



ROADRUNNER RAMBLINGS

MESILLA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

<https://www.mvasaudubon.org/> Vol. 44, Winter 2022 (Nov. 2022, Dec. 2022, Jan. 2023)



Hooded Oriole (photo by Patricia Russell) and Least Bittern (photo by Joel Gilb). These and many more photos will be on display at the Holi-birdy Party on November 9.

MVAS Activities Over the 2022 Holiday Season

The next three months should be exciting for MVAS members and friends. Programs and bird walks in November and December will be followed in January by the “official” transfer of ownership of the bird blind at Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park from Mesilla Valley Audubon Society to NM State Parks. Read on...

November

To begin the holiday season, the 2022 **Holi-birdy Photo Party** is scheduled as a **Zoom on Wednesday, November 9, at 6:45 p.m.** MVAS members and friends submit photos taken locally or during their travels that will be shown via Zoom. Each photographer will offer fun facts about his/her photos and the audience is invited to ask questions. Already some dazzling photos have been submitted that are ready to view. If you have some photos you would like to share, please send them to sidwebb@gmail.com before showtime. Past years have been a lot of fun, so plan to grab your favorite beverage and kick off the holidays at Holi-birdy! (Check your email for the registration link.)

Next up will be Jay Wilbur, who will present a program on birds of the Bosque del Apache on **November 17 at 6:45 pm** before the Festival of the Cranes (this year December 1 – 3) and before the January field trip (see page 3). Jay has a well-deserved reputation for excellence. It is a “must see” for any birder planning a trip to New Mexico’s most famous and important birding area.

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President's Letter

Dear MVAS Members and Friends:

I got an email today that Roxy's Law is in effect as of November 1, 2022. Some of you may know that the tragic death of a beloved dog (Roxy) to a neck snare has finally led to New Mexico public lands being off-limits to recreational and commercial trapping. (Roxy was far from the only pet killed by traps.)

To my mind, this is reason to celebrate. First, because all animals on public lands, including birds (which also get caught in traps), are safer today than yesterday. Second, because it is more evidence that a group of determined people can effect meaningful, positive change. Hunters and non-hunters, Animal Protection Voters, Sierra Club, NM Wild, and others all came together under the TrapFree New Mexico Coalition. I myself attended Zooms, wrote letters, and made phone calls to elected officials. Even though I was just one individual among many, it felt good to get that email today.

This is why Audubon chapters are not just "bird clubs." Our Audubon chapter is part of a great web across the state and country for the good of birds and those of us who love them. Bird walking is an important part of what we do as a chapter—and we are grateful for our generous walk leaders (CJ Goin, Mark Pendleton, Dylan Osterhaus, Joel Gilb, Jay Wilbur, Judy Wilbur, and Wayne Treers) who educate us and inspire us to learn more.

But our three-pronged mission is conservation, advocacy, and education. Bird walks are important so that we know what we are conserving and advocating for, as well as educating ourselves and others. I hope that in 2023, our members will take advantage of the expertise of our walk leaders and choose to get involved in MVAS projects and initiatives to make our corner of the world better for birds (and humans). One way you can do that is get involved with the board. Elections are coming up, and you can read more about it on page 11. In addition to officer and

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MVAS Activities—continued from page 1

December

December is the month for the fabled **Audubon Christmas Bird Count**. The Las Cruces count is organized by Mark Pendleton. Planning is in progress for a **Wednesday, December 14 Zoom Christmas Bird Count (CBC)**. **Preparation and Bird Identification Program**. Mark will review how the event is arranged, ensure that all of us will know which team we will join and when and where we will meet, and the rules we must follow. Although data collection is allowed over several days, **the day selected for the MVAS chapter as a group** to count birds in our area is **Saturday, December 17**.

The Audubon Christmas Bird Count is the longest-standing scientific bird data collection activity in existence, predating eBird.com and all other national sources for continental bird abundance data. Does Mesilla Valley still have more White-winged Doves than any other location in the USA? We'll find out! In 2022, MVAS observers on bird count day recorded 95 species. Will we beat that this year? Plan to be a member of an MVAS team for the Las Cruces Christmas Bird Count!

New Opportunity for Christmas Bird Count outside of Las Cruces | Caballo CBC

MVAS member Wayne Treers is this year's compiler and coordinator for the Caballo CBC, taking over for John Douglas who has run it for years (thank you, John!). It has run for 39 years nonstop and records important activity along a main branch of the Central Flyway. Wayne invites participation by MVAS members and friends in this year's event. It will be held on **Monday, January 2, 2023**. Please contact Wayne Treers (way1mike@yahoo.com or 575-528-8696) if you are interested in birding in this year's Caballo CBC.

