



# The Roadrunner

Newsletter of the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

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### General Meeting

Centennial Museum at UTEP  
 500 W. University Ave El Paso, Texas  
 October 17, 2022 7:00pm

There are roughly 731 species of birds on the Philippine Islands, 237 species of which are endemic, particularly on the islands of Luzon, Mindanao and Palawan. Elizabeth Wakefield will talk about her experiences birding on Palawan, the endemics she encountered, and plans for an Audubon trip to the Philippine islands of Luzon and Palawan in February of 2023.

**See Page 3 for November 21st General Meeting**

### NEW AND IMPROVED: The El Paso Area Bird Checklist

In 1938, Tom Miller Kirksey, a founding member of the El Paso Bird Study Club, compiled a "Check-list of Birds of the El Paso Region." In 1939, with additional input from Lena McBee and Texas ornithology guru Harry C. Oberholser, it was updated and became the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the region's local bird checklist. Now, the eagerly anticipated 10<sup>th</sup> edition is available.

Once again, thanks go to Jim Paton, John Sproul and Barry Zimmer for their dedicated work compiling this new edition. They also collaborated on the 8<sup>th</sup> (2003) and 9<sup>th</sup> (2012) editions, and Sproul and Zimmer contributed to the 6<sup>th</sup> (1980) and 7<sup>th</sup> (1987) editions. Thanks also go to the many contributors whose observations are the foundation for the checklist.

Superficially, the new checklist appears a lot like the previous edition. A closer look reveals many changes. It includes all the applicable taxonomic and name changes since 2012. For many species, the seasonal-occurrence bar graphs have changed to reflect either their changed status, our increased understanding of their status, or both.

From 1973 (5th edition) to 2003 (8th edition), the number of species on the checklist exploded from 272 to 426. For the 9th edition (2012), the growth was more modest: an increase of just 11 species to 437. The 10<sup>th</sup> edition continues this trend, with 12 species added, for a total of **449**.

Birds new to the list include Little Gull, Elegant Tern, Yellow-billed Loon, Magnificent Frigatebird, Short-tailed Hawk, Elegant Trogon, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Yellow-green Vireo, Pacific Wren and Bay-breasted Warbler! In addition, Blue-throated Mountain-gem (formerly Blue-throated Hummingbird) reappears on the main list after being relegated to the hypothetical list in 2012.

Two species – Mexican Duck and Chihuahuan Meadowlark – now appear on the checklist as full species by virtue of taxonomic splits. One species – Thayer's Gull – now appears as a subspecies after being lumped with Iceland Gull.

### 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).

### 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)



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## 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.

**CONTINUED from Page 1**

### **THE EL PASO-AREA BIRD CHECKLIST**

Newly confirmed breeding species since 2012: Snowy Plover, Cooper’s Hawk, Acorn Woodpecker, Tropical Kingbird and Cassin’s Kingbird. Newly suspected of breeding: Common Nighthawk and Yellow-crowned Night-Heron.

The 1938-39 checklist had a heavy emphasis on subspecies. In a nod to that original list, you’ll see the new edition includes a number of subspecies and other identifiable forms not covered in previous editions. We hope this will inspire greater attention to their status in our region.

The new checklist is a fantastic resource that can enhance your knowledge, appreciation and enjoyment of El Paso-area birds. You can view the online version (and previous editions) at [www.trans-pecos-audubon.com/bird-checklists.html](http://www.trans-pecos-audubon.com/bird-checklists.html). Hard copies will be available at our monthly meetings, at community events, and by mail order.

### **Birdathon 2022**

Our annual fundraiser, Birdathon, is coming **October 8th and 9th**. Our skilled counters see as many species as they can in a 24-hour period. Advance pledges may sponsor one of our counters for an amount per species seen, or for a set amount. Previous counts by individual counters in the fall have ranged from about 50 to 133. Please consider supporting the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society’s Birdathon.

### **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)

**Franklin Mt. Wilderness Coalition**  
[www.franklinmountains.org/](http://www.franklinmountains.org/)

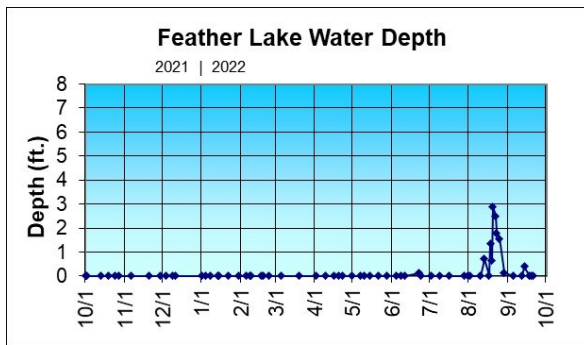
**Celebration of Our Mountains**  
[www.celebmtns.org](http://www.celebmtns.org)

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

## AT FEATHER LAKE

After over 11 months with little or no water, storms on August 18 and 20 provided enough runoff to flood the Feather Lake basin to a depth of 2.89 feet. By September 1, it was again dry.

Our next workday at Feather Lake will be **Sun., October 16**, starting at **9 a.m.** No surprise: the August rains washed a whole new collection of trash into the basin. We will remove as much as we can on the workday. Feather Lake is located at 9500 North Loop at Bordeaux in El Paso, 0.3 miles west of Americas Ave.



**November 21, 2022 General Meeting**  
**Centennial Museum at UTEP**  
**500 W. University Ave El Paso, Texas**  
**November 21, 2022 7:00pm**

**Dr. Michael Harvey: Exploration and discovery in the Amazon during fifteen years of research on tropical bird speciation**

The Amazon Basin contains the greatest bird diversity on Earth, but how this diversity originated and is maintained is still unclear. Since 2006, Dr. Harvey has conducted field work in Amazonian headwaters areas, especially the upper Ucayali River in central Peru. His research, with collaborators, has resolved the details of boundaries between species ranges, revealed the existence of new hybrid zones, provided estimates of gene flow between incipient species, and resulted in the discovery and description of taxa new to science. This talk will provide a recap of both the field work and the scientific results from this research program.

Dr. Mike Harvey is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at UTEP and a Curator of Birds in the UTEP Biodiversity Collections. His lab studies bird diversity and evolution, particularly in the Neotropics and Borderland regions. He is also a lifelong birder and advocate for the appreciation and protection of the natural world.

## Audubon at

Rio Bosque Wetlands Park



Deliveries of treated wastewater to the park ended October 1. Until they resume, the park will rely on well water. In September, the park's industrious beaver began work on a second dam...and then a third. Efforts to install pipes to enable a flow through the dams continue, but the beaver clearly retains the upper hand.

For up-to-date information on tours, birds and water conditions at the park, check [www.riobosque.org](http://www.riobosque.org). Upcoming tours:

- 4 p.m., Sun., Oct 16 (Birding tour)**
- 8 a.m., Sat., Oct 29 (Introductory tour)**
- 3:30 p.m., Sun., Nov 20 (Introductory tour)**
- 8 a.m., Sat., Nov 26 (Birding 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**  
 Current list of upcoming field trips at <http://www.trans-pecos-audubon.com/>

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

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**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**

October

8 & 9: **Birdathon**  
Mon 10: **Board Meeting**  
Mon 17: **General Meeting**  
16 & 29: **Rio Bosque**  
Sun 16: **Feather Lake**

**Workday**

Sat 22: **Keystone Field Trip**

November

Mon 14: **Board Meeting**  
Mon 21: **General Meeting**  
20 & 26: **Rio Bosque**

December

Mon 5: **Board Meeting**  
Mon 12: **Holiday Meeting  
& Photo Share**

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