



ROADRUNNER RAMBLINGS

MESILLA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

www.mvaudubon.org Vol. 40, No. 5, special edition, December, 2018

Editor's note: This special edition of Roadrunner Ramblings is dedicated to Lorraine Schulte, who was a major participant in the founding of the Mesilla Valley Audubon Society and a steady contributor for many years. Her passing on November 2, 2018 was a very sad moment for many MVAS members, but also a time to reflect on what a beautiful organization she helped to build. Not just the lead article below, but the entire edition is devoted to her memory. More remembrances follow the business section.

My Memories of Lorraine Schulte

David J. Griffin, (former MVAS President)

My friend Lorraine Schulte died recently. It had been several years since we last talked and during that time, I wondered how she was doing. When I left Las Cruces in 2014, most of my ties with friends there were cut – not due to any fallings out – but rather because of physically being far away from each other, which often results in less contact. It was no different with Lorraine and me.

I met Lorraine in 2006 or 2007, but our friendship began



in 2008 when I became a Board Member for Mesilla Valley Audubon Society (MVAS). Soon thereafter, I became President of MVAS and Lorraine and I interacted a lot, because she was also a Board member and Education Chairperson for MVAS. She was a Charter Member of MVAS and would tell me stories of the “old days” and early years of MVAS. Lorraine’s main focus was mainly on the promotion and distribution of “Audubon Adventures”, which is a national conservation awareness and education program, directed at 4th Grade students. Each year Lorraine would identify a number of schools, order the appropriate number of educational packets, and then she’d bring them to various classrooms in Doña Ana County.

To say that “Audubon Adventures” was Lorraine’s “baby” would be an understatement; she was proud to bring this program to 100s or 1000s of students over the years. The other Board members and I quickly learned not to mess with the focus and funding for Lorraine’s program! When reviewing the MVAS annual

budget, the Board would try to identify expenses that could be reduced or cut entirely – we even briefly considered cutting “Audubon Adventures”, but made the right choice to not. You see, though she was a small woman, Lorraine was not a person to mess with. She was a strong person with focus and commitment to the things she knew were important. These things were *Audubon Adventures* (of course!) and birds, conservation, and her family and friends. Lorraine was committed to MVAS and never wavered from being a part of the organization – I don’t think she ever missed a Board Meeting or Chapter meeting – ever!

Birds were important to Lorraine. So much so, that in her late adult years she would take at least one trip annually to some far-flung place on the globe to observe them. During a conversation she'd modestly let slip that she'd seen penguins in Antarctica, or some weird bird I'd never heard of from some place I'd never heard of. These trips were an annual present given to her by her children, because they recognized how interested she was in birds and birding. In the early years of our friendship, Lorraine and I connected during the field trips I'd lead for MVAS. During one trip, I asked if I could use her spotting scope (a very nice one) to show everyone a particular bird. She said, "of course", motioning with a sweep of her arm toward the scope and tripod. After I pointed it at the bird and everyone saw it, I thanked her, to which she replied, "now you can carry it!" I'd been tricked into carrying the bulky, heavy set-up, from that trip forward. She regularly employed this sort of trickery to get something accomplished, for example when it came to "helping her" clean up her storage shed. The shed held many of the historic documents and artifacts from MVAS and many of us through the years felt obliged to help her, which almost always turned into something grander that involved some heavy lifting! Ah the price you sometimes have to pay!

Each year Lorraine shared her home and backyard with MVAS members for the annual MVAS May Meeting. There we'd have a pot-luck dinner and then award a local NMSU student with the Richard Bischoff Memorial Scholarship. One of the most memorable meetings was in 2009 or 2010, when massive wind storm hit Las Cruces during the party and all 50+ of us wound up in Lorraine's garage and living room – we were packed in like sardines! The MVAS May meeting was such a nice change of pace from our regular meetings and gave us a chance to see old friends, make new friends, and get a chance to catch up with each other. Lorraine knew the importance of that.

