

# The Roadrunner



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

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

**No General Meeting in August**

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**Monday, September 15, 2014 7:00pm**  
**Centennial Museum, at UTEP**

The September program was still being arranged at the time of publication. You can be sure that it will be interesting and that many wonderful people will be gathered. We hope to see you there.



### 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).

### New Castner Range Video

The Frontera Land Alliance, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Franklin Mountains Wilderness Coalition have teamed up using grant funds to produce a video by Jackson Polk to assist in conserving Castner Range. All involved hope to preserve the natural areas, wildlife corridors and natural springs that occur on Castner Range, Fort Bliss.

Watch the video on YouTube (<http://youtube/OuTfrfGO-84>)

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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?

## 10th Annual Chihuahuan Desert Fiesta

The 10th Annual Chihuahuan Desert Fiesta on **Saturday, Sept. 20, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.**, promises to attract hundreds of people again this year as the community celebrates the natural wonders of our desert and Franklin Mountains State Park.



Sponsored by Texas Parks and Wildlife, it takes place at the **Tom Mays Unit** of Franklin Mountains State Park. Park staff, members of the Chihuahuan Desert Education Coalition, and other environmental education groups will be on hand to offer free demonstrations, guided tours, guest speakers, music and informational booths designed to introduce the curious to the wonders of our fascinating desert.



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

The Texas Ornithological Society has invited El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon to host TOS's Winter 2015 Meeting in El Paso.

The tentative date is January 15-18, 2015 (Martin Luther King holiday weekend). In order for the Board to be able to decide if this is feasible, we would need to know how many people would be willing to volunteer and help put this on.



We would be responsible for arranging the local hotel, banquet, and meeting rooms for the event, taking registration forms and fees, organizing local field trips and making sure participants know where to go.

If you would be able to help the Board in organizing some or all of these activities, please e-mail me at scottmcutler@sbcglobal.net. During our next Board meeting we will be reviewing this opportunity and deciding if we have the resources to do it.



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

Keystone Heritage Park 581-7920
www.keystoneheritagepark.org

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/

A Position Against Free-roaming Domestic Cats

Your voice is needed to support the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to encourage the establishment of an agency-wide position, and to ensure that America's wildlife is protected from the growing number of free-roaming cats in the U.S.

TAKE ACTION HERE! (https://secure2.convio.net/abcb/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=173)

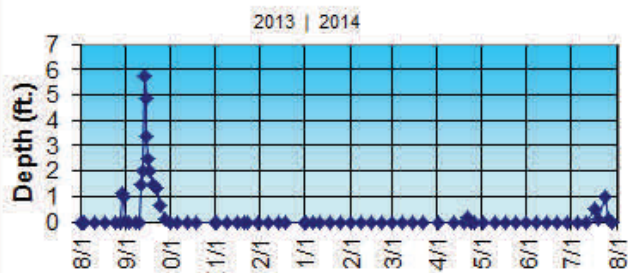
## AT FEATHER LAKE

A series of storms in mid-to-late July again brought water to Feather Lake. Not a lot of water, but enough to flood 2/3 of the basin briefly. The surviving trees got their first good drink of the summer. By month's end, the lake was again dry. Due to the dry conditions and the lowered water table, the Feather Lake basin is a sponge these days, quickly absorbing any water that comes its way.

Our next workday at Feather Lake takes place **Sat., August 9**, starting at **8 a.m.** Once again, we have a fresh accumulation of trash the recent storms washed in from upstream.

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

Feather Lake Water Depth



## Audubon at RIO BOSQUE WETLANDS PARK



Water continues to flow almost the entire length of Rio Bosque's main water channel for the first time in 12 years, but the only water reaching the wetland cells is still coming entirely from the park's two windmills.

Next year, that could change. Work on a pipeline to enable direct delivery of water from the Roberto Bustamante Wastewater Treatment Plant to the wetland cells is scheduled to begin in mid-August [update: now early September] and be complete by the end of the year. 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., August 3 (Introductory tour)**  
**8 a.m., Sun., August 17 (Bird tour)**

**8 a.m., Sat., September 6 (Bird tour)**  
**8 a.m., Sun., Sept. 14 (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.**

### 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>

## Notes from the Field

### Sierra Vista, AZ, Memorial Day Weekend, May 23-26, 2014.

Approximately 30 birders converged on Sierra Vista for a three-day weekend of nonstop birding. The trip has been dubbed the "baby bird trip" because of the large number of fledglings and young we saw. Despite the large group, everything went very smoothly. We were aided by Eddie Chew and Fay Millett, who were both very helpful. We arrived Friday mid-day and went straight to Miller Canyon, where we saw the **Spotted Owl** and one young. We saw the male nearby. At the hummingbird feeders we were lucky enough to have good looks at the **White-eared Hummingbird**, plus other species. That evening, we split into two groups - one going to Mary Jo Ballator's B&B, where we had a **Hooded Oriole** and many others, and Battiste's B&B, where we had the **Elf Owl**, the **Acorn Woodpecker** and an **Anna's Hummingbird**.



