

**COORDINATED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN
FOR BIRD CONSERVATION IN CENTRAL AND WESTERN WYOMING
(BCRs 10, 16, 18)**



**Wyoming Steering Committee
Intermountain West Joint Venture**

2005

Wyoming Steering Committee

Intermountain West Joint Venture

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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, such as Ducks Unlimited Inc., Pheasants Forever, 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 central and western Wyoming (BCRs 10, 16, 18). Public agencies and conservation groups work as partners through an IWJV State Steering Committee in Wyoming to identify, protect, restore and enhance wetlands and other important habitats for waterfowl and other migratory birds, as well as native resident birds such as sage-grouse.

The Wyoming IWJV Steering Committee includes representatives from the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Wyoming Partners In Flight, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, USDA Forest Service, Audubon Wyoming, The Nature Conservancy of Wyoming, University of Wyoming, the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database and the private sector. The group is a forum for the discussion and implementation of projects to identify, protect and restore key wetlands and associated upland habitats in the IWJV portion of Wyoming.

In 1995, the IWJV Management Board adopted an Implementation Plan, which was intended to provide a framework for implementing the NAWMP in Wyoming and other states of the Intermountain West, and for developing more specific wetland focus area plans in each of those states. The following five waterbird and wetland focus areas were incorporated into the larger IWJV Implementation Plan, adopted in December 1995 by the IWJV Management Board: Salt/Snake River, Green River, Big Horn/Wind River, Platte River and Bear River. Focus area plans were completed for the Green River, Bear River and Platte River focus areas. Waterfowl objectives were established for the Intermountain West Joint Venture and for Wyoming by the IWJV Management Board.

In December 1995, these focus areas and objectives were incorporated into the larger IWJV Implementation Plan.

In 2001, the IWJV Management Board determined 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. The Wyoming IWJV Steering Committee met on a number of occasions in 2002, 2003 and 2004 to develop an implementation plan for the IWJV portion of Wyoming.

The coordinated “all bird” implementation plan for central and western Wyoming not only contributes to an updated and expanded overall IWJV Implementation Plan, but will also 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 Wyoming

1. Create a planning forum, through the Wyoming Steering Committee of the IWJV where representatives of state and federal conservation agencies and wildlife conservation groups work to develop coordinated habitat goals, objectives and projects that address the conservation needs of all bird species in central and western Wyoming (BCRs 10, 16, 18).
2. 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 central and western Wyoming. This document is intended to guide the Management Board of the Intermountain West Joint Venture, as well as IWJV partners, in updating and implementing habitat goals and objectives for future bird conservation in central and western Wyoming.

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, as updated. 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 (BCRs), a number of which cover the area of the Intermountain West Joint Venture. Wyoming is covered by four BCRs. The Badlands and Prairie BCR (BCR 17) covers most of northeastern Wyoming and is within the Northern Great Plains Joint Venture. Most of the rest of Wyoming, the western 2/3 part of the state, is within the Northern Rockies BCR (BCR 10) and the Intermountain West Joint Venture. A small part of south-central and southeast Wyoming is within the Southern Rockies/Colorado Plateau (BCR 16) and Shortgrass Prairies BCR (BCR 18), respectively. Coordinators have been hired for BCRs 16 and 18; a

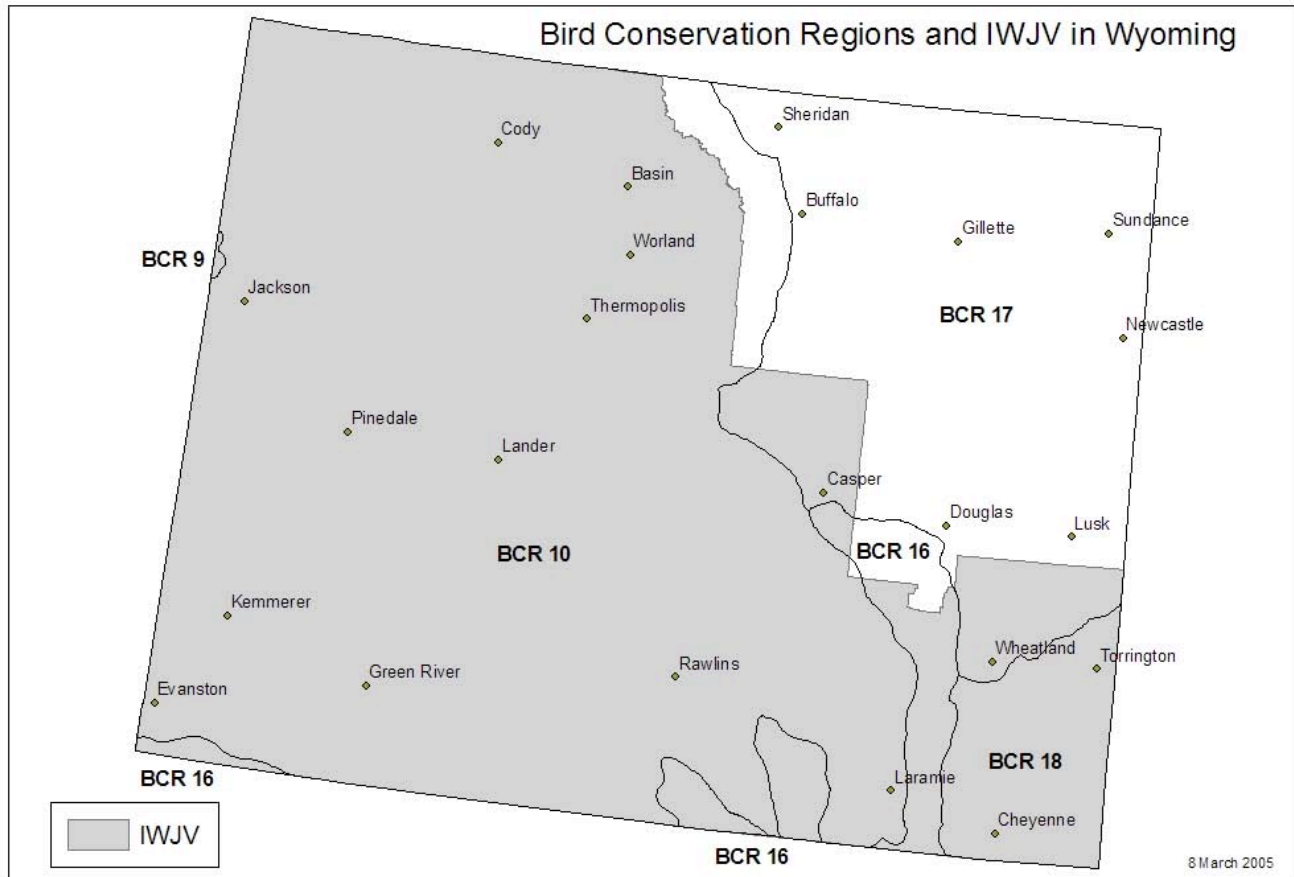
big part of their responsibilities are to work with IWJV partners to coordinate planning and project design for bird habitat projects in Wyoming and other states, as well as Canadian provinces within those BCRs. As the “all bird” planning process moves forward, the BCRs defined by NABCI (see **Figure 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 planning effort, the IWJV is working with IAFWA staff to ensure that the workshops are complementary. Workshops were conducted in Colorado and Arizona in 2002, in Boise, Idaho, in March 2003, and in Billings, Montana in August 2003. The Billings workshop, with a focus on the Northern Rockies BCR, included participation by a number of wildlife agencies and partners from Wyoming.

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.

Figure 1 – Bird Conservation Regions in Wyoming



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. Congress also created a new State Wildlife Grants program within the Interior 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, which must be completed by October 2005. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department is well underway in developing its wildlife conservation strategy.

