



# The Roadrunner

Newsletter of the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

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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 Website!

Updated information about upcoming field trips, calendar of upcoming events, and recent bird sightings.

[www.trans-pecos-audubon.com](http://www.trans-pecos-audubon.com)

## General Meetings

Centennial Museum at UTEP  
500 W. University Ave

Monday, April 17, 2017 7:00pm

**Birds & Wildlife of Sri Lanka, Dr. Nirmala Khandan**

Member Mesilla Valley Audubon Society & Dona Ana Photography Club

Dr. Khandan is a Professor at NMSU and an ardent bird/wildlife/nature photographer. He will present his images of birds and wildlife from his home country - Sri Lanka. The tropical island nation of Sri Lanka is home to 233 resident bird species; 23 of them endemic. The first part of his presentation will cover challenges in shooting birds and wildlife in tropical forests and some solutions that have worked for him; he will share his approach to bird photography and shooting techniques for producing clean and compelling bird portraits. In the second part, he will share several of his images with behind-the-scene details.

Dr. Khandan has been organizing small group nature/wildlife expeditions to Sri Lanka on a shared-cost basis that several of the Dona Ana Photography Club members have participated in. He is planning another 8-day expedition in August 2017. These all-inclusive expeditions include land transfers, private safaris to four National parks, and a trek in a tropical forest which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, guided by local birding/wildlife enthusiasts. If any of you are interested in joining this expedition, please contact Dr. Khandan by email at [nkhandan@nmsu.edu](mailto:nkhandan@nmsu.edu).

Monday, May 15, 2017 7:00pm

**Dr. Jodie Jawor, Avian Researcher**

**Pyrrhuloxia: New research into the physiology and behavior of the Desert Cardinal**



Dr. Jawor is an affiliate researcher at New Mexico State University and is a Program Director at the National Science Foundation. As a new transplant to the American Southwest, Dr. Jawor became intrigued by our native species and in 2016 began a new research program focusing on the Pyrrhuloxia, or Desert Cardinal.

Dr. Jawor hopes to compare her findings with Pyrrhuloxia to her long-time study subject the Northern Cardinal. Pyrrhuloxia and Northern Cardinals are close relatives, and the similarities and differences between these two species can tell us quite a bit about how animals adapt to unique environments like the desert and just what goes into the development of new species. Dr. Jawor will talk about her new research project outlining what she has found to date and how the Pyrrhuloxia compares to its closest relative.

## 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:** Luis Sanchez, 599-7381  
**Education:** Kathleen Whelen, 820-1895  
**Field Trips:** Mark Perkins 637-3521  
**Hospitality:** Janet Perkins, 637-5269  
**Membership:** Roxanne Schroeder, 533-0061  
**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  
**Way & Means:** vacant

**The Audubon  
 Foundation of  
 Texas**

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



The Water Festival promotes water awareness and education leading to an understanding of our regional water resources, water conservation and El Paso Water's efforts to provide a safe, reliable drinking water supply. Attendees will be inspired to practice thoughtful and proactive water stewardship throughout the community.



**10751 Montana Ave.  
 Saturday, May 13  
 10am - 2pm**

**“Bosque in Bloom”  
 Rio Bosque Wetland Park  
 May 20, 2017 9:00am-12:00pm**

A FREE event where families can take guided and self-guided walks of the Rio Bosque Wetlands Park and learn about the wildlife that call it home. Enjoy bird-watching and interactive fun for kids.



### Conservation Organizations

**Chihuahuan Desert Education Coalition**  
[www.chihuahuandesert.org](http://www.chihuahuandesert.org)

**Second Chance Wildlife Rescue**  
[wildliferescueelpaso.org](http://wildliferescueelpaso.org)  
 Josie Karam (915) 920-7867

**El Paso Zoo 521-1850**  
[www.elpasozoo.org](http://www.elpasozoo.org)

**Keystone Heritage Park 581-7920**  
[www.keystoneheritagepark.com](http://www.keystoneheritagepark.com)

**Asombro Institute**  
 (Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park)  
 (575) 524-3334 [www.asombro.org](http://www.asombro.org)

**Friends of Rio Bosque 747-8663**  
[www.riobosque.org](http://www.riobosque.org)

**Southwest Environmental Center**  
 (575) 522-5552  
[www.wildmesquite.org](http://www.wildmesquite.org)

**Franklin Mt. Wilderness Coalition**  
[www.franklinmountains.org/](http://www.franklinmountains.org/)

**Stick House Sanctuary**  
[www.facebook.com/epwildliferescue/](http://www.facebook.com/epwildliferescue/)

## Let's "Fly" into Action! Audubon's Birdathon 2017!

Birdathon counters are already "in training" in preparation for Birdathon 2017. It all takes place May 6 & 7.

