

# The Roadrunner



**Newsletter of the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society**

## Trans-Pecos Audubon Society General Meeting

**EPCC Rio Grande Campus, 100 W. Rio Grande Ave.  
Building 4010, in Room 119  
October 18, 2010 7:00pm**

Eddie and Lucretia Chew, long time Audubon members and avid birders, will present "A Costa Rica Birding Adventure." They will share their photos and talk about birds seen in six areas during two weeks in Costa Rica in March, 2010. This is sure to be a fun and interesting presentation that you won't want to miss. Nonmembers always welcome. Refreshments will be served. Contact Lucretia Chew at 587-9589 for more info.

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### 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).

## El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society General Meeting Monday, November 15, 2010, EPCC Rio Grande Campus, 100 W. Rio Grande, Bldg. 4010, Room 119, 7:00 p.m.

Bob Johnson, birder extraordinaire, will entertain and educate us with his program "**Identifying Birds Associated with Water.**" He will present a collection of his photographs and engage the audience in a fun and informative interactive program. Everyone is certain to enjoy it and pick up some identification tips.

Join us for an educational and lively evening. Refreshments will be served. Nonmembers always welcome.  
Contact Lucretia at 587-9589 for more information.

**General meetings are held at the Rio Grande Campus of El Paso Community College, 100 West Rio Grande, corner of West Rio Grande and Oregon, Building 4010, in Room 119.**

**There is parking behind the building on Oregon Street and also on Rio Grande Avenue.**

#### Directions: From I-10-heading west, take the Mesa DOWNTOWN route

1. Head west toward N Kansas St - 0.1 km
2. Slight left at E Yandell Dr - 0.4 km
3. Turn right at N El Paso St - 0.3 km
4. Take the 1st right onto W Rio Grande Ave - 35 m

#### Directions: From I-10 heading east, take DOWNTOWN EXIT

1. Continue straight until Oregon Street
2. Turn left on Oregon
3. Continue about 4 blocks
4. Turn left into parking lot behind building, or go to W. Rio Grande
5. Turn left on W. Rio Grande; enter 100 W. Rio Grande



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: Mark Perkins 637-3521
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

December Holiday Party!

At the Rio Grande Campus of El Paso Community College, 100 W. Rio Grande Ave., Building 4010, Room 119, corner of Rio Grande And Oregon Street

Monday, December 13, 2010, 7:00 pm

The El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society holiday merry-making is set for Monday, December 13, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. at the Rio Grande Campus of El Paso Community College, Bldg 4010, Room 119, corner of West Rio Grande and Oregon Street. Join in the traditional photo contest and taste irresistible holiday refreshments. There may even be a surprise or two in store. Bringing a snack is optional, but if you wish to bring something, we predict you will see happy smiles. If you dream of winning the photo contest, here's what to do: Our guideline is:

Each person is allowed one photo in each of four (4) categories:

- Birds, Mammals, Other Wildlife, Plant Life, Scenic Shots, Kids, Pets, Humorous Photos

Email JPEG-formatted photos to wildbirderbob@sbcglobal.net or call Bob Johnson at 751-0125 to arrange for pick-up of printed photos or slides. This is a great event and lots of fun!

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.org swec@zianet.com

Franklin Mt. Wilderness Coalition www.franklinmountains.org/

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

## AT FEATHER LAKE

We re-opened Feather Lake to the public September 4. Within a week, the lake was dry. We were all set to close up shop again when a small mid-September storm put some water back in the lake. It was followed by a late-September downpour that brought the water level to 3.16 feet deep.

Prospects for a fall visitor season are much brighter now. Can you help staff Feather Lake this fall? Please contact John Sproul (747-8663, [jsproul@utep.edu](mailto:jsproul@utep.edu)) if you can put in a Saturday morning or Sunday afternoon greeting visitors and keeping an eye on our sanctuary. Act now before these coveted opportunities are all spoken for.

Thanks go to Eagle Scout candidate Evan Longpré and his fellow Boy Scouts in Troop 4 who took part in Evan's Eagle Scout service project at Feather Lake on August 14 and 22. As many of you know, a low inner berm winds through the basin. (Seen from the air, it forms the outline of a bird.) After the disturbance associated with removal of cattails and bulrush from the basin in 2004, non-native salt cedars popped up in many locations amongst the native vegetation on this berm. The scouts worked hard clearing a trail along the berm and removing numerous salt cedars.

No doubt the scouts' efforts have inspired you to help with habitat management at Feather Lake. You can act on that inspiration at our next workday. It takes place **Sat., December 4**, an afternoon session starting at **2 p.m.** Come out, work a few hours, then enjoy a beautiful setting at the end of the day.

Feather Lake is located at 9500 North Loop at Bordeaux in El Paso, 0.3 miles west of Americas Ave. Hours are 8 a.m. to noon on Saturdays and 2 p.m. to dusk on Sundays. Admission is free.

## Audubon at RIO BOSQUE WETLANDS PARK

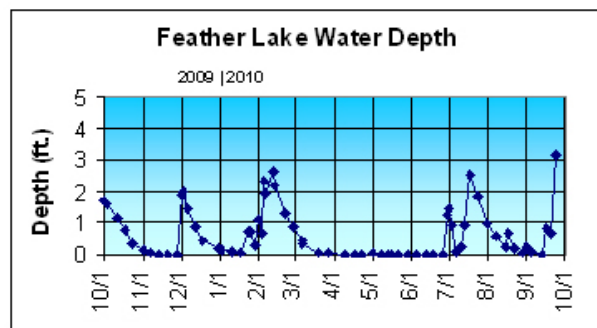


After a long, dry spring and summer, we hope water will return soon to Rio Bosque Wetlands Park. For the latest on birds being seen, check the recent-bird-sightings page on the Park's website, [www.riobosque.org](http://www.riobosque.org).

