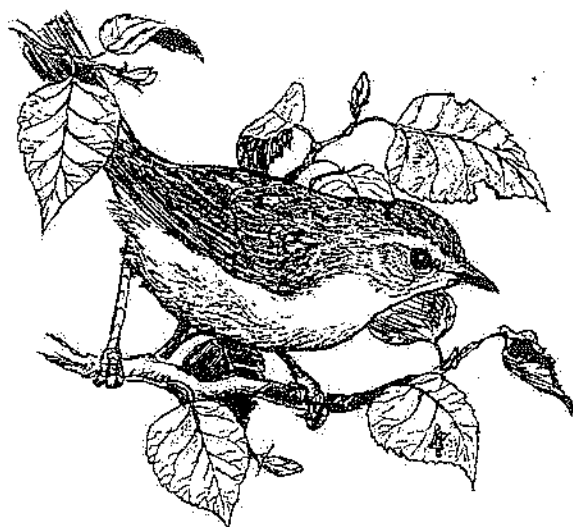


Neotropical Migrant Landbirds in the Northern Rockies and Great Plains



United States
Department of Agriculture

Forest
Service

Northern Region



A Handbook for
Conservation
and Management

by

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CASSIN'S FINCH

Carpodacus cassinii
Fringillidae

Summer, Permanent, or Winter Resident

WINTERING AREA: 5

HABITAT REQUIREMENTS: Drier montane coniferous forests and woodlands, especially of ponderosa pine. Nests in coniferous trees.

FEEDING: Dines primarily on seeds of conifer trees, also takes insects, buds and berries. Forages on the ground and by gleaning from foliage in trees and shrubs.

STATUS AND MANAGEMENT: Numbers have been highly erratic in Idaho but appear to be increasing

there; numbers have been more stable in Montana but appear to be declining slightly. In the West as a whole, numbers show a small but significant increasing trend. Prefers older rotation-age stands (Mannan and Maslow, 1984) and harvest units (Moore, 1992) over old growth. Cassin's Finch is a nomadic, semi-colonial breeder with resultant fluctuations in local population numbers.

FURTHER READING: Hejl et al., 1988; Mewaldt and King, 1985; Samson, 1976.

