

The Roadrunner

Newsletter of the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

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Thank you
**Jeff Smith, of
 HawkWatch
 International**
 for the presentation
 on Hawk Research at
 the September Gen-
 eral Meeting.

We look forward to
 birding in the
 Monzano
 Mts the first
 weekend in
 October.

General Meetings

Monday, October 17, 2005 7:00pm
UTEP Centennial Museum
 The corner of Wiggins & University

Edmund Archuleta, General Manager
El Paso Water Utilities
"Desalination - How it will Affect Wildlife"

Construction of the largest inland desalination plant in the US is underway at Fort Bliss. Ed Archuleta will speak on how the process will work to purify brackish ground water in order to help ensure El Paso's future drinking water supply. Mr. Archuleta will answer questions about the potential impacts on the environment including wildlife. He will also discuss the community's future environmental education and training facility, the Tech20 Center, which is to be included in the desalination plant complex.

Monday, November 21, 2005 7:00pm
UTEP Centennial Museum
 The corner of Wiggins & University

Dr. Vanessa Lougheed
Ecosystem workhorses: Wetlands in arid regions
Coastal wetlands aren't the only landscape gems!

Dr. Vanessa Lougheed, UTEP assistant professor of aquatic ecology, will speak on the importance of desert wetland functions and processes at the El Paso /Trans-Pecos Audubon meeting Monday, November 21 at 7PM at the UTEP Centennial Museum. Dr. Lougheed is an enthusiastic new UTEP Biology Department faculty member who has extensively studied the wetland systems of the state of Michigan and at Lake Ontario, Canada, where industrialization and urbanization pose hefty challenges to wetlands.

For more field trips and nature adventures, watch the El Paso Scene or visit the Celebration of our Mountains web page:
www.celebrationoffourmountains.com



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

Conservation Organizations

Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue
www.whc.net/cdwr

El Paso Zoo 521-1850
www.elpasozoo.org

Keystone Heritage Park 581-7920
keystonepark.com keystonepark.org

Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park
(505) 524-3334 www.cdn.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.iloveparks.com/fmwc/

www.celebrationoffourmountains.com

Chapter Web Site

<http://www.gbarnett.com/eptpas/eptpashome.html>

El Paso Audubon Online supplements the Roadrunner and includes information about upcoming field trips, a calendar of upcoming events, recent bird sightings and an updated list of birding links to the Internet.

Make bird sighting reports at
ElPasoBirdAlert@gbarnett.com

A New Partner for El Paso Audubon's Youth Initiatives

We're pleased to announce that the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society has been accepted by the Albertson's grocery store chain to participate in their Community Partners Program.

More information about this terrific opportunity for the chapter and its members will be on its way to you in the near future. If you don't know how the program works, here goes..... the chapter gets a percentage of the amount of money spent by people that shop at any Albertson's store, who are part of their Preferred Savings plan & who designate Audubon to be their beneficiary.

If you don't already have an Albertson's Preferred Savings card, we can let you know how to obtain one; it's VERY easy, and typically saves you money every time you shop, AND will provide our chapter with additional funds to help pay for youth related projects, at no cost to you. It's one of those rare cases where everyone wins. If you already have a Preferred Savings card, bring it with you to one of our upcoming meetings and we can help sign you up.

Let's all thank Albertsons for this wonderful opportunity.

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society



Officers

President: Bob Garcia, 755-9119
Vice President: Bob Johnson, 757-1876
Secretary: Lucretia Chew, 587-9589
Treasurer: Eddie Chew, 587-9589

Committees

Feather Lake: John Sproul, 545-5147
Education: Beth & Bob Garcia, 755-9119
Membership: Roxanne Schroeder, 533-0061
Ways & Means: Flora Pittard, 852-2353
Conservation: Gabe Valdes, 760-4074
Field Trips: Bob Johnson, 757-1876
Programs: Ursula Sherrill, 526-7725
Publicity: Kathy Kiseda, 533-4615
Special Events:
Hospitality: Scott Cutler, 581-6071
Projects: Carol Maxwell-Moreno, 593-0967
Newsletter Editor: Kathleen Whelen, 751-2408

The Roadrunner is published six times a year.
Contributions are welcome.

