



# ROADRUNNER RAMBLINGS

MESILLA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

[www.mvaudubon.org](http://www.mvaudubon.org) Vol. 39, No. 3, Summer 2017

## The Mysterious Monarch in New Mexico

The Monarch Butterfly is probably the best known of North America's butterflies, but its' presence in New Mexico is not well documented compared to other states.

Our March speaker, Steve Carey, a natural resource specialist for the state of New Mexico, asked that we report any Monarch sightings to the website **Journey North** (<https://www.learner.org/jnorth/>). Data entered at the site contributes to our knowledge of the when-and-where of this remarkable animal. The main migratory route for the Monarch butterfly is through Texas, but individuals are regularly recorded in New Mexico. A more robust record of the species would help answer questions such as "Do some Monarch's migrate from



east to west?" and "How do Monarchs shift in the changing climate?"

Most people like a good mystery, so the next time you see a Monarch, take note and submit your sighting. The more we know about the distribution of Monarch butterflies in North America, the more we can take measures to protect them.

Fifth Graders from Hermosa Heights Elementary School learn birding skills at Leasburg Dam State Park. The program was presented by Mesilla Valley Audubon Society and New Mexico State Parks.



### Plan for May 20 Field Trip

**Broad Canyon Ranch** is a great birding spot. Through 2014, 208 species have been observed, including 47 species of concern in New Mexico. The Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, Common Ground Dove, Peregrine & Prairie Falcons, Lazuli & Painted Buntings, White-throated Swift, Dickcissel, Summer Tanager and Golden Eagle are a smattering of notable sightings. Meet at the NW end of the parking lot for K-Mart just off US 70/N. Main at 06:15 a.m. to carpool at 06:30 to Broad Canyon Ranch is about 10 miles north of Radium Springs on NM 185.

**June, July hiatus    It'll be too hot!**

# 1st Place Photo



Colman J. Goin, MVAS board member, captured this unusual pairing, the Great Kiskadee and the Belted Kingfisher. The Kiskadee, a large, blocky flycatcher, is considered rare in New Mexico. These two were spotted at Percha Recreation Area south of Truth or Consequences. CJ's first prize is a \$50 certificate from Picture Frame Factory Outlet, 382 S. Walnut, Las Cruces.

## *Awards Galore*

Danielle Johnson (left), fourth and fifth grade teacher at Central Elementary School, has won this year's **Lorraine Schulte Excellence in Teaching Award**. The \$300 annual award, now in its 20th year, recognizes a teacher for his/her efforts in teaching children to care for the environment. Lorraine Schulte (right) is a charter member of MVAS and coordinator for many years of Audubon Adventures, a creator of school- or field-based education programs.

### **Mesilla Valley Audubon Society Scholarship Winner**

MVAS scholarship winner is Tyler Wallin, a first year graduate student in NMSU's Department of Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Ecology. He came to NMSU from Southern Illinois and is working with Dr. Colleen Coldwell in the U.S.G.S. Cooperative Unit. Wallin's research focuses on critical habitat for fish species of special conservation concern to provide managers with the critical requirements for a stream to be successful recovery habitat for the Gila Trout. The MVAS scholarship committee received six proposals this year. Wallin will collect data on population dynamics of four different Gila Trout populations using mark-recapture techniques to assess the long term viability of populations at these different sites. Tyler will present his findings at a spring 2018 MVAS meeting.



Photo by Diane Moore





Yellow-headed parrot

## May Program Headliner: Biologist Charles Britt Discusses the Neotropics

**May 17:** Las Cruces' very own Charles Britt, recently featured in Audubon magazine, will give a presentation on the importance of Central American forests and the species that depend on them. Britt will discuss his conservation work with Scarlet Macaw and Yellow-headed Parrot populations. A professional wildlife biologist and graduate of NMSU, Britt is co-founder of the Belize Bird Conservancy. Check out the article at [www.audubon.org/magazine/spring-2017/meet-brave-bodyguards-protecting-belizes-scarlet](http://www.audubon.org/magazine/spring-2017/meet-brave-bodyguards-protecting-belizes-scarlet).

### Mark your calendars:

**Aug. 4-6:** Mesilla Valley Audubon Society has been invited to participate in Old Lincoln Days. Join the fun and head to this historic village for Billy the Kid reenactments, food, craft vendors, music, a guided bird hike and more. If you want to help reserve our MVAS Table, contact our president Jennifer Montoya [jatchley@zianet.com](mailto:jatchley@zianet.com).

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](mailto:judi626@earthlink.net). Next deadline: April 15, 2017. To be added to the distribution list, contact Judy Wilbur, [jkwilbur@gmail.com](mailto:jkwilbur@gmail.com) or 512-560-4717.

## CORRECTION



Barbara Jackson's winning picture in the Spring 2017 issue is the yellow-rumped warbler, above. The one published in error is Frank Wilson's honorable mention, a yellow-throated warbler, below.





## Honorable Mention



Killdeer  
Frank Wilson  
Holloman Lake

**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. Please include the location taken and name of species in your email. 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.

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_, State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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