4. Migratory Bird Conservation Initiatives

There are four migratory bird initiatives for which national, regional and state plans have been or are 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 Central and Western Wyoming:

North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP): The *North American Waterfowl Management Plan* was 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 NAWMP, as adopted, aims to restore waterfowl populations to 1970-79 levels and establishes specific population objectives for 25 species of ducks, five species of geese, plus Trumpeter and Tundra Swans. Conservation efforts specifically for the Trumpeter Swan are also directed by the Pacific Flyway Council's *Management Plan for the Rocky Mountain Population of Trumpeter Swan* (1998) and the updated Pacific Flyway Council's *Implementation Plan for the Rocky Mountain Population of Trumpeter Swans*.

The Intermountain West Joint Venture 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 Wyoming to identify, protect, restore and enhance wetlands and other important habitats for waterfowl and other migratory birds, as well as native non-migratory birds such as sage-grouse.

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department has prioritized seven species of waterfowl found in the state for at least part of their life cycle. These species are listed in **Table One**.

Partners In Flight: The national Partners In Flight (PIF) program began in 1990 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 for the non-breeding season. 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 nongame landbirds.

Today Partners In Flight is an international program, with eastern and western regional coordinators and 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 Management Plan and the North American Waterbird Conservation Plan. PIF initially divided Wyoming into physiographic areas, but for purposes of coordinated bird conservation, these have now been replaced by the four BCRs shown in **Figure 1**. 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.

Wyoming Partners In Flight (WY-PIF) was formed in 1991 to focus resources of PIF partners on the improvement of monitoring, research, management and education programs involving native, nongame landbirds and their habitats. The working group is made up of professionals from state and federal natural resource agencies, nongovernmental organizations and academia, including many of the same agencies and organizations as the IWJV Steering Committee: Wyoming Game and Fish Department, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, Forest Service

(USDA), National Park Service, University of Wyoming, The Nature Conservancy, Audubon Wyoming, Teton Science School, state Audubon chapters, private landowners and numerous volunteers.

In July 2001, Wyoming Partners In Flight released the *Wyoming Bird Conservation Plan (WBCP), Version 1.0*, which assessed the status of 246 species of breeding birds in Wyoming, excluding waterfowl, and identified 44 priority species of Wyoming landbirds, within five major habitat types, for conservation efforts. This draft PIF plan, which articulated population objectives for the priority species and their related habitats, was updated in 2003, with publication of *Version 2.0* of the WBCP. The updated WBCP expanded the list of priority species to 100 bird species. The WBCP is the best summary of species and associated habitat information for neotropical migrant birds and other native nongame landbirds of Wyoming, and is one of the main sources of information used in developing a coordinated conservation plan for Wyoming birds for central and western Wyoming. This document may be found at: <http://www.blm.gov/wildlife/plan/WY/menu.htm>.

Wyoming Partners In Flight developed the current list of priority species based on a combination of the seven criteria in the national Partners In Flight Priority Database. Criteria include Relative Abundance, Breeding Distribution, Non-breeding Distribution, Threats on Breeding Grounds, Threats on Non-breeding Grounds, Population Trend, and Area Importance. Species are listed again in **Appendix A**, within the five associated habitat groups identified in the WBCP.

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 is 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. All of Wyoming is within the shorebird plan's Intermountain West Shorebird Planning Region.

An *Intermountain West Regional Shorebird Plan* was also released as a draft in 2000. 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, two of which, the National Elk Refuge and Seedskadee National Wildlife Refuge, are in Wyoming and within the IWJV. An updated Intermountain West shorebird plan was released in March 2004.

Twenty priority shorebird species are listed and ranked in **Table One**; bolded species are the highest priority. The Intermountain West Regional Shorebird Plan, when completed, will provide the primary source of information for shorebird species and habitat objectives for the coordinated implementation plan for bird conservation in Wyoming. Shorebird species and other priority bird species are shown within their associated critical habitats in **Appendix A**.

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 and bitterns. 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 near-shore areas of the Atlantic, Pacific, Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea. As with NAWMP and Partners In Flight, 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 also calls for establishment of Practical Units for Planning (PUPs) for terrestrial habitats; Wyoming falls within the Intermountain West/Southwest Desert PUP.

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. On October 23, 2001 a second draft of Volume One was released for review. In this draft plan, 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. Under this classification system, a number of species found in Wyoming as breeders or migrants fall into the Species of Moderate Concern or Species of Low Concern categories for North America, Northern Hemisphere, Western Hemisphere and Cosmopolitan (world-wide), including the American White Pelican, California Gull, White-faced Ibis, Western Grebe, Clark's Grebe and Green Heron. A number of other species, including the Great Blue Heron, Double-crested Cormorant, Forster's Tern and Ring-billed Gull, are found in Wyoming but classified as Species Not at Risk in North America. The status of these species in Wyoming may, of course, be more or less threatened than their global, hemispheric or continental status.

In December 2001, the process was initiated for developing a regional waterbird conservation plan for the Intermountain West/Southwest Desert Practical Unit for Planning. A first draft was released in August 2002. When this regional plan is completed, it will articulate conservation and management goals and objectives for waterbirds in Wyoming and other states of the Intermountain West Joint Venture, as well as identify and describe habitat types and locations of important waterbird habitat in

Wyoming and other western states. It will, hopefully, be the primary source of information for waterbird species and habitat objectives for this Coordinated Implementation Plan for Bird Conservation in Wyoming.

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 that will be reviewed, considered and included in a Coordinated Implementation Plan for Bird Conservation in Wyoming. 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 Wyoming IBA Program was initiated in 1999 by the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory (RMBO), and in 2000 Audubon Wyoming assumed lead responsibility for the program. Two groups have been created to assist Audubon Wyoming with the IBA program: the Technical Review Group advises and assists with evaluation and prioritization of nominated IBA sites, and the Conservation Committee advises Audubon Wyoming on focusing and prioritizing the conservation of bird species and their habitats. As of August 2003, 35 IBAs were identified in Wyoming and conservation efforts had been initiated on seven of those sites. The nomination process continues in Wyoming.

The IBA criteria for Wyoming fit into the following four categories:

- Sites or complexes of sites important to endangered species, threatened species or species of special concern.
- Sites or complexes of sites important to species of high conservation priority in Wyoming.
- Sites or complexes of sites that contain rare or unique habitat within the state/region or is an exceptional representative of a natural habitat.
- Sites or complexes of sites where significant numbers of birds concentrate for breeding, during migration or in the winter.

For additional information visit: <http://www.audubon.org/bird/iba/wy.html>.

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 plans are based on amended ecoregional units delineated by Bailey et al. (1998).

Wyoming falls within six of The Nature Conservancy's ecoregions; four of them are within the IWJV. The Wyoming Basins ecoregion covers most of west-central Wyoming. The Utah-Wyoming ecoregion fills in much of the western and northwestern parts of the state. The Southern Rocky Mountains and Central Shortgrass Prairie ecoregions each extend into southern Wyoming. The Northern Great Plains Steppe and Black Hills ecoregions cover much of northeastern Wyoming and are within the Northern Great Plains Joint Venture.

Although TNC's ecoregional assessments are not specifically bird conservation plans, they do identify and classify those habitat types, areas and sites that provide important habitat for birds. Only those birds identified as conservation targets for the seven ecoregions 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 from four of the ecoregional plans are listed in **Table One**.

Range-wide Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Project: The Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2000 with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to develop a strategy for the conservation of sage-grouse throughout their range. In 2001, the State of Wyoming and WAFWA received a federal grant to aid sagebrush/sage-grouse conservation efforts in six or seven Western states and British Columbia. In 2002 a project coordinator was hired with the grant funds and he began coordinating the completion of statewide and province-wide sage-grouse databases, including medium-to-fine-scale distribution maps of sage-grouse habitat. The project is overseen by a federal/state National Sage-Grouse Conservation Framework Team.

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 Wyoming, there are a number of birds listed or petitioned to be listed as Endangered (E), Threatened (T), Proposed Threatened (PT) or Candidate (C) species under the ESA. This list includes the Bald Eagle, Whooping Crane, Piping Plover and Yellow-billed Cuckoo.

