

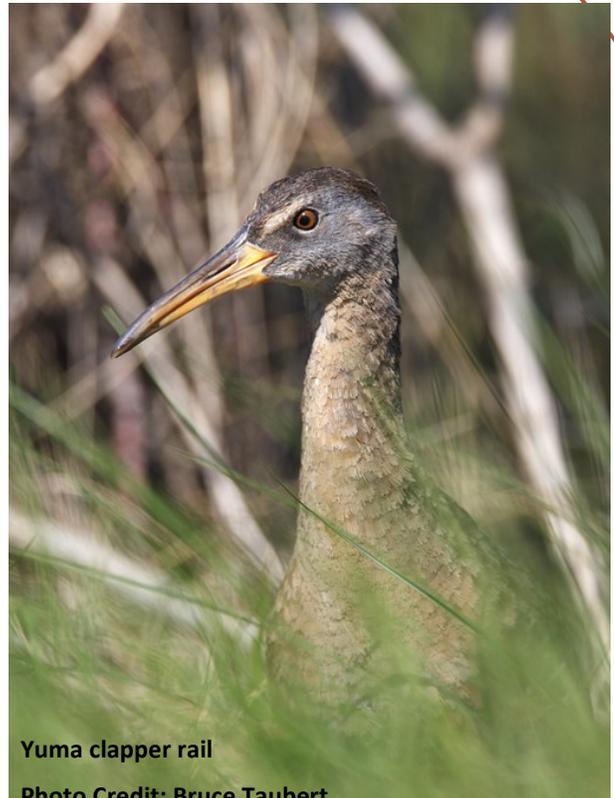


Western Rivers Action Network

Arizona

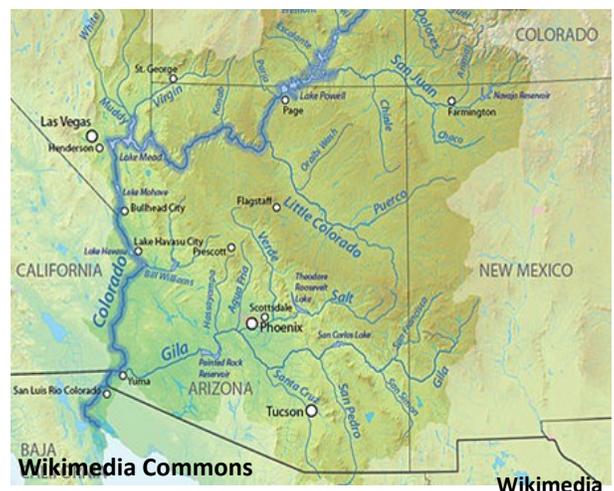
The Gila River

- The Gila River is the **second largest tributary to the Colorado River.**
- **Over 90% of the Gila River watershed, covering nearly 60,000 square miles, is in Arizona.**
- **In 2008, American Rivers listed the Gila as one of the nation's top ten most endangered rivers.**
- **Damming, diversions, and groundwater pumping on the Gila and its tributaries have reduced the historic discharge of the river into the Colorado from just under 2,000 cfs to just under 300 cfs.**
- **Of the 572 miles of the Gila River found in Arizona, only 162 still see year-round flow.**
- Nearly half of Arizona is within the Gila River watershed. This means **decisions on many of Arizona's rivers, including the San Pedro, Santa Cruz, Salt, and Agua Fria, ultimately affect the health of the Gila.**
- **The Salt River, which now runs dry through much of metropolitan Phoenix, was once the Gila River's most significant tributary.**
- The globally-designated **Lower Salt and Gila Rivers Ecosystem Important Bird Area** is home to the federally protected Yuma clapper rail, a phenomenal abundance of fish-eating birds like herons and osprey, and one of the largest populations of Abert's towhee in the United States.
- **The 23,000 acre Gila Box National Riparian Conservation Area supports a diversity of wildlife** including over 200 species of birds, six federally endangered native fish species, and bighorn sheep.



Yuma clapper rail

Photo Credit: Bruce Taubert





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Arizona's Rivers



Where to Find More Information:

- [Audubon Arizona](http://az.audubon.org), az.audubon.org
- [Western Rivers Action Network - Arizona](http://az.audubon.org/western-rivers-action-network-0), az.audubon.org/western-rivers-action-network-0
- [Tucson Audubon Society](http://tucsonaudubon.org), tucsonaudubon.org
- [Maricopa Audubon Society](http://maricopa.audubon.org), maricopa.audubon.org
- [Sonoran Audubon Society](http://sonora.audubon.org), sonora.audubon.org
- [Desert Rivers Audubon Society](http://desert.rivers.audubon.org), desert.rivers.audubon.org
- [Yuma Audubon Society](http://audubonyuma.org), audubonyuma.org
- [Trout Unlimited - Arizona](http://az-tu.org), az-tu.org
- [Arizona Wildlife Federation](http://azwildlife.org), azwildlife.org
- [Lower Salt and Gila Rivers Ecosystem Important Bird Area](http://aziba.org), aziba.org

Join Audubon's Western Rivers Action Network as we rise to this historic challenge to create healthier western rivers for birds, other wildlife, and people.

<http://audubonaction.org/western-rivers>

For more information contact Arizona's WRAN coordinator Sarah Luna at lsarah@msn.com