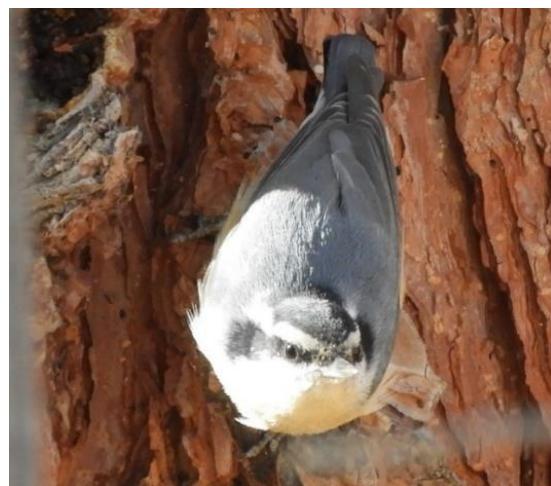
Though she was physically small, Lorraine could be a force to reckon with. She would tolerate my sometimes acerbic smart-alecky sense of humor, but she'd also be the first one to let me know when I was getting close to "crossing the line." She'd raise her eyebrows, shake her head a little, and roll her eyes when I was going too far. Thanks for that lesson Lorraine!

Lorraine loved her friends and reached out to us at times when she knew we needed help. For me that came when I was going through a divorce and my life was a bit disorganized. One day, Lorraine called to ask me if I'd like to come over and have Christmas Dinner with her and her family. She knew there was a good chance that I would probably be alone for the Holiday. I accepted her invitation and enjoyed a great evening listening to her stories, getting to know her family and enjoying a nice dinner.

I'm glad I got to know Lorraine and spend the times together that we did. Because of her and others in MVAS, the years I was involved with the chapter were some of the best in my life.

Table of contents:

- P1-2: Memorial to Lorraine Schulte
- P3: Calendar
- P3. Programs and Upcoming Field Trips
- P4: Field Trip Reports
- P5: Community events, news release. art show
- P5: MVAS Education
- P6: Citizen science
- P6: Conservation notes
- P7: Lawrence's Goldfinch
- P8: MVAS Officers and Upcoming election
- P8: Tributes to Lorraine Schulte



Red-breasted Nuthatch, CJ Goin photographer

Scheduled Events for December and January

December 2018:

Sat, Dec 8: *Bird walk* at Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park. Meet at 8:00 AM, Visitors' Center. CJ Goin is your guide.

Thurs., Dec 13: *Monthly meeting.* Discuss Christmas Bird Count, MVAS election nominations. (note change in date!)

Sat, Dec 15: **Field event: Christmas Bird Count.** See details below.

Wed, Dec 19: *Bird walk.* Beginning Birding at Tellbrook Park 7:45 AM. Wayne Treers is your guide.

Sat, Dec 29: *No bird walk at Leasburg because there will be a Christmas Bird Count at Caballo.*

January 2019:

Sat, Jan 12. *Bird walk* at Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park. Meet at 8:00 AM, Visitors' Center. CJ Goin to guide.

Wed, Jan 16: *Bird walk.* Beginning Birding at Tellbrook Park 7:45 AM. Wayne Treers is your guide.

Wed, Jan 16: *Monthly MVAS meeting* 6:30 PM, Southwest Environmental Center. Annual Election. Guest presentation by Wyatt Egelhoff, who will speak on *Alaska Seabird Research Adventures*

Sat, Jan 19: *Field Trip* to Rio Bosque Wetlands Park in El Paso. Leave from Pan-Am Plaza at 6:45 AM. (See Upcoming Field Trips, below)

Sat, Jan 30: *Bird walk* at Leasburg State Park, meet at Visitor's Center at 8:00 AM. CJ Goin is your guide.

Upcoming Programs:

December 2018

December 13, Thursday (Note change in Day!) 6:30 PM (meet and greet / 7:00PM (meeting begins) at the Southwest Environmental Center (SWEC) 275 N. Main St. Las Cruces: The meeting will be devoted to preparing for the Christmas Bird Count (which follows on Saturday 12/15), with Wayne Treers helping to organize the members into groups and giving them the ground rules they need to tabulate our bird population, using the guidelines set forth by the National Audubon Society.

Also, the MVAS nominating committee will announce its list of officers for the coming year. Nominations from the floor are welcome and volunteers are encouraged.

