



ROADRUNNER RAMBLINGS

MESILLA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

mvasaudubon.org Vol. 46, Summer 2024 (May, June, July)

President's Message

I've just returned from the April MVAS field trip to Cherry Creek, during which I added numerous lifers to my list, including the lovely Red-faced Warbler and the dramatic Painted Redstart. The many activities like this hosted by our chapter give MVAS members the opportunity to enjoy time in nature with other bird enthusiasts. While we are heading into our summer downtime when we take a step back from meetings and the four regularly scheduled bird walks each month, there will still be things to do (like Birds & Beer!).

As we get ready for summer break, I want to thank our dedicated bird walk leaders. They donate a morning each month to leading bird walks for our members and others to introduce them to area birds. They have become the experts on "their" parks' avian residents (and migrants) and make the walk interesting for everyone. So, thanks go out to Dylan Osterhaus, Danny Tipton, Linda Miller, and Jonathan Brooks. I also want to thank Holly Thomas for leading several "bonus" bird walks and our recent Cherry Creek field trip.

Another activity that MVAS takes on almost every month is cleaning up our adopted location, Sagecrest Park. Aaron Lucas is our coordinator for this project that helps keep one of our bird walk locations clean for everyone to enjoy, including a wide variety of birds. Thank you, Aaron, for taking on this important project!

You may have noticed an article about migrating birds on the front page of the April 21 *Las Cruces Sun-News* that included information about MVAS, migration, and photos from some of our members. Thanks to Dylan and CJ Goin for helping out with this on a moment's notice.

As you can see, we've been busy this year with our own programs and have also responded to several requests to support activities such as school field trips and information tables at events. If you have an interest in helping spread the love of birds and nature to young people, we could use your help! Contact me at mesillavalleyaudubon@gmail.com if you're interested in being part of our education and outreach team.

While we're scaling back for summer starting in June, there's still plenty of activities ahead. For one, we'll be celebrating World Migratory Bird Day on Saturday, May 11, at Dripping Springs Natural Area with bird banding from 7 to 9:30 a.m. and a bird walk at 8:30 a.m. We'll also be hosting a table with information about MVAS. The MVAS Nature Journal Club will continue to meet monthly over the summer and welcomes new members who want to try another way to connect with birds and nature. There may also be some summer bonus bird walks. Watch your email and our website for details.

Keep on birding, whether you're out birding with fellow MVAS members or enjoying the birds in your backyard!

Cheryl Fallstead
President

Congratulations to the 2024 Richard Bischoff Scholarship Recipient

The MVAS Scholarship Committee is pleased to introduce Alexander Allison as this year's Bischoff Scholarship recipient. Alex is a master's student in biology at NMSU, advised by Dr. Tim Wright. His project is studying vocalizations of the Great Green Macaw, a critically endangered parrot in Costa Rica, as a potential variable in reintroduction and breeding program success.

Ongoing conservation and reintroduction efforts are underway to improve the viability and genetic diversity of wild populations. However, according to Alexander, although parrots vocalize extensively, it is unknown whether vocalizations in Great Green Macaws in captivity have evolved differently than those in the wild. If birds raised in captivity have different vocalizations, this may be a barrier to breeding with birds in the wild, hindering reproductive success.

Alexander's research is comparing Great Green Macaw vocalizations from captive and wild adult individuals to quantify their vocal variations and inform conservation efforts. Results will be shared with breeding centers to be used during pre-release socialization using recorded playbacks to promote captive birds' familiarity with the sounds made by the local wild population to which they will be introduced—and hopefully be a factor (one of the many in reintroduction programs) in an increased probability of successful breeding.

Alexander has been birding since he was 12 years old when his dad gave him binoculars. He has participated in many Christmas Bird Counts and had a relationship with Green Mountain Audubon (Vermont) for his undergraduate senior thesis. Long involved in bird-related citizen science, he has led many bird walks and taught in the NMSU Zoology laboratory classroom. He states that his "current career goal is to continue sharing knowledge and enthusiasm for the natural world with youth and adults, emphasizing birds as a catalyst for involvement in environmental advocacy."

Congratulations, Alexander!

