



# The Roadrunner

Newsletter of the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

## No General Meetings until September

### Inside the Roadrunner

Chapter Info	2
Sanctuary News	3
Field Trips	4
In the Community	5
Calendar	6

### 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).

### 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)

### BIRDATHON 2017 UPDATE

Congratulations to all on a great 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--Jane Fowler and Berttye Barnhart who handled the mailings.

As of May 15, our total receipts and pledges were \$4,600. There may still be a few checks yet to come in this year. The money will go to chapter operations, Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, Audubon Texas, Second Chance Wildlife Rescue, and the El Paso Zoo.

Species seen by at least one counter were tallied. A total of 152 species and four exotics were seen, compared to 160 last year and 151 in 2015.



The winners for the highest number of species seen by an individual or party were John Kiseda, Richard Hermsillo, and Joe Cancellare with 114. Very good! The prize for the most money raised went to John Sproul. The most unusual bird this year was the Golden-winged Warbler seen by Jim Paton.

### 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:** Janet Perkins, 637-5269  
**Membership:** vacant  
**Newsletter Editor:** Kathleen Whelen, 820-1895  
**Programs:** Susie Schneider, 542-3041  
**Publications:** Jane Fowler, 598-2448  
**Publicity:** Janet Perkins, 637- 5269  
**Sanctuary:** John Sproul, 545-5157  
**Website:** Janet Perkins, 637-5269  
**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.

#### Conservation Organizations

Chihuahuan Desert Education Coalition  
[www.chihuahuadesert.org](http://www.chihuahuadesert.org)

Second Chance Wildlife Rescue  
[www.secondchancewildliferescue.org](http://www.secondchancewildliferescue.org)  
Josie Karam (915) 920-7867

El Paso Zoo 212-0966  
[www.elpasozoo.org](http://www.elpasozoo.org)

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/)

Stick House Sanctuary  
[www.facebook.com/epwildliferescue/](http://www.facebook.com/epwildliferescue/)

**TECH 2 CENTER**

**Looking for something to do over the Summer?**

Calling all Teachers!

**Project WILD**

**Aquatic Wild Educator Workshop**  
July 21  
8:30am -3:30pm

Aquatic Wild K -12 Curriculum and Activity Guide allows teachers to explore and understand the fascinating world of water and aquatic habitats it supports with their students through hands-on activities.

This resource is **only** available through attendance at a Project Aquatic WILD workshop. Workshop participants receive the Project Aquatic WILD activity guide full of hands-on activities. Participants will also receive 6 hours of CEU's credit.

**Limited space is available so register soon!**  
**Deadline is July 14.**

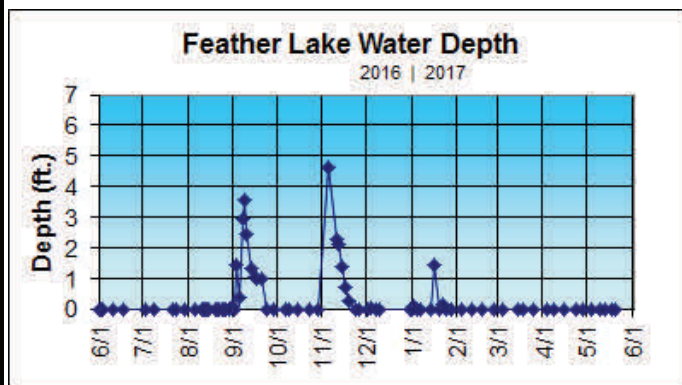
## AT FEATHER LAKE

The last time Feather Lake held water throughout April and May was in 2009. That streak will extend for another year, but there have been some small, intermittent flows of water to the basin in recent weeks.

Starting April 23, water discharged at approximately 2-week intervals from irrigation laterals to the Mesa Drain and Mesa Drain Interceptor has found its way into Feather Lake. Only small areas of the basin have been flooded, and the water hasn't lasted long, but every drop helps.

Our next workday at Feather Lake will be **Sat., June 3**, starting at **8 a.m.** We'll continue using logs cut from windblown dead trees at the lake to upgrade the border on the trail along the east side of the basin.

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



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

## Audubon at

Rio Bosque Wetlands Park



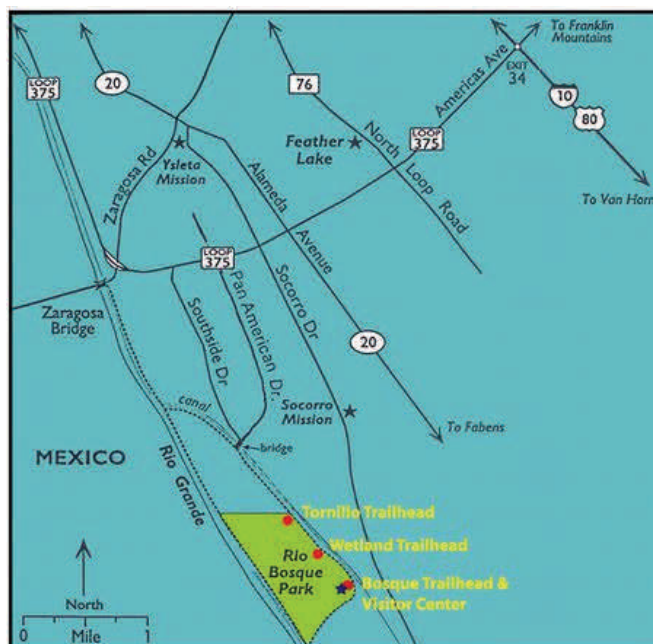
A pair of **White-tailed Kites** is currently nesting at Rio Bosque. **Painted Buntings** are in. And the park has water.

