



The Roadrunner

Newsletter of the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

Volume 32 Issue 2

June & July, 2003

Special points of interest:

- Birdathon 2003 Report
- Breakfast with the Birds
- Rio Bosque
- Friends of Hueco Tanks
- Native Plant Society
- Field Trips
- Thick-billed Parrots

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Roadrunner

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Birdathon 2003

Here is some preliminary information of the Birdathon 2003 event. Over \$4000 has been raised (and hopefully we have more money still to "come in"). As of now, 161 different species of birds were observed over the weekend, in the local region. Some of the highlights included....

Franklin Mts

Peregrine falcon, common poorwill

Upper Valley

Orchard oriole, Mississippi kite

Mountain Park

Great horned owl

Memorial Park

Summer tanager, western tanager, black-headed grosbeak

Hueco Tanks

Townsend's solitaire, barn owl, lazuli bunting

The reservoirs SE of El Paso

Snowy plover, willet, black tern, Franklin's gull, Ross's goose & many

nesting comorants & egrets

Rio Bosque

American avocets & black-necked stilts, plumbeous vireo, green-tailed & spotted towhee, and the "best" bird of the count, a flammulated owl.

Bos Dairy

Snow goose & greater white-fronted goose.

Unknown local area sightings

Hooded oriole, red-breasted nuthatch & common nighthawk.

As usual, a great big thank you, goes out to all of the people who helped to make this a successful event; so, to all of the sponsors, counters & organizers, we couldn't have done it without you.
THANKS!!!!!!!

General Meetings

There are no scheduled meetings for June, July and August so make plans to attend some of our chapter field trips and work days. The next scheduled

general meeting is September 15th with a tentatively scheduled speaker from the Indio Ranch (near Van Horn). The meeting will take place at Memorial Park Garden Center, 3105 Grant Street at 7:30pm.

Thick-billed Parrots

Thick-billed Parrot Background Information

The thick-billed parrot (TBP) once ranged into the US, and resided in the mountains of SE Arizona. TBP's were eventually extirpated from their US range, in part due to hunting pressure in the late 1800's. TBP's are now usually found only in Mexico, ranging nearly the length of the Sierra Madre. Occidental in important timber producing areas; the birds nest in dispersed distributions in cavities of tree snags. TBP's can be found in one Mexican nesting colony, within a few hundred miles of El Paso.

The American Zoo & Aquarium Association's TBP Species Survival Plan members (including the El Paso Zoo) has helped to provide aid and funding to augment the great work being done by Mexican biologists and conservationists, especially in the Tutuaca Forest Reserve.

If you want to find out more about thick-billed parrots, you can check out the following web-sites

You can find more information on thick-billed parrots at:

www.elpasozoo.org
www.saczoo.com, & www.aza.org

A Thick-billed Parrot in New Mexico???

Believe it or not. A thick-billed Parrot was sighted in the Armen-dariz Ranch near Elephant Butte. John & Kathy Kiseda and Bob Johnson went to see this rarity a few weeks ago and were not dis-

appointed. Through a spotting scope, they could clearly see its red crown, yellowish eyes and black beak. It even squawked once to entertain its visitors.

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

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The Roadrunner is published six times a year. Contributions are welcome. Please email to whelenk@aol.com or mail to 6120 Quail Ave. El Paso, Texas 79924 (915) 751-2408

Chapter Web Site

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

El Paso Audubon Online features updated graphics and more information for chapter members and visitors to El Paso.

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 EIPasoBirdAlert@gbarnett.com

AT FEATHER LAKE

Feather Lake has been dropping steadily since it reached a depth of 5.5 feet after late-February rains. By mid-May, it was down to 0.5 feet. Depending on when the monsoon season begins, the lake could go dry for a time this summer.

