



# The Roadrunner

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

### Inside the Roadrunner

Chapter Info	2
Sanctuary News	3
Bird-watching	4 & 5
Keystone Bird List	6



*General Meeting & Holiday Celebration*  
*Monday, December 10, 2007 at 7:00pm*  
*at UTEP Centennial Museum, Wiggins & University*

Join the fun & win a prize for your photo! To enter the contest, email electronic JPEG files from a digital camera to Bob Johnson at [wildbirderbob@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wildbirderbob@sbcglobal.net) or call Bob at 751-0125 for pick up of transparencies or printed photos. Limit of 5 photos per person. There will be a winner in each category: Birds, Other Wildlife, Scenic photos, Kids & Pets, Humorous

## Albertson's Community Partner Cards are Here



Imagine how different the quality of life would be in El Paso if all the adults had made a basic connection to the environment when they were kids.

### Announcing the Return of the ALBERTSONS' Community Partners Program

By, Kathy Kiseda, Program Coordinator

In the two years since our chapter has joined the Albertsons Community Partners Program, our 130 participants spent well over \$300,000 in our local Albertsons. This earned us reward contributions of \$4,354, which have or will be spent on our children's education programs. We have purchased 30 pairs of binoculars and age appropriate field guides that will help us encourage groups to visit Feather Lake and attend field trips. We have also invested in the Audubon Adventures program that will provide age appropriate, conservation based, teaching materials to area schools arming teachers with the tools they need to inspire their kids.

**Welcome To Community Partners!**

Now Albertsons has revised the program, making it even easier for supporters to participate. Attached you will find two supporter cards, please attach one to the car keys of each shopper in your household. We will earn 1% of your shopping each time you scan this card. Imagine the impact we can make together!

Giving the cashier your phone number will no longer work as that was part of the old program, now you will need to have this new card scanned each time you shop. If you would like additional cards, to share with friends and family, call please call Jane at 598-2448. We will benefit from scanned purchases made at any Albertsons, in all 19 States in which they operate. (Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, North Dakota, South Dakota, Florida, Idaho, Louisiana, Montana, Nevada, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas, Utah, Washington and Wyoming) Thank you in advance for your continued support in this campaign. We sincerely appreciate it.



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



**Committees**

Membership: Roxanne Schroeder, 533-0061	Publicity: Kathy Kiseda, 533-4615
Programs: Ursula Sherrill, 526-7725	Education: Kathleen Whelen, 751-2408
Conservation: vacant	Publications: Jane Fowler, 598-2448
Field Trips: vacant	Ways & Means: vacant
Hospitality: Janet Perkins	Sanctuary: John Sproul, 545-5157

*Monday, January, 2008 at 7:00pm*

*at UTEP Centennial Museum, corner of Wiggins & University*

**Scarlet Macaws: Sunbirds of the Southwest**



**Our speaker will be Dr. Marc Thompson, director of the El Paso Museum of Archaeology, and Adjunct Assistant Professor of Anthropology in the UTEP Sociology and Anthropology Departments. Dr. Thompson states that, although numerous examples of macaw interments, feathers, and iconography have been recorded archaeologically throughout the prehistoric Southwest, the meanings, uses, and functions of these exotic parrots and their depictions remain enigmatic. Comparisons with compatible Mesoamerican linguistic, ethno-historic and archaeological data offer significant insights to explain why these birds and their feathers have been in demand for two millennia.**

*The public is welcome. Refreshments will be served.*

**Frontera Land Alliance**



We hope you'll join us at Ardivino's Desert Crossing on Wednesday, January 30th, 2008, for the Annual Meeting of The Frontera Land Alliance. This is an opportunity for Frontera's Board of Directors to report to the community what the land trust has been working on over the past year. It's also a chance to enjoy Ardivino's relaxed atmosphere and delicious food alongside friends and neighbors who share a commitment to El Paso's natural environment and quality of life.

A casual reception with an hors d'oeuvres buffet and cash bar will start at 6 p.m., then we'll sit down for the presentation at 7. This is a free event -- please come out and learn more about our local land trust! A map and directions to Ardivino's are available at [www.ardovinos.com/map.html](http://www.ardovinos.com/map.html). Learn more about Frontera & its projects [www.fronteralandalliance.org](http://www.fronteralandalliance.org).

