

Huachuca Mountains

IBA web pages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://aziba.org/?page_id=396 • http://www.audubon.org/important-bird-areas/huachuca-mountains-coronado-national-forest • AzGFD Conservation Opportunity Area
Priority	State
Qualifying Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Site Important to Special Status Avian Species (Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Peregrine Falcon, Mexican Spotted Owl, Grasshopper Sparrow, Violet-crowned Hummingbird, Golden Eagle, Common Nighthawk, Evening Grosbeak, Broad-billed Hummingbird, Yellow Warbler, Northern Buff-breasted Flycatcher, Rivoli’s Hummingbird, Northern Pygmy Owl, Yellow-eyed Junco, Blue-throated Hummingbird, Gould’s Turkey, Whiskered Screech Owl, Gila Woodpecker, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, Dusky-capped Flycatcher, Botteri’s Sparrow, Arizona Woodpecker, Azure Bluebird, Elegant Trogon, Bell’s Vireo ○ Rare, Unique, or Exceptional Representative Habitat/Ecological Community (Madrean Occidental Sky Island) <p>eBird Checklist: https://ebird.org/barchart?byr=1975&eyr=2020&bmo=1&emo=12&r=US-AZ_902</p>
IBA Polygon Center Point (Latitude, Longitude)	-110.312500 31.445900
Size	101,029 acres
County	Cochise
Local Communities	Sierra Vista, Huachuca City
Description	Four major peaks dominate the 20-mile long mountain range. Situated on a diagonal axis, these peaks from the southeast are: Miller Peak (9,466 ft), Carr (9,220 ft), Ramsey (8,725 ft), and Huachuca Peak (8,410 ft). Rainfall along the crest of the range averages 30 inches per year, and temperatures are 20-25 degrees cooler than the San Pedro valley floor. The Huachuca Mountains have the most perennial streams (6) than any of the other Madrean mountains in Arizona. A substantial portion of Fort Huachuca is within this IBA. The southern portion of the IBA is the Coronado National Monument, and the mountains slope southward into Mexico. On the western flanks are a few ranches and private dwellings. The IBA boundary is the Huachuca Mountains 5,000 feet and above in elevation.

<p>Mission/Goals</p>	<p>Conservation of a major Madrean occidental sky island that represents a rare/unique habitat mosaic in Arizona, supports populations of breeding, year-round and migratory birds, and provides habitat for state species of concern.</p>
<p>Current Habitat Conservation, Planning, and Management Activities</p>	<p>Cochise County and surrounding communities are beginning to promote ecotourism. Research/Conservation Projects: Hummingbird Monitoring Network has been conducting hummingbird research since 2002 in Miller and Ramsey Canyons. Protected Areas include the Miller Peak Wilderness Area.</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>40.43 Pinyon Pine-Juniper Woodland (<i>Peregrine Falcon, Golden Eagle, Common Nighthawk, Gould's Turkey</i>)</p> <p>24.43 Mexican Evergreen Woodland (<i>Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Magnificent Hummingbird, Blue-throated Hummingbird, Gould's Turkey, Common Nighthawk</i>)</p> <p>13.90 Semiarid/Sonoran Savannah Grassland (<i>Baird's Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Gila Woodpecker, Botteri's Sparrow, Azure Bluebird</i>)</p> <p>10.96 Interior Chaparral (<i>Peregrine Falcon, Golden Eagle</i>)</p> <p>4.09 Rock (<i>Peregrine Falcon, Golden Eagle, Common Nighthawk</i>)</p> <p>2.64 Madrean Pine-Oak Woodland and Aspen Forest (<i>Mexican Spotted Owl, Evening Grosbeak, Broad-billed Hummingbird, Northern Buff-breasted Flycatcher, Magnificent Hummingbird, Northern Pygmy Owl, Yellow-eyed Junco, Blue-throated Hummingbird, Whiskered Screech Owl, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, Arizona Woodpecker, Elegant Trogon</i>)</p> <p>2.28 Chihuahuan Desertscrub (<i>Peregrine Falcon, Golden Eagle, Gila Woodpecker</i>)</p> <p>1.14 Riparian and Wash (<i>Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Violet-crowned Hummingbird, Broad-billed Hummingbird, Yellow Warbler, Northern Buff-breasted Flycatcher, Magnificent Hummingbird, Blue-throated Hummingbird, Whiskered Screech Owl, Gila Woodpecker, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, Dusky-capped Flycatcher, Arizona Woodpecker, Elegant Trogon, Bell's Vireo</i>)</p> <p>0.54 Other (, Urban/Residential, Sonoran Desertscrub: Lower Colorado River)</p>
<p>Related Habitat Accounts*</p>	<p>Pinyon Juniper Low Grasslands Madrean Pine-Oak</p>

