

# White-throated Swift

*Aeronautes saxatalis*



Photo by Martin Meyers

## Conservation Profile

Priority Status	Conservation Target
Reasons for Priority Status	Probable declines Possible threats Limited availability of suitable breeding habitat
Other Rankings	Continental PIF: Watch List Audubon Watchlist: None Natural Heritage: S4B USFWS: Migratory Bird BLM: None NDOW: Conservation Priority
Trends	Historical: Unknown Recent: Substantial range-wide declines since 1966, but more recently stabilizing; Nevada trends uncertain [i1,p1, p3]
Population Size and Stewardship %	Nevada (NBC): 14,000 Nevada (PIF): 4,300 Global: 280,000 [p5] Stewardship %: 5% or less
Population Objective	TBD
Monitoring Coverage	Source: Nevada Bird Count Coverage and Adequacy: Good
Key Conservation Areas	TBD

## Habitat Use Profile

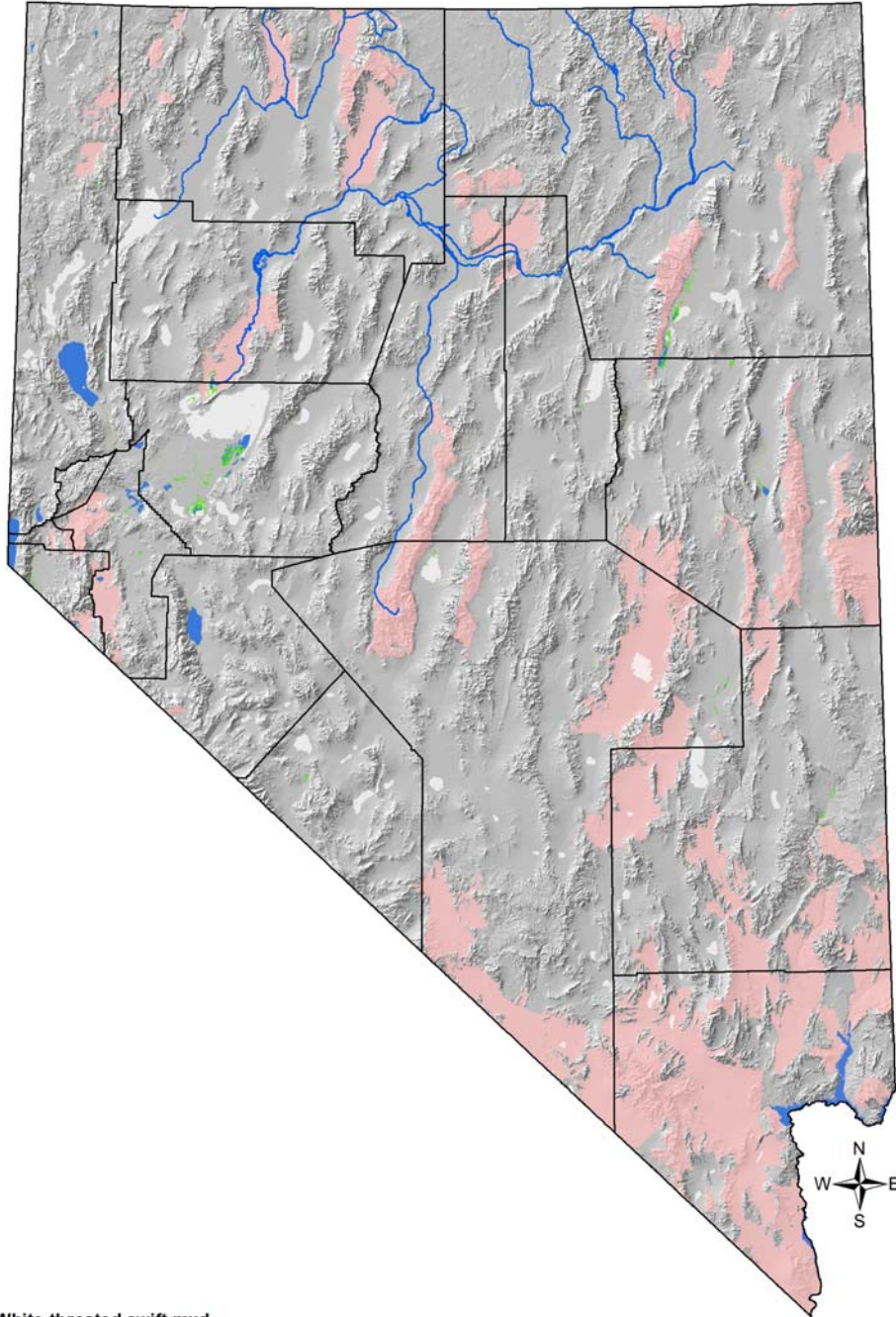
Main Habitats Used in Nevada	Cliffs, Montane Riparian, Great Basin Lowland Riparian, Mojave Lowland Riparian
Key Habitat Use Parameters	Occupies cliffs or structures located near riparian areas, meadows, lakes, reservoirs, wetlands [p1, i6] Most often forage over or near water, but also seen foraging over a wide variety of forest and shrubland habitat types [s, p4]
Minimum Patch Size	Home range size unknown, but at least several km <sup>2</sup> . May forage up to 15 km away from nest sites, although usually closer [p1]

