

**COORDINATED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN
FOR BIRD CONSERVATION IN WESTERN COLORADO (BCR-16)**



Colorado All-bird Conservation Working Group and
Intermountain West Joint Venture

2005

**Colorado Steering Committee - Intermountain West Joint Venture
Colorado All-bird Conservation Working Group**

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The Colorado All-bird Conservation Working Group has wide membership and accepts input and comment from a diversity of agencies and organizations including the Colorado Division of Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, USDA Forest Service, U.S. Geological Survey, National Park Service, Natural Resource Conservation Service (USDA), Playa Lakes Joint Venture, Intermountain West Joint Venture, The Nature Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited, Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, Audubon Colorado, local Audubon Chapters, and Colorado Open Lands.

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1. Introduction

In 1986, the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) was adopted by the United States and Canada to address the conservation and restoration of waterfowl, other migratory waterbirds, and the habitats on which they depend. The Plan aims to restore waterfowl populations to 1970-79 levels and establishes specific population objectives for twenty-five species of ducks and five species of geese, plus trumpeter and tundra swans. It was updated in 1994 to include full participation by Mexico, and again in 1998 to include language strongly encouraging Plan partners to improve coordination with other wildlife initiatives, including those directed at other migratory birds, endangered species, fisheries and biodiversity. It was updated again in 2003.

Six public-private partnerships, or joint ventures, were originally established by the Plan to coordinate the implementation of NAWMP and achievement of population and habitat objectives along flyway lines across North America, with eight more joint ventures having been formed in recent years. These joint venture partnerships include active participation by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA) and other federal agencies, as well as state wildlife management agencies and a number of wildlife conservation groups, including Ducks Unlimited Inc., Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, and the National Audubon Society. The North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) was established by Congress in 1989 to implement the objectives of NAWMP. This program, re-authorized by Congress in 2002 at \$75 million/year, encourages and rewards partnerships among all wildlife conservation initiatives through two matching grant programs, a standard grant program and a small grant program.

The Intermountain West Joint Venture (IWJV) was established in 1994 as the eleventh habitat joint venture. It encompasses parts of eleven Western states, including the western part of Colorado and the South Platte drainage in northeastern Colorado. The southeastern part of Colorado is within the Playa Lakes Joint Venture. Public agencies and conservation groups work as partners through an All-bird Conservation Working Group for Colorado to identify, protect, restore and enhance wetlands and other important habitats for waterfowl and other migratory birds, as well as native resident birds.

In 1995 the IWJV Management Board adopted an Implementation Plan, which was intended to provide a framework for implementing the NAWMP in Colorado and other states of the Intermountain West, and for developing more specific wetland focus area plans in each of those states. Eight wetland focus areas were delineated for the part of Colorado within the IWJV: South Platte, San Luis Valley, North Park, South Park, Middle Park, Yampa, Five Rivers and Southwest.

In 2001 the IWJV Management Board decided that the 1995 IWJV Implementation Plan should be updated, as a Strategic Plan, and that it should be rewritten from the ground up, state-by-state. The Board also decided that this updated planning process should attempt to coordinate NAWMP and joint venture objectives with other bird initiatives operating within the Intermountain West region. That same year, the Board funded a project to work with state steering committees in developing coordinated “all bird” implementation plans for all the states of the Intermountain West Joint Venture. In 2003, the Colorado Division of Wildlife established an All-bird Conservation Program to coordinate bird conservation activities in the state. The Colorado All-bird Working Groups for western Colorado, a subset of the state all-bird working group met on a number of occasions in 2002 and 2003 to develop a state all-bird implementation plan for the IWJV portion of Colorado. The coordinated “all bird”

implementation plan for western Colorado will not only contribute to an updated and expanded overall IWJV Implementation Plan, but will assist the IWJV Management Board in considering and ranking various habitat protection, restoration and enhancement projects for funding via the North American Wetlands Conservation Act and other programs.

2. Planning Objectives for Western Colorado

- a. Create a planning forum, through the Colorado All-bird Working Group in which representatives of state and federal conservation agencies and wildlife conservation groups work collaboratively to develop coordinated habitat goals, objectives and projects that address the conservation needs of all bird species in western Colorado.
- b. Review, merge and synthesize the habitat goals and objectives of existing bird conservation plans into a coordinated planning document that reflects the habitat priorities of all bird conservation programs in western Colorado (BCR-16). This planning document is intended to guide the Management Board of the Intermountain West Joint Venture (IWJV), as well as IWJV partners, in establishing, updating, and implementing habitat goals and objectives for future bird conservation in the IWJV portion of Colorado.

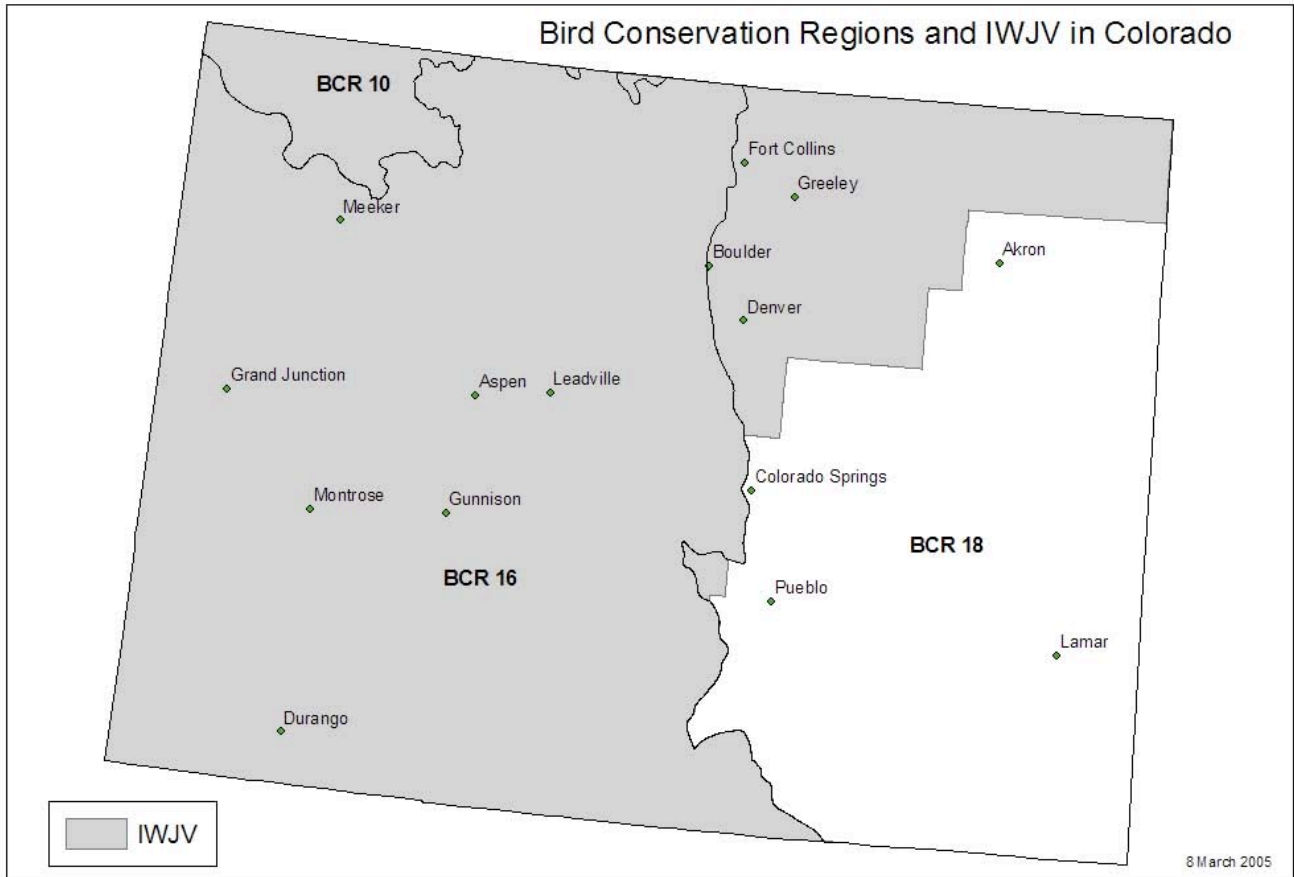
3. Direction and Connections

By taking a lead role in coordinated implementation planning in the Western states, the IWJV Management Board is following the direction of the **North American Waterfowl Management Plan** (NAWMP-1998 Update). IWJV is also responding to direction and recommendations from other national sources and programs to attempt coordination of waterfowl and wetland habitat planning with the identified goals of other bird conservation programs. These other national sources and programs include:

