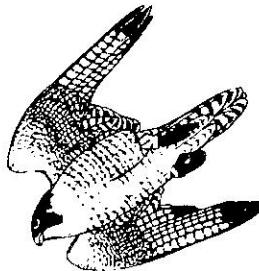


# ROADRUNNER RAMBLINGS

Volume 22, No. 6. November/December 2000

## December Meeting Dates

Please note that our December program will be held on the second Wednesday of December (13 December) instead of the third Wednesday, our regular meeting date. We are making this change to accommodate the Christmas Bird Count, scheduled for the 16th. Our monthly board meeting will also be moved forward, to 7 December.



## Why Study Raptors?

by Ed Mayfield, MVAS President

On the morning of September 25, two very nice ladies led me up an extremely steep mountain in northeastern Nevada to the Goshute Mountain hawkwatch station. I knew very little about hawks and wanted to learn more so I went on an ecotour sponsored by HawkWatch International (HWI). The four days I spent with them was one of the most exciting learning experiences I have ever had. There were 15 hawk experts on top of that mountain observing, recording, and banding raptors in their fall migration. I was so impressed by their operation, I just had to tell you about it.

The work at HawkWatch is motivated by the belief that raptors are important biological indicators of environmental problems that may threaten entire ecosystems. Most raptors feed at the top of the food pyramid, occupy large home ranges in a variety of habitats, and are sensitive to human-caused disturbances. Healthy raptor populations indicate healthy prey populations and habitat. The preferred habitats and low densities of many raptors make it difficult and expensive to monitor nesting birds directly. However, monitoring raptor populations at migratory concentration points is an efficient and cost-effective way to track regional population trends of multiple species over long periods of time.

(continued on page 2) See **Hawks**

## Open Space Meeting

Urban sprawl and unprecedented growth rates in Doña Ana County are contributing to a loss of open space. Because many county residents value the farms and desert spaces, preservation of open space will be one of the most compelling issues in the next 10 years. While nationwide, communities and states have appropriated almost 10 billion dollars to preserve their open spaces, more locally, we are just beginning to address the question of how to preserve open space.

To help the community better understand the options and opportunities for preservation of open space in Doña Ana County, the League of Women Voters, New Mexico State University departments of Geography and Biology, and the Associated Students of NMSU are co-sponsoring a public meeting on preservation of open space. The public meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 6, 2000 from 6:30 to 9:30 PM in the East Ballroom of the Corbett Center on the NMSU campus.

The purpose of the meeting is to initiate community-wide discussions about open space. Speakers from a variety of perspectives will discuss opportunities for preservation of open space in Doña Ana County. Time will be provided for the public to identify areas or specific parcels of land that they want to see preserved as open space. Community groups and organizations will be present to distribute information about their ongoing efforts to preserve open space including proposals for preservation of farmland, wilderness designation, river and desert nature parks, trail systems and more.

Public participation in developing an open space plan is vital. The meeting will be a great opportunity for the public to learn more about open space issues and initiatives, provide input, and become involved in answering the questions: should we preserve open space, and if so, how?

For more details, contact Beth Bardwell at 522-5065.

## Field Trip Reports

**La Luz, 23 September.** The birding started out slow, but built up during the morning. During the hours from 8 AM to 11:30 AM we drove from La Luz to Highrolls and logged 32 species of birds. We had, other than local routine species, Yellow-shafted and Red-shafted Flickers, Williamson's and Red-naped Sapsuckers, Western Wood-Pewee, Willow Flycatcher, Western Scrub Jay, Plain Titmouse, Mountain Chickadee (call), Rock Wren (call), Townsend's Solitaire, Cedar Waxwing, Phainopepla, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Green-tailed Towhee, Pine Siskin, Pyrrhuloxia, Red Crossbill, and an Evening Grosbeak. Nine people made the 6:30 AM takeoff time and we were home by 1 PM.

