

## ***Christmas Bird Counts***

Dust off your binoculars and clean out your thermos for that delicious hot coffee or Chai tea, because it's time for the **Las Cruces Christmas Bird Count** (CBC)! This year represents our 40<sup>th</sup> year of getting up way too early to find and count as many of our feathered friends as possible.

This year's CBC will be conducted on **Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup>** from sunrise to sunset. A post-CBC get-together will be held at one of our local eateries. The time and location will be announced later. Whether you would like to count birds at your feeders, join a team to count birds in the field, or be a team leader, please consider joining us again in the Las Cruces CBC as part of this citizen scientist effort. If interested, contact Wayne Treers, compiler and coordinator for this CBC, at [wayne1mike@yahoo.com](mailto:wayne1mike@yahoo.com) or call 575-528-8696.

### **Additional CBCs in our region:**

*Caballo CBC, Saturday, December 27.  
La Luz CBC, Friday, January 2.*

To volunteer for either of these counts, contact John Douglas at [jldouglas@zianet.com](mailto:jldouglas@zianet.com) or 575-541-0133.

## **MVAS 2015 Calendars**

Our 2015 calendars are ready! Yours for a donation of 15 dollars, these lovely calendars feature the winners from our digital photography contest, which focused on the birds of Doña Ana, Otero, and Sierra counties. Calendars will be available at our upcoming program meetings, as well as by mail. If you can't make it to one of our meetings, send your donation (plus \$2 for mailing costs, for a total of \$17) to MVAS, PO Box 1645, Las Cruces, NM 88004. Many thanks to everyone who submitted photographs for the contest, as well as to the attendees at our August meeting, who served as judges for the contest.

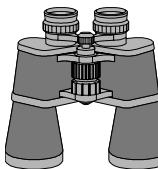


## *MVAS Programs*

*Membership meetings and programs are held the third Wednesday of each month at the Southwest Environmental Center, 275 N. Downtown Mall. Meetings begin at 7:00 PM. Programs begin immediately following the business meeting and announcements. Questions? Contact Jennifer Montoya at 526-1320.*

**Landscaping for Birds. November 19.** Our November speaker is Jeff Anderson, Doña Ana County Extension Agent. Jeff will discuss how landscaping can improve the habitat around your home. This is a great way to think globally and act locally since providing structure, food, or water for birds and wildlife can benefit local populations of birds, mammals, reptiles, and invertebrates, as well as migratory species.

**CBC Prep. December 17.** Our December meeting will focus on final preparation for the Christmas Bird Count. Nancy Stotz will review some identification challenges (as always, there may be games and prizes involved!), and Wayne Treers will review count logistics.



## *Field Trips*

To receive updates and reminders, sign up for the field trip email list, by contacting Mark Pendleton at [mpndlt@gmail.com](mailto:mpndlt@gmail.com) (put MVAS Field Trips in the subject line).

**November 22. Festival of the Cranes.** Since the 22<sup>nd</sup> is when our regularly scheduled fieldtrip would be, we're encouraging folks to drive up to the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge and enjoy some truly great outdoor activities. For more info on the festival, visit their website at [www.festivalofthecranes.com](http://www.festivalofthecranes.com).

## December 20, Las Cruces Christmas Bird Count. See announcement

**Help Wanted: Board and Officer Volunteers.** Our annual elections will be happening in early 2015. If you are interested in helping out as a board member or officer, contact Diane Moore at 575-382-5349 or [dmoorelms@yahoo.com](mailto:dmoorelms@yahoo.com).

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

## 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](mailto:nstotz1@comcast.net).

**To receive this newsletter in electronic form, email**  
**[nstotz1@comcast.net](mailto:nstotz1@comcast.net)**

## Audubon NEW MEXICO Board of Directors & Staff

*in Partnership with Mesilla Valley Audubon Society*



*photo by Valarie Small*

would like to invite you to a reception  
**Thursday, November 13, 2014 - 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm**

in APPRECIATION of all the wonderful work being done on behalf of birds, our newly designated Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument, and the natural world in Southern New Mexico!

**Join us at Laurie Keaton's home  
4068 Las Piedras, Las Cruces**

Please RSVP to Maryam Miller at [mmiller@audubon.org](mailto:mmiller@audubon.org) or (505) 983-4609 ext. 24 no later than Monday, November 10th. We look forward to seeing you!

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://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](mailto:nstotz1@comcast.net). **Next deadline: December 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<sup>®</sup> Collection.

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