

# The Roadrunner

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

**General Meetings will resume in September**  
at UTEP Centennial Museum the corner of Wiggins and University

### Inside the Roadrunner

Chapter Info	2
Sanctuary News	3
General info	4
Field Trips	5
Calendar	6

### Save the Arroyos Exhibit at the Hal Marcus Gallery



Just in time to capture this year's spectacular bloom of desert willow and palo verde trees, the Plein-air Painters of El Paso will be out in the field to capture the beauty of the

Charlie Wakeem/Richard Teschner Nature Preserve of Resler Canyon.

These artists work out-of-doors, or as the French say "en plein air," to render the momentary effects of shifting clouds and sunlight. They live and delight in the varied landscape of the Chihuahuan Desert.

These painting expeditions are leading up to the "Save the Arroyos" Exhibit opening at the Hal Marcus Gallery July 27th, 7 to 9 PM. \* The gallery has put out an open call for art: everyone -- professional artists, amateurs and nature enthusiasts -- is invited to submit an entry for the show! Deadline for submission is June 17th. \* Visit <http://www.halmarcus.com/> and click on "Upcoming Events" for more details. The show will benefit The Frontera Land Alliance, our local land trust.\*

\*The Hal Marcus Gallery is located at 800 N. Mesa in downtown El Paso. Open Tuesday - Saturday 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM and by appointment. For more information, please call (915) 533-9090.

### Thank you

Dr. David Carmichael for the presentation of Native Plants and Indigenous People of the Chihuahuan Desert.

**Thank you Lois Balin** for the stunning slide presentation of the birds of Ecuador.

See Life Paulagics will be running a bird & marine life pelagic trip on Sept 16, 2006.

For more info  
<http://www.paulagics.com>




Set YOUR calendars for the  
2006 El Paso Zoo

### Back-to-School Bug-Out & Insect Expo!

Our annual back-to-school Bug Festival is set for  
Saturday August 5th & Sunday August 6, 2006!

Tentative event time is scheduled 10am-4pm  
Special admission prices pending.



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: open  
 Vice President: Bob Johnson, 757-1876  
 Secretary: Lucretia Chew, 587-9589  
 Treasurer: Eddie Chew, 587-9589

**Committees**

Education: open  
 Ways & Means: Flora Pittard, 852-2353  
 Field Trips: Bob Johnson, 757-1876  
 Publicity: Kathy Kiseda, 533-4615  
 Hospitality: Scott Cutler, 581-6071  
 Newsletter Editor: Kathleen Whelen, 751-2408

Feather Lake: John Sproul, 545-5147  
 Membership: Roxanne Schroeder, 533-0061  
 Conservation: open  
 Programs: Ursula Sherrill, 526-7725  
 Special Events: open  
 Projects: Carol Maxwell-Moreno, 593-0967

**Audubon Chapter T-Shirts**

The long awaited, highly anticipated, and truly beautiful chapter t-shirt is now available for purchase. The shirt displays a grouping of some local birds, not found in most other places.

A great t-shirt makes a wonderful gift. Wearing it, advertises the chapter and your concerns for wildlife.

Proceeds from the sales of the shirts will help to offset the costs of various chapter initiatives, such as our education and conservation projects, & is thus a gift to wildlife as well as to yourself or a loved one.

For more information, call Flora Pittard at 852-2353

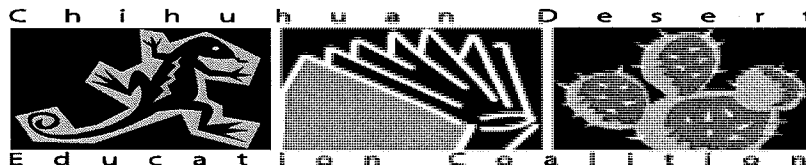
**The El Paso Trans-Pecos Audubon Society gratefully acknowledges the following memorial gifts:**

In memory of Sheri Elizando from Darius Boman, Bill and Terri Cornell, Anna McLaughlin, Lucila and Richard Menchaca, Victor and Bertha Morales, Veronica Ortega, Dolores and Allen Phillips, Robin Ricart, and Rosemary Telles.

Sheri was a Registered Nurse with the City-County Health District and an Audubon member.

In memory of Geth White from Mary Bailey and Margaret McDaniel. The memorials will be used for environmental education and conservation in the El Paso area.

Geth White was instrumental in starting the Audubon chapter in El Paso (there had previously been a bird club). She was an accomplished and avid birder. Geth was always willing to courteously share her knowledge of birds with others.



