

Western Sandpiper

Calidris mauri



Photo by Larry Neel

Conservation Profile

Priority Status	Conservation Target
Reasons for Priority Status	Declines High stopover habitat stewardship
Other Rankings	Continental PIF: None Audubon Watchlist: None Natural Heritage: S5M 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

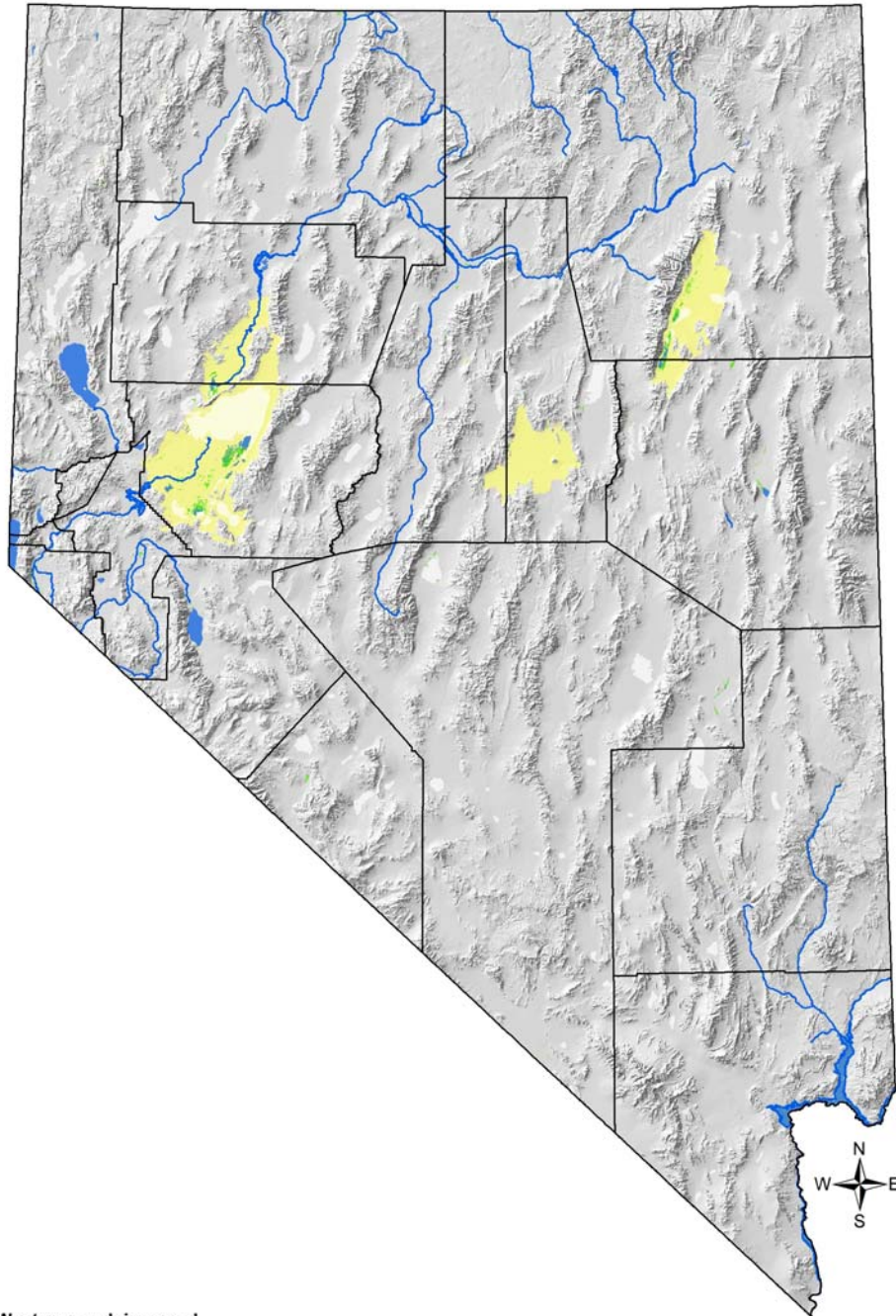
Main Habitats Used in Nevada	Open Water (shorelines) [p1]
Key Habitat Use Parameters	Forages on mudflats, wet shorelines, and in water up to 4 cm deep [p1] Forages mainly in open areas with little or no emergent vegetation [p1]
Minimum Patch Size	No information

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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File: Western sandpiper.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

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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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
[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