



# The Roadrunner

Newsletter of the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

## Inside the Roadrunner

Chapter Info	2
Sanctuary News	3
Field Trips	4
Calendar	6



**General Meeting**  
**Centennial Museum at UTEP**  
**500 W. University Ave**  
**April 15, 2019 7:00pm**

**Peruvian Birds**  
**Flor Hernandez Camacho**

Flor Hernandez Camacho is working on her PhD in the Ecology and Evolutionary Biology department at UTEP. For a number of years she served as a Peruvian ornithologist studying various bird species through banding programs in Peru. She will share some of what she learned about the ecology of birds in Peru.

### The e-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).

**General Meeting**  
**Centennial Museum at UTEP**  
**500 W. University Ave**  
**May 20, 2019 7:00pm**

**Birding in Colombia, South America**  
**Scott Cutler**

Colombia, South America, is a land of incredible bird diversity with over some 1,900 species recorded, many found nowhere else on earth. By some accounts, it has the most bird species of any place on earth.

On May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Scott Cutler will give a presentation about his visit to Colombia in 2018 and will show photos of, and talk about, the amazing species of birds, other animals, and landscapes he encountered on his trip to this exciting part of the world for birders to visit.

**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)



## El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

### Officers

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

### Committees

**Conservation:** Kevin Floyd, 613-6354  
**Education:** Kathleen Whelen, 820-1895  
**Field Trips:** Mark Perkins 637-3521  
**Hospitality:** vacant  
**Membership:** Elizabeth Chase, 539-1191  
**Newsletter Editor:** Kathleen Whelen, 820-1895  
**Programs:** Susie Schneider, 542-3041  
**Publications:** Jane Fowler, 598-2448  
**Publicity:** vacant  
**Sanctuary:** John Sproul, 545-5157  
**Website:** vacant  
**Facebook:** Kevin Floyd, 613-6354

**The Audubon  
 Foundation of  
 Texas**



represents Texas  
 Audubon chapters in the Earth Share of Texas  
 payroll deduction plan for charitable giving.

### Bird Art Contest

Our chapter is sponsoring a Bird Art Contest in partnership with the Socorro Independent School District. We will recognize the students who make birds the subject of their art pieces, and from those entries, we will choose 3 winners.

The winners {1st, 2nd, 3rd} will be awarded a ribbon and prize money of \$100.00, \$75.00, and \$50.00 respectively.

The chapter will present the awards on May 11, 2019 at the Socorro District Service Center located at 12440 Rojas Street.

If you are interested in volunteering as one of the judges for the Art Contest, contact Elizabeth Chase at (915) 539-1191 for further information.

**Visit the El Paso Zoo for  
 Earth Day/Easter Weekend**



### Conservation Organizations

**Chihuahuan Desert Education Coalition**  
<https://chihuahuandesert237957817.wordpress.com/>

**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**  
<https://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

Feather Lake’s current dry spell continues. In recent years during the irrigation season, the basin has received brief, intermittent pulses of water that El Paso County Water Improvement District #1 discharged into the Mesa Drain and the Mesa Drain Interceptor, the drain along which Feather Lake is located.

This year, with only a short, limited irrigation season anticipated, we can expect few, if any, of those intermittent pulses. Keep your fingers crossed for a decent rainy season.

Our next workday at Feather Lake will be **Sat., April 13**, starting at **8 a.m.** We’ll be getting ready for two Eagle Scout service projects planned for this spring.



Feather Lake is located at 9500 North Loop at Bordeaux in El Paso, 0.3 miles west of Americas Ave.

## Audubon at



Rio Bosque Wetlands Park

Water deliveries to Rio Bosque from the adjacent Roberto Bustamante Wastewater Treatment Plant ended Feb 10.

They will resume May 1 and revitalize the now-dry wetland cells. Last year, the first Painted Bunting arrived at the park May 8, too late for Birdathon but promising for the May birding tour.

