

**Santa Rita Mountains**

IBA web pages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.audubon.org/important-bird-areas/santa-rita-mountains-coronado-national-forest">http://www.audubon.org/important-bird-areas/santa-rita-mountains-coronado-national-forest</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://aziba.org/?page_id=559">http://aziba.org/?page_id=559</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">AzGFD Conservation Opportunity Area</a></li> </ul>
Priority	State
Qualifying Criteria	<p>Site Important to Special Status Avian Species (Mexican Spotted Owl, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Red-faced Warbler, Northern Goshawk, Olive Warbler, Grace’s Warbler, Greater Peewee, Buff-breasted Flycatcher, Cordilleran Flycatcher, Whiskered Screech Owl, Magnificent Hummingbird, Montezuma Quail, Arizona Woodpecker, Bridled Titmouse, Virginia’s Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Lucifer Hummingbird, Rufous-winged Sparrow, Cassin’s Sparrow, Elf Owl, Elegant Trogon, Costa’s Hummingbird, Broad-billed Hummingbird, Violet-crowned Hummingbird, Blue-throated Hummingbird, Northern- beardless Tyrannulet, Bell’s Vireo, Yellow Warbler, Lucy’s Warbler, Varied Bunting, Black-capped Gnatcatcher, Five- striped Sparrow)</p> <p>eBird Bar Chart: <a href="https://ebird.org/barchart?byr=1990&amp;eyr=2024&amp;bmo=1&amp;emo=12&amp;r=US-AZ_903">https://ebird.org/barchart?byr=1990&amp;eyr=2024&amp;bmo=1&amp;emo=12&amp;r=US-AZ_903</a></p>
IBA Polygon Center Point (Latitude, Longitude)	-110.872700 31.713300
Size	138,759 acres
County	Pima, Santa Cruz
Local Communities	Tucson, Green Valley, Patagonia, Sonoita
Description	This IBA encompasses the large “sky island” mountain range, the Santa Rita mountains, in southeastern Arizona. It spans from near 5000 feet to 9453 feet in elevation at the top of Mount Wrightson, the highest peak in the range and includes the world famous birding hot spot Madera Canyon. The IBA boundary is the National Forest boundary around the mountain. The range has numerous drainages with riparian habitat, but few are perennial, and of those only sections above 6000 feet typically are year-round perennial. The distinct forest, oak savannah, grassland, and riparian habitats found here provide essential habitat for significant populations of a number of bird species of conservation concern.
Mission/Goals	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.
Current Habitat Conservation, Planning, and Management Activities	The Forest Service lands within this IBA are managed for multiple uses by the Coronado National Forest’s Nogales Ranger District. A stewardship organization, Friends of Madera Canyon assists in advancing historical,



	<p>scientific, educational, and interpretive programs in Madera Canyon. Their goals and objectives are to: heighten public interest in conservation; assist the Forest Service and its operations; and assist in data gathering and public feedback. More information can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
<p><b>Land Cover Type<sup>1</sup> (%) and Associated Priority<sup>2</sup> Birds</b></p> <p><sup>1</sup>Southwest Regional Gap Analysis modified to align with ABBA/SWAP habitat types</p> <p><sup>2</sup>AGFD SGCN and IBA Qualifying Species</p>	<p><b>34.99</b> Mexican evergreen woodland (<i>Magnificent Hummingbird, Arizona Woodpecker, Whiskered Screech Owl, Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Gould's Turkey, Montezuma Quail, Arizona Woodpecker, Bridled Titmouse, Virginia's Warbler</i>)</p> <p><b>20.16</b> Semiarid/Sonoran savannah grassland (<i>Golden Eagle, Western Burrowing Owl, Peregrine Falcon, Rufous-winged Sparrow, Botteri's Sparrow, Cassin's Sparrow, Lucifer Hummingbird</i>)</p> <p><b>16.69</b> Chihuahuan desertscrub (<i>Golden Eagle, Western Burrowing Owl, Peregrine Falcon</i>)</p> <p><b>13.63</b> Pinyon pine-juniper woodland (<i>Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Gould's Turkey</i>)</p> <p><b>5.87</b> Madrean pine-oak woodland (<i>Mexican Spotted Owl, Northern Buff-breasted Flycatcher, Whiskered Screech Owl, Magnificent Hummingbird, Arizona Woodpecker, Elegant Trogon, Blue-throated Hummingbird, Buff-collared Nightjar, Gould's Turkey, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, Northern Goshawk; Olive Warbler, Grace's Warbler, Greater Peewee, Buff-breasted Flycatcher, Cordilleran Flycatcher, Whiskered Screech Owl, Magnificent Hummingbird</i>)</p> <p><b>4.37</b> Interior chaparral (<i>Golden Eagle, Western Burrowing Owl, Peregrine Falcon</i>)</p> <p><b>2.34</b> Rock (<i>Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon</i>)</p> <p><b>0.83</b> Riparian (<i>Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Northern Buff-breasted Flycatcher, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, Whiskered Screech Owl, Magnificent Hummingbird, Elegant Trogon, Broad-billed Hummingbird, Blue-throated Hummingbird, Arizona Woodpecker, Bell's Vireo, Yellow Warbler, Black-capped Gnatcatcher, Five-striped Sparrow, Dusky-capped Flycatcher, Thick-billed Kingbird, Elf Owl, Costa's Hummingbird, Violet-crowned Hummingbird, Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet, Lucy's Warbler, Varied Bunting</i>)</p> <p><b>1.13</b> Other (Mesquite, Aspen, Wash, Open-Pit Mine, Sonoran Desertscrub: Lower Colorado River, Sonoran Desertscrub: Uplands)</p>
<p><b>Related Habitat Accounts*</b></p>	<p>Madrean pine-oak Sonoran desert Low grassland Pinyon juniper</p>

