

The Roadrunner



Newsletter of the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society General Meetings

Inside the Roadrunner

Sanctuary News	2
Notes from the Field	3
Field Trips	4
Chapter Info	5
Calendar	6

Monday, October 20, 2014 7:00pm Centennial Museum, at UTEP Birds of South Africa

Elizabeth Chase, of the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society will dazzle the crowd with her presentation of the birds of South Africa. Be sure and come early. Light refreshments and awesome friendships are always a huge part of the program.

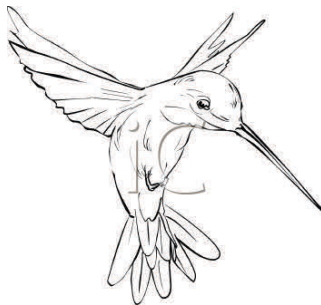


THE ELECTRONIC ROADRUNNER

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.

Monday, November 17, 2014 7:00pm Centennial Museum, at UTEP THE LUCIFER HUMMINGBIRD IN WEST TEXAS

West Texas, with 17 of the 18 species found in our state, has the highest diversity of hummingbirds of any region in Texas. Since 2007, **Kelly Bryan** of Fort Davis has been spearheading a long-term banding project at multiple sites aimed at gaining insight into the status, distribution and natural history of these tiny jewels in West Texas.



One of his more fascinating subjects has been the **Lucifer Hummingbird**, a nesting species in the canyons and foothills of the Chisos and other mountain ranges in the Big Bend region.

What have Kelly's banding studies revealed about this unique West Texas hummingbird? Join us November 17 to find out! For more on Kelly Bryan's work with West Texas hummingbirds, visit westtexashummingbirds.com.

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Every time you swipe your



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AT FEATHER LAKE

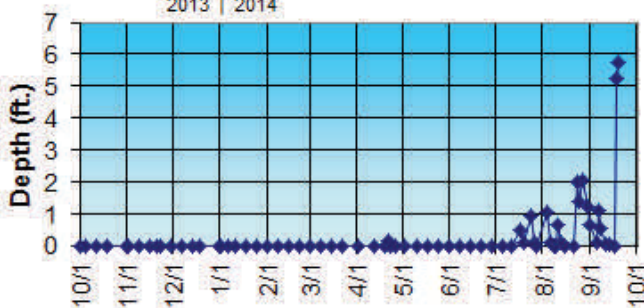
Starting in mid-July, Feather Lake experienced several cycles of partial flooding from storm runoff, followed by drying as the water soaked into the ground. The maximum depth the water reached at the inlet was just over 2 feet...until September 18. Late in the afternoon of September 17, the water depth at the inlet was 0.02 feet. By early the next afternoon, after heavy overnight rains, it had risen to 5.27 feet, then 5.76 feet the following day.

Very likely, by the time you read this, September 2014 will have been the first month since August 2010 with water present in the Feather Lake basin during the entire month. How long will it last?

The summer rains stimulated plenty of plant growth in the uplands around Feather Lake. We've been working hard to clear the trail on the east side of the lake but still have work to do. Join us for our next workday to help out. It takes place **Sat., October 11** starting at **2 p.m.** Feather Lake is located at 9500 North Loop at Bordeaux in El Paso, 0.3 miles west of Americas Ave.

Feather Lake Water Depth

2013 | 2014



The Audubon Website!

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

<http://www.trans-pecos-audubon.org>

Audubon at RIO BOSQUE WETLANDS PARK



The big activity at Rio Bosque this fall will be installation of the planned new pipeline from the adjacent Roberto Bustamante Wastewater Treatment Plant to the park. Once the work is complete, expected shortly before Christmas, the pipeline will ensure a year-round water supply for the park.

For up-to-date information on water conditions and the park's birds, check www.riobosque.org.

Upcoming free walking tours:

- 8 a.m. Sat., Oct 11 (Bird tour)**
- 4 p.m. Sun., Oct 19 (Introductory tour)**
- 9 a.m. Sun., Nov 9 (Introductory tour)**
- 3 p.m. Sat., Nov 22 (Bird 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.



Notes from the Field

Northern New Mexico and Jemez Mountains August 29-September 1, 2014

We had a group of 16 birders for the trip. Friday we birded the Los Alamos area, where we had a flock of **Band-tailed Pigeons** and a colony of **Acorn Woodpeckers**. We went to Deer Trap Mesa, which was a beautiful view of the canyons of Los Alamos. We finished the day up on Pajaritos Ski Area looking for the **Three-toed Woodpecker**.

There were lots of signs of them, but no sightings.



