

Roadrunner Ramblings

Spring 2026



*Page 5: CBC Finds
Lawrence's Goldfinches*

President's Page

Welcome to another year of birding! There's a lot going on and we're excited to share it with you. As you read through this newsletter, you'll find out about the 2025 Las Cruces Christmas Bird Count, conservation committee activities, election results, and more.

Thank you to everyone who has renewed their membership for 2026. If you haven't gotten around to it yet, it's very easy to do it online using Zeffy. Zeffy is a free service for nonprofit organizations that doesn't charge us any fees. They may ask if you want to make a donation to support their organization, however. Watch for a field that may be pre-filled and which you can change. You can go to Zeffy directly at [this link](#) to renew or join. If you prefer the old-fashioned way, you can download the form from our website, mvashaudubon.org, and mail a check.

Do you sometimes need extra motivation to get out birding? How about participating in the New Mexico Department of Fish and Game's new Birding Big Year challenge? You use your eBird reports to count your sightings within the state and report the running total four times throughout the year, competing mostly for fun, although they promise some prizes. You'll compete against others of your general experience level and age group. See the flyer on page 9 for more information.

If you'd like to hone your birding skills a bit, either to increase your chances in this type of competition, or just for the fun of it, look for MVAS to announce the details of our Birding Basics Part II class coming in April. This class will build upon the lessons of the Basics class we held last fall. It will be followed in May by a flycatcher identification class. Catch both classes to enhance your enjoyment of spring migration, which is just around the corner.

Watch for information about another fun birding experience that's coming soon, a field trip to Cave Creek Canyon in the Chiricahua Mountains in southeastern Arizona. One of the target birds is the beautiful bird formerly known as the Elegant Trogan. (Its new name is the Coppery-Tailed Trogan.) Mark your calendar for the first weekend in June and watch for emails calling for sign-ups.

Whether you join us on field trips, bird walks, CBCs, birding classes, park clean-ups, or for our monthly meetings, thank you for being part of the Mesilla Valley Audubon Society. I also encourage you to consider joining the National Audubon Society if you aren't a member already!

- Cheryl Fallstead

Roadrunner Ramblings
the newsletter of

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

a chapter of the
National Audubon Society

Mesilla Valley Audubon Society, a 501c3 conservation and natural history organization in southern New Mexico, promotes the appreciation and conservation of birds, wildlife, and habitat through education, advocacy, and community engagement.



President: Cheryl Fallstead
Vice-President: Julia Osgood
Secretary: Jennifer Montoya
Treasurer: Judy Wilbur
Board: Carol Campbell, Daniel Horton, Dana Parsons, Whitney Watson, Nichole Palacio, David Coalson, Linda Miller, Susan Singley, Randy Gray
Editor: Jay Wilbur

Submit newsletter material to
mesillavalleyaudubon@gmail.com



CONSERVATION CORNER

Are you interested in using your bird ID skills for a worthy cause? Do you love birding in Sierra County? If yes, then consider joining the MVAS Las Palomas Survey Team. The Las Palomas Marsh and surrounding grasslands are managed jointly by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR). MVAS has a long-term agreement to provide avian surveys for the grazing exclosure, but our organized efforts went on hiatus during the pandemic. We're now ready to re-engage in this important citizen science endeavor and document the presence of birds throughout the year.

Volunteers will be a good fit for the project if they can say yes to all six of the following questions:

1. Do you have solid bird ID skills, both sight and sound?
2. Do you have the ability to hike across uneven terrain and climb over or around downed limbs and trees?
3. Do you have the stamina to walk at least one mile?
4. Do you have a smart phone that you are willing to download a mapping app onto?
5. Are you willing to record your data into eBird?
6. Can you visit Las Palomas twice a year? (It is located east of exit 71 on I-25, south of Williamsburg. It takes about 70 minutes to drive there from Las Cruces.)

MVAS will provide all volunteers with training before their first survey. There will be four transects to cover, totaling 1.7 miles. The entire circuit of the

four transects is three miles, so volunteers may work in pairs or more if walking the entire circuit isn't feasible. As we build our cadre of surveyors, we can mix and match assignments to ensure each transect is read twice a month.

Our first organizational call will be held Monday, February 2, at 6:30 p.m. but if you can't make that date, let us know and we will provide you with the details of the call. And if you want more details before you commit to the effort, this call will be a good time to learn more about the BLM's interest in understanding the area, survey logistics, and expectations.

