



ROADRUNNER RAMBLINGS

MESILLA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

<https://www.mvasaudubon.org/> Vol. 44, Spring 2022

Las Cruces Christmas Bird Count 2021/2022

Mark Pendleton



A team of White-winged Doves celebrating their victory as being the most populous bird in Las Cruces in 2021, with 8,669 individuals reported, twice as many as any other bird.

Thanks to you, all the observers and team leaders, our 46th Las Cruces Christmas Bird Count was a resounding success! Note that I did not say an unqualified success, as the weather certainly could have been better. I won't complain, though, because many of you can remember, along with me at least one year when the weather was horrendously worse! So, all things taken together, it was a successful CBC. And, after all, any day when you can get out, go birding, have fun with

friends, and maybe even see some life birds, well, in my book that's a successful day!

Now for some numbers. I haven't gone back and counted, but I think that this year we might have had a record number of participants. Sixty-five, yes, 65 birders took part in the 2021/2022 Las Cruces CBC. If that's not a record, I'll bet it's pretty close to one. On behalf of MVAS, I want to thank each and every one of you for your time and effort.

More numbers: The maximum number of parties in the field was 28, the minimum was 17. Total distance walked by all these folks was 55 miles in 58.25 hours. In addition, our citizen scientists logged 477 miles looking for birds in their vehicles, taking 66 hours to do so. Some even managed to get in two miles in two hours on a golf cart! All in all, a most commendable effort, I'd say.

We talk about birds and the distances they fly during migration. At times, we even see some of those long distance feathered travelers on our CBCs. This year, three CBC participants, who, while not feathered, certainly traveled considerable distances to take part in the Count. Martine Dumont and Normand Legault joined us from their home in St. Albert, Alberta, Canada, a distance of 3,065 kilometers (1,915 miles) to be part of the Las Cruces Christmas Bird Count. Zeke Cornell from Bow, NH, was the third long distance birder to join our ranks for the CBC. He came 2,500 miles or slightly more **Continued on page 6.**

President's Letter

Dear MVAS Members and Friends:

Welcome to 2022! Where to begin?

Thank you to members who voted in this year's MVAS election of officers and board members. We are especially pleased to welcome Dana Loy as a new board member! She and her husband moved to Las Cruces last July, and although she says she is still fairly new to birding, she has thrown herself in to MVAS activities and we are so happy to have her. With Dana on the board, we now have a completely full board for the first time in . . . a long, long time.

Although in 2022 COVID remains at worst a tragedy and at best an inconvenience, outdoor activities are baaaack! And this means bird walks! CJ Goin continues as the leader for Leasburg Dam SP walks, Mark Pendleton will be leading weekday bird walks, and we are thrilled to welcome Joel Gilb on as our newest bird walk leader. Joel has only been leading for a few months now, but his walks quickly became popular!

Finally, congratulations to us on receiving an additional Audubon Collaborative Grant for signage on the MVAS bird blind at the Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park. As the weather warms and the signage goes up, we'll be planning a grand opening. Stay tuned. Thanks again go to our Audubon Southwest liaison Steven Prager who loves us (right, Steven?), is one of our biggest cheerleaders, and always advocates for us!

Thank you for being part of MVAS! Good birding.

Elaine

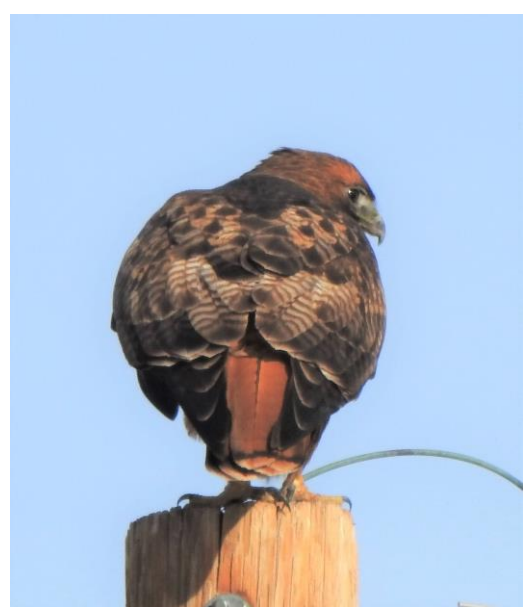
Thank you Sara Kay for three beautiful photos:



Gila Woodpecker



Swainson's Hawk



Red-tailed Hawk

Two New Monthly Weekday Bird Walks

Mesilla Valley Audubon Society (MVAS) is pleased to announce two new monthly weekday bird walks. They will be on the first Monday and third Wednesday of each month and MVAS Vice-president Mark Pendleton will lead both. These walks are designed for novice birders, so a knowledge of birds is not required. You don't have to be an MVAS member to participate (but we'd really like it if you become a member!).

Please remember to bring along snacks if you need them and bring water. Even though it's still winter, you can get very thirsty while walking outside, and if you don't have water, you'll wish you did.

The first-Monday-of-the-month walks will be at Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park. We'll meet at the park visitor center by 07:45 and the walk will start at 08:00.

NM State Parks requires that groups using their facilities be limited to 10 people. Accordingly, the bird walks will be limited to nine persons plus the leader. As the number is limited, please contact Mark Pendleton at mpndltn@gmail.com (please put **1st Monday bird walk** in the subject line) or call 575.635.8711 by the preceding Friday to let him know you are coming.

The third-Wednesday-of-the-month walks will be at Tellbrook Park, 4290 E. Winchester Rd., Las Cruces. Meet at the park entrance by 07:45 and the walk will start shortly thereafter.

We are also limiting the group size to 10 (the leader plus nine). Accordingly, please contact Mark Pendleton at mpndltn@gmail.com (please put **3rd Wednesday bird walk** in the subject line) or 575.635.8711 by the preceding Monday to let him know you are coming.

COVID: You are on your honor to please be vaccinated and boosted, maintain social distancing, and follow current CDC and local authorities' guidelines to combat the spread of COVID.

Questions? Call Mark!

MVAS Schedule: February | March | April 2022

February 7, 2022 | 8:00 a.m. – 10 a.m. | Monday novice bird walk at Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park

Meet at the visitors center. Walk leader will be Mark Pendleton. Contact Mark at mpndltn@gmail.com (please put 1st Monday bird walk in the subject line) or call 575.635.8711 by the preceding Friday to let him know you are coming. Dress warmly!

February 12, 2022 | 8:00 a.m. – 10 a.m. | Bird walk at Sagecrest Park

Meet at the MVAS Adopt A Spot sign. Walk leader will be Joel Gilb. Dress warmly!

February 16, 2022 | 8:00 a.m. – 10 a.m. | Wednesday novice bird walk at Tellbrook Park

Meet at the park entrance. Walk leader will be Mark Pendleton. Contact Mark at mpndltn@gmail.com (please put 1st Monday bird walk in the subject line) or call 575.635.8711 by the preceding Friday to let him know you are coming. Dress warmly!

February 16, 2022 | MVAS meeting and program | 6:30 p.m. meet 'n greet, program at 7 p.m. | via Zoom (watch your email for registration)

Producing a Photobook | MVAS member Nirmal Khandan will present an overview of the options available for producing a photobook of your own. He will share his experiences in publishing books through a commercial publisher and by self-publishing. His presentation will also include a real-time demonstration.

February 20, 2022 | Keep Las Cruces Beautiful (for the birds!) Adopt A Spot Cleanup | Sagecrest Park
Trish Cutler is clean up leader. Meet at the entrance on Frontier. Grabbers and trash bags provided.

February 18–21, 2022 | Great Backyard Bird Count

Sponsored by National Audubon Society, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and Birds Canada/Oiseaux Canada, participation requires only 15 minutes per day on one of those days. More time and multiple days are encouraged, and you are not limited to your backyard! Instructions can be found [online](#).

February 26, 2022 | 8:00 a.m. – 10 a.m. | Bird walk at Leasburg Dam State Park

Meet at the visitors center. Walk leader will be Joel Gilb, who will escort birders to the day-use parking lot by the Rio Grande to begin the hike. Dress warmly!