North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI): NABCI was formed in 1998 as an international forum for public and private interests to coordinate international conservation efforts of existing major migratory bird initiatives. One goal of NABCI is to increase the effectiveness of, and coordination between, existing and new bird conservation initiatives, including the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. As a recommended framework for coordinated bird management, NABCI has adopted and mapped ecological units called Bird Conservation Regions (BCR), a number of which cover the area of the Intermountain West Joint Venture. Colorado is covered by three BCRs. The Southern Rockies/Colorado Plateau BCR (16) covers most of western Colorado and is the focus of this planning effort. The Shortgrass Prairie BCR (18) covers all of eastern Colorado, and the Northern Rockies BCR (10) extends from Wyoming into three small areas of northwestern Colorado. As the “all-bird” planning process moves forward, the BCRs defined by NABCI (see **Figure 1**) will likely become the standard ecological regions/divisions for migratory bird planning and management.

International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies: The International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA) was founded in 1902 as a quasi-governmental organization of public agencies, including state wildlife agencies charged with the protection and management of North America’s fish and wildlife resources. The IAFWA received a federal grant in FY/2001 to conduct “integrated all bird” conservation planning workshops for state wildlife agencies in FY/2001-2002. Since the national objectives of this grant closely parallel the IWJV’s coordinated migratory bird

Figure 1 – Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in Colorado



planning effort, the IWJV is working with IAFWA staff to ensure that the workshops are complementary. On February 25, 2002 a statewide, all-bird planning workshop was held in Pueblo, Colorado, sponsored by IAFWA and the Colorado Division of Wildlife.

Congress: The US Congress strongly supports a public-private partnership approach to protecting and restoring wetlands and other important migratory bird habitats across North America, and they have signaled their support by increasing the federal funds available for migratory bird initiatives. In FY/2001, Congress re-authorized the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) and increased its authorized annual funding level from \$30 million to \$50 million. It was reauthorized again in FY/2002 at \$75 million per year. Appropriations for NAWCA continue to grow since the authorization level was increased. Congress also recommended a phased-in approach to fully funding the 15 habitat and species joint ventures that were in place in FY/2001, making it clear in budget language that Congress regards these joint ventures as a future primary delivery system for all federally-funded migratory bird programs. In its FY/2002 Interior Appropriations language, the House noted that the joint venture program “continues to be one of the greatest successes of the (Fish and Wildlife) Service, with funding leveraged to a greater extent than all other Service programs combined”.

Executive Order 13186 – Protection of Migratory Birds: In January 2001 outgoing President Bill Clinton signed an executive order requiring all federal agencies which might have a measurable negative impact on migratory birds to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to promote the recommendations of NAWMP, NABCI and other migratory bird programs, as well as other conservation considerations. The Bureau of Land Management and USDA Forest Service developed a draft MOU with the Fish and Wildlife Service in 2001, which emphasizes a collaborative approach to migratory bird conservation, in cooperation with other agencies and organizations. Because this executive order addresses the integration of bird conservation principles, habitat restoration for migratory birds, and comprehensive planning among various bird conservation programs, these coordinated implementation plans developed by the IWJV should assist these federal agencies with implementation of the MOU. Other federal agencies will presumably also develop MOUs with the Fish and Wildlife Service to implement Executive Order 13186. This presidential Executive Order was reinforced by the Bush Administration on September 12, 2002 when U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Steve Williams issued **Director’s Order No. 146**, which indicates, among other things, that joint ventures should deliver the full spectrum of bird conservation.

Other Mandates and Programs: In 2002 Congress passed a new Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (H.R.2217), funding the new Act with an initial \$3 million for a matching grants program, which has increased to \$4 million in the FY/2005 Interior Appropriations bill. Congress also created a new State Wildlife Grant program within the Interior Department budget. This new funding program provides funding to state wildlife agencies for wildlife planning, and conservation. Conservation grants are predicated on development of Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategies (CWCS), which must be completed by October, 2005. The Colorado Division of Wildlife is moving forward in developing their CWCS.

4. Migratory Bird Conservation Initiatives

There are four migratory bird initiatives for which national, regional and state plans have been or are currently being developed. Although the following programs have different but compatible approaches

to planning for bird conservation, the goals, objectives, and priorities of each will be considered in the IWJV Coordinated Implementation Plan for Bird Conservation in Western Colorado:

North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP): Adopted by the United States and Canada in 1986, and by Mexico in 1994, to address the conservation and restoration of waterfowl, other migratory waterbirds, and the habitats on which they depend. The Plan, as adopted, aims to restore waterfowl populations to 1970-79 levels and establishes specific population objectives for twenty-five species of ducks, five species of geese, plus trumpeter and tundra swans.

Eleven priority waterfowl species that breed and/or winter in western Colorado are listed in **Table One**, along with their ranking by NAWMP and other bird prioritization programs. Waterfowl species and other priority bird species are listed, within their associated critical habitats, in **Appendix A**.

The Intermountain West Joint is one of eleven public-private partnerships established to coordinate the implementation of NAWMP and the achievement of population and habitat objectives along flyway lines across North America. Public agencies and conservation groups work as partners through an IWJV State Steering Committee in Colorado to identify, protect, restore and enhance wetlands, and other important habitats for waterfowl and other migratory birds as well as native non-migratory birds.

Partners In Flight: The national Partners In Flight (PIF) program began in 1989 as a coordinated effort to document and reverse apparent declines in the populations of neotropical migratory birds, those birds that breed north of Mexico and then migrate to Mexico, Central and South America and the Caribbean in the winter months. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation took the lead in bringing together federal, state, and local government agencies, foundations, conservation groups, industry and the academic community to address the problem of population declines. The reasons are complex, and include loss of breeding habitat due to fragmentation, alteration, urban expansion and natural disasters; loss or alteration of habitat in non-breeding areas and along migratory routes; and brood parasitism. The PIF program was later expanded to include all landbirds, and today Partners In Flight is an international program, with PIF working groups in each state.

In 2000 the American Bird Conservancy (ABC) published the first comprehensive national plan for the program, titled *Partners in Flight: Conservation of the Land Birds of the United States*. This plan summarizes the goals and priorities of the various state Bird Conservation Plans, as well as 93 physiographic areas and seven generalized regions of the continental United States. The plan also encourages better coordination with other initiatives such as the NAWMP, U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan, and the North American Waterbird Conservation Plan. PIF initially divided Colorado into three Physiographic Areas (36, 62, 87). However, for purposes of coordinated bird conservation in 2003, these have now been replaced by the BCRs and shown in **Figure 1**.