January 2019

January 16, Wednesday, 6:30 PM (meet and greet) /7:00 PM (meeting begins), at the Southwest Environmental Center (SWEC), 275 N Main St., Las Cruces: The first order of business of the meeting will be the annual election of MVAS officers and board members

We are honored to have Wyatt Egelhoff as our speaker at this meeting. His presentation will be on *Alaska Seabird Research Adventures*. He is one of the most active birders in Dona Ana County, well known to many of us via his eBird posts. This will be a great meeting to attend—an excellent speaker and an important election!

Upcoming Field Trips:

DECEMBER 2018

The December Field Trip is the Las Cruces CBC (Christmas Bird Count). This will take place on **Saturday the 15th**. Please contact your team leader for information on where and when to meet and start this day of birding. If you don't yet have a team, please contact Wayne Treers, at **575.528.8696** or way1mike@yahoo.com to get on a team. Please be sure to also attend the Pre-CBC orientation meeting on Thursday, December 13th at 6:30 PM at the Southwest Environmental Center, at the corner of N Main St and W Las Cruces Ave. You can also find a team to join at this meeting.

JANUARY 2019

On Saturday the 19th, the Field Trip will be to Rio Bosque Wetlands Park in El Paso. In the past we've seen Harris's Hawks, White-tailed Kites, numerous waterfowl and wading birds here. We'll meet in front of Milagro Coffee in the Pan-Am Plaza on University Ave across from NMSU at 6:45 AM to leave at 7:00 AM; carpooling can be arranged on the spot. Info: Mark Pendleton **575.635.8711** or mpndltn@gmail.com.

Field Trip Report: Percha Dam in October

On Saturday 10 October 2018 a group of MVAS birders enjoyed an outstanding morning of birding at Percha Dam State Park. Our group consisted of Rafaelita Chavez, Susan Keller, Annie Mitchell, Diane Moore, Mark Pendleton, Wayne Treers, and Sidney Webb.

Percha enjoys the reputation of being one of the premiere birding spots in the state, and on that day it certainly didn't disappoint us. We started the day with several hundred Sandhill Cranes flying overhead. Their wild rattling, honking cacophony as flight after flight overflowed us was the audio backdrop for the entire day. To me that sound is the very quintessence of wildness! It gives me gooseflesh every time I hear it! We finally stopped counting them at about 4,000 and just let their clangorous voices wash over us.



Raptors exert a special fascination on many birders, and we had a great day with them as well. All of us got great looks as an adult Bald Eagle flew over several times while we stood by the Percha diversion dam. In addition, we saw an adult Common Black Hawk both in flight and perched in several different trees. An accipiter sp.--most likely a Cooper's Hawk--but I just didn't get a good enough look to tell, five American Kestrels, a trio of Turkey Vultures, an Osprey, a Great Horned Owl, and two Red-tailed Hawks rounded out our raptor sightings. Not at all shabby!

Ten Mallards, the same number of Blue-winged Teal, plus seven Green-winged Teal were all the ducks we could identify. There was a flight of about eight or ten ducks that flew overhead but we couldn't make out enough to conclusively ID them.

Our woodpecker list for the day was reasonably respectable well. We saw one Red-naped Sapsucker, one Hairy Woodpecker, one Ladder-backed Woodpecker, and seven Northern (red-shafted) Flickers. In addition, we heard two other "Ladderbacks".

And no true Las Cruces birder would think their day complete without at least one White-winged Dove! We saw fifty two!

A bird we heard twice but never saw was Gambel's Quail. The sentry call of lookout males is unmistakable

Editor's note: Bird lists were removed from the report to free up space in the newsletter. In all, 38 species were observed and reported to eBird. The two photos are of an adult common Black Hawk and an immature Green Heron, both taken by new MVAS member Susan Keller. Thank you Susan!



