



ROADRUNNER RAMBLINGS

MESILLA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

<https://www.mvasaudubon.org/> Vol. 45, Fall 2023 (August, September, October)

President's Letter

Dear MVAS members and friends:

We hope you have had (and are still having) a great summer!

No matter how many times I travel around the sun, August back-to-school energy always happens. I hope you are feeling it, too! We have some great programs and bird (and butterfly!) walks lined up – check out the calendar of events to see what's in store for the MVAS Bird-A-Palooza!

First things first: thank you to Linda Miller for taking on the role of field trip coordinator as well as MVAS webpage manager. Congratulations to Marcia Wilson – this is her first newsletter as editor! She steps into the big shoes of Sid Webb, who rejuvenated the newsletter in a big and wonderful way. Thank you to both Marcia and Sid!

We would love (LOVE) to have some help from our members to fill two roles: one is education coordinator (perfect for a retired teacher!) and the other is representing MVAS on the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) Citizens Forum. Interested? Email us and we'll get you the information you need! (Note you need to be a dues-paying member for either of these roles.)

So, lately my mind has been on books, and books about birds and birding and nature in particular—the great ones I've read and ones I still want to read. It was a happy coincidence that Mark Pendleton's excellent book review in this issue is for a book I recommended to him.

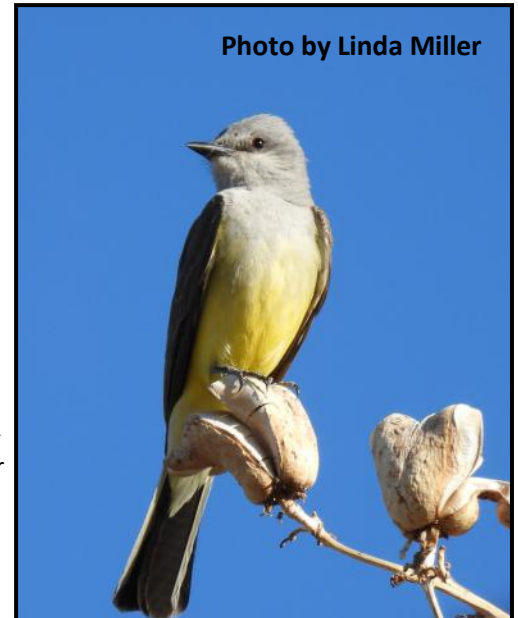
I've been an avid reader since I learned to read the Sunday funnies perched on my father's knee when I was about four years old. My mother worked in a library, and I was allowed to check out as many books as I could carry by myself. To this day, no matter what is going on, each night before going to sleep, I read. I don't want to listen to books, I want to hold a book in my hand, smell the paper, feel the texture, and re-read a passage (or skip a section) at will. For bird and nature books, I like it when there is a photo and bio of the author. These writers are part of our tribe, and I like to know who is talking to me from the pages.

I want to know what you are reading! For the next issue of the newsletter, let's compile a list of bird or nature books that you have enjoyed and want to recommend to your MVAS friends. I'll start! (You knew I would.) I just finished *Lost Among the Birds: Accidentally Finding Myself in One Very Big Year* by Neil Hayward. Hayward writes about maneuvering through his unexpected (and wildly successful) big year alongside other aspects of his life, namely, working through issues of relationships and mental health.

What bird (or nature) book is on YOUR bedside table? Let us know at mesillavalleyaudubon@gmail.com and we'll include the list in the next newsletter.

Until then, good birding!

Elaine



Book Review: Mesilla Valley Backyard Guide

Creating Habitat for Birds & Pollinators

By Sid Webb

My immediate impulse after picking up this hand-sized guide of fewer than 100 pages was to clean my bird feeders, try to design a continuous source of water for the bird bath, and examine the plants in my yard. A re-read led to comparing the plants we have in our backyard and the native plants listed in the book, and we realized that there is much for us to do moving forward. It is a great trigger for backyard bird projects right here in the Mesilla Valley.