6. Priority Bird Species in Wyoming

Many of the bird conservation programs described above, including the federal Endangered Species Act and the North American Waterfowl Management Plan/IWJV, have developed, or will develop, as part of their overall planning process, a list of priority bird species, species of concern or target species, either for Wyoming or the entire Intermountain West region. The State of Wyoming maintains a Native Species Status List updated in 2004, which includes species of special concern. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management and USDA Forest Service (Regions 2/4) maintain sensitive species lists, which include bird species that could become candidates for listing. The Wyoming IWJV Steering Committee has reviewed these and other lists, including TNC's target bird species, and has combined and indexed these priority species in **Table One**. These priority and focal species are shown again, in association with various agency and organizational ranking schemes, in **Appendix A**.

7. Priority Habitat Types

In September 2003, the Wyoming IWJV Steering Committee met in Casper and ranked 17 major habitat types, including those in the 2003 Wyoming Bird Conservation Plan, Version 2.0, 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 high value to birds statewide
- Priority B: One criterion may be high, but generally the habitat is of moderate concern
- Priority C: Relatively low threat, low opportunity, low value as habitat statewide

The ranked list of 17 major bird habitats developed by the Wyoming Steering Committee of the IWJV was reviewed again in 2004; it is shown as **Table Two**.

8. Bird Species - Habitat Relationships

The 17 priority habitat types ranked by the Wyoming Steering Committee of IWJV are listed in **Appendix B** in association with the priority bird species listed in **Table One** and **Appendix A**.

9. Bird Habitat Conservation Areas (BHCAs)

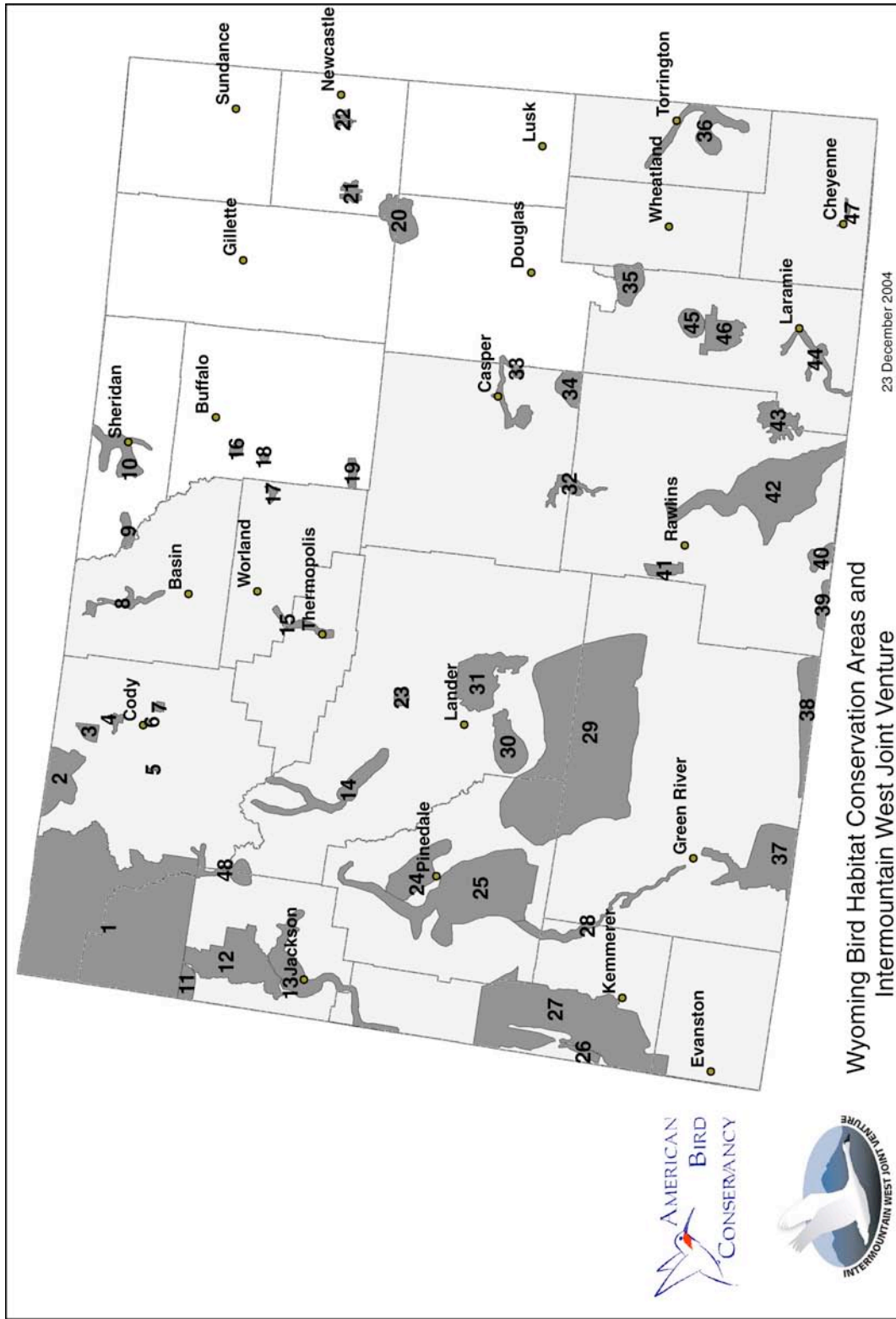
In November 2003, the Wyoming IWJV Steering Committee met again in Lander and reviewed existing conservation data and lists of priority habitats in central and western Wyoming (BCRs 10, 16, 18). Included were Wetland Focus Areas previously delineated by the Steering Committee, IBA maps, sage-grouse habitat maps and ecoregional assessment maps from The Nature Conservancy. From this information the Steering Committee identified and named 48 Bird Habitat Conservation Areas (BHCAs). These BHCAs are listed in **Table Three**.

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.

10. Landscape Mapping

The following Digital map depicts the 47 Bird Habitat Conservation Areas in BCRs 10, 16 and 18 that were delineated by the Wyoming Steering Committee of the IWJV and are also listed in **Table Three**

Figure 2: Bird Habitat Conservation Areas for Wyoming



11. Habitat Conservation Goals and Objectives

To guide the operations of the Intermountain West Joint Venture until 2015, the IWJV Management Board requested each state IWJV steering committee to develop goals and objectives for the Priority A and B habitats listed in each state plan. For Wyoming these habitats are listed in **Table Two**. The statewide goals and objectives were derived from the mapped acreage of priority habitats within each BHCA. They will provide the basis for establishing habitat goals and objectives for the whole joint venture until 2015. They are not intended to replace or over-ride the habitat objectives of Partners In Flight, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act or any other bird conservation plan.

To begin the process of goal setting, IWJV Steering Committee chairs from 11 Western states met with IWJV staff in Salt Lake City for two days in August 2004. Each plan, including draft BHCA maps, was reviewed by steering committee chairs. Criteria were then established for setting IWJV habitat goals and objectives, and each steering committee chair was asked to meet with his/her state steering committee by the end of October 2004 to finalize these goals and objectives.

The habitat goals and objectives developed for the Intermountain West Joint Venture in Wyoming are as follows. In 2005, the collective habitat goals and objectives from all 11 states will be summarized to provide the basis for joint-venture-wide habitat objectives in an updated IWJV Strategic Plan, which will project to the year 2015.

Priority A Habitats

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

Montane Riparian

Statewide Goal	Protect, maintain, enhance and/or restore montane riparian habitats.
Statewide Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Permanently protect, maintain, enhance and/or restore 155,000 acres or more of montane riparian habitats. 2. Manage montane riparian habitats for stable, non-eroding banks; pristine water quality; stable, year-round flows and sustainable use without abuse over the long-term. 3. Manage montane riparian habitats from a watershed perspective, and ensure that montane riparian habitats are continuous along the entire drainage and are as wide as the soil and water table will allow riparian vegetation to exist. 4. Support research and/or monitoring within montane riparian habitats to evaluate the effectiveness of conservation activities.