If you are interested, please send an email to mesillavalleyaudubon@gmail.com with the phrase Las Palomas Survey in the subject line, and we will put you on the list for further communications.

MVAS has been a driving force behind the creation and management of this special wetland, where the federally endangered Southwest Willow Flycatcher now breeds, and dozens of other wildlife species utilize the intact bosque habitat. Join us in our continued efforts to help manage this wonderful place.

- Jennifer Montoya

MVAS Helps Park Rangers Keep Birds Safe from Windows

by Elaine Stachera Simon

Birds are magical little beasties, and few places are better to be a bird in Las Cruces than the Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park (MVBSP)! Yet, even in this bird-friendliest of spaces, man-made structures have been deadly for our feathered friends.

The problem

Birds are as fragile as they are magical, and almost one billion die a traumatic death through window collisions each year. At MVBSP, two large plate glass windows, one at the visitor center and the other on the park office building, have claimed many avian lives. According to MVBSP Park Ranger Alex Mares, about 15 birds per year are killed immediately after colliding with the plate glass windows on the

park office or on the visitor center. Twice that number collide with the windows and sit on the ground, dazed, for up to 30 minutes. They may fly off, but there's no guarantee that they will recuperate; many will die.

Mares says that “The majority of birds that hit our windows are small birds: warblers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Say’s Phoebe, and sparrows, but also White-winged Doves and Gambel’s Quail. This past fall, a juvenile hawk was stunned after colliding with the window.”

The solution: help from MVAS

Mares called upon Mesilla Valley Audubon Society (MVAS) for help in finding a solution. After researching strike prevention options, window film with an embedded pattern was chosen (if you search “bird strike window film,” you’ll find a variety of options at different price points). MVAS held a special silent auction during one of its popular Birds and Beers events to raise the funds, and in December, Senior Parks Worker Gary Gruer and seasonal laborer Mike Ferris started putting the film into place.



MVBSP employees install bird protection provided by MVAS on a problem window at the park.

Not-so-fun-fact: 99 percent of fatal avian window strikes occur at buildings under four stories tall. Although skyscrapers and huge glass buildings get most of the attention when it comes to deadly bird strikes (for example, McCormick Place in Chicago, which has now made significant improvements in preventing fatal bird strikes), collisions with high-

rise buildings represent only about 1 percent of the bird fatalities caused by window strikes.

Birds do not see glass as solid. Because of this, they can mistake a window’s reflection for open sky that they can fly through or even see potted plants on an inside windowsill as a potential place to land, with tragic results.

Every bird is important

And at this point, the loss of even a single bird is impactful. Mares notes, “We are in a megadrought in the Southwest, reducing the number of birds and making it harder for them to survive and procreate.” He adds, “One or two birds dying doesn’t sound like a lot, but it really is, especially for the species that are imperiled. Every bird is a potential breeder, especially the females, and any taken out of the reproduction cycle has a cascading effect. We want to do what we can. We are a state park and an IBA [Important Bird Area]. We are in the business of preserving and conserving.”

Simple options

Whether you are a homeowner, a renter, or have a commercial building, you, too, can help prevent traumatic bird deaths with easy solutions. To make your windows bird friendly, you need to ensure that birds perceive a window as something that is not part of their habitat (i.e., the sky or a place to land) by breaking up the reflection. You can easily do this by adding dots, stripes, film, tempera paint (especially good for renters since it’s easy to remove), or decals to your window. If you choose one of these methods, make sure that the space between your dots or decals is no more than two inches in any direction. (Those single big hawk decals? Pretty useless.) Any less, and birds may try to fly around or through them. It’s also critical that bird strike prevention measures are placed on the window’s exterior — they don’t work when placed on the inside.

A good starting point for resources and information is the Clemson University Cooperative Extension’s publication “Reducing Bird Strikes at your Home” (link at the bottom).

Three billion gone

Since 1970, North America has lost three billion birds, or almost one in four. This massive decline is attributable to habitat loss, climate change, cats

roaming outdoors (yup, your Fluffy is a killer even if you don't see it), and bird strikes. These problems are massive, and for most of them there are no easy answers — *except* for preventing window collisions, which is easy, inexpensive, and something we all can do today to prevent bird deaths.

Mares says, “Corporations, individuals, home builders, and homeowners can all do something to prevent windows being deadly to birds. At the individual level, we can do simple things like treating windows. It’s not hard or expensive to take that extra step that really makes a difference.” He adds, “We can also speak up to educate others about what they can do and advocate for requiring bird-friendly glass on new construction. If you are building a home, have it installed! I also always remind people to turn off outdoor lights to minimize light pollution, which helps birds with nighttime seasonal migration.”

