

Patagonia Mountains

IBA web pages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://aziba.org/?page_id=2271 • https://www.audubon.org/important-bird-areas/patagonia-mountains
Priority	State
Qualifying Criteria	<p>D1: Species of Conservation Concern (Eastern “Azure” Bluebird, Montezuma Quail, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Arizona Woodpecker, Canyon Towhee, “Gould’s” Wild Turkey, Elegant Trogon, Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Gray Hawk, Northern “Apache” Goshawk, Peregrine Falcon, Mexican Spotted Owl, Whiskered Screech-Owl, Elf Owl, Mexican Whip-poor-will, Common Nighthawk, Olive Warbler, Lucy’s Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Dusky-capped Flycatcher, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, Virginia’s Warbler, Grace’s Warbler, MacGillivray’s Warbler, Anna’s Hummingbird, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Rufous Hummingbird, Lazuli Bunting, Painted Bunting, Western Tanager, Lesser Goldfinch)</p> <p>D3: Species in rare/unique habitat (Madrean Occidental Sky Island)</p>
IBA Polygon Center Point (Latitude, Longitude)	31.43° N, 110.73° W
Size	18,120 acres
County	Santa Cruz
Local Communities	Patagonia, Sonoita
Description	<p>The Patagonia Mountains support an extensive oak-juniper biome along with many canyons and drainages lined with sycamores and other riparian vegetation. As you move higher in elevation, the vegetation becomes more dominated by pine-oak woodlands. These mountains exhibit “sky island” properties - a high elevation area (in this case primarily oak and oak-juniper) surrounded by grasslands and desert.</p> <p>This is an excellent area for recreation such as camping and birding and is increasing in popularity among birders as more information on the excellent birds and habitats to be found here becomes better known.</p> <p>This area was historically a productive mining area and numerous resulting mine shafts are still present and in some cases provide microhabitats for native bats. The Patagonia Mountains are now primarily used for cattle grazing and recreation, though mining still has a presence with the proposed Wildcat Mine which is causing</p>