Belted Kingfisher
Dave Peveto

Saturday morning we left early for Espanola and the San Juan Bridge, where we had **Cedar Waxwings, Yellow-breasted Chat, Nashville Warbler, Blue Grosbeak, and a Black-capped Chickadee**. We then traveled to the Santa Fe Ski Area, where we had a flock of **Pinyon Jays** right in the City of Santa Fe. We ate lunch at the Ski Area where a few in our group rode on the gondola to the top and saw a **Black-billed Magpie**. We did a small hike down the creek, where we got a **Red-breasted Nuthatch, Mountain Chickadee, Downy Woodpecker** and a **Red-naped Sapsucker**. We returned to Los Alamos through Tesuque, which is a very pretty drive. Saturday night we had a group dinner with everyone talking about the day's activities.



Immature Rock Wren
Janet Perkins

Sunday morning we went to Bandelier National Monument, where there are cliff dwellings and kivas and ancient Native American drawings. Here we saw **Olive-sided Flycatchers, Canyon Wren, Canyon Towhee, Western Tanager, Rock Wren** and **Western Blue-**

birds. We had a picnic lunch near Jemez Springs and then headed into the Jemez Mountains where we walked in a meadow and we saw a **North-ern Goshawk, Townsend's Solitaire** and **White-breasted Nuthatch, and Northern Flickers**. We returned to Los Alamos and regrouped to go to the Valle Caldera for Elk watching. We had good looks at lots of **Elk**, we heard them bugle and we were able to watch two bulls fighting over some cows.

Monday morning we checked out of our hotels and drove to Randall Davey Audubon Center in Santa Fe. They had their feeders up and we all took turns sitting and watching birds at feeders. We had a lot of **hummingbirds (Rufous, Black-chinned, and Broad-tailed)**. Several in the group went on a hike to the beaver ponds where **Evening Grosbeak, Black-headed Grosbeak, Clark's Nutcracker, Lesser Goldfinch, Pine Siskins** and **Western Scrub-Jays** were seen. A birder, from Los Alamos, Joe Fitzgibbon, joined us for our trips and we appreciate his knowledge of the area and the birds; it was very helpful. The weather for the trip was great and it was a fun trip. We had 75 birds.

Down the Valley and Rio Bosque Wetlands Park Saturday, September 20, 2014.

We started our trip at Rio Bosque looking for the Sabine's Gull, but had no luck. We got a good look at a **Burrowing Owl**. Rio Bosque was very wet and muddy, so we headed down the Valley.

We stopped at all 3 reservoirs. We had lots of raptors on this trip. We had 4 **Osprey, 4 Harris's Hawks, Red-tailed Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, several American Kestrels, Cooper's Hawk, and a Golden Eagle**.

We had an **American White Pelican, Greater Yellowlegs, 3 different grebes (Eared, Clark's and Western), Neotropic and Double-crested cormorants, Blue-winged and Green-winged teal** and **Greater Roadrunner**. We picnicked at a roadside park in Ft. Hancock.

Field Trips

November is El Paso's Cactus Appreciation Month

The Public is invited to join us to celebrate



El Paso Cactus and Rock Club



Sat., November 1

9:30 am to 2:00 pm

El Paso Garden Center
3105 Grant St.
In Memorial Park

Admission is free
Parking behind the building.

Informational Briefings

9:30 am "Those Captivating Cacti" DVD provides details for caring for cacti, Panorama Studios

10:00 am "What is a Cactus?", Ad Korlings, Local Author (book signing follows)

11:00 am "Not Your Mama's Nopales", Jim Hastings, the Gringo Gourmet. Cooking demonstration with samples.

12:00 pm "Succulent Plants from Around the World to Your Backyard", Jack Makepeace, Cactus Aficionado.

1:00 pm "Plant Propagation and Care of Cacti in Your Landscape", Jean-Claude Linozzi, President of El Paso Cactus and Rock Club.

Plant Sale

Exotic and Native Cacti and Succulent Plants

- Plants supplied by:
- Rio Grande Cactus, Socorro, NM
 - High Desert Native Plants, 4200 Doniphan St. El Paso, TX

Refreshments will be served.

Our Mission: Conservation and preservation of our native cacti and succulents and public education.

Free CD containing Plant Information

- Care of Cacti and Succulents
- Propagating Cacti
- Diseases of Succulents
- Transplanting Cacti
- Cacti and Succulents in Containers
- Recipe for Cactus/Succulent fertilizer
- and more!

Saturday, December 13, 2014 Sod Farms & Pancho Villa State Park in Columbus, NM.

