



# 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
Calendar	4

### 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)

## No General Meetings

No meetings in June, July and August.

Have a safe and restful summer with lots of birdwatching!

## BIRDATHON 2018 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-- Jane Fowler and Bertye Barnhart who handled the mailings.

It appears that our total receipts and pledges will be about \$4,300.

There may still be a few checks yet to come in this year. The money will go to chapter operations, Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, Audubon Texas, Second Chance Wildlife Rescue, Stick House Sanctuary, and the El Paso Zoo Raptor Rehabilitation Program.



Species seen by at least one counter were tallied.

A total of 152 species and three exotics were seen, compared to 151 and four exotics last year and 160 in 2016.

The winners for the highest number of species seen by an individual or party were John Kiseda, Richard Hermosillo, John Groves, and Joe Cancellare with 114. Very good!

The prize for the most money raised went to John Sproul. The most unusual birds this year were three Fulvous Whistling-Ducks discovered by John Groves.



## 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:** Kevin Floyd, 613-6354  
**Education:** Kathleen Whelen, 820-1895  
**Field Trips:** Mark Perkins 637-3521  
**Hospitality:** Janet Perkins, 637-5269  
**Membership:** Elizabeth Chase, 539-1191  
**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  
**Website:** Janet Perkins, 637-5269

The Audubon  
Foundation of  
Texas



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

### Join us on Facebook!

There is now an El Paso Audubon Society group on Facebook. Our aim is to provide a space for people around El Paso to share pictures, sightings, and other information about birds and conservation. All levels of pictures are welcome.

If you are looking for help with identification, please include the location and date of the picture, as both are important with narrowing the possibilities.



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/EIPasoAudubonGroup>



### Discover Burrowing Owls on a walk at Resler Canyon

**Saturday, August 25, from 8 to 9 a.m.**

Lois Balin, TPWD Urban Biologist, will lead a walk through the canyon and talk about her research with burrowing owls

### Conservation Organizations

**Chihuahuan Desert Education Coalition**  
[www.chihuahuandesert.org](http://www.chihuahuandesert.org)

**Second Chance Wildlife Rescue**  
[www.secondchancewildliferescue.org](http://www.secondchancewildliferescue.org)  
Josie Karam (915) 920-7867

**El Paso Zoo 521-1850**  
[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**  
(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

During April and May, El Paso County Water Improvement District #1 discharged limited intermittent amounts of irrigation water into the Mesa Drain Interceptor both upstream and downstream of Feather Lake. Some of that water found its way into the lake. Each time, ~5% of the lake basin flooded for a day or two. For most of the basin, though, the dry spell has now reached 7 months.

Our next workday at Feather Lake will be **Sat., June 9**, starting at **8 a.m.** Water conditions will dictate whether we work in the basin or the surrounding uplands.

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



The biggest avian surprise recently at Rio Bosque was a Short-eared Owl found March 31 by visiting birder Randy Hesford.

The next 2.5 months are prime time for finding Painted Buntings at the park. For up-to-date information on Rio Bosque's birds and water conditions, check [www.riobosque.org](http://www.riobosque.org).

Upcoming free walking tours:

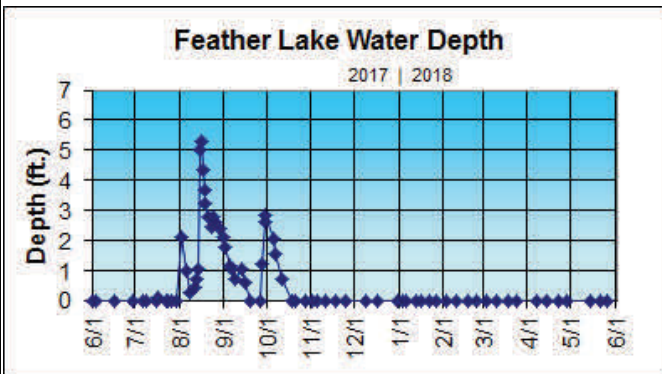
**8 a.m., Sun., June 10 (Introductory tour)**

**6:30 a.m., Sat., June 23 (Birding tour)**

**7 a.m., Sat., July 7 (Birding tour)**

**8 a.m., Sun., July 22 (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.



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



## Field Trips

### **Saturday, June 16, 2018 - Rattlesnake Springs.**

Rattlesnake Springs is part of Carlsbad Caverns National Park. It is an Important Bird Area (IBA) and an outstanding stopover site for land birds. It is a long drive and because of the heat, we will depart Evergreen Cemetery, 12400

E. Montana, promptly at 6:00 a.m.

Bring a lunch and plenty of water and sunscreen.

Nonmembers and beginners are welcome.