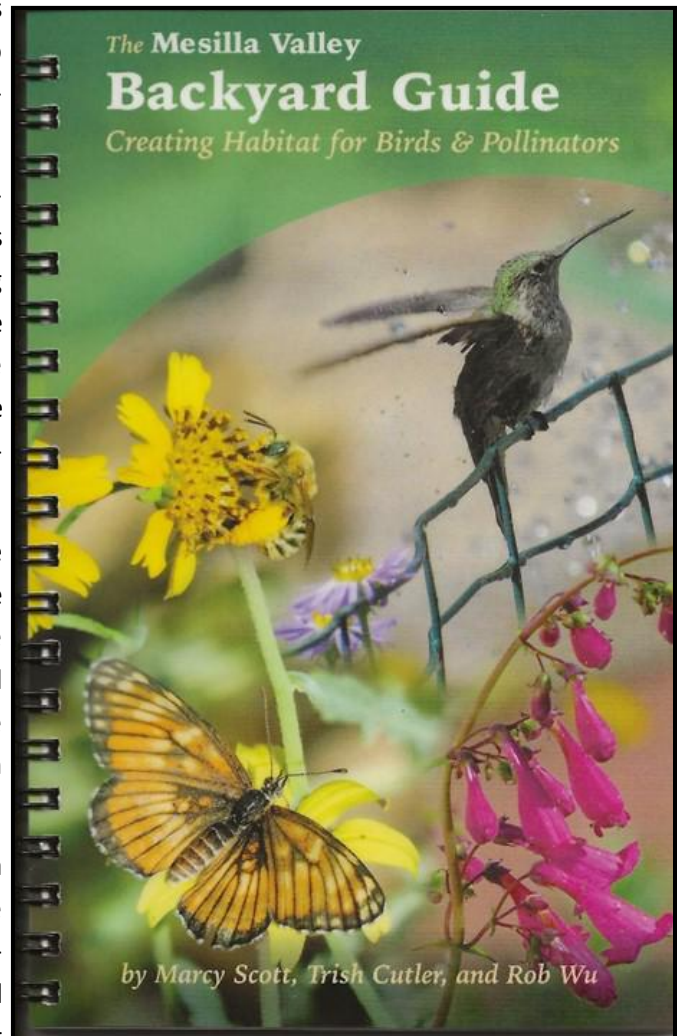
Marcy Scott, Trish Cutler, and Rob Wu have put together a delightful, thoughtful resource for local use. The booklet provides local data on native plants and makes a great case for using native plants to attract birds to our neighborhoods. Native plants have been attracting birds here for millennia and use much less water than most other flora. And, many are available at our local nurseries and Saturday's Farmer's Market in downtown Las Cruces.

An important feature of this booklet is clarification of the role of backyard gardens in our new world of drought, climate change, and reduced habitat for wildlife. Backyard gardens are becoming more important with each environmental crisis, and it is imperative to focus efforts on our home backyards for the benefit of birds and pollinators that may come to depend on them.

Co-author Trish Cutler works at White Sands Missile Range as a wildlife biologist and is Conservation Committee Chair of the Mesilla Valley Audubon Society. During the handbook's preparation, she kept MVAS board members posted on progress and was open to suggestions. While a goal of creating this booklet

was to address issues unique to the Mesilla Valley, the authors are making the InDesign files available to those who would like to create a version of the booklet tailored to their area. I hope this comes to pass!

This handbook is a limited first edition and is available to members of MVAS free of charge. To obtain your copy, contact Trish Cutler by phone or text at (575) 373-5767 or via email at ellirip@gmail.com. Better hurry—supplies are limited!





Vulture: the Private Life of an Unloved Bird

Book Review by Mark Pendleton © 2023



Katie Fallon. *Vulture: The Private Life of an Unloved Bird*.
Waltham, MA: Brandeis University Press, 2020.

(I owe a debt of gratitude to Elaine Stachera-Simon for introducing this book to me. Thanks, Elaine!)

Part love letter to turkey vultures, part personal memoir, part scientific popularization in the best sense of the word, *Vulture* is a complete package. It's one of those books that satisfies on multiple levels. If you already agree with the author, it confirms your view. If mildly skeptical, it should convince you. Even if you don't agree with her, by the end, you've got to admit that Fallon makes a strong case for loving turkey vultures. And, she can write!

