



ROADRUNNER RAMBLINGS

MESILLA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

<https://www.mvasaudubon.org/> Vol. 43, No. 2, Summer 2021

President's Letter

Dear MVAS Members and Friends:

The birds are singing, the butterflies are winging, and the hummingbirds are zinging! Spring is springing!

MVAS has been a-buzz with activity. We selected the Bischoff scholarship winner for 2021 and heard about the good work done by our 2020 awardee. Sixty of our beautiful t-shirts are on people's backs! We've had a good run of bird ID classes to get us ready for spring, thanks to Jay and Judy Wilbur, CJ Goin, Wayne Treers, Mark Pendleton, and Tom Johnson (in May). MVAS board members and Audubon Council reps took part in a mini-conference hosted by Audubon Southwest to introduce Arizona and New Mexico chapters now under this regional umbrella. And, in partnership with Native Plant Society-Las Cruces, we took part in the National Audubon initiative to propose Native Plant Week proclamations at the city and county level.

The proclamation was the product of great teamwork. The two organizations (MVAS and NPS-LC) collaborated, but it took effort by others to make it happen and get the word out. Doña Ana County Commissioner Shannon Reynolds placed the proclamation on the County agenda, and City Councilors Gill Sorg (also an MVAS board member) and Tessa Abetya Stuve got it on the City agenda. Especially exciting was having John Rowdan, National Audubon Society senior director for Bird-friendly Communities, join me for interviews on KTAL and KRWG to talk about native plants and why they are so critical to birdlife. Shortly after, I was invited to appear on the National Audubon Society series "I Saw A Bird" to talk about making our proclamation happen.

What do May, June, and July hold in store?

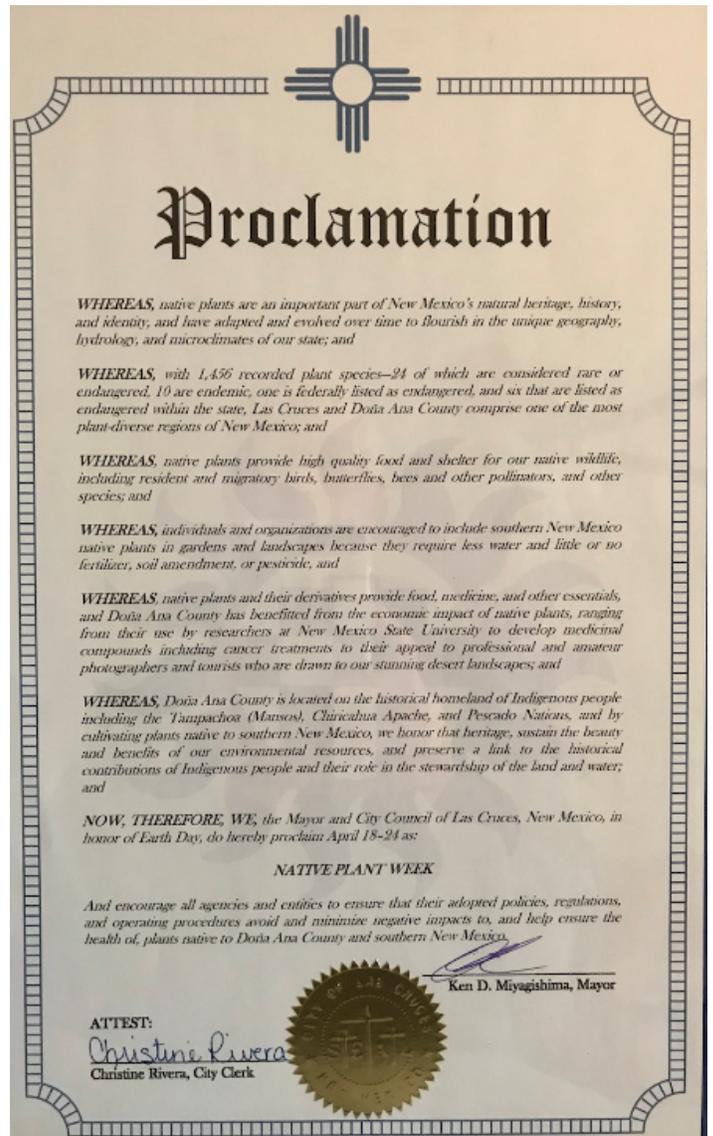


Table of Contents

President's Letter p. 1
Calendar p. 2
Bischoff Scholarship p. 2
Endangered Species Act p. 4
Name That Bird p. 5
Spark Bird p. 8
Bird Blind Project p. 11
Audubon Southwest in Action p. 12
USIBWC February Meeting p. 13
Butterfly ID p. 13
MVAS History: Field Trip 2001 p. 14
MVAS Board of Directors p. 15



To learn what birds are photographed here, go to "Name That Bird" on p. 5.

President's Column, continued:

More exciting updates about the bird blind project (see p. 11)! Bringing back bird and butterfly walks. And maybe, just maybe, summertime Birds and Bevvies gatherings at our fine local pubs.

