

17. Artesia Lake



Boundaries and Ownership

Artesia Lake consists of 3000 acres of wetlands when water is available. The lake is separated west from east by a dike. It was dry from 1988-93 and has again been dry since 2001. The site consists of the Artesia Lake State WMA, which is surrounded by agricultural lands on the north, east, and southwest and by the Honker Hunt Club on the southwest. The west edge of the lake of the lake has salt desert scrub and spring-fed wetlands in the management area.

Focal Species

Clark's Grebe, Western Grebe, White-faced Ibis

Snowy Plover

Canada Goose, Cinnamon Teal, Redhead, Northern Pintail, and other ducks (as many as 30,000 ducks have been counted in high-water years)

Location of Type I and Type II Habitats

All open water and shallow shorelines. Distribution of habitats in this ephemeral lake very much dependent on snowpack and may be entirely dry in some years.

Access and Visibility

This site is about 1 hour from Carson City and 1 ½ hours from Reno. Access is allowed in all areas except in Honker Hunt Club and agricultural areas, where permission is needed. Visibility hindered only locally by vegetation.

Past and Current Surveys:

NDOW's annual mid-winter waterfowl surveys by aircraft 1967-2001
Opportunistic shorebird surveys by Larry Neel (NDOW)

Potential Survey Methods***Description***

Ground and aerial surveys probably best approach. The site is too complex and shallow in most areas to lend itself for boat surveys. It can be approached on ground fairly comprehensively, and most if not all birds can be seen from the dike.

Selection Bias

Ground surveys would only be biased by Honker Hunt Club and private lands if permission to access cannot be obtained.

Measurement Error and Bias

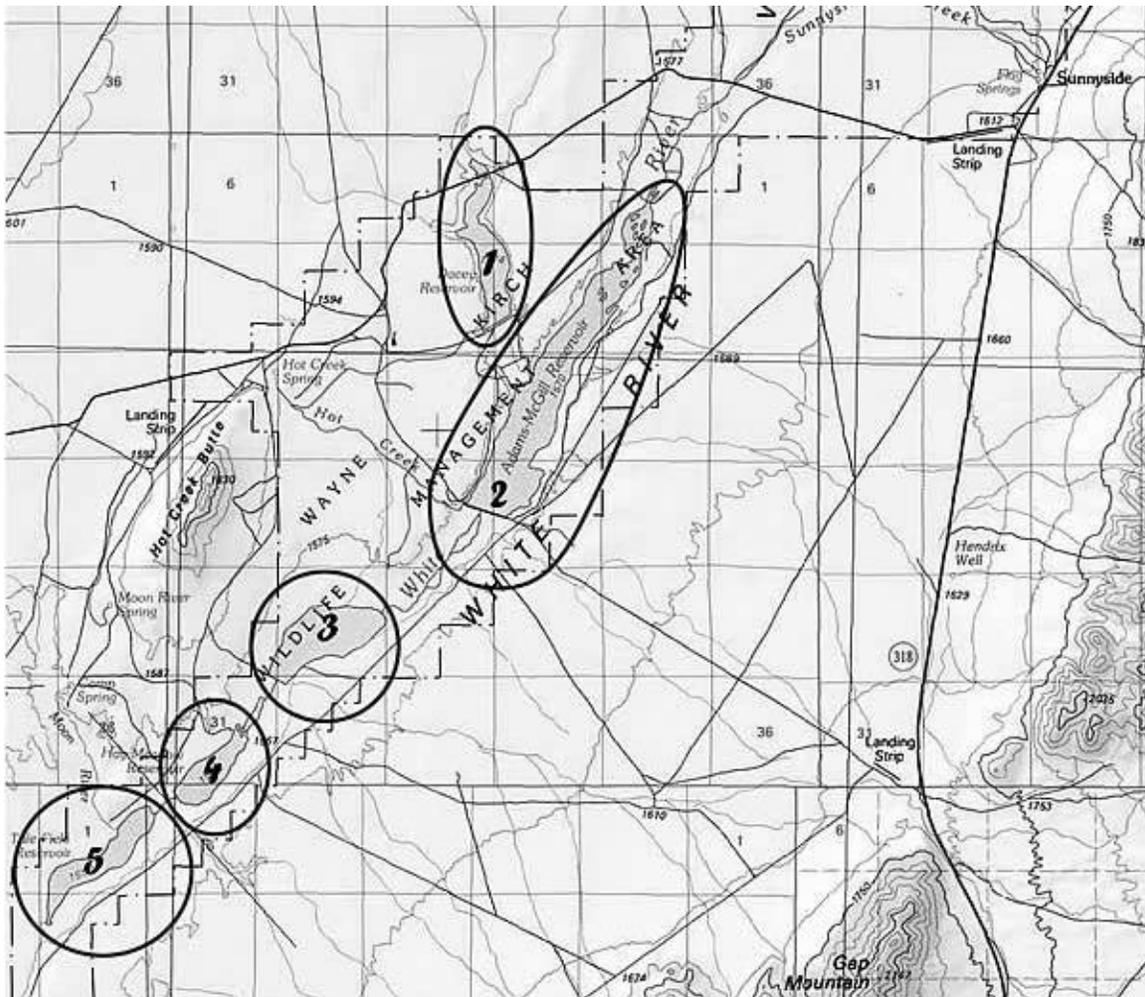
During the breeding season, secretive marsh birds may be difficult to survey. Generally, the site is fairly easily measured, but observer variability may be a factor in high-water years when bird abundance is high.

Needed Pilot Studies

None.

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

18. Kirch WMA



Boundaries and Ownership

West: T 5 N, R 60 E, S 2, 11, and 14
 South: T 5 N, R 60 E, S 13-14
 East: T 7 N, R 62 E, S 28 and 33
 North: T 7 N, R 61 E, S 25 and T 7 N, R 62 E, S 30

Of the 14,814 total acres, 9,221 acres are managed by NDOW and 5,593 acres by BLM.

Focal Species

Double-crested Cormorant	Virginia Rail
American Bittern	Snowy Egret
Great Egret	American Avocet
Great Blue Heron	Black-necked Stilt
Black-crowned Night Heron	Willet
White-faced Ibis	Greater Yellowlegs
Tundra Swan	Spotted Sandpiper
Ruddy Duck	Long-billed Curlew
Canvasback	Marbled Godwit