**Chiricahua Mountains, 14 October.** Ten people gathered at the Sunny Flats Campground Saturday morning for the field trip. While most of the birds had gone because of the cold and rain, we recorded 40 species. One nice thing was that Charles Osgood came from New Hampshire to bird with us, and he also brought a woman from Battle Creek, Michigan to visit and go on the trip with us. We had lots and lots of Yellow-eyed Juncos visit us.

Ed Mayfield

### JOIN NOW!

I would like to join the **National Audubon Society and Mesilla Valley Audubon Society** for the introductory rate of \$20.

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

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Membership includes the publications *Audubon* and *Roadrunner Ramblings*.

Send this application and your check (made payable to National Audubon Society) to:

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

(continued from page 1) **Hawks**

HWI currently conducts migration counts at 15 sites in nine states and one site in Mexico. HWI coordinates banding programs at six sites and has banded more than 50,000 birds since 1980. Band recoveries and recapture help delineate the migratory routes and the boundaries of "flyways." Flyways are broad migration corridors used by the raptors year after year. Leg band recoveries from captured raptors indicate three major western flyways. These are the *Pacific Coast Flyway*, the area between the Pacific Ocean and the Cascade and Sierra Nevada Mountains; the *Intermountain Flyway*, between the Sierra Nevada and Rocky Mountains and the *Rocky Mountain Flyway*. All the flyways converge in southern Mexico.

Banding operations collect data only possible to get with birds in hand. Detailed information can be obtained on molt processes. Energetic, blood and feather samples can be collected for a range of biological analyses, and parasite loads and body condition can be monitored. In addition, band returns provide important information about raptor longevity and causes of injury and death, which is highest near centers of human activity. The knowledge gained about human-caused mortality is critical for setting conservation priorities.

In addition to the research, an added value of HWI's monitoring is the opportunity for public education. Raptors are a captivating tool for reaching people with an environmental message. Educational personnel introduce raptors to students from kindergarten to the 12th grade using birds that cannot migrate anymore. Thanks to the dedication of educators and HWI the program is very successful. In New Mexico, Intel Corp. paid for 27 programs in 17 schools with a total attendance of 2144 students from K-7<sup>th</sup> graders.

## Update on Las Cruces Dam Feasibility Study

On October 17, the Army Corps of Engineers presented three alternative plans for potential recreational developments behind the Las Cruces Flood Control Dam. The three alternatives range from a simple trail system (Alternative 1) to more substantial developments. Alternative 2, which includes hiking and biking trails, plus areas for vegetation enhancement (where native landscaping would be used to reclaim some disturbed areas and to enhance wildlife habitat) is probably the best option for birds and other wildlife. This alternative does not include large areas designated for "active recreation" which could potentially include ball fields or other large sports facilities, a land use designation that is included in Alternative 3.

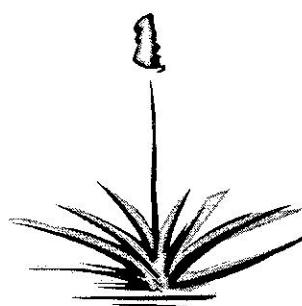
The Corps will be back for another public meeting in November to present a single plan created using the feedback they receive about the three alternatives. If you would like to ask questions or submit comments on these alternatives, use the contact information for the Corps and Sites Southwest (the firm contracted to draw up the plans) provided below.

Fritz Blake  
Project Manager  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
4101 Jefferson Plaza NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87106  
email:  
[fritz.j.blake@spa02.usace.army.mil](mailto:fritz.j.blake@spa02.usace.army.mil)  
phone: 505-342-3202

George Radnovich  
Sites Southwest  
5150 A San Francisco NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87109  
email: [gradnovich@sites-sw.com](mailto:gradnovich@sites-sw.com)  
phone: 505-822-8200

Since the City of Las Cruces will eventually be asked to approve a development plan and fund half the project, copies of your comments should also be sent to Mayor Ruben Smith and your City Councilor at City of Las Cruces, P.O. Box 20000, Las Cruces, NM 88004.