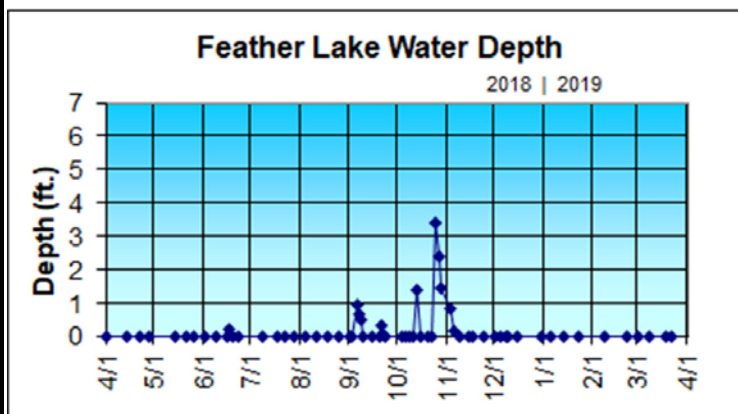
For up-to-date information on Rio Bosque’s birds and water conditions, check [www.riobosque.org](http://www.riobosque.org).

Upcoming free walking tours:

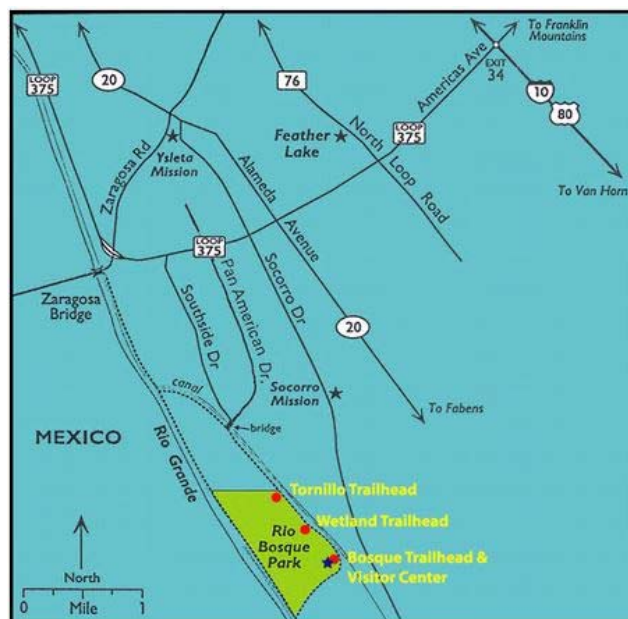
**4:30 p.m., Sat., April 13 (Introductory tour)**  
**8 a.m., Sun., April 28 (Birding tour)**

**7 a.m., Sat., May 11 (Birding tour)**  
**8 a.m., Sun., May 19 (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.



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



## Field Trips

### Chiricahua Mountains of Arizona May 18-20, 2019

Join us for a birding experience to the Chiricahua Mountains of Arizona May 18-20, 2019. We will arrive on the afternoon of Friday, May 17. We might do some birding that afternoon. The birding trips will officially begin on Saturday, May 18 and we'll end the trip birding the morning of Monday, May 20 and return to El Paso that day. The headquarters will be Cave Creek Ranch & we'll depart from there each day. Here are contact numbers for accommodations:

**Portal Lodge** - basic motel, but a restaurant is next door (520) 558-2223;  
<http://www.portallodge.com>.

**Cave Creek Ranch** - Very nice setting, lots of bird feeders; small, medium and larger units, most with kitchenettes (520) 558-2334;  
<https://www.cavecreekranch.com>.

It's a good idea to book early. The only restaurant and store in the area are in Portal, so be aware of that when planning meals, etc. We'll be sending out a detailed itinerary to those interested in going on the trip.  
Hope you can join us.