Spotted Owl  
Dave Peveto

Saturday morning we went to Ramsey Canyon, where we had **Wild Turkeys**, **Painted Redstarts**, **Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher** and **Hepatic Tanager**. We broke for lunch and then went to San Pedro House, where we saw nesting **Curve-billed Thrasher**, young **Vermilion Flycatchers** being fed by their parents, **Yellow-breasted Chat**, **Bronzed Cowbird** and **Blue Grosbeaks**, among others. Saturday night we had our group dinner at the Country House Family Restaurant and everyone seemed to enjoy it. We had an early start Sunday and drove to Patagonia to Paton's House, which is now a protected birding area thanks to everyone who donated money (including El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society) in order to preserve it for future genera-



Montezuma Quail  
J. Perkins

tions. There we had **White-breasted Nuthatches** feeding their young on tree trunks, great looks at **Summer Tanagers**, **Abert's Towhee**, **Northern Cardinal**, **Black-headed Grosbeak**, among others. We had lunch on the Sonoita Preserve where we hiked and saw a **Gray Hawk** with an immature and several flycatchers. On our drive to the famous reststop, we saw a baby **Zone-tailed Hawk** on the nest. At the reststop we saw the **Thick-billed Kingbird** and a **Zone-tailed Hawk**. Our caravan of cars had an additional treat of fording a creek.

We birded at Kino Springs and went back to Sierra Vista. Tony Battiste took us to a location where we could see **Montezuma Quail**. The group had to stand still and be quiet for an hour and a half waiting for the quail to come up to the feeder, but they did come and we all had great views and took all the pictures we wanted to! We also saw the **Botteri's Sparrow** near where we saw the Montezuma Quail. We then went over to see the **Great Horned Owl** with young at the Lowe's Garden Center and to a church to see the nesting **Harris's Hawk**. Monday we were up early at Ft. Huachuca Canyon where we saw the **Elegant Trogon**, more **Montezuma Quail**, **Plumbeous Vireo**, and **Mexican Jays**. We had a total of 86 species. Other species seen were **Coues's Deer**, **Leopard Frogs** and **Desert Spiny Lizard**. We couldn't have asked for better weather (not too hot). Great trip!

## Field Trips

### 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 Nutcracker, Gray Jays** and **Zone-tailed Hawks**.

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

### Saturday, September 20, 2014 Reservoirs Down the Valley



We will begin at Rio Bosque and work our way down the Valley, hoping to see lots of migrating birds, waterfowl, hawks and others. Bring a lunch, water and binoculars.

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

Nonmembers and beginners are welcome. Contact Mark Perkins at 637-3521.

12<sup>th</sup> Annual



## Butterfly Flutterby

at the  
Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park

56501 N. Jornada Rd, Las Cruces

August 16 9 a.m. - noon

Butterfly Landscaping
What Butterfly Is That?

Learn how to attract butterflies to your backyard!

For the kids: Face Painting, Butterfly Arts & Crafts, & Games!

Fun for all ages!

\$3 admission



Meet local children's book author  
**Patricia Mihok!**

For more information and directions  
 (575) 524-3334  
[www.asombro.org](http://www.asombro.org)

The Asombro Institute for Science Education (home of the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to increasing scientific literacy by fostering an understanding of the Chihuahuan Desert.

El Paso/Trans-Pecos  
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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

3 & 17: **Rio Bosque**  
Sat 9: **Feather Lake Work**  
Mon. 11: **Board Meeting**  
**No General Meeting**  
Sat 16: **Las Animas Ck.**  
Aug. 29 - Sep 1: **Northern  
New Mexico**

September

Mon 8: **Board Meeting**  
Mon 15: **General Meeting**  
Sat 20: **Reservoirs**  
6 & 14 : **Rio Bosque**

October

Mon 13: **Board Meeting**  
Mon 20: **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  
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