



# ROADRUNNER RAMBLINGS

MESILLA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

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## Binoculars + Young Students = New Recruits to Birding

Many students quickly become interested in birds once they learn a bit about them and are able to watch them through binoculars. In support of the Mesilla Valley Audubon Society education outreach program led by C.J. Goin, MVAS earlier this year purchased 20 Vortex Raptor 6.5 X 32 binoculars. C.J. has already used the binoculars with students on outdoor education field trips.

C.J. has been busy this spring with in-class presentations and field trips with students from Conlee Elementary, Hermosa Heights Elementary, Tombaugh Elementary, and Rio Grande Elementary in Hatch.

“I’ve known for some time that you can only bring home the importance and intrigue of our southwest New Mexico birds by being able to see them up close. The binoculars of course are available for all Audubon programs, but the real payoff for me as an educator is the excitement of kids when they first zoom in on a bird in the



**Fifth graders from rio Grande Elementary School enthusiastically learn bird watching skills from C.J. Goin (second from left) at Leasburg Dam State Park**

wild,” said Goin, who championed the acquisition of field binoculars,

### *TEACH OUR CHILDREN WELL*

Sharing our knowledge and understanding of birds, and birding, is at the heart of Mesilla Valley Audubon mission. When we show a child how to use a pair of binoculars, give advice to our neighbors on plants that attract hummingbirds or encourage a co-worker to join the Christmas Bird Count, we are involved in bird education. To maintain and expand our in-class programs and student field trips, MVAS is seeking two to four more volunteers to work with CJ Goin, our education chair, and his committee, to reach more school children, especially during Spring, the busiest time for field trips. You will work with students from grades four to nine to share your experiences and knowledge with the next generation. Please contact CJ (cjgoin11@gmail.com). Let him know you are ready and able to help.

*By Jennifer Montoya, President*

**Bullock's Oriole**  
**Molly Molley's**  
**Backyard,**  
**Doña Ana Road, LC**



## Wow! Get a Load of Upcoming Programs

**August 16-** Sustainability in Las Cruces: Lisa LaRocque, Sustainability Officer for the City of Las Cruces, will provide us with an overview of the City's commitment to a greener, healthier future. Learn more about recent achievements in reducing fossil fuel consumption, a NASA-sponsored study on the city as a heat sink, and the importance of increasing the number of trees in our community.

**September 20-** Back by Popular Demand! Nirmal Khandan, MVAS member and self-taught photographer, will share more of his favorite photos with us. His wide-ranging subject matter spans animals and plants from around the globe. Khandan, as he is known, takes breath-taking photos. You won't want to miss this!

**October 18-** Planting Your Own Backyard Habitats. Community favorite, Jackye Meineke, will discuss the basics of plantings that can benefit birds in your own yard. Now retired from her successful career in the gardening business (remember Enchanted Gardens?), Jackye has a wealth of experience that she will share with us. Come with questions, leave with answers. Gatherings begin with a meet-and-greet at 6:30 p.m., and the program at 7 p.m.

# 1st Place Photo

## Arizona Breeding Bird Atlas

**First Place Prize** awarded by Mesilla Valley Audubon Society to Molly Molley is "The Arizona Breeding Bird Atlas," the capstone of the first comprehensive statewide survey of Arizona's breeding birds.

**Photo Contest Rules:** Photos submitted must have been taken in our local area, i.e., Sierra, Otero, or Dona Ana Counties only, and during the past 12 months. Our publications committee judges entries based on photo quality, subject interest, and subject variety. Please include the location taken and name of species in your email. Our newsletter editor makes the final selection for publication. From these, one is chosen as the First Prize winner.

By submitting your photo you automatically grant Mesilla Valley Audubon Society (MVAS) publication rights for one year. MVAS may use your photo in any of our publications, including newsletters and our annual calendar. Photos should be submitted electronically as a high resolution jpg file to this email address [judi626@earthlink.net](mailto:judi626@earthlink.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 on the Thursday before the 3rd Wed at

5:30 pm at the Southwest Environmental Center on the downtown mall. All Audubon members are welcome.

