

The Roadrunner



Newsletter of the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

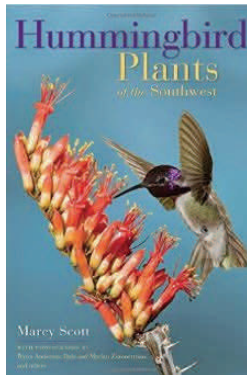
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HUMMINGBIRD PLANTS OF THE SOUTHWEST

The speaker for the **February 11** meeting of the El Paso Chapter of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico is **Marcy Scott**, author of [*Hummingbird Plants of the Southwest*](#).

Published in 2015, this book focuses on Southwestern hummingbirds and the plants that are most important to them.



The meeting takes place at the Garden Center, 3105 Grant Ave., in Memorial Park in El Paso.

The presentation begins at **7 p.m.**, following a **coffee social starting at 6:30 p.m.**

2016 Annual Awards Dinner and Program Saturday, February 20, 2016, 6:30 p.m.,

Country Inn & Suites
(formerly Holiday Inn Sunland Park)
900 Sunland Park Drive



Entrée Choices:

1. Grilled Southwest Chicken, black bean and corn relish, green chile mashed potatoes, side garden salad
2. Grilled New York Steak (cooked to medium) loaded potato critters and creamed spinach, side garden salad
3. Vegan - Lentil Shepherd's Pie, baked sweet potato, crispy vegetables, side garden salad

\$24.00 per person, inclusive.

Dessert will be provided.

Mail check (payable to El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society) to Janet Perkins, 813 Montclair Dr., El Paso, TX 79932 (915-637-5269), jntperk@elp.rr.com.

Cutoff date for reservations is February 15, 2016

The Conservation Award will be presented to **Michael Gaglio**, Biologist/Managing Member of High Desert Native Plants, LLC.

We will have a great program that evening.

Raymond VanBuskirk of [BRANT Tours](#) in Albuquerque will present a program on

Bird Watching Tours in South America and Mexico.

BRANT is an international nature travel company with a strong commitment to the environment through Responsible Ecotourism. The company provides world-class nature tours and ensures that the people and wildlife benefit from their visits as much as we benefit from them. 10% of every dollar BRANT makes is donated directly back to conservation and/or local communities.

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

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

General Meeting

TBA
Monday, March 21, 2016
Centennial Museum, at UTEP
corner of Wiggins and University
7:00pm



The program has not yet been secured, however, the March General Meeting will be sure to inspire everyone to dust off their bird book and find their binoculars.

As always, interesting conversations and a few light snacks complement the presentation.

Franklin Mountains Poppies Fest **Sat., April 2, 2016, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

The El Paso Museum of Archaeology (4301 Transmountain Road), along with Franklin Mountains State Park and the Franklin Mountains Wilderness Coalition, holds its annual **Franklin Mountains Poppies Fest on Castner Range** each spring. In addition to basking in the blaze of color these beautiful flowers provide, make sure to check out the wildlife demonstrations and nature talks, as well as the educational exhibits during this free event.



Conservation Organizations

Chihuahuan Desert Education Coalition
www.chihuahuandesert.org

Second Chance Wildlife Rescue
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/

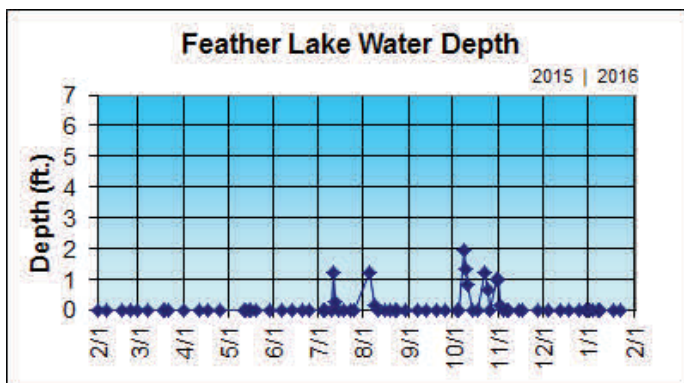
AT FEATHER LAKE

Snow following Christmas and rain in early January both put a little water in Feather Lake. As usual in recent years, it did not last long. The basin is again dry.

