



# The Roadrunner

Newsletter of the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

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).

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**

**October 16, 2017 7:00pm**

**Hybrid Cacti of the Jarilla Mountains**  
**Otero Co., New Mexico**  
**Dr. Paul Hyder**

Two species of cactus, the Claret Cup and the Texas Rainbow, hybridize in the Jarilla Mountains of south-central New Mexico. This talk covers the biology of these hybrids and examines the diversity of flower colors and spination of these plants.

Dr. Paul Hyder is a local ecologist/photographer/musician who, in addition to teaching Environmental Science and Physics at Eastwood High School, gives natural history based field trips and lectures to interested parties in the El Paso/Las Cruces area.



**November 20, 2017 7:00pm**

**Burrowing Owls of the Rio Bosque Wetlands Park**  
**Lois Balin**



Lois Balin, Urban Wildlife Biologist with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, will present her field work/research with Burrowing Owls in Rio Bosque Wetlands Park. Lois is a knowledgeable, engaging speaker whose passion for Burrowing Owls is contagious.

### El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

#### Officers

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

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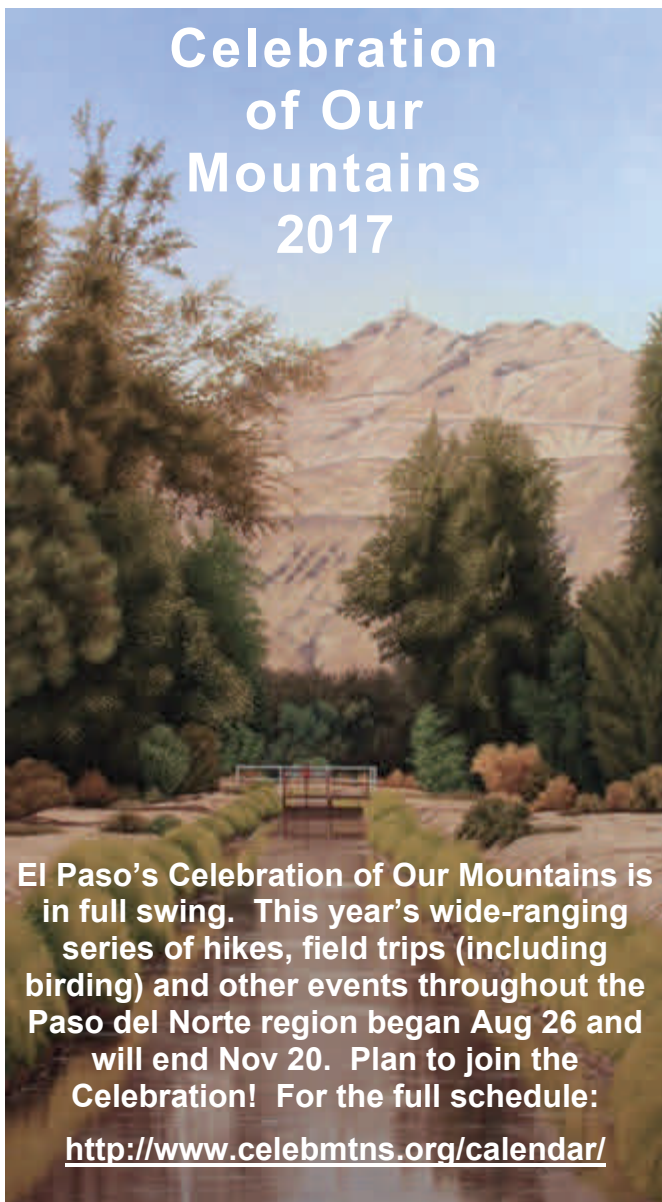
**Conservation:** Kevin Floyd, 613-6354  
**Education:** Kathleen Whelen, 820-1895  
**Field Trips:** Mark Perkins 637-3521  
**Hospitality:** Janet Perkins, 637-5269  
**Membership:** vacant  
**Newsletter Editor:** Kathleen Whelen, 820-1895  
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**Publications:** Jane Fowler, 598-2448  
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**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.