Between October and April, Feather Lake Wildlife Sanctuary is open to the public on weekends. Our ability to keep it open depends entirely on a team of dedicated volunteers. During the recently concluded visitor season, that team consisted of Lois Balin, George Barnett, Lupe Barrera, Craig Braginton, Jean and John Coyle, Betty Fisbeck, Jane Fowler, Bob and Beth Garcia, Kerry Ann Gardner, Chris and Paul Gerbino, Vince Giordano, Inga and Joe

Groff, Hugh Jameson, Bob Johnson, John Kiseda, Carol Moreno, Flora and Melba Pittard, Roxanne Schroeder, Charles Simpson, John Sproul and Nancy Wilson. Thank you, all! We could not fulfill our educational mission at Feather Lake without you.

Will summer rains revitalize the lake by early August? Join us Sat., August 2 to find out. Feather Lake will be open that day for our next sanctuary workday. Come any time after 8 a.m. to enjoy the lake in mid-summer and help with sanctuary projects. Feather Lake is located at 9500 North Loop at Bordeaux, 0.3 miles west of Americas Ave.

UTEP offers free walking tours twice each month and also holds monthly community workdays at Rio Bosque

**We could not
fulfill our
educational
mission
without our
dedicated
volunteers.**

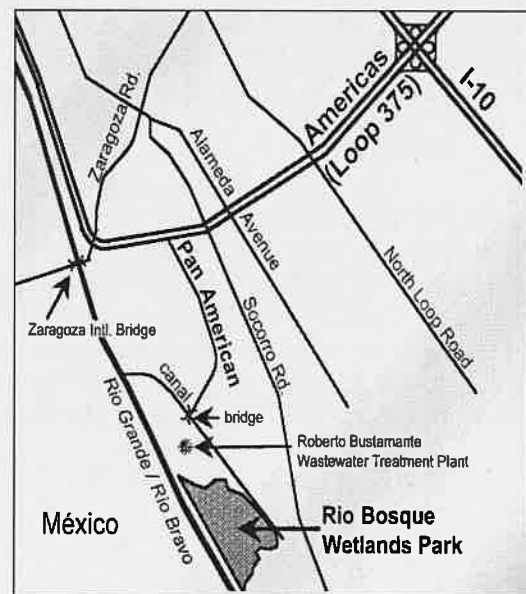
RIO BOSQUE WETLANDS PARK

Wetlands Park in El Paso's Mission Valley. Coming up:

- 8 a.m. Sun., June 8 (Birds)
- 9 a.m. Sat., June 14 (Reptiles and Amphibians)
- 8 a.m. Sat., June 21 (Workday)

- 8 a.m. Sat., July 5 (Birds)
- 8 a.m. Sat., July 12 (Reptiles and Amphibians)
- 8 a.m. Sat., July 19 (Workday)

For all of these activities, the meeting place is a bridge crossing Riverside Canal. To get there from I-10, take Americas Ave. (Loop 375) to Pan American Dr., turn left onto Pan American and travel 1.5 miles to the bridge. Please be prompt. Information: 747-8663.



Keystone Heritage Park

Some of the membership has become involved in conducting a baseline animal study at Keystone Heritage Park, to determine what species of reptiles live at and use the site. Invertebrates (such as spiders, beetles, grasshoppers, etc.) will also be inventoried. If you are interested in partici-

pating in this fun & useful learning experience that is also a conservation/research project, contact Lois Balin or John Kiseda, for more information.

Keystone birds now number 169 species.

El Paso Native Plant Society Meetings

THURS., JUNE 12th 7:00 PM

Dr. Arthur H. Harris
"From Ice Age to Desert - 20,000 Years of Change in the Southwest"

Dr. Harris will present the history behind how climate and other environmental changes, from the Ice Age through today, have shaped the evolution of what we now consider our native plants.

THURS., JULY 10th 7:00 PM

Greta Balderrama from the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance

The Otero Mesa Dilemma

All meetings take place in the UTEP Centennial Museum.

Admission to the monthly meeting is free, & non-members are always welcome.

FIELD TRIP TO THE CLOUD-CROFT TRESSEL

SATURDAY, JULY 19TH

Participants to meet in the parking lot of the Walmart in the NE at 8:00 AM for possible carpooling. The drive will be ~ 4 hrs. round-trip, and the easy hike at least 2 hours. Explore the high mountain forest and it's wildflowers. Bring water, sturdy footwear and possibly lunch, raingear is also recommended. Call trip leader Peter Beste at 755-3558 for more info. Non-members always welcome.

