

# The Roadrunner



**Newsletter of the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society**

## El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society General Meetings

**No General Meetings June, July, or August**

### Birdathon 2014

Congratulations to all on a successful Birdathon again this year. We especially thank our sponsors and counters without whom the Birdathon would not be possible. We appreciate your participation and support for our conservation and education endeavors. Thanks, too, for our hard-working members who handle the details--Jane Fowler and Berttye Barnhart who handled the mailings.

As of May 31, our total receipts and pledges were \$5,066. There may still be a few checks yet to come in this year. The money will go to chapter operations, Feather Lake Wildlife Sanctuary, Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, Audubon Texas and Second Chance Wildlife Rescue.

Our annual potluck for Birdathon was graciously hosted by Janet and Mark Perkins. A good group was present as species seen by at least one counter were tallied. A total of 160 species were seen, compared to 167 last year.

The winners for the highest number of species seen by an individual or party were John Kiseda and Richard Hermosillo with 119. Very good! The prize for the most money raised went to John Sproul.

The most unusual birds this year were the Varied Bunting (John S.) and the Least Tern (Richard and John K.). The Long-tailed Duck regularly seen before Birdathon near Rio Bosque Wetlands Park proved bashful and was not seen on count days, but the Lilac-crowned Parrots were seen in the Upper Valley.

**A big THANK YOU to all of our participants and sponsors!**

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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).

**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?

### El Paso Urban Wildlife - Texas Parks and Wildlife

Login to **Facebook & Follow** Lois Balin's El Paso Urban Wildlife page. You will find photos, videos and accounts of many different wildlife species in our area. Best of all, see the exciting Burrowing Owl updates from Rio Bosque Wetlands Park.





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

Membership: Roxanne Schroeder, 533-0061  
Programs: Elizabeth Chase 539-1191  
Conservation: Luis Sanchez, 599-7381  
Field Trips: Mark Perkins 637-3521  
Hospitality: Janet Perkins, 637-5269  
Way & Means: vacant

## 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

Publicity: Janet Perkins, 637- 5269  
Education: Kathleen Whelen, 751-2408  
Publications: Jane Fowler, 598-2448  
Newsletter Editor: Kathleen Whelen, 751-2408  
Sanctuary: John Sproul, 545-5157

## 18th Annual Great Texas Birding Classic

Two El Paso teams participated in the Great Texas Birding Classic on May 12th, Mother's Day.

Sibling **City Flickers**, Joshua, Benjamin and Laura Ditlevson, counted for the second year in a row in the Glider Division.



The **TOS Mocking-birders**, Andrea,

Viviana and Emiliano Murga, counted for the first time this year outcompeting the City Flickers who lost 2 out of 3 members early in the day to employment commitments.



By far, the favorite species of the day was a nest of Great Horned Owls at the Fred Hervey Water Treatment plant.

## Conservation Organizations

Second Chance Wildlife Rescue  
Josie Karam (915) 920-7867

Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue  
<http://www.cdwr.org>

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

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

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/)

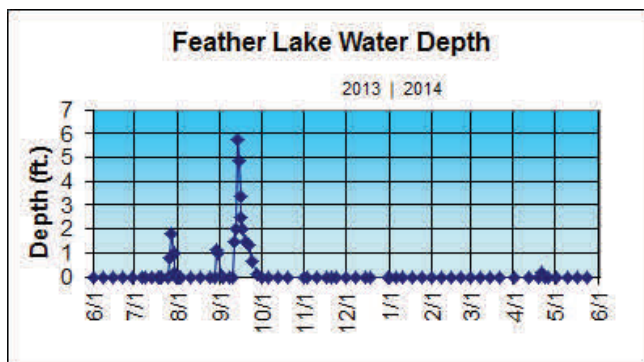
## AT FEATHER LAKE

A brief, intense storm on 19 April produced enough runoff to finally break the 6.5-month dry spell at our Feather Lake Wildlife Sanctuary. Water soon covered over half the basin, but it quickly soaked in.

By 23 April, Feather Lake was again dry. For the surviving trees at the lake, the brief flooding was welcome. Far better would be sustained flooding from above-average rainfall this summer. **C'mon, El Niño!**

Our next workday at Feather Lake takes place **Sat., June 7** starting at **8 a.m.** Not surprisingly, the April storm also washed more trash into the basin. The endless task of its removal will continue.

Feather Lake is located at 9500 North Loop at Bordeaux in El Paso, 0.3 miles west of Americas Ave.



*May is for Membership*  
JOIN AUDUBON AND WIN A BIRDER'S DREAM TRIP FOR TWO

<http://www.audubonaction.org/site/MessageViewer?>

[dlv\\_id=52361&pgwrap=n&printer\\_friendly=1&em\\_id=41801.0](http://www.audubonaction.org/site/MessageViewer?dlv_id=52361&pgwrap=n&printer_friendly=1&em_id=41801.0)

## Audubon at RIO BOSQUE WETLANDS PARK



For the first time in 12 years, water is flowing during spring almost the entire length of the main water channel at the park. For up-to-date information on the park's water conditions and birds, check [www.riobosque.org](http://www.riobosque.org).