Please email to whelenk@aol.com

AT FEATHER LAKE

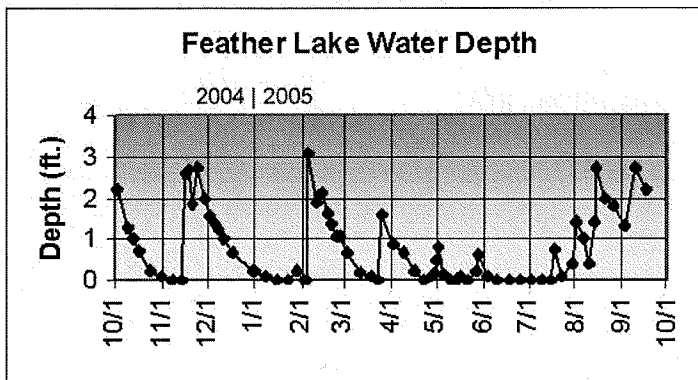
The recent rains have been good to Feather Lake. The basin should be fully flooded when we open to the public on **Oct. 1** and for our annual pot-luck picnic on **Oct. 8** (see page 4). With the return of water, the shoreline vegetation has perked up nicely, and bird numbers are increasing. Fall migration brought 4 species new to the sanctuary: Calliope Hummingbird, Rufous Hummingbird, American Redstart and Summer Tanager. The species total for Feather Lake is now 210.

We rely on dedicated volunteers to staff Feather Lake when it is open to the public. Want a perfect excuse to spend a relaxed morning or afternoon at our sanctuary? Please contact John Sproul (747-8663, jsproul@utep.edu).

When you visit, take a walk around the lake with the new edition of the Feather Lake trail guide. This brochure was made possible through a generous grant from Audubon Texas. The previous edition was printed in 1992, and Feather Lake has changed dramatically in the years since.

Don't forget: You don't have to travel far from El Paso to enjoy stunning fall colors. Just visit Feather Lake in November when the cottonwoods are turning golden. The perfect opportunity? Come to our next workday on **Sat., Nov. 26**, starting at **2 p.m.**

Feather Lake is located at 9500 North Loop at Bordeaux in El Paso, 0.3 miles west of Americas Ave. Starting Oct. 1, it will be open 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday mornings and 2 p.m. to dusk on Sunday afternoons. Admission is free.



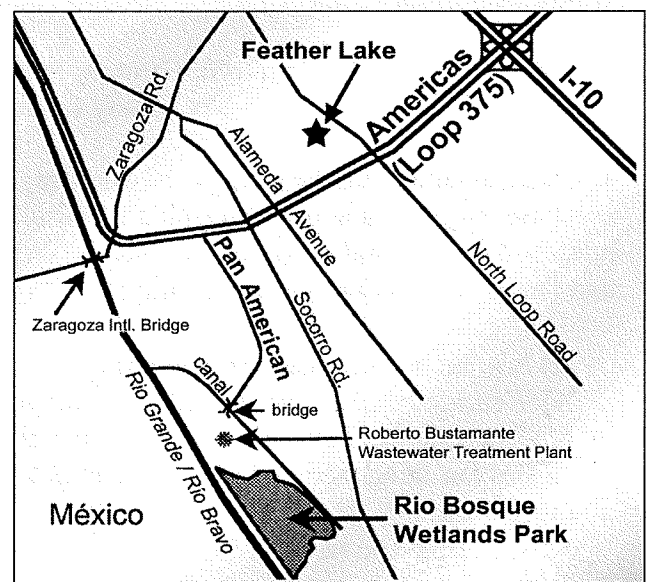
RIO BOSQUE WETLANDS PARK



UTEP offers free walking tours twice each month and also holds monthly community workdays at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, 4 miles from Feather Lake. Coming up:

