

Celebrate our New Meeting Location!

After several years of holding our monthly meetings at the Village at Northrise, we have decided to shake things up and shift to the Southwest Environmental Center on the Downtown Mall. Celebrate the move with snacks and beverages at our September 18 program.



MVAS Programs

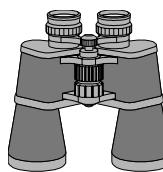
Membership meetings and programs are held the third Wednesday of each month at the Southwest Environmental Center, 275 N. Downtown Mall. Meetings begin at 7:00 PM. Programs begin immediately following the business meeting and announcements. Questions? Contact Jennifer Montoya 526-1320.

A National Monument for Our Own Backyard.

September 18. Nathan Small, with the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance, will introduce us to a number of the cultural and historic features within the proposed Organ Mountains – Desert Peaks National Monument, including the Butterfield Trail, petroglyphs and bedrock mortars, the Bartlett Conde International Boundary survey, Billy the Kid's hideout at Outlaw Rock, and World War II-era aerial targets.

Operation Game Thief: Poachers Beware! October 16.

At Audubon we know that the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish is an important part wildlife conservation, and that hunters are our partners in advocacy. One thing we definitely have in common with our friends at NMDGF is a dislike for the game thief. Join us for an especially lively presentation with the agency's Southwest Regional Public Information Officer, Richard McDonald. Richard will take us through the nefarious underworld of game violators and help us understand how and when justice is dispensed. Put down that mystery book and join us for some real life crime.



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 mpndlt@gmail.com.

Camp Robledo. Sunday, September 29 (Note: this is a Sunday trip).

C.J. Goin will lead this excursion to an area of Leasburg Dam State Park closed to the public. That and the fall migration should make for some good birding! The last time C.J. led a trip there, we saw a Blue-headed Vireo. We can't promise a repeat performance, but who knows?! Bring plenty of water, binoculars, field guide and snacks, and dress in comfortable walking clothes. Wide-brimmed hats and sunscreen are also excellent ideas. We'll meet at the parking lot of the K-Mart on Hwy 70 at 07:00 and leave at 07:15. We should be returning to Las Cruces by noon or shortly thereafter. Questions? Contact Mark Pendleton at 575.635.8711 or mpndlt@gmail.com

Western Doña Ana County Grasslands. Saturday, October 19.

We'll definitely go along Corralitos Ranch Road and, depending on time, the quality of the birding, and the inclinations of the participants, may go to Cold Iron Tank and Mason Draw as well. This is excellent grassland habitat, and in the past we've seen Lark Buntings; Lark, Grasshopper, Chipping, and several other sparrows; along with Horned Larks; Gambel's and Scaled Quail; Swainson's and Red-Tailed Hawks; Peregrine and Prairie Falcons; and Golden Eagles.

We'll meet at 07:15 in the parking lot at Thomas Branigan Memorial Library, 200 E. Picacho Avenue, and leave at 07:30. Bring plenty of water, binoculars, field guide, snacks, and dress in comfortable walking clothes. We will probably return to Las Cruces by early afternoon, unless we encounter phenomenally outstanding birding. Questions? Contact Mark Pendleton 575.635.8711 or mpndlt@gmail.com.

Additional Bird Walks. Can't make the MVAS field trips? The BLM will be having its fall bird walk at Dripping Springs at 8:30 AM on September 21. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park offers bird walks every Saturday morning, and Leasburg Dam State Park has them the final Saturday of each month. Many are led by MVAS volunteers—check them out!

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

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. All Audubon members are welcome.

For contact information for officers and board members, visit our website at

www.mvaudubon.org

Mexican Wolf Comments Due Sept. 11

For those who missed the compelling presentation by Jean Ossorio at our August meeting, an important deadline for comments to improve the Mexican Wolf recovery program is September 11. Currently, wolves can only be directly released into a small area in Arizona. Support is needed to implement a proposed rule change that would allow captive-bred wolves to be released into the full recovery area, including portions of the Gila and Apache National Forests in New Mexico. This proposed rule change also represents an opportunity to request that released wolves be afforded more protections by allowing them to range outside of the designated recovery zone and by labeling their wild population “essential” instead of “non-essential” to the eventual recovery of this subspecies. For more info, visit www.mexicanwolves.org and click on “Act Now to Ensure Mexican Wolf Recovery.”

**To receive this newsletter
in electronic form, email
nstotz1@comcast.net**

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

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JOIN NOW!

Choose one of two membership options:

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.

Questions about your membership status? Contact Nancy Stotz at 575-521-8087 or nstotz1@comcast.net.

Name _____

Address _____

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Send this form and your check to:

Membership, MVAS
P.O. Box 1645
Las Cruces, NM 88004