



The Roadrunner

Newsletter of the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

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The e-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.

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Website!

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

www.trans-pecos-audubon.com



General Meetings
Centennial Museum at UTEP
500 W. University Ave
El Paso, Texas

No August Meeting

Monday, September 16, 2019 7:00pm



The topic and speaker for the September meeting is still being arranged. Check the website or your email to find out details, which will be posted soon.

The general meetings are always a good time to learn something new, connect with friends and share your summer birding adventures with your fellow birders.

Bird watching at Hueco Tanks State Park

More than 200 species of birds have been sighted at Hueco Tanks. Look for birds in the self-guided area or on the monthly birding tour.

- Call (512) 389-8911 for a reservation to visit the self-guided area.
- Join a birding tour on the third Saturday of each month. Reservations are required; call (915) 849-6684.
- Dress for the desert: sunblock, hat, hiking boots and the right clothes for the weather.
- Stay on trails and respect wildlife's space.
- Do not feed wildlife.

Hueco Tanks State Park & Historic Site's 25th Annual Interpretive Fair

Saturday, October 19th and Sunday, October 20th, 2019 from 10 am to 4 pm. For the past 25 years Hueco Tanks has opened its gates to thousands of visitors during this event with hopes of inspiring an appreciation for our region through recreational and educational tours, presentations, and performances.

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: Kevin Floyd, 613-6354
Education: Kathleen Whelen, 820-1895
Field Trips:
Hospitality: vacant
Membership: Elizabeth Chase, 539-1191
Newsletter Editor: Kathleen Whelen, 820-1895
Programs: Susie Schneider, 542-3041
Publications: Jane Fowler, 598-2448
Publicity: vacant
Sanctuary: John Sproul, 545-5157
Website: vacant
Facebook: Kevin Floyd, 613-6354

**The Audubon
 Foundation of
 Texas**



represents Texas
 Audubon chapters in the Earth Share of Texas
 payroll deduction plan for charitable giving.

CHIHUAHUAN DESERT CONFERENCE

On November 6-8, the El Paso Zoo will host a conference on the Chihuahuan Desert.



It will celebrate the opening of the new Chihuahuan Desert exhibit at the zoo, and the conference goal will be to facilitate collaboration in the Chihuahuan Desert and share what we are learning from current and recent research projects, conservation initiatives and educational programs.

The deadline for abstracts is September 1. Registration (\$130 through Oct 1, \$150 after) is now open.

For more information, to register, or to submit an abstract: <https://greaterbigbend.wordpress.com/chihuahuan-desert-conference/>.

Conservation Organizations

Chihuahuan Desert Education Coalition
www.chihuahuandesert.org

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

El Paso Zoo (915) 212-0966
www.elpasozoo.org

Stick House Sanctuary
<https://www.facebook.com/epwildliferescue>
 (915) 219-2365

Keystone Heritage Park 581-7920
www.keystoneheritagepark.com

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/

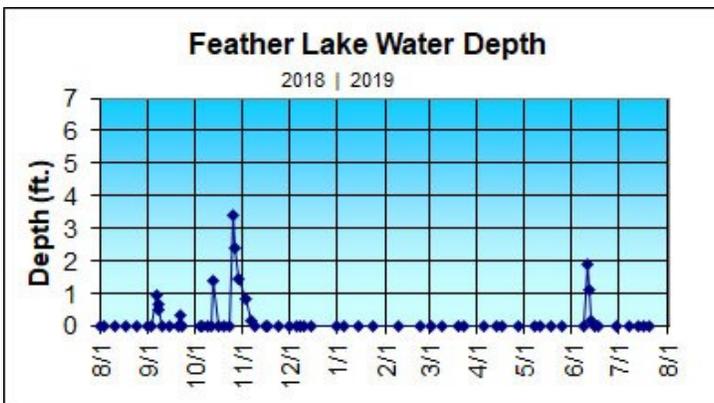
Celebration of Our Mountains
www.celebmtns.org

AT FEATHER LAKE

Following a storm on June 10, Feather Lake got its first significant inflow of runoff for the year. On June 11, water depth at the inlet was 1.9 feet, and approximately 60% of the basin was flooded. But it all soaked in quickly. By June 15, the basin was again dry. Since then, limited areas near the lake's inlet and outlet have been flooded intermittently with irrigation water discharged into the Mesa Drain and the Mesa Drain Interceptor.

