

Wildlife Species Profiles



ASSESSING HABITAT QUALITY FOR PRIORITY WILDLIFE SPECIES IN COLORADO WETLANDS



TERN © USFWS / MOUSE © CNHP / DACE © MPCA PHOTOS / FROG © KEITH PENNER

Wildlife species profiles have been created for priority wetland-dependent birds, mammals, fish, amphibians, and reptiles. Example species covered include (clockwise from top left): least tern, Preble's meadow jumping mouse, redbelly dace, and northern leopard frog.

The purpose of these profiles is to provide landowners and land managers with easy-to-use guidelines for understanding habitat needs of priority wetland-dependent wildlife.

Introduction

This series of species profiles consists of 29 profiles for 37 wetland-dependent wildlife species. Three profiles cover guilds with multiple related species: the dabbling duck profile includes seven species. The frog profile and the redbelly dace profile each include two species.

Colorado Distribution

County occurrence for species in the series is provided on the following page. A checkmark does not suggest regular occurrence in a county; rather, it may indicate that the species has

been observed at least once or may hypothetically occur. If a species is checked, please refer to the profile for more detailed information on distribution and habitat.

Maps

Colorado distribution maps were created using multiple credible sources, listed in the individual profiles. Maps were created for fish using Hydrologic Unit Codes, according to CPW Aquatic Database. The remaining maps were created using county occurrence.

Habitat Condition Scorecards

Habitat Scorecards are included with each species profile for the purpose of assessing habitat conditions before and after implementation of wetland habitat improvement projects. Please check the instructions for each species. In most cases, habitat variables should

be assessed during late spring or early summer. Each habitat variable has assigned values for ranges of conditions; the variables and their assigned values are weighted according to importance of each variable as perceived by experts in the field. For any given project, multiple scorecards should be filled out for every species or guild that is known or expected to occur in the project area.

Defining Habitat Size

To fill out a habitat Scorecard, users will need to define the size of the habitat in acres. The **project area** includes the entire area affected by the project. The **habitat area** within the project area, will provide (in case of pre-project) or does provide (post-project) habitat for each potential target species within the project area. The habitat area may be the same size as the project area or it may be smaller.

For each scorecard, determine the size of the habitat area and fill out the scorecard using the range of conditions observed within the habitat area. If your habitat area is noncontiguous and/or if sections are in very different conditions, consider using multiple scorecards so that each scorecard does represent the general conditions. If you use multiple scorecards, please identify each habitat area on a map.

Getting Help

Most variables within the scorecards can easily be measured or determined by anyone. In some cases, users may wish to solicit assistance from CPW staff (Biologists, District Wildlife Managers, etc.); Wetland Focus Area Committees; or Private Land Biologists at the Natural Resources Conservation Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Questions can also be addressed to the CPW Wetlands Program Coordinator.

Version Date: November 2020

Colorado Distribution by County

Colorado County	BIRDS	American bittern	Bald eagle	Black rail	Dabbling ducks	Least tern	Lewis's woodpecker	Long-billed curlew	Piping plover	Sandhill crane	Short-eared owl	SW willow flycatcher	W. yellow-billed cuckoo	MAMMALS	NM m. jumping mouse	Preble's m. j. mouse	River otter	FISH	Arkansas darter	Bluehead sucker	Bonytail	Brassy minnow	N. redbelly dace	Orangespotted sunfish	Oragnethroat Darter	Plains topminnow	Rio Grande chub	Rio Grande sucker	S. redbelly dace	HERPS	Boreal toad	N. leopard frog	Plains leopard frog	Red-sided garter snake	Yellow mud turtle			
Adams		√	√		√	√	√	√		√	√					√	√							√								√		√				
Alamosa		√	√		√	√	√	√		√	√	√					√									√	√	√					√					
Arapahoe		√	√		√	√	√	√		√	√					√	√							√		√							√		√			
Archuleta			√		√		√	√		√		√	√		√		√		√														√					
Baca			√	√	√		√	√		√	√						√							√									√		√			
Bent		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√													√									√	√		√		
Boulder		√	√		√	√	√	√		√	√					√	√							√		√					√	√		√				
Broomfield		√	√		√		√	√		√	√					√	√																√		√			
Chaffee		√	√		√		√	√		√	√						√														√	√						
Cheyenne		√	√		√		√			√	√																						√	√		√		
Clear Creek			√		√		√			√							√													√	√							
Conejos		√	√		√		√			√	√	√			√		√									√	√	√					√					
Costilla		√	√		√		√	√		√	√	√			√		√										√	√					√					
Crowley		√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√								√														√	√				
Custer		√	√		√		√	√		√							√													√			√	√				
Delta		√	√		√	√	√	√		√	√		√				√			√														√				
Denver			√		√		√	√		√						√	√							√										√		√		
Dolores		√	√		√		√	√		√		√					√		√																√			
Douglas		√	√		√	√	√	√		√	√					√	√						√	√											√		√	
Eagle			√		√		√			√	√						√		√											√	√			√				
Elbert			√		√		√	√		√	√					√			√							√								√	√			
El Paso		√	√		√	√	√	√		√	√					√	√		√										√				√	√				
Fremont		√	√		√	√	√	√		√	√						√		√										√					√	√			
Garfield			√		√		√	√		√			√				√		√															√		√		
Gilpin			√		√												√							√		√					√	√						
Grand		√	√		√		√	√		√	√						√		√												√	√						