In 2004 the *Partners in Flight North American Landbird Conservation Plan* was published. This plan identified 100 Watch List species in the United States and Canada that are in greatest need of conservation action due to serious declines, threats to populations and/or habitats, or small/restricted populations. This plan also identified Stewardship species, which are priorities for conservation action at regional levels. The North American Landbird plan further provided population estimates for all landbirds breeding in the United States and Canada and suggested 30-year population objectives, based on population trends of each species. This information will be extremely valuable for establishing habitat objectives to meet the population objectives set forth by PIF.

Partners in Flight also maintains the *Species Assessment Database* (SAD; www.rmbo.org/pif/pifdb.html). The SAD evaluates the status of each species in seven categories: relative abundance, breeding distribution, non-breeding distribution, threats to breeding; threats to non-breeding, population trend, and area importance. These seven factors can be used to evaluate the conservation status of each species and are periodically reviewed and updated to incorporate new information. Passage of the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act in 2001 provided a new federal funding program and commitment to neotropical migrant species addressed by Partners In Flight.

Colorado Partners In Flight (CO-PIF) was formed to focus resources of PIF partners on the improvement of monitoring, research, management and education programs involving landbirds and their habitats in Colorado. CO-PIF is composed of professionals from state and federal natural resource agencies; universities; local governments; national, state and local nongovernmental organizations; and concerned citizens. The working group includes many of the same agencies and organizations as the All-bird Conservation Working Group.

In January 2000, Colorado Partners in Flight released Version 1.0 of the *Colorado Landbird Conservation Plan* (BCP), which assessed the status of 278 species of breeding birds in Colorado, and identified 64 priority species of Colorado birds for conservation efforts in the three Physiographic Areas. Western Colorado, the portion of the state within the IWJV, is home to 48 of these species, in 13 major habitats, during all or part of their life cycle. This draft plan remains the best summary of species and associated habitat information for priority birds in Colorado, and is one of the main sources of information used in developing a coordinated conservation plan for birds in western Colorado (BCR-16). This document may be found at www.rmbo.org/pif/copif.html/.

Seventy-six priority landbird species are listed in **Appendix A** of this planning document, along with their prioritization from the CO-PIF BCP, PIF North American Landbird Plan, and PIF Species Assessment Database. These priority species are listed again in **Appendix B**, within the 17 associated habitat groups identified by the All-bird Conservation Working Group.

U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan: The term shorebird is applied in North America to a large group of birds commonly called sandpipers and plovers, but also includes oystercatchers, avocets, and stilts. Of 214 species of shorebirds found worldwide, 53 regularly occur in the United States and, although they are found at some time of the year in all 50 states, the biology and ecology of most shorebird species are poorly understood. Technical and regional working groups were convened to address some of the known conservation and research issues for shorebirds and in 2000, the *U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan* was published by the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences, funded by a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This national plan provides baseline information on shorebird populations and habitat, and addresses some of the known challenges to shorebird conservation, including low reproductive potential and habitat loss. It also articulates hemispheric and national goals for restoring and stabilizing shorebird populations, especially those known to be in decline. These goals emphasize research, monitoring and cooperative landscape management strategies at the international, national, and regional levels. As with NABCI and the Partners In Flight plan, the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan encourages close coordination with other bird conservation initiatives, as well as implementation of shorebird conservation strategies through the Intermountain West Joint Venture and other habitat joint ventures established by the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. The shorebird plan defines Shorebird Planning Regions across North America, which follows the lines of NABCI Bird

Conservation Regions. BCR 16 in western Colorado is within the Intermountain West Shorebird Planning Region; BCR 18 in eastern Colorado is within the Central Plains/Playa Lakes Shorebird Planning Region.

An *Intermountain West Regional Shorebird Plan* was also released as Version 1.0 in 2001. The plan notes that perhaps a million shorebirds breed in the Intermountain West and that millions more migrate through the area each year. The plan recognizes that finding ample high quality fresh water will be the greatest challenge faced by shorebirds in the Intermountain West. The regional plan articulates seven goals and associated objectives and strategies related to habitat management, monitoring and assessment, research, outreach and planning. The planning goal includes objectives to coordinate shorebird planning and projects with other migratory bird initiatives and specifically with the Intermountain West Joint Venture. The Intermountain West plan identifies eleven species of shorebirds that regularly breed in the region, as well as 23 additional species that are annual migrants. The Intermountain West plan also recognizes eleven Key Shorebird Areas, none of which are in Colorado, as well as 42 Managed Shorebird Sites, one of which, Brown's Park National Wildlife Refuge, is in northwestern Colorado.

Eleven priority shorebird species that migrate through and/or breed in western Colorado are listed in **Appendix A**. The Intermountain West Regional Shorebird Plan, when completed, will provide the primary source of information for shorebird habitat objectives for the Coordinated Implementation Plan for Bird Conservation in Western Colorado. Alamosa and Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuges and Blanca Wetlands in the San Luis Valley, along with Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge in North Park are included in a preliminary list of Important Shorebird Migratory Stopovers. Shorebird species and other priority bird species are listed, within their associated critical habitats, in **Appendix B**.

North American Waterbird Conservation Plan: The *North American Waterbird Conservation Plan* provides a continental framework for conserving and managing colonial nesting waterbirds, including 209 species of seabirds, coastal waterbirds (gulls, terns, pelicans), wading birds (herons, ibises), and marsh birds, such as certain grebes, bitterns, and rails. The overall goal of the plan is to ensure that the distribution, diversity and abundance of populations, habitats (breeding, migratory, and non-breeding) and important sites of waterbirds are sustained or restored throughout their ranges in North America. The geographic scope of the plan covers 28 countries, from Canada to Panama, as well as islands and nearshore areas of the Atlantic, Pacific, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean Sea. As with the other major bird initiatives, the waterbird partnership includes federal, state and provincial wildlife agencies, individuals, and nonprofit conservation organizations.

Also, as with PIF and other migratory bird plans, this plan includes a goal to establish conservation action and exchange information and expertise with other bird conservation initiatives, especially NABCI and the habitat joint ventures established by the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, including IWJV. The plan has also established regional planning units. Colorado falls within the Intermountain West Planning Unit.

Volume one of the North American plan covers 165 species of colonial-nesting birds, as well as three grebes that nest semi-colonially. Volume Two will cover 44 species of marsh birds. In Volume One, published in 2002, the conservation status of all North American waterbird species was evaluated, adapting the protocol from Partners in Flight and the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan. Twelve priority waterbird species that migrate through and/or breed in western Colorado are listed in **Appendix A**.

Waterbird species and other priority bird species are listed, within their associated critical habitats, in **Appendix B**.

In December 2001 the process was initiated for developing a regional waterbird conservation plan for the Intermountain West Planning Unit. A first draft was released in August 2002, which identified the San Luis Valley as the most significant waterbird conservation area in BCR 16. When this regional plan is completed, it will articulate conservation and management goals and objectives for waterbirds in Colorado and other states of the Intermountain West Joint Venture, as well as identify and describe other habitat types and locations of important waterbird habitat. It will hopefully be the primary source of information for waterbird species and habitat objectives for this Coordinated Implementation Plan for Bird Conservation in Western Colorado.

5. Other Bird Conservation Programs:

In addition to the four migratory bird initiative described above, there are a number of other important bird conservation programs, which will be reviewed, considered and included in a Coordinated Implementation Plan for Bird Conservation in Western Colorado. These include:

Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program: The IBA Program is an international, site-based approach to bird conservation that began in Europe in the mid-1980s, when BirdLife International sponsored a continent-wide inventory of key sites for birds. The effort spread to the United States, and in the mid-1990s the American Bird Conservancy and National Audubon Society completed a pilot project to identify and describe the Important Bird Areas of Pennsylvania. As of the summer of 2001, 43 states had IBA programs, including three states that have published guides to their IBAs. The Colorado IBA Program was initiated in 1999. The IBA program recognizes that there are places on the landscape that provide exceptionally valuable or essential habitat for one or more species of birds, including breeding, wintering or migratory habitat. Identifying, recognizing, monitoring, and stewarding these sites can form the basis of a landscape-level conservation network, not just for birds but also for other species of wildlife.