- 9 a.m. Sat., Oct. 8 (Birds)
- 9 a.m. Sat., Oct. 15 (Workday)
- 9 a.m. Sun., Oct. 23 (Introductory)
- 3 p.m. Sun., Nov. 6 (Birds)
- 9 a.m. Sat., Nov. 19 (Workday)
- 3 p.m. Sun., Nov. 20 (Introductory)

For all of these activities, the meeting place is a bridge crossing Riverside Canal. To get there from I-10, take Americas Ave. (Loop 375) to Pan American Dr., turn left onto Pan American and travel 1.5 miles to the bridge. Please be prompt. Information: 747-8663.



Bird watching

BIRDS and PEOPLE **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 4:30 until ????**

What's going to happen?
14TH Annual Pot Luck Picnic
At FEATHER LAKE Sanctuary
9500 North Loop Drive

The chapter will provide the burgers, dogs and rolls, also the condiments to top them off. This is a family affair, the kids will enjoy it as the birds will be performing. The grill will be hot about 5:30. But come at **4:30 PM** so you can build up your appetite as you walk around looking at the birds. By early Oct. some ducks are starting to arrive and we will have some of regular night roosters (not chickens) flying in. **We** ask you to bring a dish (Salad, Pasta, Dessert, or something else) to share with a few others, Also your own utensils and what ever beverages you like. If you would like something other than burgers or dogs feel free to cook on the grill, and you are not required to share your filet mignon. Our coffee pot with hot water and instant mix will be ready.

Seen at the Lake since 1 Sep: American Wigeon, Cinnamon Teal, Northern Pintail, Sora, Black-necked Stilt, Eurasia Collared Dove, Burrowing Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow Warbler, Western Tanager, Lark Sparrow.

If you think you might be coming give John Sproul (545-5157, jsproul@utep.edu) or Bob Johnson (757-1876, bobwildbirderj@cs.com) a call. as we need an approximate count for buying the goodies. If you have a change of plans and on the last day you find you can come, **please come** even if you haven't called.

Need a Snazzy new Addition to the Wardrobe? **Get Ready to Buy A New Chapter T-Shirt** **(or 2 or 3)!**

The long awaited, highly anticipated, and truly beautiful 'new' chapter T-shirt should be available for purchase, beginning at our November meeting. The shirt will display a great grouping of 'our' special local birds, not found in most other places. With the gift giving season just around the corner, we hope that you will consider this opportunity:

- A) A great T-shirt makes a wonderful, yet moderately priced, gift.
- B) Wearing it, advertises the chapter and your concerns for wild things.
- C) Proceeds from the sales of the shirts will help to offset the costs of various chapter initiatives, such as our education and conservation projects, & is thus a gift to wildlife as well as to yourself or a loved one.
- D) All of the above.

For more information, call Flora Pittard at 852-2353

ANNUAL INTERPRETIVE FAIR

October 15th and 16th, 2005
HUECO TANKS STATE HISTORICAL SITE

This will be the 11th Annual Interpretive Fair and will be held in conjunction with the LONE STAR LEGACY WEEKEND. Fair activities include *Bird Tours; Rare Plant Tour; Pictograph Tours; Guest Speakers; Native American Performances by Kiowas, Mescaleros, Ysleta del Sur, New Mexico Pueblo; Charro Performance; Climbing Demo; Atl-atl Throwing and other contests; Folklorico Dancers; Matachine Dancers; Cowboy Singers and Storytellers, at the Evening Campfire Program.*

Information Booths, Books and Art & Crafts Booths, and a Food Booth.