The MVAS Scholarship Committee
Dr. Carol Campbell, chair
Annie Mitchell
Elaine Stachera Simon
Bob Tafanelli
Ken Ward



Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement April 2024

Web address for document. Be careful. It is 456 pages!

[https://eplanning.blm.gov/
public_projects/92170/200212669/20107574/251007574/
OrganMountains-DesertPeaks%20Nat%20Monument_DEIS%
20RMP_20240404_508.pdf](https://eplanning.blm.gov/public_projects/92170/200212669/20107574/251007574/OrganMountains-DesertPeaks%20Nat%20Monument_DEIS%20RMP_20240404_508.pdf)



Can you remember what life was like in the Mesilla Valley before we had the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument? This addition to our community has made a great difference in how we view and use our beautiful mountain range and other cherished land in the Mesilla Valley. It is now 14 years old and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), which is the government manager of all things related to the monument, is inviting public comment on a newly developed management plan. Both written and in-person responses are welcome. The Mesilla Valley Audubon Society Board of Directors and Conservation Committee have been studying the document and developing responses. We invite our members to join the project, either as individuals responding to the BLM or by communicating with the MVAS board. In-person responses in Las Cruces are scheduled Wednesday, June 5, from 5:30–7:30 p.m. at the City Council Chamber, 750 N Main St., and on Thursday, June 6, from 5–7 p.m. at Branigan Library. Written responses are due by **July 5, 2024**, with instructions on submission described in the report.

The BLM document starts with a list of “issues for analysis.” To appreciate the nature of these issues, the first four in the “environmental analysis” are listed below:

- How would the quality and quantity of SHSs (standard habitat sites) for general wildlife species be affected by designated areas, recreation areas, motorized use, and right-of-way (ROW) allocations?
- How would disturbance, avoidance, disruption of movement patterns, injury, and mortality directly impact general wildlife species under each alternative?
- How would the quality and quantity of habitat for special status species be affected by special designations, recreation areas, motorized use, and ROW allocations within vegetation communities?
- How would disturbance, avoidance, disruption of movement patterns, injury, and mortality directly impact special status species?

Issues from this list lead to a discussion of how they relate to different management concerns within the monument and the options confronting monument management in the years ahead regarding their incorporating into policies. In addition to environmental issues, the BLM considers visual resources, livestock grazing, transportation and access, water resources, and many others. It is a truly comprehensive report.

To help it use the collected data to help with management of BLM territory, the BLM has divided potential responses to the “issues” into four categories: **A**—continue with current management practices; **B**—stress conservation (some restrictions to recreation, restrict commercial grazing, keep wilderness areas under BLM management, and much more); **C**—Similar to B, but with some flexibility to allow for more recreation development; **D**—emphasizes creation of opportunities for more development (e.g. off road vehicle use, more livestock grazing, and more recreation opportunities). In addition to commonly discussed issues of conservation, the BLM is concerned about how best to address management of cultural issues, anti-utilities, scenic opportunities, historic trails, and more. Much space is allocated to answering all these management questions that will have a significant impact on the monument in the years to come.

The BLM has already signaled it favors Option **C** (above), but that it also likes some features of **B** and **D**. Mesilla Valley Audubon Society, as a nature supporting organization, will probably favor category **B**. However, we are local citizens using the monument and may have specific suggestions related to our experiences there. The BLM is looking for specific suggestions.

For example, MVAS could suggest that BLM consider adding more birding trails within the monument. Currently there are three short trails close to the Dripping Springs Visitors Center and one on the other side of the Organ Mountains, all of which are eBird “Hotspots.” Are there other places within the monument that might provide good opportunities for birding without degrading the natural habitat already present? Are there any good birding opportunities in the Robledo Mountain section of the monument? That might be a project to consider with MVAS, eBird.com and BLM all working together to produce good results. Working with other conservation groups, we might develop many other suggestions.

