Colorado River Basin
resilience for people and nature

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National Audubon Society
Presented at the Colorado River Water Users Association
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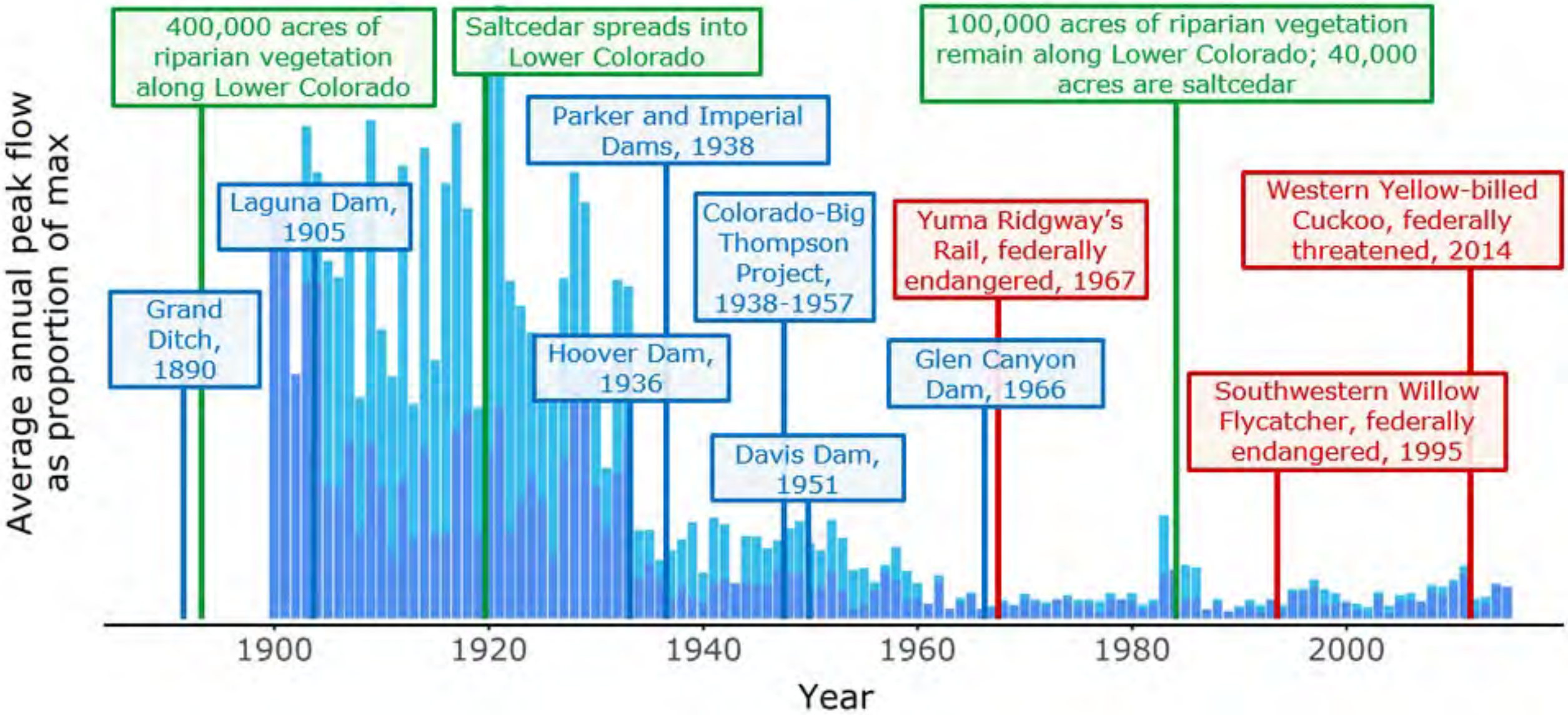
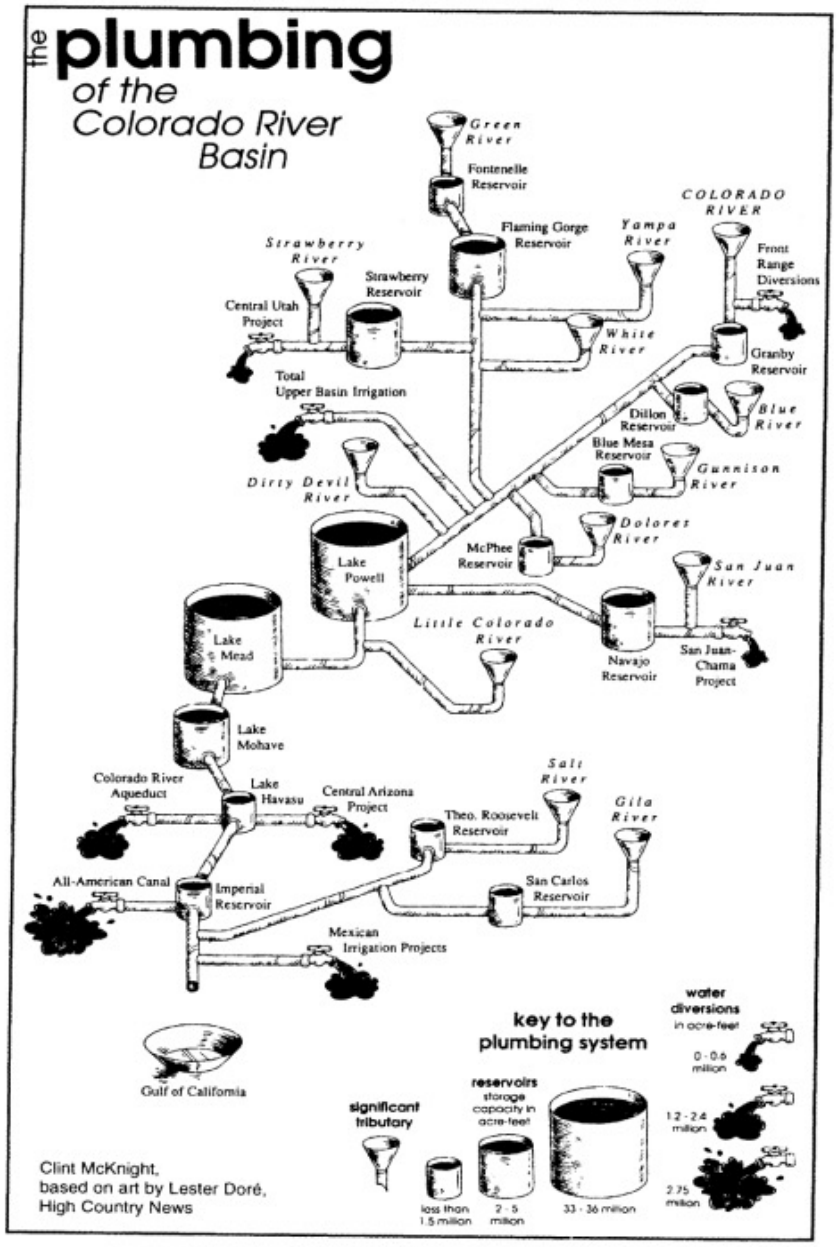
Photo: Daily Overview, Satellite Imagery © DigitalGlobe



