



The Roadrunner

Newsletter of the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

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El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society General Meetings



**The next General Meeting will be
Monday, September 21, 2009**

Sunday, June 21, 2009

Hawk Alley

This field trip offers views of hawks that spend the summer in our area. Growing Swainson's Hawk fledglings may be visible at their nest along a stretch of Northeast roads called "Hawk Alley," a magnet for large diurnal birds of prey. We'll look for Red-tailed Hawks still in the area, and the beautiful Harris's Hawks that are El Paso area residents. Golden Eagles are also possible to see year-round along Hawk Alley near the Franklin Mountains. Don't miss this opportunity to see these majestic birds in their desert habitat.

Date: Sunday, June 21

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Place: Meet in Lowe's parking lot,
4531 Trans-Mountain Rd., behind Taco Bell.

Leader: Bob Johnson, wildbirderbob@sbcglobal.net
or 751-0125.



ALBERTSONS, INDEED A GENEROUS BENEFACTOR

Lately I've been fielding questions about our fund raising partnership with the Albertsons grocery chain. It seems that other organizations have had to reapply, or reregister their members in order to continue to receive donations. I think that perhaps the rumors that change is in the wind have prompted some of our own members to stop presenting their cards upon checking out.

I would like to reassure all of you that our participation in the Community Partners program continues unchanged. Every time you shop at any Albertsons store, and present one of our Community Partnership id cards upon checkout, 1% of your transaction will be donated to our Audubon chapter for use in educational programs. That may not seem like much, but believe me it adds up quickly.

All of our partnership cards have the same registration number on them, 49001008196. If you have misplaced your card or would like some to pass out among your friends, please call Scott Cutler at 581-6071.

As a matter of fact, I have been informed by Albertsons that they are currently processing another check to our chapter, this one in the amount of \$450. So, Please, help reinvigorate the economy AT ALBERTSONS, and don't forget to present your card. The birds, the kids, the environment and the community will all appreciate your effort.



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

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

Membership: Roxanne Schroeder, 533-0061	Publicity: Janet Perkins, 581-2849
Programs: Ursula Sherrill, 526-7725	Education: Kathleen Whelen, 751-2408
Conservation: vacant	Publications: Jane Fowler, 598-2448
Field Trips: Ursula Sherrill, 526-7725	Ways & Means: vacant
Hospitality: Janet Perkins, 581-2849	Sanctuary: John Sproul, 545-5157

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.

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

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iGive.com

HOW IT WORKS

Join to Support El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society It's FREE, private, & easy.
<http://www.iGive.com/html/refer.cfm?memberid=480225&causeid=38480>

Shop the online mall at iGive.com. You'll see familiar stores like Lands' End, Office Depot, JCPenney, Neiman Marcus, Expedia, Barnes & Noble, and eBay to mention just a few!

Conservation Organizations

Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue
www.whc.net/cdwr

El Paso Zoo 521-1850
www.elpasozoo.org

Keystone Heritage Park 581-7920
www.keystoneheritagepark.org

Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park
(505) 524-3334 www.asombro.org

Friends of Rio Bosque 747-8663
www.riobosque.org

Southwest Environmental Center
(505) 522-5552
www.wildmesquite.com swec@zianet.com

Franklin Mt. Wilderness Coalition
www.franklinmountains.org/

KEYSTONE HERITAGE PARK

The wetlands are open the last weekend of each month for bird-watching. No Tour Guides, bring binocular

Saturdays 7:30 - 10:00 AM
Sundays 2:30 - 4:30 PM

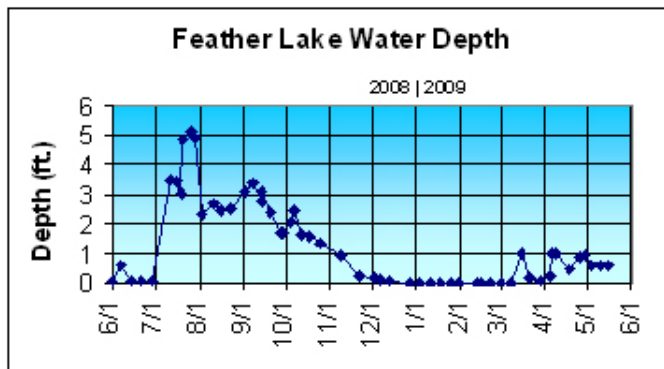
Bob (915) 751-0125,
wildbirderbob@sbcglobal.net

