

The Roadrunner



Newsletter of the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

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Important Update Regarding Gila National Forest Trip, June 22-24.

Due to the forest fire near Glenwood and Mogollon, we may change this trip to a different area. An update will be sent out by email. If you aren't on our email blast list, contact Mark at 637-3521 for the update.

June 22, 23 and 24, 2012. Gila National Forest, Glenwood and Luna areas

Mark will go up Friday the 22nd and will be camping in the Pueblo Campground for those that wish to camp. For those wishing not to camp, there are motels in Glenwood, NM.



Friday afternoon we'll bird around the Pueblo Campground for Mountain Chickadee, Steller's Jays and Cassin's Kingbird.

We'll meet Saturday arrivals at 11:00 a.m. at the Ranger Station at the south end of Glenwood. We will visit the Luna-Reserve area with a good chance of Lewis's Woodpeckers and Pinyon Jay. Also there are some prairie dogs in the area.

We'll then go over to Luna Lake for lunch, where we might see mergansers and a possible Bald Eagle. Other places we might bird will be the fish hatchery in Glenwood for Summer Tanagers and fly-catchers, the Catwalk for American Dipper and a stop at Mangas Springs for the Common Black-Hawk.

At least 5 people must be signed up or it will be a no-go. Contact Mark at 637-3521 or mperkins4@elp.rr.com.

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.

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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>



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: vacant
Conservation: Luis Sanchez, 422-5530
Field Trips: Mark Perkins 637-3521
Hospitality: Janet Perkins, 581-2849

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

Officers

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

Committees

Publicity: Janet Perkins, 581-2849
Education: Kathleen Whelen, 751-2408
Publications: Jane Fowler, 598-2448
Ways & Means: vacant
Sanctuary: John Sproul, 545-5157

BatsLIVE!

Overview:

BatsLIVE! is an integrated distance-learning program that will use technological media to reach children and their educators in classroom settings, professional land managers, and interested general public. The project will develop a website:
<http://batslive.pwnet.org>

Many of our readers opt to receive THE ROAD-RUNNER electronically as a PDF file. By going paperless in this way, you can help us reduce costs associated with printing and mailing our newsletter. If you would like to discontinue receiving the print version of THE ROADRUNNER and only receive it via e-mail, just send a note to John Sproul at jsproul@utep.edu.

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

Conservation Organizations

Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue
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/

AT FEATHER LAKE

Feather Lake remains dry and closed to public use. Rain on May 9-10 put a little water in the central part of the basin, but it lasted only 2 days. The lake has now been completely dry for 14 of the past 19 months and mostly dry the other 5 months. In and around the basin, it appears over half the lake's willows and cottonwoods are either dead or severely stressed.

Next door at Feather Lake II, the basin is at a lower elevation than the Feather Lake basin, hence closer to the water table. Though Feather Lake II has been dry since last October, there is new cattail and bulrush growth within the basin, and the young willows and cottonwoods along its margins continue to do well. Thanks to the work by Boy Scout Troop 4 last August, few saltcedars are present.

We look forward to Feather Lake flooding again during this year's rainy season. Will it happen? Join us for our next workday to find out. It takes place **Sat., August 11** starting at **8 a.m.** Join us to help with sanctuary maintenance. 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



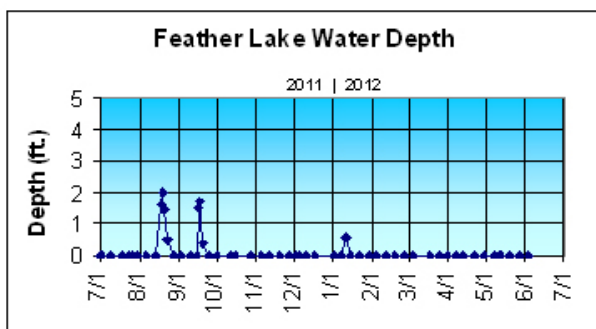
Painted Buntings are back at Rio Bosque. White-tailed Kites are not nesting, but one is still present. For up-to-date information on Rio Bosque's birds, check the park's website, www.riobosque.org. Upcoming free walking tours:

8 a.m. Sun. June 3 (Introductory tour)
7 a.m. Sat., June 9 (Bird tour)

8 a.m. Sat., July 7 (Introductory tour)
7 a.m. Sat., July 14 (Bird 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.



