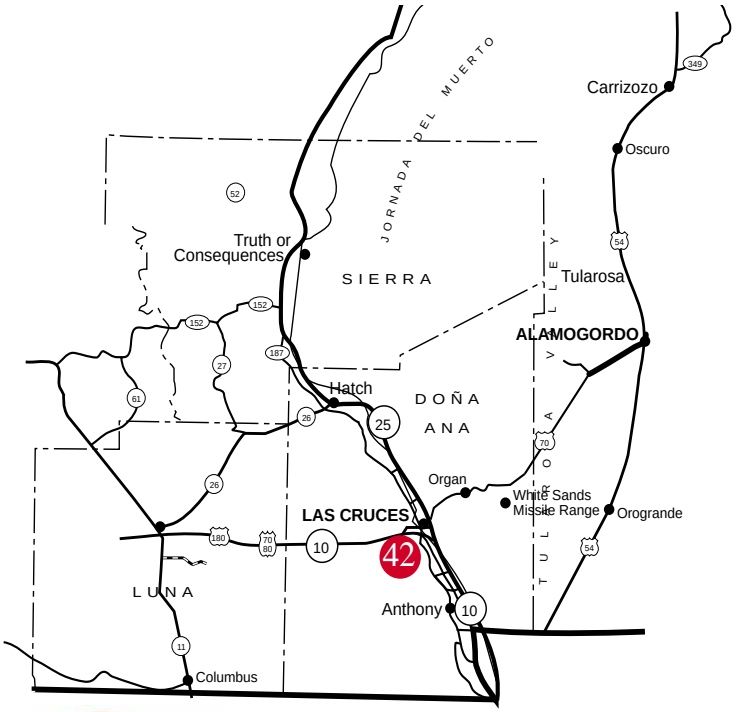


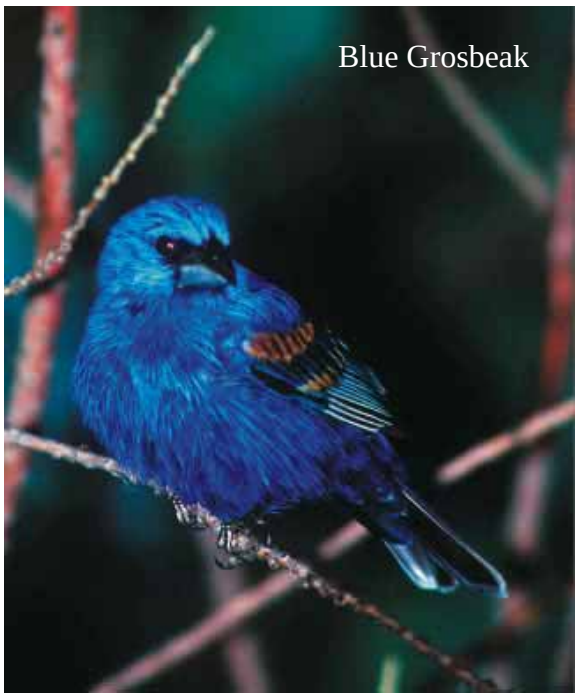
Site 42 -Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park

New Mexico State Park (575)523-4398

Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park encompasses 307 acres (elevation 3,890 feet) of Rio Grande floodplain and has long been known to local birders as the Old Refuge. It is a remnant patch of formerly common riparian habitat fronting the Rio Grande, and as such, it's an important protected area for wildlife. Habitat restoration has created a series of wetlands and open salt grass meadows that attract birds. You'll also find an amphitheater, gardens, a visitor center with exhibits, and wildlife viewing blinds. Groups are easily accommodated with a picnic shelter, meeting room, and private event and party facilities.

Every Saturday morning there is a bird-walk led by a Mesilla Valley Audubon Society member, park volunteer, or park ranger. These small groups provide lots of chances for interaction.

Residents:
Crissal and Curve-billed Thrashers, Great Horned Owl, Cactus Wren, Pyrrhuloxia, Greater Roadrunner, Black-throated Sparrow. Winter: many waterfowl and raptors – Northern Harrier, Swainson's Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, American Kestrel, Mexican Mallard, Wilson's Snipe, Marsh Wren, Western and Eastern Meadowlarks, Long-eared Owl, Sora, Red-winged Blackbird, American Pipit, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and several sparrows. Summer: Barn Swallow (nesting at VC), Blue Grosbeak, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Western Kingbird, Yellow-breasted Chat, Gambel's Quail, killdeer, Several varieties of Warbler's, Bullock's Oriole, Orchard Oriole, Scott's Oriole, Say's Phoebe (nesting at VC), Black-chinned and Rufus Hummingbirds, Whitewing and Mourning Dove, occasional Common Ground Dove.


Blue Grosbeak

Directions:
From east- or westbound I-10, exit at Avenida de Mesilla (Exit 140) and drive south to Calle del Norte. Turn right and drive two miles southwest until you cross the Rio Grande. The entrance to the park is on the left immediately after crossing the river.