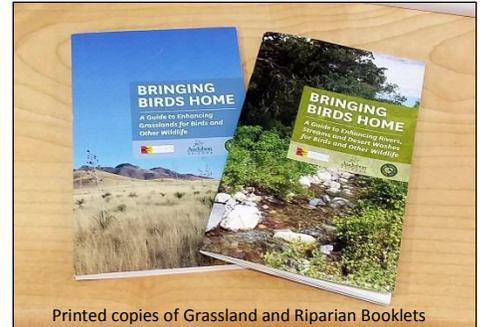




Arizona Important Bird Areas Accomplishments for FY18 by Tucson Audubon and Audubon Arizona
In partnership with Arizona Bird Conservation Initiative of the Arizona Game and Fish Department

Volunteer Engagement: In FY 18 we had 186 IBA volunteers donate 3,931 hours valued at \$139,937.82 and donate \$153,442.91 worth of mileage.

Conservation Outreach: The Bringing Birds Home guide to Grassland Habitat and Riparian Habitat Booklets were finalized and produced. One third of all that were printed were provided to AZGFD for distribution and both Tucson Audubon and Audubon Arizona have begun sharing copies at applicable land owner meetings etc. A high-resolution pdf version of both booklets is available for download online and this link has been shared by the ABCI listserv and at several conferences and meetings. It can be accessed at http://aziba.org/?page_id=2515



- 15 Conservation Mini-plans were completed in draft form in FY 18. Now 41 are in final form and are being reviewed by partners.
- Multiple nestbox programs in IBAs focusing on IBA priority bird species Lucy’s Warblers and Eastern “Azure” Bluebirds were a success with a new and innovative design for a Lucy’s Warbler nestbox working well.
- IBA signage added to Huachuca Mountains IBA and Upper Santa Cruz IBA
- Member organization for the Lower Gila River Collaborative, Lower San Pedro Watershed Collaborative, and the Upper San Pedro Partnership. These are all global IBAs with significant riparian and marsh habitat values.
- Participation in the scoping process for the Tonto National Forest Plan Revision. Three state IBAs are located on this forest.
- Social media posts that highlight our valued partnership with Arizona Game and Fish and tagged AZGFD. Multiple posts did have a reach of over 1,000 with one reaching 3,660 people.



Volunteer Bird Survey Efforts: The Arizona Important Bird Areas Program organized and coordinated many bird survey efforts in FY18 in different parts of the state focusing on different species and habitats.





- Two rounds of winter grassland bird surveys of Las Ciengas NCA IBA and San Rafael Grasslands IBA focusing on IBA priority species Chestnut-collared Longspur. Summer grassland bird surveys at Appleton-Whittell Research Ranch IBA.
- Bendire's Thrasher surveys of Avra Valley City of Tucson property in partnership with AZGFD
- Gilded Flicker surveys of both Tucson Mountains IBA and Tucson Sky Islands IBA
- Nocturnal point count surveys focusing on Elf Owls of Saguaro National Park both Rincon Mountain District (3/31/18) and Tucson Mountain District (4/2/18) with over 30 volunteers for each survey. Results of survey can be seen here: https://drive.google.com/open?id=1DklnSI_-HsANTCniCSB0Gorfu9pwsqQL&usp=sharing
- Elegant Trogon Survey of 5 Sky Island IBAs and over 80 volunteers helped document 164 Elegant Trogons (our highest count ever!) and the detailed, interactive results map is here: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1GKscgRLmgBGckRbRbnf5egFS9BB5ZY-x&usp=sharing>
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo Surveys focusing on Agua Fria NM IBA, Lower San Pedro River IBA, Boyce Thompson Arboretum/Arnett and Queen Creeks IBA, and 4 Sky Island mountain IBAs done by both Audubon Arizona and Tucson Audubon utilizing the robust and skilled IBA volunteer base.
- Marsh bird surveys on the Lower Salt and Gila Rivers IBA conducted by college age youth through an Audubon fellowship grant. <http://az.audubon.org/news/meet-mackenzie-fellows>
- Arizona IBA has begun utilizing Wildlife Acoustics SM4 Sound Recorder Technology and purchased four units and attending a Kaleidoscope software training.
- Arizona IBA filmed a how-to video for IBA standard survey protocol which is now on the website.
- Western Rivers Bird Count launched in May-June to encourage volunteer birders to visit riparian locations with no eBird records. The results will help improve a western riparian bird predictive model developed by National Audubon Society.



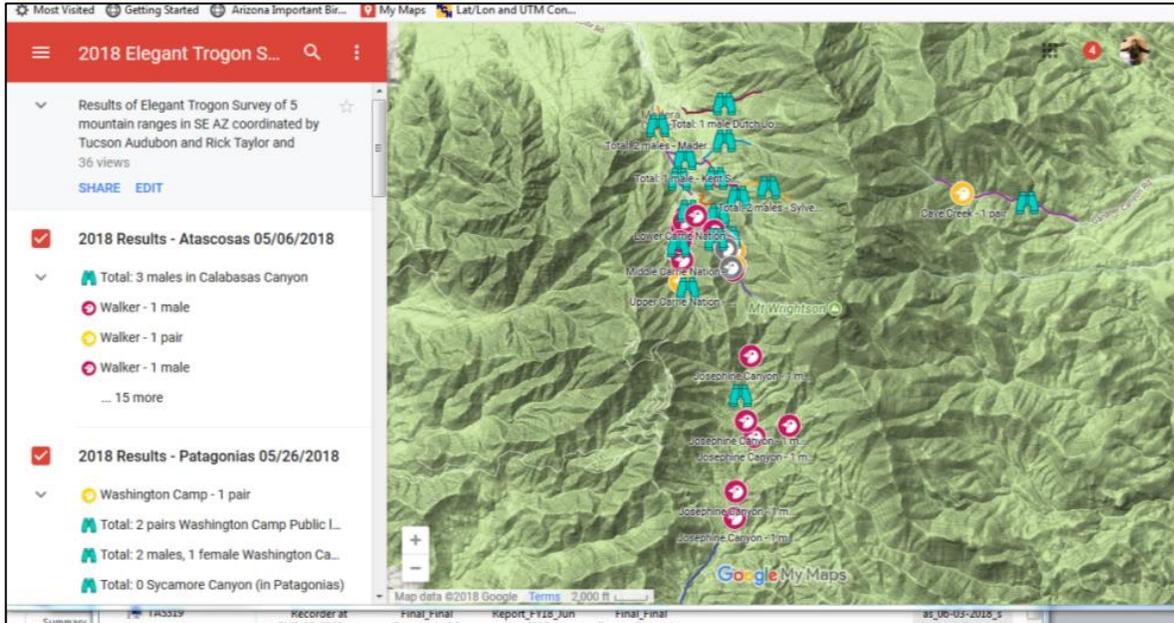
Chestnut-collared Longspurs photographed during IBA survey by volunteer in 2018



Western Screech-owl seen by volunteers during IBA owl surveys



Thank you so much for your continued and valued partnership with the Arizona Important Bird Areas program.



Arizona IBA has been utilizing Google MyMaps technology to create interactive results maps of large scale survey efforts. This allows us to share results with volunteers that helped as well as with interested partners. This has been a new approach this year and has been very popular.