Turkey vultures are the most numerous and widely distributed scavenging birds of prey on earth. They inhabit the western hemisphere from southern Canada to southern Argentina and, like us, they have adapted to life in an astonishing variety of habitats. Mountains, prairies, arid deserts, forests, the seashore, canyons and many other habitat

types are all home to the currently recognized six turkey vulture subspecies.



Fallon has, as she says, "a thing for vultures, especially turkey vultures. In addition to their grace and elegance," she writes, "I admire their thrift, their role as the gentle recyclers of the animal kingdom, and their unique beauty. When the sun hits a turkey vulture just right, its feathers look iridescent, a shimmering purplish black. In other light, the backs of its wings are a rich chocolate, nearly bronze, with soft golden edges. In flight, which appears almost effortless, a turkey vulture floats like a kite, mastering the winds." This is only one sample of Fallon waxing poetic about her favorite birds, and she is convincing.

But she also does an outstanding job of presenting loads of data about vultures in an understandable, convincing way. She has a talent for taking scientific information, distilling it to its essence, and making it enjoyable to consume.

For this reviewer, one of the great pleasures of reading *Vulture* was the way Fallon alternates chapters. First comes a vignette, as seen through a female turkey vulture's eyes, of part of the cycle of one season of her life. The season spans from arriving in Saskatchewan from Colombia through hatching and rearing chicks, watching them fledge, and then another roundtrip to South America and back. Fallon's use of interludes is reminiscent of the writing of some of my favorite nature writers. Donald McCaig's *Nop's Trials* and some of the works of Edmund O. Wilson come to mind.

In the chapters, Fallon shifts gears and we get to see her and the team of staffers and volunteers at the Avian Conservation Center of Appalachia, which she co-founded in Morgantown, WV, working to rehabilitate wounded and sick vultures. We get a behind-the-scenes look at how a bird rehab center (they take in all kinds of birds) works. We learn about declining vulture populations around the world and how even though turkey and black vultures buck that trend, they still need help in facing and overcoming human caused threats to their existence.



Mindful Birding photo by Elaine Stachera Simon on bird walks led by Holly Thomas

Mindful Birding

by Holly Thomas

I recently had the pleasure of leading a series of Mindful Birding workshops for MVAS — and am often asked what makes mindful birding different from “regular” birding. Mindful birding is really just about bringing mindfulness practices to your observation of birds.

In the three workshops I led for MVAS, we focused on mindful birding for the mind, body, and spirit by learning some meditation techniques, some mindful movements, and some journaling exercises that could be combined with our birding.

The Mindful Birding Network website, at www.themindfulbirdingnetwork.com, describes the guiding principles of mindful birding as:

- 1) an **awareness** of being in the moment with the birds,
- 2) an **intention** to turn our attention to birds and nature for self-care,
- 3) being **without judgment** in order to allow an experience to be what it will be, and not be disappointed by what happens (or doesn't), and
- 4) an exploration of one's **curiosity**, wonder, and openness to experiencing awe.

Claire Thompson, author of *The Art of Mindful Birdwatching*, says, “Mindful birdwatching is setting aside knowledge, labels, and expectations while paying full attention — moment by moment and non-judgementally — to our direct experience with birds.”

I recently launched The Mindful Birding Podcast with my friend and colleague Holly Merker, author of *Ornithotherapy* and founder of The Mindful Birding Network. In a recent episode, we discussed how mindful birding embraces the concept of inclusivity by welcoming all.

Mindful birding is for everyone, because at the heart of mindful birding is the practice of **mindfulness**; that is, the intention to place one's attention in the present moment with kindness and without judgment.

This kind, non-judgmental awareness can be applied to any style of birding.

Bringing mindfulness to your way of observing birds, whatever that may be, can enhance the experience, bring more joy, and provide so many health benefits. Mindful time in nature, and time with birds and birdsong in particular, has been shown to be associated with greater wellbeing, including relief from anxiety and depression.

