

# Cinnamon Teal

*Anas cyanoptera*



Photo by Steve Ting

## Habitat Use Profile

Habitats Used in Nevada	
Marsh Open Water (Ephemeral Wetland and Playa) (Great Basin Lowland Riparian (oxbows)) (Agriculture)	
Key Habitat Parameters •	
Plant Composition	Cattail, bulrush, sedges, rushes, willows, submerged aquatic vegetation
Plant Density	Patches of high density emergent vegetation <sup>1</sup>
Mosaic	Shallow marsh or waterbody with variable stem densities of emergent vegetation, interspersed with dry spots, mudflats, open water <sup>1</sup>
Water Depth	< 20 cm [8 in] along vegetated shorelines for foraging <sup>1</sup>
Water Quality	Tolerant of moderately saline conditions <sup>1</sup>
Hydrology	Permanent or ephemeral wetland, as long as vegetation is present <sup>1</sup>
Response to Vegetation Removal	Probably negative <sup>E0</sup>
Area Requirements ◦	
Minimum Patch Size	Unknown, but uses relatively small water bodies, including farm ponds
Recommended Patch Size	> 15 ha [37 ac] <sup>E0</sup>
Home Range	< 10 ha [25 ac], overlapping <sup>1</sup>

## Conservation Profile

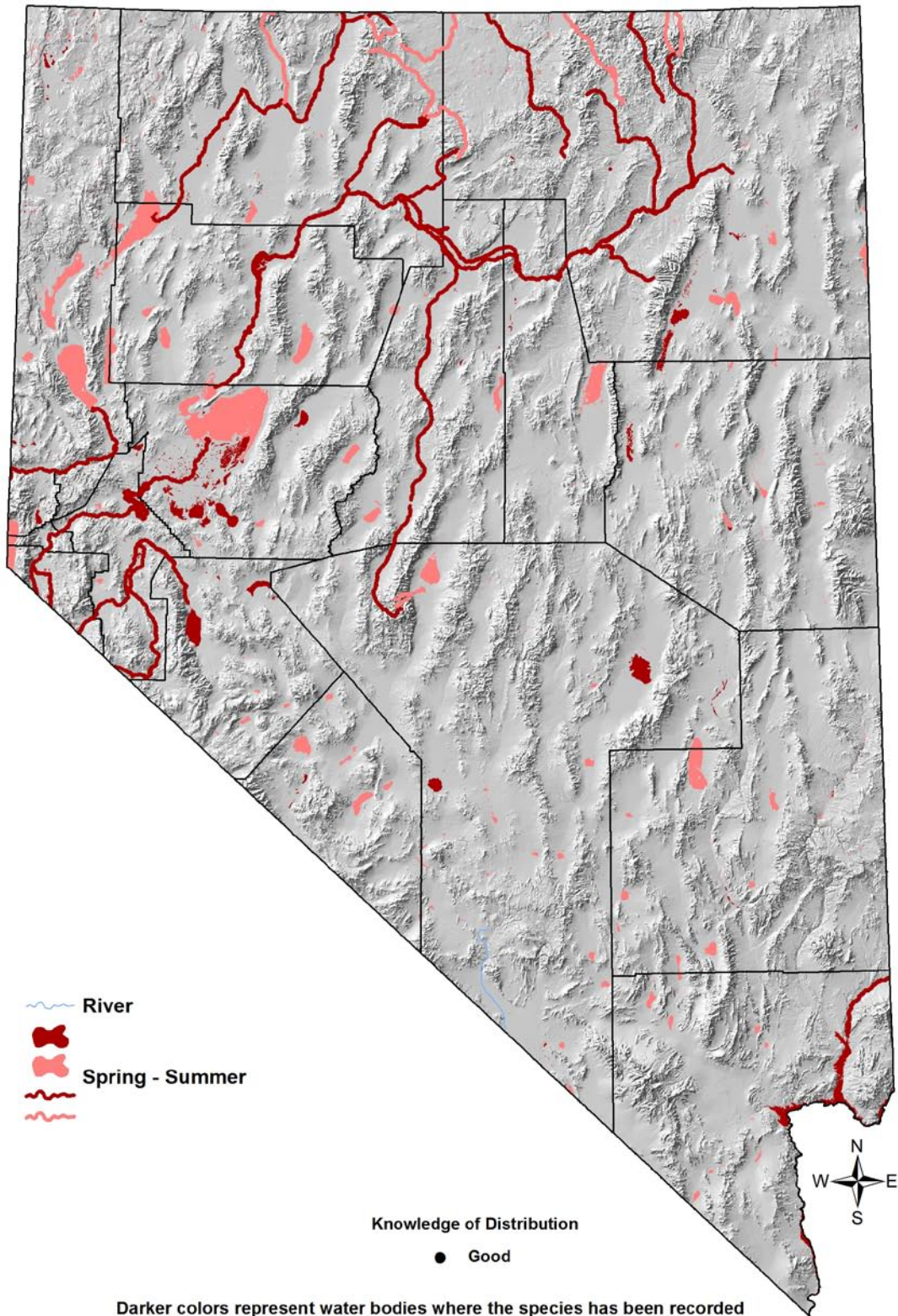
Priority Status	
Conservation Priority Species	
Species Concerns	
Habitat threats High stewardship responsibility (especially migration)	
Other Rankings	
Continental PIF	None
Audubon Watchlist	None
NV Natural Heritage	S5b
USFWS	Migratory Bird
BLM	None
USFS	None
NDOW	Conservation Priority, Gamebird
Pacific Flyway Council	Medium
Trends	
Historical ◦	Unknown
Recent ◦	Probably stable <sup>6, 7</sup>
Population Size Estimates	
Nevada ◦	> 10,000 (breeding) <sup>4</sup>
Global •	~ 300,000 <sup>1, 5, 8</sup>
Percent of Global	> 3 %
Population Objective	
Maintain / Increase <sup>E0</sup>	
Monitoring Coverage	
Source	NDOW aerial counts, NWR and WMA counts, NV Aquatic Bird Count
Coverage in NV	Good
Key Conservation Areas	
Protection	Ruby Valley, Lahontan Valley, Ash Meadows NWR, Lake Mead, Key-Pittman WMA
Restoration	Degraded marshes

