

The Roadrunner



Newsletter of the El Paso/Trans Pecos Audubon Society

Volume 31 No. 10 June & July, 2002

General Meetings

There are no General Meetings for the months of June, July and August. Our next meeting will be;

Monday, September 16, 2002
Memorial Park Garden Center
3105 Grant Street 7:30pm

Promoting Community Involvement in Bird Conservation

The First State Wide Annual Meeting of Audubon Texas
Friday, September 13, 2002
The Rockport Beach Pavilion
Rockport, Texas

Audubon Texas will hold its first-ever statewide meeting in conjunction with the Annual Rockport Hummer/Bird Celebration. This event is open to Audubon members and chapters, birding clubs and conservation organizations, as well as individuals interested in birds and wildlife and the conservation of their habitats.

This year's event will focus on sharing ideas and strategies on developing bird conservation programs at the community level, as well as how to get the community involved. We will have various Audubon leaders and presenters share their success stories relevant to community-based conservation as well as hold workshops for education and fun.

We will also conduct a meeting of the Audubon Texas Assembly on Saturday for our regional directors and chapter representatives to discuss key issues in conservation science, conservation education and public policy. On Sunday, the Audubon Texas Board of Directors will meet. For more info on accommodations in Rockport and the surrounding area, please contact Monica Naples at mnaples@audubon.org.

Bill Fowler: Get Well ASAP!!!
We want to see you up & about, and being your unflappable self, soon!

Chapter Web Site

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

El Paso Audubon Online, features updated graphics and more information for chapter members and visitors to El Paso.

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

ElPasoBirdAlert@gbarnett.com

Thank you very much

Dr. Bill Torgerson
El Paso Zoo
and

Dr. Paul Hyder
Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park
for presentations in the
April and May Meetings

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El Paso/Trans Pecos Audubon Society

Officers:

President,	Betty Fisbeck	581-0174
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Lois Balin	774-9603
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The Roadrunner is published six times a year. Contributions are welcome. Please e-mail to whelenk@aol.com or mail to 6120 Quail Ave. El Paso, TX 79924. (915) 751-2408

Chapter Planning to Be Held

On June 10, the Audubon Board will meet to do chapter planning. A plan must be submitted to Texas Audubon outlining our goals and objectives for the coming year. Any member is welcome to come to this planning session. The planning will be held at 4:00 p.m. in one of the meeting rooms at Mr. Gatti's Pizza in Bassett Center.

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Becomes Partner in Education

Our Chapter has become a Partner in Education with Clark Middle School in the Socorro District. Elizabeth Chase, former Chapter President and now Education Chair, has been very successful in securing grants from Texas Audubon. These grants have provided the resources for her to work with her students on environmental issues, to compile a Wetlands Resource Guide for teachers, and to provide workshops for teachers. The Chapter was presented a plaque that will be on display in the Feather Lake Visitor Center.

Welcome To the El Paso Zoo

Rick LoBello was just hired as the Zoo's Education Curator. Rick comes with a good deal of conservation education experience acquired from Big Bend N. P. and Carlsbad Caverns.

From the President's Aerie

by, Betty Fisbeck

Birdathon 2002 has come and gone! I can not imagine a more fun way to raise money - to start at 6:00 in the morning and look for birds until darkness overtakes one. At the potluck dinner on Sunday evening and all the reports were compiled, 141 species was the total seen by the counters, with an individual high of 114. It has been gratifying handling the financial aspects of the Birdathon. The eighteen counters had over 200 pledges of support. Many people sent in a contribution without designating a counter, with comments such as "for the work your organization does" or "put it where you need it the most." We had a number of pledges come from people who have moved from El Paso but support our efforts and remember their birding experiences here. One former member commented on the many pleasant weekend mornings that she spent at the Keystone Site when she lived here. There was humor, too. One contributor pledged \$100.00 for a "superb starling" and Mary Lou Alcorn did her best to find one! We pledge to all our supporters to use every dollar in the best possible way.

Wyler Tramway Hawkwatch Project

John Kiseda continues with preliminary investigations of the hawk migration patterns at the tramway.

Please contact John Kiseda, daytime at the zoo 521-1850, to volunteer for the Fall migration due to begin mid-August.