#### Bird List from March 2nd Field Trip Northeast El Paso

Mallard	Mexican Mallard	White-crowned Sparrow	Marsh Wren	Ladder-backed Woodpecker
Northern Shoveler	Blue-winged Teal	Brewer's Blackbird	Mountain Bluebird	Black Phoebe
Cinnamon Teal	Green-winged Teal	Red-winged Blackbird	Dark-eyed Junco	Rock Pigeon
Ruddy Duck	Northern Harrier	Eastern Meadow-lark	Say's Phoebe	White-winged Dove
Red-tailed Hawk	American Kestrel	Great-tailed Grackle	Loggerhead Shrike	Mourning Dove
Peregrine Falcon	American Coot	House Sparrow	Song Sparrow	Killdeer



### WESTERN FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS 44<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE

In 2019, the Western Field Ornithologists (WFO) will hold their annual conference in New Mexico. It takes place August 21-25 in Albuquerque. Conference headquarters will be the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Registration will open in May.

Workshops, science sessions, and field trips (lots of field trips) will be on the schedule. Visit the WFO website for the schedule and full details:

<https://www.westernfieldornithologists.org>



#### Join us on Facebook!

There is now an El Paso Audubon Society group on Facebook. Our aim is to provide a space for people around El Paso to share pictures, sightings, and other information about birds and conservation.

All levels of pictures are welcome. If you are looking for help with identification, please include the location and date of the picture, as both are important with narrowing the possibilities.

# Let's "Fly" into Action! Audubon's Birdathon 2019!

Birdathon counters are already "in training" in preparation for Birdathon 2019. It all takes place May 4 & 5.

## What is Birdathon, you might ask?

*One thing is for sure, it's not your average bird count or fund raiser! Birdathon is unusual and different: a wild weekend of birding and our organization's most important source of income for conservation and education programs.*

We hope you can join us for a full, rewarding weekend of birding by being a **sponsor** and possibly even a counter.

## Birdathon 2019 will benefit the following programs and projects:

### CHAPTER OPERATIONS

Your support allows our chapter to work alongside other organizations to support conservation & education.

### RIO BOSQUE WETLANDS PARK

Each year, this site along the Rio Grande becomes more valuable as habitat for birds and other wildlife.

### AUDUBON TEXAS

Our support helps keep National Audubon's state office an effective voice for birds, other wildlife and their habitats in Texas.

### EL PASO-AREA WILDLIFE REHABILITATORS

Our support will help three deserving wildlife-rehabilitation programs in the El Paso area, **The El Paso Zoo Raptor Rehabilitation Program**, **Second Chance Wildlife Rescue** and **Stick House Sanctuary**, care for injured or orphaned birds for release, where possible, back into the wild.

## How Birdathon Works

On the weekend of **May 4 & 5**, our dedicated Birdathon counters will be busy scouring the countryside, trying to find as many bird species as possible, in a single 24-hour blitz. These hardy, energized and intrepid individuals will start early, stay out late, visit varied wildlife habitats and give their eyes, ears and bird knowledge a full workout. Why do they push themselves so hard? For the pleasure of a day in the field, for a test of their birding skills and **most importantly, for a better West Texas environment**.

Each counter will be backed by sponsors who pledge either a given amount for each species seen or a fixed total amount. Most counters will identify 50 to 100 species. A pledge of, say \$0.50 per species for 60 species would result in a contribution of \$30. Over 95% of Birdathon income goes to the programs and projects; less than 5% to fundraising (printing, paper and postage).

Looking for someone to sponsor for Birdathon? This year's outstanding counters are a dedicated bunch, most of whom are experienced Birdathoners. If you supported one of these people last year, please give them a call and sponsor them again. If you don't know any of the counters personally and don't know whom to choose, please give Jane (598-2448) a call.

