

Joshua Tree

IBA web pages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.audubon.org/important-bird-areas/joshua-tree • http://aziba.org/?page_id=2278
Priority	Global
Qualifying Criteria	<p>A1: Species of Conservation Concern <i>Bendire's Thrasher</i></p> <p>D1: Species of Conservation Concern <i>Bendire's Thrasher, Elf Owl, Costa's Hummingbird, Gila Woodpecker, Gilded Flicker, Loggerhead Shrike, Juniper Titmouse, Lucy's Warbler, Canyon Towhee, Brewer's Sparrow</i></p> <p>D3: Species in rare/unique habitat <i>Joshua Tree Community</i></p>
IBA Polygon Center Point (Latitude, Longitude)	34.59° N, 113.80° W
Size	136, 447 acres
County	Mohave
Local Communities	Wikieup
Description	<p>This area is essentially unknown to birders and other wildlife viewers but consists of excellent habitat and a unique ecotone. As a gradient overlap zone where Sonoran Desert and Mohave Desert meet, there are many interesting mixes of plants such as Joshua Trees alongside Saguaros. This is also where three different Bird Conservation Regions meet (BCR 16, 33, and 34) and as a result all three are considered in this IBA.</p> <p>This area was used in the past for artillery practice for the US military. Today, it is sometimes used as a scenic shortcut to Kingman, AZ but is primarily used for grazing of cattle. This area is also known as an off-road vehicle and ATV recreation area. Roughly ninety percent of the area is used for cattle grazing and ten percent is used for recreation.</p>
Mission/Goals	To conserve and protect a unique example of mixed Mohave/Sonoran desert habitat and the populations of special status avian species that depend on it.
Current Habitat Conservation, Planning, and Management Activities	In 2012, thirty-two point counts conducted in the style of the Breeding Bird Survey, but one month earlier, yielded 13 detections of Bendire's thrashers. These results led to more exploration of the area and a conclusion that the habitat may be ideal for this species. A formal IBA expedition with Arizona Field Ornithologists was planned for 2013. During this expedition, Bendire's Thrasher-specific call back

	<p>surveys were conducted along 12 routes. Nocturnal callback surveys were also conducted as a part of this effort.</p> <p>During the field season 2017, 2018, 2022 in AZ, the JTIBA area was included in the regional survey effort organized by the Desert Thrasher Working Group (AZ survey effort lead by AZGFD). A total of 33 plots were surveyed using an area search method. Results from the effort can be found at https://borderlandsbirds.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Ammon-et-al-2020-Comprehensive-report-of-region-wide-thrasher-surveys-in-2017-2018-Final-3-5-21.pdf</p> <p>Beginning in March of 2022, JTIBA area was included for a project to affix GPS tags to Bendire’s Thrashers. The purpose of this project is to gain knowledge on the bird’s migratory movement and winter habitat location. There are currently 15 tags deployed on birds in the JTIBA. Plans for recapture to recover data are scheduled for March and April of 2023. Results are pending.</p>
<p>Land Cover Type¹ (%) and Associated Priority² Birds</p> <p>¹Southwest Regional Gap Analysis modified to align with ABBA/SWAP habitat types</p> <p>²AGFD SGCN and IBA Qualifying Species</p>	<p>50.60 Mohave Desertscrub (<i>Bendire’s Thrasher, Costa’s Hummingbird, Gila Woodpecker, Loggerhead Shrike, Lucy’s Warbler, Canyon Towhee, Brewer’s Sparrow</i>)</p> <p>20.19 Sonoran Desertscrub: Uplands (<i>Bendire’s Thrasher, Elf Owl, Costa’s Hummingbird, Gila Woodpecker, Gilded Flicker, Loggerhead Shrike, Lucy’s Warbler, Canyon Towhee, Brewer’s Sparrow</i>)</p> <p>13.18 Sonoran/Mohave Desertscrub (<i>Bendire’s Thrasher, Elf Owl, Costa’s Hummingbird, Gila Woodpecker, Gilded Flicker, Loggerhead Shrike, Lucy’s Warbler, Canyon Towhee, Brewer’s Sparrow</i>)</p> <p>6.80 Interior Chaparral</p> <p>6.43 Pinyon Pine-Juniper Woodland (<i>Juniper Titmouse</i>)</p> <p>2.09 Wash</p> <p>0.71 Semiarid/Sonoran Savannah Grassland (<i>Bendire’s Thrasher, Gila Woodpecker, Gilded Flicker, Loggerhead Shrike, Canyon Towhee, Brewer’s Sparrow</i>)</p>
<p>Related Habitat Accounts*</p>	<p>Sonoran Desert Pinyon Juniper</p>
<p>Biological Description</p>	<p>This area occurs on a fascinating ecotone of Mohave Desert and Sonoran Desert. The habitat is unlike any other in the state with unique associations of both plants and wildlife from the Mohave and Sonoran Deserts, the Sierra Madre, and the Colorado Plateau. The dominant plant species are Joshua Tree, Saguaro, California Juniper,</p>

