



Statewide Riparian Bird Surveys

AZ Coordinated Bird Monitoring Program



AZCBM Program

Under the guidance of the

AZ Bird Conservation Initiative

- In 2002, APIF evolved into ABCI, to recognize its expanded focus beyond landbirds to include all bird conservation.
- Cooperative partnership of agencies/organizations committed to the conservation of all birds and their habitats in AZ.
- Seeks to coordinate planning/implementation efforts to conserve and restore bird populations and their habitats as identified by the APIF Plan and NABCI.



AZCBM Program

Mission

Coordinate a statewide all-bird monitoring program that contributes to informed management decisions for bird conservation and regional and national assessments of bird populations

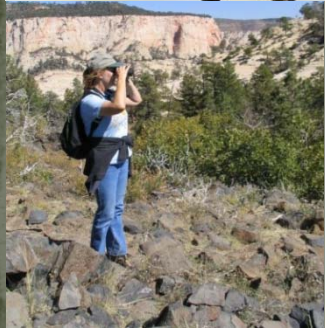
Goal

Implement a coordinated bird monitoring program in AZ to:

- 1) provide long-term population trend data and*
- 2) evaluate the effects of management actions and stressors*



AZCBM Components



Aquatic Bird Monitoring

- Phoenix Area Urban Count
- Winter Reservoir Count
- Colonial Nest Surveys
- Secretive Marshbird Surveys

Land Bird Monitoring

- Riparian Bird Surveys

Implementation through Partnerships

Limited resources and diverse demands placed on all land management entities requires collaborative partnerships



Surveyors – agencies and other entities biologists, and volunteers

Volunteers – trained

Field Crew – pending sufficient funding

2008 Implementation Pilot Year

Why Riparian?

Priority Bird Monitoring Needs Assessment

- many riparian species
- little trend information

Advisory Group
supported effort



2008 Implementation Pilot Year

- Close coordination with USGS and GBBO
- AZCBM Committee
- State and Regional ABCI meetings (winter/spring)
- Bird Monitoring workshops

