

The Roadrunner

Newsletter of the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

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General Meeting in September

at UTEP Centennial Museum the corner of Wiggins & University
Monday, September 18 at 7:00pm



Do birds and other wildlife suffer health effects from sprays used to kill mosquitoes in our area?

Are humans at risk from vector-control materials?

A representative from the El Paso City-County Health and Environmental District will answer these and other questions about control materials and methods for potentially disease-carrying insects on Monday, September 18 at 7:00 PM in the UTEP Centennial Museum.

The public is welcome and refreshments will be served.

Native Plant Conference

Friday, August 11th thru
Sunday, August 13th

The El Paso chapter of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico will host its Annual Meeting on the campus of UTEP.

For the complete program & registration form, see the Native Plant Society of New Mexico website,
<http://npsnm.unm.edu>
Or call or e-mail Marshall Carter-Tripp at
carter-tripp@earthlink.net
(915) 351-8226.


Registration is limited.

Late Breaking News

Feather Lake Experiences Record Water Depth



John Sproul estimates the water depth to have reached a possible 7.5 feet as assessed by the water level on the bridge footings. The water levels exceeded the inlet gauge's measurement capabilities of 6.65 feet. The previously record for high water level dates back to February 22, 2003 at 5.48ft. The gauge was installed in 2000. Most of the basin had been continuously dry since December 13, 2005.



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

Feather Lake: John Sproul, 545-5157
 Membership: Roxanne Schroeder, 533-0061
 Conservation: open
 Programs: Ursula Sherrill, 526-7725
 Special Events: open
 Projects: Carol Maxwell-Moreno, 593-0967

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

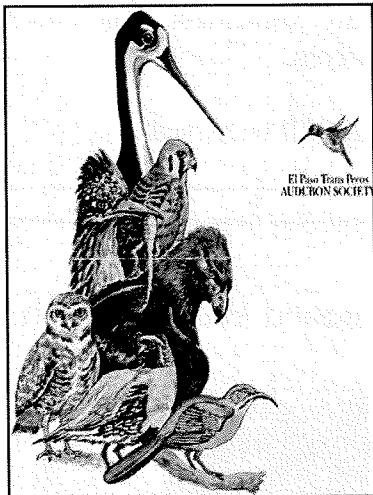
Officers

President: open
 Vice President: Bob Johnson, 757-1876
 Secretary: Lucretia Chew, 587-9589
 Treasurer: Eddie Chew, 587-9589

Committees

Education: open
 Ways & Means: Flora Pittard, 852-2353
 Field Trips: Bob Johnson, 757-1876
 Publicity: Kathy Kiseda, 533-4615
 Hospitality: Scott Cutler, 581-6071
 Newsletter Editor: Kathleen Whelen, 751-2408

**Audubon Chapter T-Shirt
 Sales Continue**



The beautiful chapter t-shirts are still available for purchase. The shirt displays local birds.

These are great t-shirts which would make a wonderful gift. Wearing this original art work advertises the chapter and your concerns for wildlife.

Proceeds from the sales of the shirts will help to offset the costs of various chapter initiatives, such as our education and conservation projects, and is thus, a gift to wildlife as well as to yourself or a loved one.

For more information, call Flora Pittard at 852-2353

Conservation Organizations

Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue
www.whc.net/cdwr

El Paso Zoo 521-1850
www.elpasozoo.org

Keystone Heritage Park 581-7920
keystonepark.com keystonepark.org

Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park
 (505) 524-3334 www.cdn.org

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

Southwest Environmental Center
 (505) 522-5552
www.wildmesquite.com swec@zianet.com

Franklin Mt. Wilderness Coalition
www.iloveparks.com/fmwc/

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

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

AT FEATHER LAKE

Floods, drought and fire all once played roles shaping historic native plant communities in the Rio Grande river valley. Today, we are seeing the influence of all three at Feather Lake Wildlife Sanctuary. During the 1980s and 1990s, regular periods of flooding after storms made possible the impressive stand of cottonwoods and willows ringing the lake today.

These past 3 years have exposed Feather Lake to persistent drought. The basin has been dry more often than wet. At this writing in mid-July, most of the basin has seen no water for over 7 months, **the longest continuous dry period since the basin was kept deliberately dry when it was being expanded in 1986-87.** A combination of little rainfall, no surface runoff to fill the lake and a dropping water table due to heavy regional groundwater pumping is taking its toll. We're losing trees in many areas of the basin.

On June 9, fire became a new influence on the Feather Lake vegetation. A fire of unknown origin burned approximately 300 feet of shoreline and adjacent bank on the west side of the basin. We lost a number of tornillo, honey mesquite and willow baccharis and may lose some large cottonwoods and willows that were badly singed.

Not all the news this summer is grim. We had Swainson's Hawks nesting for the first time, Gambel's Quail nesting again after a long absence, and an influx of Yellow-breasted Chats.

