

Havasu National Wildlife Refuge

IBA web pages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://aziba.org/?page_id=386 • NAS IBA 2315 Havasu National Wildlife Refuge • AzGFD Conservation Opportunity Area
Priority	Continental
Qualifying Criteria	<p>Continental: Site Important to Special Status Avian Species (<i>Yuma Ridgway's Rail</i>)</p> <p>State: Site Important to Special Status Avian Species (<i>Yuma Ridgway's Rail</i>)</p> <p>Rare, Unique, or Exceptional Representative Habitat/Ecological Community (<i>marsh and river slough</i>)</p> <p>Significant numbers of wintering and migrating waterfowl (2000+)</p> <p>eBird Checklist: https://ebird.org/barchart?byr=1975&eyr=2020&bmo=1&emo=12&r=US-AZ_2315</p>
IBA Polygon Center Point (Latitude, Longitude)	34.38333, -114.05
Size	39,281 acres
County	Mohave
Local Communities	Lake Havasu City, Mohave Valley, Needles (CA)
Description	<p>When the gates closed at Parker Dam in 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt created Havasu National Wildlife Refuge to provide migratory waterfowl habitat. The refuge has shifted boundaries since then, including the addition of the Needles Peaks area in 1968. Topock Marsh, Topock Gorge, and Havasu Wilderness form three distinct areas.</p> <p>The Lake Havasu National Wildlife Refuge protects 30 miles of the Colorado river and 300 miles of shoreline from Needles, CA to Lake Havasu City, AZ. Included in the refuge is Topock Gorge, Topock Marsh – a 4,000 acre marsh that depends on water from the Colorado River, and the 17,606-acre Havasu Wilderness.</p>
Mission/Goals	To conserve a major marsh and river slough that represents a rare/unique habitat mosaic in Arizona, support populations of breeding, year-round and migratory birds, and provide habitat for state, continental, and global species of concern.
Current Habitat Conservation, Planning, and Management Activities	Havasu NWR works to control salt cedar and re-establish native riparian forests. To protect floating nest birds, jet powered personal watercraft are not allowed in backwaters off the main Colorado

	River channel for the 15-mile stretch from the Island/Castle Rock location, north to the Interstate 40 bridge buoy line.
<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>25.66 Sonoran/Mohave Desertscrub (<i>Peregrine Falcon, Abert's Towhee, Western Burrowing Owl</i>)</p> <p>25.48 Upland Sonoran Desertscrub (<i>Peregrine Falcon, Gila Woodpecker, Gilded Flicker, Western Screech Owl</i>)</p> <p>23.09 Riparian (<i>Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, Purple Martin, Abert's Towhee</i>)</p> <p>10.53 Emergent Marsh (<i>Yuma Ridgway's Rail, Black Rail, American Bittern</i>)</p> <p>7.47 Backwater (<i>Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Belted Kingfisher,</i>)</p> <p>6.12 Open Water (<i>Bald Eagle, Osprey, Clark's Grebe, Peregrine Falcon</i>)</p> <p>Sonoran Desert Scrub Lower Colorado (<i>Cactus Wren, Verdin, Black-throated Sparrow, Prairie Falcon</i>)</p> <p>0.28 Other (<i>Wash, Urban/Residential, Interior Chaparral</i>) (<i>Abert's Towhee</i>)</p>
Related Habitat Accounts*	Freshwater Marsh Sonoran Desert Lowland Riparian
Biological Description	<p>Historically, the Lower Colorado River flooded seasonally – rejuvenating marsh and riparian forest. With the construction of Hoover Dam in 1936, these floods were interrupted. The Havasu National Wildlife Refuge was established to protect the remaining riparian and emergent marshland habitat to provide habitat for endangered species and migratory birds. Listed species include Yuma Ridgway's Rail, Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, Razorback suckers.</p> <p>The Habitat is varied within the refuge. Along the Colorado River, freshwater emergent marshes and open water can be found at areas like Topock Marsh, Pintail Slough, and Beal Lake. Steep cliffs adjacent to one of the river's remaining natural stretches can be found within Topock Gorge, Stands of Freemont Cottonwood and Goodding's Willow are also present. Further from the river, habitats include Sonoran Desert uplands, mesquite bosque, and agricultural fields.</p>