At the Sod Farms we will be looking for **shorebirds**. Pancho Villa State Park is an oasis for migrating birds as are the sod farms.

Some birds we could see are the **Black-throated Sparrow, Pyrrhuloxia, Crissal Thrasher** and **Greater Roadrunner**.

Meet at 7:00 a.m. behind the Sam's Carwash in Sam's Parking Lot at 7970 N. Mesa. Bring lunch and water. There is a nominal fee at Pancho Villa State Park.

Nonmembers and beginners welcome.
Contact Mark Perkins at (915) 637-3521

Saturday, November 15, 2014 Dripping Springs Natural Area and possibly Soledad Canyon

We will take an easy hike of approximately 1-1/2 miles birding up the Dripping Springs Trail to the old Sanatorium and the famous "Weeping Walls" in which a natural spring seeps out of the rock.


Birds we might see, other than migrants, are **Black-throated** and **Black-chinned sparrows, Red-tailed Hawk, Cactus and Canyon wren, and Scaled and Gambel's quail.**

Bring a lunch and we'll have a picnic at La Cueva, which is Spanish for "the cave", after which we will return to El Paso. Time permitting, we'll stop at Soledad Canyon.

There is a nominal fee per car at Dripping Springs. **We will meet at 7:00 a.m. at the southwest corner of the Outlet Mall, the entrance off of Talbot Road.** Bring water and wear comfortable shoes. Beginners and nonmembers are welcome. **Contact Mark Perkins at 915-637-3521.**



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



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

Earth Share OF TEXAS

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

Officers

President: Scott Cutler, 581- 6071
Vice President: Jane Fowler, 598-2448
Secretary/Treasurer: Eddie Chew, 587-9589

Committees

Membership: Roxanne Schroeder, 533-0061	Publicity: Janet Perkins, 637- 5269
Programs: Elizabeth Chase 539-1191	Education: Kathleen Whelen, 751-2408
Conservation: Luis Sanchez, 599-7381	Publications: Jane Fowler, 598-2448
Field Trips: Mark Perkins 637-3521	Newsletter Editor: Kathleen Whelen, 751-2408
Hospitality: Janet Perkins, 637-5269	Sanctuary: John Sproul, 545-5157
Way & Means: vacant	

Concordia Dia de Los Muertos

Concordia Heritage Association and Paso Del Norte Paranormal Society celebrate Day of the Dead, 2 to 8 p.m. Saturday, **Nov. 1**, at Concordia Cemetery, 3700 E. Yandell (between Boone and Stevens) with a ghost tour, fortune teller, flower vendors, decorated altars and more.

Proceeds go toward the restoration and preservation of Concordia Cemetery. Tickets: \$5 (\$1 kids and students; \$1 seniors).

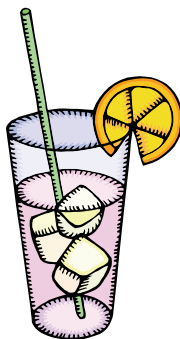
Information: 694-2317, help@ghosts915 or concordia-cemetery.org. Guests may "get in the spirit" and come dressed as Calacas or Catrinas.



Be Straw Free

Certainly there are ways to deal with the issues of sustainability and environmental care on a "macro" level; but our "micro" personal habits will make an impact as well. Here is one very small and easy thing that you can do: tell the waiter or waitress at a restaurant not to bring you a straw with your drink.

Learn more at www.bestrawfree.org



Conservation Organizations

Second Chance Wildlife Rescue
 Josie Karam (915) 920-7867

Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue
<http://www.cdwr.org>

El Paso Zoo 521-1850
www.elpasozoo.org

Keystone Heritage Park 581-7920
www.keystoneheritagepark.org

Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park
 (575) 524-3334 www.asombro.org

Friends of Rio Bosque 747-8663
www.riobosque.org

Southwest Environmental Center
 (575) 522-5552
www.wildmesquite.org

Franklin Mt. Wilderness Coalition
www.franklinmountains.org/

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

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**National Audubon Society
Chapter Membership Application.**

Dates to Remember Call Mark Perkins for details 637-3521

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 422250
Palm Coast, FL 32142-2250**

Local Chapter Code C1ZW100Z

October

Sat 4: **Dell City**
11 & 19: **Rio Bosque**
Sat 11: **Feather Lake**
Mon 13: **Board Meeting**
Mon 20: **General Meeting**

November

9 & 22: **Rio Bosque**
Mon 10: **Board Meeting**
Sat 15: **Dripping Springs**
Mon 17: **General Meeting**

December

Mon. 1: **Board Meeting**
Mon 8: **Holiday Meeting**
Sat 13: **Sod Farms**

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