Summer's sure looking good.

Stay tuned, and good birding!
Elaine

.....

2021 Bischoff Graduate Scholarship awardee chosen

Awarding the Bischoff Graduate Scholarship is always a highlight of the year. Along with conservation, advocacy, and fostering appreciation, education is part of our Audubon mission.

Graduate students in the New Mexico State University departments of Geography, Biology, and Fish, Wildlife, and Conservation Ecology are eligible to apply. The \$1,500 in funding, split across two academic semesters, is intended to help with the costs of research, whether that is tuition, gear, or other expenses.

Dr. Carol Campbell, a professor in the NMSU Department of Geography, chairs the Scholarship Committee. Bob Tafarielli and Ken Ward are longtime committee members, and Annie Mitchell, Tracy Patrick, and Elaine Stachera Simon are more recent additions. Each committee member reviews the applications against a rubric, scores them, sends them to Carol, and then the committee meets to discuss and, if necessary, debate. This year's debate was, as always, productive, civil, and thoughtful, and at the end of the day, everyone was confident that the right choice had been made.

This year's winner is Leah White, who is in the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Conservation Ecology. Originally from North Carolina, Leah graduated from Appalachian State University in 2015. Her studies have led her to track king cobras in Thailand, bighorn sheep in Grand Teton National Park, elk in Chaco

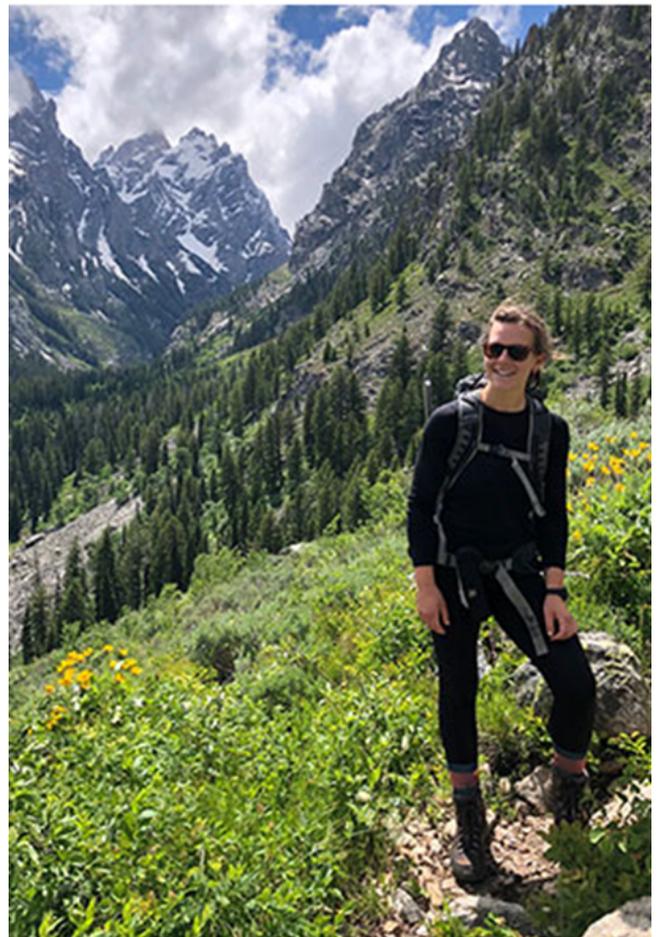
Canyon, and wildfires in Mesa Verde. She is the parent of an indoor cat, and her favorite birds are the Turkey Vulture and the American Dipper. She says that, “her graduate project is a pivotal step in her career that aims for the intersection of research and management to address the many crises facing western ecosystems today.”

Leah says her project is about working “to understand landscape-scale impacts of habitat management practices. After a century of fire suppression and logging, the threat of catastrophic wildfires looms over habitats across the globe, and particularly in southwestern forests. Prescribed fire and forest thinning are managers’ tools to restore forest resilience, but how they affect wildlife and habitat use are still poorly understood. My project will investigate wildlife responses to these treatments, and I will deliver my findings directly to my agency partners in the Jemez Mountains, including Valles Caldera National Preserve, Bandelier National Monument, and the Santa Fe National Forest. Those findings will inform design and implementation of forest restoration practices to benefit wildlife and habitat conservation in an incredible and vulnerable region of New Mexico, aligning with the MVAS mission to promote wildlife and habitat conservation.”

She is going to “evaluate large mammal habitat use in response to forest restoration treatments and wildfires in the southwestern Jemez Mountains of New Mexico, specifically accounting for the duration of post-disturbance recovery, burn severity, and spatial configuration. We will collect camera trap occurrence data for five species (mule deer [*Odocoileus hemionus*], elk [*Cervus elaphus*], coyote [*Canis latrans*], black bear [*Ursus americanus*], and mountain lion [*Puma concolor*]) and develop single- and multi-species occupancy models to evaluate the influence of disturbance history on probability of use and pairwise species co-occurrence. We predict that as available forage increases post-disturbance, wildlife use will increase. In addition, we expect that the presence of competitors, predators, or prey will be an important factor influencing animal use of an area. Understanding how wildlife species respond to changes in forest structure and composition over long term post-disturbance will inform design of prescribed burns, forest restoration treatments, and wildfire management.”

