

Marble Canyon and Vermilion Cliffs

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| IBA web pages | http://www.audubon.org/important-bird-areas/marble-canyon-and-vermilion-cliffs http://aziba.org/?page_id=476 |
| Priority | Global |
| Qualifying Criteria | AI: Species of global conservation concern (California Condor) DI: Site Important to Special Status Avian Species concern (Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Peregrine Falcon, California Condor, Bald Eagle, Mexican Spotted Owl, Northern Goshawk, Golden Eagle, Western Burrowing Owl, American Bittern, Ferruginous Hawk, Common Nighthawk, American Dipper, Yellow Warbler, Pinyon Jay, Lincoln's Sparrow, Pacific Wren) |
| IBA Polygon Center Point (Latitude, Longitude) | 36.8656°N, 111.5848°W |
| Size | 102,058 acres |
| County | Coconino |
| Local Communities | Page |
| Description | This IBA consists of 125 miles of the Colorado River corridor and adjacent side canyons from Glen Canyon Dam to the mouth of the Little Colorado River. It also contains the Vermilion Cliffs Wilderness Area which is part of the Vermilion Cliffs National Monument. |
| Mission/Goals | To conserve avian species, including species of conservation concern and high densities of breeding and migratory raptors, within Marble Canyon and the Vermilion Cliffs Wilderness Area. |
| Current Habitat Conservation, Planning, and Management Activities | The Peregrine Fund is the lead organization for the restoration of California Condors at Grand Canyon and Vermilion Cliffs National Monument. Current information is available at http://www.peregrinefund.org . From 1996 to 2000 a research study was completed on the aquatic and riparian bird communities of the Colorado River from Glen Canyon Dam to upper Lake Mead. |
| Land Cover Type ¹ (%) and Associated Priority ² Birds | 40.23 Cold Temperate (Great Basin) Desert Scrub (<i>California Condor, Golden Eagle, Western Burrowing Owl, Ferruginous Hawk, Common Nighthawk</i>) 31.73 Rock (<i>Peregrine Falcon, California Condor, Mexican Spotted Owl, Golden Eagle</i>) |
| ¹ Southwest Regional Gap Analysis modified to align with ABBA/SWAP habitat types | |
| ² AGFD SGCN and IBA Qualifying Species | |

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| | <p>15.44 Cold Temperate (Great Basin)/Plains Grassland (<i>California Condor, Golden Eagle, Western Burrowing Owl, Ferruginous Hawk, Common Nighthawk</i>)</p> <p>6.62 Riparian (<i>Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, Bald Eagle, American Dipper, Yellow Warbler, Lincoln's Sparrow</i>)</p> <p>3.09 Pinyon Pine-Juniper Woodland (<i>California Condor, Golden Eagle, Common Nighthawk, Pinyon Jay</i>)</p> <p>1.34 Wash</p> <p>1.55 Other (Sonoran Desertscrub: Lower Colorado River, Mohave Desertscrub, Urban/Residential, Sonoran/Mohave Desertscrub, Interior Chaparral, Ponderosa Pine Forest)</p> |
| <p>Related Habitat Accounts*</p> | <p>Cold Desertscrub High Grasslands Lowland Riparian Pinyon Juniper Pine</p> |
| <p>Biological Description</p> | <p>This IBA supports outstanding numbers of over-wintering waterfowl, up to 6000 birds total. In addition, the IBA is 20 miles from the release area for the re-introduced population of California Condors in Arizona, and provides a primary foraging and roosting habitat, along with the Grand Canyon National Park further downstream. Wild fledged condors are using the IBA as a travel and foraging corridor between the Vermilion Cliffs release site and the South Rim of the Grand Canyon. The 27th Annual Public Condor Release added 5 birds to the wild on National Public Lands Day, Saturday, September 24th 2022. Great Basin Bird Observatory has initiated Pinyon Jay surveys.</p> <p>A Great Blue Heron colony (3-4 pairs) exists within the IBA. The riparian habitat provides the best migration corridor in northern Arizona, and supports substantial numbers of passerines, gulls, raptors (especially Osprey), and Belted Kingfisher. Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo have been documented in Paria Canyon.</p> |
| <p>Focal Bird Species</p> | <p><u>IBA Qualifying Species</u></p> <p>Global: California Condor</p> <p>State: Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, Peregrine Falcon, California Condor, Bald Eagle, Mexican Spotted Owl, Northern Goshawk, Golden Eagle, Western Burrowing Owl, American Bittern, Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Ferruginous Hawk, Common Nighthawk, American Dipper, Yellow Warbler, Pinyon Jay, Lincoln's Sparrow, Pacific Wren</p> |

