

# Rufous Hummingbird

## *Selasphorus rufus*



Immature Rufous Hummingbird. Photo by Scott Page.

### Habitat Use Profile

<b>Main Habitats Used in Nevada</b>	Historically likely associated with Montane Riparian, Aspen, Montane Shrub, and Desert Springs; more recently also in urban settings with sufficient nectar sources
<b>Key Habitat Use Parameters</b>	No known habitat relationships other than presence and density of nectar sources Preferred nectar sources include red-tubular flowers of these genera: <i>Castilleja</i> , <i>Aquilega</i> , <i>Epilobium</i> , <i>Delphinium</i> , <i>Penstemon</i> , <i>Monarda</i> , <i>Linaria</i> , <i>Cleome</i> , <i>Lonicera</i> , and others [p1] Choice of flowers depends on nectar concentration and flow rate, sugar content (sucrose preferred), and color [p1]
<b>Minimum Patch Size</b>	Flower density likely more important than patch size during migration [p1] Establishes short-term food resource territories during migration stopovers; size of territories inversely correlated with flower density

### Conservation Profile

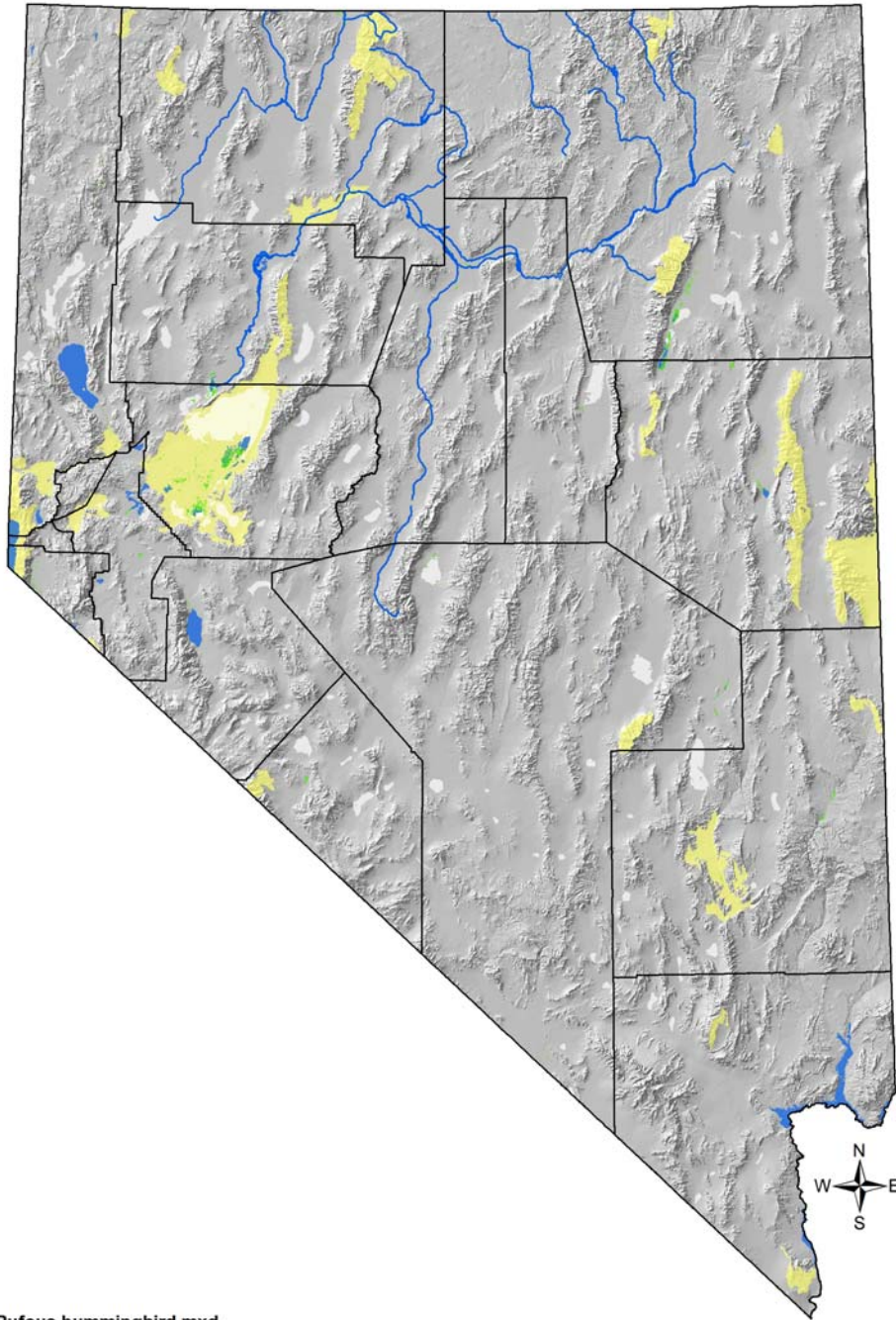
<b>Priority Status</b>	Conservation Target
<b>Reasons for Priority Status</b>	Declines
<b>Other Rankings</b>	Continental PIF: Watch List Audubon Watchlist: Natural Heritage: S3M USFWS: Migratory Bird BLM: None NDOW: Conservation Priority
<b>Trends</b>	Historical: Unknown Recent: Significant declines (~ 2% / yr) in Western BBs region [i1]
<b>Population Size Estimates</b>	Nevada: N/A [determine whether to use NBC-based estimate] Global: 6,500,000 [p5] Percent of Global: N/A; Fall migration through Great Basin [p1]
<b>Population Objective</b>	TBD
<b>Monitoring Coverage</b>	Monitored in breeding range by BBS; not monitored regularly in Nevada
<b>Key Conservation Areas</b>	TBD