## Natural History Profile

Seasonal Presence in Nevada	Spring – summer north of Mojave region Year-round in Mojave region [p1]
Known Breeding Dates in Nevada	April – September [p1, s4]
Nesting Habits	Nests in natural or artificial crevices in cliffs and structures [p1] Very high breeding site affinity, some sites continuously used > 50 yrs. [p1]
Food Requirements	Forages aerially for flying insects [p1]

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File: White-throated swift.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

White-throated Swifts breed throughout Nevada, wherever suitable nesting cliffs or structures are present in proximity to water and to sufficient prey populations. Cliffs near rivers seem to be preferred as nest sites [EO], and White-throated Swifts are especially common around Lake Mead and along southern Nevada rivers [EO]. However, artificial crevices in man-made structures are used as well. Current monitoring efforts do not provide satisfying coverage of important breeding sites, and therefore trends within Nevada have not been quantified. Regardless of trends, it would be advantageous to inventory and monitor Nevada’s most productive breeding locations.

### ABUNDANCE AND OCCUPANCY BY HABITAT

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

		% Transects Occupied (Great Basin)	% Transects Occupied (Mojave)
Aspen		0	0.29 (2/7)
Coniferous Forest		0	0.25 (1/4)
Joshua Tree		0	0.1 (2/20)
Lowland Riparian		0.09 (6/66)	0.19 (7/20)
Mesquite-Catclaw		n/a	0.14 (2/14)
Mojave Scrub		n/a	0.09 (2/22)
Montane Riparian		0.05 (4/88)	0
Montane Sagebrush		0	0.33 (1/3)
Pinyon-Juniper		0.02 (1/61)	0.25 (3/12)

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- Highly social; flocks up to 500 birds in winter roosting sites; nests individually or semi-colonially [p1]

## NEVADA-SPECIFIC STUDIES AND ANALYSES

- TBD [consult Great Basin Birds]

## MAIN THREATS AND CHALLENGES

- Disturbance of communal breeding sites
- Possible pesticide bioaccumulation effects, especially near agricultural areas

## CONSERVATION STRATEGIES

### **Habitat Strategies**

- General Cliff, Montane Riparian, and Great Basin and Mojave Lowland Riparian conservation strategies

### **Research, Planning, and Monitoring**

- Identify, monitor, and protect important communal breeding cliffs and structures
- Improve monitoring effort with targeted surveys in major breeding sites to better determine trends in Nevada
- If Nevada trends are declining, conduct additional research to determine causes, with focus on possible pesticide impacts

## OTHER PRIORITY SPECIES WITH SIMILAR CONSERVATION STRATEGIES

- TBD

## FURTHER READING

- TBD [consult Great Basin Birds]

### 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

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[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