We will look forward to hearing about Leah’s results in April 2022!

Photo of Leah White, this year's Bischoff scholarship winner, at work in the Teton Mountains



Calendar: May, June, July 2021

For all monthly Zoom meetings hosted by MVAS, the meeting details and registration link will be emailed to all MVAS members and friends in the weeks before the meeting. If you are not on our email list, request information by emailing Mesilla Valley Audubon Society.

Bird walks and possible field trips for May and beyond are in the planning stages. Further information will be forthcoming soon.

May

May 8, Saturday: eBird Global Big Day: eBird invites all of us to go birding on May 8 and submit a list (or two or three) to eBird.org. Last year eBird received 120,000 checklists from 175 countries around the world. Their website allows participants to watch as lists are submitted. Visit the eBird website to learn more!

May 8, Saturday, Audubon's Birdathon (same day as above!): Watch your email to learn how to participate!

May 12, Wednesday, monthly Zoom program: Tom Johnson presents Hummingbirds of Doña Ana, Sierra, and Otero Counties & El Paso, TX. This is going to be a fun and interactive program at 7 pm. Zoom doors will open at 6:30 pm for meet 'n greet. Watch your email for registration information.

May 19, Wednesday, monthly Zoom program: Susan Tweit, an acclaimed ecologist and author, will talk about native plants for birds and how to eradicate invasive species. Meet 'n greet begins at 6:30 pm and the talk begins at 7:00 pm. Watch your email for registration information.

National Audubon "I Saw A Bird" webinars: Every last Wednesday of the month, this National Audubon Society webinar takes a conversational look at a several topics, such as bird migration, plants that attract birds, conservation, or bird photography. Invited guests are often leaders in the field and are interviewed as they show some of their work. The webinar also features a section in which bird families commonly seen throughout the U.S. are highlighted with descriptions of how to identify them and where to find them. Google I Saw A Bird to find upcoming webinars and find past episodes on YouTube.

June, July: Traditionally, MVAS has not held meetings during June or July. The board needs a break and it is just too hot to consider doing very much. Last year a couple of "birds and bevies" pub sessions were successful and may be considered this year if pandemic issues permit. We will keep you posted via the website and emails. Fingers crossed!



Great Kiskadee, Leasburg Dam. Photo by Nirmal Khandan, 3/2021

Conservation

Editor's note: Trish Cutler is new to the board of Mesilla Valley Audubon this year and is our Conservation Chair. She is the biologist in residence at White Sands Missile Range and has a broad knowledge of the status of our natural world in southern New Mexico. We hope this is the first of many articles she has for Roadrunner.

The State of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act

By Trish Cutler

In January 2017, the Obama Administration wrote a legal opinion about the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), affirming that “incidental take” was prohibited by the MBTA. “Incidental” means that take occurs incidental to an otherwise lawful action for which the primary intent was something other than to harm or kill birds. A classic example is power washing active swallow nests (with eggs or nestlings) off of the side of a building, but your primary intent was to clean the building rather than to kill swallows.

In December 2017, the Trump Administration wrote a second legal opinion reaching the opposite conclusion—that incidental take was not prohibited by the MBTA. At that time, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Office of Law Enforcement was directed to cease enforcement actions involving incidental take (and have not resumed since). As long as a person’s primary intent was something other than to harm or kill birds, then the action was considered lawful and not subject to penalties or prosecution. If the primary intent was to clean the side of the building, and active nests were taken in the process, that was perfectly fine—even if one was fully aware that the action would harm or kill birds.

As you might imagine, incidental take accounts for most of the take (probably 99%) of migratory birds in the U.S. Intentional take (such as poisoning or shooting birds, with the intent to harm them, and without a federal permit), makes up a relatively small percentage of take. Proving intent in a court of law could be difficult as well. For example, one could claim that the intent was to poison mammals rather than birds, and (unless it could be proven otherwise) the harm to birds would be lawful because it was incidental to an otherwise lawful use of poison.

The Trump Administration followed up by publishing a “Proposed Rule” in February 2020 that would make their reinterpretation and policy official. Despite overwhelming public comments opposed to the Rule, it was finalized by the Trump Administration in January 2021.

The Biden Administration quickly announced a delay in implementation of the policy until March 8, 2021 while they reassessed and accepted a new round of public comments. They later announced that they would seek to reverse the policy and propose a new rule. The new rule is anticipated to establish that incidental take is indeed unlawful under the MBTA, and it will likely establish a permit system for incidental take.

