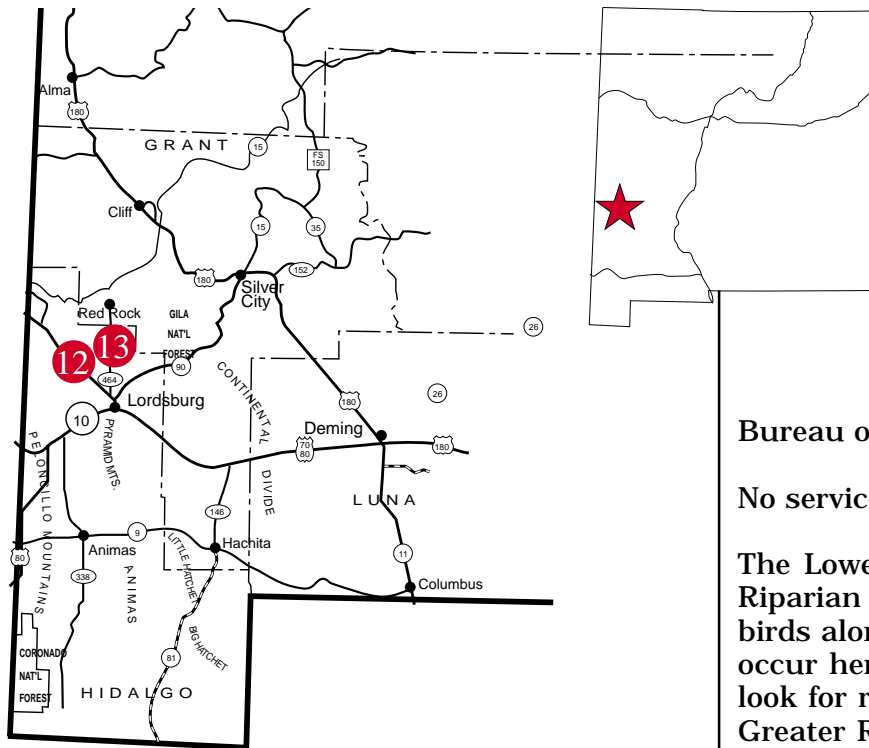




Southwest New Mexico Birding Trail



Directions: From Lordsburg drive 25 miles on US 70 and turn right on NM 92. Three miles beyond the turn a bridge crosses the Gila River. The small village of Virden is 4 miles beyond the bridge.

Site 13 - Lower Gila Box

Bureau of Land Management (505) 525-4300

No services

The Lower Gila Box is part of the Gila Corridor Riparian Area that provides a migration route for birds along the river. Approximately 170 species occur here throughout the year. Along the road look for resident Gambel's and Scaled Quail and Greater Roadrunner, Gila Woodpecker, and Prairie Falcon. In summer watch for Bell's Vireo, Bridled Titmouse, Vermilion Flycatcher, Lucy's Warbler, Hooded and Scott's Orioles, Brown-crested Flycatcher; Southwestern Willow Flycatcher; Gila Woodpecker; Common Blackhawk, and Zone-tailed Hawk.

Habitat: Slow-moving river, rocky cliffs, ancient trees.

Directions: Travel north of Lordsburg on US 70 for 2 miles and turn right on NM 464. Travel 14.1 miles on NM 464 to a point 50 feet south of the Grant County/Hidalgo County boundary sign. Turn left (west) on the only dirt road in the vicinity (Nichols Canyon Road) Drive 3.6 miles and turn right (north) at the first gravel crossroad for 4.9 miles to the BLM sign for the site. Continue 0.8 mile to the river and parking area.



Photo: Don MacCarter

Loggerhead shrike

Site 12 - Virden Bridge

Private property. Bird from the public road only.

No services

In the riparian thickets at both ends of the bridge over the Gila River, look for Gambel's Quail; White-winged Dove; Gila and Ladder-backed Woodpeckers; Vermilion Flycatcher; Black Phoebe; Bell's Vireo; Bridled Titmouse; Verdin; Phainopepla; Abert's Towhee; Northern Cardinal; Great-tailed Grackle; and Lesser Goldfinch during breeding season. During migration, you may see Green Heron; Snowy Egret; Least, Western, and Spotted Sandpipers; Red-naped Sapsucker; most swallow species; White-breasted Nuthatch; American Robin; Western Bluebird; Cedar Waxwing; Loggerhead Shrike; American Pipit; Yellow-rumped, Wilson's, and MacGillivray's Warblers; Green-tailed Towhee, Bullock's Oriole, and Bronzed Cowbird. In winter, there are White-crowned, Song, and Lincoln's Sparrows. Look for the resident Inca Doves in Virden.

Habitat: Riparian. Fruiting mulberry and elderberry trees. The mulberry trees can be a huge draw.



Southwest New Mexico Birding Trail

Check List

American Pipit	<input type="radio"/>
American Robin	<input type="radio"/>
Bell's Vireo	<input type="radio"/>
Black Phoebe	<input type="radio"/>
Bridled Titmouse	<input type="radio"/>
Bronzed Cowbird	<input type="radio"/>
Cedar Waxwing	<input type="radio"/>
DOVE	
Inca Dove	<input type="radio"/>
White-winged Dove	<input type="radio"/>
FLYCATCHER	
Brown-crested Flycatcher	<input type="radio"/>
Southwestern Willow Flycatcher	<input type="radio"/>
Vermilion Flycatcher	<input type="radio"/>
Greater Roadrunner	<input type="radio"/>
Great-tailed Grackle	<input type="radio"/>
Green Heron	<input type="radio"/>
Lesser Goldfinch	<input type="radio"/>
Loggerhead Shrike	<input type="radio"/>
Northern Cardinal	<input type="radio"/>
Phainopepla	<input type="radio"/>
ORIOLE	
Bullock's Oriole	<input type="radio"/>
Hooded Oriole	<input type="radio"/>
Scott's Oriole	<input type="radio"/>
QUAIL	
Gambel's Quail	<input type="radio"/>
Scaled Quail	<input type="radio"/>
Red-naped Sapsucker	<input type="radio"/>
SANDPIPER	
Least Sandpiper	<input type="radio"/>
Spotted Sandpiper	<input type="radio"/>
Western Sandpiper	<input type="radio"/>
Snowy Egret	<input type="radio"/>

SPARROW	
Lincoln's Sparrow	<input type="radio"/>
Song Sparrow	<input type="radio"/>
White-crowned Sparrow	<input type="radio"/>
TOWHEE	
Abert's Towhee	<input type="radio"/>
Green-tailed Towhee	<input type="radio"/>
Verdin	<input type="radio"/>
WARBLER	
Lucy's Warbler	<input type="radio"/>
MacGillivray's Warbler	<input type="radio"/>
Wilson's Warbler	<input type="radio"/>
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<input type="radio"/>
Western Bluebird	<input type="radio"/>
White-breasted Nuthatch	<input type="radio"/>
WOODPECKER	
Gila Woodpecker	<input type="radio"/>
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	<input type="radio"/>



White-crowned Sparrow