<p>Focal Bird Species</p> <p>Bold Type are Road to Recovery species</p>	<p><u>AGFD Species of Greatest Conservation Need (2022)</u></p> <p>Tier 1 – Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Yuma Ridgway’s Rail</p> <p>Tier 2 – Abert’s Towhee, American Bittern (migration), American Pipit (winter), American Kestrel, Brewer’s Blackbird (winter), Brewer’s Sparrow, Bullock’s Oriole, Cactus Wren, Clark’s Grebe, Costa’s Hummingbird, Golden Eagle, Gilded Flicker, Gila Woodpecker, Hermit Thrush (migration), Hooded Oriole, Horned Lark, Killdeer, Lincoln’s Sparrow (winter), Loggerhead Shrike, Northern Harrier, Olive-sided Flycatcher (migration), Prairie Falcon, Red-winged Blackbird, Sage Thrasher (migration), Savannah Sparrow (winter), Sprague’s Pipit (rare), Swainson’s Hawk (migration), Swainson’s Thrush (migration), Verdin, Vesper Sparrow (winter), Western Burrowing Owl, Western Grebe, Western Screech Owl</p> <p><u>Federal Threatened or Endangered Species</u></p> <p>Yuma Ridgway’s Rail, Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher</p> <p><u>USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern</u></p> <p>National – Bald Eagle, Swainson’s Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Black Rail, Solitary Sandpiper, Lesser Yellowlegs, Whimbrel, Long-billed Curlew, Marbled Godwit, Short-billed Dowitcher, Costa’s Hummingbird, Western Yellow-billed cuckoo, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, Loggerhead Shrike, Bell’s Vireo, Virginia’s Warbler, Lucy’s Warbler, Black-chinned Sparrow, Lawrence’s Goldfinch</p> <p>USFWS Region – Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Black Rail, Solitary Sandpiper, Whimbrel, Long-billed Curlew, Short-billed Dowitcher, Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Costa’s Hummingbird, Gilded Flicker, Loggerhead Shrike, Bell’s Vireo, Lucy’s Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Lark Bunting</p>
<p>NABCI Bird Conservation Region</p>	<p>33: Sonoran and Mohave Deserts</p>
<p>Ownership</p>	<p>US Fish and Wildlife Service</p>
<p>Conservation Land Status**</p>	<p>National Wildlife Refuge and Wilderness Area</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>30: Mojave Desert 39: Lower Colorado Desert</p>

	52: Sonoran Basin and Range
Visitation, main access, and permits needed	The refuge can be accessed from many different places, including from the lower Colorado River via boat and multiple roads. For more information, visit the USFWS's website at https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Havasu/visit/plan_your_visit.html

*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	H	Havasu NWR CBC	Continue - use CBC data
Bird Monitoring	H	USFWS riparian and Marshbird surveys and eBird	Continue – use eBird, Marshbird, and USFWS riparian and Bell's vireo data
Yellow-billed cuckoo surveys	H	USFWS Breeding Survey Protocol	Part of MSCP Monitoring - continue
IBA Signage	Done	Updated current signs with custom artwork of marsh bird	Completed January, 2016
IBA Dedication	Done	A formal recognition event	Completed January, 2016
Updated	July 2017		

Partners:

Name	Role(s)	Contact Information	Actions
US Fish and Wildlife Service	Land Managers	60911 Highway 95 Parker, Arizona 85344 Phone: (928) 667-4144 Fax: (928) 667-3402	Management of the refuge with an emphasis on conservation of neotropical migrant birds, marsh birds, waterbirds, waterfowl, riparian and marshland habitats.

Name	Role(s)	Contact Information	Actions
Friends of the Bill Williams and Havasu National Wildlife Refuge	Friends group	Contact Information	Wildlife education and outreach, volunteer labor for projects and events
Prescott Audubon Society	IBA Stewards	Prescott Audubon	Local members that participate in the CBC and keep eBird records
Arizona Field Ornithologists	Bird Surveys	Contact Information	As scheduled. Members contribute to eBird

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
Marsh Birds	Very Good
Waterfowl	Very Good
Cottonwood/Willow Riparian Birds	Good
Sonoran Desert Birds	Good
Water Birds	Good

