

# Redhead

## *Aythya americana*



Photo by Larry Neel

### Conservation Profile

<b>Priority Status</b>	Conservation Target
<b>Reasons for Priority Status</b>	Threats Stewardship of important migratory stopover habitat [p4]
<b>Other Rankings</b>	Audubon Watchlist: None Natural Heritage: S4b Pacific Flyway Council: High USFWS: Migratory Bird BLM: None NDOW: Conservation Priority
<b>Trends</b>	Historical: Declines up to ~ 60s [p1, p3] Recent: Apparently stable in West, TBD in Nevada [i1]
<b>Population Size Estimates</b>	Nevada: 4,500 [p3] Global: 600,000, subject to substantial annual variation [p1] Percent of Global: ~ 1%
<b>Population Objective</b>	TBD
<b>Monitoring Coverage</b>	Source: NDOW aerial surveys, refuge and WMA counts, NDOW hunter surveys, Aquatic Bird Count  Coverage and Adequacy: Excellent
<b>Key Conservation Areas</b>	Carson Lake / Lahontan Valley (up to 1,300 nests / yr.) (Chisholm and Neel 2002) Ruby Lake TBD

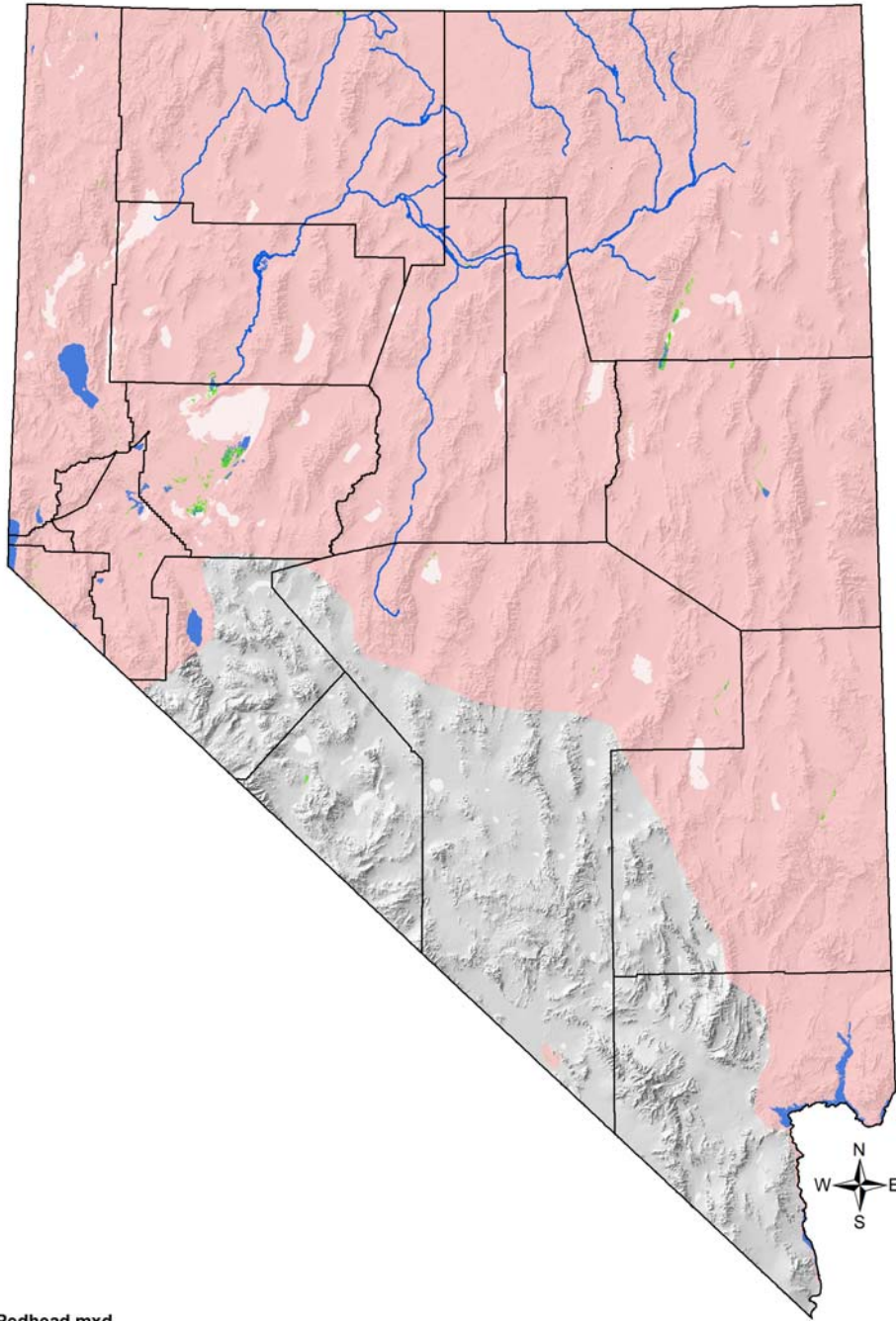
### Habitat Use Profile

<b>Main Habitats Used in Nevada</b>	Open water Marsh
<b>Key Habitat Use Parameters</b>	Considered habitat generalist, breed in variety of wetland types and sizes [p1] Most often breed in larger wetlands with mosaic of abundant emergent vegetation and open water [p1] Typical wetland water depth 20 – 150 cm [p1] Nesting wetlands often near deeper water used for brood rearing [p1] Lakes, reservoirs, river pools during migration [p1]
<b>Minimum Patch Size</b>	Breeding wetlands usually > 4 ha [p1]

### Natural History Profile

<b>Seasonal Presence in Nevada</b>	Year-round in Great Basin portion of NV Winter in Mojave [p3] Spring and fall migration throughout [p1]
<b>Known Breeding Dates in Nevada</b>	Late April – July [p1, p3, s4]
<b>Nesting Habits</b>	Usually over water (~ 20 – 50 cm depth) in dense bulrush or cattail Also on upland or islands within 3 m of water edge [p1]
<b>Food Requirements</b>	Dives, usually in water < 1.2 m depth, for submerged vegetation and aquatic invertebrates [p1]

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File: Redhead.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 Redhead has its breeding stronghold in the Prairie Pothole region of central North America, but nevertheless it is also reported to be the second most common nesting duck in Nevada (C. Mortimore, pers. comm.). Nevada has a small but important stewardship responsibility for the species, particularly during migration. Breeding populations here appear fairly stable and close to population targets, as is the case for this bird across most of its range. In arid West, the main need is to secure and maintain sufficient water supplies for wetlands [p1]. Because Redheads are relatively flexible in their habitat use, general habitat management strategies that benefit other ducks are likely to benefit Redheads as well.

### ABUNDANCE AND OCCUPANCY BY HABITAT

- 6 – 12 pairs / km<sup>2</sup> [p1]

### NEVADA-SPECIFIC STUDIES AND ANALYSIS

- TBD

### MAJOR THREATS AND CHALLENGES

- Wetland loss and degradation
- Drought and low water conditions adversely affect breeding success and increase predation pressure [p1]

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## CONSERVATION STRATEGIES

### Proscribed Strategies

- Pacific Flyway Council and NDOW monitor populations

### Habitat Strategies

- General Open Water and Marsh conservation strategies
- Secure and maintain sufficient water supply for wetlands [p1]

### Research, Planning, and Monitoring

- Identify key stopover sites

## OTHER PRIORITY SPECIES WITH SIMILAR CONSERVATION STRATEGIES

- 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
- [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

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[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