Saturday 16th Oct. 10:30 AM - 8:30 PM

Sunday 17th Oct. 10:30 AM - 4 PM

(Bird Tours will start at 8 AM both days)



RATTLESNAKE SPRINGS

Sunday, Oct. 23. At 7:25 AM meet in front of Evergreen Cemetery, 12400 Montana (1/4 mile east of Loop 375, across street from Sheriffs Academy and jail) This spot makes it convenient for westsiders to come over Loop 375. We will car pool, distance is about 85 Miles to Rattlesnake Springs. On previous trips we have seen *Eastern Phoebe, Black Phoebe, and Vermillion Flycatcher.* After birding around the springs and eating we will go to nearby Washington Ranch, it also is good for birding, last year we had about 6 *Wild Turkeys.* Bring **binoculars, water, lunch.**

KEYSTONE HERITAGE PARK BIRDS

What: Birding tour led by El Paso Audubon

When: 8:00 a.m. **Saturday, Oct. 29**

Where: **Keystone Heritage Park**

(off Doniphan near Frontera)

Bob Johnson, 757-1876, bobwildbirderj@cs.com

Bring: **Binoculars**

Cost: **Free**

Summary: Keystone Heritage Park has over 180 species of migratory and local birds, and a 4,500-year-old archaeological site. See a variety of ducks and shorebirds, plus other species passing through. Young and "beginner" welcome.

YOUNG FOLKS DAY

Bring your pre-teen and teenagers to the Crossroads ponding area, so that they may learn about our wild birds of the valley. If you no longer have young people at home bring your grand-kids, neices and nephews and/or the neighbors yung-uns. Come everyone even if no kids to bring, all are always welcome.

Date: Sunday **Nov. 20th**

Time: **3 PM** (sunset will be at 5:10)

Where: Doniphan and Mesa

Crossroads ponding area

Instructors: Chapter Birders

DESERT BIRDS / BIRDS OF PREY

A chance to see some of the birds that inhabit the desert scrub, Cactus Wren, Pyrrhuloxia, Scaled Quail and Curve-billed thrasher to name a few. Then out along Hawk Alley for Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel. Sometimes there a Prairie Falcon or Golden Eagle sitting on the poles.

Date: Saturday **December 3rd**

Time: **7:47 AM**

Meet: El Paso Museum of Archeology

(formerly Wilderness Park Museum)

4301 Trans-Mountain Road.

LOOKING AHEAD

Sun., Nov. 20 BIRD ID at Hueco Tanks SHS

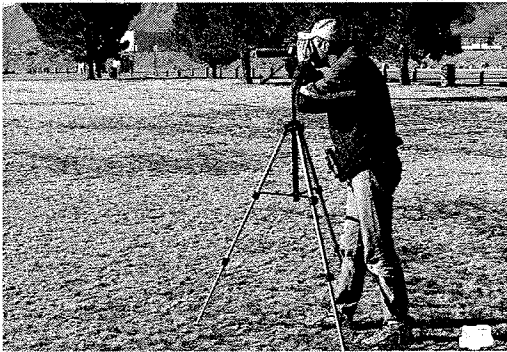
Sun., Dec 18 BIRD ID at Hueco Tanks SHS
Entrance Building at 8:08 AM.

Sat., Dec. 17 Hueco Tanks Christ. Bird Ct.

Sun., Jan. 1 El Paso Christmas Bird Count.

Sat. & Sun. Jan. 21 & 22 BOSQUE del
APACHE NWR, near Socorro NM

"MILESTONES & LIFERS"



A new feature has started in the ROAD-RUNNER. Reports for these columns should include your name - the species - date - and location. We do not have any rules for your listings,

Please report your numbers for **Milestones** using increments of 50, ie when you reach 200- 250 - 300 etc. We would like to have these on any list you keep, naturally your **life list**, and if you keep them, state, county and yard. Your **yard** list can be reported in increments of 5 starting at 25. Also when you get a lifer report it, even if it falls between a milestone number.

