



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



General Meetings Centennial Museum at UTEP 500 W. University Ave

April 16, 2018 7:00pm
Sparrows of the Area
Jay & Judy Wilbur

Jay and Judy Wilbur are from Las Cruces and are active in the Mesilla Valley Audubon Society. Jay will present a basic guide for identifying sparrows that visit, or are resident in, Doña Ana County. El Paso County hosts pretty much the same sparrow species, so this should be an opportunity to hone your skills.

Free and open to the public.



May 21, 2018 7:00pm
Rio Bosque Wetlands Park
John Sproul, CERM at UTEP

Rio Bosque Wetlands Park in El Paso is managed as a natural area, with a goal of establishing at the site a mix of native habitats approximating those once found along the Rio Grande in the Paso del Norte region. Each year, through natural processes and the work of park supporters, the landscape moves closer towards that goal. In recent years, expanded availability of water has been a major driver of change. More change lies ahead.

At this meeting, Park Manager John Sproul, with UTEP's Center for Environmental Resource Management, will fill us in on recent changes at Rio Bosque and what the future may hold.

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

Officers

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

Committees

Conservation: Kevin Floyd, 613-6354
Education: Kathleen Whelen, 820-1895
Field Trips: Mark Perkins 637-3521
Hospitality: Janet Perkins, 637-5269
Membership: Elizabeth Chase, 539-1191
Newsletter Editor: Kathleen Whelen, 820-1895
Programs: Susie Schneider, 542-3041
Publications: Jane Fowler, 598-2448
Publicity: Janet Perkins, 637- 5269
Sanctuary: John Sproul, 545-5157
Website: Janet Perkins, 637-5269

The Audubon
Foundation of
Texas



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

Saturday, April 7, 2018 Archaeology Museum and Hawk Alley

Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Museum, 4301 N. Transmountain Road. We'll be looking for desert birds and raptors. We'll drive Hawk Alley and stop at Painted Dunes Golf Course.

Call Mark Perkins at 915-637-3521 for more information.

April 21, 2018 The Dam Trip -

Percha, Caballo and Elephant Butte



Looking for migratory birds, gulls and ducks.

Meet at 6:30 a.m. at the southwest corner of the El Paso Outlet Mall at I-10 and Transmountain (Talbot Rd. entrance to the Mall). Bring a lunch. There is a \$5 per car fee which is good for all locations. Beginners and nonmembers are always welcome. Contact Mark Perkins at 916-637-3521 for more information.

TOS SPRING 2018 MEETING IN ALPINE, TX



The Texas Ornithological Society (TOS) will be back in the Trans-Pecos **May 3-6** for its Spring 2018 meeting in Alpine. It promises to be a great gathering, with an enticing array of field trips throughout the Big Bend region and an impressive group of informative speakers.

For full details and to register, visit the TOS website (www.texasbirds.org). Don't wait too long. Field trips will likely fill up fast. The registration fee will increase on April 19, and registration will close April 26.

May 25-28, 2018 Memorial Day Weekend

Join us in beautiful Sierra Vista, AZ for hummingbirds, owls, Elegant Trogons and many other specialties of Southeast Arizona.

Contact Mark Perkins at 915-637-3521 or jntperk@elp.rr.com if you are interested and a detailed Itinerary will be sent to you once it is finalized.

Let's "Fly" into Action! Audubon's Birdathon 2018!

Birdathon counters are already "in training" in preparation for Birdathon 2018.
It all takes place May 5 & 6.

What is Birdathon, you might ask?

One thing is for sure, it's not your average bird count or fund raiser! Birdathon is unusual and different: a wild weekend of birding and our organization's most important source of income for conservation and education programs.

We hope you can join us for a full, rewarding weekend of birding by being a **sponsor** and possibly even a counter (if you want to become part of the "Birdathon Flock" as a counter, please contact Jane Fowler at 598-2448 or Eddie Chew at 587-9589).

Birdathon 2018 will benefit the following programs and projects:

CHAPTER OPERATIONS

Your support allows our chapter to work alongside other organizations to support conservation and education.

RIO BOSQUE WETLANDS PARK

Each year, this site along the Rio Grande becomes more valuable as habitat for birds and other wildlife.

AUDUBON TEXAS

Our support helps keep National Audubon's state office an effective voice for birds, other wildlife and their habitats in Texas.

EL PASO-AREA WILDLIFE REHABILITATORS

Our support will help three deserving wildlife-rehabilitation programs in the El Paso area — the **El Paso Zoo Raptor Rehabilitation Program**, **Second Chance Wildlife Rescue** and **Stick House Sanctuary** — care for injured or orphaned birds for release, where possible, back into the wild.

