



# The Roadrunner

Newsletter of the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

## El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

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### General Meeting

(No meeting in August)

Centennial Museum at UTEP

500 W. University Ave

September 17, 2018 7:00pm

Dr. Ken Waldrup, Regional Veterinarian for Zoonosis Control, will be speaking about the **bats of the El Paso/Trans-Pecos area**. Ken is an engaging speaker who is passionate about these fascinating flying mammals.

### 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).

### 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)



### WESTERN YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO'S THREATENED STATUS CHALLENGED

In November 2014, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) listed the western population of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo as [threatened](#) under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Extensive loss, degradation and fragmentation of cottonwood-willow riparian woodlands, large declines in cuckoo numbers, and a major contraction of the species' range in the West led to the listing. The area in which cuckoos are considered threatened covers portions of 12 western states, Canada and Mexico. Included is the Rio Grande Valley in southern New Mexico and Trans-Pecos Texas.

In May 2017, a group of livestock, resource-extraction and property-rights entities formally petitioned the USFWS to remove the western population of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo from the list of endangered and threatened wildlife under the ESA. The [petition](#) contended the cuckoo should be delisted because 1) its western populations "do not constitute a discrete and significant distinct population segment (DPS)" and 2) the USFWS overstated the threats to the species in the West because it assumed western cuckoos require "large expanses of low-elevation cottonwood-willow riparian woodlands for breeding." To support this second contention, the petition cited evidence that western cuckoos may be breeding in other habitats.

On June 27, 2018, the USFWS, in response to the petition, [announced it would begin a status revue](#) to determine whether the western population of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo should be delisted. In its evaluation of the petition, the USFWS concluded the petition does not provide substantial information to support a delisting based on an erroneous DPS analysis, but that delisting may be warranted based on the information presented regarding additional habitat use.

The status revue is now in progress. As part of the revue, the USFWS is [seeking any new information](#) concerning the status of or threats to western Yellow-billed Cuckoos. When complete, the status revue will provide the basis for a "12-month finding" on whether delisting the cuckoo is warranted.

## 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:** Elizabeth Chase, 539-1191  
**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

**The Audubon  
 Foundation of  
 Texas**



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



Join the El Paso  
 Audubon chapter  
 and The Frontera  
 Land Alliance for  
 two upcoming

birding events. These tours both occur during peak  
 fall migration, a great time for birding. Please  
 RSVP; space is limited to 10 people for each tour.

First, we will be looking for birds along the Resler  
 Canyon Arroyo on **Saturday, September 8th from  
 8 to 10 a.m.** We will explore the mid-elevation  
 desert arroyo habitat at Resler Canyon with our  
 tour guide Kevin Floyd. We might see Gambel's  
 quail, roadrunners, Swainson's hawks, and black-  
 chinned hummingbirds. We will meet at Cadiz  
 Street for the start of the bird walk. Wear a hat,  
 sunblock, sturdy shoes, as it is rocky, and bring  
 plenty of water. If you have them, feel free to bring  
 binoculars and a camera. No prior bird watching  
 experience required! Contact Kevin Floyd at  
[elpasoaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:elpasoaudubon@gmail.com) for more information.

The second tour will take place **Saturday,  
 September 15 from 8 to 10 a.m.** at Keystone  
 Heritage Park and Wetlands, where Resler Canyon  
 ends. Here Kevin Floyd will point out several  
 species of ducks returning from their northern  
 breeding grounds, wading birds, and swallows.  
 This is the peak of fall migration, a great time for  
 birding. We will meet at Keystone Heritage Park in  
 the parking lot. There is a \$2 donation for  
 admission to Keystone, please bring cash. No prior  
 bird watching experience required! Wear a hat,  
 use sunscreen, bring plenty of water, binoculars  
 and a camera if available. Contact Kevin Floyd at  
[elpasoaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:elpasoaudubon@gmail.com) for more information.

