



The Roadrunner

Newsletter of the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

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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

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.



No General Meeting in January

February 8, 2025 12:00 noon (walk starts at 10:00am)
Awards Luncheon, Pavilion at Ascarate Park

Join us for the annual awards ceremony on Feb 8, 2025 at the Pavilion at Ascarate Park. This year we are having lunch instead of dinner so we can do some bird watching too! Star Posada will lead a bird walk at the park at 10 am, also meeting at the Pavilion. Participants can expect to see several species of duck, burrowing owls, and blackbirds. And the possibility of some surprises as well!

The luncheon will start with a meet-and-greet at noon and lunch at 12:30. Participants do not need to go on the bird walk to come to lunch. The cost is \$20 per person, which includes the meal, drinks, and dessert. **Please RSVP by sending a check made out to El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society to Eddie Chew at 390 Flemish Circle, El Paso TX 79912.** Please indicate your meal preference: beef, chicken, vegetarian, or vegan. Also let us know if you have any dietary restrictions. The reservation deadline is **Saturday, Feb 1.** Please contact us at elpasoaudubon@gmail.com with any questions.

This year we are honoring El Paso Water for their many years of conservation efforts, especially their support for Rio Bosque Wetlands Park. Jennifer Barr, Water Conservation Manager, will present "Water Conservation in El Paso." Drew Aliyas, Climate and Research Program Manager, will present "El Paso Water's Rio Bosque Nature Sequestration Zone." These presentations will be in person only due to technical constraints with streaming.

March 17, 2025 7:00pm
Sponsored by the Sierra Club
Centennial Museum at UTEP
500 W. University Ave El Paso, Texas

This will be a hybrid meeting. The in-person meeting will be at the Centennial Museum at UTEP. Doors will open at 6:45, and parking is available in the lot behind the museum.

The online part will open about 10 minutes before 7pm for people to get logged in and chat with each other.

Field Trips: Current list of upcoming field trips at <http://www.trans-pecos-audubon.com/>

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

Officers

President: Scott Cutler, 494-2193
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: Star Posada, 407-6442
Hospitality: vacant
Membership: vacant
Newsletter Editor: Kathleen Whelen, 820-1895
Programs: vacant
Publications: Jane Fowler, 598-2448
Publicity: Heather Rivera, 212-2825
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.

BIRDATHON 2024 update

Congratulations to all on a good Birdathon again this year. We especially thank our sponsors and counters without whom the Birdathon would not be possible. We appreciate your participation and support for our conservation and education endeavors. Thanks, too, for our hard-working members who handle the details, especially Jane Fowler who handles the mailings.

Our net receipts totaled \$5,983. The money will go to chapter operations, Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, Audubon Texas, raptor rehabilitation at the El Paso Zoo, and Second Chance Wildlife Rescue. Species seen by at least one counter were tallied. A total of 151 species were seen, compared to 139 last year.

The highest number of species seen by an individual or party was Jim Paton with 109. The most money was raised by Jim Paton. Thank you, Jim. Our counters were benefitted this year by a number of late fall migrants. The unusual birds seen this year were the **Palm Warbler** and **American Bittern** seen by Jim Paton, **Black-and-white Warbler** by Susie Schneider, and a **Hermit Warbler** by John Kiseda's team.

A big THANK YOU to all of our participants and sponsors!

World Water Week March 17th-24th, 2025 ***Water: States and Transformations***

UTEP's World Water Week started in 2021 as an interdisciplinary conference organized by the UTEP One Water Cluster and the artist-led collective, Somos Agua. Our annual week-long series of events—which includes academic panels, workshops, performances, screenings, community-work practices, etc.—is crafted to engage faculty, students, and community partners in addressing water-related issues from diverse perspectives. Serving as a public platform, World Water Week enhances the visibility of water scholarship and activism while fostering new connections and collaborations among participants.

This year's theme is: ***"Water: States and Transformations."*** World Water Week 2025 will mobilize the multiple meanings of these terms to explore the role of water within the institutional frameworks that govern its access, use, and distribution. We will delve into how nation-states, agencies, and organizations shape or respond to global inequalities, water conservation, and emerging technologies, while emphasizing transformative solutions to the environmental and socio-political challenges of water scarcity and governance.

