

Magnificent Hummingbird (*Eugenes fulgens*)

NMPIF level: Biodiversity Conservation Concern, Level 2 (BC2)

NMPIF assessment score: 13

National PIF status: No special status

New Mexico BCRs: 34, 35

Primary breeding habitat(s): Madrean Pine-Oak Woodland, Ponderosa Pine Forest

Other habitats used: Mixed Conifer Forest, Southwest Riparian

Summary of Concern

Magnificent Hummingbird is a species of highland Mexico and Central America, with a small breeding population extending into the isolated mountain ranges of southeast Arizona and southwest New Mexico. The small state population requires the maintenance of open woodland and forest habitat in the southwestern mountains.

Associated Species

Zone-tailed Hawk, Elegant Trogon (BC1), Acorn Woodpecker, Dusky-capped Flycatcher, Hutton's Vireo, Grace's Warbler (SC1), Painted Redstart (BC2), Hepatic Tanager

Distribution

Magnificent Hummingbird is a resident of highland areas from Panama north to central Mexico. Farther north, a migratory breeding population extends to northern Mexico and across the border into southern portions of New Mexico and Arizona.

In New Mexico, this species breeds regularly in the Animas, Peloncillo, Pinos Altos, and Mogollon ranges, less commonly as far north as the Magdalena Mountains, and as far east as the Sacramento Mountains and Guadalupe Mountains (Powers 1996, Parmeter et al. 2002).

Ecology and Habitat Requirements

Magnificent Hummingbirds occupy pine-oak and open ponderosa pine habitat in the southwest, sometimes extending to higher elevation mixed conifer forest. They also occur in mid- to upper-elevation riparian areas with Mexican alder, Arizona cypress, Arizona sycamore, Douglas-fir and Arizona walnut. This species often feeds in open and disturbed areas, where flower resources are more abundant. Nests are often located in or near canyon riparian habitat, high on horizontal branches or forks of maples, sycamores, or Douglas-fir. Magnificent Hummingbirds are present in southern New Mexico from May-September, with most nesting taking place in June-July (Powers 1996).

Conservation Status

Species Assessment

DISTRIBUTION	3
THREATS	3
GLOBAL POPULATION SIZE	3
LOCAL POPULATION TREND	3
IMPORTANCE OF NEW MEXICO TO BREEDING	1
COMBINED SCORE	13

Magnificent Hummingbird is a Biodiversity Conservation Concern, Level 2 species for New Mexico, with a total assessment score of 13. It receives moderate scores of 3 for breeding distribution, threats, population size, and population trend.

Population Size

PIF estimates a total species population of 2 million, less than 1% of which occurs in the United States. The size of the New Mexico population is unknown. Magnificent Hummingbird may be the most abundant hummingbird species in the Chiricahua Mountains in Arizona, but it is less numerous where present in New Mexico (Powers 1996).

Population Trend

This species is not sampled by BBS, and is difficult to census. No trend data are available.

Threats

Because the range of Magnificent Hummingbird in the United States is restricted to higher elevations of small isolated mountain ranges, forest fires can severely restrict habitat availability in the short term. Fire suppression that has resulted in unnaturally high tree densities makes habitat less favorable, and vulnerable to catastrophic fire. Habitat destruction in Mexico and Central America, where the majority of the species population resides, may have a stronger impact on populations (Powers 1996).

Management Issues and Recommendations

Management for Magnificent Hummingbird in New Mexico should focus on maintaining healthy pine-oak woodlands and open ponderosa pine forest in the southwestern mountains.

NMPIF Recommendations

- Manage pine-oak and ponderosa pine habitat to maintain an open forest structure and reduce risk of catastrophic fire, through the establishment of a more natural fire regime.
- Manage grazing as necessary to maintain quality of canyon riparian habitat used for nesting.

Species Conservation Objectives

NMPIF Objectives

- Maintain or increase the current breeding population.

Sources of Information

Parmeter, J., B. Neville, and D. Emkalns. 2002. New Mexico bird finding guide. New Mexico Ornithological Society, Albuquerque, NM.

Powers, D. R. 1996. Magnificent Hummingbird (*Eugenes fulgens*). In *The Birds of North America*, No. 221 (A. Poole and F. Gill, eds.). The Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, PA, and The American Ornithologists' Union, Washington, D.C.