

# The Roadrunner



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

**Trans-Pecos Audubon Society  
General Meeting  
EPCC Rio Grande Campus  
Building 4010, in Room 119  
September 20, 2010 7:00pm**

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### Presentation by Scott Cutler

#### Big Bangs and Monumental Moves: Geological Events in the El Paso Area

The El Paso area has some remarkable geologic features that are easy to see. Come join us on Monday, September 20, 2010, when Scott Cutler, Curator of Collections and Exhibits at the Centennial Museum will introduce some of the more visible geology of the El Paso area that explains the whys and hows of the geologic features we see today.



### 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).



### Special Thanks

Dennis Wendt, a local photographer and member of El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society, has donated to us a large quantity of his photographic portraits of hummingbirds for our use in fundraising efforts, for advertising, or any other purposes deemed appropriate. His beautiful portraits will be available for purchase at upcoming events and all proceeds will benefit El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society and the various projects that our organization supports. We would like to thank Mr. Wendt for this generous gift.

**General meetings are held at the Rio Grande Campus of El Paso Community College, 100 West Rio Grande, corner of West Rio Grande and Oregon, Building 4010, in Room 119.**

**There is parking behind the building on Oregon Street and also on Rio Grande Avenue.**

#### Directions: From I-10 heading west, take the Mesa DOWNTOWN route

1. Head west toward N Kansas St - 0.1 km
2. Slight left at E Yandell Dr - 0.4 km
3. Turn right at N El Paso St - 0.3 km
4. Take the 1st right onto W Rio Grande Ave - 35 m

#### Directions: From I-10 heading east, take DOWNTOWN EXIT

1. Continue straight until Oregon Street
2. Turn left on Oregon
3. Continue about 4 blocks
4. Turn left into parking lot behind building, or go to W. Rio Grande
5. Turn left on W. Rio Grande; enter 100 W. Rio Grande



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: Lucretia Chew, 587- 9589
Vice President: Scott Cutler, 581-6071
Secretary: Jane Fowler, 598-2448
Treasurer: Eddie Chew, 587-9589

Committees

- Membership: Roxanne Schroeder, 533-0061
Programs: Mark Perkins 637-3521
Conservation: vacant
Field Trips: Mark Perkins 637-3521
Hospitality: Janet Perkins, 581-2849
Publicity: Janet Perkins, 581-2849
Education: Kathleen Whelen, 751-2408
Publications: Jane Fowler, 598-2448
Ways & Means: vacant
Sanctuary: John Sproul, 545-5157

Rare Bird Alert Web Page

We still hope to post RARE BIRD sightings on our web page. In addition to sending your regular sightings to John Kiseda for the observation page of the ROADRUNNER, please send Bob a notice of any RARE or CASUAL sightings you have.

Include the location, i.e. Gibson Veck Road ditch. If it's in your yard and you would allow other people to come look, include your phone number so they can check.

We will not include your street address unless you so state that it can be included.

Bob - wildbirderbob@sbcglobal.net (915) 751-0125

Conservation Organizations

Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue www.whc.net/cdwr

El Paso Zoo 521-1850 www.elpasozoo.org

Keystone Heritage Park 581-7920 www.keystoneheritagepark.org

Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park (505) 524-3334 www.asombro.org

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

Southwest Environmental Center (505) 522-5552 www.wildmesquite.org swec@zianet.com

Franklin Mt. Wilderness Coalition www.franklinmountains.org/

KEYSTONE HERITAGE PARK

The observation kiosk out past the walk-through gate is open daily 7:30 - 12 noon. Please do not go beyond the cable-wooden pole fence. NO PETS. On August 14 and 28, Audubon will have a person and scope on the Observation Deck from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. to help visitors learn about and identify Keystone's birds.



PHOTO CONTEST

When out and around this summer and fall, TAKE your CAMERA and use it. We want more entries for the photo contest in December. It will grow this year to eight categories:

Birds, Mammals, Other wildlife, Plant life, Scenic, Kids, Pets, and Humor.



## AT FEATHER LAKE

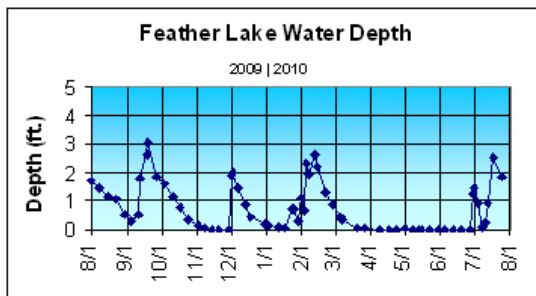
After 3 dry months, Feather Lake received its first shot of stormwater runoff in late June, followed by more in July. The peak water depth so far this summer has been 2.52 feet in mid-July.