At Feather Lake

by, John Sproul

The gala black-tie event on April 15 to dedicate the new Visitor Center at our Feather Lake Wildlife Sanctuary was a splendid affair. In case you missed the extensive coverage in the broadcast and print media, we honored and recognized Charles Simpson for designing and overseeing construction of the Center; Mike Martinez, Jonathan Mims and Tony Velasquez for their work on the construction crew; and Baker Glass, Rio Grande Materials and West Texas Express for contributing materials and support to the project. A great time was had by all.

We also recognized the people who staffed Feather Lake during the past visitor season: George Barnett, Lupe Barrera, Craig and Darbie Braginton, Jean and John Coyle, Betty Fisbeck, Jane Fowler, Bob and Beth Garcia, Kerry Ann Gardner, Vince Giordano, Inga and Joe Groff, Paul Hyder, Sally and Hugh Jameson, Bob Johnson, John Kiseda, Carol Moreno, Flora Pittard, Roxanne Schroeder, John Sproul, Kathy Whelen and Nancy Wilson. Without them, we couldn't keep Feather Lake open to the public. Thanks!

Feather Lake is closed for the summer, but for you we'll make an exception. Come any time after 8 a.m. on Sat., July 27 for a chance to enjoy our sanctuary at its summer best. Coincidentally, this is also the date of our next workday. Feather Lake is located at 9500 North Loop at Bordeaux, 0.3 miles west of Americas Ave.

Help Wanted:

Feather Lake Wildlife Sanctuary
Work Day
Volunteers invited
no experience necessary

Saturday, July 27, 2002 8am

RIO BOSQUE WETLANDS PARK

UTEP's Center for Environmental Resource Management offers free walking tours twice each month and also holds monthly community workdays at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park in El Paso's Mission Valley. Coming up:

- 9 a.m. Sun., June 2 (Introductory Tour)
- 8 a.m. Sat., June 8 (Birds)
- 8 a.m. Sat., June 15 (Workday)

- 7 a.m. Sat., July 6 (Birds)
- 8 a.m. Sat., July 13 (Introductory)
- 8 a.m. Sat., July 20 (Workday)

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.



Desert Winds

by, John Kiseda

BIRDATHON 2002

Once again, we have experienced Birdathon (some of us actually ate, breathed & lived it for a few days, as well) and it was GREAT! The weather was fine, the winds were light, the temperature was moderate and the BIRDS & COMARDERIE WERE EXCELLENT!

As of this early report date, the chapter's counters identified 152 different species of birds. Some of the excellent birds seen included....

An American Golden Plover (not readily seen in our region) observed by many, & the Mountain Plover seen by Craig Braginton, at the Ft. Bliss Ponds. There were beautiful Summer Tanagers and Vermilion Flycatchers found along the Rio Grande, SE of town around Esperanza. Black-necked Stilts, American Avocets, Blue-winged Teal and Burrowing Owls of Rio Bosque Wetlands Park (a few hundred thousand mosquitoes tried to fly off with Bob Johnson, but we were able to pull him back into the van). There was a Painted Bunting lured into the open by John Sproul's group, around one of the "old" reservoir areas SE of town. Eurasian Collared Doves seen by Jim Paton in Fabens continue their expansion across the country. A Grosbeak Gathering was experienced by John Kiseda's group at one seed feeder at a lonely house, seemingly out in the middle of nowhere, SE of town. We stopped because someone thought they saw something blue, then we thought we saw a female Black-headed Grosbeak, then we actually had a good look at a female Rose-breasted Grosbeak, then we saw a male Blue Grosbeak, and finally observed the female Black-headed Grosbeak (this little spot also yielded us our only Cactus Wren of the day). The neotropical migrant morning that Bob Johnson & John Kiseda had at Hueco Tanks S.P. in the surprisingly cool early morning hours, yielded a nice variety [~ 15 species] of passerines were seen, including Cassin's & Warbling Vireo, Green-tailed Towhees, Yellow & MacGillvray's Warblers,

Northern Waterthrush, Northern Parula, and Western Tanager.

Our counters have raised at least \$4000, due to their hard work & the great generosity of their sponsors! Let me end this brief summary, by expressing a big THANK YOU, to everyone involved, for all of their donations of hard work and hard-earned dollars!

Without you, our local Chapter would not be able to be an important conservation and education based entity for our community, and our wildlife and wildplaces.