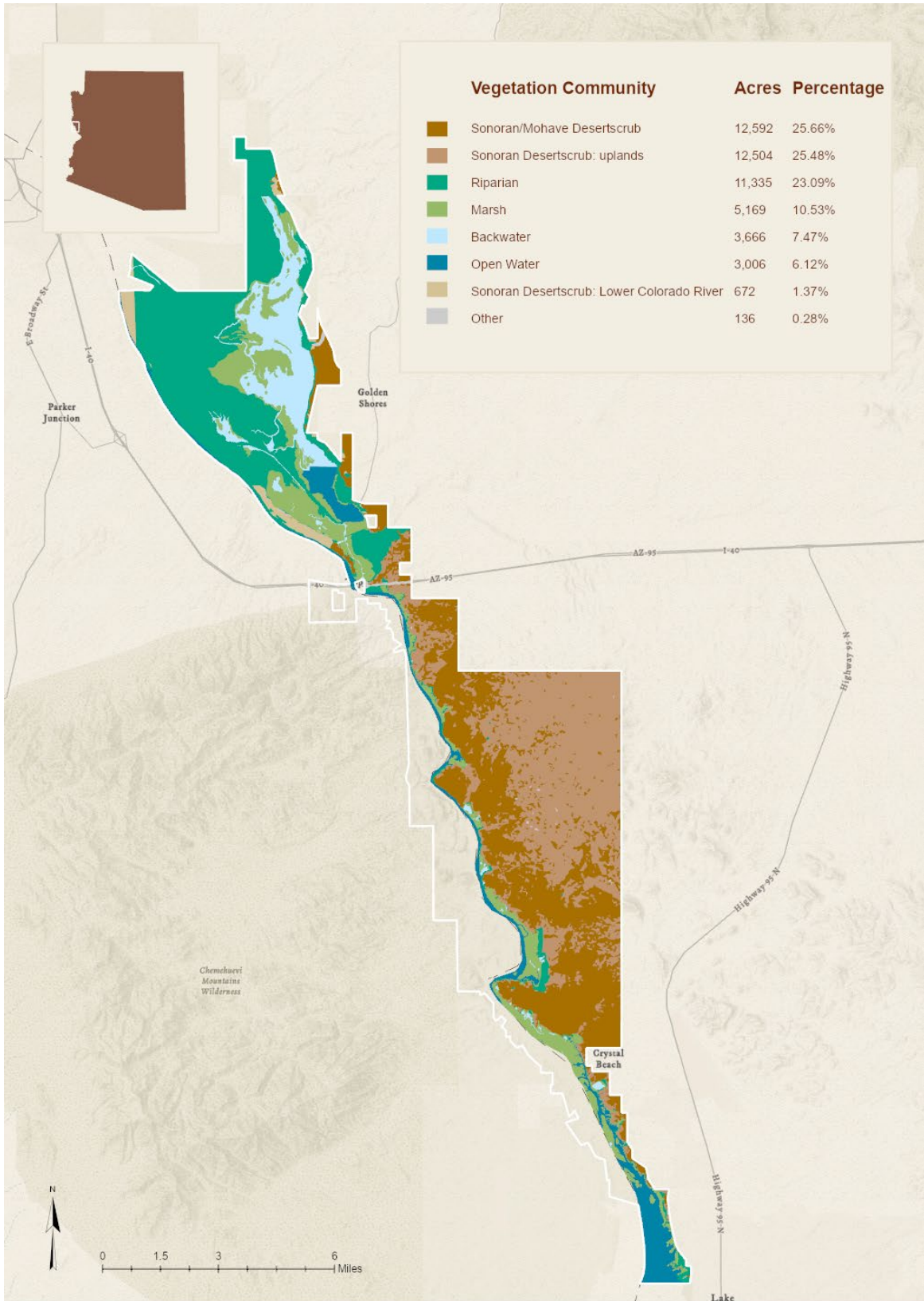
Conservation Challenges:

Conservation challenges are primarily human activities that immediately affect what we are trying to conserve. Through a Miradi process, it was found that extended drought poses the greatest threats to birds within this IBA.

Challenges	Water Birds	Cottonwood/ Willow Riparian Birds	Waterfowl	Sonoran Desert Birds	Marsh Birds	Summary Threat Rating
Invasive Salt Cedar and Arundo		Low			Low	Low
Floods		Medium			Medium	Low
Disturbance to Birds by	Medium		Medium		Low	Medium

Challenges	Water Birds	Cottonwood/ Willow Riparian Birds	Waterfowl	Sonoran Desert Birds	Marsh Birds	Summary Threat Rating
Boaters						
Water Pollution	Low	Low	Low		Low	Low
Climate Change (Drought)		Medium	Medium	Medium	High	Medium
Summary Target Ratings:	Low	Low	Low	Low	Medium	Medium

Havasu NWR			Severity (1-3)	Scope (1-3)	Permanence (2-4)
Threats on National Database					
Pollution	Sewage	5	2	1	2
Invasive species	Non-native plants	5	1	2	2
Recreation/tourism	Boating	4	1	2	1
Climate Change	Drought	7	2	3	2



Havasu National Wildlife Refuge
Important Bird Area

