

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 & 7
Birdathon insert	5 & 6
Calendar	8

Community Tool Sheds

Keep El Paso Beautiful, in partnership with the Paso del Norte Health Foundation, Home Depot and El Paso Fire Department, offers community tool sheds available at area fire stations.

The sheds are stocked with push brooms, shovels, rakes, a gas weed eater, gloves and trash bags for use for cleanup or beautification projects.



The items may be borrowed for no charge to the public for community cleanup projects. Information: 546-6742. Tool sheds are located at

- 5315 Threadgill
- 3801 Fort Blvd.
- 6500 N. Mesa
- 7901 San Jose
- 11977 Pellicano
- 1801 Montana
- 6300 Delta
- 10834 Ivanhoe

General Meeting
Monday, April 20, 2015
7:00 - 8:30pm
Centennial Museum, at UTEP

Birding in Puerto Rico
Eddie & Lucretia Chew



Join Lucretia and Eddie Chew as they travel through Puerto Rico, from the historic and modern city of San Juan to the rural areas, seashore, and the rain forest. Bird photographs taken by son Steve Chew, now living in New Jersey, will be shown. Many tropical birds of Central America are present in this United States territory. Their emphasis was on the 17 Puerto Rican endemic avian species (those found only on those islands).

General Meeting
Monday, May 18, 2015
7:00 - 8:30pm
Centennial Museum, at UTEP



Frontera Land Alliance
Preservation of Desert Lands
Janaé Reneaud Field

Learn about The Frontera Land Alliance's current programs, projects and partnerships with diverse partners ranging from federal, state, local, non-profits to local businesses.

In addition we will hear how a conservation easement works and watch a 9 min. video on the Conservation of Castner Range.

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.org>

FloraFEST 2015

The annual native plant sale is 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, April 25-26, at the UTEP Centennial Museum, Wiggins and University. Hundreds of nursery-grown native trees, shrubs, flowering perennials and other plants will be sold. Proceeds benefit the museum's Chihuahuan Desert Gardens. Customers may bring their own wagon carts. Admission is free.

Information: 747-5565, 747-8994 or museum.utep.edu
 This year's theme is "Celebrating West Texas" and features a series of events leading up to the sale:

- **Author Marcia Hatfield Daudistel and Curator Scott Cutler will give a guided tour of the exhibit "Authentic Texas: People of the Big Bend" at noon Tuesday, April 21.**
- **An Earth Day tour of the Chihuahuan Desert Gardens is 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 22, beginning at the museum's entrance.**
- **West Texas Urban Wildlife Biologist for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Lois Balin will lecture on "Attracting Butterflies and Hummingbirds with Native Plants" noon Wednesday, April 22, in observance of Earth Day.**

The annual FloraFEST keynote lecture is 6 p.m. Friday, April 24, in the Undergraduate Learning Center, Room 106. Gary Nored, avid photographer and blogger of the Big Bend, will present "Tough Beauty: Remarkable Plant Life of the Big Bend." Nored is a full-time volunteer for the Big Bend Ranch State Park and has written two visitor guide books for the park. Admission is free.

The Chihuahuan Desert Gardens displays about 700 different plant species and horticultural varieties of the region.

Conservation Organizations

Chihuahuan Desert Education Coalition
www.chihuahuandesert.org

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

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

El Paso Zoo 521-1850
www.elpasozoo.org

Keystone Heritage Park 581-7920
www.keystoneheritagepark.org

Asombro Institute
 (Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park)
 (575) 524-3334 www.asombro.org

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

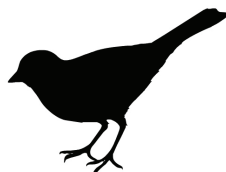
Southwest Environmental Center
 (575) 522-5552
www.wildmesquite.org

Franklin Mt. Wilderness Coalition
www.franklinmountains.org/

AT FEATHER LAKE

Runoff from a storm on March 17 flooded a small part of the Feather Lake basin. By March 19, it was gone. Still, it ended a 4.5-month dry spell and was the first time in 5 years we've had any water in the basin in March.