*Roadrunner Ramblings* is published quarterly. Submissions are welcome. Please email copy to Judi Schultz, [judi626@earthlink.net](mailto:judi626@earthlink.net). Next deadline: Oct.15, 2017. To be added to the distribution list, contact Judy Wilbur, [jkwilbur@gmail.com](mailto:jkwilbur@gmail.com) or 512-560-4717.

## Monarch Butterfly Citizen Science

The October field trip will be a two-part Monarch Butterfly Survey & Tagging citizen science endeavor. Steve Cary, who presented the March monthly program on Monarchs, will lead the group, starting at Placitas Arroyo above Hatch at 4 p.m. Saturday Oct. 7. Participants will leave Las Cruces at 2 p.m. from the NE corner of the K-Mart parking lot off U.S. 70 (the end closest to the Shell Station). Carpooling will be arranged on site with an estimated return time of 8 p.m.

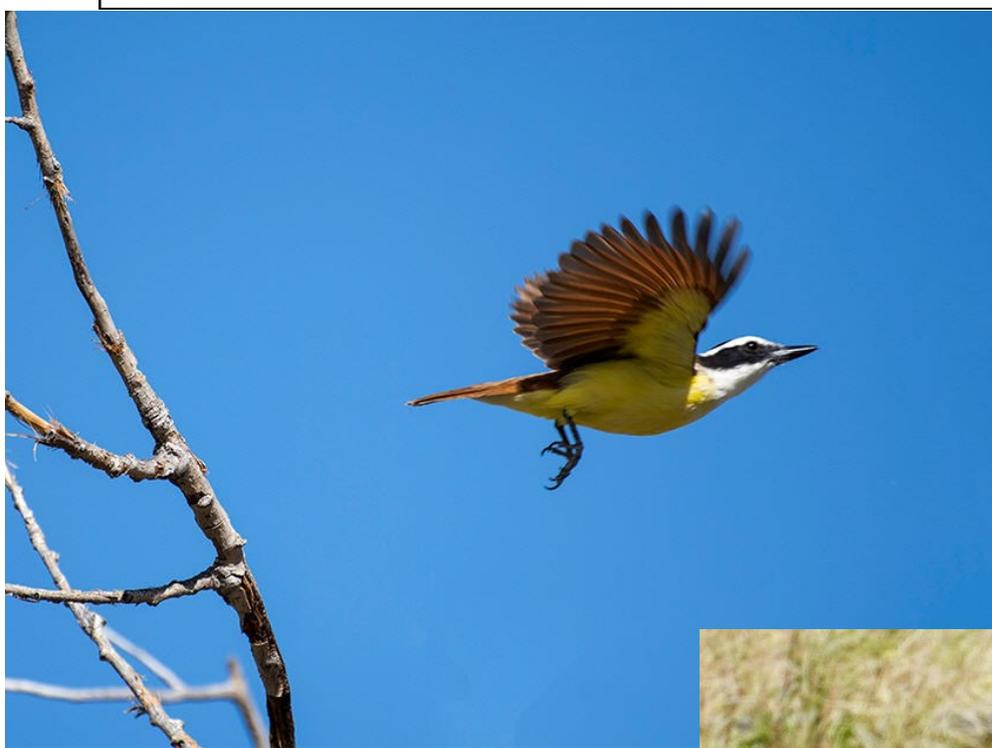
Group size will be first 12 people to sign up.

Sunday's outing will begin at 8 a.m. in the southern Las Cruces Dam parking lot. The survey and tagging site is along the east side of the foot of the dam. You can bring your own butterfly nets, and some will be provided also.

To sign up e-mail Mark Pendleton (Monarchs in subject line) at [mpndltn@gmail.com](mailto:mpndltn@gmail.com), (575)635-8711 for