Field Trip to Bosque del Apache



Common Goldeneye, Bosque del Apache, photo by Jay Wilbur

On Saturday, Nov 24, a total of nine MVAS members and family met at the Bosque del Apache to practice their waterfowl identification skills. The field trip was led by Jay Wilbur and was a follow-up to the class he presented at our Nov 21 meeting. The weather was just about perfect. Lots of waterfowl were found and identified. Highlights of the group's 40-plus species eBird list included a Common Merganser, no less than 7 Hooded Merganser, and a pair of Common Goldeneye. Perhaps the most memorable event, however, was the fly-in of a mixed flock of several thousand Snow Geese and Ross's Geese.

Community Events of Interest

Contact: Erica Marin
Phone: 575/541-2221

"Birds in Art" Exhibit Opens at Las Cruces Museum of Art

"Birds in Art," a traveling exhibit from the Lee Yawkey Woodson Art Museum, in Wausau, Wisconsin, will be on display at the [Las Cruces Museum of Art](#), 491 N. Main St., from Tuesday, November 20, 2018 through Saturday, January 12, 2019.

Innovative artistic approaches and intriguing mediums – from bronze, wood, and Montana dendritic steatite to watercolor, oil, pyrography, and solar etching – convey the character, essence, and surroundings of birds. The annual "Birds in Art" exhibition features dynamic and contemplative interpretations of avian marvels via original paintings, sculptures, and graphics created within the last three years.

The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Saturday. For information, visit the City's [Museum System](#) website or call 575/541-2137

MVAS education

MVAS educational outreach started long ago when Lorraine Schulte was active, and continues to this day. CJ Goin is a mentor to all of us who have been on his bird walks. As a retired teacher he also is very comfortable working students both in the classroom and on field trips. Pictured here is a recent session at Fairacres Elementary School where he was with some 3rd graders working on a project relating to owls.



Citizen Science

Citizen Science Opportunities by Mark Pendleton

CLIMATE WATCH OR THE BLUEBIRD PROJECT There are two opportunities for you to become involved in Citizen Science projects in the next few months. For the first, you might need to do a bit more travel; for the second you can travel as little or as much as you want. The first opportunity is in January and involves point counts of birds. It's called the National Audubon Society (NAS) Climate Watch Pilot Project. The NAS predicts that in a few decades, large parts of current bird habitat will no longer support the species they now do, due to global climate change. For several years, teams of NAS volunteers (here's where we get to play a part) have been going out in January and July and counting birds in specific habitat types. The target species are our Bluebirds and Nuthatches. 2019 will be the third year that MVAS has participated. There are several teams of counters, each with their own chosen territory. At some time in January, each team will go out to its area and count all the birds they can identify by sight or sound for five minutes per site at a dozen selected sites. They then report the data to me, and I report it to the Climate Watch Coordinators. Although Bluebirds and Nuthatches are the target species, we count all the birds we can identify. This is a great way to get out into nature and renew your connection to wildness. It's salutary to keep ourselves reminded of our place in the web of life, and I know of few better ways to do so than to get outside into nature and observe birds. If you'd like to participate, but don't know of a team to join, contact me at mpndltn@gmail.com (Climate Watch 2019 in subject line) or 575.635.8711 and I'll put you in touch with a team.

CLIMATE WATCH TEAM LEADERS If you've been a climate watch team leader in the past and want to do so again, or if you haven't been a team leader, but want to get involved this way, please contact me ASAP. I want to get all set to go on this by the end of December. Please contact me at mpndltn@gmail.com (Bluebird Team Leader in the subject line) or 575.635.8711 by Monday the 26th of November to let me know if you're interested. Thank you for your continued support.

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT The second Citizen Science project you can volunteer on is the Great Backyard Bird Count. It spans the weekend of the Presidents' Day Holiday in the US. In 2019, that's Friday February 15th through Monday February 18th. MVAS is

sponsoring a bird walk at Sagecrest Park—corner of Frontier Dr and Roadrunner Pkwy in Las Cruces—on Saturday morning the 16th (see the article about Fieldtrips in this issue for meeting time). But you can also bird at other places you choose all weekend long and report the results yourself. Find out more about the Great Backyard Bird Count at the count site: gbbc.birdcount.org. If you want more information on the local count contact me at mpndltn@gmail.com (GBBC in subject line) or 575.635.8711. CALL TO

Conservation Notes

Environmental Planning and Design for Aquatic Habitat Restoration in the Rio Grande Canalization Project

Dona Ana County may soon have two new riparian wildlife areas next to the Rio Grande! By the end of 2019, the floodplain at Broad Canyon may be modified to encourage native plant growth. Closer to Las Cruces a stream with numerous ponds may be created by using wastewater from the Las Cruces water treatment station. These are two of 10 possible worksites being considered. All this may come to pass through efforts of the Rio Grande Canalization Project.