**The 2008 Ute Mountain Mesa Verde Birding Festival is going to be spectacular. We are adding a Condor Tour to the Vermillion cliffs. May 8-11, 2008. A brochure with details will be ready to mail in January. Our webpage will be ready by then as well.**

**[www.utemountainmesaverdebirdingfestival.com](http://www.utemountainmesaverdebirdingfestival.com)**

Deb Avery, Executive Director  
 Cortez Cultural Center  
 25 N. Market  
 Cortez CO 81321  
 970-565-1151

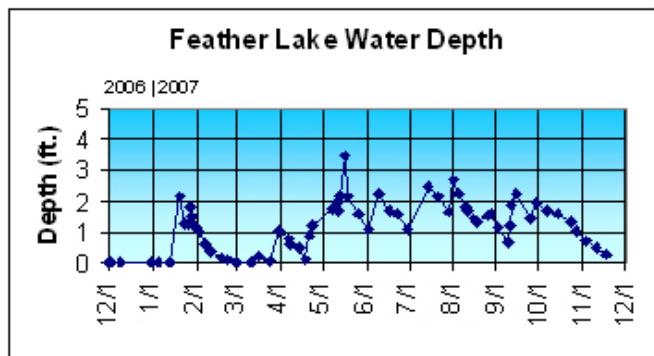
## AT FEATHER LAKE

Without recent rains, water levels at Feather Lake have dropped steadily since October 1. At this writing in mid-November, conditions are great for shorebirds and wading birds, but they may not last long. The lake could be dry again in December.

Even without water, we plan to keep Feather Lake open at least through mid-December so visitors can enjoy the cottonwoods in fall color. We still have a few December dates for which we need volunteers to staff our sanctuary. Interested? Please contact John Sproul (747-8663, [jsproul@utep.edu](mailto:jsproul@utep.edu)).

You can also help at Feather Lake by taking part in our next workday. It's **Sat., January 26, starting at 2 p.m.** If the lake is dry, we'll work in the basin. If it has water, we'll be in the uplands.

Feather Lake is located at 9500 North Loop at Bordeaux in El Paso, 0.3 miles west of Americas Ave. Hours are 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday mornings and 2 p.m. to dusk on Sunday afternoons. Admission is free



### 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).

## Audubon at RIO BOSQUE WETLANDS PARK



The wetland cells at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park are flooded, and waterbird numbers are building. For recent bird sightings at the Park, visit [www.riobosque.org](http://www.riobosque.org). Upcoming free walking tours:

**9 a.m. Sat., December 1 (Bird tour)**  
**3 p.m. Sun., December 9 (Introductory tour)**

**3 p.m. Sat., January 12 (Bird tour)**  
**3 p.m. Sun., January 20 (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.



# BIRD WATCHING

## Christmas Bird Count

The El Paso Audubon Chapter calls upon volunteers in the El Paso area to join with birders across the western hemisphere and participate in one of the Audubon's winter time traditions, the annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC). This year's count will be the 108th.

Last year, over 56,000 volunteers from all 50 states, every Canadian province, parts of Central and South America, Bermuda, the West Indies, and Pacific Islands count and record every individual bird and bird species seen in a given area. During the 105th CBC, about 69 million individual birds were counted. Last year, over 2050 individual counts. Each individual count group completes a census of the birds found during one 24 hour period in a designated circle 15 miles in diameter— about 177 square miles.

People are asked to contribute \$5.00 to help defray the expense of publishing "American Birds". This is the volume detailing all 2000 plus counts. The El Paso/Trans-Pecos Chapter will cover \$3.00 of this cost for the Hueco Tanks and El Paso counts.

### Hueco Tanks Christmas Bird Count

This year's count will be taken over by Richard Hermosillo. Contact him at his phone or email listed below. The date has not been selected yet. The designated period is from December 14 thru January 8, 2008.

The first count will be conducted in and around Hueco Tanks State Historic Site. Let's see if we can get over 65 species this year. This number has been achieved only a couple of times since 1970. To accomplish this, we need at least 8 counters. Please call and volunteer. We have accomplish this during the 1st and 3rd Sunday tours of in the late Fall during the those three hour tours. We saw 31 species in the park alone.

**Time: 6:30 am, Flying Saucer Building  
(Junction US 62/180 & FM 2775)  
Compiler: Richard Hermosillo; (915) 491-0815  
epbirder@yahoo.com**

It would be better to call ahead of time so that the compiler will be in the look-out for you. You must be prompt as the park gate will only be opened for a few minutes. **If you cannot reach Richard, contact Bob for information. (915)751-0125  
wildbirderbob@sbcglobal.net**

### HUECO TANKS

#### Bird Identification Tour

**Admission:** Hueco Tanks Historical Park  
**\$4. \$2 for Seniors 65,**  
Children under 12 - **FREE.**

#### Bird Identification Tours

Sunday **Dec. 16 8:08 AM**  
Sunday **Jan. 20 8:08 AM**  
Sunday **Feb. 17 8:08 AM**

**Please check in at the Headquarters.  
Reservations and Information 857-1135.  
Leader Bob "Wildbirder" Johnson  
751-0125.**

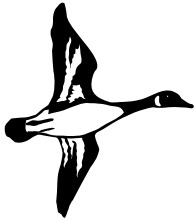
### KEYSTONE PARK

#### BIRDWATCHERS WELCOME

The gate at Keystone will be open the last weekend of each month for birders to come in and bird on their own. No tour guides.