### 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 2017 will benefit the following programs and projects:

#### **CHAPTER OPERATIONS**

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

#### **SECOND CHANCE WILDLIFE RESCUE, JOSIE KARAM**

Our support helps injured or young birds to be rehabilitated and released back into the wild.

#### **EL PASO ZOO**

The zoo, through its raptor rehab program, provides the only facility in our area that cares for injured raptors.

### **How Birdathon Works**

On the weekend of **May 6 & 7**, 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.**

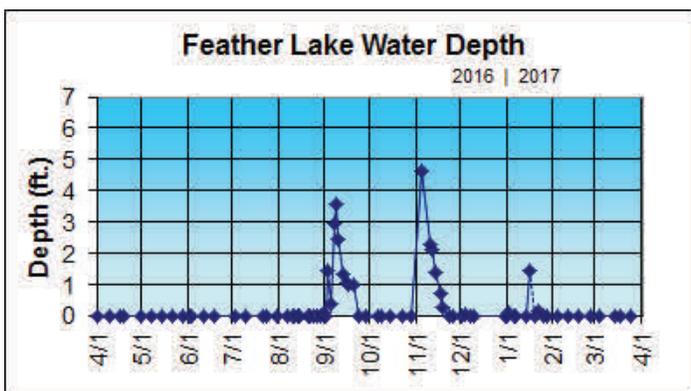
Each counter will be backed by sponsors who pledge either a given amount for each species seen or a fixed total amount. Most counters will identify 50 to 100 species. A pledge of, say \$0.50 per species for 60 species would result in a contribution of \$30. Over 90% of Birdathon income goes to the programs and projects; less than 10% to fundraising (printing, paper and postage).



## AT FEATHER LAKE

Feather Lake, of course, has experienced persistently dry conditions for over 6 years now. The driest of the dry periods is in February and March. This year, the basin was completely dry throughout February for the 7<sup>th</sup> consecutive year and completely dry throughout March for the 6<sup>th</sup> year in the last 7.

Our next workday at Feather Lake will be **Sat., April 8**, starting at **8 a.m.** As part of clearing the trail on the inner berm within the basin last year, we cut up a lot of windblown dead trees that had toppled across the trail. We'll haul out the resulting logs and use them to upgrade the border on the trail along the east side of the basin. 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



The Friends of the Rio Bosque will sponsor **Bosque in Bloom**, a celebration of the dramatic changes now occurring at the park thanks to the presence of water during the growing season, on **Saturday, May 20** from **9 a.m. to noon**. Tours, exhibits, talks, kids' activities and lots of water will highlight the morning. Visit [www.riobosque.org](http://www.riobosque.org) for more on this event and for up-to-date information on the park's birds and water conditions. Also on the calendar at Rio Bosque in April and May:

**4 p.m., Sat., April 8 (Introductory tour)**

**8 a.m., Sun., April 30 (Birding tour)**

**7 a.m., Sat., May 13 (Birding tour)**

**8 a.m., Sun., May 21 (Introductory tour)**

The meeting place for these tours 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

Return service request

Nonprofit Organization  
 U.S. Postage  
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 El Paso, Texas  
 Permit #2440

**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

8 & 30: **Rio Bosque**  
 Sat 8: **Feather Lake Workday**  
 Mon 10: **Board Meeting**  
 Mon 17: **General Meeting**

May

13 & 21: **Rio Bosque**  
 Mon 8: **Board Meeting**  
 Mon 15: **General Meeting**  
 26-29: **Chiricahua Mts.**

June

Mon 12: **Board Meeting**  
**No General Meeting**



[www.trans-pecos-audubon.com](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  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mail to: EPTP Audubon P.O. Box 972441 El Paso, Texas 79997