

# The Roadrunner



Newsletter of the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

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## 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](mailto:jsproul@utep.edu).

**Congratulations to Conservation Award recipient, Rick LoBello**



**Monday, April 15, 2013, 7:00 p.m.,  
Centennial Museum, at UTEP  
General Meeting**



## Birds of the Philippines Elizabeth Chase

Join us for a special program given by Elizabeth Chase. Elizabeth is a past Audubon Chapter President and enthusiastic birder. We are so lucky to have Elizabeth back in the flock with us. As always, snacks and friends never disappoint. See you then!



**Monday, May 20, 2013, 7:00 p.m.,  
Centennial Museum, at UTEP  
General Meeting**



## Program To Be Announced

At the time this newsletter went to press, the May program had yet to be arranged. Always one of the highlights of the May program is reviewing the Birdathon totals and finding out when and where the most unusual birds were sighted.

The City of El Paso Environmental Services Department is sponsoring a fun-filled family day and educational event on **April 20, 2013**, to kick-off **Earth Day celebrations in El Paso.**



El Paso's Earth Day will be 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Union Plaza District, 511 Western Court, along Anthony Street and San Francisco Ave. The outdoor event is free & open to the public



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**

Membership: Roxanne Schroeder, 533-0061  
Programs: Elizabeth Chase 539-1191  
Conservation: Luis Sanchez, 599-7381  
Field Trips: Mark Perkins 637-3521  
Hospitality: Janet Perkins, 581-2849  
Way & Means: vacant

**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

Publicity: Janet Perkins, 581-2849  
Education: Kathleen Whelen, 751-2408  
Publications: Jane Fowler, 598-2448  
Newsletter Editor: Kathleen Whelen, 751-2408  
Sanctuary: John Sproul, 545-5157

**Get Ready for Birdathon 2013**

Please see the insert for more information on how you can get involved as a counter or a sponsor. All the funds raised benefit conservation projects in our area community.



Hope to see you on the birding trail.

**Albertson's ...**

Every time you swipe your Community Partners Card, you earn cash for the Audubon Society.



Now isn't that a good reason to shop at Albertsons?

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

**Conservation Organizations**

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

El Paso Zoo 521-1850  
[www.elpasozoo.org](http://www.elpasozoo.org)

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

Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park  
(575) 524-3334 [www.asombro.org](http://www.asombro.org)

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

Southwest Environmental Center  
(575) 522-5552  
[www.wildmesquite.org](http://www.wildmesquite.org)

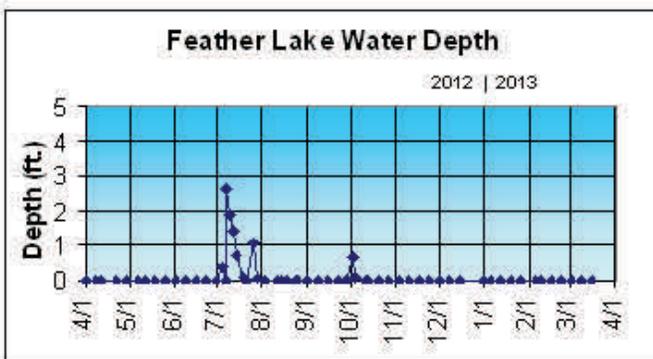
Franklin Mt. Wilderness Coalition  
[www.franklinmountains.org/](http://www.franklinmountains.org/)

## AT FEATHER LAKE

Feather Lake remains dry and closed to public use. It has now been almost 6 months since any water was in the basin. Feather Lake continues to experience the double whammy of 1) no rainfall to put surface runoff in the lake and 2) extensive regional groundwater pumping drawing down the water table. The water-table decline is hitting wetland and riparian habitats, which rely on a shallow water table, especially hard.

Our next workday at Feather Lake takes place **Sat., April 6** starting at **8 a.m.** We'll continue clearing downed trees from the trail on the inner berm within the basin.

Feather Lake is located at 9500 North Loop at Bordeaux in El Paso, 0.3 miles west of Americas Ave.

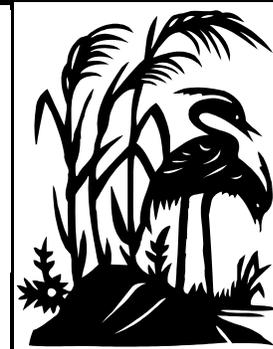


### Overnight Field Trips.

Because of the expense of gas, and the time and preparation involved for the overnight field trips, it's important that you let Mark Perkins know in advance if you are planning to go on one of the overnight trips.

If there aren't at least 5 people going on a trip, it will be a no-go. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

## Audubon at RIO BOSQUE WETLANDS PARK



A lone White-tailed Kite is again roosting at Rio Bosque. May's bird tour is scheduled to coincide with the annual return of **Painted Buntings**. For up-to-date information on the park's birds, check [www.riobosque.org](http://www.riobosque.org).

