



# 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](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)



**General Meetings**  
**Centennial Museum at UTEP**  
**500 W. University Ave El Paso, Texas**

**No General Meetings in July or August**

**September 18, 2023 7:00pm**  
**in person & via Zoom**  
**Programmed by El Paso Sierra Club**

The September program is still being arranged. Check your email as the time gets closer and be prepared for a wonderful event.

## Castner Range National Monument Update

As you are no doubt aware, Castner Range was declared a National Monument by President Biden on March 21, 2023. The land is protected but it still remains closed to public access for the time being because of the presence of unexploded ordnance (UXO). The Army, who will be managing the monument, is in the process of planning UXO cleanup operations and will also be determining what areas are safe to



open to the public. Thus, it may take a few more years of cleanup and planning before trails will be opened.

In the meantime, the trails at the Archeology Museum on Transmountain Road, which is on Castner Range land that was cleared and transferred to the City of El Paso, are open for people to walk and view portions of the Range.

The Army held a public meeting on June 30th at which the interim Superintendent of the monument, April Gray, was introduced and the public was able to provide input and ask questions. More of these public events will be happening.

## Field Trips

Current list of upcoming field trips at <http://www.trans-pecos-audubon.com/>

## 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.

### 2023 Birdathon

The El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon will be holding its annual Birdathon fundraising event the weekend of October 7-8, 2023. This is our chapter's major fundraiser and helps us support conservation projects and wildlife rehabilitation in our area.

Please keep an eye out for more details in the coming months about how you can support and invest in our efforts to protect birds and other wildlife and the wild spaces they rely upon.

### Bird Songs in Music

Submitted by Scott Cutler

Bird song has long been used in music by composers - Beethoven's 5th Symphony (Pastorale) and Ottorino Respighi's The Birds, etc. This is still an effective hook for modern pieces. I'd like to introduce you to a couple of pieces by contemporary composers that utilize bird sounds, literally and figuratively, in their compositions. Do you have a favorite piece of music that incorporates bird songs into it?

One is a piano/oboe piece called Dance of the Cranes by the late Rick Kuethe  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uATKP7kCNb0>

The other is a Chinese piece: 100 Birds Paying Respect to the Phoenix  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rq\\_lIvzuF5Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rq_lIvzuF5Y)

### 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](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.fronteralliance.org](http://www.fronteralliance.org)

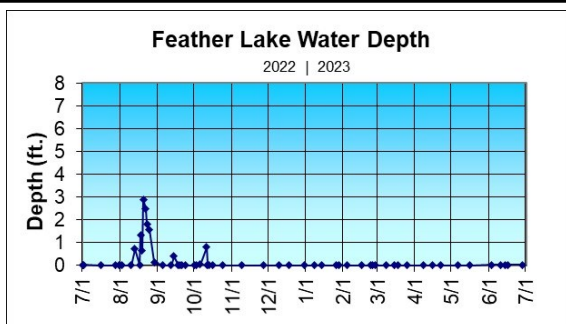
## AT FEATHER LAKE

Since the irrigation season started in mid-May, Feather Lake has received small intermittent deliveries of irrigation water. Some flowed in from upstream after being discharged into the Mesa Drain. Some back-flowed into Feather Lake through its outlet after being discharged immediately downstream of the lake basin. In each case, only portions of the basin were flooded.

At this writing, El Paso Water has not yet started its planned work to install two new gates at the Feather Lake outlet, but it is getting ready. In June, it cleared and widened the road leading around the west side of the basin to accommodate the equipment that will be used for the construction.

Since 2010, Feather Lake has experienced a prolonged period of limited water availability. The result has been the loss of many of the cottonwoods and willows that once ringed the lake...and the expansion of western honey mesquite throughout the property. During our June 10 workday, a Bell's Vireo was singing in some of those mesquites near the basin outlet. It was the first new bird species detected at the lake in over a decade.

The next workday at Feather Lake will be **Sat., August 12** starting at **8 a.m.** Join us. Who knows? The lake may have water then. Or we may get another avian surprise. Feather Lake is located at 9500 North Loop at Bordeaux in El Paso, 0.3 miles west of Americas Ave.



## Audubon at

Rio Bosque Wetlands Park

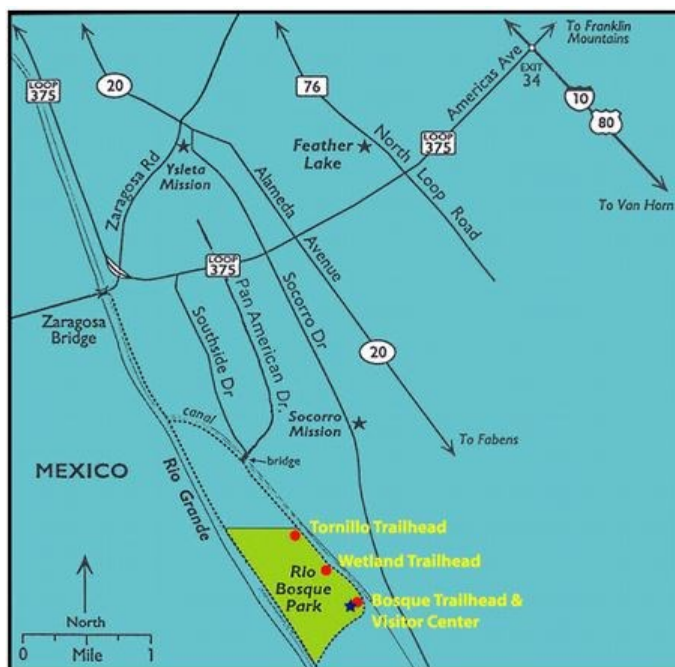


Water deliveries to Rio Bosque from the Roberto Bustamante Wastewater Treatment Plant resumed May 1, and deliveries of irrigation water began May 23. Slowly but surely, water advanced in the old river channel within the park until it finally reached the channel's downstream end on June 25. Summer birds now in residence include Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Bell's Vireo, Yellow-breasted Chat, Summer Tanager, Blue Grosbeak and Painted Bunting.

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

- 7 a.m., Sat., July 8 (Birding tour)
- 8 a.m., Sun., July 16 (Introductory tour)
- 8 a.m., Sun., Aug 13 (Introductory tour)
- 8 a.m., Sat., Aug 26 (Birding tour)
- 8 a.m., Sat., Sep 9 (Birding tour)
- 8 a.m., Sun., Sep 17 (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  
P.O. Box 972441  
El Paso, Texas 79997

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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**

July

8 & 16: **Rio Bosque**  
**No Board Meeting**  
**No General Meeting**

August

Sat 12: **Feather Lake Workday**  
Mon 14: **Board Meeting**  
**No General Meeting**  
13 & 26: **Rio Bosque**

September

9 & 17: **Rio Bosque**  
Mon 11: **Board Meeting**  
Mon 18: **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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Mail to: EPTP Audubon P.O. Box 972441 El Paso, Texas 79997