



The Roadrunner

Newsletter of the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

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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.

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



General Meetings Centennial Museum at UTEP 500 W. University Ave

December 10, 2018 7:00 pm
Holiday Gathering & Photo Sharing

The December public meeting of the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society will take place on December 10th at the Centennial Museum on the UTEP campus. We will begin the meeting at 7 pm.



Sharing the Year with Your Photos

We are continuing the ever-popular photo sharing event at our December meeting. After a year's worth of bird watching and travel, we invite you to share some of your favorite images with the group.

Here are the guidelines.

Subjects: birds; other animals; landscape; plants; humorous

Number of images: up to 15 per person

Format: all images must be in digital format.

Send photos by e-mail to Scott Cutler at:

scottmcutler@sbcglobal.net He will assemble the images into a PowerPoint presentation.

If you cannot e-mail the images, contact Scott at 915-494-2193 to see about making other arrangements.

Deadline: images should be delivered to Scott Cutler by **November 30th, 2018.**

See page 2 for January General Meeting program information

January 21, 2019 7:00 pm
 California Condor in New Mexico
 Joe Fitzgibbon

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

Conservation: Kevin Floyd, 613-6354
Education: Kathleen Whelen, 820-1895
Field Trips: Mark Perkins 637-3521
Hospitality: Janet Perkins, 637-5269
Membership: Elizabeth Chase, 539-1191
Newsletter Editor: Kathleen Whelen, 820-1895
Programs: Susie Schneider, 542-3041
Publications: Jane Fowler, 598-2448
Publicity: Janet Perkins, 637- 5269
Sanctuary: John Sproul, 545-5157
Website: Janet Perkins, 637-5269
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.



General Meetings
Centennial Museum at UTEP
500 W. University Ave

January 21, 2019 7:00 pm
California Condor in
New Mexico
Joe Fitzgibbon



Joe Fitzgibbon was born in El Paso but has been a life-long resident and bird watcher in Los Alamos, New Mexico.

On April 24, 2015 Joe looked out at his feeders and saw a California Condor standing in the backyard. This was the first recorded sighting of a California Condor in New Mexico history. This condor spurred a deeper interest in the California Condor. Joe will talk about this experience, what he learned, and the condors he has seen since.

Looking for a Christmas Bird Count?

<https://bit.ly/2iLiGUk>



El Paso: Jan 1st, 2019

If you are a new or returning participant, please contact Jim Paton prior to the count at either 915-585-2628 or at jnpaton@att.net.

Conservation Organizations

Chihuahuan Desert Education Coalition
www.chihuahuandesert.org

Second Chance Wildlife Rescue
www.secondchancewildliferescue.org
Josie Karam (915) 920-7867

El Paso Zoo 521-1850
www.elpasozoo.org

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

Keystone Heritage Park 581-7920
www.keystoneheritagepark.com

Asombro Institute
(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/

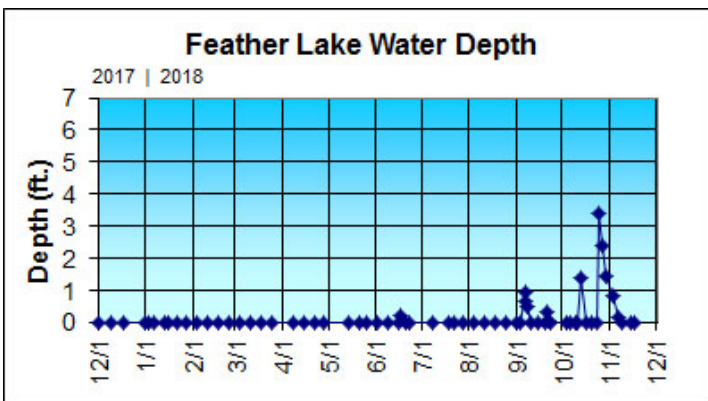
AT FEATHER LAKE

It took most of the year, but in late October we finally got a storm with enough runoff to flood the entire Feather Lake basin.

The lake went from completely dry on Oct 23 to 3.4 feet deep on Oct 25. The water then dropped steadily over the next 2 weeks, and the lake was again dry Nov 9.

The storm washed a new load of trash into the basin, just 2.5 weeks after hard-working Boy Scouts from Troop 4 finished removing trash washed in by prior storms. Care to guess where we'll be working on our next Feather Lake workday?

It takes place **Sat., December 8**, 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.



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

Audubon at

Rio Bosque Wetlands Park



The park's wetland cells are gradually filling but are not yet fully flooded. Ducks arrived in earnest with a mid-November cold snap. Over 1,800 are currently present.

Recent new bird species for the park: a male Red-naped Sapsucker on Nov 4 and a Chimney Swift on Nov 13. For up-to-date information on Rio Bosque's birds and water conditions, check www.riobosque.org.

Upcoming free walking tours:

- 3 p.m., Sun., December 2 (Introductory tour)
- 8 a.m., Sat., December 15 (Birding tour)
- 8 a.m., Sat., January 12 (Birding tour)
- 3 p.m., Sun., January 20 (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.