Upcoming free walking tours:

**8 a.m., Sun., Apr 21 (Bird tour)**  
**4 p.m., Sat., Apr 27 (Introductory tour)**

**7 a.m. Sat., May 11 (Bird tour)**  
**8 a.m. Sun., May 19 (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.



## Notes From the Field

### January 18th-21st, 2013 Phoenix and Maricopa County Area.

This was a new trip and we had a tremendous turnout of 21 people! We had perfect weather (after freezing temperatures the week before in Phoenix). We visited Boyce Thompson Arboretum, where we had a guided tour and saw lots of cactus from all over the world and it was very birdy there. We saw the Black-throated Gray Warbler and Gila Woodpecker there.

We had a great picnic under the trees with wonderful sandwiches that Fay and Kathy Millett brought. After lunch we went to Tres Rios Wetlands where we saw a large rookery of nesting Great Blue Herons. That was a treat! We also stopped by Encanto Park, which is a truly beautiful park. We were looking for the Rosy-faced



Lovebird. We had almost given up, but on the way out we saw several.

That evening we had a group dinner at The Landmark, a famous old Mormon Church. Early the next morning we went to Gilbert Water Ranch, the number one birding spot in the Phoenix Area. We were not disappointed. There we saw Bendire's Thrasher, Lawrence's Goldfinch, several people saw a Kestrel with his newly-caught prey, lots of water birds,

Marsh Wren, lots of Rosy-faced Lovebirds, lots of Verdin, Anna's Hummingbird and Costa's Hummingbird.

We then headed off to Buckeye, AZ, where we had lunch at a local restaurant that served Mexican and Greek food! Interesting combination, but the food was actually quite good. We then went to the famous Thrasher spot, where we had fleeting looks at Le Conte's Thrasher and good looks at lots of Sage Sparrows. Monday morning we had a guided bird walk with Diana Herron at the Desert Botanical Garden. We had good looks at Northern Cardinal, Gilded Flicker, Western Screech-Owl, Great Horned Owls, Cactus Wren, Costa's and Anna's hummingbirds, and Zone-tailed Hawk.



Fay and Kathy Millett were instrumental in helping us plan and lead the trip. Thanks to everyone in the group for making this such a memorable trip.



## Field Trips

### Memorial Park and Arroyo Park April 27, 2013.

Warbler migration should be in full swing. The orioles, vireos and tanagers should have arrived. Meet at the Garden Center at Memorial Park at 7:00 a.m.



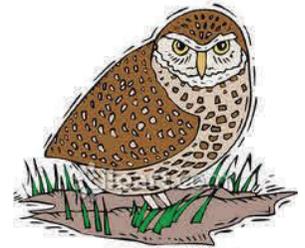
After birding Memorial Park, we'll head over to Arroyo Park for fly-catchers and Gambel's Quail.

Nonmembers are always welcome. Contact Mark Perkins at 637-3521.



### Rio Bosque Wetlands Saturday, June 8, 2013.

We hope to see Burrowing Owls, Harris's Hawk, White-tailed Kite, Painted Bunting and Gambel's Quail. John Sproul, Project Coordinator/Manager, will conduct the tour.



BURROWING OWL

Nonmembers are always welcome. Contact Mark Perkins at 637-3521.

### The Audubon website!

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

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon

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

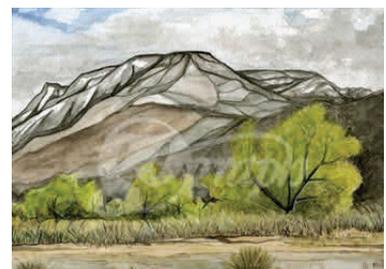
### Sierra Vista, AZ, Memorial Day Weekend, May 24-27, 2013.



We have a trip planned to the Sierra Vista area and the Ft. Huachuca Mtns. area. Possible visiting places include Ramsey Canyon, Miller Canyon, Huachuca Canyon, Garden Canyon, San Pedro House and Inn, and others to be announced. If you are a hummingbird fan, this will be a wonderful experience for you.



A detailed itinerary will be available early May. Deadline for reservations is May 10, 2013. Nonmembers are welcome. Contact Mark Perkins at 637-3521 for additional information.