### Conservation Organizations

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

**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)

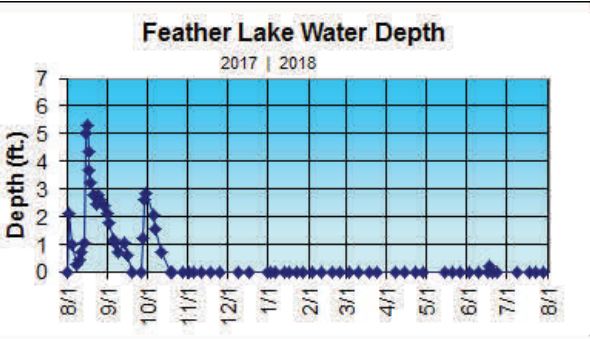
**Southwest Environmental Center**  
 (575) 522-5552  
[www.wildmesquite.org](http://www.wildmesquite.org)

**Franklin Mt. Wilderness Coalition**  
[www.franklinmountains.org/](http://www.franklinmountains.org/)

## AT FEATHER LAKE

The trend of brief, infrequent, partial flooding of the Feather Lake basin continues. We are still awaiting the first storm event in 2018 capable of putting water in the entire basin. The basin has been largely dry for 9 months now.

Our next workday at Feather Lake will be **Sat., August 11**, starting at **8 a.m.** Once again, water conditions will dictate whether we work in the basin or the surrounding uplands. There is plenty to do in both areas. Feather Lake is located at 9500 North Loop at Bordeaux in El Paso, 0.3 miles west of Americas Ave.



## 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.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/EIPasoAudubonGroup>

## Audubon at

Rio Bosque Wetlands Park



The past 2 months have brought multiple sightings of Yellow-billed Cuckoos, an immature Tricolored Heron on 24 July, multiple sightings of White-tailed Kites, and a Gray Catbird on 27 June. Painted Buntings are still conspicuous but will be leaving soon.

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:

**8 a.m., Sun., August 12 (Introductory tour)**

**8 a.m., Sat., August 25 (Birding tour)**

**8 a.m., Sat., September 8 (Birding tour)**

**8 a.m., Sun., September 16 (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

### **August 10, 11 and 12, 2018 Silver City Area**

We will be based in Silver City. Areas we will be birding include Lake Roberts, Gila Cliff Dwellings, Cherry Creek area, the Gila Forest, Ft. Bayard and the Town of Silver City.

Time permitting, we'll travel to the towns of Cliff and Gila and bird around the old train bridge. Nonmembers are welcome. For those interested, an itinerary will be available by contacting Mark Perkins at [jntperk@elp.rr.com](mailto:jntperk@elp.rr.com)

### **Saturday, September 22, 2018 Reservoirs Down the Valley**

We'll be traveling down I-10 East to visit the Reservoirs of McNary, Ft. Hancock and Tornillo. Possible sightings would be Western and Clark's grebes, Eared Grebes, White Pelicans, gulls, egrets, sandpipers and others.

Depart at 6:30 a.m. from the Parking Lot at Burlington Coat Factory at 1144 N. Yarbrough. Exit at Yarbrough. Bring a lunch. No birding experience is needed. Contact Mark Perkins at 915-637-3521 for more information.

### **Saturday, October 6, 2018 Dell City and Hudspeth County**

We'll travel to Dell City Valley to look for migrating shore birds, hawks and passerines. We had a large bird list from our last visit to the area.

Depart at 6:30 a.m. from Evergreen Cemetery, 12400 E. Montana. We will carpool from there. Bring a lunch. No previous birding experience is needed. Contact Mark Perkins at 915-637-3521 for more information.

### **Discover Burrowing Owls on a walk at Resler Canyon Saturday, August 25, from 8 to 9 a.m.**

Lois Balin, TPWD Urban Biologist, will lead a walk through the canyon and talk about her research with burrowing owls

### **Birding Trip - South Texas**

We are happy to announce this trip to one of the birding meccas in the US. The dates are **November 2-6, 2018** (these dates do not include travel days). We will offer 5 days of birding to as many of the best spots in the area as we can get to. Come for all or any of the excursions. The fall migration is wonderful and some of the birds that can be seen are: Plain Chachalaca, Least Grebe, Anhinga, Little Blue Heron, Tricolored Heron, White Ibis, Roseate Spoonbill, Hook-billed Kite, Green Jay, all three kingfishers, White-tailed Kite, Crested Caracara, Aplomado Falcon, American Oystercatcher, Dunlin, terns, gulls and skimmers, Common Pauraque, Great Kiskadee, Tropical Kingbird, "Mangrove" Yellow Warbler and many more.