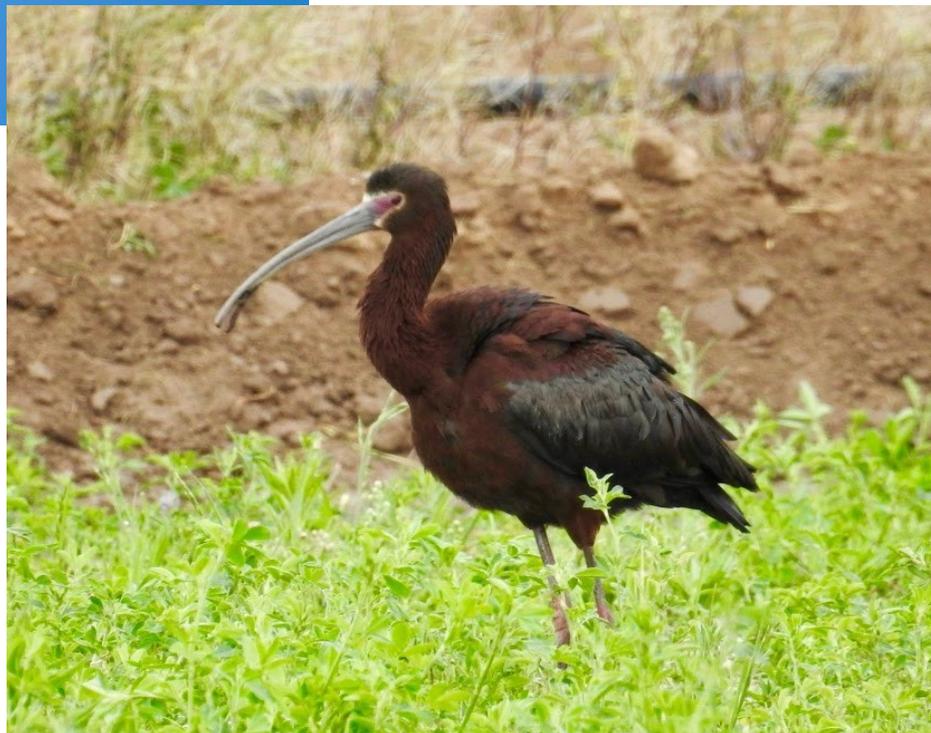
### Beginner Bird Walks Resume

Beginner bird walks begin Aug. 16 at Tellbrook Park and continue on the third Wednesday of the month. Guides will be a member of the Mesilla Valley Audubon Society, Meet at 7:45 a.m. at the entrance to Tellbrook Park, 4290 E. Winchester Rd. This is a residential neighborhood with limited parking. Be courteous and do not block driveways.



(Left) Great Kiskadee, Percha Dam State Park. Nagamany Mirmalakhandan says he thinks the bird is far out of range and rarely found in New Mexico.

(Below) Molly Molley photographed a White-Faced Ibis, close to home, Doña Ana Road, Las Cruces



Honorable  
Mentions

Honorable Mention  
Nagamany Mirmalakhandan  
Varied Bunting, Baylor Canyon, Las Cruces



### MVAS Birding ID Course in September, October

Scratching your head wondering what that yellow bird is in your tree? Curious why your favorite birds are only here part of the year? Mesilla Valley Audubon Society (MVAS) is offering a four-week beginners course to improve your birding skills as MVAS instructors guide you through various birding ID techniques. You will be introduced to various field guides; IDing birds by shape, size and silhouettes; identify waterfowl & raptors; native plants that best attract birds to your yard; and more. The course includes four field trips to local hot spots. Join us to explore the wonderful world of birds! Course runs **Mondays, 6:30– 8:30 p.m., Sept. 25 through Oct. 16.** On the following **Saturday after each class, a field trip will be conducted** to a local hot spot for birding.

Classes will be at the Southwest Environmental Center, 275 N. Main St., Las Cruces, on the downtown mall.

Cost is \$40 for non-members and \$30 for national Audubon and MVAS members. To enroll, mail a check to Mesilla Valley Audubon Society, P. O. Box 1645, Las Cruces, NM 88004, with Birding ID course written on the check. For more information about the course, contact Wayne Treers (MVAS) at 575-528-8696 or way1mike@yahoo.com.

#### JOIN AUDUBON NOW!

- National Membership (special for new members only): Join both the National Audubon Society and Mesilla Valley Audubon Society for the introductory rate of \$20 for your first year of membership. This is a \$15 savings. You'll receive both *Audubon Magazine* and *Roadrunner Ramblings*. Make check payable to National Audubon Society.
- Local Chapter Membership: Join, or renew your membership in, Mesilla Valley Audubon Society for \$15 per year. You'll receive *Roadrunner Ramblings* and be eligible for member-only events such as bird identification classes. Make check payable to Mesilla Valley Audubon Society.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_, State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Send this form with your check to:

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