

# ROADRUNNER RAMBLINGS

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

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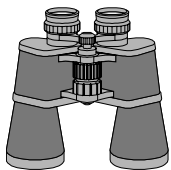


## MVAS Programs

Membership meetings and programs are held the third Wednesday of each month at the Village at Northrise, Hallmark Building, 2882 N. Roadrunner Pkway. Meetings begin at 7:00 PM. Programs begin immediately following the business meeting and announcements. Questions? Contact Katie McLane 523-6317.

**Happy Thanksgiving!** Since the third Wednesday of this November falls on the eve of the Thanksgiving holiday, we've decided to cancel this month's program. Here's wishing everyone a great Thanksgiving.!

**Christmas Bird Count Organization. December 19.** Join us for a review of selected winter birds and final preparations for this year's CBC.



## Field Trips

To receive updates and reminders, sign up for the field trip email list, by emailing Mark Pendleton at [mpndlt@gmail.com](mailto:mpndlt@gmail.com) with *SUB MVAS BIRDS* in the subject line.

**Festival of the Cranes. November 17.** Participate in this annual spectacle (see above right). For anyone wanting to carpool (either drive or ride) on Saturday, send Mark Pendleton an email message at [mpndlt@gmail.com](mailto:mpndlt@gmail.com) (put CRANE FESTIVAL CARPOOL in the subject line) with your name and contact info and if you're offering or looking for a ride, and he'll pass that information on to the field trip email list.

**Las Cruces CBC. December 22.** See details to right.

## MVAS Needs You!

Our annual elections will be held in early 2013. If you are interested in serving as an officer or board member, please contact Sean Barham at 575-644-2680 or [barhamsean@gmail.com](mailto:barhamsean@gmail.com).

## 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival of the Cranes



Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge  
November 13-18

Talks, Tours, Optics Expo, Art Show, and more!

[www.friendsofthebosque.org/crane/](http://www.friendsofthebosque.org/crane/)

## Christmas Bird Counts

**It's fun, and it's FREE!** Participation in this year's Christmas Bird Counts will be free. Previously, a five-dollar fee was collected in order to publish and mail a hard-copy *American Birds* issue with CBC summaries. Now, summaries will be made available via the web: <http://birds.audubon.org/christmas-bird-count>

**Las Cruces CBC. December 22.** This year marks year number 37 for the Las Cruces CBC, and it's shaping up to be another interesting one. This is an all day event, during which participants count birds within a 15-mile-diameter circle reaching from the Rio Grande to the base of the Organ Mountains.

If you're interested in participating, as a team leader, team member, or feeder-watcher, contact one of MVAS's co-organizers: David Griffin ([griffinbio@gmail.com](mailto:griffinbio@gmail.com) or 575-640-0029) or Ken Stinnett ([kenstin7@gmail.com](mailto:kenstin7@gmail.com) or 575-649-3781).

**La Luz CBC. December 29.** This CBC in the foothills of the Sacramento Mountains northeast of Alamogordo picks up an interesting mix of desert and montane species. Last year, they even had an Ovenbird! For more info, contact John Douglas at 575-541-0133 or [jliddouglas@zianet.com](mailto:jliddouglas@zianet.com).

**Caballo CBC. January 2.** This count around Percha and Caballo State Parks has led the state of NM for the past 5 years in terms of total number of species tallied (128 last year). To volunteer, contact John Douglas at 575-541-0133 or [jliddouglas@zianet.com](mailto:jliddouglas@zianet.com).

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)

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_ C2ZQ540Z

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).

## Field Trip Report: LC Dam

On September 22, fourteen birders gathered to search for migrants behind the south end of the Las Cruces Dam. We tallied 48 species (including 11 species of sparrow), plus an unidentified, disappearing *Accipiter*, in about 3 hours of birding. The good birds started early, as the earliest birders to arrive got to enjoy a male Western Tanager that graced a small oak tree in the strip mall parking lot where we gathered, and then we got to enjoy spotting scope-enhanced views of an Osprey eating its breakfast as we waited for the last folks to arrive. Later, when we were much closer to the Osprey, it flew off to the northeast, and returned a few minutes later with its second course: a goldfish snagged from a pond on the Sonoma Ranch golf course. Another highlight was seeing 2 Grasshopper Sparrows, including one who sat up and posed in perfect light for several minutes, affording us great opportunities to study and photograph this normally secretive species.

Nancy Stotz

## Audubon Adventures: 2012-2013

This environmental education program includes 4 take-home newsletters for students that include vibrant photos and lively illustrations to bring the natural world to life right in the classroom. The title of the edition for the 2012-2013 academic year is *Sharing our Earth*. Individual newsletter topics are as follows: "Share Our Shores", "Caring for Our Planet - Be a Friend of Birds", "World of the Forest", and "Grasslands: A Prairie Tale". Local fourth-grade teachers have been contacted, and they have requested kits for 29 classrooms for the upcoming school year.

**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: December 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.

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