	<p>Lowland riparian Montane riparian</p>
<p>Biological Description</p>	<p>Interior Rocky Mountain avifauna meets northern Sierra Madrean avifauna in the Santa Rita Mountains. The range contains distinct forests, oak savannahs, grasslands and riparian habitats and, thanks to this diversity, provides essential habitat for Sierra Madrean Occidental “sky island” species and a number of species of conservation concern.</p>
<p>Focal Bird Species</p> <p>Bold Type are Road to Recovery species</p>	<p><b><u>AGFD Species of Greatest Conservation Need (2022)</u></b></p> <p>Tier 1: <b>Mexican Spotted Owl</b>, Peregrine Falcon, <b>Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo</b></p> <p>Tier 2: Abert’s Towhee, American Kestrel, Arizona Botteri’s Sparrow, Arizona Woodpecker, Azure Bluebird, Band-tailed Pigeon, Black-capped Gnatcatcher, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Brewer’s Sparrow (winter), Broad-billed Hummingbird, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Buff-collared Nightjar, Bullock’s Oriole, Cactus Wren, Canyon Towhee, Cassin’s Finch (winter), Common Black Hawk, Common Nighthawk, Desert Purple Martin, Dusky-capped Flycatcher, Elegant Trogon, Five-striped sparrow, Flammulated Owl, Gila Woodpecker, Gilded Flicker, Golden Eagle, Gould’s Turkey, Graces Warbler, Gray Flycatcher, Gray Vireo, Grasshopper Sparrow, Golden Eagle, Hermit Thrush, Hooded Oriole, Lewis’s Woodpecker (winter), Loggerhead Shrike, MacGillivray’s Warbler, Northern Beardless Tyrannulet, Northern Buff-breasted Flycatcher, Northern Pygmy Owl (Mountain), Northern “Apache” Goshawk, <b>Olive-sided Flycatcher</b> (migration), Prairie Falcon, Pyrrhuloxia, Red-faced Warbler, Rivoli’s Hummingbird, Rufous-winged Sparrow, Scott’s Oriole, Steller’s Jay, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, Thick-billed Kingbird, Townsend’s Solitaire, Verdin, Vesper Sparrow (winter), Violet-crowned Hummingbird, Western Burrowing Owl, Western Screech Owl, Western Wood-Pewee, Woodhouse’s Scrub Jay, Whiskered Screech Owl, Yellow-eyed Junco, Yellow Warbler</p> <p><u>Federal Threatened or Endangered Species</u> Mexican Spotted Owl, Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo</p> <p><u>USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern</u></p> <p>National – Peregrine Falcon, Elf Owl, Costa’s Hummingbird, Elegant Trogon, Arizona Woodpecker, Bell’s Vireo, Lucy’s Warbler, Grace’s Warbler, Red-faced Warbler, Five-striped Sparrow, Black-chinned Sparrow, Varied Bunting USFWS Region – Peregrine Falcon, Elf Owl, Lucifer Hummingbird, Costa’s Hummingbird, Northern Buff-breasted Flycatcher, Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet, Bell’s Vireo, Olive Warbler, Lucy’s Warbler, Grace’s Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Red-faced Warbler, Rufous-winged Sparrow, Botteri’s Sparrow, Five-striped Sparrow, Black-chinned Sparrow, Varied Bunting</p>