Support Local Wildlife Organizations

Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue

Meets; 4th Tuesday of; Jan., Feb., Apr., June, Aug. & Oct.
El Paso Community College Northwest Campus,
6701 South Desert Blvd. Room 45
www.whc.net/cdwr

El Paso Zoo

www.elpasozoo.org

Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park

P.O. Box 891 Las Cruces, NM 88005
www.cdnpp.org

Friends of Rio Bosque

Meets; 4th Thursday of each month. 411 Burges Hall
UTEP, Center for Environmental Management
747-8663

Friends of Hueco Tanks

Rock Art & Bird ID Tours every Sat & Sun 8am & 10am
857-1135

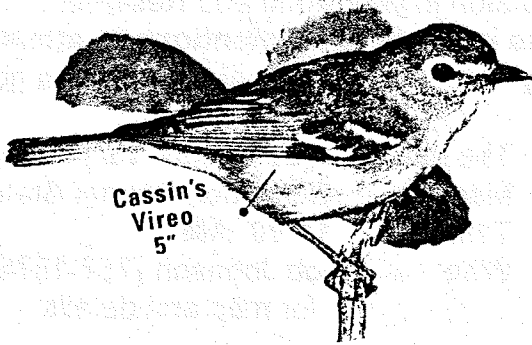
Keystone Heritage Park

Meets; 3rd Wednesday of each month at Police Dept.
Westside Regional Command Center, 4801 Osborne
keystonepark.com or
keystonepark.org

Keystone Heritage Park

Purchase small to large pieces of property at the Keystone site! This makes a very unique gift, receive a personalized certificate and help Keystone purchase the 40 acres needed to complete their acquisition of available land at the site. Help prevent commercial development of these biological and archaeological assets. A square yard costs \$25 and one acre costs \$50,000.

Call Bernie or Melissa Sargent at 584-0503.



Thursday AM

This is the results of the migratory bird walks in Memorial Park. The walks were scheduled for 7:30 AM on Thursdays. A total of 8 consec-walks were held from April 11 thru May 30. A total of 3 people showed up which was an average of 0.375 persons per walk. We had an average of 19 species of birds during each hour and a half tour. The best birds seen were a *Willow*, *Hammond's* and *Dusky Flycatchers*. Also a *Cassin's Vireo*, *Hepatic Tanager* and *Verdins* feeding young.

I would like to continue to schedule Thursday morning walks starting in September, but must have people tell me they are interested in doing this. Check in the next RR (Aug/Sep) and you will find out what the reaction is.
Bob "Wildbirder"



Insect Expo at the El Paso Zoo

Have you ever wondered why all bugs aren't true insects? Have you ever wondered about the extraordinary physical capabilities of some species of insects?

The Zoo has partnered with the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park of Las Cruces, New Mexico, to provide visitors with educational, interactive insect experiences. If you want to learn more about insects while having fun, come visit the El Paso Zoo the five Saturdays in June, from 10am to 2pm!

Ocelots Are Here

The zoo is now exhibiting an extremely rare in the United States, species of small, wild felid; ocelots! Come by and view these attractively marked, gorgeous predators and learn about how they go about "making a living".

There are only approximately 100 ocelots in the entire United States, and these are almost all located to a very restricted region in SE Texas. The US Fish & Wildlife Service has been working with this species for a number of years, and now ocelots are part of the American Zoo & Aquarium Association's Species Survival Plan [SSP] conservation programming.

Learn about why these beautiful cats are an endangered species and what is being done to try to aid the species in the wild and in zoos. Find out about how you can aid the species in the wild, by working with the El Paso Zoo, the Ocelot SSP and the Brazilian Ocelot Consortium on cooperative conservation and education endeavors.

ON THE TRAIL

HERON ROOKERY

We will start at the ponding area, hoping to see some *Wood Ducks* and maybe a *Green Heron*. A quick check of the Keystone Marsh, where baby *Black-necked Stilts* were reported on June 1st. We hope that the new heron rookery has been located so we can go take a good look at it

DATE: Saturday, June 15th
TIME: 7:17 AM
PLACE: Crossroads Ponding Area
(Doniphan and Mesa)
Leader: Mary Lou Alcorn (584-8768)

DOUBLE SUNSET

This will be a **SUNSET** (8:10 PM) tour along **SUNSET Dr.** Many young birds are now fledged and out learning how to survive. A number of *Mississippi Kites* have nests within the area and the young probably will not have fledged yet. We always see some great birds in the thickets along the Nemexas Drain at the west end of Sunset.

