

Lower Gila River Quigley Wildlife Management Area

IBA web pages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - http://aziba.org/?page_id=523 - NAS IBA Lower Gila River Quigley Wildlife Area IBA_2186
Priority	State
Qualifying Criteria	<p>State: Rare, Unique, or Exceptional Representative Habitat/Ecological Community (emergent freshwater marsh)</p> <p>Site Important to Special Status Avian Species (Yuma Ridgway’s Rail, Abert’s Towhee, Least Bittern, American Bittern, Osprey, Snowy Egret, Great Egret, Belted Kingfisher, White-throated Swift)</p> <p>eBird Checklist: https://ebird.org/barchart?byr=1900&eyr=2020&bmo=1&emo=12&r=US-AZ_900</p>
IBA Polygon Center Point (Latitude, Longitude)	32.7167°N, 113.967°W
Size	614 acres
County	Yuma
Local Communities	Yuma, Tacna
Description	<p>The Quigley Wildlife Management Area (QWMA) is owned and managed by the Arizona Game and Fish Department. It is located along the lower Gila River 40 miles east of Yuma and just north of the town of Tacna. Prominent features include oxbow ponds and associated marshes and riparian areas, irrigated fields planted with wheat for doves in the summer and moist-soil waterfowl forage in the winter, and irrigated stands of riparian trees.</p> <p>More information about QWMA can be found at: https://www.azgfd.com/wildlife/viewing/wheretogo/quigley/</p>
Mission/Goals	<p>The Arizona Game and Fish Department’s goals for this property are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Restore and manage riparian habitats. - Maintain and enhance habitat suitability for waterfowl, shorebirds, and other riparian associated wildlife. - Restore, enhance and manage habitats required by sensitive species. - Encourage compatible consumptive and non-consumptive uses and educational activities, including development of "watchable wildlife" opportunities. - Maintain and enhance fisheries and fishing opportunities.
Current Habitat Conservation, Planning, and Management Activities	Management activities undertaken at QWMA include salt cedar removal, native riparian forest restoration, and agricultural that provides habitat and forage for birds and other wildlife.