If you would like your name added to an email contact list (to receive updates about this project and notification about meeting dates), please email Nancy Stotz at [nstotz@zianet.com](mailto:nstotz@zianet.com). If you want to check out the area in person, come on the December 2 field trip described on page 3.



## Programs

 Programs and meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, September - April, at the Village at Northrise, Hallmark Building, 2882 N. Roadrunner Pkwy, Las

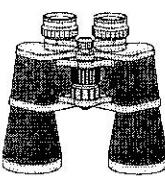
Cruces (see [Directions](#) below). Programs begin at 7:30 PM. News, announcements, and information begin at 6:45, preceding the program.

**November 15. State Parks are for the Birds...and the Birders.** Steve Cary, Natural Resource Planner for New Mexico State Parks, will discuss ways that the state and groups like MVAS can work together to accomplish shared goals at parks such as Leasburg and Percha Dam. He will present some efforts underway at state parks to (1) inventory the birds that use our state parks, (2) make state parks more hospitable for birds, and (3) educate state park visitors about enjoying and protecting our diverse and precious avifauna.

**December 13. Asian Birds of Prey.** Jeff Brown, from the Vertebrate Museum at the Department of Biology, New Mexico State University, will tell us about field research in Papua New Guinea and the Philippines. Jeff will bring with him several museum specimens of birds of prey, plus a few posters to raffle off.

## Directions...

...to our meeting place in the Village at Northrise. Heading east on Highway 70 (North Main Street), turn right on Roadrunner Parkway (at the top of the hill east of I-25). From Roadrunner, turn left at the first stoplight (Northrise Drive). From Northrise, take the first right through the gates into the Village complex, and drive down the hill to the stop sign. Turn right again to get to the Hallmark Building where we hold our monthly programs. There is a small parking lot in front of the building and additional parking on the south side of the street. We meet in the Activity Room, which is on the ground floor (one floor up from the parking garage and entrance on the south side of the building).



## Field Trips

New Mexico's winter weather is variable. Please be prepared with layered clothing, sunscreen, and plenty of water.

### November 18. San Andres Mountains.

**Walking: Moderate.** Ed Fredrickson will once again be leading us into the San Andres Mountains, an area where public access is typically restricted because of the surrounding military/NASA lands. To take advantage of this opportunity to explore these mountains, meet at the Shell Station at the corner of Jornada Road and Highway 70 at 7:00 AM. We will be traveling along 30 to 40 miles of unimproved road. Because road conditions are often poor, the number of people will be limited by the number of four-wheel-drive vehicles with high clearance. Each person should bring his or her own food and water and be prepared for cold windy, or warm sunny, weather. While walking will be limited to short distances from the road, good hiking shoes are advisable. We should return by 3:00 or 4:00 PM. For more information, contact Ed Fredrickson at 646-1301 or [efredric@nmsu.edu](mailto:efredric@nmsu.edu).

### December 2. Las Cruces Dam.

**Walking: Moderate.** Want to practice IDing those pesky winter sparrows? As a warm-up for the Christmas Count, we'll be walking down the Alameda Arroyo to the dense grassy area behind the dam, a mecca for wintering sparrows. We should see plenty of Lincoln's, Savannah, Song, and White-crowned Sparrows, with a chance for more exotic things like Fox and Swamp Sparrows. In the surrounding desert habitats, Black-throated, Sage, Vesper, Chipping, and Brewer's Sparrows are all possibilities. If you'd rather focus on bigger birds, we should also see a bunch of raptors: Red-tailed Hawks, harriers, kestrels, accipiters, and lots of Burrowing Owls. To join in on the fun, meet at the Camino Real Middle School parking lot (2961 Roadrunner Parkway) at 8 AM. Bring appropriate clothing, water, and a snack; we'll walk a couple of miles (sometimes in pretty soft sand) and return to the school parking lot by lunchtime. Contact Nancy Stotz at 521-8087 or [nstotz@zianet.com](mailto:nstotz@zianet.com) for more information.

