

The Roadrunner



Newsletter of the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society General Meetings

December Holiday Party

Monday, December 12, 2011, 7:00 pm

The El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society holiday merry-making is set for Monday, December 12, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at the Memorial Park Garden Center, 3105 Grant Ave. Join in tasting the irresistible holiday refreshments.



As in past years, we will be showcasing the photographic talents of our members and friends. In a change this year, there will not be a photo contest. **Each person is asked to bring up to ten slides or digital photographs.** The photos will be shown grouped by photographer, not in categories. The following categories from last year are provided as suggestions: birds, other wildlife, scenic shots, pets, mammals, plant life, kids, and humorous photos. Projection equipment will be provided.

We ask that photographers come early--at 6:30--in order to set up the projectors and make sure they work with your format. Bringing a snack is optional, but if you wish to bring something, we predict you will see happy smiles.

**Monday, January 16, 2012
Memorial Park Garden Center
3105 Grant Street, 7:00 p.m.**

A presentation on "Birding in South Texas" will be given by Janet and Mark Perkins and Lucretia and Eddie Chew. They will cover highlights of the Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival held in November 2011. Come hear about numerous Green Jays and Chachalacas as well as other specialties of the Rio Grande Valley (Altamira, Audubon's and Black-vented orioles, Common Pauraque, Red-billed Pigeon, White-tipped Dove, White-collared Seed-eater, Tropical Parula, Clay-colored Thrush, and more!). We will also include photographs taken by Steve Chew and Janet Perkins.

The public is welcome. Refreshments will be served. Contact Eddie Chew at 587-9589 for more info.



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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.

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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

Membership: Roxanne Schroeder, 533-0061
 Programs: vacant
 Conservation: vacant
 Field Trips: Mark Perkins 637-3521
 Hospitality: Janet Perkins, 581-2849

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

Officers

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

Committees

Publicity: Janet Perkins, 581-2849
 Education: Kathleen Whelen, 751-2408
 Publications: Jane Fowler, 598-2448
 Ways & Means: vacant
 Sanctuary: John Sproul, 545-5157

It is with sadness that we note the passing of Joseph P. Guinn, 95, on October 24, 2011.



Joe was an active member of the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society, serving as president of the chapter in 1977-1978. Joe and Sid Shepperd supervised a project with the Young Adult Conservation Corps at Feather Lake from October 1981 to March 1982 while Joe was Sanctuary Chairman.

Joe was active at the Wilderness Park Museum, was a founding member of the Franklin Mountains Wilderness Coalition, and was active in the El Paso Cactus and Rock Club. In 1984, Joe was presented the Chapter Meritorious Service Award.

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

Conservation Organizations

Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue
www.whc.net/cdwr

El Paso Zoo 521-1850
www.elpasozoo.org

Keystone Heritage Park 581-7920
www.keystoneheritagepark.org

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

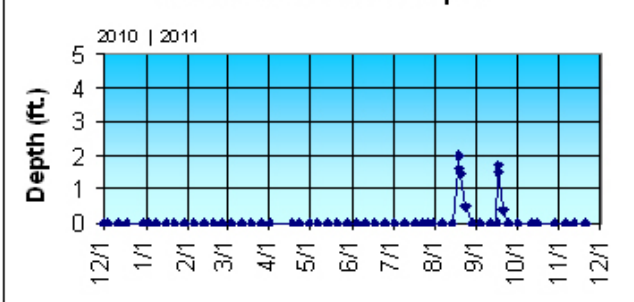
Feather Lake continues to be dry and continues to be closed to public use. The lake has now been completely dry for 11 of the past 13 months and mostly dry the other 2 months.



Just so you won't forget what the "lake" looks like, we do have two workdays coming up, on **Sat., December 3** and **Sat., January 28**, both starting at **2 p.m.** Join us to help with sanctuary maintenance. Feather Lake is located at 9500 North Loop at Bordeaux in El Paso, 0.3 miles west of Americas Ave.

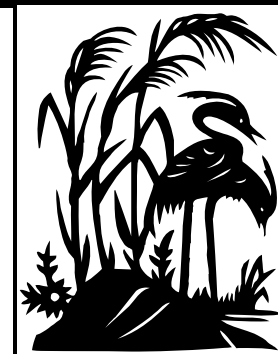


Feather Lake Water Depth



Please visit and bookmark www.elpasonaturally.blogspot.com. **Elpasonaturally**© is leading the way for sustainable living in the El Paso Southwest.

Audubon at RIO BOSQUE WETLANDS PARK



Water deliveries to Rio Bosque resumed November 13 but not in sufficient volumes to re-flood the park's wetland cells. More water may be available in December. Long-eared Owls are back, roosting in dense saltcedar along the Bosque Trail. For up-to-date information on water conditions and birds being seen, check the park's website,

www.riobosque.org.