For example, if you need to clean the side of your building you could apply for a permit for the incidental take of birds. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would try to work with you to delay power washing until after nesting season. If they granted a permit, it would likely include mitigations such as building artificial nest habitat for swallows or fees that would be deposited into a fund for migratory bird conservation. Incidental

take from unforeseeable events such as oil spills would be subject to penalties and fines to compensate for impacts to birds.

While we wait for the new rulemaking process to play out, the Biden Administration has dropped court cases defending the Trump-era Rule. A number of wildlife conservation groups, including Audubon, have filed new lawsuits to block implementation of the Rule. While the State of New Mexico does prohibit the take of certain species of insectivorous migratory birds, and raptors, penalties are generally minor or not enforced due to lack of manpower. Like other states, New Mexico has relied heavily on the MBTA for the protection of migratory birds.

Name That Bird!

By Mark Pendleton

Thanks to your enthusiasm, we have a number of photos this month. So, let's get right to them.

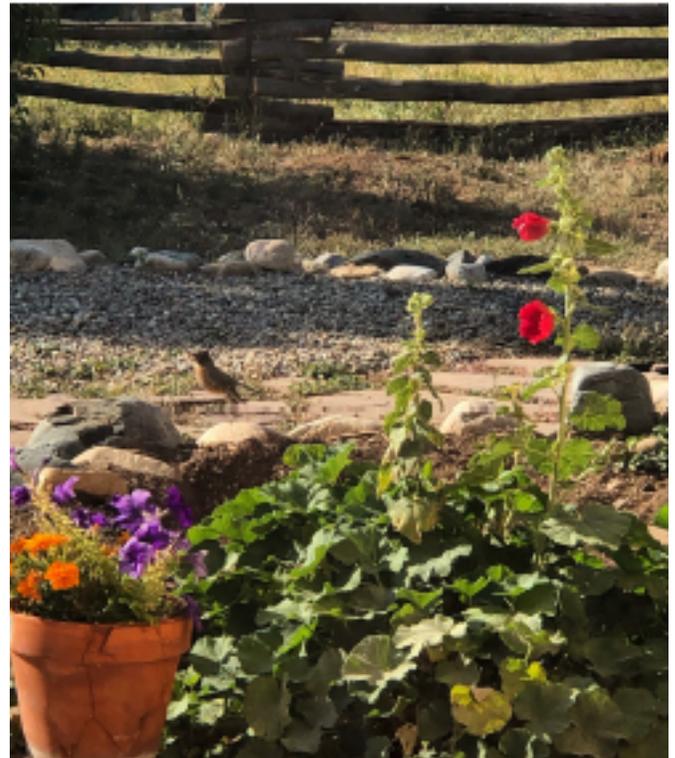
The first photo is from Tracy Patrick. She took this picture at Arroyo Seco near Taos on October 3, 2020. So, we know that it's at the end of the summer.

That may be why this bird's breast is duller than usual. Feathers that are bright in spring can fade and wear with time. For panelist three, this was because the bird's a female, though. Panelist two felt it was a combination of the two, and panelist one left the matter unaddressed.

All three panelists agreed that this was an American Robin. Males have bright brick red breasts and dark grey to black heads. The females' plumage is basically the same, but duller.

Female or male, this one looks as if it were about to light out on a signature Robin run to the next stop on its search for worms. Whatever the case, it appears to be enjoying the autumn sunshine.