Plains/Basin Riparian

Statewide Goal	Protect, maintain, enhance and/or restore plains/basin riparian habitats and their associated riverine systems.
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- Statewide Objectives
1. Permanently protect, maintain, enhance and/or restore 162,000 acres or more of plains/basin riparian habitats and their riverine systems.
 2. Manage plains/basin riparian habitats for stable, non-eroding banks; appropriate water quality for each system; stable, year-round flows and sustainable use without abuse over the long-term.
 3. Manage plains/basin riparian habitats from a watershed perspective, and ensure that plains/basin riparian habitats are continuous along the entire drainage and are as wide as the soil and water table will allow riparian vegetation to exist.
 4. Support research and/or monitoring within plains/basin riparian habitats to evaluate the effectiveness of conservation activities.

Wetlands and Pond Complexes

- Statewide Goal
- Create new wetlands and pond complexes and strive for no net loss of this habitat by protecting and maintaining wetlands and pond complexes in good condition, and by enhancing and restoring those that are not.
- Statewide Objectives
1. Permanently protect, maintain, enhance and/or restore 27,000 acres or more of wetland and pond complex habitats.
 2. Restore or rehabilitate the hydrology, water quality and native plant communities of degraded and disturbed wetlands and pond complexes.
 3. Create new wetlands and pond complexes where feasible and appropriate.
 4. Support research and/or monitoring within wetland and pond complex habitats to evaluate the effectiveness of conservation activities.

Prairie Grasslands

- Statewide Goal
- Protect, maintain, enhance and/or restore historic prairie grasslands.
- Statewide Objectives
1. Permanently protect, maintain, enhance and/or restore 282,000 acres or more of prairie grasslands.
 2. Strive to maintain intact species community assemblages within prairie grasslands (e.g., keystone species like prairie dogs).
 3. Reduce non-native grassland species within prairie grasslands (e.g., cheatgrass and crested wheatgrass).
 4. Reduce habitat fragmentation of prairie grasslands (e.g., reduce non-natural vertical structures, roads, rights-of-way, permanent structures, etc.)
 5. Support research and/or monitoring within prairie grassland habitats to evaluate the effectiveness of conservation activities.

Mid-elevation Conifer Forest

Statewide Goal	Protect, maintain, enhance and/or restore mid-elevation conifer forest habitats at landscape and regional scales to manage for multiple wildlife species and forest stand diversity.
Statewide Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. On the existing 1.3 million acres of mid-elevation conifer forest habitat, maintain all habitats (e.g., vegetation cover types and successional stages), important habitat components (e.g., snags, forest floor complexity, patch size) and plant species diversity, and manage for an interconnected patchwork or mosaic of native plant communities and age classes across the landscape.2. Avoid fragmenting large, contiguous forest tracts within mid-elevation conifer forest habitats.3. Inventory and monitor existing old growth and older mature mid-elevation forest stands, and avoid fragmentation and loss of connectivity between stands of older forests.4. Support research and/or monitoring within mid-elevation conifer forest habitats to evaluate the effectiveness of conservation activities, including the effects of natural and prescribed fire.

Shrub-steppe

Statewide Goal	Strive for no net loss of shrub-steppe habitats by protecting and maintaining shrub-steppe habitats in good condition, and by enhancing and restoring those that are degraded.
Statewide Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Permanently protect, maintain, enhance and/or restore 3.8 million acres or more of shrub-steppe habitats.2. On a landscape scale, manage for an interconnected patchwork or mosaic of native plant communities and seral stages within shrub-steppe habitats.3. Enhance or restore large degraded or disturbed areas of shrub-steppe habitats to reduce fragmentation.4. Strive to maintain intact species community assemblages within shrub-steppe habitats (e.g., sagebrush obligates like the Greater Sage-Grouse, Sage Thrasher, Sage Sparrow and Brewer's Sparrow; and keystone species like prairie dogs).5. Reduce non-native plant invasion by maintaining the vigor of the native plant species within shrub-steppe habitats.6. Support research and/or monitoring within shrub-steppe habitats to evaluate the effectiveness of conservation activities.

Low Elevation Conifer Forest

- Statewide Goal Protect, maintain, enhance and/or restore low elevation conifer forest habitats.
- Statewide Objectives 1. On the existing 78,000 acres of low elevation conifer forest habitat, maintain all habitats (e.g., vegetation cover types and successional stages), important habitat components (e.g., snags and forest floor complexity) and plant species diversity, and manage for a patchwork or mosaic of native plant communities and age classes across the landscape.
2. Inventory and monitor existing old growth and older mature low elevation forest stands, and avoid fragmentation and loss of connectivity between stands of older forests.
3. Support research and/or monitoring within low elevation conifer forest habitats to evaluate the effectiveness of conservation activities, including the effects of natural and prescribed fire.

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, and increase aspen habitat where it has been encroached upon.
- Statewide Objectives 1. Permanently protect and maintain 176,000 acres of aspen habitat, and enhance, restore or increase aspen communities where they have been encroached upon or eliminated.
2. Maintain the vigor of native plant species and all seral and structural stages, including snags, within aspen stands.
3. Support research and/or monitoring within aspen habitats to evaluate the effectiveness of conservation activities, including the effects of natural and prescribed fire.

Priority B Habitats

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

Meadows

- Statewide Goal Protect, maintain, enhance and/or restore historic meadow habitats representative of all unique meadow systems across the elevational gradient.
- Statewide Objectives 1. Permanently protect, maintain, enhance and/or restore 270,000 acres or more of meadow habitats.
2. Reduce encroachment of non-native grassland species and woody vegetation (e.g., invasive plants, conifers, sagebrush, large shrubs) into meadow habitats. Restore meadow communities where there is encroachment or elimination.

3. Restore or rehabilitate the hydrology and native plant communities of degraded and disturbed meadow habitats.
4. Support research and/or monitoring within meadow habitats to evaluate effectiveness of conservation activities, including effects of natural and prescribed fire.

High Elevation Conifer Forest

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| Statewide Goal | Protect, maintain, enhance and/or restore high elevation conifer forest habitats at landscape and regional scales to manage for multiple wildlife species and forest stand diversity. |
| Statewide Objectives | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. On the existing 268,000 acres of high elevation conifer forest habitat, maintain all habitats (e.g., vegetation cover types and successional stages), important habitat components (e.g., snags, forest floor complexity, patch size) and plant species diversity, and manage for an interconnected patchwork or mosaic of native plant communities and age classes across the landscape.2. Avoid fragmenting large, contiguous forest tracts within high elevation conifer forest habitats.3. Maintain existing and reestablish pure and mixed stands of whitebark pine, monitor existing stands of whitebark pine for blister-rust disease and support research and/or monitoring efforts to sustain whitebark pine populations.4. Support research and/or monitoring within high elevation conifer forest habitats to evaluate the effectiveness of conservation activities, including the effects of natural and prescribed fire. |

Juniper Woodland

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| Statewide Goal | Protect, maintain, enhance and/or restore historic juniper woodland habitats, and reduce juniper encroachment into other habitats. |
| Statewide Objectives | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Permanently protect, maintain, enhance and/or restore 105,000 acres of juniper woodlands in areas of present distribution, including stands of multiple successional stages, stands of old growth juniper and areas with diverse and complex vegetation.2. Maintain large, contiguous juniper woodland habitats, reduce the amount of edge between juniper woodland habitats and converted or highly altered lands.3. Reduce or eliminate invasive and non-native plant species within juniper woodlands (e.g., cheatgrass).4. Reduce or eliminate junipers where there is encroachment into other grassland, meadow, mountain-foothills shrub and shrub-steppe habitats.5. Encourage use of prescribed fire; allow natural fires to burn in juniper woodland habitats to restore a diversity of seral stages. |

6. Support research and/or monitoring within juniper woodland habitats to evaluate effectiveness of conservation activities, including effects of natural and prescribed fire.