Depending on who you are, how your body feels, and what is going on in your life, different birding styles may appeal to you and mindfulness can work with all of them. Some people may have an easier time approaching mindfulness in birding through sit spots. Others may feel more connected to the moment when moving. Some people may find it easiest to connect to the present moment by tuning in to birdsong. Some people may love to travel to see birds, and some people may be more homebodies. Some people may love it all! It's a very personal choice without a right answer. It's more about figuring out what works for you. There is no one right way.

You can bring a layer of mindfulness to any birding style that you love, or bring mindfulness to a new style of birding that you would like to explore. Mindfulness is compatible with it all and has wonderful health benefits.

Mindful birding can be peaceful, relaxing, awe-inspiring, exuberantly fun, filled with child-like wonder, and it can also be a refuge — a way of finding solace in tough times.

I am reminded of a few lines from Mary Oliver's poem "The Summer Day":

I don't know exactly what a prayer is.
I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down
into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,
which is what I have been doing all day.

I hope to see you out and about! Happy trails, and happy mindful birding!



Phot by Linda Miller

Organ Mountain Musings: Ode to *Zenaida* (Dove Love – Or Not!) ©

by Mark Ryan

The first few mornings I lived in Las Cruces, I awoke to the song of the White-winged Dove! How exotic sounding! How exciting! A clear message that I wasn't living in the Midwest anymore. I felt I was being welcomed to the Southwest.

I remember laying there embracing my new life. After a few mornings, I did recognize that the doves were, well . . . numerous. The songs just kept coming, loudly and frequently. So different from the plaintive Mourning Doves of my childhood in the Midwest (eventually I heard them here too . . . subtle and mournful as always). But the White-winged Dove's "hhhHepHep pou pooo" (according to Sibley) was the first of the New Mexico birds I would enjoy. I'd seen them in Texas many years ago (and knew their song via Stevie Nicks' "Edge of Seventeen" -- give it a listen 😊) but now they were a regular part of my new bird community.

I quickly realized that hearing other new birds was going to be a bit of a challenge, as the White-wings could fill the air with a LOT of song. There were just so many of them. Whenever I stepped outside it took only moments (nanoseconds?) before they made themselves known. I began to think of my recently adopted home as more Ciudad de Las Palomas than Ciudad de Las Cruces.

The sheer abundance of the White-wings impressed/amazed/startled me. They were, in my Midwest experience . . . well, Starling/House Sparrow-level abundant.



Photo by Robert Shantz

Not the best association for a birder! It was time to learn a bit more about this ubiquitous symbol of my new world.

Much of what follows may be old news to longtime New Mexicans — but for us transplants it may be informative.

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology told me that White-winged Doves were "Originally a bird of desert thickets." Their preferred food was the saguaro cactus fruits (and still is for doves living in saguaro desert habitats. Clearly, at one time, they occurred primarily in Arizona and northwestern Mexico.

Further digging made it clear that the White-wings had massively expanded their range, now seen commonly from California to Florida, and even from Alaska to Newfoundland! They also are common to the south through Central America and east throughout the islands of the Caribbean. Yikes! What triggered this huge range expansion?

I found data from the mid-20th century that documented population declines associated with habitat loss and overharvest. And then . . . the trend reversed.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Breeding Bird Survey data recorded their substantial increase from the mid-1960s to recent times in the United States (likewise in New Mexico). Recent worldwide population estimates range from 14 to 19 million White-winged Doves. For the U.S. and for New Mexico, I found estimates of approximately 5.2 million and 220,000, respectively. Impressive, but honestly, I was surprised by the low number for New Mexico. It has been hinted to me by fellow birders that such a number was a reasonable approximation for the Christmas Bird Counts in the Las Cruces area 😊! And surely half that number can be seen at Sagecrest Park in the fall? Okay, perhaps a bit of exaggeration.

So, what happened? Saguaro has not expanded its range; rather, its range and riparian (habitat near water) brushland in Arizona have been severely reduced. Replaced by what? Well, two words: agriculture and urbanization. Both have increased food availability (seed producing crops and backyard feeders) and water sources.