Example: **AI Bird, #178 Painted Bunting, June 22, 2005, Rio Bosque Wetlands Park.**

Report these in addition to your regular observations of Uncommon, Rare or Casual sightings to my recorder 915-757-1876 or email bobwildbirdersj@cs.com. Please do not expect your casual mention to me at a meeting, trip or on the street to get in the column

EL PASO NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

THE CENTENNIAL MUSEUM on the UTEP CAMPUS

Thursday, October 13th at 7:00pm

This month a dual presentation:

"Salvaging Plants in the El Paso Area"

By local expert Peter Beste

"Landscaping with Succulent Plants"

By Jack Makepeace,

President of the Cactus & Rock Club

These two programs will cover everything about Peter's salvaging efforts, including how and where he does it, to ways to use cactus and succulent plants in the garden. The combination will provide detailed information local gardeners need to choose, plant, transplant and care for some of our more spiny friends.

AFTER OUR PROGRAM, Wynn Anderson will conduct "Plant Clinic Services".

Bring a photo or a secure plastic bag containing your plant or problem samples, prepare your questions, and get ready to find the answers that your garden has been looking for. Admission is free, and non-members are always welcome.

For more information, call: 592- 1705

FIELD TRIP:

"FALL COLORS of

THE LINCOLN NATIONAL FOREST"

Saturday, October 15th at 8:30am

Join us as we try and "catch" the transition from summer wildflowers to the brilliant, changing fall foliage of the trees. Considering this year's weather, we are hoping to have an exciting simultaneous display. Driving time is 2 ½ hours each way, and the moderate hike will last another 2 ½ hours. Participants will meet in the parking lot of the Walmart at the corner of Highway 54 and Transmountain Road in the northeast, for possible carpooling to Cloudcroft, New Mexico. Bring water, a snack, a light weight jacket, and wear sturdy shoes. Admission is free & non-members are always welcome. For more information, contact trip leader, Peter Beste at 755-3558

OBSERVATIONS

May 16, 2005 to September 15, 2005

Listing of birds is determined using the checklist "Birds of El Paso County, Texas and Adjacent Areas" 8th Edition May 2003. Leave sightings at Bob "Wildbirder" Johnson, E-mail bobwildbirderj@cs.com, phone (915) 757-1876. Some entries included because of the time of year or location puts them into a category.

Uncommon - no highlights; **Rare - bold highlights; Casual - bold and shaded**

Observers: Dan Allen; Helen Bigelow; Cliff Eidson; Tom Gill; Bob Johnson; John Kiseda; Kathy Kiseda; Mary Lou Alcorn; Jim Paton; Patricia Russell; Susie Schnieder; John Sproul; Barry Zimmer. mob=many observers.-y=at the yard feeders.

Locations:Ayo-Arroyo Park; Ant-Anthony; FBP-Fort Bliss Ponds; Key-Keystone; KnJ-Kenyon Joyce; LaU-LaUnion; McN-Mcnary Resv; MHi-Mesa Hills; NMD-Nemexas Drain end of Sunset; RBq-Rio Bosque Wetland Park; SRT-Sunland Race Track; Tor-Tornillo Resv; Ton-Tonto; Vin-Vinton; UTP-UTEP Campus; WCt-West Cottonwood Springs

GOOSE THRU IBIS

Greater White-fronted Goose.	9/15	DA	LaU
Wood Duck.	6/20	JP	McN
This is the second record for Jim in Hudspeth Cnty			
<u>American White Pelican.</u>	<u>6/11</u>	<u>JP</u>	<u>Tor</u>
This bird was at the Resv. all period			
Brown Pelican.	7/8	DA	Vin
White Ibis.	9/2	DA	Vin
Only a few records of this specie in the area			