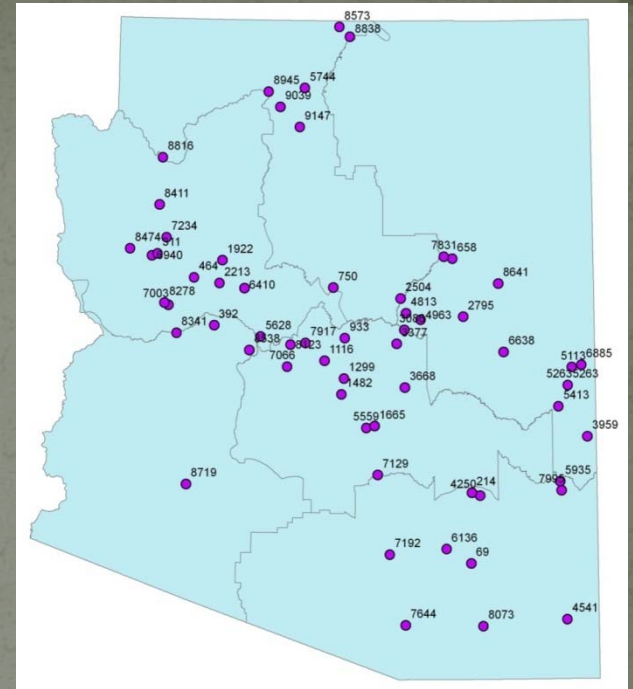


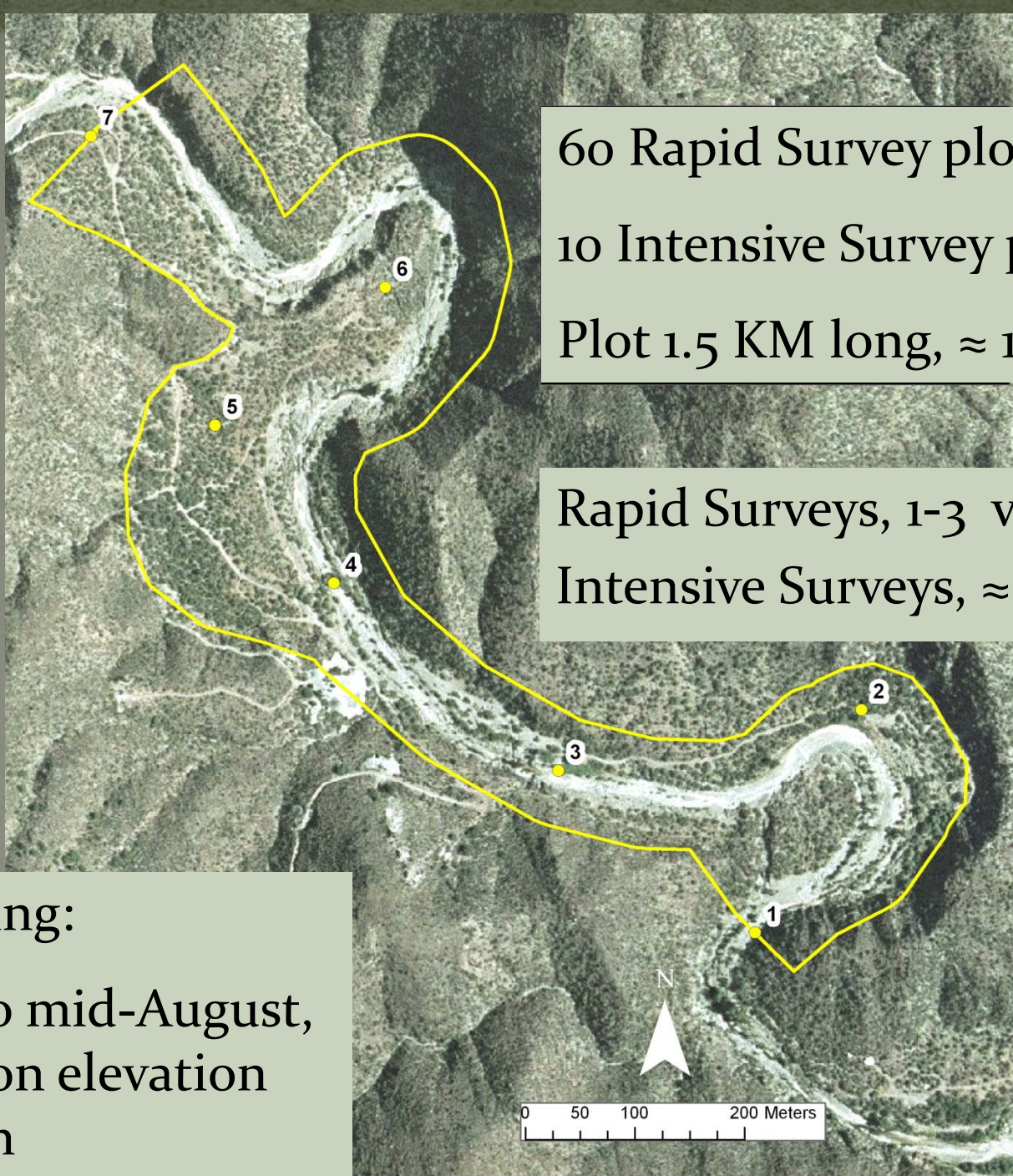
Riparian Plot Strata

Plots randomly chosen in various stratum along permanent and intermittent drainages

- Elevation (<4000, 4000-7000, >7000 ft)
- Habitat (native verses exotic riparian)
- BCR (Sonoran/Mohave Desert, Sierra Madre Occidental, Colorado Plateau)
- Landownership (state, BLM, USFS, NPS, other)

*No plots along Colorado River or on tribal lands





60 Rapid Survey plots/yr.
10 Intensive Survey plots/yr.
Plot 1.5 KM long, \approx 16 hec.

Rapid Surveys, 1-3 visits
Intensive Surveys, \approx 5 visits

Survey Timing:
mid-April to mid-August,
depending on elevation
and location

Data Collected

Within plot:

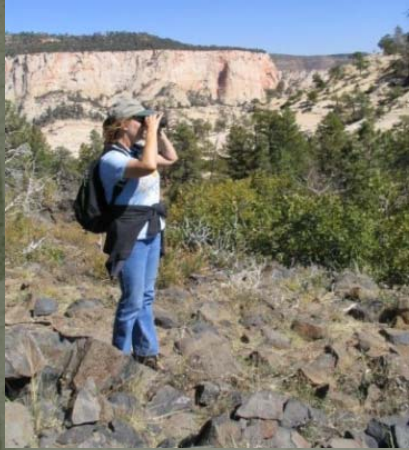
- # of species
- # of breeding pairs/per species

General habitat description

- ✓ Est. width of riparian
- ✓ Dominant woody plant species
- ✓ Est. of vegetation height



Pilot Year: survey outcome



23 Rapid Plots
5 Intensive Plots

- Approx. 135 species detected
- 30 sp. considered non-breeders
- Priority species (10 SGCN)
- New breeding distribution records



Species Detected in over 50% of the Plots



*Mourning Dove	15
*Canyon Wren	15
*Ash-throated Flycatcher	13
*Bell's Vireo	12
*Verdin	12
*House Finch	12
Gambel's Quail	11
*White-winged Dove	11
Black-headed Grosbeak	10
Gila Woodpecker	10
Brown-headed Cowbird	9