AT FEATHER LAKE

As was the case last year, Feather Lake has been partly flooded since mid-March, and we were able to open our sanctuary to the public from late March through the end of May. The volunteers who staffed Feather Lake during this period were Clarence Cooper, Richard Denny, Jane Fowler, Beth, Bob and Diego Garcia, Inga and Joe Groff, Flora Pittard, Roxanne Schroeder, John Sproul and Graciela Woodbury. Many thanks to all!

Feather Lake is now closed until September, with the exception of two special summer opportunities to visit. We're referring, of course, to our upcoming workdays on **Sat., June 6** and **Sat., August 1**. For each, the gates will open at 8 a.m., but you can come any time to lend a hand. Join us and see Feather Lake at its summer best.

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



The new website is here!

Board members and volunteers attended training to provide updated information about upcoming field trips, a calendar of upcoming events, recent bird sightings.

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

Audubon at RIO BOSQUE WETLANDS PARK

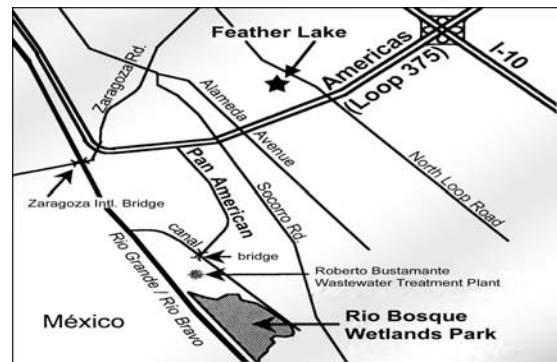


The White-tailed Kites at Rio Bosque failed in their first nesting attempt, but they are re-nesting. For up-to-date information on what is being seen, check the recent-bird-sightings page on the Park's website, www.riobosque.org.

Upcoming free walking tours at the Park:

- 8 a.m. Sun., June 7 (Bird tour)
- 8 a.m. Sat., June 13 (Introductory tour)
- 8 a.m. Sat., July 11 (Bird tour)
- 8 a.m. Sun., July 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.



HUECO TANKS

Admission

Adults-\$5, Seniors-\$2, Children-free

Bird Identification Tours

Third Sunday Each Month

Please check in at the Headquarters.
 Reservations and information 857-1135

Summer Bird-watching

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, June 26, 27 & 28

Birding the Gila



The Gila National Forest north of Silver City, New Mexico, attracts 337 bird species to its mountains, desert scrub, and grasslands and 166 of these species nest in the Gila. There is good camping at Cherry Creek Campground 13 miles north of Silver City on NM Route 15. This highway branches off of U.S. Route 180 in Silver City. Motels near the Rte 15 and U.S. Rte 180 intersection may be the closest to the campground. Contact Ursula for more information. Our tentative schedule of activities:

Friday, June 26

- **4:00 p.m.** We meet at Cherry Creek Campground for birding and an informal group dinner (no tuxedo required).
- **7:00 p.m.** We travel three miles on Forest Rd 154 to Signal Peak, where Flammulated Owls nest and may still be heard. Spotted Owls are possible on the trail leading out of nearby McMillan Campground at dusk.

Saturday, June 27

- **8:30 a.m.** We meet at Cherry Creek Campground and head for Lake Roberts on Rte 15, turning east on Route 35. Grey Feathers Lodge, at the intersection of these two roads, attracts Magnificent, Rufous, Calliope, Black-chinned, Broad-tailed, and perhaps Blue-throated Hummingbirds to its feeders. Around the lake itself and its campgrounds and lodges we'll watch for Wild Turkey, Pinyon Jays and Purple Martins, Marsh Wrens, Virginia Rails, Plumbeous Vireos, Grace's Warblers and many others.
- In the p.m., on our way back to Cherry Creek, we will bird along Rte 15.

