

Boyce Thompson Arboretum and Arnett-Queen Creeks

IBA web pages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://www.audubon.org/important-bird-areas/boyce-thompson-arboretum-and-arnett-queen-creeks • http://aziba.org/?page_id=300 • AzGFD Conservation Opportunity Area
Priority	State
Qualifying Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Important migratory stop-over/seasonal concentration for migratory land birds (Bell’s Vireo, Common-Black Hawk, Elf Owl, Peregrine Falcon, Golden Eagle, Zone-tailed Hawk, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Gilded Flicker, Costa’s Hummingbird, Broad-billed Hummingbird, Desert Purple Martin, Crissal Thrasher, Lucy’s Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Abert’s Towhee, Summer Tanager, Western Wood-Pewee, Vermilion Flycatcher, Yellow-breasted Chat, Blue Grosbeak, Hooded Oriole, Gray Flycatcher, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Lincoln’s Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Brewer’s Sparrow, MacGillivray’s Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Wilson’s Warbler, Tree Swallow, Swainson’s Thrush, Western Tanager, Lazuli Bunting, Varied Bunting, Lawrence’s Goldfinch) ○ Rare, Unique, or Exceptional Representative Habitat/Ecological Community (Low-elevation riparian) <p>Bar Charts - eBird</p>
IBA Polygon Center Point (Latitude, Longitude)	33.2797 N: 111.1559 W
Size	3,071 acres
County	Pinal
Local Communities	Superior
Description	<p>The Boyce Thompson Arboretum and Arnett-Queen Creeks IBA is located three miles west of Superior. It includes the north slope of Picketpost Mountain, foothill canyons and ridges, and two intermittent creeks. Boyce Thompson Arboretum is the steward for this IBA.</p> <p>Boyce Thompson’s 100-acre tract of botanical gardens is open to the public and is used for education, research, land conservation, and low-impact recreation such as photography and wildlife watching. Marsh-fringed Ayer Lake and intermittently flowing Queen and Arnett Creeks provide traces of wetland and riparian habitat while the rugged Magma Ridge and the slopes above the creeks provide stark contrast to the lush vegetation within the park.</p>
Mission/Goals	To conserve and protect an exceptional example of low-elevation

	riparian habitat and the populations of breeding, wintering, and migratory birds that depend on it.
Current Habitat Conservation, Planning, and Management Activities	Protective management facilitated by Boyce Thompson Arboretum staff and volunteers helps to maintain the habitat quality of this IBA. In addition, the US Forest Service has designated the segment of Arnett Creek within this IBA as a native fish management area.
Land Cover Type ¹ (%) and Associated Priority ² Birds ¹ Southwest Regional Gap Analysis modified to align with ABBA/SWAP habitat types ² AGFD SGCN and IBA Qualifying Species	<p>77.10 Sonoran Desertscrub: uplands (<i>Peregrine Falcon, Golden Eagle, Common Nighthawk, Gilded Flicker, Costa's Hummingbird, Gila Woodpecker, Abert's Towhee, Brewer's Sparrow,</i></p> <p>10.24 Riparian (<i>Common-Black Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Zone-tailed Hawk, Purple Martin, Elf Owl, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Gilded Flicker, Costa's Hummingbird, Broad-billed Hummingbird, Gila Woodpecker, Crissal Thrasher, Bell's Vireo, Lucy's Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Abert's Towhee, Summer Tanager, Western Wood-Pewee, Vermilion Flycatcher, Yellow-breasted Chat, Blue Grosbeak, Hooded Oriole, Gray Flycatcher, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Lincoln's Sparrow, MacGillivray's Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Tree Swallow, Swainson's Thrush, Western Tanager, Lazuli Bunting, Varied Bunting, Lawrence's Goldfinch</i>)</p> <p>8.17 Sonoran/Mohave Desertscrub (<i>Peregrine Falcon, Golden Eagle, Common Nighthawk, Brewer's Sparrow</i>)</p> <p>2.16 Pinyon Pine-Juniper Woodland (<i>Common Nighthawk, Gray Flycatcher, Black-throated Gray Warbler</i>)</p> <p>1.44 Interior Chaparral (<i>Peregrine Falcon, Golden Eagle, Common Nighthawk, Gray Flycatcher, Black-chinned Sparrow</i>)</p> <p>0.88 (Semiarid/Sonoran Savannah Grassland, Wash) (<i>Golden Eagle, Common Nighthawk, Grasshopper sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Brewer's Sparrow</i>)</p>
Related Habitat Accounts*	Sonoran Desert, Lowland Riparian, Pinyon Juniper
Biological Description	<p>The Boyce Thompson Arboretum and Arnett-Queen Creeks IBA provides lush low-elevation riparian habitat and over 100-acres of botanical gardens. These resources serve as an oasis in the starkly-contrasting upland Sonoran Desert in which the park and creeks are situated.</p> <p>Probably at least partly due to the oasis-like nature of the area, at least 78 accidental species (5 or fewer records) and 48 casual species (more than 5, but not occurring annually) have been recorded since 1976. Many of these birds were spring and/or fall transients, but some were noted during summer and others during winter. The site's attractiveness to vagrants and uncommon visitors is likely to continue, as exemplified by the presence of an Olive Warbler</p>

