

San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area

IBA web pages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - http://aziba.org/?page_id=539 - NAS Site 901
Priority	Global
Qualifying Criteria	<p>Global: Site Important to Special Status Avian Species (Bell’s Vireo)</p> <p>State: Site Important to Special Status Avian Species (Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (migration), Cassin’s Sparrow, Botteri’s Sparrow)</p> <p>Rare, Unique, or Exceptional Representative Habitat/Ecological Community (low-elevation riparian)</p> <p>Significant concentrations of nesting raptors (Gray Hawk)</p> <p>eBird Bar Chart https://ebird.org/barchart?byr=1900&eyr=2023&bmo=1&emo=12&r=US-AZ_901</p>
IBA Polygon Center Point (Latitude, Longitude)	-110.136500, 31.550500
Size	55,990 acres
County	Cochise
Local Communities	Sierra Vista, Huachuca City, Saint David
Description	The San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area, a protected area encompassing 47 miles of the San Pedro River and is one of the best examples of desert riparian habitat in the United States and contains 55,990 acres of public land between the international border and St. David, Arizona. The area is managed by the Bureau of Land Management and is accessed by 6 paved road entry points. Designated by Congress as a Riparian National Conservation Area, this IBA is a rare remnant of what was once an extensive network of similar riparian ecosystems throughout the American southwest.
Mission/Goals	Conservation of an exceptional example of low-elevation desert riparian habitat and the breeding and migratory birds that depend on it.
Current Habitat Conservation, Planning, and Management Activities	The Bureau of Land Management manages the land within this IBA to “conserve, protect, and enhance the riparian area and the aquatic, wildlife, archeological, paleontological, scientific, cultural, educational and recreational resources of the public lands surrounding the San Pedro River”. A Resource Management Plan for SPRNCA is in draft review (July 2018).

<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>42.90 Semiarid/Sonoran Savannah Grassland (<i>Scaled Quail, Common Nighthawk, Golden Eagle, Swainson’s Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Northern Harrier, Western Burrowing Owl, Gila Woodpecker Chihuahuan Raven, Scott’s Oriole, Botteri’s Sparrow, Cassin’s Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Rufous-winged Sparrow, Black-throated Sparrow, Brewer’s Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Azure Bluebird, Gould’s Turkey,</i>)</p> <p>32.87 Chihuahuan Desertscrub (<i>Common Nighthawk, Golden Eagle, Swainson’s Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, American Kestrel, Scott’s Oriole, Chihuahuan Raven, Canyon Towhee, Black-throated Sparrow, Brewer’s Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow</i>)</p> <p>16.67 Riparian and Freshwater Marsh (<i>Gould’s Turkey, Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Gray Hawk, Mississippi Kite, Common Black Hawk, Zone-tailed Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Broad-billed Hummingbird, Blue-throated Mountain Gem, Violet-crowned Hummingbird, Gila Woodpecker, Whiskered Screech Owl, Western Screech Owl, Northern Buff-breasted Flycatcher, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, Thick-billed Kingbird, Bell’s Vireo, Yellow Warbler, Lincoln’s Sparrow, Abert’s Towhee, Bullock’s Oriole, Hooded Oriole</i>)</p> <p>5.58 Mexican Evergreen Woodland (<i>Gould’s Turkey, Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Blue-throated Mountain Gem, Whiskered Screech Owl, Northern Buff-breasted Flycatcher, Azure Bluebird</i>)</p> <p>1.60 Sonoran desertscrub: Lower Colorado River and Uplands, Mesquite, Wash ((<i>Common Nighthawk, Gila Woodpecker, Chihuahuan Raven, Canyon Towhee, Black-throated Sparrow, Brewer’s Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow</i>)</p> <p>0.37 Other (Interior Chaparral, Rock, Agriculture, Pinyon Pine-Juniper Woodland</p>
<p>Related Habitat Accounts*</p>	<p>Freshwater Marsh Low Grasslands Lowland Riparian Madrean Pine-Oak Woodland Sonoran Desert</p>
<p>Biological Description</p>	<p>The San Pedro Riparian National Riparian Conservation Area is home to 84 species of mammals, 14 species of fish, 41 species of reptiles and amphibians, and over 100 species of breeding birds. In addition, as one of four major north-south migratory bird corridors in the southwest United States along with the Rio Grande, Santa Cruz, and Colorado rivers, it provides invaluable habitat for 250 species of migrant and wintering birds. Bird densities during migration average 40 birds per hectare and can reach 75 to 100 birds per hectare. This IBA is a hotspot for rare birds that include Green Kingfisher and</p>

