

# The Roadrunner

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

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### Birdathon 2005: The Final Information John Kiseda

As of mid-July, ~ \$6300 has been raised by this year's Birdathon fundraiser!

Thanks to all of the sponsors, counters and other participants that, once again, helped to make this project successful.

John Sproul was the counter who raised the most money (with Jane Fowler, close behind) & will receive a special prize for his efforts.



HawkWATCH  
INTERNATIONAL

**General Meeting**  
**Monday, September 19, 2005 7:00pm**  
**Jeff Smith, Scientist at HawkWatch International**  
**UTEP Centennial Museum**  
The corner of Sun Bowl & University

Jeff Smith, science director of HawkWatch International headquartered in Salt Lake City, Utah, is the featured speaker at the El Paso /Trans-Pecos Audubon chapter meeting on Monday, September 19, at 7:00 PM at the UTEP Centennial Museum. The meeting is open to the public, and everyone interested in the present status of raptor ecology and conservation is welcome to attend this special event.

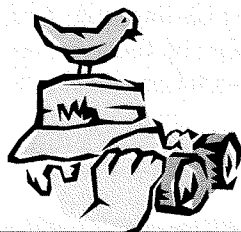
Dr. Smith will discuss the current results of HawkWatch International's long-term monitoring and protection program for hawks, eagles, and other birds of prey. He will also show some amazing photos of raptors and recount personal stories of his decade-long work with these powerful birds!

Dr. Smith has expressed an interest in visiting the Wyler Tramway Hawkwatch site during his upcoming stay in El Paso. He has been a key resource to John Kiseda, coordinator, in analyzing raptor migration trends in the Franklin Mountains.

Hawkwatch International is a founding partner of the largest network of long-term, standardized raptor migration monitoring projects coordinated by a single organization anywhere in the world!

### Observation Report

Bird Observations for the summer months will be reported in the October/November issue of the *Roadrunner*.





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**

### *Chihuahuan Desert Fiesta*

The Chihuahuan Desert Education Coalition & Texas Parks and Wildlife is sponsoring a celebration of the desert by hosting the *Chihuahuan Desert Fiesta* in conjunction with the Franklin Mountain State Park Lone Star Legacy.

This event will be held on September 24, 2005 from 9am-4 pm at the Franklin Mountains State Park (western base of the Franklin Mountains, on Transmountain Rd.). Entrance to the park will be free (donations may be made to *Franklin Mountains State Park Endowment Fund*). Please consider joining us in this information and education event.

### **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 [Keystonepark.com](http://Keystonepark.com) [keystonepark.org](http://keystonepark.org)  
581-7920

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

Friends of Rio Bosque [www.cerm.utep.edu/riobosque](http://www.cerm.utep.edu/riobosque)  
747-8663

Friends of Hueco Tanks 857-1135 [desertmorrow@msn.com](mailto:desertmorrow@msn.com)

Southwest Environmental Center [Severn.swec@zianet.com](mailto:Severn.swec@zianet.com)

Franklin Mt. Wilderness Coalition  
[www.iloveparks.com/fmwc/](http://www.iloveparks.com/fmwc/)

### *Chapter Web Site*

<http://www.gbarnett.com/eptpas/eptpashome.html>

El Paso Audubon Online supplements the Roadrunner and includes information about upcoming field trips, a calendar of upcoming events, recent bird sightings and an updated list of birding links to the Internet.

Make bird sighting reports at  
[ElPasoBirdAlert@gbarnett.com](mailto:ElPasoBirdAlert@gbarnett.com)

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

#### Officers



President: Bob Garcia, 755-9119  
Vice President: Bob Johnson, 757-1876  
Secretary: Lucretia Chew, 587-9589  
Treasurer: Eddie Chew, 587-9589

#### Committees

Feather Lake: John Sproul, 545-5147  
Education: Beth & Bob Garcia, 755-9119  
Membership: Roxanne Schroeder, 533-0061  
Ways & Means: Flora Pittard, 852-2353  
Conservation: Gabe Valdes, 760-4074  
Field Trips: Bob Johnson, 757-1876  
Programs: Ursula Sherrill, 526-7725  
Publicity: Kathy Kiseda, 533-4615  
Special Events:  
Hospitality: Scott Cutler, 581-6071  
Projects: Carol Maxwell-Moreno, 593-0967  
Newsletter Editor: Kathleen Whelen, 751-2408

The Roadrunner is published six times a year.  
Contributions are welcome.