Upcoming free walking tours:

**8 a.m., Sun., June 8 (Introductory tour)**  
**6:30 a.m., Sat., June 14 (Bird tour)**

**7 a.m. Sat., July 12 (Bird tour)**  
**8 a.m. Sun., July 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.



## Notes from the Field

### Aguirre Springs and Soledad Canyon Saturday, April 12, 2014

Thirteen of us traveled to Las Cruces and our first stop was the Farm and Ranch Museum where we had great, long looks at a **Great Horned Owl**.

From there we went to Soledad Canyon, a new area for us to go to. It's a beautiful canyon and a nice place to hike. We hiked a short distance. We had three **Towhees - Spotted, Canyon and Green-tailed**. We also had **Scaled Quail, Rock Wren and Lark Bunting**.

We then traveled down Butler Road where we stopped at the water tanks and saw several species of **sparrows**.

From there we traveled to Aguirre Springs, where we had **Black-Throated Sparrows, Plumbeous Vireos, White-crowned Sparrows and Turkey Vultures**.

We had just enough time to eat our lunch before the wind started blowing.

### Memorial and Arroyo Parks Saturday, April 26, 2014

Twelve birders joined us early in the morning on a nice day. We had five warblers - **Virginia's, Townsend's, Black-throated Gray, Yellow-rumped** and lots of **Wilson's**. We had a **Western Scrub-Jay** and **Steller's Jays**, lots of **Western Wood-Pewees** and **Warbling Vireo**.

At Arroyo Park, we had **Cactus Wren, American Kestrel, Turkey Vulture, Swainson's Hawk** and an **oriole** that some people thought might have been a **Baltimore Oriole** (it had a completely black head).

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

## Field Trips

### Saturday, June 14, 2014 Cloudcroft, New Mexico

Join us for a day trip in the tall, cool pines of Cloudcroft, NM. Some of the spots we'll bird include Karr Canyon, where the **Red-faced Warblers** nest, the town of Cloudcroft, the Lodge at Cloudcroft, Bluff Springs, and Rio Penasco Valley.

Meet at 6:30 a.m. at the Lowe's Parking Lot at 4531 Transmountain Rd., behind Taco Bell in Northeast El Paso. Bring a lunch and water.

Beginners and nonmembers are welcome.  
**Contact Mark at 637-3521.**

### Saturday, July 12, 2014 Double Sunset Birding

#### in El Paso's Upper Valley

Hopefully, we will see the **Mississippi Kites** with young, **Acorn Woodpeckers**, water birds at Keystone Heritage Park and the **Violet-crowned Parrots** coming to roost at dusk.

Meet at Keystone Heritage Park at 4200 Doniphan Drive at 6:00 p.m. Beginners and nonmembers are always welcome.

**Contact Mark Perkins at 637-3521.**





## Field Trips

### July 26 and 27, 2014 Ruidoso & Sacramento Mountains

Leave behind El Paso's heat and join us in New Mexico's Sacramento Mountains. Places we may go to bird include Upper Canyon, Cedar Creek, City Parks, Alto Lake, Buck Mountain, Cree Burn Area and the Glencoe Loop.

The cool mountain air makes this a great place to bird in the summer. Beginners and nonmembers are welcome. Call Mark Perkins for meeting place and itinerary at 637-3521.



### Saturday, August 16, 2014 Las Animas Creek

Animas Creek lies west of Caballo Lake and contains the only Arizona Sycamores east of the Continental Divide. The **Brown-crested Flycatcher** nests here and we hope to see **Summer Tanagers**, **Yellow-breasted Chats** and **Cassin's Kingbird**. We will bird this area from the road.

We'll have a possible visit to Las Palomas Marsh. Bring a lunch and water. Beginners and nonmembers are welcome. Meet at 6:00 a.m. at the southwest corner of the parking lot at the El Paso Outlet Mall at I-10 and Transmountain (Talbot Rd. entrance to the Mall). Contact Mark Perkins at 637-3521.

### NEW TRIP! Northern New Mexico Jemez Mountains and the Los Alamos area Labor Day three-day weekend August 29-September 1, 2014

Join us in the high cool mountains. We will headquarter in Los Alamos. Some of the places we will bird are Apache Springs, Jemez Falls, Bandelier National Monument, Fenton Lake and Randall Davey Audubon Center in Santa Fe.



Birds we may see are **Three-toed Woodpecker**, **Red Crossbills**, **Black Swift**, **American Dipper**, **Clark's Nuthatch**, **Gray Jays** and **Zone-tailed Hawks**.

We'll also visit the Caldera for **Elk** watching one night. Plan ahead, mark your calendars. We'll have more details soon. This trip will be limited to 20 people. Contact Mark Perkins at 637-3521.



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

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Return service request

**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

**No General Meeting**  
Sat 7: **Feather Lake Work**  
Sat 14: **Cloudcroft**  
8 & 14: **Rio Bosque**

July

**No General Meeting**  
Sat 12: **Double Sunset**  
12 & 20: **Rio Bosque**  
26 & 27: **Ruidoso**

August

**No General Meeting**  
Sat 16: **Las Animas**  
Aug. 29 - Sep 1: **Northern  
New Mexico**

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