



# The Roadrunner

## Newsletter of the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

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### 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](mailto:jsproul@utep.edu).

Albertson's ...

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 El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society's Annual Awards Banquet  
**Saturday, February 20, 2010, 6:00 p.m., Jaxon's on Airway.**

Entree choices are:

1. Grilled chicken with salad and baked potato
2. Santa Barbara beef (sliced beef with a B-B-Q sauce on the side) with salad and baked potato
3. Vegetarian fajitas with rice and beans

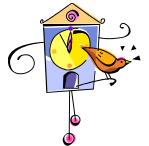
All meals are \$16.00 per person and include coffee, tea or soft drink. Alcoholic beverages and desserts are available for an additional cost.

**Jim Paton will present a program entitled "Going Solar." He will share with the audience his experience of going solar over the past year and clear up confusion so that others can save energy and protect the environment, too.**

The **Conservation Award** will be presented to **Charlie Wakeem** and **Meritorious Service Award** to **Janet Perkins**.

Contact Janet Perkins at 581-2849, 637-5269 or [jntperk@elp.rr.com](mailto:jntperk@elp.rr.com) for reservations. Make checks payable to El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society. Advance payment is requested and appreciated.

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**Mechanisms for Conservation & the Roles of Frontera & Audubon**  
 A presentation by Michael Gaglio,  
 President of The Frontera Land Alliance



**Monday, March 22, 2010, at 7:00 p.m.**

The Rio Grande Campus of El Paso Community College,  
 100 West Rio Grande, Building 4010, Rm 119.

Mr. Gaglio will briefly describe various ways land is conserved and introduce the audience to a local land trust whose mission is to preserve lands in west Texas and southern New Mexico. Mr. Gaglio, who was originally scheduled to speak at the January Audubon meeting, was rescheduled for the March meeting instead as the El Paso Community College was closed on January 18 for Martin Luther King's birthday.



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**

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

Officers

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

Committees

Membership: Roxanne Schroeder, 533-0061	Publicity: Janet Perkins, 581-2849
Programs: Ursula Sherrill, 526-7725	Education: Kathleen Whelen, 751-2408
Conservation: vacant	Publications: Jane Fowler, 598-2448
Field Trips: Ursula Sherrill, 526-7725	Ways & Means: vacant
Hospitality: Janet Perkins, 581-2849	Sanctuary: John Sproul, 545-5157

**PHOTO CONTEST**

Our annual Photo Contest was the most successful ever. 14 people submitted entries, some in all 5 subjects, others in just a few. The total number of pictures was 45.



**1st place winners**

**BIRDS:** Dwayne Marrott - Gambel's Quail (above)  
**WILDLIFE:** Dwayne Marrott - Fly on Flower  
**SCENIC:** Dwayne Marrott - Sand Dunes in shadows.  
**KIDS/PETS:** Joe Grossinger - Big Dog, Little Dog  
 "Leo and Xena"  
**HUMOR:** Joe Galenski: White-winged Dove in bird bath

**1st Runners up**

**BIRDS:** Jimmy Zabriskie - Four Western Bluebirds  
 "We see you".  
**WILDLIFE:** Joe Galenski - Dragonfly "Keystone Jewel"  
**SCENIC:** Jimmy Zabriski - Flower, "Sacred Datura"  
**KIDS/PETS:** Dwayne Marrott - Granddaughter  
 covered with soap bubbles  
**HUMOR:** Joe Grossinger - Golden Eagle, poop on take off

**3d Place**

**BIRDS:** Bob Johnson - Roseate Spoonbill w/ young in nest  
**WILDLIFE:** Jimmy Zabriskie - Five-spotted Hawk Moth  
**SCENIC:** Janet Perkins - "Winter on the River"  
**KIDS/PETS:** Jimmy Zabriskie - Cat "Sasha",  
 sleeping under Christmas Tree  
**HUMOR:** Tara Ditlevson - Gecko on the wall

**Conservation Award Recipient  
 Charlie Wakeem**

Over the past 7 years, Charlie Wakeem has played a central role in conservation of open space in the El Paso Region. When a subdivision proposal threatened Resler Canyon in 2003, he reactivated the Coronado Neighborhood Association, for which he is still president, and led the effort to preserve the canyon in its natural state. That effort culminated with acquisition of Resler Canyon by The Frontera Land Alliance in December 2005 and its dedication as the Wakeem/Teschner Nature Preserve at Resler Canyon in January 2006.

Charlie Wakeem has since been a key player in all of the many positive developments in recent years relating to open-space preservation in the El Paso region. He is an active member of the Board of Directors of the Frontera Land Alliance and served as the organization's treasurer from 2007 to 2009. He served on the City's Open Space Advisory Group that helped craft El Paso's Open Space Plan in 2006-2007 and currently serves on the City's Open Space Advisory Board. As an alternate member of El Paso Water Utilities' Stormwater Master Plan Community Advisory Committee, he helped make protection of open space an integral part of the City's Stormwater Master Plan.

Charlie Wakeem is a widely respected and highly effective advocate for open space in the El Paso region.