Please email to [whelenk@aol.com](mailto:whelenk@aol.com)

### **Crossroads Pond: Have You Birded There?**

A bird checklist was recently developed for the site by John Kiseda (~110 documented species seen); a number of rare, unusual species have been noted at the site, but many "common" birds, have not been noted. Please give me your sightings, if you visit this little gem of a birding spot. A site guide and bird checklist can be found on the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon website.

by, John Kiseda

## AT FEATHER LAKE

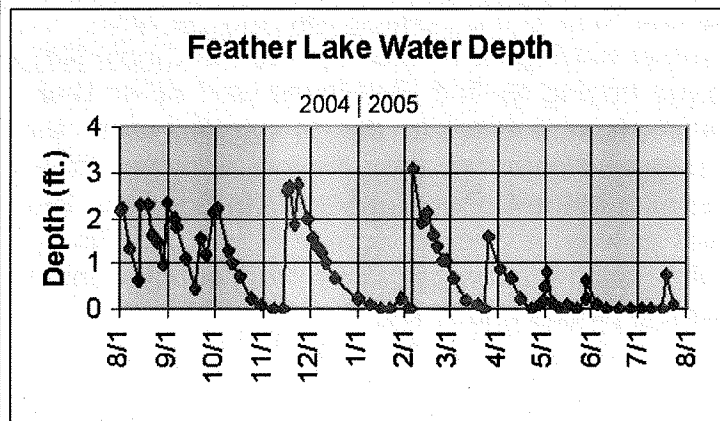
Feather Lake was mostly dry in June and July, save for brief intermittent flooding of the central area with irrigation water. These conditions brought a nice crop of curltop smartweed and barnyard grass, with lesser amounts of chufa, Mexican sprangletop and other early-successional plants. They should provide welcome food resources for waterfowl this fall and winter. If we have water, that is. Cottonwood, willow and, more ominously, saltcedar seedlings are also appearing in many areas.

After several unsuccessful attempts in recent years, 2 of the semi-wild Canada Geese that frequent the lake nested successfully this year, raising 4 young. The family of 6 has been in residence all summer.

Our next workday will be **Sun., Sept. 25**, starting at **2 p.m.** We'll be preparing for the annual re-opening of Feather Lake to the public, which takes place Sat., Oct. 1. Want to help staff Feather Lake one or more days this fall when it is open? Please contact John Sproul (747-8663, [jsproul@utep.edu](mailto:jsproul@utep.edu)).

Finally, mark your calendars for our annual pot-luck picnic at the lake. It takes place Sat., Oct. 8. Look for details in the next Roadrunner.

Feather Lake is located at 9500 North Loop at Bordeaux in El Paso, 0.3 miles west of Americas Ave. Starting Oct. 1, it will be open 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday mornings and 2 p.m. to dusk on Sunday afternoons. Admission is free.



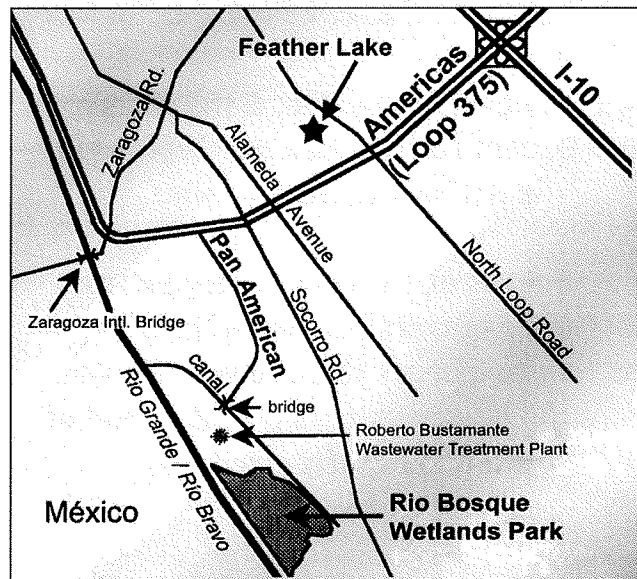
## RIO BOSQUE WETLANDS PARK



UTEP offers free walking tours twice each month and also holds monthly community workdays at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, 4 miles from Feather Lake. Coming up:

- 8 a.m. Sun., Aug. 7 (Birds)
- 8 a.m. Sat., Aug. 13 (Introductory)
- 8 a.m. Sat., Aug. 20 (Workday)
- 8 a.m. Sat., Sept. 10 (Birds)
- 8 a.m. Sat., Sept. 17 (Workday)
- 3 p.m. Sun., Sept. 18 (Introductory)

For all of these activities, the meeting place is a bridge crossing Riverside Canal. To get there 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. Information: 747-8663.



# Bird watching

## Feather Lake Entrance Sign

The new Feather Lake entrance sign is now in place. After the afternoon storm on July 30th, the water depth at the lake was 1.42 feet.



**August 20, 2005 9am-noon**  
**Butterfly Flutterby**  
 Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park

It is butterfly season, & the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park participates in the national butterfly count.