Upcoming free walking tours:

- 8 a.m. Sat., December 10 (Bird tour)
- 3 p.m. Sun., December 18 (Introductory tour)
- 3 p.m. Sat., January 7 (Bird tour)
- 9 a.m. Sun., January 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.



Field Trips

Saturday, December 17, 2011 Sod Farms, Sunland Park Area and Upper Valley



The sod farm is known for great winter birds, from Sandhill Cranes to many small birds, such as the uncommon Grasshopper Sparrow and Baird's Sparrow. We will be looking for birds that spend the cold months in grassland habitat. In the Sunland Park and Upper Valley area we will be looking for overwintering water birds and land birds.

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at Keystone Heritage Park, 4200 Doniphan Drive.

Beginners and nonmembers are always welcome. Contact Mark Perkins at 637-3521 or mperkins4@elp.rr.com.

Friday, Saturday and Sunday, January 13, 14 and 15, 2012

Bosque del Apache, National Wildlife Refuge and Rosy-Finch Field Trip

Get ready for Sandhill Cranes, Snow Geese and ducks at Bosque del Apache NWR, which is one of the more popular national wildlife refuges in the country. Bald Eagles are commonly seen there as well. Mark and Janet will be in the area on Friday, January 13 for birding and viewing of the fly-in. All are welcome to join them.

On Saturday, January 14, the group will view the fly-out and bird the area that day. Last year, we had great views of a wild bobcat who posed at length for photos and a large herd of elk! A group dinner is planned, details to follow.

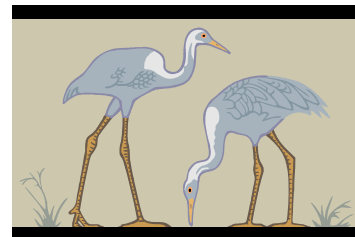
On Sunday, we hope to go up to Sandia Peak in the Sandia Mountains to see the rosy-finches (weather permitting). On our last trip, we literally had hundreds of rosy-finches to view and take pictures of. Another possible stop will be the Valley Nature Center in Albuquerque (time permitting). A detailed itinerary will be available soon. Please

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Contact Mark Perkins at 637-3521 or
mperkins4@elp.rr.com.

El Paso Area Environmental Organizations

A List Compiled by the Board of Directors of the Keystone Heritage Park

Celebration of Our Mountains. www.celebmtns.org

Chihuahuan Desert Education Coalition. www.chihuahuandesert.org/index.htm

Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue www.whc.net/cdwr/Home/home.htm

El Paso Archaeological Society. www.epas.com

El Paso Cactus and Rock Club. www.cichlidpress.com/elpasocactusclub

El Paso County Master Gardeners. <http://txmg.org/elpaso/>

El Paso Native Plant Society. http://npsnm.unm.edu/el_paso.html

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society. www.trans-pecos-audubon.org

Franklin Mountains Wilderness Coalition. www.franklinmountains.org

Friends of the Rio Bosque. www.research.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=65792

Frontera Land Alliance (The). www.fronteralandalliance.org/site/

Keep El Paso Beautiful. www.kepb.org

Keystone Heritage Park. www.keystoneheritagepark.org

Sierra Club, El Paso Regional Group. <http://elpaso.nmsierraclub.org>

Trans-Pecos Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists. http://txmn.org/trans_pecos

West Texas Urban Forestry Council. <http://www.wtufc.org/> and info@wtufc.org

*These sixteen organizations are either non-governmental or government-related but (largely) independent. Governmental agencies *per se* are not included on this list.



Christmas Gift Idea

“A Pocket Guide to the Geological Sites of El Paso” by William C. Cornell.

Dr. Cornell is an emeritus faculty member of the UTEP Geology Dept. and his book includes descriptions of several trails/hikes that we thought would be especially enjoyable for Audubon members.

The book may be purchased at the Centennial Museum’s Gift Shop or you may contact Kaye Mullins (kmullins@utep.edu, 915-747-8994) if you would like to order in bulk.

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 422250
Palm Coast, FL 32142-2250**

Local Chapter Code C1ZW100Z

Dates to Remember Call Mark Perkins for details 637-3521

December

Sat 3: **Feather Lake**
Mon 5: **Board Meeting**
10 & 18: **Rio Bosque**
Mon 12: **General Meeting**
Holiday Party
Sat 17: **Sod Farms**

January

7 & 22 : **Rio Bosque**
Mon 9: **Board Meeting**
13-15: **Bosque del Apache**
Sat 28: **Feather Lake**
Mon 16: **General Meeting**

February

Mon 13: **Board Meeting**
Awards Dinner TBA



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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