## Christmas Bird Count

The annual MVAS Christmas Bird Count will take place on Saturday, December 16. It is an all-day event in which teams count birds within geographic areas of a count circle that extends from the river to Dripping Springs. I am currently looking for team leaders to lead groups into the various areas. Leaders have been established for the Mid-Valley and North Valley sections. If you would like to be involved as a leader or participant, please contact me (522-2056) or Gordon Ewing (522-3934). We finish up for dinner at the end of the day, when everyone goes over their list. No doubt this will be an unusual year, if present bird patterns hold.

Tim Lawton



## Can't Stop at Just One?

In case one count's not enough, here's a list of some other CBC's in our area.

### Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge

(near Socorro, NM)

East side: Thursday, 14 December

West side: Wednesday, 20 December

Contact: Steve or Nancy Cox at 505-345-2385

### La Luz (north of Alamogordo)

Wednesday, 27 December

Contact: John Mangimeli at 505-434-6463 (evenings) or 505-679-2599 x 230 (work)

### Big Bend National Park

Chisos Mountains: Thursday, 28

December

Rio Grande Village: Friday, 29 December

Local Contact: Ken Stinnet

([kensttin@totacc.com](mailto:kensttin@totacc.com))

### Northern Chihuahua (Mexico)

Friday and Saturday, December 29-30

(participants typically camp overnight)

Contact: César Ernesto Méndez

([cesarmendez77@hotmail.com](mailto:cesarmendez77@hotmail.com))

## Birding Hot Spot: Leasburg Dam State Park

by Wally and Sue Hill

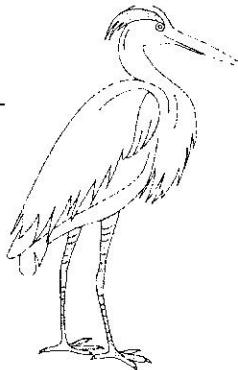
Leasburg Dam State Park is located on the Rio Grande about 20 miles north of Las Cruces. Since there are several different kinds of habitat in the area, ranging from the river, the banks of the river, fields, and yards to desert, many different kinds of birds can be found at and near the park. During migration different warbler and vireo species, along with towhees, grosbeaks, and orioles may be found in the brush along the sides of the irrigation canal (adjacent to the river) as well as in the trees and brush along the river. Also many ducks, cormorants, swallows, sparrows and birds of prey visit the park.

**Directions:** Several routes can be taken to Leasburg Dam. The fastest route is to take Interstate 25 to Exit 19, or the Radium Springs Exit. Exit here and proceed west on Ft. Selden Road for about 1.5 miles or almost to the intersection with Highway 185; you will pass the main entrance the Leasburg Dam State Park and the entrance to Fort Selden Monument. Just after crossing a bridge over an irrigation canal make a sharp right turn onto Leasburg Dam Road and continue down the paved road until you get to the dam area (about .9 mile), watching both sides of the road for birds along the canal and in the field.

Another route to take is Highway 185 (also called Valley Drive). From the intersection of Hwy. 185 and Hoagland Road (Mayfield High School) it is approximately 13 miles to the intersection with Ft. Selden Road. After reaching the intersection, turn right and then take an immediate left onto the same Leasburg Dam Road. Drives along Hwy. 185 have given us such birds as Bald Eagles, Red-tailed Hawks, Northern Harriers, Prairie and Peregrine Falcons, White-faced Ibis and various egret species.

We also have driven down Doña Ana Road, going through the villages of Doña Ana and Hill, to reach the same intersection of Highway 185 and Ft. Selden Road.