**Chihuahuan Desert Education Coalition  
 Garage Sale**

**Saturday, June 3, 2006 8am to 2pm**

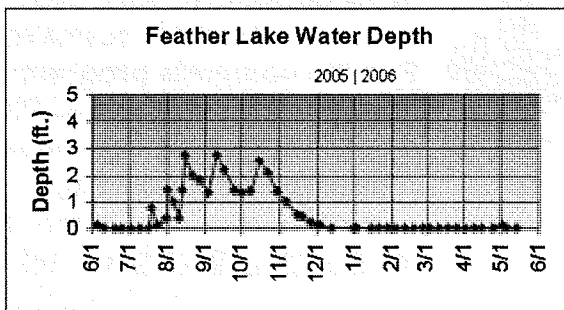
Help the Chihuahuan Desert Education Coalition (CDEC) in its efforts to educate people about the wonders of the Chihuahuan Desert here in El Paso and throughout the region. CDEC will have a garage sale fundraiser on June 3, from 8am to 2pm at 913 Totonaca Lane in West El Paso. To reach the garage sale take I-10 to Redd Road. Go east on Redd towards the Franklins and watch for Applebee's on the right. After you pass Applebee's turn left on Medano. Go down to the second street and turn right on Totonaca. If you get lost call 474-1456.

## AT FEATHER LAKE

The long dry spell at our Feather Lake Wildlife Sanctuary continues. The central part of the basin has been partially flooded with irrigation water on several occasions the past 2 months, but each time the water has quickly disappeared. For the most part, the lake has been dry for over 5 months now. In several places along the shore, cottonwoods, willows and tornillos are looking severely stressed.

For the past 3.5 years, Feather Lake has been dry as often as it has been flooded, and many of the dry spells have been during periods when our sanctuary is normally open to the public. Conversely, the lake has often held water during periods when we're normally closed, especially August and September. This year, to expand public-use opportunities, we plan to open in September rather than the usual October opening. If we have water, that is.

You'll have two chances to check out Feather Lake this summer. Our upcoming workdays are **Sat., June 3** and **Sat., July 29**. On both dates, the gates will open at **8 a.m.**, but come any time during the day to help out. Feather Lake is located at 9500 North Loop at Bordeaux, 0.3 miles west of Americas Ave.



## RIO BOSQUE WETLANDS PARK

Each month, UTEP offers walking tours and other activities at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, 4 miles from Feather Lake.

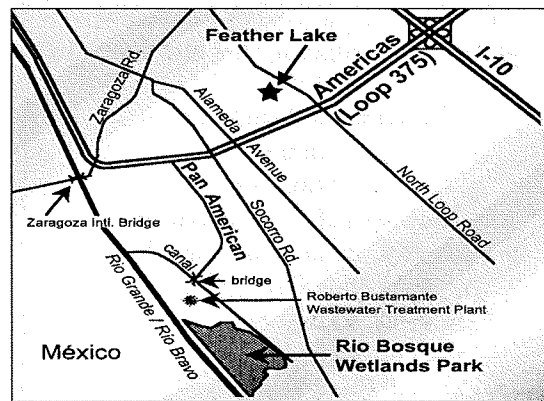
Coming up:

- 8 a.m. Sun., June 4 (Bird tour)
- 9 a.m. Sat., June 10 (Introductory tour)
- 8 a.m. Sat., June 17 (Workday)
- 8 a.m. Sat., June 24 (Faunal monitoring)
- 8 a.m. Sat., July 8 (Bird tour)
- 8 a.m. Sat., July 15 (Workday)
- 8 a.m. Sat., July 22 (Faunal monitoring)
- 8 a.m. Sat., July 23 (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.

Web: [riobosque.org](http://riobosque.org)



### Sign up as an Albertsons/El Paso Trans-Pecos Audubon Society Partner

Mail to: EPTP Audubon Society, c/o Kathy Kiseda 404 Kenyon Joyce Lane, El Paso, TX 79902

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

ALBERTSONS PREFERRED SAVINGS CARD NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

**WANTED: Keystone Site  
'New' Bird Species Sightings  
REWARD: \$15/ first sighting!**

John Kiseda

Well, the Keystone site bird checklist now stands at 191 species, & I wanted to continue to add an incentive to get some more birders to go out and help add some new species to the list, especially since our Spring migration is ongoing!

For each new species that is observed by someone else, for the list to reach the 200 species level, I will donate \$15 in cash &/or birding or similar equipment [they don't have any optics or field guides for visitors/volunteer use] to Keystone Heritage Park, Inc. [KHP]. 'Proof of Sightings' can be discussed with me, on a case by case basis.

The bird's listed below are some of the more likely species that may be found at the site, but there are other less likely or more difficult to identify species, as well [review the site's checklist on the KHP or EP/T-P Audubon websites, to determine which additional species have not been seen at the site].

Hopefully this 'incentive' to help the Keystone group, will spur you to visit Keystone in the next few weeks & more frequently overall, and help 'build-up' the bird checklist!

Eurasian collared dove  
Barn owl  
Calliope hummer  
Any Empidonax genus flycatcher,  
such as Cordilleran flycatcher  
& Willow flycatcher  
Cassin's kingbird  
ANY vireo  
Rock wren  
Lucy's warbler  
ANY waterthrush  
Any tanager  
Hooded oriole  
Scott's oriole  
Indigo bunting  
Painted bunting  
American goldfinch  
Bronzed cowbird

**EL PASO NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY**  
THE CENTENNIAL MUSEUM on the UTEP CAMPUS

Friday, August 11<sup>th</sup> - Sunday, August 13<sup>th</sup>  
**ONE DESERT, TWO COUNTRIES, THREE  
STATES: PLANTS OF THE NORTHERN  
CHIHUAHUAN DESERT REGION**

The El Paso chapter of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico will host its Annual Meeting on the campus of UTEP. **Registration is open but limited to a first registered, first served basis.**

This will give El Pasoans the opportunity to experience their choice of 24 workshops and seminars, 11 different field trips, and an entertaining banquet at one of our finer eateries, all presented by some of the most knowledgeable and talented "green folks" that the southwest has to offer.

