

# ROADRUNNER RAMBLINGS

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

Volume 34, No. 4. July-Aug 2012

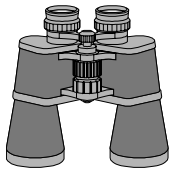


## MVAS Programs

Membership meetings and programs are held the third Wednesday of each month at the Village at Northrise, Hallmark Building, 2882 N. Roadrunner Pkway. Meetings begin at 7:00 PM. Programs begin immediately following the business meeting and announcements. Questions? Contact Katie McLane 523-6317.

**Southwest Alaska. July 18.** Katie McLane will share photos from her visit this spring. Rumor has it, Arctic Terns will make an appearance!

**Birding the Lower Rio Grande Valley. August 15.** C.J. Goin, Mark Pendleton and Donna Simonetti spent five days birding in the lower Rio Grande Valley this May and returned with a trip list of 170+ species. They share some highlights from their excursion in this program.



## 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 emailing Mark Pendleton at [mpndltn@gmail.com](mailto:mpndltn@gmail.com) with SUB MVAS BIRDS in the subject line.

**Hummingbird Festival. July 20-21.** July's field trip is an informal, go-on-your-own event. We encourage you to attend the Lake Roberts Hummingbird Festival (see announcement at upper right).

**Emory Pass, Hillsboro, Kingston. August 18.** Details to be determined, but this trip to some Black Range hotspots should give us a shot at some montane specialties including Red-faced Warbler, Wild Turkey, and Pygmy Nuthatches. Check the MVAS website and Facebook page (below) for updates. Or, sign up for the field trip email list by E-mailing Mark Pendleton at [mpndltn@gmail.com](mailto:mpndltn@gmail.com) with SUB MVAS BIRDS in the subject line.



## 2012 Hummingbird Festival July 21-22

at Little Toad Creek Inn and Tavern  
1122 Hwy 35  
Lake Roberts, NM



Including Programs by:

Joan Day-Martin "Hummingbirds of New Mexico"

Marilyn Markel "Birds and the Mimbres People"

Gila Wildlife Rescue – Dennis and Denise Miller "Wildlife Rescue, Care, and Release"

Other programs and music schedule pending

Please visit [littletoadcreek.com](http://littletoadcreek.com) for updates  
or call  
575-536-9649

## Audubon NM Chapter Conference at Rio Grande Nature Center

Join chapter leaders and members from across the state at a one-day gathering to strengthen New Mexico's Audubon chapters. As at past gatherings, we will also enjoy a birding walk and accomplish a service project to benefit this Important Bird Area.

**Registration Deadline: September 7**

**Conference Date: September 14**

8 – 9:30: Birding walk at the Rio Grande Nature Center

9:30 – 11: Work restoration project (planting shrubs, weeding, and protecting tree trunks)

11:30 – 12:30: Leadership presentation & break-out groups

12:30 – 1:30: Lunch

1:30 – 3:30: Workshops on leading a successful field trip and fundraising

**For registration form,** visit the Audubon NM website at <http://nm.audubon.org/> or call Maryam Miller at 505-983-4609.

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)

## **North American Migration Count: Doña Ana County Summary**

### **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 \_\_\_\_\_ C2ZQ540Z

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).

We had a terrific team of mostly veterans this year that were able to cover much of the better habitat in the county on this year's count, held May 12. Despite the good coverage and decent weather, nearly everyone commented on the extremely low numbers of migrants (in marked contrast to last year's count). Considering the shocking scarcity of migrant warblers and flycatchers (only two Empids were reported on the entire count, both unidentified), we were lucky to tally as many as we did—129 species, compared to last year's 133.

The rarest bird seen was unquestionably the Yellow-crowned Night-Heron in the shallows of the Rio Grande at Leasburg Dam State Park, first found and photographed by CJ Goin two days earlier and ticked off by Marcy at first light! Next in rarity was the Rose-breasted Grosbeak found and hastily photographed by Gill Sorg at Fillmore Canyon. Also noteworthy were Harris's Hawk, Broad-tailed Hummingbird (1 low-elevation bird in Radium Springs), and Horned Lark. Other good finds included Wood Duck, Neotropic Cormorant, Sora, Black-necked Stilt, American Avocet, Solitary Sandpiper, Common Nighthawk, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Cassin's Kingbird, Gray Vireo, Cedar Waxwing, Lazuli Bunting, and Indigo Bunting. Notable misses this year, other than the warblers and flycatchers (especially considering the habitats covered), were Pied-billed Grebe, any accipiters, Acorn Woodpecker (a usual breeder in the Organ Mtns.), Hutton's Vireo (ditto), Western Scrub-Jay (ditto), Mountain Chickadee (ditto), Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Hermit Thrush, and Painted Bunting (several known local breeding sites have been destroyed or compromised in the past few years).

*Marcy Scott*

**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)**

*Roadrunner Ramblings* is published six times a year: January, March, May, July, September, and November. Submissions welcome; please email copy to [nstotz1@comcast.net](mailto:nstotz1@comcast.net). **Next deadline: August 15.** Printed on 100% recycled paper with soy-based inks by **insta-copy printing**. Image credits: roadrunner, Dale Zimmerman; clipart, IMSI's Master Clips/Master Photos® Collection.

Nonprofit Organization  
 US Postage Paid  
 Las Cruces, NM 88004  
 Permit No. 609

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