The Project was authorized in 2009 by the U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) and has involved many governmental agencies at national, state and local levels, as well as private stakeholders and conservation organizations. All the Project's activity until now has addressed issues on the upper Rio Grande. USIBWC has contracted with Gulf South Research Corporation of Louisiana to survey multiple locations in this section of the Rio Grande as possible sites for intervention.

At a recent meeting organized by USWIBC 10 sites were discussed, with descriptions of proposed sites by engineers who had made recent surveys. Amongst the sites reviewed most favorably were Broad Canyon Arroyo and Las Cruces Effluent Site. Other sites reviewed were closer to Hatch or the New Mexico-Texas state line.

A site that has a lot to offer is Broad Canyon, north of Radium Springs, where water runs into the Rio Grande after rainstorms. The plan would be to modify the land

north of the arroyo to allow water to run into the floodplain and for native habitat to grow behind it

The Las Cruces Effluent site is the land north of where US I-10 crosses the river. The proposal is that treated wastewater be used to create a mini-stream, with the potential for ponds along the way, as the water is eventually directed into the Rio Grande. It would be very similar to what is currently being done with effluent water running into the land behind the Las Cruces Dam. It should be noted the water is pre-treated and under constant testing to be sure it is safe for this use. The real advantage of this site is that the

water would be available every day of the year and is not subject at all to the vicissitudes of storm and drought.

Next steps will begin with consolidation of suggestions made at the recent stakeholders meeting. A modified plan will be presented to the general public with time for comment and with a public meeting in February of 2019. Final design should be ready by July 2019. The long-term management plan dictates that two or three of the sites considered will be chosen and work undertaken by the end of 2019.

Lawrence's Goldfinch comes to Las Cruces, with a flair

I first heard about Lawrence's Goldfinch when C.J. Goin reported seeing one in Tellbrook Park on October 26th with an email post to MVAS members and a Facebook posting a day later, providing a photograph for confirmation. This was followed by Jay and Judy Wilbur, again noting its presence at Tellbrook Park on October 27th with a Facebook post and a beautiful photo. My wife and I checked out the park on October 28th and were greeted by two birders from Santa Fe who had arisen at 4:30 AM that morning just to see if they could find the bird. They were led by a prominent local birder and had much camera gear with

them. Early in the morning they left, disappointed, but soon returned, fearing that my wife and I would see the bird and they would have missed it. With much flourish, their return was a success and they too captured some photos. After the pandemonium I checked on eBird. They had a November 11 sighting at Tellbrook, but at no other location in Dona Ana County.



eBird describes Lawrence's Goldfinch: "Unique among goldfinches because of its mostly gray body. Male has black forehead and throat, yellow breast, and complex black and yellow pattern on wings. Female is duller with ghost of male's pattern. Found in open grassy woodland. Uncommon, but sometimes travels in large flocks, especially in fall and winter. Highly erratic, moves around a lot from year-to-year; difficult to track down with much reliability. Feeds on seeds. Sometimes visits feeders."

Good find you guys!

Breaking News as we go to press: These birds are now also seen at Leasburg Dam

State Park, confirmed by Jay!

Photos are both of Lawrence's Goldfinch at Tellbrook Park. Upper photo thanks to CJ Goin, and lower photo is from Jay and Judy Wilbur.