January

The first event of the new year will be a field trip! With planning still in progress, time has been set aside on **January 7–8 for Jay Wilbur to lead us to Bosque del Apache** for a two-day exploration of the migrating cranes and their friends. More to follow via MVAS email.

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President's Letter, continued

board positions, we'd love to have an Education chair and Program chair. Interested? Drop me a line at mesillavalleyaudubon@gmail.com.

Another great way to be involved is right around the corner—the annual Christmas Bird Count! Our fearless CBC leader Mark Pendleton will be whipping us into shape for that soon. Stay tuned!

Wishing you a safe, healthy, happy, and birdy holiday season!

Elaine

MVAS Special Activities--continued

While closing the holiday season, we will be opening the New Year with a **ribbon-cutting ceremony on Saturday, January 14, 2023, beginning at 11:00 a.m. at Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park**. MVAS will "officially" assign



trails will both be open.

At 11:00 a.m. the MVAS board and the State Park management will officiate the transfer with a joyous ceremony at the bird blind. This will include a brief history of the bird blind project and plans for its future.

After the ceremony there will be an auction of 10 paintings the Mesilla Valley Audubon Society received as a gift in 2022 (see below). The auction will take place in one of the classrooms at the state park where the paintings will be displayed.

Finally, there will be time for socializing. Bring a lunch! Meet up with old friends! Have fun! Stay as long as you want. Hopefully, this will be the first of many in person gatherings of Mesilla Valley Audubon Society in 2023.

Remember there is a \$5 fee per vehicle unless you have an annual pass.

ownership of the Bird Blind and Wildlife Viewing Area built in 2021 by Mesilla Valley Audubon Society to the MVSP management team. The celebration will also feature an auction of bird paintings donated to MVAS, something you will not want to miss (see article on Bird Paintings in this newsletter for details). May it serve as a means for us all to get reacquainted as we celebrate the start of 2023.

Scheduled bird walks are still in place, but with a change.

In the midst of all the planned activities, do not forget the birds! We'll have the same four scheduled bird walks each month as we have had the first nine months of the year.

The only change will be the introduction of **Dylan Osterhaus as the new leader for the last Saturday of the month bird walk at Leasburg Dam State Park, beginning Saturday, November 26 at 8 a.m.**, replacing CJ Goin, who has carried the ball since the bird walk was first introduced. **We thank CJ very much for all his great work, and Dylan for stepping up when the need arose.**

A complete and updated schedule of MVAS activities, including each month's bird walks, appears on the Activities page of the [MVAS website](#).

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Bird Blind at Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park

To kick off the new year, MVAS has planned for a celebration at Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park on **Saturday, January 14, 2023, beginning at 11:00 a.m.** The featured event will be the official transfer of ownership of the Bird Blind and Wildlife Viewing Area, built by MVAS, to the New Mexico State Parks. All MVAS members and friends are invited.

If you want to come early for a bird walk, the Resaca and Back Country

Silent Auction for Bird Paintings

Mesilla Valley Audubon Society plans to sponsor an in-person art auction! MVAS has 10 beautiful paintings of birds that will make available to everyone attending the celebration at Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park on **January 14, 2023**. The paintings have a story all their own.

These original bird paintings were donated by Jane Madrid. Using the MVAS website as a portal, she invited our representative to visit her home where she had selected 10 of her paintings as a gift to us, with the intention of having us add to our treasury by selling them to interested parties.

Jane has lived in the Las Cruces area since 1959 and has been interested in painting at least that long. She is an oil and acrylic painter, having studied under numerous renowned certified decorative artist masters from around the country. Jane's major artistic themes center on nature, with a particular emphasis on animals, flowers, birds, butterflies, and landscapes, and the interaction of these within the environment. Most often her bird paintings are based on photographs she finds particularly interesting and may include birds from around the world.

If you would like to see the paintings in advance of the auction, there is a special section on the MVAS website, [Bird Paintings](#). On the website, in addition to the paintings, there is a table that lists the size of each painting and the artist's suggested asking price. If you are unable to participate in the MVAS event at the Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, you may submit a bid via the website contact form. No paintings will be sold before the in-person meeting, but your bid will be recorded.