On June 15 and 30, Boy Scouts from Troop 4 put in 2 more work sessions clearing the trail along the east side of Feather Lake and installing a border of cottonwood logs. Many thanks to Eagle Scout candidate Nathan Perez and his fellow scouts for completing a successful project. One week later, the scouts returned, this time to the Feather Lake II basin adjacent to Feather Lake, to begin a project removing young saltcedars from within the basin under the leadership of Eagle Scout candidate Christopher Torres.

Our next workday will be **Sat., August 10**, starting at **8 a.m.** Needless to say, the runoff from that June 10 storm washed a healthy new accumulation of trash into the basin. Feather Lake is located at 9500 North Loop at Bordeaux in El Paso, 0.3 miles west of Americas Ave.



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

Audubon at

Rio Bosque
 Wetlands Park



It has been an eventful summer at Rio Bosque: Yellow-billed Cuckoos, nesting Western Screech-Owls, nesting Northern Cardinals, lots of Painted Buntings. Now the first southbound migrants are starting to appear. For up-to-date information on Rio Bosque's birds and water conditions, check www.riobosque.org.

Upcoming free walking tours:

- 8 a.m., Sun., August 11 (Introductory tour)**
- 8 a.m., Sat., August 24 (Birding tour)**
- 8 a.m., Sat., September 7 (Birding tour)**
- 8 a.m., Sun., September 15 (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



Field Trips

Bird List for Chiricahua Mountains Field Trip May 17-20, 2019

Turkey Vulture
Swainson's Hawk
Scaled Quail
White-winged Dove
Inca Dove
Band-tailed Pigeon
Great Horned Owl
Elegant Trogon
Broad-billed Hummingbird
Rivoli Hummingbird
Acorn Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Ladder-backed Woodpecker
Western Wood-Pewee
Say's Phoebe
Brown-crested Flycatcher
Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher
Western Kingbird
Chihuahuan Raven

Steller's Jay
Juniper Titmouse
Brown Creeper
Cactus Wren
Eastern Bluebird
Hermit Thrush
Grace's Warbler
Yellow-breasted Chat
Hepatic Tanager
Northern Cardinal
Black-headed Grosbeak
Canyon Towhee
White-crowned Sparrow
Hooded Oriole
Bullock's Oriole
Bronzed Cowbird
Red-winged Blackbird
Lesser Goldfinch
House Sparrow

Red-tailed Hawk
Gambel's Quail
Wild Turkey
Mourning Dove
Eurasian Collared-Dove
Greater Roadrunner
White-throated Swift
Barn Swallow
Blue-throated Hummingbird
Black-chinned Hummingbird
Arizona Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Black Phoebe
Dusky-capped Flycatcher
Ash-throated Flycatcher
Violet-green Swallow
Plumbeous Vireo
Mexican Jay

Bridled Titmouse
White-breasted Nuthatch
Verdin
House Wren
American Robin
Curve-billed Thrasher
Painted Redstart
Western Tanager
Summer Tanager
Pyrrhuloxia
Spotted Towhee
Black-throated Sparrow
Yellow-eyed Junco
Scott's Oriole
Great-tailed Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird
House Finch
Pine Siskin



44th Annual WFO Conference
Albuquerque, New Mexico • August 21-25, 2019

WESTERN FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS 44TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Registration is now open for the annual conference of the Western Field Ornithologists (WFO). Last day to register is **August 15**. The conference takes place **August 21-25** in Albuquerque, NM. Conference headquarters will be the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Workshops, science sessions, and field trips (lots of field trips) are on the schedule. Visit the WFO website to register and to view the schedule and full details:

www.westernfieldornithologists.org

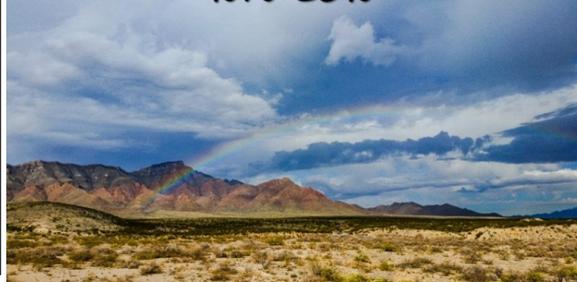
Celebration of Our Mountains, a non-profit/501c3 organization, is currently running a gofundme campaign. Please check out www.gofundme/donate-to-celebration-of-our-mountains.

