

Black Rosy-Finch - *Leucosticte atrata*

Abundance: Uncommon

Status: NSSU

NatureServe: G4
S1B,S2N

Population Status: population status and trends are unknown; species-specific surveys are needed due to current monitoring techniques that are not adequate to determine population status and trends

Limiting Factor: Habitat: limiting factor is severe

Comment: change is attributed to unknown population status and trends; moved from NSS4 to NSSU

Introduction

The Black Rosy-Finch is one of 3 species of rosy-finch in North America. The Black Rosy-Finch breeds high on scattered mountaintops in the Great Basin from northern New Mexico to southern Montana and from Oregon to Wyoming and Colorado. In Wyoming, breeding has been documented in the northwest corner of the state, and breeding is suspected in the Bighorn Mountains, Wyoming and Salt River Ranges, and in the southern Wind River Range.

Habitat

Rosy-finches are the highest breeding birds in North America, rarely nesting below 10,000 feet elevation. The Black Rosy-Finch is a ground or low nesting species. It breeds on the mountain tundra and nests primarily in cracks and holes in rock outcrops and cliffs of high alpine environments. The Black Rosy-Finch feeds on seeds of grasses and forbs. In summer, its granivorous diet is supplemented with insects. The Black Rosy-Finch is generally a short distance migrant, typically moving downward in winter to use mid- to low elevation basin habitats near summer range. It may also move southward to the Southern Rocky Mountain states. It winters in grasslands, cultivated lands, roadsides, and some residential areas.

Problems

- h Audubon Christmas Bird Count data suggest a decline since the 1970s.
- h Little is known about the needs of this species and the threats to it, particularly during the non-breeding season when it is more likely to be associated with and impacted by human development and activities.
- h Breeding habitat in Wyoming is disjunct and secure breeding sites are limited in distribution.
- h Breeding habitat is restricted in Wyoming and may be declining.
- h Population status and trends are largely unknown in Wyoming.

Conservation Actions

- h Implement monitoring in suitable habitat where it is presently not being conducted, and continue monitoring in areas where it is currently in place.
- h Increase monitoring efforts to document population trends and identify needed management.
- h Work cooperatively with other agencies to conduct surveys and manage habitat for this species.
- h More information is needed on the winter habitats and winter habitat use of this species.

Monitoring/Research

None.

Recent Developments

None.

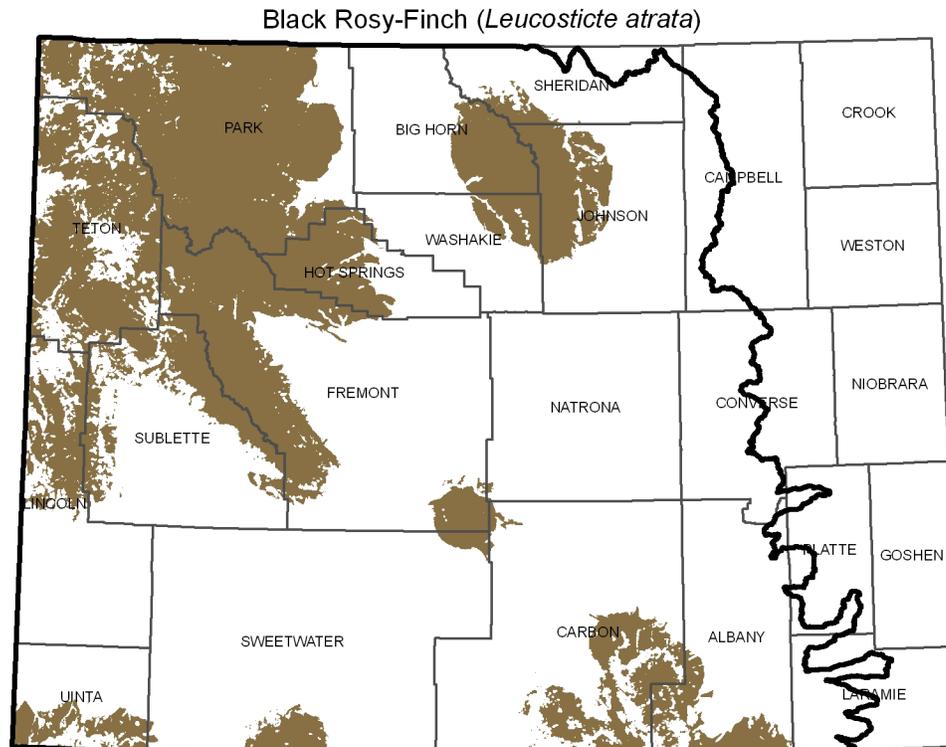
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SOURCE: Digital maps of ranges and predicted distributions for Wyoming Species of Greatest Conservation Need: April 2010. Wyoming Natural Diversity Database. University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming. Note that brown indicates the predicted distribution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