

Fall Flight Festival 2016 Schedule

Sunday November 6th, 2016: Lots of Dirt Roads and a Few Birds; Updates on birds and other critters from a San Miguel County 'Big Year'

Presentation by Will Jaremko-Wright

Friends of Las Vegas NWR Board Member Will Jaremko-Wright will present photographs, encounters, new species records, and bad bird puns while recounting the diversity of habitats, wildlife, and county roads in the Las Vegas area and beyond. San Miguel County is one of the most ecologically diverse in the state of New Mexico, with biological influences from the Rocky Mountains, Chihuahuan desert, and Great Plains. With relatively little development and largely intact ecosystems, it is a nature lover's paradise – so long as you find the right road. Will is an instructor at New Mexico Highlands University and nearly 5/6^{ths} of the way through a 2016 San Miguel County Big Year, where he has attempted to see 275+ bird species in the calendar year, many of those right here at Las Vegas NWR.

Sunday November 13th, 2016: The Geology of the Las Vegas Region

Presentation by Jennifer Lindline, Ph.D

Dr. Jennifer Lindline will discuss the exciting and dynamic geological history that has led to the mountains, plains, and canyons that characterize the Las Vegas area. From the formation of Hermits Peak in the deep past of the North American continent, to the thousands of feet of sedimentary rock that dominate the areas canyon country and the eventual uplifting of the Rocky Mountains, this presentation is sure to leave you with a deep sense of time and the unique series of events that led to the place we now call Las Vegas. Dr. Lindline is a Professor and Chair of the Department of Natural Resources Management, where she has taught and conducted research for more than 15 years. Jennifer received her Ph.D from Byrn Mawr College in Pennsylvania while conducting research on igneous rock formations in Alaska. Dr. Lindline was a lead editor of the New Mexico Geological Society's recent, 2015 publication 'The Geology of the Las Vegas Region'.

Sunday November 20th, 2016: How Reliable is Nature's Refrigerator: Exploring the Impacts of Climate Change on the Gray Jay

Presentation by Erin Greenlee, Ph.D

Dr. Erin Greenlee will discuss how climatic changes have the potential for large-scale impacts on the birds in New Mexico. In particular, the Gray Jay, a social, non-migratory, scatter-hoarding resident of boreal and subalpine forests, may be most vulnerable to the impacts of climatic warming. Gray Jays hoard a broad range of perishable food items and rely heavily upon reliable food-storage conditions (i.e., consistently cold temperatures; Nature's Refrigerator). The effects of climate change and reliability on consistently cold temperatures poses a serious threat for the long-term survival of Gray Jays in New Mexico. Dr. Greenlee, originally from New Mexico, is an avian Ecologist who received her Ph.D from the Ohio State University where her graduate work focused on the effects of climate change and anthropogenic forces on avian ecology and behavior. She has over 14 years of experience in researching and developing research methodologies for birds, bats and freshwater/riparian ecosystems. She now resides in Albuquerque where she works as a biologist for an environmental consulting firm.

Sunday November 27th, 2016: Live Raptor Presentation

Presentation by the Santa Fe Raptor Center

Come meet the educational outreach raptors and the volunteers who care for them in this family friendly interactive presentation. The Santa Fe Raptor Center rehabilitates injured raptors in order to release them back into their natural habitat. Those raptors, which cannot be released due to extensive injuries, are given a loving home and used in educational programs such as this. **Bring the Kids!**