	<p>Creosote, and many wildflowers and small cacti.</p> <p>There are 10 species of conservation status found in this proposed IBA out of 78 total species of bird recorded on surveys. The motivating factor that encouraged IBA surveyors to visit in the first place was the unofficially noticed presence of Bendire’s Thrashers, a species of Global IBA status.</p>
Focal Bird Species	<p><u>IBA Qualifying Species</u></p> <p><u>Global:</u> Bendire’s Thrasher</p> <p><u>State:</u> Bendire’s Thrasher, Elf Owl, Costa’s Hummingbird, Gila Woodpecker, Gilded Flicker, Loggerhead Shrike, Juniper Titmouse, Lucy’s Warbler, Canyon Towhee, Brewer’s Sparrow</p> <p><u>AGFD Species of Greatest Conservation Need</u></p> <p>Tier IB: Gila Woodpecker, Gilded Flicker</p> <p><u>Federal Threatened or Endangered Species</u></p> <p>None</p> <p><u>USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern</u></p> <p>National: Bendire’s Thrasher, Elf Owl, Costa’s Hummingbird, Loggerhead Shrike, Lucy’s Warbler, Canyon Towhee, Brewer’s Sparrow</p> <p>USFWS Region: Bendire’s Thrasher, Elf Owl, Costa’s Hummingbird, Gila Woodpecker, Gilded Flicker, Loggerhead Shrike, Juniper Titmouse, Lucy’s Warbler, Canyon Towhee, Brewer’s Sparrow</p>
NABCI Bird Conservation Region	<p>16: Southern Rockies Colorado Plateau 33: Sonoran and Mojave Deserts 34: Sierra Madre Occidental</p>
Ownership	<p>The IBA is primarily Bureau of Land Management owned and is the grazing allotment designated “Chicken Springs.” There is a small amount of state trust land and private land included in the IBA. The private owner indicated his willingness to be included in the IBA.</p>
Conservation Land Status**	<p>None</p>
Human Population Density	<p>Rural</p>
Legislative District(s)	<p>Arizona Congressional District 4 and State Legislative District 5</p>

NRCS Major Land Resource Area	52: Sonoran Basin and Range
Visitation, main access, and permits needed	This IBA is located south and east of Wikieup, Arizona in Mohave County. From Wikieup, head west on Chicken Springs Road. After about 14.5 miles, turn right onto Alamo Road.

*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
Bendire’s Thrasher Surveys and Research	H	Project one: Regional Surveys for occupancy. Project two: GPS tag project to determine migratory path and winter territory locations.	Coordinate with the Desert Thrasher Working Group (AZGFD and USFWS leads) to update IBA information based on this data
AZ IBA Surveys	M	Nocturnal and breeding birds	Develop plan for 5 year cycle
BBS Route	H	Annual point count route	Includes points within the IBA
eBird data	M	Direct birders to the IBA	Lucy’s Warbler, Elf Owl, Bendire’s Thrasher focus
IBA Signage	M	Install signs identifying the site as an IBA	Get agreement with grazing lessee and BLM Kingman District
IBA Dedication	M	A formal recognition event	Get agreement with grazing lessee and BLM Kingman District
UPDATE	June 2022		

Partners:

Name	Role(s)	Contact Information	Actions
BLM Kingman District	Land management	2755 Mission Blvd, Kingman, AZ 86401 Phone: (928) 718-3700 https://www.blm.gov/office/kingman-field-office	Coordinate with Audubon for IBA sign installation, IBA dedication & surveys

Name	Role(s)	Contact Information	Actions
Arizona Game and Fish Department Kingman Region III Office and Avian program at AZGFD HQ	Wildlife Manager	5325 Stockton Hill Rd. Kingman, AZ 86409 (928) 692-7700 5000 W. Carefree Hwy Phoenix, AZ 85086 ejarez@azgfd.gov ; (623)236-7516 or ckondrat@azgfd.gov (623)236-7625	Coordinate with Audubon for IBA surveys and share avian data
Northern Arizona Audubon Society	Volunteers	Northern Arizona Audubon Society	Participate in volunteer bird surveys and eBird
Grazing Lessee	Livestock management and site steward	TBD	Coordinate with Audubon for IBA sign installation & dedication

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
Mohave and Sonoran Desert Birds	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 climate change and invasive plant species that can carry fire pose the greatest threats to birds within this IBA. The I-II corridor will not cross this IBA.

Challenges	Mohave and Sonoran Desert Birds	Summary Rating
Roads and Power Lines	Low	Low
Grazing	Medium	Low
Climate Change (Drought)	High	High
Nonnative Grasses and	High	High

Challenges	Mohave and Sonoran Desert Birds	Summary Rating
Annuals (Fire)		
Summary Ratings:	Medium	Medium

43) Joshua Tree	Severity (1-3)	Scope (1-3)	Permanence (2-4)	Immediacy (Optional 1-2)
Threats on National Database				
Infrastructure Highway* (I-11) 4	1	1	1	1
Invasive Species Invasive Plants (Fire) 9	3	3	3	
Forest Grazing Overgrazing by Livestock 5	1	3	1	
Natural Events Drought (Climate Change) 9	3	3	3	