

The Roadrunner

Newsletter of the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

SOMETIMES EVERYONE WINS

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Many retailers boast that they “give back” and contribute to local communities, very few allow their customers to direct those contributions to an organization of their choice. The Albertsons grocery store chain has developed their “Community Partners” Program to fill that void. Nationally, this program has already contributed over 80 million dollars for qualified youth and education programs.

We are very excited to announce that the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society has been accepted by Albertsons to participate in this wonderful program. Now our organization will have the opportunity to expand our own youth programs, with the help of funds made available through this partnership.

Incredibly, it won't cost our supporters a dime and is even simple to do!

Most of you already benefit from having the Albertsons Preferred Savings Card, we need the number for your account that appears on your card. If you don't have one, you can obtain one directly from the store. Once our partnership information is linked with your shopping card, our Audubon chapter will automatically earn a percentage of your eligible monthly purchases at Albertsons, Sav-On Drugs, and Osco Drugs. Up to 4% per month!

There are a few ways to accomplish the link, and we will help you do it:

1-We will have volunteers available at our meetings and field trips to gather the required information: your name, phone number and Preferred Savings Card Number, then we will gladly process it for you.

OR

2-You can telephone Jane Fowler at 598-2448. She will collect your information.

OR

3-You can complete the short form at the bottom of this notice and mail it to us for processing.

OR

4-On your next visit to Albertsons you can stop by their Service Counter in the front section of the store and pick up a folder that contains the form. Fill it out yourself and mail it in to them.

Our organization's information that you would need to complete the form is:

**EL PASO – TRANS PECOS AUDUBON SOCIETY
COMMUNITY PARTNERS ID# 49001008196**



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

- Feather Lake: John Sproul, 545-5147
- Membership: Roxanne Schroeder, 533-0061
- Conservation: Gabe Valdes, 760-4074
- Programs: Ursula Sherrill, 526-7725
- Special Events:
- Projects: Carol Maxwell-Moreno, 593-0967

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

Officers

- President: Bob Garcia, 755-9119
- Vice President: Bob Johnson, 757-1876
- Secretary: Lucretia Chew, 587-9589
- Treasurer: Eddie Chew, 587-9589

Committees

- Education: Beth & Bob Garcia, 755-9119
- 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

Albertson's Partnership Continued

Supporters are not required to be members of our organization, or even live in our part of the country. This link will be effective at whichever Albertsons anyone shops at and as such we would appreciate it if you might share this information with friends far and wide. This is a great way to support your local Audubon chapter's activities, but you'll have to take the step and link up. The sooner you do, the sooner we start earning money

If you are already linked with another organization or school, you will be pleased to know that you can support more than one partner, however, none will appreciate your participation more than Audubon. Let us know if we are to share your contributions or if you would prefer to delete previous affiliations.

EVERY DOLLAR THAT WE SPEND REACHING OUT TO THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF THE YOUNG, IS AN INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE.

A great big THANK YOU to our supporters and Albertsons alike for affording us this tremendous opportunity. We will keep you apprised of our progress.

TO PARTICIPATE PLEASE COMPLETE THIS SHORT FORM AND MAIL IT

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

NAME: _____

PHONE NUMBER: () _____

ALBERTSONS PREFERRED SAVINGS CARD NUMBER: _____

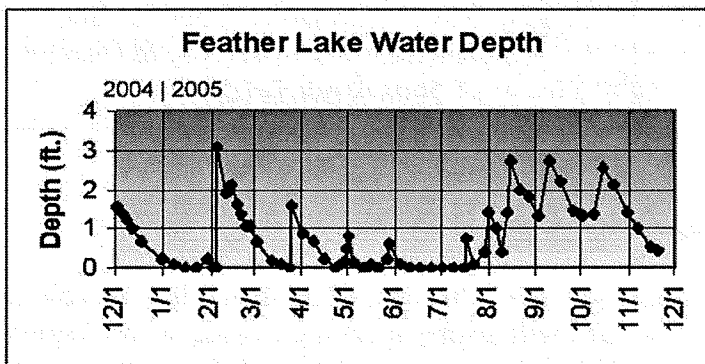
AT FEATHER LAKE

Storms in August, September and October kept Feather Lake's water level consistently over 1 foot deep. But we've seen no rain since mid-October, and the lake level has dropped steadily. At this writing in late November, there is a nice mix of open water and very shallow water interspersed with mudflats. Good numbers of ducks, wading birds and shorebirds are all taking advantage of these conditions. Whether or not the conditions last will depend on whether or not we get some timely rain.

Feather Lake will be open to the public through at least December 18. Hours are 8 a.m. to noon on Saturdays and 2 p.m. to dusk on Sundays. We'll be closed for the Christmas and New Year's weekends. Our schedule for January will depend on water conditions.