When fields have been flooded along this route we have found many interesting birds, including Common Snipe, Franklin's and Ring-billed Gulls, American Pipits, Long-billed Curlew, along with duck species including Cinnamon, Blue-winged, and Green-winged Teal, Mallard, American Wigeon, and Northern Shoveler, as well as both Western and Mountain Bluebirds and a Rough-legged Hawk.



**Description:** The first campground area is about .4 mile from the intersection of Highway 185 and Ft. Selden Road. This area should be checked for such birds as Black Phoebe and sparrows. There is a trail along the river's edge from the first campground to the second campground (about .5 mile), and at times the walk will produce several warbler species including Yellow-rumped, Wilson's, Orange-crowned, and Black-and-White. We have seen numerous Black-crowned Night-Herons in the trees on the river bank. Pyrrhuloxias, Ladder-backed Woodpeckers, and flickers are usually around the second campground, along with Phainopeplas and Bullock's Orioles in spring and summer.

After reaching the dam area check any shallow water for sandpipers. Cormorants and ducks are often in the water just below the dam. Scan the tall trees for hawks. Also carefully check the small willows and salt cedar which line the irrigation canal that parallels the river for warblers, Rock Wrens, Verdin and sparrows. In April, 2000 Wally spotted a Northern Parula Warbler in the bushes near the "hilltop house." The little beauty stayed around

several days, long enough for several people to find it.

When we drove out to check the distances for this report we found the following birds at the dam area: Two cattle egrets (one was riding around on a mule's back), White-crowned Sparrows, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Red-winged Blackbirds, Mourning Doves, House Finches, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Crissal Thrasher, Northern Mockingbirds, Canyon Towhees, Red-shafted Flickers, House Sparrows, Pyrrhuloxias, Great Blue Herons, Mallards, European Starlings, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Barn Swallows, Bank Swallows, Warbling Vireo, Spotted Sandpipers, Black Phoebe, Chihuahuan Ravens, Wilson's Warbler, and Gray-headed Junco.

After crossing the little bridge and driving up-river about .5 mile before turning around, we found American Kestrel, Greater Roadrunner, Gambel's Quail, Curve-billed Thrasher, Say's Phoebe, Pink-sided, Oregon, and Gray-headed Juncos, and Savannah, Song, and White-crowned Sparrows. This is a narrow road with no shoulders and no parking areas except some near the dam. Be very careful!

On the way out of the park we found a Pied-billed Grebe along with many Red-winged Blackbirds at the little pond which is near the intersection of Leasburg Dam Road and Ft. Selden Road. Other birds of interest we have seen in the park are Osprey, Harris' Hawk, Green Heron, American White Pelican, Double-crested and Neotropic Cormorants, American Avocet, Western Scrub Jay, and Common Merganser, along with several other species of ducks and many sandpipers.

One day when you don't care to travel too far, try Leasburg Park for birding. You'll like it!! We do recommend the trip be made on weekdays since this is a favorite weekend picnic spot for many people.

- *An Invitation:* Do you have a favorite birding hotspot? If so, write up a 300-400 word description of the site, including detailed directions with mileages, and submit it for publication in *Roadrunner Ramblings* (see page 6).
- These hotspot descriptions are also being compiled at our website ([www.cybermesa.com/~mvas](http://www.cybermesa.com/~mvas)) and copies are being given to the Chamber of Commerce and Visitors' Center so they can be distributed to new residents and visitors who ask about birdwatching in the area.

## Bird Sightings Galore

by Tim Lawton

If you find that your favorite sighting was omitted this month, it's because I had to do triage on an extremely long list of birds. The migration of fall 2000 has been an extraordinary one, and the list here only hints at it. There are many examples of unusual birds this year, particularly those that typically migrate a little farther to the east. There have been several Swainson's Thrushes, Least Flycatchers, and Gray Catbirds reported, as well as many Clay-colored Sparrows and Dickcissels. I have tried to spread credit for sightings around a little to emphasize that lots of people are out there watching. I have also had to ignore many things from the Fort Bliss Sewage Ponds, such as Great-crested Flycatcher and Eastern Kingbird, in the interest of space.