For 25 years now COM has led educational and recreational field trips into our mountains, desert and wetlands. For more information, please see www.celebmtns.org.

15TH ANNUAL CHIHUAHUAN DESERT FIESTA



Celebrating 40 Years of Conservation
in the Franklin Mountains
1979-2019



Join us to...

- Celebrate the park's 40th anniversary.
- Discover the wonders of our mountains.
- Enjoy educational exhibits, guided hikes, demonstrations, and outdoors activities.

September 28, 2019

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Franklin Mountains
State Park - Tom Mays Unit
2900 Tom Mays Access Road
El Paso, TX 79911

Information: 915-566-6441

<http://chihuahuandesert.org>

Free Entrance!

REAL GEMS

The North American Classification Committee of the American Ornithological Society (AOS) recently released the 60th supplement to the AOS's Check-list of North and Middle American Birds. The report summarizes changes the committee made in the check-list between 15 April 2018 and 15 April 2019. Some of the changes are mundane, some memorable. Here are a few with particular relevance for Trans-Pecos Texas:

- The English names for Common Ground-Dove and Ruddy Ground-Dove are changed ... to Common Ground Dove and Ruddy Ground Dove. The committee removed the hyphens from the names of 5 ground dove species to conform to its guidelines for English names. To merit the coveted hyphen, these 5 species would have to form a monophyletic group – a group consisting of the common ancestor of all the members as well as all descendants of that ancestor – which they do not.
- Genetic studies have led to more changes in the linear sequence of species on the check-list, most notably in the Cuculidae (cuckoos), the *Charadrius* plovers, the Hirundinidae (swallows) and the Passerellidae (new world sparrows).
- Six warblers formerly assigned to the genus *Oreothlypis* are now assigned to the new genus *Leiothlypis*: Tennessee Warbler (*L. peregrina*), Orange-crowned Warbler (*L. celata*), Colima Warbler (*L. crissalis*), Lucy's Warbler (*L. luciae*), Nashville Warbler (*L. ruficapilla*) and Virginia's Warbler (*L. virginiae*).
- Finally, two *Lampornis* hummingbirds with West Texas ties – Blue-throated Hummingbird and Amethyst-throated Hummingbird – have new English names to bring them in line with the other species in that genus. The Blue-throated Hummingbird is an uncommon summer resident and nesting species in mountains of the Big Bend region. In recent years, individuals have also visited yards of some fortunate residents in El Paso's upper valley. The Amethyst-throated Hummingbird was documented for the first time in the U.S. and Texas in October 2016 when a juvenile male appeared in the Davis Mountains. Their new names? Blue-throated Mountain-gem and Amethyst-throated Mountain-gem!

Interested in Birding the Mountains of Colombia, South America?

Colombia is a land of incredible bird diversity with over 1,900 species, many found nowhere else on earth. By some accounts, it has the most bird species of any place on earth. The El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society will be offering a 10-day trip to Colombia from February 29th to March 9th, 2020. The excursion will visit mid and high elevation sites in the eastern and central mountain ranges of the Andes mountains. With an expert guide, we will have the opportunity to see stunning examples of the avifauna of the region and have ample opportunities to watch and photograph them.

You can read more about this trip (itinerary, pricing, sign up, etc.) at the Holbrook Travel site below. Additionally, \$200 of your trip fee will be donated to the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society to support their conservation and education activities. A \$200 deposit will reserve your spot. Final payment is due by November 26th, 2019.

<https://www.holbrooktravel.com/where-we-travel/americas/colombia/colombia-birding-el-paso-transpecos-audubon-society>

If you have any questions about this trip, please call Scott Cutler at 915-494-2193.

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

Return service request

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
El Paso, Texas
Permit #2440

**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 97194
Washington, DC 20090-7194**

Local Chapter Code **C1ZW100Z**

Dates to Remember

August

Sat 10: **Feather Lake Workday**
Mon 12: **Board Meeting**
No General Meeting
11 & 24: **Rio Bosque**
21 & 25: **WFO Conference**
22-25: **Davis Mountains**

Hummingbird Celebration

September

Mon 9: **Board Meeting**
Mon 16: **General Meeting**
7 & 15: **Rio Bosque**
Sat 28: **Chihuahuan
Desert Fiesta**
Sat 21: **Hueco Tanks**

October

Mon 14: **Board Meeting**
Mon 21: **General Meeting**
19 & 20: **Hueco Tanks**



www.trans-pecos-audubon.com

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