Final thought

As people who love birds — watching them, feeding them, drawing them, learning about them — we also need to be on the front line of protecting them, doing what we can and encouraging others to do the same.

Simple steps that you can take and ask others to take:

- Prevent bird strikes with window film or other treatment
- Turn off your outdoor lights
- Keep your cats inside
- Share the magic of birds with others!

Resources for further information:

<https://www.fws.gov/story/threats-birds-collisions-buildings-glass>

<https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/how-to-make-park-buildings-safer-for-birds-one-window-at-a-time.htm>

<https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/reducing-bird-strikes-at-your-home/>

<https://www.3billionbirds.org>

Las Cruces Christmas Bird Count: Results and Highlights

by Julia Osgood

It's a wrap! The 2025 Las Cruces Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is complete! This year's count marks the 51st year that volunteers in the Las Cruces area have contributed data to the CBC, continuing a local tradition that dates back to 1974.

December 14 started out chilly, with temperatures in the mid-30s, and warmed to nearly 60 degrees by midday. Mesilla Valley Audubon volunteers were bundled up when they started the count, and many finished in short sleeves after a day of walking, driving, peering into trees, and scanning power lines for birds.



The North Valley West team bundles against the cold as the day begins. Photo by Elaine Stachera Simon.

A total of 56 volunteers across 13 teams participated in the count, contributing field observations and feeder data from within the 15-mile circle. Together, participants recorded 20,613 individual birds. Volunteers surveyed a wide range of habitats, including urban neighborhoods, desert areas, and a few ponds, providing a detailed snapshot of winter birdlife in the region.

Feeder Watch Contributions

In addition to field teams, three feeder watch sites submitted data from backyards within the count circle. These observations are an important part of

the overall count, capturing species that may be underrepresented on field routes and documenting how birds use residential areas during winter. These reports help round out the dataset and improve coverage across the circle.

Unusual Sightings on Count Day

This year's count included two species that are uncommon in the Las Cruces area: Lawrence's Goldfinches (cover) and Acorn Woodpeckers (below). While neither species is unprecedented locally, both are considered irregular or infrequent visitors in Doña Ana County, making their presence a highlight of the day.



*Acorn Woodpecker documented in Mesilla Park.
Photo by CJ Goin.*

Sightings like these add important data points to the overall dataset. Unusual species can point to shifting ranges, changing habitat use, or short-term movements tied to food availability and weather patterns. Documenting them through a standardized count ensures those observations become part of the permanent scientific record.

What happens to all that data?

After the count day, local compilers (like yours truly) enter area results into the National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count database. Compilers gather species totals, individual bird numbers, and other details submitted by field teams and feeder

watchers, then upload all of it through Audubon's online system. That standardized dataset becomes part of more than a century of community science.

Audubon uses that data to produce annual summaries and to track long-term trends in bird populations and winter ranges. Researchers, conservationists, and policymakers rely on this information to understand how species are responding to climate change, habitat loss, and other environmental pressures.

Audubon also makes much of this data publicly accessible, allowing interested people to explore trends and download results for specific species or regions. This system turns thousands of volunteer hours into a scientific resource that informs conservation planning across the Americas.

Hats Off to Leaders and Team Members

None of this would happen without the team leaders who scout areas in advance, communicate with their volunteers, and submit the data to the compiler. If you participated as a leader or a team member, give yourself a big pat on the back. Your work on the CBC count day provided important information that helped our local chapter and the National Audubon organization.



Participants point to a flock of birds on the Rio Grande. Photo by Elaine Stachera Simon.

National Audubon has a new role for local chapters. The Community Engagement Leader is a bridge between the compiler and participants. If you're interested in learning more about this role, email mesillavalleyaudubon@gmail.com and someone

will get back to you. It would be a big help to have another member on the CBC team.

Looking Ahead to Next Year

Planning for the next Las Cruces Christmas Bird Count will begin in the fall. New participants are always welcome, regardless of experience level. Watch for announcements from the Mesilla Valley Audubon Society later this year.

In addition to the Las Cruces area count, the Caballo CBC, coordinated by Wayne Treers, took place on Saturday, December 27. Some people participated in both counts!

It might sound like getting up early, birding in the cold, and covering a lot of territory is a lot of work. Well, it is, but it's also fun! Stay tuned to join in the activities next year.