Our next workday at Feather Lake will be **Sat., February 6**, starting at **9 a.m.**

The lack of water in recent years has taken its toll on cottonwoods and willows at our sanctuary. Many have died and, toppled by wind storms, fallen across the path atop the inner berm within the basin.

We'll attempt to clear part of this path on the workday. 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 Website!

Updated information about upcoming field trips, calendar of upcoming events, and recent bird sightings.

www.trans-pecos-audubon.com

Audubon at

Rio Bosque Wetlands Park



Cinnamon Teal

numbers began building at Rio Bosque in late January. That trend should continue if water deliveries to the park extend into February.

For up-to-date information on Rio Bosque's birds and water conditions, check www.riobosque.org. Upcoming free walking tours:

- 8 a.m., Sun., February 7 (Bird tour)**
- 3 p.m., Sat., February 13 (Introductory tour)**
- 3 p.m., Sun., March 6 (Bird tour)**
- 9 a.m., Sat., March 12 (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.



From the Field

January 15-18, 2016
Phoenix and Maricopa County



Costa's Hummingbird
photo by Tom Taylor

Eighteen people joined us for our trip. On Friday, we drove the Apache Trail, which is a scenic byway from Roosevelt Lake to Apache Junction.

Saturday morning we all went out to Boyce Thompson Arboretum, where we had great looks at multiple **Northern Cardinals**, resplendent in their breeding plumage. We also had a **Wilson's Snipe**, a **Black Phoebe** and **Say's Phoebe** fighting over a perch, **Gila Woodpeckers**, **Rock Wren**, **Inca Doves**, among others.

We had a picnic lunch under the trees, and we headed to Granite Reef and Coon's Bluff. We saw **Vermilion Flycatchers**, **Audubon's Warbler**, a fly-by of **Buffleheads**, **Ring-necked Ducks**, **Black-crowned Night-Herons** and **Great Egrets**. From there we went to Coon's Bluff, where we had a fantastic sighting of two male **Belted Kingfishers** fighting over territory. This display lasted quite a while and we all enjoyed it. We had a group dinner at the Long Horn Steakhouse in Mesa.

Sunday morning we went to Gilbert's Water Ranch, which is a favorite place in Arizona. We saw **Osprey**, **Canada Geese**, **Long-billed Dowitchers**, lots of **Green Herons**, lots of **Black-crowned Night-Herons**, a beautiful male **Northern Harrier**, **Anna's Hummingbird**, lots of **Abert's Towhees**, **Gambel's Quail**, **Red-tailed Hawk**, **Great Blue Herons**, lots of **Verdin**.

We then went to Tres Rios where we had huge **cormorant** and **Great Blue Heron** rookeries, lots of **White Pelicans**, **Black-tailed Gnatcatcher**, **Marsh Wrens**, a kettle of **Black Vultures**, among others.

Sunday morning we went to Higley Ponds where we had **Pintails**, **Northern Shovelers**, **Gadwalls**, **Green-winged Teals**, **Song Sparrows**, **Ruby-crowned Kinglets**, **Yellow-rumped Warblers**. Our next stop was Veteran's Oasis Park, where we saw our only **Costa's Hummingbird**, with a fantastic blue gorget, as well as immature **Cooper's Hawk**, **Northern Harrier**, **Osprey**, **Antelope Jack Rabbit**.



Higley Pond photo by Tom Taylor

Our last stop of the trip was Zanjero Park, where we had a good look at a **Burrowing Owl**. We ended our trip there and headed back to El Paso. Special thanks to Fay and Kathy Millett for their help. We had people from New Mexico, Arizona and Texas on the trip and a good time was had by all.