As always, we rely on volunteers to staff our sanctuary during visitor hours. Can you help on one or more days in January or February? If yes, please contact John Sproul (747-8663, jsproul@utep.edu).

Our first 2006 workday at Feather Lake will be **Sat., January 28**. Once again, we'll start at **2 p.m.**, work a few hours, then see what birds arrive at the end of the day. Feather Lake is located at 9500 North Loop at Bordeaux, 0.3 miles west of Americas Ave. Admission is free.



RIO BOSQUE WETLANDS PARK



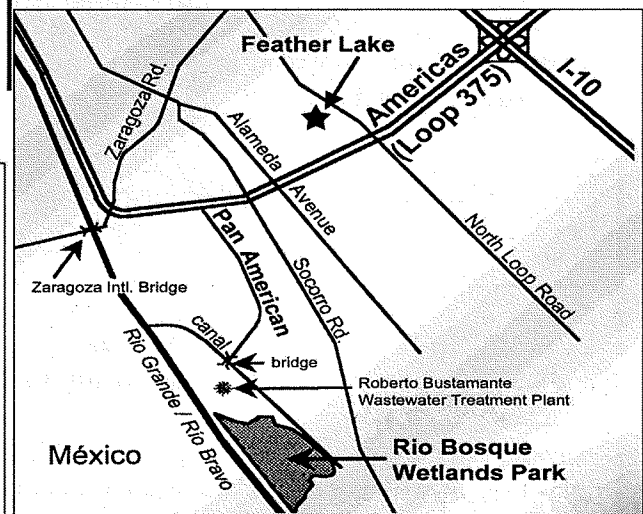
UTEP offers free walking tours twice each month and also holds monthly (except December) community workdays at Rio Bosque Wetlands

Park, 4 miles from Feather Lake. Coming up:

- 9 a.m. Sat., Dec. 3 (Birds)**
- 3 p.m. Sun., Dec. 11 (Introductory)**

- 3 p.m. Sat., Jan. 7 (Birds)**
- 3 p.m. Sun., Jan. 15 (Introductory)**
- 9 a.m. Sat., Jan. 21 (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.



Thank you **Edmund Archuleta** for the presentation in October and **Dr. Vanessa Lougheed** for the presentation in November.

Monday, December 12, 2005 7:00pm
UTEP Centennial Museum
 The corner of Wiggins & University



**Christmas Party
 and Photo Contest**

Treat yourself to a memorable Audubon Christmas meeting. Relax among friends, new and old, and share in the joy of the season.

The photo contest will be five categories of photos, preferably, taken in 2005: **Scenic Views, Birds, Animals, Humor & Children.** Each will have its own winner. You may enter as many categories as you'd like, however, we ask that you limit your entries to a maximum of three in each.

Come join the fun, enjoy the photo show and vote for your favorites, we'll have plenty of prizes, door prizes and holiday treats to munch on.



Monday, January 16, 2006 7:00pm
UTEP Centennial Museum
 The corner of Wiggins & University

Questions About Bird Flu ????

Our featured speaker will be a local veterinarian who works with birds, and will discuss the latest scientific information and answer our questions about what this may mean for birds in the U.S.

Sewer-Line Project: Impact Feather Lake Wildlife Sanctuary

The January 16 meeting will feature a presentation and discussion about the current proposal to place a 36 inch-wide sewer line (the Mesa Drain Valley Interceptor System Phase 2B) for approximately 300 feet within the Feather Lake Wildlife Sanctuary property.

February 2006 Awards Dinner
Date, Time & Place TBA

Program: "Alaska Adventure"

If you are curious about traveling in Alaska, don't miss the El Paso /Trans-Pecos Audubon Society's February 2006 Awards Dinner!

Chapter vice-president and "wildbirder" Bob Johnson will recount his adventures while exploring the state last summer. Bob will treat us to photos of Alaskan scenes that he snapped along his journey. More information about the dinner will be published in the February & March

2006 *Roadrunner*.

**Need a Snazzy new Addition to the Wardrobe?
 Get Ready to Buy A New Chapter T-Shirt**

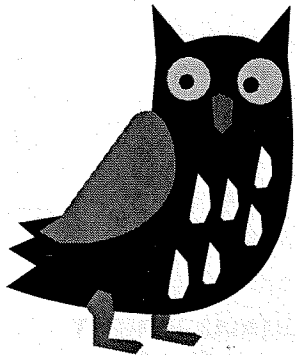
The long awaited, highly anticipated, and truly beautiful 'new' chapter T-shirt should be available for purchase, beginning at our November meeting. The shirt will display a great grouping of 'our' special local birds, not found in most other places. With the gift giving season just around the corner, we hope that you will consider this opportunity:

A great T-shirt makes a wonderful, yet moderately priced, gift.