Focus on Waterfowl

by Jay Wilbur

Winter in Las Cruces might seem a bit chilly to many, but for several species of waterfowl it's a fantastic venue. Whether they are migrating to or from the Gulf of Mexico along the Rio Grande or spending time fattening up on our local ponds, these colorful visitors provide a keystone for local birding each year during January and February.

To enhance our appreciation of winter waterfowl, MVAS presented a class on how to identify them on January 13. Class instructors David Coalson and Jay Wilbur tag-teamed lecture material on how to recognize and distinguish the species that are commonly seen here. These lessons were then applied in the field by an intrepid subset of class attendees at the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge on the following weekend.

The weather Saturday afternoon was sunny, brisk, and breezy. The group took advantage of these conditions to find all but three of the common waterfowl species covered during the lecture. Of course, many other birds were seen as well.

Sunday morning was rather cold, but we all bundled up and immersed ourselves into one of birding's grandest spectacles, a flyout of Snow Geese.

Roadrunner Ramblings



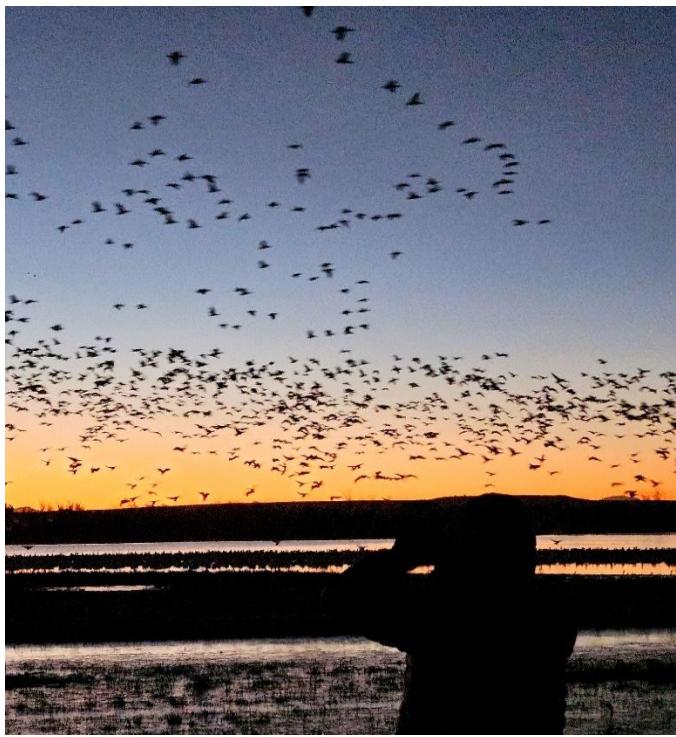
David Coalson explains Wood Duck field marks.



A male Northern Shoveler swims by.



A male Bufflehead pauses between dives.



Dawn backlights a flyout of Snow Geese above a frozen pond on the refuge.

Ducks, geese, and swans were the center of our attention as they put on their best show of the year for us. Come this April, however, MVAS will be presenting Part II of our class on the basics of birding. Then in May those enigmatic flycatchers will be the subject of an MVAS class. Keep an eye out for details as they become available!

Welcome New MVAS Officers and Board Members

by Cheryl Fallstead

Our 2026 elections have just wrapped up, and we have an exciting group of new board members joining the team. Before we meet them, I want to express my sincere gratitude to the outgoing officers and board members who have been ably serving MVAS for many years: Elaine Stachera Simon, CJ Goin, Annie Mitchell, Marcia Wilson, and Dylan Osterhaus, who is already on his next adventure. Thank you for the time, energy, and expertise you have shared with MVAS!

Of course, I extend my thanks as well to the continuing board members, who help maintain our Roadrunner Ramblings

institutional knowledge and keep current projects and initiatives rolling along.

The new board will take office on February 1. Here is our new board, with some officers continuing in their 2025 roles and some shuffling of other members into new positions.

Officers:

President: Cheryl Fallstead*
Vice-president: Julia Osgood
Treasurer: Judy Wilbur*
Secretary: Jennifer Montoya

Board Members:

Dr. Carol Campbell
David Coalson
Randy Gray*
Daniel Horton
Linda Miller*
Nichole Palacio
Dana Parsons
Susan Singley
Whitney Watson*

*Continuing in the same position as 2025.

These new members bring a broad range of knowledge and experience to our board, and I can't wait to see what we can accomplish together!