In recent years, Mississippi Kites have visited Feather Lake sporadically. This summer, 2 birds are being seen consistently. We haven't found a nest yet, but the cottonwoods and willows at the lake are so dense and abundant that a nest could easily remain undetected.

Our annual period of summer closure is nearing an end. Feather Lake re-opens to the public **September 4**. That, of course, means we need volunteers to staff our sanctuary during visitor hours. Can you help? Please contact John Sproul (747-8663, [jsproul@utep.edu](mailto:jsproul@utep.edu)) if you can put in a morning or afternoon at Feather Lake this fall.

We also welcome help at our next workday. It takes place **Sat., October 2**, an afternoon session starting at **2 p.m.**

Feather Lake is located at 9500 North Loop at Bordeaux in El Paso, 0.3 miles west of Americas Ave. Hours, starting in September, are 8 a.m. to noon on Saturdays and 2 p.m. to dusk on Sundays. Admission is free.



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

## Audubon at RIO BOSQUE WETLANDS PARK



The breeding season is winding down, but Bell's Vireos, Yellow-breasted Chats, Blue Grosbeaks and Painted Buntings are all still conspicuous at Rio Bosque for now. For the latest on what is being seen, check the recent-bird-sightings page on the Park's website, [www.riobosque.org](http://www.riobosque.org). Upcoming free walking tours at the Park:

- 8 a.m. Sun., August 8 (Bird tour)
- 8 a.m. Sun., August 15 (Introductory tour)
  
- 8 a.m. Sat., September 4 (Bird tour)
- 8 a.m. Sun., September 19 (Introductory tour)

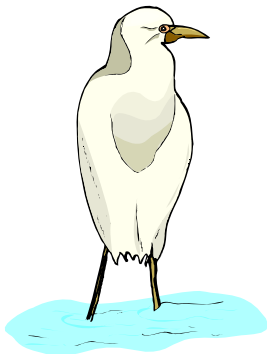
The meeting place is a bridge crossing the Riverside Canal. To get there from I-10, take Americas Ave. (Loop 375) to Pan American Drive, turn left onto Pan American and travel 1.5 miles. Information: 747-8663.



### Field Trips

#### Reservoirs in the Valley Saturday, August 7, 2010

McNary has been called the best birding location in the valley east of El Paso (Lockwood et al. 1999) and is a notable haven for northern water birds such as resident Western and Clark's grebes, Eared Grebes, pelicans, gulls, egrets, cormorants, and many species of ducks. Fort Hancock often has more open mud flats than McNary, and these attract herons and White-faced Ibis. Tornillo is also known for its winter water bird population. Land birds that have been sighted at one or more of these three reservoirs include Harris's Hawk, Northern Harrier, Ferruginous Hawk, Say's Phoebe, Loggerhead Shrike, Pyrrhuloxia, and Lark Bunting. We will have lunch at a rest stop near Tornillo under some towering cottonwoods.



**When:** Sat., Aug. 7, 7:30 a.m.

**BRING LUNCH & WATER**

**Meet at:** Feather Lake Wildlife Sanctuary, 9500 North Loop at Bordeaux in El Paso, 0.3 miles west of Americas Ave.

**Trip Coordinator:** Mark Perkins, 637-3521, [mperkins4@elp.rr.com](mailto:mperkins4@elp.rr.com).

#### Saturday & Sunday, August 21 & 22 Water Canyon & Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge

Trip will take us from the Rio Grande River Valley to the fir forests. Our first stop is Bosque del Apache NWR for summer birds, Neotropic Cormorant, Green Heron, Cinnamon Teal and others. Then up to Water Canyon in the Cibola National Forest hoping to find Warbling Vireos, Black-throated Gray Warblers. We have seen the Red-faced Warbler in the past.

A side trip into the Magdalena area for Western Bluebirds and maybe Pinyon Jays. Also, possibly, a stop at the Very Large Array Radio Telescope. Camping in Water Canyon or motels in Socorro or Magdalena.