	Lowland Riparian
Biological Description	<p>The Huachuca Mountains support an incredible number of avian “species of conservation concern”, some of which are found only in the United States in the border “Sky Island” mountain ranges of southeastern Arizona. A particularly unique feature of this range is the convergence of Rocky Mountain and Sierra Madrean bird populations, for example Virginia’s and Black-throated Gray warblers of the interior Rocky Mountains and Red-faced and Olive Warblers of the Sierra Madres both occur in the IBA. Nesting Eastern and Western Bluebird also co-occur.</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: Bald Eagle (winter), Mexican Spotted Owl, Peregrine Falcon, Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo,</p> <p>Tier 2: American Kestrel, Arizona Botteri’s Sparrow, Arizona Woodpecker, Azure Bluebird, Baird’s Sparrow, Band-tailed Pigeon, Bell’s Vireo, Black-chinned Sparrow, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Blue-throated Mountain Gem, Brewer’s Blackbird, Broad-billed Hummingbird, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Bullock’s Oriole, Cactus Wren, Canyon Towhee, Cassin’s Finch, Chihuahuan Raven, Common Nighthawk, Costa’s Hummingbird, Dusky-capped Flycatcher, Elegant Trogon, Evening Grosbeak, Ferruginous Hawk (migration), Flammulated Owl, Gila Woodpecker, Golden Eagle, Gould’s Turkey, Grace’s Warbler, Gray Flycatcher, Grasshopper Sparrow, Hermit Thrush, Hooded Oriole, Inca Dove, Killdeer, Loggerhead Shrike, MacGillivray’s Warbler, Northern Harrier, Northern Pygmy Owl (Mountain), Olive-sided Flycatcher, Prairie Falcon, Pyrrhuloxia, Red-faced Warbler, Red-winged Blackbird, Rivoli’s Hummingbird, Scaled Quail, Scott’s Oriole, Steller’s Jay, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, Swainson’s Hawk, Swainson’s Thrush (migration), Thick-billed Kingbird, Townsend’s Solitaire, Verdin, Vesper Sparrow, Violet-crowned Hummingbird, Western Screech Owl, Western Wood-Pewee, Whiskered Screech Owl, Woodhouse’s Scrub Jay, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-eyed Junco</p> <p><u>Federal Threatened or Endangered Species</u></p> <p>Mexican Spotted Owl, Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo</p> <p><u>USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern</u></p> <p>National – Peregrine falcon, Flammulated Owl, Elf Owl, Mexican Spotted Owl, Costa’s Hummingbird, Elegant Trogon, Arizona Woodpecker, Loggerhead Shrike, Bell’s Vireo, Virginia’s Warbler, Lucy’s Warbler, Grace’s Warbler, Red-faced Warbler, Black-chinned</p>