MVAS Officers and Board

OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

President: OPEN

Vice-President: OPEN

Secretary: Aaron Lucas (575) 520-0124

Treasurer: Diane Moore (575) 528-9164

Director 2017 – 2019: CJ Goin (575) 202-1354

Director 2017 – 2019: Mark Pendleton (575) 635-8711

Director 2018 – 2020: Jay Wilbur (512) 632-4196

Director 2016 – 2018: Wayne Treers (575) 528-8696

Director 2016 – 2018: Gill Sorg (505) 358-3773 h

Director 2018 – 2020: OPEN

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Conservation: OPEN

Education: CJ Goin

Field Trips: Mark Pendleton

Programs: OPEN

Newsletter Editor: Sidney Webb (575) 915 5017

Membership: Diane Moore (575) 528-9164

Christmas Bird Count: Wayne Treers, CBC Coordinator

Publicity: OPEN

Kitty in the Casa: Cats Indoors!: Elaine Stachera Simon

Facebook Coordinator: Elaine Stachera Simon

A final note on the MVAS election:

The upcoming elections are very important to MVAS. In addition to providing a neat base for having fun and developing expertise with your birding hobby, it is also a platform for conservation and advocacy efforts, and for ensuring our community provides good educational opportunities for our citizenry regarding our natural world. With its affiliation with the New Mexico and the National Audubon Society, it has resources to make good things happen in Las Cruces and Dona Ana County.

Going forward, please consider volunteering as a committee member or chair, or joining the board. It will be a rewarding experience for you and your services will be most appreciated. Be sure to vote at the January meeting.



Snow Geese in flight, Bosque del Apache, during Field Trip, 11/24/2018, Sid Webb photographer

Having completed our business, let's get back to the main reason for this Special Edition, Lorraine Schulte. Several MVAS members remembered her in very special ways:

Wayne Treers

Lorraine Schulte was one of the founding members of the Mesilla Valley Audubon Society chapter. She loved all things birds, including Penguins and Hummingbirds!

Lorraine told me that she traveled to Cornell University's Ornithology Dept. to take a course in Ornithology/Birding (I believe it was a 2-week course). Shortly after that, she was instrumental in establishing MVAS as a chapter of the Audubon Society. She also started the Las Cruces Christmas Bird Count (CBC) in 1975. We have been conducting the Las Cruces CBC every year since then - 2018 is our 44th consecutive year. It is fitting to dedicate this year's CBC to Lorraine Schulte's memory and hard work.

Lorraine was always willing to help beginner birders and introduce them to the wonderful world of birds and birding. She took me "under her wing" when I first started birding, and I was a member of her City Parks/Center team of the Las Cruces CBC for several years before breaking out on my own to help other teams. She was always a helpful, expert teacher and guide for MVAS's birding classes' fieldtrips.

Lorraine always helped out in MVAS - she was a board member, coordinated the Audubon Adventures program for the local public schools, and was the creator of the Lorraine Schulte Award for Excellence in Teaching that MVAS offers every year to a local school teacher. She even held a potluck picnic at her house every May for MVAS members and their families.

I'm sure you all will agree that we will miss her - here's to happy birding, Lorraine!

Eleanor Wootten

My friendship with Lorraine spanned forty years - when the chapter started in 1978. It didn't take us long to develop a close friendship that included so many birding trips together. I joined her for presentations to classrooms doing bird programs in the Las Cruces elementary schools for many years. She enjoyed doing those programs and was good with the children. Later I developed a mammals program for the elementary schools and she joined me for those. We both enjoyed this as well. She was always interested in furthering the membership of the chapter and would go to great lengths to entice new members. We often did this together on bird outings or over the phone - coming up with ideas to make the chapter an organization to steer people to conservation and environmental awareness. To me her ongoing work to further the chapter by teaching about birds was exemplified when she started teaching adult new members in her home. After she married John Schulte they spent summers in Chama. She and I still talked often, and I was amused to learn she just wore her binoculars around her neck as she was doing housework. She kept a list of all the birds she saw there. She called me one day to tell me she had seen a Bald Eagle from her bathroom window. Now how many people do you know who have a bathroom window list?!

