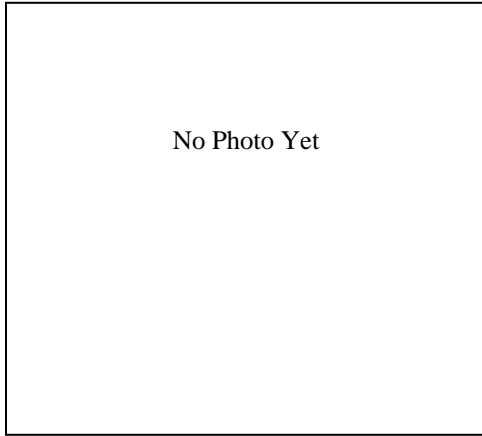


Sharp-tailed Grouse

Tympanuchus phasianellus

Conservation Profile



| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Priority Status | Conservation Target |
| Reasons for Priority Status | Small, isolated population Threats |
| Other Rankings | Continental PIF: Stewardship Species Audubon Watchlist: None Natural Heritage: S1 USFWS: None BLM: None NDOW: Conservation Priority; "High" concern in Upland Game Management Plan |
| Trends | Historical: Extirpated from Nevada by 1952 [p1] Recent: Re-introduced 1999 – 2005, apparently persisting (NDOW [__]); across broader region, have been extirpated from > 50% of former U. S. range since 1960s [p1] |
| Population Size Estimates | Nevada: 226 birds re-introduced to Snake Mts. 1999-2005, appear to be persisting (NDOW [__]) Global: 1,200,000 [p5] Percent of Global: << 1 % |
| Population Objective | TBD |
| Monitoring Coverage | Source: NDOW Coverage and Adequacy: Excellent |
| Key Conservation Areas | Snake Mountains, Elko County |

Habitat Use Profile

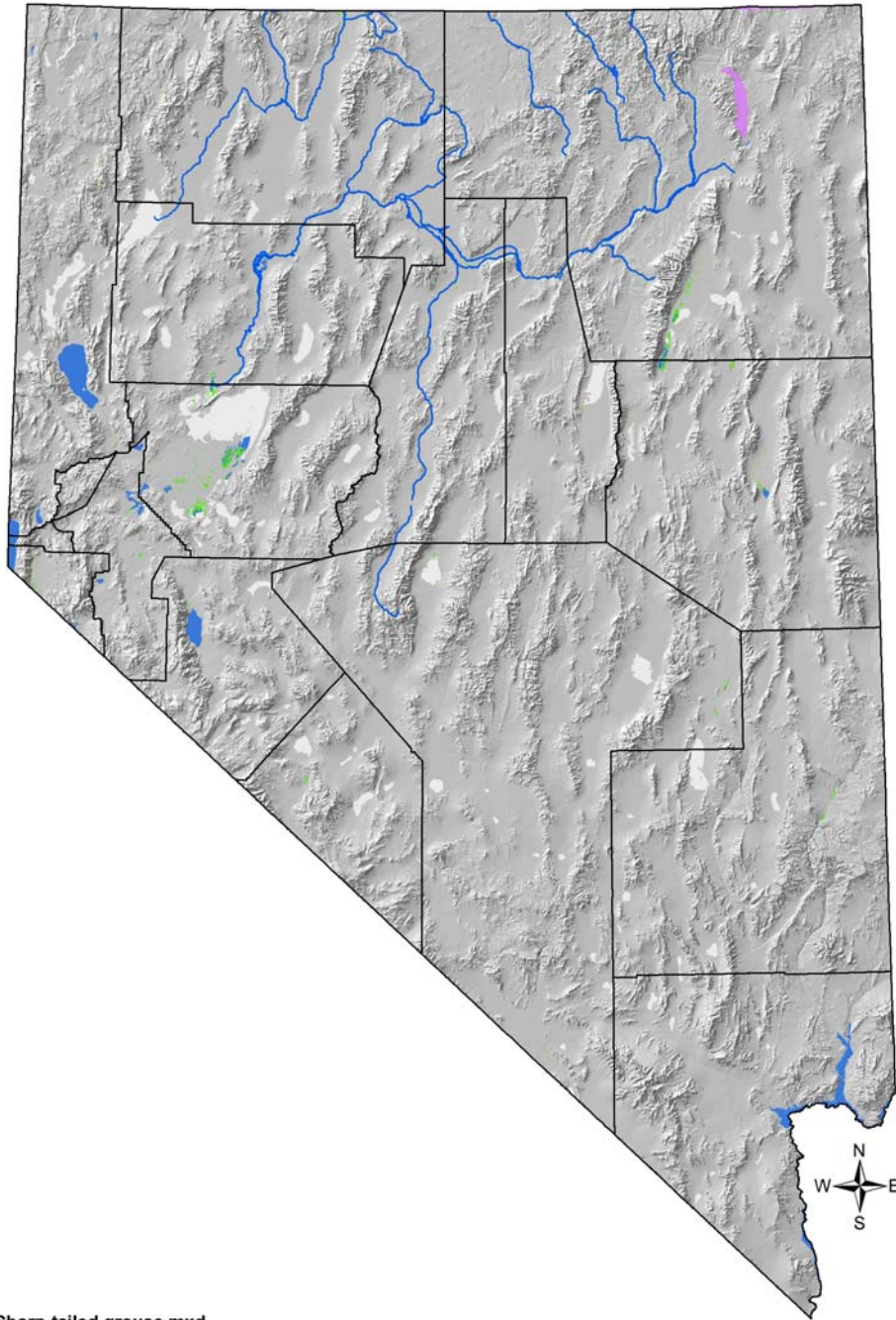
| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Main Habitats Used in Nevada | Montane Shrubland Sagebrush Aspen and Montane Riparian (winter) [p1] |
| Key Habitat Use Parameters | Preferred habitat has high plant species diversity, including bunchgrasses and perennial forbs [p1, EO] Prefers high structural complexity of shrub / forb layers, with relatively dense cover [p1] |
| Minimum Patch Size | Relatively small home ranges, often ≤ 200 ha within a given season Maximum seasonal movements ~ 20 km, but probably less in Nevada [p1] A minimum of 30 km ² of suitable habitat appears to be necessary for successful reintroductions [p1] |