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| | <p><u>AGFD Species of Greatest Conservation Need</u></p> <p>Tier a: Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, Peregrine Falcon, California Condor, Bald Eagle, Mexican Spotted Owl</p> <p>Tier b: Northern Goshawk, Golden Eagle, Western Burrowing Owl, American Bittern, Ferruginous Hawk, Common Nighthawk, American Dipper, Yellow Warbler, Pinyon Jay, Lincoln’s Sparrow, Pacific Wren</p> <p><u>Federal Threatened or Endangered Species</u></p> <p>California Condor, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, Mexican Spotted Owl, Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo</p> <p><u>USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern</u></p> <p>National – Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Mexican Spotted Owl, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, Loggerhead Shrike, Bell’s Vireo, Gray Vireo, Pinyon Jay, Lucy’s Warbler, Grace’s Warbler</p> <p>USFWS Region – Bald Eagle, Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Burrowing Owl, Loggerhead Shrike, Bell’s Vireo, Pinyon Jay, Lucy’s Warbler, Grace’s Warbler, Yellow Warbler</p> |
| NABCI Bird Conservation Region | I 6: Southern Rockies/Colorado Plateau |
| Ownership | National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management - Arizona Strip Field Office |
| Conservation Land Status** | Wilderness Area (Vermilion Cliffs National Monument) and National Recreation Area (Glenn Canyon) |
| Human Population Density | Rural |
| Legislative District(s) | Arizona Congressional District 2 and State Legislative District 6 |
| NRCS Major Land Resource Area | 45: Colorado Plateau |
| Visitation, main access, and permits needed | Lees Ferry and Navajo Bridge Interpretive Center is located on Highway 89A 45 miles southwest of Page Arizona and 62 miles southeast of the North Rim of Grand Canyon National Park. Lees Ferry is located seven miles down the Lees Ferry road from Navajo Bridge Interpretive Center. Vermilion Cliffs are located adjacent to U.S. Highway Alternate 89 (89A) for approximately 30 miles to the south and west. From Kanab, Utah, take U.S. Highway Alternate 89 (89A) south and then east from Jacob Lake to the cliffs. |

*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 | Glen Canyon | Extract IBA data |
| Bird Surveys | L H | NPS Waterfowl Counts GBBO Pinyon Jay Surveys | Encourage eBird entries |
| IBA Signage | Pending for BLM | Install signs identifying the site as an IBA | Signs delivered to NPS |
| IBA Dedication | Done | A formal recognition event | Included in GCNP Dedication Fall 2014 |
| California Condor Release Program | H | Annual releases of captive bred condors by the Peregrine Fund | Most recent 5 birds September 24 th 2022 |

Partners:

| Name | Role(s) | Contact Information | Actions |
|--|--------------------|---|---|
| Glen Canyon NRA | Land Manager | PO Box 1507. Page, Arizona 86040 (928) 608-6200 7 am to 4 pm MST, Monday through Friday. | Coordinate with biology staff to get relevant avian data |
| Peregrine Fund | Condor Recovery | Contact Information: 5668 West Flying Hawk Lane, Boise, Idaho 83709 208-362-3716 | Coordinate with biology staff to get relevant avian data |
| BLM Vermilion Cliffs National Monument | Land Manager | Dixie/Arizona Strip Interpretive Association 345 East Riverside Drive St. George, UT 84790 435-688-3200 | Coordinate with biology staff to get relevant avian data |

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 |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Cold-Temperate Grasslands Birds | Good |
| Desert Scrub Birds | Very Good |
| Riparian Birds | Fair |

| Conservation Target | Current Condition |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Cliff and Inner Canyon Birds | Very Good |
| Pinyon and Juniper 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 pose the greatest threats to birds within this IBA.

| Challenges | Grassland Birds | Desert Birds | Riparian Birds | Pinyon and Juniper Birds | Cliff and Canyon Interior Birds | Summary Rating |
|---|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| Lead Poisoning | NA | NA | NA | NA | Medium | Low |
| Wild Fire | Low | Low | Low | Medium | Low | Low |
| Invasive Species (cheatgrass and saltcedar) | Medium | Low | High | Medium | High | Medium |
| Tourism (| Low | Low | Medium | Low | Low | Low |
| Summary Ratings: | High | High | High | Medium | High | High |

| 22) Marble Canyon and Vermilion Cliffs | | | Severity (1-3) | Scope (1-3) | Permanence (2-4) |
|--|-------------------------|---|----------------|-------------|------------------|
| Threats on National Database | | | | | |
| Invasive species | Non-native plants | 5 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Tourism (Boats and OHV) | | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Pollution | Lead in the Environment | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 |

Reviewed by Stephanie A. Grischkowsky, BLM Arizona Strip Wildlife Biologist November , 2022