

Not R2 SS, consider for other Emphasis Species Lists

Recommendations and Evaluations

Common Name: Swainson's Hawk

Scientific Name: *Buteo swainsoni*

Recommendation: Not R2 SS, consider for other Emphasis Species Lists

Recommendation Rationale:

The Swainson's Hawk has a large breeding range in western and central North America, and winters mainly in southern South America. Numbers have declined in the western U.S. and about half of the former breeding range in California is now vacant. Widespread use of pesticides and rodenticides throughout the range have resulted in declines; recently experienced severe mortality associated with pesticide use in Argentina. The species remains common in some areas of the Great Plains. Inhabits open grassland and cultivated areas with scattered trees or with small clumps of trees or shrubs. Easily disturbed during nesting; often abandons nest if disturbed before the eggs hatch. Vertebrates (mainly mammals) dominate the diet during the breeding season; invertebrates (especially crickets and grasshoppers) are common food at other times and sometimes for nonbreeders in summer. While populations appear to be stable in R2, the species is vulnerable to management actions including habitat alteration, disturbance, and reduction of prey base. Therefore, we recommend that this species be considered for Other Emphasis Species lists, to provide appropriate management to maintain its continued persistence and reproductive success.

Revised by Nancy Warren, August 12, 2003

UPDATE (Peter McDonald, April 2015): The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service identified the Swainson's Hawk as a "Bird of Conservation Concern" (2008) for several BCRs that are represented or adjacent to Region 2 lands. The IUCN Red List identifies the species as "Least Concern," due to its extremely large range, population trend appears to be stable, and the population size is very large, The Swainson's Hawk is not on the RED or YELLOW watch lists in the 2014 State of the Birds report from the American Bird Conservancy. The NatureServe global ranking is G5, Secure, though the status has not been reviewed since 1996 according to their webpage. Kansas identifies it as a Tier I Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Colorado identifies the bird in its draft wildlife action plan update (2015) as a Tier 2 SGCN, of interest but lesser urgency and priority than a Tier 1 species. Nebraska identifies it as a Tier II species, which are not at-risk from a global or national perspective but are rare or imperiled within Nebraska. Swainson's Hawk is not identified as a SGCN in South Dakota or Wyoming. Overall, the basic summary and rationale in 2003 appears to continue to apply. There is no obvious substantial new information since 2003 that suggests the Swainson's Hawk now warrants addition to the Regional Forester's sensitive species list. Applicable R2 forests should continue to consider it for other

emphasis and particularly recognizing the variability in state rankings (more concern in some states than others).

Birds of Conservation Concern (2008):

<http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/NewReportsPublications/SpecialTopics/BCC2008/BC2008.pdf>

IUCN Red List (accessed 4/27/15): <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/22705156/0>

State of the Birds (2014): <http://www.stateofthebirds.org/>

Natureserve profile (accessed 4/27/15):

<http://explorer.natureserve.org/servlet/NatureServe?searchName=Vireo+bellii>

Wyoming state wildlife action plan (accessed 4/24/15):

https://wgfd.wyo.gov/web2011/Departments/Wildlife/pdfs/SWAP_2010_FULL_OCT0003090.pdf

Nebraska state wildlife action plan (accessed 4/27/15):

<http://outdoornebraska.ne.gov/wildlife/programs/legacy/review.asp>

South Dakota state wildlife action plan:

<http://gfp.sd.gov/wildlife/management/plans/species-list.aspx>

Kansas state wildlife action plan (accessed 4/27/15):

<http://www.teaming.com/sites/default/files/Kansas%20Wildlife%20Action%20Plan.pdf>