**Sat. Dec. 29 7:30 -- 10:00 AM**  
**Sun. Dec. 30 2:30 -- 5:00 PM**  
**Sat. Jan. 26 7:30 -- 10:00 AM**  
**Sun. Jan. 27 2:30 -- 5:00 PM**  
**Sat. Feb. 23 7:00 -- 9:30 AM**  
**Sun. Feb. 24 3:30 -- 6:00 PM**

We will be teaching **Bird watching Classes in the Center for Lifelong Learning at UTEP** in February & March with a field trip each weekend. Therefore we will have only one trip in Jan. Our annual trip to the Bosque Del Apache NWR near Socorro, NM.



## BOSQUE DEL APACHE NWR

One of the more popular National Wildlife Refuges in the country (there are over 500) is located about 180 miles north of El Paso off Interstate 25. How about 20,000 Snow Geese with a number of Ross's included, see if you can tell them apart, 12,000 Sandhill Cranes, 25,000 plus ducks and maybe a dozen Bald Eagles.

Start off your 2007 bird list with some great entries. Last year, 74 species were recorded on our trip, these included 15 waterfowl species, 7 raptor and 3 grebe, also a number of passerines. The Refuge reported just under a dozen Bald Eagles, and we saw 5 at one time. We hope to arrange a tour in the refuge bus, so try and call Lois if you think you might attend. We need an approximate count. There are many good motels in Socorro, NM, about 12 miles to the North.

**Date: Sat/ Sun, January 19 & 20, 2008**

**Time: 11am**

**Place: Parking Lot by the Visitor's Center**

**Coordinator: Lois Balin,**

**call for map and itinerary (915)751-2206**

## LOOKING AHEAD:

Christmas Bird Count - Hueco Tanks, sometime between Dec 14 and Jan 5.

**Annual trip to the Bosque Del Apache National Wildlife Refuge near Socorro NM Jan. 19 & 20.**

## The Annual Awards Dinner

Each year, new board members are elected and service awards are presented to special people in the community and our organization. **This year's dinner is scheduled for Saturday, February 16, 2008.**

This occasion always provides a great opportunity to enjoy a dinner out with wonderful friends. We look forward to being with you!

For further information on all **BIRD WATCHING** trips contact

**Bob Johnson.**

**751-0125**

[wildbirderbob@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wildbirderbob@sbcglobal.net)



## The Keystone Heritage Park Checklist has Reached a Milestone! *finally*

John Kiseda

My goal of reaching a bird site checklist count of at least 200 species for Keystone, finally came to pass last month with the recent observation of the site's **202<sup>nd</sup> species**. I want to thank those people who have contributed their sightings to the list over the years, it's been greatly appreciated. Next year, I plan on producing a better version of the checklist, so that it will provide a bit more worthwhile information for users.

**Have a great Holiday Season, especially since I've already received my early Christmas present!**

Ho-Ho-Ho John K.



