

# The Roadrunner



Newsletter of the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

## Inside the Roadrunner

Chapter Info	2
Sanctuary News	3
Field Trips	4 & 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).

## Annual Awards Dinner



Please join us for the Annual Awards Dinner and Program to be held at Jaxon's Restaurant on Airway, on Saturday, February 19, 2011, at 6:00 p.m.

The Conservation Award will be presented to Judy Ackerman, local human rights activist and conservationist, for her dedication and hard work to make El Paso a better place to live and more conservation-minded.

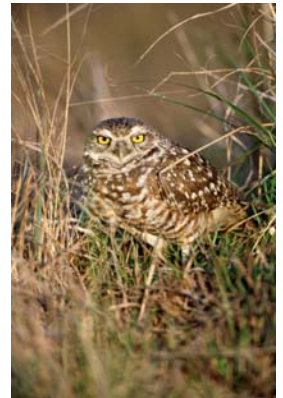
The Meritorious Service Award will be presented to Lucretia Chew, the Chapter's President.

The Program, "The British Columbia Burrowing Owl Captive Breeding and Reintroduction Program", will be presented by Lois Balin, urban wildlife biologist with Texas Parks and Wildlife, and is sure to be quite interesting and entertaining.

The Dinner is \$20.00 per person and the entree selections are:

1. 1/2 rack ribs
2. Chicken Magoffin
3. Vegetarian fajitas

The cost includes tax and gratuity. For reservations, contact Janet Perkins at 637-5269 or [jntperk@elp.rr.com](mailto:jntperk@elp.rr.com). Advance reservations are appreciated. We look forward to seeing you there. visit our website [www.trans-pecos-audubon.org](http://www.trans-pecos-audubon.org)



General Meeting returns to the Garden Center  
 Monday, March 21, 2011 7:00pm  
 "Surprise" Guest Speaker 3105 Grant Street

Join the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society for the March General Meeting at the Memorial Park Garden Center for an educational and informative presentation that is To be Announced.



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**

Membership: Roxanne Schroeder, 533-0061  
Programs: vacant  
Conservation: vacant  
Field Trips: Mark Perkins 637-3521  
Hospitality: Janet Perkins, 581-2849

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

Officers

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

Committees

Publicity: Janet Perkins, 581-2849  
Education: Kathleen Whelen, 751-2408  
Publications: Jane Fowler, 598-2448  
Ways & Means: vacant  
Sanctuary: John Sproul, 545-5157

**El Paso Native Plant Society**

**Thursday, Feb. 10, at 7:00 p.m.  
at the Centennial Museum at UTEP.**

Please join us for Dr. Richard Spellenberg, professor emeritus of biology at New Mexico State University will present "Six Penstemons from Western Chihuahua and other Chihuahuan Desert Wildflowers,"



For information, call 833-7637

**Note: February Meeting Will NOT be meeting at the Garden Center, 3105 Grant Street, as posted in The February Scene.**

**This is due to a remodeling project at the Garden Center. We will resume our meetings at the Garden Center when the remodeling is finished.**

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

**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 581-7920  
[www.keystoneheritagepark.org](http://www.keystoneheritagepark.org)

Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park  
(575) 524-3334 [www.asombro.org](http://www.asombro.org)

Friends of the 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 Mts. Wilderness Coalition  
[www.franklinmountains.org/](http://www.franklinmountains.org/)

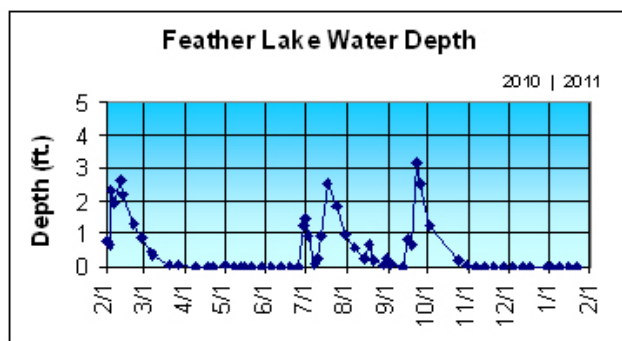
## AT FEATHER LAKE

Feather Lake has been dry for 3 months now. Actually, one small puddle remains. It is within the concrete-lined structure at the lake's outlet. Remarkably, that small, shallow wading pool appears to be all Feather Lake's resident beaver needs. The wily rodent has set up shop there and continues to harvest nearby cottonwoods.

