



The Roadrunner

Newsletter of the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

Inside the Roadrunner

Chapter Info	2
Sanctuary News	3
Audubon Updates	4
Bird Field Trips	5
Calendar	6



General Meetings

October 17, 2016 7:00pm
Garden Center
 3105 Grant Ave

El Paso, Bird City

Lois Balin, TX Parks & Wildlife Urban Biologist

At the October meeting we will be hearing from Lois Balin. Lois will provide information about how El Paso can become a certified BIRD CITY. This program is modeled after Tree City, USA. She will also give an update on her Future of Wildlife presentation and the progress of funding and legislation. Lois is always interesting and well-informed.

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 jsroul@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

November 21, 2016 7:00pm
Centennial Museum at UTEP
 500 W. University Ave



The Changing Rio Bosque Landscape John Sproul, Park Manager

The landscape at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park in El Paso has seen dramatic changes over the years: the loss of an old bend of the Rio Grande due to channelization; the rise of saltcedar; extensive clearing and grading in 1997 to prepare the site for a wetland project; and recovery of the vegetation since then, especially the native tree tornillo. But one element of the pre-channelization landscape was still largely missing. Lack of water throughout the growing season in most years stymied efforts to establish wetland habitat.

Now, the next big change at Rio Bosque is underway. For the past two years, water has flowed to the park in spring and summer. Park Manager John Sproul will explore the many past changes at Rio Bosque and share the difference water during the growing season is now making at the park.

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

Conservation: Luis Sanchez, 599-7381
Education: Kathleen Whelen, 820-1895
Field Trips: Mark Perkins 637-3521
Hospitality: Janet Perkins, 637-5269
Membership: Roxanne Schroeder, 533-0061
Newsletter Editor: Kathleen Whelen, 820-1895
Programs: Susie Schneider, 542-3041
Publications: Jane Fowler, 598-2448
Publicity: Janet Perkins, 637- 5269
Sanctuary: John Sproul, 545-5157
Way & Means: vacant

**The Audubon
 Foundation of
 Texas**

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



Around the Community

**Desert Dash Trail Race 2016
 Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park, Las Cruces
 November 12, 2016**

Enjoy expansive views of the desert, including three rugged mountain ranges, as you run or walk the beautiful 5K, 10K, or half marathon trail courses. Bring your little ones to compete in the Children's 1-mile trail race (guardian should accompany child). All levels welcome.

Desert Dash is a fundraiser for the non profit Asombro Institute for Science Education. All proceeds will be used for our education programs. Our mission is to increase natural science literacy through engaging, place-based education. We reach more than 17,000 K-12 students every year through inquiry-based classroom programs and field trips.



More information:
<http://www.asombro.org/dash.htm>

Conservation Organizations

Chihuahuan Desert Education Coalition
www.chihuahuandesert.org

Second Chance Wildlife Rescue
www.wildliferescueelpaso.org
 Josie Karam (915) 920-7867

El Paso Zoo 521-1850
www.elpasozoo.org

Keystone Heritage Park 581-7920
www.keystoneheritagepark.com

**Asombro Institute
 (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/

Stick House Sanctuary
www.facebook.com/epwildliferescue/

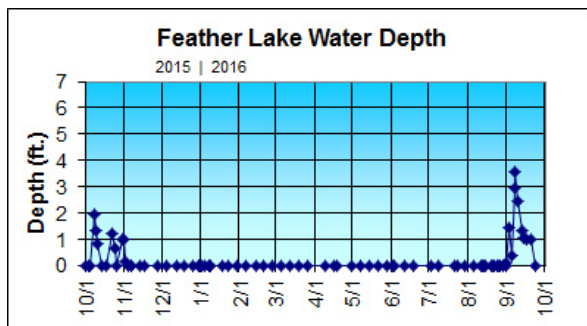
AT FEATHER LAKE

Finally, after 10 largely or completely dry months, Feather Lake received substantial inflows of water in September. The key event was the September 6-7 storm associated with Hurricane Newton. The water depth at the lake peaked at 3.58 feet on September 8. By late September, though, the basin was again down to isolated puddles.

Of the three Eagle Scout service projects slated for this year at Feather Lake, two are now in the books. The third is planned for October, when scouts from Troop 4, led by Eagle candidate Jeremiah Trussell, will remove saltcedars from the lake's largest island. Between 1996 and 2000, scouts cleared this island of saltcedars as part of three previous Eagle projects. In their honor, we dubbed it Boy Scout Island. Since then, saltcedars have regained a foothold, so we're returning to the island.

Our next workday at Feather Lake will be **Sun., October 9**, starting at **8 a.m.** We'll help with the work on Boy Scout Island.

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



El Paso/Trans-Pecos
Audubon Society

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

Audubon at

Rio Bosque
Wetlands Park



For the past 2 years, Rio Bosque's wetland cells have received water in spring and summer, with dramatic results for wetland habitat and wildlife.

The spring-summer deliveries this year will end September 30. Fall-winter deliveries, when larger areas are flooded, will start in late October. For up-to-date information on the park's birds and water conditions, visit www.riobosque.org.

Upcoming free walking tours:

- 4 p.m., Sun., Oct 16 (Introductory tour)**
- 8 a.m., Sat., Oct 29 (Birding tour)**
- 9 a.m., Sat., Nov 12 (Introductory tour)**
- 3 p.m., Sun., Nov 20 (Birding tour)**

The meeting place for these tours 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.



