**President’s Message**
by David Griffin, MVAS President

As I write this near the end of April, spring has sprung and we’re well into the prime migration period for passerine birds. Here at home I’ve seen Orange-crowned, Virginia’s, Yellow-rumped and Wilson’s warblers, Hermit Thrushes and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers. These species are referred to as “Passage Migrants” and will hang around for a day or two and then move on. Other migrants have arrived too, but these will stay for the breeding season. In our yard these include Black-chinned Hummingbirds, Ash-throated Flycatchers, Western Kingbirds and Lesser Nighthawks.

My year-round birds are well into nesting season; the Curve-billed Thrashers I mentioned in the last newsletter are now feeding their lone fledgling and are beginning to make another nest. The Verdins completed their nest, filled it with 4 or so eggs and now are feeding the recent nestlings. The next few weeks are typically the most exciting for watching birds and other wildlife in the desert, so get out there and enjoy it!

I’d like to extend my sincere gratitude to two of our locally-owned businesses for partnering with MVAS in 2008. First I’d like to say thanks to my friend Curtis at Horse-n-Hound Feed-n-Supply, 991 W. Amador (ph: 523-8790). Horse-n-Hound is offering MVAS members a 15% discount on all wild bird feed. Call Curtis for details. Horse-n-Hound has been in Las Cruces for 30 years, and they pride themselves on fantastic customer service. Beyond birdseed and feeders, they offer a wide range of livestock feed, tack and ranching supplies, as well as pet food and care products.

Second I’d like to thank Kristi and Wes Lane, owners of Wild Birds Unlimited at 2001 E. Lohman, Suite 130 (ph: 523-5489). Kristi and Wes have donated two pair of binoculars to MVAS that we plan on using as loaners for our monthly field trips. WBU offers an incredible assortment of bird seeds, feeds, feeders and all things related to birds and bird watching. They have great monthly specials and other programs. WBU is a relative newcomer to Las Cruces, but with support by MVAS members and others, they’ll be around for a long time! Thanks again!

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**Birdathon 2008:**
**Birding for a Cause**

This year’s Birdathon will take place between April 23 and May 8.

Birdathon is Audubon’s largest annual fund raising event, and the world’s largest birdwatching competition. Every year, thousands of people join to count birds, have fun, and raise vital funds for Audubon’s mission of environmental conservation, education, and advocacy.

Here’s how a Birdathon works: people count birds and collect pledges from sponsors based on the number of species they see. All you have to do is choose a date and start counting; you can pick whatever 24-hour period works best for you. You can count alone, in pairs, or with a group. You don’t have to be an expert; some people do the Birdathon from their living room and count birds at their feeders; others may cover hundreds of miles in a day and see over 150 species. The key is to have fun.

If you don’t want to participate as a counter, you can also contribute to the event just by pledging a certain amount per species or a flat amount to one of our counters.

Nationwide, last years' Birdathon helped raise over $1 million. The funds raised by MVAS members are used locally, to support our Audubon Adventures environmental education program, which is providing educational materials for 86 local classrooms this year.

We hope you’ll join with thousands of other participants in communities across the country who help make Birdathon a success.

Contact David Griffin for additional information or to sign up: email griffinbio@gmail.com or call 382-2080.

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**Save The Date**
**July 11, 7-10 PM**
**MVAS 30th Anniversary Celebration**
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).


Name________________________________________
Address______________________________________
City__________________________________________
State_______Zip______________________

Send this form and your check to:
Membership, MVAS
P.O. Box 1645
Las Cruces, NM  88004

RENEWALS
National Members: NAS will send you renewal notices.
Chapter Members: Check your mailing label. If you see a C followed by a month and year code, you are a Chapter Member. The month and year code indicates the month your membership expires.

Welcome New Members
David & Marcia Robinovich
Thomas Michael Quarm
T. P. Barto
Barbara Dean
Terry Edwards
Nancy Banks
Geraldine January
Dinah Jentgen
Greg Briggs

Women's Day, May 20. 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM. On this field trip, we will bird the picnic area, Arroyo Plaza parking lot at 2001 E. Lohman Ave (meet near Wild Birds Unlimited). Trip length will depend on your personal experience; bring binoculars and birds for your personal use. The trip will depart at 6:30 AM from the Arroyo Plaza parking lot at 2001 E. Lohman Ave (meet near Wild Birds Unlimited). The trip will likely last until about noon, so bring snacks and a lunch, water, sun protection and be prepared for warm weather conditions.

Programs
Membership meetings and programs are held each month, at the Village at Northrise, Hallmark Building, 2882 N. Roadrunner Pkwy.
Meetings begin at 7:00 PM. Programs begin immediately following the business meeting and announcements.

Annual Potluck
May 21
Where: Lorraine Schulte’s home, 1740 Mariposa (phone 524-7029)
When: 5:30 PM, May 21
Bring: a main dish, side dish, or dessert; and a couple of folding chairs or TV tables if you’ve got them. Table service, iced tea, and coffee will be provided; BYOB for other beverages.
Attire: Where your favorite bird T-shirt!

