

Mogollon Rim Snowmelt Draws

IBA web pages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://aziba.org/?page_id=499 • http://www.audubon.org/important-bird-areas/mogollon-rim-snowmelt-draws • AzGFD Conservation Opportunity Area
Priority	State
Qualifying Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site Important to Special Status Avian Species (<i>Red-faced Warbler, Grace’s Warbler, MacGillivray’s Warbler, Virginia’s Warbler, Olive-sided Flycatcher</i>) • Site supports substantive programs in avian research or avian-specific educational opportunities (<i>Effect of Climate Change on Population Trajectories and Trophic Interactions in a High Elevation Riparian Ecosystem. Thomas E. Martin, USGS Montana Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit.</i>) • Sites supporting long-term research and/or monitoring with publication of research (<i>Pingjun Li and Thomas E. Martin. Nest-site selection and nesting success of cavity-nesting birds in high elevation forest drainages. The Auk 108: 405-418. April 1991.</i>) <p>eBird Bar Chart Bar Charts - eBird</p>
IBA Polygon Center Point (Latitude, Longitude)	34.42° N, 111.12° W
Size	72, 162 acres
County	Coconino
Local Communities	Pine, Payson
Description	This IBA encompasses drainages located within 8 km of the edge of the Mogollon Rim, an abrupt cliff that represents the southern extension of the Colorado Plateau. The eastern boundary is Cheylon Butte Road (FS Route 99), the southern boundary is the Rim Road (FS 300), and the western boundary is FR 147.
Mission/Goals	To conserve and protect the unique ecosystems found within the Mogollon Rim’s snowmelt draws and the special status avian species that depend on them.
Current Habitat Conservation, Planning, and Management Activities	<p>This IBA supports significant, long term avian research. Projects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An investigation into cavity nesting bird species within 22 snowmelt drainages. (<i>Pingjun Li and Thomas E. Martin. Nest-site selection and nesting success of cavity-nesting birds in high elevation forest drainages. The Auk 108: 405-418. April 1991.</i>) • A long-term study (since 1986) of a high elevation riparian ecosystem and bird community in north-central Arizona

	<p><i>(Effect of Climate Change on Population Trajectories and Trophic Interactions in a High Elevation Riparian Ecosystem. Thomas E. Martin, USGS Montana Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit.)</i> In addition, this IBA</p> <p>This long term study demonstrates the complex effects of climate impacts on this unique habitat. Management activities resulting from this work include a large-scale experiment, initiated in the summer of 2004, through which entire drainages were fenced to exclude elk and deer, separating browsing and climate effects on this ecosystem.</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>83.63 Ponderosa Pine Forest (<i>Grace’s Warbler, Virginia’s Warbler, Red-faced Warbler, Mexican Spotted Owl</i>)</p> <p>12.62 Ponderosa Pine – Gambel’s Oak Forest (<i>Virginia’s Warbler, Grace’s Warbler, Red-faced Warbler, Mexican Spotted Owl</i>)</p> <p>1.72 Mixed Conifer Forest (<i>Red-faced Warbler, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Mexican Spotted Owl, Northern Goshawk, Evening Grosbeak</i>)</p> <p>1.66 Riparian (<i>MacGillivray’s Warbler, Red-faced Warbler, Pacific Wren, Lincoln’s Sparrow, American Dipper, Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon</i>)</p> <p>0.37 Other (Wash, Pinyon Pine-Juniper Woodland, Aspen Forest, Madrean Pine/Oak Woodland, Montane Meadow/Subalpine Grassland, Cold Temperate (Great Basin)/Plains Grassland) (<i>Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Evening Grosbeak</i>)</p>
<p>Related Habitat Accounts*</p>	<p>Pine Conifer Forest Montane Riparian Pinyon Juniper Madrean Pine-Oak High Grasslands</p>