Groundwater conditions also remain unfavorable. On Feb 9, the water table was 9.4 feet below the dry lake bottom and approximately 17.9 feet below the ground surface in the Feather Lake area.



Our next workday at Feather Lake takes place **Sat., April 11** starting at **8 a.m.** In all likelihood, the basin will be dry, and we'll continue removing the formidable accumulations of trash that washed in last year. 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



The pipeline to Rio Bosque is complete and water deliveries from it are expected to begin May 3.

The May 9 birding tour is a perfect opportunity to see the pipeline in operation. For up-to-date information on the park's birds and water conditions, check www.riobosque.org.

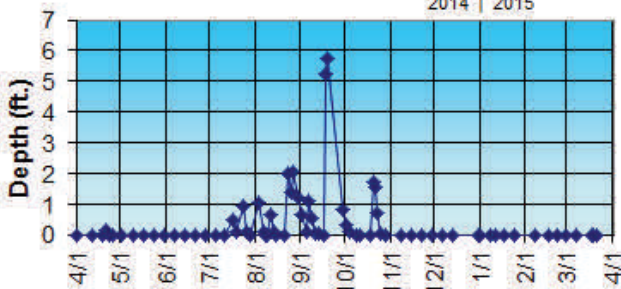
Upcoming free walking tours:

- **4 p.m., Sat., Apr 18 (Introductory tour)**
- **8 a.m., Sun., Apr 26 (Bird tour)**
- **7 a.m. Sat., May 9 (Bird tour)**
- **8 a.m. Sun., May 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.

Feather Lake Water Depth

2014 | 2015



The Audubon Website!

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

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



From the Field

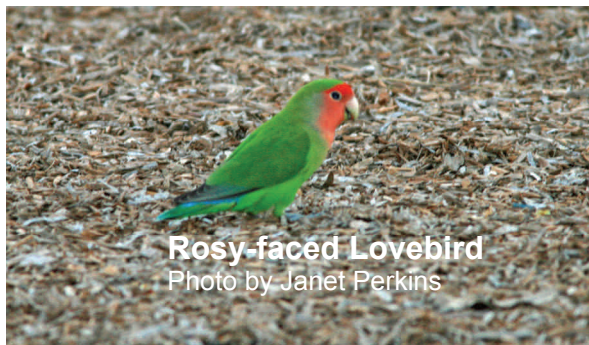
Phoenix, AZ.

February 13 -16, 2015

We had a good group of 16 people and 89 species of birds! We had great weather for the trip. Saturday morning we started off with a visit to Boyce Thompson Arboretum. We were lucky to have a guide (Barbara Buck), who did a fabulous job for us. We had a **Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher**, good looks at **Anna's Hummingbirds** at feeders, **Northern Cardinals**, and a **Hooded Merganser** in the pond.

Fay and Kathy Millett brought sandwiches from Sack's in Tempe and we had a nice picnic under the trees. After lunch, we went to Fountain Hills Lake where there's a 500-foot-tall water fountain. We saw five pair of **Hooded Mergansers**, who were performing synchronized swimming and diving - it was a fun show to watch! We also saw lots of **American Coots**, who were running (try to imagine a Coot running!) for food being offered.

Saturday night we had our group dinner at a Thai Restaurant called the Siamese Cat and it was very good, with a lot of great food and conversation.



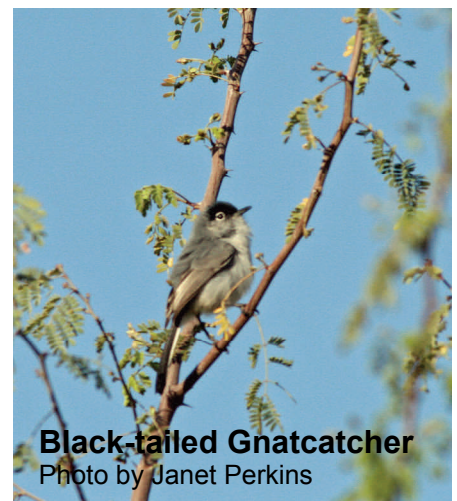
Rosy-faced Lovebird
Photo by Janet Perkins

Sunday we went to Gilbert Water Ranch where we saw **Abert's Towhee**, lots of **Verdins**, **Belted Kingfisher**, **Rosy-faced Lovebirds** (blue, green, yellow and red colors on that bird), **Sharp-shinned Hawk** and, again, more **Hooded Mergansers** (you can never see too many of these!) and lots of **ducks, egret and herons**.

