

Anderson Mesa

IBA web pages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://aziba.org/?page_id=770 • NAS Site 1229 • AzGFD Conservation Opportunity Area
Priority	Global
Qualifying Criteria	<p>Global Site Important to Special Status Avian Species (Pinyon Jay)</p> <p>State</p> <p>Site Important to Special Status Avian Species (Common Nighthawk, American Bittern, Golden Eagle, Bald Eagle, Northern Goshawk, Ferruginous Hawk, Mexican Spotted Owl, Northern Pygmy Owl, Peregrine Falcon, Evening Grosbeak, Pinyon Jay, Lincoln's Sparrow, MacGillivray's Warbler, Savannah Sparrow)</p> <p>Waterfowl concentrations > 2000 at one time (Ruddy Duck, Gadwall, Cinnamon Teal, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Bufflehead)</p> <p>eBird Barchart: https://ebird.org/barchart?r=BIRDLIFE_29557&yr=all&m=</p>
IBA Polygon Center Point (Latitude, Longitude)	35.01700, -111.40000
Size	167,510 Acres
County	Coconino
Local Communities	Flagstaff
Description	<p>Lake complex, including permanent and semi-permanent lakes and wetlands, ephemeral wetlands, grasslands, pinyon-juniper and coniferous forests. Anderson Mesa begins about 9 miles southeast of Flagstaff, continuing as a gently sloping tableland for approximately 25 miles to the southeast. The northern lakes are Marshall, Lower and Upper Mary, and Mormon. Ashurst and Kinnikinck Lakes are more central. The southern lakes are Long, Soldiers', Soldiers' Annex, Tremaine and Hay. Along the length of the mesa are many ephemeral wetlands of varying sizes. Low bluffs outline part of the western edge. Lakes Mary & Mormon are below the bluffs. Mormon Mountain stands on the west of Mormon Lake. Various habitats are coniferous & deciduous trees, shrubs, small canyons, open grasslands, seasonal marsh wetlands, shallow wet meadows and lacustrine.</p>
Mission/Goals	<p>Conservation of a major wetlands complex that is a significant migration stop over for waterfowl, water birds, and wading birds and provides habitat for nesting waterfowl. Conserving the pinyon pine upland forests as globally significant habitat for pinyon jays.</p>
Current Habitat Conservation,	Research/Conservation Projects: A large conservation project is the

<p>Planning, and Management Activities</p>	<p>restoration of Hay Lake, filling in the drainage canals and channels so that 1200 acres will naturally retain water as it historically did. Lakebed grasses from Mormon Lake were planted (October 2003) along mid-shoreline of Tremaine Lake to help restore native lake grasses (spike grass). A conservation project at Horse Lake repaired/replaced existing fencing (a priority project of the Northern Arizona Bird Conservation Committee/Intermountain West Joint Venture).</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>47.18 Pinyon Pine-Juniper Woodland (<i>Common Nighthawk, Mexican Spotted Owl, Ferruginous Hawk, Pinyon Jay, Loggerhead Shrike, Scott's Oriole</i>)</p> <p>25.75 Ponderosa Pine Forest and Ponderosa Pine-Gambel's Oak Forest (<i>Band-tailed Pigeon, Common Nighthawk, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Mexican Spotted Owl, Northern Pygmy Owl, Flammulated Owl, Steller's Jay, Lewis's Woodpecker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Western Wood-Pewee, Mountain Chickadee, Evening Grosbeak, Hermit Thrush, Townsend's Solitaire, Grace's Warbler</i>)</p> <p>12.42 Cold-temperate (Great Basin)/Plains Grassland (<i>Common Nighthawk, Golden Eagle, Ferruginous Hawk, Northern Harrier, Prairie Falcon, American Kestrel, Horned Lark, Scott's Oriole, Loggerhead Shrike, Savannah Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Black-Throated Sparrow, Sprague's Pipit</i>)</p> <p>8.18 Montane Meadow/Subalpine Grasslands (<i>Golden Eagle, Ferruginous Hawk, Common Nighthawk, Savannah Sparrow, American Pipit, Sprague's Pipit</i>)</p> <p>3.94 Riparian (<i>Ruddy Duck, Gadwall, Cinnamon Teal, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Bufflehead, American Bittern, Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Western Grebe, Clark's Grebe, Lincoln's Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird</i>)</p> <p>1.26 Interior Chaparral (<i>Common Nighthawk, Ferruginous Hawk, Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay</i>)</p> <p>0.85 Wash</p> <p>0.28 Agriculture (<i>Common Nighthawk, Red-winged Blackbird</i>)</p> <p>0.06 Mixed Conifer (<i>Band-tailed Pigeon, Mexican Spotted Owl, Northern Pygmy Owl, Northern Goshawk, Evening Grosbeak, MacGillivray's Warbler, Cassin's Finch</i>)</p> <p>0.03 Other (Urban/Residential, Rock)</p>
<p>Related Habitat Accounts*</p>	<p>Pinyon Juniper Pine High grassland</p>

