

The Roadrunner



Newsletter of the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

Inside the Roadrunner

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



Annual Awards Dinner
Saturday, February 15, 2014, 6:00 p.m.,
Opus World Bistro,
7128 Mesa St., Colony Cove II, El Paso

The **Conservation Award** will be presented to **Dr. Richard C. Bonart**. Dr. Bonart has worked with several state and local agencies on environmental issues. During his term with the Public Service Board, Dr. Bonart was instrumental in helping acquire much needed water for Rio Bosque Wetlands Park.

The **Meritorious Service Award** will be presented to **Dr. Fay Millett**, who has spent many hours in the field in Arizona, scouting and researching areas for potential field trips in Arizona and offering invaluable assistance on those field trips.

The Program, "**Adventures in Birding Southern Florida**", will be presented by **Eddie and Lucretia Chew**. They will share their pictures and commentary about their recent trip.

The cost of the meal is \$22, which includes salad, entrée, dessert, iced tea or soft drink, tip and tax. Beer and wine are available for an additional cost.

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.

Albertsons ...

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?

The entrée choices are:

1. Stuffed chicken breast with spinach and feta cheese;
2. Sliced sirloin with red wine sauce;
3. Vegan – 3-bean morracian tagine in squash.

Dessert choices are:

1. Peach and raspberry cobbler; or
2. Chocolate cake

Reservations are required, and the **deadline is February 12, 2014**. Contact Janet Perkins at 637-5269 or intperk@elp.rr.com.



Advance payment is requested.

Make checks payable to El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society and mail to Janet Perkins, 813 Montclair Dr., El Paso, TX 79932.



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

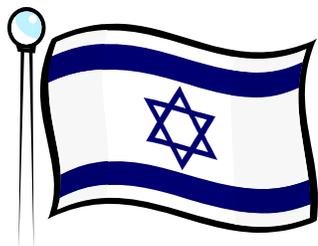
President: Scott Cutler, 581- 6071
Vice President: Jane Fowler, 598-2448
Secretary/Treasurer: Eddie Chew, 587-9589

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

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

Monday, March 17 , 2013 7:00p.m.
Centennial Museum, at UTEP
Susie Schneider



Susie Schneider went to Israel, and she will have her own presentation on the **Birds of Israel**. Expect to see photos of birds you may have never seen in our area of the world.

Everyone is welcome, and tasty snacks are always a huge bonus. Feel free to bring some goodies to share.

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>

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/

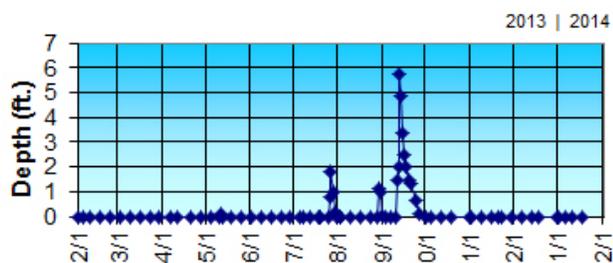
AT FEATHER LAKE

The latest dry streak at Feather Lake is now approaching 4 months. We still have a ways to go to surpass the 9.5-month dry streak in 2010-11. Or the 7-month dry streak in 2012-13. The adjacent Feather Lake II basin is also dry, as ground water levels in the area remain depressed.

Our next workday at Feather Lake takes place **Sat., February 8** starting at **9 a.m.** At the basin's inlet, we've removed most of the trash washed in by last September's storms. Now, we'll take on the interior.

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

Feather Lake Water Depth



Audubon

at
RIO BOSQUE
WETLANDS PARK



Over 3,000 ducks are now present, but, as always at this time of year, it is unclear how much longer water will be delivered to the park. Last year, deliveries were cut off February 3. For up-to-date information on water conditions and the park's birds, check www.riobosque.org.

Upcoming free walking tours:

8 a.m., Sun., Feb 2 (Bird tour)
3 p.m., Sat., Feb 8 (Introductory tour)

3 p.m. Sat., Mar 1 (Bird tour)
4 p.m. Sun., Mar 9 (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.

Earth Day

The City of El Paso Environmental Services Department is sponsoring a fun-filled family day and educational event on **April 5, 2014**, to kick-off Earth Day celebrations in El Paso.



El Paso's Earth Day, which is in its fourth year sponsored by the department, will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Municipal Service Center, along 7968 San Paulo Drive. The outdoor event is free and open to the general public.



Field Trips

**Reservoirs Down the Valley
Saturday, February 1, 2014.**

We'll check out the 3 reservoirs in the Lower Valley looking for wintering hawks and waterfowl .



We will meet at 6:30 a.m. at the parking lot

at the Burlington Coat Factory at 1144 N. Yarbrough. Exit at Yarbrough, at the light turn left under I-10. Burlington is on the right.