	much controversy in the area. The area is used 5% for mining, 40% grazing and 55% recreation.
Mission/Goals	To conserve and protect a unique example of a Madrean Occidental sky island and the populations of special status avian species that depend on it.
Current Habitat Conservation, Planning, and Management Activities	There are some private properties and ranches dotted throughout this National Forest land and private landowners we have spoken with are in support of the area becoming an IBA. Going forward, IBA program coordinators will seek their approval to officially include their land in the IBA.
Land Cover Type ¹ (%) and Associated Priority ² Birds ¹ Southwest Regional Gap Analysis modified to align with ABBA/SWAP habitat types ² AGFD SGCN and IBA Qualifying Species	<p>36.50 Mexican Evergreen Woodland (<i>Arizona Woodpecker</i>, “<i>Gould’s</i>” <i>Wild Turkey</i>, <i>Elegant Trogon</i>, <i>Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo</i>, <i>Gray Hawk</i>, <i>Mexican Spotted Owl</i>, <i>Whiskered Screech-Owl</i>, <i>Lucy’s Warbler</i>, <i>Dusky-capped Flycatcher</i>, <i>Anna’s Hummingbird</i>, <i>Black-chinned Hummingbird</i>, <i>Rufous Hummingbird</i>, <i>Lazuli Bunting</i>, <i>Painted Bunting</i>, <i>Western Tanager</i>, <i>Lesser Goldfinch</i>)</p> <p>23.63 Semiarid/Sonoran Savannah Grassland (<i>Eastern “Azure” Bluebird</i>, <i>Montezuma Quail</i>, <i>Rufous-crowned Sparrow</i>, <i>Canyon Towhee</i>, “<i>Gould’s</i>” <i>Wild Turkey</i>, <i>Peregrine Falcon</i>, <i>Common Nighthawk</i>)</p> <p>17.40 Chihuahuan Desertscrub (<i>Canyon Towhee</i>, <i>Peregrine Falcon</i>, <i>Common Nighthawk</i>)</p> <p>13.74 Pinyon Pine-Juniper Woodland (“<i>Gould’s</i>” <i>Wild Turkey</i>, <i>Common Nighthawk</i>)</p> <p>5.60 Interior Chaparral (<i>Canyon Towhee</i>, <i>Peregrine Falcon</i>, <i>Common Nighthawk</i>, <i>Black-throated Gray Warbler</i>)</p> <p>1.59 Rock (<i>Peregrine Falcon</i>)</p> <p>1.17 Madrean Pine-Oak Woodland (“<i>Gould’s</i>” <i>Wild Turkey</i>, <i>Elegant Trogon</i>, <i>Northern “Apache” Goshawk</i>, <i>Mexican Spotted Owl</i>, <i>Mexican Whip-poor-will</i>, <i>Olive Warbler</i>, <i>Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher</i>, <i>Virginia’s Warbler</i>, <i>Grace’s Warbler</i>, <i>Lazuli Bunting</i>, <i>Painted Bunting</i>, <i>Western Tanager</i>, <i>Lesser Goldfinch</i>)</p> <p>0.26 Other (Wash, Riparian, Mesquite, Sonoran Desertscrub: Lower Colorado River) (<i>Canyon Towhee</i>, “<i>Gould’s</i>” <i>Wild Turkey</i>, <i>Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo</i>, <i>Gray Hawk</i>, <i>Whiskered Screech-Owl</i>, <i>Elf Owl</i>, <i>Lucy’s Warbler</i>, <i>Dusky-capped Flycatcher</i>, <i>Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher</i>, <i>MacGillivray’s Warbler</i>, <i>Anna’s Hummingbird</i>, <i>Black-chinned Hummingbird</i>, <i>Rufous Hummingbird</i>)</p>
Related Habitat Accounts*	Madrean Pine-Oak Low Grasslands

	Pinyon Juniper
Biological Description	<p>The Patagonia Mountains provide habitat for Madrean Occidental sky island breeding and resident birds as well as acting as an important stopover point for migrants. The extensive oak habitat of this IBA distinguishes it from other nearby Sky Islands that usually contain a limited band of oak habitat before transitioning into different, higher elevation habitat. This extensive oak habitat with microhabitats including drainages and rocky slopes makes this an excellent habitat for many species.</p>
Focal Bird Species	<p><u>IBA Qualifying Species</u></p> <p><u>State:</u> Eastern “Azure” Bluebird, Montezuma Quail, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Arizona Woodpecker, Canyon Towhee, “Gould’s” Wild Turkey, Elegant Trogon, Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Gray Hawk, Northern “Apache” Goshawk, Peregrine Falcon, Mexican Spotted Owl, Whiskered Screech-Owl, Elf Owl, Mexican Whip-poor-will, Common Nighthawk, Olive Warbler, Lucy’s Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Dusky-capped Flycatcher, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, Virginia’s Warbler, Grace’s Warbler, MacGillivray’s Warbler, Anna’s Hummingbird, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Rufous Hummingbird, Lazuli Bunting, Painted Bunting, Western Tanager, Lesser Goldfinch</p> <p><u>AGFD Species of Greatest Conservation Need</u></p> <p><u>Tier IA:</u> Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Peregrine Falcon, Mexican Spotted Owl</p> <p><u>Tier IB:</u> Northern “Apache” Goshawk, Common Nighthawk, “Gould’s” Wild Turkey, Whiskered Screech Owl, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, MacGillivray’s Warbler, Rufous-winged Sparrow, Arizona Woodpecker, Eastern “Azure” Bluebird, Elegant Trogon)</p> <p><u>Federal Threatened or Endangered Species</u></p> <p>Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Mexican Spotted Owl</p> <p><u>USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern</u></p> <p>National – Peregrine Falcon, Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Elf Owl, Mexican Spotted Owl, Arizona Woodpecker, Virginia’s Warbler, Lucy’s Warbler, Grace’s Warbler, Rufous-winged Sparrow, Painted Bunting</p>