### **Saturday, July 7, 2018 Upper Valley Sunset Tour**

We'll be driving the Upper Valley area looking for Mississippi Kites, Monk Parakeets, Violet-crowned Parrots and others.

Meet at 6:30 p.m. at Keystone Heritage Park, 4200 Doniphan Drive. We'll carpool from there.

Nonmembers and beginners are welcome.

Contact Mark Perkins at (915) 637-3521 for more information.



### **Saturday, July 21, 2018 Cloudcroft and Mescalero Fish Hatchery**

Join us for a day trip in the tall, cool pines. We'll travel to Cloudcroft, NM, and some spots we'll bird include the Mescalero Fish Hatchery, the Town of Cloudcroft and Bluff Springs and others.

Meet at 6:00 a.m. at the Lowe's Parking Lot at 4521 Transmountain Road behind Taco Bell in Northeast El Paso.

We will carpool from there. Bring a lunch. Beginners and nonmembers are welcome.

Contact Mark Perkins at 915-637-3521 for more information.



### **August 10, 11 and 12, 2018 - Silver City Area.**

We will be based in Silver City. Areas we will be birding include Lake Roberts, Gila Cliff Dwellings, Cherry Creek Area, the Gila Forest, Ft. Bayard and the Town of Silver City.



Time permitting, we'll travel to the towns of Cliff and Gila and bird around the old train bridge. Nonmembers are welcome. For those interested, an itinerary will be available by contacting Mark Perkins at [jntperk@elp.rr.com](mailto:jntperk@elp.rr.com) or 915-637-3521.

## 2018 DAVIS MOUNTAINS HUMMINGBIRD CELEBRATION

Experience the beautiful Davis Mountains, the Hummingbird Capital of Texas, **August 23-26**, during the 2018 Davis Mountains Hummingbird Celebration.

Seventeen hummingbird species recorded  
Field Trips, Banquet, and Programs featuring  
Hummingbirds  
and other Southwestern species  
Registration begins May 2018 at  
[www.fortdavis.com](http://www.fortdavis.com)

For more information,  
visit [www.fortdavis.com](http://www.fortdavis.com), call 1-800-524-3015  
or email us at [info@fortdavis.com](mailto:info@fortdavis.com)

Like us on Facebook  
[@DavisMountainsHummingbirdCelebration](https://www.facebook.com/DavisMountainsHummingbirdCelebration).



## Costa Rica Birding Tour

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon is planning a Costa Rica Tour for March 2019. The places we will be going offer some great bird watching. The estimated price will be \$1,817.51 with the field trip guide paying his own way. The optional boat trip offered on Saturday, Mar. 17, will be an additional \$30.00. The trip cost quoted is for land-based tour. Roundtrip airfare to San José, Costa Rica, is the responsibility of each participant.

Some of the possible birds to be added to your life list include the following: Spotted Wood-Quail, Costa Rican Pygmy-Owl, Resplendent Quetzal, Collared Trogon, Buffy Tuftedcheek, Ruddy Treerunner, Ochraceous Pewee, Barred Becard, Zeledonia, Golden-browed Chlorophonia, Volcano Junco, Talamanca Hummingbird, Green Violetear, Gray-tailed Mountain-gem, Volcano Hummingbird, Scintillant Hummingbird, Fiery-throated Hummingbird, Violet Sabrewing, Flame-colored and Slaty flowerpiercer, Lattice-tailed Trogon, Yellow-eared Toucanet, Streak-crowned Antvireo, Tawny-faced Gnatwren, White-throated Shrike-Tanager, Ashy-throated Bush-Tanager, Tawny-crested Tanager, Emerald and Blue-and-gold tanagers, Keel-billed Toucan, Great Green Macaw, White-winged Becard, Sunbittern, Acadian Flycatcher, and Wood Thrush. Rarities seen here on occasion include Rufous-fronted Wood-Quail, Red-fronted Parrotlet, Rufous-vented Ground-Cuckoo, Black-crowned Antpitta, Gray-headed Piprites, and Sharpbill.

Additionally, \$200 of each person's trip price will be donated to the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society to help us fund important local bird conservation activities.

Please contact Scott for details regarding the itinerary and schedule. There are only 10 spaces. We need to get a sense of who would be interested in going on this trip. If you have any questions, please give Scott Cutler a call at 915-494-2193.

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

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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 97194  
Washington, DC 20090-7194**

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

<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>
Sat 9: Feather Lake Workday	7: Upper Valley Sunset	Mon 13: Board Meeting
Mon 11: Board Meeting	7 & 22: Rio Bosque	No General Meeting
10 & 23: Rio Bosque	21: Cloudcroft	10-12: Silver City
No General Meeting	Mon 9: Board Meeting	23-26: Davis Mts Hummingbird
	No General Meeting	25: Resler Canyon with Lois

[www.trans-pecos-audubon.com](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