### Natural History Profile

<b>Seasonal Presence in Nevada</b>	Fall migration, July – September Rarely noted during spring migration
<b>Known Breeding Dates in Nevada</b>	No confirmed breeding in Nevada, though it possibly occurs in northeastern part of state [p4]
<b>Migration Requirements</b>	1-2 week stopovers where desirable food sources are available in sufficient density [p1]
<b>Food Requirements</b>	Nectar-rich flowering forbs and shrubs; also uses sap wells created by woodpeckers; captures small insects [p1]

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File: Rufous hummingbird.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 Rufous Hummingbird may be the most abundant and widespread migrant hummingbird in Nevada during fall migration [i6]. It is seen during this period in a wide variety of montane habitats where flowing plants occur in sufficiently dense patches. Intriguingly, most breeding range maps extend into northeastern Nevada, though breeding has never been formally confirmed in this area. Though still numerous, Rufous Hummingbirds are declining steadily in numbers, with no known cause. Whether or not stopover migration habitat plays a role in this decline is not yet clear. The distribution map presented here likely represents an underestimate of the true range of Rufous Hummingbirds during migration in Nevada, as most of the data we have on this species were collected at the very beginning, rather than the peak, of migration. Additional study of this species is needed in our region.

### ABUNDANCE AND OCCUPANCY BY HABITAT

- NBC data (percent column actually refers to **proportion** of transects occupied)

		% Transects Occupied (Great Basin)	% Transects Occupied (Mojave)
Aspen		0.06 91/18)	0.43 (3/7)
Coniferous Forest		0.11 (2/19)	0
Lowland Riparian		0.02 (1/66)	0
Mesquite-Catclaw		n/a	0.07 (1/14)
Montane Riparian		0.07 (6/88)	0

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## NEVADA-SPECIFIC STUDIES AND ANALYSES

- TBD

## MAIN THREATS AND CHALLENGES

- Causes of declines not yet determined [p1]

## CONSERVATION STRATEGIES

### Habitat Strategies

- General Montane Riparian and Montane Shrub conservation strategies that tend to encourage healthy forb understory with good nectar sources
- Livestock grazing in montane meadows should be managed to allow for production of flowering forbs and shrubs

### Public Outreach

- Hummingbird feeders and hummingbird-friendly urban and suburban landscaping often provide useful stopover opportunities for this hummingbird
- This species is particularly suitable for citizen science projects that would elucidate their true distribution and habitat use in Nevada, e.g., through eBird or similar outreach tools.

### Research, Planning, and Monitoring

- Attempt to determine whether breeding activity occurs in northeastern Nevada as suggested by regional range maps

## OTHER PRIORITY SPECIES WITH SIMILAR CONSERVATION STRATEGIES

- Calliope Hummingbird

## 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

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[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