Natural History Profile

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Seasonal Presence in Nevada | Year-round, with some seasonal movements [p1] |
| Known Breeding Dates in Nevada | April – early August [p1] |
| Nesting Habits | Nests on ground, under shrubs or small tree, in area of denser than average overhead cover [p1] High fidelity to lek sites [p1]; unknown but possibly high for general nest site locations |
| Food Requirements | Variety of forbs, fruits, grains, buds, and insects [p1] |

Sharp-tailed Grouse

Tympanuchus phasianellus



File: Sharp-tailed grouse.mxd

Sharp-tailed Grouse

Tympanuchus phasianellus

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 Sharp-tailed Grouse is the only bird covered in this plan that was formerly extirpated from Nevada, and then successfully reintroduced. Along with the Greater Sage-Grouse, it is one of two lekking birds covered in the plan, which requires conservation attention to lek sites that are usually traditional across many grouse generations. Both the original native population and the birds reintroduced to Nevada from Idaho belong to the *T. p. columbianus* subspecies (Columbia Sharp-tailed Grouse). The Snake Mountains in Elko County were selected as the initial reintroduction site because they have large expanses of higher-elevation Mountain Shrubland habitat adjoining lower-elevation Sagebrush habitat with a relatively well-developed bunchgrass component. The Nevada Department of Wildlife closely monitors and manages this population.

ABUNDANCE AND OCCUPANCY BY HABITAT

- TBD from information on single population

NEVADA-SPECIFIC STUDIES AND ANALYSES

- None

MAIN THREATS AND CHALLENGES

- Nevada's population is closely monitored, largely protected from serious threats, and is not currently hunted
- Elsewhere in the West, Sharp-tailed Grouse are sensitive to habitat degradation or habitat loss caused by:
 - Heavy livestock grazing
 - High-intensity fire
 - Invasive plants

Sharp-tailed Grouse

Tympanuchus phasianellus

- Conifer encroachment into shrublands

CONSERVATION STRATEGIES

Proscribed Strategies

- Conservation strategies are detailed in the Nevada Upland Game Management Plan (NDOW [____]). Key elements of this strategy are:
 - Continue to monitor and study the existing population, and supplement with additional birds as required
 - Evaluate additional areas with potential as Sharp-tailed Grouse habitat, and conduct additional re-introductions if and when appropriate
 - Manage occupied habitat to maintain a healthy grass component

OTHER PRIORITY SPECIES WITH SIMILAR CONSERVATION STRATEGIES

- Greater Sage-Grouse

FURTHER READING

- Saab and Marks 1992.

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