Opinion: State Land Commissioner Forum

By Bob Tafanelli and Jennifer Montoya

MVAS and four other conservation partners hosted a forum at Centennial High School for residents of Las Cruces to hear from each of the four candidates running in the June 2026 primary election for NM State Land Commissioner. More than 100 people attended the forum and Dr. Martha Desmond, chair of the NMSU Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Ecology Department, moderated the discussion in which candidates responded to 14 prepared questions. The nonpartisan forum was an opportunity for the public to get to know the next commissioner, whoever that might be.

The election for State Land Commissioner will be held in November 2026. Currently, three candidates

are vying for the Democratic Party nomination: Jonas Moya, Juan De Jesus Sanchez, and Matthew McQueen. One candidate, Michael Perry, is running for the Republican Party nomination.

The New Mexico State Land Office (SLO) is charged with managing nine million surface acres and 13 million mineral acres. Revenues fund schools, universities, hospitals, and other public institutions. Revenue is raised by leasing land for oil, gas, and mineral exploration, renewable energy projects, agriculture and livestock grazing, outdoor recreation opportunities, and much more.

Did you notice that ecological health, conservation, and long-term sustainability are not in this mandate? The SLO must adhere to state and federal laws, such as the Clean Water Act or the Endangered Species Act, but the enabling legislation for the SLO is focused on the importance of generating revenue for public institutions. Each SLO commissioner typically implements best practices for environmental health, but there is broad authority invested in the commissioner to develop programs that might benefit wildlife or protect watersheds. We were curious to know how these candidates would approach the job to better manage the environments of southern New Mexico, given their ability to do so.

The candidates were asked how they see the role of the SLO evolving in the next decade. We were hoping to hear a message of visionary leadership, integrating the needs of citizens of southern NM into the SLO mission, such as innovation in soil retention (to reduce or halt the dust storms that plague us), rotational grazing to improve grasslands, or a revision of their mandate that would include ecological integrity, recreational access, and conservation. We did not hear what we hoped for. Instead, their responses emphasized enhancing revenues, continuing to support renewable energy, and generally sustaining the environment, not prioritizing it. We didn't hear anything new, novel, or inspiring.

We asked about how they will adapt policies to reflect the realities of a changing climate, and the candidates referenced existing policies pertaining to oil and gas extraction and various activities in the northern part of the state. We were disappointed that there wasn't the awareness of the need to protect the

long-term viability of Chihuahuan Desert grasslands on state lands in southern New Mexico. We were surprised how similar the candidates' answers were. There is still time for candidates to step up and distinguish themselves before the June 2 primary. Remember to put the primary on your calendar so you don't forget to vote. For those who vote Independent, New Mexico no longer has closed primaries. The June 2, 2026, primary is open to all voters.

Thanks to the candidates for taking the time to come to Las Cruces, as well as to our partners at the Doña Ana Consolidated Sportsmen, Friends of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks, Mesilla Valley Fly Fishers, and Trout Unlimited-Gila/Rio Grande Chapter for organizing a successful forum.



Prize categories

Youth – 13 – 17
Adult – 18-64 (3 skill levels: Novice, Intermediate and Advanced)

Senior – 65 and up (3 skill levels: Novice, Intermediate and Advanced)



Deadline to register:
April 1, 2026

Questions?
Contact Curt Coffman:
DGF-wildlifeEd@dfg.nm.gov

are you ready for a

BIG YEAR?

Join birders across the Land of Enchantment for the 2026 New Mexico Birding Big Year! This year-long competition challenges participants to identify as many bird species as possible within the state between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2026.

Open to birders of all ages and skill levels, the contest promotes wildlife appreciation, conservation awareness, and community among New Mexico's birding enthusiasts.



New Mexico Department of Fish and Game flyer

Calendar of Events

February

Bird Walk @ Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park

Monday, February 2, 8 – 10 a.m.

Meet near the park visitor center and then take a guided bird walk. Park entry is free for New Mexico residents; non-residents pay \$10 per vehicle.

Nature Journaling @ NMSU Herbarium

Wednesday, February 11, 10 a.m. (pending confirmation). NMSU Biology Annex Building, 3080 Williams Ave., Rooms 103 & 105.

RSVP to mesillavalleyaudubon@gmail.com to join us. Beginners welcome!

Bird Walk @ Sagecrest Park

Saturday, February 14, 8 – 10 a.m.

Meet near the park entrance, then explore the desert and wetlands areas east of the Las Cruces Dam.

MVAS Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, February 18, 6:30 – 8 p.m.

Knox Hall Room 142 and on Zoom.