Organ Mountain Musings: *The Talking Tree*

by Mark Ryan

Not long after moving into our house last year, I stepped out on the back patio after dark to enjoy the quiet desert evening . . . and heard a cacophony from the live oak in my yard! Now I have been a biologist for ~50 years, and I was pretty sure trees don't talk (although as a newcomer to the Chihuahuan desert I did reserve final judgement until further research).

They come alone, others come as pairs, some come as family groups, they even come as whole coveys. Most stroll in, getting a last-minute bite to eat on the way. Some trot in as though late for the party. A few fly in at full speed, like fighters landing on an aircraft carrier!

When a critical mass is present on the flagstones, the chasing begins. Siblings chase siblings, males pursue females, strangers chase each other. They look like feathered Keystone Cops (readers under 50 should consult

Google!) or third-graders on the playground at recess. Or maybe cousins at the family reunion. Infinite energy. The chasing seems to be all in fun (well, during the mating season, males do seem a bit more serious about protecting hens and single females more serious about avoiding unwanted male suitors). They rarely catch each other; if they do, a light boop to the tailfeathers is “tag, you’re it!”

Sometimes we hear them calling from a distance before we see them—the one-note *kwik* (other people hear this as *spik*) or two-note *ee up*, while others are silent. During the “chases,” vocalizations (*ee up*, *kwik*, *wii up*) announce the tag or the escape (“missed me” in quail speak). Eventually with a flurry of wings (the percussion notes to the calls), they launch themselves into the tree. The squadrons that fly straight into the tree arrive with wings whirring and then the crash as they penetrate the leafy exterior.

As birds enter the live oak, the “talking” begins in earnest. A cacophony? Or, maybe a quail orchestra tuning up. Birds squabbling about preferred perches, complaining about the fly-ins knocking them feet-over-topknot. As the roost tree fills up with overnight guests, the talking intensifies (mostly these are the *ee up* and *kwik* notes). I don’t speak quail, but it sure sounds like stories being shared—all talking at once! Reminds me of my wife and her seven siblings at Thanksgiving . . . multiple conversations in all direction at the same time and all understanding everything (truly amazing to me as an only child!).

I imagine the stories recount the day . . . the best places to find the biggest seeds, the best shade, a reliable water source. Or maybe it’s just gossip?

“Did you see that coyote trying to sneak up on us? Showed her my tail feathers, I did!”

“I think Jake and Bertie are getting serious! Look at them cuddling on that perch.”

“Where was George going this morning?”

“I think Harriet is putting on weight—maybe she’s laying eggs?”

Then again, maybe I am selling them short. Perhaps the intense conversations are about the serious issues facing quaildom.

“The monsoon is not producing enough rain.”

“Climate change is going to force us to move north (and learn to eat pine seeds—yuck!).”

“Another housing development is gobbling up feeding areas to the south.”

Or, eyeing me on the patio . . . “What if they cut down our roost tree?” (There is always a doomsayer in every covey I imagine).

By now you have parsed that the live oak in my backyard is a major roost site for Gambel’s Quail in the desert east of Las Cruces. The tree was planted, I assume, by the former owners of what we call La Casa de Sueños. Now the tree is about 15 feet tall, trimmed and shaped into a ball on a thick trunk. I guess that all the trimming created the dense branching within the canopy that provides the roost perches. It is amazingly dense in there! (I snuck a look one day).

In spring/early summer, at the peak of the nesting season, I counted 20–25 quail checking in to the roost hotel. Now, at the end of the breeding season, I counted an incredible 103 (+/- a few) wedging themselves into the tree.

They start arriving as early as 20 minutes before sunset; the stragglers, on long summer evenings, as late as 30 minutes after. The “talking” lasts until well after dark, sometimes as much as an hour after the last birds enter the roost.

It’s become a spectacle to entertain friends and family. Our grandkids sit with rapt (and reasonably) quiet attention for the whole show! It performs nightly, the tree that talks.



Name That Bird by Mark Pendleton ©2022



Today's photos come from MVAS board member, former vice-president, and general all around great guy, Gill Sorg. He told me he was driving along north of Deming and saw this bird perched on the fence post. He stopped, turned around, drove back and the bird posed for him! There's not much question when the pictures were taken with that date stamp. Since this species' life expectancy in the wild can reach up to 16 years, this individual could still be alive today.

This is not your typical view of this bird. Usually we see them from the underside as they (most often) soar by anywhere from a few to a few hundred feet above us.

