

The Roadrunner

Newsletter of the 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.

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**El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society
Next General Meeting**
Monday, September 19, 2011,
Memorial Park Garden Center,
3105 Grant Street, 7:00 p.m.

Dove Season of a Different Kind



Here is a great opportunity for "hands-on" wildlife experience. There will be 2 banding stations in northeast El Paso and 2-3 on the west side of town. Volunteers will be needed to assist with capture, handling, banding, and recording. Please let me know if you are interested. I will set up some training sessions once I hear from you.

The Trapping Dates are:


- ◆ **White-Winged Doves: June 1 to August 15**
- ◆ **Mourning Doves: July 1 to August 15**

Lois Balin, Urban Wildlife Biologist Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
200 N. Clark Drive 915-774-9603

In **Bangor, Maine**, a mallard duck made her nest in the garden center of Home Depot. Since May, the duck could be found sitting on her nest oblivious to the bustle and activities of the store. On June 5th, employees arrived to find one lone egg. The store had left the back door open to provide a way for the duck to leave once the ducklings hatched. She had apparently successfully hatched her brood and taken them to the wetland that is adjacent to the store.

This was the second year that this duck had attempted to nest in the store. Last year the duck was removed prior to any eggs being laid. Store shoppers and visitors enjoyed viewing the duck from a distance. The employees placed caution tape around the nest and a Do Not Disturb sign.





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

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

Officers

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

Committees

- Membership: Roxanne Schroeder, 533-0061
 Programs: vacant
 Conservation: vacant
 Field Trips: Mark Perkins 637-3521
 Hospitality: Janet Perkins, 581-2849

- Publicity: Janet Perkins, 581-2849
 Education: Kathleen Whelen, 751-2408
 Publications: Jane Fowler, 598-2448
 Ways & Means: vacant
 Sanctuary: John Sproul, 545-5157

Ribbon-cutting for Far West Texas Wildlife Trail to be at Keystone Heritage Park June 4

The most recent studies show that nearly 68 million Americans are wildlife watchers, generating \$122 billion in economic output, and expending \$48 billion annually on equipment, lodging and other travel related expenses. Jobs you ask.....estimates are that nearly 700,000 jobs were created and more than \$11 billion in local, state and federal taxes generated.

The Far West Texas Wildlife Trail will go a long way to promote our birding and wildlife for locals and visitors alike!!!! Please join us as we chalk up one more opportunity for El Paso to Shine!

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
 (575) 524-3334 www.asombro.org

Friends of Rio Bosque 747-8663
www.riobosque.org

Southwest Environmental Center
 (575) 522-5552
www.wildmesquite.org

Franklin Mt. Wilderness Coalition
www.franklinmountains.org/



Please join us as we introduce the 9th and final Texas Wildlife Trail!

"Far West Texas Wildlife Trail"

When:
 June 4, 2011 at 9:45AM

Where:
 Keystone Heritage Park
 4200 Douglas Dr.
 9131 581-7920

The collaborative between the Texas Mountain Trail, Texas Parks and Wildlife, Texas Parks and Wildlife, Texas Fish and Wildlife Commission will be introducing this colorful map of the most popular viewing areas in El Paso County and West Texas.

There will be gifts, prizes and refreshments for the attendees as well as refreshments from the many locations featured on this map.

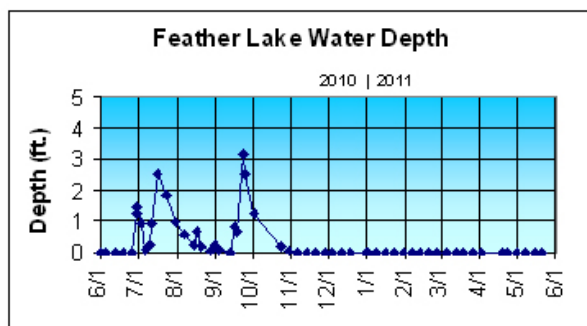
A copy of the Far West Texas Wildlife Trail map will be available free for attendees' (normally \$2.00)

Nearly 1000 miles, 57 wildlife-watching sites on 10 driving loops highlight the region's tallest mountains, grand rivers, starmest skies, vast sand dunes, sprawling desert and some of Texas' most iconic wildlife.

AT FEATHER LAKE

Feather Lake continues to be dry. It has been over 7 months now since it last held water. Many of the willows ringing the basin have lost their leaves and may be dead. Many of the cottonwoods look badly stressed. We've seen no recent sign of the beaver that was present for over a year. Presumably, it had the good sense to move on.

If you want to see the current dry conditions for yourself, join us for the next Feather Lake workday on **Sat., June 4**. A second work session will take place **Sat., August 6**, we hope following some nice, lake-filling summer rains. On both days, the gates will open at 8 a.m., but you can come any time to lend a hand. Feather Lake is located at 9500 North Loop at Bordeaux in El Paso, 0.3 miles west of Americas Ave.



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?

Audubon at RIO BOSQUE WETLANDS PARK



Painted Buntings are back at Rio Bosque.

White-tailed Kites continue to nest. For up-to-date information on what is being seen, check the recent-bird-sightings page on the Park's website, www.riobosque.org. Upcoming free walking tours at the Park:

8 a.m. Sun., June 5 (Introductory tour)

7 a.m. Sat., June 11 (Bird tour)

7 a.m. Sat., July 9 (Bird tour)

8 a.m. Sun., July 17 (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.



