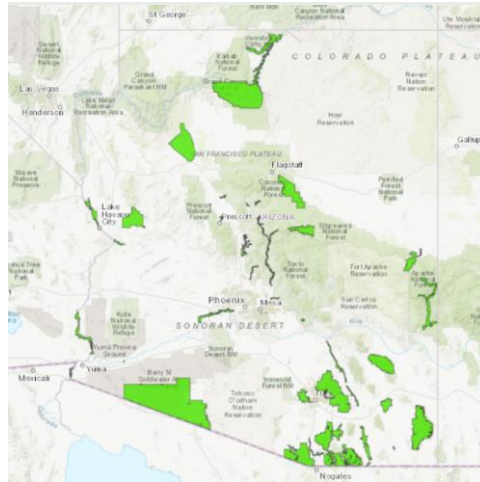


# Western Rivers Action Network

## Arizona's Important Bird Areas



Yellow-billed Cuckoo.  
Photo: Mary Miguez/Audubon Photography Awards



Yuma Ridgway's Rail.  
Photo: Claudio Contreras Koob

### Audubon's Important Bird Area Program

Founded by BirdLife International and managed in the United States by the National Audubon Society, the Important Bird Area (IBA) Program identifies a network of sites critical to **maintaining the long-term viability of wild bird populations** while engaging the public to conserve those areas of critical habitat.

Arizona contributes **48 sites** to this network of over 8,000 sites in 178 countries. **Many of these sites depend on the health of the Colorado River and its tributaries.**

### The Colorado River

The Colorado River alone supports **three continentally-designated** and **four globally-designated** IBAs. Within these IBA's, critical marshland and riparian habitat support several species of concern including the **California Black Rail, Yuma Ridgway's Rail, Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo, and Southwestern Willow Flycatcher.**

### Colorado River Important Bird Areas

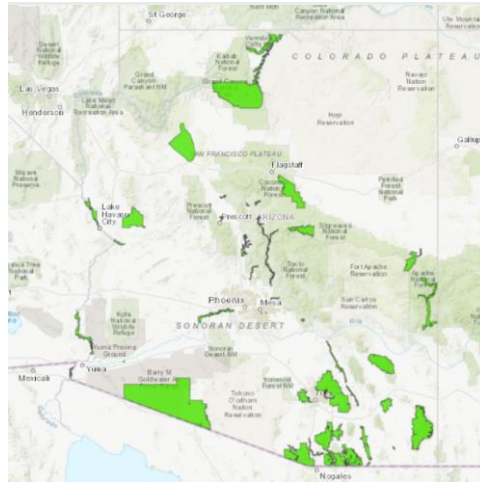
- **Cibola National Wildlife Refuge**  
[http://aziba.org/?page\\_id=340](http://aziba.org/?page_id=340)
- **Imperial National Wildlife Refuge**  
[http://aziba.org/?page\\_id=411](http://aziba.org/?page_id=411)
- **Havasu National Wildlife Refuge**  
[http://aziba.org/?page\\_id=386](http://aziba.org/?page_id=386)
- **Bill Williams River National Wildlife Refuge**  
[http://aziba.org/?page\\_id=272](http://aziba.org/?page_id=272)
- **Mittry Lake State Wildlife Area**  
[http://aziba.org/?page\\_id=490](http://aziba.org/?page_id=490)
- **Imperial Reservoir**  
[http://aziba.org/?page\\_id=422](http://aziba.org/?page_id=422)
- **Imperial National Wildlife Refuge:**  
[http://aziba.org/?page\\_id=411](http://aziba.org/?page_id=411)
- **Lower Colorado River Gadsden Riparian Area**  
[http://aziba.org/?page\\_id=436](http://aziba.org/?page_id=436)

# Western Rivers Action Network

## Arizona's Important Bird Areas



Bald Eagle.  
Photo: Mick Thompson



Summer Tanager.  
Photo: Megumi Aita, Audubon Photography Awards

### The San Pedro River

The San Pedro River is one of Arizona's greatest treasures. It supports one of the **best examples of desert riparian habitat** in the southwestern United States, hosts the **largest intact mesquite bosque community** in Arizona, has one of the **highest densities of breeding Western Yellow-billed Cuckoos** in the United States, and is **one of only four major north-south migratory bird corridors** in the southwest.

#### San Pedro River Important Bird Areas

- **San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area:** [http://aziba.org/?page\\_id=539](http://aziba.org/?page_id=539)
- **Lower San Pedro River**  
[http://aziba.org/?page\\_id=461](http://aziba.org/?page_id=461)

### The Verde River

The Verde River and its watershed are vital to Arizona's birds. In fact, the river and its watershed support **78% of the United States' breeding bird species**. In addition, **over 50 miles of the Verde are included in the National Wild and Scenic River System**.

#### Verde River Important Bird Areas

- **Upper Verde River State Wildlife Area**  
[http://aziba.org/?page\\_id=685](http://aziba.org/?page_id=685)
- **Lower Oak Creek**  
[http://aziba.org/?page\\_id=444](http://aziba.org/?page_id=444)
- **Tuzigoot**  
[http://aziba.org/?page\\_id=638](http://aziba.org/?page_id=638)
- **Salt/Verde Riparian Ecosystem**  
[http://aziba.org/?page\\_id=953](http://aziba.org/?page_id=953)