

# The Roadrunner



Newsletter of the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

## Inside the Roadrunner

Chapter Info	2
Sanctuary News	3
Notes & Field Trips	4 & 5
Calendar	6

### El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Website!

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



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

## General Meeting

Monday, September 21, 2015

7:00 - 8:30 PM

Centennial Museum, at UTEP

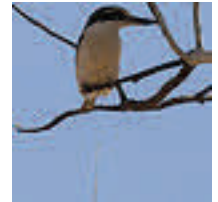
### Alhambra and beyond: Birding in Southern Spain



Liz Walsh, Professor of Biological Sciences at UTEP, will present a travel/birding log of her recent trip to Granada, Spain.

She, with guide Mick Richardson of Loja Wildlife, visited some of the best spots in Southern Spain

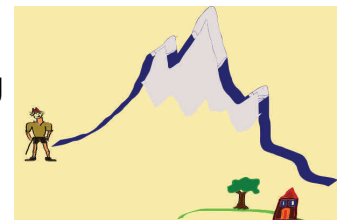
including the wetlands of Charco de Suárez, the Padul wetlands and the steppe plains that are home to Great and Little bustards.



Dr. Elizabeth Walsh is a professor of molecular systematics, population biology and genetics of fresh water invertebrates. She travels the world for her research and always tries to bird where ever she goes.

## Celebration of our Mountains

For more than 20 years, we've been hiking, biking, birding, climbing, photographing, geocaching, studying and celebrating the natural wonders of the Borderland. Be watchful to find out about the upcoming field trips beginning September 2015.



# 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, 751-2408  
**Field Trips:** Mark Perkins 637-3521  
**Hospitality:** Janet Perkins, 637-5269  
**Membership:** Roxanne Schroeder, 533-0061  
**Newsletter Editor:** Kathleen Whelen, 751-2408  
**Programs:** Elizabeth Chase 539-1191  
**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.



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



## Butterfly Flutterby

**Saturday, August 15, 2015**  
9:00 am - Noon  
\$3 Admission  
Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park

Enjoy games, arts and crafts, and face painting! For more information, or for directions, please call the Asombro Institute for Science Education at (575) 524-3334 or [info@asombro.org](mailto:info@asombro.org)

## 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.org](http://www.keystoneheritagepark.org)

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/)

## Albertsons ...

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?

## 11th Annual Chihuahuan Desert Fiesta

Tom Mays Unit,  
Franklin Mts. State Park  
September 19, 2015  
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.



Take in educational exhibits, guided walks, demonstrations and other fun outdoor activities.



## AT FEATHER LAKE

Feather Lake continues to be buffeted by the forces of nature. Following the expansion of the Feather Lake basin in 1986-87, many young cottonwood seedlings began appearing along the shore in the areas newly added to the basin. Over time, these seedlings became impressive trees. Especially impressive was the wall of cottonwoods that developed along the south shoreline.

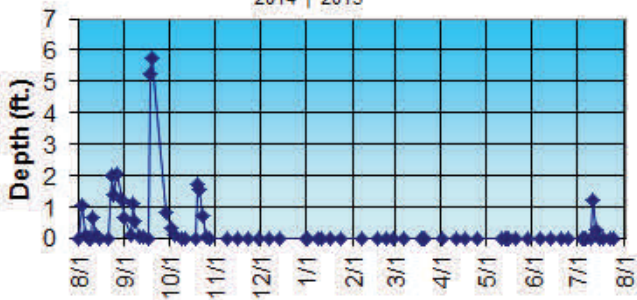
Over the past 5 dry years, these trees have suffered from a prolonged lack of water in the lake and a prolonged drop in the water table. Most have died. In late June, strong winds toppled 4 of the largest standing dead trees.

The lake was dry throughout June but received several modest volumes of storm runoff following rains in July. The most substantial flooded almost 2/3 of the basin July 11. As usual, each input of runoff lasted only a few days in the lake before seeping into the soil.

Our next workday at Feather Lake takes place **Sat., August 8** starting at **8 a.m.** The presence or absence of water will dictate whether we work in the lake basin or the surrounding uplands. Feather Lake is located at 9500 North Loop at Bordeaux in El Paso, 0.3 miles west of Americas Ave.

**Feather Lake Water Depth**

2014 | 2015



## Audubon at

Rio Bosque's nesting White-tailed Kites fledged 2 more young – from their second nest – in mid-July.

Rio Bosque Wetlands Park



Water continues to be present in portions of the wetland cells for the first time throughout summer in 13 years. For up-to-date information on birds and water conditions, check [www.riobosque.org](http://www.riobosque.org). Upcoming free walking tours:

- 8 a.m., Sun., Aug 9 (Introductory tour)
- 8 a.m., Sun., Aug 23 (Bird tour)
- 8 a.m. Sat., Sept 12 (Bird tour)
- 8 a.m. Sun., Sept 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.