Colorado Distribution by County, *continued.*

Colorado County	BIRDS	American bittern	Bald eagle	Black rail	Dabbling ducks	Least tern	Lewis's woodpecker	Long-billed curlew	Piping plover	Sandhill crane	Short-eared owl	SW willow flycatcher	W. yellow-billed cuckoo	MAMMALS	NM m. jumping mouse	Preble's m. j. mouse	River otter	FISH	Arkansas darter	Bluehead sucker	Bonytail	Brassy minnow	N. redbelly dace	Orangespotted sunfish	Oragnethroat Darter	Plains topminnow	Rio Grande chub	Rio Grande sucker	S. redbelly dace	HERPS	Boreal toad	N. leopard frog	Plains leopard frog	Red-sided garter snake	Yellow mud turtle
Gunnison		√	√		√		√	√		√	√		√				√		√							√			√	√					
Hinsdale		√	√		√		√			√		√					√		√								√			√	√				
Huerfano		√	√		√	√	√	√		√	√																				√	√			
Jackson		√	√		√	√	√	√		√	√						√				√									√	√				
Jefferson		√	√		√	√	√	√		√	√					√	√							√		√					√		√		
Kiowa		√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√							√						√						√	√			√	
Kit Carson		√	√		√			√		√	√														√					√	√			√	
Lake		√	√		√		√			√							√														√	√			
La Plata		√	√		√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√		√		√		√											√	√				
Larimer		√	√		√	√	√	√		√	√					√	√				√	√	√		√				√	√		√			
Las Animas			√		√		√	√		√	√				√		√							√				√		√	√			√	
Lincoln			√	√	√		√	√		√	√							√						√				√		√	√				
Logan		√	√		√	√	√	√		√	√						√					√		√		√				√	√	√	√	√	
Mesa		√	√		√	√	√	√		√	√		√				√		√	√										√	√				
Mineral			√		√		√			√		√					√		√		√								√	√					
Moffat		√	√		√		√	√		√	√		√				√		√	√										√					
Montezuma		√	√		√		√	√		√	√	√	√		√		√		√								√			√					
Montrose			√		√		√	√		√	√		√				√		√		√									√					
Morgan		√	√		√	√	√	√		√	√						√				√		√							√		√		√	
Otero		√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√																			√	√			√	
Ouray		√	√		√		√	√		√							√													√					
Park		√	√		√		√	√		√	√						√												√	√					
Phillips			√		√	√		√		√	√																			√	√	√	√	√	
Pitkin		√	√		√		√	√		√							√												√	√					
Prowers		√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√							√						√						√	√			√	
Pueblo		√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√						√		√					√				√		√	√				

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Rio Blanco		√	√		√	√	√	√		√	√						√														√					
Rio Grande		√	√		√		√	√		√	√	√					√								√	√	√					√				
Routt		√	√		√		√	√		√			√				√		√												√	√				
Saguache		√	√		√		√			√	√	√					√									√	√				√					
San Juan		√	√		√		√			√		√																			√					
San Miguel			√		√		√	√									√		√												√					
Sedgwick		√	√		√	√	√	√		√	√						√					√	√	√	√						√	√	√	√	√	
Summit		√	√		√		√			√							√													√	√					
Teller		√	√		√		√			√							√														√					
Washington		√	√		√	√	√	√		√	√										√		√								√	√	√	√	√	
Weld		√	√		√	√	√	√		√	√					√	√				√	√	√		√						√		√	√		
Yuma		√	√		√	√	√	√		√	√						√				√			√							√	√	√	√	√	