Source: Birds and Water in the Arid West, 2017



Colorado River Environmental Programs

- There is no “Colorado River protection” law
- Endangered Species Act
  - > 25 species threatened or endangered
  - Upper Basin Recovery Implementation Program
  - San Juan Recovery Implementation Program
  - Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program
- Grand Canyon Protection Act
- Commitments in Minutes 319 and 323
- Commitments in water transactions (e.g. CA’s QSA, CO’s Global Settlement)
- Funds from federal and state governments, private donors

Colorado River water users depend on the watershed

Photo: Denver Post

Photo: Abby Burk/Audubon Rockies

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photo: Upper Basin RIP

photo: Tom Koerner/USFWS

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photo: Sinjin Elberle/American Rivers

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photo: Claudio Contreras Koob/Audubon

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photo: Ted Wood/The Water Desk

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Yellow-billed cuckoo

Sandhill crane

Yuma Ridgway's Rail

Yellow warbler

Photos clockwise from top left:
Mary Miguez / Audubon Photography Awards
Tara Tanaka/Audubon Photography Awards
Jesse Gordon/Audubon Photography Awards
Claudio Contreras Koob

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Since 1970 29% loss of birds in North America

Science
$15
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RESEARCH

BIODIVERSITY LOSS

Decline of the North American avifauna

Kenneth V. Rosenberg[1,2]*, Adriaan M. Dokter[1], Peter J. Blancher[3], John R. Sauer[4], Adam C. Smith[5], Paul A. Smith[3], Jessica C. Stanton[6], Arvind Panjabi[7], Laura Helft[1], Michael Parr[2], Peter P. Marra[8]†

Species extinctions have defined the global biodiversity crisis, but extinction begins with loss in abundance of individuals that can result in compositional and functional changes of ecosystems. Using multiple and independent monitoring networks, we report population losses across much of the North American avifauna over 48 years, including once-common species and from most biomes. Integration of range-wide population trajectories and size estimates indicates a net loss approaching 3 billion birds, or 29% of 1970 abundance. A continent-wide weather radar network also reveals a similarly steep decline in biomass passage of migrating birds over a recent 10-year period. This loss of bird abundance signals an urgent need to address threats to avert future avifaunal collapse and associated loss of ecosystem integrity, function, and services.

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LA CRISIS DEL
SALTON SEA
ES REAL
CA.AUDUBON.ORG/SALTONSEA
OUTFRONT

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photo: Claudio Contreras Koob/Audubon

photo: Claudio Contreras Koob/Audubon