Field Trips

Rio Bosque Wetlands Saturday, January 12, 2019

Meet at 7:00 a. m. at the parking lot of Office Depot at Bassett Center and we will carpool from there.

We will be looking for raptors and wintering waterfowl.



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

Join us on Facebook!

There is now an El Paso Audubon Society group on Facebook. Our aim is to provide a space for people around El Paso to share pictures, sightings, and other information about birds and conservation.

All levels of pictures are welcome. If you are looking for help with identification, please include the location and date of the picture, as both are important with narrowing the possibilities.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/EIPasoAudubonGroup>

Thank you for Donations

Hugh & Sally Jameson generously donated a box of bird field guides and binoculars to be used as part of the education outreach. Their hope is to encourage young people to get outside and learn about the natural world and to enjoy bird-watching.



The books and binoculars are much appreciated and will be put to good use.

Costa Rica Birding Tour

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon is planning a Costa Rica Tour for March 2019. The places we will be going offer some great bird watching. The estimated price will be \$1,817.51 with the field trip guide paying his own way. The optional boat trip offered on Saturday, Mar. 17, will be an additional \$30.00. The trip cost quoted is for land-based tour. Roundtrip airfare to San Jose, Costa Rica, is the responsibility of each participant.

Some of the possible birds to be added to your life list include the following; Spotted Wood-Quail, Costa Rican Pygmy-Owl, Resplendent Quetzal, Collared Trogon, Buffy Tuftedcheek, Ruddy Treerunner, Ochraceous Pewee, Barred Becard, Zeledonia, Golden-browed Chlorophonia, Volcano Junco, Talamanca Hummingbird, Green Violetear, Gray-tailed Mountain-gem, Volcano Hummingbird, Scintillant Hummingbird, Fiery-throated Hummingbird, Violet Sabrewing, Flame-colored and Slaty flowerpiercer, Lattice-tailed Trogon, Yellow-eared Toucanet, Streak-crowned Antvireo, Tawny-faced Gnatwren, White-throated Shrike-Tanager, Ashy-throated Bush-Tanager, Tawny-crested Tanager, Emerald and Blue-and-gold Tanagers, Keel-billed Toucan, Great Green Macaw, White-winged Becard, Sunbittern, Acadian Flycatcher, and Wood Thrush. Rarities seen here on occasion include Rufous-fronted Wood-Quail, Red-fronted Parrotlet, Rufous-vented Ground-Cuckoo, Black-crowned Antpitta, Gray-headed Piprites, and Sharpbill.

Additionally, \$200 of each person's trip price will be donated to the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society to help us fund important local bird conservation activities.

Please contact Scott for details regarding the itinerary and schedule. There are only 10 spaces. We need to get a sense of who would be interested in going on this trip. If you have any questions, please give Scott Cutler a call at 915-494-2193.



Texas Master Naturalist-Trans Pecos Chapter
 Spring 2019 Training Class
 Feb. 7th – June 6th 2019

The mission of the Trans-Pecos Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist Program is to develop a group of well-informed volunteers to provide education, outreach and service dedicated toward the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas. Course topics include:

- Land Ethics
- Archeology
- Ornithology
- Geology
- Desert Ecology
- Aquatics
- Invertebrate Biology
- Botany
- Herpetology

Classes will be held each Thursday night from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. at Texas A&M AgriLife Extension-Ascarate Annex- 301 Manny Martinez 79905. There are also six Saturday field trips to area parks for hands-on training. To become a Certified Texas Master Naturalist, trainees must complete:

- Attendance at all training classes, including field trips (60 hours total)
- 40 hours of volunteer service on approved projects within a year
- 8 hours of advanced training in approved classes within a year
- Pass a state-mandated background check

Class fee is \$125. Registration deadline is February 1st, 2019. Class size is limited, and applicants selected to attend the class will be contacted no later than Feb. 4th, 2019.

Make checks payable to TMN-Trans Pecos Chapter.

For more information and to obtain registration forms, contact the office below.

Application also available at elp.tamu.edu

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE
301 Manny Martinez 2nd Floor
El Paso, TX 79905
Phone (915) 771-2354
Fax (915) 771-2356

“Texas A&M AgriLife Extension provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity.”

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

Return service request

Nonprofit Organization
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 El Paso, Texas
 Permit #2440

**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 Call Mark Perkins for details 637-3521

December

Mon 3: **Board Meeting**
 2 & 15: **Rio Bosque**
 Sat 8: **Feather Lake Workday**
 Mon 10: **General Meeting &
 Photo Sharing**



January

Tue. 1: **EP X-mas Bird Count**
 Sat 12: **Rio Bosque**
 12 & 20: **Rio Bosque**
 Mon 14: **Board Meeting**
 Mon 21: **General Meeting**

February

Sat 16: **Awards Dinner**

March

Costa Rica



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