Wearing it, advertises the chapter and your concerns for wild things.

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

WANTED: Keystone Site-‘New’ Bird Species Sightings REWARD: \$15/ first sighting!



John Kiseda

With the Keystone site’s bird checklist now at 189 species, I wanted to try to add an incentive to get some more birders to go out and help add some new species to the list!

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 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 more frequently and help to ‘build-up’ the bird checklist!

Willet	ANY godwit	Merlin
Sandhill crane	Eurasian collared dove	Barn owl
Great-horned owl	Calliope hummer	Cordilleran flycatcher
Willow flycatcher	Cassin’s kingbird	ANY vireo
ANY nuthatch	Rock wren	ANY pipit

<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

DESERT BIRDS / BIRDS OF PREY**Date: Saturday December 3rd**

Chance to see some of the birds that inhabit the desert scrub, *Cactus Wren*, *Pyrrhuloxia*, *Scaled Quail* and *Curve-billed thrasher* to name a few. Then out along Hawk Alley for *Red-tailed Hawk*, *American Kestrel*. Sometimes there is a *Prairie Falcon* or *Golden Eagle* sitting on the poles.

Time: 7:47 AM

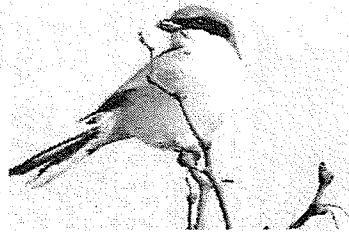
Meet: El Paso Museum of Archeology
(formerly Wilderness Park Museum)
4301 Trans-Mountain Road

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The El Paso Audubon Chapter calls upon volunteers in the El Paso area to join with birders across the western hemisphere and participate in one of Audubon's winter time traditions, the annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC). This years count will be the 106th.

Last year over 56,000 volunteers from all 50 states, every Canadian province, parts of Central and South America, Bermuda, the West Indies, and Pacific Islands count and record every individual bird and bird species seen in a given area. During the 105th CBC last year, about 69 million individual birds were counted. Last year saw a new record high of 2022 individual counts. Each individual count group completes a census of the birds found during one 24 hour period in a designated circle 15 miles in diameter-about 177 square miles.

People are asked to contribute \$5.00 to help defray the expense of publishing "American Birds", This is the volume detailing all 2000 plus counts. The El Paso/Trans Pecos Audubon Chapter will cover **\$3.00** of this for the Hueco Tanks and El Paso counts.

**Loggerhead Shrike****HUECO TANKS CHRISTMAS BIRD CT****Date Saturday, December 17, 2004**

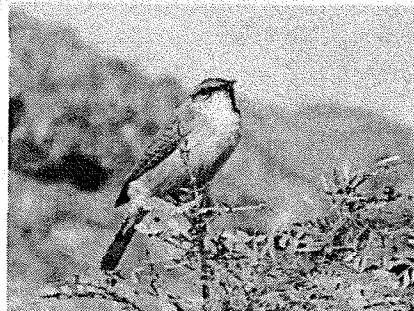
The first count in this area will be conducted in and around Hueco Tanks State Historic Site. Lets see if we can get over 65 species this year, a number that has been achieved only a couple of times since 1970. To accomplished this I will need at least 8 counters, **Please call and volunteer.** We can accomplish this, during the Nov. BIT during a period of 3 hours and only in the park we had 31 species, uncommon were *Stellar's Jay* *Western Scrub Jay*, and *Sage Thrasher*.

Time: 6:30 AM, Flying Saucer Building
(Junction US 62/180 & FM 2775)

Compiler: Bob "Wildbirder" Johnson 757-1876

E-mail; bobwildbirderj@cs.com

It would be better to call ahead of time, so that you can be assigned to a zone leader and report to that specific location.