How Birdathon Works

On the weekend of **May 5 & 6**, our dedicated Birdathon counters will be busy scouring the countryside, trying to find as many bird species as possible, in a single 24-hour blitz. These hardy, energized and intrepid individuals will start early, stay out late, visit varied wildlife habitats and give their eyes, ears and bird knowledge a full workout. Why do they push themselves so hard? For the pleasure of a day in the field, for a test of their birding skills and **most importantly, for a better West Texas environment.**

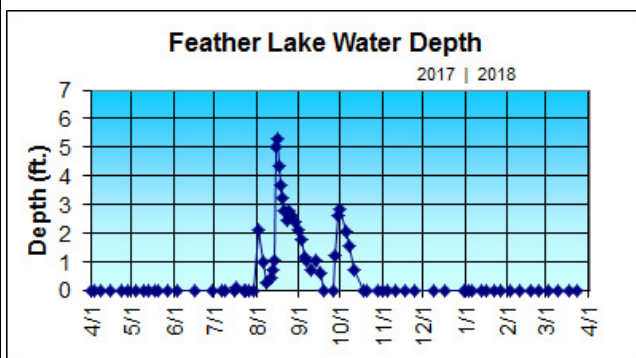
Each counter will be backed by sponsors who pledge either a given amount for each species seen or a fixed total amount. Most counters will identify 50 to 100 species. A pledge of, say \$0.50 per species for 60 species would result in a contribution of \$30. Over 95% of Birdathon income goes to the programs and projects; less than 5% to fundraising (printing, paper and postage).

AT FEATHER LAKE

Feather Lake’s current dry spell has now reached 5 months. We’ve been working lately in both the basin and the surrounding uplands. In the basin, we’re removing trash washed in with last year’s storms.

In the uplands, Boy Scout Troop 4 began a project March 18 to clear advancing stands of arrowweed and last year’s tumbleweeds, kochia and Palmer amaranth (aka carelessweed, Palmer pigweed) from the area next to the rock wall on the west side of the sanctuary.

Our next workday at Feather Lake will be **Sat., April 14**, starting at **8 a.m.** If you want to claim one of the 5 (somewhat distressed) sofas that washed into the basin last August, here’s your chance. Feather Lake is located at 9500 North Loop at Bordeaux in El Paso, 0.3 miles west of Americas Ave.



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

Audubon at

Rio Bosque Wetlands Park



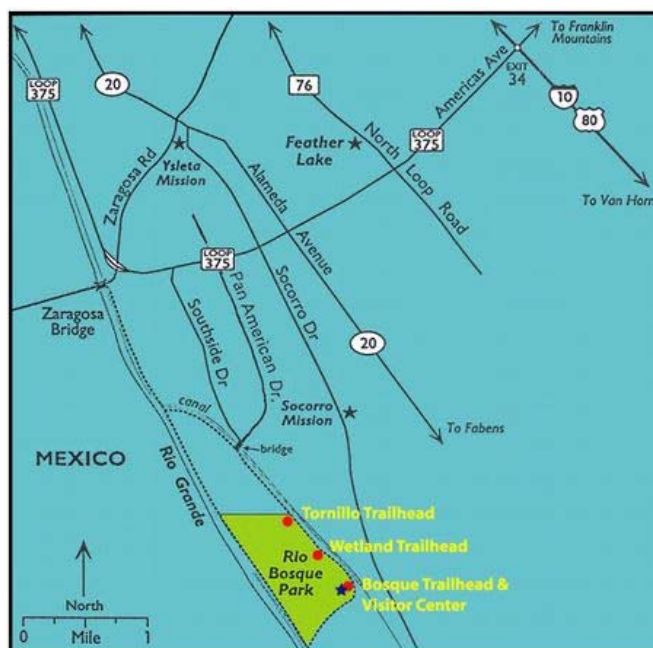
At Rio Bosque, the season’s first deliveries of irrigation water began in late March, a welcome boost. On May 1 – just in time for Birdathon – water deliveries from the adjacent Roberto Bustamante Wastewater Treatment Plant will resume.

For up-to-date information on Rio Bosque’s birds and water conditions, check www.riobosque.org. Upcoming free walking tours:

- 4 p.m., Sat., April 14 (Introductory tour)
- 8 a.m., Sun., April 29 (Birding tour)

- 7 a.m., Sat., May 12 (Birding tour)
- 8 a.m., Sun., May 20 (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
P.O. Box 972441
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 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**

Dates to Remember Call Mark Perkins for details 637-3521

April

Sat 7: **Archaeology Museum**
Mon 9: **Board Meeting**
14 & 29 : **Rio Bosque**
Sat 14: **Feather L. Workday**
Mon 16: **General Meeting**
Sat 21: **Percha, Caballo & EB**

May

3 - 6: **TOS Spring Meeting**
5 - 6: **Birdathon**
12 & 20 : **Rio Bosque**
Mon 14: **Board Meeting**
Mon 21: **General Meeting**
25 - 28: **Sierra Vista, AZ**

June

Mon 11: **Board Meeting**
No General Meeting

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
Name: _____
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