

Lewis's Woodpecker



Image: Laure W. Neish



Image: NM True Website

Lewis's Woodpecker: Range

- Breeds in riparian areas from Belen north; Rio Grande and Rio Chama particularly important
- As mentioned in previous presentation, breeds in open ponderosa pine forests primarily from the Mogollon Rim north
- Winters throughout western and central New Mexico

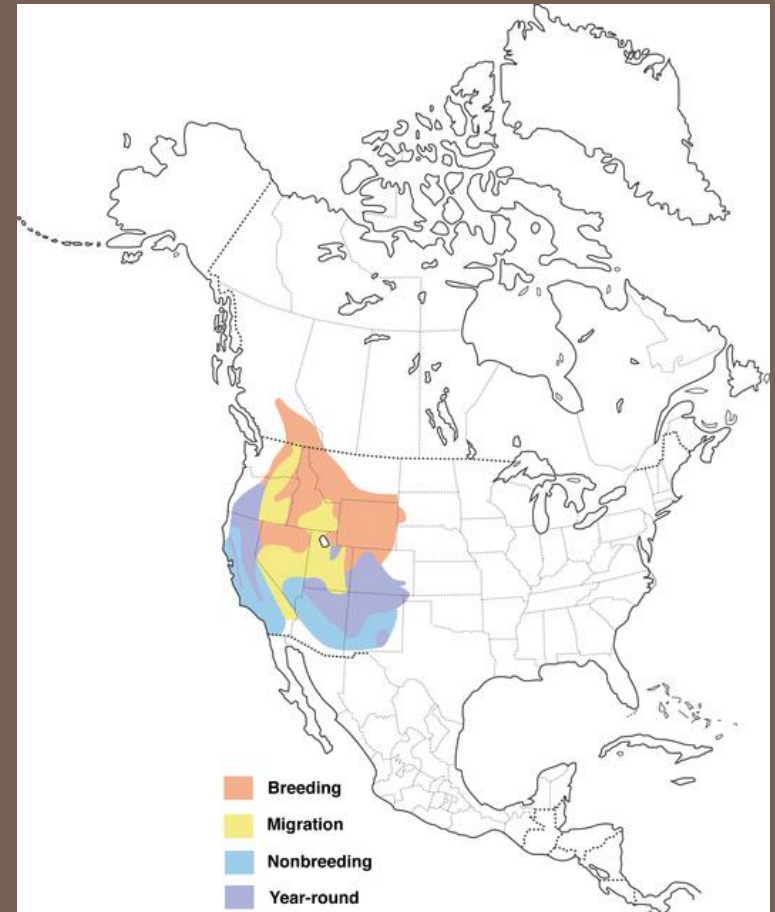


Image: Birds of North America Online

Lewis's Woodpecker: Population Estimates



Image: Glenn Bartley

- Partners in Flight population estimate: 69,000 individuals
- New Mexico is responsible for ~8.6% of the global population, according to Partners in Flight

Lewis's Woodpecker: Population Trend

- **Breeding Bird Survey Population Trends:**
 - **Rangewide:**
-3.29% per year since the 1960s
 - **New Mexico:**
-3.91% per year since the 1960s
 - **72% total population loss since the 1960s**
- **Caveat: data based on small sample sizes**

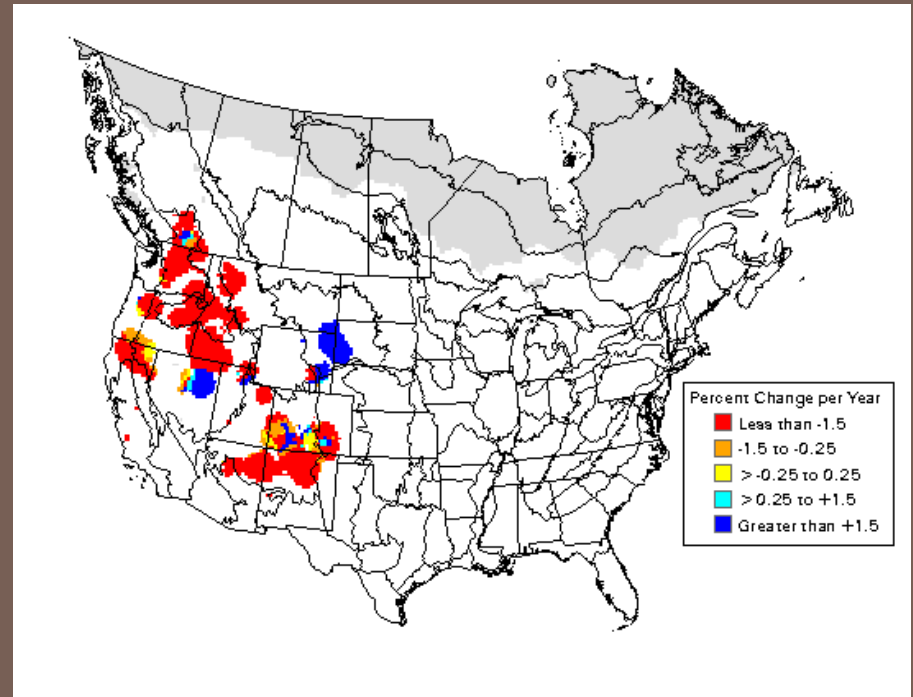


Image: USGS

Lewis's Woodpecker:

Threats



Image: Glenn Bartley

- Potential threats in riparian habitat include:
 - Removal of large cottonwood snags
 - Lack of cottonwood recruitment due to reduced overbank flooding
 - Removal of understory shrubs and dead, downed trees
 - Dense non-native vegetation

Lewis's Woodpecker:

Habitat Needs

- **Habitat needs in riparian areas:**
 - **Large cottonwood snags in breeding**
 - **Large trees in winter for food storage (inside bark crevices)**
 - **Moderate amount of understory shrubs for insect production**
 - **Downed trees for insect production**
 - **Oak woodlands and commercial orchards important in winter**
 - **May nest semi-colonially**



Image: Paul Bannick

Lewis's Woodpecker: Management Actions

- **Potential Management Actions:**
 - **Avoid removing large snags, downed wood, and native understory vegetation (many times removed for fire prevention)**
 - **Overbank flooding and cottonwood regeneration projects**
 - **Remove non-native vegetation and plant native vegetation (but only if area can support native vegetation, and after potential effects on Southwestern Willow Flycatcher have been evaluated)**



Image: NM True Website

Lewis's Woodpecker: Other Species That May Benefit



Image: Tom Vezo

+ All other
cavity-
nesting bird
species

Lewis's Woodpecker: Current and Needed Research

- No known current research in NM
- Monitoring to determine responses to habitat management



Image: Nature Pics

Questions???



Image: Paul Bannick