Some of the areas we might visit are Bentsen State Park, Anzalduas Park, Old Hidalgo Pumphouse, Quinta Mazatlán, Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge, Valley Nature Center, Frontera Audubon Society, Estero Llano Grande State Park, Harlingen Thicket, Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge, Resaca de la Palma State Park, South Padre Island, Brownsville Landfill, and Sabal Palm Audubon Center.

Participants will be responsible for their own travel arrangements and hotel reservations. Harlingen will be the headquarters for the trip. If you want to go on the trip, let us know by August 15, 2018 by emailing [jntperk@elp.rr.com](mailto:jntperk@elp.rr.com) or calling Mark Perkins at 915-637-3521. Detailed itineraries will be provided at a later date to those interested.

## 2018 DAVIS MOUNTAINS HUMMINGBIRD CELEBRATION

Experience the beautiful Davis Mountains, the Hummingbird Capital of Texas, **August 23-26**, during the 2018 Davis Mountains Hummingbird Celebration.

Seventeen hummingbird species recorded  
Field Trips, Banquet, and Programs featuring  
Hummingbirds  
and other Southwestern species  
Registration begins May 2018 at  
[www.fortdavis.com](http://www.fortdavis.com)

For more information,  
visit [www.fortdavis.com](http://www.fortdavis.com), call 1-800-524-3015  
or email us at [info@fortdavis.com](mailto:info@fortdavis.com)

Like us on Facebook  
[@DavisMountainsHummingbirdCelebration](https://www.facebook.com/DavisMountainsHummingbirdCelebration).



## Costa Rica Birding Tour

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon is planning a Costa Rica Tour for March 2019. The places we will be going offer some great bird watching. The estimated price will be \$1,817.51 with the field trip guide paying his own way. The optional boat trip offered on Saturday, Mar. 17, will be an additional \$30.00. The trip cost quoted is for land-based tour. Roundtrip airfare to San Jose, Costa Rica, is the responsibility of each participant.

Some of the possible birds to be added to your life list include the following; Spotted Wood-quail, Costa Rican Pygmy-owl, Resplendent Quetzal, Collared Trogon, Buffy Tuftedcheek, Ruddy Treerunner, Ochraceous Pewee, Barred Becard, Zeledonia, Golden-browed Chlorophonia, Volcano Junco, Talamanca Hummingbird, Green Violetear, Gray-tailed Mountain-gem, Volcano Hummingbird, Scintillant Hummingbird, Fiery-throated Hummingbird, Violet Sabrewing, Flame-colored and Slaty flowerpiercer, Lattice-tailed Trogon, Yellow-eared Toucanet, Streak-crowned Antvireo, Tawny-faced Gnatwren, White-throated Shrike-Tanager, Ashy-throated Bush-Tanager, Tawny-crested Tanager, Emerald and Blue-and-gold tanagers, Keel-billed Toucan, Great Green Macaw, White-winged Becard, Sunbittern, Acadian Flycatcher, and Wood Thrush. Rarities seen here on occasion include Rufous-fronted Wood-Quail, Red-fronted Parrotlet, Rufous-vented Ground-Cuckoo, Black-crowned Antpitta, Gray-headed Piprites, and Sharpbill.

Additionally, \$200 of each person's trip price will be donated to the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society to help us fund important local bird conservation activities.

Please contact Scott for details regarding the itinerary and schedule. There are only 10 spaces. We need to get a sense of who would be interested in going on this trip. If you have any questions, please give Scott Cutler a call at 915-494-2193.

El Paso/Trans-Pecos  
Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 972441  
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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 97194  
Washington, DC 20090-7194**

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

August

No General Meeting  
10-12: **Silver City**  
Sat 11: **Feather Lake Workday**  
12 & 25 : **Rio Bosque**  
Mon 13: **Board Meeting**  
23-26: **Davis Mts Hummers**  
25: **Resler Canyon with Lois**

September

Sat 8 & 15: **Resler Canyon**  
8 & 16: **Rio Bosque**  
Mon 10: **Board Meeting**  
Mon 17: **General Meeting**

October

Sat 6: **Dell City**  
Mon 8: **Board Meeting**  
Mon 15: **General Meeting**

November

2-6: **South Texas**

[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