The unusual weather of the season coupled with a failure of the monsoon probably had something to do with migration patterns. When the migration commenced around the beginning of August, there was a major drought in the lower Midwest (Oklahoma and Texas) that may have influenced migrants, such as Least Flycatchers and Clay-colored Sparrows, that normally move south across the Great Plains. The latter part of the list records a major invasion by montane birds, such as crossbills and nuthatches, that normally keep to the Pinyon-Juniper belt or higher. These birds are seeking food because the normal seed crops fostered by summer precipitation are scarce. As our Bird Notes indicate, the birds are a sensitive indicator of regional climate patterns.



Festival of the  
Cranes  
at Bosque del  
Apache

November  
16-19

Field Trips • Workshops • Presentations

Advanced Registration begins  
September 15, 2000.

Schedule of Events and Registration  
Forms available at  
[www.friendsofthebosque.org](http://www.friendsofthebosque.org)

## Bird Notes

Species	Date	Location	Observer
Willow Flycatcher	Aug 30	NMSU	RH
Wilson's Phalarope	Aug 31	La Union	MS, JZ
Long-billed Curlew	Aug 31	La Union	MS, JZ
Long-tailed Jaeger	Aug 31	Ft Bliss Sewage Ponds	JP
Virginia's Warbler	Sep 1	Holloman AFB	WH, SH, LS, TL
Black-headed Grosbeak	Sep 3	Aguirre Springs	JM, NS
Townsend's Warbler	Sep 4	Percha	JO
McGillivray's Warbler	Sep 4	Las Cruces	NS, JM
Hermit Thrush	Sep 6	Las Cruces	TL
Pinyon Jay	Sep 8	Caballo Dam	WH, SH, LS, TL
Gray Flycatcher	Sep 8	Caballo Dam	WH, SH, LS, TL
Warbling Vireo	Sep 8	Caballo Dam	WH, SH, LS, TL
Clay-colored Sparrow	Sep 8	Caballo Dam	WH, SH, LS, TL
Cordilleran Flycatcher	Sep 8	Percha	WH, SH, LS, TL
Mississippi Kite	Sep 8	Percha	WH, SH, LS, TL
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Sep 8	Percha	WH, SH, LS, TL
White-breasted Nuthatch	Sep 8	Percha	WH, SH, LS, TL
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Sep 8, 17	Percha, Las Cruces	WH, SH, LS, TL, CB
Swainson's Thrush	Sep 8	Percha	WH, SH, LS, TL
Red Knot	Sep 8	Holloman AFB	GE
Sanderling	Sep 8	Holloman AFB	GE
Red-necked Phalarope	Sep 8	Holloman AFB	GE, CR, HR
Western Scrub Jay	Sep 8	Holloman AFB	GE
Prothonotory Warbler	Sep 8	Holloman AFB	CR, HR
Baird's Sandpiper	Sep 8	Holloman AFB	CR
Green-tailed Towhee	Sep 9	Las Cruces	SH
Semipalmated Sandpiper	Sep 9	Holloman AFB	CR
Dickcissel	Sep 9	Las Cruces-Old Refuge	CR
Bridled Titmouse	Sep 9	Percha	DE, BN
Cassin's Vireo	Sep 9	Percha	DE, BN
Forster's Tern	Sep 11	Las Cruces	SH
Least Flycatcher	Sep 14	Holloman AFB	WH, SH, LS
Northern Waterthrush	Sep 23	Holloman AFB	MVAS Trip
Common Tern	Sep 23	Holloman AFB	MVAS Trip
Hermit Warbler	Sep 23	Percha	JPU
White-crowned Sparrow	Sep 23	Las Cruces	LS
Pine Siskin	Sep 25	Las Cruces	SH, WH
Gray Catbird	Sep 25	Las Cruces	TL
Red Crossbill	Sep 27	La Cueva	JS
Vermilion Flycatcher	Sep 28	Las Cruces	JM
Red-naped Sapsucker	Sep 30	Dripping Springs	JM, NS
Townsend's Solitaire	Sep 30	Dripping Springs	JM, NS
Cedar Waxwing	Sep 30	Dripping Springs	JM, NS
Clark's Nutcracker	Oct 9	Canutillo, TX	MS, JZ
Rufous Hummingbird	Oct 9	Las Cruces	LS
Eastern Phoebe	Oct 14	Percha	KS
Golden-crowned Kinglet	Oct 14	Percha	KS
Spotted Towhee	Oct 19	Las Cruces	MSch