Feather Lake is located at 9500 North Loop at Bordeaux, 0.3 miles west of Americas Ave. If we have water, the lake will re-open to the public in September, with our traditional hours of 8 a.m.-noon on Saturdays and 2 p.m.-dusk on Sundays. Admission is free. And regardless of water conditions, we'll have our next workday on **Saturday, September 30**, an afternoon session starting at 2 p.m.

RIO BOSQUE WETLANDS PARK

Each month, UTEP offers walking tours and other activities at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, 4 miles from Feather Lake. Coming up:

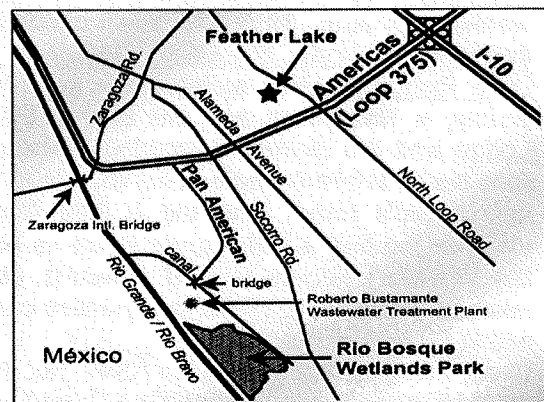


- 8 a.m. Sun., Aug. 6 (Bird tour)
- 8 a.m. Sat., Aug. 19 (Workday)
- 8 a.m. Sun., Aug. 20 (Introductory tour)
- 8 a.m. Sat., Aug. 26 (Faunal monitoring)

- 8 a.m. Sat., Sep. 2 (Bird tour)
- 8 a.m. Sat., Sep. 9 (Introductory tour)
- 8 a.m. Sat., Sep. 16 (Workday)
- 8 a.m. Sat., Sep. 23 (Faunal monitoring)

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.

Web: riobosque.org



Sign up as an Albertsons/El Paso Trans-Pecos Audubon Society Partner

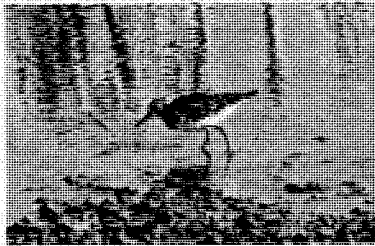
Mail to: EPTP Audubon Society, c/o Kathy Kiseda 404 Kenyon Joyce Lane, El Paso, TX 79902

NAME: _____ PHONE: () _____

ALBERTSONS PREFERRED SAVINGS CARD NUMBER: _____

BIRD WATCHING

SHORE BIRDS



Least Sandpiper

One of the best places to find good birds in El Paso is the water and muddy areas of Northeast El Paso. In August the shore bird migration is at its peak. A plus for this date will be the high probability that passerine migration will be starting. We will also take a ride along Hawk Alley to check if the Red-tailed Hawks have started to arrive, and if any young Swainson's are still near their nests.

Date: Saturday, August 12

Time: 7:15 AM

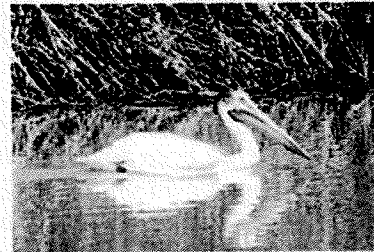
Place: Southend of Lowe's parking lot
4531 Trans Mt. Rd. (behind Taco Bell)

GILA CLIFF DWELLINGS

The beautiful mountain country in the vicinity of Silver City, New Mexico will be the destination of this overnight trip during the weekend of **Aug. 26 & 27**. We'll be visitings the Cliff Dwellings, the Gila Wilderness, and Lake Roberts. Wild animals are sometimes visible, a few years ago we saw a Beaver Lodge and the *Beaver* swimming in the pool. Also had a *White-breasted Nuthatch* take food out of Sid's hand. We had a little *Grace's Warbler* feeding a baby (over twice as big as the Warbler) *Brown-headed Cowbird*. *Black-headed Grosbeaks, Hepatic Tanagers* coming within 50 feet of the campsite.

Great camping along the Gila River, but if you would like more comfort call Doc Campbells Trading Post(505-536-9551) Grey Feathers Lodge(505-536-3206) stay@grayfeathers.com

DOWN THE VALLEY



White Pelican

McNary, Fort Hancock and Tornillo Reservoirs are usually good for *Clark's and Western Grebes, Gulls, Ducks, Egrets, Cormorants*, also *White Pelicans* could be present. We might catch a few passerines and most likely some birds of prey, a *Harris' Hawk* and sometimes a *Peregrine Falcon* has been around. Bring something to eat as we will lunch at the Tornillo Rest area.

