



# The Roadrunner

Newsletter of the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

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### El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Website!

Updated information about upcoming field trips, calendar of upcoming events, and recent bird sightings.

[www.trans-pecos-audubon.com](http://www.trans-pecos-audubon.com)

### The e-Roadrunner

The Roadrunner is now also available electronically as a PDF file. If you would like to receive our newsletter in this way via e-mail, just send a note to John Sproul at [jsproul@utep.edu](mailto:jsproul@utep.edu).

September 16, 2024 7:00pm in person & via Zoom  
Centennial Museum at UTEP 500 W. University Ave

## Deforestation, reforestation, and bird conservation in Brazil Dr. Liz Walsh, UTEP

Join Sierra Club's Liz Walsh for a presentation on her recent trip to [South-Wild Amazon Lodge](#), a cutting-edge rainforest conservation and reforestation project. The French government's Forest Service purchased the property about 25 years ago. At that time, 6,000 acres (nearly 10 square miles) was unproductive cattle pasture. It has since been replanted with millions of trees. Wildlife is rebounding with harpy eagle nests, umbrella birds, hoatzins, Brazilian tapirs, and more!

The meeting will be hybrid, starting at 7 pm. In person is at the Centennial Museum and online is on Zoom. Register for the Zoom link at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0pdeqhqj4oHtE7c6Eh6NN25tB9JuRJHhHw>

## IN MEMORIAM: ROXANNE SCHROEDER



El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society members were saddened to learn of the passing of Roxanne Schroeder on May 28, 2024. From 1993 through 2016, Roxanne was a dedicated and valued part of our organization's leadership. Always fond of hats, she wore many for our chapter: Publicity Chair (1993-1996 and 1998-2000), Secretary (2001-2003), Special Events Coordinator (2004-05), and Membership Chair (2006-16).

Back in the years when Feather Lake consistently had water and was open to the public on weekends, Roxanne was a stalwart volunteer host at our sanctuary. We also benefitted from her artistic talents. Our 2005 chapter t-shirt featured her montage of eight distinctive local bird species, and her drawing of a Gambel's Quail graced the 2012 edition of our local bird checklist.

For her many contributions, Roxanne received our Meritorious Service Award, our highest chapter honor, in 2006. May she rest in peace.



### El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

#### Officers

**President:** Scott Cutler, 494-2193  
**Vice President:** Jane Fowler, 598-2448  
**Secretary/Treasurer:** Eddie Chew, 587-9589

#### Committees

**Conservation:** Kevin Floyd, 613-6354  
**Education:** Kathleen Whelen, 820-1895  
**Field Trips:** Star Posada, 407-6442  
**Hospitality:** vacant  
**Membership:** vacant  
**Newsletter Editor:** Kathleen Whelen, 820-1895  
**Programs:** vacant  
**Publications:** Jane Fowler, 598-2448  
**Publicity:** Heather Rivera, 212-2825  
**Sanctuary:** John Sproul, 545-5157  
**Website:** vacant  
**Facebook:** Kevin Floyd, 613-6354

The Audubon Foundation of Texas



represents Texas  
Audubon chapters in the Earth Share of Texas  
payroll deduction plan for charitable giving.

### Lights Out, Texas!

Providing Safe Passage for Nocturnal Migrants



Building owners, businesses, developers and homeowners can help protect migrating birds by turning off all non-essential nighttime lighting on buildings and other structures from 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. each night.

**SPRING:** Full Migration: March 1 – June 15  
Peak Migration: April 22 – May 12  
**FALL:** Full Migration: August 15 – November 30  
Peak period: September 5 – October 29

#### Want to get involved in the organization?

We are looking for new board members, field trip leaders, and help with outreach events.

This is a great opportunity to share your love of birds with the rest of El Paso! Please email us at [elpasoaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:elpasoaudubon@gmail.com) for more information.

We are looking for ideas for more presentations. If you have someone in mind, please email us at [elpasoaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:elpasoaudubon@gmail.com).

#### The Frontera Land Alliance is turning 20!

The Frontera Land Alliance protects natural open spaces, farms and ranches, watersheds, and wildlife of the northern Chihuahuan Desert.



### Conservation Organizations

**Chihuahuan Desert Education Coalition**  
<http://www.chihuahuadesert.org>

**Second Chance Wildlife Rescue**  
<https://www.secondchancewildliferescue.org>  
Josie Karam (915) 920-7867

**El Paso Zoo** (915) 212-0966  
[www.elpasozoo.org](http://www.elpasozoo.org)

**Stick House Sanctuary**  
<https://www.facebook.com/epwildliferescue>  
(915) 219-2365

**Keystone Heritage Park** 581-7920  
[www.keystoneheritagepark.com](http://www.keystoneheritagepark.com)

**Asombro Institute**  
(575) 524-3334 [www.asombro.org](http://www.asombro.org)

**Friends of Rio Bosque** 747-8663  
[www.riobosque.org](http://www.riobosque.org)

**Wildlife for All**  
(formerly SW Environmental Center)  
(575) 522-5552  
[www.wildmesquite.org](http://www.wildmesquite.org)