Observers: Craig Benkman, Doug EmkaIins, Gordon Ewing, Richard Hermosillo, Sue Hill, Wally Hill, Tim Lawton, Jim Mulhauser, Jerry Oldnettle, Bruce Neville, Jim Paton, John Puschock, Chris Rustay, Hildy Reiser, Madeline Schroeder, Lorraine Schulte, Marcy Scott, Nena Singleton, Julie Smith, Ken Stinnett, Jimmy Zabriskie

Please report early, late, or unusual sightings to Tim Lawton  
505-522-2056 or [tlawton@nmsu.edu](mailto:tlawton@nmsu.edu)

New Mexico Rare Bird Hotline 505-323-9323

**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.

OFFICERS AND BOARD

President	Ed Mayfield	382-0715
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Education	Wendy Davis	527-4551
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Membership	Harold Harrison	522-6199
Newsletter Editor	Nancy Stotz	521-8087
Programs	Ann Heying	521-4215
Publicity	Charles Townley	526-8705

Board meetings are held, September through May, on the Thursday before the 3rd Wednesday at 5:30 PM at the Southwest Environmental Center, 1491A S. Solano Dr., Las Cruces, NM 88011. All Audubon members are welcome.

Visit our website at [www.cybermesa.com/~mvas/](http://www.cybermesa.com/~mvas/).

## Palomas Marsh Update

I visited the exclosure recently and would like to report that the gravel road leading to the marsh has been paved - sort of. Also, MVAS now has three years of reports which have been tabulated. A total of 106 species have been reported. This information will be shared with the BLM as per our contractual obligations. We are also looking into the possibility of expanding the exclosure. The most amazing aspect is the (re)growth of cottonwoods, cat-tails, willows, seep willows and grasses that has taken place in the last five years. A walk around the outside of the fence shows the remarkable difference between the grazed and ungrazed areas. This is also the only practical way to view the marsh area.

If you visit the area (highly recommended), please record the species that you view and get this information to me.

Bill Jacobson

## Donate Binoculars

MVAS is trying to develop a collection of binoculars that could be loaned to schools and used for public outreach to help others discover the wonderful world of birding. If you have any spare binoculars that you would like to donate to the cause, please contact one of the MVAS officers or board members.

## Randall Davey Center Addition

On October 3, the Randall Davey Audubon Center in Santa Fe held a ground-breaking ceremony for a new 1800-square foot building. The new facility will include an education center, nature store, restrooms, and an outdoor amphitheater. The ongoing fund-raising campaign also includes plans to renovate existing buildings and hire an additional education specialist.

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*Roadrunner Ramblings* is published six times a year: January, March, May, July, September, and November. Submissions are welcome. Please email copy to [nstotz@zianet.com](mailto:nstotz@zianet.com), or call for mailing information. **Next deadline: 20 December.** Printed by **insta-copy printing** on 50% kenaf, 50% PCW recycled chlorine-free paper. Images, except Dale Zimmerman's roadrunner, were obtained from IMSI's Master Clips/Master Photos® Collection.

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

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