



ROADRUNNER May-June 2016

RAMBLINGS

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A Rarity

The Northern Parula is a migratory warbler usually seen only in the Eastern U.S. Several members glimpsed the bird during its three-day stay at the Mesilla Valley Bosque Park. (Photo by Ken Stinnett, vice president) .

June Field Trip: Banding of Cave Swallows

An exciting June field trip is in store for MVAS members and all Mesilla Valley birders. You will assist volunteer David Culp and his team to band Cave Swallows at Carlsbad Caverns on Friday, June 24. Member Cheryl Fallstead recommends the KOA Campground in Carlsbad (<http://www.carlsbadrv.com/>) for tent camping, RV sites and multi-person cabins and lodges. For all other details, email Mark Pendleton by May 20 at mpndltn@gmail.com (put 'Swallow Banding' in subject line). With enough interest, we may arrange more outings this summer.

Member Appreciation Picnic, bird walk slated for May 20, 5:30 PM

The MVAS May meeting will be a fun outing for the whole family. On May 20 bring-your-own picnic will be followed by a bird walk led by C.J. Goin and others at Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park. Arrive at 5:30 p.m. Remember the mosquito repellent and a flashlight. This first-time event is in appreciation of all our members and their guests. We hope to make it our annual member appreciation outing.

DACC Class Successfully Concludes

Five members of the MVAS recently teamed up to teach the Intermediate Bird Watching class at Dona Ana Community College. This popular class has been offered every spring for the past several years. All proceeds benefit MVAS. More importantly, the joy of birding is brought to the Las Cruces community, along with a better appreciation for the importance of wildlife habitat. This year eight students took the class and enjoyed field trips to Dripping Springs, Holoman Lakes, and Percha Dam. Thanks to Barb Rodriguez, Mark Pendleton, C.J. Goin, Wayne Treers and Jay Wilbur for successfully taking on this challenge.

Our Allies in Education

Hillrise teacher receives Schulte award

Gordon 'Ken' Strawn of Hillrise Elementary School is the recipient of this year's Lorraine Schulte Excellence in Teaching Award.



This cash award goes to a public school teacher nominated from the Las Cruces area who has best demonstrated teaching environmental or wildlife topics that will instill a better appreciation for conservation in his or her students. In April, Board Member C. J. Goin made the presentation as Lorraine looked on. The MVAS award honors her lifelong contribution to the environment and Audubon.

Only once in a lifetime

NMSU Professor N. Khandan, a member of MVAS and the Dona Ana Photography Club, is planning a six-day photo expedition to his native land, Sri Lanka, focusing on birds and wildlife, departing Aug. 21 and returning Aug 28. He wants members of Mesilla Valley Audubon Society to be aware of this unique opportunity to join him on this trip. The small island of Sri Lanka has 33 endemic birds and over 220 breeding species. The trip will include two days at Sinharaja Reserve, a World Heritage site which harbors 30 of the endemic species; and two days at Yala National Park, that has the highest density of leopards in the world. For more information, contact Khandan at (575) 646 5378 or via email at nkhandan@nmsu.edu. Visit his homepage at <http://wordpress.nmsu.edu/nkhandan>.

Join May 14 N.A. Migration Count

This year's North American Migration Count (NAMC) will be Saturday, May 14, the 100th anniversary of the International Migratory Bird Day. This springtime complement to the annual Christmas Bird Count gives bird watchers the opportunity to witness the spring migration and contribute their findings to a growing national database.

Marcy Scott, Doña Ana County compiler for the NAMC, would like to build on the small but intrepid veteran crew that usually participates in the count. She is looking for both feeder/yard watchers as well as those who will cover a neighborhood or other area on their own (alone or with a friend). Just a couple hours are as are those willing to do an evening watch for owls, nightjars, night-herons, and rails.

All levels of birders are welcome. Contact Marcy Scott, Doña Ana County compiler, at mtscott44@aol.com or 575-541-8083.

Bye Bye Birdie

MVAS will be on vacation for the months of June and July. Regular meetings will resume in August.

Roadrunner Ramblings is published six times a year — January, March, May, July, September and November. Submissions welcome; please email copy to Judi Schultz, judi626@earthlink.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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contact Judy Wilbur at
at jkwilbur@gmail.com**

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Mesilla Valley Audubon Society
P.O. Box 1645
Las Cruces, NM 88004