Topic: Isaiah Meza of Audubon SW will discuss ranching conservation. Visit with fellow members from 6:30 – 7 p.m. The presentation begins at 7.

Sagecrest Park Clean-Up

Saturday, February 21, 8 – 9 a.m.

Meet at Sagecrest Park to clean up our Keep Las Cruces Beautiful adopted spot to keep it safe for people and birds.

Bird Walk @ Leasburg Dam State Park

Saturday, February 28, 8 – 10 a.m.

Bird the bosque along the Rio Grande. Meet at the park visitor center, then carpool to the south picnic area. Park entry is free for New Mexico residents; non-residents pay \$10 per vehicle.

March

Bird Walk @ Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park

Monday, March 2, 8 – 10 a.m.

Meet near the park visitor center and then take a guided bird walk. Park entry is free for New Mexico residents; non-residents pay \$10 per vehicle.

Bird Walk @ Sagecrest Park

Saturday, March 14, 8 – 10 a.m.

Meet near the park entrance, then explore the desert and wetlands areas east of the Las Cruces Dam.

MVAS Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, March 18, 6:30 – 8 p.m.

Knox Hall Room 142 and on Zoom.

Topic: Dr. Jean-Luc Cartron will discuss Holloman Lake. Visit with fellow members from 6:30 – 7 p.m. The presentation begins at 7.

Sagecrest Park Clean-Up

Saturday, March 21, 8 – 9 a.m.

Meet at Sagecrest Park to clean up our Keep Las Cruces Beautiful adopted spot to keep it safe for people and birds.

Nature Journaling @ Private Residence

Sunday, March 22, 1 p.m.

Partnering again with the Outdoor Urban Sketchers to nature journal at a private home's lovely gardens. RSVP to mesillavalleyaudubon@gmail.com for the address and additional information.

Bird Walk @ Leasburg Dam State Park

Saturday, March 28, 8 – 10 a.m.

Bird the bosque along the Rio Grande. Meet at the park visitor center, then carpool to the south picnic area. Park entry is free for New Mexico residents; non-residents pay \$10 per vehicle.

April

Bird Walk @ Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park

Monday, April 6, 8 – 10 a.m.

Meet near the park visitor center and then take a guided bird walk. Park entry is free for New Mexico residents; non-residents pay \$10 per vehicle.

Nature Journaling @ NMSU

Saturday, April 11, 9 a.m. NMSU Rodeo Training Grounds, 3251 Aggie Rodeo Drive.

Bird Walk @ Sagecrest Park

Saturday, April 11, 8 – 10 a.m.

Meet near the park entrance, then explore the desert and wetlands areas east of the Las Cruces Dam.

Birding Basics Part II Class

Tuesday, April 14, 6:30 – 8 p.m.

Las Cruces Village Social Center, Creative Arts Room, 3011 Buena Vida Circle.

This class picks up where our September class left off. Learn more about local birds and birding hotspots. Learn how to use eBird to plan your birding outings, share your observations, and keep track of your birding experiences. To reserve your spot, email mesillavalleyaudubon@gmail.com.

MVAS Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, April 15, 6:30 – 8 p.m.

Knox Hall Room 142 and on Zoom.

Topic: Bischoff Scholarship report and awards. Visit with fellow members from 6:30 – 7 p.m. The presentation begins at 7.

Sagecrest Park Clean-Up

Saturday, April 18, 8 – 9 a.m.

Meet at Sagecrest Park to clean up our Keep Las Cruces Beautiful adopted spot to keep it safe for people and birds.

Bird Walk @ Leasburg Dam State Park

Saturday, April 25, 8 – 10 a.m.

Bird the bosque along the Rio Grande. Meet at the park visitor center, then carpool to the south picnic area. Park entry is free for New Mexico residents; non-residents pay \$10 per vehicle.

Parting Shots

CJ Goin describes two familiar harbingers of spring.



The Mourning Cloak (above) is usually the first spring butterfly, often appearing in January or February. It is a large butterfly with upperwings that are a rich maroon-brown with blue submarginal spots and a broad yellow border. The underwings are a dark streaked brown with pale borders. It's always nice to see a Mourning Cloak because it means winter is ending and spring is coming.

The Southwestern Orangetip (below) is one of our prettiest butterflies. The upperwing is white with a black tip and an orange patch. The underwing is white with brown or brownish-green marbling, usually broken by a lengthwise white stripe. They fly in March and April and are not usually seen here after May. They prefer higher elevations, so the best places to see one are at Aguirre Spring, Dripping Springs, and Soledad Canyon.

