

51-23. MAGIC RESERVOIR (IBA)

Boundaries and ownership:

Boundaries: Historical shoreline of the reservoir (includes numerous acres that have been dry in recent years, but support breeding colonies of gulls, waterfowl, and shorebirds).

Ownership: Bureau of Land Management, Private

Focal species using the site and timing of use:

During the breeding season, waterfowl (Canada Goose, Mallard, Common Merganser), waterbirds (Great Blue Heron, California Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Caspian Tern), and shorebirds (Killdeer, American Avocet, Long-billed Curlew, Spotted Sandpiper, Willet) nest here. Common Loon, Western and Clark's Grebes are also seen during the summer, but are not known to breed.

During migration, greater than 2,000 waterfowl (Trumpeter and Tundra Swan, Canada Goose, Ross' Goose, Mallard, Gadwall, Northern Pintail, American Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Cinnamon Teal, Blue-winged Teal, Green-winged Teal, Canvasback, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Surf and White-winged Scoter, Common and Barrow's Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Ruddy Duck), numerous waterbirds (Common Loon, Yellow-billed and Pacific Loons, Horned Grebe, Red-necked Grebe, Eared Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, Western Grebe, Clark's Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Sandhill Crane, White-faced Ibis, American Coot, California and Ring-billed Gull, Black Tern, Bonaparte's Gull, Forster's Tern, Caspian Tern), and approximately 100+ shorebirds (Killdeer, American Avocet, Black-necked Stilt, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Willet, Spotted Sandpiper, Long-billed Curlew, Western Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher, Wilson's Snipe, Wilson's and Red-Necked Phalarope) are here.

During the winter months, only Canada Geese and Mallards remain on the reservoir.

Colonies: California Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Caspian Tern (~2,000 pairs total)

Location of type 1 and 2 habitat within the site:

Functional Group	Type 1 Habitat	Type 2 Habitat
waterbirds	breeding colonies, open water	none
large waders	shallow shoreline water, emerging mudflats	rest of shoreline
waterfowl	open water, edges during breeding season	none
shorebirds	emerging mudflats and sand loams around entire reservoir during breeding/summer season, mudflats at NW and NE used regularly during spring/fall migration	rest of shoreline
gulls and terns	breeding colonies on southwest end, sandy loams during Sphinx moth hatching, all areas	none

Access to the type 1 and 2 habitat and visibility of the birds:

Reservoir is open to the public and is easily accessed from the west side of the reservoir either by vehicle, foot, or by boat (late spring/summer). Birds can be viewed from several places along the northwest end of the reservoir, all along the west side (vehicle may be driven the entire length), and on the sandy loam of the west side. The south end of the reservoir can be viewed easily from the dam. An observer should be able to survey the entire reservoir from the west side, although there are a few viewing areas on the northeast side if necessary. Shorebirds are best observed in late summer and early fall on both sides of north end of the reservoir as the mud flats grow larger. A scope is necessary for

most of the reservoir, although birds close to the edge may be seen with binoculars. Visibility is very good for all species throughout the reservoir.

Conservation issues:

- Drought issues are a problem.
- Recreational off-road use is potentially a serious problem, particularly for ground-nesting species on the sandy loam areas.
- Construction of roads on adjacent private land for housing development poses a potential threat to nesting Long-billed Curlews, and other ground-nesting birds.

Conservation measures taken, in progress, or proposed:

None at this time

Past and current surveys:

Caspian Tern banding by Al Larson

Potential survey methods

Description:

- a. Colony counts for nesting California Gull, Ring-billed Gull, and Caspian Tern. Complete counts are possible, walking transects with 5-6 observers.
- b. Census for waterfowl and other waterbirds on the open water by boat would be most accurate/effective. Census could also be done from shoreline with scopes. If surveys are conducted for early spring migrants (Feb-March), a snowmobile would be necessary.
- c. Nest searches for ground-nesting shorebirds and waterfowl on the sandy loams adjacent to the reservoir.
- d. Area searches for migrating shorebirds from observation points near Type 1 habitat.

Selection bias: N/A – the entire reservoir is visible and accessible.

Measurement error and bias: Observer error and bias is a potential issue, as identification of shorebirds can be difficult and identification skills likely will improve over time.

Needed pilot studies: None needed.

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