## Natural History Profile

Seasonal Presence in Nevada	
Spring – Summer Fall (migration, March-April peak) Spring (migration, August-September peak)	
Known Breeding Dates in Nevada	
May – August <sup>2</sup>	
Nest and Nesting Habits	
Nest Placement	Near shoreline or over water in dense vegetation < 60 cm [23 in] tall <sup>1</sup>
Site Fidelity	Moderate to high for breeding site <sup>1</sup>
Other	Multiple nests, re-nesting, moves eggs <sup>1</sup>
Food Habits	
Basic	Dabbler
Primary Diet	Aquatic vegetation, aquatic invertebrates, zooplankton <sup>1</sup>
Secondary Diet	N/A

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Darker colors represent water bodies where the species has been recorded within the past 12 years. Lighter colors represent water bodies where the species could potentially occur. Smaller water bodies may be difficult to visualize on the map.

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## Overview

The Cinnamon Teal is one of Nevada's most common nesting ducks, but at the continental scale it is one of least abundant dabbling ducks of North America.<sup>1</sup> Consequently, Nevada has a substantial stewardship responsibility for this species, especially during migration, when the number of Cinnamon Teals in Nevada swells markedly, probably exceeding 100,000 birds.<sup>3</sup> Thus, many of the areas delineated in the map above as "Spring – Summer" range may be equally, or more, important as migratory habitat. Some Cinnamon Teals are present in southern and western Nevada during the winter months ([www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org)), but it is not clear whether these birds are stragglers, or instead representative of a real, if small, overwintering presence.

Much of the Cinnamon Teal's continental breeding range lies outside of major waterfowl survey areas, so population size estimates are somewhat conjectural. Survey coverage in Nevada, however, is relatively good, and current management efforts appear to be successful in maintaining stable populations. As with other waterfowl, population trends are closely monitored and harvest limits adjusted as needed by NDOW and Pacific Flyway Council.

## Abundance and Occupancy by Habitat

No information

## Nevada-Specific Studies and Analyses

No information

## Main Threats and Challenges

### Habitat and Other Threats

- Loss and degradation of marsh, open water, and ephemeral wetland habitat due to water diversions, declines in water quality, or development<sup>1</sup>
- Although many Cinnamon Teal use managed wetlands, many also use smaller wetlands on private lands
- Susceptible to botulism type C, especially in shallow Great Basin wetlands<sup>1</sup>

### Research, Planning, and Monitoring Challenges

- None identified

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## Conservation Strategies

### Established Strategies

- Annual harvest rates are set by NDOW in consultation with the Pacific Flyway Council

### Habitat Strategies

- Marsh (p. Hab-9-1) and Open Water (p. hab-15-1) habitat conservation strategies benefit this species.
- Manage for steady water levels during breeding period (1 May – 1 July)
- Preserve wide bands of emergent vegetation and wet meadow buffers around nesting wetlands

### Research, Planning, and Monitoring Strategies

- Continue current monitoring programs

### Public Outreach Strategies

- Work with private landowners to promote conservation of small private ponds and wetlands used by Cinnamon Teals

References: <sup>1</sup>Gammonley (1996); <sup>2</sup>GBBO unpublished Atlas data; <sup>3</sup>Kadlec and Smith (1989); <sup>4</sup>Nevada Wildlife Action Plan Team (2006); <sup>5</sup>Rich et al. (2004); <sup>6</sup>Sauer et al. (2008); <sup>7</sup>USFWS (1998); <sup>E0</sup>Expert opinion