Mountain-foothills Shrub

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| Statewide Goal | Strive for no net loss of mountain-foothills shrub habitats by protecting and maintaining those habitats in good condition and enhancing and restoring those that are degraded; increase mountain-foothills shrub habitat where there has been encroachment |
| Statewide Objectives | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Permanently protect, maintain, enhance and/or restore 29,000 acres or more of mountain-foothills shrub habitats.2. On a landscape scale, manage for a patchwork or mosaic of native plant communities and seral stages within mountain-foothills shrub habitats.3. Support research and/or monitoring within mountain-foothills shrub habitats to evaluate effectiveness of conservation activities. |

Agricultural Lands

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| Statewide Goal | Assist landowners to protect, maintain, enhance and/or restore wildlife habitat values on their lands. |
| Statewide Objectives | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Protect, maintain, enhance and/or restore wildlife habitat values on 430,000 acres of agricultural lands.2. Support research and/or monitoring on agricultural lands to evaluate effectiveness of conservation activities. |

Alpine Tundra/Grassland

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| Statewide Goal | Protect, maintain, enhance and /or restore alpine tundra habitats and their associated grasslands. |
| Statewide Objectives | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Protect and maintain the vitality, integrity and ecological processes of 30,000 acres of alpine tundra/grassland, and enhance or restore to pre-20th century conditions those that are degraded.2. Reduce/eliminate over-utilization, fragmentation and permanent alteration of alpine tundra/grassland plant communities and their associated soils.3. Maintain or restore hydrological processes and soil integrity (e.g., curtail extensive snow compaction and soil erosion) in alpine tundra habitats and their associated grasslands.4. Support research and/or monitoring within alpine tundra/grassland habitats to evaluate effectiveness of conservation activities. |

TABLE ONE

Priority Species from Bird Conservation Programs

**North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) and the
Intermountain West Joint Venture (IWJV)
(7 species in Wyoming)**

Northern Pintail	Canvasback	Redhead
Lesser Scaup	Harlequin Duck	Barrow's Goldeneye
Trumpeter Swan		

**Wyoming Partners In Flight Wyoming Bird Conservation Plan (WBCP), Version 2.0
(100 Priority Species in Levels I-III)**

American Bittern (I)	Trumpeter Swan (I)	Bald Eagle (I)
Northern Goshawk (I)	Swainson's Hawk (I)	Ferruginous Hawk (I)
Peregrine Falcon (I)	Greater Sage-Grouse (I)	Col. Sharp-tailed Grouse (I)
Mountain Plover (I)	Upland Sandpiper (I)	Long-billed Curlew (I)
Wilson's Phalarope (I)	Franklin's Gull (I)	Forster's Tern (I)
Black Tern (I)	Burrowing Owl (I)	Short-eared Owl (I)
Brewer's Sparrow (I)	Sage Sparrow (I)	Baird's Sparrow (I)
McCown's Longspur (I)	Common Loon (II)	Am. White Pelican (II)
Harlequin Duck (II)	Merlin (II)	Snowy Plover (II)
Black-billed Cuckoo (II)	Yellow-billed Cuckoo (II)	Western Screech-Owl (II)
Eastern Screech-Owl (II)	Great Gray Owl (II)	Boreal Owl (II)
White-throated Swift (II)	Black-chinned Hummingbird (II)	Calliope Hummingbird (II)
Broad-tailed Hummingbird (II)	Rufous Hummingbird (II)	Lewis's Woodpecker (II)
Williamson's Sapsucker (II)	Red-naped Sapsucker (II)	Am. Three-toed Woodpecker (II)
Black-backed Woodpecker (II)	Olive-sided Flycatcher (II)	Willow Flycatcher (II)
Hammond's Flycatcher (II)	Gray Flycatcher (II)	Dusky Flycatcher (II)
Cordilleran Flycatcher (II)	Ash-throated Flycatcher (II)	Cassin's Kingbird (II)
Loggerhead Shrike (II)	Plumbeous Vireo (II)	Western Scrub-Jay (II)
Juniper Titmouse (II)	Bushtit (II)	Pygmy Nuthatch (II)
Brown Creeper (II)	Marsh Wren (II)	American Dipper (II)
Golden-crowned Kinglet (II)	Western Bluebird (II)	Townsend's Solitaire (II)
Sage Thrasher (II)	Townsend's Warbler (II)	MacGillivray's Warbler (II)
Wilson's Warbler (II)	Vesper Sparrow (II)	Lark Sparrow (II)
Lark Bunting (II)	Grasshopper Sparrow (II)	Chestnut-collared Longspur (II)
Dickcissel (II)	Bobolink (II)	Scott's Oriole (II)
Western Grebe (III)	Clark's Grebe (III)	Northern Harrier (III)
Golden Eagle (III)	Prairie Falcon (III)	White-tailed Ptarmigan (III)
Blue Grouse (III)	American Avocet (III)	Willet (III)
Common Poorwill (III)	Red-headed Woodpecker (III)	Say's Phoebe (III)
Clark's Nutcracker (III)	N. Rough-winged Swallow (III)	Rock Wren (III)
Canyon Wren (III)	Bewick's Wren (III)	Veery (III)
Virginia's Warbler (III)	Black-throated Gray Warbler (III)	Ovenbird (III)
Lazuli Bunting (III)	Bullock's Oriole (III)	Black Rosy-Finch (III)
Brown-capped Rosy-Finch (III)		

**U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan and
Intermountain West Regional Shorebird Plan**
(20 species—Priority Species Bolded)

Snowy Plover	Willet	Killdeer
Long-billed Curlew	Black-bellied Plover	American Avocet
Black-necked Stilt	Solitary Sandpiper	Greater Yellowlegs
Spotted Sandpiper	Mountain Plover	Semipalmated Sandpiper
Marbled Godwit	Western Sandpiper	Least Sandpiper
Long-billed Dowitcher	Wilson's Snipe	Wilson's Phalarope
Red-necked Phalarope	Upland Sandpiper	

North American Waterbird Conservation Plan
(NA=North America, WH=Western Hemisphere, C=Cosmopolitan)

Am. White Pelican (NA)	California Gull (NA)	Western Grebe (NA)
Clark's Grebe (NA)	White-faced Ibis (WH)	Snowy Egret (WH)
Franklin's Gull (WH)	Black-crowned Night-Heron (C)	Black Tern (C)
Caspian Tern (C)	Common Tern (C)	

Intermountain West Waterbird Conservation Plan
Bird Conservation Regions (BCR) 10 and 16

(Draft Species Priorities – High (H) and Moderate (M) Concern)

Greater Sandhill Crane (H)	Lesser Sandhill Crane (H-9)	Franklin's Gull (H)
Forster's Tern (H-10/M-9)	Black Tern (H)	Eared Grebe (staging) (H-9)
American White Pelican (H)	Common Loon (H)	Western Grebe (H-9/M-10)
Snowy Egret (H-9/M-10)	Black-crowned Night-Heron (M-9)	White-faced Ibis (M)
California Gull (M-10)	Caspian Tern (M-10)	Clark's Grebe (M-10)
American Bittern (M-10)	Common Tern (M-10)	

Central Shortgrass Prairie Ecoregional Plan (TNC)
(16 Target Bird Species)

Swainson's Hawk	Lark Bunting	Grasshopper Sparrow
McCown's Longspur	Canyon Wren	Black-throated Sparrow
Chestnut-collared Longspur	Western Snowy Plover	Piping Plover
Mountain Plover	Lark Sparrow	Prairie Falcon
Long-billed Curlew	American White Pelican	Burrowing Owl
Brewer's Sparrow		

Southern Rocky Mountains Ecoregional Plan (TNC)
(19 Target Bird Species)

Bufflehead	Barrow's Goldeneye	Ferruginous Hawk
Swainson's Hawk	Bald Eagle	Peregrine Falcon
Greater Sage-Grouse	Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse	Sandhill Crane
Mountain Plover	Short-eared Owl	SW Willow Flycatcher
Purple Martin	American Dipper	Sage Sparrow
Lazuli Bunting	Brewer's Sparrow	Virginia's Warbler
Black-capped Rosy-Finch		

