



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 El Paso, Texas

February 20, 2023 7:00pm in person & via Zoom

**Avian Migration and Artificial Light at Night:
Ongoing research at NMSU**

Presented by Dylan Osterhaus and Kelley Boland

During their extreme biannual journeys, nocturnally migrating birds are exposed to a variety of natural and anthropogenic threats and stressors. These include novel predators, adverse weather conditions, altered and degraded habitat, human infrastructure, and artificial light at night. As birds are migrating, lights on the ground may interfere with the avian navigational sense and lead to deviation from the typical migratory flight. These deviations can cause the loss of important energy reserves, prolonged migratory journeys, and in some cases, mortality. Our research focuses on analyzing the interaction between nocturnally migrating birds and artificial light across White Sands Missile Range. Using the acoustic analysis of nocturnal migration, next-generation weather radar data, and mortality surveys, we hope to shed some "light" on this important issue.

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/joinmeeting/register/tZUqdOytqzMtEtVzEOrcEzRgecqEUQFsolF>

March 20, 2023 7:00pm in person & via Zoom

Conservation Implications of Fracking on UT Lands in West Texas
programmed by Sierra Club

Laurence Gibson, retired UTEP music professor, joined the Sierra Club in 1982 and has served as El Paso Group chair for 30 years. This program is an update to 2020's "Fracking Orogrande" presentation at the Centennial Museum with an added focus on wildlife impacts of drilling activity. Come learn about the Otero Mesa in Texas and University of Texas land resources.

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/joinmeeting/register/tZYucuygqjsvHNGZCIIeakJIBIYJrCFUrNIW>

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

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Secretary/Treasurer: Eddie Chew, 587-9589

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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
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**The Audubon
 Foundation of
 Texas**



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

FIELD TRIPS

Bird Walk at Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park

Come join us on a Bird Walk at Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park on **February 11, 2023 at 8 am**. We will meet at [Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park](#). **There is a \$5 Day Use Fee**. Let's explore the new Bird Blind that was recently installed thanks to the Mesilla Valley Audubon Society and Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park. This is a great place to see Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Chihuahuan/Western Meadowlarks, American Kestrels and Curve-billed Thrashers among others.

Bring mosquito repellent, sunscreen, a hat, good walking shoes and water. We will be walking through thick vegetation so pants are recommended. Don't forget your binoculars and field guide books if you have them. Bring a sack lunch for a picnic at the park after we bird.

RSVP staryglecias@gmail.com

March 25, 2023 Percha Dam State Park Bird Walk

Come join us on a Bird Walk at [Percha Dam State Park](#). We will meet at the park at **8 am**. Percha Dam is just under a 2-hour drive from El Paso. This is a great place to watch birds, especially during migration. This State Park is an open bosque of cottonwoods. Some of the birds we can see are Black Phoebe, Northern Flicker, Ladder-backed Woodpeckers, Phainopepla, Western Bluebirds and Pyrrhuloxia among others.

Bring mosquito repellent, sunscreen, a hat, good walking shoes and water. We will be walking through thick vegetation so pants are recommended. Don't forget your binoculars and field guide books if you have them. Bring a sack lunch for a picnic at the park after we bird. **There is a \$5 Day Use Fee per Vehicle**. **RSVP** staryglecias@gmail.com

Conservation Organizations

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

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

El Paso Zoo (915) 212-0966
www.elpasozoo.org

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

Keystone Heritage Park 581-7920
www.keystoneheritagepark.com

Asombro Institute
 (575) 524-3334 www.asombro.org

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

Wildlife for All
 (formerly SW Environmental Center)
 (575) 522-5552
www.wildmesquite.org

Franklin Mt. Wilderness Coalition
www.franklinmountains.org/

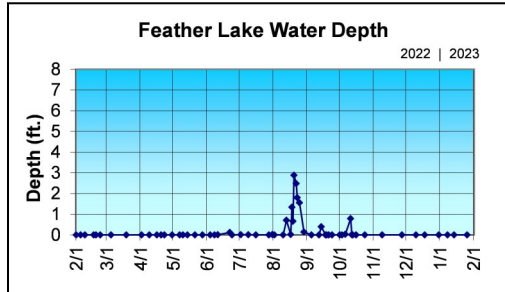
Celebration of Our Mountains
www.celebmtns.org

Frontera Land Alliance (915) 351-8352
www.fronteralandalliance.org

AT FEATHER LAKE

In late 2022, we were saddened to learn of the passing of Joe Alcantar, who, with his wife Esther, began serving as our Feather Lake caretakers in 1987, a remarkable 35+ years ago. Our sincere condolences go to Esther and all of the Alcantar family.

Feather Lake has been dry since mid-October.



That means favorable

conditions for removal of trash from the basin. Our next workday takes place **Sat., February 4**, starting at **9am**. Feather Lake is located at 9500 North Loop at Bordeaux in El Paso, 0.3 miles west of Americas Ave.

BIRDATHON 2022 UPDATE

Congratulations to all on a good Birdathon again this year. We especially thank our sponsors and counters without whom the Birdathon would not be possible. We appreciate your participation and support for our conservation and education endeavors. Thanks, too, for our hard-working members who handle the details, especially Jane Fowler who handles the mailings.

This year presented some challenges. We had to dodge rainstorms and poor lighting because of the cloud cover. Some of the counters did well. The fall migration seemed to be light, but we had early winter migrants.

Our net receipts totaled \$5,643. The money will go to chapter operations, Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, Audubon Texas, and Second Chance Wildlife Rescue. Species seen by at least one counter were tallied. A total of 145 species were seen, compared to 122 last year.

The highest number of species seen by an individual or party were again John Kiseda, John Groves, Joe Cancellare, and Richard Hermosillo with 114. The most money was raised by Joe Cancellare. The unusual birds seen this year were the Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Common Raven, Blue-headed Vireo, Juniper Titmouse, Northern Parula, Bronzed Cowbird, White-throated Sparrow, and Lewis's Woodpecker. A big THANK YOU to all of our participants and sponsors!

Audubon at

Rio Bosque Wetlands Park



It took until late December, but Rio Bosque's wetland cells were eventually fully flooded. Now they are about to go dry again.

Water deliveries to the park from the adjacent Roberto Bustamante Wastewater Treatment Plant will likely end in early February. We will rely on wells to keep some water in the former bend of the Rio Grande that winds through the park and will anxiously await the return of water from the Bustamante Plant later in the spring. Want to see one of the park's resident Western Screech-Owls? Join us for the late afternoon-to-sunset birding tour on March 5.

For up-to-date information on tours, birds and water conditions at the park, check www.riobosque.org. Upcoming tours:

- 8 a.m., Sun., February 5 (Bird tour)**
- 9 a.m., Sat., February 25 (Introductory tour)**
- 3:30 p.m., Sun., March 5 (Bird tour)**
- 9 a.m., Sat., March 11 (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.



El Paso/Trans-Pecos
Audubon Society
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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

February

Sat 11: **Mesilla Valley**
Mon 13: **Board Meeting**
Mon 20: **General Meeting**
5 & 25: **Rio Bosque**
Sat 4: **Feather Lake**

Workday

March

Mon 13: **Board Meeting**
Mon 20: **General Meeting**
5 & 11: **Rio Bosque**
Sat 25: **Percha Dam**

April

Mon 10: **Board Meeting**
Mon 17: **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

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