**At press time, our confirmed counters for this year's Birdathon include:**

- |                     |                           |                        |
|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Eddie Chew</b>   | <b>John Kiseda</b>        | <b>John Groves</b>     |
| <b>Scott Cutler</b> | <b>Jim Paton</b>          | <b>Susan Schneider</b> |
| <b>John Sproul</b>  | <b>Richard Hermosillo</b> | <b>Laura Ditlevson</b> |
| <b>Kathy Whelen</b> | <b>Joe Cancellare</b>     | <b>Elizabeth Chase</b> |
| <b>Kevin Floyd</b>  |                           |                        |

**Please pick one or more individuals and give them your support!**

Whether it's \$0.25 per species or \$1.00 per species or any given amount, we hope you will consider a pledge to Birdathon 2019. Please pick one or more counters to sponsor and return the enclosed coupon today. Your generosity and support help make Audubon Birdathon a success.

Counters and sponsors, plan to join us for the post-Birdathon pot-luck gathering at the home of Lucretia and Eddie Chew (address below), starting at **6 p.m., Sunday, May 5**. Bring something to share: salad, dessert or a favorite casserole. The chapter will furnish tableware and drinks. We'll enjoy good food, tally the birds found, and recap the events of the weekend.

**Thank you for your generous Birdathon pledge!**

**Your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law**

-----  
**YES!** I'll sponsor \_\_\_\_\_  
for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per species for each species she/he finds on  
Birdathon 2019 or for a flat amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

I will add a bonus of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ if my Birdathon counter sees a  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks payable to  
El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society.**

**My tax deductible gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ sponsoring  
\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.**

From: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form by May 1st to:

**Eddie Chew  
390 Flemish Cir.  
El Paso, TX 79912**

## Education: The Best Gift for Christmas

*Biologists, children, games, music, hot chocolate and enthusiasm are the perfect combination to promote environmental awareness.* By Flor Hernandez

Increasing awareness of environmental issues in the general public requires education. Towards this end, the Rio Santa Eulalia Biological Station-CORBIDI organized its IV Christmas Educational Workshop in December 2018, which was held in the San Pedro de Casta native community located in Lima, Peru. A group of undergraduate students led several outreach activities where around 100 school-aged students participated, learning the roles biologists play in the conservation of the world's biodiversity.

To break the ice, the workshop started with a dance competition where the participants gave their most complicated displays to impress the audience. After the dance, the participants started the "Biologist for a Day" activity where the children created groups that represented different types of biologists (e.g. entomologist, herpetologist, ornithologist, mammologist, botanist and biotechnologist). In addition, the groups competed in several games while learning about different plants and animals, as well as the techniques used by biologists to study them. Then, each child received a small toy to remember their experiences, and shared panetone, hot chocolate, and candy with the attending audience.



member their experiences, and shared panetone, hot chocolate, and candy with the attending audience.

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon's financial support was essential to develop this last activity as well as for the transportation of the volunteers from Lima city to the native community. At the end, the children were impressed with biodiversity capture techniques and how fun and important is the work of a biologist. Ultimately, the members of the biological station hope to continue increasing the commitment of the general public to avian conservation through more educational activities during this year 2019.



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

Return service request

Nonprofit Organization  
 U.S. Postage  
 PAID  
 El Paso, Texas  
 Permit #2440

**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**

**Local Chapter Code C1ZW100Z**

**Dates to Remember Call Mark Perkins for details 637-3521**

<u>April</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>
Mon 8: <b>Board Meeting</b>	4 & 5: <b>Birdathon</b>	Mon 10: <b>Board Meeting</b>
Mon 15: <b>General Meeting</b>	Mon 13: <b>Board Meeting</b>	<b>No General Meeting</b>
Sat 13: <b>Feather Lake Workday</b>	11 & 19: <b>Rio Bosque</b>	<u>July</u>
13 & 28: <b>Rio Bosque</b>	Mon 20: <b>General Meeting</b>	<b>No General Meeting</b>
	18-20: <b>Chiricahua Mountains</b>	<u>August</u>
		21-25: <b>WFO Conference</b>

[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.

Make checks payable to the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to: EPTP Audubon P.O. Box 972441 El Paso, Texas 79997**