Western Sandpiper
*Calidris mauri*

### Conservation Profile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority Status</th>
<th>Conservation Target</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Declines</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High stopover habitat stewardship</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Other Rankings
- Continental PIF: None
- Audubon Watchlist: None
- Natural Heritage: SSM
- USFWS: Migratory Bird
- BLM: None
- NDOW: None [Stewardship?]
- IM W Shorebird: Very Important

#### Trends
- Historical:
- Recent: Probably decreasing [WHSRN]

#### Population Size Estimates
- Nevada: 12,000 [NDOW, Andres], subject to significant annual variation
- Global: 3,500,000 [WHSRN]
- Percent of Global: < 1%

#### Population Objective
- Increase to 18,000 birds as ten-year average

#### Monitoring Coverage
- Source: NDOW Lahontan Valley migration surveys, refuge and WMA counts, Aquatic Bird Count
- Coverage and Adequacy: Very Good in Lahontan Valley, Good – Fair elsewhere

#### Key Conservation Areas
- Lahontan Valley
- Ruby Valley
- [Pyramid Lake?; not on map]

### Habitat Use Profile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main Habitats Used in Nevada</th>
<th>Open Water (shorelines) [p1]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Habitat Use Parameters</th>
<th>Forages on mudflats, wet shorelines, and in water up to 4 cm deep [p1]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Forages mainly in open areas with little or no emergent vegetation [p1]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Minimum Patch Size | No information |

### Natural History Profile

#### Seasonal Presence in Nevada
- Fall (migration, mid-August - mid-September peak)
- Spring (migration, April peak)

#### Known Breeding Dates in Nevada
- N/A

#### Nesting Habits
- N/A

#### Food Requirements
- Benthic invertebrates, insects, spiders [p1]
- Probes for prey in mudflats and shallow water [p1]
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**Western Sandpiper**  
*Calidris mauri*

**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**

Although most Western Sandpipers migrate between their Arctic breeding grounds and wintering grounds along the Pacific Coast, significant numbers take inland routes including through the Great Basin where they are often the most commonly observed small sandpiper. In contrast to Least Sandpipers, however, with whom they commonly mix, Western Sandpipers tend to occur in Nevada in larger numbers during the fall than spring migration [p1, confirm]. Western Sandpipers appear to be declining across their range, and it has been suggested that threats during migration and in wintering habitat play a role in this decline. However, the specific nature of these threats, beyond the basic pattern of wetland losses, has not been well described.

**ABUNDANCE AND OCCUPANCY BY HABITAT**

- Ten-year average for Lahontan Valley is 7,600, with 4,400 in other locations
- Ten-year peaks in Lahontan Valley typically exceed 45,000, with highest recorded peak of 66,700 in 1987 (Neel and Henry 1996)

**NEVADA-SPECIFIC STUDIES AND ANALYSES**

- TBD

**MAIN THREATS AND CHALLENGES**

- General loss or degradation of suitable Open Water shoreline habitat
- No species- or Nevada-specific threats identified
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*Calidris mauri*

CONSERVATION STRATEGIES

Habitat Strategies

- General Open Water conservation strategy, with special attention to period of fall migration peak
- TBD

OTHER PRIORITY SPECIES WITH SIMILAR CONSERVATION STRATEGIES

- Least Sandpiper

FURTHER READING

- Shuford et al 2002
- Fernández et al 2006

Temporary codes for standard references

- [p1] Birds of N. America account for this species
- [p3] NV Wildlife Action Plan
- [p4] Nevada Breeding Bird Atlas
- [p6] Intermountain West Regional Shorebird Plan (Oring et al 2003)
- [p7] Pacific Flyway reports
- [p8] Shrubsteppe Landscapes in Jeopardy (Dobkin and Sauder 2004)
- [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
- [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