March 7, 2022 | 8:00 a.m. – 10 a.m. | Monday novice bird walk at Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park

Meet at the visitors center. Walk leader will be Mark Pendleton. Contact Mark at mpndltn@gmail.com (please put 1st Monday bird walk in the subject line) or call 575.635.8711 by the preceding Friday to let him know you are coming. Dress warmly!

March 12, 2022 | 8:00 a.m. – 10 a.m. | Bird walk at Sagecrest Park

Meet at the MVAS Adopt A Spot sign. Walk leader will be Joel Gilb.

March 16, 2022 | 8:00 a.m. – 10 a.m. | Wednesday novice bird walk at Tellbrook Park

Meet at the park entrance. Walk leader will be Mark Pendleton. Contact Mark at mpndltn@gmail.com (please put 1st Monday bird walk in the subject line) or call 575.635.8711 by the preceding Friday to let him know you are coming. Dress warmly!

March 16, 2022 | MVAS meeting and program | 6:30 p.m. meet 'n greet, program at 7 p.m. | via Zoom (watch your email for registration)

Mortalities During Migration Brought to Light | MVAS members Kelley Boland and Dylan Osterhaus will share their ongoing research at WSMR about the effects of light pollution on bird migration.

March 20, 2022 | Keep Las Cruces Beautiful (for the birds!) Adopt A Spot Cleanup | Sagecrest Park

Trish Cutler is clean up leader. Meet at the entrance on Frontier. Grabbers and trash bags provided.

March 26, 2022 | 8:00 a.m. – 10 a.m. | Bird walk at Leasburg Dam State Park

Meet at the visitors center. Walk leader will be CJ Goin, who will escort birders to the day-use parking lot by the Rio Grande to begin the hike.

April 4, 2022 | 8:00 a.m. – 10 a.m. | Monday novice bird walk at Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park

Meet at the visitors center. Walk leader will be Mark Pendleton. Contact Mark at mpndltn@gmail.com (please put 1st Monday bird walk in the subject line) or call 575.635.8711 by the preceding Friday to let him know you are coming.

April 9, 2022 | 8:00 a.m. – 10 a.m. | Bird walk at Sagecrest Park

Meet at the MVAS Adopt A Spot sign. Walk leader will be Joel Gilb. Dress warmly!

April 17, 2022 | Keep Las Cruces Beautiful (for the birds!) Adopt A Spot Cleanup | Sagecrest Park

Trish Cutler is clean up leader. Meet at the entrance on Frontier. Grabbers and trash bags provided.

April 20, 2022 | 8:00 a.m. – 10 a.m. | Wednesday novice bird walk at Tellbrook Park

Meet at the park entrance. Walk leader will be Mark Pendleton. Contact Mark at mpndltn@gmail.com (please put 1st Monday bird walk in the subject line) or call 575.635.8711 by the preceding Friday to let him know you are coming. Dress warmly!

April 20, 2022 | MVAS meeting and program | 6:30 p.m. meet ‘n greet, program at 7 p.m. | via Zoom (watch your email for registration)

2021 Bischoff scholarship winner Leah White | Leah will share results of her research on landscape-scale impacts of habitat management practices, particularly large mammal habitat use in response to forest restoration and wildfires.

April 23, 2022 | 8:00 a.m. – 10 a.m. | Bird walk at Leasburg Dam State Park

Meet at the visitors center. Walk leader will be CJ Goin, who will escort birders to the day-use parking lot by the Rio Grande to begin the hike.

+++++



Birds of
Dona Ana County, NM

1. Wood duck



Book Report:

Birds of Doña Ana County, NM

A photographic guide by Nirmal Khandan

Doña Ana County has its own bird book! Thank you Khandan for 114 beautiful photographs together in one beautiful publication. Each picture shows the care and experience for which Khandan has become well known. The book is organized by species, much like a field guide, but it is a succinct collection of the bird photos that have made Khandan so respected in this community. While not meant to be a complete compendium of Doña Ana’s 426 species (according to eBird.org), it does include many of the common and occasional birds that he was able to photograph in their native habitat in and around Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park and Dripping Springs Natural Area. Seeing six hawk species over two pages really helps illustrate their similarities and differences. It also helps that the index gives a seasonal guide as to when one might expect to find these birds. Desk copies of this 30-page hardcover book can be viewed at the visitor centers at Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park and Dripping Springs Natural Area. This book is a personal publication via Snapfish and you can purchase it by communicating directly with Khandan via email (nkhandan@nmsu.edu).