The Audubon website!

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

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

Field Trips

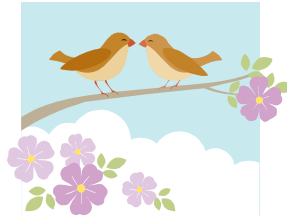
June 11, 2011 Rio Bosque Wetlands and Heron Rookery

Park manager John Sproul will lead the Rio Bosque Wetlands Park tour. This park is a stand-out among the restored and natural habitat along the Rio Grande. It is home to a broad diversity of birds and other wildlife species. **Meet at 7:00 a.m.** Take Americas Avenue (Loop 375) to Pan American Drive, turn left onto Pan American and travel 1.5 miles to the bridge crossing the Riverside Canal (last bridge on Pan American Drive). Meet at the bridge.

After the tour, we'll travel a short distance by car to Bel Air High School, the location of the heron rookery. We'll hopefully see Snowy Egrets, Cattle Egrets and Black-crowned Night-Herons sitting in their nests with young.

Nonmembers and beginners are always welcome. Contact Mark Perkins 637-3521 for more info.

June 24-26, 2011 Gila National Forest



We'll be spending a refreshing weekend, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, in the Gila National Forest in New Mexico. We will camp at Pueblo Park Campground. For those

who don't want to camp, there are motels in nearby Glenwood and Reserve. Mark will be in the campground Friday afternoon for those who want to bird then.

Saturday morning we'll bird the area and return to the Campground to meet Saturday arrivals at 11:00. We plan to visit the Luna/Reserve area, Luna Lake, Glenwood Fish Hatchery, the Catwalk Trail and Mangas Springs.

Nonmembers and beginners are always welcome. Contact Mark Perkins 637-3521 for more info.

Saturday, July 2, 2011 Sunset in the Upper Valley

We will meet and begin at Keystone Heritage Park on Doniphan. We'll be birding El Paso's Upper Valley. By now, many young birds have fledged and are exploring the world around them. Mississippi Kites, which we may see, usually nest in the Upper Valley. We will visit various ponds and canals and hopefully end the day seeing the Lilac-crowned Parrots flying in to roost at sunset. Meet at 5:00 p.m. at Keystone. Nonmembers and beginners are always welcome.

Contact Mark 637-3521 for more info.



More Field Trips

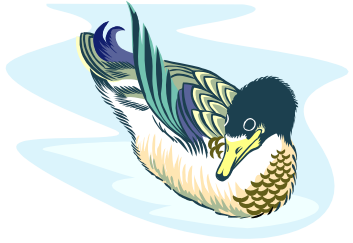
July 22-24, 2011 Sacramento Mountains and Lincoln National Forest



Leave behind El Paso's heat and join us in New Mexico's majestic Sacramento Mountains! Pitch your tent at the South Fork Campground, located just above Bonita Lake, or find motel or cabin accommodations in Alto and Ruidoso. We will be searching for three species of jays: Western Scrub, Pinyon and Steller's, and also Mountain Chickadee, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and both Mountain and Western bluebirds. Possibly we'll see the American Dipper in the Upper Canyon. Places we'll visit and bird include Buck Mountain, Eagle Creek, Cree Burn Area, Upper Canyon, Capitan, Ft. Stanton, Cedar Creek and Alto Lake. Mark and Janet will be there Friday afternoon if you want to join us for birding. We'll meet the Saturday arrivals at 10:00 a.m. Saturday at the Casino Apache Travel Center parking lot, 25845 Highway 70, in Mescalero, on the north side of the highway, past the Inn of the Mountain Gods turn off. Nonmembers and beginners are always welcome. Contact Mark 637-3521 for more info.

Saturday, August 6, 2011 Reservoirs Down the Valley

We will travel east on I10 to Exit 81 just past McNary, then travel back up the valley checking the farm fields for



egrets, herons, hawks, and passerines. Stops will be McNary, Ft. Hancock and Tornillo reservoirs where we hope to see Western & Clark's grebes, Eared Grebes, pelicans, gulls, egrets, sandpipers, cormorants, herons and ducks of many species.

Meet at Feather Lake, 9500 North Loop at Bordeaux at 7:30 a.m. We will car pool from there. Bring lunch, water, snacks. Beginners and nonmembers are always welcome. Contact Mark 637-3521 for more info.

Wing your way to....



The 36th Annual Conference of Western Field Ornithologists will be in Sierra Vista, AZ from August 17-21, 2011.

The Conference Schedule and full details about the featured speakers, events, workshops, and field trips are at:

<http://www.westernfieldornithologists.org/conference.php>

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 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 422250
Palm Coast, FL 32142-2250**

Local Chapter Code C1ZW100Z

Dates to Remember Call Mark Perkins for details 637-3521

June

Sat 4 : **Feather Lake**
5 & 11: **Rio Bosque**
Sat 11: **Heron Rookery**
Mon 12: Board Meeting
No General Meeting
24-26: **Gila N. F.**

July

Sat. 2: **Upper Valley**
9 & 17: **Rio Bosque**
22-24: **Lincoln N. Forest**
No General Meeting

August

Sat 6: **Feather Lake**
Sat 6: **Down the Valley**
Mon 8: **Board Meeting**
No General Meeting
17-21: **Western Field
Ornithologists Conference**

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

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