If one wishes to explore this project and download the Management Plan, there are several resources:

1. Online copy of entire plan is available at the beginning of this article. 465 pages. PDF format.
2. blm.gov/visit/omdp Website for the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument.
3. blm.gov/office/las-cruces-district-office Official website for Las Cruces BLM

Sid Webb, Acting Chairman, MVAS Conservation Committee



Learn More about Birds and Nature Through Podcasts by Cheryl Fallstead

Bird and nature lovers are always looking to add to their knowledge base and podcasts are a great — and free! — way to do it. I started listening to podcasts to help me drift off to sleep at night and in the process discovered that there are dozens of them about birds and nature.

There are also many ways to listen to podcasts, including asking your smart speaker to play one or tuning in through Apple Podcasts. Whatever device you use is likely to have an easy way to listen to podcasts.

You can just search “birds” or “nature” in the podcast app and get a list, but here are some I’ve listened to that you may also enjoy.



Great Horned Owl Camille Ludlow found in her backyard!

The American Birding Podcast comes from the folks at the American Birding Association and is hosted by Nate Swick. The podcast opens each episode with a rare bird update for the previous week, then takes on a topic of interest to birders. Episodes are about an hour long and I’ve found many of them to be fascinating.

Looking for a much shorter podcast? **BirdNote**’s episodes are just two minutes long with a new episode daily.

Bird Notes (a different show, this one produced by WHRO Public Media), is hosted by Dwight Davis and is also quite short, about three minutes. One listener said, “This is an absolute gem of a podcast for bird lovers. History, biology, etymology, music, poetry—all of it is here. Fantastic and worth a listen every day.” A recent show is about the Yellow-breasted Chat, a bird I’ve yet to see, but know more about after listening to this podcast.

Calling All Birds has only five episodes, all less than 30 minutes long, each focused on a single species to help you learn more about it and recognize its songs. On Apple Podcasts they have episodes that highlight the Song Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, American Robin, Black-capped Chickadee, and Dark-eyed Junco.

The **Mindful Birding Podcast** is co-hosted by our very own MVAS member Holly Thomas and her friend Holly Merker, one of the authors of the book *Ornithery: For Your Mind, Body, and Soul*. Holly Thomas has led mindful birding activities for MVAS to share some of these ideas. Episode topics include mindful birding as an antidote to loneliness, gratitude for birds, and prescriptive nature.

Nature Guys is updated semimonthly and is about a wide range of topics such as a four-part series about invasive plants, milkweed bugs and beetles, and a three-part history of the Passenger Pigeon. This show is hosted by Bob, “a long-time nature lover,” with a variety of co-hosts. Each show is anywhere from 24 to 52 minutes long.

The Science of Birds is hosted by Ivan Phillipsen, who takes a lighthearted, sometimes silly approach to birds. But he does dive deep into the science part, as promised. Some of his recent topics include House Sparrows, the desert as a bird habitat, and the importance of birds as pollinators. These podcasts are about 45 minutes in length.

I’m sure you’ll discover more favorite podcasts on your own once you get started. Enjoy!

Explore Nature with the MVAS Nature Journal Club

By Cheryl Fallstead

Nature journaling is practiced by people around the world, and sitting in on one of the Wild Wonder Foundation classes or John (Jack) Muir Laws' online sessions will confirm that. Like many others, I discovered nature journaling during the pandemic. Now we're sharing nature journaling locally through the MVAS Nature Journal Club.

So, what is nature journaling? There are many ways to practice it, but in general, it is using words, pictures, and numbers to record and reflect on what you see in nature. You could sketch a bird you see and then write a haiku or personal reflection about it. You can sketch a plant, measure it, and write what you notice, what you wonder, and what it reminds you of. You can sit quietly surrounded by nature and record your inner thoughts that are sparked by what you see, smell, and hear.

You don't need to have the answers or know all about something you journal. The important thing is spending time connecting with nature and nurturing your curiosity (which floods your brain with dopamine, which, in turn, makes you feel good!).