Join us at the Park to learn about different butterflies, where they live, and how to attract them to your garden. There will be games, arts & crafts, and of course, butterfly counting!  
 \$1 admission

## SHOREBIRD MIGRATION

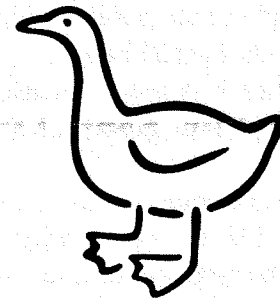
The southerly migration of shorebirds usually starts the last week in July so we could catch some good ones at the Fort Bliss Ponds. Will surely be able to see at least 6 species of swimming and 6 species of wading birds. If the *Wilson's Phalaropes* are in maybe a *Red-necked* could be among them.

**DATE:** Saturday, August 6

**TIME:** 7:22 AM

**PLACE:** Lowe's parking lot, 4531 Trans Mt. On the front but behind Taco Bell.

**Leader:** Call 757-1876 to find out.



## WATER CANYON

This trip On **August 20th** and **21st** will take us from the Rio Grande River Valley to the fir forests. We first Stop at the Bosque Del Apache NWR for *summer wading birds*, then up into the Cibola Nat. Forest hoping to find *Red-faced* and *other Warblers*. A side trip into the Magdalena area for *Western Bluebirds* and maybe *Pinyon Jays*. Camping in the Canyon or Motels in Socorro. We need at least 6 people, so call Bob 757-1876, e-mail [bobwildbird@cs.com](mailto:bobwildbird@cs.com) for details about meeting places and times.

## DOWN THE VALLEY

**McNary, Fort Hancock and Tornillo Reservoirs** are usually good for *Clark's and Western Grebes, Gulls, Ducks, Egrets, Cormorants*, also *White Pelicans* could be present. We might catch a few passerines and most likely some birds of prey, probably a *Harris' Hawk* and sometimes a *Peregrine Falcon* has been around. Bring something to eat as we will lunch at the Tornillo Rest area.

Date: **Sunday Sept. 11th**  
 Time: **7:24 AM**  
 Meet at: Feather Lake  
 Leader: Call Bob & 757-1876

## Davis Mt. State Park

Date: **Sat. & Sun Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>**  
 A great State Park with many campsites and motels nearby in Fort Davis. Besides looking for the Montezuma Quail and Black Hawk, also a visit the restored old Fort Davis and if Sat. evening isn't cloudy a look at the night sky from the McDonald Observatory. We need at least 6 people, so call Bob 757-1876, e-mail [bobwildbirderj@cs.com](mailto:bobwildbirderj@cs.com) for details about meeting places and times

## HUECO TANKS

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

### Bird Identification Tours

|        |              |         |
|--------|--------------|---------|
| Sunday | August 21    | 7:07 AM |
| Sunday | September 18 | 7:07 AM |
| Sunday | October 16   | 8:08 AM |

Check in at the Headquarters and Info 857-1135. Leader Bob "Wildbirder" 757-1876.



## HAWK WATCH

An overnight trip to the Monzano Mountains to observe part of the annual migration of **RAPTORS**. This is one of a number of sites in the west that Hawk Watch International uses as a counting and banding site for the study of raptor migration. The raptor count is conducted from about the middle of August until the first part of November. The observation point is located on Capilla Peak in the Cibola National Forest.

A few motels in Mountainair about 15 miles south from a campground below the peak and motels in Albuquerque about 50 miles north. This is not a trip where you have to get out at sunrise as the birds are flying by all day. The latter part of September usually has some of the highest counts. Two years ago when we went they had the biggest count day with over 300 birds seen.

You will see various species up close, including hand held raptors that have been mist netted for banding. They will show the wings and body size and explain about the bird. You might be one of the persons that will be allowed to hold and release a bird.

This trip will occur on **October 1st and 2d.** for itinerary and maps contact **Bob**. We need at least 6 people, so call Bob 757-1876, e-mail [bobwildbirderj@cs.com](mailto:bobwildbirderj@cs.com) for details about meeting places and times.

## PLANNING AHEAD

October 15 - 16 Hueco tanks Interpretive Fair.  
 October 30 Rattlesnake Springs.

El Paso/Trans-Pecos  
Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 972441  
El Paso, Texas 79997

Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
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Permit #2440

Return service request

**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

W10  
Local Chapter Code  
7XCHA

**Dates to Remember Call Bob Johnson for details 757-1876**

August

Sat 6: Shorebirds  
7, 13, 20 Rio Bosque  
20 & 21 Water Canyon  
Sun 21: Hueco Tanks

September

10, 17, 18: Rio Bosque  
Sun 11: Down the Valley  
Mon 12: Board Meeting  
17 & 18 Davis Mts.  
Sun 18: Hueco Tanks  
Mon 19: General Meeting  
Sat 24: Lonestar Legacy  
Sun 25: Feather Lake

October

1 & 2: Monzano Mts  
Mon 10: Board Meeting  
Mon 17: General Meeting  
15 & 16: Hueco Tanks Fair  
Sun 16: Hueco Tanks  
30 Rattlesnake Springs

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: \_\_\_\_\_

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