

Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program



Balancing Resource Use and Conservation

Black Rail Expansion on the LCR

Joe Kahl
CRTR - 2015



California Black Rail

(Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus)

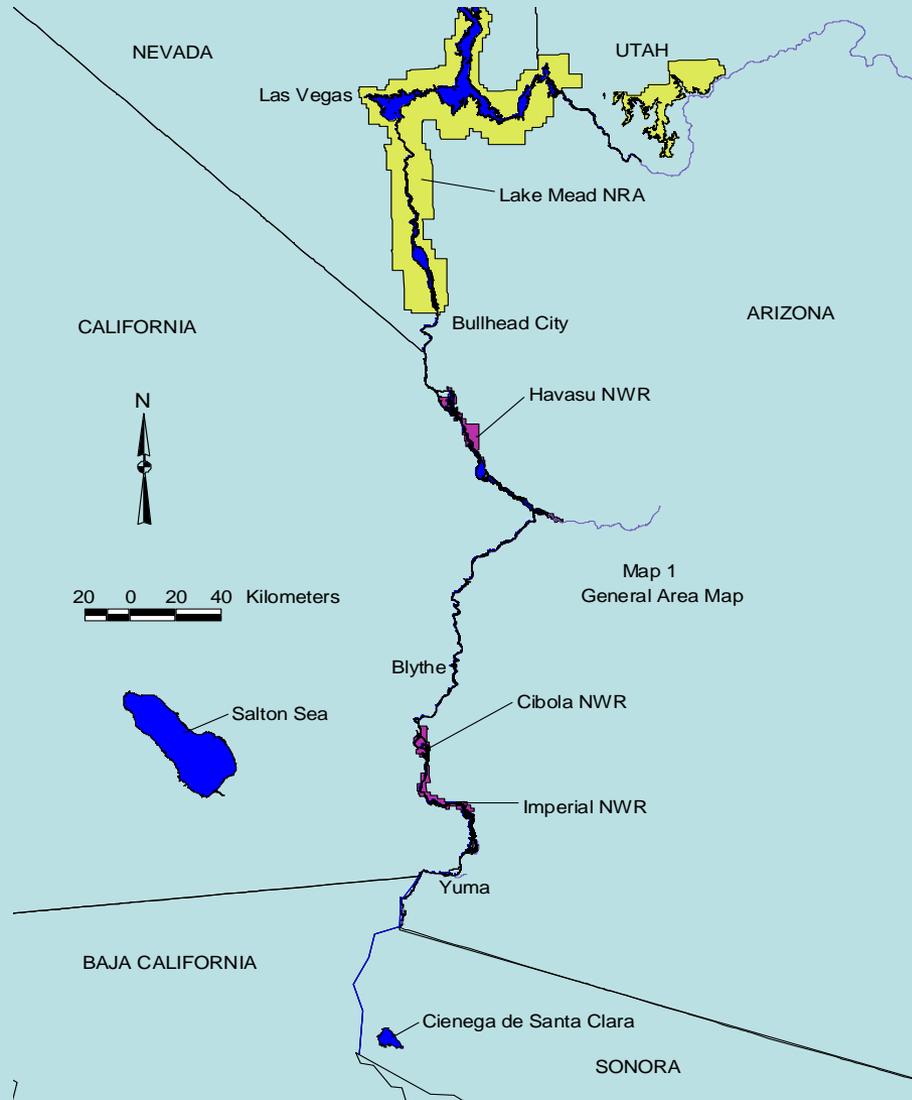
Photo courtesy of Dr. Courtney Conway



California Black Rail Status

- Federal - Migratory nongame species of special concern (USFWS 2008)
- Arizona – wildlife species of special concern (AGFD 2002)
- California – listed as threatened (CDFG 2013)
- Nevada – not listed
- Mexico – listed as endangered (Hinojosa-Huerta 2013)

Lower Colorado River



Early Observations of BLRA

- 1969 – First observation of BLRA on LCR!!! On the CA side near Imperial Dam, 4-6 rails in 2 locations (Snider 1969).
- 1927 – Sangre de Cristo, Baja California Norte. Farallon rail calling from marsh (Huey 1928).
- 1947 – Calipatria, California. BLRA captured by a dog (Laughlin 1947).

Repking and Ohmart (1977)

- Surveyed: Davis Dam to International Boundary, 1973 and 1974.
- BLRA found at:
- Area around Imperial Dam
- Mittry Lake, Gila Main Gravity Canal
- Imperial NWR

- Marsh habitat around the Salton Sea in 1974 (McCaskie 1974).
- Marshes adjacent to Coachella Canal in 1975 & 1988 (Jurek 1975, Jackson 1988).
- Bill Williams River delta in 1978 and 1982 (Rosenberg et al 1991).
- Seep marshes along All American Canal between Drops 3 and 4 in 1980 and 1984 (Kasprysk et al 1984, Evens et al 1991).

Evans et al (1991)

- Surveyed from Bill Williams River to Laguna Dam and all areas in the Salton Trough in 1989.
- Found in same areas around Imperial Dam.
- BLRA found in some but not all of the areas in the Salton Trough.
- Lower numbers at All-American Canal.
- None found at the Bill Williams Delta.

Additional sites on the LCR

- Several sites in the Grand Canyon near Spencer's Canyon in 1998 and 1999 (Conway et al 2002).
- Ciénega de Santa Clara in 1998 (Piest and Campoy 1999).
- Ciénega de Santa Clara, El Mayor River, El Indio Lagoon and El Doctor in 2000 (Hinojosa-Huerta et al 2001).
- Two sites near Parker, 2000 & 2001 (Conway et al 2002)

Conway et al 2002

- Surveyed in 2000 from Topock Marsh south to Laguna Dam and Salton Trough and at sites where BLRA had been found before.
- Numbers down in Salton Trough.
- Still found in Mitty Lake, Imperial Dam and Imperial NWR.
- 14 BLRA found on Upper Bill Williams River near Planet Ranch.
- No rails found at Havasu NWR

Havasu NWR

- Topock Gorge, 2007, first encounter with BLRA, 2. 2008-2014, 27 rails at 11 survey sites, above Picture Rock to south of Blankenship Bend.
- Topock Marsh, May 2010, 2 vocal observations - C. Nadeau and I. Maunsell.
- Beal Lake, 2007 – C. Nadeau and 2010 – D. DeLorenzo.

Southern Nevada Area

- Virgin River at Mesquite, 2002 and 2003 (Rathbun and Braden 2003).
- Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve, 1999 and 2003 (Branca 2003).
- Overton Beach, 2008, 6 BLRA calling, J. Barnes.
- Clark County Wetlands Park, 2009, C. Titus.
- Ash Meadows NWR, 2008, C. Lundblad

Cibola NWR

- Hart Mine Marsh, 2014. 1 BLRA encountered during May survey!

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Questions?