Butterflies in 2021

by CJ Goin

2021 was a great year for butterfly sightings in and around Las Cruces and I would like to share some of my best sightings of the year. My first good sighting was a Great Southern White, which I saw and photographed at the Mesilla Dam in September. This was only the second sighting for New Mexico, the first being in Las Cruces in 1973. Meg Freyermuth then saw and photographed another one at her house in Las Cruces in October. My best sighting was a Brown-banded Skipper at Dripping Springs in October. This was also only the second sighting for the state, the first being from Silver City in 1963. Finally, I saw a Large Orange Sulphur at the Fabian Garcia Botanical Gardens in November. While not as rare as the first two, they are uncommon in New Mexico. As with birds, if you get out and look you may have some rare butterfly sightings. I will lead some butterfly walks in the coming spring, summer, and fall, so if you'd like to see and learn about butterflies, I hope you will join me.



Great Southern White



Brown-banded Skipper



Large Orange Sulfur

Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park opens trails shut down by fire in 2020

On Friday, April 3, 2020, a brush fire raged on the grounds of Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park (MVBSP). It came when the park was closed during the early days of the COVID pandemic and burned for at least four hours before being contained. Most of the fire tore through brush and trees in the southern portion of MVBSP. The damage to the park included much dry brush, planted native plants, and trees, most of which were salt cedar. The damage required approximately one-third of the trail system be closed to the public while the state park system decided how to deal with the aftermath. The cause for the fire has not yet been determined.

On January 21, 2022, the park rangers opened the Upland Trail and the Pond Overlook trail after much clean-up and some trail revision. The Upland Trail is now a loop that begins just west of the Picacho Drain and extends southward and westward in a loop from there. There is no longer a connection with the Resaca Trail, which is on the other side of the Picacho Drain. This is because Elephant Butte Irrigation District, which owns the drain, has put new restrictions in place regarding public access. The other newly opened trail is the Pond Overlook trail, a short walk up a hill overlooking most of the Park. Its origin is the same as the Upland Trail and offers some great views, especially of the raptors that make MVBSP famous.

The rangers have obviously been working hard to open these trails for public use. There is still a lot of clean-up to be done, but the most important task ahead is for Mother Nature to give us some rain to help the area regain some of its green allure, both for humans and birds. It's only February. There is still lots of time.



7/1/2020—three months after the fire.

USIBWC Aquatic Habitat along the Rio Grande in Las Cruces—Great News

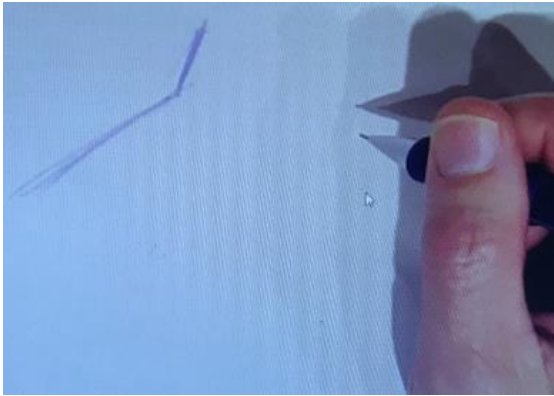
It's official! The United States International Boundary Commission (USIBWC) and the City of Las Cruces's Riparian Development Plan at the water effluent site is now in "design phase." The 12/13/2021 announcement reads:

"Las Cruces Effluent South: USIBWC will construct a turnout from the straight concrete-lined effluent channel currently used to convey treated wastewater to the Rio Grande to divert flows into a meandering channel within the floodplain, creating 2.0 acres of aquatic habitat and 3.4 acres of native riparian floodplain habitat. USIBWC is coordinating with the City of Las Cruces, and the project is currently in the 'design phase.' This announcement followed the determination by the USIBWC that the project will have 'no significant impact on current riparian status in this section of the Rio Grande.'"