White-winged Doves, it turns out, are adaptable, very adaptable. Despite an evolutionary history of reliance on a narrow food base (saguaro) they can eat a very diverse diet. Additionally, urban areas supply a wealth of nesting options in trees, shrubs . . . the gutters on my eaves!. Although White-wings no longer nest in the huge colonies (thousands of birds in small brushy arroyos) reported by early travelers to Arizona, they find innumerable options in cities and towns across North and Central America.

So, the cause of the White-winged Dove range expansion and the population surge? Answer: *Homo sapiens*, humans, people . . . us! This isn't a story of some individual importing an exotic species (think starlings!) from another continent. This is the more common story of humans altering the natural world. Some species decline or even disappear while others (e.g., coyotes, American Robins, House Finches) increase and expand their ranges greatly.

So, when we all get irritated, frustrated, annoyed when birdwatching and our attention is drawn to . . . “another *#\$@&! White-winged Dove” — that's ok. Just don't blame *Zenaida asiatica*. We did this to ourselves.

Birding Experience for 4-H Students

By CJ Goin



Photo of 4-H students birding taken by CJ Goin at Leasburg Dam State Park

Students from New Mexico 4-H attended a summer camp on July 11 and 13 that included programs at Leasburg Dam State Park. Part of the program was a birding presentation by Mesilla Valley Audubon Society's CJ Goin. Students learned some basic bird identification, bird calls, binocular use, and birding skills.

Crescent Butterflies

By CJ Goin

One group of small butterflies that we see in our area are Crescent Butterflies. They are named for a crescent-shaped spot near the margins of the hindwing below. They have rounded forewings and orange-and-black patterns above. If This small butterfly has a direct, low flight pattern with alternating series of flaps and flat-winged glides. Male Crescents usually keep watch at areas near larval food plants to locate female Crescents. If you see a Crescent near Las Cruces it is likely to be one of the following three species.



A common Crescent in our area is the Painted Crescent. This species flies spring to fall and has several broods. It is best known by a very pale hindwing below with dark marks. They have a pale median band and often creamy spots near the wingtip of the upper forewing.

Another common Crescent, especially in open habitats, is the Texan Crescent. Males patrol shaded gullies, often perching to await females. It flies most of the year and thus has multiple broods. They have a distinctive shape, with the forewing indented below the tip. They are mostly black above the narrow white spot bands and a red base on the upper forewing.



The third Crescent that you might see here is the Pearl Crescent. It is less common in our area but they may occasionally be seen near the river as they favor riparian habitat. Pearl Crescents have upper wings which are mostly orange and black with little white.

If you see a Crescent near Las Cruces it is likely to be one of these three species. If you see a Crescent you can't identify, take a photo and send it to me at cjgoin11@gmail.com and I will try and help with the identification.

Water in the Rio Grande 2023

By Sid Webb



Photos taken 5/12/2023 and 6/20/2023 from the bridge on Calle del Norte, just across from the entrance to Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park.

Water! After having been dry for eight months, water was released into the Rio Grande from Elephant Butte Dam on 5/6/2023, and it reached Las Cruces on 5/12/2023. The water was still going strong on 6/20/2023, with the expectation that the gate would remain open at the dam until mid-August.

USIBWC The good news from U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission is that they have a new website: <https://www.ibwc.gov>. The bad news is that it was launched on 6/14/2023, just before the scheduled Northern Rio Grande Citizens Forum, which made access to the meeting via internet nearly impossible. Their website is still a work in progress, but looks like it will soon be an informative and useful site to observe activities along the Rio Grande. The “About Us” section is already available and serves as an interesting history of the USIBWC. Check it out!

Fun Facts about Verdin by Marcia Wilson



Photo by Robert Shantz

Verdin are a permanent resident of arid lands in Mexico and the desert Southwest in the United States. They are found in scrub with thorny trees, and they avoid open grasslands and forests. Verdin move rapidly and with agility through small branches to capture insects and spiders, often hanging upside down to survey the undersides of leaves. Verdin will also tenderize larger items, such as caterpillars, by striking them against a branch with their foot before consuming them. Verdin construct breeding and roosting nests with the male putting the outer stick-shell together and the females do the interior decorating. One pair in Arizona was observed to build 11 nests in one year! This small and unique bird is the only representative of the Old World family *Remizidae* in all of North America. (<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Verdin>)

Who was Richard Bischoff?