The selection process for IBAs examines sites based on the presence, species assemblage, and abundance of birds and the condition and quality of the habitat. Colorado site selection criteria are based on the following factors: 1) Sites important to endangered or threatened species in Colorado; 2) Sites important to species of high conservation priority in Colorado; 3) Sites that contain rare or unique habitat within the state/region or an exceptional representative of a natural habitat, and that hold important species or species assemblages largely restricted to a distinctive habitat type; 4) Sites where significant numbers of birds concentrate for breeding, during migration, or in the winter; and 5) Sites important for long-term research and/or monitoring projects that contribute substantially to ornithology, bird conservation, and/or education.

The Colorado Important Bird Area Program currently includes 48 IBAs, 29 of which are within BCRs 10 and 16 in Colorado. When the program is completed, it will provide an important component of a coordinated landbird, waterfowl, shorebird and waterbird implementation plan for the state. After identifying the most important habitats for birds in the state, the Colorado IBA Program works cooperatively with landowners, land managers, local Audubon chapters, and other community organizations to support stewardship, habitat restoration, and education projects at Important Bird Area sites.

Additional information about the Colorado Important Bird Area Program can be found at www.auduboncolorado.org/wildlife.htm

Ecoregional Conservation Planning: The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has adopted ecoregion-based planning as the most effective way to achieve its national mission of preserving a diversity of plants, animals, and natural communities. The planning process used by TNC follows a methodology outlined in their publication *Geography of Hope* (2000) that defines a vision of conservation success at an ecoregional scale, and is based on documenting and mapping a list or “portfolio” of biologically outstanding sites that represent a full complement of ecosystems, natural communities, and species characteristics of the ecoregion. This methodology may be used to direct TNC programs and influence other conservation efforts across the United States. The ecoregional assessments are based on amended ecoregional units delineated by Bailey et al. (1998).

Colorado falls within six of The Nature Conservancy’s ecoregions. Most of eastern Colorado is within the Central Shortgrass Prairie ecoregion. The central and western parts of the state are mostly within the Southern Rocky Mountains ecoregion, although western Colorado also includes parts of the Colorado Plateau, Utah High Plateaus, Wyoming Basin and Utah-Wyoming Rocky Mountains ecoregions.

Although TNC’s ecoregional assessments are not specifically bird conservation plans, they do identify and classify those habitat types, areas, and sites which provide important habitat for birds. Only those birds identified as conservation targets in the six ecoregional plans are listed for the portfolio sites in those ecoregional plans. Target Bird Species, listed by The Nature Conservancy for each ecological system group, were obtained from the literature and from interviews with acknowledged experts. Target bird species for the Southern Rocky Mountains Ecoregion, which encompasses the majority of BCRs 10 and 16 in Colorado, are listed in **Appendix A**.

Endangered Species Act: The Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended, mandates the protection of threatened and endangered species of plants and animals and the development of a recovery plan for each species. In Colorado there are a number of birds listed as Endangered (E), Threatened (T), Proposed Threatened (PT) or Candidate (C) species under the ESA. Due to their legal status under the ESA, these listed and petitioned species are automatically included in any list of priority bird species for the IWJV in Colorado, even though independent measures are being taken under the ESA to recover their populations. See **Appendix A** for ESA-listed species found in western Colorado.

6. Priority Bird Species in Western Colorado

Priority bird species identified by the initiatives and programs described above are listed and associated in **Appendix A**. Additionally, The State of Colorado maintains a Threatened, Endangered, and Species of Special Concern list. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service also maintain their own “species of concern” lists, which include bird species that could become candidates for listing. These agency lists are also included in Appendix A. Also in 2003, the American Bird Conservancy (ABC) applied the Partners in Flight prioritization process to all bird taxa in North America to develop the ABC Green List. Green List species for Colorado, along with agency lists are also included in **Appendix A**.

7. Priority Habitat Types

In September 2003, the Colorado Steering Committee met in Grand Junction and reviewed the 15 major habitat types defined by the 2000 *Colorado Landbird Conservation Plan*. Agricultural, openwater, and urban habitats were additionally considered. Shore/bank habitats were considered with open water and riparian habitats. The resulting 17 habitat types were grouped into three categories of priority, A, B and C, defined below. Three criteria were used to rank these habitat types: 1) Statewide importance to birds; 2) Degree of threat; and 3) Opportunities (funding, partnerships, and feasibility for habitat protection, restoration, and enhancement. The three categories were defined as:

- Priority A: High threat, high opportunity, and/or high value to birds statewide
- Priority B: One criterion may be high; generally the habitat is of moderate concern
- Priority C: Relatively low threat, low opportunity, and/or low value as habitat statewide

The ranked list of habitat types developed by the Colorado Steering Committee for eastern Colorado, within the IWJV, is shown as **Table One**.

8. Bird Species-Habitat Relationships

Priority bird species identified by initiatives, agencies, and organizations were associated with the primary habitat(s) they use for breeding, wintering, and/or migration in Colorado. Information from the Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas, RMBO Monitoring Colorado's Birds, other literature sources and expert knowledge were used to assign species to major habitat types. The 17 habitat types and 110 associated priority bird species found in the IWJV portion of Colorado are shown as **Appendix B**.