All three panelists agreed on the identification. Panelist 3 added the comment that this was the kind of face only a mother could love!

This bird *could* be a mother as its head is red. We can't tell for sure, though, since all the head color tells us is that it's an adult. Young birds have grey heads.

The bare skin on the bird's head and neck is most likely an evolutionary adaptation to its diet. These birds eat carrion and actually crawl around inside dead carcasses to get at the choicest bits. Imagine how matted, crusty and disgusting their heads would get if they were covered with feathers. As it is, each bird's head is wrinkled and crinkled in an individual manner due to the bacteria that collect on it from this feeding method. Scientists studying them have discovered that these head shapes are as distinct from one another as human fingerprints and can use them to distinguish between individual birds!

Have you guessed what this bird is yet? If you said Turkey Vulture, you were right. It is the most abundant New World vulture and, according to some scientists, rivals its cousin the (also New World) Black Vulture as the most abundant raptorial bird worldwide.

Regional names abound for Turkey Vultures. One of the most common is Turkey buzzard. Buzzard, is, however, the name used in Europe for buteos—raptors with long, broad wings and short, rounded tails that hunt by soaring over open country and dropping onto their prey. New World examples include Red-tailed, Swainson's, Ferruginous, Red-shouldered, and similar hawks.

In some areas of the Caribbean—the Turkey Vulture's range extends from southern Canada to the tip of South America—John crow, or carrion crow is another regional name. Whatever it's called, the Turkey Vulture is an integral part of the ecosystem. Without them and their cousins, the other vultures, the world would be a smellier, nastier place with lots and lots more carcasses lying around.



Duskywing Butterflies in Doña Ana County by CJ Goin



Funereal Duskywing #1



Funereal Duskywing #2



Mournful Duskywing

Duskywings are a subfamily of the Skipper family. Two of them are commonly found in our area: the Funereal Duskywing and the Mourful Duskywing. They both have a prominent white fringe on the hindwing that distinguishes them from other duskywings. They are similar in appearance but can be told apart by the pale brown patch at the front of the forewing of the Funereal (left and center photos). The brown patch on Funereals may be bold and distinct (left photo) or more drab (center photo) but it will always be present. Mourful Duskywings (right photo) always lack that patch.

Editor's note: In the last edition (Fall 2022) of *Roadrunner Ramblings* there was a mistaken reference made to one of the butterflies pictured. Below is a repeat copy of the photo with the correct species identification.



Red-spotted Purple Swallowtail Butterfly

Thank you, CJ!



Three photos taken by CJ Goin on 10-29-2022 during a bird walk at Leasburg Dam State Park are of bird walk participants (left), a Brown Thrasher (middle), a rarely seen bird in southern New Mexico, and of the Mourning Cloak Butterfly (right). CJ notes that he likes the amusing names of our butterflies and has become fascinated by them. This was CJ's last bird walk as the official leader of the "Last Saturday of the Month Leasburg Dam State Park Bird Walk," a role he has filled for many years. **THANK YOU, CJ!**

Lights Out Las Cruces

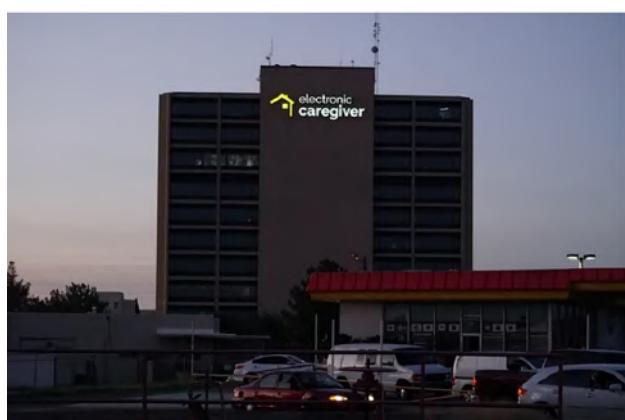
We are nearing the end of fall migration! MVAS Lights Out Las Cruces has had a setback with the departure of board member Dana Loy, who led the project since its inception. She and her husband are moving to Albuquerque to be closer to family. This is very sad for us, but she promises to become active in the Albuquerque chapter and to work to help establish a Lights Out Albuquerque branch and maybe even a Lights Out New Mexico branch. Go Dana! Albuquerque is lucky to have you!