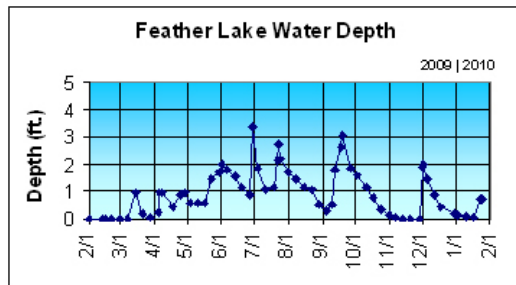
## AT FEATHER LAKE

Once again, timely rains rejuvenated Feather Lake just as we were closing it due to lack of water. The basin went dry in mid-January, we put out the “closed due to lack of water” sign...and the storm on January 22 promptly re-flooded the basin.

So, at least for now, we are back in action. We again need volunteers to staff our sanctuary during weekend visitor hours in February and March. Please contact John Sproul (747-8663, [jsproul@utep.edu](mailto:jsproul@utep.edu)) if you can put in a Saturday morning or Sunday afternoon at the lake.

The latest addition to the Feather Lake bird list is Western Bluebird. A small flock in mid-January brought the sanctuary’s species total to 218.

With or without water, Feather Lake will be open on **Sat., March 27**, for our bi-monthly workday. It starts at **2 p.m.** Join us for some spring cleaning at the lake! Audubon’s Feather Lake Wildlife Sanctuary is located at 9500 North Loop at Bordeaux in El Paso, 0.3 miles west of Americas Ave.



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. Info: 747-8663.

## Audubon at RIO BOSQUE WETLANDS PARK



Eurasian Wigeon, White-tailed Kite, Western Screech-Owl and Long-eared Owl have all been at Rio Bosque in recent weeks. For the latest on what is being seen, check the recent-bird-sightings page on the Park’s website,

[www.riobosque.org](http://www.riobosque.org).

Upcoming free walking tours:

- **8 a.m. Sat., February 6 (Bird tour)**
- **3 p.m. Sun., February 14 (Introductory tour)**
- **3 p.m. Sat., March 6 (Bird tour)**
- **3 p.m. Sun., March 14 (Introductory tour)**

**General meetings are held at the Rio Grande Campus of El Paso Community College, 100 West Rio Grande, corner of West Rio Grande and Oregon, Building 4010, in Room 119.**

**There is parking behind the building on Oregon Street and also on Rio Grande Avenue.**

**Directions: From I-10-heading west, take the Mesa DOWNTOWN route**

1. Head west toward N Kansas St - 0.1 km
2. Slight left at E Yandell Dr - 0.4 km
3. Turn right at N El Paso St - 0.3 km
4. Take the 1st right onto W Rio Grande Ave - 35 m

**Directions: From I-10 heading east, take DOWNTOWN EXIT**

1. Continue straight until Oregon Street
2. Turn left on Oregon
3. Continue about 4 blocks
4. Turn left into parking lot behind building, or go to W. Rio Grande
5. Turn left on W. Rio Grande; enter 100 W. Rio Grande

## Field Trips - February & March, 2010

### Hawk Alley Sunday, Feb 7, 2010

We travel to Hawk Alley to look for Northern Harriers, Red-tailed Hawks, American Kestrels, and more. It's also possible we may see Cooper's Hawks, Prairie Falcons, and /or Golden Eagles.



**Date & Time:** Sunday, Feb 7, 2010, 11:30 a.m.  
**Meet at:** Lowe's parking lot, 4531 Transmountain Road, behind Taco Bell.  
**Reservations and Information:** Ursula Sherrill 526-7725; [usherrill@miners.utep.edu](mailto:usherrill@miners.utep.edu)

### Rio Bosque Wetlands Park Sunday, Feb 14, 2010

Come for an afternoon birding tour at this pearl among restored wetlands of the Rio Grande. Thousands of water birds over-winter in the shallow, fertile ponds of the Rio Bosque Wetlands Park. The sight of a Western Screech-Owl may greet us at sunset when it emerges from its day-time roost, a Wood Duck nest box. We also may see Harris's Hawks as well as a male Eurasian Wigeon which has returned for its fifth winter season.



**Date and Time:** Sunday, Feb. 14, 2010 3:00 p.m.  
**Meet at:** The bridge crossing the Riverside Canal. From I-10, take Americas Ave. (Loop 375) to Pan American Dr., turn left onto Pan American and travel 1.5 miles to the bridge. Please be prompt.  
**For more information:** Ursula Sherrill 526-7725; [usherrill@miners.utep.edu](mailto:usherrill@miners.utep.edu)

### McNary, Fort Hancock and Tornillo Reservoirs Saturday, March 13, 2010

Don't miss this trip to one of the best aquatic habitats in our area. These large bodies of water attract Western and Clark's grebes, pelicans, gulls, egrets, cormorants, and many species of ducks. Many land birds can be seen also, including Harris's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Prairie Falcon, Say's Phoebe, Loggerhead Shrike, Phainopepla, and Western Bluebirds.

