

## Willow Flycatcher - *Empidonax traillii*

Abundance: Common

Status: NSS4 (Cb)

NatureServe: G5 S4B

Population Status: population size and distribution are stable; continue Monitoring Wyoming's Birds program to track population density

Limiting Factor: Habitat: limiting factor is severe; habitat is limited but not significantly decreasing

Comment: moved from NSS3 to NSS4 due to 6 years of Monitoring Wyoming's Birds density data (2002-2007) that have shown stable population densities

### Introduction

The Willow Flycatcher breeds from central British Columbia across southern Canada to Nova Scotia, and south to southern California, central Texas, and Virginia. It winters from southern Mexico to Colombia. It is scattered throughout most of Wyoming during the breeding season. The Willow Flycatcher is considered a common summer resident in Wyoming.

### Habitat

The Willow Flycatcher is a riparian obligate that uses willow or alder thickets along streams, especially where streams are bordered by open stands of cottonwoods. It is also found in brushy fields, and along edges of bogs, thickets, or groves of small trees in grasslands. The presence of water and deciduous riparian shrubs are essential habitat elements.

### Problems

- h Impacted by a combination of factors that degrade shrubby riparian habitat, including loss of vegetative cover, recreation and development pressure, heavy nest parasitism by cowbirds, willow control activities, flooding of nest sites, and water diversions and flood control that prevent shrub and tree regeneration.
- h Deforestation on the wintering grounds may impact population stability.

### 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 communities of deciduous shrubs in riparian areas and meadows, at least 2 ha (5 ac) in size, with patches of dense shrubs interspersed with openings, and with open water nearby to facilitate Willow Flycatcher nesting success.

### Monitoring/Research

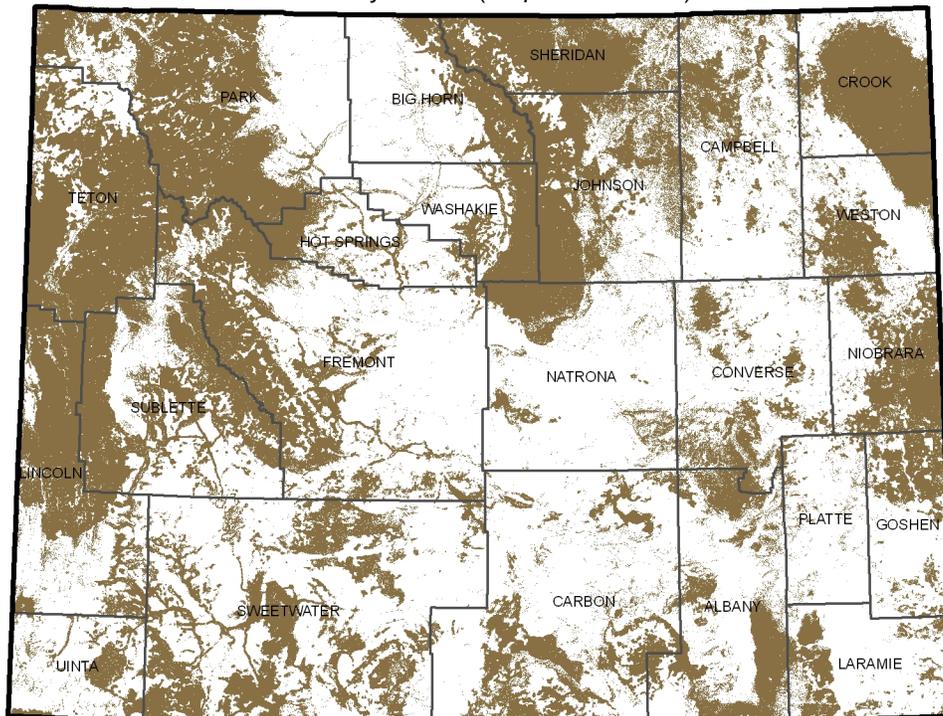
Continue monitoring efforts through the grid-based Monitoring Wyoming's Birds program and the Breeding Bird Survey.

### Recent Developments

Monitoring Wyoming's Birds data over a 6 year period indicated favorable population density.

## 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.