

Joshua Tree

IBA web pages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://aziba.org/?page_id=2278 • NAS Site 2230 • AzGFD Conservation Opportunity Areas
Priority	Global
Qualifying Criteria	<p>Global Site Important to Special Status Avian Species (Bendire’s Thrasher)</p> <p>State Site Important to Special Status Avian Species (Bendire’s Thrasher, Elf Owl, Costa’s Hummingbird, Gila Woodpecker, Gilded Flicker, Loggerhead Shrike, Juniper Titmouse, Lucy’s Warbler, Canyon Towhee, Brewer’s Sparrow)</p> <p>Species in rare/unique habitat - Joshua Tree Community</p> <p>eBird Checklist: NONE</p>
IBA Polygon Center Point (Latitude, Longitude)	34.59° N, 113.80° W
Size	136, 447 acres
County	Mohave
Local Communities	Wikieup
Description	<p>This area is essentially unknown to birders and other wildlife viewers but consists of excellent habitat and a unique ecotone. As a gradient overlap zone where Sonoran Desert and Mohave Desert meet, there are many interesting mixes of plants such as Joshua Trees alongside Saguaros. This is also where three different Bird Conservation Regions meet (BCR 16, 33, and 34) and as a result all three are considered in this IBA.</p> <p>This area was used in the past for artillery practice for the US military. Today, it is sometimes used as a scenic shortcut to Kingman, AZ but is primarily used for grazing of cattle. This area is also known as an off-road vehicle and ATV recreation area. Roughly ninety percent of the area is used for cattle grazing and ten percent is used for recreation.</p>
Mission/Goals	To conserve and protect a unique example of mixed Mohave/Sonoran desert habitat and the populations of special status avian species that depend on it.
Current Habitat Conservation, Planning, and Management Activities	In 2012, thirty-two point counts conducted in the style of the Breeding Bird Survey, but one month earlier, yielded 13 detections of Bendire's thrashers. These results led to more exploration of the area and a conclusion that the habitat may be ideal for this species. A formal IBA expedition with Arizona Field Ornithologists was planned

	<p>for 2013. During this expedition, Bendire’s Thrasher-specific call back surveys were conducted along 12 routes. Nocturnal callback surveys were also conducted.as a part of this effort.</p> <p>During the field season 2017, 2018, 2022 in AZ, the JTIBA area was included in the regional survey effort organized by the Desert Thrasher Working Group (AZ survey effort lead by AZGFD). A total of 33 plots were surveyed using an area search method. Results from the effort can be found at https://borderlandsbirds.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Ammon-et-al-2020-Comprehensive-report-of-region-wide-tharsher-surveys-in-2017-2018-Final-3-5-21.pdf</p> <p>Beginning in March of 2022, JTIBA area was included for a project to affix GPS tags to Bendire’s Thrashers. The purpose of this project is to gain knowledge on the bird’s migratory movement and winter habitat location. There are currently 15 tags deployed on birds in the JTIBA. Plans for recapture to recover data are scheduled for March and April of 2023. Results are pending.</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>50.61 Mohave Desertscrub (<i>American Kestrel, Costa’s Hummingbird, Gila Woodpecker, Elf Owl, Western Screech Owl, Loggerhead Shrike, Bendire’s Thrasher, Lucy’s Warbler, Canyon Towhee, Brewer’s Sparrow, Black-Throated Sparrow</i>)</p> <p>20.18 Sonoran Desertscrub: Uplands (<i>American Kestrel, Costa’s Hummingbird, Gila Woodpecker, Gilded Flicker, Elf Owl, Western Screech Owl, Verdin, Cactus Wren, Loggerhead Shrike, Bendire’s Thrasher, Lucy’s Warbler, Canyon Towhee, Brewer’s Sparrow</i>)</p> <p>13.18 Sonoran/Mohave Desertscrub (<i>Costa’s Hummingbird, Gila Woodpecker, Gilded Flicker, Elf Owl, Western Screech Owl, Loggerhead Shrike, Bendire’s Thrasher, Lucy’s Warbler, Canyon Towhee, Brewer’s Sparrow</i>)</p> <p>6.80 Interior Chaparral (<i>Black-chinned Sparrow</i>)</p> <p>6.43 Pinyon Pine-Juniper Woodland (<i>Woodhouse’s Scrub-Jay, Juniper Titmouse, Loggerhead Shrike, Scott’s Oriole</i>)</p> <p>2.10 Wash (<i>Verdin, Bendire’s Thrasher</i>)</p> <p>0.71 Semiarid/Sonoran Savannah Grassland (<i>Gila Woodpecker, Gilded Flicker, Loggerhead Shrike, Bendire’s Thrasher, Canyon Towhee, Brewer’s Sparrow, Black-Throated Sparrow</i>)</p>
<p>Related Habitat Accounts*</p>	<p>Sonoran Desert Pinyon Juniper</p>
<p>Biological Description</p>	<p>This area occurs on a fascinating ecotone of Mohave Desert and Sonoran Desert. The habitat is unlike any other in the state with</p>

