



Mesilla Valley Audubon Society Newsletter

ROADRUNNER

RAMBLINGS

Vol.38, Issue 4

www.mvaudubon.com

Autumn 2016



We're introducing several changes, beginning with this issue of *Roadrunner Rambling*. The newsletter will be published quarterly in full-color. We'll continue to report on conservation and education initiatives in our local community, as well as environmental issues. But we also want our newsletter to be an attractive window onto the fascinating behavior and natural beauty of our area's resident and migratory birds.

To accomplish this, we need photos – your photos. To entice you to become a regular contributor, we're having a photo contest, with prizes, every issue. We want you to submit your bird photos to us on a continuing basis. The best will be published here, and the very best will win prizes. Photos entered in our quarterly newsletter contests will automatically become the entries for our 2018 calendar contest and be eligible to win a pair of birding binoculars.

Photos submitted by September 30, 2016, will be entered in our Autumn 2016 contest and winners will be published in our Winter

2016 issue. Winners receive a one year membership in MVAS. Our Autumn 2016 First Prize winner will receive a large finch feeder and a 5 lb. bag of Nyjer seed, a \$65 value graciously donated by Wild Birds Unlimited, 2001 E. Lohman Ave., Suite 130, Las Cruces.

Contest Rules: Photos submitted must have been taken in our local area, i.e., Sierra, Otero, or Dona Ana Counties only, and during this calendar year. Our publications committee will judge entries based on photo quality, subject interest, and subject variety. Our newsletter editor will make the final selection for publication.

From these, one will be chosen as the First Prize winner.

By submitting your photo you automatically grant Mesilla Valley Audubon Society (MVAS) publication rights for one year. MVAS may use your photo in any of our publications, including newsletters and our annual calendar. Photos should be submitted electronically as a high resolution jpg file to this email address judi626@earthlink.net.

Prize donated by
Wild Birds Unlimited



Outings for Birders of All Sorts

Field Trips

The Mesilla Valley Audubon has lined up an exciting array of field trips this Autumn. Please look them over and contact board member Mark Pendleton (see Officers, Page 4).



August 20: the proposed site of the diversion of the Gila River in Cliff NM; Details of when and where to meet (it will be early as this is a bit further afield than our trips to local birding spots) will be made available via e-mail to MVAS membership.

September 24: In conjunction with the September program, we will visit Leasburg Dam State Park in Radium Spring, one of the better local birding hotspots. Board member C.J Goin will lead this trip. Meet at the Park Visitor Center at 8 am (take I-25 exit 19 for Radium Springs and head SW--away from Interstate. Park entrance is to the right. Ample water, insect repellent and snacks are strongly suggested.

October 22: We're going to A-Spear Ranch (www.a-spear.com) on Las Palomas Creek SW

of T or C, starting at the K-Mart parking lot at 7 a.m. This 60,000-acre ranch is a private wildlife preserve. You will not believe you're in Southern New Mexico when you see this place. Mr. J.R. Absher, one of the partners in the A-Spear, will be our October program presenter.

MVAS Beginner Bird Walks

Mesilla Valley Audubon Society Beginner Bird Walks continue August 17 and run on the third Wednesday of every month. Future dates are September 21, October 19 and November 16. Don't worry about reservations, just show up at 7:45 a.m. at the Tellbrook Park entrance, 4290 E. Winchester Road in Las Cruces. Birding will be done from the paved path that winds through the park, with short, optional excursions into the surrounding desert. Board member Wayne Treers is your guide (see Officers, Page 4).

Other Bird Walks

Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, Leasburg Dam State Park, and Percha Dam State Park frequently offer free bird walks on Saturday mornings. Consult the websites for these parks for specific dates and times.

Feasibility study underway for community bird blind

MVAS is studying the feasibility of constructing a bird blind at Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park. Our intent is to provide the local community with a tool to enjoy and study both resident and migratory birds. The blind will be located and designed to support both recreational and educational activities, including bird watching, photography, tourism, school field trips, research, and outreach programs. MVAS is partnering with New Mexico State Parks and Friends of MV Bosque State Park to develop and maintain this important community resource. If you are interested in participating with us in this project, please contact Jay Wil-

Autumn Program Series: Birding the Best of Southern New Mexico

August 17 Jeff Steinborn of the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance, will update us on the status of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks Conservation Act, S. 3049, a wilderness bill introduced into Congress this year.

September 21 "Skeeter" Giron, Park Manager at Leasburg State Park, will give a presentation on the important bird habitat work they are doing at the park. MVAS Education Chair, CJ Goin, will also review some of the better sightings we've had there.

October 19 JR Absher, journalist and Sierra County landowner, will introduce us to the remarkable riparian area of Palomas Creek. His presentation on this hidden gem on a private ranch will not disappoint. A separate field trip to the area will follow on October 22.

Red-winged Blackbird by Molly Molloy



JOIN AUDUBON 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 _____

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Send this form and your check to:

Membership, MVAS
PO Box 1645
Las Cruces, NM 88004

Mesilla Valley Officer Elections will be held at the annual meeting in January 2017, with up to six Board positions potentially to be filled. If you are willing to be nominated, please contact Jennifer Montoya, President, jatchley@vianet.com. The current Board will serve this year as our nominating committee. This is an exciting time to get involved in the Mesilla Valley chapter, with several major projects, including a new member drive, on tap.

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 September through May, on the Thursday before the 3rd Wednesday at 5:30 PM at the Southwest Environmental Con (the downtown mall). All Audubon members are welcome.

Roadrunner Ramblings is published quarterly. Submissions are welcome. Please email copy to Judi Schultz, judi626@earthlink.net. Next deadline: October 15. Printed by **insta-copy printing** of Las Cruces.

To be added to the distribution list, contact Judy Wilbur at jkwilbur@gmail.com or 512-560-4717.

MVAS Leadership ** 2016

Name	Position(s)	Phone (home or cell)
Officers		
Jennifer Montoya	President	(575) 526-1320 h
	Vice President, NM Council	
Ken Stinnett	Alternate	(575) 649-3781 c
	Secretary, NM Council	
Jay Wilbur	Representative	(512) 632-4196 c
Diane Moore	Treasurer, Finance Chair	(575) 528-9164 c
	Board members and chairs	
Gill Sorg	Past President, Director 2016-18, NM Council Representative	(505) 358-3773 h
Mark Pendleton	Director 2014-16, Field Trips	
	Chair	(575) 635-8711 c
CJ Goin	Director 2014-16, Education	
	Chair	(575) 202-1354 c
	Director 2015-17, Publications	
Judi Schultz	Chair, Newsletter Editor	(937) 361-7952 c
Aaron Lucas	Director 2015-17	(575) 520-0124 c
	Director 2016-18, CBC	
Wayne Treers	Coordinator	(575) 528-8696 c
	Chair	
Bob Tafanelli	Conservation Chair	(575) 526-9380 h
Judy Wilbur	Membership Chair	(512) 560-4717 c
Barb Rodriguez	Webmaster	
Cheryl Fallstead	Publicity Chair	(575) 405-7133 c
Vacant	Program Chair	

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