

SOUTHWESTERN WILLOW FLYCATCHER

(EMPIDONAX TRAILLII EXTIMUS)

Navajo/Federal Statuses: NESL G2 / listed endangered 27 FEB 1995 (60FR:10694) with Critical Habitat proposed 12 NOV 2004 (69FR:60705); MBTA.

Distribution: Breeding range includes AZ, NM, southwestern CO, and southern portions of CA, NV, and UT. Breeding may occur at any elevation (except possibly above 2600 m) throughout Navajo Nation where appropriate habitat exists. Breeding is known to occur along the San Juan and Colorado Rivers. Migrant flycatchers have been found in less dense or abundant riparian habitat across Navajo Nation.

Habitat: Nesting is in dense riparian vegetation near surface water or saturated soil; either in monotypic or mixed stands of native (e.g. willow) and/or exotic (e.g. tamarisk or Russian olive) species, with or without an over-story. Vegetation is typically ≥ 3 m high, dense (i.e. a thicket) with a closed canopy, although the understory may be dispersed or clumped (especially when tamarisk or Russian olive). See Sogge *et.al.* 1997 for details. Nesting habitat greatly varies in size and shape, may be as small as 0.8 ha, but does not include linear riparian zones < 10 m wide. Migrant flycatchers may use riparian habitats unsuitable for breeding and non-riparian areas.

Similar Species: Other *Empidonax* spp.; *extimus* ssp. nests in riparian habitat and has distinct "fitz-bew" song. Western Wood Pewee lacks white eye-ring.

Phenology:

- l.APR-m.JUN: arrival to breeding areas (male may arrive 1-2 weeks before female)
- m.MAY-l.JUN: nest building (2nd attempts into m.JUL usually within 20 m of 1st)
- e.JUN-l.JUN: egg laying
- l.JUN-l.AUG: fledging (may use non-riparian habitats near breeding area)
- \geq m.SEP: adults and young depart breeding area

Formal Survey Protocol: ≥ 5 surveys, one in each period of 15-31 MAY and 1-21 JUN, and ≥ 3 surveys during 22 JUN-17 JUL, with ≥ 5 days between surveys. Federal permit required.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. 2000. Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Protocol Revision. replaces: Sogge M.K., R.M. Marshall, S.J. Sferra, & T.J. Tibbitts. 1997. [A southwestern willow flycatcher natural history summary and survey protocol](#). National Park Service Cooperative Park Studies Unit/USGS Colorado Plateau Research Station-Northern Arizona University. NRTR-97/12.

Avoidance: No activity within 0.4 km ($\frac{1}{4}$ mi) of potential habitat if no survey information; or within 0.4 km of active nest from 1 MAY-31 AUG; buffer will likely be less depending on activity type and noise level if nest is known; no alteration of suitable habitat year-round within 0.4 km of habitat patches used for breeding, or potential habitat until surveyed. No activity within migratory habitat from 1 MAY-15 JUN.

References: [Recovery Plan - 2002](#)

- Hubbard, J.P. 1987. The status of the willow flycatcher in New Mexico. Endangered Species Program, New Mexico Dept. Game & Fish, Santa Fe. 29pp.
- Sedgwick, J.A. 2000. Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*). In The Birds of North America, No.533 (A.Poole and F.Gill, eds.). The Birds of North America, Inc., Philadelphia, PA. (description p.2)
- Sferra, S.J., T.E. Corman, C.E. Paradzick, J.W. Rourke, J.A. Spencer & M.W. Sumner. 1997. Arizona Partners in Flight southwestern willow flycatcher survey: 1993-1996 summary report. Technical Report 113. Arizona Game and Fish Dept., Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program. Phoenix.