9. Bird Habitat Conservation Areas

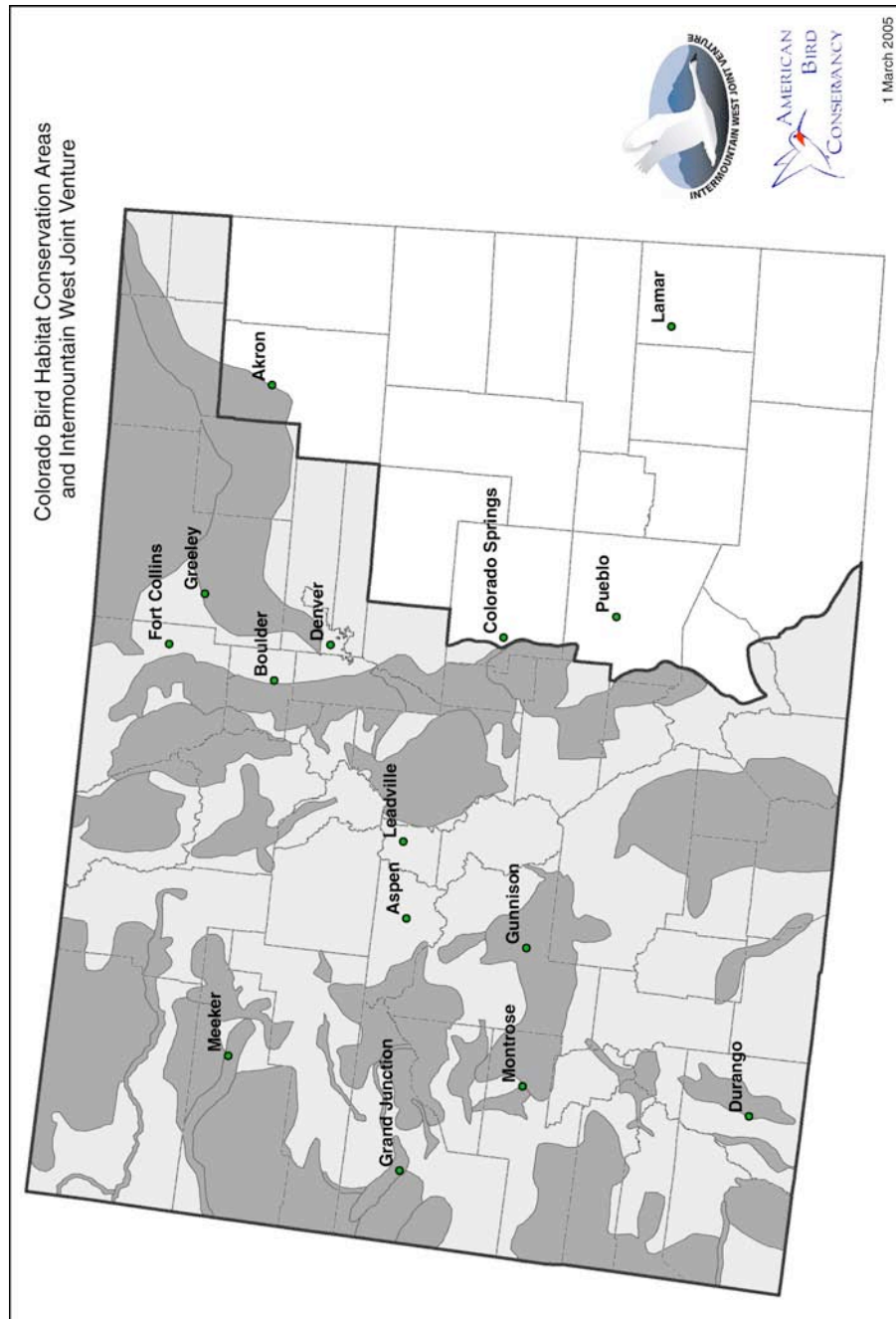
In December 2003, the Colorado Steering Committee met again in Gunnison and began the process of reviewing existing conservation maps and lists of priority habitats in western Colorado. Included were Wetland Focus Areas already delineated by the Steering Committee, IBA maps and ecoregional maps from The Nature Conservancy. A draft list of Bird Habitat Conservation Areas (BHCA) was developed by the Colorado Steering Committee. Additional input from local experts was requested via email and personal contact to enhance information obtained at the meeting.

To further refine information obtained at the December 2003 meeting, digital maps of existing delineated priority areas for birds (e.g., IBAs, TNC priority areas for birds, areas identified through Wetland Focus Area strategic plans, etc.) was obtained. When possible, digital maps of known threats to bird species or habitats (e.g., oil and gas permits, urban development) were obtained. Distributions of high priority species were obtained from RMBOs Project ColonyWatch and other Special Species Surveys (e.g. Black Swift) and other sources (e.g. Mexican Spotted Owl Critical Habitat).

All digital data sources were integrated and areas where significant concentrations of priority species, threats to priority species/habitats, opportunities for implementation of existing conservation programs, and location of known priority sites were delineated as BHCAs. Forty BHCAs were identified in western Colorado and Conservation actions to benefit priority species should be focused in these areas. Future work with BHCAs will address the potential efficacy of the areas to meet population objectives and to identify potential gaps in protection for some priority species. These BHCAs are listed as **Table Two** and depicted on the following digital map.

It must be understood that Bird Habitat Conservation Areas are intended to display areas where bird habitat conservation projects may take place, where state partners believe the best opportunity exists for effective conservation activities. However, the BHCAs have no official status. In the case of all of these units (private or public) BHCA designation simply notes where conservation activities could occur. Such action would, of course, be predicated on concurrence, collaboration and cooperation with all landowners involved.

Figure 2 – Bird Habitat Conservations Areas (BHCAs) for Colorado



10. Habitat Conservation Goals and Objectives

In August 2004, IWJV Steering Committee chairs from 11 Western states met with IWJV staff in Salt Lake City for two days to develop draft goals and objectives for the Priority A and B habitats listed in each state plan. Criteria were agreed upon for goals and objectives and each steering committee chair was asked to meet with his/her state steering committee by October, 2004 to finalize these goals and objectives. These habitat goals and objectives were completed for the IWJV portion of Colorado. The collective goals and objectives will also provide the basis for overall IWJV habitat objectives included in the updated IWJV Coordinated Bird Conservation Plan.

Priority A Habitats

High overall rating: high to medium value to birds, high to medium threat, high to medium opportunity for protection, restoration, and or enhancement of habitat.

Aspen

Statewide Goal	Strive for no net loss of aspen habitats by protecting and maintaining aspen habitats in good condition and enhancing and restoring those that are degraded.
Statewide Objective	On the existing 670,000 acres of priority Aspen, protect, maintain, enhance, and/or restore stand condition, and manage for a diversity of seral stages and regeneration capabilities

High Elevation Riparian

Statewide Goal	Increase the amount and quality of high elevation riparian habitats, maintain or increase populations of avian species that use high elevation riparian habitats.
Statewide Objective	Protect, maintain, enhance, and/or restore at least 2,500 stream-kilometers of High Elevation Riparian habitats, ensuring high water quality, adequate year-round flows, and healthy watersheds

Lowland Riparian

Statewide Goal	Increase the amount and quality of low elevation riparian habitats, to maintain or increase populations of avian species that use low elevation riparian habitats.
Statewide Objective	Protect, maintain, enhance, and/or restore at least 4,000 stream-kilometers of Low Elevation Riparian habitats, ensuring high water quality, adequate year-round flows, and healthy watersheds.

Pinyon-Juniper

Statewide Goal	Prevent significant loss and increase quality of pinyon-juniper habitats, to maintain or increase populations of avian species that use pinyon-juniper habitats.
Statewide Objective	On the existing 2.4 million acres of Pinyon-Juniper habitat in priority areas, protect, maintain, enhance and/or restore habitat condition, focusing on areas of historical distribution and including multiple seral stages and a diversity of vegetative conditions.

Ponderosa Pine Forest

- Statewide Goal Prevent significant loss and enhance natural ecological functions of ponderosa pine habitats, to maintain or increase populations of avian species that use ponderosa pine habitats.
- Statewide Objective On the existing 1.3 million acres of priority Ponderosa Pine habitat, protect, maintain, enhance, and/or restore stand diversity, complexity, and size, and manage for an interconnected mosaic of stand types across the landscape.

Sagebrush Shrubland

- Statewide Goal Increase the amount, quality, and diversity of sagebrush shrubland habitats, to maintain or increase populations of avian species that use sagebrush shrubland habitats.
- Increase the amount, quality, and diversity of sagebrush shrubland habitats, to maintain or increase populations of avian species that use sagebrush shrubland habitats
- Statewide Objective Permanently protect, maintain, enhance, and/or restore 2.7 million acres or more of sagebrush shrubland habitat, and target actions toward areas that are critical for the maintenance of Gunnison and Greater Sage-grouse.

Wetlands

- Statewide Goal Increase the amount and quality of wetland habitats, to maintain or increase populations of avian species that use wetland habitats
- Statewide Objective Protect, maintain, enhance, and/or restore 100,000 acres or more of Wetland habitat and associated uplands, providing a diversity of wetland types with sustainable hydrology and focusing on habitats that benefit wetland-dependent species.

Priority B Habitat

Medium overall rating: one criterion may be high (habitat value, threat, opportunity) but generally of medium importance to birds statewide.

Grassland

- Statewide Goal Maintain the amount and prevent degradation of grassland habitats, to maintain or increase populations of avian species the use grassland habitats.
- Statewide Objective On the existing 400,000 of priority Grassland habitat, protect, maintain, enhance, and/or restore habitat quality, focusing primarily on important habitat in South Park.