<p>Biological Description</p>	<p>This IBA provides significant breeding habitat in Arizona for species of conservation concern including Olive-sided Flycatcher, MacGillivray’s Warbler, Red-faced Warbler, Virginia’s Warbler, and Grace’s Warbler.</p> <p>The northward-flowing drainages within this IBA support narrow bands of regionally unique vegetation, most notably maples, which benefit from precipitation formed by the upward deflection of air at the rim face. The habitat within this IBA includes Ponderosa pine, white fir, Douglas fir, southwestern white pine, quaking aspen, and Gambel’s oak. Young plants of these canopy trees, plus canyon maple and New Mexico locust, dominate the understory woody species.</p>
<p>Focal Bird Species</p> <p>Bold Type are Road to Recovery species</p>	<p><u>AGFD Species of Greatest Conservation Need</u></p> <p>Tier 1: Peregrine Falcon, Bald Eagle, Mexican Spotted Owl</p> <p>Tier 2: American Dipper, American Kestrel, Band-tailed Pigeon, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Common Nighthawk, Evening Grosbeak, Flammulated Owl, Golden Eagle, Grace’s Warbler, Gray Vireo, Lincoln’s Sparrow, MacGillivray’s Warbler, Mountain Chickadee, Northern Goshawk, Northern Pygmy Owl, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Pacific Wren, Red-faced Warbler, Western Screech Owl, Western Wood-Pewee</p> <p><u>Federal Threatened or Endangered Species</u> Mexican Spotted Owl</p> <p><u>USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern</u></p> <p>National – Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Mexican Spotted Owl, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Virginia’s Warbler, Grace’s Warbler, Red-faced Warbler,</p> <p>USFWS Region – Golden Eagle, Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Grace’s Warbler, Red-faced Warbler,</p>
<p>NABCI Bird Conservation Region</p>	<p>34: Sierra Madre Occidental</p>
<p>Ownership</p>	<p>Coconino and Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest</p>
<p>Conservation Land Status**</p>	<p>National Forest</p>
<p>Human Population Density</p>	<p>Rural</p>
<p>Legislative District(s)</p>	<p>Arizona Congressional District 2 and State Legislative District 7</p>
<p>NRCS Major Land Resource Area</p>	<p>51: Arizona and New Mexico Mountains</p>

<p>Visitation, main access, and permits needed</p>	<p>For easy access, take Highway 87 North from Payson, AZ. North of Pine, AZ, Forest Road 300, also known as the Rim Road, heads east from the 87 and travels through the IBA. This is a relatively primitive area offering stunning views and many opportunities to pull off and explore the habitat.</p> <p>For a deeper dive into the IBA, travel about ten miles north of Clint’s Well on Highway 87 to the U.S. Forest Service’s Blue Ridge Ranger Station. Then, proceed another 300 meters north of the Ranger Station to gravel road number 95; travel east on this road. Drive several miles on this road to the bottom of a very deep canyon. After crossing the bridge at the canyon bottom, go left onto Road 96. Road 96 ends in a ‘T’ intersection; turn right onto Road 137 (toward Buck Springs). Stay on Road 137 until you get to Forest Road 300 (Rim Road). From there, proceed east to access Highway 260 or west to access Highway 87.</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
eBird Records	M	eBird SGCN summaries	Establish a cycle for analysis
Avian Research	M	USGS Montana Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit avian studies	Inactive mtcwru@umontana.edu
IBA Signage	M	Install signs identifying the site as an IBA	Requires coordination with both forests
IBA Dedication	L	A formal recognition event	Requires coordination with both forests

Partners:

Name	Role(s)	Contact Information	Actions
Coconino National Forest	Land Manager	Mogollon Rim Ranger District 8738 Ranger Rd. Happy Jack, AZ 86024 Phone: (928) 477-2255	Managed under the Coconino National Forest's <i>Forest, Land, and Resource Management Plan</i>
Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest	Land Manager	Black Mesa Ranger District PO Box 968 2748 E. AZ 260 Overgaard, AZ 85933 928-535-7300	Managed under the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests Land Management Plan 2017

Name	Role(s)	Contact Information	Actions
Northern Arizona Audubon Society	volunteers	Northern Arizona Audubon Society	Participate in northern Arizona ABCI committee.
Salt River Project	CC Cragin Reservoir and dam	https://www.srpnet.com/water/dams/cragin.aspx	forest health for the reservoir Cragin Watershed Protection Project (CWPP)
Arizona Elk Society	Buck Springs Allotment and habitat project volunteers	7773 W Golden Ln, Peoria, AZ 85345 Phone: (623) 444-4147 https://www.arizonaelksociety.org/habitat-projects/buck-springs	Holds the retired allotment and owns the base property at Buck Springs. Meadow restoration projects.

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
Ponderosa Pine Birds	Good
High Elevation Riparian Birds	Fair
Mixed Conifer 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 over browsing and altered fire regime from drought pose the greatest threats to birds within this IBA.

Challenges	Ponderosa Pine Birds	High Elevation Riparian Birds	Mixed Conifer and Spruce/ Fir Forest Birds	Summary Rating
Over browsing by Elk	Low	High	Medium	Medium
Logging	High	Low	Medium	Medium
Drought	High	High	High	Very High

Challenges	Ponderosa Pine Birds	High Elevation Riparian Birds	Mixed Conifer and Spruce/ Fir Forest Birds	Summary Rating
Overgrazing	Low	Medium	Low	Low
Wild Fire	High	High	High	High
Summary Ratings:	High	High	Medium	High

Mogollon Rim Snowmelt Draws				Severity (1-3)	Scope (1-3)	Permanence (2-4)
Threats on National Database						
Forest Grazing	Overbrowsing native animals (elk)	8	2	3	3	
Intensified Forest Mgmt	Selective logging/cutting	7	2	2	3	
Natural events	Drought	8	2	3	3	
Burning of vegetation	Altered fire regime	8	3	2	3	
Forest Grazing	Domestic livestock	5	2	2	1	

Mogollon Rim Snow Melt Draws IBA

