

The Roadrunner



Newsletter of the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

Inside the Roadrunner

Chapter Info	2
Sanctuary News	3
Field Trips	4 & 5
Calendar	6

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.

iGive.com

Join to Support El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society
<http://www.iGive.com/>
 Shop the online mall at iGive.com.

BIRDATHON 2011 UPDATE



Congratulations to all on a successful Birdathon again this year. We especially thank our sponsors and counters without whom the Birdathon would not be possible. **We appreciate your participation and support for our conservation and education endeavors.** Thanks, too, for our hard-working members who handle the details -- for Jane Fowler and Berttye Barnhart who handled the mailings and for Betty Fisbeck who again kept track of pledges and receipts.

As of July 28, our total receipts were **\$6292** and expenses were \$301, for a net of \$5991. Last year, the net funds raised totaled \$6230. There may still be a few checks yet to come in this year. **The money will go to chapter operations, Feather Lake Wildlife Sanctuary, Rio Bosque Wetlands Park and Audubon Texas.**


Our annual potluck for Birdathon was graciously hosted by Janet and Mark Perkins. A good group was present as species seen by at least one counter were tallied. **The total species seen was 165 species.**

The winner for the **highest number of species seen** by an individual or party was easily **Jim Paton** with **124**. Outstanding!

The initial sighting of the **most unusual bird** went to **Susie Schneider**, who spotted the **American Golden-Plover**. Janet

and Mark Perkins also saw the bird and Janet photographed it. The prize for the **most money raised** went to **John Sproul** with \$1326. Some of the more unusual birds, in addition to the plover, were White-tailed Kite, Short-billed Dowitcher, Black Tern, Herring Gull, California Gull, Acorn Woodpecker, and Gray Catbird.





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

Committees

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



El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

Next General Meeting

**Monday, September 19, 2011,
 Memorial Park Garden Center,
 3105 Grant Street, 7:00 p.m.**

Program details are still in development and will be announced in an email and posted on the website. You can be sure that it will be a great opportunity to get together with fellow birders and share your summer sighting stories.

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

Albertson's ...

Every time you swipe your Community Partners Card, you earn cash for the Audubon Society.



Now isn't that a good reason to shop at Albertsons?

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
 (575) 524-3334 www.asombro.org

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

Southwest Environmental Center
 (575) 522-5552
www.wildmesquite.org

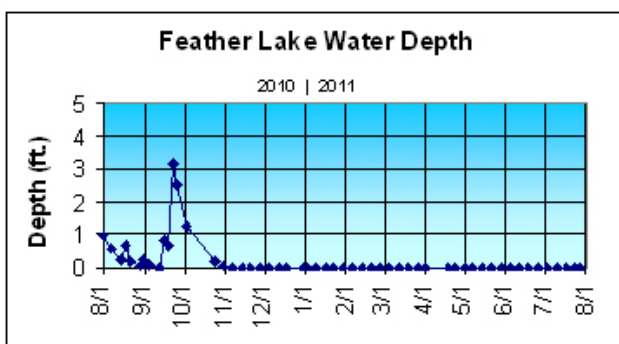
Franklin Mts. Wilderness Coalition
www.franklinmountains.org/

AT FEATHER LAKE

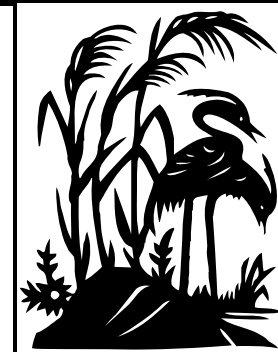
At this writing in late July, Feather Lake has been dry for 9 consecutive months and for 12 of the past 16 months. The summer heat and lack of water have taken a heavy toll on the riparian vegetation around the lake. The only good news to report: a pair of nesting Swainson's Hawks fledged 2 young at the lake in mid-July.

Due to the absence of water, Feather Lake Wildlife Sanctuary has been closed to the public since last Christmas. If some good rains materialize, we'll re-open September 3. Otherwise, the lake will unfortunately remain closed.

Right now, there are 2 firm dates Feather Lake will be open in the months ahead – our next 2 workdays. The first is **Sat., August 6**, starting at 8 a.m., and the second is **Sat., October 1**, starting at 2 p.m. Come on down and lend a hand! 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



Early southbound migrants are already appearing at Rio Bosque. For up-to-date information on what is being seen, check the recent-bird-sightings page on the Park's website, www.riobosque.org. Upcoming free walking tours at the Park:

8 a.m. Sun., Aug 7 (Bird tour)
8 a.m. Sun., Aug 21 (Introductory tour)

8 a.m. Sat., Sept 10 (Bird tour)
8 a.m. Sun., Sept 18 (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.