We broke for lunch at Tempe Town Market, where we had a variety of lunch places to pick from. From there we headed to the west side of Phoenix to Arlington, where we had **Lesser Scaup, Burrowing Owl, White-faced Ibis, Sandhill Cranes, and Long-Billed Curlews**.

Before returning to Phoenix, we stopped at the famous Thrasher Spot, where a few of us saw the **Le Conte's Thrasher**.

On Monday morning, we went to the Papago Park and Phoenix Botanical Garden. At Papago we had lots of **Green Herons** and **Great Blue Herons**. At the Botanical Gardens, we had **Gila Woodpeckers, Gilded Flicker**, and both the **Costa's** and **Anna's hummingbirds**. We had a **Black-tailed Gnatcatcher** and **Cactus Wrens**. Several people had lifers on this trip.



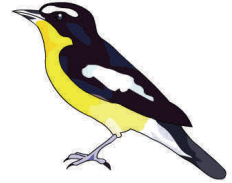
Black-tailed Gnatcatcher
Photo by Janet Perkins

Let's "Fly" into Action! Audubon's Birdathon 2015!

Birdathon counters are already "in training" in preparation for Birdathon 2015. It all takes place May 2-3.

What is Birdathon, you might ask?

One thing is for sure, it's not your average bird count or fund raiser! Birdathon is unusual and different: a wild weekend of birding and our organization's most important source of income for conservation and education programs.



We hope you can join us for a full, rewarding weekend of birding by being a **sponsor** and possibly even a counter (if you want to become part of the "Birdathon Flock" as a counter, please contact Jane Fowler at 598-2448 or Eddie Chew at 587-9589).

Birdathon 2015 will benefit the following programs and projects:

CHAPTER OPERATIONS

Your support allows our chapter to work alongside other organizations to support conservation and education.

RIO BOSQUE WETLANDS PARK

Each year, this site along the Rio Grande becomes more valuable as habitat for birds and other wildlife.

AUDUBON TEXAS

Our support helps keep National Audubon's state office an effective voice for birds, other wildlife and their habitats in Texas.

SECOND CHANCE WILDLIFE RESCUE, JOSIE KARAM

Our support helps injured or young birds to be rehabilitated and released back into the wild.

How Birdathon Works

On the weekend of **May 2-3**, our dedicated Birdathon counters will be busy scouring the countryside, trying to find as many bird species as possible, in a single 24-hour blitz. These hardy, energized and intrepid individuals will start early, stay out late, visit varied wildlife habitats and give their eyes, ears and bird knowledge a full workout. Why do they push themselves so hard? For the pleasure of a day in the field, for a test of their birding skills and **most importantly, for a better West Texas environment.**

Each counter will be backed by sponsors who pledge either a given amount for each species seen or a fixed total amount. Most counters will identify 50 to 100 species. A pledge of, say \$0.50 per species for 60 species would result in a contribution of \$30. 95% of Birdathon income goes to the programs and projects; 5% to fundraising (printing, paper and postage).

Looking for someone to sponsor for Birdathon? This year's outstanding counters are a dedicated bunch, most of whom are experienced Birdathoners. If you supported one of these people last year, please give them a call and sponsor them again. If you don't know any of the counters personally and don't know whom to choose, please give Jane (598-2448) or Eddie (587-9589) a call.

At press time, our confirmed counters for this year's Birdathon include:

Eddie Chew
Scott Cutler
John Groves

John Kiseda
Jim Paton
John Sproul

Mark Perkins
Susan Schneider
Richard Hermosillo

Laura Ditlevson
Kathy Whelen



Please pick one or more individuals and give them your support!

Birdathon 2015 POT LUCK Sunday, May 3 at 6:00 p.m.