**Cactus Wren (J)**

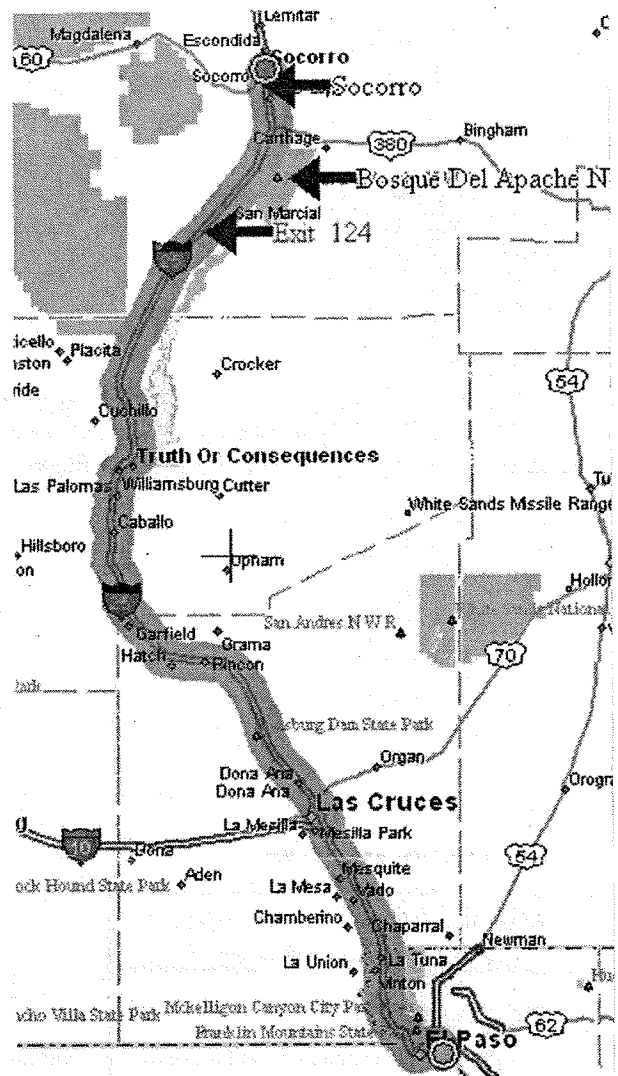
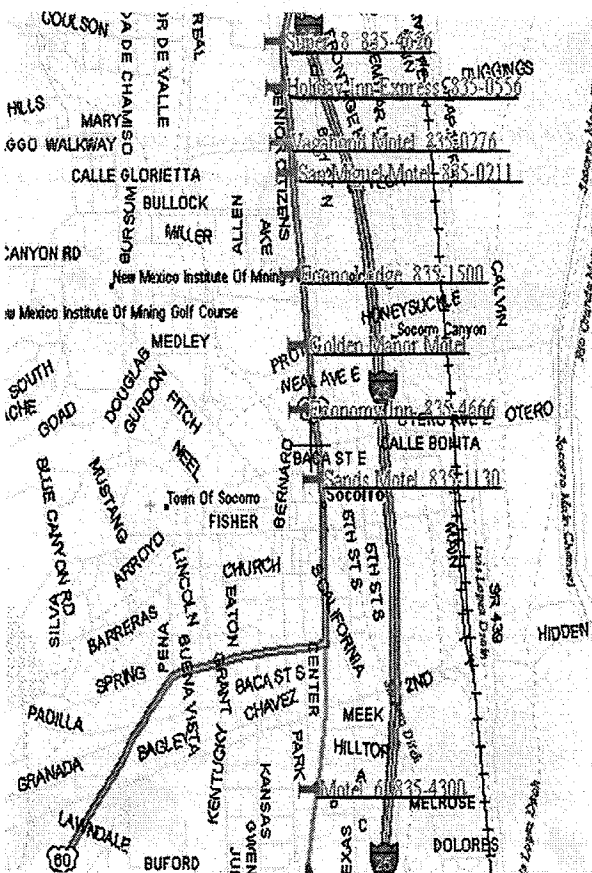
BOSQUE DEL APACHE NWR
 Date: Sat/Sun, January 21/22

One of the more popular National Wildlife Refuges in the country (there are over 500) is located about 180 miles north of El Paso off of Interstate 25. How about 20,000 Snow Geese 12,000 Sandhill Cranes, thousands of ducks and Bald Eagles.

Start off your 2006 bird list with some great entries. Last year 74 species were recorded on our trip, these included 15 waterfowl species, 6 Raptor and 3 grebe, also a number of passerines. The Refuge reported 11 Bald Eagles, and we saw about 6 at one time in one water cell.

Time: 11 AM
Place: Parking lot of the Visitors Center.

Call Bob if you think you might go. (915)757-1876, e-mail <bobwildbirderj@cs.com>
 Many good motels in Socorro NM, located about 12 miles to the north



BACKYARD BIRDS
 DATE: Sunday, February 5.

A stop in members backyards to learn something about the birds, feeders and feeding. Pine Siskin, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, White-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, and House Finch are some of the birds that will probably be seen. Coffee and ?? will be served.

TIME: 8-11 AM We will not be going anyplace else so come whenever you can
MEET at Mary Lou Alcorns Wildbird Sanctuary at 4331 Emory.

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

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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

December

Sat. 3: Desert Birds
Rio Bosque: 3, 11
Mon 5: Board Meeting
Mon 12: General Meeting
Sat 17 Hueco Tanks Xmas
Bird Count

January

Jan 1: Bird Count El Paso
Rio Bosque: 7, 15, 21
Mon 9: Board Meeting
Mon 16: General Meeting
Sat & Sun 21&22:
Bosque del Apache

February

Sun. 5: Backyard Birds
Awards Dinner TBA

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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