BIRDS of PREY

White-tailed Kite.	6/8	JS	RBq
Only a few records of this specie in the area			
Two immature WT Kites	8/11	JS	RBq
Mississippi Kite.	5/27	JS	RBq
Northern Harrier	6/17/Late	JS	RBq
Broad-winged Hawk.	5/28	JP	FBP
Peregrine Falcon.	8/1	DA	Key

QUAIL and SANDPIPERS

Gambel's Quail	9/10	TG	UTP
On Campus			
Willet.	8/6	JP	FBP
Long-billed Curlew.	6/5	DA	LaU
Baird's Sandpiper	7/17	JK	Key

HUMMINGBIRDS and FLYCATCHERS

Broad-tailed Hummingbird.	8/8	JK-y	KnJ
Calliope Hummingbird.	7/12	KK-y	KnJ
	8/8	JK-y	KnJ
Rufous Hummingbird.	7/6	JK-y	KnJ
Olive-sided Flycatcher.	7/30	JP	FBP
	8/5	DA	LaU
Gray Flycatcher.	8/13	DA	LaU
Cordilleran Flycatcher.	8/13	DA	LaU
Eastern Kingbird.	9/10	DA	LaU



DOWITCHERS THRU NIGHTJARS

Long-billed Dowitcher.	7/26	CE	FBP
Red-necked Phalarope.	9/11	JP	SRT
Black Tern			
Eurasian Collared-Dove.	7/25	BJ	FBP
Red-crowned Parrot.	All	MLA	Emy
Barn Owl.	7/30	JP	FBP
Common Nighthawk.	6/15	DA	LaU
Common Poorwill.	8/6	TG	MHi

VIREOS and WARBLERS

Bell's Vireo.	Most of the period	JS	RBq
Warbling Vireo.	8/16	JK-y	KnJ
Orange-crowned Warbler.	8/11	SS	Ayo
Lucy's Warbler.	9/4	JP	Sun
Townsend's Warbler.	5/28	JP	FBP
Black-and-white Warbler.	9/7	BZ-y	Ton
Painted Redstart.	9/12	HJ-y	BgB
MacGillivray's Warbler.	6/9	BZ-y	Ton

Only a few June records

TANAGERS and SPARROWS

Hepatic Tanager.	9/7	BZ-y	Ton
Summer Tanager.	9/2	HB	Ant-y
Western Tanager.	7/29	KK-y	KnJ
	8/12	SS	Ayo
Brewer's Sparrow.	8/5	DA	LaU
Vesper Sparrow.	8/5	DA	LaU
White-crowned Sparrow.	5/25Late	JS	RBQ

CARDINAL to SISKIN

Northern Cardinal.	8/4	DA	LaU
BZ has had one throughout the period in his yard			
Lazuli Bunting.	(8)	8/12	CE
		8/20	JK
		6/20	JP
Indigo Bunting		7/24	CE
Painted Bunting.	(15)	8/24	DA
Dickcissel.		9/7	BZ-y
		6/13	KK-y
Bronzed Cowbird.		7/17	PR
Orchard Oriole		5/16	JK-y
Hooded Oriole.		5/25	BZ-y
Pine Siskin.			Ton

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 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 Bob Johnson for details 757-1876

October

1 & 2: Monzano Mts
8 Feather Lake Pot-luck
8, 15, 23 Rio Bosque
Mon 10: Board Meeting
Mon 17: General Meeting
15 & 16: Hueco Tanks Fair
Sun 16: Hueco Tanks
23 Rattlesnake Springs
29 Birds of Keystone

November

6, 19, 20 Rio Bosque
Mon 14: Board Meeting
Sun 20 Young Folks
Sun 20 Hueco Tanks
Mon 21: General Meeting
Sat 26 Feather Lake Work

December

Sat 3 Desert Birds
Mon 5: Board
Mon 12: General
Sat 17 x-mas Bird
Count Hueco Tanks
JAN 1 x-mas Bird
Count El Paso
JAN 21&22
Bosque del Apache

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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