



# The Roadrunner

Newsletter of the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

April 18, 2022 7:00pm

Online only via Zoom

**Vulture: The Private Life of an Unloved Bird**

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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](mailto: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](http://www.trans-pecos-audubon.com)



Vultures are often overlooked, underappreciated, and unloved, despite the vital roles they play in healthy ecosystems. Worldwide, vultures are primarily scavengers; they can help stop the spread of disease by quickly and efficiently removing dead animals from the landscape. Unfortunately, due to poisoning, direct persecution, habitat loss, and other threats, vultures are more likely to be threatened or endangered than any other group of raptors. But in the Western Hemisphere, Turkey and Black vultures counter this trend and are increasing in number. Based on Katie Fallon's recent book, this fun presentation will explore the life and times of the noble Turkey Vulture, including its feeding, nesting, and roosting habits, migratory behaviors, and common misconceptions. Katie will also discuss what it's like to be up-close-and-personal with Turkey and Black vultures through her work with the [Avian Conservation Center of Appalachia](http://www.avianconservationcenter.org).

Katie Fallon is the author of the nonfiction books *Vulture: The Private Life of an Unloved Bird* (2020, 2017) and *Cerulean Blues: A Personal Search for a Vanishing Songbird* (2011), as well as also two books for children. She is a founder of the Avian Conservation Center of Appalachia, and has served as President of the Mountaineer Chapter of the National Audubon Society. A member of the International Association of Avian Trainers and Educators, Katie has worked with birds since 1998; over the last twenty years she has given educational presentations featuring live raptors, vultures, parrots, and corvids. She was also a columnist for Bird Watcher's Digest and has taught writing at West Virginia University, Virginia Tech, and elsewhere. Her first word was "bird." For more: [www.katiefallon.com](http://www.katiefallon.com).

**Registration Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcqf--tpzopH9B2YBwC-SaeT0uHL2RXB4d1>

May 16, 2022 7:00pm

**U.T.E.P Centennial Museum & via Zoom  
The Birds and Jaguars of Brazil**

Lois Balin and Elizabeth Walsh spent two weeks in southeastern Brazil on a birding trip with [Manakin Nature Tours](http://www.manakin-tours.com) that included 2 days of boat trips looking for jaguars. They spent a week birding in the highlands of Itatiaia and the Cerrado shrublands and a week birding and jaguar looking in the Pantanal.

Lois Balin is the West Texas Urban Wildlife Biologist for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, based in El Paso now for 21 years. Lois received her B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Science at the University of Arizona and her M.S. in Range and Wildlife Science at Texas A&M, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute.

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## El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

### Officers

**President:** Scott Cutler, 494-2193  
**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:** Star Posada, 407-6442  
**Hospitality:** vacant  
**Membership:** vacant  
**Newsletter Editor:** Kathleen Whelen, 820-1895  
**Programs:** vacant  
**Publications:** Jane Fowler, 598-2448  
**Publicity:** Heather Rivera, 212-2825  
**Sanctuary:** John Sproul, 545-5157  
**Website:** vacant  
**Facebook:** Kevin Floyd, 613-6354

The Audubon  
 Foundation of  
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 payroll deduction plan for charitable giving.



### Field Trip to Cave Creek, AZ May 20-22, 2022 Star Posada (915) 407-6442

Join us on a Bird Field Trip to Portal, Arizona!

**Lodging:** Lodging is very limited in Portal, AZ so please start making your reservations at either [Cave Creek Ranch](#) or [Portal Lodge](#). Lordsburg, NM is also an option for lodging. Camping is another option. Campsites are on a first-come, first-serve basis. Some of the recommended camp sites are Sunny Flat, Stewart, Idlewilde, and Herb Martyr, all [Forest Service campgrounds](#) in the Chiricahua Mountains. There are two RV parks in Rodeo, NM ([Rusty's RV Ranch](#) and [Mountain Valley Lodge & RV](#)).

**Food/Supplies:** The Portal Lodge Café and store is open daily from 10:00 am - 6:00 pm. They do take credit cards.

**Gas:** If you are taking HWY 9, Animas is the last place to fuel up. If you are taking I-10, fuel up in Lordsburg. There is no gas station in Portal, AZ.

**Meeting:** Since reception is very limited out there, Star will create a schedule with meeting times and locations. Saturday's meeting time is 9:00 am at the [Chiricahua Desert Museum](#), along NM 80 just north of Rodeo.