Visit [www.riobosque.org](http://www.riobosque.org) for up-to-date information on Rio Bosque's birds and water conditions. Upcoming free walking tours:

**8 a.m., Sun., June 4 (Introductory tour)**  
**6:30 a.m., Sat., June 24 (Birding tour)**  
**(rescheduled from June 10)**

**7 a.m., Sat., July 8 (Birding tour)**  
**8 a.m., Sun., July 16 (Introductory tour)**

The meeting place for these tours 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.



## Field Trips

### Saturday, June 10, 2017 Rattlesnake Springs

Rattlesnake Springs, part of Carlsbad Caverns National Park, is an Important Bird Area (IBA) and an outstanding stopover site for land birds.

It is a long drive and because of the heat, we will **depart** Evergreen Cemetery, 12400 E. Montana, promptly at 6:00 a.m.

We will carpool from there. Bring a lunch and plenty of water. Nonmembers and beginners are welcome. Contact Mark Perkins at 915-637-3521 for more information.

### Saturday, July 8, 2017 Animas Creek Area

Animas Creek lies west of Caballo Lake and contains the only Arizona Sycamores east of the Continental Divide. The **Brown-crested Flycatcher** nests here and we hope to see **Summer Tanagers**, **Yellow-breasted Chats** and **Cassin's Kingbird**. We will bird this area from the road.



Bring a lunch and plenty of water. We will depart at 6:00 a.m. from the Southwest corner of the parking lot at the El Paso Outlet Mall at I-10 and Transmountain (Talbot Rd. entrance to the Mall).

Beginners and nonmembers are welcome. We will carpool. Contact Mark Perkins at 915-637-3521 for more information.

### Saturday, June 24, 2017 Upper Valley Sunset Tour

Meet at 6:30 p.m. at Keystone Heritage Park, 4200 Doniphan Drive.

We'll be driving the Upper Valley area looking for **Mississippi Kites**, **Monk Parakeets**, **Violet-crowned Parrots** and others.



We'll carpool from Keystone. Nonmembers and beginners are welcome.

Contact Mark Perkins at 915-637-3521 for more information.

### Saturday, July 22, 2017 Memorial Park

Meet at 6:00 a.m. at the Garden Center, 3105 Grant. We'll start early in the morning to beat the crowds and do a walk-around to see what's there.



Beginners and nonmembers are welcome.

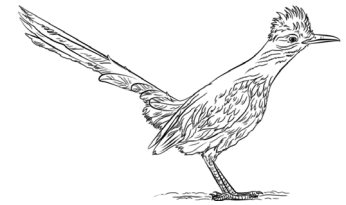
Contact Mark Perkins at 915-637-3521 for more information.

## Growing up with Birdathon

by, Laura Ditlevson

I cannot say when my first Birdathon was because I don't think I have ever not gone bird watching the first weekend in May. True, I may have been asleep in my car seat the first few years while my mom and brothers were actually counting. I do remember the year I started Kindergarten. I received my own sponsor sheet and I was "official". I raised more money than my brothers that year, yes! Now, officially a senior in high school, I am already looking forward to next year.

Although we never find the most species, Birdathon is always a time to re-focus on some of the beauty of nature. We visit the Ft Bliss Ponds and look for that owl who, on one occasion, flew out of a concrete structure and startled us all. We all screamed! (Not the best bird watching etiquette) We look up on the telephone pole where we watched generations of hawks peek out, and in later years, owl babies.



Searching the Archeology Museum trails, we absolutely know there is a roadrunner there because we see it any other random time we visit. The first one to see it always got a dollar – to keep, not for the Audubon Society. Memories were shared at Feather Lake where we used to picnic. Jane Fowler always brought extra goodies to share with us. I can't eat Fat Free Devils Food cookies to this day without thinking of those fun days.



Thank you to all who support the Audubon Society through your donations, time and leadership. Together, we are making the Trans-Pecos region a better place for wildlife and enriching the lives of people.

## Around the Community

**June 24, 2017**

Tech<sub>2</sub>O Water Smart Workshop Series –  
Principles of Water Smart Landscapes

**July 15, 2017**

Tech<sub>2</sub>O Water Smart Workshop Series –  
Landscape Design Principles

**For more information call  
(915) 621-2000**

### Visit Hueco Tanks State Park & Historic Site

**Birding Hikes June 17 & July 15**  
reservations required (915) 857-1135

**Hueco Tanks Yoga Tour**  
**Hueco Tanks Rare Plant Tour!**  
**Women's Hike - Hueco Tanks**  
**June 10 & July 8**

**Father's Day Family Campout June 17**  
Interested in learning some camping skills?

reservations required (915) 857-1135

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

Return service request

Nonprofit Organization  
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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**

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

June

Sat 3: **Feather Lake**  
4 & 24: **Rio Bosque**  
Sat 10: **Rattlesnake Springs**  
Mon 12: **Board Meeting**  
**No General Meeting**

July

8 & 16: **Rio Bosque**  
Sat 8: **Animas Creek**  
Mon 10: **Board Meeting**  
**No General Meeting**  
Sat 22: **Memorial Park**

August

Mon 14: **Board Meeting**  
**No General Meeting**



[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