Utah/Wyoming Rocky Mountains Ecoregional Conservation Plan (TNC)
(18 Target Bird Species – S1-3 for Wyoming)

Northern Goshawk	Boreal Owl	Bufflehead
Mountain Plover	Black Tern	Trumpeter Swan
Common Loon	Bald Eagle	Harlequin Duck
White-winged Crossbill	Lewis's Woodpecker	Flammulated Owl
Western Screech-Owl	American White Pelican	Black-backed Woodpecker
Rufous Hummingbird	Caspian Tern	Great Gray Owl

Wyoming Basins Ecoregional Conservation Plan (TNC)
(5 Target Bird Species)

Mountain Plover	Whooping Crane	Greater Sage-Grouse
American White Pelican	Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse	

Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA)
(4 species Endangered, Threatened, Candidate)

Bald Eagle (T)	Whooping Crane (E)
Piping Plover (E)	Yellow-billed Cuckoo (C)

Birds of Conservation Concern – USFWS
(32 species in BCRs 10, 16, 18)

Swainson's Hawk	Ferruginous Hawk	Golden Eagle
Peregrine Falcon	Prairie Falcon	American Golden-Plover
Snowy Plover	Mountain Plover	Solitary Sandpiper
Upland Sandpiper	Whimbrel	Long-billed Curlew
Marbled Godwit	Sanderling	Wilson's Phalarope
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Lewis's Woodpecker	Williamson's Sapsucker
Red-naped Sapsucker	Loggerhead Shrike	Pygmy Nuthatch
Virginia's Warbler	Brewer's Sparrow	McCown's Longspur
Northern Harrier	Burrowing Owl	Short-eared Owl
Pinyon Jay	Sprague's Pipit	Sage Sparrow
Chestnut-collared Longspur	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	

Species of Concern – USDA Forest Service

(29 species in Regions 2 and/or 4)

Trumpeter Swan	Harlequin Duck	Greater Sage-Grouse
White-tailed Ptarmigan	Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse	Common Loon
American Bittern	Northern Harrier	Northern Goshawk
Ferruginous Hawk	Peregrine Falcon	Mountain Plover
Long-billed Curlew	Black Tern	Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Flammulated Owl	Burrowing Owl	Great Gray Owl
Boreal Owl	Lewis's Woodpecker	Amer. Three-toed Woodpecker
Black-backed Woodpecker	Olive-sided Flycatcher	Purple Martin
Brewer's Sparrow	Sage Sparrow	Grasshopper Sparrow
McCown's Longspur	Chestnut-collared Longspur	

Species of Concern – BLM-Wyoming

(14 species)

White-faced Ibis	Trumpeter Swan	Northern Goshawk
Ferruginous Hawk	Peregrine Falcon	Greater Sage-Grouse
Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse	Long-billed Curlew	Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Burrowing Owl	Sage Thrasher	Loggerhead Shrike
Brewer's Sparrow	Sage Sparrow	Baird's Sparrow

State of Wyoming Native Species Status List (2004)

(57 bird species/subspecies in Wyoming in four categories – NSS1-NSS4)

Trumpeter Swan	Northern Pintail	Canvasback
Redhead	Lesser Scaup	Harlequin Duck
Barrow's Goldeneye	Greater Sage-Grouse	Common Loon
Western Grebe	Clark's Grebe	American White Pelican
American Bittern	Great Blue Heron	Snowy Egret
Black-crowned Night-Heron	White-faced Ibis	Bald Eagle
Northern Goshawk	Swainson's Hawk	Ferruginous Hawk
Merlin	Peregrine Falcon	Virginia Rail
Sandhill Crane	Mountain Plover	Upland Sandpiper
Long-billed Curlew	Franklin's Gull	Caspian Tern
Forster's Tern	Black Tern	Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Northern Pygmy-Owl	Burrowing Owl	Great Gray Owl
Short-eared Owl	Boreal Owl	Lewis's Woodpecker
Am. Three-toed Woodpecker	Black-backed Woodpecker	Willow Flycatcher
Ash-throated Flycatcher	Western Scrub-Jay	Juniper Titmouse
Bushtit	Pygmy Nuthatch	Sage Thrasher
Brewer's Sparrow	Sage Sparrow	Lark Bunting
Grasshopper Sparrow	McCown's Longspur	Chestnut-collared Longspur
Dickcissel	Bobolink	Scott's Oriole

Audubon Watch List – BCRs 10, 16, 18

(36 species - Bold=Higher Threat)

Whooping Crane	Snowy Plover	Piping Plover
Mountain Plover	Long-billed Curlew	Buff-breasted Sandpiper
Sprague's Pipit	Baird's Sparrow	McCown's Longspur
Brown-capped Rosy-Finch	Trumpeter Swan	Swainson's Hawk
Ferruginous Hawk	Greater Sage-Grouse	Blue Grouse
American Golden-Plover	Whimbrel	Hudsonian Godwit
Marbled Godwit	Red Knot	Wilson's Phalarope
Band-tailed Pigeon	Short-eared Owl	White-throated Swift
Calliope Hummingbird	Rufous Hummingbird	Lewis's Woodpecker
Red-headed Woodpecker	Olive-sided Flycatcher	Willow Flycatcher
Pinyon Jay	Virginia's Warbler	Bay-breasted Warbler
Brewer's Sparrow	Dickcissel	Black Rosy-Finch

TABLE TWO

Prioritization of 17 Major Bird Habitats in Wyoming

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.

Montane Riparian
Plains/Basin Riparian
Wetlands and Pond Complexes
Prairie Grasslands
Mid-elevation Conifer Forest
Shrub-steppe
Low Elevation Conifer Forest
Aspen

Priority B Habitats

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

Meadows
High Elevation Conifer Forest
Juniper Woodland
Mountain-foothills Shrub
Agricultural Lands
Alpine Tundra/Grassland

Priority C Habitats

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

Open Deep Water – lakes, ponds, reservoirs
Urban
Specialized Habitat – rock outcrops, cliffs, caves, shorelines, banks, etc.

* Original source of information: Wyoming Partners In Flight *Wyoming Bird Conservation Plan, Version 2.0* (2003); modifications made by Wyoming Steering Committee of IWJV.

TABLE THREE

Bird Habitat Conservation Areas

1. Yellowstone National Park
2. Beartooth Plateau
3. Chapman Bench
4. Heart Mountain
5. Breteche Creek Ranch
6. Beck Lake / Alkali Lake
7. Loch Katrine Wetland
8. Yellowtail WHMA
9. North Tongue River
10. Tongue River Complex
11. Common Loon Complex
12. Grand Teton National Park
13. Snake River Riparian Corridor
14. East Fork Wind River Complex
15. Bighorn River
16. Caribou / Pole Creek
17. Tensleep Preserve
18. Doyle Creek
19. Curl Leaf Mountain Mahogany Stands
20. Rochelle Hills / Cheyenne River Complex
21. Cellars Loop
22. Six Mile Basin
23. Ocean Lake Complex
24. New Fork Potholes and River / Soda Lake
25. Mesa Anticline Area and River Systems
26. Cokeville Meadows NWR
27. Commissary Ridge Raptor Migration
28. Seedskaadee NWR / Green River
29. Red Desert
30. Red Canyon / South Pass
31. Ninemile Draw
32. Pathfinder Reservoir
33. Casper Complex
34. Soldier Creek
35. Albany Peak Complex
36. North Platte WHMAs
37. Flaming Gorge and Juniper Woodlands
38. Powder Rim
39. Little Snake River
40. Battle Creek
41. Shamrock Hills Raptor Area
42. North Platte River Reach
43. Snowy Range Peaks
44. Laramie River / Greenbelt
45. Wheatland Reservoirs 2 and 3
46. Laramie Plains Lakes
47. Hereford Ranch/Lions Park
48. Harlequin Duck Complex

