**MVAS Cherry Creek Field Trip**

April 25 – 26, 2024

Take advantage of spring migration and explore some exciting birding hotspots near Silver City. Add to your life list with potential sightings of red-faced warblers, western and hepatic tanagers, painted redstarts, and many more! Holly Thomas, co-host of the Mindful Birding podcast and MVAS member, will lead a field trip for MVAS members with both day birding and night owling adventures.

**If you would like to be part of this field trip, reserve your spot by emailing****mesillavalleyaudubon@gmail.com****by Friday, April 19.** There is no fee to participate, however all expenses are on your own, as are making lodging reservations. Everyone will need to sign a liability waiver to participate.

**Timeline:**

**Early arrivals**: For anyone wanting to arrive early for scouting, you can join Holly for the same activities listed below on Wednesday night/Thursday morning. Contact Holly directly for details at 510-301-2814 or htbern1@sbcglobal.net.

**Thursday, April 25**: Arrive and check in at lodging, optional afternoon birding TBD.

Dinner at the Buckhorn Saloon from 6 – 8 p.m.

Optional after-dinner night prowl up NM-15: (By ear only — no playback or spotlighting for owls) — possible Flammulated Owl, Mexican Whip-poor-will, Western Screech Owl — with stops along NM-15 (roughly 30 minutes north of Pinos Altos) and stop back at Bear Creek Motel — to listen — then folks can retire for the night.  Return roughly 10 p.m.

**Friday, April 26**: Cherry Creek Campground, 8 a.m.

Meet at the campground (carpooling encouraged) and spend the better part of the morning — up to three plus hours exploring the area — possibly walk up the road, and then along the trail nearby that parallels the creek.

Picnic lunch at the campground, then head home. Unless . . .

**Stay later**: For anyone wanting to stay longer, there may be some more local birding Thursday afternoon and a possible trip to explore Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument on Friday with Holly. She is also interested in exploring more of NM-15 — McMillan Campground or possibly going up to Lake Roberts — on Saturday morning.

**Lodging Options**

Cherry Creek campground: Non-reservation, very basic, nice location

Near Pinos Altos:

[Bear Creek Motel and Cabins](https://www.bearcreekcabins.com/): Holly will be staying here, but they have a three-night minimum.

In Silver City:

[Lulu](https://www.lulusilver.com/)

There are many other name brand hotels in Silver City, for example— Best Western, Comfort Inn, Quality Inn — plus other campgrounds like KOA.

Possible species at Cherry Creek - for April

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| [Gila NF--Cherry Creek Campground, Grant County, NM, US - eBird Hotspot](https://ebird.org/hotspot/L748283/all/4)[ebird.org](https://ebird.org/hotspot/L748283/all/4) |

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