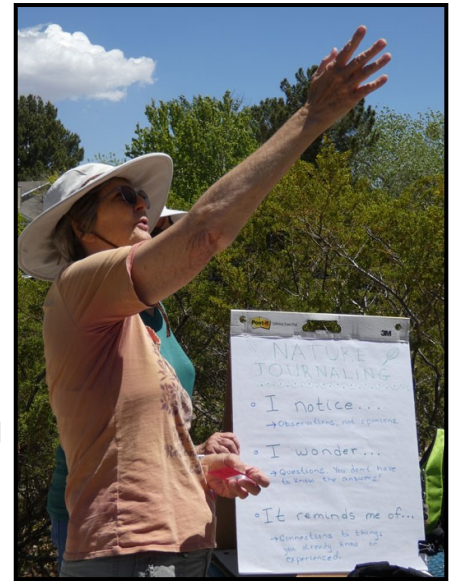
One scientist and nature journaler used her sketches and notes for a book about how Cold Canyon in California changed after fires and studying how long different species needed to become established again . . . if they could.

Novelist Amy Tan has long been a member of Jack's Nature Journal Club. She is joyful about sharing the growth she has made in drawing birds and her knowledge of them through observation and practicing drawing. In fact, she just published *The Backyard Bird Chronicles*, a best-selling book sharing her nature journaling experiences.

MVAS Nature Journal Club

In March, we launched the MVAS Nature Journal Club with an introductory session at Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park. We had 18 people in attendance, many of whom were experienced urban sketchers and some who hadn't drawn since their school days. But, as Jack would be first to tell you, nature journaling isn't all about drawing pretty pictures. If you can already accurately record what you see, that's great. But for many of us, refining our ability to draw (or write) is stretching our knowledge and ability, and that's good for our brains. Put in the pencil miles, as Jack calls sketching practice, and you can't help but improve.

No matter your experience or knowledge level, you can learn more about nature by taking the time to nature journal. It's certainly something that you can do on your own, but our new club is a way to learn from others and experience time in nature together.



Cheryl Fallstead explains key aspects of nature journaling to the group: I notice, I wonder, and it reminds me of ...

Upcoming events include journaling at the NMSU Arthropod Collection on Friday, May 10, (reservations required due to limited spaces), the NMSU Demonstration Garden on Saturday, June 22, and at the Museum of Nature and Science on Saturday, July 13. We plan to meet monthly to journal together, so watch the Nature Journaling page and the calendar on the Mesilla Valley Audubon Society website and “like” the [MVAS Nature Journal Club Facebook page](#) for more updates.

What supplies do you need? A sketchbook or even just some paper on a clipboard, pencil, pen, and eraser will get you started. Many people bring a small watercolor kit, colored pencils, or watercolor pencils. You can learn more about getting started with nature journaling on [John Muir Laws’ website](#). The [Wild Wonder Foundation](#) also hosts an annual Nature Journaling Conference online with days filled with excellent presentations that you can access for months afterward. This year’s is scheduled for September 18–22 and early bird passes are available now.



Ready to go! The group of nature journalers heading off to spend time journaling.

Typical view of a nature journaler sitting outside with a sketchbook in hand.



Afterwards, the group meets, shares their sketchbooks, and describes what they chose to journal about.

A Birdy Adventure at Cherry Creek

By Cheryl Fallstead

On April 25 and 26, a group of enthusiastic MVAS members gathered in Pinos Altos to go birding at Cherry Creek Campground. The field trip was organized and led by birder extraordinaire and Mindful Birding pod-caster Holly Thomas.

The experience began with a delicious dinner at the historic Buckhorn Saloon on Thursday night. We were intrigued by a framed item on the wall and couldn't quite figure out what it was. The answer: six brown pelican skins with feathers! Nobody knew why, however.

A few intrepid souls took a drive after dinner to try to track down some owls. Although while scouting the night before Holly detected a Mexican Whippoorwill, not a single night bird was heard on Thursday.

Friday morning was the main event with birding at the lovely Cherry Creek Campground, just a few miles along NM Highway 15 from Pinos Altos. The breeze stayed above the trails, and it was plenty birdy, providing great opportunities to see migrating warblers including Red-faced, Olive, Virginia's, Black-throated Gray, Yellow, and Orange-crowned. Painted Redstarts were also seen, and they captured my heart with their dramatic poses. Western Tanagers also let us glory in their colorful beauty.