Mixed Conifer Forest

Statewide Goal Maintain the amount, prevent degradation, and enhance natural ecological functions of mixed conifer habitats, to maintain or increase populations of avian species that use mixed conifer habitats.

Maintain the amount, prevent degradation, and enhance natural ecological functions of mixed conifer habitats, to maintain or increase populations of avian species that use mixed conifer habitats.

Statewide Objective On the existing 32,000 acres of priority Mixed Conifer habitat, protect, maintain, enhance, and/or restore stand diversity, complexity, and size, and manage for an interconnected mosaic of stand types across the landscape.

Mountain Shrubland

Statewide Goal Maintain the amount and enhance natural ecological functions of Mountain Shrubland habitats, to maintain or increase populations of avian species that use mountain shrubland habitats.

Statewide Objective On the existing 150,000 acres of priority Mountain Shrubland habitat, protect, maintain, enhance, and/or restore habitats to represent a diversity of shrubland types and seral stages.

Semi-desert Shrubland

Statewide Goal Prevent significant loss and maintain the natural ecological functions of semi-desert shrubland habitats, to maintain or increase populations of avian species that use semi-desert shrubland habitats.

Statewide Objective Protect, maintain, enhance, and/or restore the existing 1.6 million acres of priority Semi-desert Shrubland habitats, emphasizing natural ecological functions and healthy plant communities.

Spruce-Fir

Statewide Goal Prevent loss and degradation and maintain natural ecological function of spruce-fir habitats, to maintain or increase populations of avian species that use spruce-fir habitats.

Statewide Objective On the existing 775,000 acres of priority Spruce-Fir habitat, protect, maintain, enhance, and/or restore stand diversity, complexity, and size, and manage for an interconnected mosaic of stand types across the landscape.

Agricultural Lands

Statewide Goal Assist landowners to protect, maintain, enhance, and/or restore the wildlife habitat values on their lands.

Statewide Objective Assist landowners to protect, maintain, enhance, and/or restore the wildlife habitat values on 880,000 acres of priority Agricultural Land.

Open Water Habitats

Statewide Goal Maintain the availability and quality of open water habitats, to maintain or increase populations of avian species that use open water habitats.

Statewide Objective Support efforts to protect, maintain, enhance, and/or restore the 30,000 acres of existing priority open water habitats, and address needs to provide sustainable hydrology and water quality.

TABLE ONE

Prioritization of 17 Major Bird Habitats in Western Colorado

Priority A Habitats

High overall rating: high to medium value to birds, high to medium threat, high to medium opportunity for protection, restoration, and or enhancement of habitat.

Aspen (Description from Colorado BCP – Version 1.0)
High Elevation Riparian (Description from Colorado BCP – Version 1.0)
Lowland Riparian (Description from Colorado BCP – Version 1.0)
Pinyon-Juniper (Description from Colorado BCP – Version 1.0)
Ponderosa Pine Forest (Description from Colorado BCP – Version 1.0)
Sagebrush Shrubland (Description from Colorado BCP – Version 1.0)
Wetlands (Description from Colorado BCP – Version 1.0)

Priority B Habitats

Medium overall rating: one criterion may be high (habitat value, threat, opportunity) but generally of medium importance to birds statewide.

Grassland (Description from Colorado BCP – Version 1.0)
Mixed Conifer Forest (Description from Colorado BCP – Version 1.0)
Mountain Shrubland (Description from Colorado BCP – Version 1.0)
Semi-desert Shrubland (Description from Colorado BCP – Version 1.0)
Spruce-Fir (Description from Colorado BCP – Version 1.0)
Agricultural Lands (Description from Colorado BCP – Version 1.0)
Open Water Habitats (Description from Colorado BCP – Version 1.0)

Priority C Habitats

Low overall rating: low to medium relative habitat value, threat, and/or opportunity statewide.

Alpine Tundra (Description from Colorado BCP – Version 1.0)
Cliff/Rock (Description from Colorado BCP – Version 1.0)
Urban (Description from Colorado BCP – Version 1.0)

* Original source of information: Colorado Partners In Flight *Colorado Bird Conservation Plan, Version 1.0* (2000); changes made by Colorado Steering Committee of IWJV.

TABLE TWO

Bird Habitat Conservation Areas in Western Colorado

1. Northern San Luis Valley
2. Southern San Luis Valley
3. East and Slate Creeks
4. Gunnison Basin
5. W. Montrose, Delores, San Miguel, Montezuma Counties
6. GUSC, CSCP Area
7. Animas and Florida Rivers
8. La Plata River
9. McElmo Creek
10. South Park
11. Gunnison River, NF Gunnison, Smith Fork, Fruitgrowers Reservoir
12. Uncompahgre River, Dry and Coal Creek
13. Kannah Creek, Cheeny Reservoir
14. Plateau Creek
15. Grand Valley Riparian, Highline SP
16. Big Salt Wash
17. CO Natl Monument, Rabbit Valley, uplands
18. Glenwood Valley
19. Pikes Peak, Aiken Canyon, Wet Mountains
20. Colorado River – Glenwood to Debeque
21. Yampa River in Routt County
22. Middle Park
23. North Park
24. RMNP, Cameron Pass, Estes Park
25. Northern Front Range
26. Central Front Range
27. Southern Front Range
28. Yampa River in Moffat County
29. Green River, Browns Park
30. White River
31. Roan Plateau, Piceance Creek, South Park, Cathedral Bluffs
32. Routt and Moffat County Uplands
33. Grand Mesa, White River NF
34. White River and Routt NF-Flat Tops
35. South Platte
36. N.E. Colorado Grasslands
37. Mesa Verde and Uplands
38. San Juan and Uncompahgre NF
39. South San Juan Wilderness
40. Danforth Hills

**APPENDIX A - PRIORITY BIRD SPECIES IN WESTERN COLORADO
FROM BIRD CONSERVATION PROGRAMS**

Cross-hatched cells indicate that the species was not evaluated by the initiative or program. Solid gray cells indicate that the species does not occur in the sub-region or during the specified season. Codes for priority designations are given as a footnote.

Species	CO Threatened, Endangered, and Species of Special Concern	Federal Threatened and Endangered Species, and Candidate Species	USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern (National)	USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern (BCR 16)	USFS Region 2 Sensitive Species	BLM Sensitive Species	PIF Continental WatchList	PIF Stewardship Species (Intermountain West Avifaunal Biome)	CO PIF Physiographic Area 62 (So. Rocky Mtns)	CO PIF Physiographic Area 87 (CO Plateau)	PIF Species Assessment Database (BCR 16, breeding)	PIF Species Assessment Dbase (BCR 16, winter)	NAWMP (Continental)	NAWMP (WCR 16)	NAWCP, Vol. 1	Intermountain West Waterbird Conservation Plan (BCR 16)	U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan (National)	Intermountain West Shorebird Conservation Plan (Southern Rockies)	American Bird Conservancy Green List (CO)	Audubon WatchList 2002	TNC Southern Rocky Mtns Ecoregional Assessment
American Avocet																		I	X		
American Bittern					X											M					
American Dipper								X			I	I									CT
American Pipit								X													
American Three-toed Woodpecker					X							IIA									
American White Pelican						X									M	H					
American Wigeon													MH								
Bald Eagle	T	T																			CT
Band-tailed Pigeon							X	X	X										X	Y	
Barrow's Goldeneye						X															CT
Black Rosy-Finch							X					I								Y	
Black Swift			X	X	X	X	X	X			I								X	Y	CT
Black Tern					X	X									M	H					
Black-billed Magpie												IIA									
Black-chinned Hummingbird									X		I										