Wildlife Conservation Organizations

Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue
www.whc.net/cdwr

El Paso Zoo 521-1850
www.elpasozoo.org

Keystone Heritage Park 581-7920
Keystonepark.com keystonepark.org

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

Friends of Rio Bosque 747-8663

Friends of Hueco Tanks 857-1135

Southwest Environmental Center
Severn.swec@zianet.com

Franklin Mountain Wilderness Coalition
www.iloveparks.com/fmw/

El Paso Native Plant Society 533-4615
DOUBLE SUNSET

This will be a SUNSET tour along SUNSET



Thank you,
Doug Buehler of Guadalupe National Park for the April Meeting presentation on "Herps".

On The Trail

Dr. Many young birds are now fledged out and learning how to survive. A number of Mississippi Kites have nests within the area and the young will probably not have fledged yet. We always see some great birds in the thickets along the Nemexas Drain at the west end of Sunset.

Date: Sunday, June 29
 Time: 5:00pm
 Place: Crossroads Ponds
 Leader: Bob Johnson
 757-1876

WATER CANYON

This trip will take us from the Rio Grande River Valley to the fir forest. We first stop at Bosque Del Apache NWR for summer wading birds, then up into the Cibola Nat. Forest hoping to find Red-faced and other Warblers. A side trip into the Magdalena area for Western Bluebirds and maybe Pinyon Jays. Camping in the Canyon or motels in Socorro. **Call Bob by July 20th for details.** We need at least 6 people

Date: July 26 & 27
 Leader: Bob Johnson
 757-1876

UPCOMING TRIPS

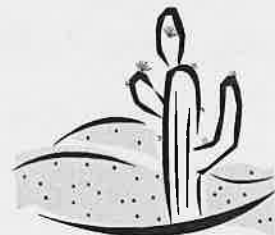
Watch for more in the next *Roadrunner* issue as a field trip is being considered for the weekend of August 23 & 24 to the Glenwood and Luna area of the Gila.

Other tentative plans for trips are;

Ft. Davis in September

Monzano Mountains in October.

We'll see you "On the Trail"



Thank you
Rafael Corral,
 Senior Botanist
 at Ft. Bliss for the
 May Meeting presentation on Cacti.

The Observations for April and May will be posted in the August issue of the Roadrunner.

Thanks for your patience!

Friends of Hueco Tanks

Admission: Hueco Tanks Historical Park
 \$4.00 - adult

\$2.00 - for seniors 65+

Free - children under 12

Bird Identification Tours

Sunday, June 15 7:07am

Sunday, July 20 7:07am

Sunday, August 17 7:07am

Please check in at the headquarters.

Reservations and information 857-1135

Leader: Bob "Wildbirder" Johnson 757-1876

Remember that with the warmer weather hummingbird feeders need more attention. Feeders should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected with the food supply replaced every three days if not more often.



Don't forget
 Breakfast with
 the Birds on June
 7 at Feather Lake

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National Audubon
Society
Chapter Membership Application

Dates to Remember

Call Bob Johnson for details 757-1876

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

June

Feather Lake Workday
Saturday, 7th

Rio Bosque
Sunday, 8th

Board Meeting
Monday, 9th

Native Plant Meeting
Thursday, 12th

Hueco Tanks B.I.T.
Sunday, 15th

Double Sunset Tour
Sunday, 29th

July

Rio Bosque

Saturday, 5th
Native Plant Meeting
Thursday, 10th

Rio Bosque
Saturday, 12th

Board Meeting
Monday, 14th

Rio Bosque
Native Plant Soc.-
Cloudcroft Saturday,
19th

RSVP for Water Canyon
Hueco Tanks B.I.T.
Sunday, 20th

Water Canyon Trip
Weekend 26th & 27th

August

Board Meeting
Monday, 11th

Hueco Tanks B.I.T.
Sunday, 17th

Gila-Glen Trip
Weekend 23 & 24

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