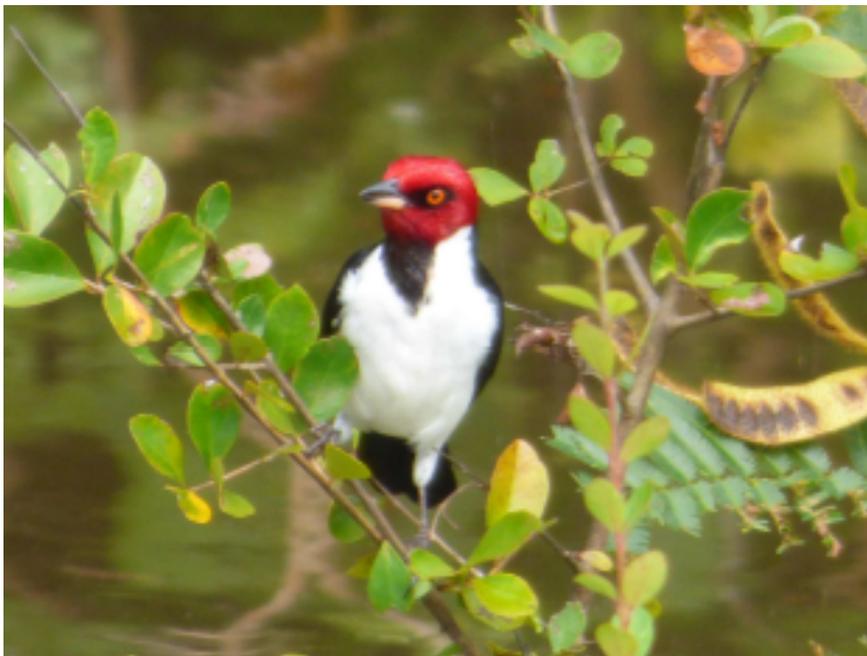
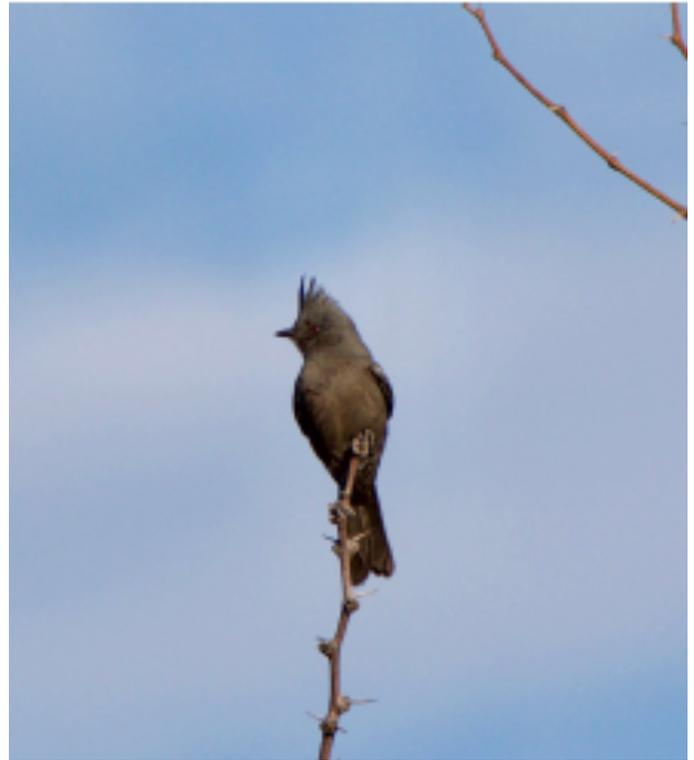
Great photo! Thank you to Tracy for sharing it.



From Arroyo Seco, we come closer to home. Beth Waters took the next photo (below) on March 20 in Tortugas. Beth moved here from Virginia a few years ago and looks forward to learning to identify the new birds she sees in this area.

All three panelists agreed that this is a female. Males have the same punk-rocker crests and are a shimmering glossy black. In flight, large white wing panels flash at the wingtips of both sexes. If you identified this bird as a Phainopepla, you are correct.

Phainopepla and mistletoe have a symbiotic relationship. The birds eat mistletoe berries. They get nutrition from the flesh and the seeds pass through their digestive tracts unscathed. When excreted out the birds' vent, the seeds are covered in sticky guano that glues them to any tree on which they happen to land. This guano is a first-rate growth medium, and the seeds flourish. So, mistletoe spreads to another tree and the Phainopeplas' food supply is further assured.



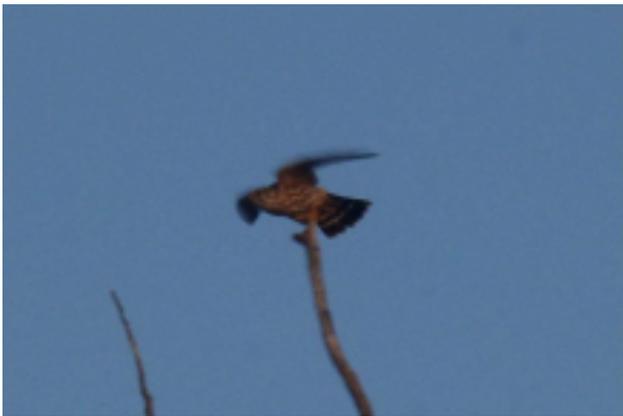
Our third photo (left) comes from Ken Ward. Ken has a prankster's twinkle in his eye and I bet it amuses him no end that he stumped the panelists. I suspect the photo was taken in Costa Rica, or maybe the Amazon Basin. When I asked him, Ken did say it wasn't taken locally. As we have several more photos to go, I'll leave it as a challenge to all of us—myself included—to identify this bird before the next Roadrunner Ramblings comes out.

Carol Campbell sent in the next photo, taken in her Las Cruces neighborhood. She also shared with us the Dark-eyed Junco and Crissal Thrasher photos found on page 2.

All three panelists agreed on this bird's identity. Dr. Campbell is fortunate in this sighting. Not exactly a rarity, this bird is still an uncommon winter resident in southern NM and usually only seen in migration in the rest of the state. A good clear view such as our photo is hard to get, as this sparrow—a hint for you—is mostly found in dense undergrowth. So, it's not a bird one sees frequently, even when it *is* in our area. All the more reason to appreciate this photo of a Fox Sparrow.



The photos below and to the right are of the same bird. Both were taken in Longmont, CO by Michael Polka, Annie Mitchell's son-in-law.