She was the backbone of the chapter for decades. It was her life work and made her and the chapter flourish. One year early on in the chapter's life, Lorraine, Carol Anderson, and I decided we needed to make a trip to Texas to see all the birds we knew were there. It was a crazy trip with long hours, up at 5 am and back to the motel room at 10 pm or later. We racked up the bird list and loved the close friendship we had from this trip. At one point Carol was driving the rental car and Lorraine was in the backseat putting her scope on the special small tripod she had gotten for this trip (one not so heavy for carrying around the beach) as Carol looked in the back through the mirror and saw Lorraine give the scope an extra tightening turn only to have the screw holding it in place break in the scope. To Lorraine's credit she said not

a word although I am sure she wanted to scream. She didn't let this spoil her trip and continued to have the fun of birding. I will miss her even though I feel she was lost to me a while back as age took its toll on her body. I smile at the memory of many activities we did together over the past forty years.

Steven Ewing

About 20 years ago, Lorraine informed my father, Gordon Ewing, that she was successfully feeding cracked pecans to some Red Crossbills on her back porch. She kindly invited him, me and my 10-year-old son to her home to enjoy the bird show through her sliding glass door. What a treat! This was one of several great experiences that created my interest in birds. My grandson is 3, and I now get bird reports from him (and his father). Thanks to Lorraine for sharing her passion with so many. Steven Ewing, CBC La Cueva bird counter

Ken Stinnett

Awww, what a wonderful woman. She will be missed by many. I'm glad I crossed paths with her. She was an inspiration 

Tim Lawton

I'm terribly sorry to hear about Lorraine's passing. It has caused me to reflect on her and what she meant to the chapter. She was a tireless supporter of MVAS in many ways. During my time on the board, she was always ready with an extensive report on Audubon Adventures and her other educational activities in classrooms. She offered her house for board meetings and the annual dinner. And she did the Christmas Count program at the December meeting for many years. She had a couple of carousel trays filled with slides of bird photos. The photos, many of which were taken years before by her first husband, became familiar to us over the years, but Lorraine addressed each one as if it were her first Birds of the Las Cruces Area presentation, solemnly intoning the name of each bird we might expect to see: "White-crowned sparrow" (click), "White-throated Sparrow (click)," etc. for an hour and a half.

She had that serious side, but was a wonderful companion in the field, calm, prim and properly dressed, usually with a tan duck vest, complete with an embroidered MVAS patch. She was a good birder, good company, and unshaken by turns of fortune and weather typical of a birding trip. She was not bothered by a long trip to see a Kiskadee at Rattlesnake Springs that failed to show. She gave any trip humor and grounding, no matter the conditions. I recall her entrance into a Waffle House in Winnie, Texas, about 5:30 in the morning on a trip to the Gulf Coast. She was perfectly done up and alert looking, like she owned the place and it was more like 1 in the afternoon. Her presence was reassuring and communicated that the hour and surroundings were nothing out of the ordinary. The important thing was that she was out with the birds and her friends who watched them.

Nena Singleton and Jim Mulhauser

We are very sad to learn of Lorraine's passing. Lorraine was among our first mentors, along with Wally and Sue Hill. Our first ever birding trip was to Cave Creek, AZ. Lorraine was in the group we joined on a Saturday morning in the Chiricahuas. She was so generous in the time she spent with us to teach birding. We knew NOTHING. But by the end of the day, we were hooked!! I can say it was a transformative experience. We knew we would always stay connected somehow to birders and birding. I only regret I didn't learn more about hummingbirds from Lorraine, who was to go-to lady for hummers here. She will always live in my memories.

.....
Gill Sorg
Board Member

I had many enjoyable times with Lorraine. Birding with her was special, she knew the birds so well and taught me many of them. Our trips together to NM Audubon Council meetings were fun. She talked about her life, her family, places she lived and all the wonderful excursions for wildlife. She had many interesting ones. She was especially proud to have met President John F. Kennedy when living in Los Alamos.

Roadrunner Ramblings is published quarterly and is distributed via the web. A copy is emailed to all MVAS members. All members of MVAS are encouraged to submit any article of interest to the group and any bird photograph recently taken. Please email a copy to sidwebb@gmail.com (575 915-5017). To be added to the distribution list, contact dmoorelms@yahoo.com. 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 on the Thursday before the 3rd Wed at 5:30 pm at the Southwest Environmental Center on the downtown mall. All Audubon members are welcome.

Editor: The next issue of Roadrunner Ramblings is scheduled for February 2019.