**Celebration of Our Mountains**  
[www.celebmtns.org](http://www.celebmtns.org)

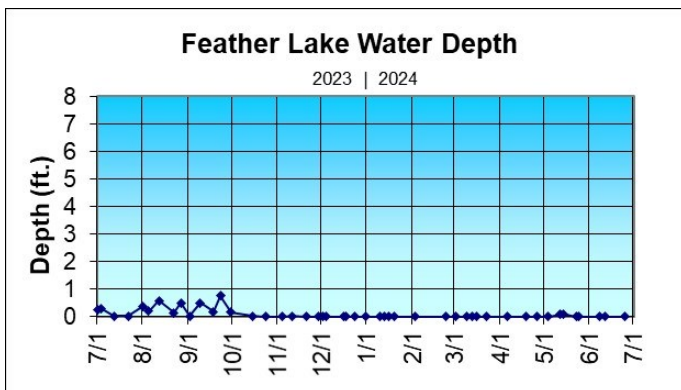
**Frontera Land Alliance** (915) 351-8352  
[www.fronteralandalliance.org](http://www.fronteralandalliance.org)

## AT FEATHER LAKE

Feather Lake has two sources of water. The main source is runoff from intense storm events, of which there have been very few for almost two years now. The other is unused irrigation water discharged either into the Mesa Drain upstream of the lake or into the Mesa Drain Interceptor at a point immediately downstream of the lake. In the latter case, water discharged to the Interceptor can build up and backflow into Feather Lake.

This year, there have been several discharges of irrigation water to the Mesa Drain upstream of Feather Lake. Each time, the water flooded a modest area near the lake inlet—where our water-level gauge is located—then quickly soaked into the soil. More substantial have been discharges to the Mesa Drain Interceptor downstream of the lake. This water has kept a large area on the back side of the lake basin consistently flooded and has promoted an extensive stand of emergent vegetation.

Our next workday at Feather Lake will be **Sat., August 10** starting at **8 a.m.** We'll be clearing downed tree limbs and other obstacles from the inner berm that winds through the basin. Join us. Feather Lake is located at 9500 North Loop at Bordeaux in El Paso, 0.3 miles west of Americas Ave.



## Audubon at

Rio Bosque  
Wetlands Park



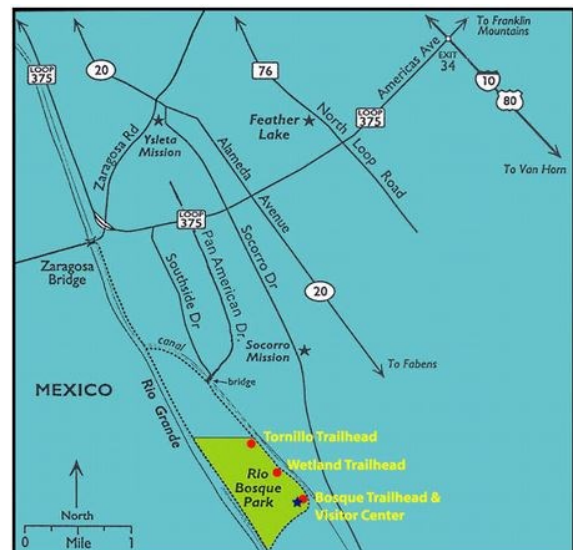
It continues to be an exceptional year for water availability at Rio Bosque, and the park's vegetation and wildlife are responding.

Black-necked Stilts and American Avocets nested in good numbers. The park's resident beaver continues to play an outsized role influencing the water system. And a pair of White-tailed Kites has been present since late May. This species last nested at Rio Bosque in 2017. We are hoping that drought will end in 2024.

To see all this activity for yourself, join us for one of the upcoming tours at the park:

- 7 a.m., Sat., July 6 (Birding tour)**
- 8 a.m., Sun., July 14 (Introductory tour)**
- 8 a.m., Sun., Aug 11 (Introductory tour)**
- 8 a.m., Sat., Aug 24 (Birding tour)**
- 8 a.m., Sat., Sep 14 (Birding tour)**
- 8 a.m., Sun., Sep 22 (Introductory tour)**

The meeting place is a bridge crossing the Riverside Canal. To get there from I-10, take Americas Ave. (Loop 375) to Pan American Drive, turn left onto Pan American and travel 1.5 miles. Information: 747-8663. For up-to-date information on tours, birds and water conditions at the park, check [www.riobosque.org](http://www.riobosque.org).



El Paso/Trans-Pecos  
Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 972441  
El Paso, Texas 79997

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**National Audubon Society  
Chapter Membership Application.**

Yes, I'd like to join. Please enroll me as a member of the National Audubon Society and the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Chapter.

Send AUDUBON magazine and my membership card to address below.

Check for \$20.00 enclosed payable to National Audubon Society

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**National Audubon Society  
Chapter Membership Data Center  
PO Box 97194  
Washington, DC 20090-7194**

Local Chapter Code **C1ZW100Z**

**Dates to Remember**

July

**No Board Meeting  
No General Meeting  
6 & 14: Rio Bosque**

August

Sat 10: **Feather Lake Workday**  
Mon 12: **Board Meeting**  
**No General Meeting**  
11 & 24: **Rio Bosque**

September

Mon 9: **Board Meeting**  
14 & 22: **Rio Bosque**  
Mon 16: **General Meeting**

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society  
<http://www.trans-pecos-audubon.com>

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Local **Chapter Only Membership** Your \$15.00 will help support chapter activities & you'll receive

*The Roadrunner* delivered to your mailbox.

Make checks payable to the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: EPTP Audubon P.O. Box 972441 El Paso, Texas 79997