No General Meetings until Fall, but some GREAT Field Trips...



Notes From the Field

Prairie Chicken, Bitter Lake NWR, Bottomless Lakes SP, Roswell & Rattlesnake Springs, April 13-15, 2012.

Great trip! Despite the wind, we had 69 species and great, long looks at Lesser Prairie-Chickens. We were in place on the lek by 5:30 a.m. and the prairie-chickens didn't let us down! The males were displaying in all their glory!

We want to thank Dan Baggao, Wildlife Biologist, Roswell Field Office of the BLM, for his assistance in helping us locate the prairie-chickens and other birding areas.



Dan Baggao, Wildlife Biologist

Other highlights were Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, Swainson's Hawk on nest, Golden Eagle, Prairie and Peregrine falcons, Osprey eating a fish on the Pecos River, Franklin's Gulls and Western Bluebirds.



Lesser Prairie-Chicken (photo by John Groves)



Chiricahua Mountains & Southeastern Arizona, May 25-28, 2012.

The area is coming back after the fires and the birding was great. We had a total of 82 species! The highlight was a great, long look at two male trogons! We were able to view them for about 15 minutes. It couldn't get much better than that. We also did some owling and, thanks to John Groves' expertise, we got a good look at a Whiskered Screech-Owl and heard lots of Elf Owls. Also heard was a Great Horned Owl. We had 5 species of hummingbirds, lots of Acorn Woodpeckers, Mexican Chickadee, Mexican Jay, three species of orioles, Hepatic and Western tanagers, Buff-bellied Flycatcher just to name a few and got into about 12 javelinas in downtown Portal. We saw lots of deer and a Chiricahua Fox Squirrel, which is the only Fox Squirrel in the Southwest.



Elegant Trogon (Photo by J. Perkins)



Chiricahua Mtns (photo by Joe Cancellare)

Field Trips

Saturday, June 9, 2012 Rio Bosque Park

This will be a local 4-5 hour trip into El Paso's Lower Valley. The Rio Bosque Park is noted for being the western-most point of migration for the Painted Bunting.

Also we may see Burrowing Owls, Harris's Hawk, White-tailed Kite, Mississippi Kite and possibly a Western Screech-Owl.

Meeting place to be determined. Contact Mark at 637-3521 or mperkins4@elp.rr.com.

Saturday, July 7, 2012, 6:00 p.m.

— Double Sunset Trip, birding in El Paso's Upper Valley

By now many young birds have fledged and are exploring the world around them. Mississippi Kites usually nest in the Upper Valley and we should see them. Also Acorn Woodpeckers are being seen in this area and we might see them. Parrots are a possibility.



Acorn Woodpecker

Bring water, sun block and bug spray. Open to the public. Meet at Keystone Heritage Park at 4200 Doniphan.

Contact Mark Perkins at 637-3521.

Saturday, July 21, 2012 Las Animas Creek, Elephant Butte Lake and Paseo del Rio Park

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, Bridled Titmouse and Cassin's Kingbird. We will bird this area from the road.

We will have lunch at Paseo del Rio Park. Meet at 6:30 a.m. at the southwest corner of the parking lot at the El Paso Outlet Mall at I-10 and Transmountain.



Summer Tanager

Bring lunch, water and sun block. Open to the public. Contact Mark Perkins at 637-3521.

Saturday, August 4, 2012 Reservoirs Down the Valley

We'll be traveling down I-10 east to visit the reservoirs of McNary, Ft. Hancock and Tornillo. Possible sightings will be Western & Clark's grebes, Eared Grebes, pelicans, gulls, egrets, sandpipers, cormorants, herons and ducks of many species.

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

Open to the public. Contact Mark Perkins at 637-3521.



Western Grebe

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

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**National Audubon Society
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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 _____
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**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

June

Sat 2: **Feather Lake**
3 & 9: **Rio Bosque Park**
22-24: **Gila N. Forest**
No General Meeting

July

Sat 7: **Double Sunset**
7 & 14: **Rio Bosque**
Sat 21: **Animas Creek**
No General Meeting

August

Sat 4: **Down the Valley**
Sat 11: **Feather Lake**
No General Meeting



El Paso/Trans-Pecos Local **Chapter Only Membership** Your \$15.00 will help support chapter activities & you'll receive

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