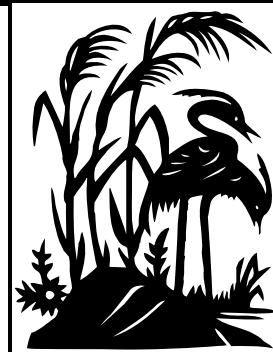
Despite the dry conditions, we kept Feather Lake open through the weekend before Christmas, but it has been closed since then. We'll re-open when water returns.

Boy Scout Troop 4 continues to make important contributions at Feather Lake through Eagle Scout service projects. In December, the scouts cleared saltcedar along the inner berm within the basin. In January, they obtained willow and cottonwood poles from Feather Lake and planted them at adjacent Feather Lake II. Thanks, Troop 4!

With or without water, Feather Lake will be open for our next workday on **Sat., April 2**, starting at **2 p.m.** Join us to help with sanctuary maintenance. 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 ended January 9, and the park is again dry. For the latest on birds being seen, check the recent-bird-sightings page on the park's website, [www.riobosque.org](http://www.riobosque.org). Upcoming free walking tours at the park:

- 8 a.m. Sun., February 6 (Bird tour)**
- 3 p.m. Sat., February 12 (Introductory tour)**
- 3 p.m. Sat., March 5 (Bird tour)**
- 4 p.m. Sun., March 13 (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.



### “A Pocket Guide to the Geological Sites of El Paso” by William C. Cornell.

Dr. Cornell is an emeritus faculty member of the UTEP Geology Dept. and his book includes descriptions of several trails/hikes that we thought would be especially enjoyable for Audubon members. The book may be purchased at the Centennial Museum's Gift Shop or you may contact Kaye Mullins ([kmullins@utep.edu](mailto:kmullins@utep.edu), 915-747-8994) if you would like to order in bulk.

## WEST TEXAS NOW HAS A WILDLIFE TRAIL MAP!

In 1994, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) published the nation's first wildlife-trail map, covering the state's Central Gulf Coast. By 2000, maps were also available for the Upper Coast and Lower Coast, completing the Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail. The wildlife-trail concept proved hugely successful and has been emulated throughout North America. By 2004, a series of 8 trail maps covered all of Texas...with one exception. That exception was Far West Texas.



Now, thanks to a cooperative effort of the Texas Mountain Trail and Texas Pecos Trail regions of the Texas Heritage Trails Program and TPWD, that gap has been filled. Published in December 2010, the Far West Texas Wildlife Trail map features 10 driving loops and 57 individual sites that highlight the unique wildlife of our region. The sites are found from El Paso to the Permian Basin, from the Guadalupe Mountains to the Big Bend.

The new Far West Texas map and the other 8 Great Texas Wildlife Trail maps can be purchased through the [Texas AgriLife Extension Bookstore](#). Individual maps are \$2 each. Or you can purchase the entire set of 9 maps for just \$10. You can view online versions of the maps on the [Great Texas Wildlife Trails page](#) of the TPWD website.

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon is a proud sponsor of the Far West Texas Wildlife Trail map. We're thrilled with the results and hope you will be, too.

## Field Trips

### Sunday, February 13, 2011 Sod Farms, Sunland Park Area and Upper Valley



The sod farm is known for great winter birds, from Sandhill Cranes to many small birds, such as the uncommon Grasshopper Sparrow and Baird's Sparrow.

We will be looking for birds that spend the cold months in grassland habitat. In the Sunland Park and Upper Valley area we will be looking for overwintering water birds and land birds.