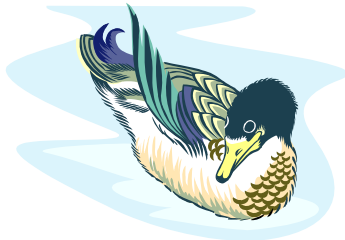
The Audubon website!

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>

Field Trips

Saturday, August 6, 2011

Reservoirs Down the Valley



We will travel east on I10 to Exit 81 just past McNary, then travel back up the valley checking the farm fields for egrets, herons, hawks, and passerines. Stops will be McNary, Ft. Hancock and Tornillo reservoirs where we hope to see Western & Clark's grebes, Eared Grebes, pelicans, gulls, egrets, sandpipers, cormorants, herons and ducks of many species.

Meet at Feather Lake, 9500 North Loop at Bordeaux at 7:30 a.m. We will car pool from there. Bring lunch, water, snacks. Beginners and nonmembers are always welcome. Contact Mark 637-3521 for more info.

Wing your way
to....



The 36th Annual Conference of Western Field Ornithologists will be in Sierra Vista, AZ from August 17-21, 2011.

The Conference Schedule and full details about the featured speakers, events, workshops, and field trips are at:
<http://www.westernfieldornithologists.org/conference.php>

Saturday, August 20, 2011.
**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 the Bridled Titmouse, Summer Tanager, and Cassin's Kingbird. We will bird this area from the road. At Elephant Butte Lake, we'll check for shore birds and water birds.



If the road to North Monticello Point is open, we'll go there. Below the Dam is Paseo del Rio Park where we'll look for land birds in a riparian canyon along the river.

Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Shell Station and Dairy Queen at I10 and Transmountain Road. We will carpool from there. Bring water, lunch and binoculars.

Beginners and nonmembers are always welcome. Contact Mark 637-3521 or mperkins4@elp.rr.com.

More Field Trips

Saturday, September 3, 2011. Rattlesnake Springs and Washington Ranch.

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. We will then 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 carpool for the 85 mile trip.

Bring lunch, water and binoculars. Beginners and nonmembers are always welcome. Contact Mark Perkins 637-3521 or mperkins4@elp.rr.com.



Saturday, September 17, 2011. Dripping Springs Natural Area and Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park.

We will take an easy hike of approximately 1-1/2 miles birding up the Dripping Springs Trail to the old sanatorium and the famous "weeping walls", in which a natural spring seeps out of the rock.

Birds we might see other than migrants are Black-throated Sparrow, Red-tailed Hawk, Cactus Wren and Gambel's Quail.

After lunch we will visit Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park where we will be looking for migrants. Large grassy fields, a restored marsh, and small ponds ringed with willows and reeds ensure that a mix of aquatic and land birds can be seen here. Both areas have a minimal entrance fee.



We will meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Shell Station and Dairy Queen at I10 and Transmountain Rd. Bring lunch, water, hiking shoes and binoculars. Beginners and nonmembers are always welcome. Contact Mark Perkins 637-3521 or mperkins4@elp.rr.com.

Saturday, October 15, 2011. Celebration of Our Mountains Event. Nature Walk in Franklin Mountains.

We will hike the Nature Walk, an easy trail 0.62 miles long that features Chihuahuan Desert native plants along a broad arroyo. The thickets offer berries and seeds to fall migrant birds, including warblers. The bird blinds help visitors observe birds without startling them. Meet at 7:45 a.m. at the entrance to Tom Mays Unit of Franklin Mountains State Park off Transmountain Road. Bring water, hiking shoes and binoculars. Contact Mark Perkins 637-3521 or mperkins4@elp.rr.com.

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

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
El Paso, Texas
Permit #2440

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 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 422250
Palm Coast, FL 32142-2250**

Local Chapter Code C1ZW100Z

Dates to Remember Call Mark Perkins for details 637-3521

August

Sat 6: **Feather Lake**
Sat 6: **Down the Valley**
7 & 21: **Rio Bosque**
Mon 8: **Board Meeting**
No General Meeting
Sat 20: **Animas Creek**
17-21: **Western Field**
Ornithologists Conference

September

Sat 3: **Rattlesnake Springs**
10 & 18: **Rio Bosque**
Sat 17: **Dripping Springs**
Mon 12: **Board Meeting**
Mon 19: **General Meeting**

October

Sat. 1: **Feather Lake**
Sat 15: **Nature Walk**
Mon 10: **Board Meeting**
Mon 17: **General 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

Printed by Superior Copy