



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.

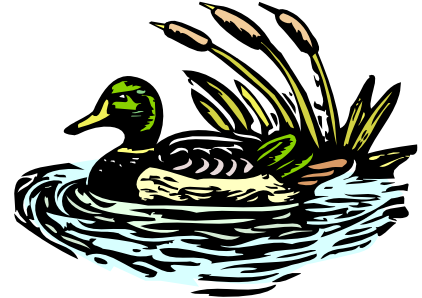
Albertson's ...

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KEYSTONE HERITAGE PARK



We will be trying out a new schedule at Keystone for the next three months. It is felt that more people

will get to see the birds and learn more about our Audubon chapter. We will have a person and scope on the Observation Deck located in the garden from

10 AM thru 1 PM on dates indicated:

June 12 and 19,

July 17 and 31,

August 14 and 28.

The observation Kiosk out past the walk-through gate is open daily 7:30 - 12 noon. Please do not go beyond the cable-wooden pole fence. NO PETS.

Attention PHOTO CONTEST

When out and around this summer and fall, TAKE your **CAMERA** and use it. We want more entries for the photo contest in December. It will grow this year to eight categories,

Birds, Mammals, Other wildlife, Plant life, Scenic, Kids, Pets, and Humor.

More details in upcoming ROADRUNNERS.



Swainson's Hawk
by Claudia Sermeno 2010



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

Committees

Membership: Roxanne Schroeder, 533-0061	Publicity: Janet Perkins, 581-2849
Programs: Ursula Sherrill, 526-7725	Education: Kathleen Whelen, 751-2408
Conservation: vacant	Publications: Jane Fowler, 598-2448
Field Trips: Ursula Sherrill, 526-7725	Ways & Means: vacant
Hospitality: Janet Perkins, 581-2849	Sanctuary: John Sproul, 545-5157

**WEB PAGE
RARE BIRD ALERT**

Posting of RARE BIRDS to our web page will begin in early June. In addition to sending your regular sightings to John Kiseda for the observation page of the ROADRUNNER, please send Bob a notice of any RARE or CASUAL sightings you have.

Include the location, i.e. Gibson Veck Road ditch. If it's in your yard and you would allow other people to come look, include your phone number so they can check.

We will not include your street address unless you so state that it can be included.

**Bob – wildbirderbob@sbcglobal.net
(915) 751-0125**

Chapter Web page

<http://www.trans-pecos-audubon.org>

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
(505) 524-3334 www.asombro.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.franklinmountains.org/

SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

This is **NOT** a chapter field trip. Lois Balin and Bob Johnson are thinking about going to Santa Fe, New Mexico for some birding on the 4th of July weekend. Hope to see Gray Jay, Evening Grosbeak, Red Crossbills and other good birds. Will probably leave Friday morning the 2d and return Monday afternoon the 5th.

If you would like to tag along, e-mail or call, Lois elpasowild@aol.com (915) 751-2206 or Bob wildbirderbob@sbcglobal.net (915) 751-0125

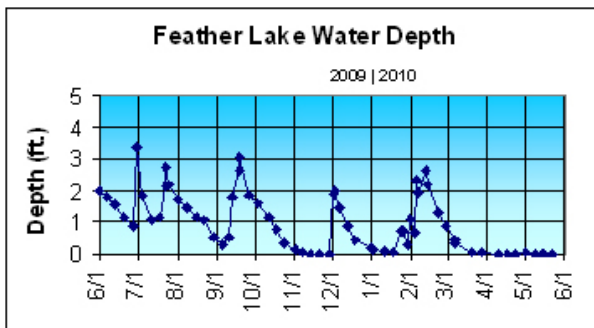
AT FEATHER LAKE

Feather Lake has been dry most of the time since early April. Since mid-April, we've had it closed due to lack of water. We'll reopen to the public in September.

Prior to its closure, the lake had been open most weekends since September. Many thanks go to our dedicated volunteers who made this visitor season possible: Lois Balin, Lucretia and Eddie Chew, Clarence Cooper, Scott Cutler, Richard Denny, Jane Fowler, Beth, Bob and Diego Garcia, Inga and Joe Groff, Bob Johnson, Carol Moreno, Janet and Mark Perkins, Flora Pittard, Luis Sanchez, Roxanne Schroeder, Ursula Sherrill, John Sproul, and Graciela Woodbury.

One of the surprises this past winter was the return of a beaver to Feather Lake, our first since 1992. We first saw signs of its presence in late January. Throughout February and March, it was busy felling cottonwoods and willows scattered throughout the basin. When the lake went dry, we thought the beaver would leave. We were wrong. Trees keep dropping, and the critter appears to have dug a den in the cove near the fire station.

Want to check out the beaver's handiwork? You'll have a couple of opportunities this summer. Our next workdays are **Sat., June 5** and **Sat., August 7**. For each, 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.



Audubon at RIO BOSQUE WETLANDS PARK



Painted Buntings are back at Rio Bosque. 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 6 (Bird tour)
- 8 a.m. Sat., June 12 (Introductory tour)
- 7 a.m. Sat., July 10 (Bird tour)
- 8 a.m. Sun., July 18 (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.



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

Field Trips

**Heron Rookery
Sat., June 5, 2010**

What: We hope to see Snowy Egrets, Cattle Egrets, and Black-crowned Night-Herons sitting in their nests with young. If time permits, we will go to other good birding sites.