The plan's leader, USIBWC Natural Resources Specialist Elizabeth Verdecchia, indicates it will take approximately one year to finalize the design and six months to complete the construction. We may be looking at a completed project by 2023! For new readers, this is important news for MVAS because this is where the chapter did a one-year bird survey to document the activity surrounding the flood plain acreage at what will now become a riparian habitat. A follow-up bird survey will allow us to chart the impact this positive human intervention has on life along the Rio Grande!

This was one of five projects noted in the USIBWC announcement and the only one that was advanced to the "design phase." The others, including a project involving Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, are still being debated by USIBWC and other entities that have water rights issues that may delay their completion any time soon.

Bird Sketching Workshop



On 1/10/2022, our Zoom program arranged by MVAS Secretary Cheryl Fallstead featured a bird-sketching workshop by John Muir Laws. It was totally different from other Zoom programs we've had, as MVAS sponsored the workshop but it was open to the entire world. John showed us how he proceeds with the drawing of three different birds during the workshop, all of which were delightful when he finished.

John said he takes his notebook, pen and pencil, and lightweight binoculars with him when he goes birding. He will look for a park bench and wait for the birds. Once his species is in sight, he begins sketching and making notes about special features that he will address later. Beginning with an outline of the back, the head, and the shape of the chest, he next draws the wings, tail, and feet, and finally adds details of the head and beak. Clearly, he uses his drawing skills to focus on the unique features of his chosen subject, and says his drawing makes him a better observer. As he spoke, he noted there is a large community of bird sketchers, many of whom have websites and Facebook pages that are open to the public. His webpage [John Muir Laws • Nature Stewardship Through Science, Education, and Art](#) introduces interested birders to nature journaling and sketching.

Attendance was more than 100 people from all over our country plus from a few other countries. Attendees were interested in the talk and had questions throughout. John was up to the task. At one point, he even offered a guarantee to all participants that by the end of one year of practice that they would be able to draw birds as well as any expert. If they were disappointed in their progress, they could submit their sketches to him and expect individual supervision until they achieved success!

(Workshop bird sketch. Photos via computer screen.)

Christmas Bird Count, continued from page 1:

than 4,023 kilometers. A special thank you to all three of you for your contributions to our CBC! Speaking of traveling, three others who joined us again for the CBC also hit the road to be with us for this citizen science event. Sonja Mendoza drove from her home in Socorro, as she has for several years, to lead the Jornada South team. Tim Wallace and Christine Clayton came down from Albuquerque to visit her parents and, for the second time, participated while here. A hearty “thank you!” to all three of you for your efforts!

As for numbers and *birds*, we tallied 97 species for this CBC. That includes 6 sp entries (birds that the observer couldn’t identify any more than “I know it was a raven/sparrow/bluebird, etc.”). When you add the three or four cw or “count week” birds seen from Wednesday the 15th through Tuesday the 21st, it brings the total number of birds associated with the CBC to around 100, which is nothing to sniff or sneeze at.

It was no surprise that the one species seen most often was White-winged Dove. It was also not a surprise to see their numbers down. We didn’t even reach the 10,000 mark.

Here (in current CBC taxonomic order) is a list of what we saw.

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
01. Gadwall	22
02. American Wigeon	9
03. Mallard	271
04. Northern Shoveler	13
05. Green-winged Teal	10
06. Ring-necked Duck	5
07. Ruddy Duck	11
08. Gambel’s Quail	297
09. Great Blue Heron	8
10. Black-crowned Night Heron	7
11. Northern Harrier	18
12. Sharp-shinned Hawk	5
13. Cooper’s Hawk	25
14. Harris’s Hawk	1
15. Red-tailed Hawk	39
16. Red-tailed Hawk (Harlan’s)	1
17. Ferruginous Hawk	2
18. American Coot	9
19. Killdeer	21
20. Least Sandpiper	98
21. Wilson’s Snipe	1
22. Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon)	1141
23. Eurasian Collared-Dove	276
24. Inca Dove	31
25. White-winged Dove	8699
26. Mourning Dove	555
27. Greater Roadrunner	17
28. Great Horned Owl	3

