

ROADRUNNER RAMBLINGS

www.mvaudubon.org

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Christmas Bird Counts

Locate your trusted binoculars and favorite field guide, because it's time for the Las Cruces Christmas Bird Count (CBC)! This year's CBC will be conducted on Saturday, December 19th from sunrise to sunset. This year represents our 41st year of observing and recording valuable early winter bird species data in the Mesilla Valley. We will have a pre-CBC meeting at our regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, December 16th at 7:00 PM at SWEC. At this meeting, we will prepare for this year's CBC, discuss logistics, and organize our teams.

A post-CBC get-together will be held at one of our local eateries at the end of the count. The time and location will be announced later. You can help this citizen scientist effort in a number of ways: count birds at your feeder(s); join a team to locate, ID, count, and/or record birds; or be a team leader. Please consider joining us again in the Las Cruces CBC.

If interested in the Las Cruces CBC, contact Wayne Treers, compiler and coordinator for this count, at way1mike@yahoo.com or call 575-528-8696.

Additional CBCs in our region:

Caballo CBC, Saturday, December 26. This count includes Percha Dam and Caballo Lake State Parks as well as surrounding areas, and it typically leads the state in terms of total number of species seen.

La Luz CBC, Saturday, January 2. At the base of the Sacramento Mountains north of Alamogordo, this count covers both desert and montane habitats. To get a sense for what you might encounter on this count, join us for our November field trip.

To volunteer for the Caballo or La Luz counts, contact John Douglas at jldouglas@zianet.com or 575-541-0133.

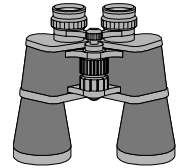
Mysterious Birds

The correct identification of the mystery photo published in the last issue of the newsletter is immature Vermilion Flycatcher.

For this issue, in lieu of a mystery photo, we've got a bird trivia question for those of you who missed the October program on doves and pigeons: What's so special about the way doves drink water? The answer will appear in the next newsletter.

Field Trips

To receive updates and reminders, sign up for the field trip email list, by contacting Mark Pendleton at mpndlt@gmail.com (put *MVAS Field Trips* in the subject line).



November 21. La Luz and Vicinity. Meet at 06:30 AM in parking lot of the K-mart on N. Main to leave at 06:45 for La Luz, a small village at the base of the Sacramento Mountains north of Alamogordo. It may be cold, so dress accordingly. We'll start birding at the La Luz post office at about 07:45—time built in for pitstop in Alamo before arriving as there are no public toilet facilities in La Luz—and bird the village for probably a couple of hours or so. We also could push on up to Tularosa and check out some promising areas there. When Wayne Treers and Wyatt Egelhoff were there on October 17, Wyatt spotted & photographed an Ovenbird. Some of the other birds we've spotted there are Harris's Hawk, Mountain Chickadee, Cassin's Finch, Brown Creeper, Great-horned Owl, and Blue Jay to name a few. There's a quite good Mexican restaurant in Alamo called C.J.'s Si Señor, so we should plan to eat there. Caravanning can be arranged on Saturday morning. Questions? Contact mpndlt@gmail.com (please put *MVAS NOV field trip* in subject line) or 575-635-8711.

December 19. Las Cruces Christmas Bird Count. See announcement.

DON'T FORGET: Our monthly **Beginner Bird Walks** are held at Tellbrook Park (4290 Winchester Rd.) at 7:45 AM on the third Wednesday of every month.

Help Wanted: Board and Officer Volunteers

Our annual elections will be happening in early 2016. If you are interested in serving your chapter as a board member or officer, contact Jennifer Montoya at 575-526-1320 or jatchley@zianet.com.

JOIN NOW!

- 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.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

C5ZQ540Z

Send this form and your check to:

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



MVAS Programs

Membership meetings and programs are held the third Wednesday of each month at the **Southwest Environmental Center, 275 N. Downtown Mall**. Programs begin at 7:00 PM, following announcements. Join us for refreshments and conversation at 6:30. Questions? Contact Jennifer Montoya at 526-1320.

Hummingbirds of the Southwest. November 18. The final presentation of our 3-part series focusing on the Birds of the Southwest will be by Marcy Scott, co-owner of Robledo Vista Nursery and an accomplished birder. She has recently published *Hummingbird Plants of the Southwest*. Her talk will focus on the hummingbirds of our area, and her book will be available for purchase.

CBC Prep. December 16. Our December meeting will focus on final preparation for the Christmas Bird Count. Wayne Treers will review count logistics, and Nancy Stotz will review some identification challenges (as always, there may be games and prizes involved).

MVAS 2016 Calendars

The 2016 calendars are ready! Yours for a donation of 12 dollars, these stunning calendars feature dozens of photos submitted to our digital photography contest, which focused on the birds of Doña Ana, Otero, and Sierra counties. The quality was so high, we decided every contestant was a winner! Calendars will be available at our upcoming program meetings.

Many thanks to everyone who submitted photos to the contest, and to Mark Pendleton, Judi Schultz, and Jay Wilbur, who coordinated the contest and produced this year's calendar.

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 (on the downtown mall). All Audubon members are welcome.

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

www.mvaudubon.org

**To receive this newsletter
in electronic form, email
jkwilbur@gmail.com**

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