## Celebration of Our Mountains 2017



El Paso's Celebration of Our Mountains is in full swing. This year's wide-ranging series of hikes, field trips (including birding) and other events throughout the Paso del Norte region began Aug 26 and will end Nov 20. Plan to join the Celebration! For the full schedule:  
<http://www.celebmtns.org/calendar/>

### 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  
[www.facebook.com/epwildliferescue/](http://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)

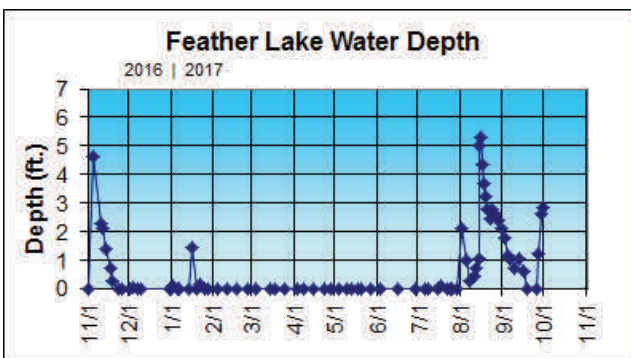
Franklin Mt. Wilderness Coalition  
[www.franklinmountains.org/](http://www.franklinmountains.org/)

## AT FEATHER LAKE

An intense mid-August storm flooded Feather Lake to a depth of 5.28 feet, its greatest depth since Sept. 19, 2014. The water receded gradually through late August and September, until less than 20% of the basin still held shallow water in late September. Then another storm hit, flooding the basin to a depth of 2.86 feet. For the first time since July-August 2010, we've had some water in the basin throughout 2 consecutive months!

The storm water, of course, brought with it a diverse mix of trash: a sofa, a door, many tires, countless beverage containers, and who knows what else. Our next workday at Feather Lake will be **Sat., October 7**, starting at **2 p.m.** With the basin now flooded, we'll have to leave the soggy trash for another day and work instead in the uplands.

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



Fall-winter water deliveries, when the largest areas in the park are flooded, are expected to begin in late October.

For up-to-date information on the park's birds and water conditions, visit [www.riobosque.org](http://www.riobosque.org).

Upcoming free walking tours:

- 4 p.m., Sun., Oct 22 (Birding tour)**
- 8 a.m., Sat., Oct 28 (Introductory tour)**

- 9 a.m., Sat., Nov 11 (Introductory tour)**
- 3 p.m., Sun., Nov 19 (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.



## Notes from the Field

### Cloudcroft/Mescalero Field Trip, August 5, 2017

We visited the Mescalero Fish Hatchery, in Mescalero, NM, our first visit there. It had been very hot in El Paso and temperature there was a nice cool 62 degrees.

There is a nature trail, wetlands and a visitor center. The only fish raised there are trout. Along the creek trail there were lots of trees with berries and birds. Some of the birds were gorging themselves on the berries and would not even fly.



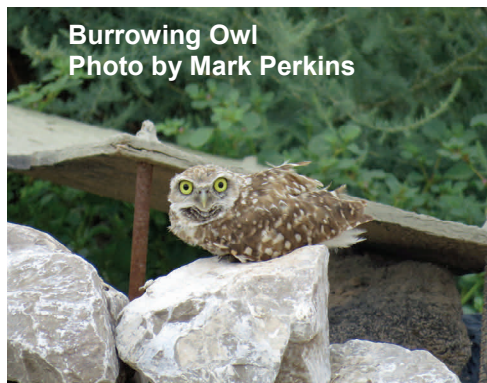
Gray Catbird  
(Janet Perkins)

The best bird was a **Gray Catbird**. We also saw an **Eastern Phoebe**, **Lesser Goldfinch**, **Acorn Woodpecker**, **Woodhouse's**

**Scrub-Jay**, and **Steller's Jay**. From the Hatchery we headed over to Cloudcroft. On the way, we saw **Western Bluebirds**. In Cloudcroft we ate lunch at the Trestle Picnic Area. We then went to Bluff Springs Waterfall where we saw **Dark-eyed Junco** and **Hermit Thrush** and headed back to El Paso.

