Response of yellow-billed cuckoos to lower Colorado River riparian habitat restoration, 2008-2012

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Coccyzus: Neotropical Lizard Cuckoos

- C. americanus Yellow-billed Cuckoo
- C. erythropthalmus Black-billed Cuckoo
- C. minor Mangrove Cuckoo
- C. euleri Pearly-breasted Cuckoo
- C. melacoryphus Dark-billed Cuckoo
- C. rufigularis Bay-breasted Cuckoo
- C. vetula Jamaican Lizard-Cuckoo
- C. vieilloti Puerto Rican Lizard-Cuckoo
- C. ferrugineus Cocos Cuckoo
- C. pluvialis Chestnut-bellied Cuckoo
- C. lansbergi Gray-capped Cuckoo
- C. longirostris Hispaniolan Lizard-Cuckoo
- C. merlini Great Lizard-Cuckoo

(data from NatureServe)
98% to >99% loss of riparian vegetation (western USA)
Project Components

- Nest monitoring
- Target netting/Color-banding
- Radio-telemetry
- Micro-climate analysis
- Color-band resighting
Western YBCU breeding habitat

Riparian forest/large area specialists

Bill Williams River NWR
LCR MSCP
Habitat Creation Sites

Ahakhav Tribal Preserve:
CRIT

Cibola NWR
CVCA
survey detections

Survey Detections

Est. Territories

Charting of survey detections and est. territories over the years 2008 to 2012, showing trends and patterns.
Annual maximum breeding territory estimates by survey area and all sites combined, LCR 2008 - 2012
# cuckoo nests found by year and site, LCR 2008-2012
2008: Phase 1 - 8 ha, 0 territories
2009: +Phase 2 - 33 ha, 2 territories
2010: +Phase 3 - 53 ha, 5 territories
2011: +Phase 4 - 90 ha, 17 territories
2012: +Phase 5 - 162 ha, 39 territories
2016: + Phase 9 = 405 ha
2015: + Phase 8 = 385 ha
2014: + Phase 7 = 340 ha
2013: + Phase 6 = 250 ha
2012: Phase 1-5 = 162 ha
2008: Phase 1 - 35 ha, 3 t's
2009: + Phase 2 & 3 - 97 ha, 4 t's
2010: + 0 - 97 ha, 7 t's
2011: + Phase 4 - (190 ha), 14 t's
2012: + Phase 5 - (220 ha), 5 t's
2013: + Phase 6 = 255 ha
2017: + Phase 10 = 305 ha
2018: + Phase 11 = 378 ha
2019: + Phase 12 = 395 ha
Larger clutch sizes (’11–’12)
Parasitized nests (‘11)
Dispersal results four years of data:

- 15 resights (13 birds):
- 2 between-year, between-site returns (both female):
  1. CVCA1 to PVER2 (~33 km)
  2. Ahakhav TP to BWR NWR (~35 km)

Other 13: (9*m, 2 f) returned to their previous banding site

- High apparent (male) site fidelity (?)
Thanks!

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