	Sparrow, Varied Bunting, Lawrence’s Goldfinch USFWS Region – Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Flammulated Owl, Elf Owl, Lucifer Hummingbird, Costa’s Hummingbird, Northern Buff-breasted Flycatcher, Loggerhead Shrike, Bell’s Vireo, Olive Warbler, Lucy’s Warbler, Grace’s Warbler, Red-faced Warbler, Grasshopper Sparrow, Black-chinned Sparrow, Lark Bunting, Varied Bunting
NABCI Bird Conservation Region	34: Sierra Madre Occidental
Ownership	The US Forest Service (Coronado National Forest, Sierra Vista Ranger District), the National Park Service (Coronado National Monument), and the US Army (Fort Huachuca). Private properties within the US Forest boundary are not included in the IBA unless permission has been given by the landowners.
Conservation Land Status**	Much of the IBA falls within a US National Forest. Smaller portions fall within the US Army Installation, Fort Huachuca, and the National Park Service’s Coronado National Monument. The IBA also includes the 20,190 acre Miller Peak Wilderness Area.
Human Population Density	Rural
Legislative District(s)	Arizona Congressional Districts 6 and 7 and State Legislative District 19 and 21
NRCS Major Land Resource Area	41—Southeastern Arizona Basin and Range
Visitation, main access, and permits needed	To reach the most popular birding sites in the Huachuca’s, you must go through Fort Huachuca. Please note that everyone in the car must have a valid ID and your car must have current registration and insurance. Enter Fort Huachuca from Sierra Vista. Follow south on the main road 9.5 miles to Garden Canyon as indicated by the signs. For the more adventuresome, Lyle and Sunnyside Canyons on the west side are wonderful birding destinations accessible from the Parker Canyon road south of Sonoita. Directions to other birding sites in this range can be found in <i>Finding Birds in SE Arizona</i> .

*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 Counts	H	Ramsey Canyon and Appleton-Whittell	Extract IBA data from CBC

Trogon Surveys	M	TAS coordinates volunteer surveys	Annual surveys
Yellow-billed cuckoo surveys	M	USFWS Breeding Survey Protocol	As funding is available
IBA Signage	M	IBA Signs installed at Ramsey Canyon visitor center and Ash Canyon Bird Sanctuary.	More signs to be installed – TAS lead
IBA Dedication Event	M	Formal dedication	Date and location pending

Partners:

Name	Role(s)	Contact Information	Actions
Tucson Audubon Society	IBA Steward	Contact Information	Bird Surveys
Ramsey Canyon Preserve	Site Stewards,	Ramsey Canyon Preserve Website	nature tourism destination
Coronado National Forest, Sierra Vista Ranger District	Land manager	4070 South Avenida Saracino Hereford, AZ 85615 (520).378.0311	Coronado Forest land plan
Fort Huachuca	Land manager	Department of Public Works, Environmental and Natural Resources Division	Sentinel Landscape partner http://sentinellandscapes.org/explore/fort-huachuca/
Coronado National Memorial	Land manager	Contact Information: https://www.nps.gov/coro/planyourvisit/birding.htm	Promotes eBird, nature education

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
Grassland Birds	Good
Madrean Oak Woodland and Sycamore/Oak Birds	Very Good
Mixed Conifer, Pine, and Pine/Oak 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 drought, wildfire, and non-native vegetation pose the greatest threats to birds within this IBA.

Challenges	Mixed Conifer Birds	Grassland Birds	Madrean Oak Woodland and Sycamore/Oak Birds	Summary Rating
Woody Plant Invasion	Low	Medium	Low	Low
Wild Fire	Medium	Low	Medium	Medium
Drought	Very High	High	High	High
Nonnative Grasses	Low	Medium	Low	Low
Disturbance to Birds	Low	Low	Medium	Low
Summary Ratings:	High	Medium	Medium	High

Huachuca Mountains	Severity (1-3)	Scope (1-3)	Permanence (2-4)
Threats on National Database			
Invasive Species 5	1	2	2
Natural events Fire, 8	3	2	3
Drought			

Huachuca Mountains Important Bird Area

