

Marble Canyon and Vermilion Cliffs

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	Global Species of global conservation concern (California Condor) State 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) eBird Bar Chart Bar Charts - eBird
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	40.28 Cold Temperate (Great Basin) Desert Scrub (<i>California Condor, Golden Eagle, Western Burrowing Owl, Ferruginous</i>)

**Important Bird Areas: Mini Conservation Plan
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**Updated
November 2023**

<p>¹Southwest Regional Gap Analysis modified to align with ABBA/SWAP habitat types</p> <p>²AGFD SGCN and IBA Qualifying Species</p>	<p><i>Hawk, Prairie Falcon, Common Nighthawk, Sage Thrasher, Vesper Sparrow, Brewer's Sparrow)</i></p> <p>31.77 Rock (<i>Peregrine Falcon, California Condor, Mexican Spotted Owl, Golden Eagle</i>)</p> <p>15.41 Cold Temperate (Great Basin) Plains Grassland (<i>California Condor, Golden Eagle, Western Burrowing Owl, Ferruginous Hawk, Common Nighthawk, Scott's Oriole, Prairie Falcon, American Kestrel, Vesper Sparrow, Black-Throated Sparrow, Horned Lark, Northern Harrier, American Pipit, Sprague's Pipit</i>)</p> <p>6.60 Riparian (<i>Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, Bald Eagle, American Dipper, Killdeer, Western Wood-Pee-wee, Bullock's Oriole, Hooded Oriole, Red-winged Blackbird Yellow Warbler, Lincoln's Sparrow</i>)</p> <p>3.05 Pinyon Pine-Juniper Woodland (<i>California Condor, Golden Eagle, Common Nighthawk, Pinyon Jay, Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay, Loggerhead Shrike, Scott's Oriole</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>AGFD Species of Greatest Conservation Need (2022)</u></p>

<p>Bold Type are Road to Recovery species</p>	<p>Tier 1: American Peregrine Falcon, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, California Condor, Bald Eagle, Mexican Spotted Owl, Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo</p> <p>Tier 2: American Dipper, American Kestrel, American Pipit, Black-Throated Sparrow, Brewer's Sparrow, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Bullock's Oriole, Clark's Grebe, Common Nighthawk, Ferruginous Hawk, Golden Eagle, Hooded Oriole, Horned Lark, Killdeer, Lincoln's Sparrow, Loggerhead Shrike, Northern Goshawk, Northern Harrier, Pacific Wren, Pinyon Jay, Prairie Falcon, Red-winged Blackbird, Scott's Oriole, Sprague's Pipit, Vesper Sparrow, Western Burrowing Owl, Western Grebe, Western Wood-Pee-wee, Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay</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>
<p>NABCI Bird Conservation Region</p>	<p>I6: Southern Rockies/Colorado Plateau</p>
<p>Ownership</p>	<p>National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management - Arizona Strip Field Office</p>
<p>Conservation Land Status**</p>	<p>Wilderness Area (Vermilion Cliffs National Monument) and National Recreation Area (Glenn Canyon)</p>
<p>Human Population Density</p>	<p>Rural</p>
<p>Legislative District(s)</p>	<p>Arizona Congressional District 2 and State Legislative District 6</p>
<p>NRCS Major Land Resource Area</p>	<p>45: Colorado Plateau</p>
<p>Visitation, main access, and permits needed</p>	<p>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.</p>

*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 Monitoring	L H	NPS Waterfowl Counts GBBO Pinyon Jay Surveys	
Bird Monitoring		eBird records	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.

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Conservation Target	Current Condition
Cold-Temperate Grasslands Birds	Good
Desert Scrub Birds	Very Good
Riparian Birds	Fair
Cliff and Inner Canyon Birds	Very Good
Pinyon and Juniper Birds	Good

Commented [GSA1]: PJA surveys on Vermilion Cliffs have been conducted by GBBO for past two years and have found PJA. Numerous recent reports on PJA sightings on the Monument from coworkers and myself. PJ woodland die off (mainly pinyon pine) happening in pockets throughout the Monument which is concerning and could be an issue in the future. I think for now Good is still an appropriate rating however if die off continues to happen we might need to change to Fair.

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 salt cedar)	Medium	Low	High	Medium	High	Medium
Tourism	Low	Low	Medium	Low	Low	Low
Summary Ratings:	High	High	High	Medium	High	High

Commented [GSA2]: Lead poisoning still issue for Condors although not as much as in the past. Agree with Medium rating.

Commented [GSA3]: Cheatgrass is prevalent throughout the desert could change to Medium.

Commented [GSA4]: Tourism has really increased in Vermilion Cliffs in past several years. Could change NA to Low.

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

Marble Canyon/Vermillion Cliffs IBA