	Montane riparian Conifer forest
Biological Description	From a landscape perspective, Anderson Mesa contains the only major wetland complex between Lake Roosevelt to the south and Lake Powell to the north. Habitat types include coniferous & deciduous trees, shrubs, small canyons, open grasslands, seasonal marsh wetlands, shallow wet meadows and lacustrine.
Focal Bird Species Bold Type are Road to Recovery species	<p><u>AGFD Species of Greatest Conservation Need (2022)</u></p> <p>Tier 1: Bald Eagle, Mexican Spotted Owl, Peregrine Falcon</p> <p>Tier 2: American Bittern, American Goshawk, American Kestrel, American Pipit, Band-tailed Pigeon, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Black-Throated Sparrow, Brewer’s Blackbird, Brewer’s Sparrow, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Bullock’s Oriole, Canyon Towhee, Chestnut-collared Longspur, Common Nighthawk, Cassin’s Finch, Clark’s Grebe, Evening Grosbeak, Ferruginous Hawk, Flammulated Owl, Golden Eagle, Grace’s Warbler, Gray Vireo, Hermit Thrush, Horned Lark, Killdeer, Lewis’s Woodpecker, Lincoln’s Sparrow, Loggerhead Shrike, MacGillivray’s Warbler, Mountain Chickadee, Northern Pygmy-Owl, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Pinyon Jay, Prairie Falcon, Red-faced Warbler, Red-winged Blackbird, Savannah Sparrow, Scott’s Oriole, Snowy Plover, Steller’s Jay, Townsend’s Solitaire, Vesper Sparrow, Western Burrowing Owl, Western Grebe, Western Screech Owl, Western Wood-Pewee, Woodhouse’s Scrub-Jay</p> <p><u>Federal Threatened or Endangered Species</u></p> <p>Mexican Spotted Owl</p> <p><u>USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern</u></p> <p>National: Brewer’s Sparrow Flammulated Owl, Lewis’s Woodpecker, Peregrine Falcon, Pinyon Jay, Virginia’s Warbler, Red-faced Warbler, USFWS Region – Peregrine Falcon, Lewis’s Woodpecker, Pinyon Jay, Red-faced Warbler</p>
NABCI Bird Conservation Region	34: Sierra Madre Occidental
Ownership	Ownership status determined through GIS analysis. Ownership is 96% USDA Coconino National Forest, Mormon Lake Ranger District and 3.9% private land. There are 14 hectares of State Trust Lands that are less than one percent of the land ownership for this IBA. The Arizona Trail crosses the Important Bird Area on the west side of Mormon Lake and Kinnikinick Lake.
Conservation Land Status**	Designated USFS wetlands management area
Human Population Density	Rural

Legislative District(s)	Arizona Congressional District 2 and State Legislative District 7
NRCS Major Land Resource Area	35: Colorado Plateau
Visitation, main access, and permits needed	Located 20 miles southeast of Flagstaff on public US Forest land, take the Lake Mary Road exit and travel east on Forest Road 3. Mormon Lake Lodge is located on the south side of Mormon Lake. There are overlooks, trails and two-track roads throughout. Winter road restrictions.

*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	M	eBird	Monitor eBird data. Organize periodic Pinyon Jay survey efforts using eBird
Bird Monitoring	H	Anderson Mesa Christmas Bird Count	Annual-Coordinated by Arizona Field Ornithologists and Northern Arizona Audubon
Bird Monitoring	H	Motus Station	Installed at Lowell Observatory 2024
Bird Monitoring	H	Pinyon Jay Surveys	NAAS Pilot program began in 2021
Bird Monitoring	M	Marsh Bird Surveys May-June	Add data to IBA database as available
IBA Signage	M	Small IBA signs	Install signs identifying site as an IBA
IBA Dedication Event	M	A formal recognition event	Coordinate with Coconino NF and Mormon Lake Lodge
Updated	May 2024		

Partners:

Name	Role(s)	Contact Information	Actions
Coconino National Forest	Land Manager	Flagstaff Ranger District	Managed under the Coconino National Forest's <i>Forest, Land, and Resource Management Plan</i>
Northern Arizona Audubon Society	Site Steward and volunteer surveyors	Northern Arizona Audubon Society	Organize annual CBC and Pinyon Jay survey efforts. Volunteer marsh bird surveyors. Participate in northern Arizona ABCI committee.
Arizona Game and Fish Department	Marsh Bird Annual Surveys	Arizona Game and Fish Department, Nongame Bird Program	Annual coordination for marsh bird surveys

Name	Role(s)	Contact Information	Actions
Diablo Trust	Collaborative grassroots land management team	Diablo Trust	Participate as appropriate

Conservation Target	Current Condition
Wetlands Restoration/Protection (wetland birds)	Good
Healthy Forest Management (Pinyon jay)	Very Good

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

Conservation Challenges:

Conservation challenges are primarily human activities that immediately affect what we are trying to conserve. Although we identified (through a Miradi process) several main challenges, one, the drying of wetlands, was determined to be the most serious and in need of immediate action.

Challenge	Wetland Birds	Pinyon Jay	Priority
Overgrazing	Medium	Low	Low
Drying of Wetlands	High	NA	Medium
Wild Fire	Low	Medium	Low
Pine Bark Beetle	NA	Medium	Low

Anderson Mesa, Coconino National Forest	Severity (1-3)	Scope (1-3)	Permanence (2-4)
Threats on National Database			
Forest Grazing 5	1	3	1
Natural events 8	3	2	3
Recreation/tourism 3	1	1	1

Anderson Mesa Important Bird Area