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

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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 422250  
Palm Coast, FL 32142-2250**

Local Chapter Code **C1ZW100Z**

**Dates to Remember Call Mark Perkins for details 637-3521**

April

Sat 6: Feather Lake  
Mon 8: Board Meeting  
13-14: Prairie Chickens?  
Mon 15: General Meeting  
Sat 20: El Paso Earth Day  
21 & 27: Rio Bosque

May

4 & 5: Birdathon  
11 & 19: Rio Bosque  
Mon 13: Board Meeting  
Mon 20: General Meeting  
24 - 27: Sierra Vista, AZ

June

Sat 8: Rio Bosque  
Mon 10: Board Meeting  
No General Meeting

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

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## Let's "Fly" into Action! Audubon's Birdathon 2013!

Birdathon counters are already "in training" in preparation for Birdathon 2013. It all takes place May 4-5.

### What is Birdathon, you might ask?

*One thing is for sure, it's not your average bird count or fund raiser! Birdathon is unusual and different: a wild weekend of birding and our organization's most important source of income for conservation and education programs.*

We hope you can join us for a full, rewarding weekend of birding by being a **sponsor** and possibly even a counter (if you want to become part of the "Birdathon Flock" as a counter, please contact Jane Fowler at 598-2448 or Janet Perkins at 581-2849).

### Birdathon 2013 will benefit the following programs and projects:

#### **CHAPTER OPERATIONS & FEATHER LAKE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY**

Scouts, students and adults can enjoy seeing birds up close in a natural habitat. When the lake has water, we have docents on duty to answer questions, provide printed trail guides & lend binoculars.

#### **RIO BOSQUE WETLANDS PARK**

Each year, this site along the Rio Grande becomes more valuable as habitat for birds and other wildlife.

#### **AUDUBON TEXAS**

Our support helps keep National Audubon's state office an effective voice for birds, other wildlife and their habitats in Texas.

### How Birdathon Works

On the weekend of **May 4-5**, our dedicated Birdathon counters will be busy scouring the countryside, trying to find as many bird species as possible, in a single 24-hour blitz. These hardy, energized and intrepid individuals will start early, stay out late, visit varied wildlife habitats and give their eyes, ears and bird knowledge a full workout. Why do they push themselves so hard? For the pleasure of a day in the field, for a test of their birding skills and **most importantly, for a better West Texas environment.**

Each counter will be backed by sponsors who pledge either a given amount for each species seen or a fixed total amount. Most counters will identify 50 to 100 species. A pledge of, say \$0.50 per species for 60 species would result in a contribution of \$30. 95% of Birdathon income goes to the programs and projects; 5% to fundraising (printing, paper and postage).

Looking for someone to sponsor for Birdathon? This year's outstanding counters are a dedicated bunch, most of whom are experienced Birdathoners. If you supported one of these people last year, please give them a call and sponsor them again. If you don't know any of the counters personally and don't know whom to choose, please give Jane (598-2448) or Janet (581-2849) a call.

**At press time, our confirmed counters for this year's Birdathon include:**

<b>Eddie Chew</b>	<b>John Kiseda</b>	<b>Mark Perkins</b>	<b>Josh, Ben, &amp; Laura Ditlevson</b>
<b>Scott Cutler</b>	<b>Jim Paton</b>	<b>Susan Schneider</b>	<b>Kathy Whelen</b>
<b>Elizabeth Chase</b>	<b>Jane Fowler</b>	<b>John Sproul</b>	

**Please pick one or more individuals and give them your support!**

**Birdathon 2013 POT LUCK Sunday, May 5 at 6:00 p.m.**

Join us for the POST-BIRDATHON pot-luck picnic on May 5. While enjoying good food, we will be totaling all the counters' sightings, unusual birds and other events of the weekend. Those who saw the most species and raised the most money will be recognized at the May 20 general meeting, so plan to join us then also.

Bring something to share: salad, dessert or a favorite casserole. The chapter will furnish tableware, coffee, tea, sodas, fruit juice. Everyone is invited, **sponsors, counters and chapter members**. The potluck/picnic is May 5 at 6:00pm at the home of Janet and Mark Perkins, 813 Montclair Drive.

Whether it's \$0.25 per species or \$1.00 per species or any given amount, we hope you will consider a pledge to Birdathon 2013. Please pick one or more counters to sponsor and return the attached coupon today. **Your generosity and support help make Audubon Birdathon a success.**

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**El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society**

**BIRDATHON 2013**

**YES!** I'll sponsor \_\_\_\_\_  
for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per species for each species she/he finds  
on Birdathon 2013.

From \_\_\_\_\_

**YES!** I'll sponsor \_\_\_\_\_  
for a flat \$ amount of \_\_\_\_\_.

Address \_\_\_\_\_

I will add a bonus of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ if my  
Birdathon counter sees a \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

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

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

My tax deductible gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
sponsoring \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.  
Payable to El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society.

**Please return this form by May 1 to:**

**Birdathon 2013  
c/o Janet Perkins  
813 Montclair Dr.  
El Paso, TX 79932**

**Thank you for your generous Birdathon pledge! Your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law**