I cropped the photo above—there was a lot of sky—the better to see the bird. The one on the left is as I received it. To me, its blurriness appropriately hints at speed, since this falcon (Hint! Hint! Hint!) chases down its prey in a level burst of speed.

Panelists 1 and 2 agreed on its ID, while panelist 3 wondered if it might be a Red-shouldered Hawk. That was before he knew where the photo was taken, though. Annie and Michael first thought this was a female American Kestrel. This bird is possibly a female (as females and immatures have brown backs), but not a Kestrel. She is, instead, a Merlin.



The raptor—you already knew that, right?—to the left was photographed by Sara Walker. Panelist 2 suggested maybe an immature Red-tailed Hawk, while panelists 1 and 3 nailed the identification on the first try. This bird doesn't reach full adult plumage until its fifth year out of the nest. The one here is probably a second-year immature bird. In adult plumage, the entire bird (save the head and tail, which are white) is black or very dark brown. Yes! It's a Bald Eagle.

I hope you've enjoyed these challenges and please remember to send me your bird photos for the next Name That Bird article. Send them to mpndltn@gmail.com and don't forget to put **Name That Bird** in the subject line.



Spark Bird

By Elaine Stachera Simon

New Jersey isn't called the Garden State for nothin'. Even in urban areas, all you need to do is throw down seeds and *poof!* You have a garden.

Likewise, the birdlife shows up. In the early aughts I was living in central New Jersey in an urban post-WWII suburb about 15 miles south of Newark. One day in my backyard I saw a bird on the ground sitting in the grass. It was alive, but it wasn't moving, and I was concerned because my neighbors allowed their cats outside. (My own feline companions are, of course, indoor-only and happy as fuzzy clams.) It was like no bird I had ever seen before (not that I had really been looking)! I sat myself down outside in a location that was far enough away not to stress the bird but close enough that I could keep an eye out for danger. At some point, of course, I decided I wanted a closer look, but what I now know was a Northern Flicker wasn't so keen on me coming near and fluttered up into a tree. I was hooked.

Off to the store I trotted and bought myself a bird feeder and a field guide—Stokes 1996 edition, which remains my sentimental favorite to this day. Before I knew it I was noticing the Northern Cardinals in my tree, and then the Turkey Vultures circling high above. Once, I thrilled to a Cooper's Hawk that landed on my chain-link fence just outside the door to my patio and scoped out my bird feeder and little garden. (I know for sure now that it was a Cooper's and not a Sharpie because Mark Pendleton says Sharpies won't alight on things other than branches.)

I wanted to go out looking for birds beyond my backyard – birding! – but I didn’t quite know what to do. What if I did it wrong?!? What if a “real” birder made fun of me? I’d be mortified. Plus, if you know central New Jersey, you know that I am not exaggerating when I say that getting to a state park or other natural area is a serious time commitment.

It so happened that this was right around this time I was going to western Pennsylvania to visit family, so I contacted the Presque Isle Audubon Society. There were no bird walks scheduled while I was there, but they connected me with a lovely woman, Susan, who took me birding “officially” for the first time (and second and third). We drove out into the county, looking in fields, peering at people’s bird feeders, and, of course, spending ample time on Presque Isle (one of my favorite places in the world). At the end of each birding session, she told me her favorite bird of the day and asked me mine. I don’t remember my answers, but ever since I ask myself that very same question.

When I told one of my friends in Jersey the story of birding with Susan, she looked at me like I was nuts and asked, “You just went off in a car with a total stranger?” Well, I answered, she wasn’t a stranger. She was a birder!



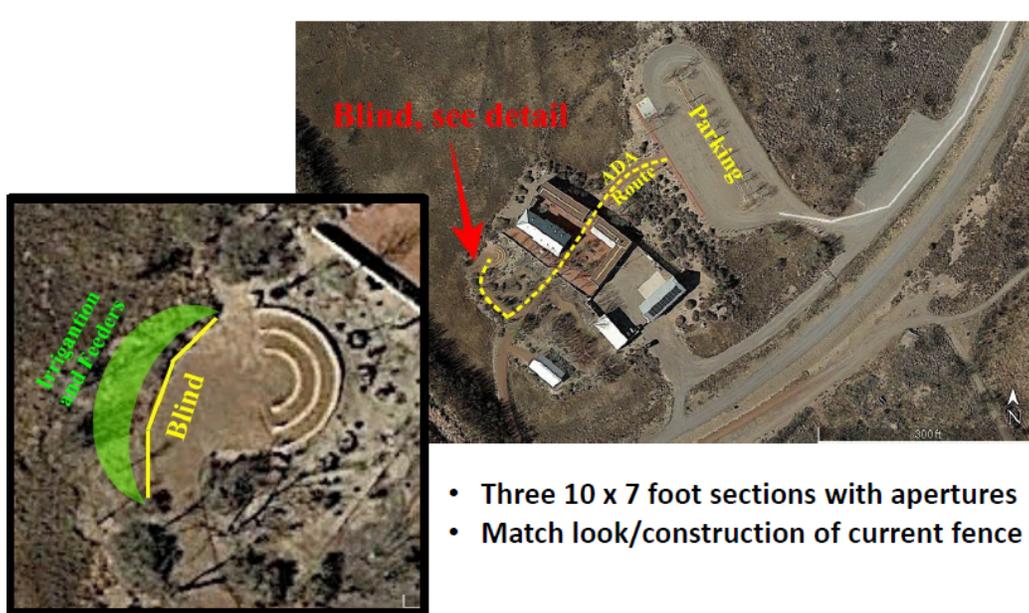
Male and female Vermilion Flycatchers, 4/9/2021, photos by CJ Goin

