

Tuzigoot

IBA web pages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://www.audubon.org/important-bird-areas/tuzigoot • http://aziba.org/?page_id=638 • Arizona Game and Fish Conservation Opportunity Area
Priority	State
Qualifying Criteria	<p>Site Important to Special Status Avian Species (<i>Least Bittern, Common Black-Hawk, Belted Kingfisher, Bald Eagle, Brewer's Sparrow, Lucy's Warbler, Bell's Vireo, Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, Gray Flycatcher, Virginia's Warbler, MacGillivray's Warbler</i>)</p> <p>Rare, Unique, or Exceptional Representative Habitat/Ecological Community (<i>Riparian and Freshwater Marsh</i>)</p> <p>Bar Charts - eBird</p>
IBA Polygon Center Point (Latitude, Longitude)	34.7807°N 112.0284°W
Size	2,267 acres
County	Yavapai
Local Communities	Clarkdale, Cottonwood
Description	<p>This IBA consists of three distinct and inter-related and water-based systems: 1) a 2-mile stretch of the Verde River riparian corridor, 2) Peck's Lake and its associated riparian and upland habitats, and 3) Tavasci Marsh, a spring-fed marsh of approximately 70 acres, presently with influx of Verde River water from Peck's Lake. Peck's Lake is supplied water from a tunnel (flume) from the Verde River, and its overflow passes into and through Tavasci Marsh back to the Verde River downstream. Tuzigoot National Monument is a National Park Service unit in the middle of the IBA and is all upland habitat. Northern Arizona Audubon Society is the steward for this site. More information about Northern Arizona Audubon Society and how you can help as a volunteer can be found at http://www.nazas.org/</p>
Mission/Goals	To support and protect a significant example of freshwater marsh habitat and the birds of conservation concern that depend on it.
Current Habitat Conservation, Planning, and Management Activities	<p>The Tuzigoot National Monument, Dead Horse Ranch State Park, and Verde River Greenway State Natural Area are protected from development, These sites are also protected from grazing, with the exception of the Greenway which is unprotected from free range cattle in the area.</p> <p>In addition, the IBA includes a mine tailings area adjacent to Peck's Lake that has been proposed for various types of development. These development plans remain on hold, and</p>

	<p>negotiations with various conservation interest groups and the National Park Service is ongoing.</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>46.33 Riparian and freshwater marsh (<i>Least Bittern, American Bittern, Common Black-Hawk, Belted Kingfisher, Bald Eagle, Lucy's Warbler, Bell's Vireo, Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, Gray Flycatcher, Cordilleran Flycatcher, Virginia's Warbler, MacGillivray's Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Wood Duck, Gila Woodpecker, Abert's Towhee, Peregrine Falcon</i>)</p> <p>39.21 Semiarid/Sonoran Savannah Grassland (<i>Brewer's Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow</i>)</p> <p>9.52 Mohave Desertscrub Sonoran/Mohave Desertscrub</p> <p>3.52 Sonoran Desertscrub: Uplands (<i>Gila Woodpecker</i>)</p> <p>2.23 Other (Urban/Residential, Interior Chaparral, Pinyon Pine-Juniper Woodland, Wash, Sonoran Desertscrub: Lower Colorado River)</p>
<p>Related Habitat Accounts*</p>	<p>Lowland Riparian Low Grasslands Sonoran Desert Pinyon Juniper</p>
<p>Biological Description</p>	<p>This IBA provides high quality marsh, riparian, and lake habitat for migrating, breeding, and over-wintering birds.</p> <p>The marsh habitat stands out for its uniqueness in Arizona, for its populations of Least Bittern, Virginia's Rail, Belted Kingfisher, and Great Blue Heron (in winter), and for rare Yuma Clapper Rail detections.</p> <p>The riparian area including the mesquite bosque stands out for the conservation status birds using the habitat both during the breeding and migration passage periods. These species include Lucy's Warbler, Southwestern Willow, Gray, and Cordilleran Flycatchers, and Virginia's and MacGillivray's Warblers. Yellow-billed Cuckoo have also been found to nest within the IBA's riparian habitat (1 pair). Bald Eagles and Osprey are also known to winter along the Verde River and use the IBA during the migration periods.</p> <p>The over-wintering waterfowl numbers can exceed 1000 birds at Peck's Lake with species in notable numbers including Canada Goose, Gadwall, Mallard, Northern Shoveler, Green-winged Teal, Canvasback, and Ring-necked Duck. In winter, the surrounding sedge and grassland habitat supports hundreds of over-wintering sparrows, notably Brewer's Sparrow in huge numbers (>200).</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</p> <p>Tier 2: Abert’s Towhee, American Bittern, American Kestrel, American Pipit, Black-chinned Sparrow, Black-throated Gray Warbler (migration), Brewer’s Blackbird, Brewer’s Sparrow (winter/migration), Bullock’s Oriole, Cactus Wren, Canyon Towhee, Common Black-Hawk, Costa’s Hummingbird, Gila Woodpecker, Golden Eagle, Gray Flycatcher, Gray Vireo (migration), Hermit Thrush, Hooded Oriole, Killdeer, Lincoln’s Sparrow, Loggerhead Shrike, MacGillivray’s Warbler (migration), Olive-sided Flycatcher (migration), Prairie Falcon, Red-winged Blackbird, Savannah Sparrow, Scott’s Oriole, Townsend’s Solitaire, Verdin, Vesper Sparrow, Verdin, Western Screech Owl, Western Wood-Pewee, Wood Duck, Woodhouse’s Scrub-Jay</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, Brewer’s Sparrow, Peregrine Falcon, Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Bell’s Vireo, Virginia’s Warbler, Lucy’s Warbler</p> <p>USFWS Region – Bald Eagle, Common Black-Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Bell’s Vireo, Lucy’s Warbler, Yellow Warbler</p>
<p>NABCI Bird Conservation Region</p>	<p>34: Sierra Madre Occidental</p>
<p>Ownership</p>	<p>Ownership and management of this IBA is shared between Arizona State Parks, National Park Service, Coconino National Forest, and Private landowners.</p>
<p>Conservation Land Status**</p>	<p>State Park, National Monument, and National Forest lands are within this IBA.</p>
<p>Human Population Density</p>	<p>Suburban</p>
<p>Legislative District(s)</p>	<p>Arizona Congressional District 2 and State Legislative District 1</p>
<p>NRCS Major Land Resource Area</p>	<p>50: Mogollon Transition</p>
<p>Visitation, main access, and permits needed</p>	<p>There are many sites to visit within this IBA. For more information, visit the links below.</p>

