

# ROADRUNNER RAMBLINGS

[www.mvaudubon.org](http://www.mvaudubon.org)

Volume 36, No. 4. July-Aug. 2014

## **Birds of DASO: Photography Contest and Calendar**

Birds of DASO...What's DASO? No, we're not referring to a local sheriff's office, we're talking about Doña Ana, Sierra, and Otero counties, the geographic range of our membership. MVAS announces its first digital photography contest, focusing on the birds of south-central New Mexico.

Winning photographs will be published in a 2015 calendar, which will be sold as a fundraiser for MVAS. So, pour through your photo archives, or dust off your lenses and get out there to capture this year's avian beauty and diversity.

Submission deadline is July 15, 2014. Visit our website at [www.mvaudubon.org](http://www.mvaudubon.org) for details on your submission. Contact Barb Rodriguez at [bkrod1@comcast.net](mailto:bkrod1@comcast.net) with any other questions.

## **Let Your Voice Be Heard: Receive Action Alerts via Conservation Email List**

To provide interested members with timely information about actions they can take on conservation issues of interest to MVAS, we are trying to build up a conservation email list. This list would be used only occasionally to ask you to take action on an issue that has the potential to impact wildlife or important habitats in our region.

In the near future, issues that might be addressed in action alerts include providing input on management plans for public lands (including the newly designated Organ Mts. Desert Peaks National Monument), feral cat management, and the myriad of challenges facing habitats along the Rio Grande and Gila Rivers. If you change your mind you will be able to unsubscribe at any time. To sign up, email Bob Tafaneli, MVAS Conservation Chair, at [btafanel@zianet.com](mailto:btafanel@zianet.com).



## **MVAS Programs**

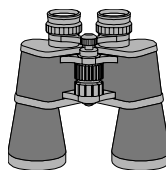
Membership meetings and programs are held the third Wednesday of each month at the **Southwest Environmental Center, 275 N. Downtown Mall**. Meetings begin at 7:00 PM. Programs begin immediately following the business meeting and announcements. Questions? Contact Jennifer Montoya at 526-1320.

**Movie Night. July 21.** The July meeting will depart from our usual presentation format. MVAS invites you to sit back, relax and enjoy the movie *The Central Park Effect* with your birding friends, popcorn and refreshments.

*The Central Park Effect* reveals the extraordinary array of wild birds who grace Manhattan's celebrated patch of green, and the equally colorful New Yorkers who schedule their lives around the rhythms of migration. Author Jonathan Franzen, an idiosyncratic trombone technician, and a septuagenarian bird-tour leader are among the lively cast of characters in this charming, lyrical documentary that transports the viewer to the dazzling, hidden world of America's most famous park. Running time: 60 minutes.

**You Be the Judge! August 20.** At the August program we will get to view all of the entries and vote for the winners of the MVAS digital photo contest. The top 13 vote-getters will be featured in a 2015 calendar that we will sell as a fundraiser (see announcement at left).

Time permitting, we may also do a mini-preparatory workshop on shorebird identification in preparation for an upcoming field workshop on this notoriously confusing group of birds. At the very least we will discuss logistics for the field workshop (see announcement, page 2).



## **Field Trips**

To receive updates and reminders, sign up for the field trip email list, by contacting Mark Pendleton at [mpndltn@gmail.com](mailto:mpndltn@gmail.com) (put MVAS Field Trips in the subject line).

**Summer Break.** We're taking a break from regular MVAS field trips during June, July and August as it is so hot. However if you're interested in going birding and want to do it with other birders, e-mail [mpndltn@gmail.com](mailto:mpndltn@gmail.com) and suggest a destination or ask about anyone going birding. Won't promise to go every time, but you never know!

Also, see announcement about our upcoming shorebird field workshop, page 2.



Looking for recent bird sightings? Visit the MVAS website and Facebook page.

[www.mvaudubon.org](http://www.mvaudubon.org)

[www.facebook.com/MesillaValleyAudubonSociety](http://www.facebook.com/MesillaValleyAudubonSociety)

## Shorebird Identification Workshop

Some folks call them “mudpeckers”—those non-descript little brown guys running around at the water’s edge, and on beaches, mudflats, and sandbars. Shorebirds are a notoriously difficult group of birds to identify, and in response to requests coming out of our Intermediate Birdwatching courses, we’re going to try a group-specific bird ID workshop. The workshop will be composed of 2 phases, starting with a classroom session to review field marks, along with seasonal and behavioral cues. A field workshop will follow, when we’ll try to examine a good diversity of shorebirds to apply those cues in the field. The date and location for the field workshop is TBA, since it will depend on summer rainfall, river flows, and where the best assortment of shorebirds seems to be in mid- to late August.

**Classroom Workshop:** Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, Saturday, August 23 at 10 AM. Bring field guides and a laptop or tablet if you’ve got one so we can do some detailed photo studies.

**Field Workshop:** Details TBA, but date will most likely be August 24 (unless weather or a complete lack of shorebirds calls for a later date), with potential locations to include Holloman Lakes, the Nutt-Hatch Playa, west El Paso wetland sites, and/or sites along the Rio Grande. Along with standard field gear, bring whatever identification resources you have, plus spotting scopes and digital cameras. Depending on what we see and what images folks acquire and are willing to share, we may compile some follow-up resources for participants from the day’s outing.

For more information contact Nancy Stotz at [nstotz1@comcast.net](mailto:nstotz1@comcast.net) or 575-521-8087.



Steven D'Amato

### JOIN NOW!

- National Membership (one year):  
Join **both** the **National Audubon Society** and **Mesilla Valley Audubon Society** for the introductory rate of \$20 (a \$15 savings!). You’ll receive both *Audubon Magazine* and *Roadrunner Ramblings*. Make check payable to National Audubon Society (NAS).
- Chapter Membership (one year):  
Join **just** the **Mesilla Valley Audubon Society** for \$15. You’ll receive *Roadrunner Ramblings*. Make check payable to Mesilla Valley Audubon Society.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ C4ZQ540Z

Send this form and your check to:

Membership, MVAS  
P.O. Box 1645  
Las Cruces, NM 88004

**Questions about your membership status?** Contact Nancy Stotz at 575-521-8087 or [nstotz1@comcast.net](mailto:nstotz1@comcast.net).

**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.

Board meetings are held monthly, on the Thursday before the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 5:30 PM at the Southwest Environmental Center (on the downtown mall). All Audubon members are welcome.

For contact information for officers and board members, visit our website at

[www.mvaudubon.org](http://www.mvaudubon.org)

**To receive this newsletter in electronic form, email [nstotz1@comcast.net](mailto:nstotz1@comcast.net)**

*Roadrunner Ramblings* is published six times a year: January, March, May, July, September, and November. Submissions welcome; please email copy to [nstotz1@comcast.net](mailto:nstotz1@comcast.net). **Next deadline: August 15.** Printed on 100% recycled paper with soy-based inks by **insta-copy printing**. Image credits: roadrunner, Dale Zimmerman; clipart, IMSI’s Master Clips/Master Photos® Collection.

Nonprofit Organization  
US Postage Paid  
Las Cruces, NM 88004  
Permit No. 609

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