MVAS outreach:

Big News: Bird Blind Project at Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park Moving Forward!

We've hinted at this project for quite a while, but having received the official go-ahead from State Parks, we can officially announce the MVAS construction of a bird blind at Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park! This project is thanks to (at least partial) funding from Audubon grants (with thanks to our Audubon Southwest liaison Steven Prager for his enthusiastic assistance). The blind will be ADA accessible, and we consulted with the Birdability expert at Travis Audubon (TX) to make sure we were doing it right. The location will be next to the visitor center at the auditorium area. Stay tuned for updates!

Pictured below are draft plans and location for the project.



Draft of blind appearance, with use of coyote fencing of the same design already found on site



Audubon Southwest in Action: AZ/NM Chapter Meeting

by Sid Webb

On April 10, 2021, Audubon Southwest, which is Audubon New Mexico now combined with Audubon Arizona, invited representatives from all Arizona and New Mexico chapters together for a virtual meeting. Issues addressed included climate change, ways in which the National Audubon Society helps the federal government deal with conservation issues, and what happened from a conservationist's point of view at the recent legislative sessions in New Mexico and Arizona. It was the first meeting that involved chapters from the two states since Audubon Southwest was organized over a year ago (last year's planned meeting in Silver City was scrapped due to the pandemic). To me, the local chapters' descriptions of their activities and what issues were important to them was the most interesting part of the meeting.

In New Mexico, legislation blocking any dams or other construction on the Gila River was hailed as the year's greatest achievement. This came after 50 years of lobbying by the Southwest New Mexico Audubon Society (Silver City chapter) with significant support from the rest of the state's chapters. There has also been significant attention to the health of the Rio Grande, with the Albuquerque chapter leasing land and water rights to ensure continued full-time flow of water in the Middle Conservancy region of the river. Other topics included attention to Important Bird Areas, the impact of light pollution on migrating birds, and developing climate watch bird surveys on a chapter and statewide basis. MVAS president Elaine Stachera Simon gave an excellent presentation of what we do in the Las Cruces area.

Arizona has eight chapters, and some are clearly different from ours in New Mexico. Among the many issues they highlighted were "Early Birders" programs, developed to attract youth and families. One chapter created a board of directors position to be filled by a college student. Another chapter worked to update social media platforms to attract a younger audience and address its imminent danger of "aging out." The Phoenix chapter has been very active with its Zoom meetings and debating if it will choose to continue this format rather than to return to in-person meetings after the pandemic restrictions are lifted. Highlighting some differences between Arizona and New Mexico, it was interesting to hear from the Tucson professionalized chapter, which has a large membership and benevolent contributors that allow for a paid staff of 45 people. While we at MVAS have a quarterly newsletter, they have a quarterly magazine, *The Vermilion Flycatcher*, which you can find on their website. No comparison! (Note from Elaine: We love your newsletter, Sid!)

Finally, there was an invitation to join the 2021 National Audubon Convention. It will be held virtually from July 16–18. Details are not yet posted on the National Audubon website, but we will post them on the MVAS website as they become available.



United States International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) February Meeting

Aquatic Habitat Restoration in the Rio Grande Canalization Project

by Sid Webb

The USIBWC convened its Citizens Forum for the Northern Rio Grande on February 25, 2021, updating the public on its plans for the Aquatic Habitat Restoration in the Rio Grande Canalization Project. It was a good day for Las Cruces!

The first good news was to learn that the Las Cruces water effluent project has been elevated to a high priority project for the USIBWC. Moreover, plans include an expansion of the proposed intervention to acreage north of the water effluent canal. This is where MVAS conducted its bird survey in 2019-2020 with the purpose of collecting data before any construction began. There are still hurdles to overcome before construction begins. The foremost amongst these is for the City of Las Cruces and USIBWC and other stakeholders to come to agreement on how much water will be diverted by the project and how it can be incorporated into the overall water usage pact. The USIBWC estimates that the year 2021 will be a year for making contracts, and the winter of 2022-2023 will be when construction happens.