APPENDIX A – PRIORITY BIRD SPECIES OF WYOMING FROM BIRD CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Species	NAWMP and IWJV	WY-PIF Wyoming Conservation Plan	U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan & Intermountain Region Shorebird Plan	North American Waterbird Conservation Plan	Intermountain West Waterbird Conservation Plan Bird Conservation Regions 10 & 16	Central Shortgrass Prairie Ecoregional Plan (TNC)	Southern Rocky Mountains Ecoregional Plan (TNC)	UT/WY Rocky Mountains Ecoregional Conservation Plan (TNC)	WY Basins Ecoregional Conservation Plan (TNC)	Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA)	Birds of Conservation Concern – USFWS	Species of Concern – USDA Forest Service	Species of Concern – BLM-Wyoming	State of WY Native Species Status List	Audubon Watch List – BCRs 10, 16, 18
American Avocet		X	X												
American Bittern		X			X									X	
American Dipper		X					X								
American Golden-Plover											X				X
American Three-toed Woodpecker		X										X		X	
American White Pelican		X		X	X	X		X	X					X	
Ash-throated Flycatcher		X												X	
Baird's Sparrow		X											X		X
Bald Eagle		X					X	X		X				X	
Band-tailed Pigeon															X
Barrow's Goldeneye	X						X							X	
Bay-breasted Warbler															X
Bewick's Wren		X													
Black-billed Cuckoo		X													
Black-capped Rosy-Finch		X					X								
Black-chinned Hummingbird		X													
Black-backed Woodpecker		X						X						X	
Black-bellied Plover			X												
Black-crowned Night-Heron				X	X									X	
Black-necked Stilt			X												
Black Rosy-Finch		X													X

COORDINATED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR BIRD CONSERVATION IN WYOMING

Species	NA WMP and IWJV	WY-PIF Wyoming Conservation Plan	U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan & Intermountain Region Shorebird Plan	North American Waterbird Conservation Plan	Intermountain West Waterbird Conservation Plan Bird Conservation Regions 10 & 16	Central Shortgrass Prairie Ecoregional Plan (TNC)	Southern Rocky Mountains Ecoregional Plan (TNC)	UT/WY Rocky Mountains Ecoregional Conservation Plan (TNC)	WY Basins Ecoregional Conservation Plan (TNC)	Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA)	Birds of Conservation Concern – USFWS	Species of Concern – USDA Forest Service	Species of Concern – BLM-Wyoming	State of WY Native Species Status List	Audubon Watch List – BCRs 10, 16, 18
Black-throated Gray Warbler		X													
Black-throated Sparrow						X									
Black Tern		X		X	X			X							
Blue Grouse		X												X	X
Bobolink		X												X	
Boreal Owl		X						X				X		X	
Brewer’s Sparrow		X				X	X				X		X	X	X
Broad-tailed Hummingbird		X													
Brown-capped Rosy-Finch															X
Brown Creeper		X													
Buff-breasted Sandpiper											X				X
Bufflehead							X	X							
Bullock’s Oriole		X													
Burrowing Owl		X				X					X		X	X	
Bushtit		X												X	
California Gull				X	X										
Calliope Hummingbird		X													X
Canvasback	X													X	
Canyon Wren		X				X									
Caspian Tern				X	X			X						X	
Cassin’s Kingbird		X													
Chestnut-collard Longspur		X				X					X			X	
Clark’s Grebe		X		X	X									X	
Clark’s Nutcracker		X													
Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse		X					X		X			X	X		

COORDINATED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR BIRD CONSERVATION IN WYOMING

Species	NA WMP and IWJV	WY-PIF Wyoming Conservation Plan	U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan & Intermountain Region Shorebird Plan	North American Waterbird Conservation Plan	Intermountain West Waterbird Conservation Plan Bird Conservation Regions 10 & 16	Central Shortgrass Prairie Ecoregional Plan (TNC)	Southern Rocky Mountains Ecoregional Plan (TNC)	UT/WY Rocky Mountains Ecoregional Conservation Plan (TNC)	WY Basins Ecoregional Conservation Plan (TNC)	Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA)	Birds of Conservation Concern – USFWS	Species of Concern – USDA Forest Service	Species of Concern – BLM-Wyoming	State of WY Native Species Status List	Audubon Watch List – BCRs 10, 16, 18
Common Loon		X			X			X						X	
Common Poorwill		X													
Common Tern				X	X										
Cordilleran Flycatcher		X													
Dickcissel		X												X	X
Dusky Flycatcher		X													
Eared Grebe					X										
Eastern Screech-Owl		X													
Ferruginous Hawk		X					X				X		X	X	X
Forster's Tern		X			X									X	
Franklin's Gull		X		X	X									X	
Gadwall															
Golden Eagle		X									X				
Golden-crowned Kinglet		X													
Grasshopper Sparrow		X				X								X	
Gray Flycatcher		X													
Great Blue Heron														X	
Great Gray Owl		X						X				X		X	
Greater Sage-Grouse		X					X		X	X			X	X	X
Greater Yellowlegs			X												
Hammond's Flycatcher		X													
Harlequin Duck	X	X						X						X	
Hudsonian Godwit															X
Juniper Titmouse		X												X	
Killdeer			X												

COORDINATED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR BIRD CONSERVATION IN WYOMING

Species	NA WMP and IWJV	WY-PIF Wyoming Conservation Plan	U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan & Intermountain Region Shorebird Plan	North American Waterbird Conservation Plan	Intermountain West Waterbird Conservation Plan Bird Conservation Regions 10 & 16	Central Shortgrass Prairie Ecoregional Plan (TNC)	Southern Rocky Mountains Ecoregional Plan (TNC)	UT/WY Rocky Mountains Ecoregional Conservation Plan (TNC)	WY Basins Ecoregional Conservation Plan (TNC)	Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA)	Birds of Conservation Concern – USFWS	Species of Concern – USDA Forest Service	Species of Concern – BLM-Wyoming	State of WY Native Species Status List	Audubon Watch List – BCRs 10, 16, 18
Lark Bunting		X				X								X	
Lark Sparrow		X				X									
Lazuli Bunting							X								
Least Sandpiper			X												
Lesser Scaup	X													X	
Lewis's Woodpecker		X						X			X			X	X
Loggerhead Shrike		X									X		X		
Long-billed Curlew		X	X			X					X		X	X	X
Long-billed Dowitcher			X												
MacGillivray's Warbler		X													
Marbled Godwit			X								X				X
Marsh Wren		X													
McCown's Longspur						X					X			X	X
Merlin		X												X	
Mountain Plover		X	X			X	X	X	X		X			X	X
Northern Goshawk		X						X				X	X	X	
Northern Harrier		X									X				
Northern Pintail	X													X	
Northern Pygmy-Owl														X	
Northern Rough-winged Swallow		X													
Olive-sided Flycatcher		X													X
Ovenbird		X													
Peregrine Falcon		X					X				X	X	X	X	
Pinyon Jay											X				X
Piping Plover						X				X					X

COORDINATED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR BIRD CONSERVATION IN WYOMING

Species	NA WMP and IWJV	WY-PIF Wyoming Conservation Plan	U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan & Intermountain Region Shorebird Plan	North American Waterbird Conservation Plan	Intermountain West Waterbird Conservation Plan Bird Conservation Regions 10 & 16	Central Shortgrass Prairie Ecoregional Plan (TNC)	Southern Rocky Mountains Ecoregional Plan (TNC)	UT/WY Rocky Mountains Ecoregional Conservation Plan (TNC)	WY Basins Ecoregional Conservation Plan (TNC)	Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA)	Birds of Conservation Concern – USFWS	Species of Concern – USDA Forest Service	Species of Concern – BLM-Wyoming	State of WY Native Species Status List	Audubon Watch List – BCRs 10, 16, 18
Plumbeous Vireo		X													
Prairie Falcon		X				X					X				
Purple Martin							X								
Pygmy Nuthatch		X									X			X	
Redhead	X													X	
Red-headed Woodpecker		X													X
Red-naped Sapsucker		X									X				
Red-necked Phalarope			X												
Red Knot															X
Rock Wren		X													
Rufous Hummingbird		X						X							X
Sage Sparrow		X					X				X		X	X	
Sage Thrasher		X											X	X	
Sanderling											X				
Sandhill Crane				X			X							X	
Say's Phoebe		X													
Scott's Oriole		X												X	
Semipalmated Sandpiper			X												
Snowy Egret				X	X									X	
Snowy Plover		X	X			X					X				X
Solitary Sandpiper			X								X				
Spotted Sandpiper			X												
Sprague's Pipit											X				X
Swanson's Hawk		X				X	X				X			X	
Townsend's Solitaire		X													