	(previously undocumented here) during the inaugural Superior Christmas Bird Count held on January 4, 2004. In addition, populations of some transient species periodically reach relatively high numbers, particularly on "fall-out" days. On occasion, dozens of some species and scores of others have been noted during spring and fall migration periods.
Focal Bird Species Bold Type are Road to Recovery species	<p><u>AGFD Species of Greatest Conservation Need (2022)</u></p> <p>Tier 1: Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Peregrine Falcon</p> <p>Tier 2: Abert's Towhee, American Kestrel, Black-chinned Sparrow, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Black-Throated Sparrow, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Brewer's Sparrow, Broad-billed Hummingbird, Broad-tailed Hummingbird (migration), Bullock's Oriole, Cactus Wren, Canyon Towhee, Common Black Hawk, Costa's Hummingbird, Desert Purple Martin, Gila Woodpecker, Gilded Flicker, Golden Eagle, Gray Flycatcher, Hooded Oriole, Inca Dove, Lark Bunting, Lincoln's Sparrow, Loggerhead Shrike, MacGillivray's Warbler (migration), Northern Beardless Tyrannulet, Olive-sided Flycatcher (migration), Prairie Falcon, Pyrrhuloxia, Savannah Sparrow (winter), Scott's Oriole, Swainson's Hawk (migration), Swainson's Thrush, Townsend's Solitaire, Verdin, Vesper Sparrow, Western Screech Owl, Western Wood-Pewee, Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay</p> <p><u>Federal Threatened or Endangered Species</u></p> <p>Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo</p> <p><u>USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern</u></p> <p>National – Peregrine Falcon, Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Elf Owl, Costa's Hummingbird, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Bell's Vireo, Lucy's Warbler, Brewer's Sparrow, Lawrence's Goldfinch</p> <p>USFWS Region – Common-Black Hawk, Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Elf Owl, Costa's Hummingbird, Gilded Flicker, Bell's Vireo, Lucy's Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Grasshopper Sparrow</p>
NABCI Bird Conservation Region	33: Sonoran and Mojave Deserts
Ownership	Boyce Thompson Arboretum and U.S Forest Service, Tonto NF
Conservation Land Status**	Private and National Forest
Human Population Density	Rural
Legislative District(s)	Arizona Congressional District 2 and State Legislative District 7

NRCS Major Land Resource Area	50: Mogollon Transition
Visitation, main access, and permits needed	<p>From Phoenix (about 1 hour): Take Highway 60 east toward Superior until you reach milepost #223.</p> <p>From Tucson (about 2 hours): Take Oracle Road north and turn left at highway 79. Continue through and past Florence to highway 60. Then, turn right and continue 12 miles east.</p> <p>For more information, visit https://arboretum.ag.arizona.edu/.</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	H	CBC Annual community science event	Included in the Superior Christmas Bird Count Circle
Bird Monitoring	H	Global Big Day Migration Count Annual community-science event (all-bird count held in the spring)	Included in the Pinal County count
Bird Monitoring	M	breeding bird surveys	Encourage eBird entries
IBA Signage	M	Install signs identifying the site as an IBA	Replace signs as needed
IBA Dedication	NA	Dedication Event 2008	Completed

Partners:

Name	Role(s)	Contact Information	Actions
Boyce Thompson Arboretum	Land Manager	https://www.btarboretum.org/ (520) 689-2723	Events, Field Trips
Tonto National Forest, Globe Ranger District	Land Manager	http://www.fs.usda.gov/tonto/ (928) 402-6200	Land Management Plan Arnett Creek
Wild Arizona	Conservation steward	https://www.wildarizona.org/contact/	Arnett Creek Restoration

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
Native Fish	Fair
Desert Birds	Good
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 water quantity and quality pose the greatest threats to birds within this IBA.

Challenges	Desert Birds	Riparian Birds	Native Fish	Summary Rating
Altered Water Regime (Drought)		High	High	High
Grazing	Medium	Low	Low	Medium
Wild Fire	Medium	Medium		Low
Mining	High	Medium	Medium	Medium
Summary Ratings:	Medium	Medium	High	Medium

8) Boyce Thompson Arboretum and Arnett-Queen Creeks	Severity (1-3)	Scope (1-3)	Permanence (2-4)	Immediacy (Optional 1-2)
Threats on National Database				
Extraction Industry	7	1	2	3
Forest Grazing	5	1	3	1
Natural events Fire, Drought	8	3	2	3