Stick House Sanctuary

Stick House Sanctuary was established in 2008 in an effort to address the needs of wildlife in El Paso and surrounding areas. They have rescued, rehabilitated and released up to 1000 birds & mammals to date in 2016. The species rehabilitated include songbirds, migratory birds, and waterfowl/shore birds, cotton tails, jack rabbits, rock and ground squirrels, raccoons, chipmunks and mice.

In 2010, an additional service to the community included domestic waterfowl and fowl from fighting rings in the surrounding areas. Domestic waterfowl are often mistaken for wildlife. The sanctuary has provided care to over 200 abused, abandoned or injured domestic waterfowl in 2016. By rescuing domestic waterfowl from community ponds, giving them the veterinary care they need, and finding forever homes, we are helping the wildlife regain their natural habitat and protecting them from disease.

Stick House Sanctuary is reaching out to the community through educational presentations with county and city officials in hopes of creating a better community for both wildlife and domestic feathered animals. They also provide educational presentations, pertaining to domestic and wildlife waterfowl, for children in schools.

The sanctuary is operated by volunteers year round. Funding is obtained from donations. They are in the process of obtaining their 501(c)(3) nonprofit status which will enable them to pursue grant funding to benefit the wildlife and their operation costs. The sanctuary is located at 3927 Emory Road. If you would like more information or would like to make a donation, please contact Julie Ito Morales at (915) 219-2365.

Texas Pollinator BioBlitz is a statewide effort to observe and identify as many pollinators as possible between **October 7th and October 16th**. Participants will also be looking for pollinator habitat.

- This BioBlitz is designed for fun for all ages and levels of experience.
- Participants select an observation area—an area designated by host organizations like yours, or a location of their own choosing.
- Participants will look for pollinators and nectar-producing plants and share their observations by posting photos or videos online.
- Anyone can share their discoveries through Instagram using the hashtag #SaveThePollinators. Pollinators can be difficult to identify, so observers are encouraged to post what they know, which may be a simple description of the species or its behavior.
- More experienced naturalists can record their observations through iNaturalist, which records the date and location of the observation and allows other naturalists to help with identification.
- No experience needed! The website will have tips and identification resources.
- The BioBlitz is suitable for individuals, families, groups or classes.
- We will issue a daily observation challenge to add to the fun.
- All will be encouraged to plant pollinator gardens.
- There is no cost to participate. The only tools needed are a camera (smart phones are great) and access to the web.



Field Trips

Saturday, October 8, 2016 El Paso Archaeology Museum and Franklin Mountains State Park

Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the El Paso Archaeology Museum, 4301 Transmountain Rd. in Northeast El Paso.

We'll be looking for desert birds, **Pyrhuloxia**, **Black-throated Sparrow**, **Curve-billed Thrasher** and **soaring raptors**. We'll then drive to the State Park to the bird blinds.

There is a \$5 per car fee. Hopefully we will see **Cactus Wren**, **Canyon Towhee**, **Scaled Quail** and **Gambel's Quail**.



Beginners and nonmembers are welcome. Contact Mark Perkins at 915-637-3521.

Saturday, November 12, 2016 Ascarate Park

Meet at 6:30 a.m. at the Office Depot Parking Lot at Bassett Center and we will carpool from there.



We'll be looking for wintering ducks and other waterfowl.

Contact Mark Perkins at [915-637-3521](tel:915-637-3521).

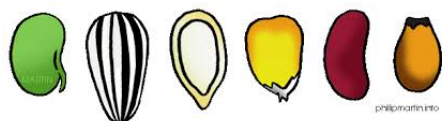
Saturday, December 3, 2016 Keystone Heritage Park.

Meet at Keystone Heritage Park 4220 Doniphan, at 7:00 a.m.

There is a \$2 per person entry fee. Contact Mark Perkins at [915-637-3521](tel:915-637-3521)



Keystone Heritage Park
Archaeology | Wetlands | Botanical Gardens



SowGrowReapEat

The El Paso Public Libraries are now seed libraries! Seed libraries are places that share or lend seeds. Each library has a collection of non-genetically modified fruit, vegetable, and herb seeds available for patrons to start their own edible gardens. "Check-out" up to 5 seed packets per season with your library card. The seeds are yours to keep (no late or lost fees!), but once you are a successful gardener, let some of your healthiest plants "go to seed." Harvest the seed, save some for yourself, and donate some to the public library to keep our collections stocked.

The purpose of the Sow.Grow.ReapEat program is to provide an alternative to genetically modified seeds, increase biodiversity and plant resilience, and reconnect local people with their food systems. Visit www.sowgrowreapeat.weebly.com to get information and keep up to date with upcoming gardening and cooking workshops. Tag us in your posts and pictures on social media and use #sowgrowreapeat.

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

Return service request

Nonprofit Organization
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Permit #2440

**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**

Dates to Remember Call Mark Perkins for details 637-3521

October

Sat 8: **Franklin Mountains**
Sun 9: **Feather Lake Workday**
Mon 10: **Board Meeting**
15 & 16: **Hueco Tanks Fair**
16 & 29: **Rio Bosque**
Mon 17: **General Meeting**

November

12 & 20: **Rio Bosque**
Sat 12: **Ascarate**
Mon 14: **Board Meeting**
Mon 21: **General Meeting**

December

Sat 3: **Keystone Heritage Park**
Mon 5: **Board Meeting**
Mon 12: **General Meeting**

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