We saw Acorn, Downy, and Hairy Woodpeckers along with Northern Flickers. Several species of nuthatches were also spotted: White-breasted, Red-breasted, and Pygmy. Mexican Jays put in a noisy appearance and vireos were also around.

There were times when we had so many birds to see, we didn't know which way to look! One person may have been pointing out a Red-faced Warbler while another had a Warbling Vireo or Mountain Chickadee spotted. In total, 36 species were seen and/or heard over a few hours of birding the two trails leading out from the campground.



The morning finished with a picnic lunch and hearty recommendations to return to this beautiful area that provides a special ecosystem just two hours away from Las Cruces. McMillan Campground is a little further up NM 15 and offers birding along a trail that leads up the hill out from the small campground.

We hope to host more field trips this year and welcome suggestions of places you'd like to visit. I want to give my sincere thanks to Holly for putting the trip together because we had a great time and most, if not all, of us added to our life lists.

Photo of Mexican Jay taken by Cheryl Fallstead

Tellbrook Park Bird Walk 4-17-2024: A view of a few of the 26 species identified



**Black-throated Gray Warbler, a
"lifer" for several of us**



Lesser Goldfinch



Turkey Vulture



Greater Roadrunner



**White-winged Dove and Ladder-
backed Woodpecker**



Northern Mockingbird and 2 Cactus Wrens

**Thank you Linda Miller for keeping track of all
the birds and all the birders!**

Photos by Sid Webb

Name That Bird by Mark Pendleton

It's been a long time since the last NTB installment, and let's just say that it feels good to be back. We need bird photos! If you have some and you're wondering what the bird/s is/are, please send them (in .jpg or .pdf format) to mpndltn@gmail.com with Name That Bird—or NTB—in the subject line. Also include any relevant info re: date and place of photo; camera/lens info; what you think the identification may be and anything else you deem pertinent.

First, a hearty thanks to Sara Kay for submitting the four photos for today's "Name That Bird."

Photo 1 was taken on the 21st of June 2023 at Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park. This is a fairly common avian inhabitant of our area. They abound in arid and semi-arid areas and can often be found scratching in leaf litter and turning over sticks and small stones to find invertebrate prey. They also rival Northern Mockingbirds in their mimicry abilities.

Photo 2 Sara took the next two photos at Dripping Springs Natural Area about a couple of months prior to the first one, on April 25, 2023. If you identified the first bird as a tyrant flycatcher, you are correct. The photo captures very well the not always visible characteristic crested head shape of this flycatcher. Other field marks visible include the lack of a distinct eye-ring, the ever so slightly hooked end of the bill, the gray throat, greenish gray back and over all dullness of plumage.

Photo 3 Give yourself a pat on the back if you recognized this bird as another flycatcher! It is a year-round resident in Southern California, Arizona, New Mexico, far West Texas extending down into Mexico. Along with the two other members of its genus which are found in the US, this bird is an inveterate tail-wagger. Unlike them, it is, however, often found far from water.

Photo 4 This photo was taken somewhere along I-10 in January 2023. It shows one of the most common raptors of North America. Two visible field marks clinch the identification. The first is the "belly-band" of dark spots seen beginning on the bird's belly. That, along with the dark orange hue of the tail tell us what this bird is.

===**Spoiler Alert**===**Spoiler Alert**===**Spoiler Alert**===**Spoiler Alert**===

The birds in the following photos are identified below. If you want to identify them yourself, then check to see if you are correct, please cover the identities before reading further.

Identifications Identifications Identifications Identifications

Our three panelists were split 2-1 on photos 1 and 2 and unanimous in identifying photos 3 and 4. Panelist 1 said the first two were a **Crissal Thrasher** and **Ash-Throated Flycatcher** respectively. Panelists 2 and 3 identified photos 1 and 2 as a **Curve-billed Thrasher** and **Western Wood Pewee**. All panelists agreed that photos 3 and 4 were a **Say's Phoebe** and **Red-tailed Hawk**.

There isn't enough (none even visible) of a russet chestnut color to the under tail coverts for the first photo to be a **Crissal Thrasher**. As for the second photo, **Ash-throated Flycatchers** *do* have an a crest. Theirs is more rounded, though. Also, their wing bars are much more visible, they are overall less greenish and more brown-grey than Pewees, plus, they also show orange lines in primaries.