# Happy Holidays

## THE BIRDS OF KEYSTONE PARK 202 species/types



Pied-billed Grebe *	Green Heron	Chimney Swift \$	Wilson's Warbler
Eared Grebe U	Tri-colored Heron U	Black-chinned Hummingbird X	Virginia's Warbler U
Horned Grebe U	American Bittern \$	Broad-tailed Hummingbird	Black-throated Grey Warbler
American White Pelican U	Black-crowned Night Heron U	Rufous Hummingbird U	Townsend's Warbler
Double-crested Cormorant U	White-faced Ibis	Belted Kingfisher	MacGillivray's Warbler
Neotropic Cormorant	Sora X	Northern Flicker (Red-shafted)	Orange-crowned Warbler
Ruddy Duck *	Virginia Rail *	Ladder-backed Woodpecker	Common Yellowthroat X
Mallard *	American Coot *	Sapsucker species \$	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Redhead *	Common Moorhen *	Western Wood Pewee \$	Yellow-breasted Chat \$
Green-winged Teal	American Avocet *	Western Kingbird X	Western Tanager U
Blue-winged Teal	Black-necked Stilt *	Say's Phoebe	Summer Tanager \$
Cinnamon Teal X	Long-billed Curlew U	Black Phoebe	Green-tailed Towhee
Black-bellied WhistlingDuck \$	Solitary Sandpiper	Ash-throated Flycatcher U	Canyon Towhee \$
Northern Shoveler	Spotted Sandpiper	Olive-sided Flycatcher \$	Spotted Towhee U
Gadwall	Stilt Sandpiper U	Vermillion Flycatcher \$	House Sparrow
Wood Duck *	Pectoral Sandpiper U	Barn Swallow	Western Meadowlark
Lesser Scaup	Western Sandpiper	Cave Swallow U	Brewer's Blackbird
Ring-necked Duck	Baird's Sandpiper \$	Cliff Swallow	Yellow-headed Blackbird
Bufflehead	Least Sandpiper	Tree Swallow	Red-winged Blackbird *
American Wigeon	Lesser Yellowlegs	Bank Swallow U	Great-tailed Grackle *
Common Goldeneye S	Greater Yellowlegs	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Brown-headed Cowbird
Canvasback U	Dunlin \$	Violet-green Swallow	Baltimore Oriole \$
Northern Pintail	Killdeer *	Black-billed Magpie \$	Hooded Oriole \$
Hooded Merganser U	Semi-palmated Plover U	Western Scrub Jay U	Bullock's Oriole
Red-breasted Merganser U	Snowy Plover \$	Chihuahuan Raven U	Pyrrhuloxia *
Common Merganser \$	Short-billed Dowitcher U	American Crow	Black-headed Grosbeak
Surf Scoter \$	Long-billed Dowitcher	Verdin *	Blue Grosbeak X
Canada Goose U	Wilson's Phalarope	Red-breasted Nuthatch \$	Painted Bunting \$
Snow Goose U	Wilson's Snipe	Cactus Wren *	Lazuli Bunting \$
Turkey Vulture	Mew Gull \$	Marsh Wren	Lesser Goldfinch \$
Mississippi Kite	Lesser Black-backed Gull \$	Bewick's Wren U	Pine Siskin \$
Sharp-shinned Hawk	California Gull U	House Wren	House Finch
Coopers Hawk U	Western Gull \$	Rock Wren	Dickcissel \$
Northern Harrier	Herring Gull U	Northern Mockingbird *	Dark-eyed Junco
Red-tailed Hawk	Iceland Gull \$	Sage Thrasher \$	Lark Bunting
Swainson's Hawk	Glaucous Gull \$	Crissal Thrasher *	Lark Sparrow
Harris's Hawk \$	Thayer's Gull U	Curve-billed Thrasher *	White-crowned Sparrow
American Kestrel	Franklin's Gull U	American Robin	White-throated Sparrow \$
Merlin \$	Bonaparte's Gull U	Bluebird species \$	Chipping Sparrow
Prairie Falcon U	Ring-billed Gull	Hermit Thrush U	Song Sparrow
Peregrine Falcon	Black Tern U	Townsend's Solitaire \$	Brewer's Sparrow
Golden Eagle U	Common Tern U	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Savannah Sparrow U
Bald Eagle \$	Forster's Tern U	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher U	Swamp Sparrow
Osprey U	Mourning Dove *	Black-tailed Gnatcatcher *	Clay-colored Sparrow U
Gambel's Quail *	White-winged Dove *	Cedar Waxwing U	Lincoln's Sparrow U
Scaled Quail U	Inca Dove U	Phainopepla X	Vesper Sparrow U
Snowy Egret	Rock Dove	Loggerhead Shrike	
Cattle Egret	Eurasian Collared-Dove \$	European Starling	<b>* = breeding</b>
Great Egret	Yellow-billed Cuckoo \$	American Pipit U	<b>X = probable breeding</b>
Great Blue Heron	Roadrunner X	Warbling Vireo \$	<b>U=unusual</b>
Little Blue	Burrowing Owl U	Northern Waterthrush \$	<b>\$ =rare</b>
Heron \$	Lesser Nighthawk U	Yellow Warbler	



Printed by Superior Copy

# Calendar

## December

Sat 1: **Feather Lake  
Work Day**  
Sat 1: **Desert Birds**  
Mon 3: **Board Meeting**  
Mon 10: **X-mas Party**  
Sun 16: **Hueco Tanks**  
29 & 30: **Keystone**

## January

12 & 20: **Rio Bosque**  
Mon 14: **Board Meeting**  
19 & 20: **Bosque del Apache**  
Sun 20: **Hueco Tanks**  
Mon 21: **General Meeting**  
Sat 26: **Feather Lake**  
26 & 27: **Keystone**

## February

Mon 11: **Board Meeting**  
Sat 16: **Awards Dinner**  
17: **Hueco Tanks**  
23 & 24: **Keystone**

### Conservation Organizations

Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue  
[www.whc.net/cdwr](http://www.whc.net/cdwr)

El Paso Zoo 521-1850  
[www.elpasozoo.org](http://www.elpasozoo.org)

Keystone Heritage Park 581-7920  
[www.keystoneheritagepark.org](http://www.keystoneheritagepark.org)

Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park  
(505) 524-3334 [www.cdn.org](http://www.cdn.org)

Friends of the Rio Bosque 747-8663  
[www.riobosque.org](http://www.riobosque.org)

Southwest Environmental Center  
(505) 522-5552  
[www.wildmesquite.org](http://www.wildmesquite.org)  
swec@zianet.com

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