<p>Land Cover Type¹ (%)¹ 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>83.91 Riparian and Emergent Freshwater Marsh (<i>Yuma Ridgway’s Rail, Abert’s Towhee, Least Bittern, American Bittern, Osprey, Snowy Egret, Great Egret, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow Warbler, Lincoln’s Sparrow, Gila Woodpecker, Bell’s Vireo, White-throated Swift</i>)</p> <p>12.15 Sonoran/Mohave Desertscrub (<i>Gilded Flicker, Gila Woodpecker, LeConte’s Thrasher</i>)</p> <p>2.63 Sonoran Desertscrub: Uplands (<i>Gilded Flicker, Gila Woodpecker</i>)</p> <p>1.32 Other (Mesquite, Semiarid/Sonoran Savannah Grasslands, Agriculture) (<i>Abert’s Towhee, Western Burrowing Owl, Mountain Plover, Savannah Sparrow, Bell’s Vireo</i>)</p>
<p>Related Habitat Accounts*</p>	<p>Freshwater Marsh Sonoran Desert Lowland Riparian</p>
<p>Biological Description</p>	<p>Vegetation community is primarily riparian and is dominated by salt cedar. Screwbean mesquite is intermixed extensively with the salt cedar as well as lesser amounts of Fremont cottonwood and Goodding's willow. Approximately 30 acres of cottonwood and willow from natural regeneration or plantings are irrigated. Arrowweed and quailbush are dominant understory plants. Emergent marsh vegetation is almost entirely southern cattail. The Gila River is adjacent to the wildlife area and provides additional wetland and riparian habitat. Other adjacent lands are agricultural and provide some foraging (wheat) and nesting (citrus) habitat.</p> <p>This IBA provides some of the highest quality marsh and riparian habitat along the lower Gila River. It is the only property below Gillespie Dam that is managed for wildlife. Any birds that use the Gila River as a migration corridor would likely pass through Quigley.</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: American Peregrine Falcon, Yuma Ridgway’s Rail</p> <p>Tier 2: Abert’s Towhee, American Bittern, American Pipit (winter), American Kestrel, Bendire’s Thrasher, Brewer’s Blackbird (winter), Brewer’s Sparrow, Bullock’s Oriole, Gila Woodpecker, Hooded Oriole, Killdeer, Western Wood-Pewee (migration), Lincoln’s Sparrow (winter), Loggerhead Shrike, Verdin, Olive-sided Flycatcher (migration), Red-winged Blackbird, Savannah Sparrow (winter), Vesper Sparrow (winter),</p> <p><u>Federal Threatened or Endangered Species</u></p> <p>Yuma Ridgway’s Rail</p> <p><u>USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern</u></p> <p>National – Bell’s Vireo</p> <p>USFWS Region –Yellow Warbler,</p>
<p>NABCI Bird Conservation Region</p>	<p>33: Sonoran and Mohave Deserts</p>
<p>Ownership</p>	<p>Arizona Game and Fish Department</p>
<p>Conservation Land Status**</p>	<p>State Wildlife Area</p>
<p>Human Population Density</p>	<p>Rural</p>
<p>Legislative District(s)</p>	<p>Arizona Congressional District 9 and State Legislative District 25</p>
<p>NRCS Major Land Resource Area</p>	<p>40: Sonoran Basin and Range</p>
<p>Visitation, main access, and permits needed</p>	<p>From Yuma, take I-8 east towards Phoenix. Exit at Avenue 40E or Tacna (exit 42), turn north and cross the railroad tracks. Go north for 1.3 miles then west onto a dirt road for 0.5 miles to the mesa on the southernmost boundary overlooking the ponds. To get to the northernmost boundary (in the Gila River floodplain), go north on Avenue 40E. From the railroad tracks, go 2.5 miles and turn west at the irrigation canal, following the dirt road on the south edge of the canal for 0.1 miles where the road crosses another irrigation canal.</p> <p>More information about QWMA can be found at: https://www.azgfd.com/wildlife/viewing/wheretogo/quigley/</p>

*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	L	eBird records and	
Bird Monitoring	H	Motus Station	Planned for 2024-2025
IBA Signage		Install signs identifying the site as an IBA	Installed Oct 2019. 1 Sign
IBA Dedication	M	A formal recognition event	

Partners:

Name	Role(s)	Contact Information	Actions
Arizona Game and Fish Department	Manages riparian, freshwater marsh, and adjacent habitats for the benefit of wildlife.	Yuma Regional Office Fortuna Road	Management of the wildlife area with an emphasis on conservation of neotropical migrant birds, marsh birds, riparian, and marshland habitats.
Yuma Audubon Society	IBA Steward	yaspresident@yahoo.com	Local members that keep eBird records

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
Cottonwood/Willow Riparian Birds	Fair
Waterbirds and Waterfowl	Fair
Desert Birds	Good
Marsh Birds	Fair

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 loss of agriculture runoff water and wild fire pose the greatest threats to birds within this IBA.

Challenges	Marsh Birds	Waterfowl and Waterbirds	Riparian Birds	Desert Birds	Summary Rating
Wild Fire	High	Low	High	Low	High
Cowbird Parasitism	Low	Low	High	Low	Medium
Agriculture Abandonment (no water run-off)	Very High	Very High	High	Low	Very High
Invasive Plants	Medium	Low	Medium	Low	Low
Summary Ratings:	High	Medium	High	Medium	Medium

Quigley State Wildlife Area, Lower Gila River			Severity (1-3)	Scope (1-3)	Permanence (2-4)	Immediacy (Optional 1-2)
Threats on National Database						
Invasive species	Non-native plants	5	1	2	2	
Natural events	Cowbird parasitism	6	1	2	3	
Natural events	Fire	7	3	2	2	
Agriculture Abandonment	No water run-off	9	3	3	3	