## From the Field

Sierra Vista, AZ May 22-25, 2015

We started off the trip with a small caravan and made a stop in Wilcox, AZ in search of an **Ov-  
enbird** that was supposed to be in the yard of a resident there. We went to their house and they were very hospitable and allowed us to sit in their back-  
yard to see if the bird was there, but it had apparently moved on.

We moved on to the ponds by the golf course in Wilcox, where they had bird blinds and we had over 25 species of birds there. We had great looks at **Bullock's Oriole** and **Blue Grosbeak**.

We drove on into Sierra Vista and met up with others in Miller Canyon for an afternoon of birding. We had great looks at the **White-eared Hummingbird**, plus the **Broad-billed Hummingbird** and a **Hepatic Tanager** there, as well as other species.



Early to rise Saturday morning to Ramsey Canyon to see the much talked about and rarely seen **Flame-colored Tanager**. There was a pair nesting there and we did see them very well. There were the usual **Sulphur-bellied Flycatchers** nesting in the Canyon, glimpses of **Elegant Trogons** (there were 3 in the Canyon for the first time in several years). Other birds of note there were lots of **Acorn Woodpeckers** and **Black-headed Grosbeaks**. We broke for lunch and met up at San Pedro House for our afternoon birding. We had **Gila Woodpeckers**, **Ash-throated Flycatcher** and lots of **Blue Grosbeaks**.

A group was catching and banding hummingbirds and everyone that wanted to hold one and release one were able to. It was the high point of several people's trip to be able to hold a hummingbird, so tiny and so light. People say they can feel the heart beating, but it's actually the breathing they feel. That evening we had a group dinner in Sierra Vista

and we had a slide show from Dwayne Marrott on identifying the birds he had photographed that day.

We were up early again on Sunday to head to Paton's House. There we had **White-breasted Nuthatch** with young, **Violet-crowned Hummingbird**, **Acorn Woodpeckers**, **Summer Tanagers**, and a **Hooded Oriole**. From there we went to Sonoita Preserve to have lunch and hike some trails. We saw in the sky at one time two **Gray Hawks**, two **Black Vultures**, one **Red-tailed Hawk** and several **Turkey Vultures** all flying around together. We dropped down to Kino Springs where we had a **Cassin's Kingbird** and a **Phainopepla**. We then returned to Sierra Vista and went to Ash Canyon at the Bed and Breakfast where we had **Bewick's Wren**, **Mexican Jay**, **Wild Turkey**, **Montezuma Quail** and a **Scott's Oriole**.

Early Monday morning, we went to Huachuca Canyon where we had several **Elegant Trogons**, flying and calling. We hiked up the Canyon where we had **Buff-breasted Flycatcher**, **Greater Pewee**, **Hutton's Vireo**, **Bridled Titmouse**, a **Cooper's Hawk** on a nest and a **Vermilion Flycatcher**. We want to thank our friends from Los Alamos, Phoenix and Santa Fe for joining us as well as our El Paso friends. We had a group of 19 people, the weather was perfect, not too hot.

## Field Trips

### Saturday, August 8, 2015 Reservoirs Down the Valley

We'll be travelling down I-10 east to visit the reservoirs of McNary, Ft. Hancock and Tornillo.



Possible sightings could be **Western and Clark's grebes, Eared Grebe, White Pelicans, gulls, egrets, sandpipers, cormorants, herons & ducks** of many species.

We will meet at 6:30 a.m. at the parking lot at Burlington Coat Factory at 1144 N. Yarbrough Exit at Yarbrough, at the light turn left under I-10. Burlington is on the right.

### Saturday, September 19, 2015 The "Dam" Trip

We will be visiting Percha, Caballo and Leasburg dams, looking for lingering summer birds, migrating birds and year-round birds.

Bring a lunch, water and insect repellent. Meet at 6:30 a.m. at the Southwest corner of the Outlet Mall, the entrance off of Talbot Road.



Beginners and non-members always welcome. Contact Mark Perkins at 637-3521.

### 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).



### September 4-7, 2015 Northern New Mexico over Labor Day Weekend

We will bird the Pajarito Ski Area, Bandelier National Monument, the Jemez Mountains and the Taos area.

Some birds we might see are **Three-toed Woodpecker, Evening Grosbeak, Red Crossbills, Clark's Nutcracker, Gray Jays and Zone-tailed Hawks**.

Contact Mark Perkins at (915) 637-3521 for a detailed itinerary.

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 422250  
Palm Coast, FL 32142-2250**

**Local Chapter Code C1ZW100Z**

**Dates to Remember Call Mark Perkins for details 637-3521**

August

Sat. 8: **Down the Valley  
Feather Lake Workday**  
9 & 23 **Rio Bosque**  
Sat 15: **Butterfly Flutterby**  
Mon 17: **Board Meeting**  
**No General Meeting**

September

4 - 7: **Northern New Mexico**  
Sat 19: **Dam Trip**  
12 & 20 **Rio Bosque**  
Sat 19: **Tom Mays Desert Fiesta**  
Mon 21: **General Meeting**

October

Mon.12: **Board Meeting**  
17 & 18: **Hueco Tanks  
Interpretive Fair**  
Mon 19: **General Meeting**

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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