Join us for the POST-BIRDATHON pot-luck picnic on May 3. While enjoying good food, we will be totaling all the counters' sightings, unusual birds and other events of the weekend. Those who saw the most species and raised the most money will be recognized at the May 18th General Meeting, so plan to join us then also.

Bring something to share: salad, dessert or a favorite casserole. The chapter will furnish tableware, coffee, tea, sodas, fruit juice. Everyone is invited, **sponsors, counters and chapter members**. The pot-luck picnic is Sunday, May 3 at 6:00pm at the home of Janet and Mark Perkins, 813 Montclair Drive.

Whether it's \$0.25 per species or \$1.00 per species or any given amount, we hope you will consider a pledge to Birdathon 2015. Please pick one or more counters to sponsor and return the enclosed coupon today.

Your generosity and support help make Audubon Birdathon a success.

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

BIRDATHON 2015

YES! I'll sponsor _____
for \$ ___ per species for each species she/he finds on Birdathon
2015 or for a flat amount of \$ _____.

I will add a bonus of \$ _____ if my Birdathon counter sees a

My tax deductible gift of \$ ___ sponsoring
_____ is enclosed.

Please make checks payable to
El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society.

From: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ___ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Please return this form by April 30 to:

Eddie Chew
390 Flemish Cir.
El Paso, TX 79912

Thank you for your generous Birdathon pledge! Your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law

Field Trips

Ascarate Lake & Rio Bosque Wetlands April 11, 2015



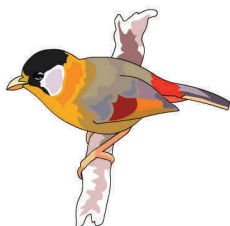
We will meet at 7:00 a.m. at the parking lot near the front entrance of Office Depot, at Geronimo and Gateway West (Bassett Center). We will go first to Ascarate Lake where there is a nominal fee for entrance. We'll be looking for **raptors, herons and egrets, diving ducks and mergansers.**

From there we will go to Rio Bosque Wetlands where **Burrowing Owls, White-tailed Kites, Harris's Hawks and Cave Swallows**, plus more have been seen.

Open to the public. Contact Mark Perkins at [915-637-3521](tel:915-637-3521) for more info.

Memorial Park & Other Hot Spots April 25, 2015

We will be looking for migrants. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at Memorial Park where we'll be looking for **warblers** and other **passerines** moving through the area.



Open to the public. Contact Mark Perkins at 915-637-3521 for more info.

Sierra Vista, Arizona May 22-25, 2015.

Join us in beautiful Sierra Vista, AZ for **hummingbirds, owls, Elegant Trogons** and many other specialties of Southeast Arizona. This trip is over the Memorial Day Weekend.



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

Spring Cactus Garden Tours

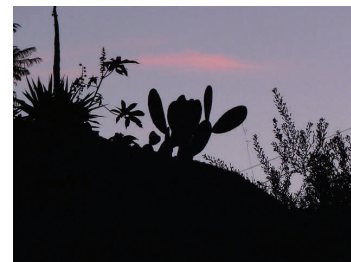
El Paso Cactus and Rock Club hosts its **Garden Tour and Plant Sale 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 11**, at various gardens that feature cactus and native plants in home landscapes.

Admission: \$5 per carload (good for all locations). Information/locations: 240-7414 or elpasodesert.com/epcrc.

Westside and Central locations featured 9 a.m. to noon. **Plants available for sale at 5738 Kingsfield location.**

Eastside and Northeast locations featured noon to 3 p.m.

Plants available for sale at 3008 Titanic location.



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

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

Return service request

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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

April

Sat 11: **Feather Lake Work**
Sat 11: **Rio Bosque & Wetlands**
8 & 14: **Rio Bosque**
Mon. 13: **Board Meeting**
Mon 20: **General Meeting**
Sat 25: **Memorial Park**

May

2 & 3: **Birdathon**
9 & 17: **Rio Bosque**
Mon 11: **Board Meeting**
Mon 18 : **General Meeting**
22-25: **Sierra Vista**

June

Mon 8: **Board Meeting**
No **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: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Mail to: EPTP Audubon P.O. Box 972441 El Paso, Texas 79997