Welcome New Members

Annual Potluck
May 21

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Welcome New Members

Annual Potluck
May 21

Annual Potluck
May 21
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Observers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White-tailed Kite</td>
<td>02/28, 3/27-4/04</td>
<td>MVBS, LC Dam</td>
<td>RC, SH/NS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black-crowned Night Heron</td>
<td>02/29</td>
<td>MVBS, LC Dam</td>
<td>RC/NS</td>
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<td>Cliff Swallow</td>
<td>02/29</td>
<td>North Valley, MVBS</td>
<td>BS/BR, RC/KS</td>
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<td>Harlan's Hawk</td>
<td>02/29</td>
<td>MVBS, N Valley</td>
<td>RC/NS</td>
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<td>N Rough-winged Swallow</td>
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<td>Sora</td>
<td>02/29</td>
<td>MVBS, N Valley</td>
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<td>Tree Swallows</td>
<td>02/29</td>
<td>MVBS, N Valley</td>
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<td>Violet-green Swallows</td>
<td>02/29</td>
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<td>Black-throated Hummer</td>
<td>03/08</td>
<td>Las Cruces</td>
<td>JD</td>
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<td>Turkey Vulture</td>
<td>03/08</td>
<td>Las Cruces</td>
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<td>Brown Thrasher</td>
<td>03/12</td>
<td>MVBS, N Valley</td>
<td>JD</td>
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<td>Barn Owl</td>
<td>03/19</td>
<td>Percha/Caballo</td>
<td>SS</td>
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<td>Lincoln's Sparrow</td>
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<td>Painted Redstart</td>
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<td>Harlan's Hawk</td>
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<td>Burrowing Owls</td>
<td>03/26</td>
<td>Mesilla Park</td>
<td>BLP</td>
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<td>Hooded Oriole</td>
<td>03/26</td>
<td>Las Cruces</td>
<td>HH</td>
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<td>American &amp; Lesser Goldfinch</td>
<td>03/29</td>
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<td>SH/BR/LS</td>
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<td>Bewick's Wren</td>
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<td>Chipping Sparrow</td>
<td>03/29</td>
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<td>Cinnamon Teal</td>
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<td>Red-naped Sapsucker</td>
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<td>Western Kingbird</td>
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<td>Broad-Tailed Hummer</td>
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<td>Dona Ana, Mesilla Park</td>
<td>JH, BLP</td>
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<td>Rufous-backed Robins</td>
<td>04/04</td>
<td>Mesilla Park</td>
<td>PA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Long-billed Dowitcher</td>
<td>03/05</td>
<td>Lensburg</td>
<td>LS</td>
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<td>Spotted Towhee</td>
<td>04/05</td>
<td>Lensburg</td>
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<tr>
<td>Swainson's Hawks</td>
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<td>Lensburg</td>
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<td>Scott's Oriole</td>
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<td>Percha, Mesilla Park</td>
<td>SS, PA</td>
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<td>04/08, 4/12</td>
<td>Mesilla Park, La Mesa</td>
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<td>Brewer's Sparrow</td>
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<td>Ferruginous Hawk</td>
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<td>Savannah Sparrow</td>
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<td>Solitary Sandpiper</td>
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<td>NMSU</td>
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<td>Scissor-tailed Flycatcher</td>
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<td>Summer Tanager</td>
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<td>Bullock's Oriole</td>
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<td>Franklin's Gull</td>
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<td>Black-headed Grosbeak</td>
<td>04/27</td>
<td>MVBS, N Valley</td>
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Please report early, late, or unusual sightings to Robert Hull at 505-523-8009 or rhull2@zianet.com

New Mexico Rare Bird Hotline 505-584-8269 or http://www.nmosbirds.org

Rare Bird Alerts for NM and other states: www.birder.com

(continued on page 4) Trip Reports
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.

OFFICERS AND BOARD

President       David Griffin    382-2080  
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Board (07-09)   Valerie Endruweit 373-0530  
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Board (08-10)   Lorraine Schulte  524-7029  

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Audubon Council Guy Powers            373-1891  
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Education      vacant                 
Field Trips    David Griffin         382-2080  
Programs       board at large       
Membership     Guy Powers             373-1891  
Newsletter Editor Nancy Stotz        521-8087  
Publicity      Jackye Meinecke        524-1886  

Board meetings are held, September through May, on the Thursday before the 3rd Wednesday at 5:30 PM at the Southwest Environmental Center (on the downtown mall). All Audubon members are welcome.

Visit our website at www.cybermesa.com/~mvas/.

(continued from page 3) Trip Reports

Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, April 19. An amazing 38 people showed up for today’s field trip, even with a fair warning of possible ferocious mosquitoes. Were they lured by the avian riches of the Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, or was it perhaps the early morning coffee and doughnuts provided by Kristi and Ken Lane of Wild Birds Unlimited? Either way, that’s the biggest turnout we’ve had in recent times. Many thanks to Kristi and Ken for meeting the group way before regular business hours! John Douglas led the group, which consisted mostly of members, although a few non-members also attended. Participants got good looks at many of the regularly-occurring water species such as Mallard, Green-winged Teal, Great Blue Heron, and American Coot. Shorebirds were represented by Killdeer and Spotted Sandpiper. Secretive species such as Marsh Wren, Common Yellowthroat and Green-tailed Towhee were also observed. Raptors made a showing with Northern Harrier, Swainson’s Hawk, Red-tailed hawk, and Prairie Falcon making the list. Flycatchers also were well-represented by Say’s Phoebe, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Western Kingbird, and a surprise Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. Treetop gleaners included Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Wilson’s Warbler, and Bullock’s Oriole; while ground feeders included Gambel’s Quail, Green-tailed Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, and Dark-eyed Junco.

Thanks to all who attended and shared the use of their vehicles; we’ll see you next time! A full list of species observed is available, just contact David Griffin at 382-2080 or GriffinBio@gmail.com.

Roadrunner Ramblings is published six times a year: January, March, May, July, September, and November. Submissions welcome; please email copy to nstotz1@comcast.net, or call for mailing information. Next deadline: June 21. Printed on 100% PCW recycled paper by insta-copy printing. Image credits: roadrunner, Dale Zimmerman; clip art, IMSI’s Master Clips/Master Photos© Collection.