By Robert “Bob” Tapanelli



As most MVAS members and friends know, a premier annual event is the awarding of the Richard Bischoff Graduate Scholarship. Awardees must be an NMSU graduate student in Biology, Geography, or Fish, Wildlife, and Conservation Ecology departments at New Mexico State University (NMSU) doing research that is demonstrably relevant to the MVAS mission. A detailed application process and substantial rubric have been created over the years to ensure fairness and standardize the process to the extent possible. It's always a joy to read and score the applications—it's a great feeling to see the good work being pursued by tremendous applicants!

The scholarship committee (currently chaired by Dr. Carol Campbell and including Annie Mitchell, Mark Ryan, Ken Ward, and me) circulates the application information, criteria, and deadline information. We thoroughly read, score, and discuss each one, and select an awardee. Each April the new awardee joins the MVAS monthly meeting to share their intended research toward which the \$1,500 scholarship will be used. We also hear from the prior year's awardee, to present an update on what they were able to accomplish since receiving the scholarship.

Many have asked, “Who was Richard Bischoff, and why is the MVAS scholarship in his name?” Here's what I can tell you, thanks to some great conversations with Richards' partner, Frankie Lerner.

Richard Bischoff was born in October 1922, a native of El Paso, Texas. For many years he was employed by R. D. Lowman General Contractor Inc. of El Paso, Texas, but later became self-employed. He lived in Canutillo, New Mexico, until his retirement when he moved to Las Palomas, New Mexico, living along Palomas Creek. There he became involved with the Cub Scouts in Truth or Consequences, New Mexico. Richard was passionate about the environment, especially environmental education, and he wanted to educate the area's young people about the natural world.

Sometime in the early 1980s, Richard met Lorraine Schulte, one of the founding members of Mesilla Valley Audubon Society in 1979. Lorraine was the driving force behind MVAS involvement in Audubon Adventures, the National Audubon Society's public school education program. She and Richard shared an interest in education, and soon Richard was on the MVAS board, driving from Las Palomas twice a month to attend the board and general monthly meetings. Richard's partner, Frankie, accompanied him to all the MVAS meetings, serving as MVAS secretary for several years and remaining a member to this day.

Richard was very supportive of Audubon Adventures but thought the group should do more. He pushed hard to establish a scholarship at NMSU, but it wasn't an easy sell since MVAS was already involved in Audubon Adventures. In the mid-2000s his idea took hold on the board and a scholarship was established. Richard died in June 2007, not long after he and Frankie moved to Las Cruces. The board decided to honor his dedication to education by naming the newly created scholarship after him as part of his legacy, and now we have the MVAS Richard Bischoff Graduate Scholarship.



Upcoming MVAS Events: August, September, & October 2023



Watch for details about MVAS's upcoming August and September BIRD-A-PALOOZA!

- * Three identification programs in August (two bird ID programs and a butterfly ID program)
- * Five (FIVE!) Saturday walks in September *plus* the regular Monday & Wednesday walk *plus* a butterfly walk
- * Note there will be no September monthly program
- * The October monthly program (Wednesday, October 18) will feature Tom Johnson

August Bird-A-Palooza programs

August 16 | Warbler identification with Wayne Treers (Zoom) | 6:30 p.m. meet 'n greet | program 7 – 8 p.m. | Watch your email for the registration link or find it on the calendar at mvasaudubon.org

August 23 | Flycatcher identification with CJ Goin (Zoom) | 6:45 p.m. meet 'n greet | program 7 – 8 p.m. | Watch your email for registration link or find it on the calendar at mvasaudubon.org

August 30 | Butterfly identification with Rob Wu (Zoom) | 6:45 p.m. meet 'n greet | program 7 – 8 p.m. | Watch your email for registration link or find it on the calendar at mvasaudubon.org

Because of the ongoing heatwave, the first MVAS post-summer bird walk will be August 26

August 26 | Leasburg Dam State Park bird walk | 8 – 10 a.m. | Meet at the visitor center and plan to carpool to day-use area. Your walk leader is Dylan Osterhaus.