	<p>unique associations of both plants and wildlife from the Mohave and Sonoran Deserts, the Sierra Madre, and the Colorado Plateau. The dominant plant species are Joshua Tree, Saguaro, California Juniper, Creosote, and many wildflowers and small cacti.</p> <p>There are 10 species of conservation status found in this proposed IBA out of 78 total species of bird recorded on surveys. The motivating factor that encouraged IBA surveyors to visit in the first place was the unofficially noticed presence of Bendire’s Thrashers, a species of Global IBA status.</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</p> <p>Tier 2: American Kestrel, Bendire’s Thrasher, Brewer’s Sparrow, Black-chinned Sparrow, Black-Chinned Sparrow, Brewer’s Sparrow, Cactus Wren, Canyon Towhee, Costa’s Hummingbird, Elf Owl, Gila Woodpecker, Gilded Flicker, Gray Flycatcher, Loggerhead Shrike, Scott’s Oriole, Verdin, Western Screech Owl, Woodhouse’s Scrub-Jay,</p> <p><u>Federal Threatened or Endangered Species</u></p> <p>None</p> <p><u>USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern</u></p> <p>National: Bendire’s Thrasher, Brewer’s Sparrow, Canyon Towhee, Costa’s Hummingbird, Elf Owl, Loggerhead Shrike, Lucy’s Warbler,</p> <p>USFWS Region: Bendire’s Thrasher, Brewer’s Sparrow, Canyon Towhee, Costa’s Hummingbird, Elf Owl, Gila Woodpecker, Gilded Flicker, Juniper Titmouse, Loggerhead Shrike, Lucy’s Warbler,</p>
<p>NABCI Bird Conservation Region</p>	<p>16: Southern Rockies Colorado Plateau 33: Sonoran and Mojave Deserts 34: Sierra Madre Occidental</p>
<p>Ownership</p>	<p>The IBA is primarily Bureau of Land Management owned and is the grazing allotment designated “Chicken Springs.” There is a small amount of state trust land and private land included in the IBA. The private owner indicated his willingness to be included in the IBA.</p>
<p>Conservation Land Status**</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Human Population Density</p>	<p>Rural</p>
<p>Legislative District(s)</p>	<p>Arizona Congressional District 9 and State Legislative District 30</p>
<p>NRCS Major Land Resource Area</p>	<p>52: Sonoran Basin and Range</p>

Visitation, main access, and permits needed	This IBA is located south and east of Wikieup, Arizona in Mohave County. From Wikieup, head west on Chicken Springs Road. After about 14.5 miles, turn right onto Alamo Road.
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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
Bird Monitoring	H	Bendire’s Thrasher Regional Surveys for occupancy.	Coordinate with the Desert Thrasher Working Group (AZGFD and USFWS leads) to update IBA information based on this data
Bird Monitoring	M	Nocturnal and breeding birds	Develop plan for 5 year cycle
Bird Monitoring	H	Breeding Bird Survey (BBS)	Annual - Includes points within the IBA
Bird Monitoring	M	eBird data - Direct birders to the IBA	Lucy’s Warbler, Elf Owl, Bendire’s Thrasher focus
Research	H	Bendire’s Thrasher GPS tag project to determine migratory path and winter territory locations.	Coordinate with the Desert Thrasher Working Group (AZGFD and USFWS leads) to update IBA information based on this data
IBA Signage	M	Install signs identifying the site as an IBA	Get agreement with grazing lessee and BLM Kingman District
IBA Dedication	M	A formal recognition event	Get agreement with grazing lessee and BLM Kingman District
UPDATE			June 2023

Partners:

Name	Role(s)	Contact Information	Actions
BLM Kingman District	Land management	2755 Mission Blvd, Kingman, AZ 86401 Phone: (928) 718-3700 https://www.blm.gov/office/kingman-field-office	Coordinate with Audubon for IBA sign installation, IBA dedication & surveys
Arizona Game and Fish Department Kingman Region III Office and Avian	Wildlife Manager	5325 Stockton Hill Rd. Kingman, AZ 86409 (928) 692-7700	Coordinate with Audubon for IBA surveys and share avian data

Name	Role(s)	Contact Information	Actions
program at AZGFD HQ		5000 W. Carefree Hwy Phoenix, AZ 85086 ejarez@azgfd.gov ; (623)236-7516 or ckondrat@azgfd.gov (623)236-7625	
Northern Arizona Audubon Society	Volunteers	Northern Arizona Audubon Society	Participate in volunteer bird surveys and eBird
Grazing Lessee	Livestock management and site steward	TBD	Coordinate with Audubon for IBA sign installation & dedication

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
Mohave and Sonoran Desert 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 climate change and invasive plant species that can carry fire pose the greatest threats to birds within this IBA. The I-II corridor will not cross this IBA.

Challenges	Mohave and Sonoran Desert Birds	Summary Rating
Roads and Power Lines	Low	Low
Grazing	Medium	Low
Climate Change (Drought)	High	High
Nonnative Grasses and Annuals (Fire)	High	High
Summary Ratings:	Medium	Medium

Joshua Tree			Severity (1-3)	Scope (1-3)	Permanence (2-4)	Immediacy (Optional 1-2)
Threats on National Database						
Infrastructure	Highway* (I-11)	4	1	1	1	1
Invasive Species	Invasive Plants (Fire)	9	3	3	3	
Forest Grazing	Overgrazing by Livestock	5	1	3	1	
Natural Events	Drought (Climate Change)	9	3	3	3	