Sunday, June 28

- **8:30 a.m.** Meet at Cherry Creek Campground and bird up Signal Peak. Ponderosa Pines at the base are known nesting areas for Olive Warblers and the Greater Pewee. Other breeding warblers, such as Red-faced Warblers and Grace's Warblers may not be singing, but we might still see them bringing worms to their nestlings.
- **12:00 p.m.** Leave for El Paso

Dates: Fri., Sat., and Sun., June 26-28

Time: Meet at 8:30 a.m. Sat., June 26

Place: Cherry Creek Campground, 13 miles north of Silver City on NM Rte 15.

Coordinator: Ursula Sherrill, 526-7725; usherrill@miners.utep.edu. Contact me for maps, birding check lists, lodging information, and possible carpools.

Saturday, July 11, 2009
Rio Bosque Wetlands Park



This park is a stand-out among the re-stored and natural habitats along the Rio Grande. Not only is

Rio Bosque home to a broad diversity of birds and other wildlife species, it also holds a rich riparian woodland of cottonwood, willow, and tornillo mesquite trees, all thanks to the dedication of John Sproul, its manager from the UTEP Center for Environmental Resource Management. John has invited us to join his regular monthly bird tour, meeting at 8:00 a.m. at the bridge crossing the Riverside Canal. Check the Rio Bosque website, www.riobosque.org, for a listing of recent birds and the dates they were sighted.

Date: Saturday, July 11

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Place: At the bridge at Riverside Canal

Directions from I-10: Take Americas Avenue (Loop 375) to Pan American Drive, turn left onto Pan American and travel 1.5 miles. **For more info:** Ursula Sherrill, 526-7725;

usherrill@miners.utep.edu.

Saturday, August 8, 2009
Shorebirds

The shorebird migration through our area usually peaks in August, at the same time that fall land bird migration could be beginning. We'll visit watery areas of the northeast to see these feathered tourists and possibly also cruise Hawk Alley to view any hawk fledglings still hanging around their nests.

Date: Saturday, August 8

Time: 7:30 a.m.

Place: South end of Lowe's parking lot, 4531 Trans-Mountain Rd., behind Taco Bell.

Coordinator: Ursula Sherrill, 526-7725; usherrill@miners.utep.edu.

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, July 24, 25, and 26
Cave Swallow banding
at Carlsbad Caverns, NM and more!



We travel east to camping/lodging in or near the Guadalupe Mts. National Park on Friday, July 24. Saturday morning, July 25, we go to the delightful Rattlesnake Springs area and nearby Washington Ranch with hopes to see Wild Turkeys, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Vermilion Flycatcher, Summer Tanager, and Bell's Vireo, all of which are common in those habitats. We may also glimpse some less common but still possible species: a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, and an Orchard Oriole. Saturday afternoon we are invited to observe and/or band Cave Swallows at Carlsbad Caverns, and to view the famous flight of bats from the Caverns at dusk. If you are interested in this trip, contact Ursula for more information.



El Paso/Trans-Pecos
Audubon Society
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El Paso, Texas 79997

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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 my local chapter. Please send AUDUBON magazine and my membership card to the address below.

My check for \$20.00 is enclosed

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

*Please make all checks payable to the
National Audubon Society*

National Audubon Society
Chapter Membership Data Center
P.O. Box 51001
Boulder, Colorado 80322-1001
El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon

W10
Local Chapter Code

7XCHA

Dates to Remember Call Ursula Sherrill for details 526-7725

June

Sat 6: **Feather Lake**

Sat 6: **Heron Rookery**

7 & 13: **Rio Bosque**

Mon 8: **Board Meeting**

Sun 21: **Hawk Alley**

26, 27 & 28: **Gila**

July

11 & 19 **Rio Bosque**

Sat 11: **Rio Bosque**

Mon 13: **Board Meeting**

24, 25 & 26: **Carlsbad**

25 & 26: **Keystone**

August

Sat 1: **Feather Lake**

Sat 8: **Shore birds**

Mon 10: **Board Meeting**

29 & 30: **Keystone**

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

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