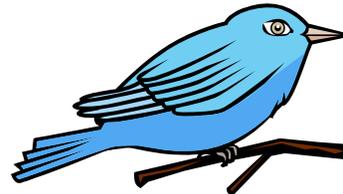
Bring lunch and binoculars. Nonmembers and beginners always welcome.

Contact Mark at 637-3521.

**Saturday, March 8, 2014
Rattlesnake Springs and,
time permitting, Frijole Ranch.**

Rattlesnake Springs, part of Carlsbad Caverns National Park, is an Important Bird Area (IBA) and outstanding stopover site for land birds. We'll be looking for wintering birds. There have been some unusual sightings recently, such as the **Streak-backed Oriole**. At Frijole Ranch, we could see **Western Bluebirds, Western Scrub-Jay, Spotted Towhees** and others.

Meet at 6:45 a.m. in front of the Evergreen Cemetery, 12400 E. Montana, ¼ mile east of Loop 375. Bring a lunch, water and binoculars.



Beginners and nonmembers are welcome. Contact Mark Perkins at 637-3521.

**Saturday, February 22, 2014
Northeast El Paso Birding Spots
and Hawk Alley.**

We'll be looking for wintering raptors and hopefully we will see a **Golden Eagle**. Stops will include Ft. Bliss Ponds and Painted Dunes Golf Course.



Meet at 7:30 a.m. Lowe's Parking Lot, 4531 Transmountain Road behind Taco Bell.

Beginners and nonmembers are always welcome. Contact Mark Perkins at 637-3521.

**Saturday, March 22, 2014
Mesilla Valley Bosque and
Leasburg Dam State Parks.**

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the southwest corner of the parking lot at the El Paso Outlet Mall at I-10 and Transmountain (Talbot Rd. entrance to the Mall). We hope to see wintering passerines and **waterfowl** and hopefully some **raptors**. Bring a lunch, water and binoculars.

Beginners and nonmembers are welcome. There is a \$5 per car fee. Contact Mark Perkins at 637-3521.

Field Trips

Saturday, April 12, 2014 Aguirre Springs.

This will be a moderate hike, birding grasslands for **sparrows** and also birding the parking areas, looking for montane birds. There is a moderate fee of \$5 per car.



Bring a lunch, water, hiking shoes and binoculars. Non-members and beginners are welcome. Contact Mark at 637-3521.

Memorial Day Weekend May 23-26, 2014 Cave Creek, Arizona Trip.

Trogons and hummers, plus much more! This beautiful area has so much to offer.

Mark your calendars - more information to follow.



YOU ARE WANTED

Seeking volunteers for Burrowing Owl Conservation Projects at the Rio Bosque Wetlands Park

Would you like to assist with any of the following projects?

Nest sites need a major makeover.

Many artificial nest boxes and burrows are packed with soil and unusable or have been destroyed by canids. Help is needed for the construction and reinstallation of modified and improved nest boxes and burrow systems. Project begins Oct. 17, 2013 and will continue until finished.

Research opportunities.

Seasonal use and site fidelity. Volunteers are needed to monitor nest sites and record the alpha-numeric identification band on the owl's right leg using a spotting scope or good binoculars. Project begins in December 2013 and will continue throughout the 2014 breeding season.

Burrowing owl diet and reproductive success.

Help is needed with the installation of solar-operated off-grid DVR video systems at 2 or 3 nest sites and to monitor the prey items taken to the nests from the DVR recordings every 3-4 weeks. Ideal level of identification would be to Genus species or Family but generalizations such as insect, spider, rodent, lizard, etc. would be acceptable. Project begins this Dec. or in Jan 2014 (after installation).



BURROWING OWL

**If you're interested in burrowing owl projects or for more details –
contact: Lois Balin, cell: 227-1988, office: 774-9603, or
lois.balin@tpwd.texas.gov**

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

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

Return service request

**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

February

Sat 1: **Down the Valley**
2 & 8: **Rio Bosque**
Sat 8: **Feather Lake**
Mon 10: **Board Meeting**
Wed 12: **RSVP Awds Dinner**
Sat 15: **Awards Dinner**
Sat 22: **Hawk Alley**

March

18 & 21: **Phoenix**
Sat 8: **Rattlesnake Spr.**
1 & 9: **Rio Bosque**
Mon 10: **Board Meeting**
Mon 17: **General Meeting**
Sat 22: **Mesilla Valley
Bosque**

April

Sat 12: **Aguirre Springs**
Mon 14: **Board Meeting**
Mon 21: **General Meeting**
May
Mon 12: **Board Meeting**
Mon 19: **General Meeting**
23-26: **Cave Creek, AZ**

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