29. Long-eared Owl	2
30. Anna's Hummingbird	1
31. Rufous Hummingbird	1
32. Broad-billed Hummingbird	cw
33. Belted Kingfisher	1
34. Red-naped Sapsucker	1
35. Ladder-backed Woodpecker	40
36. Northern Flicker	57
37. Northern Flicker (red-shafted)	21
38. American Kestrel	67
39. Merlin	1
40. Peregrine Falcon	3
41. Black Phoebe	5
42. Say's Phoebe	47
43. Loggerhead Shrike	2
44. Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay	1
45. American Crow	4110
46. Chihuahuan Raven	19
47. Common Raven	2
49. raven sp.	4
50. crow/raven sp.	1
51. Verdin	23
52. Bushtit	3
53. White-breasted Nuthatch	1
54. Rock Wren	1
55. Marsh Wren	1
56. Bewick's Wren	1
57. Cactus Wren	4
58. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1
59. Black-tailed Gnatcatcher	1
60. Ruby-crowned Kinglet	35
61. Eastern Bluebird	1
62. Western Bluebird	84
63. bluebird sp.	4
64. Hermit Thrush	1
65. American Robin	316
66. Curve-billed Thrasher	39
67. Crissal Thrasher	6
68. Northern Mockingbird	33
69. European Starling	994
70. American Pipit	86
71. Cedar Waxwing	14
72. Phainopepla	5

73. Orange-crowned Warbler	1
74. Yellow-rumped Warbler	56
75. Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's)	2
76. Chipping Sparrow	238
77. Brewer's Sparrow	139
78. Black-throated Sparrow	36
79. Fox Sparrow	cw
80. Dark-eyed Junco	87
81. Dark-eyed Junco (Slate-colored)	cw
82. Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon)	cw
83. Dark-eyed Junco (Pink-sided)	cw
84. Dark-eyed Junco (Gray-headed)	cw
85. White-crowned Sparrow	1082
86. White-throated Sparrow	1
87. Vesper Sparrow	1
88. Savannah Sparrow	10
89. Song Sparrow	8
90. Lincoln's Sparrow	4
91. Canyon Towhee	22
92. Green-tailed Towhee	7
93. Spotted Towhee	26
94. towhee sp.	1
95. sparrow sp.	17
96. Pyrrhuloxia	47
97. Red-winged Blackbird	761
98. Western Meadowlark	2
99. Eastern Meadowlark	25
100. Eastern/Western Meadowlark	8
101. Brewer's Blackbird	2,809
102. Great-tailed Grackle	1,572
103. House Finch	1,415
104. Lesser Goldfinch	59
105. American Goldfinch	45
106. House Sparrow	504

Among the numbers, a few things in particular caught my attention:

The **paucity of ducks**—No one saw *any* Northern Pintail, and the scant numbers of the duck species we *did* see would seem to highlight the impact of the continuing drought on waterfowl.

Killdeer—In the South Valley sector of the CBC circle, there were numerous large agricultural areas and other open and semi-open habitat that seemed more than suitable for Killdeer. In the rest of the circle, there are similar tracts of habitat. Yet, in an all-day effort, 60 dedicated observers only saw 21 Killdeer! Effects of the drought? Maybe. The cold windiness of the day more than likely took its toll as well.



Anna's Hummingbird, at home of Sid Webb and Raf Chavez, 12/19/2021. One of only two hummingbird species reported in the 2021 Las Cruces CBC.

Greater Roadrunners—Our state bird didn't even fare on par with the Killdeer! A mere 17 roadrunners seems unusual at best.

Raptors in general—At first glance, it might seem that 25 Cooper's Hawks, 39 "Red-tails," 67 American Kestrels, and three Peregrines isn't too bad. But in many years, the numbers for American Kestrels were considerably higher. The record for the South Valley sector alone is 42 individuals while several other sectors ranged from the 20s to high 30s. When you add these up, 67 seems way down. The same general trend holds true for the other diurnal raptors we saw.