	Painted Bunting.
Focal Bird Species	<u>AGFD Species of Greatest Conservation Need</u>
Bold Type are Road to Recovery species	<p>Tier 1: Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Peregrine Falcon, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (Migrant)</p> <p>Tier 2: Abert’s Towhee, American Bittern, American Kestrel, Arizona Woodpecker, Azure Bluebird, Black-throated Sparrow, Blue-throated Mountain Gem, Broad-billed Hummingbird, Bullock’s Oriole, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Broad-billed Hummingbird, Canyon Towhee, Chihuahuan Raven, Common Black Hawk, Common Nighthawk, Costa’s Hummingbird, Dusky-capped Flycatcher, Ferruginous Hawk, Gila Woodpecker, Golden Eagle, Grasshopper Sparrow, Harris’s Hawk, Hooded Oriole, Lincoln’s Sparrow, Loggerhead Shrike, Mississippi Kite, Northern Buff-breasted Flycatcher, Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet, Northern Harrier, Pacific Wren, Prairie Falcon, Pyrrhuloxia, Red-winged Blackbird, Rufous-winged Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Scaled Quail, Scott’s Oriole, Swainson’s Hawk, Thick-billed Kingbird, Vesper Sparrow, Verdin, Violet-crowned Hummingbird, Western Burrowing Owl, Western Screech Owl, Western Wood-Pewee</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 – Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Elf Owl, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, Bell’s Vireo, Virginia’s Warbler, Lucy’s Warbler, Varied Bunting</p> <p>USFWS Region –Common Black-hawk, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Elf Owl. Gilded Flicker, Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet, Bell’s Vireo, Lucy’s Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Botteri’s Sparrow, Varied Bunting</p>
NABCI Bird Conservation Region	34: Sierra Madre Occidental
Ownership	Bureau of Land Management
Conservation Land Status**	Riparian National Conservation Area
Human Population Density	Rural
Legislative District(s)	Arizona Congressional District 2 and State Legislative District 14
NRCS Major Land Resource Area	41: Southeastern Arizona Basin and Range

<p>Visitation, main access, and permits needed</p>	<p>From Tucson, take Interstate 10 east 40 miles to State Highway 90. Follow the highway south through Huachuca City to Fry Boulevard in Sierra Vista, AZ. Follow this street for six miles east until you reach the San Pedro House. The San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area can also be accessed via Highway 80, near St. David; Highway 82 to Fairbank; Charleston Road to Millville Historic Townsite; Hereford Road to Hereford Bridge; and Highway 92 to Palominas.</p> <p>Overnight backcountry camping permits are required. Permit fees are \$2 per person per night. Campfires are permitted only in designated areas. The permit fee is \$2.00 per person per night, and camping is limited to seven consecutive nights in any one location, unless otherwise authorized. Day use throughout the NCA is free; no permit is required. Commercial operators are required to secure special authorization prior to their planned visit. Firearm use is permitted only for regulated hunting, and only in certain areas. A hunting permit from the Arizona Game and Fish is required. Contact BLM for specific information on hunting.</p> <p>For more information, visit: http://www.blm.gov/az/st/en/prog/blm_special_areas/ncarea/sprnca.html</p>
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*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
Christmas Bird Count	M	Ramsey Canyon and Saint David	Annual volunteer survey
Bird Monitoring	L	IBA Bell's Vireo counts	Schedule on a 3–5-year interval.
Bird Monitoring	H	Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo surveys	Annual by BLM
Bird Monitoring	M	eBird entries	Evaluate eBird data for support of IBA designation
IBA Signage	Complete	New sign at San Pedro House & small signs with cuckoo artwork	2014
IBA Dedication Event	Complete	Re-dedication as a global IBA	2014
Updated	February 2020		

Partners:

Name	Role(s)	Contact Information	Actions
Bureau of Land Management	Land Manager	San Pedro RNCA	Manages the Conservation Area to conserve, protect and enhance its riparian area and the aquatic, wildlife, archaeological, paleontological, scientific, cultural, educational, and recreational resources.
Upper San Pedro Partnership	Government and NGO partnership for the upper watershed	http://uspp.us/	Supports local water projects and public outreach about the San Pedro River
Friends of the San Pedro	NGO volunteer organization – steward for the RNCA	<u>Website:</u> http://sanpedroriver.org/wpf_spr/	Environmental education, volunteer projects, advocacy
The Nature Conservancy	USPP member, conservation easements, hydrological expertise	TNC Arizona	Primary NGO member of the Upper San Pedro Partnership.
Audubon Arizona	USPP member, IBA steward	http://az.audubon.org/	NGO member Upper San Pedro Partnership. Bird survey volunteer coordination with Tucson Audubon Society

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
Cottonwood/Willow Riparian Birds	Good
Mesquite Bosque and Big Sacaton Birds	Good

Conservation Target	Current Condition
Desert Uplands/Desert Grasslands Birds	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 groundwater pumping poses the greatest threat to birds within this IBA.

Challenges	Mesquite Bosque and Big Sacaton Birds	Cottonwood/Willow Riparian Birds	Grassland/Scrub Birds	Summary Rating
Groundwater Pumping	High	Very High		High
Invasive Species - Tamarisk	Low	Medium		Low
Drought	Medium	Medium	Low	Medium
Wild Fire	Medium	Medium	Low	Medium
Floods	Low	Low		Low
Development of Houses	Medium	Medium		Medium
Summary Ratings:	Medium	High	Low	Medium

28) San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area				Severity (1-3)	Scope (1-3)	Permanence (2-4)
Threats on National Database						
Industrialization/Urbanization	Habitat destruction	6	1	2	3	
Natural events	Drought	7	3	2	2	
Natural events	Fire	7	3	2	2	
Natural events	Flood	4	1	2	1	
Water Diversions (incl. impact dikes/dams)	Groundwater extraction	9	3	3	3	

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