



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—to receive updates and reminders, sign up for the field trip email list, by contacting Mark Pendleton at mpndlm@gmail.com (put MVAS Field Trips in the subject line).

Percha Dam State Park. May 17. Meet at 06:00 hrs in the SW corner (closest to the Border Patrol Station) of the parking lot at Lowe's Home Improvement on N. Main to leave at 06:15 hrs. You can arrange carpooling in advance with your favorite riders/drivers, or we can do it on the spot. In addition to binoculars and field guide, plan to bring lots of water, sunscreen, and maybe bug repellent. A wide-brimmed hat and light comfortable walking shoes are also highly advisable. PDSP is one of the better birding spots in the state and such species as Vermilion Flycatcher; Common Black-Hawk; many ducks and warblers; both yellowlegs; Phainopepla; Eastern, Black and Say's Phoebes; plus many more are good possibilities. Some of us may stop for lunch at either the Arrey Café or Sparky's in Hatch on the way home. More information: Mark Pendleton at mpndltn@gmail.com or 575-635-8711.

Summer Break. We're taking a break from field trips during June, July and August as it is so hot. **However** if you're interested in going birding and want to do it with other birders, e-mail mpndltn@gmail.com and suggest a destination or ask about anyone going birding. Won't promise to go every time, but you never know!

Reality Check: Chapter Fundraising & Membership Options

Last month our annual Teacher Award recognized two local K-12 teachers who are actively engaging their students in projects that help them learn about and care for the natural award. This month we announce the winner of our scholarship that supports conservation research at NMSU (see p. 2). How do we fund such projects? We rely on your generosity. The annual baseline payment we receive from the National Audubon Society covers only a small proportion of our budget, and direct donations to our chapter are critical to our more expensive budget items including the Audubon Adventures environmental education program, the scholarship, the annual teacher award, and our other outreach activities.

How can you help? Some people help by becoming chapter members: the full \$15 chapter membership payment stays with MVAS. Others donate in response to fundraising appeals for items such as Audubon Adventures or the scholarship. This month, you can participate in or donate to our annual **Birdathon**, during which teams of birders solicit pledges from donors and spend the day birding for a good cause. If you're interested in participating in or pledging to this year's Birdathon, contact Nancy Stotz at 575-521-8087 or nstotz1@comcast.net.

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

Annual Scholarship Awarded

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 _____ C4ZQ540Z

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

The MVAS scholarship committee is pleased to announce the winner of this year's Richard Bischoff Memorial Scholarship, which helps support the conservation-related research of a graduate student at New Mexico State University. This year's winner is DeeAnne Meliopoulos, a student the the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Conservation Ecology.

DeeAnne is studying the impacts of a new solar energy facility on breeding birds in the Nutt Grasslands west of Hatch. She will be monitoring bird abundance and diversity at varying distances from the facility, as well as assessing the facility's impact on noise levels, predation rates, and the breeding success of Horned Larks and Western Meadowlarks. Join us in congratulating DeeAnne at our annual potluck on May 21st when we'll award her the scholarship.

Reminders

North American Migration Count: May 10. This annual spring bird count samples diverse habitats throughout Doña Ana County and contributes to a growing national database. To volunteer, contact Marcy Scott, NAMC Doña Ana County compiler, at mtscott44@aol.com or 575-541-8083.

Digital Photography Contest. Winning photographs to be published in a Birds of Doña Ana, Sierra, and Otero Counties calendar. Deadline for submissions is July 15, 2014. For more information email Barb Rodriguez at bkrod1@comcast.net.

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: June 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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