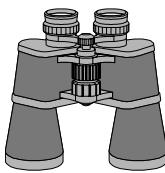


MVAS Programs

Membership meetings and programs are held the third Wednesday of each month at the Village at Northrise, Hallmark Building, 2882 N. Roadrunner Pkwy. Meetings begin at 7:00 PM. Programs begin immediately following the business meeting and announcements.

Cooperation and Restoration. January 16. Audubon New Mexico's Director of Freshwater Conservation, Beth Bardwell, will talk about a collaborative initiative with the Elephant Butte Irrigation District and the US International Boundary and Water Commission to restore riparian and wetland habitat along a 105-mile reach of the Rio Grande from Percha Dam State Park to the NM-TX state line. Learn more about the US-IBWCs long-term river management plan for this reach of the Rio Grande and proposed restoration activities at up to 30 restoration sites. We'll also discuss Audubon's work to increase nature's share of water for riparian forests and wet meadow habitat.

Annual Meeting and Elections. February 20. See announcement to right. Slate of nominees will be posted to our website prior to the meeting.



Field Trips

Field trips are free and open to the general public. Entry fees to some areas may be required and driving costs are shared. On all field trips wear appropriate clothing and bring water, sunscreen, and binoculars. Announced trips subject to change.

Restoration Site(s) Visit. January 19. Following on the heels of the January 16 program by Audubon New Mexico about a collaborative restoration initiative on the Rio Grande in Southern New Mexico, Beth Bardwell will lead a tour of one to three restoration sites in Selden Canyon, Rincon, and Salem, New Mexico. See the results of saltcedar extraction, cessation of mowing, and pole planting on these streamside restoration sites and discuss upcoming restoration

Looking for recent bird sightings? Visit the MVAS website and Facebook page.

Free Food!
Fabulous Prizes!

Bird Quizzes!
Raffles!

Annual Meeting

Why all the fun and games? Call it a bribe. We need your input. Member participation in core chapter activities, including field trips and programs, has been in a steady decline, while the small group of volunteers that has kept this organization running over the past several years is suffering some serious burnout. *Let's reinvigorate MVAS!*

Between all the bird ID challenges, raffles, and snacks, we'll do some serious business, collecting your input on what makes (or doesn't make) MVAS tick:

- What do you like about MVAS?
- What don't you like?
- What do you wish MVAS did more of?
- And the dreaded, Are you willing to help?

The reality is, we must inject some more enthusiasm into MVAS. If we don't get some new ideas and energy, 2013 could be a bleak year, with fewer field trips and programs, and fewer opportunities for us to do outreach to the community about the things we all value: birds, nature, and the health of our environment.

If you can't make the meeting, but you have some input you'd like to share, feel free to contact one of the officers or board members listed at our website (www.mvaudubon.org), or drop us a note via snail mail to MVAS, PO Box 1645, Las Cruces, NM 88004.

This is your chapter: what do you want it to be?

activities for 2013. Meet in the northeast corner of the parking lot of the K-Mart on Highway 70 at 8:30 AM. For more details, contact Mark Pendleton at mpndtn@gmail.com or 575-635-8711.

Rio Bosque Wetlands Park. February 23. Check out El Paso's prime example of wetland restoration, home to thousands of waterfowl each winter. Meet at 06:00 hrs. in the parking lot of the PanAm Plaza on E. University Avenue (Milagro Coffee y Espresso end) to leave at 06:15 hrs. John Sproul, the RBWP Manager will

(continued on page 2) **Trip**

JOIN NOW!

National Membership (one year):
Join **both the National Audubon Society and Mesilla Valley Audubon Society** for the introductory rate of \$20 (a \$15 savings!). You'll receive both *Audubon Magazine* and *Roadrunner Ramblings*. Make check payable to National Audubon Society (NAS).

Chapter Membership (one year):
Join **just the Mesilla Valley Audubon Society** for \$15. You'll receive *Roadrunner Ramblings*. Make check payable to Mesilla Valley Audubon Society.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ C2ZQ540Z

Send this form and your check to:

Membership, MVAS
P.O. Box 1645
Las Cruces, NM 88004

Questions about your membership status? Contact Nancy Stotz at 575-521-8087 or nstotz1@comcast.net.

To receive this newsletter in electronic form, email
nstotz1@comcast.net

(continued from page 1) **Trip**

meet us at the park at 07:30 hrs. to give us a guided tour and answer questions about the park. To sign up for e-mails about fieldtrips, e-mail or call Mark Pendleton at mpndltn@gmail.com or 575-635-8711.

Action Alerts to Benefit Rio Grande

Audubon NM is looking for individuals willing to contact their state senators and representatives about some important legislation that will be considered during the 2013 Legislative Session in Santa Fe. The targeted legislation would make it easier to acquire water and funds for river restoration projects. If you would like to receive email alerts when legislation is being considered by your legislators, email Nancy Stotz at nstotz1@comcast.net.

MVAS Contributes to New Display at MVBSP

MVAS partnered with the Friends of the Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park to purchase and install a new interactive display in the Visitor's Center. The display features an iPad loaded with birdwatching and nature apps that will allow visitors to look up information and hear bird songs, as well as a slide show of photos taken from the park's motion-activated "critter cameras". Speaking of the critter cams, check out the videos the Friends group has posted to YouTube. To find the videos, go to www.youtube.com and search for "MVBSP". There are 11 videos posted to the MVBSP channel. They're all fascinating, but the spectacular Common Yellowthroat video should be of special interest to birders.

Mesilla Valley Audubon Society, a chapter of the National Audubon Society, is a conservation and natural history organization in southern New Mexico that promotes appreciation and conservation of birds, other wildlife, and habitat, through environmental education, issue advocacy, and natural history experiences.

Board meetings are held monthly, on the Thursday before the 3rd Wednesday at 5:30 PM at the Southwest Environmental Center (on the downtown mall). All Audubon members are welcome.

For contact information for officers and board members, visit our website at

www.mvaudubon.org

Roadrunner Ramblings is published six times a year: January, March, May, July, September, and November. Submissions welcome; please email copy to nstotz1@comcast.net. **Next deadline: February 15.** Printed on 100% recycled paper with soy-based inks by **insta-copy printing**. Image credits: roadrunner, Dale Zimmerman; clipart, IMSI's Master Clips/Master Photos[®] Collection.

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