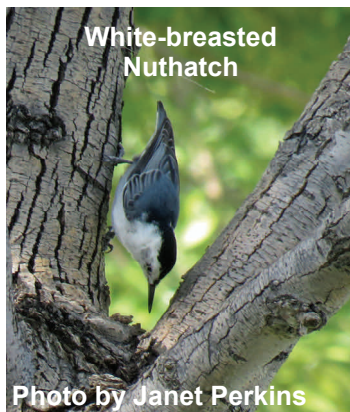
### Down the Valley Reservoirs, Saturday, August 19, 2017

We started at McNary and on the farms roads leading to the McNary Reservoir we saw **Lazuli Bunting**, **Cassin's Kingbird**, **Loggerhead Shrike**, **Barn Owl**, **American Kestrel**, **Red-tailed Hawk**, **Mississippi Kite**, **Great Egret**, **Snowy Egret**, **Great Blue Heron**, and **Greater Roadrunner**. The water at the reservoirs was very high, so there were very few shore birds, but we saw lots of **Clark's** and **Western grebes**. We also saw **Eared** and **Pied-billed grebes**, **Forster's Tern**, **Black Tern**, **American Avocet**, **Green Heron**, **Black-necked Stilts** and **Ruddy Duck**. The Tornillo and Ft. Hancock reservoirs had basically the same things we saw at McNary. A quick stop at Rio Bosque where we saw a pair of **White-tailed Kites** and



Burrowing Owl  
Photo by Mark Perkins

**Western Wood-Pewee** and **Burrowing Owl** and we headed home.



White-breasted  
Nuthatch

Photo by Janet Perkins

### Percha Dam, Saturday, September 9, 2017

We got an early start and the morning was cool. The montane migration was evident. We saw six species of warblers - **Townsend's**, **MacGillivray's**, **Yellow**, **Lucy's**, **Wilson's**, and the best one - **American Redstart** female. There was such an infiltration of **Wilson's Warblers**, it seemed every tree had one or more. Other birds seen were **Warbling Vireo**, **Plumbeous Vireo**, **White-breasted Nuthatch**, **Western Tanager**, **Blue Grosbeak**, **Olive-sided Flycatcher**, **Vermilion Flycatcher** and **Western Wood-Pewee**. In the river we saw **Great Egrets**, **Great Blue Heron**, **Spotted Sandpiper** and a female **Common Merganser**. We also saw several raptors. We ate our

lunch there and headed back to El Paso.

**Field Trips**

**Saturday, October 7, 2017  
Dell City**

We'll go to Dell City Valley to look for migrating shore birds, hawks and passerines. The last time we were there we got lots of birds.

We'll meet at 6:30 a.m. at Evergreen Cemetery, 12400 E. Montana. We will carpool from there. Bring a lunch. Nonmembers and beginners are welcome.

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

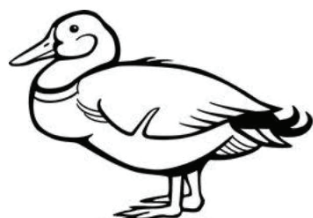


**Saturday, November 11, 2017  
Ascarate Lake**

We'll be looking for raptors, herons, egrets, diving ducks and mergansers. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the parking lot near the front entrance of Office Depot at Geronimo and Gateway West (Bassett Center).

There is a nominal entrance fee per car.

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



**Saturday, October 21, 2017  
Northeast El Paso,  
Fort Bliss Ponds**

We'll be looking for migrating birds and checking for raptors along the way. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Lowe's Parking Lot at Transmountain Road behind Taco Bell.



Nonmembers and beginners are welcome. Contact Mark Perkins at 915-637-3521 for more information.

**Saturday, December 2 and 3, 2017  
Bosque del Apache  
National Wildlife Refuge**

Thousands of Sandhill Cranes and Snow Geese winter at the refuge. This is an overnight trip and if you are interested in going, please let us know and we will provide a detailed itinerary.

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



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 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 7: **Feather Lake Workday**  
**Dell City Valley**  
Mon 16: **General Meeting**  
Sat 21: **Ft. Bliss Ponds**  
22 & 28: **Rio Bosque**

November

11 & 19: **Rio Bosque**  
Sat 11: **Ascarate Lake**  
Mon 13: **Board Meeting**  
Mon 20: **General Meeting**

December

2 & 3: **Bosque del Apache**  
Mon 4: **Board Meeting**  
Mon 11: **General Meeting**

[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.  
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