



Audubon California



IBA Status

Global: N/A
Continental: N/A

STATE LEVEL:

Potential:
Nominated:
Identified:
Recognized: 148
Pending:

ACRES:

Identified IBAs cover c. 1% of state, 1600 sq. mi. (1 million acres)

Nearly all IBAs are a mix of federal, state and private lands.

Major federal entities include BLM, National Wildlife Refuge System, Dept. of Defense, Nat'l Park Service and USFS.

Major state entities incl. California State Parks (and State Beaches), State Wildlife Areas and Ecological Reserves (both Dept. of Fish and Game)

Private holdings include ranches, farms and protected reserves (e.g. TNC, Audubon)

Important Bird Areas - Program History

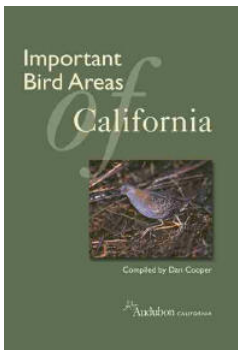
California's IBA program began as a volunteer-driven effort in the mid 1990s, and was greatly expanded into a fully-funded research project in 2000. A team of dozens of technical advisors contributed hundreds of hours granting interviews, providing data and reviewing sites. Approximately 150 IBAs were identified. A final draft of the California IBA Report was posted on the Audubon California website for review in late 2001, and *Important Bird Areas of California* was published by Audubon California in January 2004.

IBA Success Stories

Wording from the IBA book was used to successfully lobby the California Wildlife Conservation Board to purchase two key acquisitions within IBAs, 218 acres at Cartago Springs (Owens Lake IBA) and a 15,000-acre expansion of protected lands of the Carrizo Plain. Avian Inventory and Monitoring Surveys in 2000 and 2001 directed at selected IBAs revealed the presence of several previously-unknown populations of sensitive species, including Least Bell's Vireo. An analysis of the state's most threatened IBAs resulted in the establishment of a new Christmas Bird Count along the Santa Clara River in 2003, and another one is planned for the Imperial Valley (southeastern California) in 2004.



Photo by Big Sur Ornithology Lab



To order Important Bird Areas of California:

Please send \$19.99 + \$5 s/h to:

Audubon California
11340 W. Olympic Blvd.
Suite 209
Los Angeles, CA 90064

Please make check out to:
"Audubon California IBA book"

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IBA Conservation

From its inception, the IBA effort in California has guided numerous conservation activities, from the selection process a new Audubon Center site at IBAs in San Francisco Bay area, to the allocation of an "emergency conservation grant" to study the restoration of flows along the Owens River IBA in eastern California.

Public resource agencies are now using the findings of the IBA process. The California Dept. of Resources has developed a digital map of IBAs and is incorporating them into state wildlife plans. In spring, 2004, the Bureau of Land Management's El Centro field office initiated bird monitoring within the Colorado Desert Microphyll Woodland IBA – critical stopover habitat for millions of songbirds moving north out of Mexico.

Several conservation groups, including The Nature Conservancy to the Endangered Habitats League, have used the text and data from the IBA book in conservation planning and advocacy, notably in the Monterey Bay Area (Bosque de San Felipe IBA) and in northern Los Angeles County (Santa Clara River Valley IBA).

The findings of the IBA effort are guiding Audubon's participation in the restoration of the Salton Sea ecosystem in southeastern California. Proposed activities include an expansion of our Landowner Stewardship Program to include the Imperial Valley.

References

Cooper, Daniel S. 2004. Important Bird Areas of California. Audubon California. 286 pp.

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