DATE: Sunday, June 30th
TIME: 5:27 PM
PLACE: Crossroads Ponding Area
Leader Bob Johnson (757-1876)

FRIENDS of HUECO TANKS

Admission: Hueco Tanks Historical Park - \$4.
\$2 for Seniors 65, Children under 12 - FREE.

Bird Identification Tours

Sunday	June	16	7:07 AM
Sunday	July	21	7:07 AM
Sunday	Aug	18	7:07 AM

Please check in at the Headquarters.

Reservations and Information 857-1135.

Leader Bob "Wildbirder" Johnson 757-1876.

GLENWOOD - LUNA

This will be a great weekend in the part of the Gila NF that many of you have not birded. In the Luna- Reserve area we should get *Lewis' Woodpecker* and *Pinyon Jay*, in Glenwood *Yellow-breasted Chat* and *Yellow Warbler*, and at the Catwalk, the *American Dipper*. In Pueblo Park Campground Mountain *Chickadee's*, *Purple Martin* and *Stellar's Jay*. At Mangus Springs on the return trip a look for *Lincoln Sparrow* and *Common Blackhawk*. If you are not camping, make your motel reservation in Glenwood and Reserve. .
Please indicate your intentions to attend by 7 July. If we do not have at least 5, its a no go.

The dates: **Sat. & Sun. 13/14 July**
Meet at: Glenwood Ranger Station
Time: **11:00 AM**
Who: Bob Johnson (757-1876)
for map and details

PLANNING AHEAD

A different look at the Chiracahua Mountains, in August all the young are fledged and are getting ready for migration, as well as the migrating hummingbirds are in. This will be the weekend of August 10 & 11.

Again please indicate your intentions to attend by the 4th of August. Must have 4 sign up or its no go.

Davis Mountains Hummingbird Roundup
August 15 -16 -17, 2002. info 1-800-458-6232.
www.prude-ranch.com, E-mail <prude@overland.net>
Not an organized Chapter field trip.

OBSERVATIONS

March 16, 2002 to May 15, 2002

Listing of birds is determined using the checklist "Birds of El Paso County, Texas and Adjacent Areas" 7th Edition October 1987. Leave sightings at Bob "Wildbirder" Johnson (757-1876), or E-mail bobwildbirderj@cs.com.

Observers: Mary Lou Alcorn; Dan Allen; Helen Bigalow; Jane Fowler; Tony Gallucci; Jeff Groff; Jewel Hewitt; Bob Johnson; Kathy(FEEP); John Kiseda; Kathy Kiseda; David Kruzich; Marcie Scott/Jimmy Zabriskie; Jim Paton; Flora Pittard; Patricia Russell; John Sproul; Barry Zimmer.

<i>Species</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Obsv</i>	<i>Loc</i>
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Pelican Thru Quail

American White Pelican(121)	3/21	BZ	FtH
	4/27	JS	RBq
White-faced Ibis (500)	4/3	DA	Key
Gr.White-fronted Goose	5/4	JK	Bos
Ring-necked Duck	5/9	FP	Hor
Mississippi Kite	4/27	BJ	Key
Harris' Hawk	4/29	JS	RBq
Short-tailed Hawk	4/16	TG	Tor
Ferruginous Hawk	3/17	DA	CCA
(Scaled Quail)			
(Gambel's Quail)Hybrid	4/6	MLA	Own

Plover to Gulls

American Golden-Plover	5/4	JP	FBP
	5/13	JK	FBP
Willet	4/22	BJ	FBP
Western Sandpiper	4/10	DA	Key
Wilson's Phalarope	3/21	BZ	Tor
	4/10	DA	Key
Franklin's Gull	5/4	JK	Tor
Bonapart's Gull	3/21	BZ	Tor

