

River Pathways

Tonto National Forest



Photo: Morgan Moore



Photo: Steven Prager



Bald Eagle

Photo: Mick Thompson

Are your students thinking about careers in conservation?

Join Audubon Arizona and the United States Forest Service for a trip to the Tonto National Forest's Lower Salt River. This stretch of river is part of Audubon Arizona's Salt/Verde Important Bird Area – one of 42 sites that Audubon has determined to be critical to the future health of bird populations. During this trip, your students will spend the day working with Audubon and Forest Service field biologists, collecting bird and habitat data that will be used to protect this valuable area.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

Plan to be outside for the majority of the day. We will be working within the Coon Bluff Recreation Area which has restrooms and picnic tables.

STUDENTS SHOULD BRING:

- Water
- Lunch and snacks
- Sunscreen and hat
- Shoes suitable for easy hiking

MORE OPPORTUNITIES:

Students that join us for this field trip have a big advantage when applying for Audubon Arizona's Summer Field Internships!

This summer, we will be offering paid part-time positions helping Audubon biologists with their annual surveys of the Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service proposed federal protection for the cuckoo in 2013, and your students can help us collect the data that will be critical in its ongoing protection.

For additional information, please contact Steven Prager at: sprager@audubon.org



Yellow-Billed Cuckoo.
Photo: Glenn Bartley

Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo

The Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo, about the size of a dove, has a long black and white tail, rusty brown wings, contrasting white underside, and a curved yellow bill. Each year in early June, these birds migrate north from their South American wintering grounds to breed along Arizona's rivers and streams. As these riparian habitats have been damaged and altered, populations of Yellow-billed Cuckoos have significantly declined. In October of 2013, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service proposed federal protection for this species under the Endangered Species Act.