While UTEP is the lead organizer, we partner with the Universidad Autónoma Ciudad Juárez and UA Chihuahua, as well as other entities including the El Paso Group of the Sierra Club. We will have lots of engaging, educational and fun events planned at Rio Bosque, UTEP, and AUCJ. More information will be sent as the event approaches. We hope you will join us!

<https://www.utep.edu/onewater/events/world-water-day.html>

AT FEATHER LAKE

The figure showing water depth at Feather Lake in 2024 tells a clear story: a full calendar year with no significant flooding of the basin. Not surprisingly, upland birds predominate at the sanctuary these days: Gambel's Quail; Eurasian Collared-Doves; Inca, White-winged and Mourning doves; Greater Roadrunners; Curve-billed Thrashers; Northern Mockingbirds; Pyrrhuloxias; Swainson's Hawks in summer, Red-tails in winter. Coyotes are also now being seen and heard regularly.

In 2024, volunteers contributed 216.5 work hours maintaining the sanctuary. By far the largest task involved removing dense stands of arrowweed along the North Loop fence line. So far, we have invested 155 hours in this effort... and it is not finished yet.

Our next workday at Feather Lake will be **Sat., February 1** starting at **9 a.m.** Join us.

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 6 October and resumed 3 November. The park's Wetland Cell 2 flooded quickly, but as 2025 began, the larger Cell 1 was still not fully flooded. Nor was the old river channel within the park, thanks to the engineering talents of Rio Bosque's resident beaver. The largest beaver dam is holding plenty of water upstream, but downstream it is leaving ~30% of the 2-mile-long channel dry.

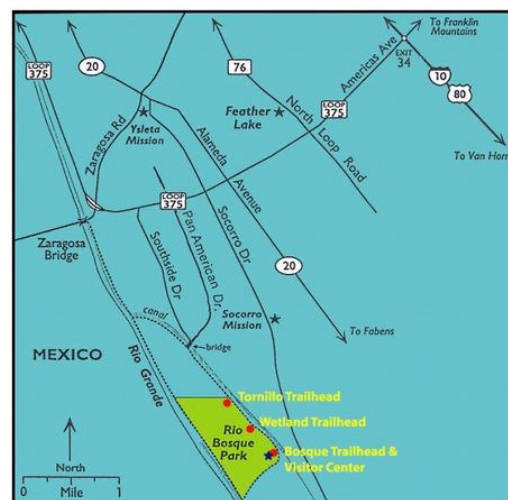
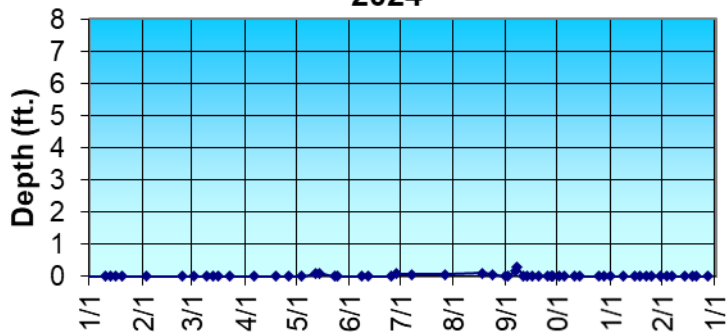
Very likely, water deliveries from the Bustamante Plant will stop again in early February and not resume until May at the earliest. And, very likely, availability of irrigation water will be much reduced compared to 2024. Be prepared for a challenging water year at Rio Bosque.

For up-to-date information on birds and water conditions at Rio Bosque, check www.riobosque.org. Upcoming tours at the park:

- 8 a.m.** Sat., Jan 11 (Birding tour)
- 3 p.m.** Sun., Jan 19 (Introductory tour)
- 8 a.m.** Sun., Feb 9 (Birding tour)
- 9 a.m.** Sat., Feb 22 (Introductory tour)
- 3:30 p.m.** Sun., Mar 2 (Birding tour)
- 9 a.m.** Sat., Mar 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: 915-861-4361.

Feather Lake Water Depth 2024



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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**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

January

Mon 13: **Board Meeting**
No General Meeting
11 & 19: **Rio Bosque**

February

Sat 1: **Feather Lake Work Day**
Mon 10: **Board Meeting**
Sat 8: **Awards Luncheon**
9 & 22: **Rio Bosque**

March

Mon 10: **Board Meeting**
Mon 17: **General Meeting**
2 & 22: **Rio Bosque**
17-24: **World Water Week**

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society
<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: _____

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