I hope you've enjoyed these birds, and remember, [send us your photos!](#)



Ramblings about Roadrunners

By Marcia Wilson

Greater Roadrunners (*Geococcyx californianus*) are an iconic species here in New Mexico particularly since it was named the official state bird in 1949. But as for myself, I was a kid living up north, outside of the American Southwest. My first exposure to roadrunners was the Warner Brothers cartoon that centered around Wil. E Coyote and the ever clever roadrunner with his famous "beep beep." My real experience with the Greater Roadrunner was while working in south Texas—I loved seeing these prehistoric looking creatures running nearly parallel to the ground. The Roadrunner's skeleton has no keel on the breast bone as is found in birds that fly. Thus, sustained flight is not possible and even sustained gliding is difficult.



Distribution map for Greater Roadrunner



Greater Roadrunner absorbing sun

The Greater Roadrunner has a wide distribution throughout the desert American Southwest (map). It has evolved adaptations to deal with the extremes of desert life. They flutter the bare area beneath the chin called gular fluttering to dissipate heat. During the heat of the day, a roadrunner will reduce their activity by 50 percent. They also secrete a solution of concentrated salt through a gland just in front of their eyes similar to seabirds. The Greater Roadrunner enters torpor at night. This allows their body temperature to drop significantly. At sunrise, roadrunners expose a dark patch of skin found between their wings so they can get back to their regular temperature by absorbing the sun's warmth.



Greater Roadrunners are fierce predators. They obtain water from their moisture-rich prey. They will eat carrion as well as prey including tarantula hawk wasps, venomous lizards and scorpions with no ill effects. Although, they are careful to swallow horned lizards head-first with the horns pointed away from vital organs. Roadrunners also kill and eat rattlesnakes often in cooperation with another Roadrunner. One bird distracts the snake by jumping and flapping its wings while the other bird sneaks up and pins its head, then bashes the snake against a rock. If it's too long to swallow all at once a Roadrunner will walk around with a part of a snake or lizard protruding from its bill. They swallow their prey a little at a time as the prey is digested. Roadrunners can't tear their prey into pieces and so they swallow their prey whole.

The Greater Roadrunner belongs to the Cuckoo Family. They give dovelike "coos" usually given from a perch. The call has 6 to 8 "coos" long and descends in pitch with each "coo." The bird begins its song with its head pointed towards the ground, raising it successively higher as the pitch gets lower and finally its beak is pointed towards the sky with the last "coo."

Throughout most of the year Roadrunners are solitary birds, only looking for other Roadrunners during mating season. Females lay 1 to 2 clutches, each clutch consists of 2 to 6 eggs. Nests are shallow cups built in low trees, shrubs or cacti. Both parents take turns incubating the eggs for about 18-20 days before they hatch. It takes about 16-18 days for young to fledge.



Besides interesting natural history, The Greater Roadrunner has played an important role in Native American legends. Roadrunners are a sacred symbol for Pueblo tribes to ward off evil spirits. These birds are revered for their strength, speed, and endurance. Their X-shaped footprint has 2 toes up front and 2 toes pointing backward (zygodactyl). The X footprint disguises the direction the bird is heading and is thought to prevent evil spirits from following.

Habitat loss and urban sprawl are the major threats to the Greater Roadrunners. In California, this species is being extirpated locally due to reduction of habitat and to predation by domestic pets and coyotes that are drawn by urban garbage.

The Greater Roadrunner is a fascinating, unusual bird. Beep! Beep!

References:

wildlife.state.nm.us/education/wildlife_notes/WildlifeNotes.htm

a-z-animals.com/animals/roadrunner/

desertmuseum.org/books/nhsd_roadrunner_new.php

Birds of the World Explore Maps

Photos taken by Robert Shantz.

Butterflies

by CJ Goin



The American Snout is a common butterfly in our area and if you're watching for butterflies during warm weather, you're almost certain to see them. The most noticeable feature is the long head (see the photo) and the long and squared off wingtips. The uppersides of the wings are brown with orange basally and white forewing spots.