Owls were unusually scarce as well. In some years, the La Cueva team has seen as many as eight Long-eared Owls. This year, they saw two. And no one saw a single Burrowing Owl. One property owner who lets us bird on her land related how within the past five or six years there were several thriving Burrowing Owl nests there. Then a bull snake came through and wiped out the lot of them.

Nuthatches—C.J. Goin saw the count's *only* White-breasted (and sole) Nuthatch. Not that nuthatches are one of our usual high count birds,

but *only* a single one seems to me unusual. So, I went back to see how many "White-breasts" we've logged in the past. They've been recorded 18 times in the history of the Las Cruces CBC, with a high count of nine in 2018. So, to have only a single sighting does seem out of the ordinary.

Then, I checked for other species that had only been sighted once on our count. More than 120 times observers recorded a single individual of a species. Twenty-nine of those were either an sp. or sub-species (such as White-winged Junco) entry. So that doesn't seem as out of the ordinary to me as a full species single sighting.

Furthermore, in 22 of the instances or about one-sixth of the time, when only a single individual was seen, it was also the only time that species was recorded in our CBC. Some of these "one-offs" are birds you'd not expect to find here in the winter. Among these species are Red-headed Woodpecker, Pacific Slope Flycatcher, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Tree Swallow, American Dipper, Western Tanager, Blue Grosbeak, and Bullock's Oriole. To me it seems that this is unusual company for a White-breasted Nuthatch. I think of WBNU as more likely to be seen here than the others.

In addition to the all the low numbers, there were some birds noticeable by their absence. Besides the ones already mentioned above, we had no sightings of Prairie Falcons. Yellow-headed Blackbirds and Pine Siskins were also absent from our count. Not that we rely on seeing lots of any of these birds, but to have none at all seems unusual.

In closing, here's the top 10 list of most frequently seen species for this year's CBC. Although it's not certain that any of us would have predicted their ranked order, the list contains no surprises:

At number 10 with 504 individuals counted is
 Coming in at number 9 with 555 seen is
 In the 8th slot, with 994 counted is
 In 7th place with 1,082 counted is
 In 6th, numbering 1,141 is
 The fifth most abundant species with 1,415 is
 In 4th place with 1,572 individuals is
 At number 3 with 2,809 seen is (drumroll, please)

House Sparrow
Mourning Dove
European Starling
White-crowned Sparrow
Rock Pigeon
House Finch
Great-tailed Grackle
Brewer's Blackbird

At number 2 (drums and fanfare!), with 4,110 is
And once more in first place
(drums, fanfare, fireworks!) with 8,699+ is

American Crow

White-winged Dove!



Dear MVAS members,

At a recent MVAS board meeting, a recommendation that won unanimous support was to have all MVAS members pay dues in the first couple months of the year. That will give the board a better feel for the chapter's financial status for the year, and the hope is we will be more likely to remember to pay our dues as the year begins. You can pay your dues on the [MVAS website](#). Thank you!

Yours,
MVAS Dues Hawk

Officers and Board MVAS 2022

President: Elaine Stachera Simon
Vice-president: Mark Pendleton
Secretary: Cheryl Fallstead
Treasurer: Diane Moore

Directors (seven elected with three-year terms, two elected each year)
Director 2020–2023: C.J. Goin
Director 2020–2023: Annie Mitchell
Director 2021–2024: Trish Cutler
Director 2021–2024: Tracy Patrick
Director 2019–2022: Sid Webb
Director 2019–2022: Gill Sorg
Director 2020–2022: Dana Loy


Committee chairs

Conservation: Trish Cutler
Education: C.J. Goin
Field Trips: Mark Pendleton
Programs: Vacant, currently managed by president
Newsletter: Sid Webb
Website: Sid Webb
Membership: Diane Moore
Christmas Bird Count: Mark Pendleton
Facebook admin: Elaine Stachera Simon
Climate Watch Coordinator: Mark Pendleton


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 articles of interest and any bird photograph recently taken. Please email your contributions to sidwebb@gmail.com. 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
A chapter of the
National Audubon Society



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