NMSU graduate students Kelley Boland and Dylan Osterhaus (this year's Bischoff award recipient) have now taken the lead on the project. The group met with Lights Out Texas, and we have learned a lot from them and their website ([lights Out Texas](#)). With the Texas cities of San Antonio, Dallas, Galveston, and Houston, birds are confronted with urban commercial lighting problems unimaginable here. Lights Out Texas is working with many partners to dim the lights in tall buildings, and has had reasonable success. Happily, in Las Cruces, our largest skyscraper, the 10-story Electronic Caregiver tower, has a policy of no lights at night and is working with our group. However, our city is experiencing a proliferation of unshielded floodlights that can cause bird mortality and interfere with bird migration. The glare from unshielded lights causes "up-light" and sky glow, making it increasingly difficult to see stars, not to mention negative impacts to human health and safety.

The committee has been part of MVAS at outreach events, including Monuments to Main Street and at the Saturday Farmers and Crafts Market in downtown Las Cruces. A survey of the night lighting in Las Cruces is under development, and the group is working to develop public education materials and a Lights Out event during spring migration 2023.

We'll keep you informed, and new Lights Out volunteers are welcome!

The Electronic Caregiver tower is the tallest building in Las Cruces. It does an excellent job of keeping lights out at night and reducing the danger to migrating birds. The Mesilla Valley Audubon Society Lights Out committee thanks Electronic Caregiver for their bird-friendly nighttime lighting.



USIBWC Citizens Forum Meeting Addresses Rio Grande Flooding

On 10/26/2022 the United States International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) held a Zoom meeting addressing important issues related to the recent flooding of the southern New Mexico Rio Grande.

The first of two presentations was delivered by the **South Central New Mexico Stormwater Management Coalition (SMC)**. This group consists of civil engineers and other interested parties from Doña Ana County Flood Commission, Bureau of Land Management, NM Water Resources Research institute at NMSU, Caballo Soil and Water Conservation District, and Elephant Butte Irrigation District.

Their concern is that in the last two decades there has been a marked increase in flooding along the New Mexico section of the Rio Grande south of Caballo Dam. The structures built 50 years ago may not be sufficient to stop the floods in this era of climate change with its increased number and severity of storms. Already there have been disruptive floods in Hatch, Rincon, and Anthony during the past rainy season and flooding will worsen as climate change progresses. The SMC, consisting of civil engineers from all areas under review, is designed to give a balanced and comprehensive view of where improvements are needed to prevent future calamities. Their recommendations carry more weight than pleas from individual political entities. They note that the levees along this stretch of the Rio Grande are owned by USIBWC and it is to that entity recommendations are made. Besides upgrading the levees, there are other "flood spreading" practices that can mitigate flooding. These include logjams, riparian buffers, berms, swales and terraces, retention ponds, and developing of irrigated land near the river when appropriate. Additionally, they have recommended real-time monitoring with weather stations, rain gauges and flow meters through this section of the river. The USIBWC has been receptive to their recommendations.

The second lecture, entitled "Rio Grande Levee Rehabilitation: Update on Levee Work and FEMA Accreditation in Doña Ana and El Paso Counties," was presented by the USIBWC Construction Management Division. That division has a Canalization and Rectification Project that addresses the status of the levees already in existence and the need for new interventions to prevent future flooding in the event of the "100-year flood." Much has already been done to address problems in El Paso County and the southern portions of Doña Ana County. The USIBWC is responsible for developing contracts for local construction companies to bid and complete. This may cause conflict with multiple communities all wanting priority action. When dealing with identified problems, USIBWC must develop plans to improve the levee system to the benefit of urbanized areas. Overseeing their plans is FEMA, which reviews all plans before any bidding occurs. Individual multi-million-dollar contracts developed by USIBWC were described during the lecture.

In this era of increasing drought, it is difficult for us to appreciate the next "100-year flood" may be worse than floods of prior years. We are glad to have the Stormwater Coalition and USIBWC addressing this issue to mitigate potential disasters that lay ahead.

For complete coverage of the material covered at this meeting visit the [USIBWC website](#) and check out the Citizens Forums on the home page. The Upper Rio Grande Citizens Forum Page has a list of all recent presentations.



Dear MVAS members,

Greetings. If you haven't paid your 2022 dues, there is still time to do so. If you have already paid, thank you very much. Your dues support basic costs to run MVAS (insurance, Zoom, our website, and our Bischoff scholarship award).

