

Ash-throated Flycatcher - *Myiarchus cinerascens*

Abundance: Unknown

Status: NSS3 (Bb)

NatureServe: G5 S3B

Population Status: population size and distribution are restricted but extirpation is not imminent; breeding population is restricted to Utah juniper habitat in southwestern Wyoming

Limiting Factor: Habitat: limiting factor is severe; Utah juniper habitat is limited; unlikely ability to increase population size and distribution without adequate information exchange and cooperation with other land management agencies to ensure that habitat remains intact

Comment:

Introduction

The Ash-throated Flycatcher breeds in western North America from Oregon and Wyoming to northern Mexico. It winters from southern California and Arizona south to northeastern Costa Rica. In Wyoming, it nests only in the southwestern portion of the state; individuals found outside of this area in Wyoming are usually migrating. The abundance of the Ash-throated Flycatcher is unknown in Wyoming.

Habitat

The Ash-throated Flycatcher is an obligate species of Utah juniper in Wyoming and nests only in juniper woodlands. It is most abundant in lower elevation juniper woodlands and is typically found on steep, rocky slopes sparsely covered by old-growth juniper, a sparse understory, and an abundance of snags. It is a secondary cavity nester and requires either a natural cavity or one excavated by a woodpecker.

Problems

- h Species is susceptible to impacts from energy development and other large-scale projects that destroy or impair suitable habitats.
- h Population status and trends are largely unknown in Wyoming.
- h Suitable breeding habitat is restricted to the extreme southwestern portion of the State.
- h Throughout much of the West, resource managers view juniper as an invasive species that should be controlled or replaced with more desirable habitats.

Conservation Actions

- h Continue inventory and monitoring efforts and implement the Monitoring Wyoming's Birds grid-based monitoring program to determine density and population trends.
- h Maintain mature juniper woodlands with an open canopy, well interspersed with sagebrush and other shrubs, and a mosaic of large trees and snags in areas where this species nests.
- h Use prescribed and natural fire to maintain open stands of juniper woodland where this species occurs.
- h Management or manipulation of juniper in southwestern Wyoming should not favor one of the juniper obligates to the detriment of others. Instead, management should be coordinated to provide a mosaic of juniper woodland conditions.

Monitoring/Research

May need specialized, periodic monitoring to estimate the number of breeding pairs if existing monitoring programs do not detect this species in sufficient numbers to determine population density and trends.

Recent Developments

An increase in industrial development in preferred habitat may negatively affect populations.

References

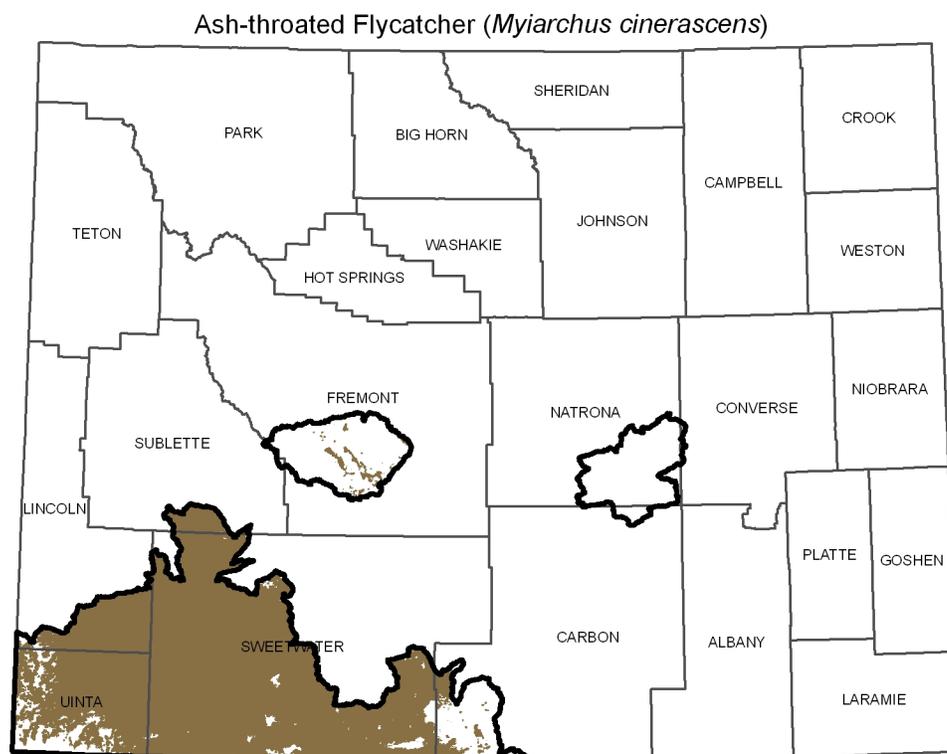
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SOURCE: Digital maps of ranges and predicted distributions for Wyoming Species of Greatest Conservation Need: April 2010. Wyoming Natural Diversity Database. University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming. Note that brown indicates the predicted distribution of the species; heavy black lines indicate outermost boundaries of possible occurrence.