

ROADRUNNER RAMBLINGS

VOL. 39, No. 1

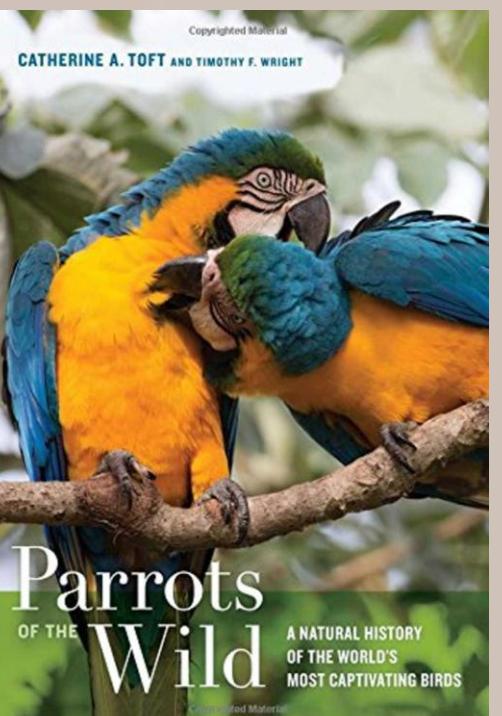
WINTER 2016- 17



Above: Kristi Lane, owner of Wild Birds Unlimited (center left), flanked by staff Barbara Tarro (left) and Ashley Gurnea (right), presents Frank Wilson (center right) with this quarter's photo contest First Prize.

Left: American Avocets and Black-necked Stilts, Frank Wilson.

Photo Contest Huge Success



Our first quarterly photo contest was an unqualified success, and we have the photos in this issue to prove it. Nine photographers submitted 20 qualifying pictures. Besides Frank Wilson's First Prize winning entry above, the following pages present four Honorable Mention entries for your enjoyment.

Continue submitting your bird photos every quarter. The best will be published here, and the very best will win prizes. Photos entered in our quarterly newsletter contests are also automatically entered in our 2018 MVAS Calendar Contest and are eligible to win a pair of birding binoculars.

Submit your photos for next quarter's contest by December 31, 2016. Entry rules are on the back page.

Left: Next quarter's contest prize is *Parrots of the Wild*, by Catherine Toft, donated by Barnes and Noble at NMSU.



Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Ken Stinnett



Ash-throated Flycatcher,
Frank Wilson



Great Blue Heron, Nirmal Khandan

Contest Honorable Mentions

Winter Events

Nov 16: Program. Mara Weisenberger, Wildlife Biologist at San Andres National Wildlife Refuge, will give us a special presentation on her bird banding project in the refuge. Get a glimpse into the heart of this little known desert mountain range and the incredible birdlife it hosts. Location is the Southwest Environmental Center (SWEC), 275 Downtown Mall, Las Cruces. Program starts at 7:00 p.m., with snacks and setup at 6:30 p.m.

Nov 19: Fieldtrip to Gardner Sod Farms, Santa Teresa, NM. Possible sightings include McCown's Longspurs and other winter sparrows. Meet at Mesilla Town Hall, 2231 Avenida de Mesilla, at 7:00 a.m., to carpool to this great birding hotspot.

Dec 14: Pre-Christmas Bird Count Coordination Meeting. Location is SWEC. Meeting starts at 7:00 p.m., with snacks and setup at 6:30 p.m.

Dec 17: MVAS sponsored Christmas Bird Count of Las Cruces, including post-CBC celebration. Contact Wayne Treers coordinator and compiler at way1mike@yahoo.com or (575)528-8696.

Jan 18: Waterfowl Identification Class open to MVAS members only. Slide presentation from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at SWEC. Contact Jay Wilbur at jay@jaysplanet.info or (512)632-4196.

Jan 21: Waterfowl Identification Class Fieldtrip. Times and location (most likely Bosque del Apache NWR) to be announced at Jan 18 presentation.

Burrowing Owl, Nirmal Khandan



JOIN AUDUBON NOW!

National Membership (special for new members only): Join both the National Audubon Society and Mesilla Valley Audubon Society for the introductory rate of \$20 for your first year of membership. This is a \$15 savings. You'll receive both *Audubon Magazine* and *Roadrunner Ramblings*. Make check payable to National Audubon Society.

Local Chapter Membership: Join, or renew your membership in, Mesilla Valley Audubon Society for \$15 per year. You'll receive *Roadrunner Ramblings* and be eligible for member-only events such as bird identification classes. Make check payable to Mesilla Valley Audubon Society.

Name _____
Address _____
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Send this form with your check to:

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

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. *Roadrunner Ramblings* is published quarterly. Submissions are welcome. Please email copy to Judi Schultz, judi626@earthlink.net. Next deadline: January 15, 2017. To be added to the distribution list, contact Judy Wilbur, jkwilbur@gmail.com or 512-560-4717.

Photo Contest Rules: Photos submitted must have been taken in our local area, i.e., Sierra, Otero, or Dona Ana Counties only, and during the past 12 months. Our publications committee judges entries based on photo quality, subject interest, and subject variety. Our newsletter editor makes the final selection for publication. From these, one is chosen as the First Prize winner.
By submitting your photo you automatically grant Mesilla Valley Audubon Society (MVAS) publication rights for one year. MVAS may use your photo in any of our publications, including newsletters and our annual calendar. Photos should be submitted electronically as a high resolution jpg file to this email address judi626@earthlink.net.

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