Let Star Posada know if you have any questions!  
 You may email Star for times & meeting locations:  
[staryglecias@gmail.com](mailto:staryglecias@gmail.com)

### Conservation Organizations

Chihuahuan Desert Education Coalition  
<http://www.chihuahuadesert.org>

Second Chance Wildlife Rescue  
<https://www.secondchancewildliferescue.org>  
 Josie Karam (915) 920-7867

El Paso Zoo (915) 212-0966  
[www.elpasozoo.org](http://www.elpasozoo.org)

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

Keystone Heritage Park 581-7920  
[www.keystoneheritagepark.com](http://www.keystoneheritagepark.com)

Asombro Institute  
 (Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park)  
 (575) 524-3334 [www.asombro.org](http://www.asombro.org)

Friends of Rio Bosque 747-8663  
[www.riobosque.org](http://www.riobosque.org)

Wildlife for All  
 (formerly SW Environmental Center)  
 (575) 522-5552  
[www.wildmesquite.org](http://www.wildmesquite.org)

Franklin Mt. Wilderness Coalition  
[www.franklinmountains.org/](http://www.franklinmountains.org/)

Celebration of Our Mountains  
[www.celebmtns.org](http://www.celebmtns.org)

# AT FEATHER LAKE

The Feather Lake basin is now 7 months into its latest dry spell. The Sisyphean task of removing trash from within the basin continues.

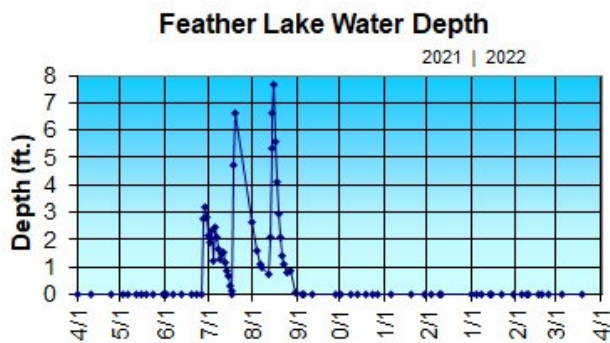
To join the fun, come to our next workday. It takes place **Sat., April 9**, starting at **8 a.m.** Feather Lake is located at 9500 North Loop at Bordeaux in El Paso, 0.3 miles west of Americas Ave.

## May Meeting *CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

Her professional work includes providing technical guidance on sensitive urban development and management for the City and County of El Paso, promoting biodiversity, providing educational programs and resources on wildlife, ecology, native plant landscaping, habitat and conservation-related issues, and conducting wildlife research on Burrowing Owls.

Dr. Elizabeth Walsh is a professor in Biological Sciences and Associate Director of the Center for Environmental Resource Management at the University of Texas at El Paso. She received her B.S. in Animal Biology and her Ph.D in Environmental Biology, both from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Dr. Walsh's lab focuses on the evolution and ecology of freshwater invertebrates, especially of Chihuahuan Desert zooplankton and how species adapt to temporary habitats in arid lands.

**Registration Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/80920607111>



## Audubon at

Rio Bosque Wetlands Park



Water deliveries to the park from the Roberto Bustamante Wastewater Treatment Plant ended Feb 14. They should resume May 1. For now, the wetland cells and some segments of the old river channel are dry. We are eagerly awaiting increased water flows and the return of our summer-resident breeding birds. An adult Common Black Hawk on March 20 represented just the 2<sup>nd</sup> record for the park.

For up-to-date information on tours, birds and water conditions at the park, check [www.riobosque.org](http://www.riobosque.org). Upcoming tours:

**4:30 p.m., Sat., April 9 (Introductory tour)**  
**8 a.m., Sun., April 24 (Bird tour)**  
**7 a.m., Sat., May 14 (Bird tour)**  
**8 a.m., Sun., May 22 (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.



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 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**

<u>April</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>
Sat 9: <b>Feather Lake Workday</b>	Mon 9: <b>Board Meeting</b>	Mon 6: <b>Board Meeting</b>
Mon 11: <b>Board Meeting</b>	Mon 16: <b>General Meeting</b>	<b>No General Meeting</b>
Mon 18: <b>General Meeting</b>	14 & 22: <b>Rio Bosque</b>	
9 & 24: <b>Rio Bosque</b>	20 -22 : <b>Cave Creek, AZ</b>	

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society  
<http://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