

## 7. Washoe Lake



### **Boundaries and Ownership**

Northern Little Lake Washoe separated from Washoe Lake by wetlands of the Scripps Wildlife Management Area. NDOT mitigation wetlands added to historical wetlands at south end of Lake Washoe. Lake levels and wetlands vary with winter precipitation in Carson Range. Washoe Lake and Little Washoe Lake - Nevada State Parks

Scripps Wildlife Management Area (SWMA) - NDOW

Mitigation Wetlands - NDOP, NDOT

### **Focal Species**

Clark's Grebe,  
Black-crowned Night-heron, Snowy Egret, Great Egret, White-faced Ibis, Great Blue Heron (all in rookeries in SWMA)  
Redhead, Ruddy Duck, Canvasback, Cinnamon Teal, Northern Pintail, Canada Goose  
Virginia Rail, Sora  
American Avocet, Black-necked Stilt, Willet, Wilson's Phalarope  
Black Tern

### **Location of Type I Habitat**

All open water and surrounding marshes possible Type I habitat (in normal and high water years).

### **Location of Type II Habitat**

Type II habitat uncertain, but may be extensive in drought years. Lake and wetlands shallow, so fluctuations in water availability may significantly affect distributions of Type I and II habitats.

### **Access and visibility of birds**

The site is about a ½ hour drive from Reno, and a 15 minute drive from Carson City. Access good from all sides. Visibility hindered only locally by vegetation.

### **Past and Current Surveys**

NDOW - N. Saake annuals air surveys 1967-2001  
J. Eidel - weekly survey of whole lake shore 1996-97  
None currently

### **Potential Survey Methods**

#### ***Description***

Fixed wing aircraft surveys and ground surveys probably the best methods. The lake is not big, nor vegetated or complex enough to warrant boat surveys. The majority of priority species probably best counted from the shoreline with spotting scopes.

#### ***Selection Bias***

None.

#### ***Measurement Error and Bias***

Some error may stem from shoreline surveys being hindered by vegetation density especially during breeding season. Observer variability may also play a role if many surveyors involved.

### **Needed Pilot Studies**

Probably not. J. Eidel's and annual waterfowl surveys should be used for planning.

**Contact with Local Knowledge:** Jim Eidel, Great Basin Bird Observatory.