Field Trips

**Saturday, February 13, 2016
Reservoirs Down the Valley**



We will be travelling down I-10 East to visit the reservoirs of McNary, Ft.Hancock and Tornillo. Possible sightings could be the **Western and Clark's grebes, Eared Grebes, White Pelicans, gulls, herons, egrets, cormorants** and wintering **ducks**.

Bring a lunch and we will picnic at a roadside stop. We will meet at 7:00 a.m. at the parking lot of the Burlington Coat Factory at 1144 N. Yarbrough. Exit at Yarbrough. Open to the public. Beginners and nonmembers are welcome.

**Saturday, March 12, 2016
Ascarate Lake and Rio Bosque Wetlands**

We will meet at 7:30 a.m. at the parking lot near the front entrance of Office Depot at Geronimo and Gateway West (Bassett Center). We will go first to Ascarate Lake where there is a nominal entrance fee (contingent on it being open to the public that day).



We'll be looking for **raptors, herons, egrets, diving ducks** and **mergansers**. From there we will go to Rio Bosque Wetlands for **Burrowing Owls** and **raptors**. Rio Bosque has been receiving water, so there may be other birds present. Open to the public. Beginners and nonmembers are welcome. Contact Mark Perkins at 915-637-3521.

**Saturday, March 26, 2016
Hawk Alley & El Paso Archaeology Museum**

We will meet at 7:00 a.m. at the El Paso Archaeology Museum, 4301 Transmountain Road, in Northeast El Paso. We'll be looking for desert wintering birds including **Pyrrhuloxia, Black-throated Sparrow, Curve-billed Thrasher**.

We'll then drive Hawk Alley with a stop at Painted Dunes Golf Course, looking for **raptors** on all the poles and other species at the Golf Course. Open to the public. Beginners and nonmembers are welcome.

Contact Mark Perkins at 915-637-3521.

**Saturday, February 27, 2016
Sod Farms and Pancho Villa State Park, New Mexico**

At the Sod Farms we'll be looking for wintering **sparrows** and **raptors**. We'll travel towards Columbus, NM, making several stops along the way looking for wintering birds. Some birds we could see are the **Black-throated Sparrow, Pyrrhuloxia, Greater Roadrunner, Savannah Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow**.

Bring a lunch. We'll picnic at Pancho Villa State Park, where there is a \$5 fee per car. Meet at 7:00 a.m. behind Sam's Car Wash in Sam's parking lot at 7970 N. Mesa. Open to the public. Beginners and nonmembers are welcome. Contact Mark Perkins at 915-637-3521.

**Saturday, April 9, 2016
Mesilla Valley Bosque and Leasburg Dam State Parks**

Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the southwest corner of the parking lot of the El Paso Outlet Mall at I-10 and Transmountain (Talbot Road entrance to the Mall). We hope to see **wintering passerines, waterfowl** and **raptors**. There is a \$5 fee per car that covers both parks. Bring a lunch. Open to the public. Beginners and nonmembers are welcome.



El Paso/Trans-Pecos
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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 422250
Palm Coast, FL 32142-2250**

Local Chapter Code **C1ZW100Z**

Dates to Remember Call Mark Perkins for details 637-3521

February

Sat 6: **Feather Lake**
7 & 13: **Rio Bosque**
Mon 8: **Board Meeting**
Th 11: **Native Plant Soc.**
Sat 13: **Down the Valley**
Sat 20: **Award's Dinner**
Sat. 27: **Sod Farms**

March

6 & 12: **Rio Bosque**
Sat 12: **Ascarate Lake**
Mon 14: **Board Meeting**
Mon 21: **General Meeting**
Sat 26: **Hawk Alley**

April

Sat 2: **Franklin Mts. Poppies Fest**
Sat 9: **Mesilla Valley**
Mon 11: **Board Meeting**
Mon 18: **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
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