### Upcoming free walking tours at the Park:

- 8 a.m. Sun., October 3 (Bird tour)
- 4 p.m. Sun., October 17 (Introductory tour)
- 8 a.m. Sat., November 6 (Bird tour)
- 9 a.m. Sun., November 21 (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

**Saturday, October 30, 2010**

**9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

### **Celebration of our Mountains 2010**

**Birds of Keystone Heritage Park & Gardens  
4200 Doniphan Drive.**

Learn about the birds found in and around the park. No hiking involved. Visual sightings of many park birds from the observation deck in the Botanical Garden.

Members of Audubon will be present with scopes to point out birds and assist in identification. A short talk about the birds will be presented at 10:00 a.m. and 12 noon.

Good for children, beginners and bird enthusiasts of all levels.



**Entry to Park is \$2 adults, \$1 children, seniors, military.**

**Contact Bob Johnson at 751-0125 or [wildbirderbob@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wildbirderbob@sbcglobal.net)**

**Saturday, November 13, 2010**

**9:00 a.m.**

### **Hawk Alley and Ft. Bliss Ponds**

We travel to Hawk Alley in Northeast El Paso to look for Northern Harriers, Red-tailed Hawks, American Kestrels and possibly Golden Eagles.



Don't miss this opportunity to see these majestic birds in their desert habitat. Then we'll head over to the Ft. Bliss Ponds where we'll look for water birds and shore birds.

**Meet at Lowe's parking lot,  
4531 Trans-Mountain Rd.  
behind Taco Bell.**

**Beginners & nonmembers welcome  
Contact Mark Perkins, 637-3521 or  
[mperkins4@elp.rr.com](mailto:mperkins4@elp.rr.com).**

## **Birding Tours at Hueco Tanks State Park & Historic Site**

**When: October 16, 2010 (8:00 a.m.–10:00 a.m.)**

**Event Location: Hueco Tanks State Park & Historic Site, 6900 Hueco Tanks Rd. #1, El Paso, TX 79938. From US Highway 62/180, turn north onto Ranch Road 2775. Continue through the park gate to the headquarters building. The park is 32 miles northeast of El Paso.**

Join us for morning Birding Tours at Hueco Tanks State Park & Historic Site. Observe some of the over 200 species of birds that visit the site, with a well-informed guide to help you identify them. The tours begin at 8 a.m. on the third Saturday of the month from October through April, and at 7 a.m. on the third Saturday of the month from May through September. Birding Tours are usually about two hours, but they can last longer.

The October 16 and 17 Birding Tours will be free for the Interpretive Fair Weekend.

Please call 915-857-1135 or 915-849-6684 for information and reservations.  
Birding Tour reservations are highly recommended.



### Swainson's Hawk & USPS

By, Art J. Ortiz Sr.

Several weeks ago I inquired about the Swainson's Hawk - often seen in the El Paso area flying high and looking for something to eat.



I asked if they attacked dogs, cats, etc., since we have a Yorkie that we let out into our backyard. We always check the sky before letting "Brutus" out. The reply I received from EP/TPAS was that Swainson's Hawks feed on insects and small rodents and that we shouldn't worry about some hawk wanting to "snack" on our dog.

As a letter carrier for the U.S. Postal Service (and former student of Mrs. Lucretia Chew's English II class at El Paso Tech High School in 1968) At [msnbc.com](http://msnbc.com), I came across an article, "**Hawk Attacks Postal Worker In Canada.**"

Several years ago I was attacked by a certain mockingbird on my postal route. I called animal control to see what could be done about this bird. I was told that I had better not harm it because it is the State Bird of Texas! However, a small water gun discouraged further attacks. Since then, I not only watch out for dogs, I also look to the sky.

### Celebration of Our Mountains

View activities and events

[www.celebmtns.org](http://www.celebmtns.org)



### iGive.com

Join to Support  
El Paso/Trans-Pecos  
Audubon Society

<http://www.iGive.com/>

Shop the online mall at iGive.com.

### Hueco Tanks Interpretive Fair

Hueco Tanks State Park and Historic Site is hosting its 16th Annual Interpretive Fair Weekend October 16 and 17.

See history and culture come alive at one of El Paso's most unique natural areas! Attractions of the two-day event will include Native American dancing and drumming; Folklorico dancers; pictograph, rare plant and birding tours; climbing demonstrations; environmental and cultural information booths; and an evening campfire storytelling program.



Food, music, art, gifts and books will be for sale. The event will be held Saturday from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and admission is free.

### 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?

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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

Local Chapter code:

**COZW100Z**

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

#### October

Sat 2: **Feather Lake**  
Sat. 2: **Franklin Mts. Tour**  
3 & 17: **Rio Bosque**  
Mon 11: **Board Meeting**  
Mon 18: **General Meeting**  
Sat 30: **Keystone**

#### November

Mon 8: **Board Meeting**  
Sat 13: **Hawk Alley**  
6 & 21: **Rio Bosque**  
Mon 15: **General Meeting**

#### December

Sat 4: **Feather Lake**  
Mon 6: **Board Meeting**  
Mon 13: **Holiday Party**

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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