**Date & Time:** Saturday, Mar. 13, 2010  
7:30 a.m. **BRING LUNCH**

**Meet at:** Feather Lake Wildlife Sanctuary, 9500 North Loop at Bordeaux, 0.3 miles west of Americas Ave.

**Reservations and Information:** Ursula Sherrill, 526-7725; [usherrill@miners.utep.edu](mailto:usherrill@miners.utep.edu)

### Swan Pond, Leasburg Dam & Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park Saturday, March 27, 2010

Swan Pond is a 30-acre restored wetland of the lower Rio Grande where habitat is being established to attract the endangered Southwestern Willow Flycatcher and other birds of riverside bosques. Located 15 miles north of Las Cruces, Swan Pond is part of a mile of river corridor revegetated with native cottonwoods and willows, thanks to a partnership between the World Wildlife Fund and the Trust for Public Land. We will stop at Leasburg Dam where groups of Willets and Western Grebes visited at this time in 2009, and we'll check the Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park for early spring migrants and lingering winter birds.

**Date:** Saturday, March 27, 2010 **BRING LUNCH**  
**Time:** 7:30 a.m.

**Meet at:** The Shell Station and Dairy Queen at the intersection of Transmountain Road & I-10.  
**Reservations and Information:** Ursula Sherrill 526-7725; [usherrill@miners.utep.edu](mailto:usherrill@miners.utep.edu)

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

**Percha Dam, Saturday**  
**April 10, 2010**

We travel on I-25 (about 1 ½ hours) to Percha and Caballo Dams State Parks. Herring Gulls are frequently spotted at Caballo and Ruby-crowned kinglets and Eastern and Western bluebirds have been observed at Percha. Mergansers and cormorants fish in the lake just above the dams.



**Date:** Saturday, April 10, 2010

**BRING LUNCH!**

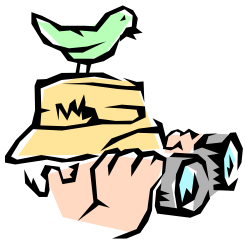
**Time:** 7:30 a.m.

**Meet at:** The Shell

Station and Dairy Queen at the intersection of Transmountain Road and I-10.

**Reservations and Information:** Ursula Sherrill  
 526-7725; [usherrill@miners.utep.edu](mailto:usherrill@miners.utep.edu)

**Birdathon 2010**



Let's get ready for Birdathon 2010, a fun event that will take place on the weekend of **May 1-2!**

This event is the primary fundraiser for El Paso Audubon Society. Historically, portions of the proceeds from the Birdathon have also been donated to organizations that benefit wildlife of the Northern Chihuahuan Desert, such as Franklin Mountains State Park, Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, & Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue.

If you would like to participate in the annual bird count, now is a good time to begin sharpening your bird identification skills and talking with friends and relatives you think may like to sponsor you.

Watch for more information about Birdathon 2010 coming in the April - May issue of your Roadrunner!

**White-tailed Kites**  
**at Rio Bosque**



Painting by Claudia Sermeno (2010)

Birding history was written at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park this fall! Two young White-tailed Kites were the first of their species to be born and successfully fledged at Rio Bosque in early October, 2009. In fact, these two young pioneers are the first of their species to be born and reared in the entire Trans-Pecos region of Texas. White-tailed Kites are striking birds of prey about 15-17 inches in length with long white tails and pointed wings. Adults display a large black patch on their shoulders. Immature birds have a rusty breast, a brown back, and a narrow dark band near the tip of their pale grayish tail. Local artist, Claudia Sermeno, contributed the painting above based on a photo taken by John Sproul, park manager.

KEYSTONE HERITAGE PARK  
 The wetlands are open the last weekend of each month for bird-watching.  
 No Tour Guides, bring binocular  
**Saturdays 7:30 - 10:00 AM**  
**Sundays 2:30 - 5:00 PM**  
 Bob (915) 751-0125,  
[wildbirderbob@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wildbirderbob@sbcglobal.net)

El Paso/Trans-Pecos  
Audubon Society  
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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 my local chapter. Please send AUDUBON magazine and my membership card to the address below.

My check for \$20.00 is enclosed

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

*Please make all checks payable to the  
National Audubon Society*

National Audubon Society  
Chapter Membership Data Center  
P.O. Box 51001  
Boulder, Colorado 80322-1001  
El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon

Local Chapter code:

**COZW100Z**

### Dates to Remember Call Ursula Sherrill for details 526-7725

#### February

Sun 7: **Hawk Alley**  
Mon 8: **Board Meeting**  
6 & 14: **Rio Bosque**  
Sat 20: **Awards Dinner**  
27 & 28: **Keystone**

#### March

6 & 14: **Rio Bosque**  
Mon 8: **Board Meeting**  
Sat 13: **McNary Resv.**  
Mon 22: **Gen. Meeting**  
Sat 27: **Feather Lake**  
Sat 27: **Swan Pond**  
27 & 28: **Keystone**

#### April

Sat 10: **Percha Dam**  
Mon 12: **Board Meeting**  
Mon 19: **Gen Meeting**  
24 & 25: **Keystone**

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**

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