

# ROADRUNNER RAMBLINGS

[www.mvaudubon.org](http://www.mvaudubon.org)

Volume 36, No. 1. Jan.-Feb. 2014



## 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 at 526-1320.

**Arroyo Preservation & Birding Along the Camino Real. January 15.** This month's program will feature Carol McCall, Community Planner with the City of Las Cruces, who will update us on the City's proposed Arroyo Preservation Plan. In addition, Jennifer Montoya and Gill Sorg will lead a discussion on the Camino Real project undertaken by the City and County as part of the Viva Doña Ana initiative. We will discuss birding opportunities for both locals and visitors to the area along the Camino Real and how these sites might be adopted by the Camino Real project.

**Parrots, Hummers, & PBS. February 19.** MVAS is excited to bring you a local ornithological celebrity, Dr. Tim Wright of the NMSU Biology Department. Tim will talk about his recent research on parrot and hummingbird vocal behavior and relate stories about the filming of the PBS Nature film *Parrot Confidential*.

## 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Great Backyard Bird Count: What, Why & How

The 2014 GBBC will take place Friday, February 14, through Monday, February 17. The Great Backyard Bird Count is an annual four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are. GBBC checklists can be accepted from anywhere in the world.

Everyone is welcome—from beginning bird watchers to experts. It takes as little as 15 minutes on one day, or you can count for as long as you like each day of the event. It's free, fun, and easy—and it helps the birds. Participants tally the number of individual birds of each species they see during their count period.

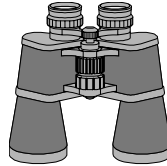
Scientists and bird enthusiasts can learn a lot by knowing where the birds are. Bird populations are dynamic; they are constantly in flux. Scientists use the GBBC information, along with observations from other citizen-science projects, such as the Christmas Bird Count, Project FeederWatch, and eBird, to get the "big picture" about what is happening to bird populations. For more info, visit the website [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org).



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

[www.mvaudubon.org](http://www.mvaudubon.org)

[www.facebook.com/MesillaValleyAudubonSociety](http://www.facebook.com/MesillaValleyAudubonSociety)



## 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](mailto:mpndlt@gmail.com).

**Rio Bosque Wetlands Park. January 25.** Note: this field trip is scheduled for the **fourth** Saturday of the month. RBWP is a small City of El Paso park managed by UTEP's Center for Environmental Management. The wetlands are created with effluent from a nearby sewage treatment plant. Right now there's water there and more than 2,000 ducks, plus frequent White-tailed Kites, Harris's Hawks and other birds. For more information about the park visit [www.riobosque.org](http://www.riobosque.org).

We'll meet at 07:00 AM in the Pan Am Plaza parking lot on E. University Ave. (by McDonald's and Milagro Coffee) and leave by 07:15. Bring binoculars, field guides, H<sub>2</sub>O; wear wide-brimmed hat, comfortable walking shoes, possibly sunscreen. A lunch stop at one of the many restaurants in the area is highly likely. We should be back in Las Cruces by mid- to late afternoon. For more info, e-mail or call Mark Pendleton at [mpndlt@gmail.com](mailto:mpndlt@gmail.com) or 575-635-8711.

**Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC). February 15.** For our February field trip, we'll take in several City of Las Cruces parks and other "hotspots" around town and submit our sightings as part of the GBBC (see below). More info (meeting time/place, exact sites we'll visit, etc.) to come later, so watch your e-mail or contact Mark Pendleton ([mpndlt@gmail.com](mailto:mpndlt@gmail.com) or 575-635-8711) for up-to-date details.

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_ C4ZQ540Z

Send this form and your check to:

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

**Questions about your membership status?** Contact Nancy Stotz at 575-521-8087 or [nstotz1@comcast.net](mailto:nstotz1@comcast.net).

## Intermediate Birdwatching

MVAS will be teaching another bird identification and appreciation course through the community college this spring. The class will emphasize vocalizations, form and function, and bird behavior. Saturday field trips will reinforce skills learned in classroom sessions. Handouts and materials will be provided.

Classroom sessions will be Tuesday nights, from 6:30-8:30 PM, **April 1, 8, and 15**. Field trips to a variety of habitats, ranging from wetlands to desert foothills will be on **April 5, 12, and 26**.

For registration information visit the Doña Ana Community College Community Education program at [www.dacc.nmsu.edu/comed](http://www.dacc.nmsu.edu/comed) or call 575-527-7527. **Space is limited: register now!**

## Bird Identification—The Basics

If you missed our fall Beginning Birdwatching course and you don't feel quite ready for the intermediate course, Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park will be offering a two-day introductory course January 25 and February 1 from 10 to 11:30 AM. Contact the park at 523-4398 for more info.

## Annual Elections

The slate of candidates for officer and board positions will be announced at the January MVAS program meeting and posted to our website. The annual election will be held at our February meeting.

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://www.mvaudubon.org)

**To receive this newsletter in electronic form, email [nstotz1@comcast.net](mailto:nstotz1@comcast.net)**

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Mesilla Valley Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 1645  
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