2023 is just around the corner, and like last year, the MVAS board encourages you to pay in January to help give us a feel for what our finances will be for the year ahead. There has been discussion at the board level about an increase in annual membership fees for 2023. That would not take place until an announcement was made in the February issue of *Roadrunner Ramblings*. That is a real incentive to pay in January!

Your friend, the MVAS Dues Hawk

Dues page for MVAS website: [Membership](#)

MVAS Elections!

It's hard to believe, but it's once again time to think about elections. January is MVAS board and officer election month! What positions are up for election?

Officers (president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer) are elected each and every year.

Current officers Elaine Stachera Simon (president), Cheryl Fallstead (secretary), and Diane Moore (treasurer), will run again. Vice-president Mark Pendleton will not run again.

We are sad to see Mark leave the board, but he will be remaining active in MVAS! Thank you, Mark, for the insight and humor you brought to the board!

If anyone is interested in running for an officer position—all of which will be on the ballot—please email Elaine at mesillavalleyaudubon@gmail.com (even if you are running against me! ☺).

One person (so far) has indicated they will run for the vice-president position.

As board members Dana Loy and Tracy Patrick have moved out of town, we technically have four **board positions** open. There are three 2023 – 2026 director slots and a year left in Tracy's director slot.

Director 2023 – 2026 – up for election
Director 2023 – 2026 – up for election
Director 2023 – 2026 – up for election
Director 2021–2024: Trish Cutler

Director 2021–2024 – up for election
Director 2022 – 2025: Sid Webb
Director 2022 – 2025: Gill Sorg

If anyone is interested in running for board position (three-year terms), please email Elaine at mesillavalleyaudubon@gmail.com.

Board members CJ Goin and Annie Mitchell have both indicated they will run again for board positions. Two other people (so far) have indicated they will run for the other two board positions.

Who can run, who can vote?

MVAS officers and board members must be dues-paying MVAS members. You can nominate yourself or someone else (with their consent). You also must be a dues-paying member to vote. (If you are not yet a member, please visit mvasaudubon.org to become a member using PayPal, a credit card, or to find the address to send your check.)

How do I run?

Nominations can be sent to mesillavalleyaudubon@gmail.com from now (November 1) until December 14, 2022. The slate will be announced at the pre-Christmas Bird Count program on December 14 and nominees will have the opportunity to introduce themselves. On nomination emails, please put NOMINATION in the subject line.

How will we vote?

In early January the slate will be circulated to members via email. Voting will be by email from January 11, 2023 to 5 p.m. January 18. Results will be shared via email that evening.

What's required of a board member or officer?

Neither officers nor board members need to be bird experts! They do need to be willing to be part of furthering the Mesilla Valley Audubon Society mission of advocacy, education, and conservation in Doña Ana, Otero, and Sierra counties.

The board meetings are once per month (usually the Wednesday before the third Wednesday of the month, although we don't always stick to that schedule based on board members' other commitments) and usually via Zoom. They generally last about 1.5 hours. There are, of course, many activities and projects done beyond that time frame.

The regular monthly membership meetings are generally the third Wednesday of the month. In 2023 we'll hopefully start doing some in-person meetings. (There have been some requests to do the occasional daytime in-person meeting for those who don't drive at night.)

Questions? Please ask at mesillavalleyaudubon@gmail.com!

Current Officers and Board MVAS 2022

President: Elaine Stachera Simon

Vice-president: Mark Pendleton

Secretary: Cheryl Fallstead

Treasurer: Diane Moore

Directors (seven elected with three-year terms)

Director 2020–2023: CJ Goin

Director 2020–2023: Annie Mitchell

Director 2021–2024: Trish Cutler

Director 2021–2024: vacant

Director 2019–2022: Sid Webb

Director 2019–2022: Gill Sorg

Director 2020–2023: vacant

Committee chairs

Conservation: Trish Cutler

Education: vacant

Field Trips: Judy Wilbur

Programs: vacant, currently managed by president

Newsletter: Sid Webb

Website: Sid Webb

Membership: Diane Moore

Christmas Bird Count: Mark Pendleton

Facebook admin: Elaine Stachera Simon

Climate Watch Coordinator: Mark Pendleton

Roadrunner Ramblings is published quarterly and is distributed via [the MVAS website](#), with a copy emailed to all MVAS members and friends. All members of MVAS are encouraged to submit articles of interest and any bird photograph recently taken. Please email your contributions to sidwebb@gmail.com. To be added to the distribution list, contact Elaine Stachera Simon at mesillavalleyaudubon@gmail.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.