As far as butterfly walks, it's a bit early to tell but it will mostly depend on the amount of rain in the coming months. The best butterflying is usually in August and September after a summer monsoon, but we may have some good butterflying before that with enough rain. I'll let folks know as soon as I think a walk is a good idea.



Upcoming MVAS Events: May, June & July 2024



Lesser Goldfinch taken by Sarah Walker

June and July, dates TBD | Rather than bird walks and meetings in summer, we'll be gathering for Birds & Beer to socialize once each month. Watch the on-line calendar and emails for dates and locations!

Monday, May 6, 8–10:15 a.m. | Bird Walk at Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park. Meet walk leader Danny Tipton at the visitor center at 8 a.m. \$5 day use fee or bring your state park annual pass.

Friday, May 10, 9–10:30 a.m. OR 10:30 a.m. – noon | Nature Journal Club at NMSU Arthropod Collection. We have special access to the collection for two small groups. Sign up required by emailing mesillavalleyaudubon@gmail.com.

Saturday, May 11, 7 a.m.–noon | World Migratory Bird Day event at Dripping Springs Natural Area. Bird banding will take place in the normally restricted Ice Canyon area behind the visitor center between 7 and 9:30 a.m. and a bird walk with CJ Goins begins at 8:30 a.m. Meet at the visitor center. There is no day use fee in May in celebration of the 10th anniversary of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument.

Wednesday, May 15, 8–10:15 a.m. | Bird walk at Tellbrook Park (4290 Winchester Rd.). Meet bird walk leader Linda Miller at the park entrance.

Wednesday, May 15, 6:30–8 p.m. | MVAS monthly meeting at NMSU's Knox Hall featuring a presentation by MVAS past-president Elaine Stachera Simon on her Cuba birding adventures. This is a hybrid meeting, in person and on Zoom. Social time at 6:30 with the presentation beginning at 7 p.m. Zoom information will be sent via email the week of the meeting.

Saturday, May 18, 8–9 a.m. | Sagecrest Park Cleanup with coordinator Aaron Lucas. MVAS has committed to keeping Sagecrest Park litter free. Supplies provided, just bring your gloves.

Saturday, May 25, 8–10 a.m. | Bird walk with leader Dylan Osterhaus at Leasburg Dam State. Meet at the visitor center and plan to carpool to the day use picnic area on the river. The walk goes along the flat Mogollon Trail for about one mile and based on sightings will return along the same trail or the upper road.

Saturday, June 15, 8–9 a.m. | Sagecrest Park Cleanup with coordinator Aaron Lucas. MVAS has committed to keeping Sagecrest Park litter free. Supplies provided, just bring your gloves.

Saturday, June 22, 8:30–10:30 a.m. | Nature Journal Club at NMSU Demonstration Garden on University. Sketch some of the hundreds of plants in the garden, plus the animals that visit them.

Saturday, July 13, 2–4 p.m. | Nature Journal Club at the Las Cruces Museum of Nature and Science with access to the many native animals on exhibit there.

Saturday, July 20, 8–9 a.m. | Sagecrest Park Cleanup with coordinator Aaron Lucas. MVAS has committed to keeping Sagecrest Park litter free. Supplies provided, just bring your gloves.

Officers and Board

President: Cheryl Fallstead
Vice-president: vacant
Secretary: Julia Osgood
Treasurer: Diane Moore

Directors (elected with three-year terms)

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
Director 2024–2026 Dylan Osterhaus
Director 2024–2026 Whitney Watson

Committee chairs

Conservation: Sid Webb, acting chairman
Education: vacant
Field Trips: Linda Miller
Programs: currently managed by President
Newsletter: Marcia Wilson
Website: Linda Miller
Membership: Annie Mitchell
Christmas Bird Count: Mark Pendleton
Facebook admin: Dylan Osterhaus
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 Marcia Wilson at sleepingsafe@yahoo.com. To be added to the distribution list, contact Cheryl Fallstead 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



mesillavalleyaudubon@gmail.com

P.O. Box 1645
Las Cruces, NM 88004



mvasaudubon.org