NABCI Bird Conservation Region	34: Sierra Madre Occidental
Ownership	Coronado National Forest, Nogales Ranger District
Conservation Land Status**	National Forest and Wilderness area (Mount Wrightson Wilderness)
Human Population Density	Rural
Legislative District(s)	Arizona Congressional Districts 6 and 7 and State Legislative District 19
NRCS Major Land Resource Area	41: Southeastern Arizona Basin and Range
Visitation, main access, and permits needed	Forests Service lands are open to the public. Access is most easy from Green Valley, Arizona

\*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:**

<b>Issue or Activity</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Actions</b>
Mineral Extraction	H	Rosemont Mine Tailings Site	TAS is lead for advocacy
Green Valley CBC	H	Annual winter bird count	Continue – Tucson Audubon
AZ IBA Surveys	M	Annual breeding bird surveys	TAS lead 2006-2012 - Encourages eBird entries
IBA Trogon Surveys	H	Breeding surveys	Annual – TAS lead
Yellow-billed cuckoo surveys	M	USFWS Breeding Survey Protocol	As funding is available by TAS
USFS spotted owl surveys	M	Contracted surveys conducted periodically	Use data to update global designation criteria
IBA Signage	M	Signs installed at three feeder stations within Madera Canyon	More signs installed – TAS lead
IBA Dedication Event	Done	Formal dedication at Green Valley	Completed

**Partners:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Role(s)</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>	<b>Actions</b>
Coronado National Forest	Land managers	Nogales Ranger District 303 Old Tucson Road Nogales, AZ 85621 520.281.2296	Website: <a href="http://www.fs.usda.gov/coronado/">http://www.fs.usda.gov/coronado/</a>

<b>Name</b>	<b>Role(s)</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>	<b>Actions</b>
Friends of Madera Canyon	Advancing historical, scientific, educational, and interpretive programs in Madera Canyon	<a href="#">Contact Information</a> Email: <a href="mailto:info@friendsofmaderacanyon.org">info@friendsofmaderacanyon.org</a>	More about the Friends of Madera Canyon's education, research and outreach activities can be found on their <a href="#">webpage</a> .
Tucson Audubon Society	IBA Steward	300 E University Blvd # 120, Tucson, AZ 85705 <a href="tel:(520)629-0510">(520) 629-0510</a> <a href="http://tucsonaudubon.org/">tucsonaudubon.org/</a>	Advocacy and bird surveys

**Conservation Targets:**

These are species, communities, or ecological systems that represent and encompass the full array of biodiversity found in this IBA.

<b>Conservation Target</b>	<b>Current Condition</b>
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 mining activities, drought, and non-native grass invasion pose the biggest threats to birds within this IBA.

<b>Challenges</b>	<b>Mixed Conifer, Pine, and Pine/Oak Birds</b>	<b>Madrean Oak Woodland and Sycamore/Oak Birds</b>	<b>Grassland Birds</b>	<b>Summary Rating</b>
Disturbance to Birds	Medium	Low	Low	Low
Wild Fire	Medium	Medium	Low	Medium
Mining	Very High	Very High	High	High
Drought	High	Medium	Low	Medium

<b>Challenges</b>	<b>Mixed Conifer, Pine, and Pine/Oak Birds</b>	<b>Madrean Oak Woodland and Sycamore/Oak Birds</b>	<b>Grassland Birds</b>	<b>Summary Rating</b>
Nonnative Grasses	Low	Low	High	Medium
Woody Plant Invasion	Low	Low	Medium	Low
Summary Ratings:	Medium	High	Medium	High

Santa Rita Mountains	Severity (1-3)	Scope (1-3)	Permanence (2-4)	Immediacy (Optional 1-2)
Threats on National Database				
Disturbance to birds				
Foot traffic	4	1	2	1
Natural events				
Fire	7	3	2	2
Extraction Industry				
Hard rock mining	11	3	2	4
				2

**Santa Rita Mountains Important Bird Area**