Three different presentation 'tracks' are scheduled; Conservation/Education, Plant Uses, & Botany. So whether you are just beginning to dream about converting your home's landscape, are curious about our native plants, interested in regional conservation issues, or have a developed interest in botany, there will be a lot of fun, entertaining and informative activities for all levels of interest.



**NON MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED  
TO PARTICIPATE**  
For the complete program & registration form, see the Native Plant Society of New Mexico website,  
<http://npsnm.unm.edu>  
Or call or e-mail Marshall Carter-Tripp at  
[carter-tripp@earthlink.net](mailto:carter-tripp@earthlink.net)

<http://www.gbarnett.com/eptpas/eptpashome.html>

El Paso Audubon Online supplements the Roadrunner and includes information about upcoming field trips, a calendar of upcoming events, recent bird sightings and an updated list of birding links to the Internet. Make bird sighting reports at: [ElPasoBirdAlert@gbarnett.com](mailto:ElPasoBirdAlert@gbarnett.com)

# FIELD

## EGRETS / HERONS

On this field trip we hope to get some good looks at **Snowy Egrets**, **Cattle Egrets** and **Black-crowned Night-Herons** sitting in their nests with young. Then we will move on and maybe see **Harris's Hawks** and **Burrowing Owls**.

**Date:** Sat. June 10  
**Time:** 7:15 AM  
**Place:** Meet at Feather Lake,  
 9500 North Loop Dr.  
**Leader:** Bob Johnson 757-1876  
 bobwildbirderj@cs.com



## KEYSTONE HERITAGE PARK BIRDS

What: Birding tour led by El Paso Audubon

When: 8:00 a.m. Saturday, June 24

Where: Keystone Heritage Park  
 (off Doniphan near Frontera)

Bring: binoculars (we have a few to loan)

Eddie Chew (915)587-9589

[Lchew@srv.net](mailto:Lchew@srv.net)

Summary: Keystone Heritage Park has over 180 species of migratory and local birds, and a 4,500-year-old archaeological site. See a variety of ducks and shore-birds, plus young Avocets and Stilts. Young and "beginner" birders welcome.

Field Trips are FREE.

# TRIPS

## DOUBLE SUNSET

This will be a **SUNSET** Tour, the sun will set about 8:10 PM, along **SUNSET Dr.** Many young birds are now fledged and out learning how to survive. A number of **Mississippi Kites** have nests within the area and the young probably will not have fledged yet. We always see some great birds in the thickets along the Nemexas Drain at the west end of Sunset Drive. To end a great trip a stop in Mary Lou's backyard BIRD SANCTUARY.

**DATE:** Sunday July 9th  
**TIME:** 5:15 PM  
**PLACE:** Crossroad Pond Area,  
 Corner Mesa, Doniphan, Country Club Rd

## LINCOLN NATIONAL FOREST

**JULY 14, 15, & 16.** A wonderful weekend in the Sacramento Mountains, what a chance to get away from the heat in El Paso. Pitch your tent at South Fork (Elev. 7500'), a very nice National Forest campground, located just above Bonito Lake. For those wanting more comfortable accomadations, it's only 10 miles to Alto and another 5 to downtown Ruidoso, where you will find many nice places to put your head down.

Birds that could be seen; 3 species of **Jays**, **Mountain Chickadee**, **Golden-crowned Kinglet** and **Mountain Bluebird**. **Northern Pygmy Owl** could be heard in the camp area. Extra effort will be made to find **American Dipper**, it has been cooperative in the past.

Just because July 14th is in the heading, its a Friday, don't let it stop you from coming up Sat. You must let Bob (757-1876) know if you think you will be going as I need at least 5 others to make it a worthwhile trip.

e-mail <[bobwildbirderj@cs.com](mailto:bobwildbirderj@cs.com)>

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

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

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 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

W10  
 Local Chapter Code  
**7XCHA**

**Dates to Remember Call Bob Johnson for details 757-1876**

June

Sat 3: Feather Lake  
 Sat 3: Garage Sale  
 4,10,17,24: Rio Bosque  
 Sat 10: Heron Rookery  
 Sat 24: Keystone  
 Sun 18: Hueco Tanks  
 Sat 17: Arroyo Art

July

8,15,22,23: Rio Bosque  
 No Board Meeting  
 Sun 9: Double Sunset  
 14,15 & 16: Lincoln N. F.  
 Sun 16: Hueco Tanks  
 No General Meeting  
 Thurs 27: Arroyo Exhibit  
 Sat 29: Feather Lake

August

5 & 6: Back 2 Bug-out  
 11-13: Native Plant Conf.  
 Mon 14: Board Meeting  
 No General Meeting  
 20: Hueco Tanks

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**

Printed by Superior Copy