COORDINATED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR BIRD CONSERVATION IN WYOMING

Species	NA WMP and IWJV	WY-PIF Wyoming Conservation Plan	U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan & Intermountain Region Shorebird Plan	North American Waterbird Conservation Plan	Intermountain West Waterbird Conservation Plan Bird Conservation Regions 10 & 16	Central Shortgrass Prairie Ecoregional Plan (TNC)	Southern Rocky Mountains Ecoregional Plan (TNC)	UT/WY Rocky Mountains Ecoregional Conservation Plan (TNC)	WY Basins Ecoregional Conservation Plan (TNC)	Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA)	Birds of Conservation Concern – USFWS	Species of Concern – USDA Forest Service	Species of Concern – BLM-Wyoming	State of WY Native Species Status List	Audubon Watch List – BCRs 10, 16, 18
Townsend's Warbler		X													
Trumpeter Swan	X	X						X					X	X	X
Upland Sandpiper		X	X								X			X	
Veery		X													
Vesper Sparrow		X													
Virginia Rail														X	
Virginia's Warbler		X					X				X				X
Western Bluebird		X													
Western Grebe		X		X	X									X	
Western Sandpiper			X												
Western Screech-Owl		X						X							
Western Scrub-Jay														X	
Whimbrel											X				X
White-faced Ibis				X	X								X	X	
White-tailed Ptarmigan		X													
White-throated Swift		X													X
White-winged Crossbill								X							
Whooping Crane									X	X					X
Willet		X	X												
Williamson's Sapsucker		X									X				
Willow Flycatcher		X					X							X	X
Wilson's Phalarope		X	X								X				X
Wilson's Snipe			X												
Wilson's Warbler		X													
Yellow-billed Cuckoo		X									X		X	X	

APPENDIX B - ASSOCIATION BETWEEN SELECTED PRIORITY BIRD SPECIES AND PIF HABITAT TYPES

Species	Montane Riparian	Plains/Basin Riparian	Wetlands and Pond Complexes	Prairie Grasslands	Mid-elevation Conifer Forest	Shrub-steppe	Low Elevation Conifer Forest	Aspen	Meadows	High Elevation Conifer Forest	Juniper Woodland	Mountain-foothills Shrub	Agricultural Lands	Alpine Tundra/Grassland
American Avocet			X											
American Bittern			X											
American Dipper	X													
American Three-toed Woodpecker										X				
American White Pelican			X											
Ash-throated Flycatcher											X			
Baird's Sparrow				X										
Bald Eagle	X	X												
Barrow's Goldeneye			X											
Bewick's Wren											X			
Black Tern			X											
Black-backed Woodpecker					X					X				
Black-billed Cuckoo		X												
Black-capped Rosy Finch														X
Black-chinned Hummingbird		X				X								
Black Rosy-Finch														X
Black-throated Gray Warbler											X	X		
Blue Grouse					X					X				
Bobolink				X					X				X	
Boreal Owl										X				

COORDINATED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR BIRD CONSERVATION IN WYOMING

Species	Montane Riparian	Plains/Basin Riparian	Wetlands and Pond Complexes	Prairie Grasslands	Mid-elevation Conifer Forest	Shrub-steppe	Low Elevation Conifer Forest	Aspen	Meadows	High Elevation Conifer Forest	Juniper Woodland	Mountain-foothills Shrub	Agricultural Lands	Alpine Tundra/Grassland
Brewer's Sparrow						X						X		
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	X	X			X									
Brown Creeper					X					X				
Bufflehead			X											
Bullock's Oriole	X	X												
Burrowing Owl				X										
Bushtit											X			
Calliope Hummingbird	X													
Canvasback			X											
Canyon Wren														
Cassin's Kingbird		X									X			
Chestnut-collard Longspur				X										
Cinnamon Teal			X											
Clark's Grebe			X											
Clark's Nutcracker					X					X				
Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse												X		
Common Loon			X											
Common Poorwill						X						X		
Cordilleran Flycatcher	X				X									
Dickcissel				X										
Dusky Flycatcher							X	X				X		
Eastern Screech-Owl		X												

COORDINATED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR BIRD CONSERVATION IN WYOMING

Species	Montane Riparian	Plains/Basin Riparian	Wetlands and Pond Complexes	Prairie Grasslands	Mid-elevation Conifer Forest	Shrub-steppe	Low Elevation Conifer Forest	Aspen	Meadows	High Elevation Conifer Forest	Juniper Woodland	Mountain-foothills Shrub	Agricultural Lands	Alpine Tundra/Grassland
Ferruginous Hawk				X		X								
Forster's Tern			X											
Franklin's Gull			X											
Golden-crowned Kinglet										X				
Grasshopper Sparrow				X		X								
Gray Flycatcher											X	X		
Great Gray Owl					X					X				
Greater Sage-Grouse						X								
Hammond's Flycatcher	X							X		X				
Harlequin Duck	X													
Juniper Titmouse											X			
Lark Bunting				X		X								
Lark Sparrow						X								
Lazuli Bunting	X	X										X		
Lewis's Woodpecker		X					X							
Loggerhead Shrike						X								
Long-billed Curlew				X					X					
MacGillivray's Warbler	X	X												
Marsh Wren			X											
McCown's Longspur				X		X								
Merlin							X							
Mountain Plover				X		X								

COORDINATED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR BIRD CONSERVATION IN WYOMING

Species	Montane Riparian	Plains/Basin Riparian	Wetlands and Pond Complexes	Prairie Grasslands	Mid-elevation Conifer Forest	Shrub-steppe	Low Elevation Conifer Forest	Aspen	Meadows	High Elevation Conifer Forest	Juniper Woodland	Mountain-foothills Shrub	Agricultural Lands	Alpine Tundra/Grassland
Northern Goshawk					X			X		X				
Northern Harrier			X											
Northern Rough-winged Swallow		X												
Olive-sided Flycatcher					X					X				
Ovenbird		X												
Plumbeous Vireo					X		X							
Pygmy Nuthatch							X							
Redhead			X											
Red-headed Woodpecker		X					X							
Red-naped Sapsucker								X						
Ring-necked Duck			X											
Rock Wren														
Rufous Hummingbird					X									
Sage Sparrow						X						X		
Sage Thrasher						X								
Say's Phoebe						X								
Scott's Oriole											X			
Short-eared Owl				X					X					
Snowy Plover			X											
Swainson's Hawk		X												
Townsend's Solitaire									X	X	X			
Townsend's Warbler					X					X				

COORDINATED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR BIRD CONSERVATION IN WYOMING

Species	Montane Riparian	Plains/Basin Riparian	Wetlands and Pond Complexes	Prairie Grasslands	Mid-elevation Conifer Forest	Shrub-steppe	Low Elevation Conifer Forest	Aspen	Meadows	High Elevation Conifer Forest	Juniper Woodland	Mountain-foothills Shrub	Agricultural Lands	Alpine Tundra/Grassland
Trumpeter Swan			X											
Upland Sandpiper				X										
Veery	X													
Vesper Sparrow						X								
Virginia's Warbler											X	X		
Western Bluebird							X				X			
Western Grebe			X											
Western Screech-Owl		X												
Western Scrub-Jay											X			
White-tailed Ptarmigan														X
Willet			X											
Williamson's Sapsucker					X									
Willow Flycatcher	X	X												
Wilson's Phalarope			X											
Wilson's Warbler	X													
Wood Duck		X												
Yellow-billed Cuckoo		X												