	Verde River Greenway: https://azstateparks.com/verde-river/ Tuzigoot National Monument: https://www.nps.gov/tuzi/index.htm Dead Horse Ranch State Park: https://azstateparks.com/dead-horse/
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*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	Use eBird data for trends	Encourage eBird entries by birders
Bird Monitoring	L	AZ IBA Surveys	Currently Not Active
IBA Signage	H	Install signs identifying the site as an IBA	Pending – Need to make signs with partner logos
Verde Birding Festival	H	Annual Festival	Support the festival with volunteers
IBA Dedication	Done	A formal recognition event	Completed
Marshbird Survey	M	Annual secretive marshbird survey	Tavasci Marsh conducted by NPS

Partners:

Name	Role(s)	Contact Information	Actions
National Parks Service	Land owner and manager	25 Tuzigoot Rd, Clarkdale, AZ 86324 (928) 634-5564 https://www.nps.gov/tuzi/index.htm	Manage Tavasci Marsh
Arizona State Parks	Land owner and manager	675 Dead Horse Ranch Rd, Cottonwood, AZ 86326 (928) 634-5283 https://azstateparks.com/	Manage Verde River Greenway and Dead Horse Ranch State Park, Host Verde Valley Nature and Birding Festival and other events.
Freeport-McMoRan	Land owner and manager	333 N. Central Ave. Phoenix, AZ 85004 (602) 366-8100	Owns Pecks Lake and Verde River corridor upstream, including the lower TAPCO River Access Point
Town of Cottonwood	Land owner and manager	https://cottonwoodaz.gov/539/Riverfront-Park	Manage Riverfront Park
Town of Clarkdale	River Access Point	http://www.clarkdale.az.gov/Lower_Tapco_RAP.htm Verde River @ Clarkdale	Manages Verde River Lower TAPCO River Access Point
Northern Arizona Audubon Society	Volunteers	http://www.northernarizonaaudubon.org/	Participate in Verde Valley Nature and Birding Festival

Name	Role(s)	Contact Information	Actions
Friends of the Verde River	IBA Steward	115 S Main St Suite A, Cottonwood, AZ 86326 (928) 641-6013 https://verderiver.org/	Organizes Verde Valley Nature and Birding Festival

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	Good
Mesquite Bosque Birds	Good
Marsh Birds	Good
Waterfowl	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 water diversions pose the greatest threats to birds within this IBA.

Challenges	Waterfowl and Waterbirds	Cottonwood/Willow Riparian Birds	Mesquite Bosque Birds	Marsh Birds	Summary Rating
Livestock Grazing	NA	Medium	Medium	NA	Medium
Invasive Salt Cedar, Cattails, and Arundo	Medium	Low	NA	Medium	Low
Floods	Low	Low	Low	Medium	Low
Disturbance to Birds - Boats & OHV	Low	Medium	Low	Low	Low
Water Ditch Diversions	Low	High	Low	Low	Medium
Summary Ratings:	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium

**Important Bird Areas: Mini Conservation Plan
Tuzigoot**

**Updated
April 2025**

Tuzigoot				Severity (1-3)	Scope (1-3)	Permanence (2-4)
Threats on National Database						
Agricultural intensification/expansion	Grazing	4	1	2	1	
Pollution	Nutrient pollution	6	1	2	3	
Water Diversions (incl. impact dikes/dams)	Groundwater extraction	7	1	3	3	
Water Diversions (incl. impact dikes/dams)	Water ditch diversions	6	1	2	3	
Invasive Species	Arundo, Tree of Heaven	5	1	2	2	
	Invasive Cattails	8	3	3	2	
	Flooding	7	3	3	1	

Tuzigoot Important Bird Area

