



The Roadrunner

Newsletter of the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

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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.

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

**No General Meetings
for June, July & August**

THE IVORY-BILLED WOODPECKER: HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL

On September 29, 2021, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed removing 23 species from the Federal Lists of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants due to the determination that they were extinct. On January 10, 2022, it re-opened the public-comment period on the proposal for one of those species – the Ivory-billed Woodpecker.

The last widely accepted U.S. sighting of this species was in Louisiana in 1944. Still, reports continued, and in 2004-2005 a flurry of sightings and an April 2004 video sparked great optimism that the species persisted in Arkansas. Following the initial optimism, the species identification of the bird in the video stimulated much debate, and subsequent intensive field searches yielded no definitive evidence of surviving Ivory-bills.

Now, more recent studies in Louisiana have again raised the possibility that the Ivory-billed Woodpecker is still with us. Hence the re-opening of the comment period. On April 8, a team of 10 researchers posted a preprint to the bioRxiv server entitled, “**Multiple lines of evidence indicate survival of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker in Louisiana.**” That evidence includes visual observations and photography from trail cameras and drones.

The research reported in the preprint has not yet been peer-reviewed. Given the lack of success to date in confirming continued existence of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, it will be evaluated with healthy skepticism. The studies described in the preprint will also continue. For the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, hope springs eternal.

Want to evaluate the evidence for yourself? You can access the preprint at <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2022.04.06.487399v1.full.pdf>.



El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

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The Audubon Foundation of Texas

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



Red-tailed Hawk nestling "L1" alights on the railing of the nest platform and "tip-talons" towards the cam for a close-up that keeps on giving! All eyes are on the soon-to-be fledgling while it feels the wind beneath its wings, flaps with reckless abandon, and eyeballs the camera for one of the cutest close-ups in Cornell Hawks history. At 47 days old, L1 is certainly acting like it's ready to take flight. Be there when it happens! Watch live at allaboutbirds.org/cornellhawks.

A Red-tailed Hawk pair has been nesting above Cornell University's athletic fields since 2012. They make use of two different light towers for their nest sites. In 2012, 2015, and 2018–2021 they used a tower near Fernow Hall, and in 2013, 2014, and 2016, they used the tower nearest Weill Hall. We installed cameras at both of these sites to get a better look at the intimate behavior of these well-known birds as they raise their young amid the bustle of a busy campus.

To view the Red-tailed Hawk live cam, the West Texas Hummingbird Feeder live cam and more, visit <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/cams/>.

Conservation Organizations

Chihuahuan Desert Education Coalition
<http://www.chihuahuadesert.org>

Second Chance Wildlife Rescue
<https://www.secondchancewildliferescue.org>
Josie Karam (915) 920-7867

El Paso Zoo (915) 212-0966
www.elpasozoo.org

Stick House Sanctuary
<https://www.facebook.com/epwildliferescue>
(915) 219-2365

Keystone Heritage Park 581-7920
www.keystoneheritagepark.com

Asombro Institute
(Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park)
(575) 524-3334 www.asombro.org

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

Wildlife for All
(formerly SW Environmental Center)
(575) 522-5552
www.wildmesquite.org

Franklin Mt. Wilderness Coalition
www.franklinmountains.org/

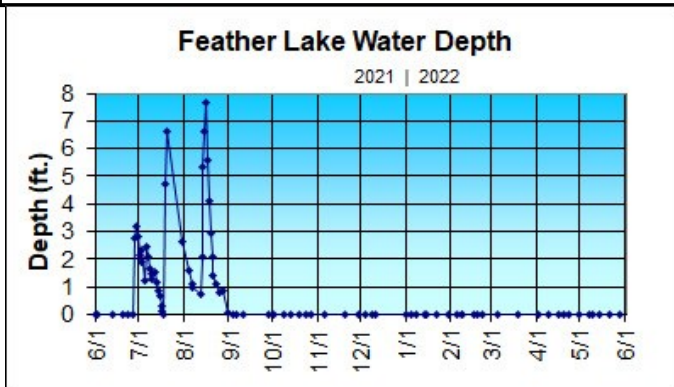
Celebration of Our Mountains
www.celebmtns.org

AT FEATHER LAKE

The current dry spell at Feather Lake has now reached 9 months. With the irrigation season starting in June, the basin might see at least a little water soon.

As the Feather Lake landscape has grown drier, western honey mesquites have become an increasingly prominent part of that landscape. Their constant pruning is now required to keep the road and trail around the lake open. Coincidentally, our next workday is fast approaching. It takes place **Sat., June 11**, starting at **8 a.m.**

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



Birds unite the world on Global Big Day

eBirders around the world united to celebrate birds for Global Big Day—and also celebrated [the 20th anniversary of eBird!](#) Together, people across 201 countries found 7,673 species of birds—nearly three-quarters of the world’s bird species—and set incredible new records for the most species reported and most countries birding, all in a single day.

For more information visit: www.ebird.org

Audubon at

Rio Bosque Wetlands Park



Most years, water deliveries to the park from the Roberto Bustamante Wastewater Treatment Plant resume May 1. This year, they were delayed until June 4. The park was discouragingly dry for 3.5 months, but better days are ahead. Last year, the first detection of a Yellow-billed Cuckoo came June 16, and the first Least Bittern sighting was June 30.

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

- 8 a.m., Sat., June 4 (Introductory tour)**
- 6:30 a.m., Sat., June 25 (Bird tour)**

- 7 a.m., Sat., July 9 (Bird tour)**
- 8 a.m., Sun., July 17 (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.



El Paso/Trans-Pecos
Audubon Society
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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**

Local Chapter Code **C1ZW100Z**

Dates to Remember

<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>
Mon 6: Board Meeting No General Meeting Sat 11: Feather Lake Workday 4 & 25: Rio Bosque	No Board Meeting No General Meeting 9 & 17: Rio Bosque	Mon 8: Board Meeting No General Meeting

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
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