



# Conservation Practices for Birds in Nevada

In Nevada, curl leaf mountain mahogany is generally found in close association with mountain big sage, Utah juniper, singleleaf pinyon and cliff/talus habitats at elevations from 5,000 to 10,000 feet. Mahogany often occupies xeric, rocky, steep hillsides, and provides a woodland habitat for numerous wildlife species in conditions that are unsuitable for most other tree species. Individual trees are slow growing and can live over 700 years. If improper grazing occurs, this habitat type can be vulnerable to cheatgrass invasion. Once these sites are burned, annual grasses and forbs will dominate and mountain mahogany will rarely reach maturity. Mountain mahogany provides canopy and ground-nesting cover as well as security cover for several bird species. Mahogany also provides forage for insectivorous and seed-eating bird species.

Nevada Partners in Flight (PIF), a group of state and federal agencies, conservation organizations and research institutions, has identified bird species in Nevada that are declining. One of the goals identified in the PIF Bird Conservation Plan is to work with Nevada's farmers, ranchers and other private landowners to reverse the decline of these "priority species" by protecting and conserving their critical habitat.

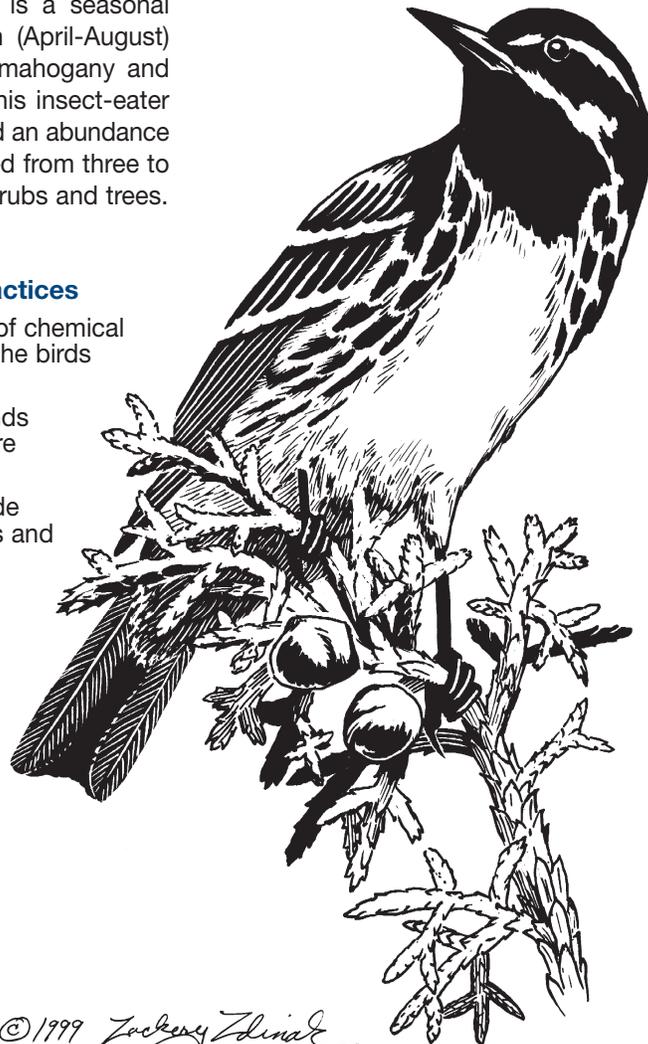
## Priority Bird Species

### Black-Throated Gray Warbler

The black-throated gray warbler is a seasonal resident during its breeding season (April-August) through most of Nevada wherever mahogany and pinyon-juniper habitats are found. This insect-eater prefers areas with a dense shrubs and an abundance of insects. Nests generally are located from three to eight feet from the ground in both shrubs and trees.

### Recommended Conservation Practices

- ◆ Implement alternatives to the use of chemical insecticides in those areas where the birds breed and raise their young.
- ◆ Elevate old growth mahogany stands to high priority status in regional fire prevention plans.
- ◆ Manage livestock grazing to provide regeneration of mahogany habitats and to minimize cheatgrass invasion.



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## Flammulated Owl

Flammulated owls nest from 7,200 to 8,200 feet in elevation in mixed coniferous forests throughout the Great Basin. These tiny owls are found in Nevada in mahogany habitats that are in close association with coniferous forests from about mid-May to October. Mahogany habitats are used primarily as foraging habitat and security cover for these insect-eating owls and may function as a critical migratory habitat corridor link during their bi-annual trip to and from wintering habitats in Western Mexico and Guatemala.

### Recommended Conservation Practices

- ◆ Maintain mountain mahogany habitat corridors along flammulated owl migration corridors.
- ◆ Maintain mountain mahogany foraging habitats in close association with old growth coniferous forests.
- ◆ Implement alternatives to the use of chemical insecticides in those areas where the birds breed and raise their young.
- ◆ Elevate old growth mahogany stands to high priority status in regional fire prevention plans.



### Where to Get Assistance and More Information

This fact sheet covers some of the basic considerations and conservation practices that will benefit priority bird species relying on mahogany habitat for their survival, as identified in the Nevada Partners in Flight Bird Conservation Plan (PIF BCP). We recommend you seek the advice of a biologist, conservationist, or resource planner to help you meet your objectives. The Nevada Department of Wildlife, Natural Resources Conservation Service, or your local conservation district can provide this assistance. All of these offices have received a copy of the plan, which contains more detailed information on how you can help these birds remain a part of your community.

### Sources of Cost-share Assistance for Wildlife Habitat Improvement

**Nevada Department of Wildlife**  
Landowner Incentive Program

**USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service**  
Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)  
Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program (WHIP)  
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)  
Landowner Incentive Program through the Conservation Districts

**US Fish and Wildlife Service**  
Partners for Wildlife  
Intermountain West Joint Venture

**Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF)**  
Stewardship Incentive Program