We will meet at the parking lot at the Visitor Center at Bosque del Apache Saturday, August 21 at 10:30-11:00 a.m. Call Mark Perkins for details at 637-3521 or [mperkins4@elp.rr.com](mailto:mperkins4@elp.rr.com). If you'd like to join the group, please let us know by August 15. Nonmembers always welcome.

### Butterfly Flutterby

The Asombro Institute for Science Education invites you to celebrate butterflies at the 8th Annual Butterfly Flutterby at the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park on **Saturday, August 21, 2010 from 9 a.m. to noon**. Families can enjoy strolling along the Desert Discovery Trail looking for butterflies or browsing our bucket auction (tons of great items up for grabs). All proceeds from the bucket auction benefit the Asombro Institute's education programs and site development. Admission is \$2.



The Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park is located northeast of Las Cruces. From I-25 in Las Cruces, head east on Highway 70. Take the Mesa Grande Road exit (at Oñate High School). Make a U-turn under the highway to head west and stay in the right lane. Turn right (north) on Jornada Road. Follow Jornada Road for 6.4 miles and turn left at the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park sign. Follow the entrance road to the parking area and trailhead.

**Saturday, September 11, 2010  
Pancho Villa State Park, Spring  
Canyon and Deming, NM**



We will meet at Key-stone Heritage Park, at 4200 Doniphan Drive, at 7:00 a.m. We will car-pool out NM Hwy 9 to Pancho Villa State Park in Columbus, NM, an oasis for migrating birds such as Black-throated Sparrows, Pyrrhuloxia, Crissal Thrashers and others.

From there we'll head north on NM 11 to Spring Canyon State Park where we might see Green-Tailed and Canyon towhees, Western Bluebirds, Townsend's Solitaires and others.

We'll drive to Deming and bird local hot-spots. Bring lunch and water. Nonmembers always welcome. Free. Contact Mark Perkins at 637-3521 or [mperkins4@elp.rr.com](mailto:mperkins4@elp.rr.com) by September 7 if you are interested.

**Saturday, September 25, 2010  
Rattlesnake Springs**

Rattlesnake Springs, part of Carlsbad Caverns National Park, is an Important Bird Area (IBA) and outstanding stopover site for land birds. The historic 80-acre New Mexico wetland features up-welling groundwater that draws Mexican vagrants as well as eastern and western birds, such as Painted Buntings, Vermilion Flycatchers, Scarlet Tanagers, and Yellow-billed Cuckoos. A visitors' picnic area has tables, grills, drinking water, and bathrooms.



After Rattlesnake Springs, we will visit nearby Washington Ranch, known for wild turkeys and other great birds. Meet at 7:00 a.m. in front of Evergreen Cemetery, 12400 E. Montana, ¼ mile east of Loop 375.

We will car pool for the 85-mile trip. Nonmembers always welcome. Contact Mark Perkins at 637-3521 or [mperkins4@elp.rr.com](mailto:mperkins4@elp.rr.com) by September 22 if you are interested.

**October 2 - 7:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
Celebration of Our Mountains 2010  
Franklin Mountains State Park Birding Tour**

Meet at 7:45 a.m. at the entrance to Tom Mays Unit of Franklin Mountains State Park, Trans-Mountain Road. We will hike the Nature Walk, an easy trail 0.62 miles long, that features Chihuahuan Desert native plants growing along a broad arroyo. The thickets offer berries and seeds to fall migrant birds, including warblers, and the newly completed blind helps hikers observe birds without startling them.



Cost is \$4 for adults, and free to children 12 and under (with family). No limitation on number of participants. Wear hiking shoes and bring water and binoculars. Contact Mark Perkins at 637-3521 or [mperkins4@elp.rr.com](mailto:mperkins4@elp.rr.com).

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

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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 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

Local Chapter code:

**COZW100Z**

### Dates to Remember Call Mark Perkins for details 637-3521

#### August

Sat 7: **McNary**  
Sat 7: **Feather Lake**  
8 & 15: **Rio Bosque**  
Mon 9: **Board Meeting**  
**No General Meeting**  
14 & 28: **Keystone**  
Sat 21: **Butterfly Flutterby**  
21&22: **Bosque del Apache**

#### September

4 & 19: **Rio Bosque**  
Sat. 11: **Deming, NM**  
Mon 13: **Board Meeting**  
Mon 20: **General Meeting**  
Sat 25: **Rattlesnake Spring**

#### October

Sat 2: **Feather Lake**  
Sat. 2: **Franklin Mts. Tour**  
Mon 11: **Board 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**

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