ALSO on August 26, MVAS will have a table at Monuments to Main Street on the Plaza de Las Cruces from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Interested in volunteering to table with us (it's fun!)? Reach out to Elaine at 575.202.9130 (please text or leave a voice message).

Bird-A-Palooza!

September 2 (Saturday) | Bird walk, location TBD | 8 – 10 a.m. | Your walk leader is Wayne Treers. Watch your email or check the MVAS calendar at mvasaudubon.org for details.

September 4 (Monday) | Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park bird walk | 8 – 10 a.m. | Meet at the visitor center. Your walk leader is Mark Pendleton. Please RSVP to Mark at mpndltn@gmail.com or 575.635.8711 by the preceding Friday if you plan to attend.

September 9 (Saturday) | Bird walk, location TBD | 8 – 10 a.m. | Your walk leader is TBD. Watch your email or check the MVAS calendar at mvasaudubon.org for details.

September 16 (Saturday) | Birds No Boys bird walk | Sagecrest Park to the wetlands | 8 – 10 a.m. | Meet at the MVAS Adopt-A-Spot sign by the restrooms. Your walk leader is Elaine Simon.

September 20 (Wednesday) | Tellbrook Park bird walk | 8 – 10 a.m. | Meet at the park entrance. Your walk leader is Mark Pendleton. Please RSVP to Mark at mpndltn@gmail.com or 575.635.8711 by the preceding Monday if you plan to attend.

September 23 | Butterfly walk, location TBD | 8 – 10 a.m. | Your walk leader is Rob Wu. Watch your email or check the MVAS calendar at mvasaudubon.org for details.

September 30 | Leasburg Dam State Park bird walk | 8 – 10 a.m. | Meet at the visitor center and plan to carpool to day-use area. Your walk leader is Dylan Osterhaus.

Attention MVAS Photographers!



Please consider submitting some of your new bird photographs to MVAS. We'd love to show them at the upcoming sooner-than-you-know-it MVAS Holi-birdy Photo Party later this year and in upcoming issues of Roadrunner Ramblings. You can send them to Sid Webb (sidwebb@gmail.com) for Holi-birdy or to Marcia Wilson (sleepingsafe@yahoo.com) for Roadrunner Ramblings.

If you have a bird photo but you aren't sure what bird that is, send your photo(s) to *Name That Bird*. Our panel of experienced birders will do its best to help you out. (Or have some fun and try to stump them!) Send your photos (jpeg or gif file format) to Mark Pendleton at mpndltn@gmail.com and put NAME THAT BIRD in the subject line. Also include pertinent identification information about the bird and the photo: where and when taken; camera, lens, and ISO info if available; field marks and/or behavior that adds to your identification; etc.) that readers may want to know.

Thanks!

Current Officers and Board Members

President: Elaine Stachera Simon

Vice-president: Mark Ryan

Secretary: Cheryl Fallstead

Treasurer: Diane Moore

Directors (seven elected with three-year terms,
two elected each year)

Director 2021–2023 Dylan Osterhaus

Director 2021–2023 Trish Cutler

Director 2022–2024 Sid Webb

Director 2022–2024 Gill Sorg

Director 2023–2025 CJ Goin

Director 2023–2025 Annie Mitchell

Director 2023–2025 Marcia Wilson

Director 2023–2025 Linda Miller

Committee chairs

Conservation: Trish Cutler

Education: vacant

Field Trips: Linda Miller

Programs: vacant, currently managed by
president

Newsletter: Marcia Wilson

Website: Linda Miller

Membership: Annie Mitchell

Christmas Bird Count: Mark Pendleton

Facebook admin: Elaine Stachera Simon

Climate Watch Coordinator: Mark Pend-
leton

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 Marcia Wilson at sleepingsafe@yahoo.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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