Challenges Encountered

- Some plots had no riparian habitat
- Access difficulties in a handful of plots
- Very few high quality native riparian habitat plots randomly selected
- Late start on implementing surveys



Strata Modifications

- **Landownership:**
Federal, Other
- **Access:**
Easy/Medium/Difficult
- **Vegetation:**
Sparse/Medium/Dense



Good Riparian:
Swaths (≥ 2 mile) of known high quality native habitat as identified by people with local knowledge

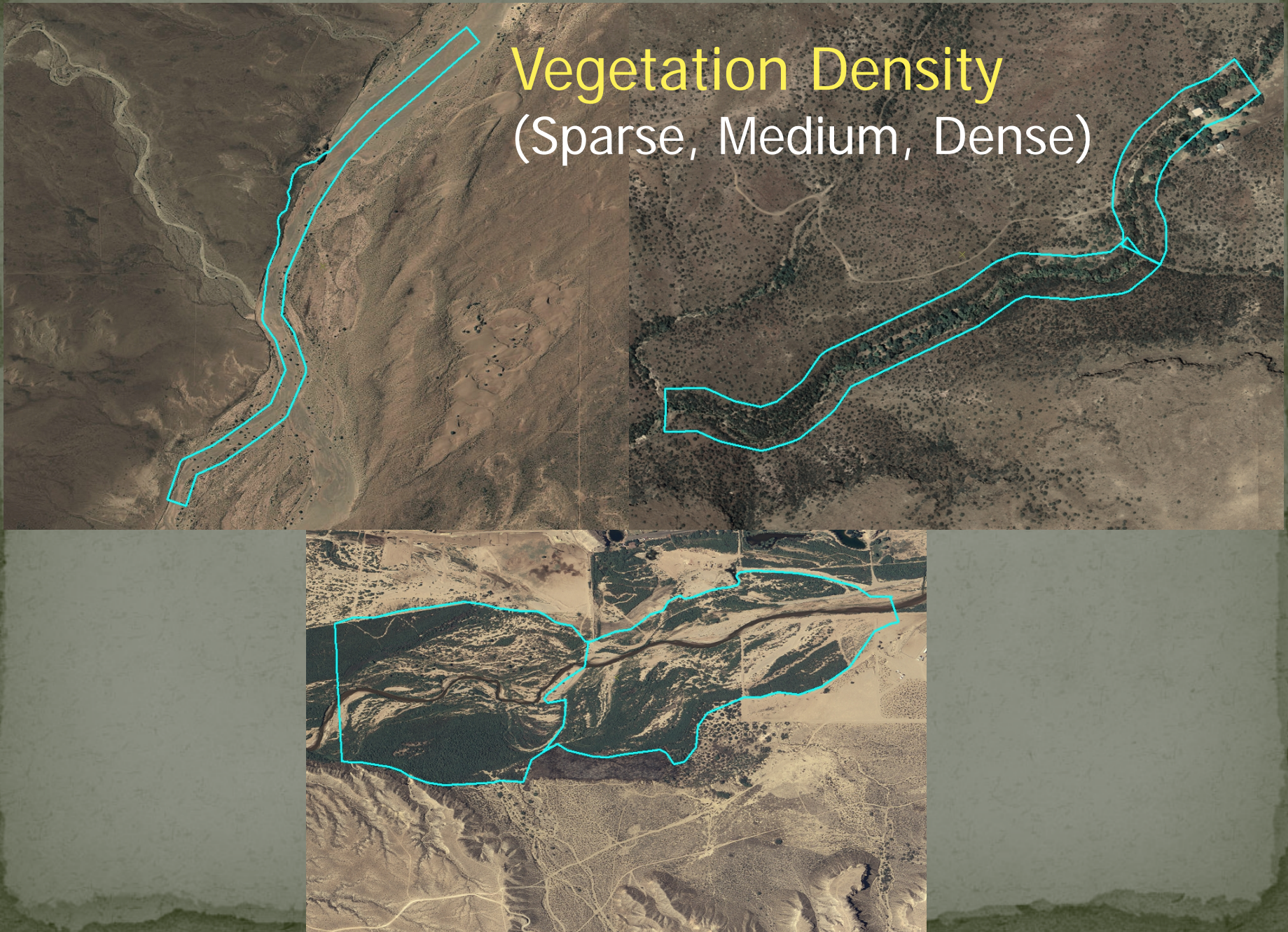


Unknown Riparian: Other areas

Tamarisk: Large swaths of known dense tamarisk stands

Vegetation Density

(Sparse, Medium, Dense)



What's next for the AZCBM Program?

- Phase I implementation
 - Riparian Surveys (1st full yr of implementation)
 - Aquatic Bird Surveys
- Continue to enhance/adopt survey protocols as needed
- Continue planning for other habitat-based surveys (e.g., grasslands)