COORDINATED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR BIRD CONSERVATION IN WESTERN COLORADO

Species	CO Threatened, Endangered, and Species of Special Concern	Federal Threatened and Endangered Species, and Candidate Species	USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern (National)	USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern (BCR 16)	USFS Region 2 Sensitive Species	BLM Sensitive Species	PIF Continental WatchList	PIF Stewardship Species (Intermountain West Avifaunal Biome)	CO PIF Physiographic Area 62 (So. Rocky Mtns)	CO PIF Physiographic Area 87 (CO Plateau)	PIF Species Assessment Database (BCR 16, breeding)	PIF Species Assessment Dbase (BCR 16, winter)	NAWMP (Continental)	NAWMP (WCR 16)	NAWCP, Vol. 1	Intermountain West Waterbird Conservation Plan (BCR 16)	U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan (National)	Intermountain West Shorebird Conservation Plan (Southern Rockies)	American Bird Conservancy Green List (CO)	Audubon WatchList 2002	TNC Southern Rocky Mtns Ecoregional Assessment
Black-crowned Night-heron															M	M					
Black-necked Stilt																		I			
Black-throated Gray Warbler				X						X	I										
Blue Grouse							X	X		X	I	I							X	Y	
Blue-winged Teal													MH								
Bohemian Waxwing												IIA									
Boreal Owl					X			X													WL
Brewer's Sparrow			X		X	X	X	X	X	X	IIA								X	Y	CT
Broad-tailed Hummingbird								X			I										WL
Brown-capped Rosy Finch							X	X			I	I							X	R	CT
Bufflehead																					CT
Canvasback													MH								
Cassin's Finch								X				I									
Cassin's Kingbird										X											
Cinnamon Teal													MH								
Clark's Grebe																M			X		
Clark's Nutcracker								X													
Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse					X	X															CT
Common Goldeneye													MH								

COORDINATED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR BIRD CONSERVATION IN WESTERN COLORADO

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Common Poorwill									X												
Cordilleran Flycatcher								X		I											
Dusky Flycatcher							X			I											
Eared Grebe															M	M					
Flammulated Owl			X	X	X		X	X		I									X	Y	WL
Forster's Tern															M						
Golden Eagle				X						I	IIA										
Golden-crowned Kinglet																					
Grace's Warbler			X	X			X	X	X	I									X	Y	WL
Gray Flycatcher							X		X	I											WL
Gray Vireo			X	X			X		X	I									X	Y	
Greater Sage-Grouse	SC				X	X	X		X	X	I	I							X	Y	CT
Greater Sandhill Crane	SC															M					CT
Greater Yellowlegs																					
Green-tailed Towhee								X	X		IIA										WL
Gunnison Sage-Grouse	SC	C	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	I	I							X	R	CT
Hammond's Flycatcher									X												
Horned Lark										X											
Juniper Titmouse										X	I	I									

COORDINATED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR BIRD CONSERVATION IN WESTERN COLORADO

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Lark Bunting					X																
Lazuli Bunting									X		I										CT
Lesser Scaup													H								
Lewis's Woodpecker			X	X	X		X		X	X	I	I							X	Y	
Loggerhead Shrike			X		X					X		IIA									
Long-eared Owl												IIA									
MacGillivray's Warbler									X												WL
Mallard													H								
Mexican Spotted Owl	T	T					X		X	X	I	I								R	CT
Mountain Bluebird								X			IIA	IIA									
Mountain Plover	SC		X	X	X	X					I						HI	CI	X	R	CT
Northern Goshawk					X	X					IIA										WL
Northern Harrier			X	X	X					X		I									
Northern Pintail													H								
Olive-sided Flycatcher			X		X		X		X										X	Y	
Peregrine Falcon	SC		X	X	X				X	X											CT
Pine Grosbeak											IIA										
Pinyon Jay				X			X		X		I								X	Y	
Prairie Falcon			X	X							I										

COORDINATED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR BIRD CONSERVATION IN WESTERN COLORADO

Species	CO Threatened, Endangered, and Species of Special Concern	Federal Threatened and Endangered Species, and Candidate Species	USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern (National)	USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern (BCR 16)	USFS Region 2 Sensitive Species	BLM Sensitive Species	PIF Continental WatchList	PIF Stewardship Species (Intermountain West Avifaunal Biome)	CO PIF Physiographic Area 62 (So. Rocky Mtns)	CO PIF Physiographic Area 87 (CO Plateau)	PIF Species Assessment Database (BCR 16, breeding)	PIF Species Assessment Dbase (BCR 16, winter)	NAWMP (Continental)	NAWMP (WCR 16)	NAWCP, Vol. 1	Intermountain West Waterbird Conservation Plan (BCR 16)	U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan (National)	Intermountain West Shorebird Conservation Plan (Southern Rockies)	American Bird Conservancy Green List (CO)	Audubon WatchList 2002	TNC Southern Rocky Mtns Ecoregional Assessment	
Purple Martin					X				X													CT
Pygmy Nuthatch											I											
Redhead													MH									
Red-naped Sapsucker			X					X	X		I											
Rock Wren											IIA											
Rufous Hummingbird			X				X														Y	
Sage Sparrow				X	X			X	X	X	I											CT
Sage Thrasher								X														
Say's Phoebe											IIA											
Scaled Quail							X					I								X		
Scott's Oriole									X	X												
Short-eared Owl			X	X	X		X		X	X		I								X	Y	CT
Snowy Egret															H	M						
Solitary Sandpiper			X	X														HC	I			
Southwestern Willow Flycatcher	E	E					X				I									X	Y	CT
Spotted Sandpiper																						
Spotted Towhee												IIA										WL
Swainson's Hawk			X	X			X				I									X	Y	CT
Violet-green Swallow									X		IIA											WL

COORDINATED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR BIRD CONSERVATION IN WESTERN COLORADO

Species	CO Threatened, Endangered, and Species of Special Concern	Federal Threatened and Endangered Species, and Candidate Species	USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern (National)	USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern (BCR 16)	USFS Region 2 Sensitive Species	BLM Sensitive Species	PIF Continental WatchList	PIF Stewardship Species (Intermountain West Avifaunal Biome)	CO PIF Physiographic Area 62 (So. Rocky Mtns)	CO PIF Physiographic Area 87 (CO Plateau)	PIF Species Assessment Database (BCR 16, breeding)	PIF Species Assessment Dbase (BCR 16, winter)	NAWMP (Continental)	NAWMP (WCR 16)	NAWCP, Vol. 1	Intermountain West Waterbird Conservation Plan (BCR 16)	U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan (National)	Intermountain West Shorebird Conservation Plan (Southern Rockies)	American Bird Conservancy Green List (CO)	Audubon WatchList 2002	TNC Southern Rocky Mtns Ecoregional Assessment
Virginia's Warbler				X			X		X	X	I								X		CT
Western Bluebird										X											
Western Burrowing Owl	T		X	X	X					X											
Western Grebe															M						
Western Kingbird										X											
Western Sandpiper																		HC			
Western Snowy Plover	SC		X	X		X					I							HI		X	R
Western Wood-Pee wee											IIA										
Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo	SC	C	X	X	X	X															
White-faced Ibis						X										H					
White-tailed Ptarmigan				X	X				X												WL
White-throated Swift							X			X	IIA								X		
Whooping Crane	E	E																			R
Willet									X												
Williamson's Sapsucker			X	X				X	X		I	I									
Wilson's Phalarope			X	X							I							HC		X	Y
Wilson's Snipe																			X		
Wilson's Warbler									X		IIA										