The description of the Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park project was also encouraging. This state park is remarkable as the "Hotspot" that local birders visit most frequently and is the location where more bird species are recorded than anywhere else in Doña Ana County. To develop more riparian land in the southern end of the park will be most appreciated, especially in the setting of the wildfire that impacted the park a year ago. The current administration at the park is enthusiastic about working with the public to enhance features of this area. Again, however, it is clear there are hurdles that stand in the way of any immediate intervention. The USIBWC needs to be aware of how important Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park is to the local population and to persevere with its negotiations until successful completion of the project becomes a reality.

The USIBWC has property rights from Percha Dam south to the American Dam in El Paso, TX. There were other projects described for this 105-mile corridor, but none so important to us as the two listed above. Another part of the meeting was presentation of signage the USIBWC is erecting to inform visitors that no vehicles are permitted in the riverbed when it is dry. This has been an important issue for us, and, by description, it is an important consideration in this entire stretch of river. Like all USIBWC projects, this is a work in progress.

From the MVAS Butterflies & Moths (MVAS BaM) coordinator, CJ Goin:

Buckeye Butterfly identification

Buckeyes are named for the large colorful eyespots on the upper wings.

The **Common Buckeye** is found throughout much of the southern United States and is often seen in and around Las Cruces during warm weather. (Photo by CJ Goin, 4/2020, first appeared in MVAS newsletter in fall 2020.)





The **Tropical Buckeye** is a Mexican border species that is less common here than the Common Buckeye, but they are sometimes seen during warm weather. It is best distinguished from the Common Buckeye by the less prominent white around the eye on the outer upper wing. (Photo by CJ Goin, 4/2020.)



4/15/21 “**Monarchs** are appearing. I saw this one at Leasburg last week, and other people have seen several in the past week.” CJ Goin

The way things used to be...

Article from *Roadrunner Ramblings* May-June 2001, 20 years ago

Field Trip Reports 2001

Las Uvas Valley, February 24. The trip was modified due to weather conditions. A total of 6 hardy souls braved cold wind and snow flurries. The birding was much better than anticipated. We recorded several species of ducks (Cinnamon Teal, Northern Pintails, Gadwalls, Northern Shovelers, Green-winged Teal and Mallards), plus Least Tern, and Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs at the marsh pond on the old highway to Hatch. We passed by the Uvas Valley where all of the water sloughs are dry and headed west to Macho Creek Canyon. There were lots of Horned Larks along the grasslands and in the canyon we recorded Golden Eagles; Canyon Towhees; Townsend Solitaires; a flock of Pinyon Jays; and large numbers of Stellar’s, Mexican, and Scrub Jays. Acorn Woodpeckers, Red Shafted Flickers, lots of Common Ravens and Western Blue-birds were among the nearly 60 species we encountered. *Walt Whitford*

South Valley, March 24. Our itinerary was reorganized because of a lack of water at Feather Lake, high wind and a desire to see a life bird. Our first stop, Keystone Lake, was a feast for our eyes. Fresh food had been lain out for Buffleheads, American Wigeons, Ruddy Ducks, Short billed Dowitchers, Snowy Egrets, Common Moorhens, Northern Shovelers, Ring Billed Gulls, and Pied billed and Eared Grebes. The Crossroads Pond yielded a pair of Wood Ducks, numerous Gadwall and the sod farm hosted a Loggerhead Shrike. As reported in a previous *Roadrunner Ramblings* (January-February 2001), Cave Swallows are making a small bridge their home along Highway 28, and while winding our way through farm country we found an entire field full of American Pipits. We saw forty-nine species and were home before noon. *Ann Heying*

Editor: Do any current members remember what past field trips were like? Did you ever count 49 or 60 species in one morning?



Officers and Board 2021

President: Elaine Stachera Simon

Vice-president: Mark Pendleton

Secretary: Cheryl Fallstead

Treasurer: Diane Moore

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Director 2019–2022: Sid Webb

Director 2019–2022: Gill Sorg

Director 2019–2022: open

Director 2020–2023: CJ Goin

Director 2020–2023: Annie Mitchell

Director 2021–2024: Trish Cutler

Director 2021–2024: Tracy Patrick

Committee chairs:

Conservation: Trish Cutler

Education: CJ Goin

Butterflies & Moths: CJ Goin

Field Trips: Mark Pendleton

Programs: Vacant, currently managed by president

Newsletter: Sid Webb

Website: Sid Webb

Membership: Diane Moore

Finance Committee: Diane Moore

Christmas Bird Count: Mark Pendleton

Facebook administrator: Elaine Stachera Simon

Climate Watch Coordinator: Mark Pendleton



5



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Great Blue Heron
La Mancha 2/2021
Photo by Sid Webb

Roadrunner Ramblings is published quarterly and is distributed via the MVAS website, with a copy emailed to all MVAS members and friends. All members of MVAS are encouraged to submit any article of interest to the group and any bird photograph recently taken. Please email photos to sidwebb@gmail.com (575) 915 5017. To be added to the distribution list, contact Elaine Stachera Simon at mesillavalleyaudubon@gmail.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.

Mesilla Valley Audubon Society
Doña Ana | Otero | Sierra

A chapter of the
National Audubon Society



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