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at Keystone Heritage Park, 4200 Doniphan Drive. Beginners and nonmembers always welcome. Contact Mark Perkins at 637-3521 or [mperkins4@elp.rr.com](mailto:mperkins4@elp.rr.com).

### Saturday, March 5, 2011 Holloman Lakes, Alamogordo Zoo and Dog Canyon



We'll drive north on US54 about 1-1/2 hours to Alamogordo, then US70 to the Holloman Lakes. Holloman Lakes is an Important

Bird Area, where we will look for shore birds, waterfowl, gulls and raptors. Recent sightings have been scoters, Red-breasted Merganser and Red Phalarope. Also owls have been seen there. Afterward, we will picnic and bird at the Alamogordo Zoo and Park. A stop at Dog Canyon on the way back is possible. Meet at Lowe's parking lot, 4531 Transmountain Road behind Taco Bell at 7:30 a.m. Bring lunch, binoculars, water and a scope if you have one. Beginners and nonmembers are always welcome. To make reservations, contact Mark Perkins at 637-3521 or [mperkins4@elp.rr.com](mailto:mperkins4@elp.rr.com).

**Saturday, March 19, 2011  
Percha Dam, Caballo Dam & Swan Pond**

We will travel to two New Mexico birding hot spots that offer some of the best birding in southern New Mexico anytime of the year. We will be looking for riparian winter birds such as both Eastern and Western bluebirds, Cedar Waxwings and various raptors.



We will also check out the lake for gulls, grebes and waterfowl. Rare sightings of gulls recently have been the California and Mew gulls. We will return to El Paso via old Highway 85 for stops at the Arrey Dairy and Swan Pond. Meet at the Shell Station and Dairy Queen at the intersection of Transmountain Rd. and I-10 at 7:30 a.m. We will carpool from there. Bring lunch, water and binoculars.

Beginners and nonmembers are always welcome. For reservations, contact Mark Perkins at 637-3521 or [mperkins4@elp.rr.com](mailto:mperkins4@elp.rr.com).

**How does a San Diego Pelagic Field Trip sound?**

This trip is in the planning stages for 2011. We have been in contact with Ursula Sherrill who now lives in San Diego, and she would be willing to help us get it organized. We need feedback from those interested. Contact Mark Perkins at 637-3521 or [mperkins4@elp.rr.com](mailto:mperkins4@elp.rr.com).



**Saturday, April 9, 2011  
Indian Springs Canyon  
East Franklin Mountains**

We will hike a trail that is a moderate hike of 1-1/2 miles and will take 2-3 hours. We will be looking for hawks, quail, wrens, kinglets, shrikes and towhees. Possible sightings of Golden Eagle, Black-chinned Sparrow and Black-throated Sparrow. Meet at Lowe's parking lot, 4531 Transmountain Road behind Taco Bell at 7:30 a.m.



Beginners and nonmembers are always welcome. For reservations, contact Mark Perkins at 637-3521 or [mperkins4@elp.rr.com](mailto:mperkins4@elp.rr.com).

**Albertson's ...**



Every time you swipe your Community Partners Card, you earn cash for the Audubon Society.

Now isn't that a good reason to shop at Albertsons?

**The Audubon website!**

Updated information about upcoming field trips, a calendar of upcoming events, recent bird sightings. El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon <http://www.trans-pecos-audubon.org>

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

Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
El Paso, Texas  
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 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 422250  
Palm Coast, FL 32142-2250**

**Local Chapter Code C1ZW100Z**

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

February

Sun 13: **Sod Farms**  
6 & 12: **Rio Bosque**  
Mon 14: **Board Meeting**  
Sat 19: **Awards Dinner**

March

Sat 5: **Alamogordo**  
Mon 14: **Board Meeting**  
5 & 13: **Rio Bosque**  
Sat 19: **Percha Dam**  
Mon 21: **General Meeting**  
Sat 26: **Poppy Festival**

April

Sat 2: **Feather Lake**  
Sat 9: **Indian Springs**  
Mon 11: **Board Meeting**  
Mon 18: **General Meeting**

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**

Printed by Superior Copy