	USFWS Region – Peregrine Falcon, Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Elf Owl, Olive Warbler, Lucy’s Warbler, Grace’s Warbler, Rufous-winged Sparrow, Painted Bunting
NABCI Bird Conservation Region	34: Sierra Madre Occidental
Ownership	Coronado National Forest & Private (included by permission only)
Conservation Land Status**	National Forest
Human Population Density	Rural
Legislative District(s)	Congressional District 3 and State Legislative District 2
NRCS Major Land Resource Area	41: Southeastern Arizona Basin and Range
Visitation, main access, and permits needed	From Tucson: Go east on I-10 and take exit 281 to Highway 83. Go 25 miles south on Highway 83 to the junction of Highway 82 and 83 in Sonoita, go left (heading west) and go 12 miles to the town of Patagonia (watch those speed limits entering town!). Make a left at the town park and then another left to head northeast on McKeown Avenue. Keep going and this becomes Harshaw Road which heads into the Patagonia Mountains. Birding is good all along the road and many of the side roads (marked with brown Forest Service numbered signs) are suitable for walking. To return, simply turn around and drive back to Patagonia.

*References available written narratives (located on the SJV website) for general habitat types occurring within the IBA.

**Identifies whether the IBA or portions of the IBA have a special land management designation such as: wilderness, primitive area, wildlife area, refuge, park, monument, designated conservation area, conservation easement, or other similar designation

IBA Activities:

Issue or Activity	Priority	Description	Actions
CBC	M	Patagonia Circle	Extract IBA data from CBC
AZ IBA Trogon Surveys	H	Annual breeding bird surveys	TAS lead
IBA Signage	M	Install signs identifying the site as an IBA	Partial-TAS lead
IBA Dedication	M	A formal recognition event	Pending-TAS lead

Partners:

Name	Role(s)	Contact Information	Actions
Coronado National Forest	Land managers	Nogales Ranger District 303 Old Tucson Road (520) 281-2296 http://www.fs.usda.gov/coronado/	Review and approve mini-conservation plan
Tucson Audubon Society	IBA Steward	300 E University Blvd # 120, Tucson, AZ 85705 (520) 629-0510 tucsonaudubon.org/	Advocacy and bird surveys

Conservation Targets:

These are species, communities, or ecological systems that represent and encompass the full array of biodiversity found in this IBA.

Conservation Target	Current Condition
Semi-arid Grassland Birds	Good
Desert Scrub Birds	Very Good
Madrean Oak Woodland Birds	Very Good

Conservation Challenges:

Conservation challenges are primarily human activities that immediately affect what we are trying to conserve. Through a Miradi process, it was found that mining and fire pose the greatest threats to birds within this IBA.

Challenges	Semi-arid Grassland Birds	Desert Scrub Birds	Madrean Oak Woodland Birds	Summary Rating
Woody Plant Invasion	Medium	Low	Medium	Medium
Grazing	Medium	Low	Low	Low
Border Activities	Medium	Low	Medium	Medium
Mining Pollution	Low	High	High	High

Challenges	Semi-arid Grassland Birds	Desert Scrub Birds	Madrean Oak Woodland Birds	Summary Rating
Wild Fire	Medium	Medium	High	Medium
Summary Ratings:	Medium	Low	Medium	Medium

Patagonia Mountains			Severity (1-3)	Scope (1-3)	Permanence (2-4)	Immediacy (Optional 1-2)
Threats on National Database						
Natural events	Fire	9	3	3	3	1
Extraction industry	Gold & Silver Mining	9	3	3	2	
Forest Grazing	Overgrazing by Livestock	3	1	1	1	
Infrastructure	Border activities	5	1	2	2	
Invasive Species	Invasive plants	7	1	2	4	