

Mittry Lake State Wildlife Area

<p>IBA web pages</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://www.audubon.org/important-bird-areas/mittry-lake-state-wildlife-area • http://aziba.org/?page_id=490 • AzGFD Conservation Opportunity Area
<p>Priority</p>	<p>Global</p>
<p>Qualifying Criteria</p>	<p>Global: Site Important to Special Status Avian Species (California Black Rail)</p> <p>Continental: Site Important to Special Status Avian Species (Yuma Ridgway’s Rail)</p> <p>State: Site Important to Special Status Avian Species (Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Bald Eagle, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, Yuma Ridgway’s Rail, Western Burrowing Owl, American Bittern, Gilded Flicker, California Black Rail, Lincoln’s Sparrow, Gila Woodpecker, Abert’s Towhee)</p> <p>Rare, Unique, or Exceptional Representative Habitat/Ecological Community (low-elevation riparian and wetlands)</p> <p>eBird Checklist: https://ebird.org/barchart?r=BIRDLIFE_44521</p>
<p>IBA Polygon Center Point (Latitude, Longitude)</p>	<p>32.8205°N: 114.4689°W</p>
<p>Size</p>	<p>3,575 acres</p>
<p>County</p>	<p>Yuma</p>
<p>Local Communities</p>	<p>Yuma</p>
<p>Description</p>	<p>Mittry Lake is a 400-acre oxbow of the Little Colorado River downstream of Imperial Dam and contains well-developed wetland and marsh habitat adjacent to harsh desert conditions. The Mittry Lake Wildlife Area includes about 600 acres of water surface and 2400 acres of marsh or upland. A wide variety of vegetative and wildlife species can be found here, with a scenic backdrop of three mountain ranges.</p> <p>Numerous serpentine waterways connect to main lake body and make exploring by boat a unique experience. Mittry Lake Wildlife Area provides riparian, wetland, and aquatic habitat for many wildlife species. This is one of the most accessible settings for wildlife viewing in the Colorado River floodplain.</p>

<p>Mission/Goals</p>	<p>Conservation of an exceptional example of low-elevation desert riparian and wetland habitat and the breeding and migratory birds that depend on it.</p>
<p>Current Habitat Conservation, Planning, and Management Activities</p>	<p>This State Wildlife Area is currently co-managed by the Bureau of Reclamation, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Arizona Game and Fish Department.</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>87.06 Riparian/Freshwater Marsh/Open Water (<i>Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Bald Eagle, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, Yuma Ridgway's Rail, American Bittern, Gilded Flicker, California Black Rail, Gila Woodpecker, Abert's Towhee, Yellow Warbler, Lincoln's Sparrow</i>)</p> <p>7.91 Sonoran/Mohave Desertscrub (<i>Western Burrowing Owl</i>)</p> <p>4.32 Sonoran Desertscrub: Uplands (<i>Gilded Flicker, Gila Woodpecker</i>)</p> <p>0.70 Other (Mesquite, Urban/Residential, Sonoran Desertscrub: Lower Colorado River (<i>Gila Woodpecker, Abert's Towhee, Gilded Flicker</i>))</p>
<p>Related Habitat Accounts*</p>	<p>Freshwater Marsh Lowland Riparian Sonoran Desert</p>
<p>Biological Description</p>	<p>This area consists of about 1100 acres of marsh and open water formed from Colorado River backwaters, old channels, and some dredging. It supports some of the largest populations of Yuma Clapper Rails and California Black Rails in the southwest. Also taking advantage of the high quality marsh habitat are other birds such as Virginia Rail, Sora, Least Bittern, and American Bittern. A large wintering population of American Coots (>5000 individuals) uses the open water and marshes and the adjacent riparian habitat provides resources for migrating Southwestern Willow Flycatchers, Western Yellow-billed Cuckoos, and other neotropical birds. In addition, area provides foraging and nesting habitat for herons and egrets and supports a population of Burrowing Owls.</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 Kestrel, American Pipit (winter), Brewer's Blackbird (winter), Brewer's Sparrow (winter), Bullock's Oriole, Cactus Wren, Costa's Hummingbird, Gilded Flicker, Gila Woodpecker, Golden Eagle, Gray Flycatcher (migration), Hooded Oriole, Killdeer, Lincoln's Sparrow</p>

	<p>(winter), Loggerhead Shrike, Olive-sided Flycatcher (migration), Red-winged Blackbird, Savannah Sparrow (winter), Swainson’s Hawk (migration), Verdin, Vesper Sparrow (winter), Western Burrowing Owl, Western Screech Owl, Western Wood-Pewee (migration)</p> <p><u>Federal Threatened or Endangered Species</u></p> <p>Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher</p> <p><u>USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern</u></p> <p>National – Bald Eagle, Long-billed Curlew, Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Costa’s Hummingbird, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, Loggerhead Shrike, Bell’s Vireo, Lucy’s Warbler</p> <p>USFWS Region – Bald Eagle, Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Burrowing Owl, California Black Rail, Long-billed Curlew, Costa’s Hummingbird, Gilded Flicker, Loggerhead Shrike, Bell’s Vireo, Lucy’s Warbler, Yellow Warbler</p>
NABCI Bird Conservation Region	33: Sonoran and Mohave Deserts
Ownership	Ownership is mixed between the Bureau of Land Management and Bureau of Reclamation. Land management is facilitated by these two agencies and the Arizona Game and Fish Department.
Conservation Land Status**	State Wildlife Area
Human Population Density	Rural
Legislative District(s)	Arizona Congressional District 9 and State Legislative District 25
NRCS Major Land Resource Area	39: Lower Colorado Desert 52: Sonoran Basin and Range
Visitation, main access, and permits needed	From Yuma, take Highway 95 north to East Imperial Dam Road, then turn left (west) toward the lake, following Wildlife Area signs.

*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
CBC	M	Martinez Lake-Yuma	Continue - use CBC data
Bird Surveys	H	Annual marsh bird surveys, MSCP surveys	Encourage eBird entries for focal species
IBA Signage	H	Install signs identifying the site as an IBA	Installed October 2019. 2 signs.
IBA Dedication	M	A formal recognition event	Audubon Arizona lead

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 waterfowl, 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
Marsh Birds	Very Good
Sonoran Desert Birds	Good
Waterbirds and Waterfowl	Very Good
Cottonwood/Willow Riparian 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 fire in the riparian areas and invasive giant reed in the marsh pose the greatest threats to birds within this IBA.

Challenges	Marsh Birds	Waterfowl and Waterbirds	Riparian Birds	Desert Birds	Summary Rating
Wild Fire	Medium	Low	High	Low	Medium
Drought	Medium	Low	Medium	Low	Medium
Invasive Plants	Medium	Low	Medium	Low	Medium
Summary Ratings:	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium

Mittry Lake State Wildlife Area	Severity (1-3)	Scope (1-3)	Permanence (2-4)	Immediacy (Optional 1-2)
Threats on National Database				
Invasive species 7	3	2	2	
Natural events Fire, Drought 5	1	2	2	

Mittrey Lake State Wildlife Area Important Bird Area