Cattle Egret (Eskin 2008)

When: 7:15 a.m., Sat., June 5, 2010

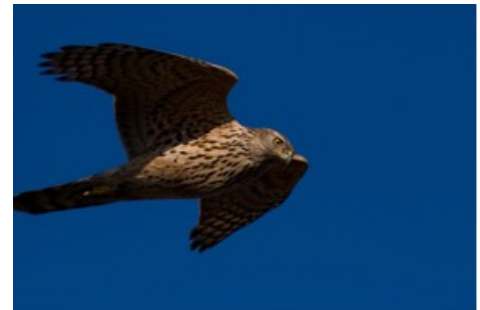
Where: The parking lot in front of Burlington Coat Factory. Take Yarborough Exit 28B on I-10 East. At the light, turn left under I-10. BCF is up on the right.

Coordinator: Bob Johnson, wildbirderbob@sbcglobal.net, or 751-0125.

The Gila National Forest, June 25 – 27

Spend a refreshing weekend Fri., Sat., and Sun., June 25-27 in the Gila National Forest of New Mexico. You are welcome to arrive there on Friday, June 25, for some afternoon birding, or just show up for our Saturday, June 26 meeting at 11:00 a.m. in the parking lot of the Ranger Station located at the south end of Glenwood, NM. We will camp at Pueblo Park Campground, where Mountain Chickadees, Steller's Jays, and Cassin's Kingbirds are possibilities. In the past we have seen a young Northern Goshawk sitting in a tree as we drove toward the campground.

Juvenile Goshawk
(Wikipedia 2010)



We will also visit the Luna-Reserve area to look for Lewis's Woodpecker and Pinyon Jay. In

the past Prairie Dogs have been sighted in this area. Our next stop will be Luna Lake for lunch, where we hope to view ducks, such as mergansers, and a Bald Eagle. In Glenwood there is a fish hatchery which attracts Summer Tanagers and some fly-catchers. The American Dipper is also on our wish list as this water bird is known to nest on the Cat-walk trail.

On the way back to El Paso we will stop at Mangas Springs, N.M. where we may see a nesting Common Black-Hawk and Lincoln's Sparrows.

If you want to stay indoors, there are motels in Glenwood and in Reserve. Please call by June 19 if you are interested in joining this field trip.

What: Birding the Gila National Forest

When: Fri., Sat., & Sun., June 25, 26, 27

Coordinator: Ursula Sherrill, 526-7725

usherrill@miners.utep.edu

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Double Sunset, Sat., July 10

We begin at Keystone Heritage Park for this field trip around sunset in El Paso's upper valley on Sunset Drive! By now, many young birds have fledged and are exploring the world around them. Mississippi Kites, which we may also see, usually nest within the upper valley and their young may not have fledged yet. We will also search the thickets along the N-mexas Drain at the west end of Sunset where some exciting summer birds can often be spotted.

What: Double Sunset Tour

When: Sat. July 10 at 5:00 p.m.

Meet at: Keystone Heritage Park, 4200 Doniphan Drive, near Frontera Road

Coordinator: Ursula Sherrill 526-7725
usherrill@miners.utep.edu

Lincoln National Forest, July 23-25

Leave behind El Paso's heat and join us in New Mexico's majestic Sacramento Mountains! Pitch your tent at the South Fork campground (Elevation: 7500 feet), located just above Bonito Lake. Or find motel accommodations at Alto, about 10 miles away, or at Ruidoso, five miles beyond Alto.

Golden-crowned Kinglet



We will be searching for three species of Jays: Western Scrub, Pinyon, and Steller's, and also Mountain

Chickadee, Golden-crowned Kinglet and Mountain Bluebird. A Northern Pygmy-Owl has been heard at the campground in the past. The American Dipper can be found here, so, if you didn't see it near the Catwalk in the Gila National Forest in June, here's another chance! Please call by July 17 if you are interested in this field trip.

What: Lincoln National Forest

When: Fri., Sat., Sun, July 23, 24, 25

For more information: Ursula Sherrill 526-7725
usherrill@miners.utep.edu



Stellar's Jay



Cassin's Kingbird

Reservoirs in the Valley Saturday, August 7, 2010

McNary has been called the best birding location in the valley east of El Paso (Lockwood et al 1999) and is a notable haven for northern water birds, such as resident Western and Clark's grebes, Eared Grebes, pelicans, gulls, egrets, cormorants, and many species of ducks. Fort Hancock often has more open mud flats than McNary, and these attract herons and White-faced Ibis. Tornillo is also known for its winter water bird population. Land birds that have been sighted at one or more of these three reservoirs include Harris's Hawk, Northern Harrier, Ferruginous Hawk, Say's Phoebe, Loggerhead Shrike, Pyrrhuloxia, and Lark Bunting. We will have lunch at a rest stop near Tornillo under some towering Cottonwoods.

When: Sat., August 7, 7:30 a.m.

BRING LUNCH & WATER

Meet at: Feather Lake Wildlife Sanctuary, 9500 North Loop at Bordeaux in El Paso, 0.3 miles west of Americas Avenue.

Trip Coordinator Mark Perkins 637-2531

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>

El Paso/Trans-Pecos
Audubon Society
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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

Local Chapter code:

COZW100Z

Dates to Remember Call Ursula Sherrill for details 526-7725

June

Sat 5: **Feather Lake**
Sat 5: **Heron Rookery**
6 & 12: **Rio Bosque**
Mon 14: **Board Meeting**
No General Meeting
25-27: **Gila**
12 & 19: **Keystone**

July

10 & 18: **Rio Bosque**
Sat 10: **Double Sunset**
No General Meeting
23-25: **Lincoln N. Forest**
17 & 31: **Keystone**

August

Sat 7: **McNary**
Sat 7: **Feather Lake**
Mon 9: **Board Meeting**
No General Meeting
14 & 28: **Keystone**

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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