Date: Saturday Sep 10, 2006

Time: 7:25 AM

Meet at: Feather Lake

HUECO TANKS

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

Bird Identification Tours

Sunday August 20 7:07 AM

Sunday September 17 7:07 AM

Sat./Sun. October 14/15 8:08 AM

Check in at the Headquarters Info 857-1135.
Leader Bob "Wildbirder" 757-1876.

DONA ANA COUNTY

We will traverse the west side of the river using Country Club, McNutt and some side roads. als Hope to see some of the birds that come Thru and into the area, maybe a Sharp-shinned or Coopers Hawk and possibly a rare visitor.

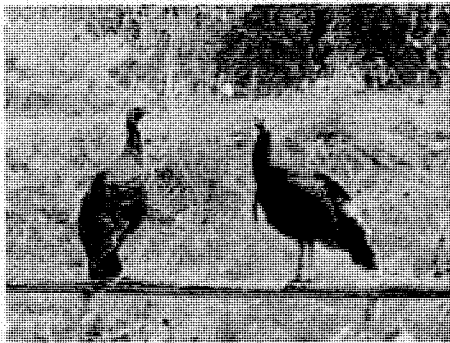
Date: Saturday, September 23

Time: 7:40 AM

Place: Crossroads Ponding Area
(Doniphan & Mesa/Country club)

RATTLESNAKE SPRINGS

Sunday, Oct. 8. Meet at 7:25 AM in front of Evergreen Cemetery, 12400 Montana (1/4 mile east of Loop 375, across street from Sheriffs Academy and jail) This spot makes it convenient for westsiders to come over Loop 375. We will car pool, distance is about 85 Miles to Rattlesnake Springs. On previous trips we have seen *Eastern Phoebe, Black Phoebe, and Vermillion Flycatcher*. After birding around the springs and eating we will go to nearby Washington Ranch, it also is great for birding, last year we had about 3 flocks of Wild Turkeys (about 40 birds in all). Bring binoculars, water, lunch.



Wild Turkeys at Rattlesnake Springs

BIRDATHON

Highlights: from our Birdathon held on the weekend, May 6 & 7.
 Richard Hermosillo; most species - 108.
 John Sproul; most \$\$\$ raised.
 Jane Fowler; most sponsors.
 Scott Cutler; best bird Long-eared Owl
 Jackie Walker won the Grand Prize in the sponsor drawing. A framed Hummingbird picture and a \$50 Gift Certificate. Many other prizes were drawn for sponsors.
 The composite species total; 135.
 The total amount raised was \$6500 ++.
 A few other good sightings were; Ross's Goose, Willet, Barn Owl, Vermillion Fly-catcher, and Black-tailed Gnatcatcher

CELEBRATION of OUR MOUNTAINS

On October 29, from 7:30 AM -12 N we will be having a birding observation and identification location staffed at **Keystone**. This will be in conjunction with various tours conducted for the Celebration of Our Mountains. For these tours check the Sept. EL PASO SCENE, the El Paso Times each week from the end of Sep. and our next ROADRUNNER due out the first of Oct. Come to The Sept. General Meeting on the 18th to learn more.



Black-necked Stilt at Keystone

ANNUAL PICNIC

MARK YOUR CALENDAR our annual Pot Luck Picnic will be held at Feather Lake on Sat. Oct.21. Details in the October Roadrunner.

BIRDWATCHERS WELCOME

The gate at Keystone will be open for birding the end of each month. Come in and bird on your own.
 Aug. Sat. 26th 6:30 AM - 8:30 AM,
 Sun. 27th 6:00 PM - sunset.
 Sep. Sat. 30th 7:00 AM - 8:30 AM,
 Sun. Oct.1st 5:30 PM - sunset

For further information on all BIRD WATCHING trips contact Bob Johnson (915-757-1876) <bobwildbirderj@cs.com>

El Paso/Trans-Pecos
 Audubon Society
 P.O. Box 972441
 El Paso, Texas 79997

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

Return service request

Dates to Remember Call Bob Johnson for details 757-1876

August

September

October

6, 19, 20, 26: Rio Bosque	2, 9, 16, 23: Rio Bosque	Sun 1: Keystone
Sat 12: Shore Birds	Sun 10: Down the Valley	Sun 8: Rattlesnake Spr.
11-13: Native Plant Conf.	Mon 11: Board Meeting	Mon 9: Board Meeting
Mon 14: Board Meeting	Sun 17: Hueco Tanks	14 & 15: Hueco Tanks
No General Meeting	Mon 18 General Meeting	Mon 16: General Meeting
Sun 20: Hueco Tanks	Sat 23: Dona Ana County	Sat 21: Feather Lake
26 & 27: Keystone	Sat 30: Feather Lake 2pm	Sat 29: Keystone
26 & 27: Gila Wilderness	Sat 30: Keystone	

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

W10
 Local Chapter Code
 7XCHA

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: _____