) birds each year, but little is known about threats they may face here in the state. Although maintaining known stopover sites is obviously important, additional monitoring and research is needed before more specific management recommendations are possible.

ABUNDANCE AND OCCUPANCY BY HABITAT TYPE

- Although 3,000 birds on average are estimated to stopover in Nevada, peak numbers of 16,200 have been observed in Lahontan Valley as recently as 1987 (Alcorn 1988)
- Present in Nevada during both spring and fall migration, but numbers typically higher in fall [Andres]

NEVADA-SPECIFIC STUDIES AND ANALYSES

- TBD

MAIN THREATS AND CHALLENGES

- TBD through further inquiry and literature review; very little feedback on this bird during threats and strategies sessions

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CONSERVATION STRATEGIES

Habitat Strategies

- General Open Water and Marsh conservation strategies
- TBD through further inquiry and literature review; little group feedback on this species and very little conservation information in BNA account

OTHER PRIORITY SPECIES WITH SIMILAR CONSERVATION STRATEGIES

- Wilson's Phalarope

FURTHER READING

- Shuford et al. 2002

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
[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