Doves thru Woodpeckers

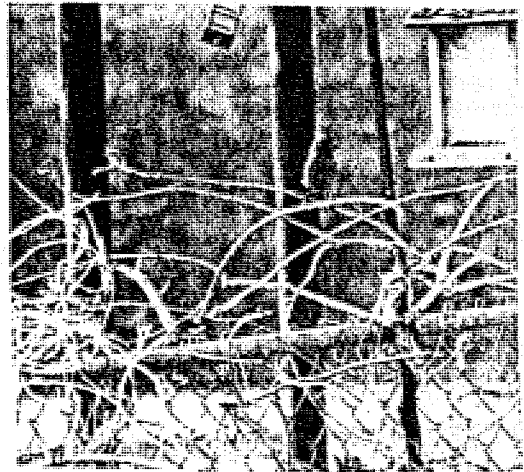
Eurasian Collared Dove	4/12	JH	NEE
Flammulated Owl	5/13	FideHB	NEE
Broad-billed Hummer	3/17	KK	KnJ
Blck-chinned Hummer	3/24	DK	OSp
Broad-tailed Hummer	3/14	KK	KnJ
Rufous Hummingbird(Ad-M)	3/25	BZ-yd	Ton
Red-naped Sapsucker	4/12	BJ-yd	NEE

Flycatchers to Swallows

Dusky Flycatcher	5/6	BZ-yd	Ton
Vermillion Flycatcher	4/2	JS	RBq
Cassin's Vireo	5/9	BJ	Mem
Yellow-throated Vireo	5/7	JP-yd	Boy
Blue Jay	Thru 4/5	Var	Zoo
Cave Swallow (50+)	3/21	BZ	Tor

Thrushes Thru Warblers

Swainson's Thrush	5/5	PR	STA
Hermit Thrush	5/6	BZ-yd	Ton
Cedar Waxwing	4/5	KK	KnJ
Orange-crowned Warb	Var	JF	Kil
Northern Parula	5/4	JK	HTk
Ovenbird	5/10	JG-yd	NEE
Painted Redstart	3/25	BZ-yd	Ton
	4/9	MS/JZ-yd	Can



Northern Cardinal

Tanagers to Goldfinch

Hepatic Tanager	5/2	BJ	Mem
Western Tanager	5/4	JK	HTk
Green-tailed Towhee	4/22	K -yd	FEEP
Northern Cardinal	4/24	DK	OSp
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	5/4	JK	Esp
Hooded Oriole	4/4	KK	KnJ
Scott's Oriole	4/21	K -yd	FEEP
American Goldfinch	4/12	DA	CCA

Locations: Bos-BOS Dairy; Boy-Boy Scout; Can-Canutillo; CCA-Country Club Area; Esp-Esperanza; FEEP-Far east El Paso; FBP-Fort Bliss Ponds; FtH-Fort Hancock; H28-Highway 28; Hor-Horizon City; HTk-Hueco Tanks; KnJ-Kenyon Joyce; Key-Keystone Marsh; Kil-Kilkenny; Mem-Memorial Park; NEE-North East El Paso Own-Owens on Gardner; OSp-Old Spanish Trail; RBq-Rio Bosque Park; STA-Santa Teresa Area; Tor-Tornillo; Ton-Tonto; Zoo-El Paso Zoo.

National Audubon Society
Chapter Membership Application

Yes, I'd like to join.
Please enroll me as a member of the National Audubon Society and of my local chapter. Please send AUDUBON magazine and my membership card to the address below.

My check for \$20 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 SOCIETY

W10
Local Chapter Code

7XCHA

Dates to Remember
Call Bob Johnson for details 757-1876

June

Rio Bosque Birds
Sat. 8th, 8:00am

Planning Meeting
Mon. 10th, 4:00pm

Heron Rookery
Sat. 15th, 7:17am

Rio Bosque Workday
Sat. 15th, 8:00am

Hueco Tanks Bird ID
Sun. 16th, 7:07am

Double Sunset
Sun. 30th, 8:10pm

July

Rio Bosque Birds
Sat. 6th, 7:00am

Rio Bosque Intro
Sat. 13th, 8:00am

Glenwood-Luna
Sat & Sun, 13 & 14

Rio Bosque Workday
Sat. 20th, 8:00am

Hueco Tanks Bird ID
Sun. 21st, 7:07am

Feather Lake Workday
Sat. 27th, 8:00am

August

Chiracahua Mountains
Sat & Sun, 10 & 11

Davis Mountains
Sat & Sun, 15, 16 & 17

Hueco Tanks
Sun. 18th, 7:07

Printed by Superior Copy

El Paso/Trans-Pecos
Audubon Society
P.O. BOX 972441
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U.S. Postage
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