T – Threatened; SC – Species of Special Concern; E – Endangered; C – Candidate; X – Included by the program as a priority; I – Tier I Species (High Overall Priority); IIA – Tier IIA Species (High Regional Concern); MH – Moderately High Priority; H – High Priority; M – Moderate Priority; HI – Highly Imperiled; HC – High Concern; CI – Critically Important; I – Important; Y – Yellow List; R – Red List; CT – Conservation Target; W – Watch List

APPENDIX B - GENERAL HABITAT ASSOCIATIONS FOR PRIORITY SPECIES

Species	Priority A							Priority B						Priority C			
	Aspen	High Elevation Riparian	Low Elevation Riparian	Pinyon-Juniper	Ponderosa Pine	Sagebrush Shrublands	Wetlands	Grasslands	Mixed Conifer Forest	Mountain Shrubland	Semi-desert Shrubland	Spruce-Fir	Agricultural	Open Water	Alpine Tundra	Cliff/Rock	Urban
American Avocet							X										
American Bittern							X										
American Dipper		X															
American Pipit														X			
American Wigeon		X	X				X							X			
American White Pelican														X			
American Three-toed Woodpecker					X			X			X						
Bald Eagle			X				X							X			
Band-tailed Pigeon				X	X				X	X							
Barrow's Goldeneye		X					X				X			X			
Black Rosy-Finch								X				X					X
Black Swift		X													X		
Black Tern							X							X			
Black-billed Magpie		X	X	X	X	X				X		X					X
Black-chinned Hummingbird		X	X	X						X							X
Black-crowned Night-heron			X				X										
Black-necked Stilt							X							X			
Black-throated Gray Warbler				X													

COORDINATED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR BIRD CONSERVATION IN WESTERN COLORADO

Species	Priority A							Priority B							Priority C		
	Aspen	High Elevation Riparian	Low Elevation Riparian	Pinyon-Juniper	Ponderosa Pine	Sagebrush Shrublands	Wetlands	Grasslands	Mixed Conifer Forest	Mountain Shrubland	Semi-desert Shrubland	Spruce-Fir	Agricultural	Open Water	Alpine Tundra	Cliff/Rock	Urban
Blue Grouse	X				X	X			X	X		X					
Blue-winged Teal							X							X			
Bohemian Waxwing			X							X		X					X
Boreal Owl	X	X							X			X					
Brewer's Sparrow						X					X						
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	X	X			X	X			X	X							X
Brown-capped Rosy Finch															X	X	
Bufflehead	X						X							X			
Canvasback							X							X			
Cassin's Finch				X	X				X			X					
Cassin's Kingbird			X	X				X									
Cinnamon Teal							X							X			
Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse						X											
Clark's Grebe							X							X			
Clark's Nutcracker				X	X				X			X					
Common Goldeneye			X				X							X			
Common Poorwill				X	X					X							
Cordilleran Flycatcher	X	X			X				X			X					
Dusky Flycatcher	X			X	X					X							
Eared Grebe							X							X			
Ferruginous Hawk				X				X			X	X					

COORDINATED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR BIRD CONSERVATION IN WESTERN COLORADO

Species	Priority A							Priority B							Priority C		
	Aspen	High Elevation Riparian	Low Elevation Riparian	Pinyon-Juniper	Ponderosa Pine	Sagebrush Shrublands	Wetlands	Grasslands	Mixed Conifer Forest	Mountain Shrubland	Semi-desert Shrubland	Spruce-Fir	Agricultural	Open Water	Alpine Tundra	Cliff/Rock	Urban
Flammulated Owl	X				X				X			X					
Forster's Tern							X							X			
Golden Eagle				X		X		X					X			X	
Golden-crowned Kinglet												X					
Grace's Warbler					X												
Gray Flycatcher				X													
Gray Vireo				X													
Greater Sage-Grouse						X											
Greater Sandhill Crane		X	X				X										
Greater Yellowlegs			X				X							X			
Green-tailed Towhee						X				X							
Gunnison Sage-Grouse						X											
Hammond's Flycatcher					X				X			X					
Horned Lark								X					X				
Juniper Titmouse				X													
Lark Bunting								X			X		X				
Lazuli Bunting			X	X		X				X							
Lesser Scaup			X				X							X			
Lewis's Woodpecker			X	X	X												
Loggerhead Shrike			X	X		X		X			X						
Long-eared Owl			X	X	X				X	X		X					

COORDINATED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR BIRD CONSERVATION IN WESTERN COLORADO

Species	Priority A							Priority B							Priority C		
	Aspen	High Elevation Riparian	Low Elevation Riparian	Pinyon-Juniper	Ponderosa Pine	Sagebrush Shrublands	Wetlands	Grasslands	Mixed Conifer Forest	Mountain Shrubland	Semi-desert Shrubland	Spruce-Fir	Agricultural	Open Water	Alpine Tundra	Cliff/Rock	Urban
MacGillivray's Warbler		X							X								
Mallard		X	X				X							X			
Mexican Spotted Owl				X	X										X		
Mountain Bluebird	X			X				X									
Mountain Plover								X				X					
Northern Goshawk	X				X				X								
Northern Harrier			X			X	X	X				X					
Northern Pintail							X							X			
Olive-sided Flycatcher		X							X			X					
Peregrine Falcon				X	X										X		
Pine Grosbeak												X					
Pinyon Jay				X													
Prairie Falcon				X		X		X							X		
Purple Martin	X																
Pygmy Nuthatch					X												
Redhead							X							X			
Red-naped Sapsucker	X	X															
Rock Wren																	X
Rufous Hummingbird	X	X			X	X			X	X							X
Sage Sparrow						X					X						
Sage Thrasher						X					X						

COORDINATED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR BIRD CONSERVATION IN WESTERN COLORADO

Species	Priority A							Priority B							Priority C		
	Aspen	High Elevation Riparian	Low Elevation Riparian	Pinyon-Juniper	Ponderosa Pine	Sagebrush Shrublands	Wetlands	Grasslands	Mixed Conifer Forest	Mountain Shrubland	Semi-desert Shrubland	Spruce-Fir	Agricultural	Open Water	Alpine Tundra	Cliff/Rock	Urban
Say's Phoebe			X	X				X		X	X						
Scaled Quail				X		X		X									
Scott's Oriole				X							X						
Short-eared Owl						X	X	X					X				
Snowy Egret			X				X										
Spotted Sandpiper		X	X				X						X				
Spotted Towhee				X		X				X							
Solitary Sandpiper			X				X							X			
Southwestern Willow Flycatcher			X														
Swainson's Hawk			X					X					X				
Violet-green Swallow	X	X	X	X	X					X						X	
Virginia's Warbler				X	X					X							
Western Bluebird				X	X					X							
Western Burrowing Owl								X					X				
Western Grebe							X							X			
Western Kingbird			X					X					X				
Western Sandpiper							X							X			
Western Snowy Plover							X										
Western Wood-Peevee	X	X	X		X												
Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo			X														
White-faced Ibis			X				X						X	X			

COORDINATED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR BIRD CONSERVATION IN WESTERN COLORADO

Species	Priority A							Priority B						Priority C			
	Aspen	High Elevation Riparian	Low Elevation Riparian	Pinyon-Juniper	Ponderosa Pine	Sagebrush Shrublands	Wetlands	Grasslands	Mixed Conifer Forest	Mountain Shrubland	Semi-desert Shrubland	Spruce-Fir	Agricultural	Open Water	Alpine Tundra	Cliff/Rock	Urban
White-tailed Ptarmigan															X		
White-throated Swift																X	
Whooping Crane		X	X				X										
Willet							X										
Williamson's Sapsucker	X				X												
Wilson's Phalarope							X					X					
Wilson's Snipe		X	X				X				X						
Wilson's Warbler		X															